

AN ESSAY, &c.

1. To superinduce on, or to take away from, a fit subject any sensible quality, contains the whole mystery of causation, so far as change, in the state of things which co-exist, is considered; and the cause is that, by virtue of which such addition or subtraction of qualities is established; and the effect is the change itself.

Although the observation of change in things (the elements of which are everlasting) is the ground work from which we are enabled to derive the idea of causation: still it must not be supposed that its law applies to those things only which do actually change; for it is by the same forces or causes that nature keeps together the particles, for instance, of any body for ages, or for any indefinite time, by which we are enabled to compound a body with the same sensible qualities, by bringing its constituent parts within each other's influence. Therefore, causes and their effects may be stable. For every action in nature, whether it endure or be transitory, is by one or other law; and these laws, immutable and everlasting as the sorts of things to which they belong,