

## CHAPTER V.

OF THE SECONDARY, OR SUBSIDIARY CONSTITUENTS OF CLIMATE : COMPREHENDING A SKETCH OF THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES CAPABLE OF INFLUENCING CLIMATE, WHICH ARE MORE IMMEDIATELY CONNECTED WITH THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH, AS CONSISTING OF LAND OR WATER ; OR WHICH ARE CONNECTED WITH THE ATMOSPHERE.

IN the preceding chapter we have alluded to the difficulties, or exigences necessarily arising from the modes in which heat and light are distributed over our earth ; and of these, before we proceed, it may be proper to specify some of the most striking.

Had the heat and light derived from the sun to the earth, not been in any way modified ; the equatorial and the polar regions would have been alike inaccessible to organic life. The heat within the tropics, and the cold towards the poles, would both have been destructive ; while the intermediate regions would have been exposed to a constant succession of violent and sudden alternations of temperature, which would have rendered the present state of things no less an impossibility. In order, therefore, to render