

been the greatest possible ; but, notwithstanding all this, there was not any sensible change in the weather. I believe, then, that I have *demonstrated* that the influence of the moon upon the weather is so small, that it is *totally lost* amid the great variety of other forces and causes which change the state of our atmosphere.

“ And if the influence of the moon is so insensible on the *weather*, we are entitled very much to suspect its pretended influence either upon *men*, *animals*, or *plants*. In fact, it is *all of it* owing to illusion and prejudice. Observation shows, that the notion that men weigh one or two pounds more at the beginning of the month, and that lobsters, oysters, &c. are fatter when the moon is on the increase, is entirely without foundation. We may place great confidence in the very careful experiments made by the celebrated agriculturists, Ladquinterie, Nardmann, Reichard, and Hartenfels, and by the great naturalists, Buffon and Reaumur, who proved distinctly, that the *increase or decrease of the moon has no influence either upon the germination of seeds, upon the rapidity of their growth, or upon their quality*.

“ I can positively assert, that I have carefully inquired into the influence of the moon upon the sick, during the long time that I have practised