

with fogs or clouds. The sun's heat, confined and checked by the solid surfaces which land presents, is spent in dissipating and diffusing the small bodies of water, which, in the form of swamps, lakes, and rivers, may be lodged or running on the face of a country; and the more frequent such bodies of water occur, the more is the ambient sky loaded with vapour.

*But, notwithstanding it be admitted evaporation constantly takes place from the oceans which cover the globe, a small part only of the sun's heat is engaged therein, because,*

1st. The progress of the sun's heat is so rapid and constant, that the employment of it by evaporation is too slow to prevent the farther action of the sun throughout the whole extent of the water. Thus the heat of a fire acts so powerfully on water placed in a kettle, as to swell the water considerably at the same moment that it is losing much by evaporation. This experiment is made every day in every kitchen, and is a correct though violent representation of the periodical swells of the oceans caused by the action of the sun.

2d. Because the capacity of the atmosphere is limited, and can receive but a limited quantity of vapour, and because the sun's heat is infinite when compared to the capacity of the atmosphere. The infinite remainder of the sun's heat unengaged in evaporation, necessarily pervades and mingles with the waters of the oceans, and thereby augments their volume.

The atmosphere has a limited capacity. It can admit,