

the Jordan was depressed to its present low level of thirteen hundred feet beneath the Mediterranean since the times of the Deluge. On several parts of the coasts of Britain and Ireland the voyager can look down through the clear sea, in depths to which the tide never falls, on the remains of submerged forests ; and it is a demonstrable fact, that even during the present age there are certain extensive tracts of land which have sunk beneath the sea-level, while certain other extensive tracts have been elevated over it. In 1819, a wide expanse of country in the delta of the Indus, containing fully two thousand square miles of flat meadow, was converted by a sudden depression of the land, accompanied by an earthquake, into an inland sea ; and the tower of a small fort, which occupied nearly the middle of the sunken area, and on which many of the inhabitants of a neighbouring village succeeded in saving themselves, may still be seen raising its shattered head over the surface,—the only object visible in a waste of waters of which the eye fails to determine the extent. About three years after this event, a tract of country, interposed between the foot of the Andes and the Pacific, more than equal in area to all Great Britain, was elevated from two to seven feet over its former level, and rocks laid bare in the sea, which the pilots and fishermen of the coast had never before seen. On the Indian coast the sea *seemed* to be rising at nearly the same time when it *appeared* to be falling on the American one ; and on the latter such was the actual impression entertained by the people. It is stated by Sir Charles Lyell, in his “Elements,” that he was informed by Mr Cruickshanks, an English botanist who resided in Chili at the time, “that it was the general belief of the fishermen and inhabitants, *not* that the land had risen, but that the ocean had permanently retreated.” But if it had retreated from the Chilian shore, how could it have risen on the Indian one ? In like manner the sea appears to be re-