

possible to attribute this effect to the smoothness of the bar, or to any other cause foreign to magnetism. A piece of smooth iron, applied in the same manner on the parts of this platina did not raise up a single grain.

“ By these experiments, and the observations which have arisen therefrom, we may judge of the difficulty of determining the nature of platina. It is very certain that it contains some parts which are vitrifiable even without the addition of a fierce fire; it is also certain that all platina contains iron and attractable parts; but if the Prussian alkali never affords blue but with the grains which the loadstone attracts, we should conclude, that those which resist it are pure platina, which of itself has no magnetical virtue, and of which iron does not make an essential part. We must suppose that a sufficient fusion, or perfect cupellation, might decide the question; at least, these operations appear to have, in fact, deprived it of every magnetic virtue, by separating it from all foreign bodies; but the last observation proves, in an incontrovertible manner, that this magnetic property was, in reality, only weakened, and perhaps masked or buried, since it reappeared when it was ground.”

From these experiments of M. de Morveau there results, 1. That we may expect to meet
platina.