

with the following observations, and which he has permitted me to publish.

“ I weighed exactly thirty-six grains of platina ; I laid them on a sheet of white paper that I might observe them the better with a magnifying glass : I perceived three different substances ; the first had the metallic lustre, and was the most abundant ; the second, drawing a little on the black, very nearly resembled a ferruginous metallic matter, which could undergo a considerable degree of fire, such as the scoria of iron, vulgarly called *machefer* : the third less abundant than the two first, i. e. sand, where the yellow, or topaz colour, is the most predominant. Each grain of sand, considered separate, offered to the sight regular chrystals of different colours. I remarked some in an hexagon form, terminating in pyramids like rock chrystal ; and this sand seems to be no other than a *detritus* of chrystal, or quartz of different colours.

“ I resolved on separating, as exactly as possible, these different substances, by means of the loadstone, and to put aside the parts most attractable by the loadstone, from those which were less, and both from those which were not so at all ; then to examine each substance particularly, and to submit them to different chemical and mechanical heats.