

publish the glad tidings of the Gospel of peace and the knowledge of the one true God to every nation under heaven; and thus aiding in the accomplishment of the divine promise *that the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea*. Its use is inculcated as a religious duty to some nations. It forms the sole beverage of the Gentoo; and its external use to the true Mahometan is no less rigidly enjoined by that arch-impostor, the founder of his faith. It was, in the hands of the living God, the agent with which he chose to punish the antediluvian world; and through its means he also *hung his bow in the heavens*, as a sign that he would not in that way again drown the guilty nations; forming, by the refraction of the sun's rays through a watery medium, one of the grandest phenomena of nature, and, in the words of an elegant poet, one of the most enchanting sights we are capable of enjoying—

“————— To view on high
The rainbow, bas'd on ocean, span the sky.”

It was also with water that our blessed Lord deigned to perform his first miracle in proof of his divine mission. In short, I might continue to eulogize this invaluable blessing beyond all moderate bounds; I will therefore only notice that, under some circumstances, its value cannot be estimated by gold; as in the tropical regions, or in crossing the great African deserts.

I proceed in the next place, to consider its *chemical composition*.—Water, strictly speaking, is not a simple, primary, elementary fluid; but is formed of two gases, oxygen and hydrogen, in the proportions of two volumes of hydrogen and one of oxygen gas. Thus, in chemical language, it is an oxyde of hydrogen; the only oxyde of that gas yet discovered.