

TO THE READER.

[SECOND EDITION.]

THE Author in certain parts of this treatise having been misunderstood, is anxious to state more prominently than in the first edition, *that no argument illustrative of design has been founded on the supposed molecular arrangements which he has given ;* and that the reality of design in the phenomena of chemistry is no more affected by the truth or falsehood of his theory, than the moral of a fable is affected by the truth or falsehood of its imaginary incidents.

The phenomena of chemistry can neither be represented by figures, nor adequately described to the inexperienced by words. The consideration of chemistry, therefore, with reference to the argument of design, presents peculiar difficulties. After much