

Towards the latter end of March, whilst I was sitting with a table before me, some thing which seemed to move near my foot, called my attention; and on turning my eyes towards the floor, I observed a small mouse, which, from his delicate coat, seemed to have been lately born. As the animal could not run very fast, I easily overtook him, and taking him up by the skin of the back, with the thumb and first finger held him upon my hand with the abdomen upwards. In this situation the tail of the animal got between the third and fourth finger of the same hand. I then took up a small dissecting knife, in order to cut him open, and accordingly began the incision towards the middle of the abdomen; but the knife had hardly cut part of the skin, when the mouse moved his tail, and vibrating it very violently against the third finger, occasioned, to my astonishment, a great shock all up the arm, accompanied with a kind of internal tremor. It likewise produced a painful sensation of the head, which frightened me so,

that I instantly dropped the mouse. This kind of torpor in the arm continued for a quarter of an hour and upwards; and even the remembrance of it was accompanied with a kind of aversion. I did not know that this animal had any electrical property, but the above-mentioned observation gave me an undoubted proof of it.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

To this account we can only add a wish, that other ingenious persons may repeat, with more attention, an experiment so easily tried, in order to establish a fact so singular, and which might open the way to farther discoveries relating to animal economy.

Dr. Cetusno is a person well known in the learned world for his great knowledge in anatomy; in which branch he has made some very good discoveries. He has been for many years Professor of Anatomy in the University of Naples. The Cavalier Vivenzio is likewise a physician in the same city.

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COPY of a LETTER from Mr. BURKE to the ARCHBISHOP of AIX.

SIR,

IT is a great satisfaction to me, that the generous victims of injustice and tyranny accept in good part the homage which I have offered to their virtues: it is a distinction which I would not have had occasion to merit from the Clergy of France, in the time of their credit and splendor. Your Church, the intelligence of which was the ornament of the Christian World, in its prosperity, is now more brilliant, in the moment of its misfortunes, to the eyes who are capable of judging of it. Never did so great a number of men display a constancy so inflexible, a disinterestedness so manifest, an humility so magnanimous—so much dignity in their patience, and so much elevation in the sentiment of honour. Ages have not furnished so many examples as France has produced in the space of two years. It is odious to search in antiquity for the merit we admire, and to be sensible to that which passes under our eyes. France is in a deplorable situation, both in its moral and political state; but it seems to be in the order of the general economy of the world, that, when the greatest and most detestable vices domineer, the most eminent and distinguished virtues raise their heads more proudly—such is not the time for mediocrity.

We may have some diversity in our opinions, but we have no difference in our principles. There is but one kind of honour and virtue in the world. It consists in sacrificing every other consideration to the sentiments of our duty, of right, and of piety. It is this which the Clergy of France have done. I will not examine scrupulously, by what motives men like you have thought it their duty to support all that you have done. All that I see, I am forced to admire: the rest is out of my reach—out, perhaps, of the reach of those who are better instructed than me. One thing I see distinctly, because the Bishops of France have proved it by their example;—and that is, that they have made known to all the orders and all the classes of citizens, the advantages which even religion can derive from the alliance of its own proper dignity, with the character which illustrates birth, and the sentiment of honour, gives to man.

It is with good reason that, in France, the Noblesse should be proud of the Clergy, and the Clergy of the Noblesse, although these two classes be for the present condemned to passive courage, which gives so much glory to the one and the other.

I shall present to the Bishop of St. Paul