

of the properties, with which the molecules of matter are endowed. These properties are truly astonishing, and calculated in the highest degree, to impress us with exalted notions, of the wisdom and power of their Contriver. Thus, what can be more wonderful, than that the self same *chemical* forces, differently directed, should produce, not only all that endless change of quality, and of condition, which we see around us; and which are so beneficial, or even necessary, to our existence: but likewise some of the most terrible displays of energy in nature; as for example, the utmost intensities of heat, of cold, and of light; the terrors of the thunderbolt; the irresistible demolition of the earthquake! Nor, on the other hand, are the *cohesive* affinities existing among the molecules of matter much less wonderful, or important; for if *similar* molecules had not been constituted with self-attractive and self-repulsive properties; there would have been no aggregation of the same matter, into symmetrical groups; no order or regularity; no separation or purity; in short, there would have been no common bond of union; and the different molecules of the same matter would have been dispersed throughout nature, as accident, or other circumstances, might determine. Hence the present order of things could not have existed, unless the molecules of matter had been endowed with *both* these properties; one of which, the