

Castleton, in Derbyshire ; they were overtaken by a great fall of snow, and both perished : their bodies were not found till the 3d of May, in the same year ; and being then offensive, the coroner ordered them to be buried on the spot in the peat. They lay undisturbed twenty-eight years and nine months, when the curiosity of some countrymen induced them to open their graves. The bodies appeared quite fresh, the skin was fair and of its natural colour, and the flesh as soft as that of persons newly dead. They were afterwards frequently exposed as curiosities until in the year 1716, when they were buried by order of the man's descendants. At that time Dr. Bourne, of Chesterfield, who examined the bodies, says the man was perfect, his beard was strong, the hair of his head was short, and his skin hard and of a tanned leather colour, like the liquor he was lying in. The body of the woman was more injured, having been more frequently exposed ; the hair was like that of a living person. Mr. Wormwald, the minister of Hope, was present when they were removed : the man's legs, which had never before been uncovered, were quite fair when the stockings were drawn off, and the joints played freely without the least stiffness."

In the beginning of the last century, the perfect body of a man, in the ancient Saxon costume, was discovered in peat, at Hatfield Chase, in Yorkshire : it soon perished on exposure to the air.

Extensive tracts of cultivated ground are sometimes converted into sandy deserts, by the drifting of sea-sand inland. The process by which this is effected, is taking place, at present, in many situations. During very high winds, the sand is driven from the sea-shore to a certain distance, leaving an elevated ridge at the further boundary of the drift. Succeeding winds blow the sand forward, and at the same time bring fresh sand from the shore to supply its place. In the sixth volume of the *Transactions of the Irish Academy*, an account is given of the encroachment of the sand, over some parts of Ireland. Trees, houses, and even villages, have been surrounded or covered with sand, during the last century. In the vicinity of sandy deserts, the sand is also encroaching on the habitable land. The loose sands of Libya are thus spreading over the valley that borders the Nile, and burying the monuments of art and the vestiges of former cultivation. From a similar cause, the country immediately round Palmyra, that once supplied a crowded population with food, now scarcely affords a few withered plants, to the camel of the wandering Arab.

A sandy inundation on the north coast of Cornwall, was mentioned Chap. I. p. 14. This sand, which is composed of fragments of shells and coral, is in some parts cemented into sandstone, by water infiltrating from the slate-rocks : it is similar in appearance to the recent sandstone of Guadaloupe, in which human skeletons have been found : the latter is a very common sandstone in the West Indies ; it increases rapidly, and the land gained from the sea, which forms some of the plains of St. Domingo, is composed of it. A concreted