

very distinctly saw one of these hemispherical grains, which might indicate that platina is a matter that has been melted by the fire ; but it is very singular, that in this matter, if melted by fire, small crystals, topaz, and rubies, are found ; and I know not whether we ought not to suspect fraud in those who supplied this platina, who, to increase the quantity, mixed it with these crystalline sands, for I never met with these crystals but in one half pound of platina given me by the Comte de Angilliviers.

2. I, as well as Comte de Milly, found gold sand in platina ; it is readily discovered by its colour, and because it is not magnetical ; but I own that I never perceived the globules of mercury which he states to have done ; yet I do not mean therefore to deny their existence, only that it appears to me that the sand of gold meeting with the globules of mercury, in the same matter, they might be soon amalgamated, and not retain the colour of gold, which I have remarked in all the gold sand that I could find in half a pound of platina ; besides, the transparent globules, which I have just spoken of, resemble greatly the globules of live and shining mercury, insomuch that at the first glance it is easy to be deceived in them.

3. There