

where in a single twelvemonth it reaches the astonishing amount of 600 inches. But, at twenty miles inland, the rainfall sinks to 200 inches; at Gowadatty, in Assam, it is only 80 inches; at Madras, 45 inches; at Bombay, 75 inches; at Seringapatam, only 24 inches.

We subjoin a table of the rainfalls at various points of the globe, which will show the capricious character of this meteorological phenomenon :—*

	ANNUAL RAINFALL IN INCHES.
Vera Cruz, South America,	183
St. Benoit, Isle of Bourbon,	163
Caraccas, South America,	155
Island of St. Domingo,	107
Pernambuco,	106
George-town, Demerara,	100
Sierra Leone, Africa,	87
Canton, China,	78
Barbadoes, West Indies,	72
The Bahamas, Atlantic Ocean,	52
Mobile, Alabama, United States,	64
New Orleans, Louisiana, United States,	52
Fort Vancouver, British Columbia,	47
Valley of the Rhone, Europe,	30
Great Britain, west, inland,	30 to 45
Do., east, inland,	20 to 28
Do., lake districts,	85 to 150
France, Nantes,	51
Do., average,	80]

A portion of the water which falls in the shape of dew, rain, or hail, is evaporated anew by the terrestrial or solar heat; another portion glides over the surface of the ground, and descends its slopes in tiny rills. These are the “wild waters,” which one sees flowing over the soil after a heavy shower. A final portion infiltrates through the earth, penetrates it at variable depths, and collects in subterranean masses, which make their way between the superimposed strata. Such is the origin of the bed or sheet of water which exists at a moderate depth in all permeable strata, and feeds the wells of our houses. In many localities, this bed is very near the surface. At Paris, for instance, you cannot dig some eighteen or twenty feet

* [M. Belgrand states that, between October 17th and 18th, 1868, there fell in eight hours, at Clermont l'Herault, in France, more than seven inches of rain; and, according to M. Renan, on May 20th, at Moliting, near Prades, there fell twelve inches in ninety minutes.—“The Student,” vol. i., Jan. 1869, p. 480.]