

they may be supposed to *complete* the size, or figure, of the molecule; so as to adapt it for combining in a certain manner. Thus, the water of crystallization, (and perhaps occasionally other matters), appears in the greater number of instances to perform an office of this kind; and to be, in fact, strictly complementary to that particular size, and figure, of the molecules, which may be supposed to be requisite, for enabling them, not only to combine the more readily with each other; but at the same time, to form a symmetrical solid, or *crystal*.\*

One or two other circumstances, connected with this part of our subject, will be better understood after we have considered, a little more in detail, the combinations of bodies with reference to their *weights*; and the absolute quantity of matter, which they contain. To this most interesting inquiry, therefore, we shall in the next place proceed, confining ourselves, however, as

\* There is every reason to believe, that one variety of isomorphism is effected on the principles here stated; and that the molecules of *different* substances, by attracting to themselves *different* quantities of water, or of other matters, may ultimately make up compound molecules, similar to those of the bodies with which they may happen to be mixed; and may thus enter indiscriminately with these bodies, into the crystalline form. Such a state of things is calculated to baffle the mere chemist, however expert; though it is probable, that if carefully examined and understood; an intermixture of this kind might be detected, by the optical properties of the crystal.