

“ effect, with respect to the temperature of the
“ air, that, throughout the year, the variation
“ does not exceed fourteen or fifteen degrees of
“ Fahrenheit; being rarely higher than eighty-
“ eight degrees, or lower than seventy-four de-
“ grees.”

And though the hurricanes, to which these regions are frequently exposed, are occasionally most dreadful in their effects upon the property and even the lives of the inhabitants; yet we may not only be assured on general principles of reasoning that in the main they are beneficial, but on some occasions we have immediate demonstration of their remedying a greater evil. Thus when swarms of a peculiar species of ant had, during many years, ravaged the island of Grenada, to so serious an extent that a reward of twenty thousand pounds had been offered to any one who should discover a practicable method of destroying them; and when neither poison nor fire had effected more than a partial and temporary destruction of them, they were at once swept away by a hurricane and its accompanying torrents of rain. Of the numbers in which these insects occurred, some estimate may be formed from the following statement of an eyewitness of credible authority; who says “ he had seen the roads coloured by them for
“ many miles together; and so crowded were
“ they in many places, that the print of the