

continues. And such a law of causation would render the continuance of a phenomenon, even for a moment, an utter impossibility. Priority and sequence being essential to every idea we can have of time, even the smallest portion of it, and every thing in nature existing in time—so the relation of cause and effect, in a stable phenomenon, being between co-existencies, false of necessity, in duration—but then this is true of the relation itself and altogether, and not of its parts taken separately, as if each happened in different portions of duration, for between co-existencies this would be impossible.* If I meet with a particular body which I know by experience to be a salt, composed for instance, of carbonic acid and lime—it is certain that the causes and effect are in that salt, at the moment I meet with it, co-existent. For the causes which give, and which continue the combination, have their full effect in the combination. There cannot be a doubt that if a cause be truly defined, or distinguished as prior to its effect—that it must be prior to it in all stages of that effect—they could never co-exist. So that such a salt having its causes in the carbonic acid and in the lime, would at the very moment of its formation, be again

* The belief in the priority of a cause, is so rooted in the mind, that any other doctrine has but little chance of being read or listened to. This is the more to be wondered at, because the most subtle and powerful known agencies in nature, gravity, electricity, life, heat, light, &c., in all bodies in which they are found, proclaim an unequivocal co-existence of causes with their effects.