

tion. The living principle is *not* the *result* of organization, but the *cause* of organization. In accounting for the phenomena of life, it is absolutely necessary to assume the existence of some agency different from, and superior to, that which operates among inorganic matters. Now since, as we have seen, no inferior agencies can be supposed so to combine as to form a superior agency; does it not accord better with our reason, as well as with our experience, to assume at once a new creation of the higher principle?

In regarding the nature and composition of organized bodies, the first circumstance which arrests our attention, is the wonderful adaptation of the elements and agents of inorganic, and of organic nature, to each other. For example, had not carbon, and azote, and water, been formed with the properties which they now possess, organic agents, as we know them, would have existed in vain; and without organic agents, the properties of these elements would equally have been useless. And how truly wonderful, and utterly beyond our comprehension, are the properties and adaptations displayed in the processes of organization! To enable ourselves to form some conception of these processes, by bringing to a level with our understanding, those things which they accomplish; let us propose to