

1. A Londoner acquainted wth Mr Boyle & Dr Dickinson, affirmed that in y^e
 work with \odot was not necessary ^{to} y^e \odot should be purified, but y^e Oyle or
 Spirit might be taken as sold in Shops, ^{without so much as rectifying it} that y^e \odot ^{is} ~~is~~ two or three pound
 will not afford above $\frac{1}{2}$ an ounce of salt & that y^e Oyle holds more
 salt than y^e spirit. ^{3a} That the white spirit ~~was~~ is in appearance like rain
 water, only sweet & fragrant & that y^e Dr Twiss's spt as I described
 it to him was genuine. ^{3c} That y^e \odot y^e white spt must be rectified 7 times
 from its fax without separating any phlegm from it. That y^e remaining
 matter for extracting y^e soule must not be calined to a red heat but
 only well dried least y^e soul fly away. That the spirit must be digested
~~fast 40 days on this~~ ~~matter~~ (not ~~as~~ ~~two~~ months, but only) till it appear
 well coloured wth y^e extracted soul. ⁵ That ~~the~~ ~~spt~~ when all y^e soul is
 extracted the remaining matter ~~is~~ must be put in a crucible ~~under~~
 covered wth a muffle or hollow cap of iron like ~~it~~ ~~is~~ a bowl in
 verted & a fire made ^{round} about them for an hour, wch cannot easily
 be to hot. Then y^e salt extracted wth y^e spirit & y^e matter calined
 again & extracted again as before till ~~no~~ ~~salt~~ ~~is~~ & so on till no
 more salt can be extracted. That when you draw off y^e spirit from y^e
 soul you must have y^e soul not thick like honey or butter but
 thinner then oyle so y^e you may pour it cleane out of your glass like
 a liquor & that ~~it~~ it will keep better when too moist then when
 too dry, & therefore his safest to err on that hand there being no danger
 in keeping it too moist. That he digested the imbibed y^e first salt first
 wth an 8th part of y^e spt [perhaps 8 or 10 times] & then wth an 8th
 part of y^e fluid soul, ~~till~~ ~~it~~ [perhaps 7 times] till it flowered wth an
 easy heat but in cold congealed & grew hard. And then he digested
 it & it past through y^e colours black, white citrine & red.
 That it never putrefied but in y^e first decoction. In y^e multiplication
 it did not putrefy. That is fermented by ~~mixing~~ ~~it~~ wth Gold.
² That the fire does not destroy the life of the Oyle or spirit of \odot
^{3b} That y^e white spirit in rectifying will endure any heat without
 losing its life. & that if in y^e digestion through black white citrine &
 red the fire should go out for a while the matter would not thereby
 lose its life or motion but go on still when y^e fire is kindled
 anew. That in y^e beginning of y^e decoction the matter fumes up
 like a cloud as is described in y^e process of God. Rbe. That when y^e
 3 principles are joynd the menstruum is a notable one, y^e then dissolves
 & volatilizes all metall & that Gold dissolved & volatilized by it may be
 digested wth it to y^e end. ⁶ That when y^e first salt is imbibed wth y^e
 white spt ~~it~~ ~~is~~ to become volatile is not necessary to sublime it. For
 all is pure, & if in y^e sublimation any thing should remain below, that
 would not be a heterogeneous impurity to be rejected but ~~an~~ ~~unripe~~
 part of y^e matter wch by further imbibition would be ~~all~~ ~~improved~~ &
 volatilized like the rest. That if in imbibing you should ^{at any time} use too great
 heat all the hurt would be ^{the} loss of so much matter as sublimed
 & dries upon the upper part of your vessel. That in every imbibition
 Re let y^e ~~matter~~ matter imbibed wth $\frac{1}{8}$ of y^e & continue in y^e cold for
 3 days y^e better to unite them & then digested them 4 or 5 days more.
 9. That y^e whole work is finished in 9 months.

552
The library of Emanuel Coll has been twice searched for y^e
Manuscript wch you desire me to consult. It was searched first by
M^r Lauglon & then by one of y^e Fellows of Emanuel College
but the Manuscript is not there.

Last autumn when I was in London M^r Pepys asking me about
the possibility of finding y^e Longitude at sea I desiring my leave
that he might say that I thought it ^{possible} feasible, I desired him not
to mention me about it least it might be a means to engage me
in it & reflect upon me if I did not compass it.