

property and character may be reasonably considered as one, if not the principal reason, why they are incapable of existing in a detached form. Lastly, are not these ultimate and refined forms of matter extensively employed in many of the operations of nature; and particularly in many of the processes of organization?

Thirdly. By supposing that these laws of combination are not confined to elementary bodies, but extend to all others throughout nature; and that bodies, however complicated they may be, always act as simple molecules; and always combine with reference to their volume in the gaseous state; we are enabled in some degree, to explain that endless variety of property, and condition, which we see around us. For no sooner is a new compound molecule formed by an assemblage of similar molecules, than it may be supposed to be capable of combining with other molecules *chemically*, and of thus entering into a long and novel series of combinations: while these combinations again in their turn, may be imagined to lead to others; and so on, till the variety becomes extreme. Indeed, were not such combinations limited by the very nature of things themselves, no two substances would probably possess the same properties. As it is, most of these compounds are incapable of separate existence: thus the compound super-molecules of water in the