

power, not less than 50,000 times the power of gravity, is instantaneously generated by the simple agency of common matters submitted to galvanic influence; as, for example, by the agency of mercury alloyed with a millionth part of its weight of Sodium. These facts, while they place beyond all doubt, the efficacy of minute quantities of matter, in producing the most extraordinary change of the polarities of larger quantities; at the same time appear to throw great light on many natural operations. Thus the subtle matters of contagion and miasmata; various medicinal substances, whose effects are most astonishing even in the smallest doses; the still more refined and recondite matters of heat and of light, with many others, all probably act on similar principles. At least, the results of the operation of these matters cannot be explained by their mere quantity; which, in the ordinary chemical acceptation of the term, is altogether incommensurate with the evident and striking changes, constantly arising in the processes of nature, from such agency.

The observations which have now been offered, are intended to apply to all the elementary substances, entering into the composition of a living organized being. For, no one element, when assimilated to a living body, appears to be in its natural state; or to be capable of exerting precisely those powers which it is known to exert,