

as we shall presently see, of great importance, in enabling us to estimate the characters of a particular country. Lines drawn through places having the same summer, and the same winter, temperatures, are denominated *Isothermal* and *Isocheimal* lines; while lines drawn through places having other common temperatures, receive other appropriate names.

After these general remarks, we proceed to give a summary sketch of the actual distribution of temperature over the *northern hemisphere*; which we shall subjoin in the words of Humboldt.

“The whole of Europe,” says this distinguished philosopher, “compared with the eastern parts of America and Asia, has an insular climate; and upon the same Isothermal line, the summers become warmer, and the winters colder, as we advance from the meridian of Mont Blanc towards the east or the west. Europe may be considered as the western prolongation of the old continent; and the western parts of all continents are not only warmer, at equal latitudes, than the eastern parts; but even in the zones of equal annual temperature, the winters are more rigorous, and the summers hotter, on the eastern coasts, than on the western coasts, of the two continents. The northern part of China, like the Atlantic region of the United States, exhibits seasons strongly contrasted; while the coasts of