

inga moist soil, with a damp climate, and variable temperature. Antigua and Barbadoes are comparatively low, barren and rocky, with a scanty soil, and but little exuberant vegetation, a dry climate and equable temperature. The other Islands possess a kind of intermediate character in these respects, while the coast of British Guiana is an immense level tract, covered with forest, being elevated only a few feet above the level of the sea ; and during the rainy season, is an endless succession of swamps and marshes, with an extremely humid atmosphere, although not so variable in temperature, as some of the Islands referred to. In consequence of the proximity of these regions to the equator, the climate is necessarily characterized by a high and an equal temperature, throughout the whole year ; which in the greatest extreme does not vary more than a few degrees. Another great peculiarity of climate is the large quantity of rain that falls at two distinct and established seasons of the year, being on an average three times as much as in Great Britain ; and which, pouring down in torrents, soon deluges the country, unless where it falls on a very dry and absorbent soil ; or where there is a free drainage. The period of the rainy season varies according to the proximity of the settlement to the equator. In Guiana, (the most southerly,) the spring rains generally continue from December to January, the autumnal from May to August, while in the most northerly of these settlements, the former does not commence till April or May, and the latter extends from October to December. In most of the Islands there is scarcely any deposit of dew. The extreme heat is much modified by an uniform and steady breeze, which blows for about nine months of the year, daily from the sea, and in the larger and mountainous Islands it blows with almost equal regularity during the night, from land towards the sea : these winds are therefore termed the "land and sea breezes ;" during September, October and November, the winds, which are uncertain, and frequently interrupted by calms, blow from an opposite quarter to the former noticed "Trade winds." During this period hurricanes are frequent, from whence it is termed the "hurricane season." During the rainy season thunder storms are of frequent occurrence.

An inspection of the following table will shew the thermometrical range in the several stations :