

the persistent erosion of the cliffs of Denmark. The deepening of gulfs, the severing of peninsulas from the mainland, and the waste of islands is a continual process; while in several cases marsh lands, defended for centuries by dykes, has at last been overwhelmed, and thousands of the inhabitants drowned. In this way, the island of Barsoe, on the coast of Schleswig, has lost, year after year, an acre at a time, and Alsen suffers in the same manner.

But all these modern calamities in Jutland pale before the terrible catastrophe which overtook the peninsula in the third century B.C. This is known to history as the Cimbric Deluge, and a description is recorded in the pages of Strabo. There was a tradition, in Virgil's time, that Sicily was part of Italy, which the poet alludes to in a passage in the *Æneid*, iii., 414, which Dryden has thus rendered:—

“ . . . Th' Italian shore  
And fair Sicilian coast were one, before  
An earthquake caused the flaw : the roaring tides  
The passage broke, that land from land divides,  
And where the lands retired, the rushing ocean  
rides.”

In fact, there are not many coasts in Europe whose borders are at all densely peopled, where we may not find records of the similar loss of land. The records in America, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, and the other countries of the Western hemisphere are as yet naturally meagre, but it is known that at several places the marine erosion has been severe. At Cape May, in Delaware, the encroachment of the sea was shown by