

light, particularly in the higher latitudes ; where they may exert no small influence upon organized beings. The above observations seem to point to the existence of certain general laws, which no doubt hereafter will be elucidated.

In noticing the influence of different colours on the absorption and reflection of heat and light, we stated that black and dark colours generally absorb most and reflect least ; and *vice versa*, that white and light colours, reflect most and absorb least. We now proceed to illustrate this interesting subject, by considering the following questions.—Why does whiteness prevail in the Polar regions? Why, for instance, is snow white? On the contrary, why are all sorts of dark and decided colours met with in the tropical climates, except whiteness, which is comparatively rare? Might not snow have been black instead of white ; which was just as likely if its colour had been the result of accident? or might not whiteness have been predominant under the equator? Perhaps the best mode of answering these questions, and of placing the subject in a striking view, is to examine what would have been the consequence, if whiteness *had* prevailed under the equator, and blackness at the poles.

As heat and light are supposed to obey nearly the same laws, as far as absorption, radiation, and reflection are concerned ; it is obvious that