

rapidity than at present, and overflowed the continent that joined Europe to Africa. The waters covered all the low countries, of which we can now only perceive the tops of some of the considerable mountains, such as parts of Italy, the Islands of Sicily, Malta, Corsica, Sardinia, Cyprus, Rhodes, and those of the Archipelago.

In this irruption I have not included the Black sea, because the quantity of water it receives from the Danube, Nieper, Don, and various other rivers, is fully sufficient to form and support it; and besides it flows with great rapidity through the Bosphorus into the Mediterranean. It might also be presumed that the Black and Caspian seas were formerly only two large lakes, joined by a narrow communication, or by a morass, or small lake, which united the Don and the Wolga near Tria, where these two rivers flow near each other; nor is it improbable that these two seas or lakes, were then of much greater extent; for the immense rivers which fall into the Black and Caspian seas may have brought down a sufficient quantity of earth to shut up the communication and form that neck of land by which they are now separated; for we know that
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