

Other Stones that grow in Mines, or cleave unto the Metal, they call *Ciques*, and also *Caxas*, which are rough and uneven, but not very hard, nor very spongy, and commonly have nothing of Metal in them, altho' in some rich Mines they are infected with some little, by the Vicinity of the Oar.

The Stones of *Potosi*, call'd *Vilaciques*, have been, and are very famous for the Abundance of Silver gotten out of them; and are one of the Ingredients that make this Province without Comparison. *Vila* signifies Blood in *Peru*, or any red thing; and for the Streakes of red this Stone hath in it, they call it *Vilaciques*.

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## C H A P. XIV.

### *Of precious Stones.*

**P**RECIIOUS Stones are either transparent, as the Diamond is, or obscure, as the Onix, or between both, as the Sardonix and the Jasper. It is the Water which is the principal Cause of Clearness, and the Earth of the Opacity of them. So that the Reason why they excel one the other in Lustre and Transparency, is from the variety of Humours congeal'd together to compose them, which are some of them more pure and clear than others.

White Stones are made of Humour almost like Water, and so are more clear and tran-