

shores exactly such an appearance as our own country would have presented some sixty or a hundred years after the elevation of the old coast line. The island of Reguain, one of these, was carefully surveyed in the year 1841 by the officers of Her Majesty's brig Childers; and it has been carefully mapped in the admirable Physical Atlas of the Messrs. Johnston of Edinburgh. We find it, as shown in the map, resembling three islands; the one placed within the other, as, to employ a homely illustration, the druggist, to save room, places his empty pill-boxes the one within the other. First, in the centre, there is the ancient island, with a well-defined coast line, some six or eight feet high, running all around it. At the base of this line there is a level sea of rich paddy fields,—for what may be termed the second island has been all brought into cultivation; and *it* has also its coast line, which descends some six or eight feet more, to the level of a third island, which was elevated over the sea not more than eighty years ago, and which is still uncultivated; and the third island is surrounded by the existing coast line. Thus the centre island of Reguain consists of three great steps or platforms, each of which marks a paroxysm of elevation; and, with the upheaval of the coast of Chili, and a numerous class of events of a similar character, it enables us to conceive of the last great geological change of which our country was the subject. We imagine a forest-covered land, marked by the bold commanding features by which we recognise our country, but inhabited by barbarous, half-naked tribes, that dwell in rude circular wigwams, formed of the branches of trees,—that employ in war or the chase weapons of flint or jasper,—and that navigate their rivers or estuaries in canoes hollowed by fire out of single logs of wood. There has been an earthquake during the night; and when morning rises, the beach shows its broad darkened strip of apparent ebb, though the tide is at full at the time; and when