

to furnish us, with some striking proof of the omnipotence of the great Creator. Let us, for example, consider what happens in a simple and familiar instance of chemical decomposition; as when a solution of lunar caustic, (nitrate of silver,) is added to a solution of common salt. In this case, the chlorine of the salt combines with the silver, and produces a curdy precipitate, which falls to the bottom; while the nitric acid combines with the soda, and forms a soluble salt, which remains in solution. Now, we showed in a former chapter, that the minutest fragment of matter appreciable by our senses, consists of innumerable molecules. If therefore we suppose a small quantity, as an ounce, of the lunar caustic, and a proportionate quantity of common salt, to be mixed together; what countless myriads of molecules, in a portion of time literally inappreciable, must have sought out, and combined, each with its fellow, in this simple process! The human mind absolutely recoils from the contemplation of objects so completely beyond its powers; for the utmost that we can imagine, must fall almost infinitely short of the reality. Were we, for illustration, to conceive all the human beings at present in existence, to be collected together into one vast array, and to be all dressed exactly alike, and to perform the same military manœuvre at the same moment; we should be probably as far short of the actual