

salts; of these, the *oxygen acid salts* are by far the best known, and the most important; and, indeed, this class includes the greater number of those salts employed by chemists, or in the arts. If the salts be arranged according to their bases, which perhaps upon the whole, in the present state of our knowledge, is the best mode of arranging them, they will be found to constitute upwards of fifty genera; and if we consider that each of these genera includes, in most cases, a great number of species; we may form some idea of the wonderful variety of bodies existing in nature; and with the properties of which, the chemist is required to be conversant. Familiar instances of the oxygen acid salts are, *nitre, common chalk, gypsum*; various metallic salts, as the *white, green, and blue vitriols, &c. &c.*

Of the *chlorine*, and the *other classes of salts*, very little is known, and this little, is chiefly confined to the salts, composed of these principles and of hydrogen. The hydrochloric or muriatic acid combines with ammonia, and forms the well known compound *sal-ammoniac*, a salt supposed to be a true *hydrochlorate*, or *muriate*. But this is the only instance known; and in all other analogous instances, the hydrogen of the hydrochloric acid, and the oxygen of the base, unite to form water, which is separated, or separable; and thus the chlorine and the metallic base are left in union by themselves,