

than by which important fluid, the influence of the latency of heat cannot perhaps be more strikingly exemplified. We formerly showed, that the temperature of water in becoming solid on the one hand, and gaseous on the other, makes, as it were, a pause; and that these changes never take place abruptly. The consequence of this arrangement is, that ice and vapour are formed slowly and gradually; and as slowly and gradually again become water; while sudden transitions from one state to the other are thus entirely prevented. Were it not for this beautiful provision, we should be constantly liable to inundations, and other inconveniencies, which would absolutely have rendered the world uninhabitable. It is impossible, therefore, to reflect upon the arrangement itself; or upon the means by which it has been effected; without being impressed with the most profound admiration, not only of the wisdom of the Great Designer of the whole; but of his goodness and benevolence.

3. *Of the General Distribution of Electricity and Magnetism over the Earth.*—The recent discoveries on the connection of electricity and magnetism, formerly described, have thrown much light on the distribution of these important agencies over the globe; and the present extent of our knowledge regarding them, will