

the matters is to retain the substance even of fire, with which it is incorporated, and this incorporation supposes that fire not only loses its heat and elasticity, but even all its motion, since it fixes itself in these bodies, and becomes a constituent part. From which it may be imagined that there is fire under a fixed and concrete form in almost every body.

It is evident, that all matters, whose weight increases by the action of fire, are endowed with an attractive force superior to the expansive, the fiery particles of which are animated; this being extinguished the motion ceases, and the elastic and fugitive particles become fixed, and take a concrete form. Thus matters, whose weight is increased by fire, as tin, lead, &c. are substances which, by their affinity with fire, attract and incorporate. All matters, on the contrary, which, like iron, copper, &c. become lighter in proportion as they are calcined, are substances whose attractive forces, relative to the igneous particles, is less than the expansive force of fire; and hence the fire, instead of fixing in these matters, carries off and drives away the least adherent parts which cannot resist its impulsion. Those which, like gold, platina, silver, &c. neither lose nor acquire by the application of fire, are substances which, having no affinity  
with