and scarcely affect the mean quantity proper to the place; thus showing, that the distribution of rain obeys the same laws which regulate the more fixed operations of nature.

Of the whole water that is condensed upon the surface of the earth, a certain portion, of course, enters into the soil. The depth to which such water sinks, is determined by the declivity of the surface, by the nature of the inferior strata, and by other circumstances; but, usually, after a greater or less period, and range of circulation, the water again makes its appearance in the open day, in the form of *Springs*. The conjunction of springs and the occasional addition of a portion of rain water, which is neither immediately absorbed by the soil, nor evaporated, constitute brooks and rivulets; these again uniting, in their progress from the higher and interior parts of the countries where this water has been deposited, form the larger rivers; which, after dispensing innumerable benefits to the inhabitants of the plains in their course, finally discharge their superfluous waters into the ocean. As the origin of the superfluous water which flows from the rivers to the ocean, is thus, unquestionably, derived from the vapour condensed in the interior of the countries where the rivers originate; it follows, that in every country where there are rivers, *condensation must surpass evaporation*. That is to say, a large proportion of