



THE
HISTORY
OF THE
WORTHIES
OF
ENGLAND,

Who for Parts and Learning have been eminent in the
several COUNTIES.

TOGETHER WITH
An Historical NARRATIVE of the Native Com-
modities and Rarities in each County.

Endeavoured by
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M D C L X I I .

The Worthies of ENGLAND.

It is called *Amber-greſia*, That is, gray *Amber*, from the Colour thereof, which modern name utterly unknown to the Antients, doth speak it to be of later invention, whereof a Learned Doctor of Phyſick hath affigned this probable reaſon, because it was never found in the *Midland-ſea*, (which in effect was all the Seas to the *Antients*) but onely in the main Ocean, which was not navigated on, till within this laſt two hundred years, ſince Seamen have gotten the uſe of the *Card* and *Compaſſ*.

It is almoſt as hard to know what it is, as where to find it. Some will have it the ſperm of a fish, ſome other unkuſt matter arifing from them; others, that it's the foam of the ſea, or ſome excreſcency thence boileſ to ſuch a height by the heat of the Sun; Others, that it is a gum that grows on the ſhore. In a word, no certainty can be collected herein, ſome Phyſitians holding one way, and ſome another, but this is moſt ſure, that Apothecaries hold it at five pounds an Ounce, which ſome ſay is dearer then ever it was in the memory of man.

It is a rare Cordiall for the refreſhing of the ſpirits, and ſoveraign for the ſtrengthening the head, beſides the moſt fragrant ſcent, far ſtronger in Confort when Compounded with other things, then when ſingly it ſelf.

A maſs of this *Amber-greſia* was about the third year of King Charles found in this County, at Low water, cloſe to the ſhore of the Mannoſ of *Anthony*, then belonging to *Richard Carew*, Esquire.

Garlick.

Here is a great and ſudden fall indeed, from the ſweeteſt of *Gums*, to the moſt ſinking of *Roots*. Yet is not the diſtance ſo great, if the worth of *Garlick* be ſuch as ſome have avouched it. Not to ſpeak of the *murmuring* * *ſſaſties*, who prized it before *Manna* it ſelf, ſome avow it *Soveraign* for men and beaſts in moſt Maladiſes. Indeed the ſcent thereof is somewhat *Valiant* and *Offenſive*, but wiſe men will be conſtent to hold their *noſes*, on condition they may thereby hold or recover their health. Indeed a large book is written *de ſu alli*, which if it hold proportion with truth, one would wonder any man ſhould be ſick and dye, who hath *Garlick* growing in his *Garden*. Sure I am, our *Palate*-people are much pleaſed therewith, as giving a delicious *Hauſt-guft* to moſt meat they eat, as taſted and ſmelt in their *Sauce*, though not ſeen therein. The beſt *Garlick* is about *Stratton* in this County.

Pilchards.

Plenty hereof are taken in theſe parts, perſecuted to the ſhore by their enemies, the *Tunny* and *Hake*, till in purſueſt of their private revenge, they all become a prey to the *Fiſherman*. The *Pilchard* may ſeem contemptible in it ſelf, being ſo ſmall, though the wit of the vulgar here will tell you, they have ſeen many *Pilchards* an *ell-long*, understand it laid at length, head and tail together. Their numbers are incredible, employing a power of poor people, in *Polling*, (that is, *Beheading*,) *Gutting*, *Splitting*, *Powdering* and *Drying* them, and then (by the name of *Fumadoes*) with *Oyle* and a *Lemon*, they are meat for the mightieſt *Don* in *Spain*. I will, not onely their numbers, but fish may hold, ſuſpecting their diſtrey decay, their ſhoals uſually ſhifting coaſts, and verging more weſtward to *Ireland*. Other fish here be which turn to good account, all welcome to *Fiſhermen* ſhooks, ſave the *Star-fiſh*, eſteemed contagious.

Blew-Slate.

These are commonly found under the *Walling-Slate*, when the depth hath brought the workmen to the water. They are thin in ſubſtance, clear in colour, light in weight, and laſting in conuinuance. Generally they carry to good a regard, that (beſides the ſupply of home-provisions) great ſtore of them are impoſed into other parts of the land, and tranſported into *France* and the *Low-Countries*. All that I have to ſay of *Slate*, is that *Cinyra* the ſon of *Agriope* is ſaid first to have found them in *Cyprus*, for the *Covering* of *houſes*.

* Num. 11. 5.

* *Comdens Brit. in cornwall.** *Polydore Virgil's Invent. Rerum in lib. 3. Cap. 8. Pag. 251.*

Tinne

CORNWALL.

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Tinne.

The moſt and beſt in Christendome this *County* doth produce. Yea it was the *Only* *Tinne* in Europe, untiſl a *Fugitive Miner* running hence, diſcovered *Tinne* in *Woiteland*, in the *Confines* of *Bohemia*. God may be laid in this *County*, to rain *Meat* (ſuch the plen-ty thereof,) and give *Dishes* too, made of *Pewter*, which hath *Tinne* for the *Father*, and *Lead* for the *Mother* thereof, and in our Age doth *Matrizate* too much. Vaſt their Ex-ſpence in making their *Addis*, (underſtand them *Addresses*, and *Accesſes* to the *Mine*;) with *Drefing*, *Breaking*, *Stamping*, *Drying*, *Crazing*, *Walling* and *Melting*, all plenſtly repaid in the *Selling* of it.

The diſcovery of many of theſe *Mines* have been very remarkable, for ſome have gained more ſleeping, then others *waking*, having dreameſ that in ſuch [Improbable] places, *Tinne* was to be found, and purſuing ſuch Directions, have found it accordingly.

The * Poet we know laiſeth *Two Ports of Dreameſ*,

Sunt gemina ſorū poris; quārum: alvā ſurit | *Dreameſ have two Gates, one made, they lay of Horniſ Corniſ, quā veri ſaciliſ diſter exiua umbris;* | *Dreameſ have two Gates, one made, they lay of Horniſ Corniſ,*
Alvā ſurit, perfecta mēus Elephante, | *By this Port paſt, true, and Propheticke Dreameſ.*
Sed inſu ad Cœlum mētum inſomni mānes. | *Whiſte Ivory the other daſh adorneſ,*
| *By this falſe ſhades, and lyng Fancies ſreames.*

Strange that the *Beſt Gate*, for matter [*Ivory*] ſhould preſent the *Worſe* [*false*] *Dreameſ*. It ſeems theſe *Corniſ Dreameſ* paffed through the *Horniſ Gate*, which tell out to happily that, thereby many have been inriched, and left great Estates to their Poiterity.

I cannot take my leave of theſe *Tinners*, untiſl I have obſerv'd a ſtrange practice of them, that once in ſeven or eight years, they burn down (and that to their great profit) their own *Melting houseſ*. I remember a merry Epigram in * *Martial*, on one *Tongili-an*, who had his house in *Rome*, cauſually [reputed] burnt, and gained ten times as much, by his friends contribution to his losſ.

Collatum eſt decies. Roga non potes ipſe videri | *Gaining ten fold, tell truly I deſire,*
Incendiſſe tuam, Tongiliane domum? | *Tongiliā diſt not ſet thy house on fire?*

But here the *Tinners* avow themſelves incendiaries of their own houseſ, on a pro-ſitable account. For, during the *Tinnes* melting in the blowing house, diſtive lighteſ ſparkles thereof, are by the forſcible wind, which the bellows ſendeth forth, driven up to the thatched roof, on the burning whereof they find ſo much of this light *Tinne* in the aſhes, as payeth for the new building, with a gainful overplus.

The Buildings.

Maſter *Attorney Ney* was wont pleaſantly to ſay, that his house had no fault in it, fave only that it was too neare unto *London*, though indeed diſtanced thence full three hundred miles, in the remoter part of this County. But ſeriouſly one may ſay, and de-fend it, that the diſtance of *Cornwall* from that *Metropolis*, is a *Convenient Inconveniency*. As for the ſtructure of their Houseſ, they are generally but mean, though the *Nobility* and *Gentry* haue haſome habitations, and amonſt them none excelleth,

Mount-Edgecomb.

It was buiſt by Sir *Richard Edgecomb* Knight, take his Character from * one who very wel knew him, *mildneſſe* and *ſtoutneſſe*, *diſſidence* and *wiſdom*, *deliberatenſe* of *under-takings*, and *ſuffiſiency* of *effecting*; made in him a more commendable, then *blazing mix-ture* of *virtue*. In the Raing of Queen *Mary* (about the year 1555.) he gave entertainment at one time, for ſome good ſpace to the Admirals of the *English*, *Spaniſh*, and *Netherland*, and many Noble men beſides. A paſſage the more remarkable, be-cause I am conſident that the Admirals of theſe Nations never met ſince, (if ever before) amicably at the fame Table, *Mount-Edgecombe* was the ſcene of this Hospitality, a houſe new buiſt and named by the aforesaid Knight, a ſquare ſtructure with a round Turret

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* Virg. Eſcad. 6.

* Lib. 3. Epig. 51.

* *Carew in his ſur. of Corn. pag. 100.*