

## SECTION I.

*Of the secondary Constituents of Climate, immediately connected with the Surface of the Earth; and depending on the Nature of that Surface as composed of Land or Water.*

IN attempting to illustrate the operation of the laws of heat and light in the formation of climate, we shall follow the order, nearly, in which these laws were discussed in the previous chapters; that is to say, we shall first consider the influence of heat and light, as depending on their latent and decomposed forms; and afterwards, their influence as depending on their radiation, conduction, and convection.

In the prosecution of this difficult inquiry, the first circumstance which naturally claims our attention, is the absolute quantity of heat and light, derived from the sun to the earth.

1. *Of the Proportion of Solar Heat and Light, which actually arrives at the Surface of the Earth.* Of the absolute quantity of heat and light derived from the sun to our globe, we have no means of forming an exact estimate. M. Pouillet has attempted to show, that the amount of heat annually received by the earth from the sun, is