

this earth an appropriate dwelling-place for such beings as at present occupy its surface, it was necessary that these extremes, and sudden vicissitudes of temperature should be in some way diminished or alleviated. Accordingly, these objects have been effected with the most consummate wisdom. Indeed, some of the most splendid instances of design in nature, are offered by those subsidiary arrangements, by which the difficulties, necessarily arising from the primary arrangements, are obviated and mitigated; and by which the greater portion of the earth's surface, has been made accessible to organic beings of the same general character. These subsidiary arrangements it will be our business to explain in the present chapter.

The secondary or subsidiary constituents of climate naturally divide themselves into two great sections; viz., *those connected with the surface of the earth, as composed of land or water; and those connected with the atmosphere.*

In the following sketch of these constituents of climate, we have endeavoured, as usual, to elucidate principles rather than to enter into details; and, as far as is compatible with a general and popular view, have attempted to point out the modes, in which the laws of light and heat, described in the first Book, operate; so as to produce the phenomena of climate.