

is so moist that no evaporation can take place from the surface of their bodies, it has been found that their temperature is as capable of being steadily and uniformly raised, by increasing the heat of the room in which they are placed, as if they were inanimate matter.

The application of heat to the various purposes of life has a very extensive range ; and with reference to the daily preparation of the more common forms of our food, whether animal or vegetable, distinguishes the habits of man from those of every other species. Without the power indeed of commanding the application of heat in its various degrees, many of the most important arts of civilized society would fail.

Without that power, how could clay be hardened into the state of brick, of which material most of the habitations in many large cities are constructed ? Without the aid of the same agent, how could quicklime, the base of every common cement, be produced from limestone ? without the application of the higher degrees of heat, metals could neither be reduced from their ores, nor the reduced metals be worked into convenient forms. Neither, without the same aid, could that most useful substance glass be produced ; a material, which, in comparison hardly known to the ancients, has in modern times become almost indispensably necessary to persons of the poorest class, as a substance of daily