

Now this cause of reinforcement cannot begin to be felt until the sun, having passed the equinoctial, has advanced considerably towards the other solstice. In the case of the northern anti-trade, the effect in question is rendered still more sensible by the great preponderance of sea in the southern hemisphere as compared with the northern ; and the much greater quantity of vapour raised by the summer sun on that side of the equator. And besides, all this, it will be remembered that all the *air* which had been dragged across the equator into the southern hemisphere by transferred vapour during the continuance of our northern summer, and there as it were imprisoned, is now released ; and returns, necessarily by the same course, and contributes to reinforce the northern anti-trades.

(29.) There is a special cause, too, arising from the geographical position of Britain and north-west Europe, in relation to the South American continent, which is probably not uninfluential in producing or aggravating this disturbance. If we trace on a map the course of the wind which reaches our island from the south-west, we shall find that it has its origin on the coast of Guiana, between the fiftieth and sixtieth degrees of west longitude. This also is nearly about the point where the medial line between the north and south trades, in its average position, intersects the South American coast. Here the South American continent is comparatively narrow, but south of this it expands in longitude, and between the fifth and fifteenth degrees of south latitude has an average breadth of between 30° and 40° .