

and this is one of the surest characters of this earth.

By the experiments of Mr. Lavoisier, it appears that the strongest heat that can be applied, namely, that excited by pure air, is incapable of melting it. The slight degree of emollescence that some others have observed, most probably proceeds from some slight mixture with some other earth.

Fixed alkalis, whether vegetable or mineral, are the true solvents of siliceous earth in the dry way: 1 part mineral alkali will flux two of siliceous earth with effervescence. Borax also fuses them, but much more slowly, and without effervescence. Microcosmic salt is still less effectual.

Caustic fixed alkalis attack siliceous earths also in the moist way, when very minutely divided, and take up nearly $\frac{1}{6}$ of their weight.

Siliceous sand is capable of absorbing about $\frac{1}{4}$ of its weight of water without letting any drop from it; but, on exposure to the open air, it suffers it to evaporate much more readily than any of the foregoing earths do in the same circumstances.

Of the characterizing Power of the foregoing Earths.

Having set forth the distinctive characters of the foregoing earths, singly taken, we are now to remark the different powers they possess of impressing or communicating their respective characters, when mixed or combined with each other, to the compound of which they form a part,

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