

storm of Hail about the Coast-Towns of *Suffolk*, tracing along *Seckford-Hall*, *Wood-bridge*, *Snape bridge*, *Aldbrough*, &c. more to the North-ward. The Hail was small near *Yarmouth*; but at *Seckford-Hall*, one Hail-stone was found by measure to be 9. *Inches* about. One of this Town (*viz. Wood bridge*) found one at *Melton*, 8. *Inches* about. At *Snape-bridge* a man affirm'd, that he lighted on one about 12. *Inches* about. A Lady of *Friston-Hall*, putting one of them into a Ballance, found it weigh 12 s. 6 d. Several persons of good credit in *Aldbrough* affirm'd, some Hail-stones to have been full as bigg as Turkeys-Eggs; (an ordinary Hens-Egg weighs but about 9 s.) *J. Baker* of *Rumborough*, driving a Cart on the Heath by *Aldbrough*, had his head broken by the knocks of them through a stiff Country-felt: In some places his head bled; in others, bunnyes arose: The Horses were so pelted, that they hurried away his Cart beyond all command. They seem'd all *white*, smooth without, shining within. 'Tis somewhat strange, methinks, that their pillar of Air should keep them aloft, if they were not clapt together in the falling; especially at such a time of the year, when the Air is less thickned and its Spring weaker.

Account of a great number of Stones, found in one Bladder, by the same.

Mr. Goodrick Chirurgeon of *Bury St. Edmunds* affirm'd to me, that himself Cutting a Lad of the Stone (for which he hath a great name) took out thence, at one time, 96 small Stones, all of them of unlike shape, Size, Corners, Sides; some of which were so bestow'd as to slide upon others, and had thereby worn their flats to a wonderfull slikeness. He assur'd me also, that in the same place, another, when dead, had a Stone taken from him, almost as big as a new-born Childs head, and much of that Shape.

The Description of a Well, and Earth in Lanchashire, taking Fire by a Candle approached to it.

This was imparted by that Ingenious and Worthy Gentleman, Thomas Shirley Esq; an Eye-witness of the thing, now to be related in his own words; viz.

About the later end of *February 1659*. returning from a Journey to my house in *Wigan*, I was entertained with the relation of an odd Spring, scituated in one *Mr. Hawkley's* Ground (if I mistake

stake not) about a mile from the Town, in that Road which leads to *Warrington* and *Chester*.

The people of this Town did confidently affirm, that the Water of this Spring did burn like *Oyle*; into which Error they suffered themselves to fall for want of a due examination of the following particulars.

For when we came to the said Spring (being five or six in company together) and applyed a lighted Candle to the surface of the Water; 'tis true, there was suddenly a large flame produced, which burnt vigorously; at the sight of which they all began to laugh at me for denying, what they had positively asserted: But I, who did not think my self confuted by a laughter grounded upon inadvertency, began to examine what I saw; and observing, that this Spring had its eruption at the foot of a Tree, growing on the top of a neighbouring Bank, the Water of which Spring fill'd a Ditch that was there, and covered the burning place lately mention'd; I then applyed the lighted Candle to divers parts of the Water, contained in the said Ditch, and found as I expected, that upon the touch of the Candle and the Water, the Flame was extinct.

Again, having taken up a dishfull of Water at the flaming place, and held the lighted Candle to it, it went out. Yet I observed that the Water at the burning place did boyle, and heave like Water in a Pot upon the Fire, though my hand put into it perceived it not so much as warm.

This boyling I conceived to proceed from the Eruption of some bituminous or sulphureous Fumes; considering, this place was not above 30 or 40 yards distant from the mouth of a Coal-pit there. And indeed *Wigan*, *Ashton*, and the whole Country, for many miles compass, is underlaid with Coal. Then applying my hand to the surface of the Burning place of the Water, I found a strong breath, as it were a Wind, to bear against my hand.

Then I caused a *Dam* to be made, and thereby hindering the recourse of fresh water to the Burning place; I caused that, which was already there, to be drained away; and then applying the burning Candle to the surface of the dry Earth at the same point, where the Water burned before; the Fumes took fire, and burn'd very bright and vigorous. The Cone of the Flame ascended a foot and a half from the Superficies of the Earth. The Basis of it

was of the Compass of a Mans hat about the brims. I then caused a Bucket-full of Water to be poured on the fire, by which it was presently quenched, as well as my companions laughter was stopped, who then began to think, the Water did not burn.

I did not perceive the Flame to be discolour'd, like that of sulphureous Bodies, nor to have any manifest *scent* with it. The Fumes, when they broke out of the Earth, and prest against my hand, were not, to my best remembrance, at all hot.

Account of Athanasii Kircheri CHINA ILLUSTRATA.

The *Author* by publishing this *Volume*, discharges the Promise, he had made some years ago, that he would do so. He acknowledges himself much obliged to *Martinius*, and his *Atlas Sinicus*; as also to *Michael Boim*, a *Polonian*; *Philippo Marino*, a *Jesuit* of *Genoa*; and two other of the same Society, *viz.* *Henry Roth* of *Ausburg*, and *John Gruber*, an *Austrian*; whereof the latter went A. 1656. over *Land* from *Rome*, through *Anatolia*, *Armenia*, *Persia*, *Ormuz*, *Cambaja*, and *India*, to *Macao*, the famous Port of *China*, and thence to *Pekin*, the Court of that Empire; whence two years after, he came back to *Rome*, accompanied for a part of the way, by the *Jesuit* *Albert Dorville*; traversing by *Land* in a manner the whole breadth of *China*, and a great part of the confining *Tartary*, and so further, through the *Mogols* Dominions, to *Agra*, where the said *Dorville* dying, the above-mentioned *Henry Roth* supplied his place in accomplishing this Voyage.

The Book it self, a large *Folio*, is divided into 6. Parts.

The *three* first, and the *last*, being besides the design of these Tracts, we shall but glance at, taking only notice; *First*, That they pretend to perswade the Reader, that *Christianity* was spread over all *Asia* by *St. Thomas* the Apostle, and his Successors; and hath been there continued, though not without great *Eclipses*, to these very times. And here the *Chino-Chaldæan Monument*, said to have been erected several hundred years since in *China*, and found out A. 1625. is with great labour asserted and interpreted. *Next*, That the Rise of the Idolatry, in those remote parts, and their different Ceremonies in Worship, is confronted with those Ancient ones of *Egypt*. *Lastly*, that a large Account is given of the *Chinese* Letters, their Figure, Power, &c.

But we hasten to the *Fourth* Book, as belonging to our Sphere.

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