

could not be preserved when the waste of the coast had brought the violence of the sea upon it, perhaps over the bank of pebbles by which it was connected to the main land. (Appendix.)

Spurn Head, the northern limit of Humber, the south-eastern point of Yorkshire, is a mass of pebbles and sand, moveable by wind and tide; yet so balanced are the forces by which it is assailed from the river and the sea, that this has long supported Smeaton's lighthouses, and is one of the least unstable parts of this variable line of coast. It is not, properly speaking, a part of the *old land*; but a long curved bank, thrown up by the sea, on the place of a tract of land which has been destroyed. It is subject to continual waste by the action of the currents setting along the shore southward; but this waste is continually repaired by new materials which these currents bring from the cliffs which undergo destruction farther north. It is out of the ruins of Holderness that the Spurn is constituted and maintained.

Proceeding northward by a narrow natural causeway of sand and pebbles, slightly connected by the growth of *Elymus arenarius*, and sometimes overflowed by the sea, we arrive at the place where Kilnsea was. Here stood a cross, which had been first erected (it was said) at Ravenspurn to commemorate the landing of Henry IV. in 1399, but in 1818 the wandering relic was removed to Burton Constable, and in 1832 was re-erected at Hedon. Kilnsea has shared the fate of Ravenspurn. The broad lands which intervened between the church and the sea, and perhaps constituted a rival to Dimlington Height, have long vanished; half the church fell in 1826, ten years later the village was removed, and at no distant date the whole of this little hill of hard land will disappear. Destruction of land, once fertile and populous, is the melaucholy characteristic of the whole coast from Spurn northward to Bridlington. Through all the reach of history, and probably for longer periods before, the sea has here been gaining on the land. The rate at which the cliffs recede from the insatiable waves has been measured of late