

principally caused by currents in the atmosphere, or winds ; and by electricity. Although the proper motions of vapour are liable, as we have said, to be considerably influenced by atmospheric currents ; yet vapour is much less liable to be so affected, than visible vapour ; for when once the vapour in the atmosphere has been separated, and has assumed the form of *visible* vapour, its own proper powers of motion cease ; and it becomes entirely subject to those of convection. Visible vapours, therefore, of all kinds, from their being liable to be wafted by every breeze, are in a constant state of motion ; and are thus frequently carried where vapour, in virtue of its mere diffusive property, would never reach.

Another undoubted cause of the motions of visible vapour or clouds, is Electricity. In the form of vapour, electricity is not known to exert any influence on the motions of water through the atmosphere ; but the moment the water is precipitated, and assumes the form of visible vapour, it becomes subject to electrical attractions and repulsions, by which the motions of clouds, &c. are much liable to be influenced ; as will be more particularly explained hereafter.

*Of the accidental circumstances affecting evaporation.* — The accidental circumstances which principally operate to affect the rate of evapora-