

hus(1) we should find there also strong proofs of the changes produced by the rivers and the rapidity with which they are effected, for the alluvial deposits of the river could alone(2) during this epoch, that is, for two thousand two or three hundred years, have reduced the sea of Azof to its present size, have closed the course of the Gerrhus, or that branch of the Dnieper which would have united with the Hypacyris, and with that river have thrown its waters into the gulph Carcinites or Olu-Deignitz, and have reduced the Hypacyris itself to nearly nothing.(3) We should have proof no less powerful if it were ascertained that the Oxus or Sihoun, which now disembogues itself into the lake Aral, fell once into the Caspian sea; but we have close at hand proofs sufficiently convincing without being compelled to have recourse to any in the least ambiguous, or to make the geographical ignorance

(1) Ibid, lvi.

(2) This supposed diminution of the Black sea and the sea of Azof has been attributed to the breaking up of the Bosphorus, which happened at the pretended epoch of the deluge of Deucalion; and yet, to establish the fact, recourse is had to the successive diminutions of the extent assigned to these seas in Herodotus, Strabo, &c. But, it is quite plain that if this diminution had arisen from the rupture of the Bosphorus, it must have been completed long before the time of Herodotus, and even the period called that of Deucalion.

(3) See Rennel's Geography of Herodotus, p. 56, &c. and a part of M. Dureau de Lamalle's work, called 'The physical Geography of the Black Sea,' &c. At present there is only the very small river of Kamannoipost, which can represent the Gerrhus or Hypacyris of Herodotus.

M. Dureau, p. 170, attributes to Herodotus the making the Borysthenes and Hypanis discharge their waters into the Palus Mæotis; but Herodotus only says (Melp. liii.) that these two rivers flow together on to the same lake, that is, Liman, as at present. He does not carry the Gerrhus and Hypacyris farther.