

metals, whose essential and common properties are to be ductile and fusible. Neither, after a very careful examination, did platina appear to me a new metal different from every other, but rather an alloy of iron and gold formed by Nature, in which the quantity of gold predominated over the iron ; and I founded this opinion on the following facts :

Of 8 ounces 85 grains of platina, furnished me by Comte d'Angivilliers, which I presented to a strong loadstone, there remained only 1 ounce, 1 dram, and 98 grains, all the rest was taken away by the loadstone ; therefore, nearly six-sevenths of the whole was attracted by the loadstone, which is so considerable a quantity, that it is impossible to suppose that iron is not contained in the intimate substance of platina, but that it is even there in a very great quantity. I am convinced it contains much more, for if I had not been weary of these experiments, which took me up several days, I should have attracted a great part of the remainder of the 8 ounces by my loadstone, for to the last it continued to draw some grains one by one, and sometimes two. There is, therefore, much iron in platina, and it is not simply mixed with it, as with a foreign matter, but intimately united and making part of its substance ;