

of which our globe is composed. These adjustments are so universal, and so varied in their character; that to enumerate them all, would be little else than to enumerate all the objects in nature; we shall therefore content ourselves with a few of the most familiar of each kind.

In the first place, with respect to the adjustment of *quality*. Let us consider for a moment, and by way of illustration, what would happen, if the qualities of water, or of air, were to undergo a change: were, for example, the important fluid water to become sour or sweet; or heavier or lighter; or indeed any thing but what it is: or were the air of the atmosphere to acquire odour or colour; or to become opaque: by either of such changes, slight as they appear, the whole of the present economy of nature would be deranged. Again, if the qualities of the acid, existing in the common salt of the ocean, were to become so modified, as to quit the alkali with which it is at present associated, and combine with the limestone composing our rocks; while the carbonic acid, thus set free, was diffused through the atmosphere: in such a case, a large part of the solid crust of our globe would rapidly disappear, and, becoming dissolved in the waters of the ocean, would totally unfit them for their present purposes; while the liberated carbonic acid, would instantly prove fatal to animal life. These would be the con-