

Alexander Severus ; it is about ten inches high, and six in its largest diameter ; the embossed figures are pure white, but the ground is dark, though of the same piece of agate, so that the most curious part of this urn is the work of nature.

Before this palace lies an obelisk decorated with Egyptian characters, broken in three pieces ; it

was dug up near the Porta Maggiore, formerly called Porta Nevia. Some say it was found in the Circus Heliogabali, others in the Circus Caracallæ. When the small houses now standing about this palace are taken down, this obelisk is to be erected in the grand area.

[*To be continued.*]

LETTER from DR. PARSONS, on the double Horns of the RHINOCEROS, illustrating a contested Passage in MARTIAL.

From the PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS, Vol. LVI. lately published.

DR. Parsons published a Natural History of the Rhinoceros, in the Philosophical Transactions in the year 1743, but had not then an opportunity of shewing a double horn to the members. This he has now done, a double horn having been brought him from the Cape of Good Hope, by Mr. Macguire. A cut of this natural curiosity is inserted with the present memoir ; and the Doctor observes, that by the knowledge of there being in Africa a species of this animal, that has always a double Horn upon the nose, the reading of Martial is supported against the criticism of Bochart.

Martial, in one of his epigrams written upon an exhibition of wild beasts by Domitian, says, " the Rhinoceros tossed up a heavy bear with his double horn :

Namque gravem gemino cornu sit extulit ursum."

But Bochart, who knew nothing of this double horn, changed the line thus :

Namque gravi geminum cornu sic extulit urum.

Mr. Mattaire adopted the notion of a single horn, but was of opinion that the *geminum urum* of Bochart ought to have been plural, *geminos uros*, as being more elegant ; in this he was followed by the doctors Mead and Douglas, with this difference, that they changed the *uros* for *ursos*, imagining that the animals thrown up by the rhinoceros were not bulls, but bears.

Dr. Mead lived to see a specimen of the double horn, and, consequently, changed his opinion.

