

yet, held to be simple. Admitting, however, for the sake of argument, that elementary principles do exist, of such immutable character as has been supposed: from the nature of organic beings, at least of all animals, it is impossible to conceive, that they possess the power either of creating or of altering these elementary principles. No organized being has an independent existence: and all animals derive their support from previous organization; which might be otherwise, did they possess a creating power: nor can animals be nourished by any substances indiscriminately; as they ought to be, were they possessed of a transmuting power. Yet, while it is thus denied that organized beings possess the power, either to create or to change, in the strict acceptation of these terms; it has been admitted to be exceedingly probable, that the organic agent is, within certain limits, qualified to compose and decompose many substances which are now viewed as elements; and that the organic agent does thus apparently form and transmute these imagined elements. But to enter further, in this place, on the elucidation of these obscurities would be foreign to our present purpose.

The organic agent has not the power of combining elements in such a manner, that the properties of the resulting compound, shall *differ* from those of a compound, formed from the same elements similarly combined by any other agent.