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by experience, that this progress, as well in solids as fluids, is made rather by reason of their fluidity, or in an inverse ratio of their solidity. I mean by *solidity* the quality opposite to fluidity; and I say, that it is in an inverse ratio of this quality that the progress of heat is made in both bodies; and that they heat or cool so much the faster as they are the more fluid, and so much the slower as they are more solid, every other circumstance being equal.

To prove that solidity, taken in this sense, is perfectly independent of density, I have found, by experience, that the most or least dense matters, heat or cool more readily than other more or less dense matters, for example, gold or lead, which are much more dense than iron and copper, heat and cool much quicker; while tin and marble, which are not so dense, heat and cool much faster than iron and copper; and there are likewise many other matters which come under the same description; so that density is in no manner relative to the scale of the progress of heat in solid bodies.

It is likewise the same in fluids, for I have observed, that quicksilver, which is thirteen or fourteen times more dense than water, nevertheless heats and cools in less time than water; and

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