

such was the expansive power of the water at the freezing point, the bomb-shell was found burst. We have thus an instance of apparent contradiction—that water possesses a destructively expansive power under certain circumstances, at two widely opposite points of temperature.

I have thus shewn that water is known to chemists in four different states:—solid, or ice; fluid, or water; vapour, or steam; and, lastly, in a state of composition with other bodies. Three of these states I have already noticed, and, by way of familiar explanation of the last, shall observe, that it is contained in combination, in larger or smaller quantities, in all the neutral salts: this may be observed in the Sulphate of Soda, (Glauber Salts,) or the Sulphate of Magnesia, (Epsom Salts,) which deliquesce on exposure to heat, and lose in weight equal to the bulk of water contained in the compound.

Having thus noticed some of the principal properties of water, I shall take leave of the subject, strongly advising your readers to pursue it by their own reading; and, for this purpose, I would recommend Murray's or Thomson's Chemistry, or Parkes's Chemical Catechism, to their perusal. They will thus, by contemplating these things, be "led from Nature up to Nature's God;" and will add to their own stores of knowledge and useful scientific acquirements. I shall not regret thus employing a few leisure moments, should they afford

"One ray of light in this terrene abode,
To prove to man the goodness of his God."

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ERUPTIONS OF MOUNT ETNA.

THE eruptions of this celebrated mountain have