ter, and I flattened and extended many grains to the double or treble extent of their surface: this part of platina, therefore, has a certain degree of malleability, and ductility, whereas the black part appears to be neither malleable nor ductile. The intermediate grains participate of the qualities of the two extremes: they are brittle and hard, they break or extend under the strokes of the pestle, and afford a little powder not so black as the first.

Having collected this black powder and the most magnetic grains that the loadstone at first attracted, I discovered that the whole was iron, but in a different state from common iron. The latter reduced into powder and filing contracts moisture, and rusts very readily; in proportion as the rust increases, it becomes less magnetic, and absolutely loses this magnetical quality when entirely and intimately rusted; whereas this iron powder, or ferruginous sand found in the platina, is inaccesssible to rust, how long soever it may be exposed to the air and humidity; it is also more infusible and much less dissoluble than common iron; but is, nevertheless, an iron which appears to differ only from common iron by a greater purity. This sand is, in fact, iron divested of all the combustible matter and all terrene parts which are found in common iron,

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