

“ If we proceed further to the north, to the shores of the *Baltic* for instance, we have undoubted evidence of a *change of level* in the same direction as on our own shores. The level of the sea has been represented as lowering at so great a rate as *forty inches in a century*. Celsius observed, that several rocks which are now above the water, were not long ago sunken rocks, and dangerous to navigators ; and he took particular notice of one which, in the year 1680, was on the surface of the water, and, in the year 1731, was  $20\frac{1}{2}$  Swedish inches above it. From an inscription near *Aspo*, in the lake *Melar*, which communicates with the *Baltic*, engraved, as is supposed, about five centuries ago, the level of the sea appears to have sunk in that time no less than thirteen Swedish feet. All these facts, with many more which it is unnecessary to enumerate, make the *gradual depression*, not only of the *Baltic*, but of the whole *Northern Ocean*, a matter of certainty.”—*Playfair’s Illustrations*, p. 445.

That indefatigable and accurate observer De Luc, has the following commentary on the preceding passage :

“ It would be unnecessary to mention even the two inconsiderable facts above, if the *depression* of the *level* of the seas were indeed a matter of certainty ; for the best authenticated and the least equivocal monuments of their change would then abound along all their coasts. But proofs are every where found that such a change is chimerical : they may be seen in all the vales coming down to these seas, in which there is no perceptible impression of the action of any waters but those of the land, and no vestige, through their whole extent, of any permanent abode of those of the sea ; and proofs to the same effect