

daily, or 290,905 tons annually. Adding the other ingredients not included in Professor Prestwich's calculation, such as chlorides of sodium and potassium, sulphates of soda and potash, carbonate of magnesia, silica, alumina, &c., the sum total of substances annually carried to the sea in solution, will closely approximate to my earlier calculation.

If we consider that this is only one of many rivers that flow over rocks which contain lime and other substances easily soluble, we then begin to comprehend what an enormous quantity of matter by this—to the eye—perfectly imperceptible process is being constantly carried into the sea. If we take all the other rivers of the east, and those of the south of England (exclusive of those of Devon and Cornwall), we find that they drain more than 18,000 square miles, to a great extent consisting of limestone and other calcareous rocks; and if we assume the amount of outflow from the sum of these rivers to be only three times that of the Thames (and I believe it must be more), we may have about 872,715 tons of bicarbonate of lime and other substances passing with these rivers annually to the sea in solution.

The rivers of the west coast of England and of the whole of Wales drain about 30,000 square miles; and the waters, as a rule, are much softer than those of the east of England. But it does not necessarily follow, in the course of a year, that these rivers, in proportion to rainfall and the areas which they drain, do not each carry off as much matter in solution as those of the east of England. Their softness is due to the circumstance, that the rock-formations of the west are much less calcareous than those of the eastern division of the kingdom. I have already shown that the greatest amount of rainfall for given areas is in the west of