

*Of the Limits of Perpetual Snow.*—Connected with the diminution of temperature in the higher regions of the atmosphere, are the *limits of perpetual snow* in different latitudes. These limits, of course, may be naturally supposed to follow the mean temperature of  $32^{\circ}$ , from the level of the sea in the Polar regions, to the highest point of their range under the equator. This inference is obvious, and, generally speaking, correct; though it is liable to certain modifications, and to some anomalies, of which the following are the most remarkable.

Under the equator, the limits of perpetual snow are the most fixed and steady, and seem to exist generally at an altitude of between 15,000 and 16,000 feet. As we recede from the equator, the oscillations for the most part become more striking, and all the phenomena assume a more irregular form. Such, for example, is the case in the Mexican Cordilleras; but still more evidently in the Himmala range; where there is a difference of no less than 4,000 feet, between the limits of perpetual snow on the northern, and on the southern sides of the mountain; that on the northern being the highest. As we proceed toward the temperate zones, we find, in mountainous countries, below the limits of perpetual snow, immense bodies of ice, or *glaciers*, as they are termed. These glaciers are formed by the alternate melting and congealing of the exten-