

and there arising a little effervescence, I added distilled water thereon. The platina lost two grains, and I remarked some small holes, like those which its flying off might occasion.

“ There then remained only 22 grains of lead in the platina. I began to form a hope of vitrifying this remaining portion of lead, for which purpose I put the same piece of platina into a new cupel, and by the care I took for the admission of air, and other precautions, the activity of the fire was so greatly augmented that it required a supply every eleven minutes; to this degree of heat we kept for four hours, and then permitted it to cool.

“ I perceived the next morning that the leaden crucible had resisted, and that the supporters were only glazed by the cinders. I found a piece in the cupel, not adhering, of a uniform colour, approaching more the colour of tin than any other metal, but only a little ragged. It weighed exactly one drachm. All, therefore, announced that this platina had endured an absolute fusion, and that it was perfectly pure, for if we suppose it still contained lead, we must then admit that it had lost exactly as much of its substance as it had gained of foreign matter; and such a precision cannot be the effect of pure chance.

“ I passed