

As this matter, heated alone and without any addition, is very difficult to reduce into a mass, as by the fire of a burning mirror we can obtain only very small masses, and as the hydrostatical experiments made on small volumes are so defective, that we cannot conclude any thing therefrom, it appears to me that the chemists have been deceived in their estimation of the specific gravity of this mineral. I put some powder of gold in a little quill, which I weighed very exactly; I put in the same quill an equal volume of platina, and it weighed nearly a tenth less; but this gold powder was much too fine in comparison of the platina. M. Tillet, who besides a profound knowledge of metals, possessed the talent of making experiments with the greatest precision, repeated, at my request, this experiment upon the specific weight of the platina, compared to pure gold; for this purpose, he, like me, made use of a quill, and cut gold of 24 carats, reduced as much as possible to the size of the grains of platina, and he found, by eight experiments, that the weight of platina differed from that of pure gold very near a fifteenth; but we both observed that the grains of gold had much shaper angles than the platina: all the angles of the latter were blunt, and even soft, whereas the grains of this gold had sharp
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