

BOOK I.

OF CHEMISTRY.

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON THE RANK OF CHEMISTRY AS A SCIENCE ; AND ON ITS APPLICATION TO THE ARGUMENT OF DESIGN.

“CHEMISTRY does not afford the same species of argument (in favour of design) that mechanism affords, and yet may afford an argument in a high degree satisfactory.”* This remark of the excellent Paley, has been made by him with reference only to a particular subject ; but the following sketch, pointing out the grounds upon which chemistry as a science is founded, and the rank which it holds among the departments of human knowledge, will at the same time, show the general truth of the remark.

An elaborate enquiry into the origin and nature of human knowledge, would be quite

* Natural Theology, chap. vii.