

apparent outlet, such as the Dead sea, many lakes in Africa, and other places. These two seas are by no means so salt as the Mediterranean or the ocean; and all travellers affirm that the navigation in the Black and Caspian seas, upon account of their shallowness and quantity of rocks and quicksands, are so extremely dangerous, that only small vessels can be used with safety, which further proves they must not be looked upon as gulphs of the ocean, but as immense bodies of water collected from great rivers.

A considerable irruption of the sea would doubtless take place upon the earth, if the isthmus which separates Africa from Asia were divided, as the Kings of Egypt, and afterwards the Caliphs projected; and I do not know that the communication between the Red sea and Mediterranean is sufficiently established, as the former must be higher than the latter. The Red sea is a narrow branch of the ocean, and does not receive into it a single river on the side of Egypt, and very few on the opposite coast; it will not therefore be subject to diminution, like those seas and lakes which are constantly receiving slime and sand from those rivers that flow into them. The
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