or the most deprived of water, which might be looked upon as liquid earth, only owes its liquidity to the quantity of the air and fire it contains; and it is no less certain, that they are indebted for their sayour to the same principles. An experiment which I have frequently tried, has fully convinced me, that alkali is produced by fire. Lime made according to the common mode, and put upon the tongue, even before slacked by air or water, has a savour which indicates the presence of a certain quantity of alkali. If the fire be continued, this lime by longer calcination, becomes more poignant; and that drawn from furnaces, where the calcination has subsisted for five or six months together, is still more so. Now this salt was not contained in the stone before its calcination : it augmented in proportion to the strength and continuance of the fire; it is therefore evident, that it is the immediate product of the fire and air, which incorporate in the substance during its calcination, and which, by this means, are become fixed parts of it, and from which they have driven most of the watry molecules it before contained. This alone appeared to me sufficient to pronounce that fire is the principal of the formation of the mineral alkali; and we may conclude, by analogy, that other alkalis owe their formation to the con-0 stant VOL. X.