

filled the narrow defiles of the valley if so many ages had elapsed since they began to be cast there. (1) There would be nothing left between the Libyan chain and the Nile. It is then a chronometer, the measure of which it would be as easy as interesting to obtain.

TURF BOGS AND SLIPS.

The turf bogs, so generally produced in the north of Europe by the accumulation of the remains of sphagna and other aquatic mosses, also give us a measure of time. They increase in proportion determined with regard to each place; they thus envelope the small mounds of earth on which they are formed. Many of these mounds have been covered within the memory of man. In other places the turf-bog descends along the valleys; it advances like the glaciers, but the glaciers melt at the base, whilst the turf-bog is impeded by nothing. By sounding it down to the solid soil, we judge of its antiquity; and we find with turf-bogs as with downs, that they cannot have commenced at an indefinite and very remote epoch. It is the same with slips, which are made with vast rapidity at the base of steep rocks, and which are still very far from having covered them. But, as no precise measurements have yet been applied to these two operations, we shall not expatiate on them farther. (2)

(1) We may here refer to all travellers who have traversed the western parts of Egypt.

(2) These phenomena are well discussed in the Letters of M. Deluc to the Queen of England, where he treats of the turf