

air. yet it was not observable, except in some cases of snow-drift, that parhelia were more frequent or distinct when this deposit was the greatest, than when the atmosphere was comparatively clear, though, in the latter case, they are always to appearance most distant. Parhelia occur most frequently, and exhibit the greatest intensity of light, at low altitudes of the sun. This is often particularly observable in the short days, when these phenomena assume a very brilliant appearance soon after sunrise, decrease in splendour towards noon, and resume their brightness as the sun descends towards the horizon; continuing, however, distinctly visible the whole time, and being sometimes accompanied by a more or less perfect halo, undergoing corresponding variations.

Another peculiarity observed in this winter was the rare occurrence of the Aurora Borealis, and the extraordinary poorness of its display whenever it did make its appearance. It was almost invariably seen to the southward, between an E.S.E. and a