

sixty-seven and fifty-nine inches respectively, while the average in places situated in the interior is not more than twenty-four inches. The quantity of rain that falls in the Julian Alps is estimated at 100 inches annually, though in the valley of Lombardy it does not exceed thirty-five inches.

There are some countries in which rain falls during particular periods of the year; there are others in which it has not the character of periodicity, though it may fall in greater abundance in one part of the year than in another. This is the case in Great Britain, the greatest quantity of rain generally falling in September, October, and November. In India and many other countries, the fall of rain is confined to certain months, an unclouded sky being presented at all other times of the year. There is no fact that proves more strongly the importance of considering local causes, than the circumstance that, by these, the rainy periods are sometimes decided. In Bombay, for instance, the heavy rains fall in June and the four following months, but on the Coromandel coast in the opposite months, a result produced, in all probability, by the Ghauts. Those places where the atmosphere suffers a periodical change in the direction of its currents, are subject to periodical rains. This is the case with the islands situated under the line in the Indian Ocean. Heavy rains fall during the summer solstice in the tropical regions of Africa and Asia, for the place of the heated air is occupied by a humid atmosphere from the neighbouring seas, and the vapour is condensed.

During the continuance of the tradewinds, rain is a very uncommon circumstance in the places over which they blow. On account of the uniformity of temperature, the aqueous vapour is carried upward, and steadily moved onward, without a chance of condensation. But, as soon as it is beyond the influence of these winds, it meets with masses having different temperatures, and rain is produced. It is a singular circumstance, that the heavy rains of India fall during the shifting of the monsoons; and it must have been observed that in England, a dry season is always attended by an almost uniform wind, while wet seasons are as constantly accompanied by an unsteady and variable motion of the atmosphere.

There are some places in which rain is almost constantly falling. A small rain falls every day in a zone on that side