

homogeneous, is composed of a variety of substances, all differing from each other in their properties ; some being solid, some fluid, some aeriform, under the common circumstances in which they have been placed ; and all beautifully adapted, both by their physical and chemical properties, to the purposes they fulfil in nature ; nay, what is more, to the purposes they were *designed* to fulfil in nature ; for on no other supposition, would their properties be intelligible.

Thus water, *within very narrow limits of temperature*, is a solid, or a liquid, or a gas ; and yet these *very narrow limits of temperature*, neither more nor less, are precisely those, which exist upon the surface of our globe ; where they are the natural, and the necessary results of its situation in the universe ; and of the general laws, which govern the distribution of light and heat. Had the properties of this body been other than what they are ; or had the general temperature of our globe been different ; water would have existed altogether in the solid, or in the gaseous state ; and its most important properties would have been unknown. Hence, it seems almost impossible to arrive at any other conclusion, than that the temperature of the earth, and the properties of the water on its surface, have been mutually adjusted to each other. And further, since the temperature of the earth, as just stated,