

The subject of the incongruous properties of bodies, is one of great interest. We have seen that many of the elementary principles are poisonous; and that almost all of them, if liberated from their affinities, and sent abroad in the world, like so many demons let loose, would instantly bring destruction upon the whole fabric. Now, why should such incompatible properties be necessary to the properties of the compounds? Why, for instance, should the incombustible fluid water, contain one of the most combustible principles in nature? Or the mild and innocuous common salt, be composed of two elements, which, in their separate state, would instantly destroy life? Why, we repeat, are these deleterious properties of the elements, necessary to the wholesome condition of the compound? What part do they perform; or what property do they represent, or modify? These are questions utterly beyond our comprehension; and are likely always to remain so. That these incompatible properties of the elements, however, do, in some way, contribute to the perfection of the compounds, we cannot doubt; and the only grounds, upon which such incompatibility seems to admit of explanation, is; that it results necessarily from those limitations, which the Deity has thought proper to prescribe to his power; and to which He always most rigidly adheres. Moreover, be the reason what it may;