CLIMATE.

tivity should have added so little to our knowledge of CHAP. L. the Arctic regions. The relations of the earlier navi- Little knowgators who sailed to those parts possess an interest which ledge achas not been yet eclipsed. The voyage of Martens from quired. Hamburg to Spitzbergen may be cited as still the most instructive. But the best and completest work on the subject of the northern fisheries, is a treatise in three volumes octavo, translated from the Dutch language into French by Bernard de Reste, and published at Paris in 1801, under the title Histoire des Pêches, des Découvertes et des Etablissemens des Hollandais dans les Mers du Nord.

The Arctic expedition, which in 1818 attracted the Objects of attention of the public, proposed two distinct objects, peditions. -to advance towards the Pole, and to explore a northwest passage to China. These were no doubt splendid schemes; but, in order to form a right estimate of the plan and some anticipation of its probable results, it was necessary to proceed with caution, and to employ the lights of science. The facts alleged, respecting the vast islands or continents of ice recently separated and dispersed from the Arctic regions, gave occasion to much loose reasoning, to wild and random conjectures, and conjectures. visionary declamation. Glowing anticipations were confidently formed of the future amelioration of climate, which would scarcely be hazarded even in the dreams of romance. Every person possessing a slight tincture of physical science conceives himself qualified to speculate concerning the phenomena of weather, in which he feels a deep interest; and hence a very flimsy and spurious kind of philosophy, however trifling or despicable it may appear in the eyes of the few who are accustomed to think more profoundly, gained currency among certain classes of men, and engendered no small share of conccit. Mcteorology is a complex Meteorology. science, depending on so many subordinate principles that require the union of accurate theory with a range of nice and various observations as to have advanced very slowly towards perfection.