

so that nothing but the Metallick Matter remains at the bottom, which is afterwards put into the Fire in Crucibles, to separate the Quick-silver from it, which is done by Evaporation, for as for the Iron substance, that does not Evaporate, but remains mix'd with the Silver, which is the reason that there is always in Eight Ounces (for example sake) Three quarters of an Ounce or thereabouts of false Alloy.

The Silver when thus refin'd is carried to the Mint, where they make an Essay of it whether it be of the right Alloy, after which it is melted into Barrs or Ingots, which are weigh'd, and the fifth part of 'em deducted, which belongs to the King, and are stamp'd with his mark; the rest appertain to the Merchant, who in like manner applies his mark to them; and takes 'em away from thence when he pleases in Barrs, or else converts 'em into Reals and other Money. This fifth part is the only profit the King has from the Mines, which yet are esteem'd to amount to several Millions; But besides this, he draws considerable Sums by the ordinary Impositions upon Goods, without reckoning what he raises upon Quick-silver, both that which