

time had in some measure wore it out.

(*To be continued.*)

*A Letter from a Gentleman travelling in Italy to his Friend in England, giving an Account of the Curiosities in Nature he saw in the Cabinet of Aldrovandus, at Bologna.*

(*Continued from Page 87, and concluded.*)

FROM this vast series we passed to the smaller, but more beautiful inhabitants of the sea, the shell-fish. Here we saw all the treasures of this elegant part of nature's work arranged in a picturesque order. The almost infinite variety of the buccinum, the murex, and the purpura began the series: These were followed by the wilks and conches, & all the train of the screw-shells. Next came the painted volutes; and among them lay the famous admiral, and gay vice-admiral, the first distinguished by its yellow band; the whole train followed, nor were there wanting beauty of an equal kind in the tyger, the spotted pard-shell, and the glowing butterfly. From these we came to the limpets, varied in dyes as well as form, the ear-shell, and the vast variety of those that have been named from teeth. These were succeeded by the nautili, a wonderful tribe, part thick and firm, part light as air, and thin and white as the finest paper. The thick kind shewed a thousand divisions into which their inner cavity was formed, parted by pearly cells, & thro' them all ran a pipe of communication; the thinner are all vacant. These float upon the surface of the sea, a kind of polype is their inhabitant. Two of its legs serve in the place of oars, and from its wide mouth is expanded the fine membrane which bellies before the wind, swelling into a sail. The nerites and the snails of varied livery followed, and after these came in a less series, the cockle, the escallop, the oyster kinds; the Venus treasure and the ribbed heart; the smooth telline, and the rough pho-

las. Here the chama shewed its cut-off edge, and there the earless escallop mimicked the humble cockle. The muscles followed; a varied, tho' a less beautiful train, and with these came the pinna, its vast breadth ill-supported by its scanty substance; and from its base the tuft of threads finer at once and stronger than the silk, hung out and courted the manufacture. Near this were preserved the gloves fabricated from the glossy threads, and vying with the finest silk. The Bernicle a strange class followed; the centre-shell, and the long-necked kind, the legs of the included fish, or call them arms, or fins, are hairy; these as they hang out of the gaping shell, have some rude resemblance, perhaps to feathers; and from this single circumstance it was supposed that the flights of birds appearing at stated times on the same coasts, were hatched from them. The first accounts declared what was the truth, that these shells adhered to old boards and trunks of trees fallen accidentally into the sea; the whole tribe does so; and from this single circumstance those who repeated the strange story, swelled the miracle still further, and not content with asserting that the birds were produced out of these shells, asserted that the shells themselves grew upon trees, and were the regular produce after their blossoms, in the manner of fruit. Thus, from a single mistake grew the complicated blunder of shell-fish being the fruit of trees, and of their produce being not other shell fish, but birds. The shelly world was closed in this collection by the echini, sea-eggs or sea-urchins. The variety of these were vast, and their condition different. In some the naked shell was all that was preserved, in others a few of the spines, in others the whole armature, of the shells themselves. The armature of spines were wonderfully different, in some they were small, slender, & pointed like the finest needles; in others, they were short, slender and crooked; in others they were erect and larger. They serve the creature while living, to many purposes; but

as they are connected by fleshy bases to the verge, 'tis not a wonder that they fall off on the least touch, when the body of the creature has been washed away. They are not only a defence against many a devourer, whose tender jaws dare not to seize upon the porcupine covering; but they serve also to walk with. The creature brings as many of them into use on this occasion, as it pleases, and can by their means throw itself on one side or the other, and move with any part upwards, and in any direction. These species were matched with those of the stony world, and the supposed petrified olives shewn in their recent state on one of the animals. The insect tribe came next in view, preserved in glasses between talcs, and in a thousand varied manners. The worm, the beetle and the butterfly here had each their several place. The stag-fly here shewed its thick and divaricated horns; the capricorn, in another place stretched out its whole length of slender ones over the back, and continued beyond the tail. We here saw the cochineal, supposed a seed, but thus known for a perfect animal. Those who have owned it such, have pretended to trace it from its state of the worm into the winged beetle, and have attempted to shew it like our lady-cow. We could here trace it perfect, and saw it of a different form, and of a figure which it never changes. The kermes next attracted our attention, a yet more shapeless animal, bloated with its own young, and scarce retaining any thing of its form. The glow-worm, and its winged mate appeared here, and likewise the water-beetles of many kinds, the mill-beetle, the black staphiline, turning up his naked tail, as if in act to strike the imaginary wound. The cricket closed this series, and in the locust, and the grasshopper, the frightful mole-cricket, and the preying mantis shewed their wonderful forms. The flies, the produce of the water-worms to whom a day is the whole period of life appeared next: And the libellæ, the dragon-flies that coast about our

ponds. From these the collection descended to the flies that buz about our houses, and that sting our cattle not a series was wanting. The spider next, in the whole numerous kind, appeared in a long order; and followed these the scorpion the largest of the insect kind, and seemingly the link connecting that series, and the next above approaching to the crab. The quadrupeds last shewed themselves. The mouse and the rat hind began the series, from these we rose to the opossum, famous for that false skin covering its belly, which forms a bag for receiving its helpless young in time of danger. It was hence at one time supposed to take them into its uterus again. The beaver next appeared, famous for medicinal use, as well as clothing; its scaly tail seeming to join the fishy nature to the quadruped. The squirrel perched upon his bough; and the flying kind had its broad sides expanded, so as to shew the membrane stretched from the fore to the hind legs, not resembling, though doing the office of wings. The porcupine closed this series: its quills erect as if in act to dart themselves forth. They serve as a defence, and a very powerful one for a weak animal against many a destroyer; but they have no power of being darted out as weapons as has been idly said. The ant-bear spread its flat-tail over the next case; and near it crawled, as yet alive, the short-legged scaly lizard. Both these have tongues of an enormous length, and both live by throwing them out on ant-hills, and feeding on what fix upon them. From these we rose to the whole skins of the monkey kind, the bear, the tyger, the leopard, and the lion. The rhinoceros furnished his horn, and another species not well distinguished by the writers on the subject; its double weapon of the same kind explaining the supposed strange passage of the Roman poet, who talks of the double horn of this creature. Next were a numerous quantity of glasses, containing, preserved in spirits, the whole serpent and lizard kind; nor was there wanting the painted tortoise



toise or the toad of Surinam, producing its young out of its back. We thought we had done, but there remained a treasure of another kind. The doors were thrown open that seemed to shut in a large book case: There appeared a library of a new kind, near two hundred volumes stood on the shelves, uniform, vast folios. These were the author's manuscripts; they were opened to us one by one, till we were tired of gazing. They contained beside the substance of all that had been written on natural history by others, the author's own innumerable observations, and they contained nearly all the animals of the world, and a vast multitude of its plants and minerals, drawn and coloured to the life, by his own hand.

*A View of POLITICAL LETTERS  
which have appeared in the Public  
Papers.*

A. B. in the Gazetteer, speaking of a Pamphlet called "A Speech, &c." says, "It must open the eyes of the most prejudiced; & mankind must see their error, and the dreadful consequences attending it, before they will correct and amend. A two shilling pamphlet will, I am afraid, fall but into few hands; your paper into great numbers. Some of your able and ingenious correspondents may be led to draw still greater inferences from the subject-matter it contains, and point out the dreadful effects of an opposite, yet equally dangerous cause. I shall not at this time enter into a particular examination of this well-wrote piece; but cannot forbear hinting at the main scope of it.

This piece, which carries the strongest marks of truth, points out, in the clearest manner possible, a strong violation of the Constitution of this country by the present administration. Whatever they may say to the contrary, the fact is indisputably true. Both houses of P— have judged and declared it so by the act of indemnity which they have passed to save the offenders from that just punishment

which is due to men who have advised the best of Princes to a —

This tenderness to these agents was certainly just and right, as that illegal act became absolutely necessary, at the time, to save the whole kingdom from infallible ruin; but what shall we say of men who (as this pamphlet clearly shews) suffered the kingdom to fall into such imminent danger, as to render such a step essential to its preservation; and who, through ignorance, negligence, or obstinacy, have been the cause of the evils we have experienced; of the loss of the lives of many of our fellow-subjects, and of the properties of many others? Short-sighted politicians is the least which can be said of such; and surely, on that supposition, they are the most unfit to have any share in administration. But after what we have experienced for upwards of twenty-five years in the tergiversation of one man, and within these three years, of another accomplice; when any part of the business of parliament, shall be termed *Minutiae*, unworthy of being attended, known, or enquired into; when the dreadful word tyranny shall be thought of, and uttered, without horror; a *tyranny of forty days* (even mentioned by those who have stung the kingdom with the word Liberty, and set such exorbitant a price on the confinement of two or three low individuals for a few hours) must give alarm. Forty days tyranny over some millions of people, over a whole kingdom, dared to be mentioned as a trifle, must lead sober-thinking men to do more than suspect, that the necessity was intentionally suffered to arise, that a tyranny might be introduced which should endure even beyond forty days;—that it was a trial how far the people might come to bear and approve of despotism, when they tasted of the sweets from the first operation. I repeat it again, that there is reason for more than suspicion, against two such men, that the causes of the necessity for such an act of tyranny, were foreseen and intended, or at least that the