time to draw it out. This part of the proceſs is per­formed by raking the ſalt to one fide of the pan into a long heap, where it drains a while from the brine, and is then filled out into barrows or other proper veſſels, and carried into the ſtore-houſe, and delivered into the cuſtody of his majeſty’s officers. And in this man­ner the whole proceſs is performed in 24 hours; the ſalt being uſually drawn every morning.

In the ſtore-houſe the ſalt is put hot into drabs, which are partitions like ſtalls for horſes, lined on three ſides and at the bottom with boards, and having a ſliding- board on the fore-ſide to put in or draw out as occaſion requires. The bottoms are made ſhelving, being higheſt at the back-ſide, and gradually inclining forwards; by which means the ſaline liquor, which remains mixed with the ſalt, eaſiiy drains from it; and the ſalt, in three or four days, becomes ſufficiently dry; and is then taken out of the drabs, and laid up in large heaps, where it is ready for ſale.

The ſaline liquor which drains from the ſalt is not a pure brine of common ſalt, but hath a ſharp and bitter taſte, and is therefore called *bittern;* this liquor, at ſome works, they ſave for particular uſes, at others throw away. A conſiderable quantity of this bittern is left at the bottom of the pan after the proceſs is finiſhed; which, as it contains much ſalt, they ſuffer to remain in the pan, when it is filled up with ſea-water. But at each proceſs this liquor becomes more ſharp and bitter, and alſo increaſes in quantity: ſo that, after the third or fourth proceſs is finiſhed, they are obliged to take it out of the pan; otherwiſe it mixes in ſuch quantities with the ſalt, as to give it a bitter taſte, and diſpoſes it to grow ſoft and run in the open air, and renders it un­fit for domeſtic uſes.

After each proceſs there alſo adheres to the bottom and ſides of the pan a white ſtony cruſt, of the ſame calcareous ſubſtance with that before collected from the boiling liquor. This the operators call *ſtone-ſcratch,* diſtinguiſhing the other found in the lead-pans by the name of *powder-ſcratch.* Once in eight or ten days they ſeparate the ſtone-ſcratch from their pans with iron picks, and in ſeveral places find it a quarter of an inch in thickneſs. If this ſtony cruſt is ſuffered to adhere to the pan much longer, it grows ſo thick that the pan is burnt by the fire, and quickly wears away.

In M. de Pagés’s Travels round the World, we find the following important fact. “I had been anxious (ſays that author) to aſcertain by compariſon, whether ſea-water contains felt in greater quantity under the torrid than under the other zones; and my experiments on this ſubject ſerved to ſhow, contrary to what I ex­pected, that ſea-water is impregnated with ſalt in leſs quantity within than without the tropics. ” Theſe ex­periments were made on a hundred pounds of ſea-wa­ter, taken at the depth of ten fathoms, and weighed in water-ſcales. M. de Pages has given a table of theſe experiments, from which it appears that 100 lb. of ſea- water in 46⁰ I2'' S. lat. gave 41/2 lb. of ſalt, and in 1⁰ 16"only 31/2 lb.; and that in 74 N. lat. it gave 43/4 lb. and in 4⁰ 22' only 31/2 lb. theſe being the higheſt and loweſt latitudes in which the experiments were made, and alſo the greateſt and leaſt quantities of ſalt.

***Duty* on SALT, is a diſtinct branch of his majeſty’s**

extraordinary revenue, and confiſts in an exciſe of 3 s, 4 d. per buſhel impoſed upon all ſalt, by ſeveral ſtatutes of King William and other ſubſequent reigns. This is not generally called an exciſe, becauſe under the ma­nagement of different commiſſioners: but the commiſſioners of the ſalt-duties have, hy ſtatute 1 Ann, c. 21. the ſame powers, and muſt obſerve the fame regulations, as thoſe of other exciſes. This tax had uſually been only temporary; but by ſtatute 26 Geo. II. c. 3. was made perpetual.

*Triple Salts,* a kind of ſalts formed by the union of three ingredients; the common neutrals being compoſed only of two. They are but lately diſcovered; and it is chiefly to the induſtry of Mr Bergman that we owe the knowledge we have of them. Sometimes we meet even with ſalts of four ingredients; in which cafe we call the reſulting compounds *quadruple* ſalts. The moſt remarkable of theſe complicated ſubſtances are the fol­lowing.

1. *Aphronitrum,* or mineral alkali, combined with a ſmall quantity of calcareous earth. The three ingre­dients here are fixed air, pure alkali, and calcareous earth. “This ſalt (fays Cronſtedt) is ſo ſtrongly uni­ted with the calcareous earth, that the latter enters with it into the very cryſtals of the ſalt; though, by repeated ſolutions, the earth is by degrees ſeparated from it, and falls to the bottom after every ſolution. ” Cartheuſer aſſerts, that, on throwing into its ſolution in water a fixed mineral alkali, the calcareous earth was precipitated; and on the contrary, by adding oil of vitriol, nitrous acid was expelled, and a Glauber’s ſalt produced; “from which (ſays M. Magellan) it is evident, that the aphronitrum is a triple felt ariſing from the combination of the nitrous acid with calcareous earth and mineral fixed alkali. ” Wallerius mentions three ſpecies of this ſalt; *viz.* one which contains only a mix­ture of calcareous earth with fixed mineral alkali. This, he ſays, is the aphronitrum of the ancients; but he thinks that it ought to be rather called *aphronatron,* as they beſtowed the name of *natron* upon the mineral al­kali. The ſecond ſpecies is that deſcribed by Cronſtedt under the title of *calcareous nitre.* The third is that de­ſcribed by Hoffman under the title of *aphrοnitrum janenſe,* into whoſe compofition the vitriolic acid enters. It is a kind of Glauber’s felt, and is frequently con­founded with it.

The aphronitrum of Cronſtedt is deſcribed by him as appearing on old walls and below vaults, or in places where it cannot be waſhed away by the rain. When it contains any conſiderable quantity of calcareous earth, it ſhoots into rhomboidal cryſtals, a figure frequently affected by the calcareous earth when it ſhoots into cryſtals: but when the aphronitrum is purer, it forms priſmatic cryſtals. From theſe circumſtances, M. Magel­lan thinks, that the aphronitrum is not only a triple but a multiple felt; as theſe pieces of old mortar, covered with this white froſt, on ancient walls, are the very ſame from which the ſaltpetre-makers extract the mother water of nitre; after mixing with it the vegetable aſhes to furniſh the alkali.

1. Common ſalt with magnefia, or mineral alkali, contaminated by muriatic magneſia. This is a com­pound of common felt with magneſia, and is very deliqueſcent, owing to the compound of magneſia and ſpi-