

4 July 1804.

Chenevix, Richard, 1774-1830

[Dresden]: [s.n.], 1804

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June 26.

Dresden —

Dear Sir

I have received yours of the thirtieth of April but delayed answering till I could accompany it by a paper which I intended forwarding for this year to the Royal Society. However I found that it was impossible to get it ready as soon as I expected, and I have sent it to Mr Knox with some other things and he will take care to have it in your hands before November. The subject is again Galadain. I answer the attacks that have been made upon me and then confine myself to proving that mercury is fixed by Platina. I have in fact divided the subject into three heads: first, the general proposition that metals are capable of forming an affinity upon each ^{other}, so that the properties of one or more when in the same solution may be so altered ~~that~~ that they can no longer be recognized. 2^d Make one case of this proposition and substitute Platina and mercury in the room of the general terms. I can prove as plainly as I can what follows by mercurial acid, that mercury can be fixed and retained by Platina after

The alloy has been fused, and the fusion requires as strong a heat as I could
produce in a very good wind furnace. The third consideration is Palladium.
This I have not ~~ventured~~ ventured further upon nor shall I till I return
to England — — Then this moment received I Charles Blagden's letter
in which he mentions his having told you of my intended medal for the
best paper on Palladium. My paper will not in the least interfere
with that as the object of mine is somewhat different. I have no
objections to the terms you state, but I wish to render that competition
as general as I can, and that the author may not be known till his paper
is approved of. It will be necessary to state in what languages the
candidates may write, I suppose any of the living languages, at least
of the European. Of course all personality toward the author of
Palladium must be avoided. In my paper I have been as moderate as I
could against him; because, by irritating him, I might prevent his
coming forward in any shape. I am uncertain whether it should be
stated for the best paper on Palladium or for the best paper on the
combination of Platinum and mercury. If it be for the best paper on
Palladium a paper which merely gives the greatest number of its properties

and with the greatest accuracy, may be the best, without any attempt ¹²³ towards
its formation. If it be for the best upon the combination of Platina and
mercury, this may be formed without attaining the formation of Palladium.
Both these objects should be united and the impetus of investigation
should be given in that direction, for if any doubts had remained in
my mind as to Palladium being a compound of Platina and mercury
my late experiments would have removed them, although I am not
one step nearer an infallible method of forming it. I suppose it

will be necessary to give Doct
Gray unlimited authority over
all commas and colons, at the
same time extending his jurisdiction

to its, ands and this. This I do with great pleasure, and hope that
his happiness will suffer no diminution through the abuse of the author.
If I intercede and buy his money towards words of higher value. Mr
Perguson is here and in a few days we shall go for Silesia and the Rhenish
Geberg together. It is not without hopes of visiting England very
soon and will thank you in person. If you will be so good as to
have a notice of the medal drawn up nearly in the same shape stated
and with the modifications I have proposed I wish them it immediately
inserted in all the French and German journals. There is at this
moment a dearth of scientific news, the latest is Pflavroth's mistake

about his new earth which he said was yellow and formed the napage from
 earth to metallic oxides. Piquetier has found that the yellow colour was

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Prague Jan 4. July 804

Right Hon. Sir Joseph Banks

John Square
 London

Dr Chenevix
 July 30
 Aug 1-9

means to know. What has hitherto distinguished Hapoi is that although like all
 Germans he is incapable of thinking, unlike them he seems to know it, and hitherto has
 not attempted it. I define a German thus. German is the napage from man to brute. Man
 is capable of manual and intellectual operations. Brutes incapable for the most part of
 either. German consists of the former, incapable of the latter. The children produced by Germans
 and other nations must be much and scarce stupid. As if they breed it must be accounted for by
 the tenderness solicitude of the mother who provides against the barrenness of her race by having a proper
 father. I have just seen the Abbe Mann at Prague who desires to be particularly remembered
 to you. He has a small collection of German coin which he promised to send me to be forwarded to Sir Joseph Banks. Believe
 me Sir in your most sincere R Chenevix