

water; the emanations of the earth having their free issue through these kinds of vents, the ground which covers this top is never frozen so strong as the open land; to the emanations, it permits their general course, and their heat is sufficient to melt the snow, especially in hollow places, at the same time that it remains on all the rest of the surface where the earth is not excavated.

This suppression of the emanations of the native heat of the earth is not only made by the frost, but likewise by the simple binding of the earth, often occasioned by a less degree of cold than that which is necessary to freeze the surface; there are very few countries where it freezes in the plains beyond the 35th degree latitude, particularly in the northern hemisphere. It appears, therefore, that from the equator, as far as the 35th degree, the emanations of the terrestrial heat having always their free issue, there ought to be in that part little or no difference between winter and summer, since this difference proceeds only from two causes, both too slight to produce any sensible effect. The first cause is the difference of the solar action, but as this action is itself much smaller than that of the terrestrial heat, its difference is too inconsiderable to be regarded as any thing. The second cause is the thickness of the globe, which