

aerial currents tend to take a more and more westerly trend in approaching the equator, they communicate this trend to the marine currents, which, likewise moving into regions with a greater velocity of rotation than their own, are all the more impelled in the same westerly direction. Hence the dominant equatorial current which flows westward across the great ocean. Owing, however, to the position of the continents across its path, this great current cannot move uninterruptedly round the earth. It is split into branches which turn to right and left, and, bathing the shores of the land, carry some of the warmth of the tropics into more temperate latitudes. Return currents are thus generated from cooler latitudes toward the equator (p. 730).

2. *Waves.*—The impulse of the wind upon a surface of water throws that surface into pulsations which range in size from mere ripples to huge billows. Long-continued gales from the seaward upon an exposed coast indirectly effect much destruction, by the formidable battery of billows which they bring to bear upon the land (p. 746). Wave-action is likewise seen in a marked manner when wind blows strongly across a broad inland sheet of water, such as Lake Superior (p. 686).

3. *Alteration of the Water-level.*—Wind blowing freshly across a lake or narrow sea drives the water before it, and keeps it temporarily at a higher level on the further or windward side. In a tidal sea, such as that which surrounds Great Britain, and which sends abundant long arms into the land, a high tide and a gale are sometimes synchronous. This conjunction makes the high tide rise to a greater height than elsewhere in those bays or firths which look windward, occasionally causing considerable damage to property by the flooding of warehouses and