

bodies; and the very clays and sands we walk on, which were formerly considered mere earths, have been proved by Sir Humphrey Davy's experiments in galvanism, to consist, in great part, of oxygen, which must be combined with the bases of these earths in a solid state.

But for the origin of the elementary gases, of whose composition or origin we are yet ignorant, we must refer to a creating cause.

By the famous discoveries of Black, Priestly, Lavoisier, and other chemists and philosophers, a new world has been disclosed to us. The constituent part of three-fourths of the globe, water, which was formerly considered as an element of creation, has by these discoveries been proved to consist of two separate bodies, oxygen and hydrogen. Our atmosphere itself, the common air, is no longer to be considered as one of these elements: it is composed of the oxygen and the azotic gases; but neither oxygen nor hydrogen, nor azote, have ever been obtained separate, in a liquid state. They have yet been found only in the form of gases, that is, combined with light and caloric. By the combustion of hydrogen or inflammable gas in oxygen gas, the caloric and light of the latter escapes, and water is formed, in a quantity exactly corresponding with the weight of the gases employed in the combustion; and the same water may again be decomposed, and returned into the state of the gases it was composed of. This, therefore, being incontrovertibly proved,—for all philosophical chemists are now agreed upon the fact,—it follows, that the waters of the *Universe* recorded in Genesis, **MUST** have been formed by the combustion of these