

of the water that is condensed and evaporated in Great Britain, can only be viewed as rude approximations; and, even admitting them to be correct, they could scarcely be applied with any advantage, to an inquiry into the actual condensation and evaporation in other countries or climates; which in all instances, must be determined by observation and experiment.

Before we quit this subject, perhaps it may not be amiss to endeavour to convey to the general reader, some still more definite notion of the enormous quantity of water which falls from the atmosphere to the earth. Let us suppose an area of nine square miles, which is considerably less than that occupied by London; and that in the course of the year, all the rain which falls in that area, if it stagnated and no evaporation took place, would cover the earth to the depth of two feet; which is about the quantity, as we have seen, that annually falls in London. According to these suppositions, there must fall in London no less than 59,584,084 hogsheads of water in the course of the year; or 163,244 hogsheads daily; the whole of which in the limited space of nine square miles, must have been dissolved in the atmosphere, or suspended in the form of clouds.

Fourthly, *Of the Distribution of Heat and Light in their latent and decomposed Forms through the Vapour of the Atmosphere; and of*