

parts of lime; 28 therefore represents upon our scale, the atomic weight of lime; and so of all others.

It may be observed, that we have spoken as if the atomic weights of bodies, were related to one another by multiple; that is to say, were all multiples of some common unit. Now this opinion has been maintained by some; while it has been denied by others; who admitting that multiples in weight are necessary to the union of the *same* body, both *chemically* and *cohesively*; will not admit, that they are necessary to the union of *different* bodies. The matter is one that in the present imperfect state of chemistry, can hardly be determined by experiment; for what with the difficulty, or rather impossibility, of procuring bodies in a perfectly isolated form, and the unavoidable imperfections of all chemical processes; we can scarcely hope to approach, within the necessary limits of precision. If the above views of molecular relations, however, be well founded, it seems almost impossible to arrive at any other conclusion, than that the combining weights of all bodies are intimately related by multiple; though to enter further upon the subject here, would be quite foreign to our present purpose.\*

\* For the sake of those who are interested in such matters, one or two of the leading arguments may be briefly stated. We have rendered it probable, that when two or more molecules of