

THE
Natural History
OF
STAFFORD-SHIRE.

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To first Describe the Land, and bring the Description nearer to Mr. Joffratt's, &c.



OXFORD

Printed at the THEATER, Anno M. DC. LXXXVI.

times : But doubtless they both received these *impressions* the same instant, and that by *Lightening* too, which being of a very subtile nature (*Des Cartes* thinks like *Aqua fortis**) and solvent of the parts of bodies to that degree that it is said by the *Ancients*, to melt *Swords* in their *Scabberds*°, and *Money* in mens *pockets* w, did doubtless dissolve the parts of the *stone* (all being made of *Salt* and *Sulphur*) by consuming the Sulphureous parts, which knit the Saline ones of the *stone* together ; as it happens in the burning of *Lime* where the Sulphureous parts of the *Lime-stone* being burnt away, the Saline parts separate and swell to a greater bulk upon the access of *moisture* ; as I suppose these *Globes* did, being exposed to the *rains* and *mists*, that frequently happen at that time of year.

17. And here perchance by the way it may be no great digression, to enquire into the nature and efficient cause of those *Rings* we find in the *grasses*, which they commonly call *Fairy circles* : Whether they are caused by *Lightening*? or are indeed the *Rendezvouzes* of *Witches*, or the dancing places of those little *pygmy Spirits* they call *Elves* or *Fairys*? And the rather, because 1. a Question (perhaps by reason of the difficulty) scarce yet attempt-

* *Ren. Des Cartes Meteoror. Cap. 7. §. 9.* ° *Quod contigit M. Antonio Mureto Roma.*
 w *L. An. Seneca Nat. Quæst. Lib. 2. cap. 31, & cap. 52. Vid. etiam Plutarchum Sympos. Lib. 4. Quæst. 2.*

ed, and 2. because I met with the largest of their kind (that perchance were ever heard of) in this *County*: one of them shewed me in the grounds between *Handsworth Church* and the *Heath* being near forty yards *Diameter*; and I was told of another by that ingenious *Gent.* (one of the most cordial encouragers of this work) the *Worshipful Sir Henry Gough Knight*, that there was one in his grounds near *Pury-Hall* but few years since (now indeed plowed up) of a much larger size, he beleived near fifty, whereas there are some of them not above two yards *Diameter*; which perhaps may be near the two extremes of their *Magnitude*.

18. Nor is their difference only in the extent of their *Diame-ters*, they varying also in divers other respects, though not proportionably so much: for I have always observed that the *Rims* of these *Circles*, from the least to the biggest, are seldom narrower than a *foot*, or much broader then a *yard*; some as bare as a path way in many parts of them, others of a *russet* finged colour (both of these having a *greener* grass in the middle) and a third sort of a *dark fresh green*, the grass within being of a *browner* colour; the first kind seldom less than five or six yards *Diameter*, and the other two of various *Magnitudes*; And all these again, as well imperfect, as perfect; some of them obtaining three parts of a *Circle*, others being *Semicircular*; some of them *Quadrants*, and others not above *Sextants* of their respective *Circles*.

19. Now that *Wizards* and *Witches* have sometimes their field *Conventicles*, and that they dance in such *rings*, we have ample Testimony from divers good *Authors*, some of them *Judges*, who received it in confession from the *Criminals* themselves condemned by them, all agreeing (if to be beleived) that their *dances* were always *circular*, but that as they served a different *Master*, so they performed this *exercise* in a different *manner* from other *Mortals*; *Porro circulares esse omnes Choros qui sic agitantur, at-que ab averfis saltatoribus tripudiarum affirmant*, says *Nicholaus Remigius**, *i. e.* that they affirmed all their *dances* to be *circular*, their *faces* being turned away from one another; for which he alledges the *Confessions* of *Achen Weber*, *Johanna Gerardina*, *Dominicus Petronius*, *Hennel Armentaria*, *Anna Ruffa*, *Zabella* the Wife of *John Deodat*, *Odilla Gaillarda*, and many others; to which *Sybilla Morelia* it seems added another *circumstance*, that the *Circle* was always led to the *left hand*, as *Pliny* observes the ancient *Gaules* did, though they danced single, *totum corpus circumagendo, quod in Lævum fecisse, Galliaë religiosius credunt*†.

* *Nich. Remigii Demonolatriæ Sag. Lib. 1. cap. 17.* † *Nat. Hist. Lib. 28. cap. 2. vid. etiam Lucanum Belli Civilis Lib. 1. v. 450.*

was at length apprehended, and at last freely confest the whole matter, and discovered others of his *Companions*, as *Barbelia* the wife of *Johannes Latomus*, *Mayetta* the wife of *Laurence Super Major*, both which though examined a part, yet confest expressly in the same words, *de saltato à se averfis una cum intermediis Cornuipedibus choro*, &c. i. e. that they had danced intermixt with those cloven footed creatures at what time *Petter* was amongst them.

23. And for further evidence of the business *John Michael Herdsman* did also confest that while they thus danced, he plaid upon his crooked staff moving his fingers upon it, as if it had been a *Pipe*, sitting upon a high bough of an *Oak*; and that as soon as *Nicolæa* called upon the name of *Jesus*, he tumbled down headlong to the ground but was presently catcht up again with a *whirlwind* and carryed to *Weiller Meddows*, where he had left his *berds* a little before: Add hereunto (which is most of all to the purpose) that there was found in the place where they danced a *round circle*, wherein there were the manifest marks of the treading of *Cloven feet*, as plain as are made by *Horses* that run the *Ring*, as was testified by *Nickel Klein*, *Desiderius Vervex*, *Gasper Sutor*, and divers others that had been to see it, and were examined by the *Judg* as *Witnesses* upon it: which *circle* remained from the day after *Nicolæa* had discover'd the business, till the next winter when the *Plow* cut it out^b.

24. And as the *Devils* and *Witches* do sometimes leave the lively marks of their *dancings* after they have held such *Conventicles*, so *Athanasius Kircher* expressly acquaints us from the informations of *Cysatus* and *Schulzius*, that the *Viruli* or *Virunculi montani*, little *Pygmy Spirits* that infest the *Mines* of *Helvetia* and *Hungary*, do sometimes also leave the *prints* of their *feet* in the moist sand and soft tenacious earth of the *Mines*, about the bigness of the *feet* of *Children* of three years old^c: whence some men perhaps may think it probable enough, that some few of these *Circles* (especially the bare ones that have but little grass) may sometimes indeed be made by the forementioned mixt dances of *Devils* and *Witches*, and others by those little *dwarf Spirits*, we call *Elves* and *Fairies*.

25. Not that there are any *Creatures* of a *third kind* distinct from *Men* and *Spirits* of so small a stature, as *Paracelsus* fancied,

^b *Nich. Remigii Dæmonolatria Sag. Lib. 1. cap. 14.* ^c *Athanas. Kirch. Mundi subterr. Tom. 2. Lib. 8. §. 4. cap. 4.*

sometimes occasion such *Circles*; but herein every Man is left to choose his own *Creed*.

27. For my part though my faith be but weak in this matter, (notwithstanding it cannot be deny'd but the bad as well as good Angels may be Ministring spirits and converse with Mankind) yet if I must needs allow them to cause some few of these *Rings*, I must also restrain them to those of the *first* kind, that are bare at many places like a *path-way*; for to both the others more *natural causes* may be probably assigned: As first according to the opinion of the ingenious Mr. *Lister*, that at least some of them may be occasioned by the working of *Moldwarps*, which however for the most part irregular they may be, yet may have a time when perhaps by instinct of nature they may work in *Circles*; as 'tis certain *fallow Deer* do in the time of *Rutting*, treading the same *Ring* for many days together: indeed the strange fertility of these green *Circles*, even upon the most barren Heaths, beyond any place else about them, doth argue some extraordinary dung or compost, which he supposes to be the Excrements of *Moles*, or *Moldwarps*: others have fetcht their Origin from the *dung* and *urin* of *Cattle*

* *Viaggio de' l' Sign Ant. Pigafetta attorno il Mondo. tra gli Viaggi raccolti da Gio. Bart. Ramusio* p. 368. *Stampat. Venet. An. 1588.* ° *Joh. Bodini Mag. Dæmonomania Lib. 1. cap. 2.* ° *Dr. More's Antidote against Atheism, Lib. 3. chap. 7.*

fed in winter time at the same *pout* of hay, for their heads meeting at the *Hay* as the *center*, and their bodies representing as it were so many *radii*, has made some imagin that such *Circles* are described by their *dung* and *urin* falling always from them in due distance, and *fertilizing* the ground in a more than ordinary manner by the largeness of the quantity. Others again have thought them described by the *water* and some of the *Hay* it self, falling plentifully in wet weather from the *Eaves* of round *hay-stacks*, that have been situate within them, which rotting into dung thus fertilizes the Earth in a *circular* manner; and indeed 'tis possible that some of them may be made either of these ways.

28. But for the *Circles* mentioned §. 17. of this *Chapter* of 30, 40, and 50 yards *Diameter* (too too large for the situation of any *Hay-rick*, or to be described by *Cattle* feeding at a *hay-pout*) and some of them running through *hedge* and *ditch* as shall be shewn in fit place, we must seek for other *causes*: In order whereunto (having good opportunity in *New-Parks* near the *City* of *Oxford*, where there is always plenty of them) I thought fit to examin the nature of the *Soile* under the *Rims* of them, especially how it differed from the adjoining *earth*, and found by digging up several, that the ground under all of them, was much *looser* and *dryer* than ordinary, and the parts interspersed with a white *hoar* or *vine* much like that in *mouldy* bread, of a musty rancid smell, but to taste insipid, and this scarce any where above six inches deep, the *earth* again below being of its due consistence and genuin smell, agreeable to the rest of the *soils* thereabout.

29. Whence it being equally plain that I was no longer to enquire for the *origin* at least of these *larger Circles*, either from any thing under or upon the ground; it remained that I should look for some *higher principle*, and indeed after a long and mature deliberation, I could think of none nearer than the *middle region*; viz. that they must needs be the effects of *Lightning*, exploded from the *Clouds* most times in a *circular* manner; perhaps for this very reason by the *ancient Naturalists* called *fulmen discutiens*: which though of a viscous sulphureous consistence, yet taking fire and violently breaking the *Cloud* wherein it was pent, must naturally expand it self every way *obliquely*, for the most part in a uniform *conical* manner so as at due distance to become a *Circle* as in *Tab. 1. Fig. 6.* and in that *forme* to strike the *Earth* as may be seen sometimes in *arable grounds*, but chiefly in wide and open *pastures*, whether *Meddows* or *Uplands*, where *Trees* and *Hedges* interrupt least.

30. And not only in a *single*, but sometimes in a *double* and *treble Circle* one within another, as was lately shewn me by my
Worthy

Worthy and Ingenious friend *John Priaulx M. A.* of *University Colledge* in the field between *St. Giles's Church* near *Oxon* and the garden called *Jericho*: They are rarely also seen of a *quadrangular* forme, encompassed with another larger of the *Circular* kind, as in *Tab. 1. Fig. 7.* whereof there were shewn me no less than *two examples* by my Ingenious and observing friends *John Naylor* and *Hugh Todd M. M. A.* and *Fellows* of *University Colledge* in the same *St. Giles's* fields: which, yet may all be reconciled to the same *Hypothesis*; the former proceeding from *three* different *flashes*, the *second* widening the *orifice* of the *Cloud* more than the *first*, and the *third* than the *second*, and so consequently the *Circles*; the latter from the *Clouds* breaking first in a *quadrangular*, and after in a wider *Circular* forme as in the same *Tab. 1. Fig. 7.* All these *Rings* and *Squares* being greater or less in proportion to the distance of the *Cloud* from the *Earth*, and tenaciousness of the matter, and all appearing at first of a *ruffet* colour, the grass just then being singed with the *Lightening*; but the year following of a *dark luxuriant green*, the earth underneath having been highly improved with a fat sulphureous matter (received from the *Lightening*) ever since it was first striken, though not exerting its fertilizing quality till some time after.

31. Yet we must not esteem this improvement by *Lightening* to be so *natural* and *genuin*, as what is made by our ordinary *Compost*, for these only stimulat the principles of *vegetation*, whereas in this case the bonds of the *natural mixtion* seem to be dissolved, the parts of the body opened, and the true *spirit* of *vegetation* flying away, the *Salt* also and *Sulphur* (having lost the *spirit* which was their common *vinculum*, and preserved the *temperament*) endeavour a divorce, get into exaltation, and joyning with the adventitious *sulphur* of the *Lightening*, seem unnaturally to enforce this *luxuriant vegetation*, leaving behind them in the dry effete earth, that hoary white substance, of a musty soure smell, which I take to be the *faces* of both *sulphurs*; in which opinion I am the rather confirm'd for that the *Cattle* which feed in these *pastures*, unless driven to it by extream *drought*, will never touch this *rank* sort of grass, it not having the genuin tast of the rest.

32 And hence it is that so many *Borasco's*, or stormes of *Thunder* and *Lightening* have such effects upon *liquors*, as to make them *stink* and acquire a *soureness* viz. by opening the bodies of them, and leting flye that *spirit* that before secured the *temperament*, by restraining the *Sulphur*; which being also of a volatil nature and the principle of *odours*, geting into exaltation (in this dissolution or rather corruption of the *Compositum*) endeavours the like divorce and causes the *stink*; as the *Salt* in like manner freed from the

bonds of the *Sulphur*, gets at length the dominion and causes the *fournests*; which no question they likewise did under the *Rims* of these *Circles*, for having kept some of this *earth* by me but a natural day, it smelt just like the soure tappings of dead beer in a *Cellar*.

33. Yet that this is the true *Philosophical* account of them, I will not be so confident as firmly to pronounce; but for the matter of fact that they are caused by *Lightening*, I take it to be most certain, haveing not only observed them my selfe after *Thunder* and *Lightening* to be first *ruffet* and afterwards of a *dark luxuriant green*; but received it also from divers other sober persons of indisputable credit: more especially we may relye on the faithful testimony of one Mr. *Walker* a man eminent not only for his skill in *Geometry* but in all other *accomplishments*, who by chance one day walking in a *Meddow* amongst *Mowers* (with whom he had been but a little before) after such a storme of *Lightening* presently espyed one of these *Rings* about five yards *diameter*, the *Rim* whereof was about a foot broad, newly burnt bare as the colour and brittleness of the grais roots did plainly testify, which the year following came more fresh and *verdant* in the place burnt, than in the middle, and at mowing time was much taller and ranker grais than any in the *Meddow*¹.

34. If it be objected; that if *Lightening* causes these *Circles*, it must also be allowed that it descends *vertically*; which we know to be seldom or never seen. And that secondly if their *origin* be ascribed to *Lightening*, they must always remain of the *same* magnitude, never enlarging themselves to a *greater diameter* than they had at first; which yet we cannot but acknowledge some of them certainly doe; having not only took notice of the thing my self, but had it from others of unquestionable fidelity, that remarked the same in two of the *Circles* mention'd §. 17. of this *Chapter*: That at *Handsworth* having been observed for divers years by the Reverend Mr. *Ange Rector* of the place, who seriously told me that when he first knew it, it exceeded not 4. yards *diameter* at most, whereas when I measured it *Anno 1680.* it was increased almost to 40. haveing run through the *hedg* into another field: As that other at *Pury-Hall*, being in a field near the *River* (as I was informed by the aforementioned Sr. *Henry Gough*) so increased from a *smaller* to a *larger* extent, till at length it came to be of near 50. yards *diameter*, and to run into the *water*. If I say these matters be objected,

35. It must be answered first, that though it be true, that

¹ Communicated in a Letter from the ingenious Mr. Jessop of Broom-hall in York-shire, to my Learned and Ingenious Friend Martin Lister Physician at York, *Philosoph. Transact.* Numb. 117. p 394.

Lightening indeed seldom descends *vertically*, yet that it is as seldom found too that any of these *Rings* are *Mathematically* round, (unless they happen to be on Hills or Banks sides, which may be obverted in right Angles to any point of the Heavens between the *Zenith* and *Horizon*) most of them being rather of a *parabolical* figure, coming so much the nearer to a round, or receding farther from it, in proportion as the *Lightening* comes forth nearer or more remote from the *Zenith*: whence also it comes to pass that when *Lightening* is exploded (as most frequently it is) in an oblique Line, these *Circles* are imperfect, and that there are more *Semicircles*, *Quadrants*, and *Sextants* amongst them, than any other, according to the aforesaid proportion as the *Lightening* breaks forth of a *Cloud* more remote from the *Zenith*, or nearer to the *Horizon*; thus if it proceed from a *Cloud* not above 15. degrees above the *Horizon* the lower part only of the *circular explosion* will brush the surface of the *Earth* as in *Tab. 1. Fig. 8.* and will make perhaps but the *Sextant* of a *Circle*; if 22. degrees and $\frac{1}{2}$ above it, a *Quadrant*; if 45, a *Semicircle*; if 67 $\frac{1}{2}$, three fourths of a *Circle*, and so proportionably more or less in the *intermediat* degrees.

36. And as to their growth, though it press much harder than the former, yet the difficulty appeareth not so insuperable, but that it may be replied, that as the *Explosion* of *Lightening* when it first breaks the *Cloud* presses equally outward on every side, so 'tis like it may retain the same tendency after it has striken the *Earth* in such *Rings* as are intire, such being supposed to be made by streams of *lightening* descending in a *Conical* figure, and to strike the *Earth* in oblique lines on every side pointing all outwards, which possibly too infecting the *Earth* (for I look on them as a disease) with some noxious quality that may have somewhat of the nature of the *Herpes* ἐσθλάμενον, a sort of *Shingles* which *Sennertius* describes to be *Morbis, qui una parte sanescente, in proxima serpit, or Malum ubi medium sanescit, extremis procedentibus*, i. e. a Disease that creeps on in the out parts, the middle growing well; these *Circles* I say being infected thus at first from the *Clouds* with something of this nature, may continually perhaps extend themselves in the like manner.

37. Wherein I am the more confirmed, having observed some of the *imperfect Segments* of these *Circles*, especially the *Semicircles*, and such as obtain *threeparts* of a *Circle*, to grow inward in the *middle*, where the *Lightening* hath struck the *Earth* strongest, much faster than elsewhere, so as to render them on that side *irregular* and *crooked*, as in *Tab. 1. Fig. 9.* which had they not done might have been an unanswerable objection against this *Hypothesis* it being

¹ *Dan. Sennerti Oper. Tom. 3. Lib. 5. part 10. cap. 17.*

impossible indeed that such as these, made by a *circular explosion* of *Lightning*, that only brushes the *earth* on the lower side, the upper part vanishing in the thin *Air* should extend themselves otherwise. And thus much for these *Circles*, and enough too perhaps may the *Reader* say to break my promise so solemnly made in the first §. of this *Chapter*, of not enlarging to the utmost compass of my *theme*; but herein I do not doubt but *he* will easily give me pardon (as in all other *subjects* of the like kind) it haveing scarce ever been treated on before, by any other *Author* that I could either meet with, or hear of.

38. Next *Lightning* I proceed to the effects of *Thunder* that have sometimes happened in this *County*, which though not quite so *deplorable* as many mentioned by *Authors*, yet being as wonderful in *operation* as any of them, are therefore no less *remarkable*: That *Thunder* now and then proves mortal to *Animals*, where the *bolt* has fallen any thing near though it never touch them, is evident from what happened at the *Town* of *Uttoxater* Anno 1678. at the House of the worthy and most courteous *Gent.* the *Worshipful Thomas Kinnerfley Esq;* where the *bolt* piercing the roof of his new *Stable* and cleaving the *Timber* in several places, and passing through two *floores*, and so through a *Saddle* that hung by the *Walls* into the *pavement*, though it never touched *Mr. Wodenoth's* horse of *Rocester* then in the *Stable* (that could be perceived by any mark upon him) yet kill'd him out right: But that *Thunder* should mortally affect *Animals* at a great distance, and not near any probable fall of a *bolt*, is a much greater difficulty; and yet even this we find asserted from long experience, as I was informed by the forementioned worthy *Gentleman* the ingenious *Thomas Broughton* of *Broughton Esq;* who *June* the 14th 1680. haveing 15. dosen of *Crevice*s brought him by a poor man that made it his business to catch them, and finding the better half of them dead, made enquiry of *him* what the reason might be; to whom the *Man* gave this ready reply, that the late *Thunder* had done it, and that he had observed it to have the same effect on them divers times before; wherein I am very much inclined to believe *him*, haveing found it also at *Queenborough* in the *Isle* of *Shepey* in *Kent*, to kill their *Lobsters* in the like manner, and more especially those of the larger size, a fish so altogether *analogous* to a *Crevice*, that they seem only to differ in magnitude, and place of abode.

39. Now that the *Horse* was kill'd by the pestilential sulphureous *steam* that the *bolt* brought with it (as I suppose all other *Animals* are in the like *Circumstances*) is plain from the *Testimony* of the *Groome*, who had he not been near the *door* had hardly escaped it: But how the *Crevice*s should be thus secretly destroyed

where no such *stench* is perceptible, at least to human sense? is a much harder *problem*; nor can it be resolved but in such *general termes*, as that the *Air* is certainly indued by the *Thunder* with a peculiar quality that *pestilentially* affects the *juices* of these *Animals* so as to destroy their *temperament*; perhaps in the same manner as in §. 32. of this *Chapter*, which yet may not be perceptible to other *Animals*: Nay it has sometimes fallen out that a certain *Individual* of the same *species* of *Animals* ha's had a temperament so peculiar as to be violently moved by *Thunder*, though at a great distance, others of the same kind being wholly undisturbed, as is avouched to us by the Learned Dr. *Nathaniel Fairfax*, concerning one Mrs. *Raymond* of *Stow-Mercat* in the *County* of *Suffolk*, who when ever she hears *Thunder* even a farr off, begins to have a bodily distemper seize on her, growing faint, sick in her stomach, and ready to vomit, &c^s.

40. After *Thunder*, that which next falls under consideration, are other more uncommon *Meteors*, that have been observed here; such as that seen at a place called *Broad-beath* in the parish of *Seighford* between that and *Ranton Abbey* about seven at night near *Michaelmas*s time Anno 1676. by Mr. *John Nash* the worthy *Vicar* there; which at a distance (he told me) appeared like a great fire, but coming nearer, its forme and motion were plainer to him, it being of a *globular figure*, moveing by *jerks* and makeing short rests, at every one of them letting fall *drops* of fire, which were part of its body, for it decreased in magnitude the farther it went, and the oftner it dropt, so that it wholly disappeared at about 3 quarters of a mile's distance: which upon computation of *time*, and other *circumstances*, I take to be the very same mentioned in our *Philosophical Transactions* that was seen in so many distant places of *England*, *Sept. 20. 1676.* about the same time of night, *viz.* in *Kent, Essex, Suffex, Surry, Hamp-shire, Devon-shire, Sommerfet-shire, Gloucester-shire, Oxford-shire; Northampton-shire, Worcester-shire,* and (I believe I may add) *Stafford-shire*; whereof there being already so large an account given by the Reverend and Learned Dr. *John Wallis Savilian Professor of Geometry* in the *University* of *Oxford**, I shall add little more concerning it.

41. But that, notwithstanding it appear'd at *Oxford* and *Seighford* in somewhat a different shape, and motion; at *Oxford* somewhat long with a round knob at the end, and moveing equally swift; at *Seighford* *globular*, and makeing short rests; yet it still might be the same individual *Meteor*, which (not to mention the mistakes perhaps occasioned through the inadvertency of the surprized *Relators*) might possibly alter a little in so great a distance: How-

* *Philosoph. Transact.* Numb. 29. see more of the secret operations of *Thunder* Numb. 127.

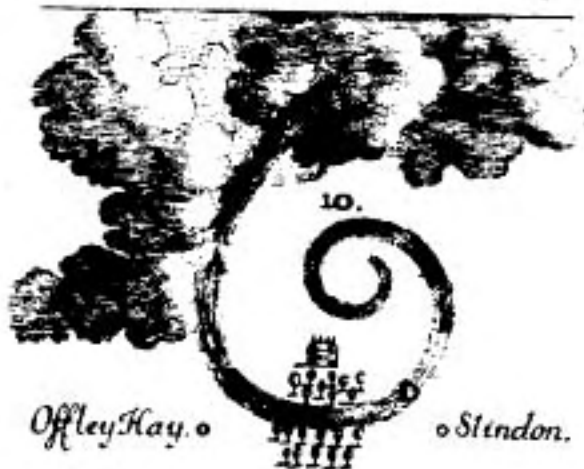
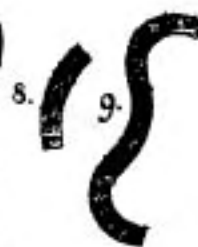
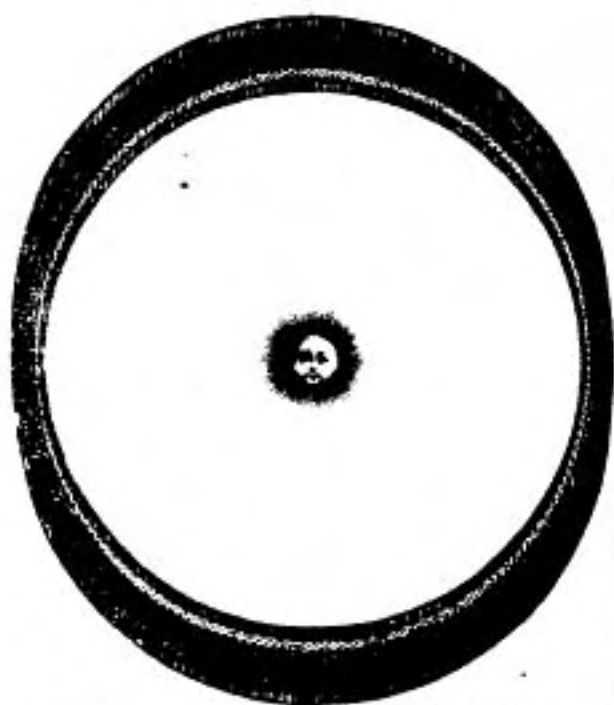
* *Philosoph. Transact.* Numb. 125. p. 862. 864.

ever the thing were, it was certainly no other than one of the *Meteors* called *Capræ Saltantes*, for I find them both of a *round* and *long* figure, and to be so called, not from any thing they have of a *goat*, but their moving by *jerk*s, somewhat like the lascivious *leaps* of that *Animal*, and the little *languets* of fire that hang at, and sometimes fall from them, which antiquity has been pleased to fancy like the beard, or locks of a *Goats* wool: These frequently fly so high (notwithstanding they seem very low) that *Meteorologists* have placed them in the *upper Region*, but have not so firmly fixt them there, but that they allow the like also in the *middle*, and *lower*: How *high* this might be is not easy to determin, but certainly it could not be very *low*, it being seen at so many distant places both in *Longitude*, and *Latitude*, so near the same time; which I presume that an ordinary *Meteor* in the *lower Region* could by no means be, though we allow its motion never so swift. Such a *Capra* it was that was seen about the bigness of the *Moon*, when *Paulus Æmius* waged War against *Perseus* King of *Macedon*, *Nos quoque vidimus* (says *Seneca*) *non semel flammam ingentis pilæ specie, quæ tamen in ipso cursu suo dissipata est*, i. e. that he also had seen a *flame* in the form of a great *ball* which disperst it self in its flight: such another he says was seen upon the departure of *Augustus*; another upon the *Tragedy* of *Sejanus*; and that the death of *Germanicus* was signaliz'd by another¹.

42. To which add another *Meteor* also of a *globular* figure, seen *Nov. 22, Anno 1672.* about 12. or one at night, not in *motion* but *stationary*, against the *West* door of *Wednesbury* Church, by the Ingenious *Mr. Miller* Vicar there, and two others in his *Company*; which shon so bright, that it gave them light (though a very dark night) at half a miles distance; where it continued for about $\frac{1}{2}$ of an hours space, and then of a sudden disappeared; whereupon there immediately followed a great *storme* of *Hail* and *Rain*: And of such as these we have also plenty of parallel Examples in ancient *Histories*, *Si minore vi mittuntur ignes, defluunt tantum & insident, non feriunt, nec vulnerant*, says *Seneca*, i. e. that many times these fiery *Meteors* only slide down and rest upon fit subjects, such as the *Masts* of *Ships* at *Sea*, the *Spears* and *Ensignes* of *Soldiers* at land; *Gylippo Syracusas petenti, visa est stella super ipsam lanceam constitisse*; in *Romanorum castris visa sunt ardere pila, ignibus sc. in illa delapsis*, says the same *Seneca*², that there was a fiery *Meteor* in the shape of a *Star* that fate upon the spear of one *Gylippus* as he was marching to *Syracuse*, and that the like were sometimes seen, to be fixt upon the *Favelins*, amongst the *Tents* of the *Romans*.

43. Nor want there *instances* of the like kind near our own

¹ *Idem* Source Nat. Quæst. Lib. 1. cap. 1. * *Ibidem*.



Offley Kay. o

o Stendon.

Burgh. sculp.

To the learned and
ingenious Gent.
FRANCIS WOLFERTON
of STAFFORD Esq.
This first Table consisting chiefly
of such matters as relate to his
owne observations, in memory of
his assistance is gratefully de-
dicated by R. P. L. D.

Erucica graeca tumida, a quantity of
§. 25.
Etocetum, an account of it. *cb.* 10. §. 15.

F

F *Airyas*, what they are. *cb.* 1. §. 24.
they are male and female. §. 25, 26.
Fairy-Circles, some 40 or 50 yards diameter.
cb. 1. §. 17.
the several sorts of them. §. 18.
sometimes made by witches and devils. §. 23.
the nature of the earth under them. §. 28.
the effects of lightning. §. 29. 33.
two rare sorts of them, and how made. §. 30.
their grass, why so green. §. 31.
why many of them so imperfect. §. 35.
that they grow. and why. §. 34, 36, 37.
Fasting, some very strange instances of it. *cb.*
8. §. 37, 38, &c.
Fawns, cast with such short lower jaws that they
cannot suck, prove all white. *cb.* 7. §. 63, 64.
Fences, some new kinds. *cb.* 9. §. 49.
Ferns, *vid.* *Mosses*.
Fingerstocks, for what use. *cb.* 9. §. 99.
Fire, a globe of it flying. *cb.* 1. §. 40.
another standing still. §. 42.
land improved by it. *cb.* 9. §. 4, 5.
Fire-stone, the best. *cb.* 4. §. 4.
Firrs, natives of England. *cb.* 6. §. 25.
one 47 yards high. §. 31.
others 76 yards high. *Ibid.*
Fish, breeding in Coal-pitts. *cb.* 7. §. 29.
travelling on the land. §. 32, 33.
that are dug out of the ground. *Ibid.*
their variety of feeding. §. 34.
that have lived after they have been swal-

a hedg of it. §. 84.

G

G *Arriels bounds*. *cb.* 1. §. 44.
Galls, of the Oak, have eggs in them. *cb.*
6. §. 55.
Game-Cocks, an instrument to match them. *cb.*
9. §. 94.
Gardens, some curious hedgworks. *cb.* 9. §.
85, 86.
Gavelkind, some account of it. *cb.* 8. §. 20.
Geese, with black bills. *cb.* 7. §. 2.
Generations, how many may be existent toge-
ther. *cb.* 8. §. 104, 105.
many living together in the same house.
§. 106.
Genii, how they appear. *cb.* 1. §. 26.
Geodes Dioscor. *cb.* 4. §. 11.
Glow-worm, the flying kind. *cb.* 7. §. 18.
Glum-metall, what. *cb.* 4. §. 4.
God, his most special presence, where *cb.* 9.
§. 58, 59.
Gold, form'd like trees. *cb.* 5. §. 19, 20.
growing in stalks amongst Corn. §. 43.
like threads about vines. *Ibid.*
Goose, with three leggs. *cb.* 7. §. 14.
Gorcock, or red game. *cb.* 7. §. 4.
Grassing, a new device in it. *cb.* 9. §. 90.
Grain, what sorts cultivated here. *cb.* 9. §. 30,
31, &c.
how secured from birds. §. 40.
Grapes, will change their colour. *cb.* 6. §. 18.
Grinding stones. *cb.* 4. §. 31, 34.
Grouse, or black-game. *cb.* 7. §. 4.
Gudgeons, breed in pooles. *cb.* 7. §. 30.