



V. On the combined action of water and charcoal in oxidizing metals

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V. *On the combined Action of Water and Charcoal in oxidizing Metals.* By THOMAS GILL, Esq.

To Mr. Tilloch.

SIR,—A FACT stated by Dr. William Henry in the last Number of Thompson's Annals, of the oxidizing of a metal (cast iron) by the combined action of charcoal and steam; brings to my mind a similar effect which occurred to our ingenious acquaintance Mr. T. T. Hawkins, several years since; who, in employing powdered charcoal placed between two perforated leaden plates, for the purpose of filtering water, found the water had become considerably impregnated with lead, which led him to take the filtre to pieces, when it appeared that the joint action of the water and charcoal had converted much of the lead into a white oxide, which interspersed with the charcoal, occupied the entire space between the plates, and therefore he was under the necessity of laying them aside, and substituting others in their places not liable to that defect; by which means he perfectly attained his object, that of employing charcoal as a filtering medium, for which, owing to its great porosity, it is admirably adapted. I am, with much respect, sir,

Your most obedient servant,

No. 83, St. James's Street,
London, Jan. 10, 1815.

THOMAS GILL.

VI. *Account of a Fall of Uranolytes (Aërolites) near Agen.*
By M. DE SAINT AMAN'S*.

ON the 5th of September 1814, a few minutes before mid-day, the wind being northerly, and the sky perfectly serene, a violent detonation was heard in the communes of Montpezat, Temple, Castelmoron, and Montclar, situated in the first, second, and fourth *arrondissemens* of the department of the Lot and Garonne. This unusual detonation was immediately followed by three or four others at an interval of half a second successively; and finally, by a rolling noise at first resembling a discharge of musketry, afterwards the rolling of carriages, and finally, that of a large building falling down. These detonations, which took place towards the centre of the department, were heard with more or less intensity within a circle of several leagues. Thus at Agen, four leagues off, they were sufficiently strong to

* *Annales de Chimie*, tome xvii. p. 25. Oct. 1814.