position, whose ulterior waste forms sulphurs, and the combustible parts of iron, tin, pyrites, and every inflammable mineral. I know, that this last assertion will be rejected by those who have studied nature only by the mode of chemistry; but I must request them to consider, that their method is not that of nature, and that it cannot even approach it without banishing all those precarious principles, those fictitious beings which they play upon, without being acquainted with them.

But, without pressing longer on those general considerations, let us pursue in a more direct and particular manner the examination of fire and its effects. The action of fire depends much on the manner in which it is applied; and the effects of its motion, on similar substances, will appear different according to the mode in which it is administered. I conceive that fire should be considered in three different states, first relative to its velocity; secondly, as to its volume; and thirdly, as to its mass. Under each of these points of view, this element, so simple, and so uniform to all appearance, will appear extremely different. The velocity of fire is augmented without the apparent volume being increased, every time that in a given space and filled with combustible