

amounts to the same, the upper part of the Senegal, likewise overflows and covers all the flat country of Nigritia ; it begins nearly at the same time as the Nile, and increases also for 40 days : the river de la Plata, in Brasil, also overflows every year, and at the same time as the Nile. The Ganges, the Indus, the Euphrates, and some others, overflow annually ; but all rivers have not periodical overflowings, and when inundations happen it is the effect of many causes, which combine to supply a greater quantity of water than common, and, at the same time, to retard its velocity. We have before observed, that in almost all rivers the inclination of their beds diminishes towards their mouths in an almost insensible manner ; but there are some whose declivity is very sudden in some places, and forms what is termed a *cataract*, which is nothing more than a fall of water, quicker than the common current of the river. The Rhine, for example, has two cataracts, the one at Bilefield, and the other near Schafhouse : the Nile has many, and among the rest two which are very violent, and fall from a great height between two mountains ; the river Wologda, in Muscovy, has also two near Ladoga ; the Zaire, a river of Congo, begins by a  
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