

the prolongation of his life in the silent retirement of that sequestered island was mercifully intended to lead him to a calm reflection on the real value of sublunary possessions: for how very visionary and like a dream must all his former life have frequently appeared to him, when standing on the brow of some precipitous rock, the natural boundary of his insulated prison, he mused on the interminable expanse of the Atlantic; and compared his present desolation with his former glory. Or, if the terrors of Omnipotence failed even then to reach his obdurate heart, his example at least remains a merciful beacon to others; who may learn from his doom, that there is a Power which can say, as easily to the tempestuous ocean of ambition, as to the natural deep, "Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: " and here shall thy proud waves be stayed."

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## CHAP. VI.

### *Adaptation of the Atmosphere to the Wants of Man.*

#### SECT. I.

##### *The general Constitution of the Atmosphere.*

IN the foregoing part of this treatise the physical condition of man has been considered under the view of the general capabilities of his nature, rather than of his actual state: but it is evident