

produced. Alcohol $C_4H_6O_2$ being represented as $(Et\ H)O_2$, we may write the formula of acetic acid $(Ac\ H)O_2$, $(C_4H_5O_2=Ac)$, while the chlorid is $Ac\ Cl$. This corresponds to hydrochloric or hydriodic ether, while acetate of potash $(Ac\ K)O_2$, is analogous to potassic alcohol. The process is then similar to that by which Williamson obtained hydric ether: $Ac\ Cl + (Ac\ K)O_2 = K\ Cl + Ac_2O_2$, or the anhydrous acid.

The reaction in all these cases is, as I have pointed out in the paper before quoted (vol. viii, p. 93) identical in essence with that between $H\ Cl$ and $(K\ H)O_2$, yielding an alkaline chlorid $K\ Cl$, and water H_2O_2 , the prototype of all the above acids, ethers, alcohols, and anhydrids. We have there also remarked that H_2O_2 is to be regarded as a derivative of hydrogen, H_2 , and that it is often difficult to distinguish between the types. Thus, for example, the acetic chlorid might be regarded as a chlorinized aldehyde $(C_4H_5, Cl)O_2$, belonging to the second type, while its reactions permit us to compare it with the hydrochloric ethers of the type H_2 . It must be kept in mind that although the apparent dualism deduced from the results of chemical change, is subject to but very simple variations in the elements, it is exhibited in so many different ways in the higher species, that we cannot assign an absolute value to any hypotheses based upon their changes.

I have been particular in again bringing forward these views, because they now belong to the history of chemical theory, and because after having maintained them alone since 1848, and having insisted upon them in various ways in my communications to this Journal, I now find them brought forward by Williamson, Brodie and Gerhardt. This latter chemist in a paper presented to the French Academy in June 1852, and published in the *Annales de Chimie et de Physique* for March, 1853, abandons those theories to which I long since objected, and brings forward, with a similarity of thought and expression not to be mistaken, the views upon