

on in our own island, may appear insignificant, and incapable of producing any material effect on the earth's surface; but if we trace the results in countries where these agents are now operating on a larger scale, we shall at once perceive their importance, and that time only is wanting, to form accumulations of strata, equal in extent, and of the same character with many of those ancient deposits, which will hereafter come under our observation.

From experiments made with great care, it has been ascertained that the quantity of solid matter brought down by the Ganges and carried into the sea annually, is equal to 6,368,077,440 tons: in other words, to a mass of solid materials, equal in size and weight to sixty times that of the great pyramid of Egypt; the base of that stupendous structure covering eleven acres, and its perpendicular height being 500 feet.\* The Burrampooter, another river in India, conveys annually as much earthy matter into the sea as the Ganges. The waters of the Indus, as the celebrated traveller, Captain Burns, informed me, are alike loaded with earthy materials.

In the mighty rivers of America, the same effects are observable; the quantities of trees brought down by the Mississippi and imbedded in its deposits are almost incredible, and the basin of the sea around the embouchure of that river, is becoming shallower

\* Lyell's Principles of Geology.