

more frequently accompanied by rain, than winds from the north and from the east : though as we might expect, the precipitation of rain is most decided, during the conflicts between these opposite currents, which sometimes extend over a large tract of country. The long prevalence of certain winds may thus cause the seasons to be wet in one part of the world, and dry in another; the water being as it were, distilled off from the one, in order that it may be precipitated on the other. Yet the whole amount of the rain in the two countries may perhaps differ very little from the usual average, while the two countries have the benefit of variety in the general amount of their rain; which variety may be salutary at particular periods, and may even be necessary to their well being.

Before we end the examination of the phenomena of rain, it may be proper to advert to the generally admitted influence of the *Moon* on the weather, and especially on the fall of rain. This influence, however, can hardly, in the present state of our knowledge, be brought to elucidate the phenomena of rain; so great are the disturbing effects of local and other peculiarities.

*Of Hail.*—The last form in which we have to consider the precipitation of water from the atmosphere, is hail. Hail may be regarded as consisting of drops of rain, more or less suddenly frozen by exposure to a temperature below 32°.