

changes again occur, the bed of the present sea will be rich, when upheaved and exposed, in still more interesting revelations. The cleft of a rock belonging to some mountain ridge, or the falling bank of some inland river, will lay bare the wreck of our gallant ships. It would be foolish indeed to think of navies lying entire and well-ordered in the depths of the sea, as when they were elevated on the stocks, or congregated in the harbour. Scarcely has a bark struck and sunk till the shore is strewed with its tackling, timber, and cargo ; and of the fated crew one lifeless corpse is cast upon the beach, a second is enwrapt in sea-weed, to decay amid its foldings, and a third is promptly devoured by predatory fishes. But many a damaged vessel has gone down in still water, and has been gradually embedded in its sedimentary deposit. Even where the hulk has broken up, relics of its freight may be preserved,—perhaps attire, perhaps documents fenced by affectionate or official care from aqueous invasion. And what shall we think of languages being examined which subsist only in a fossil condition, and which, if they can be deciphered, will tell of sailing from one country