

and even in steel. It appears endowed and covered with a vitreous varnish which defends it from all injury. What is very remarkable, this pure iron sand does not exclusively belong to the platina ore; for I have found it, although always in small quantities, in many parts where the iron ore has been dug, and which consumed in my forges. As I submitted to several trials all the ores I had, before I used them in my experiments, I was surprised to find in some of them, which were in grains, particles of iron, somewhat rounded and shining, like the filings of iron, and perfectly resembling the ferruginous sand of the platina; they were all as magnetic, all as little fusible, and all as difficult of solution. Such was the result of the comparison I made on the sand of platina, and of the sand found in both my iron ores, at the depth of three feet, in earths where water easily penetrated. I was puzzled to conceive whence these particles of iron could proceed, how they had been defended against rust, for the ages they were exposed to the humidity of the earth, and how this very magnetical iron had been produced in veins of mines, which had not the smallest degree of that quality. I called experience to my aid, and became at length satisfied upon these points. I was