

*silex*, the natural productions in which they exist, in a state of combination. Borax is a saline production, chiefly found in certain lakes in Thibet and China. Boron, the elementary substance obtainable from it, is a deep brown powder, possessing neither taste nor smell; but highly inflammable, at a temperature below a red heat. The resulting compound thus formed with oxygen, is boracic acid. Silicon, is the elementary basis of *silex* or common flint; one of the most abundant minerals in nature. Silicon is a brown powder very similar to boron in appearance; and like it, inflammable under certain circumstances. By combustion, silicon combines with oxygen, and is converted into *silex*; which many chemists consider as an acid. Boron and silicon do not exist naturally; but have been formed by elaborate chemical processes, in small quantities only. They seem to be more nearly allied to carbon, in their properties, than to any other elementary product. Borax exists in very small quantities; and its use in the economy of nature, is not apparent. *Silex*, on the other hand, is a most important production; and in its hardness, insolubility, and other refractory properties, we recognise a substance admirably adapted for the purpose, to which it has evidently been designed; viz. that of constituting the stamina, or ground work, as it were, of our globe; and which could not be