

the water was found to average about four degrees below that of the air.

Where in ocean current maps the arrows point southwards, there are cold streams of water coming from the icy seas of the north. One of these passes along the east coast of America, and coming from the North Sea, many an iceberg detached from the great glaciers of Greenland is floated from Baffin's Bay across the banks of Newfoundland into the Western Atlantic, as far south even as the parallel of New York. The western half of the North Atlantic is thus kept cool, and the water is often colder than the air.

The Gulf Stream occupies a very great width in the Atlantic, and approaches tolerably near to our own western coast, and the effect of this body of warm water flowing northward is to divert the isothermal lines (lines of equal temperature) far to the north, over a large part of the Atlantic area, and also of that of the western half of Europe. Thus a certain line runs across North America, about latitude 50° , representing an average temperature for the whole year of 32° . Across that continent it passes tolerably straight, but no sooner does it get well into the Atlantic than the Gulf Stream, flowing northwards, warms the air, and the result is, that the line bends away to the far north above Norway; thus in the west of Europe producing an average warmer climate, for the whole year, than exists in corresponding latitudes in North America, the middle of Europe, and the interior of Asia. Our British climate, and all the west of Europe, becomes, as it were, abnormally warm, owing to the influence of the Gulf Stream, and we at once recognise this fact from the circumstance that trees of goodly size grow much further north on the west coasts of Europe than on the east