

The Athenian Mercury:

Tuesday, April 5. 1692.

A Scheme of Enquiries proposed to all Ingenious Gentlemen, and other Inquisitive Persons, containing Instructions in order to Form a Body of the Natural Artificial and Civil History of England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, with the Forreign Plantations thereunto belonging.

Since by the Universal spreading of our Papers we have very fair Opportunities to accomplish this our present Design, which though 'tis not so compleat as it may be, yet we shall gladly receive any other discoveries which we have not here specified, in order to so great and useful a Work: And herein we imitate the Conduct of Aristotle, when he compos'd his Immortal History of Animals, so justly esteem'd by the Learned World, which Piece was only the Result of Answers to his Queries dispers'd through Asia, by his Pupil and Patron Alexander the Great.

I. In the Regions of the AIR.

What Appearances, or Lights, Globes or Balls of Fire, Beams or Pyramids of Flame, Lights hovering on the Earth, or Flakes rising out, have you at anytime seen? where they most appear? what the Nature of that Soil, and that of the adjacent places? Whether any known Minerals there? of what kind, or how far distant they are dug?

What strange or unaccountable Noises? whether constant, or only at some certain Season? what quarter the Winds then are in, or how the Neighbouring Hills or Valleys are seated?

What remarkable Meteors are more frequently seen, as Haloes, or Luminous Circles incompassing the Moon or Stars? What Parhelias or Mock-suns, and when you most observe 'em? Rainbows, whether seen an intire Circle, or otherwise than opposite to the Place of the Sun?

What Tempests, Storms, Thunder, Lightning have been in any parts, and what Mischiefs or Damages have they done? What Colours are most usual in your Lightnings? if you have any certain Observations by which you may predict their happening?

What Winds are most familiar to each place, whether any dangerous or hurtful to Man, Beast, Tree, &c. What Caverns or Dens, from which (as my Lord Bacon affirms) streams of Wind perpetually break, and may be heard to rumble in their Bowels? Whether any Winds constant or regular, extending but to a particular Tract of ground? Whether any Anniversary, which blow always from the same Points in the same times of the Year, Circular or Whirlwinds? In general, what Weather attends each particular Wind?

What Rains extraordinary in quantity or colour, Hails, Mist, Dew, Frost, Heats, have you known, and what ill effects have they had?

What subterranean steams or Exhalations issue out of the Earth? Whether mortal, or any ways prejudicial to the health of the Neighbouring Inhabitants? Whether their Eruption be perpetual, or only at some certain time? What Diseases are incident to any place, supposed to arise from Minerals, as Gouts, Palsies, Cramps, Astmatick Coughs? What sort of persons most affected? Are there any Smokes or melted Bodies seen to ascend, as in Volcano's? or the ground actually hot? any Convulsions or Earthquakes, and what places have most suffer'd by them?

II. In Waters fresh.

What Springs have you, and whether ever, or when dry? What new ones, and what have ceas'd to flow? What Fishing do your Rivers most yield? What Salt-pits, what Medicinal Wells, or if Oaken Leaves bruised be put in, will they blacken? What Waters extraordinary warm or cold have you? or of any manifest taste, scent or Colour, as milky, blackish, green, &c. or with Oyls swimming on their Surface, or which corrode, eat or tinge any Bodies cast into them, convert them into stone, or otherwise harden or soften them? if so, what sort of ground do they run through? what colour do they leave on their Stones or Earth? and what use is made of them? what Salts or other Concretions do they leave on Shoar?

III. In Waters salt.

To all Ingenious Seamen,] What different Colours and Degrees of Saltness do you observe in different parts of the Sea? What several depths? whether near the Mouths of some Rivers, as is affirm'd it has been found fowerish or bitter? if so, which are they? What different Currents, Eddys? near what Capes different countse of Tides? What Species of Fishes are most common, especially in the four Seas; and what are their haunts? Whether the superficial or lower Water have any where a different Course, as some have advanc'd in the mouth of the Mediterranean? Whether in any remote Countrey inland Lakes are observ'd to rise and fall with the Sea, and whether above the level of the Water? To such who live near the Coasts,] what Sea-plants, whether any Coral found, which for Colour or Beauty may compare with that of the French of Marseilles or Thoulon, &c.

IV. Concerning EARTHS.

What sort of Ochres, Chalks, Marles, Clays for Tobacco-pipes, &c. what of any odd scent, Colour or Taste, and what Quantities? Any Turfs better than the common, fat and inflammable? Any Coal dug? Country mountainous, or what Hill considerable for Figure, Prospect, &c. What Minerals, as Salt-Peter, Allum or Copperas dug, or any Works for preparing these? What uncommon or odd Observation have you made on them?

Any

Any Brimstone, Antimony, Orpiment, Black-lead, Calamy-stone, Load-stone, Amber, do your Mines afford, and what other Minerals are generally in their Company?

What Lead, Iron, Oars, Flint-spars, Cawk, Tin-glass, &c. or other Mettals.

More particular Instructions with relation to these Heads, especially those of Mettals, Minerals, Earths and Stones, shall be given, as our future occasion shall require.

V. Concerning Plants.

Whether you know of any strange or unusual Plants, or Trees, extraordinary either in their growth, fruit, leaves, or time of Blossoming?

Are there any near you curious in Gardning? Do they find Mr. Evelyns Observations, &c. will hold in all parts of England, or all in the same Latitude? Have you any that study Insects, that know what are peculiar to different Plants, and whether the same Plants han't sometimes different Insects? Has any curiously observ'd the Diseases of Plants, their prevention or cure? especially of the Blebs or Blisters we find on the Leaves of many Shrubs and Trees? of those with Insects, or without 'em?

VI. Concerning HUSBANDRY.

What unusual Grains or Grasses do you sow in this Countrey? Have any found out any new Improvement of Arable or Pasture-land, or other Curiosity in Husbandry? any new sort of Plough, &c. and are their Inventions practicable, and more serviceable than the old? Any new way to preserve Corn from Weeds, Flies, Birds, Worms, Moles, &c? and whether there be any that you know of to keep it from blasting Mill-dew, &c? Are there any near you that have any peculiar way of Inning or Draining Marshes, Bogs, Fens? and any thing considerable done that way near you?

VII. Concerning ANIMALS.

Whether you know of any near you that are Curious Observers of Insects, and the Works of Bees, Silkworms, &c? Any who have observ'd their Origin, perfection, corruption, diseases and cures? Are there any Birds, Fishes, or Reptils peculiar to this Countrey, or any thing remarkable concerning them? Any strange Beast, Sheep, Horse, &c. of any unusual Quality, or mix'd Generation, or wonderful bigness, or any other Animal attended with any unusual Circumstances?

Whether you know of any strange Accidents that have befallen Men or Women? Any prodigious Births, numerous Off-springs, Hermophradites? Men or Women extremely alike, of prodigious Memories, of extraordinary Stature, remarkable either for excess or defect? Any that have strange Antipathies to Meats, Drinks, Animals, parts of Animals? Of unusual Sleep, or watchings, Night-walkers, (in their sleep we mean) Dreams or Predictions that have strangely come to pass? Of men of extream Age, of sudden Deaths, of any reputed Dead that have strangely come to Life agen? Any thing remarkable that attends a Family or single person in their Lives or Deaths? as Lights, or Noises, &c? any certain Apparitions? (but let these be well attested?) Any Ancient Sepulchres or Caves, men of Gigantick Stature? or any vast Sceletons or Bones of Men?

VIII. Concerning ARTS.

Is there any hereabout that has made any Improvement in any of the Liberal or mechanic Arts? in Physicks, Anatomy, Astronomy, Geometry, Arithmetick, Musick, Architecture? Are there any Buildings extraordinary, either in whole or part, Churches, Colledges, Town-halls, Conduits, Dwelling-houses of the Nobility and Gentry, Mills, Stair-cales, Chimney-pieces, Windows, &c? Any rare or curious Engine? Any person eminently curious in any Handicraft, and wherein his excellency lies?

IX. Concerning ANTIQUITIES.

Were there ever any ancient Seats of Kings in or near this place? Any ancient Priors, Nunneries, Abbies, &c? or any thing yet left remarkable concerning 'em? Are there the remains of any ancient Castles or Fortifications? Any old ways or Banks of Land still remaining? Any Barrows or ancient Monuments of Stone? Have you heard of any Parliaments, Councils or Terms held there? or was any old Episcopal Sees ever near you? Any Battles fought, any Armour found, or old Money, Urns, Lamps, Lachrymatories, Pavements, Bracelets, Rings, Seals, or other British, Roman, Saxon, or Danish Antiquities, and if you know in whose possession they yet remain

What strange and Immemorial Customs, what Houses of extraordinary Note, and whether any valuable Manuscripts any where near you? Or what else have you by you (of any kind) the publishing whereof may be either a Service to the publick, or to particular persons, which if sent, shall not fail to be inserted in this Undertaking, with our Thoughts thereon.

These are the Enquiries, with some few Additions that we've yet to make. These we desire the ingenious Reader wherever they may happen to come, maturely to consider, and to send an Answer to as many of 'em as fall under his own proper Experience and Knowledge, directed to our Bookseller at the Raven in the Poultry, whence with all convenient speed they shall be transmitted to the Press in the manner already describ'd, with such Improvements on the different Heads, as we can make either from our own Experience, or the best Authors.

The Questions sent this morning, shall be all answer'd next Saturday, with all those mention'd in our last.

Advertisements.

Whatever Oar, Mineral, Turf, &c. that may be suspected to have any sort of Mettal, or unknown Body convertible to use, they are desired to be sent with the place where found, and we shall endeavour to give the Querist all possible information of their respective Natures.

The Carriage is desir'd to be paid, and sent by the respective County Carrier, if it be any thing besides Letters; 'tis also desired that the postage be paid for all Letters, (for nothing will be received for the postage of which is not first paid for) that relate either to this New Project, or the Resolution of Questions, that so the Undertakers may not be imposed upon, nor discouraged in this useful Attempt. And always remember, that what you send be circumstantiated with the Name of the County, Town and Place you send it from, and of the particular Persons concerned, when the case requires it.

The Supplement to the Fifth Volume of the Athenian Mercury, (is now publisht) resolving all the most Nice and Curious Questions propos'd by the Ingenious of either Sex. To which is prefixt, the New Project concerning the Natural and Artificial Rarities of England: As also an Ode to the Athenian Society. Printed for John Dunton at the Raven in the Poultry, where is to be had the First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Volumes of the Athenian Mercury, (and the Supplements to 'em;) compleating the entire Set for the Year 1691. (or single ones to this time.)—We have in this Fifth Supplement inserted an account of our whole Athenian Project, that so none might be ignorant of what our Undertaking is, or of the promises we have formerly made.

* * A Perfect Diary of the late Famous Seige and Surrender of Lymerick: With the Articles (of Surrender) at large, both Civil and Military. Published by Authority. Printed for R. Taylor near Stationers Hall, price 6 d.