

while, of course, the quantity absorbed, *increases* in the like proportion. Hence if heat follow the same law, it is evident that the quantity of heat absorbed by the earth from the solar rays, must *increase* from the equator towards the poles; that is to say, according to the increase of the angle of their incidence, as Mr. Daniell has attempted to show. It is proper, however, to observe that Mr. Daniell's views have been called in question, and that some late observations made in high latitudes do not entirely corroborate them.\* We allude to the subject merely with the view of drawing the attention of Meteorologists to it, as one of great interest and curiosity; and as one by no means at present understood. There is every reason to believe, that the absorption (and perhaps the radiation) of heat and light, under some of its modifications, are much influenced by polarization, and consequently by certain angles of incidence and reflection; and that these circumstances, in consequence, have much to do with the distribution of heat and

\* We allude here to the observations made in those regions, and given in the appendix to Captain Franklin's Second Journey, by Dr. Richardson, Captain Back, and Lieutenant Kendal. In these observations Dr. R. states that the radiation was much stronger in the spring months, *when the ground was covered with snow*, than in the summer months, when the altitude of the sun was greatest. Dr. R. ascribes this greater radiation to the greater clearness of the air at these seasons; but were there no other reasons?