

classes; they may be subdivided into two kinds; those with a single base; and those with a compound base. The acids with a single base, amount to between thirty and forty; and include most of the best known and most important of those used in chemical processes, and in the arts; such as *carbonic acid*, *sulfuric acid*, *phosphoric acid*, *nitric acid*, &c. The oxygen acids with a compound base are chiefly derived from the vegetable or animal kingdoms; they are still more numerous than those with a single base, the number at present known, amounting to upwards of sixty; as instances may be mentioned the *tartaric acid*, the *citric acid*, the *malic acid*, the *lithic acid*, &c.

The *chlorine acids* are perhaps as numerous as those with a single base, containing oxygen; but they have been much less studied, and are, consequently, much less understood. One of the most familiarly known belonging to this class, is the *muriatic*, or *hydrochloric acid*; which is composed of chlorine, united with hydrogen: and here may be noticed a remarkable circumstance, before alluded to, that not only chlorine, but all the other allied principles, when they combine with hydrogen, form powerful *acids*; while the compound of oxygen with hydrogen, is *water*; a substance altogether dissimilar. Such is the wonderful and inexplicable nature of chemical combinations!