

these clouds must continue to shower down good and not evil upon the earth.

3. *Of the Occasional Presence of Foreign Bodies in the Atmosphere; and of their Effects.*—The foreign bodies which occasionally exist in the atmosphere, may be considered as of two kinds, viz. *those which are merely suspended in the atmosphere in a state of mixture; and those which pervade the atmosphere in a state of solution.*

Both in ancient and in modern times, and in various parts of the world, rain and snow have been observed to be coloured by an admixture of extraneous matters. The nature of these colouring matters has been found to be very different in different instances. Some have proved to be of vegetable origin, consisting of *minute lichens and other cryptogamous plants* brought from a distance by the agency of the winds, and diffused in myriads through the atmosphere. Such vegetable matters have been sometimes more or less *red*: whence those imagined *showers of blood* we read of as producing so much popular excitation. In other instances the colour has been given by earthy and metallic matters in a state of very fine powder; and in this case their descent has been usually accompanied by violent electrical phenomena,