

now than it was formerly, for Herodotus tells us, that the Nile was 100 days in swelling, and as many in abating : if this is true, we can only attribute the cause thereof to the elevation of the land, which the mud of the waters has heightened by degrees, and to the diminution of the mountains in Africa, from whence it derives its source. It is very natural to believe that these mountains have diminished, because the abundant rains which fall in these climates during half the year sweep away great quantities of sand and earth from the mountains into the valleys, from whence the torrents wash them into the Nile, which carries great part into Egypt, where it deposits them in its overflowings.

The Nile is not the only river whose inundations are regular ; the river Pegu is called the *Indian Nile*, because it overflows regularly every year ; it inundates the country for more than 30 leagues from its banks ; and, like the Nile, leaves an abundance of mud, which so greatly fertilizes the earth, that the pasturage is excellent for cattle, and rice grows in such great abundance, that every year a number of vessels are laden with it, without leaving a scarcity in the country.* The Niger, or what

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* See Ovington's Travels, vol. ii. page 290.