

Spanish governor, Gaspar Robles, in 1570. A century afterwards land had been formed in some places three quarters of a league beyond these dykes; and the city of Groningen itself, partly built on the ancient soil, on a limestone which does not belong to the present sea, and in which we find the same shells as in our coarse limestone in the neighbourhood of Paris, is only six leagues from the sea. Having visited these places, I can myself testify other well-known facts, the greater portion of which M. Deluc has already ably explained.(1) The same phenomenon may be observed, and with the same exactitude, along the coasts of East Friesland, and the countries of Bremen and Holstein, because the parts are known where the new lands were enclosed for the first time, and thence we can measure what has since been gained.

This alluvial plain, so very fertile, formed by the rivers and the sea, is in this country a gift the more valuable, as the ancient soil, covered with heath and turf-bogs (*tourbières*) is incapable of being made to produce vegetation; the alluvial deposits alone supply the means of subsistence to the inhabited cities established along this coast since the middle age, and which would not have reached their present opulent state without the rich lands which the rivers produced for them, and which they are continually augmenting.

If the extent which Herodotus assigns to the sea of Azof, which he makes nearly equal to that of the Euxine,(2) was expressed in less ambiguous terms, and if we clearly knew what he meant by the Gerr-

(1) In various parts of the two last volumes of his Letters to the Queen of England.

(2) Melpom, lxxxvi.