and exhibits the general law, which regulates the endless variety and change of colours; as bodies appear to have this or that colour, according as they have the power of reflecting or transmitting the rays of this or that colour, and of absorbing or reflecting the rest; while white bodies reflect all, and black absorb all. Besides colour, it has been likewise noticed, that different portions of the prismatic spectrum possess different *heating*, and *chemical*, or *electrical*, properties. These properties vary in some respects, according to the nature of the prism employed. In general, the heating power increases towards the red ray: while the chemical power seems to be regulated in some degree by the nature of the colour; but is greater, though of opposite character, at the two extremities, than in the centre of the spectrum, where it appears to be nearly null. The chemical properties of light, however, are by no means well understood, and have not received the attention which they merit.

Upon an attentive consideration of the phenomena of heat and of light, and a careful comparison of them with the general phenomena of polarizing forces; it is impossible not to be

that each of these colours exists throughout the spectrum. Hence, like the different electric and magnetic energies, these elementary colours, or, at least, the *red* and the *blue*, (the *yellow* probably being merely resultant,) appear to be incapable of entire separation from each other.