

ed of a goldsmith the proportion of gold and iron therein, he informed me, that in a piece of 24 carats, there were no more than 18 gold, consequently a fourth part was iron, which is nearly the proportion found in the natural platina, if we judge of it by the specific weight; and this gold made with iron is harder and specifically less weighty than pure gold. All these agreements and common qualities with platina, have persuaded me, that this pretended metal is, in fact, only an alloy of gold and iron, and not a particular substance, a new and perfect metal different from every other, as chemists have supposed.

It is well known that alloy makes all metals brittle, and that when there is a penetration, that is, an augmentation in the specific gravity, the alloy is so much the more tempered as the penetration is the greater, and the mixture becomes the more intimate, as is perceived in the alloy called *bell-metal*, although it be composed of two very ductile metals. Now nothing is more tempered; nor heavier than platina, which alone ought to make us conclude that it is only an alloy made by Nature, a mixture of iron and gold, owing in part its specific gravity to this last, and, perhaps, also, in a great part, to the penetration of the two matters of which it is composed.

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