

the Hermes, Caÿster, Mæander and Caicus as having been formed by the streams that flow through them.¹ The deltas vary, he thinks, according to the nature of the regions drained, being most developed where the country is large and the surface rocks are soft, and where the rivers are fed by many torrents. He remarks that these accumulations are prevented from advancing further outward into the sea by the ebb and flow of the tides.²

Strabo believed the outflowing currents of the Mediterranean Sea, as well as that of the Bosphorus, to be due to the escape of the surplus water that drains into the basin. In the course of his narrative he is led to discuss the question of the opening of a connection between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, and between this latter and the outer ocean. He expresses the opinion that we should not be surprised if the Isthmus of Suez were to be disrupted or to subside, so as to allow the Mediterranean and Red Sea to be joined together.³

In his philosophical survey of Nature and its problems, Seneca found room for a consideration of the water-circulation of the globe. His reflections on this subject show that in one important respect he had not advanced beyond the position of Aristotle. In his essay already cited he discusses at some length the various kinds of terrestrial waters, noting their tastes, temperature, uses, effects and other features. He speaks of himself as a diligent wine-grower,⁴ and

¹ Book xv. i. 16.

² i. iii. 7, 8.

³ i. iii. 6, 7, 17.

⁴ Seneca evidently used his eyes to some purpose in the country. He calls attention to the remarkable power of vegetation in displacing