

## SECTION IV.

*On Saline Substances.*

28. SALINE substances, or *salts*, are either of a sour taste and corrosive quality, in a fluid form commonly, when pure, and then they are called ACIDS; or they have an acrid, fiery and something sweetish taste, and then they are called ALKALIS or ALKALINES.

29. *Acids* are not to be met with in the whole extent of nature in their pure state, unless in some mineral vapours; and even then they are allied either to water, inflammables, or some other volatile principles. Acids, mixed with earthy, bituminous, alkaline, and metallic particles, are frequently obvious, and from these mixed substances they may be extracted in their purity; that is to say, as far as possible; for appearing constantly in a fluid form, they are blended more or less with aqueous particles.

## EXPERIMENT IX.

30. TAKE syrup or tincture of violets, and put in it a few drops of any fluid you suspect to be a mineral acid; and it will turn the syrup or tincture of violets red, if it really be an acid.

31. The tincture of *litmus*, or *succus heliotropii*, or *turnesol*, has the same property in trying acids. But it is still better to take common radishes, and rub with the fine purple on the upper part of their roots some linen rags, so that they may be thus tinged purple. If a drop of any acid whatsoever falls on the purple spot, it turns instantly red, and brightens