

(as will hereafter appear) therefore I shall treat of These a little.

By the word *Earth* I do not mean that pure and simple Element, whereof the Philosophers say all mixed sublunary Bodies are composed.

Neither do I mean that which is so gross as it remains mixed with Metal, Vitriol, or other Juices.

But I mean such an earthy Substance as neither melts in the Fire, nor dissolves in the Water, as Metals and Juices do, nor is so compacted or hard as are Stones.

Some report *Aristotle* to have been of Opinion, that the pure elementary Earth was void of Colour. *Strabo* affirms it to be white, because Ashes are of that Colour; but the Miner may rest secure, that, dig he never so deep, he shall not meet with any such pure Element of Earth to make new Experiments by, because it is not in the World, by Reason of the perpetual Mixture of the Elements one with the other.

The Colour of the purest Earth that hath been found, *Cardona* would have to be a very dark Grey: In the other sorts of Earth we see how rich Nature hath adorned the World with Variety of Colours, caused by difference of Exhalation, as *Theophrastus* says, or by difference of Heat, as *Aristotle* says, and both truly: For if under Earth, that hath not it's natural and proper Colour, there be found Metals, it is certain, that the Exhalations from those Metals hath discoloured the Ground; and if there be no Metal found there, then the Discolouring proceeds from the  
con-