

remove mechanically the molecules beyond one another's influence ; we have probably as clear an idea of the molecular constitution of a liquid, as we are capable of forming.

SECTION V.

Of the Third, or Gaseous Form of Bodies.

WE proceed to examine the most perfect form of fluidity, that of gas ; and shall, in the first place, consider the molecular arrangement of bodies existing in the gaseous form ; which will enable us to explain further, the subject of latent heat. Still illustrating our views, by the changes produced in water by increase of temperature ; we shall adopt *steam*, as an example of a gas. Let us suppose the same constant flow of heat to be entering into a portion of water, which we before supposed to be entering into the ice : the water continues to increase in temperature, in volume, and in capacity for heat, till it arrives at the boiling point ; at that moment, the temperature ceases to be augmented, however much we may urge the application of heat ; and the water is converted into a transparent gas, well known by the name of steam. For the conversion of water