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quid state, is nearly the same as that of the general heat, to the surface of the earth : the air with which it has much affinity penetrates it as soon as it is divided into small parts, yet the degree of elementary and general heat, weakens their spring so as to render them ineffectual as long as the water preserves this temperature; but if the cold penetrate, or this degree of heat diminish, then its spring will be re-established by the cold, and the elastic bubbles will rise to the surface of the water ready to freeze; if, on the contrary, the temperature of the water is increased by an external heat, the integrant parts become too much divided, they are rendered volatile, and the air with which they are united, rises and escapes with them. Water and air have much greater connections between them than opposite properties, and as I am well persuaded, that all matter is convertible, and that the elements may be transformed, I am inclined to believe, that water can change into air when sufficiently rarefied to raise up in vapours, for the spring of the vapour of the water is even more powerful than the spring of the air.

Experience has taught me that the vapours of water can increase the fire in the same manner as common air; and this air, which we may regard as pure, is always mixed with

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