

Scheveningen, near the Hague, was once in the middle of the village. It now stands on the shore, half the place having been overwhelmed by the waves in 1570. A series of islands extending from the Texel to the mouths of the Elbe and Weser are to-day the last relics of a stretch once continuous. They have greatly diminished in size, and have lost about a third of their number since the time of Pliny. For that naturalist counted twenty-three islands between the Texel and the Eider in Schleswig-Holstein, whereas there are now only sixteen, including Heligoland and Newwerk.

The island of Heligoland, which was lately a British possession, and now ceded to Germany, has been greatly reduced in size since the year 800. I have seen a map in Von Hoff which shows the present island to be only a fraction of its former area. Sandy Island, now separated from Heligoland by a navigable channel, formed, less than a century ago, a portion of the larger island.

In the Roman period there existed an alluvial plain of great fertility where the Ems entered the sea by three arms. A flood in 1277 first destroyed a part of the peninsula. Other inundations followed at different periods throughout the 15th century. In 1507, a part only of Torum, a considerable town, remained standing; and in spite of the erection of dams, the residue of that place, together with market towns, villages, and monasteries to the number of fifty, were finally destroyed.

There are, declares Lyell, so many records