

A TREATISE WRITTEN BY A CELEBRATED PHILOSOPHER, ANONYMOUS

communicated to:

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and translated from the German original

Dr. Sig. Baestrom

(I shall not translate it from word to word, but only extract the most essential sentences.)

That matter which is in its whole substance resembles most silver and gold, is to be judged to be the nearest matter wherein the Master of this Art must place his whole Intention and confidence, if he wishes to follow nature, and into this matter he must introduce the Form of SOL & LUNA.

This matter is Argent Vive, which is the nearest matter in potentia to SOL & LUNA.

MERCURY comes nearest in weight to SOL, being only 1/6 part lighter, than SOL although Geber says that MERCURY is heavier than SOL, but he means MERCURY highly purified and liberated of its superfluous humidity and arsenical EARTH. That MERCURY is the nearest matter to SOL is not only meant of the common MERCURY as it is bought at the Druggists, but also that MERCURY which is extracted out of the imperfect metals, such as SATURN, JUPITER, VENUS and MARS, and especially the REGULUS OF ANTIMONY & IRON, because this argent vive extracted out of the REGULUS OF ANTIMONY & IRON possesses the greatest resemblance in its whole substance of SOL.

This and common argent vive do not differ very much, except in some accidents, as they are all equally fluid and of the same weight with common or vulgar MERCURY. They are all elevated into vapour by the FIRE, yet they differ in digestion, and as vulgar MERCURY contains a large proportion of immature indeterminate

humidity, it is of course more volatile than the MERCURY of Bodies.

Now as MERCURY can be carried to a higher perfection, I dare to affirm that Argent Vive is nothing else but crude and unfinished SOL & LUNA and can be maturated into SOL or LUNA by an efficient cause. Yet I would not have you think that the metals are created in the mines out of this common argent vive as their nearest matter; I find and acknowledge rather with Aristotle that the nearest matter of metals in the mines has been a ponderous metallick vapour, which is sulphureous-mercurial, and is called Exhalation, and as the aliments in animal bodies, are changed into Blood, which nevertheless were no blood at first, so is likewise the metallick matter, whatever it may be, from which the metals proceed is not the same with that what has been generated out of that vapour which is now a determinate argent vive, and becomes the body of a metal, distinct in each species, according to the different mixture, therefore there is no nearer matter for Art, but Mercury not only the common MERCURY, but also the MERCURY of the imperfect bodies, wherein then every Artist may seek for his Matter, if he wishes to reap the fruits of this Science, let him prefer this before any other matter, whether sulphuric, unctuous or inflammable.

Only the substance of argent vive, that most subtil, indissoluble viscous and living substance, which cannot be burnt in the fire, is the nearest matter in our Art, and the nearest matter of SOL & LUNA, this is the matter which conquers the FIRE, and is not conquered by the FIRE.

Artephius says p. 482, that most subtil nature cleansed by sublimation, and page 453, this FIRE is a certain middle substance clear as fine LUNA, which ought to receive the Tinctures of Sol or LUNA, (i.e. REGULUS OF ANTIMONY & IRON). Thus I have said enough of the nearest Matter of Art, now I will say something of the Efficient Cause without which neither Nature nor Art can produce anything.

In the Egg is hidden the efficient cause to produce a chick, and so it is in animal seeds, and in vegetable seeds, and is found no where else.

But in our nearest metallic matter, i.e. MERCURY this argentific or aurific Efficient Cause is not concealed in the same manner as in an egg, in order to maturate every MERCURY into SILVER or GOLD, by no means, but must be introduced by nature or by art, and thus is called a Form, which nevertheless is of the same MERCURIAL Genius, but of a more noble and glorious Form, and must be absolutely LUNA or SOL. Therefore this form must be introduced by art, and this Form is the Efficient Cause.

Therefore in man, in his sperm lyeth concealed the efficient cause of generating human kind and no other, and so in the precious metals lyeth concealed this spermatic Efficient Cause to generate LUNA or SOL and no other. I say then, in silver lyeth concealed the sperm or efficient cause of generating LUNA and in SOL is found the sperm of generating SOL and LUNA both.

This Lunific and Solific Sperm or efficient cause is nothing else but the White and Red Tincture, that is SOL or LUNA dissolved naturally, and perfected by concoction, and herein lays that power to make SOL & LUNA, which fiery power has been increased by Decoction. And although LUNA or SOL are inanimate bodies, which do not propagate in the mines, yet they can be made to multiply by art and the assistance of nature, when those bodies are dissolved and disposed into seed or into that quality which performs the Office of Seed, and as we say that in a Dog is the efficient cause of producing a Dog, so is in LUNA and SOL the efficient cause of multiplying LUNA & SOL in a MERCURIAL pure body, as AUGURELLUS a true possessor of the Philosophers Stone has declared in his Latin Verses. "In auro Semina sunt auri, quamvis abstrusa recedaut longius."

i.e. "In Gold the Seeds of Gold do lie, though buried in obscurity."

That quality is a fiery quality, because the fiery quality is the most active Element, so that, if it was not moderated by the other Elements, wherewith it is mixed it would destroy all things.

The argentific or aurific efficient cause is moved by means of the fiery quality, as by an Instrument to cause our nearest matter to receive that form of LUNA or SOL: The author intends to say: "That the Universal Agent of nature, the Electric FIRE manifested in Light, in Oxygen and in flaming FIRE, by him called the fiery quality, copiously contained in the Concentrated marine acid, wherewith you have previously cleansed your MERCURY by sublimation, (Artephius p. 482) and have converted that MERCURY into Secret FIRE forces the REGULUS ANTIMONY&IRON to receive the Form of SOL, by its volatilisation and by putrifaction, and ultimately to cause a central union of the 3 principles in the black powder, and complete fixation and Regeneration in Tincture Alba.

Secondary qualities which derive from the matter such as Tenuity, subtilty of the matter, assist also, not that they act as principals, but as the Form does act by the prior and principal qualities, so these act with more power and better, therefore the matter acquires such a wonderful tenuity and subtilty, that it can quickly enter and penetrate our nearest matter and concoct it.

But both qualities, the primary as well as the secondary qualities, as they are accidents, they can be exalted by art, and by such an exaltation, the Solific form (the tincture) acts with more power after each exaltation, although that form itself remains the same. These are the principal Reasons of the efficient cause.

In perfecting any natural thing, species is the first and principal efficient cause.

Therefore the seed of LUNA generates LUNA and the seed of SOL generates LUNA & SOL in our nearest matter (REGULUS OF ANTIMONY & IRON).

The fiery quality (the secret FIRE) and the subtlety of the matter (Rebis) does assist, as an instrument the enforming Faculty, to dissolve the Form (SOL) (in Rebis) and to concoct it, by putrefaction, regeneration and fixation.

The internal power cannot act, if external heat does not assist the Internal, which would remain dormant and produce no effect. The external warmth multiplies the fiery qualities concealed in the sperm, by gentle decoction.

The external heat must move the internal efficient cause to dissolve and putrefy the mixture.

The Fire, whereof I have said, that it is an assisting efficient quality, is the CAUSE of dissolution. It separates the heterogenia and collects the homogenia, which is Argent vive.

In all the metals is a crude or indefinite Humid, which must be concocted and determinated, that it may be brought to the temper of LUNA and SOL, then it will be a perfect mixture. Perfection is obtained by concoction.

The matter out of which by the administration of art the seed of LUNA or SOL has proceeded, is Argent Vive, but not crude but concocted Argent Vive, that is fine LUNA or fine SOL, these must be dissolved and MERCURIALIZED, before you can come at the seed. This seed or sperm is hot and dry as every concocted concrete is warm. But vulgar Argent Vive which is our nearest matter, and which is contained in all the metals, is cold and humid, one more than the other; but when the Solific or Lunific seed is mixed with Argent Vive they unite easily on account of the nearly related origin, and by fusion in the FIRE they are mixed and operate because the fiery hot and dry qualities of the seed cause a reaction in the cold and humid qualities of the Argent Vive.

Heat in hot water is introduced externally, but in the seed or Tincture of SOL or LUNA, it is internal.

This is the cause, why SOL or LUNA in their own fixt nature, before they be mercurialised, cannot act in MERCURY although they

should be mixed therewith by a a a tum. But if you introduce the temper of LUNA or SOL into vulgar MERCURY, or into the MERCURY of Bodies (this is effected by introducing the fiery MERCURY of MARS into the MERCURY of ANTIMONY, when you make a REGULUS OF ANTIMONY & IRON) then a reaction will take place, and the mixture will perfectly succeed, and the form of LUNA or SOL will be introduced and a tinged metal will be obtained.

Now if you wish to choose vulgar argent vive for your near matter, as a part of the Solific or Lunific Seed, it must not be used such as it is, when it comes from Spain and as it is sold, because in that state of crudeness it would be too disobedient to the SOL or LUNA, on account of its humid, cold, crude and indetermined humidity, and therefore it will take a long time, as there have been some amongst the Ancients who have made use of vulgar argent vive, but could not absolve their work in less than three years or two at least, yet this even could not be accomplished but by the following methods.

Such common argent vive must first be depurated of all its superfluous humidity, but so that it keep its natural fluidity, and then it may be united with either SOL or LUNA, and such a MERCURY is then called animated argent vive.

Now as in animal bodies the anima, Life or Spirit is the principle and cause of heat, so is SOL or LUNA the principle of heat in argent vive, which otherwise would be too cold, and could effect nothing; but the animated argent vive as it conceals in itself the form of SOL or LUNA, and actually does possess, it is better than vulgar argent vive and is the nearest matter to SOL and LUNA and can by itself, only by assistance of external heat, in a little time be digested or transmuted into SOL or LUNA. (This Philaletha does confirm the same in Secrets Revealed).

The most ancient Philosophers have discovered 2 ways to effect this animation and conjunction .

The first Way was, that they be conjoined or united with LUNA

or SOL by an easy yet philosophical process, with vulgar argent vive, or with argent vive of bodies, so firmly that those 2 could not be separated from each other by the FIRE, which they then chose for their genuine Argent Vive. But this they have, as the principal part of our art, concealed with the greatest care, and when they came to the solution, they said that the hardest work was done, then they have added LUNA or SOL and brought the whole to perfection, as you will find by that which follows. (The perfection or imperfection of the perfect or imperfect metals does not consist in their external EARTH or sulphur but depends on the internal MERCURIAL substance, and according as that MERCURY is crude or digested so is the metal imperfect or perfect and pure, and not as it contains more or less sulphur, quartz or faeces, because they can all be separated from the perfect metals, and their central purity is manifested; on the contrary those impurities stily adhere with the imperfect metals, so that one is iron, another copper, another lead & etc. and as they are all useful, God has ordained it so).

The Second Way of Animation and solution, which is accomplished by artificial conjunction, was, that the ancient philosophers reduced the precious metals SOL & LUNA to a vegetating nature, either by means of pure vulgar Argent vive, i.e. by animated MERCURY, which they named THEIR MERCURY, in a longer or shorter time, so that their LUNA or SOL vegetated visibly in the glass, and exhibited a little forest, which grew upwards like pretty little trees, with branches and leaves, from which phenomenon it has been called Lilly, and Hermes his Tree, that is Vegetating SOL, and Hermes himself has called such SOL the Flowers of SOL. This Tree they have fixt and perfected, when they took vulgar yet highly pure Argent Vive for their nearest matter, by subtil manegement of the FIRE on which this whole art mostly depends, in one Year, but by means of animated Argent Vive, which they have called their antimonial Argent Vive (Artephius) they have sometimes accomplished their work in 3 months time.

When they had accomplished this, they have said that they now possessed the greatest Treasure in Nature, and truly it is no otherwise, as I have seen it, with one of my good friends, therefore I write this from true experience, and so I send it to you.

This they have called their Sal alcali, Sal ammoniac, their arsenic, ashes of ashes, sulphur of sulphur, and the secret of Art; (i.e. REGULUS OF ANTIMONY & IRON) and this is the genuine MERCURY of the philosophers, not of the vulgar MERCURY, this is the WATER of SOL, and the Seal of Luna (the sealed fountain of Count Bernhard) and the true Medium to unite the Tinctures. This has the nature of the superiour and inferiour, and is the Medium between the cold and warm, and between the humid and dry.

(This Medium seems to me to prove, that this author has made use of the Secret FIRE).

(soft and hard, fixt and volatile, cold and warm, humid and dry).

This is the genuine undoubted solution of the philosophers, on which the foundation does rest, this is the true sublimation and Calcination of the Philosophers, whereby the philosophers SOL (IRON in the REGULUS OF ANTIMONY & IRON) and the philosophers Luna (REGULUS) are exalted in power and dignity above vulgar SOL and LUNA.

Therefore it is called our very sharp vinegar (Artephius) which converts LUNA and SOL into a Spirit, and this is the first part of their work. Afterwards they divided it, according to their pleasure in 2 parts, some in 3 works, although there are but Two, that is the work of Luna and the work of Sol.

Therefore they have said that they have comprehended Heaven and Earth, the Superiors and Inferiors the Coarsest and the most Subtil, in the Spirit and body (in secret FIRE and Rebis) Because in this Work is truly, what all the philosophers desire, the body of Luna and Sol (Rebis) converted into a Spirit, (i.e. volatilised) in which spirit the Elements are concealed, and this is the true and genuine Philosophical separation of the Elements, whereof all

the philosophical books make mention, but dark and obscurely, and without this separation very little can be effected in this Art.

In this our Lilly (Regulus of ANTIMONY & IRON) are contained EARTH, AIR, WATER and FIRE and this our separation of Elements is widely different from the separation of Sophists, who from dead matters wherein there is neither fixity or power, presume to separate the Elements, and such matters are Wine, Urine, and other things, which are dead subjects; VITRIOL, NITRE, and innumerable unmetallick Things, which have no communication with metallick natures, whereof you are to beware.

Because our WATER is made, so as to be permanent WATER which cannot be obtained but from a fixt everlasting Root, agreeable to Nature, because necessity requires that each Thing when dissolved by another Thing, should ascend and must be of the self same nature with the Dissolvent.

Gold and Silver are everlasting bodies, therefore the humidity or the WATER (the MERCURY) which is extracted out of them, by means of the MERCURIAL WATER (REGULUS OF ANTIMONY & IRON & SECRET FIRE, AZOTH) is permanent, and although this Treasure of Treasures surpasses all other Treasures, although our SOL does not appear therein by sight (i.e. IRON in the REGULUS and in Azoth) yet in its operation and effect it is centrally RED, nevertheless this our volatile Red SOL (the fiery MERCURY OF IRON) is not yet fixed, but can be fixt very easily in the Root of SOL & LUNA, when your SOL or LUNA has been reduced into MERCURY (i.e. has been volatilised) (MERCURIALISED).

Our Lilly (REGULUS OF ANTIMONY & IRON) is retrogradated (into Azoth) and afterwards united with the precious metal (SOL) by putrifaction and fixed in Tincture Alba et Rubia.

In this Retrogradation (when the REGULUS becomes a liquid, unctuous Azoth). The Second Work (of Digestion) commences as in the first work nothing else but the WATER (REGULUS OF ANTIMONY & IRON) and the subject of our Stone, (Rebis) has been composed,

which subject is Vegetable, Animal, and Mineral.

1. It is Vegetable because it grows and is nourished.
2. It is Animal because it possesses an animated living Spirit and as Hermes says the Wind carries it in its belly, that is our Spirit, called Magnesia (REGULUS OF ANTIMONY & IRON) carries the Soul of Sol and Luna (of Rebis) invisibly yet essentially in its belly.
3. It is Mineral because it is made out of the true Mines (ANTIMONY & IRON). Here now I have explained to you the Subject, the precious Gift of God, and the most subtil Way of the most ancient Philosophers by which you may understand, where the Philosophers speak the Truth and agree. And here I have unveiled to an intelligent mind where the Philosophers speak by metaphores and similitudes to deceive and confound the unwise and fools, so that you need not be misled any longer!

The first mentioned animated vulgar Argent Vive which is the nearest matter to SOL and LUNA can by decoction, in a particular way be perfected, but this costs much trouble, much time, and yields less profit.

But I admonish you and all lovers of this science to relinquish all particular Ways, as tedious and uncertain, but to pursue the genuine Universal way to obtain the true Tincture.

For such as by a particular way Work with Vulgar Argent vive animated, or with MERCURY of SATURN, JUPITER, VENUS, LUNA and MARS, to fix such a MERCURY by Concoction, they must with much trouble and labour first extract such a MERCURY of bodies, and must purify it of its superfluous humidity, as much as if it were vulgar argent vive, and moreover they must impregnate their MERCURY with the Form of SOL or LUNA, and all that is not yet enough, but is also necessary to impregnate the Form of SOL or LUNA with a fiery and active quality to be capable of acting in their MERCURY, and then they must perfect it by decoction.

But this is not the simple, near and natural way. Therefore I do admonish the Lover of our Divine Science to take pains and

learn to understand the ancient philosophers, what they have wisely hidden from the unworthy, and he will find that the true universal way is simple and easy.

The Philosophers have especially concealed 3 things; the Matter, the Efficient Cause and the Place.

The Matter from which Wheat is generated and multiplied is Wheat, the Efficient Cause resides partly in the grain of Wheat (the Germ), partly in the Sun's Light and Heat (oxygen) partly in the Air (oxygen), partly in the humour of the Earth (oxygen in the NITRE) and in Rain WATER, and Dew, (the same oxygen in NITRE, whereof the atmosphere is full, and impregnate Rain WATER and Dew, Snow, Hail and all the metheores).

The Place is well dunged, ploughed, harrowed or well prepared ground. Just so is it in our truly Natural Art. N.B. The Matter wherein the Aurific Seed is concealed, born and regenerated is Gold, highly pure, as the Ground is Our Animated Argent Vive (REGULUS OF ANTIMONY & IRON).

This Matter the Philosophers have called by the barbarous name of Rebis, because it is composed (ex vina Re) from 2 Things, which by long decoction are converted into one species (azoth and sophic MERCURY).

The Efficient Cause lies partly concealed in the SOL, and is its Central Light and FIRE (Ripley's FIRE of Nature) partly in our animated MERCURY (Ripley's unnatural FIRE; MERCURY OF MARS) partly in our internal and external Heat, which is compared to the Heat of Sun-shine, (Ripley's FIRE against Nature, i.e. the universal Agent of Nature specificated in sea SALT, in its concentrated ACID wherewith MERCURY is cleansed by sublimation, (Art-èphius p. 482) and converted into FIRE against Nature). (The place is the ground well prepared to receive the Seed i.e. REGULUS OF ANTIMONY & IRON).

The Place is also the furnace, called Athanor, wherein is placed the TRIPOS ARCANI, and the Glass containing the Matter. (he means the Tripod and the glass).

(Many philosophers have made use of a Tripod, in the room of sand or ashes. If you consider that the Glass when placed in a ring with 3 legs, standing in an empty cast iron pan, with lamp heat or any other heat under it, so that the heated air circulating round the ring and glass, your matter must of necessity receive a more equal heat all round, than when you place your glass in hot sand or ashes, when the bottom must receive the greatest heat, and the upper part much less, yet Flamel, Ripley, and Philaletha have used sand or ashes).

The humour in the ground mixed with WATER, assisted by the air and warmth of the Sun Beams, dissolves the grain of Wheat, which however neither dies nor putrefies, but swelleth and bursts open, and after this dissolution the Germ follows, which is nearest matter of the plant and future seed.

Now it groweth, is digested and multiplies, until finally it comes to maturity during the summer season by continual Solar Heat. During this time of maturation it passes through different colours and states. Apply this similitude to our Work.

Our Argent Vive dissolves the SOL (in Rebis) and when the dissolution is perfected, the Germ is generated, which is the nearest matter of the Solific and Lunific Seed, that is of the Red and White Tincture, which by continual concoction increases in strength, until it becomes finally a Red Massa, which is hard like a glass, from which circumstance it has been called Lapis or a Stone.

(This does not exactly agree with Philaletha and other philosophers, but it might have been so with him, from a different method of Working, or a different degree of heat, he seems to have passed over the White, which must precede the Red, and he has given so much heat at the end, so as to vitrify his Red soluble powder, whereby he must have lost the Glorious Medicine, which has happened to many. Philaletha in Secrets Revealed warns us not to vitrify the Red powder by too much heat).

You must break the glass, and take out the Stone, this you must beat to a fine POWDER and put it into a new earthen RETORT and lute it, and let it stand 8 days and nights in a charcoal FIRE in a calcining not melting heat in a still FIRE, and the matter will increase in Redness and will become a deep purple Red, like coagulated blood.

A blackness will settle on the bottom of the CRUCIBLE, which must be separated and thrown away, (this proves what I say, he has forced the work by too much heat, and has burnt part of the matter, especially during his Calcination in the CRUCIBLE). if we rightly proceed we can have no CAPUT MORTUUM.

During the time of decoction, we see as many colours as there appear in Flowers and plants, yet the Artists notice only 3 principal colours, viz. Black, White and Red.

When it arrives at the White it is called the Argentific Seed, which has the power to transmute every MERCURY into pure LUNA, but when it is brought to perfect Redness, it is then the Aurific Seed.

In this Work we do not want many furnaces nor vessels, one furnace and one glass is enough.

We only make use of SOL and our Argent Vive.

With one ounce of SOL at most you have enough for Life, and afterward there is no need of adding any more SOL, and the Work requires not much care, when once it is inclosed in the glass, it is never moved until the last perfection by decoction is obtained.

And you have nothing to mind but the Fire, you need not to be hindered in your usual occupation, and no body need to know what you are doing.

This powder, the Argentific or Aurific, after it has been once perfected, it tinges from that moment 200 and more parts of Argent Vive into LUNA or SOL, according as the Stone is, White or Red and constringes the MERCURY in an instant, and your LUNA or SOL

in the SOL, after the SOL has been dissolved in its own proper humidity or Argent Vive (REGULUS OF ANTIMONY & MARS) by a slow temperate decoction, and this fiery quality although pre-existent in the SOL, laid dormant, but by solution and concoction is rendered active not otherwise than that power which lays concealed in the egg, also which afterwards by the warmth of the sitting hen, is stirred up or excited (Pontanus) and the Chick is formed which is more noble and more perfect than the egg. In the same manner this our Aurific Seed (TINCTURE RUBEA) is much more noble and glorious than the SOL from which it has proceeded. Although the SOL had before a power of multiplication in possibility, and as much FIRE as it wanted for its own existance or perfection, yet it possessed no faculty of acting beyond it, therefore it cannot perfect the mixture of Argent Vive or other imperfect metals, so as to exalt them, as the Aurific or Argentific Seed (i.e. the Red or White Elixir) can do, which possesses both faculties of possibility and of action.

But it is still more wonderful, that such fiery powers and qualities, by a Reiteration of the Work, can be augmented or multiplied infinitely.

When once you have produced this Aurific Seed (Tincture Rubia) out of SOL, and you mix it de novo with its own Humidity (REGULUS OF ANTIMONY & MARS) in the right proportion, dissolve that Seed therein as before and in temperate heat decoct it, it again is converted but in a shorter time, and with an augmentation of its former power, into a deep Red Powder, and the oftener this work of multiplication is repeated, the quicker, sooner and easier it is absolved, each time with a more powerful operation, because homogeneous metallic mixts, when they are de novo dissolved and united, they obtain each time greater power and virtue than they had before, when they were combined but once. A similitude taken from FIRE, which is multipliable by its own invisible principle and fuel to infinity.

is equal in virtue or quality to any fine LUNA or SOL, nay even finer.

(The Author mentions here that he only uses SOL and our Argent Vive, i.e. he only uses Rebis, REGULUS OF SOL, The Question is, whether this can be done? Should it be feasible, then you have here the Brassfounders process at once, as appears from his conversation with Dr. Helvetius, when he said to him "Know that the Chalybs of Sendivogius is that very metallic Mercurial Humidity, wherewith we can, without using any Corrosive, in an open CRUCIBLE, extract the tinging Rays and separate them from the bodies of SOL and LUNA, and afterwards refix the volatile TINCTURE.

I do not conceive that this Authors Red TINCTURE immediately after its first perfection, without being melted with SOL, should immediately, as he asserts, transmute 200 and more parts of MERCURY into SOL, whilst all other Philosophers mention only 10 parts. It seems in some places, as if he had made use of the secret FIRE with Rebis, but here he says distinctly that he only made use of SOL and his Argent Vive (REGULUS OF ANTIMONY & MARS) if this can be done without adding the secret FIRE, then we have to consider:

1. That the REGULUS ANTIMONY & MARS cannot act in the SOL, except the matter is kept in constant fusion, then a Reaction must take place, and the stronger will conquer the weaker.
2. Without the Universal Agent in the marine acid in the secret FIRE, we must miss the glorious Medicine, although an excellent Medicine may be obtained by infusing the Red Glass in White Wine or in S.V.R.; this the Brassfounder possessed.

This however is so weighty that it well deserves a serious thought, and some experiments).

S.B.

The Cause of this wonderful effect in the Transmutation is that fiery quality in the SOL (FIRE of Nature) which has been multiplied

It appears that I have wrote more than I intended, concerning these great matters, yet I am not sorry that you should obtain a fundamental and just knowledge of Our Art, and that you may get clear of sophistry and be able to distinguish the Truth from falsehood.

Although I could say much of the practique, of the true way, of the beginning, middle and end of this Divine science, yet I thought it necessary to write this Theory first and send it to you.

First that you might by this comprehend the practice the better, secondly that I might be sure, that these my writings have come safe into your hands. Whoever has this Writing and comprehends my meaning, to him the Door is already opened, and has no need to wander about in darkness or in doubt. I deny not, that in this present Century (1600) new and shorter processes have been discovered to arrive to the desired end, but I assure you, those shorter ways are subject to much more uncertainty, trouble and expence, and cannot be multiplied like the simple works of the Ancients, who travelled slowly but safely. Therefore I finish here the method of the Ancient Philosophers.

There is another later way, also proceeding from the ROOT (SOL) and first Matter (REGULUS OF ANTIMONY & MARS) but this principle consists in 3 Principles, viz. in MERCURY, SULPHUR and SALT, and here is the difference, that the ancient philosophers obtained their end not by using the FIRST MATTER, but only the SECOND AND NEAREST MATTER, in regard of the mixture, as they did not know THE VERY FIRST MATTER. The more modern philosopher has an advantage here that he has discovered THE FIRST MATTER OF ALL THINGS, (oxygen in the secret FIRE) which he found to consist in 3 principles MERCURY, SULPHUR and SALT, and by these means he is also arrived at the desired end, in a shorter time, yet following the process of the ancients (with 2 principles, as I have said and done) in the second work of digestion, but not in the first Work of Solution.

This I have from a sincere heart communicated to you, with earnest request, you will keep this as a secret for yourself, and not publish it.

(The author means to say that those who work with 3 principles have followed the Way of the Ancients in the Second Work of Digestion, but not in the first Work of Solution).

Finis.

A Translation of a few Sentences from different Authors quoted by Dr. Becher in his Concordantia Chymica.

p. 188. Soloman's Song. Chapter 4; vs. 12. A garden inclosed is my sister, my spouse. A Spring shut up, a fountain Sealed.

Although the prodestant Church and the Clergy, even Dr. Luther himself explain Soloman's Song to represent Christ and his Church, I say it is false, Soloman never thought of Christ when he wrote that song, or in that same song he would not have related how many women he had in his Harem, Ch. 6. vr. 8., there are 3 score queens and 4 score concubines and virgins without number. This has very little connection with Christ and his Church, Soloman wrote that song, which is an Epic Poem in Hebrew, to celebrate the Grand Work of the L. P. with this Work he has intermixed by way of metaphore the Beauties of his beloved and favourite Sultana, probably a daughter of Pharao, King of Egypt, Ch. 7. vs. 1 & 2. smelleth a little of Bawdy, very ill adapted to Christ and the Church.

In Lady Mary Montague's Letters you find a pattern of a Turkish Love Letter in the same Eastern style, as Soloman's Song. So we will leave fanaticism to the preachers and return to common sense and sound philosophy, especially when we find expressions that are used by other Alchemical philosophers and Adepts, "The Inclosed Garden (see Flamel) is the Glass." Sister and Spouse of Sol is REGULUS OF ANTIMONY & MARS, the Spring Shut Up is MERCURY SUBLIMATE, the Sealed Fountain is REGULUS OF ANTIMONY & MARS, see Ripley Revived and Count Bernard Trevisan, and other philosophers.

Ch. 4. vs. 16., "Awake O North Wind! Come Thou South! i.e. begin with a gentle heat! See De la Brie.

What business has this with the Church of Christ?

"Let my beloved (SOL) come into his Garden & etc.

" 190. Soon after the conjunction in the glass, it begins to turn black, and the second true solution is at hand, and this is a certain taken that the Work will proceed rightly.

BONELEUS. In 40 days and nights the upper part will be Black and fluid like pitch, and this is a sign that the YELLOW BODY in the bottom (SOL) is truly converted into MERCURY.

THEOPHRASTUS. Let the matter stand in the anthanor until of itself without adding anything, it begins to dissolve per se, on the superficies of the matter, and a little Island appears in the middle of the Ocean, this Blackness is the Bird, which flies by night time without wings, which Bird is converted into a Raven by the Dew, which ascends and descends almost imperceptibly, yet continually.

ALANUS. Do not think that this TINCTURE is extracted all at once or in a short time, no! But only a little and by little imperceptibly day by day blacker and blacker, until in a long time perfect Blackness is obtained.

Soloman's Song Ch. 1. vs. 5., I am black but comely, vs. 6., look not upon me (do not dispise me) because I am black, because the Sun (gentle heat) has looked upon me. & etc. (denotes putrefaction).

TURBA PHILOSOPHORUM p. 192. When temperate heat does act in humid MERCURIAL bodies, it generates blackness, whereby the Germ of your Stone is generated; and when 30 days have passed, we have seen the Redness of the Carbuncle which is our Adrop, Uziphur, and our Red Lead. (Ripley has borrowed this very same expression from the Turba Philosophorum).

Soloman's Song Ch. 2. vs. 10. My beloved (SOL) spoke and said unto me, rise up my love! My fair One! And come away! vs. 12; The flowers appear on the Earth. (my Love, my fair One is R. Alba) The Winter is past, (i.e. putrefaction in blackness is passed) the Rain is over, (i.e. the Circulating Dew or Azoth is dried up) the flowers appear, (i.e. the beautiful Colours appear before perfect Whiteness is obtained).

Vs. 13 & 14. Arise my Love, my fair one and come away! O my Dove, that art in the Clefts of the Rock, let me see thy Countenance, thy Countenance is comely. (The King watching his Work attentively sees the approaching glorious White Tincture, shining like Oriental pearls).

p. 193. Caesar longinus of the War of the Serpent Python(MERCURY SUBLIMATE with Phoebus; SOL in Rebus).

There was a terrible lightning between the Elements, and the Water (Azoth) covered the whole Earth. Rebus and MERCURY see Noah's Flood in Ripley.

But our strong Giants (MERCURY SUBLIMATE AND THE REGULUS) continued fighting without remission, night and day, whereby the humidity was all dried up.

"Those Giants fought our wonderfully small Dwarf, (the SOL in Rebus, who is the smallest or least in weight: only the $1/7$, the $1/4$, the $1/10$, or the $1/12$ th. part of the whole, according to the different proportions of different philosophers, such as Aurelia occulta, Senior, Lullius, Ripley, Flamel & etc. But our Dwarf, by a miracle of God, conquered at last, caught the Giants and bound them. (SOL fixt the whole).

ALANUS p. 191. The putrefaction of the body is the beginning of our work, and is effected by gentle heat, for this reason that it may not descend, because as often as it ascends, a separation of MERCURY from the body takes place, which must not be until the MERCURY (REGULUS) and the Anima of SOL, are united, and perfectly conjoined in One Essence, in perfect blackness.

VENTURA. p. 196. It is necessary that your putrid black matter be washed and purified, and the longer the water stands on the EARTH the more the EARTH will be purified.

p. 197. When the Matter is become White, then the Spirit (MERCURY SUBLIMATE) is coagulated with the body, you must wait a long time before that Coagulation, resembling fine pearls, takes place.

ROSARIUM. When you see that Whiteness appear, supereminent

above all other colours, then you may be certain that Redness is concealed in that brilliant whiteness, then you need not take out that whiteness, but you may boil your egg, until it becomes Red, and truly Red, because the more Red it is the more it is worth. And the more it is boiled, the more it is worth.

CHRISTOPHORUS PARISIENSIS. Therefore proceed with the Philosophical FIRE (AZOTH) until Whiteness is past, and until after some Citron Yellow Colours, a Red Colour follows like Scarlet, which is the highest Tincture Alba, and although you have this Colour nevertheless let the Glass stand 6 weeks or 2 months longer without opening it, and it will become more beautiful and deeper coloured, and richer, and you are the more sure of perfect Fixation.

ISAACUS HOLLANDUS p. 108. If you work with a small FIRE especially in the beginning, the matter does better retain its own humidity (MERCURIAL).

The Matter is not congealed into a hard stone, like a glass or crystal, which is melted in a violent heat, but it must be congealed into a soft POWDER, which flows like wax over a small heat.

He that governs his matter by a gentle heat, he can come to that mystery and his matter will not be vitrified, and will always remain soluble in every stage, of the Work. But by a violent heat the matter is vitrified, indurated so that it loses its solubility except you know with a great deal of labour, to restore it.

ARNOLDUS DE VILLA NOVA. O Ye unlearned Artists! Why do you raise such a violent heat? In a violent heat the Matter is destroyed and vitrified. All philosophers have said, beware of vitrification! Because it does not belong to our Stone to be Vitrified. Therefore roast him gently in all his changes, and you will get the science, and if you act otherwise, you will not enjoy the fruit of your Labours. SOLI DEO GLORIA.

Finis.