

is thus sooner heated and sooner cooled than water. A further cause of inequality of temperature and variableness of winds is in the succession of day and night. For example, in a small island lying under the tropical sun, soon after the sun rises, the island and the atmosphere above it become warm; by noon the surface is intensely heated, and the atmosphere exceedingly rarified. The surrounding ocean, not so readily absorbing heat, remains cooler, and keeps its atmosphere denser. As a consequence, the denser air begins to flow in currents, to fill the partial vacuum caused by the lighter; and the most needed compensations of a tropical climate. Toward evening the land begins rapidly to give up the heat which it rapidly received during the day; while the surrounding ocean and its atmosphere, retaining their heat longer, come at last, about sunset or shortly after, to be of the same temperature with the land, and the result is the almost calm which is so often observed at the close of the day. After sunset the land soon becomes colder than the sea, and its atmosphere, becoming more dense than that of the water, begins to flow gradually into it, constituting the well-known "land breeze." Four great causes are thus operating to establish a system of winds: first, the spherical form of the earth, which, from the sun's position in reference to it, occasions a general gradation of zones of temperature; second, the elliptic motion of the sun, from one side of the equator to the other, by which variation the centre of greatest heat is continually changed; third, the division of the earth's surface into land and water, causing variations of temperature under the same degree of heat; and fourth, the succession of day and night, causing land and sea breezes.

CRIME IN FRANCE.

From statistical compilations prepared on the subject, under the orders of the French Minister of Justice, and which are quoted by one of the New York journals, the average number of crimes committed in France is 1 to 5,885 inhabitants. From 1826 to 1856, progress of crime increased with frightful rapidity. France appeared to grow more and more vicious, every year augmenting the long list of misdeeds of all grades. The culminating point seems, however, to have been reached in 1855. In 1856 there was a notable falling off: and, since that epoch, crime has continued to lose ground, and honesty to grow apace. In the city of Paris itself the change commenced in 1854.

Paris now feels encouraged in the knowledge that the present average is only one outlaw to 1455 citizens, a decrease of a third in the number of evil deeds committed within its walls. An eminent lawyer of the Imperial Court of Paris, one of the most learned of the French writers on criminal jurisprudence, M. de Booneville has lately published some remarkable notes upon criminality in France. According to this gentlemen, it is to the decree of December 19th, 1854, that Paris is indebted for the improvement which has