

nitrous acid particles are extracted by pouring a good quantity of hot water on it; and by the addition of a solution of potashes, or of a solution of salt of tartar, the nitre is obtained, after boiling or evaporating the mixed solutions. Native crystallized saltpetre has hitherto been found but in one place.

EXPERIMENT XIX.

51. IF a saline solution forms cubic crystals, when thrown on the fire or live coals decrepitates, or causes a crackling noise; when brought in a vessel into the fire will melt after it had been red-hot, and congeal into a quite opaque mass, it is MURIATIC OR COMMON SALT.

52. The taste of common salt is so well known to the civilized part of the human species, that it is almost unnecessary to give any other character, but refer the operator to the taste. It is made of the brine of the sea, of that of some wells and lakes, and often found solid in strata, but rarely mixed with earth or stone; in which case it may be infused with hot water, and the infusion decanted and evaporated till it forms crystals.

EXPERIMENT XX.

53. TAKE fine silver, dissolve it in nitrous acid, by throwing in thin small particles at a time; in this solution of silver drop a few drops of a solution of *salt*, suspected to be *common* or *muriatic*; for in this case it will immediately become turbid, and form a precipitate, like curd; which after being separated from the supernatant liquor, dried and put into the fire in a glass or earthen-ware vessel, will melt, and form a substance