

of the Dnieper, to pass in a boat from the Black Sea to the Baltic—from the south-east of Europe to the north-west.

The *Oder* and the *Elbe* follow the same northward direction as the *Vistula*, but their basins are more diversified in surface.

The *Rhine* conveys into the North Sea the waters of the Alpine chain; the *Rhone* carries them into the Gulf of Lyons; the *Po* diverts them into the Adriatic. [A canal between the *Rhone* and the *Rhine* connects the North Sea with the Mediterranean. The whole area of Holland is a collection of “deltoid islands” formed by the *Rhine*, in conjunction with the *Meuse* and the *Scheldt*.]

The principal rivers of France are the *Seine*, the *Loire*, and the *Garonne*; all of which pour their waters into the Atlantic.

[The Spanish mountains give birth to many navigable streams, scarcely less famous in song and history than for natural beauty. Of these the *Tagus* has depth enough for large ships as high as Lisbon. Its actual course is 480 miles. In commercial importance it is superior to the *Ebro* and the *Douro*, though these rivers attain a greater development, and collect the waters of more extensive basins.

The drainage-area of the *Volga* exceeds 640,000 square miles, and the river is navigable throughout the greater part of its course, or for 1900 miles. It has its source in a small lake on the table-land of *Valdai*, 530 feet above the sea-level, and falls into the *Caspian*, which is 83 feet 7 inches below the level of the *Black Sea*; so that it has a fall of 633 feet in 2400 miles. It conveys to the *Caspian* one-seventh of all the river-water of Europe.

We now turn our attention to the most important rivers of ASIA.

Lake *Aral*, an inland sea like the *Caspian*, receives two twin-rivers, the *Amü-Deryá*, or *Gihon* * (the ancient *Oxus*), and the *Syr-Daria*, or *Sihon* (the ancient *Jaxartes*), which descend from the table-land of *Pamir* and the mountain-chain of the *Belor-Tagh*.

The general direction of the former is from south-east to north-west. It appears to have been of old “the great highway of the

* [The Turks call it the *Djihoun*; the natives who dwell on its banks the *Amü-Deryá*.]