

the clouds a thick vapour, composed of water, sulphur, and bitumen. Further we perceive, dreadful gulphs or whirlpools which seem to attract vessels, merely to swallow them up. On the other hand, we discover immense regions, totally opposite in their natures, always calm and tranquil, yet equally dangerous; where the winds never exert their power, where the art of the mariner becomes useless, and where the becalmed voyager must remain until death relieves him from the horrors of despair. In conclusion, if we turn our eyes towards the northern or southern extremities of the globe, we there perceive enormous flakes of ice separating themselves from the polar regions, advancing like floating mountains into the more temperate climes, where they dissolve, and are lost to the sight.

Exclusive of these principle objects, the vast empire of the sea abounds with animated beings, almost innumerable in numbers and variety. Some of them, covered with light scales, traverse with astonishing celerity different countries; others, loaded with thick shells, drag heavily along, leaving their track in the sand; on others Nature has bestowed fins, resembling wings, with which they raise and support