

vesicles, having the quality of mutual repulsion ; the tendency to repel each other, preventing the coherence of the vesicles into drops, at least under ordinary circumstances. These vesicles have been occasionally observed of considerable magnitude. Thus Saussure, in one of his Alpine journeys, saw vesicles float slowly before him having greater diameters than peas, and whose coating seemed inconceivably thin. It is proper to mention, however, that there is diversity of opinion respecting the actual constitution of visible vapour.

That the cause of the formation of mists and of fogs is, to a certain extent, similar to that of the formation of dew, appears by their prevalence over rivers and large masses of water, especially during the autumnal months. The radiation of heat from the land, and from the water, is at these seasons very different ; the difference being greatest, when the temperature of the water approaches 40° , its point of maximum density. The water is then of a temperature nearly uniform, both by day and by night ; while the temperature of the land is, during the day, much higher than 40° , and during the night, often much under that temperature. The water in most cases occupying the lowest situations ; whenever, from the inequalities of the surface of the land, or from any other cause, the colder air produced by radiation over the land, is made to