the bones of animals; nay, it is found even in the brain. A middling-sized man, for instance, contains a pound of it, which, if in a free state and inflamed, would burn him up and every thing around him. But now, nothing is more incombustible than a bone. No one suspects what a terrible agent he carries within him; nor has any one reason to fear it, because it is disarmed. And so it is throughout nature — so concealed, indeed, that nothing but delicate chemical tests can discover its existence. The same is true of chlorine, which, in a free state, is eminently terrible. And were all of this element that is now chained in the ocean to be liberated in one day, it would sweep this fair world of all its tenants, and its beauty. In short, modern chemistry has afforded us a glimpse of a multitude of agents within us and around us, which, in a free state, are of terrific power. But the lion is converted into a lamb by the strong chain of affinity.

In meteorology, although prolific in remarkable phenomena, I shall notice but two or three. In the first place, consider what a remarkable envelope of our globe is its atmosphere! We have first an atmosphere of gas, a mixture of oxygen and nitrogen, decreasing in density upwards in a geometrical ratio. In the second place, we have an atmosphere of vapor equally extensive; for the gas is a solvent of water, and the average amount of vapor in the air would form a stratum of water on the earth's surface five inches thick; and the amount of water annually deposited in the form of dew actually amounts to four inches in depth. In the third place, we have an atmosphere of that subtle ether which probably pervades all space, and occupies the interstices between the particles of matter, and gives rise to the phenomena of light, heat, and electricity. And yet this atmosphere, so complex in its character, seems to us the most simple of all things.