

NOTES.

small processes, like oars: From the upper part arises obliquely a transparent membrane that resembles, and actually serves as a sail. Thus equipped it is frequently seen cruising on the atlantic ocean.

L. 198.—*The pilot Phaëton.*] Phaëton æthereus, so called from the prodigious height to which it soars, is styled in english, the tropic-bird, from its being mostly seen within the tropic circles. Upon some extraordinary occasions, however, this bird has gone beyond its usual limits. Thus, to Kalm, when sailing under the auspices of SETON to Canada, it presented itself on the atlantic in 40° north latitude. Thus also Latham mentions one having been seen on the same ocean in 47½° north latitude; and this was probably the very pilot here commemorated. The appearance of this bird indicates to sailors that land is at no great distance.

L. 199. *Halcyon.*] The king-fisher, a beautiful and brilliant bird, tho' of a retired disposition, and chiefly haunting the banks of rivers, is supposed to be the true halcyon of the ancients, proverbially the type of happy days.

L. 200. *Dione.*] Venus Dione, so called after the supposed mother of Venus, is a native of the american seas. This exquisite bivalve, moored in the Chateau by the hand of TASTE, still experiences the shelter of its hospitable roof. The curiosity of such as have not seen it may probably be inflamed by the following encomium of the celebrated naturalist Dr. Shaw.—“ This rare and curious shell is numbered amongst the most valuable articles of the conchyliological cabinet; and is indeed considered, when in its complete and unblemished state, as one of the cimcha of modern museums.”

L. 224.—*As, yet,*] This alludes to a wonderfully splendid and sublime description by St. John, Rev. xxi.—

L. 252.—*Nymphat coil.*] The greek Psyche originally signified a butterfly. The ancients, observing the surprising transformation of this insect from its coiled and torpid state of nymph or chrysalis to that of a bright ærial being which soon vanished from their sight, employed the same name metaphorically to denote the soul. The general idea was figured, according to the principles of their mythology, under the representation of a beautiful young female, from whose shoulders issued the wings of the butterfly; and of whom they feigned that Cupid, who swayed all the rest of the world, was himself enamoured.

L. 258.—*Diamond.*] Of the five principal kinds of earth, the diamond and almost all the precious stones belong to the siliceous tribe.

L. 259.—*Ponderous spar.*] Clusters of regularly figured spars of the barytic order.

L. 260.—*Magnesian daze.*] The transparent muscovy or pure mica, one of the most elegant forms under which the magnesian earth presents itself.

L. 260.—*Calcareous stalactite.*] The stone icicle, or drop-stone.