

THE
MONTHLY REVIEW;
OR,
LITERARY JOURNAL,
ENLARGED:

From SEPTEMBER to DECEMBER, *inclusive*,

M, DCC, XC.

With an APPENDIX.

“ ——— *Majus rerum mihi nascitur ordo,*
“ *Majus opus moveo.*” VIRG. *Æn.* vii. 44.

“ But you who seek to give and merit Fame,
“ And justly bear a Critic’s noble name—
“ 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;
“ Those best can bear reproof, who merit praise.” POPE.

VOLUME III.



LONDON:

Printed for R. GRIFFITHS;

T H E
M O N T H L Y R E V I E W,

For O C T O B E R, 1790.

ART. I. BRUCE'S *Travels into Abyssinia.*

[Article concluded from our last Number, p. 47.]

INSTEAD of imitating Tournefort, who has intermixed his botany with his travels, Mr. Bruce has judiciously thrown, into a separate volume, whatever concerns natural history. Volume V. therefore, includes his descriptions and delineations of animals and vegetables. In the vegetable kingdom, the principal articles are the Papyrus, the Balm of Gilead, the Opo-balsamum, the Enfete, Koll-qual, Tef, Kuara, and Wooginoos, or *Brucea Antidysenterica*. His account of this valuable medicine deserves to be inserted:

‘ This shrub is a production of the greatest part of Abyssinia, especially the sides of the valleys in the low country, or Kolla. It is indeed on the north side of Debra Tzai, where you first descend into the Kolla. This drawing was made at Hor-Cacamoort, in Ras el Feel, where the Wooginoos grows abundantly, and where dysenteries reign continually, Heaven having put the antidote in the same place where grows the poison.

‘ Some weeks before I left Gendar I had been very much tormented with this disease, and I had tried both ways of treating it, the one by hot medicines and astringents, the other by the contrary method of diluting. Small doses of ipecacuanha under the bark had for several times procured me temporary relief, but relapses always followed. My strength began to fail, and, after a severe return of this disease, I had, at my ominous mansion, Hor-cacamoort, the valley of the shadow of death, a very unpromising prospect, for I was now going to pass through the kingdom of Sennaar in the time of year when that disease most rages.

‘ Sheba, chief of the Shangalla, called Ganjar, on the frontiers of Kuara, had at this time a kind of embassy or message to Ras el Feel. He wanted to burn some villages in Atbara belonging to the Arabs Jeheina, and wished Yafine might not protect them: they

The leaf is oblong and pointed, smooth, and without collateral ribs that are visible. The right side of the leaf is a deep green, the reverse very little lighter. The leaves are placed two and two upon the branch, with a single one at the end. The flowers come chiefly from the point of the stalk from each side of a long branch. The cup is a perianthium divided into four segments. The flower has four petals, with a strong rib down the center of each. In place of a pistil there is a small cup, round which, between the segments of the perianthium and the petals of the flower, four feeble stamina arise, with a large stigma of a crimson colour, of the shape of a coffee-bean, and divided in the middle.

The quadrupeds described by Mr. B. are the rhinoceros, hyæna, jerboa, fennec, ashkoko, and the booted lynx. In speaking of the rhinoceros, Mr. B. makes a very proper distinction between the two species of this animal, the first having two horns, and the second but one. The different species, indeed, as exhibited on ancient coins, may be verified in modern museums. The figure of the singled-horned rhinoceros is common enough, and may be seen in M. de Buffon's natural history. It exactly agrees with Mr. Bruce's drawing of the rhinoceros with two horns; though an animal of the latter species, and differing in form and appearance from that delineated by Mr. B. may be seen in the museum of the late Dr. William Hunter, in Windmill-street. Hence there is room for suspecting, that, though he has not joined a horse's neck to a human head, "*humano capiti cervicem pictor equinam*," our traveller has fixed the head of a rhinoceros with two horns, to the body of a one-horned rhinoceros.

In speaking of the Cerastes, or horned viper, Mr. B. makes the following observations on the curious subject of the incantation of serpents:

I forbear to fatigue the reader by longer insiling upon this subject. A long dissertation would remain upon the incantation of serpents. There is no doubt of its reality. The scriptures are full of it. All that have been in Egypt have seen as many different instances as they chose. Some have doubted that it was a trick, and that the animals so handled had been first trained, and then disarmed of their power of hurting; and fond of the discovery, they have rested themselves upon it, without experiment, in the face of all antiquity. But I will not hesitate to aver, that I have seen at Cairo (and this may be seen daily without trouble or expence) a man who came from above the catacombs, where the pits of the mummy birds are kept, who has taken a Cerastes with his naked hand from a number of others lying at the bottom of the tub, has put it upon his bare head, covered it with the common red cap he wears, then taken it out, put it in his breast, and tied it about his neck like a necklace: after which it has been applied to a hen, and