

measurably deficient; and can only contemplate His wonderful operations with astonishment and awe, and own them unapproachable. Who then can tell what design is latent, under *apparent incongruities*? What elaborate contrivances, and adaptations, may have been requisite to have produced water, or carbon, or any other essential principle, out of the materials, and in conformity to the laws, by means of which the Great Author of nature chose to operate? Who can tell that the minor evil, may not have been essential to the existence of the greater good? That the poisonous metals, for instance, are not, as it were, the refuse of the great chemical processes, by which the more important and essential principles of nature have been eliminated? That these poisonous principles have not been left with such subdued properties, as scarcely to interfere with His great design,—not because they could not have been prevented—not because they could not have been removed—but on purpose, and designedly, to display his power?

Secondly. If we pursue the subject a step further, and inquire into the means by which all the beautiful adaptations we have been considering, are effected, we shall find, that they principally depend upon a certain due adjustment, to each other, of the *qualities*, and *quantities* of the different substances; and more especially, of the different elementary principles,