

properties. Of all bodies it is the hardest and most unalterable; inasmuch that it will bear the action of the most violent fire for two months, without any sensible diminution of its weight. Its parts are so subtle, that a grain of leaf gold can cover fifty square inches; so that upon the two surfaces, on a slight inspection, may be distinguished four millions of parts. And its ductility is such, that from a single grain may be drawn a wire five hundred feet long.

The wonderful form of common salt, the precious stones, the singular shapes of the ores, or metals in their mineral state, the astonishing particulars we have already noticed of extraneous fossils, and a variety of inexhaustible objects of enquiry in the mineral kingdom, seem formed, with the other wonders of creation, to excite our curiosity. And it must be confessed, that there is not an employment of the mind, productive of greater delight, of more solid satisfaction, nor of greater variety of enjoyment, than an attentive contemplation of the world of Nature. Were we to live, for ages, in this world, and to employ every day, in studying the phenomena and singularity of the mineral kingdom only, we should find innumerable things which we could not explain, which would excite more and more our curiosity, and yet continue inscrutable by our finite capacities. Let us employ then, at least, since the duration of our lives scarce extends beyond half a century, let us well employ the short time that is granted to us here, and devote as much of it as the necessary duties of life will permit, to the study of Nature; and, by thus enriching our minds, treasure up the most innocent and the most inexhaustible stores of knowledge and pleasure. The exquisite delight which such studies afford, will be heightened more and more, in proportion as we

meditate on the ends which the Creator has proposed in his works; for the wonders of Nature are more admirable and more sublime than all the productions of human art. There are not always compatible with our welfare; and, so far from rendering us either wiser or better, they are often the mere objects of unreflective admiration. But all the works of Nature, even the most singular and inexplicable, have for their object the felicity of the whole creation. They exist, not merely to be contemplated as objects of sight, but to be enjoyed; and all without exception, proclaim unspeakable goodness, as well as unsearchable wisdom and unbounded power.

Oh, Nature, all sufficient, over all!
 Enrich me with the knowledge of thy works!
 Snatch me to heaven; thy rolling wonders there,
 World beyond world in infinite extent,
 Profusely scatter'd o'er the blue immense,
 Shew me, their motions, periods, and their laws,
 Give me to scan; through the disclosing deep
 Light my blind way; the mineral strata there;
 Thrust, blooming, thence the vegetable world;
 O'er that the rising system more complex,
 Of animals; and higher still, the mind,
 The varied scene of quick compounded thought,
 And where the mixing passions endless shift;
 These ever open to my ravis'd eye;
 A search the flight of time can ne'er exhaust!

THOMSON.

CURIOUS EXPERIMENT of ENGRAFTING the SPUR of a COCK on his COMB.

THE possibility of engrafting members of the animal form on parts, where they did not originally grow, has often been asserted by natural philosophers, and some known experiments, particularly on the teeth (which are often transplanted from one mouth to another) have tended so far to support the practicability of this curious art, as might sufficiently encourage future attempts, to illustrate the extent to which it might be carried.

The following curious circumstance,

which, I believe, has never yet made its appearance in print, deserves to be disseminated, and may tend to encourage the experimental enquiries of the curious.

Some years ago, Mr. Cline, the celebrated operator, and anatomical lecturer at St. Thomas' hospital (conceiving that if a part of the animal body could be transposed, before its vital powers were extinct, to any other part, recently prepared for its reception, it might probably cement, and continue to imbibe the vital

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