

NOTES.

L. 261.—*Argillæ boastæ azule.*] The azure stone, or lapis lazuli. This beautiful mineral is composed principally of argillaceous earth, with some silver and iron.

L. 262.—*The causeway fabled giants rear'd.*] The celebrated basaltic columns in the north of Ireland, the noblest productions of this kind in the world, are commonly called the giant's causeway.

268.—*The stor'd volute.*] It requires but little aid from Fancy to discover the musical notes on this nice little marine rarity. The shells generally called volutes, Linnæus has distinguished by the title *corus* or cone.

L. 269.—*The virgin Bulla.*] This marine production (called also *buccinum virginicum* by Linnæus) distinguished by parti-coloured, double bands, and its purple, truncated column, is considered as one of the most elegant of the single-valved, convoluted shells.

L. 270.—*The coral house.*] It is now established that the various species of corals owe their existence to certain marine animals termed polypes, by whom they are inhabited.

L. 271.—*The leopard cowry.*] The *cypræa tigris* of Linnæus is also called *cypræa pardalis* or leopard cowry, from the dark-brown spots with which it is so strikingly diversified. Though not uncommon it is extremely handsome, and derives from nature its singularly high polish. It was formerly honoured with the title of Venus's shell, for the story ran that the tyrant Periander having attacked her favoured votaries in the isle of Gnidos, Venus issued her commands to these trusty agents, who assembled in considerable numbers, and wrecked his vessel.

L. 275.—*Cataphracted fish.*] So called by Ichthyologists, from its being clad in a complete coat of mail, which this truly hard word implies.

L. 276.—*Echinus.*] The sea-urchin: that here alluded to is uncommonly large, and formidable.

L. 280.—*Marble boasts the bacon-slice.*] This alludes to a specimen which bears a whimsical resemblance to that far-fam'd prize of conjugal good-humour.

L. 282.—*The skimming comment of the Muse's strain*] Superficially indeed has she touched upon a few, a very few of the curious and valuable articles of this elegant cabinet, which adorns, like a wreath of amaranth, the rugged brow of the gigantic rock of Quebec.