

ments in places which nature has assigned to them. I do not speak of volcanoes, not only because of their irregular irruptions, but because nothing proves that they could have existed beneath the sea, and therefore they are no service in proving what lapse of time has occurred since the last retreat of the sea.

LANDS GAINED BY THE PERPETUAL DEPOSITE OF
ALLUVIAL MATTER BY RIVERS.

MM. Deluc and Dolomieu have most attentively examined the progress of the lands formed by the deposits of the rivers; and although at issue on a great number of the points of their theory of the earth, they agree in this: these alluvial accumulations increase very rapidly, and must have augmented much more quickly at first, when the mountains afforded more materials for the streams, and yet their extent is but very limited.

The memoir of Dolomieu on Egypt,(1) tends to prove that, in the time of Homer, the tongue of land on which Alexander built his city was not then in existence; and that they were able to navigate from the island of Pharos, into the gulf, and since called, lake Mareotis; and that this gulf was then from fifteen to twenty leagues long, as stated by Menelaus. The nine centuries then between Homer and Strabo were sufficient to bring matters to the state described by the latter, and to reduce this gulf to the form of a lake six leagues long. It is still even true, that since that period things have

(1) Journal de Physique, tome xlii. p. 40, &c.