

banks of sand and mud, whence they had been drawn, by the long course of ordinary causes. Such were the dreadful accidents to which the first settlers on these lands were exposed ; but no sooner were they over, than ordinary causes began again to act ; the sand-banks rose ; their surface was covered with grass ; the coast was thus extended, and new islands were formed ; time effaced the impression of past misfortunes ; and those among the inhabitants of these dangerous soils, who had been able to save themselves on the coast, ventured to return to settle on them again, and had time to multiply, before the recurrence of the same catastrophes.

This has been the general course of events on all the coasts of the North Sea, and particularly on those of the countries of Sleswigh and Holstein. It is thus that the origin and progress of the *art of dikes* will supply us with a very interesting *chronometer* in the history of the continent and of man, particularly exemplified in this part of the globe. A Lutheran clergyman, settled in the island of Nord Strand, having collected all the particulars of this history which the documents of the country could afford, published it in 1668, in a German work, entitled *The North Frisian Chronicle*. It was chiefly from this work, and from the *Chronicle of Dankwerth*, that M. Hartz extracted the information which he gave to me, accompanied by two maps, copied for me, by one of his sons, from those of Johannes Mayerus, a mathematician ; they bear the title of *Frisia Cimbrica* ; one of them respecting the state of the *islands* and of the *coast*, in 1240, as it may be traced in the chronicles, and the other, as it was in 1651.

According to these documents, the first inhabitants