

suspension by rivers after heavy rains is prodigiously great. According to Major Rennell, a glass of water taken from the Ganges at the height of its inundations, yields one fourth sediment. Mr. Barrow says, in his account of China, that the quantity of mud brought down by the Yellow River was found, by calculation founded on experiment, to exceed two million solid feet per hour; and that some miles distant from the sea, the river was three quarters of a mile broad, and was running at the rate of seven or eight miles an hour. A great part of the enormous mass of mud, which is perpetually brought down by the Yellow River, is borne by strong currents from the Yellow Sea into the Gulf Petchelee, where the stillness of the water allows it to subside. Into the same gulf the river of Peking discharges itself; and Mr. Barrow observes, that a great part of the land adjoining this gulf has apparently been formed, by the sand and mud brought into it; for the tide flows inland one hundred and ten miles, and often inundates the whole country, the general level of which is not more than two feet above the level of the river: indeed, the deepest part of the great gulf of Petchelee does not exceed twelve fathoms; and the prodigious number of sandy islands just appearing above the surface, are said to have been formed within the records of history.—*Barrow's China*, p. 492. From the above account, there is every probability that this wide gulf will soon be filled up by alluvial and marine depositions. The Gulf of Mexico, according to Humboldt, is gradually filling by the sand brought into it from the Caribbean Sea on the south side, and from the vast rivers, the Rio del Norte and the Mississippi.

From several sources of information referred to in the "Asiatic Researches," and from the best accounts of the Portuguese, who first visited India, there is much reason to believe, that the whole country of Malabar, between the Gaut Mountains and the sea, has become dry land at no very remote period. Numerous traditions refer to it. There is an ancient book called "Kerul Oospiette," or the emerging of the country of Kerul, or Malabar. The book was translated by Jonathan Duncan, Esq. In this account, the formation of the land is ascribed to supernatural agency; but it contains many statements that appear highly probable. It was soon inhabited, on account of the fertility of the ground; but the inhabitants were, at first, driven away by the multitude of serpents, which abounded in the mud and slime of the newly emerged country. In a manuscript account of Malabar, ascribed to the Bishop of Virapli, the seat of a celebrated Roman Catholic seminary, the writer observes, that, by the accounts of the learned natives of that coast, it is little more than 2300 years since the sea came up to the foot of the Jukem or Gaut Mountains; and this he thinks extremely probable, from the nature of the soil, and the quantity of sand, oyster shells, and other fragments, met with on making excavations. It is not unreasonable to believe that the whole coast was elevated by subterra-