

the equator, is only affected by it at times, and Prince's Island is never reached by it. The manner in which their climates are influenced by this circumstance is thus described by Colonel Sabine:

"The occasional advance of the cold water of the Equatorial Current to the island of St. Thomas, may assist in explaining an apparent peculiarity in the climate of that island, when compared with the climate of the coast of Western Africa generally. At all the British possessions, from the Gambia, in latitude 13° N., to the forts on the Gold Coast, the months of June, July, and August, are accounted unhealthy; whilst at St. Thomas's, on the contrary, they are the most healthy in the year to Europeans, although they are not so to the negroes, who suffer much from colds and rheumatisms during their continuance. It has been shown that the water of the Equatorial Current is from ten to twelve degrees colder than that of the Gulf of Guinea, and that its northern border, which at other seasons passes the meridian of St. Thomas at a distance of from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and eighty miles south of its southern extremity, was found in June in contact, or very nearly so, with the island itself; and it is not improbable, from a consideration of the causes which occasion its advance towards the equator when the sun is in its northern signs, that in July it may extend so far as even to include the whole island of St. Thomas within its limits.

"The temperature of the air is known to be immediately dependent on that of the surface water of the sea, and to be influenced nearly to the full extent of any alteration that may take place therein. In crossing the Bight of Biafra, from Cape Formosa to St. Thomas's, the air, over the surface of the Guinea Current, observed in the shade and to windward, at sunrise, noon, and sunset, averaged $81\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, the extremes being 79° and $83\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$; whilst in the passage from the river Gaboon to Ascension, over the Equatorial Current, the air averaged only 74° , the extremes being from $73\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ to $74\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$, a part of the passage being, moreover, on the very edge of the two currents, and within sight of St. Thomas's. The vicinity of the Equatorial Current, therefore, when the sun is in the northern signs, cannot fail materially to influence the temperature of the island, (particularly as the wind is always from the south,) and thus to affect its climate. Situated on the equator, St. Thomas's has naturally two cold seasons, or winters, in the year, the sun being equally distant in June and in December; but in June, July, and August, is superadded the influence of the surface water of the ocean, several degrees colder than in November, December, and January; rendering the months of June, July, and August, pre-eminently the winter of St. Thomas's; in which the natives complain of colds