

certain extent; and when these rivers reach the extensive lakes of the sea, and that rapidity which carried with it the particles of mud suddenly ceases, these particles are left at the sides of the mouth: they finally form lands which extend the coast; and if it be a coast where the sea also deposits her sand, and contributes to this accumulation, it produces in this way provinces, whole kingdoms; usually the most fertile, and soon the richest in the world, if their governors will allow industry to use its efforts without interruption.

#### DOWNNS.

The effects of the sea without the co-operation of these inland rivers are less productive. When the coast is flat and the bottom sandy; the waves drive the sand towards the shore; at each ebb a portion is left dry, and the wind, which generally blows from the sea, casts it higher on the beach. Thus the *downs* are formed, those sandy hills which, if the invention of man does not teach him how to fix by introducing herbage suited to the soil, progress slowly, but with certainty, towards the interior of the country, and then overwhelm fields and dwellings; because the same wind which conveys the sand of the beach on the *down*, casts that of the summit of the *down* still farther inland. But if the nature of the sand and that of the water it absorbs, are such as form a durable cement, the shells and bones cast on the shore will become incrustated with it; woods, trunks of trees, and plants which grow near the seaside, will become enveloped in these accumulations; and thus will be formed those solid downs, such