

ment of Landes, they are threatening to advance with inevitable destruction. One of these villages, that of Mimisan, has struggled against them for twenty years, and a down more than sixty feet high is perceptibly approaching it.

In 1802 the pools overflowed five fine farms in the village of St. Julien.(1) They have long since covered an ancient Roman road leading from Bourdeaux to Bayonne, and which could be seen forty years ago when the waters were low.(2) The Adour, which was known to have formerly passed Old Boucaut, and flowed into the sea at Cape Breton, is now turned from it more than a thousand fathoms.

The late M. Bremontier, inspector of bridges and roads, who made great researches on downs, calculated their progress at sixty feet annually, and in some places at seventy-two. According to his calculations, they will reach Bourdeaux in two thousand years; and from their present size, rather more than four thousand years must have elapsed since their accumulation commenced.(3) The overwhelming of the cultivated lands of Egypt by the sterile sands of Libya, which the west wind casts on them, is a phenomenon similar to that of the downs. These sands have buried a number of cities and villages, whose ruins may still be seen; and that since the conquest of the country by the Mahometans, since the tops of mosques and the pinnacles of minarets are to be seen projecting through the sand.(4) Advancing so rapidly, they would doubtlessly have

(1) Memoirs of M. Bremontier of the fixing of Downs.

(2) Tassin loc. Cit.

(3) See Bremontier's Memoir.

(4) Denon—Voyage en Egypte.