

substance obtained from spermaceti) *volatile oils*, *fixed oils*, and *bitumens*.

Such is a summary of the PRIMARY COMPOUNDS, and of the principles upon which they have been most recently arranged. We come now to consider briefly

The SECONDARY COMPOUNDS; or those formed by the union of the primary compounds. As the neutral primary compounds, (if we except water), enter into few combinations, it is obvious that the SECONDARY COMPOUNDS must consist chiefly of substances formed by the union of the other two general classes of bodies; namely, of *acids* and *alkalies*. These SECONDARY COMPOUNDS are usually denominated SALTS; they constitute a very numerous and most important class of bodies; and, as resulting from the mutual union, and saturation, of all the different principles capable of combining with each other, they of course are more abundant than any other bodies; indeed, the surface of our globe may, in a great measure, be considered as made up of them. The term *salt*, was originally confined to common salt; but by a singular fate, this body, as being composed of chlorine and sodium only, is now excluded from the class of salts: salts being, as we have just said, considered by chemists, to be formed by the union of acids and alkalies only. As there are nine classes of acids, of course there must be as many classes of