

same ratio as the space increases, and the sole condensation of the air by this cause is sufficient to produce cold winds, which acting against the surface of the earth, bind and freeze it. As long as this confinement of the external strata of the earth remains, the emanations of the internal heat are retained, and the cold appears to be, nay in fact is, very considerably increased by this suppression of a part of this heat; but as soon as the air becomes milder, and the superficial strata of the globe loses its rigidity, the heat, retained all the time of the frost, issues out in greater abundance than in climates where it does not freeze, so that the sum of the emanations of the heat becomes equal and every where alike; and this is the reason that plants vegetate quicker, and the harvest is reaped in much less time in northern countries; and for the same reason it is, that often at the beginning of summer we feel such considerable heats.

If there were any doubt of the suppression of the emanations of the internal heat by the effect of frost, we might easily be convinced of the fact; for it is a circumstance universally known, that after a frost, we may perceive snow to thaw in pits, aqueducts, cisterns, quarries, subterraneous vaults or mines, when even these depths, pits or cisterns, contain no
water;