

observations made for sixteen consecutive years, to average about nine feet annually. At Sullivan's Island, at the entrance to the Charleston harbour, in South Carolina, the sea is said to have carried away a quarter of a mile of land in three years. Florida is believed to be a signal sufferer in this respect, although I can find no figures or other information available.

The best geological authorities in England deny that the gain of land, especially on our Eastern coasts, since the earliest historical period, counterbalances the loss. Those who affirm the opposite have been at no pains to reckon the amount of erosion; and seem to lose sight of this: that while the new acquisitions are apparent, there are rarely any natural monuments to attest the former existence of the land which has been submerged. So much for the comfortable, but wholly erroneous, theory of a full compensation by lands already reclaimed by embankment from the sea.

But the vast territory which has been shown to have been destroyed elsewhere in Europe is evidence that the lost land of England, taking the very highest estimate of area, is by no means on so large a scale as to test the credulity or challenge the doubt of the inquirer.