

the regions of the earth habitually swept by the trade-winds abound in sandy deserts and arid wastes. When, however, in the progress of that circulation, it descends again to the earth, and becomes a surface-wind (assuming the character of an "anti-trade"), it finds itself in precisely reversed circumstances. It is now travelling from a warmer to a colder region. Saturated with moisture in the warmer, and parting with the heat which alone enabled it to retain it, its vapour condenses. Clouds already formed thicken, and descend in rain, and fresh ones are continually forming, to fall in snow at a further stage of its progress; till all the superfluous moisture is thus successively drained off, and it is prepared to re-assume, while starting on a fresh circuit, the character of a drying wind.

(25.) We have here the origin of that generally observed difference of character between our two most prevalent winds—the S.W. and the N.E. The former is our "anti-trade," that which from our geographical position we are chiefly entitled to expect, and which, in point of fact, is of far the most frequent occurrence. Its prevailing characters are warmth, moisture, cloud and rain, as well as persistence and strength. In the former of these characters it is strongly reinforced by the circumstance of its accompanying across the Atlantic the Gulf-stream, which, in fact, it helps to drift upon our western coasts, and which, retaining a considerable amount of the equatorial heat, sends up along its whole course a copious supply of vapour, in addition to that with which the air above it is already loaded: and this