

have rendered the working of them impossible, have been thrown up to the very surface; and thus have become available to the miner.

SECT. IV.

The general Uses of Water.

ONE of the earliest political punishments of ancient Rome affords an indirect but very remarkable proof, of the immediate importance of the elements of fire and water^h to human life: for this punishment consisting, in part, in an interdiction from the use of water, compelled the individual so punished to fly from his native neighbourhood, in order to obtain that necessary article of support elsewhere: and, hence, banishment and interdiction from fire and water became synonymous terms. There are few who have not experienced the uneasy sensation occasioned by even a temporary privation of this necessary: and the death that ensues upon a

^h An apology will hardly be required for applying the term *element* to a substance, which though it has long been experimentally ascertained to be a compound, will in a popular view be always considered as a simple body; especially if it be remembered that even among the ancients this term did not necessarily imply that the substance so called was absolutely a simple or uncompounded body. It was sufficient with them, that, in all the known processes and phenomena of nature, the substance presented itself under the same essential form: but they were prepared to allow that elementary bodies (*στοιχεία*) might possibly be resolved into absolutely simple principles (*ἀρχαί*).