sive beds of snow that lie above them. The glaciers, accumulating in valleys, are often by the enormous and increasing weight of the snow and ice in the upper parts, pressed downwards far beyond the limits of the snow itself. Such are the *glaciers* of Switzerland, of Norway, and of other countries in temperate climates. All these circumstances, with others which might be mentioned, and many probably that are unknown to us, combine to render the limits of perpetual snow irregular. These irregularities are so considerable, that Humboldt, from numerous observations, has inferred the limits of perpetual snow at the equator to be nearly 3° above the freezing point; while in the temperate zone, they are nearly 5° below that point; and in the frigid zone, no less than 10° or 11° below freezing; results which seem to prove, that the general temperature of the air decreases in the equatorial, otherwise than in the colder regions. From the peculiar distribution of the land in the southern hemisphere, little is known of the line of perpetual snow in that part of the world; but it will probably be found to be different from the line in the north, and generally lower.

The perpetual snow resting on the tops of mountains, constitutes a most important provision in the economy of nature, particularly in the warmer climates; where the accumulated snow becomes the prolific source of innumerable