

adapted to a change in external conditions. If this be not the operation of a prospective and active intelligence, where are we to look for it?"*

CHAPTER III.

OF THE TEMPERATURE OF THE EARTH AT ITS SURFACE, AS DEPENDENT ON THE SUN.

THE general temperature of the earth is doubtless regulated by its situation in the universe; and more especially, by its position with respect to the sun. To this position, as formerly observed, the properties of its constituent principles have, most obviously, been all adapted with consummate wisdom; so that, under the circumstances in which they are placed, some are solid, some liquid, others gaseous, according to the purposes they are intended to fulfil in nature.

But the heat and light derived from the sun, are very unequally distributed over the surface of the earth; and every one is familiar with the fact, that as we recede from the equator towards

* Address delivered to the Geological Society of London, by the late President, Professor Sedgwick, 1831.