

in his right hand, giving him repeated stabs in the belly; the enraged shark, after many unavailing efforts, and finding himself overmatched in his own element, endeavored to disengage himself, sometimes plunging to the bottom, then, mad with pain, rearing his uncouth form, now stained with his own streaming blood, above the waves. The crews of the surrounding vessels saw the unequal combat, uncertain from which of the

combatants the streams of blood issued; till, at length the shark, much weakened by the loss of blood, made towards the shore, and with him his conqueror, who, flushed with an assurance of victory, pushed his foe with redoubled ardor, and, by the help of an ebbing tide, dragged him on shore, ripped up his bowels, and united and buried the severed carcase of his friend.

### — SNUFF-TAKING.

“Every propped inveterate, and incurable snuff-taker, (says Lord Stanhope) at a moderate computation, takes one pinch in ten minutes. Every pinch, with the agreeable ceremony of blowing and wiping the nose and other incidental circumstances, consumes a minute and a half. One minute and a half out of every ten, allowing 16 hours to a snuff-taking day, amounts to two hours and 24 minutes out of every natural day, or one day out of every ten. One day out of every 10 amounts to 36 days and a half in the year. Hence,

if we suppose the practice to be persisted in for 40 years, two entire years of the snuff-taker's life will be dedicated to tickling his nose, and two more to blowing it. The expense of snuff, snuff-boxes, and handkerchiefs will be the subject of a second essay, in which it will appear, that this luxury encroaches as much on the income of the snuff-taker, as it does on his time; and that by a proper application of the time and money thus lost to the public, a fund might be constituted for the discharge of the national debt!!!”

### — VARIETIES.

#### ANCIENT COIN.

A fine and well preserved gold coin of king Edward III. was lately found by George Bidgood, a gardener, of Axbridge, while digging up some ground near that ancient town. Its present weight is exactly one hundred and eighteen grains troy; and is about the size of a modern half-crown in circumference. Edward III. is said by many historians, to have struck the first gold coins in England; but Hume says, they are to be found so early as Henry III's time, about a century before. Guthrie's Chronological Tables say, gold was first coined in 1344 (18th Edward III.); if they are correct, this piece may be one of the earliest, and most valuable.

#### BURIED FORESTS.

At Lawrence Park, four miles beyond Linlithgow, there is a piece of ground lower than the adjoining country, and covered with moss, but tolerably dry, which the proprietor opened with the view of forming a pond. About four feet under the surface, a great number of large trees were discovered, which were pronounced to be oak; the wood was still fresh and fit for use, and there was also found strewed upon the soil, among the trees, a vast quantity of nuts like those of the hazel.

#### VALUABLE DISCOVERY.

One of the most simple and useful discoveries in agriculture, is to mix layers of green or new-cut clover with layers of straw in ricks or stacks;