

“No. 4, which had not been carried off by the magnet (but some parts of which still afforded marks of sensibility to magnetism, when the magnet was moved under the paper where they were in), was a mixture of sand, metallic parts, and real scoria, friable between the fingers, and which blackened in the same manner as common scoria. The sand seemed to be composed of small rock, topaz, and cornelian chrystals. I broke some on a steel, and the powder was like varnish, reduced into powder; I did the same to the scoria; it broke with the greatest facility, and presented a black powder which blackened the paper like the common.

“The metallic parts of this last (No. 4) appeared more ductile under the hammer than those of No. 1, which made me imagine they contained less iron than the first: from whence it follows, that platina may possibly be no more than a mixture of iron and gold made by Nature, or perhaps by the hands of men.

“I endeavoured to examine, by every possible means, the nature of platina: to assure myself of the presence of iron of platina by chemical means, I took No. 1, which was very attractable by the magnet, and No. 4, which was not; I sprinkled them with fuming spirit of nitre; I immediately observed it with the microscope, but perceived no effervescence;

I added