

much less than upon land. Thus, in the equatorial regions, the greatest difference between the temperature of the day and that of the night, at sea, is said to amount to 3° or 4° only; while upon land the difference often amounts to 9° or 10° . In temperate regions, and particularly in latitudes extending from 25° to 50° , the difference between the maximum and the minimum diurnal range of the thermometer, at sea, is still very trifling, amounting only to 4° or 6° ; while upon the continents, as for example, at Paris, the range often amounts to 20° or 30° . To these circumstances it is owing, that small insular situations, partaking of the character of the surrounding ocean, are much less liable to great diurnal changes than continents; and hence, in general, they possess more equable climates.

Both by sea and land, the minimum temperature takes place about sunrise. The maximum temperature at sea occurs about noon, or very soon after; while upon land, it takes place from two to three hours after noon. Between the tropics, the maximum temperature of the air is said to exceed a little that of the surface of the sea. But when the temperatures are observed at short intervals, as for example, every four hours, and all the temperatures are compared, the results are different; and they seem to show, that even between the tropics, the temperature of the surface of the sea is higher than