

widest and deepest dock in the world is the new Royal naval dock at Malta, which was opened on the 16th of February last, and named the "Somerset Dock." It is 34 feet deep, 80 feet wide at entrance, 104 feet wide between the copings, and 430 feet long. It cost, including the heavy works necessary in making an entrance to it, about £150,000 sterling.

Improvement of Rivers.

The improvement of rivers by embankments, cuttings, dredging, &c., requires the nicest judgment in the Engineer. The force of an apparently trivial flow of water is so irresistible when that flow is stopped, and the action of water on a large scale so often varies from the expectations entertained, that the best Engineering is required to deal with such forces.

Holland.

Holland is pre-eminently the land of embankments, not only as regards its rivers, but also the dykes raised to resist the encroachments of the sea. These are, in many places, 30 feet above the level of the ocean. And as an instance of how the simplest may often be found the most effective means, it may be mentioned that bundles of reeds twisted together, laid horizontally, and secured to the dykes, with piles driven in above the reeds, are found among the best methods of retaining the dykes towards the sea.

It has been by these means, and by drainage, that Holland, much of which is below the sea, now embraces some of the richest land in the world, and bears its testimony to the happy results of Engineering and Engineers.

Embankment of the Thames.

The embankments in England, along the river Thames, date back certainly from the period of the Romans. As a