

summits. They now present the appearance of skeletons of mountains, bare rocks without any vegetation, or only producing a few stunted trees, whose roots seek in vain for nourishment among the soilless crevices. The trees which formerly covered these mountains having died away by degrees, the soil kept together by their roots, and increased by the decomposition of their leaves, has, in the course of time, been washed down by the heavy periodical rains into the vallies, the level of which has no doubt considerably risen, as is abundantly proved by many antique ruins having been discovered in digging the foundations of modern houses. In the plain of Olympia, the pedestals of the column of the Temple of Jupiter, which have lately been discovered, are nearly twenty feet below the present surface of the ground.

That the rivers have shared the same fate is also easily proved. The Cephissus, for instance, has dwindled down to a little stream not sufficient for irrigating the gardens in the plain of Attica; and yet at one time it was so deep as to form a barrier to the progress of Xerxes and his whole army, who, not being able to cross it, encamped upon its banks. The classical Illyssus is now quite dry, though the buttresses of the magnificent bridge which connected the Athenian side of the river with the Stadium, still exist, showing that the span of the arch was fifty feet; and, judging by appearances, the depth of water must have been at least twelve or fourteen feet. At Sparta are still to be seen the iron rings inserted in the stones forming the quays of the Eurotas, formerly used for the purpose of making fast the galleys. The water in that river now does not reach to the knee in any part; and the Inachus, which was formerly navigable up to Argos, is a dry torrent-bed, except during the rainy season.

GRECIAN AGRICULTURE.

I have before mentioned that the agricultural implements of the Greeks are defective. The plough is the same as that described by Hesiod nearly three thousand years ago; a simple piece of crooked timber, with only one shaft, and the ploughshare made of hard wood, sometimes tipped with iron. The harrow, the roller, the thrashing and winnowing machines, &c., are unknown in Greece. The thrashing floors, which generally belong to the commune, are circular pavements of about twenty yards in diameter, with a stake in the centre, and usually in an elevated position, to catch the wind, which is the Grecian winnowing-fan. To this stake are tied half a dozen horses, oxen, mules, and asses indiscriminately, and harnessed abreast, or rather tied together by a rope round the neck. The corn being strewn all over the floor, the cattle are placed at the outer circumference, and driven round and round, their circle becoming smaller and smaller every time, by the rope coiling itself round and round the post, till they necessarily came to a halt in the centre. They are then turned round, each cir-

cuit then extending by the cord unwinding, till they again reach the edge of the pavement. In this manner the corn is "trodden out"; and it may be remarked that the Greeks rigidly observe to the letter the Scriptural injunction, "Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn."

The following particulars relating to an article of daily use in England, have an interest as far as dumpings are eaten.

CURRENTS,

Which form by far the most important and indeed the staple article of the Grecian commerce, are the produce of a species of vine so nearly resembling the grape vine in form, leaf, size, and mode of growth; so as to show no apparent difference to the general observer. The name is a corruption of Corinth, in the neighbourhood of which they grow; and which has given them the same appellation in all European languages, in some of which it is less corrupted than in our own,—as, for instance, in French they are called raisins de Corinthe, and in German Corinthen.

It is an exceedingly tender plant, requiring the greatest care and attention. Currents will only grow in some of the Ionian islands and on the shores of the Peloponnesus, which consequently monopolize the trade and supply the whole world with this article. Attempts have frequently been made to transplant the currant vine to other countries of similar temperature, but uniformly without success. In Sicily and Malta they have degenerated into the common grape, and in Spain would not even take root at all. Recent experiments to remove them even to a short distance, as to Attica and the plains of Argos, have signally failed.

Before the revolution, the cultivation of currents was much larger than at present, and the whole trade was nearly annihilated during the war.

After the final expulsion of the Turks from the country, and the guarantee of its future independence by the three Protecting Powers, the Greeks began again to turn their attention to the cultivation of the currant. The few remaining old plantations, which had nearly grown wild from long neglect, were carefully manured and pruned, and fresh currant-vines planted, which, by the year 1832, produced nearly 4,000,000 pounds. Since that period the production has more than doubled itself.

As I mentioned before, the plant requires much care and labour, and the fruit is of an equally delicate nature. It appears that the Southern shores of the Gulfs of Patras and Corinth are best adapted for the cultivation of currents, the other localities being more subject to storms and heavy night dews. The growth of this fruit extends from Gastouni opposite the island of Zante, along the Northern coast of the Peloponnesus up to Corinth, but seldom above two or three miles inland.

The crops are collected in the month of Au-