

parts of the English coast, particularly of Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, which may be seen, at low water, extending far into the sea. The trees are broken off near the roots, but their stumps are erect, proving that they are in the position in which they grew : this fact clearly indicates a submersion of that part of the country at no very remote epoch. If ancient traditions could be relied upon with as much certainty, as the records of nature imprinted on the crust of the globe, we might cite the fact of ancient continents having sunk down, since the world was peopled by the human race. Plato, in his dialogue entitled *Timæus*, says, that Solon received an account from the priests of Sais in Egypt, that there was formerly a vast country called the Atlantides, situated beyond the Straits of Gibraltar, the inhabitants of which were highly civilized and flourishing ; but the whole country was engulfed in the ocean, during a violent earthquake.

The upheaving of extensive islands or continents, was probably always accompanied by the depression of other portions of the crust of the globe : the oscillations of the surface may be the result of some general laws of subterranean motion, as regular and definite in their operation, as the laws which regulate the motions of the planetary system. These laws may remain, for ever, undiscovered by human intelligence, but our ignorance respecting the causes which have repeatedly submerged and elevated various portions of the earth's surface, does not invalidate the fact, that such submersions and elevations have taken place at various epochs. The admission of this fact has been progressively gaining ground, and is supported by a mass of evidence that cannot be refuted.