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## 4 July 1804.

Chenevix, Richard, 1774-1830

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

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Jan 26.

London —

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  
 was impossible to get <sup>it</sup> 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 hand before November. The subject is again Palladium. I answer  
 the attacks that have been made upon me and then combine 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 <sup>other</sup>, 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<sup>d</sup> 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 this 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 personalty 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 Platina 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 <sup>1143</sup> 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  
Ferguson is here and in a few days we shall go for Silesia and the Pomerania  
Gebirge 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  
earths to metallic oxides. Punguelin has found that the yellow colour was

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Prague Jan 4 July 804

Right Hon Sir Joseph Banks

John Square  
London

Mr Chenevix  
July 30  
1799



seems to be. What has hitherto distinguished Klaproth 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 men to brutes. Man  
is capable of manual and intellectual operations. Brutes incapable for the most part of  
either. Germans except of the former, incapable of the latter. The children produced by Germans  
and other nations must be mules and scarce stupid. As if they breed it must be accounted for by  
the tend or solicitude of the mother who provides against the barrenness of her own by having a proper  
father. I have just seen the Abbe Mann at Prague who desires to be particularly recommended  
to you. He has a small collection of German coin which he promised to send me to be forwarded to Sir Banks. Believe  
me Sir in your most servt R Chenevix