

Thirdly. *Of the general relations of evaporation and condensation as they exist in our atmosphere; and of the circumstances by which these relations are influenced.*—We have already described the general phenomena of evaporation and condensation, and have stated the laws on which these phenomena depend. It will, therefore, in this place, be sufficient to remind the reader, that the degree, and the rate, of evaporation, though they increase with the temperature, are regulated chiefly by the existing degree of saturation of the air. That is to say, under all temperatures, evaporation decreases, as the air which receives the vapour, approaches its point of saturation. Hence it follows, that in an atmosphere perfectly saturated with moisture, and in a state of thermal and dynamical equilibrium, there can be neither evaporation nor condensation. The processes of evaporation and condensation, therefore, always indicate a disturbance of the thermal equilibrium in some part of the atmosphere: condensation denoting a depression of the temperature below the mean, or point of thermal equilibrium: evaporation, on the contrary, denoting that the temperature in some part of the atmosphere has been raised above the mean; or at least that the temperature having been depressed below the mean, is again undergoing an elevation to the mean point. Evaporation