

resistance to fusion; and it is for this reason that the law of the progress of heat in these matters is found proportionable to the order of their density.

IV. Calcareous matters, ranged according to the order of their density, are, chalk, soft stone, hard stone, common marble, and white marble, which is the same as that of their density. The fusibility is not here of any weight, because it requires at first a very great degree of fire to calcine them; and although the calcination divides the parts, we must look upon the effect only as a first degree and not as a complete fusion. The whole power of the best burning mirrors is scarcely sufficient to perform it. I have melted and reduced into a kind of glass some of these calcareous matters; and I am convinced that these matters may, like all the rest, be reduced ulteriorly into glass, without employing for this purpose any fusing matter, and only by the force of a fire superior to that of our furnaces; consequently the common term of their fusibility is still more remote, and more extreme, than that of vitreous matters, and it is for this reason that they also follow more exactly the order of density in the progress of heat.

White gypsum, improperly called alabaster,
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