

metal, and is extensively used in the arts, and in the manufacture of metallic goods.

Bismuth is a reddish-white laminated metal, and is found native, as well as in combination with other substances.

Copper is one of the most abundant of the metals, and is chiefly obtained from the native sulphuret, though it is also found in its metallic state. It may be distinguished from all other metals, except titanium, by its red colour.

Mercury, or quicksilver, is the only metal that is fluid at common temperatures. It is found in various states, both native and in combination, chiefly with sulphur. Mercury freezes at thirty-nine degrees below zero of Fahrenheit's scale, and in Hudson's Bay it was not only solidified, but beaten into sheets as thin as writing-paper. The mercury of commerce is chiefly obtained from Spain and Peru.

Silver is found native, and in combination with sulphur and several of the metals. Although this metal has a great commercial value, yet, as an ingredient in the composition of the earth's crust, it is very unimportant. It has, however, many properties, such as malleability, ductility, and tenacity, which would make it valuable in the arts, if it could be obtained for such purposes.

Gold has always been found in a metallic state, either pure or in combination with some other metal. Gold is chiefly obtained from Africa and South America, but in so small quantities, that it must be considered as an unimportant mineral principle.

Platinum is the heaviest of all metals, has a brilliant white colour, and is very ductile. It is found in many parts of South America, and usually in grains. The largest mass ever found, now in the Royal Museum at Madrid, does not weigh more than a pound and three quarters.

Palladium, rhodium, iridium, and osmium, are also obtained in very small quantities, and together form so inconsiderable a portion of the earth's crust, that we need not take any farther notice of them.

This very general sketch of the character and properties of the elementary principles of which all things we behold, and the earth itself, so much of it at least as we are acquainted with, are composed, may assist in explaining the constitution of land and water. But, before any idea can be formed of the manner in which these principles can be so combined as to