Pedro Keys, and South Key, all surrounded by dangerous breakers. The depth is six or eight fathoms; but, in advancing to the middle of the bank, along the line of the summit, first towards the west and then towards the north-west, the depth becomes successively ten, twelve, sixteen, and nineteen fathoms. When we survey on the map the proximity of the high lands of San Domingo, Cuba, and Jamaica, in the neighbourhood of the Windward Channel, the position of the island of Navaza, and the bank of Hormigas, between Capes Tiburon and Morant; when we trace that chain of successive breakers, from the Vibora, by Baxo Nuevo, Serranilla, and Quita Sueño, as far as the Mosquito Sound, we cannot but recognize in this system of islands and shoals, the almost-continued line of a heaved-up ridge, running from N.E. to S.W. This ridge, and the old dyke, which link, by the rock of Sancho Pardo, Cape San Antonio to the peninsula of Yucatan, divide the great sea of the West Indies into three partial basins, similar to those observed in the Mediterranean.

The colour of the troubled waters on the shoal of La Vibora, has not a milky appearance like the waters in the Jardinillos, and on the bank of Bahama; but it is of a dirty grey colour. The striking differences of tint on the bank of Newfoundland, in the archipelago of the Bahama Islands and on La Vibora, the variable quantities of earthy matter suspended in the more or less troubled waters of the soundings, may all be the effects of the variable absorption of the rays of light, contributing to modify to a certain point the temperature of the sea. Where the shoals are 8° to 10° colder at their surface than the surrounding sea, it cannot be surprising that they should produce a local change of climate. A great mass of very cold water, as on the bank of Newfoundland, in the current of the Peruvian shore (between the port of Callao and Punta Pariña*), or in the African current near Cape Verd, have necessarily an influence on the atmosphere that covers the sea, and on

* I found the surface of the Pacific ocean, in the month of October, 1802, on the coast of Truxillo, 15·8° cent.; in the port of Callao, in November, 15·5°; between the parallel of Callao and Punta Parina, in December, 19°; and progressively, when the current advanced towards the equator, and receded towards the W.N.W., 20·5° and 22·3°.