

advance may be verified by grinding the dross well burnt, and there will be found a small quantity of this pure iron, which, having resisted the action of the fire, equally resists that of the solvents, and does not rust at all.

Being satisfied on this head, and having sufficiently compared the sand and dross taken from the iron ores with that of the platina, so as to have no doubt of their identity, it was not long before I was led to conclude, considering the specific gravity of platina, that if this pure iron sand, (proceeding from the decomposition of dross) instead of being in an iron mine, was found near to a gold one, it might, by uniting with that metal, form an alloy which would be absolutely of the same nature as platina. Gold and iron have a great affinity; and it is well-known that most iron mines contain a small quantity of gold; it is also known how to give to gold the tint, colour, and even the brittleness of iron, by fusing them together. This iron-coloured gold is used on different golden jewels to vary the colours; and this gold mixed with iron is more or less grey, and more or less tempered, according to the quantity of iron which enters the mixture. I have seen it of a tint absolutely like the colour of platina; and having enquir-

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