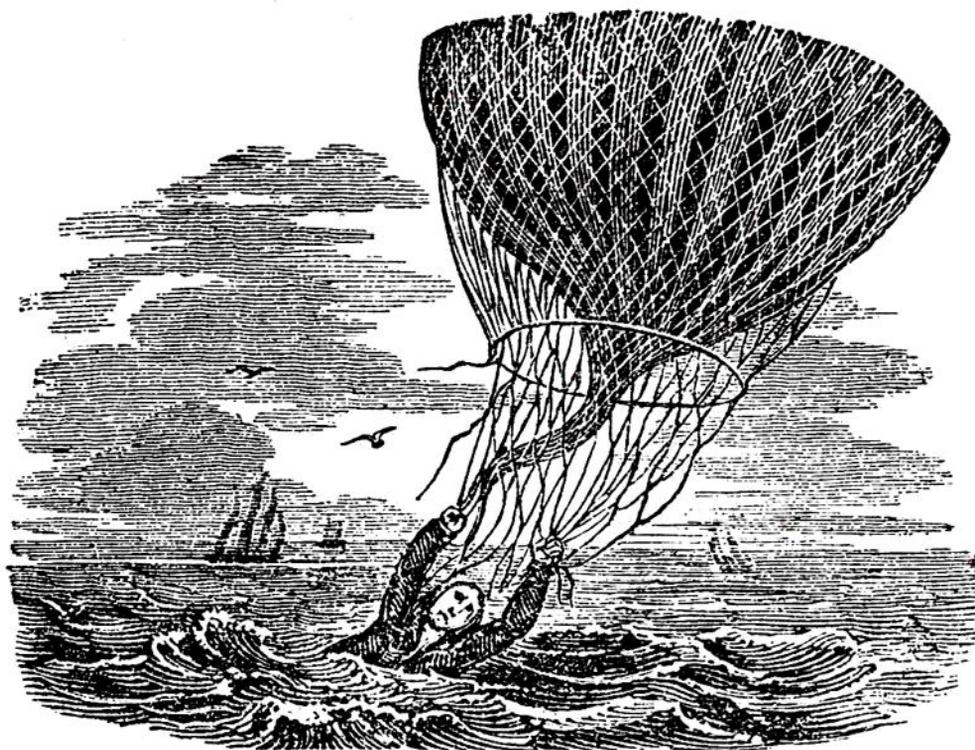


the aerial waves, the clouds float over them at all altitudes, and the feathered tribe rise and descend in the vast ocean,



as fishes do in the water, having physical arrangements of anatomy and constitution as beautifully adapted to the fluid in which their movements are to be performed, as those which characterize the finny tribes.

ELASTICITY OF AIR.

Elasticity is another property of atmospheric air, and in this statement it is assumed that it has compressibility, a property which it is well known to possess. Previous to Mr. Perkins's experiments, air had not been made to occupy a space less than the one hundred and twenty-eighth part of its ordinary volume on the surface of the earth; but this gentleman, by means of an apparatus invented for the purpose, succeeded in reducing it to a much less bulk, and states that he at last compelled it to assume a liquid state. The latter assertion, however, has generally been objected to, as his experiments are by no means satisfactory. It does not necessarily follow that a body possessed of compressibility should likewise be elastic, for some bodies, when compelled by pressure to occupy a less space than they do under ordinary cir-