

ance of that action to some of the highest interests of man.

To those, of whatever condition in life, who are surrounded by the numerous resources of a commercial city, it is immediately of little import, unless as a question of mere corporeal feeling, whether the air be in a state of perfect calm, or freshened by a breeze; and whether that breeze be from the east, or from the west. To the agriculturist even it is comparatively of little interest, unless at particular seasons, whether the wind be high or low, or from what quarter it may come; further than as particular states and directions of the wind are indications of rain or drought. But to those "who go down to the sea in ships, and occupy their business in great waters," not only the degree of force, but the direction of the wind, is of the highest moment: while on many occasions, even in the present advanced state of science and naval architecture, a motionless state of the atmosphere, or a calm, might be fatal to all their speculations. Every one who has lived for a time on the sea-coast must have observed with what anxiety the owner of the smallest fishing boat watches the variations in the state or direction of the wind, as connected with the practicability of putting out to sea. If the wind be in an unfavourable quarter, or if it blow not with sufficient force to swell his sails, he saunters in list-