

burgh, in the year 1825, will be in the remembrance of many of our readers, and this was produced by a flood that was occasioned by a no more violent cause than a strong westerly wind, impeding and partially preventing the flow of the waters of the Neva.

It was, during the last century, much disputed whether the sea maintained its level; and many geographers were of opinion that it was constantly falling, and the Baltic in particular. The question is to the present day undecided, although experiments have been made to determine it. Of these there are many that favour the supposition of a decreasing level, but they are opposed to others which lead to an opposite conclusion. In the year 1820, Mr. Bruncrona collected the results of the experiments made during half a century on the western coast of the Baltic, and from these it may be deduced, that the level of the water is there constantly falling; and this conclusion is supported by the opinion of the Baltic pilots, who state that the sea is shallower than it was, and that the straits which separate the islets along the coast of Sweden could once be passed by vessels drawing ten feet of water, though they are now not practicable for boats that draw more than three feet. Mr. Hallstrom states, that the same effect is going on in the Gulf of Bothnia, with this difference, that in the Baltic the lowering decreases from the north, and disappears at the southern extremity; but in the Gulf of Bothnia, it is nearly uniform throughout. These results lead to the conclusion that the level of the Baltic is falling, unless we accept the opinion of those who state, that the currents from the north to the south of the Baltic, produced by the streams which flow into it, drive the waters to the southern shore, where the level is rising, though it is falling on the northern. But whatever opinions may be formed from a consideration of these facts, we have at present no means of determining whether the general level of the ocean is constant.

#### THE COLOUR OF THE OCEAN.

The colour of the ocean is not fixed, but is influenced by the direction of the light, the chymical composition of the water, and the nature of the rocks over which it flows. The sea commonly appears to have a deep blue tinge; but, as the depth decreases, it becomes clearer and has a lighter shade. When