

in certain proportions, and in no others,—are general laws, to which there are so few exceptions, that they are calculated on almost with as much certainty, in the operations of nature, and in the common intercourse of mankind; as the invariable and necessary results, that a heavy body will fall to the earth, or that two and two make four. We have selected these laws of chemistry, partly from their general and indisputable character, and partly that the force of the argument which follows may be more conspicuous.

*All bodies are expanded by heat and are contracted by cold.* If water had not constituted an exception to this law, though all its other properties had been the same as they now are, long before this time, as we have seen, half the water on the globe would have been converted into ice; and the existence of organized beings would have been physically impossible.

*All chemical substances combine in certain proportions, and in no others.* If air had been formed according to this law, every thing else being the same as at present, long before this time, half of the air in the atmosphere would have been contaminated, and rendered unfit for the support of animal life. In order, therefore, that *water might not be frozen; and that air might not become irrespirable; laws must be infringed*—and THEY ARE INFRINGED; infringed