

tropical climate must extend thus far, which is the most remote point at which any such stream has been positively known to exist. It may, however, be connected with the strong easterly current that is constantly setting through the Icy Sea, as has been noted in all the voyages in search of a Northwest Passage. At the Aleutian Islands the stream appears to divide, and a branch continues on, at first in a northeast direction, but, gradually changing its course, takes a sweep along the line of the coast of America, and merges in the northeast stream of which we have spoken above. This stream, which passes the Aleutian Islands, is doubtless an equatorial one; its low temperature may be accounted for by the fact of its being mixed with water coming through Behring's Straits by an under-current from a polar region; this latter being obstructed by the Aleutian Islands, would cause it to be mixed with the surface water, and be carried therewith to the coast of America. It is clear, from the narrow space at Behring's Straits, that no great quantity of water can pass as a submarine current from the Arctic Ocean, to produce any remote effects.

On our return, in passing from the Hawaiian Group to the Marianes, we experienced a slight current setting to the westward, which may be ascribed to the trade-winds. After passing the latter islands, we found a current setting to the northward, being in all probability connected with the stream that flows along the coast of Japan. This direction prevailed until we reached the straits by which we entered the China seas.

I need not speak of the currents in the China seas, as they are well known to be influenced by the monsoons, and, therefore, far from constant. Now, as the southwest monsoon has a tendency to increase the Equatorial Stream, and give the waters a direction to the northeast, we may find in this remote region the cause by which the velocity of the southeast current on the northwest coast of America is accelerated at the very season in which such influence might be expected to reach those shores.

On our track from the China seas towards the Cape of Good Hope, we met with but little current until we approached the east coast of Africa. We had, during this part of our voyage, an opportunity of trying the deep-sea temperature daily, having received several self-registering thermometers, which I had sent for to replace those we had lost. These observations confirmed the impression that this portion of the ocean is but little liable to submarine streams.

On approaching the east coast of Africa, we found ourselves at first influenced, as mentioned in the Narrative, by the Polar Stream, then,