

is the natural result of the general laws which govern the distribution of heat and of light; the inference must be, that the properties of the water, as the subordinate and later principle, have, at an after period, been adjusted to the prior temperature of the earth.

If we do not admit of this adjustment, we must suppose that the whole has been the result of chance, or of some other unintelligent principle; and if water had been the only principle in which such adaptations were apparent, the supposition of chance might, perhaps, be received; at least it would be difficult to prove the contrary. But when we see similar happy adjustments in every object around us,—in the different elements of the air we breathe, in the soil we tread upon, in all the varieties of rocks composing the solid crust of our globe; not one of which could have been more happily contrived for the purposes they fulfil, nor indeed be scarcely conceived to exist otherwise than as they are, without destruction to the whole of the present arrangements—when we see all these things, and duly reflect on them; it becomes absolutely impossible to suppose, that so much happy adjustment; so much apparent intelligence; so much, in short, of what the veriest sceptic, under other circumstances, would have allowed to be evidences of design, can be evidences of any thing else than design;