

the influence of the planets in the atmosphere is not considerable, and although it must cause a slight motion of the air from east to west, this motion is insensible in comparison with that produced by the heat of the sun ; but as the rarefaction will be always greatest when the sun is at the zenith, the current of air must follow the sun, and form a constant wind from east to west. This wind blows continually over the sea in the torrid zone, and in most parts of the land between the tropics ; it is this wind we feel at the sun's rising ; and in general the east winds are more frequent and impetuous than the west ; this general wind from east to west extends even beyond the tropics, and blows so constantly in the Pacific Sea, that vessels which sail from Acapulco to the Philippines, perform their voyage, which is more than 2700 leagues, without any risque, and almost without any need of directing their course. In the Atlantic, between Africa and Brazil, this wind is also constant : it is felt also between the Philippines and Africa, but not in so constant a manner, by reason of the islands, and different obstacles that are met with in that sea ; for during the months of January, February, March, and April, it blows between
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