

be a movement, or an influence, we must admit in that movement or influence a similar capacity for analysis or composition, or else have recourse to some unknown modification of the one or the other, leaving the phenomenon as unexplained as before. There may, for instance, be a great variety of such movements, all *luminiferous*, but not all *alike*; and some may be destroyed, or some exaggerated, in the act of reflexion or transmission.

(34.) The key to this mystery, up to a certain point, was furnished by Newton, in his analysis of white light by prismatic refraction. A full account of the manner in which that analysis is performed, of the phenomena it presents, and of the nature and subdivisions of the "Prismatic spectrum," is given in our lecture on "The Sun," § 29, to which, to avoid repetition, we refer our readers. Let us, however, consider what kind of general theoretical interpretation we are entitled to put on this analysis. Now, the first and most obvious conclusion is, that the phenomenon we have to deal with, is not what in the accuracy of modern scientific language is understood by the term "analysis." It is the separation and redistribution (*according to degrees* of a certain quality common to all its elements—viz., that of REFRACTIBILITY) of a *mixture*, rather than the *dialysis* of a true *compound*. The simile by which we there illustrated it is so far exact. A glacier moraine might be redistributed by tidal action over the floor of the Ocean; the great blocks left *in situ*, or little moved—the smaller forming *shingle*, gravel beds, sandstones, or incoherent muddy