

selves three leagues during eighteen centuries; that the alluvial accumulations of a similar kind have been formed to the west of the Rhone, and that many places situated six or eight centuries since on the bank of the sea shore, or large pools, are now many miles inland.

Any person may observe in Holland and Italy, how rapidly the Rhine, the Po, and the Arno, now that they are confined within dykes, raise their bed; how their mouths approach the sea by forming long promontories at their sides, and can judge by these facts how few centuries these waves have employed in depositing the flat plains which they at present traverse.

Many cities which at well known periods of history were flourishing sea ports, are now several leagues inland; many have even been ruined in consequence of this change of situation. Venice can scarcely preserve the *lagoons* which separate her from the continent; and in spite of every exertion she will one day become united to the mainland. (1)

We learn from Strabo, that in the time of Augustus, Ravenna was amongst lagoons, as Venice now is; and now Ravenna is a league from the shore. Spina was founded by the Greeks on the sea shore; yet in Strabo's time it was ninety stadia from it, and it is now destroyed. Adria in Lombardy, which conferred its title on the sea, and of which it formed upwards of twenty centuries and more the principal port, is now six leagues distant from it. Fortis, has even reckoned it probable that

(1) See the Memoir of M. Forfait on the lagoons of Venice, with Mem. de la Classe Phys. de l'Inst. vol. v. p. 213.