

wide from high-water mark on the sea face to the lee edge on the marshes. The sea face ascends at an angle of some 15 degrees to the crest, which is 10 feet above the marshes and perhaps 6 feet above high-water mark. The lee slope is a gentle one of 5 to 8 degrees, the last few feet descending abruptly to the marsh at the angle of repose of the shingle (about 35 degrees). The waves of heavy foreshore gales when they coincide with very high tides top the crest and drive shingle down the lee slope. In this way the lee edge advances slowly and intermittently across the marshes, perhaps 30 feet in the last twenty years, or an average of 1 foot 6 inches per annum, but varying from place to place.

The Chesil Bank is much higher, standing 34 feet above the water-level of the Fleet (as determined at a point half-way between the letters L and B in "Chesil Bank" (fig. 18, p. 88). The width of the bank is about 400 feet from water to water at ordinary high tide. The sea face is steep, but the most characteristic feature is the steep slope on the lee side descending to the terrace (about 70 feet wide) at the edge of the Fleet. Notwithstanding its immense height waves break over the crest in heavy weather carrying shingle with them. This power of the waves is well illustrated by the following incident of the war, for the particulars of which we are indebted to the courtesy of the Earl of Ilchester, Lord of the Manor.

Throughout the summer of 1915 and the following winter one of the boats of H.M.S. *Formidable* lay derelict half-way down the lee slope of the Chesil opposite the decoy at the Abbotsbury Swannery. This battleship was torpedoed in mid-Channel on the morning of New Year's Day, 1915, and the boat drifted ashore at high water early in January. "It was found and pulled by about thirty men some way towards the crest of the beach, but it proved too heavy for them to get it anything like to the top. About a month afterwards a very heavy sea was running, and it threw the boat from the sea side of the crest to its present position. It has not been handled in any way since, nor have I heard of any intention of removing it."<sup>1</sup> As

<sup>1</sup> Quotation from letter dated Feb. 18, 1916, from Mr. J. Hutchings, Lord Ilchester's agent at Abbotsbury.