

and temperature. Some of the waters of the gulf stream, it is possible (though hardly that), may assist in supplying the water expended by evaporation in the Mediterranean, whose surface, *therefore*, it is presumed, must be lower than that of the Atlantic, as the constant current setting into it seems to prove. Some philosophers, indeed, suppose that the quantity of water, continually admitted through the gut of Gibraltar into the Mediterranean, is greater than can be expended by evaporation; and that, therefore, there must be a counter current setting out *underneath*. To establish this opinion, it seems necessary, first, to prove that the temperature of the Mediterranean is lower generally than that of the Atlantic. For if it be higher (as is most probable), the *surplus*, if there were any, and allowing their surfaces to be equal (and Phoca should have added, their *specific gravities the same*), "would, I presume, run out at the surface; and the supply be received in underneath, which is contrary to fact." Though I have supposed it barely possible that some of the gulf stream may cross the Atlantic, I by no means say that it is so. On the contrary, it is little felt by ships, far to the eastward of the Azores; but in the vicinity of those islands, the south-east portion of it gradually turns to the southward, and as it advances in that direction, soon feeling the impulse again of the grand equinoctial current, is compelled to partake of its western motion: thus forming a sort of circular eddy, which may be comprised between the latitude of about 18° or 19° North, and the parallel of the Western Islands; and from about the longitude of 29° to 43° West. Within these limits, the gulf weed is found, floating on the surface, where I suppose it originates, lives its appointed time, and decays, like any other vegetable production; and I believe it is rarely

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