

*Observations.*

1. This mineral is characterised by its pistachio-green colour, the other varieties occurring rarely; the fine splintery or scaly surface of the angular pieces; its crystallizations, internal lustre, fracture, inferior hardness, and weight.

2. *Distinctive Characters.*—*a.* Between Chrysolite and *Vesuvian*. If the vesuvian be in rolled pieces, it can be distinguished from chrysolite, by its wanting the fine scaly or splintery surface which characterises that mineral: if in crystals, by their being very slightly longitudinally streaked, having a fine-grained uneven fracture, and resinous internal lustre; whereas the crystals of chrysolite are deeply longitudinally streaked, the fracture is conchoidal, and the lustre vitreous. A simple chemical distinctive character may be mentioned: vesuvian is fusible before the blowpipe, chrysolite is infusible.—*b.* Between Chrysolite and yellowish-brown and olive-green *Tourmaline*. Tourmaline becomes strongly electric by heating, but the chrysolite only by rubbing; tourmaline is harder than chrysolite, as it scratches glass more readily.—*c.* Between Chrysolite and *Asparagus-stone* of Werner. Asparagus-stone does not scratch glass so easily as chrysolite, and refracts single, whereas chrysolite refracts double.

3. Werner is of opinion, that the stone described by the ancients, under the name *Yellow Chrysolite*, is not the true chrysolite, but our topaz. The celebrated traveller Bruce, mentions an Emerald Island in the Red Sea; but says that the substance he there met with, was scarcely harder than glass. Dr Kid remarks, "May not this have been a chrysolite, and this island the Topaz Island mentioned by Pliny?" Romé de Lisle and Born, describe