

greater quantity of fire which all these vast bodies excite in the sun. For my own part I am greatly inclined to think that the heat produced by this cause in the globe of the earth, forms a very considerable part of its own heat : and that, in consequence, we must still extend the limits of time for the duration of nature. But let us return to our principal object.

We have observed that the summers are very nearly equal in all climates of the earth, and that this truth is founded on incontestible facts ; but it is not the same with respect to winters ; they are very unequal, and vary in different climates, as we remove further from that of the equator, where the heat in winter and summer is nearly the same. I think I have already explained in a satisfactory manner the cause of this, viz, the suppression of the terrestrial heat. This suppression is, as I have said, occasioned by the cold winds, which fall from the air, bind the earth, freeze the waters, and shut up the emanations of the terrestrial heat during the time the frosts remain ; so that it is not at all surprising that the cold in winter is in fact so much the greater as we advance further towards the climates where the mass of air, receiving the rays  
of