by the twenty-third parallel of latitude, both north and south of the equator. The regions circumscribed by the polar circles, and which are deprived of the Sun during a part of the year, are not inaptly called the *Frigid Zones.* And, finally, the two belts comprised between each polar circle, and one or other of the Tropics—or between 23° and 66° lat.—are named the *Temperate Zones.*

In the two illustrations 20 and 21, the "circle of illumination" divides the equator into two equal halves; on each of its points, day will prevail for twelve hours, and night for twelve, at every epoch of the year. The regions above are more advantageously situated than those below in the first, and less advantageously in the second diagram. The northern hemisphere will have summer, and days of upwards of twelve hours' duration; the southern hemisphere winter, and days of less than twelve hours, in June: the reverse will take place in the month of December.

[The order and dates of the succession of the four seasons are as follows:—

Towards the 21st of March, the Earth reaches the *Spring Equinox;*

Towards the 21st of June, the *Summer Solstice;*

Towards the 22nd of September, the *Autumnal Equinox;* and,

On the 21st of December, the *Winter Solstice.*

The precise dates vary every year; but, as the following Table shows, to no very great extent:—

COMMENCEMENT OF THE FOUR SEASONS.

	1870.	1865.	1864.
Spring:	March 20, 7h. 32m. P.M.	March 20, 8h. 19m. A.M.	March 20, 2h. 15m. P.M.
Summer:	June 21, 3h. 56m. P.M.	June 21, 5h. 25m. A.M.	June 21, 10h. 55m. A.M.
Autumn:	Sept. 22, 6h. 9m. A.M.	Sept. 22, 7h. 1m. P.M.	Sept. 22, 1h. 8m. A.M.
Winter:	Dec. 21, 12h. 12m. A.M.	Dec. 21, 1h. 13m. P.M.	Dec. 21, 6h. 59m. P.M.]

In the North and South Polar regions, day endures one-half of the year, and night for the other half, if we omit the twilight, which to some extent abridges this protracted darkness. The "star-bespangled heaven" there revolves once in four-and-twenty hours, like an immense dial; the stars neither rise nor set.