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stance shows how very much the drainage and consequent agricultural condition of an alluvial tract may be improved, by clearing the outfalls of rivers that flow through it; and, at the same time, how comparatively small the naturally accumulating obstructions in a river bed may be, which will be sufficient in a large stream like the Hudson to produce the tidal alterations which have been observed at Albany.

To the geologist who interests himself with questions concerning the supposed alteration of the levels of land and sea, changes such as those I have described form matters of important study. How easy to solve the rising of the tide at Albany, by supposing the whole region to be gradually sinking! And yet how unnecessary any such extraordinary supposition.

I reached New York about 1 P.M., staid there a day, and came on to Newhaven this afternoon. The weather here is mild and fine: signs of spring are appearing on the fields and hill-sides, and the rows of elms, for which the town is famous, have been a full fortnight in flower.

Boston, April 2.—Among the circumstances by which the city of Boston is rendered agreeable to a stranger, and by which he is enabled to meet many pleasant people, are the numerous clubs, literary and scientific, which exist in the city. Meeting successively in the houses of the members, these re-unions make one or more evenings of the week pass agreeably, and inoculate the purely mercantile part of the community with that taste for literature and science, to which their well-known liberality—in endowing and promoting, by their pecuniary means, these departments of knowledge—is mainly to be ascribed. I attended several of these evening meetings during my stay in Boston—the last one, on the eve of my departure, at the house of Dr Warren.

I allude to them, in this place, for the purpose of