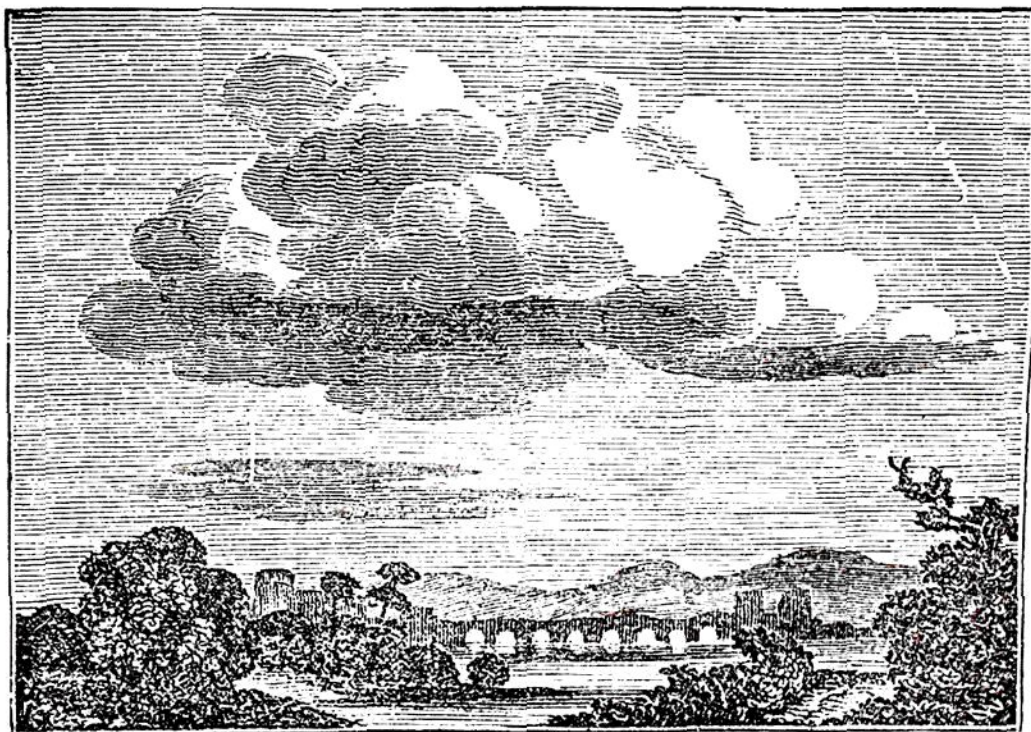


which I have called filiform cirri. In fair dry weather, with light gales, obliquely descending bands of fibrous texture are often seen, and frequently move slowly along from the leeward in a supervening current. I by no means intend by the above account to infer that the appearances of the different kinds of cirri, or indeed of any cloud, are ever quite uniform; on the contrary, scarcely two occur exactly alike; and there are many features so various and so mixed, that a particular description of each can scarcely be attempted. In some kinds of weather, the numberless and ever-changing figures which this cloud is continually presenting to the eye baffle all attempts at description. Observation affords the only means of becoming acquainted with them." Some such arrangement as that adopted by Dr. Forster is desirable; but it should be entirely founded upon observation, for in such a one all meteorologists might agree.

THE CUMULUS.

The cumulus is a dense hemispherical lump of cloud, rising from a horizontal base, and is generally formed in the lowest regions of the atmosphere. Its first appearance is as a small



irregular cloud, but previous to rain it rapidly increases in size, mass rolls upon mass, often presenting the appearance