

canos, or other subsequent conflagrations, have a second time undergone the proof of a violent heat. These three objects are very distinct, and comprehend all the mineral kingdom; by not losing sight of them, and by connecting each substance, we can scarcely be deceived in its origin, or even in the degrees of its formation. All minerals which are found in masses, or large veins in our high mountains, must be referred to the sublimation of the primitive fire; all those which are found in small ramifications, in threads or in vegetations, have been formed only from the waste of the first hurried away by the stillation of waters. We are evidently convinced of this, by comparing the matter of the iron mines of Sweden with that of our own. These are the immediate work of water, and we see them formed before our eyes; they are not attracted by the load stone; they do not contain any sulphur, and are found only dispersed in the earth; the rest are all more or less sulphureous, all attracted by the load stone, which alone supposes that they have undergone the action of fire; they are disposed in great, hard, and solid masses: and their substance is mixed with a quantity of asbestos, another index of the action of fire. It is the same with other metals: their ancient foundation comes from fire, and
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