

be remarked, that, except for reference only, the old division, before mentioned, of the earth's surface into zones, is now almost entirely superseded by the more precise and natural arrangement, termed the *Isothermal* arrangement. According to this arrangement, all the places upon the globe, having *the same annual mean temperature*, are classed together; and lines drawn upon a map through such a series of places, have been termed *Isothermal lines*, or *lines of equal temperature*. As might be expected from what has been already stated, the courses of these lines are by no means regular. Thus, suppose two travellers set out, the one from London and the other from Paris; and each visit all the places in the northern hemisphere, in which the mean annual temperatures are the same as in these two cities. It will be found that the lines of their routes, or the isothermal lines of these two cities, will not only not follow the parallels of their latitude, but that they will not be parallel to each other; and the same may be said to be the case, with any other two places upon the globe. Hence, as the isothermal lines are as numerous as the places, and as diversified as numerous, geographers have grouped them into bands or zones. Thus Humboldt, to whom we owe most of what has been done on this subject, has divided the northern hemisphere