

the brother, but the nephew of Simon, being the son of the Rev. Edw. Stokes, formerly rector of Blaby, and domestic chaplain to the Earl of Stamford.

It may farther gratify your curious readers to be informed, that Edward Major Stokes, esq. lately appointed lieutenant in the provisional cavalry for Leicestershire, is the great grandson and lineal descendant of Simon, being the son of Edward Stokes, esq. one of the coroners for the county, now resident in the family-house at Melton Mowbray.

C. M.

MR. URBAN,

August 10.

IN the *Tatler*, No. 112, is the following paragraph:

"As my dog and cat have been bred up together from their infancy, and seen no other company, they have learned each other's manners, so that the dog often gives himself the airs of a cat, and the cat, in several of her motions and gestures, affects the behaviour of the little dog."

However sportfully this seems to have been written, there may be more than mere imagination in the case. I remember, many years back, going into a coffee-house near Westminster-hall. I observed a cat in the room, which struck me as having something very remarkable about her. After a moment's reflection, I found the cause of my surprize was her carrying her tail curled up like a dog; but whether this cat had obtained that habit by having been in the same predicament as Mr. Bickerstaff's cat, I will not pretend to say. To this I shall add another instance of the force of imitation. I have at this present time a common pullet that was hatched under a turkey-hen along with a number of her own proper poults. This pullet, by perpetually following and feeding with the young turkeys, has acquired much of their manner, as the drooping tail, the steady stride, and the sudden capricious tricks so peculiar to that species of fowl.

I shall now, Mr. Urban, with your permission, beg leave to apply to some of your scientific correspondents in another branch of Natural History; and hope they will, through the channel of your useful Magazine, give us their opinions on the formation of that species of fossils, the *breccia*, or *plum-pudding stone*, as it is vulgarly called. It is, I believe, found in all countries, though never, that I have heard of, in

large masses or strata as the *free-stone granite*, *slate*, &c. but always in detached conglomerated bodies of various sizes, and composed of the same materials that surround them, whether pebbles, gravel, sand, pieces of slate, spar, or flint, cemented together by some conglutinating substance. The mystery is, how these heterogeneous particles are attracted, and what that matter is which so firmly consolidates them into one mass. From the following circumstance it should appear, that this secret operation of Nature is carried on by a process no less expeditious than wonderful. Two or three years ago, I picked up on the sea-side a concretion of this description, which I have now by me; it was forming around a large nail, the head of which is visible on one side, and about an inch and a half of the point protruded on the other. The pebbles are cemented by a whitish kind of substance resembling mortar mixed with sand, but the whole much tinged by the rust of the iron. Leaving this subject to the consideration of Naturalists, I remain, Mr. Urban, your constant reader and occasional correspondent, T. J.

MR. URBAN,

August 11.

AS enumerating the inhabitants of these kingdoms, in order to ascertain the population, appears to be a desirable and a difficult thing, from the pains which have been taken in it, and the material difference which appears in the accounts of different calculators; give me leave to mention the mode which, I have been well assured, is adopted in China. In the late excellent account which has been published of Lord Macartney's Embassy by the learned and well-informed secretary to it, it is mentioned in general terms, that a tenth man in each district renders an account of the numbers in every ten families of which he has the cognizance. The mode I allude to is this; that on a stated day in each year every householder is required to place, in writing, on the outside of his house, a correct state of the inhabitants contained it, which is taken down and registered by persons appointed for that purpose. This renders all disgusting search or impertinent enquiry unnecessary; and, in a particular where there can be so little motive for falsifying returns, they may be concluded as sufficiently correct to answer