

are made upon the banks, above the ordinary level of the water. Thus great embankments will be formed upon each side. These levees are augmented by the agency of man, for the protection of his property from overflow. The river Po, in Italy, is restrained within proper bounds by levees higher than the roofs of the houses of the cities protected by them. The Mississippi is confined by levees for a considerable distance above and below New Orleans. A serious breach or *crevasse* in the dykes would inundate the city and vicinity.

*Deltas of Rivers.*—The delta of the Mississippi, the father of waters, has formed most of the lower part of Louisiana, and has advanced several leagues since New Orleans was built. All large rivers enter the ocean by several mouths like this. The delta of the Ganges commences 220 miles from the sea, and has a base 200 miles long, and the waters of the ocean at its mouth are muddy 60 miles from the shore. Since the year 1243 the delta of the Nile has advanced a mile at Damietta; and the same at Foah since the 15th century. In 2,000 years the gain of the land at the mouth of the Po has been 18 miles, for 100 miles along the coast. The delta of the Niger extends into the interior 170 miles, and along the coast 300 miles, so as to form an area of 25,000 square miles.

The Delta of the Ganges with its numerous mouths is represented in Fig. 87.

Fig. 87.

