

of nature. On the other hand, when we reflect, that were chlorine to be extricated from its state of combination, and made to exist, like oxygen, in a gaseous form, that it would instantly prove fatal to organized beings; can we fail to be struck with the very obvious design thus displayed, in rendering its quantity and combining powers such, as to keep it in a state of union; and by these means, to secure all its useful, without its deleterious properties?

(3) *Bromine*, and (4) *Iodine*, the next two substances, are found principally in sea water, and in marine productions. They appear to exist in very minute proportion, and always in a state of combination. *Bromine* under ordinary circumstances, is a deep coloured, red fluid, having a very strong and offensive odour. *Iodine* is a crystallized solid, volatile by a slight increase of temperature, and forming a beautiful violet vapour. Bromine and Iodine more nearly resemble chlorine, than oxygen, in their properties; though they differ materially from both; and their use in the economy of nature, is absolutely unknown. We may however observe, that *Iodine* has lately been much celebrated for its medicinal properties.*

* It may not be amiss also to notice, that the author of the present volume first employed the hydriodate of potash, as a remedy for goitre, in the year 1816; after having previously ascertained, by experiments upon himself, that it was not poison-