

VIII. An Account of BOOKS.

I. *Horti Indici Malabarici.*

Pars Quarta, Quinta & Sexta.

*With some Remarks upon them by T. R. M. D.
S. R. S.*

THE three first Volumes of this Work having been taken notice of in the *Philosophical Transactions*, N. 155. from pag. 100. to pag. 109. I shall continue the Account of the rest, in which the *Heer Van Rbeede* (lately the Worthy Governour of *Malabar*, now chief *Intendant* of all the *Dutch Colonies in India*) gives a most illustrious Specimen of his Industry and Generosity, as also a noble Example to other *Residents* in Foreign Countries, having at leisure Hours Collected, Design'd, Painted, Describ'd, and learnt the Natural Products, together with their Uses in Trade, Diet and Medicine; and all in order to communicate his Discoveries to the World, amidst his many great Employments in the Commonwealth both at Home and Abroad.

This Fourth Tome contains Sixty One Trees, Shrubs and Arborecent Herbs, together with their Sculps and Descriptions from the Life; particularly of their Flowers, Fruits, Seeds, and their Vessels, (the Symbolical and Essential Marks of Plants) neglected, or else unobserved by the *Ancients*, whose *Genius* and *Spirit* penetrated very deep in most things, except Natural History,
in

in which they are very obscure, confus'd, and unintelligible, even to the nicest *Criticks*, and all for want of describing things with their proper Characteristic Notes, which clearly distinguish them one from another. In the last Age this was first started by the laborious and learned *Gesner*, afterwards prosecuted by those two *Italian Wits*, *Andreas Cæsalpinus*, and *Fabius Columna*, but lately most improv'd by our own deservedly famous *Country-man* Mr. *John Ray* in his excellent *Histories of Plants and Animals*.

The Exactness and Accuracy of the Moderns far above the *Ancients* in this part of Knowledge is so plain to any Man of common Observation or Reading, that I cannot but wonder some should speak so contemptuously of the last Ages, as tho they only copied or commented those that went before; No useful Inventions? No Improvements amongst us? This may pass amongst some *Smatterers* in Philosophy, or *Ancient Bigots*, but never with Men of *Science*, or *free Thought*; nor indeed with any *Body* tolerably vers'd in the History of Nature or Arts: So little need is there of *Transcribing* (as some fancy) the *Old Books*, that if we join both all the *Ancient* and *New* together, they will scarce make above an *Essay* towards the Discovery and Knowledge of almost *Infinite* and *Inexhaustible Nature*. *Veniet tempus, quo ista, quæ nunc latent, in lucem dies extrahet, & longioris ævi diligentia*, was the Opinion of the *Ancients* themselves. But to the present *Work* before us, of which some particulars are to be touch'd upon.

Amongst the many rare Vegetables, we have a compleat History of that Pruniferous Tree, called *Mango* by the *English*, *Mao* or *Mau* by the *Indians*, *Ambo* by the *Brachmans*, which grows above 40 foot in height, and 18 in thickness, sweating out an odoriferous gummy Substance; its Leaves and Root are of an Aroma-

tick Quality ; the Flowers grow in Clusters like those of the Vine, are pentapetalose, white, and marked within with a yellow Spot, and a Honey Spicy *Style*, to which succeeds the Fruit of the Figure of a Kidney, as large as a Goose Egg, first green and checquered with white *Punctums*, then yellowish, and afterwards of a Golden Colour, with a thin downy Skin ; the Stone is oblong flattish, and lanuginose, the Kernel whereof resembles that of an Almond ; of these there are as many varieties in *India*, as Peaches and Plums in *Europe* : The Wood is in use amongst the *Gentiles* in burning their Dead Bodies, to which 'tis consecrated, and for making their Coffins or Urns. The *Brachmans* adorn their Habitations with the Boughs on Festival days, they rub their Teeth with the Leaves, and use them as they do the *Betel* and *Fausel*, (the first of the *Pepper*, the latter of the *Palm* kind) the Gum is given in all sorts of Fluxes. The Fruit is either eaten out of Wine, or Pickle, or in Conserve, sometimes stufed with fresh Ginger, Garlick, Mustard, &c. and sprinkled with Salt, Oyl and Vinegar, and so eaten with Rice and other Meats, as we do *Gurchens* and *Olives*. Out of the dry'd Kernels they make a Meal, of which they prepare several sorts of Meat.

To this we might add the Histories of many other exoticick and rare Trees describ'd, and elegantly Figur'd in this Fourth Part, as the *Adamaran*, a sort of Almond-Tree, out of which the *Indians* make Cakes, milky Emulsions, and an Oyl by Expression ; it bears Fruit three times in one Year. *Panem-Palka* a Species of Nutmeg, which the *Turkish* and *Jewish* Merchants sometimes substitute instead of the true with the Mace on it, and sell the Oyl for genuine. The *Samstravadi*, with the Flowers and Fruit whereof the *Ethnick* and Superstitious Pilgrims deck their Bodies after having Consecrated them ; the *Portugueses* call it *Rosairos*, numbring their Prayers with them instead of Beads ; 'tis a sort of Plum call'd *Jambos*,

of

of which there are several Species in this Volume. *Pa-ënoe*, out of which when young, the *Indians* make their Mafts, and entire Veffels out of the grown Trunks, capable of holding 60 Men ; they flourish above 300 years, and afford a fort of Gum *Anime* or *Copal*, us'd by the Natives as Frankincense in their Sacrifices. The Timber is not easily subject to the Worm. *Poërinfi*, a sort of Soap-Tree, with the Fruit whereof they wash, and make their Combs and Musical Instruments out of the Wood. *Ponga*, like unto the *Tataiba* of *Piso*, or the *Fustick-Wood* Tree. *Ponna*, distilling a Substance like the *Gutta Gamba* or *Gummi Gotte*, with which it agrees in many qualities. *Tferou-Ponna*, call'd *Kina*, in the Island of *Ceylon*. *Perin-Toddali*, a sort of *Zyzyphus* or *Fujube* distilling our common *Lacca*. *Ravapou*, a second kind of *Arbor Tristis*, a-kin to the *Jasmins* ; this is very fragrant, and expands upon the rising of the Sun. *Bengieiri*, whose Wood resembles the *Lignum Moluccense* or *Panave*. *Aria Bepou*, which is the true *Nimbo* of *Acofta*, of which there are two Species. To these we might add some Indian *Ricini*, *Cifti*, several kinds of *Limes*, *Althæa's*, Plums, Oriental Elder, Barberry, &c. with their Uses, all contain'd in this Fourth Tome.

Horti Indici Malabarici.

Pars Quinta.

THis Fifth Volume comprehends 60 Trees and Shrubs, most of them Bacciferous, excellently engraven in large Copper Plates. The *Katou-karua* is a Second Species of Cinnamon observ'd wild in several Provinces of *Malabar*, the other sort being described in the first part of this Work under the Name of *Karua*, both inferior to the Cinamon-Tree growing in the Woods

Woods of *Ceylon*, tho' all alike in Leaf, Flower and Fruit. *Beeſha*, whoſe Leaves are arundinaceous, a-kin to the *Ily* or *Bambou Cane* deſcribed in the firſt Tome, out of the *Beeſha* the Natives make their Baskets, Arrows, and Writing Pens. *Nola-Ili*, a third Species of *Bambou*, ſent as Merchandize into *Persia*, *Arabia*, and the *Turkiſh Empire*, where they make long Pipes of it for the ſmoaking their Tobacco. *Cammetti*, a ſort of Tree Tithymal or Spurge above Forty Foot high, with the Decoction whereof they kill Worms, and cure Ulcers: The milky Juice of this Plant mixt with the Powder of *Carcapula* (a ſort of *Gutta Gamba* or *Gemou*) is ſaid to perform Wonders in Dropsies. Many of the reſt contain'd in this Fifth Volume may be referr'd to our *Vitis Idæa*, to the *Myrtles*, the *Lauriſtines* or *Wild Bays*; to the *Rhamnus*, *Euonymus*, &c. all which the *Indians* apply to many uſes in Phyſick, Mechanicks, and Agriculture.

Horti Malabarici.

Pars Sexta.

IN this Sixth Volume we have describ'd and figur'd 61 Trees and Shrubs, the greatest part whereof are Siliquose, as the *Tsetti-Mandarum* call'd by *Breynius Frutex Pavonius* sive *Crista Pavonis*, and by the *Portugueses*, *Flos Pavonius*, from the Pride and Figure of its Flower. Its Seed is not unlike that of *Aldinus* his *Acacia* in the *Farnesian* Garden, yet it seems a-kin to the *Senna* kind.

Tsiapangam, call'd by the Dutch *Rasphout*, not unlike the Red Wood of *Brasil* in all its parts, and in the dying Trade, for which 'tis sold up and down. The *Lobe* or *Pod* is figur'd by *Clusus* in his *Exhot. l. 3. c. 16*. But here we have the full History of it.

Mouricou, commonly call'd the *Coral Tree*, of which there are several Species in both *Indies*; 'tis spinose, and trifoliolate; the Flower and Seed of a coccineous Colour. In the Island of *St. Maurice* it exceeds in height all the other Trees, therefore 'tis called *Elephantina*. It's Trunk is loaded with Snails, and the *Pepper-Shrub* often climbs up it like Ivy. Out of the Wood the Natives make Sheaths for Knives and Swords; and with it and a calcin'd Stone they polish Perspective Glasses; with the Bark they wash their Vests called *Saraffas*, and make the Confection *Caril* out of the Flowers.

Wellia Tagera, call'd in several places of *India Coupang*, of great use and success in gouty cases, as the *Kopang-Tree* of *New England* is reported to be by our Planters; hence some style it *Arbor Antiarthritica*.

To these we might add the *Katou-Conna*, a sort of *Cassia Fistula*. The *Thora-Paerou* or *Cajan-Tree*, an arborescent *Phaseolus* or *Laburnum*, much cultivated at the *Cape*, affording a most refreshing Pulse to the Sea-men. *Mandsjadi*, with whose Seed they weigh Pearls. *Niir-Pongelion*, whose long trumpet Flower resembles that of *Dutroy*; Parrots are said to be much delighted with the Fruit, and the *Indians* make Nets of the Boughs and Root. *Ifora Murri* with its Conical Pod wreathed Spirally. Here are also many sorts of *Kandel-Trees*, some of which are a-kin to the *Mangrove* of *America*. The *Hina-Pareti*, or *Rosa Sinensis*, with many other elegant *Alcea's* and *Althæa's*. The *Moringa*, with several curious *Acacia's* and *Colutea's*. Many of the rest may be refer'd to *Clusius* his Exotick Lobes and Fruits, which this Volume doth much illustrate, the latter part whereof exhibits some *Indian* Jasmynes, and large Capers, belonging rather to the Bacciferous Tome.

A Treatise of the Roman Ports and Forts in Kent. By William Somner, &c. To which is prefixt the Life of Mr. Somner. Printed at Oxford at the Theatre, in 8°. 1693.

THIS Book treating more of Antiquities than Natural Philosophy, will upon that account claim less room in these Tracts; wherefore our Account thereof shall be accordingly succinct.

The Life of the Author taking up the greater part of the Book, is wrote by an ingenious Gentleman, who therein commemorates several great Patrons of Learning;

ing ; next he shews the Pains our Author took to acquire the *Saxon* Language, then almost lost, of the gradual Decay of which Language he gives a short History. Then he gives an Account of our Authors other Studies and Works ; whence it appears he intended a compleat Treatise of the Antiquities of *Kent*, this of the *Roman* Ports and Forts being a part thereof. Speaking of the Difficulties of compiling Treatises of this Nature, he gives a short View of several Antiquaries, and their Designs and Labours, most whereof are unpublish'd, and many lost. He gives an Account of our Authors Treatise of Gavel-kind, publish'd in the year 1660, in 4to. His *Saxon* Dictionary ; and concludes with a List of his Posthumous Manuscripts.

In the Treatise it self the Author begins with *Rutupium*, and rejecting other Opinions, places it at *Sandwich*, making *Richborough* Castle a *Pharus* to guide the Sea-men into the Harbour, and makes *Gessoriacum*, more anciently *Portus Iccius*, to be *Bolen* ; which *Rutupium* he says was then, and sometime after called *Lundenwich*, at which place he affirms *Cæsar* first landed ; tho the Author of the Life allows of Mr. *Halley's* Account thereof publish'd in a late Transaction. As to the *Goodwyn Sands*, he denies them ever to have been firm Land ; they are more soft, fluid and porous, and yet tenacious, and consequently more voracious than other Sands, which are harder, solider and rockier. Since they are not mentioned by any Writers of great Antiquity, he believes they may be of late Emergency, and possibly caused by the great Inundation in *Flanders* about *William* the Second's, or *Henry* the First's Time ; the recess of which Water from these places probably left the *Goodwin Sands* shallower than formerly.

Next our Author speaks of *Dubris*, now *Dover* : To omit his Derivation of the Name, he observes it was a *Roman* Port, and has all along so continued. *Bolen* on the *French* Coast, and *Rutupium* on the *British*, being in

time supplanted, the one first by *Witsand*, and at last by *Calis*, the other by *Dover*, at which place our Author makes *Cæsar* to have first attempted to land: The Fortification of the place in those days was more from Nature than Art. The Rock being cut into such Indentures, as resembled and were instead of Walls with Battlements, which Time hath now worn away. Proceeding to the Port of *Lemanis*, which he makes new *Romney*, so called from being the *Romans* Port; and which altho for some Hundreds of years it has lain dry, yet had formerly a fair and commodious River running by it, and emptying it self into the Sea, much nearer the Town than now, where he endeavours to shew, that there was formerly a River of the name of *Rother*, *Romney* and *Limene*, and that it had its mouth at or by *Romney*; and when, and upon what occasion it forsook its wonted Channel. The two first he proves by old Records, where he observes that it's Mouth was wide enough to receive a Fleet of 250 Sail of *Danish* Pirats, *An.* 893. which towed up their Vessels Four Miles within the Land; which place it hath now so forsaken, that there is neither Harbour nor Channel, which was turned another way by a great Inundation of the Sea about the year 1287. and so the Haven lost for want of the River to scour and keep it open. Next he gives the Derivation of *Romney*, *Apledore*, *Gilford* and *Winchelsey*. And so much for the *Ports*.

As to the *Forts*, he begins with *Regulbium* now *Reculver*, where are still the Remains of *Roman* Tile; here he observes by the way from Mr. *Burton*, that all places ending in *Chester*, arise from the Ruines of the Old *Roman* *Castra*, this place being once called *Raculfc-ester*. All the *Roman* Colonies, &c. being upon Hills, he believes this might be placed on the Ascent where the Church now stands, or in the Church-yard, of which place and its Antiquities he enlarges.

2. The next Fort is *Rutupium*, or *Richborough*, of which before amongst the *Ports*. The Remains of the Walls

of this Fort compass in almost as much ground as the Tower of *London* here there has been, and still is, more *Roman* Coins round than in any place in *England*.

3. *Dubris* or *Dover*, where he believes the Church to have risen out of the old *Roman* Fortrefs, and the square Tower in the middle fitted with Holes for Speculation, to have been the very *Roman Specula* or Watch-Tower, and the *Devil's Drop* the Remains of the *Roman Pharos*.

4. *Folkstone*, a place famous for *Roman* Antiquities, which he suspects the same with the *Lapis Tituli* of *Ninius*, taking the Word *Stonar*, where *Lambert* places *Lapis Tituli* to be a Corruption of (and formerly written) *Estanore* and *Estanores*, signifying the Eastern Border or Coast.

5. *Lim* or *Limbill*, where *Stutfall-Castle*, with a large Circuit of 10 Acres, was of old enclosed with a *Roman* Wall, ruined not so much by Time, as a Seifure of its Materials for the building of *Lim-Church* and the Archdeacons castellated Mansion. The Name *Stutfall* he derives from *Stod fold*, there being formerly kept and stabled a Stud of Mares. This place is also called *Shipwey*.

6. The last *Kentish* Fort is *Anderida* or *Anderidos*, as to the Situation whereof he is less certain, whether at *Pemsey*, *Hastings*, or *Newenden*, tho' he inclines to one of the former. The *Weald* was formerly called *Sylva Andred*, a Desert place unpeopled, fill'd only with Herds of Deer and Drovers of Hogs. He ends this Treatise with an Enumeration of the Quit-rents formerly paid out of the *Weald*, as *Gavel-swine*, *Scot-ale*, *Pannage*, *Gate-penny*, *Sumer-hus-silver*, *Corredy*, and *Danger*.

The whole is concluded with a Catalogue of the Lord Wardens of the Cinque-Ports.

An Additional Note to Page 670. of this Transaction.

Mention being made in this Letter of Mr. *Banisters*, of the little Pointel found under the Wings of several