

of that kind, altho' the great Connexion they have with the right Knowledge of Metals, whereof we treat, makes it necessary to handle some of them, and to make the Weakness of their Foundation plainly to appear.

They say, that the Alchymists are ignorant of the Manner whereby Nature creates and brings Metals to perfection; and that it is erroneous to say, they are compounded of Quicksilver and Brimstone, because if it were so, there would be found in the Mines of Gold and Silver, and of other Metals, several Indications and Pieces of those Juices; whereas common Experience shews the contrary; for Answer thereunto, the first Part of that Reason imports little; for though it be granted, it infers no more, but that those Alchymists that went about those Transmutations, proceeded mechanically, and without good Knowledge in the Art; but nevertheless it remains possible that such Transmutation may be made.

The second Part of the foremention'd Reasons shews plainly the great Rashness wherewith they affirm that which they know very little of; for there is nothing more experimentally known concerning Metals, than their ordinary Mixture with Brimstone; and the Abundance of Brimstone in Minerals is an especial good Sign of the Richness; a sufficient Example whereof is the Rose-colour'd Oar of the famous Mountain of *Sancta Isabella* of new *Potosi*, in the rich Province of the *Lipes*, which is almost all Plate, and engendred amongst such Abundance of Brimstone, that the Cavities and hollow Places in the
Rocks