

by uniting, will have formed the grains which compose it, and which from the heaviest to the lightest contain gold and iron; the proposition of the chemist who offers to render *nearly* as much gold as they shall furnish him with platina, seems to indicate, that there is, in fact, only $\frac{1}{11}$ of iron to $\frac{10}{11}$ of gold in this mineral, or possibly less. But the *nearly* of this chemist is perhaps a fifth, or fourth, and indeed, if he could realize his promise to a fourth, it would be doing a great deal, and no vain boast.

Being at Dijon the summer of 1773, the Academy of Sciences and Belles Letters, of which I have the honour to be a member, expressed a desire of hearing my observations on platina; and having complied, M. de Morveau resolved to make some experiments on this mineral; for which purpose I gave him a portion of that which I had attracted by the loadstone, and also some which I had found insensible to magnetism, requesting him to expose it to the strongest fire he could possibly make. Some time after, he sent me the following experiments, which he was pleased to subjoin to mine.

“ Monsieur the Comte de Buffon, in a journey to Dijon, in the summer of 1773, having caused me to remark in half a drachm of plati-

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