

ought to bring round a periodical increase and diminution in the average rainfalls and barometric heights. Like the others, however, when compared on any extended scale with recorded facts, this results in no establishment of any positive conclusion.

(10.) A small monthly depression in the average temperature arising from the nocturnal radiation consequent on the cloudless state of the sky about the full moon, would seem almost a necessary consequence of that phænomenon.

(11.) The causes by which that “various and mutable thing” which we call THE WEATHER are produced are in themselves few and simple enough; but the physical laws which determine their actions are numerous and complex; and the results, in consequence, so mutually interwoven, and the momentary conditions of their action so dependent on the state of things induced by their previous agency, that it is no wonder it should be next to impossible to trace each specific cause (acting as it has done through all past time) direct to its present effect. Yet from this very complexity results that sort of regulated casualty—that apparently accidental, yet limited departure and excursion on either side from a monotonous medium—that exceeding variety of climate, which renders our globe a fit habitation for such innumerable diversities of incompatible life—and that general equilibrium in each which secures to every species, and to each individual of them all, its due share in the distribution of heat, moisture, and wholesome air:—considerations, these, which are not lost on those