

“ were as hard twisted, as so many Penny Cords ;  
 “ that one might easily have taken his for a *Medu-*  
 “ *sa’s* Head ( and who knows, but that in ancient  
 “ Times some such Locks as these might have given  
 “ Rise to the Poetical Fiction of Snakes growing  
 “ on the Head instead of Hair ? Be that as it will,  
 “ this is certain, it is a most odious Sight to look  
 “ on.

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IX. *An Account of an unusual Agitation in the*  
*Magnetical Needle, observed to last for some*  
*Time, in a Voyage from Maryland, by Capt. Wal-*  
*ter Hoxton; communicated in a Letter to David*  
*Papillon, Esq; F. R. S.*

ON the second of *September, 1724*, a little after  
 Noon, being in Latitude  $41^{\circ} 10'$  N. and Dif-  
 ference of Longitude from Cape *Henry* in *Virginia*  
 about  $28^{\circ} 00'$  E. the Weather fair, a moderate Gale,  
 and smooth Sea, my Mate, who was on the Deck,  
 came and told me, that the Compass traversed so much  
 that he could not possibly steer by it: Whereupon I  
 went up, and after trying it in several Parts of the Ship,  
 found what he said to be true. I then had all my  
 Compasses brought up, and placed in different Parts  
 of the Ship, and in Places most remote from Iron,  
 and, to my great Surprise, found them all in the same  
 Condition; so that we could not steer by any of them.  
 I then new touched some of them with a Loadstone,  
 which

which I always carry with me ; and left that should affect them, sent it out to the End of the Bowsprit ; but I did not perceive that the new touching was of any Service; for they all continued traversing very swiftly, for about an Hour after I came on the Deck, and then on a sudden every one of them stood as well as usual. During the whole Time, the Ship had very little Motion ; and I had an Azimuth Compass, and four or five others.

## F I N I S.

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E R R A T A which have escaped Notice till now.

**N** U M B. 415. p. 378. l. 5. for *major* read *minore*. Numb. 416. p. 444. l. 8. from the Bottom, for *dead* read *down*. Ibid. l. 7. for *ghoßly* read *gaßly*.