THE WORK

WITH

WOLFRAM

by

A VENETIAN NOBLEMAN

TRANSLATED BY:

S. BACSTROM, M.D.

THE WORK

with

WOLFRAM,

A Process communicated to

MR. FREDERIC LA FOUNTAIN

BY

A VENETIAN NOBLEMAN,

who at the same time presented him with

a ponderous Red powder, with which

he afterwards transmuted one

pound of Copper

into

Pure Gold.

Introduction

Mr. Frederic la Fountain, a gentleman of honour and respectability, and possessed of considerable property was an intimate acquaintance with Baron V. Habzel, an Envoy at the Count of Saint James's from one of the small German States about 30 years of age. Having been invited one day by the Baron to dine with him he went at the hour appointed. The Baron told him he had just received a message from the ministers which required his immediate attendance at the Treasury, and that as he had invited a Venetian Nobleman to dine with him he wished Mr. La Fountain to make a proper apology for his abscence, and at the same time begged he would do the honours of the table for him and entertain the stranger as well as he was able, the butler and other servants having received orders to attend to his instructions.

The Baron went to wait upon the Ministers. Soon after his departure the stranger was announced. He was an aged gentleman of a most venerable and engaging aspect and polite manners. Mr. La Fountain performed the office imposed upon him by the Baron, they dined and afterwards conversed on various subjects. From Politics they went to Divinity and from that to Philosophy. After discussing several branches they came to converse on Chymistry, a subject in which, it turned out, that, both of them

were well versed. When they both had conversed on this subject for some time the Venetian asked La Fountain whether he had any belief in what is now generally called Alchymy, or the Art of transmuting inferior into more perfect metals. Mr. La Fountain told him he had read much upon the subject, with a view to come at some practicable knowledge of it, but hitherto without success: But do you believe in the truth of the science? Replied the other. He answered that, so many men had wrote upon the subject, and asserted its truth with so much solemity, that he really could not believe that they were all liars, or even self deceivers. The Nobleman then asked him if he would like to receive an occular testimony of its truth, to which he answered that he wished it of all things.

The stranger then told Mr. La Fountain that he was himself a possesser, that he had some of the metallic medicine in his pocket and would satisify his desire so far as to give him a little of it. He then took out a gold box from his pocket in which there was a good quantity of a ponderous red powder. He put about half a teaspoonful of it into several folds of paper and made a present of it to Mr. La Fountain, telling him at the same time that it could only be projected on copper, and giving him instructions how to proceed.

Mr. La Fountain expressed his gratitude for the gift, but such a succession of ideas rushed through his mind as made him

feel himself truly miserable. He could not help telling the stranger that he now found himself truly miserable! How so! Said the other. I thought I had obliged you by what I have done? So you have, said La Fountain, but unless you do more it may occasion my ruin; for after I shall have received an ocular proof, when I shall have followed your instructions in making projection, it may produce such a desire to be a possessor that I may ruin myself and spend my whole fortune (then about £ 10,000) in the persuit without ever attaining it.

The stranger was mute, and seemed to meditate with himself for some minutes. At last he said to him "Well! I will put you in possession of the way to execute this SMALL BRANCH of the TINCTURE. This is not the grand Elixir: it is only a small work, fit for curing the leprosy of metals but not a medicine for the human body; and, besides, its tinging power is very limited - get pen and paper and write what I shall dictate to you."

Mr. La Fountain then wrote down the process from the Venetian nobleman's own mouth. After having it in his possession about ten years, that is, about twenty years ago, he permitted Dr. Bacstrom to make a copy from the original M.S.

He informed him also that he had made projection with the red powder that had been given to him upon one pound of purified ♀, which he had been informed was the best or the only fit metal for this particular tincture, by the Venetian, and that he obtained

nearly 3/4 of a pound of most pure ☉ of 24 carots.

The following pages are a faithful translation made by Dr. Bacstrom from his own copy of the process, made in the month of June last.

So far as this statement of facts relates to the veracity of Mr. La Fountain it may be relied on. He was in company with the Venetian Nobleman alluded to; received from him the process; received also some powder of projection from him, and with the same powder transmuted some copper into gold. But either the Venetian wilfully misinformed La Fountain of the matter he employed or by Wolfram he meant some other mineral than the one known in England by that name; for, since the translation was made, Dr. Bacstrom tried the experiment, following exactly the process given, employing a very fair specimen of the Wolfram found in the Tin-mines in Cornwal, and he found that the first piece he threw in, instead of "floating on the fluid ☥ and not being destroyed by it" very soon disappeared. He therefore discontinued the process. Would the result have been different if he had continued to throw in fresh pieces of Wolfram?

August 1797.

Though not the greatest, a great Science!

The labour with Wolfram.

WOLFRAM, WOLFART, WOLFERN, breaks in Tin-mines, is an abortus among ♄ ore, externally of a black appearance, like ♄ grains, but if you scratch it with an iron instrument it shows a bright red stroke, while tin-grains show a white stroke.

Sometimes Wolfram is long-striated, and at other times it looks exactly like ♄ grains.

The Wolfram deceives the miners very much, when they work the ♄ ore; for it stands or remains in the water with the clear washed ore.

Wolfram destroys and spoils the ♄ in the melting of the ore, and must, for that reason be carefully separated from the ♄ while it is burning.

Its name, Wolfram alludes to its rapacious nature in acting upon ♄ .

The purification of the ♀ for this work.

Take pure white pebbles, found in fresh water rivers, make them red-hot, and then extinguish them in ⊡ in order that they

may become short and brittle; then beat them into a fine powder in an iron morter. Prepare yourself a sufficient quantity of this pebble powder.

Now melt 1 or 2 lib of good ♀, and as soon as it flows project a small iron ladlefull of your pebble powder, previously heated, on the melted ♀: increase your △ and let them flow well together.

The pebble powder will become black: as soon as you see that it is become black take it off carefully with a small sharp edged ♂ ladle with a long handle. Be carefull that you take no ♀ along with it.

Repeat the same operation by projecting another ladle full of heated pebble powder upon the melted ♀ in the ♈: cover your ♈ with a lid, and lay fresh coals on the top, for it requires an intense heat, and let them again flow well together. When the surface of the pot, that is the pebble powder has become black as before, take it off again carefully as at the first.

The pebble powder acts as a menstruum upon the ♀, in the dry way, and extracts the gross external red ♆ out of the ♀, and purifies the ♀ more and more at each operation.

This projecting of heated pebble powder and seperating the black scoriae must be repeated until the pebble powder remains clear and white on the surface of the melted ♀ - sometimes tinged RED and at last green. As soon as no more blackness can

be extracted this operation is finished, and your ♀ will have become beautiful, and look like ALLOYED ☉ of a most delicate grain. (Thus far has been proved by Dr. Bacstrom.)

Thus you have prepared and purified your ♀ fit to be tinged into ☉ by the Wolfram prepared with ♁ by the following

Process.

Take good ♁ CRUDUM 2 lib, let it melt in a roomy ♉: have your Wolfram ready beat into small pieces of the size of a Nutmeg, and have it warmed.

When you see that the ♁ flows thin like ▽, with a pair of tongs project one bit after another of the heated Wolfram upon the ♁ in fusion, which pieces will float on the ♁ and not be destroyed by it. Do not throw in more than 5 or 6 small bits the first time.

The floating bits of Wolfram will become AS RED AS BLOOD, and will extract the central ⯑ out of the ♁ in fusion, BY MEANS OF ITS ARSENIC - which arsenic will partly evaporate with the ♾ of ♁. The tincture of ♂ in the Wolfram unites here with THE TINCTURE or GOLDEN ⯑ of ♁, while the ⚯ in the wolfram is the MENSTRUUM IN THIS DRY WAY.

When you perceive that the Wolfram has become quite red, take it out with your tongs and lay it next to the ♈ hole on the

hot wind furnace, to cool gradually.

Continue to project fresh bits of Wolfram on the melting ♂, as long as they become red. Whenever that redness ceases it is a sign that the Wolfram has robbed the ♂ of all its central ☿ial tinging ♁. Then it is time to leave off projecting any more Wolfram upon your ♂.

Projection

Melt 1 lib of your purified ♀, and, as soon as it flows thin, project half an ounce of your red prepared Wolfram; reduced to a fine powder, and mixed with 2 ounces of melted wax, upon your melted ♀. Let it melt for 2 hours, covered with a lid. At the end of the 2 hours pour it out and you will find 3/4 lib of good ☉ of 24 carats.

Thank God for this blessing and be charitable towards your distressed fellow christians.

You must be cautious that no coals drop into your ♉.

Finis.

Gilberts Metalurgy.

"Wolfram is a black-brown striated ore, sometimes constructed of fibers without order, sometimes it consists of thin superincumbent small leaves. If you scratch it, it then appears of a deep

red colour. It spoils the ♃ by its iron particles."

Valmont de Beaumare in his Dictionary of
Natural History of the 3 Departments of
Nature 4 to Vol. II p. 863 - Says:

"Wolfram or Wolfart is an arsenical ♂ ore, very much resembling ♃ chrystals or grains. It is not uncommon to find Wolfram in the ♃ mines among the ♃ ore."