stant heat of the animal and vegetable from which they are drawn.

With respect to acids, although the demonstration of their formation by fire and fixed air, is not so immediate as that of alkalis, yet it does not appear less certain. We have proved, that nitre and phosphorus draw their origin from vegetable and animal matters: that vitriol comes from pyrites, sulphur and other combustibles. It is likewise certain that acids, whether vitriolic, nitrous, or phosphoric, always contain a certain quantity of alkali; we must, therefore, refer their formation and savour to the same principle, and by reducing the varieties of both to one of each, bring back all salts to one common origin: those which contain most of the active principles of air and fire, will necessarily have the most power and taste. I understand by power the force with which salts appear animated to dissolve other substances. Dissolution supposes fluidity, and as it never operates between two dry or solid matters, it also supposes the principle of fluidity in the dissolvent, that is, fire; the power of the dissolvent will be, therefore, so much the greater, as on one part it contains more of this active principle; and, on the other hand, its aqueous and terrene parts will have more affinity with those of the same kind contained in the substances

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