

CHAP. XI.

Conclusion.

IT has been the immediate object of the preceding treatise to demonstrate the adaptation of the external world to the physical condition of man: and, either in considering him merely as an individual, or as a component member of any stage of society, it may be freely admitted that every step in the investigation has tended to confirm this general conclusion, that—whether from chance, (if any philosophical mind acknowledge the existence of such an agent as chance,) or from deliberate design—a mutual harmony does really exist between the corporeal powers and intellectual faculties of man, and the properties of the various forms of matter which surround him; the material constituents of all nature being as evidently adapted to the supply of the wants of his body, as the contemplation of their causes and relations to the exercise of his mind.

We have seen that from the surrounding atmosphere he is constantly supplied with that respirable part of the air, which alone can support the breath of life; and which is demanded for that purpose during almost every moment of his existence. We have seen that from the same source are derived those universal and important agents, water and heat and light, which are