Section III.

Of the Temperature of the Celestial Regions.

From the close and intimate relations between heat and light, and from their almost invariable association as they exist around us, it seems not very unreasonable to conclude, that these agencies are generally associated in nature; and that wherever one is present, there the other must be present also. If this be really the case, the innumerable fixed stars, considered to be so many suns, must be supposed capable of diffusing heat, as well as light, throughout the celestial regions; and consequently there must be a certain degree of temperature, common to the whole. For this reason, and for others which might be mentioned, philosophers have not only inferred the existence of such a common temperature throughout the celestial regions, independently of our sun; but have even attempted to determine its degree. Moreover, all the different modes which have been employed to estimate this temperature, singularly coincide in showing, that it does not differ much from — 58° of Fahrenheit's scale. The temperature of space is, therefore, supposed to be about 90° below the freezing point of water;