

TREATISE ON GEOLOGY.

CHAPTER VI. *continued.*

FLUVIATILE DEPOSITS.

New Lands at the Mouths of Rivers.

THE deposition of sediments from a river happens in all parts of a valley, even very near to the sources of the stream, if the slopes of the ground permit; but as towards the sea, generally, the inclination becomes the most gentle, it is there that the finer sediments drop most abundantly.

Inland seas, which by their position are exempt from strong tides and currents, become filled with river sediments, under the same conditions as large lakes. Their area is contracted, by the addition of new land on the margin, and their depth is lessened by the diffusion of fine sediment over the bed, to various distances, according to circumstances already pointed out while treating of lakes.

Some of the most considerable deltas at the mouths of rivers have been accumulated in seas of this quiet character; as the delta of the Nile, which is a continuation of the long valley of Egypt; the wide sediments at