

56. SAND-FLOOD, AND RECENT LIMESTONE OF CORNWALL.—On many parts of the shores of Scotland, sand-floods have converted tracts of great fertility into barren wastes: and on the northern coast of Cornwall an extensive district has been covered by drifted sand, which has become consolidated by the percolation of water holding iron in solution, and in some places forms ranges of low mounds, and hills, forty feet high. This sandstone offers a striking and most interesting example of recent formation, and has been described by Dr. Paris, in a memoir which I do not hesitate to characterize as one of the most graphic, and instructive geological essays on modern deposits, that has appeared in this country.* The sand has evidently been drifted from the sea by hurricanes, probably at a very remote period; it is first seen in a slight, but increasing state of aggregation, on several parts of the shore in the Bay of St. Ives. Around the promontory of New Kaye, the sandstone occurs in various states of induration, from that of a friable aggregate, to a stone so compact, as to be broken

Mr. Wilkinson, in a late highly interesting work, questions the correctness of these inferences, as to the extent of the sand-floods, and asserts, that at the present time the alluvial soil on the increase, the deposits from the inundations of the Nile more than counterbalancing the inroads of the sands; and that the land now capable of cultivation in the valley of Egypt is greater than at the time of the Pharaohs.—*Manners and Customs of the Ancient Egyptians*, vol. i. pp. 218—222.

* Appendix E.