

of remaining fluid through a greater range of temperature than any other known substance^d. And, in the case of the barometer, what fluid is there which could supply the place of quicksilver, with any degree of convenience? since, from the great specific gravity of this metal, a column of the perpendicular height of about thirty inches, sufficiently answers the intended purpose; which column in the case of almost every other fluid, would amount to as many feet. And as, in such a case, the column must necessarily be contained in a glass tube, in order to make the alterations in its height visible, how would it be possible to render such an instrument portable? and yet, if not portable, it would often be of no use when most wanted.

In those numerous philosophical experiments in which it is requisite to insulate portions of various gaseous substances, for the purpose of examining their properties, how could the experimentalist proceed without the use of the metal now under consideration; which by its fluidity readily yields its place to the various kinds of gas which are to be transferred to vessels previously filled with the quicksilver; and,

^d Quicksilver does not become solid till exposed to a temperature about seventy degrees below the freezing point in the scale of Fahrenheit; nor does it pass rapidly into a state of vapour till exposed to a temperature equal to nearly three hundred and seventy degrees above the boiling point of water, on the same scale.