

el Mia. He also detected a new species of fish, *Haligenes Tristrami*, Günther, in a salt lake called the Wed Rhir, lat. 32° N., long. 7° E., which has since been found living in the Gulf of Guinea.

Professor Suess, of Vienna, infers the existence of a post-pliocene sea on the present site of the Sahara, not only from the evidence of fossil shells of living species above alluded to, but from the distribution of living animals and plants in Northern Africa, especially from the character of the fauna and flora of Barbary, comprising the countries of Morocco, Algeria, and Tunis. The mammalia and birds, and still more the insects and reptiles, of that region, are South European in character, far more than African, the species seeming to favour the hypothesis of a former connection of Barbary with Spain, Sicily, and South Italy, and a separation of those same lands from the rest of Africa by a sea. In support of these views, Professor Suess cites the observations of Moritz Wagner in Africa, and Strauch's Algerian Herpetology.* The land shells also, on which so much dependence may be placed, because of their limited powers of migrating across marine channels, imply, as the late Edward Forbes pointed out, a former connection of Morocco with Spain, and of Algeria with Sicily and South Italy.

I have little doubt, therefore, that the Swiss meteorologists are right in supposing that the advance and retreat of the Alpine glaciers in the post-tertiary period has been materially influenced by changes in the temperature of the south wind, called by them Föhn, which is well known to carry, for many days of the year, across the Mediterranean, great remains of the scorching heat which it derives from the parched sands of the African desert. I can the more readily appreciate the probability of this theory from having myself witnessed, when in Sicily, in the month of November 1828, the effects of thirty-six hours' blowing of the sirocco, which completely stripped the summit and higher parts of Etna of its covering of snow, although I had been told that the mountain would not lose again its white mantle that winter, and that I should be prevented from ascending to explore its geological structure till the following spring.

* Suess. Transactions of the Royal Imperial Geol. Instit. of Vienna, January 1863.