

stance; or, if this is denied, it must be supposed, that there exists a second matter in Nature which like iron may be attracted by the loadstone.

All the platina I have had an opportunity of examining, has appeared to be mixed with two different matters, the one black, and very attractable by the loadstone; the other in larger grains, of a pale yellow, and much less magnetic than the first. Between these two matters, which are the two extremes, are found all the intermediate links, whether with respect to magnetism, colour, or size of the grains. The most magnetic, which are at the same time the blackest and smallest, reduce easily into powder by a very slight friction, and leave on white paper the same marks as lead. Seven leaves of paper which were successively made use of to expose the platina to the action of the loadstone, were blackened over the whole extent occupied by it; the last left less than the first, in proportion as the grains which remained were less black and magnetic; the largest grains, which are yellow, and least magnetic, instead of crumbling into powder like the small black grains, are very hard, and resist all trituration; nevertheless, they are susceptible of extension in an agate mortar, under the reiterated strokes of a pestle of the same matter,