

in the state of a chloride. This is the case, for instance, with *common salt*; which, as we before said, is in reality a *chloride of sodium*; that is to say, a simple compound of chlorine, and the metal sodium. Similar remarks appear to be applicable to the other analogous compounds. It must be confessed, however, that our knowledge with respect to all these matters is at present in a very unsatisfactory state; and is probably destined, at no very distant time, to undergo a complete revolution.

SECTION III.

Of the Laws of Chemical Combination.

As the following remarks upon the laws of chemical combination, can scarcely be so given, as to prove a source of interest to the general reader; he is desired to pass them over, and to turn to the last section of the present chapter; where, he will find a recapitulation of the leading facts; together with the evidence which they furnish in favour of design; and of the wisdom, and power, of the Creator.

In the preceding chapter, we briefly considered the arguments, which induced us to adopt