views, may be mentioned the evidence derived from the characters of the fossil remains both of plants and of animals, found in the colder regions of the world; which characters are such, as to prove beyond a doubt, that these plants and animals must have existed in a climate much hotter than that in which their remains are found; and indeed, of equal, if not of superior heat, to that of the tropical portions of our earth at the present time. Hence it has been inferred, that the temperature of our earth, formerly much above what it is now, has been gradually dissipated into the surrounding planetary regions, and thus helped to increase the general temperature, above stated, as supposed to exist throughout space. Moreover, the Baron Fourier, to whom we are principally indebted for these observations, has attempted to show, that the earth has nearly reached its limit of cooling, particularly near the surface. Near the surface, the temperature would necessarily decrease much more rapidly than in the interior; where, in a globe of the earth's magnitude, the temperature might be supposed to remain nearly unchanged, for a very great length of time. The same distinguished philosopher has also attempted to show, that the temperature of the surface is still liable to be influenced, by the gradual escape of heat from the interior, which