

steel to try its ductability; it supported the hammer very well for a few strokes; its surface became flat and even, a little smooth in the parts which were struck, but it split soon after, and nearly a sixth part separated. The fracture presented many cavities, some of which had the whiteness and brilliancy of silver, and in others we remarked several points like chrysalization; the tops of these points examined with the lens, was a globule absolutely similar to that of the third experiment. All the other parts of this piece of platina were compact, the grain finer and closer than the best brass, which it resembled in colour. We offered several of these pieces to the loadstone, but not one was attracted thereby. We powdered them again in an agate mortar, and then remarked that the magnetical bar raised up some of the smallest every time they are placed under it.

“This new appearance of magnetism was so much the more surprising, as the grains were detached from the agglutinated mass of the second experiment, which seemed to have lost all sensibility at the approach and contact of the loadstone. In consequence we again took some of these grains, which were alike powdered, and soon perceived the smallest parts sensibly attach themselves to the magnetic bar. It is impossible