

been lately discovered ; yet it does not appear, I think, that we can make any better or greater use of water since the discovery than we did before.

We can never think of the elements, without reflecting upon the number of distinct uses which are consolidated in the same substance. The *air* supplies the lungs, supports fire, conveys sound, reflects light, diffuses smells, gives rain, wafts ships, bears up birds. *Water*, besides maintaining its own inhabitants, is the universal nourisher of plants, and through them of terrestrial animals : it is the basis of their juices and fluids, dilutes their food, quenches their thirst, floats their burdens. *Fire* warms, dissolves, enlightens ; it is the great promoter of vegetation and life, if not necessary to the support of both.

We might enlarge, to almost any length we pleased, upon each of these uses ; but it appears to me almost sufficient to state them. The few remarks which I judge it necessary to add, are as follow.

I. AIR is essentially different from earth. There appears to be no necessity for an atmosphere's investing our globe ; yet it does invest it, and we see how many, how various, and how important are the purposes which it answers to every order of animated, not to say organized beings, which are placed upon the terrestrial surface. I think that every one of these uses will be understood upon the first mention of them, except it be that of *reflecting* light, which may be explained thus :—If I had the power of seeing only by means of rays coming directly from the sun, whenever I turned my back upon this luminary, I should find myself in darkness. If I had the power of seeing by reflected light, yet by means only of light reflected from solid masses, these masses would shine indeed and glisten, but it