

I added distilled water thereon, and it still made no motion, but the metallic parts acquired new brilliancy, like silver: I let this mixture rest for five or six minutes, and having still added water, I threw some drops of alkaline liquor saturated with the colouring matter of Prussian blue, and very fine Prussian blue was afforded me on the first.

“ No. 4, treated in the same manner, gave the same result. There are two things very singular to remark in these experiments; first, that it passes current among chemists who have treated on the platina, that aquafortis, or spirit of nitre, has no action on it. Yet, as I have just observed, it dissolves it sufficiently, though without effervescence, to afford Prussian blue, when we add the alkaline liquor phlogisticated and saturated with the colouring matter, which, as is known, participates iron into Prussian blue.

“ Secondly, Platina, which is not sensible to the magnet, does not contain less iron, since spirits of nitre dissolves it enough, and without effervescence, to make Prussian blue. Whence it follows, that this substance, which modern chemists, perhaps too greedy of the marvellous, and too willing to give something novel, have considered as a ninth metal, may possibly be only a mixture of gold and iron.

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