

other element? \* To us all these things are absolutely unknown ; but what a conception do they give, of that inscrutable agency by which the elements are governed ; of the powers of that Almighty Mind who is conversant with them all—by whom they were first designed, and by whom they have all been created ! How infinitely must His knowledge surpass whatever we can imagine : how far is His power beyond our utmost calculation !

On the other hand, if the properties of the ele-

\* Since there is nothing peculiar in the elements of which organized beings are composed, and no reason can be assigned why carbon and other elements have been chosen for their formation, we are compelled to ascribe the choice of these materials to the will of the Great Creator. But as He never acts without a purpose, we cannot doubt that these elements have been selected for some specific design ; which design has probably been, that the fabric of the beings dwelling on this earth, might be adapted to its general position in the Solar system. When we consider that the same heat, and the same light are diffused by the same central sun ; that the whole system obeys the same laws ; and that the different planets influence, and are influenced by each other ; we are warranted in believing that the planets are essentially composed of the same elementary principles. But admitting that the heat and light of the sun are distributed according to the laws which they seem universally to obey ; the heat in Mercury, close to the sun, and the cold in Saturn, at the other extreme, must be alike so intense, that organized beings, such as inhabit this earth, could not exist for a moment. In the different planets, therefore, may not the living principle be attached to different elements, more or less fixed or volatile, as the distance of the planet from the sun may require ?