

tion than it knows of itself, and never for an instant imagined the sense of the phrase, "the poetry of nature," yet there is a language in the most fickle of all things, the morning cloud. As the face of man portrays the passions by which the man is governed, and their intensity, so the clouds of heaven give evidence of the causes by which the atmosphere is held in control, and a philosophical knowledge of the influence of those causes enables an individual to prognosticate future results from present appearances.

THE CIRRUS.

This modification of clouds has a less density, and generally a greater elevation, than any other. Sometimes it



may be seen stretching over the half of the hemisphere, and at other times it may appear as small thin streaks, here and there pencilled upon the clear blue sky. Its duration is as variable as its extent; for, although it will frequently retain the same form for many hours, it does occasionally change in appearance so rapidly as not to be recognised, after a few minutes, as the cloud which was first observed. Its direction is not less various. From the primitive threads which are first wove, others are thrown, some laterally, others upward or downward, some or all becoming in time the