

with more water than is lost by evaporation; but independently of the difficulty of such calculation, if it had a communication with any other sea, a constant and rapid current towards the opening would have marked its course, but I never heard of any such discovery being made; travellers, of the best credit, affirm the very contrary, and consequently the Caspian sea must lose by evaporation just as much water as it receives from the Wolga and other rivers.

Nor is it any improbable conjecture that the Black sea will at some period be separated from the Mediterranean; and that the Bosphorus will be shut up, whenever the great rivers shall have accumulated a sufficient quantity of earth to answer that effect; this may be the case in the course of time by the successive diminution of waters in rivers, in proportion as the mountains from whence they draw their sources are lowered by the rains, and those other causes we have just alluded to.

The Caspian and Black seas must therefore be looked upon rather as lakes than gulphs of the ocean, for they resemble other lakes which receive a number of rivers without any
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