

is, that the alloy from this proportion is still of the gold colour, and much yellower than the highest coloured platina, and that  $\frac{1}{4}$  iron, or  $\frac{2}{4}$  gold is requisite for the alloy to be precisely of the natural colour of platina. I am, therefore, greatly inclined to think that there might possibly be this quantity of  $\frac{1}{4}$  iron in platina. We were assured by many experiments, that the sand of this pure iron which contained platina, is heavier than the filings of common iron. Thus, this cause, added to the effect of penetration, is sufficient for the reason of this great quantity of iron contained under the small volume indicated by the specific weight of platina.

On the whole, it is very possible that I may be deceived in some of the consequences which I have drawn from my observations on this metallic substance: for I have not been able to make so profound an examination as I could wish; and what I say is only what I have observed, which may perhaps serve as a stimulus to other and better researches.

Chance led me to tell my ideas to Conte de Milly, who declared himself nearly of my opinion. I gave him the preceding remarks to inspect, and two days after he favoured me  
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