

10. By it this world was formed.

11. Hence proceed wonderful things which in this wise were established.

12. For this reason I am called Hermes Trismegistus, because I possess three parts of the philosophy of the whole world.

13. What I had to say about the operation of *Sol* is completed.

In another tract "*Tractatus Aureus de Lapido Physici Secreto*," ascribed to Hermes, we find the following process for making the Philosopher's Stone:—

"Take of moisture, an ounce and a half; of meridional redness, that is, the soul of the sun, a fourth part, that is half an ounce; of yellow seyr, likewise half an ounce; and of auripigmentum, a half ounce, making in all three ounces. Know that the vine of wise men is extracted in threes, and its wine at last is completed in thirties."

The emerald tablet became the alchemists' Bible. Its mysterious sayings were interpreted and commented upon voluminously, and many an elaborate experiment was founded on them. And the quest was not fruitless. While they did not find the Philosopher's Stone, they found many other things which became useful to mankind in the arts and in medicine.

Towards the end of the 15th century the attention of the more earnest and reputable alchemists was turned towards the healing virtues of the products of their art. The art of making gold became more and more disreputable. The appeals to cupidity could not compete with the merciful science of healing. Before I leave this decadent period of the search for means of transmutation, I will give some specimens of the stories recorded. Mangetus in his *Bibliotheca Chemica Curiosa* relates circumstantially and on the authority of a clergyman of Geneva, M. Gros, 'of the most unexceptionable character and at the same time a skilful physician and expert chemist,' that about the year 1650 an unknown Italian came to that city and was introduced by the landlord of his inn to M. Gros as one who could show him the city. After a few days companionship the stranger complained of lack of money, much to the alarm of M. Gros, who anticipated a request for a loan. But the Italian asked to be taken to a goldsmith where he could have the use of bellows and other utensils. They repaired to a M. Bureau's who supplied them with crucibles, pure tin, quicksilver, and the other things required by the Italian. He left his workshop, that the Italian might be under the less restraint. M. Gros and a workman witnessed what followed. The Italian put a quantity of tin into one crucible, and a quantity of quicksilver into another. The tin was melted in the fire and the mercury heated, and poured into the melted tin, a red powder enclosed in wax being added at the same time. The melted mass became agitated and gave forth great volumes of smoke. When this had subsided, the melt was poured out into moulds and formed six heavy ingots of the colour of gold. The goldsmith was called in, made a careful examination of one of the ingots, and declared that he had never worked before upon gold so perfectly pure. They went to the mint and were given by the mint master Spanish gold coin in exchange for the ingots. The Italian shared the proceeds with his companions, ordered a supper, went out, but never returned, leaving behind him the greatest regret and admiration.