

the middle parallels : this held against the Sun, doth make refraction of the beams sent into it, very far, and perpendicularly from the Centre of a Cylindrical Section ; and in this Art the reason cannot be found, that the beams uniting should part again."

" I have spoken concerning light and heavy, now follow experiments by wind : for these seem to follow the reasons of Mathematicks, and of the Air, and water, and a Philosopher who seeks, to find things profitable, and admirable for mans use, must insist on these things, contemplate and search them out, in no thing doth the Majesty of Nature shine forth more. There are extant the famous Monuments of the most learned Heron of Alexandria, concerning wind Instruments, I will add some that are new, to give an occasion to search out greater matters."

The Proeme or Preface, as in many other matters, is the better part of this book.

The 20th, and last book of Natural Magick, is entitled :

" The Chaos, wherein the Experiments are set down without any Classical Order."

It commences with several attempts, at explaining how sweet water may be extracted from salt. Our author then proceeds to show how a man may disfigure his face, " so that not so much as his friends shall know him." In this he is more happy, and if he fails in telling how sweet water may be procured from salt, he clearly demonstrates, that a handsome man can with a little pains, be made to appear as ugly as his heart can wish. We are told that by painting the hair, and by making scars, and producing swellings in the face, that a man may alter his appearance ! The stinging of bees is prescribed as a sovereign remedy to alter a man's visage ! and poisonous applications to occasion excoriation and ulcers, are warranted to be very effectual.

From treating of experiments whereby impostors may cheat and counterfeit, Baptista proceeds to " the Harp, and many wonderful properties thereof." He is prolix on this subject, and with much simplicity eulogises the excellency of the minstrel's art. He sets out by making a just remark, and one which still applies,

" Music is now more adorned and noble, than it was amongst the ancients (for then it was more rude and imperfect) and yet in our days it doth not perform those operations."

The volume contains 20 books, 327 chapters, and 409 quarto pages. By skimming along its contents, we may have had some idea of the nature of the work ; recollecting, that in the preface, the author doubted whether the world was worthy of it. It affords a very vivid specimen of the simplicity and ignorance, which generally prevailed among what was called *learned and polite society*, 170 years ago. When we imagine, the correct beautiful diction, of the present day, the fund of valuable and delightful experiments with which a quarto publication, on the wonders of science, would be now filled — we must be gratified.