

tions, but also for answers to our suppositions, theories, &c., and we then assume laws when her actions and our own speculations coincide.

Further, as we live in a system in which all things are related and mutually sustained—in which no one thing or action exists alone and independently—the law has been derived: That any efficient supposes a co-efficient, and that any action supposes re-action in things; * a law which from its universality contains, as it were, all other less general laws, being applicable alike to the demonstration of opposing forces, and to the laws which regulate the combination of bodies; equally true of all things inanimate as well as animate; of the cohesion of the molecules of a body, and of this, whether in motion or at rest; of the planets, reciprocally attracted in their revolutions; of iron, with the load-stone; of an acid with an alkali; of air with a plant; of food with its so-called assimilating juices; of consciousness with its object. By which law we discard from philosophy both the distinction made by the ancients, and adopted by some among the moderns between active and passive natures; and also that perplexing and interminable variety, set down by logicians, of efficient causes; or reserving some of them, merely to assist us in our search after the true or necessary, that is, the proximate efficient—which, as

* Newton's Principia.