

less inactivity along the beach : but if the wished for breeze spring up, the scene is at once changed, and all is alacrity and life.

In some parts of the world Providence has compensated for the disadvantages arising from the general uncertainty of the wind, by the continued regularity of its direction through stated seasons: in consequence of which, the merchantman calculates upon the commencement and duration of his voyage with a degree of security and confidence, which sets him comparatively at ease as to the event. These periodical currents of air indeed have been named from this very circumstance the *trade winds*: and, in illustration of their adaptation to the purposes of commerce, a more striking instance perhaps could not be adduced than the following, which is given in a volume, entitled, "Four Years Residence in the West Indies," written by a gentleman of the name of Bayley<sup>r</sup>. In the description of the island of St. Vincent it is there stated that a little sloop, the private signal of which was unknown to any of the merchants, sailed into the harbour one morning, and immediately attracted the notice of the surrounding crowd; and the history of its unexpected appearance is thus given. "Every one has heard of the little fishing smacks employed in cruising along the coast of Scotland; which

<sup>r</sup> London, 8vo, 1830, p. 292.