

abundant. Palladium somewhat resembles platinum in its characters ; but occurs in less quantity. The other three metals exist in very minute quantities ; and their properties are very imperfectly known.

We have thus taken a summary view, of the different elementary principles met with, upon the surface of our globe ; and of their leading properties. The subject in the next place, to be considered, are the compounds, which these principles form with one another.

SECTION II.

General Remarks upon Chemical Compounds.

THE number of chemical compounds is so great that an attempt to enumerate them here, would be quite out of place ; we shall therefore content ourselves with stating, as briefly as possible, the general principles upon which these compounds are formed.

We have already described many of the more remarkable compounds, when speaking of simple bodies ; and in subsequent parts of this volume, we shall have occasion to allude to others. In speaking of simple bodies, we showed that by far the greater number of them occur in the