

der the sea; and because, on that account, they cannot serve us as a measure of the time which has elapsed since its last retreat.

Additions of Land by the Action of Rivers.

MM. Deluc and Dolomieu have most carefully examined the progress of the formation of new ground by means of matters washed down by rivers; and although exceedingly opposed to each other on many points of the Theory of the Earth, they agree in this. These formations augment very rapidly; they must have increased still more rapidly at first, when the mountains furnished more materials to the rivers, and yet their extent is still inconsiderable.

Dolomieu's Memoir respecting Egypt * tends to prove, that the tongue of land on which Alexander caused his city to be built, did not exist in the days of Homer; that they were then able to navigate directly from the island of Pharos into the gulf afterwards called *Lake Mareotis*; and that this gulf was then, as indicated by Mene-laüs, from fifteen to twenty leagues in length. It had, therefore, only required the nine hundred years that elapsed between the time of Homer and that of Strabo, to bring things to the state in

* Journal de Physique, t. xlii, p. 40. *et seq.*