

stance. Yet when made by peculiar management to unite with oxygen, hydrogen, or carbon, azote forms some of the most energetic compounds we possess: thus, *mixed* with oxygen, it forms atmospheric air, as before observed; *united* with oxygen, it forms *aquafortis*, the most corrosive of liquids; *united* with hydrogen, it forms the *volatile alkali*, or ammonia, likewise an energetic compound, but of an opposite nature; while *united* with carbon and hydrogen, it forms *prussic acid*, the most virulent poison in existence! Azote may be considered as constituting the characteristic element of animal substances, and as imparting to them their peculiar properties; in this point of view therefore, it is a principle of very great importance. Moreover, the above mentioned negative properties of azote are evidently of a primordial kind, and seem to have been formed with reference to future creations; which have all been most carefully and rigidly adapted to them. Thus, had the properties of azote not been negative, those of its most important compound, atmospheric air, could not have been negative; and atmospheric air might have been acid or alkaline; or have possessed odour or colour; either of which circumstances would have been incompatible with the present order of things.

(9) *Boron*, and (10) *Silicon*, the next two substances obtain their names from *borax*, and