

that the greatest heat of summer, instead of raising the liquor of the thermometer to 26, will not raise it to more than 25, or 24 ; and from this effect, which is the result of all the combined causes, a judgment may be formed of the value of each of the particular causes, which produce the total effect of heat on the surface of the globe ; for the heat which belongs to the earth, and which it has possessed from the time of incandescence, has very considerably diminished, and will continue to diminish with the course of time : this heat is independent of that which comes from the sun ; the latter may be looked upon as constant, and consequently in futurity will make a greater compensation than at present. To the loss of this innate heat of the globe there are two other particular causes, which may add a considerable quantity of heat to the effect of the two first, the only ones we have as yet taken notice of.

One of these particular causes proceeds, in some measure, from the first general cause, and may add something to it. It is certain that during the time of incandescence, and indeed all the subsequent ages till that of the refrigeration of the earth, not any of the volatile matters could reside at the surface, or even in
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