

than that of design; for any other cause, as chance, would have been quite as likely to have produced an excess of hydrogen as of oxygen; or at least any thing but the exact proportions required. Lastly, it may be remarked, that to the relative proportions of oxygen and hydrogen existing on our globe, more than perhaps to any other subordinate cause, the present order of things owes its stability. For the proportions of these principles are so happily adjusted; and all the numerous operations dependent upon them are, in consequence, so firmly established; that no material change can possibly happen to any part, from an internal cause; but if changed at all, the whole must be changed from without.

(7) *Carbon*, or charcoal, is a substance too well known in its ordinary state to require description. In its crystallized and pure state, carbon is found to constitute the *diamond*, the hardest and most brilliant body in nature—a circumstance which certainly could not have been anticipated; but which affords a most striking instance, of the effects produced, by the different modes in which molecules of the same matter may be aggregated. Carbon, perhaps more than any other principle, may be considered as constituting the staminal, or fundamental element, entering into the composition of organized beings. This is particularly the case in principles from the vegetable kingdom; which