

influence of snow. Again, if the water which now descends to the earth as snow, were to be precipitated in the form of solid masses of ice ; vegetation would be destroyed, and the whole of the colder parts of the earth would be uninhabitable !

It has been remarked, in temperate climates more especially, that the air is usually warmer during a fall of snow, than before or after. This increase of temperature probably arises from the extrication of heat, in the sensible form, during the transition of the vapour from a fluid to a solid state. Snow-water has also been said to contain much oxygen, and thus to be particularly favourable to vegetation.

*Sleet*, is half melted snow ; and constitutes the intermediate condition between that of snow, and that of rain, to be next considered.

*Of Rain.*—When the temperature of the air is above 32°, the freezing point of water ; the water separated from the air falls to the earth in the state of rain. Such is a general expression of the fact ; but after all the attention that has been bestowed on the phenomena of rain, many difficulties attend the investigation, which have not yet been surmounted.

It cannot be doubted that rain is in some way connected with change of temperature ; the perplexity attending the subject, arises, partly from the impossibility, in many instances, of account-