

# POLAR SEAS AND REGIONS

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## CHAPTER I.

### *The Climate of the Polar Regions.*

General View of the Subject—Light thrown on it by Voyages of Discovery—Various Opinions and Observations discussed—Distribution of Heat over the Surface of the Globe—Currents in the Atmosphere—Freezing of the Arctic Sea—Phenomena of the Seasons in the Polar Regions—Formation of Icebergs—Changes in the Aspect of the Polar Seas—Supposed Alterations in the Climate of Europe—State of the Ice in the Polar Seas—Situation of the Ancient Colonies in Greenland.

THE climate and seasons within the Arctic circle exhibit most peculiar and striking features, which modify in a singular manner the whole aspect of nature. An investigation of those phenomena seems therefore necessary for enabling the reader to comprehend the narrative, and to follow through such icy regions the paths of the daring navigator. Accordingly, in order to elucidate the subject more fully, it will be proper to give some explication of the principles that regulate generally the distribution of heat over the surface of our globe.

CHAP. I.

Modifying influences.

Many of the facts relative to the Polar climate have been collected in the course of the bold and arduous attempts made to penetrate to India across the northern seas. Projects of this kind, after being long suspended,

Origin of Polar voyages.