

at their origin, the objects contemplated. That is to say ; in order that the compounds might be perfect, the elements calculated to produce them, were created essentially such, as these compounds might require ; without reference to the secondary properties of the elements themselves ; which were left to be determined, as the more general laws of matter might decide. For instance, the hydrogen in water, and the chlorine and sodium in common salt, not being, in their simple state, required in the economy of nature ; the properties of these elements have not been made compatible with organic existence ; and the whole attention, (if such a term may be applied to the operations of the Deity,) has been directed to the properties of the compounds, water, and salt. Thus, on the one hand, where required, we have the most striking adaptation of property ; while on the other, where *not* required, this adaptation of property has *not* been attended to : nor is this true of water and salt only, but of almost every other compound in nature. Nay, what is more, the incongruities of the whole system have, with the most consummate skill, been thrown, as it were, among those properties *not* required. Hence, the arrangements of nature viewed in this light, not only exhibit novel evidences, but some of the most striking evidences of design, which we possess.