the Atmosphere.—The propagation of sensible heat through the atmosphere is chiefly effected by the process termed *convection.* Convection, of course, implies motion, or currents; which currents, as existing in the atmosphere, we need scarcely observe, are denominated *Winds.* The winds, therefore, are of the utmost importance in the economy of nature, as tending to equalize the distribution of temperature over the globe; and the following brief explanation will serve to give a general knowledge of their nature.

Atmospheric currents may be considered under two heads: those of a general kind, extending more or less over the whole globe; and those which are produced by various transient derangements of the distribution of temperature, the effects of which are limited to particular localities. On each of these we shall make a few remarks.

The *general currents* of the atmosphere depend principally upon the two following circumstances, which, if borne in mind, will furnish the reader with a clue to the whole subject: viz. the unequal temperature of the equator and of the poles; and the diurnal motion of the earth upon its axis. The convective operation of the first of these general causes may be thus illustrated. We have stated that the entire pressure of the atmosphere all over the earth's surface is nearly the same, and equal to that of