

and one volume of hydrogen ; which unite without any condensation, and form two volumes of muriatic acid gas : now, in this case, it is evident that not only the self-repulsive molecule of hydrogen, but also that of the chlorine, must be double at least, like the molecule of oxygen above mentioned ; and the same might be shown with respect to the other gaseous bodies.

We have said above, that the self-repulsive molecules of oxygen and of hydrogen, are *at least* double ; but the probability is, that they are in reality much more compounded ; as the following observations will show. The self-repulsive molecule of water, on entering into combination, is often found to be divided into two, or three, (perhaps more,) parts. Now as we cannot admit the division of an ultimate molecule, or *atom* ; we must of course conclude, that the molecules of oxygen and of hydrogen, are much more compounded, than as above represented ; and must each of them contain at least, three component, or sub-molecules. Hence the self-repulsive molecules of water will consist of at least nine component sub-molecules, (*viz.* three of oxygen, and six of hydrogen), which we may suppose to be associated—in the first place, the hydrogen with the oxygen, *chemically* ; and afterwards, the three sub-molecules of water with one another *cohesively*, so as to constitute one spheroidal molecule ; in a manner, that with