

ON STEAM.

1. **STEAM**, is the name given in our language to the visible moist vapour which arises from all bodies which contain juices easily expelled from them by heats not sufficient for their combustion. Thus we say, the steam of boiling water, of malt, of a tan-bed, &c. It is distinguished from smoke by its not having been produced by combustion, by not containing any soot, and by its being condensable by cold into water, oil, inflammable spirits, or liquids composed of these.

2. We see it rise in great abundance from bodies when they are heated, forming a white cloud, which diffuses itself and disappears at no very great distance from the body from which it was produced. In this case the surrounding air is found loaded with the water or moisture which seems to have produced it, and the steam seems to be completely soluble in air, as salt is in water, composing, while thus united, a transparent elastic fluid.

3. But in order to its appearance in the form of an opaque white cloud, the mixture with or dissemination in air, or in some elastic fluid colder than itself, seems absolutely necessary. If a tea-kettle boils violently, so that