

beyond 52° of latitude ; and in the interior of the new continent, all the immense basin, bounded by the Alleghany range, and the rocky mountains, is not more than from 656 to 920 feet above the level of the ocean."

The following remarks apply to *the temperature of the southern hemisphere.*

The general temperatures of the northern, and of the southern hemispheres, are understood to differ very considerably. This difference, however, does not depend upon any material difference in the proportion of heat and light derived from the sun, as will be presently shown ; but on the very unequal distribution of sea and of land, in the two hemispheres ; the small quantity of land in the southern hemisphere, contributing to equalize the seasons.

Humboldt has shown, that near the equator, and indeed so far south as 40° or 50° , the similar Isothermal lines are in both hemispheres almost equally distant from the poles ; and that, in considering only the transatlantic climates between 70° and 80° of west longitude, the mean temperatures of the year, under corresponding geographic parallels, are even greater in the southern than in the northern hemisphere. It is the *division* of heat, therefore, between the different seasons of the year, rather than the absolute amount of heat during the whole year, which gives a particular character to southern