

of its materials into their original elements. It is not said that the matter of which they are composed is to be *annihilated*, but *dissolved*. The Psalmist, by divine inspiration, had said, (Ps. cii. 26.) "They shall perish," and Jesus Christ refers to it as a thing well known, "heaven and earth shall pass away." (Matt. xxiv. 35.) The elements which have been dissolved, or decomposed, will have a new combination bestowed upon them, and will be subjected to a remodification. The new heavens and new earth may not be any thing like the present ones, although precisely the same elements may be employed in their composition. By new combinations of the existing elements with each other, they may assume new properties, and new forms and appearances. We may find an illustration of the above by an examination of select portions of matter. By a little varied combination we may produce an entirely different body, possessing entirely different properties. Thus air and water are composed of nearly the same elements. Different proportions of oxygen may severally form acids, oxides of various degrees and qualities, also many other bodies, according to the base into union with which it enters. Now what an infinite variety of appearances are capable of being produced by varied combinations of the existing elements; and a world entirely dissimilar from the present one may be organized by the Holy Spirit in his action upon the separated elements. The various forms may present striking aspects; the colors may be blended so as to present enchanting effects. All this may produce sensations and emo-