

face of the earth, as the stones themselves ; and the spurs or icicles on the surface, had all the appearance of being partially melted down by heat. Fortunately, the troops had their backs to the storm, else many of them must have lost their eyes, and been otherwise maimed, from the weight of the stones, and the force with which they fell. I have heard some of the men say, their tin-kettles were *dinged* (or dimpled) by the shower ; and I am inclined to believe so from the circumstance of my being rendered lame for twenty-four hours by one of them falling on my toe. The rattling of the stones on the canteens and kettles of the men, and their gradually increasing in size for some time, rendered the scene truly alarming, even to those who had been in the daily habit of exposing their lives to the dangers of war. I am not aware of the extent of the shower, nor have I been able to ascertain its injurious consequences, from the French or Basque journals ; but from the damage done to the orchards and grains at the bottom of the Pyrenees, I should suppose it to have occupied a range of three miles, proceeding from Roncesvalles into the valley of Bastan."

#### DEW.

The term dew is employed to signify that spontaneous deposition of moisture which is observed on certain substances exposed to the air, at a time when no aqueous vapour or rain is apparently falling.

Previous to the publication of Dr. Wells' " Essay on Dew," it was disputed among philosophers whether the phenomenon was produced by vapours rising from the earth, or by the descent of atmospheric vapour. Dr. Dufay, a French philosopher, made a very singular experiment for the purpose of determining this question. He took two long ladders, and fixing them so that they met at the top, and were wide apart at the bottom, attached to the several steps large panes of glass. He observed that the lowest surface of the lowest pane was first wetted, then the upper, then the lower surface of the one above it, and so on until the same effect had been produced upon them all. From this effect he deduced that dew is occasioned by the exhalation of vapours from the earth during the night. He afterward substituted cloth for the glasses, and weighing the pieces separately, imagined that he detected a progressive increase of weight in the several pieces, the