

SUBSTANCE OF A CONVERSATION
MR. B. HAD WITH MR. FORD 8TH. OF APRIL 1805.

I shall here relate (says Mr. B.) the substance of a conversation I had yesterday with Mr. Ford, respecting the work with the Butyrum. He seems to be well founded in his theory, more so than Mr. H., & his theory has been confirmed to him by a well conducted & judicious practice on a small scale.

1. He works with very small tabulated glass retorts, not bigger than a hen's egg. With two such retorts, buried in sand, laid in an iron pan on the common coal fire, in his bath stove, he can obtain from each 4 OUNCES of the butyrum i. e., 8 OUNCES by one operation from the 2 retorts. He never troubles himself with more than one operation on the same day.

He says he never wished to possess at one time more than 2 lbs. of the butyrum, that whoever may attempt to execute the work on too large a scale will never bring it to perfection; & that, because of the great length of time which Nature requires to perfect a large quantity. On a moderate scale, it may be done in a comparatively short time.

Mr. F., also says that the butyrum is not perfect until there remains no CAPUT MORTUUM. All must be brought over gradually. He uses REGULUS ANTIMONY MARS & good pure MERCURY SUBLIMATE corrosive: EQUAL PARTS for this reason: (he knows that equal parts of MERCURY SUBLIMATE & REGULUS cannot conquer the whole quantity of REGULUS, but he adds gradually a little more sublimate to the remaining REGULUS until the whole is brought over) & by this method he finds out the proportion that Nature requires.

(I say, that $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounce of MERCURY SUBLIMATE is able to dissolve & bring over 1 Ounce of REGULUS ANTIMONY MARS, for which reason I have given you that proportion for the work of Pontanus. S.B.)

He rectifies his butyrum by cohobating it on the CAPUT MORTUUM, until it is, whilst hot & fluid, like a pure chrySTALLINE WATER.

If that WATER, as it cools, chrySTALLISES or shoots into tables, squares, triangles & c., with all the glorious colours of the rainbow (as I have often observed it with pleasure in Many-le-bone), it

is then animated butyrum; on Sophic MERCURY, animated by the secret FIRE, the ACID of sea SALT, & the 2 MERCURIES of ANTIMONY & MARS, says Mr. Ford, & wants no further attraction from the AIR; as it now possesses all that it is in need of.

The MERCURY SUBLIMATE is the secret FIRE, which contains the 2 Doves of Diana, i. e., the ACID of sea SALT & the MERCURY sublimed together, applied by the Art of the Nymph Venus (Venus born of the froth of the Sea) says Ovidius, i. e., sea SALT its concentrated ACID (The universal MERCURIAL Key, says Mynsicht).

Mr. F., says, if you work with vulgar GOLD, according to Antephius, that Author has candidly mentioned a necessary ingredient. (Crude SAL AMMONIAC) You ought to make a philosophical TR., by subliming your MERCURY SUBLIMATE once more with crude SAL AMMONIAC, into a Sal Alembrot.

(This process is nicely shewn & explained in Dr. Hempe's Mineralogy, London, a thin folio treatise, become very scarce). It was likewise used by Paracelsus, who called it Sal Alembrot, Saltz Von allen Brodp. Salt procuring bread for all).

Of such a MERCURY SUBLIMATE united & sublimed with SAL AMMONIAC crudum & REGULUS ANTIMONY MARS, distill your Butyrum & you get the true philosophical TR., that does immediately attack GOLD, & dissolves it kindly, even without the help of external heat, & as soon as solution is completed, assisted by kind & gentle heat, he says, coagulation commences instantaneously.

Mr. F., said: Antephius has named the subject, Sal ammoniac, which when sublimed with MERCURY SUBLIMATE, such a Sal alembrot & REGULUS ANTIMONY MARS, containing the 2 Mercuries, united by the Doves of Diana in the secret FIRE, or ACID of sea SALT now form the true Butyrum or philosophical AQUA REGIA, for the central solution of GOLD.

This butyrum you must rectify until nothing remains behind, save a very few light grey ashes, & your butyrum must be perfectly transparent, like rock WATER. You have in this the philosophers secret FIRE, & all that is necessary for your work.

He says: You do not want attraction, because you must attract some phelgma, which you must afterwards separate again, which obliges you to separate the elements, which you must rejoin, all unnecessary labours, as phelgma cannot be coagulated nor fixed. Add the ferment

GOLD, & your work is complete for digestion. Your heat must certainly be strong enough to keep your butyrum constantly in a fluid state, with the dissolved GOLD.

If your GOLD is kindly dissolved in this truly animated butyrum, or philosophical aqua regia, coagulation must absolutely follow & in a short time, he believes, if your quantity, is not too great, out of reason.

He says it is astonishing what a small gentle heat does keep the butyrum constantly fluid, & that heat, Mr. Ford thinks is the right degree, which nature requires. He is of opinion that without adding the Solar ferment, the work cannot be so well done; GOLD for the white & red, but SILVER for the white alone; but the SILVER does not require a Sal alembrot; nor SAL AMMONIAC in the butyrum, which is only necessary of GOLD.

Our Luna is the REGULUS ANTIMONY MARS. The secret or philosopher's FIRE, which burns without the glass is the concentrated ACID of sea SALT in the MERCURY SUBLIMATE, which contains the 2 Doves of Diana, i. e., the ACID & the sublimed MERCURY & this is all.

Mr. Ford says "The Gluten" in Digby contains the whole work.

Mr. F., says, the work with the butyrum is the humid way of Artep-hius, Flamel & c.

The work with the same ingredients, before you distill them into a butyrum united with GOLD, is the dry way.

(Observe here the harmony between his ideas & mine, concerning Pontanus).

The Nymph Venus, born from the froth of the Sea, as Ovidius has expressed himself, is sea SALT.

The REGULUS ANTIMONY MARS, not crude ANTIMONY is the right subject.

9 April 1805.

F I N I S .