

latitudes, is doubtless compensated for, in some degree, by the greater length of the day.

*Of the Distribution of Heat and Light through the Atmosphere in their latent Forms.*

—In the preceding paragraphs, we have alluded to the quantity of heat existing *latent* in the higher regions of the atmosphere. But besides this quantity, which may be supposed to be common to the whole atmosphere; the distribution of latent heat and light must, in some degree, follow the same law as that of sensible heat and light; that is, must decrease from the equator toward the poles. Thus there can be no doubt, that the expanded air of the equatorial regions, contains much more heat and light in the latent state, than the comparatively dense and dry atmospheric air of the Polar regions; and it is probable that the rigours of each extreme are mitigated by this provision. The distribution of electricity through the atmosphere, seems also to be regulated by very similar laws. It may, however, be remarked, that the effects of heat and light, in the latent form, as well as the effects of electricity, are much more striking as connected with the water in the atmosphere, than with the constituents of the atmosphere itself. We shall, therefore, defer what we have to say on those subjects, till we speak of the water in the atmosphere.

*Of the Propagation of Sensible Heat through*