

**SUPPLEMENT TO THE INTRODUCTION TO
THE ATOMIC THEORY: COMPREHENDING
A SKETCH OF
CERTAIN OPINIONS AND DISCOVERIES
BEARING UPON THE GENERAL
PRINCIPLES OF CHEMICAL PHILOSOPHY**

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Supplement to the Introduction to the atomic theory: comprehending a sketch of certain opinions and discoveries bearing upon the General Principles of Chemical Philosophy by C. Daubeny

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BEARING UPON
THE GENERAL PRINCIPLES
OF
CHEMICAL PHILOSOPHY,

Which have been brought into notice since the Publication of that Work.

BY
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P R E F A C E .

THE reasons that originally induced me to present to the world a sketch of those general principles of Chemical Philosophy, which were involved in the consideration of the Doctrine of Definite Proportions, are stated in the Preface to my Introduction to the Atomic Theory ; and the same might now be alleged as an excuse for the publication of the present Supplement.

Though by no means an inattentive observer of the progress of chemical discovery, I have not, either on this, or on the former occasion, aimed at superseding the standard treatises already extant on those subjects, nor have I had the presumption

to suppose, that I was able to stamp upon the doctrines which I supported or explained any sanction or authority, beyond what they already derived from the names of their propounders, or their own intrinsic probability.

But I am inclined to believe, that some advantage to the Science may accrue, from such an exposition of its leading principles, divested as much as possible of their technicalities, as is here offered, and that some, who would shrink from the labour of turning over a bulky volume in quest of information on the above points, might yet be glad to avail themselves of an Essay, in which these prominent points of general scientific interest are brought together within a small compass, and their bearings upon other departments of inquiry briefly pointed out.

But there are other reasons of a more local description, that have encouraged me to offer, more particularly to the Oxford public, the present sketch of the leading doctrines of Chemistry.

It seemed to me not improbable, that a demand might shortly exist for a text-book of such a description as the present, or at least that some additional interest might be excited in its contents, in consequence of discussions that may be expected to

arise, with regard to the extent, to which an acquaintance with chemical principles ought to be held as an essential ingredient of a liberal education.

He must indeed be blind to the signs of the times, as well as to the current of academical feeling, who does not anticipate, that the period is approaching, at which the System pursued at this University will undergo some considerable modification.

There is indeed no predicting how long a time it may require to surmount the practical difficulties which serve to arrest the movement; but when I contemplate the natural and laudable anxiety which the Clergy at the present moment evince, to maintain that control over the education of the country which has hitherto been conceded to them, I cannot but feel convinced, that the demand existing amongst all classes for that description of knowledge, which involves some acquaintance with the truths of physical science, will sooner or later react upon the University, and impart a new character to the studies of those, whom she sends forth to answer the urgent call for national instruction.

Already this tendency of the public mind has begun to manifest itself here, by the measures for the encouragement of professorial Lectures which