

of waste on the western coast of Schleswig as to lead us to anticipate that at no distant period in the physical geography of Europe, Jutland may become an island, and the ocean may obtain a more direct entrance into the Baltic. The marsh islands between the rivers Elbe and Eider are now mere banks. Some of them, after having been inhabited with security for more than ten centuries, have been suddenly overwhelmed. In this manner, in 1216, no fewer than 10,000 of the inhabitants of Eiderstede and Ditmarsch perished; and on the 11th of October, 1634, the islands and the whole coast, as far as Jutland, suffered by a dreadful deluge.

The tale of the loss of Nordstrand has been often told. Up to A.D. 1240 this island was so nearly connected with the mainland as to appear a peninsula, and was commonly called North Friesland. It measured from nine to eleven geographical miles from north to south, and six to eight from east to west. In the aforementioned year, it was torn asunder from the continent, but continued to be both prosperous and populous. After numerous losses, it still contained 9000 inhabitants. Finally, on October 11, in the year 1634, a flood passed over the whole island, in which 1300 houses, with numerous churches, were destroyed. More than 6000 persons perished, and 50,000 head of cattle. Of the great island of Nordstrand, three small islets remain, one of which bears the name of Nordstrand. All are incessantly wasting owing to the action of the sea.

History recounts during the past ten centuries