

THE BOSPORUS.

The Bosphorus has been well described by Philippson (1897) as a young river valley incised in an uplifted peneplain ("eine typische Denudationsfläche"); a very modern depression has changed the normal river valley to a strait, about 160 feet deep, leaving the uplands of the peneplain still from 700 to 1,000 feet above sea level. All that I saw from the steamer's deck, on two passages through the Bosphorus, and from a walk on the uplands back of Robert College, about 5 miles north of the Golden Horn, fully confirmed this interpretation. The deformed rocks in the walls of the gorge, the

wide view over the undulating uplands with their subdued residual hills or monadnocks (fig. 10), the sharp dissection of the upland by the winding main valley and its branches, and the general appearance of submergence along the present shorelines, admit of no other explanation. The space available for occupation along shore is commonly so narrow that houses are often built directly on the water's edge. The water is so deep close to the shore that large vessels may make near approach to the land. As a result, collisions not infrequently occur between bowsprits and house walls; we saw a house from which one corner had been torn out in such an encounter. The Golden Horn is simply the drowned lower part of a side valley that comes into the Bosphorus at Constantinople from the northwest and north. Philippson dates the erosion of the gorge as not older than the Upper Pliocene; the depression of the region, changing the Bosphorus from a river to a strait, is placed in the recent past, during the existence of man.

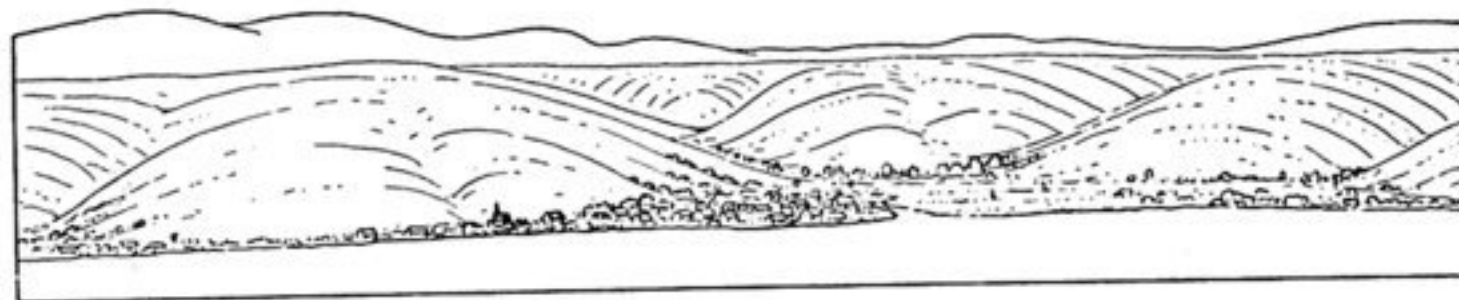


Fig. 10.—Sketch of the Uplands across the Bosphorus, looking eastward from near Robert College, north of Constantinople.

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THE SOUTH COAST OF THE BLACK SEA.

The reasons for suggesting that the Caspian and the Black seas may have been confluent before the Bosphorus was submerged are based on certain indications that the land at the southeastern end of the Black Sea was lower than now at the time when the land at the southwestern end was higher. These indications are as follows: The coast at and to the east of the Bosphorus (fig. 11), as seen from the passing steamer, showed sharply cut modern cliffs, but no

benches or terraces above the present shoreline. The map of the region, in Stieler's Hand-Atlas, shows no delta at the south of the Sakaria River, about 90 miles east of the Bosphorus. At Samsun, near the middle of the south coast, where our steamer

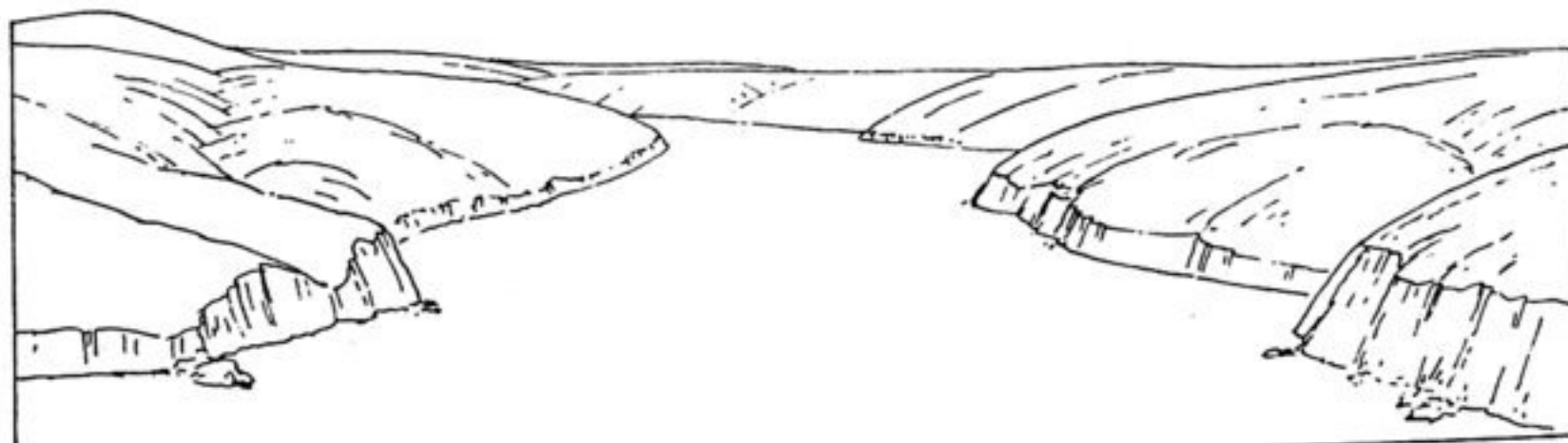


Fig. 11.—Bird's-eye Diagram of the Bosphorus at its exit from the Black Sea.

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