which had been added, and will leave little of that added matter external and sensible; while the less porous body, having less room among its pores, will condense less, and will exhibit externally, and sensibly, a larger quantity of the added matter. The more porous body, therefore, may be said to have a greater *capacity* for heat, than the less porous body; from its greater power of absorbing heat, and rendering it latent.* Such, we believe, is the usual explanation of the latency of heat in any body, comparatively with other bodies; and, to a certain extent, it is probably correct: but there is another mode of the latency of heat, apparently quite different from the above noticed; and which does not seem to admit of being explained on the same principle: this we have now to consider.

Let us suppose that into a mass of ice, which has been cooled to several degrees under the freezing point, a uniform and regular flow of heat be determined from some external source. In consequence of this accession of heat, the temperature (and volume?) of the ice will be

* This union of heat with ponderable bodies may, perhaps, be considered as analogous to the condensation of gaseous bodies by porous substances—a very remarkable set of phenomena, which deserve to be much more carefully studied than they have been. The absorption of light seems also to be of a similar nature. All these phenomena apparently depend upon chemical principles; and probably, if studied in connexion, would mutually illustrate each other.