

temperature throughout the year is  $67\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ . The extremes vary  $10^{\circ}$  above and as much below the mean. It is classed by its inhabitants under the warm and equable climates; yet, notwithstanding, in many situations, it is extremely variable: the thermometer will fluctuate ten degrees in as many minutes, producing an unpleasant sensation of cold; this is owing to the chilly winds that sweep down from the Table Mountain in blasts, to equalize the density of the atmosphere rarefied by being in contact with the heated soil beneath. But little difference is observed between the temperature of sunshine and shade in free and open situations.

This variation of climate is ascribed to the winds: the southeast winds prevail for the most part of the year, and are warm; these are succeeded by the cold winterly winds, which invariably bring fog and misty weather; but in viewing the situation of the Cape with respect to the large bodies of water flowing past it, it would seem more reasonable to impute it to the warm tropical and cold polar currents of water, of whose existence we have given ample proof in the preceding pages; for if the winds were alone to be taken into account, that which comes from the southeast, in the southern hemisphere, ought to produce the cold, while the west and northwesterly winds should be warm. The sudden changes of temperature mentioned above are merely local, and often confined within narrow limits.

At our anchorage in the bay this occurrence was strikingly perceptible, not only by the thermometer but from the effect produced on our own feelings; while in the town, although the change could be felt, still it was not so remarkable. The inhabitants assert that these changes occur oftenest during the prevalence of a strong southeast wind; but my own experience leads me to believe that they take place during the night, and particularly when a calm prevails, or but a slight breeze is blowing, and indeed all the facts connected with it would lead me to the opinion that such must be the case. Although all seem to be aware of these variations of temperature, I did not learn of any observations that have been taken that could be relied on for accuracy.

Thermometers in different parts of the town, of course, give very discordant results, and all meteorological observations ought to be taken in situations as far as possible removed from the influence of these changes. The southeast winds are often so violent as to prevent communication between the shipping and the shore during some parts of the day, and often cause damage to the small boats, or to the vessels themselves. Cargoes can only be taken in or discharged with safety in the morning, previous to the occurrence of these winds.