

THE
MONTHLY REVIEW;
OR,
LITERARY JOURNAL,
ENLARGED:

From MAY to AUGUST, *inclusive,*

M,DCC,XCIII.

With an APPENDIX.

" Be niggards of advice on no pretence,
" For the worst avarice is that of Sense.
" With mean complacence ne'er betray your trust,
" Nor be so civil as to prove unjust.
" Fear not the anger of the Wise to raise;
" They best can bear reproof, who merit praise." POPE.

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THE MONTHLY REVIEW,

For JUNE, 1793.

ART. I. *Travels through Swisserland, Italy, Sicily, the Greek Isles, to Constantinople; through Part of Greece, Ragusa, and the Dalmatian Isles; in a Series of Letters to Pennoyre Watkins, Esquire, from Thomas Watkins, A.M. In the Years 1787, 1788, 1789.* 8vo. 2 Vols. pp. 451. 365. 12s. Boards. Cadell. 1792.

DURING the ages of ignorance, and while the intercourse between different countries was little cultivated, so many strange things presented themselves to the view of the earliest travellers, the reason of which they could not comprehend, that every object assumed, under their pens, a wonderful appearance. These wonders, however, gradually diminished as savage antipathies wore out, and as men of distant lands grew more familiar with each other; and they at length sunk down to ordinary occurrences, by the discovery that the specific characters of human nature are the same every where; and that observable varieties are impressed chiefly by climate and local circumstances, which influence education, religious notions, and modes of government. We are therefore much better pleased—at least for the sake of novelty—in attending a sensible observer from stage to stage, to pick up these varieties, and to trace the sources of them, than in suffering our attention to be wholly employed, at the most celebrated places, on forms of government, descriptions of courts, palaces, galleries of pictures, and statues. These subjects have been thoroughly exhausted; while, till of late years, the people have been in a great measure overlooked; and every object, when well described, is anticipated, and circumscribes the labours of those travellers who undertake the detail of new tours.

Mr. Watkins is an agreeable companion; and journeying with him on paper is so easy a mode of conveyance, that we regretted the parting with him at the last stage. It is an old observation, that every book should be complete in itself, with-

ART. XV. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London.*
For the Year MDCCXCIII. Part I. 4to. 8s. sewed. Elmſley.

NATURAL HISTORY, &c.

Description of the Double-horned Rhinoceros of Sumatra. By
Mr. William Bell, Surgeon at Bencoolen.

MR. B. gives a particular description, illustrated by three drawings, of the shape, size, and parts of this rhinoceros: of his manners the writer of the paper seems to have gathered no intelligence. It appears that the hide is not so good a substitute for defensive armour in this as in the other species.

Description of a Species of Chætodon, called by the Malays, Ecan Bonna. By the same.

The skeleton of this fish, of which Mr. B. gives a figure, is marked by one very singular circumstance; many of the bones have tumors which are not exostoses from disease, but are always found in this fish. The purpose of these enlargements is not obvious. They are spongy, soft, and full of oil.

Account of some Discoveries made by M. Galvani of Bologna; with Experiments and Observations on them. In two Letters* from M. Volta to Mr. Cavallo.

Dr. Galvani's treatise on the power of electricity to excite muscular motion, different papers in the Italian journals, and, still more, Dr. Valli's letters, as they successively appeared in the *Journal de Physique*, drew the attention of philosophers to an order of facts apparently altogether new. M. Volta's purpose in these letters is to give a sketch of this discovery, as far as it had been carried in Italy, at the time of their date; and, as experiments relating to the same subject are likely to fall frequently under our notice, it will be proper, by way of introduction to future intelligence, to give a full account of the present communication.

Dr. Galvani, having prepared a frog so that the legs were connected with the lower part of the spine (separated from the rest of the body,) only by the crural nerves laid bare, observed that very lively movements were excited in the legs, whenever sparks were drawn under certain circumstances, from the prime conductor of an electrical machine, not on the body of the animal, but on any other substance. The necessary circumstances were, that the prepared frog should be in contact with, or placed near to, some pretty large piece of metal or other good conductor of electricity. The experiment succeeded better when the animal lay between two conducting substances, one placed near the legs, and the other near the dissected nerves;

* These letters are written in French.