

and presents altogether one of the most beautiful instances of design, connected with the agency of heat and light.

Lastly, it may be worth while to draw the attention of the reader to the striking contrast displayed between the ponderable and the imponderable forms of matter, as to the ease with which they are decomposed, and the modes in which they exist in nature.

We have seen that to preserve the homogeneity and integrity of ponderable bodies, as of water and air, elaborate arrangements have been adopted, evincing the most extraordinary design and wisdom ; because the decomposition or derangement of water and air, would at once prove destructive to organized beings. But, to preserve the homogeneity of light, and perhaps of heat also, no such care is shown ; because no such care was particularly necessary. The decompositions of these agencies, therefore, are permitted to take their natural course ; and by an admirable provision, so far are colours, &c. from being injurious to us ; that they constitute some of the chief sources of our knowledge and happiness !

*6. Of the Conduction of Heat below the Earth's Surface on Land.*—The soil, from a few inches to a foot or more below the surface, participates