

on these are inscriptions, not traced by the Greeks or Romans, but by some of the simplest forms of animal existence, which have here left enduring records of the physical changes that have taken place on these shores, since man erected the temple in honour of his gods. The tallest column is forty-two feet in height; its surface is smooth and uninjured to an elevation of about twelve feet from the pedestal, where a band of perforations made by a species of marine boring muscle (*Modiola lithophaga*) commences, and extends to the height of nine feet, above which all traces of their ravages disappear.\* The perforations, many of which still contain shells, are of a pear shape, and are so numerous and deep as to prove unquestionably that the pillars were immersed in sea-water, at the very time when the base and lower portions were protected by rubbish and tufa; and that the upper parts projected above the waters, and consequently were placed beyond the reach of the *lithodomi*.† The platform of the temple is now about one foot below high-water mark; and the sea, which is only forty yards distant, penetrates the intervening soil. The upper part of the band of perforations is therefore at least twenty-three feet above the level of the sea; and yet it is evident that the columns were once plunged in salt water for a long period. It is equally clear that they have since been elevated to a height of

\* See Appendix F.

† *Lithodomi*, from *lithos*, stone, and *demo*, to build.