

that the low sandy tracts at the mouth of the Tyne, and again from North Berwick to Aberlady, have suffered loss in several places. Farther on, near Musselburgh, there was a tract of land on which the Dukes of Albany and York used to play at golf in former days, but which is now almost entirely swept away. The coast of Edinburghshire has in like manner lost many acres of land. Maitland, for instance, in his *History of Edinburgh*, describes the ravages of the sea between Musselburgh and Leith, which had occasioned the 'public road to be removed farther into the country, and the land now being violently assaulted by the sea on the eastern and northern sides, all must give way to its rage, and the links of South Leith, probably in less than half a century, will be swallowed up.'¹ The road alluded to has had to be removed again and again since this passage was written. Mr. Robert Stevenson² remarked in 1816, that even the new baths, erected but a few years before at a considerable distance from the high-water mark, had then barely the breadth of the highway between them and the sea, which had overthrown the bulwark or fence in front of those buildings, and was then acting on the road itself. Maitland speaks also of a large tract of land on both sides of the port of Leith, which has likewise disappeared. Nor are the inroads of the sea less marked as we continue our westward progress. The old links of Newhaven have disappeared. If the calculations of Maitland may be believed,³ three-fourths of that flat sandy tract were swallowed up in the twenty-two years preceding 1595. Even in the early part of the present century, it was in the recollection

¹ *History of Edinburgh*, p. 499.

² In an excellent paper on the Bed of the German Ocean, in the second volume of the *Wernerian Society's Memoirs*, to which I have been greatly indebted in collecting the statistics given in this chapter.

³ *History of Edinburgh*, p. 500.