

cating some of its heat to the superincumbent air, sinks in its turn ; and this process goes on for a greater or less time according to the depth of the water. If the depth be not very considerable, the whole body of the water becomes cooled down to 40° ; at which temperature the specific gravity not increasing, the circulation ceases ; and the *surface* of the water, (not the *bottom*) becomes at length, so far cooled, as to be covered with ice. If the depth of the water be considerable, the application of cold may be long continued without the result of freezing ; hence, in this, and in other, countries, not intensely cold, it often happens, that deep lakes remain unfrozen during the coldest winters.

The above anomalous properties of the expansion of water and its consequences, have always struck us as presenting the most remarkable instance of design in the whole order of nature—an instance of something done expressly, and almost (could we indeed conceive such a thing of the Deity), at second thought, to accomplish a particular object. Further, if in conjunction with this anomalous property of water, we take into account the still more anomalous constitution of atmospheric air, and at the same time consider the relations of water and air to organic existence ; we are unavoidably driven to the conclusion, that the Maker of water and of air ; has designedly created these anomalies, to