

tinguish the fire, not with water, but with a hurdle covered with turf and earth. As it grows cold, it becomes hard and shining, so that you cannot take it out of the pits, but by cutting it with an axe.

## IV.

*Of the Mines of Louisiana.*

BEFORE we quit this subject, I shall conclude this account by answering a question, which has often been proposed to me. Are there any *Mines*, say they, in this province? There are, without all dispute; and that is so certain, and so well known, that they who have any knowledge of this country, never once called it in question. And it is allowed by all, that there are to be found in this country quarries of Plaster of *Paris*, slate, and very fine veined marble; and I have learned from one of my friends, who as well as myself had been a great way on discoveries, that in travelling this province he had found a place full of fine stones of rock-crystal. As for my share, I can affirm, without endeavouring to impose on any one, that in one of my excursions I found, upon the river of the *Arkansas*, a rivulet that rolled down