

## TO THE READER.

[FIRST EDITION.]

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CHEMISTRY has not hitherto been considered in detail with reference to Natural Theology ; the difficulties, therefore, incidental to a first attempt, added to those arising from the nature of Chemistry itself as a science, must be the apology of the author for numerous imperfections in this treatise.

The peculiar chemical opinions advanced, would never have appeared in their present form ; had not the author been strongly impressed with the belief that they are calculated, sooner or later, to bring chemical action under the dominion of the laws of quantity ; and had he not despaired, under his professional engagements, of being himself able to submit them to experimental