ed for their diſtinguiſhed eminence in ſcience.* In this inſtance, however, they appear complaiſantly to have ſubſcribed to *Mr. Hopkins's definition*, where he ſays, "Black ſalts are made by boiling down the leys from common wood aſhes, until they are perfectly dry;" and "Pot Aſhes are made by melting the black ſalts in a very ſtrong fire, and lading it out into coolers;" without the leaſt intimation that from the alkaline ſalt all others are to be ſeparated, to make the *beſt* of aſhes:—For, in the alkali alone is the excellence of Pot or Pearl Aſh. Indeed ſome have vainly imagined that by Mr. Hopkins's method of manufacturing, an actual *tranſmutation* of 25 or 30 per cent. is effected, and that the ſaline impurities are converted into genuine alkaline ſalt.

The gentlemen referred to, who gave Mr. Hopkins their certificate, could not entertain ſuch an opinion; for, although *tartar* is alkalized by fire, and *nitre* by the peculiar inflammability of its acid, when burned, leaves its alkaline baſis uncombined, yet the ſtrongeſt fire of a glaſs houſe has never effected the ſeparation of the vitriolic acid from its alkaline baſis in vitriolated tartar, or the marine acid from the mineral alkali in ſea ſalt. By force of fire they may both be melted, and perhaps evaporated; but when diſſolved, or condenſed, they are found the ſame, and may again be chryſtalized. No chemical fact is better known, or more thoroughly eſtabliſhed, than that the union of acids and alkalies in neutral ſalts, is too ſtrong to be in the leaſt effected by any ſort of earth yet known; therefore it is not to be expected that either the acid of neutral ſalts will be diſſipated, or any new combination will take place in conſequence of calcining them with the earth of wood aſhes.

Mr. Hopkins alſo ſays, that "Pot Aſhes made from calcined aſhes are allowed to be much ſuperior to thoſe made in the common mode."

However fair the Pot Aſh may be made to appear by the previous calcination, unleſs the neutral ſalts have been ſeparated, it cannot be equally as good as that which is properly made, becauſe it does not contain the ſame proportion of alkaline ſalt.

There cannot be a more deciſive teſt to evidence this, than to take a ſpecimen of each, and with the ſame ingredients, under ſimilar management, to aſcertain the quantity of ſoap they ſeverally produce.

* *David Rittenhouſe, Benjamin Ruſh, James Hutchinſon, Benjamin Say, Caſper Wiſter, jun. and John Pennington.*

FINIS.