

CURRENTS.

13. In what direction does the great current of the sea run?

Within the tropics the trade winds cause a current across the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic oceans, generally from east to west, but modified in different parts of its course by the shape of the land, and by other currents setting in from the Polar seas.

14. Describe its course after doubling the cape of Good Hope.

After doubling the cape of Good Hope, this current runs north to the Cape Verd islands, and there turns west, passes through the Caribbean sea, between Cuba and Yucatan, round the Mexican gulf, through the straits of Florida, and along the shores of the United States (where it is called the Gulfstream) to Newfoundland. At this point it is turned to the southeast by a polar current, and, passing the Azores and Canary isles, returns in a great measure into itself.

16. What is the course of different branches of this current?

One branch of this current runs east into the Mediterranean; another south, along the shores of Brazil, and through the straits of Magellan into the Pacific; and others still are so modified by the polar currents as to form immense whirlpools, embracing large portions of the ocean. Smaller whirlpools caused by tides and currents meeting in narrow passages, are very dangerous, often drawing in ships and dashing them upon the rocks. The most celebrated of these are the Maelstrom on the coast of Norway, and Charybdis in the straits between Sicily and Italy.

VEGETALES.

16. In what zone is vegetation most luxuriant?
The number, size, and luxuriance of vegetables are

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