

coincides with its extensive utility. It is every where indispensable to the comforts of man; and it is every where found, or easily obtained by him. And, though not to the same extent, the same observation holds with reference to many other natural saline compounds. Thus carbonate of potash, and natron or carbonate of soda, alum, borax, sal ammoniac, and sulphate of iron, or green vitriol, which are most extensively useful salts in many processes of the arts, are either found abundantly in various parts of the world, or may be obtained by very easy means: while a thousand other saline compounds, which are rarely of any practical importance, are scarcely known to exist in a native state. And it is probable that that useful metal, copper, in consequence of its frequent occurrence in a native state, was employed long before the mode of reducing iron from its ores had been discovered; as Werner (and Hesiod, and Lucretius, ages before him^f) conjectured.

and the density and general nature of the sheath is such, that the water contained in it may be heated over a fire without destroying its substance: and the Caræbs actually employ these sheaths, in evaporating the sea-water for the purpose of obtaining a quick supply of salt. (Diction. des Sciences Nat. tom. xxxvii. p. 283, 4.)

^f Χαλκῶ δ' ἐργάζοντο, μέλας δ' οὐκ ἔσκε σίδηρος.

EPT. KAI HM. line 151.

Posterius Ferri vis est, Ærisque reperta.

Et prior Æris erat quam Ferri cognitus usus.

LUCRET. V. 1285.