

sea ; for if the plains of Siberia be only elevated 4 or 500 fathoms above the level of Upsal, or Petersburg, we must cease from being astonished that the excess of cold is so great there ; since the heat which emanates from the earth, decreases at each point as the space increases, and this elevation of the ground alone suffices to explain this great difference of cold under the same latitude.

On this point there remains only one interesting question. Men animals, and plants, may, for some time, support the rigour of this cold, which is 60 degrees below the freezing point ; but could they also support a heat which should be 60 degrees above it ? To this we answer, yes, provided we knew as well how to guard against the heat as we do to shelter ourselves from the cold ; and if the air could, during the remainder of the year, refresh the earth, in the same manner as the emanations of the heat of the globe warms the air in cold countries. We know of plants, insects, and fish, which live and grow in baths of 45, 50, and even 60 degrees of heat ; there are, therefore, species in living nature which can support this degree of heat ; and as the negroes are in the human race those whom a strong heat the least incommodes, might we not conclude, according to