

mercury supported by the whole atmospheric pressure, the azote sustains $23 \frac{3}{8}$ inches, and the oxygen $6 \frac{1}{8}$ inches; while the aqueous vapour sustains only $\frac{4}{8}$ inch, and the carbonic acid still less, or only $\frac{2}{8}$ inch. Hence it is evident, that the fluctuations in the height of the barometer, (amounting to nearly three inches in our latitude,) cannot depend altogether upon the quantity of aqueous vapour in the atmosphere; for if the whole of this vapour were annihilated, it would scarcely produce a difference in height of half an inch. Attention is now drawn to this fact, for purposes, which will appear in a subsequent chapter.

Lastly, had the absolute quantity, or the relative gravity, of the atmosphere, been materially different from what they are; the present order of things could not have existed. Hence, the same striking evidences of wise adjustments are displayed, in these arrangements of the atmosphere, as in the arrangements formerly shown to exist, with respect to the quantity and the gravity of the waters of the ocean.

Before we close the present chapter, let us reflect for a moment, upon the great arrangements we have been considering.

Why has the surface of this earth been divided into land and sea? Why have the land and sea been so adjusted to each other, that their condition and proportions hardly admit of change,