

*the Effects of that Distribution.*—The general distribution of heat and light in their latent form through the vapour of the atmosphere, seems to follow the same laws as the distribution of sensible heat formerly explained. That is to say, the distribution of these forms of heat and light decreases from the Equator toward the Poles. The most remarkable effects of the distribution of latent heat have already been incidentally mentioned, and need not be here repeated. We shall therefore proceed to consider the particular distribution of electricity, and of the decomposed forms of light, in the vapour of the atmosphere; and the effects of this distribution.

*Of the Relations of Electricity to the Vapour of the Atmosphere.*—Atmospheric air, when perfectly dry and pure, is one of the most complete non-conductors of electricity that are known. Whether water in the state of vapour possesses similar non-conducting properties does not appear to be satisfactorily established. But the non-conducting powers of aqueous vapour must be very considerable; otherwise, since the atmosphere is never entirely free from vapour, electrical insulation could not take place. On the other hand, when vapour assumes the form of water, the water instantaneously becomes a conductor of electricity. Hence a mass of visible vapour or cloud, when floating in a