

the slightest degree ; they, together with the eyes, remaining always the same until death. These two figures are upon each, and exactly of the same shape with the holes cut in a violin, for allowing the sound to enter and issue, re-echoing all the modifications of harmony. For this purpose, beyond a doubt, have such organs been bestowed upon this little animal—which, notwithstanding its ugliness,* ‘ can discourse most excellent music.’

Whether the holes were cut in imitation of this very great living curiosity—it is impossible for me to determine. But there can be no doubt, that America was known to the Phœnicians,—which I shall prove afterwards, by what has come under my own observation—and it was not until long after, they (the Phœnicians) must have been thoroughly acquainted with this little musical phenomenon, that we hear of the violin.† It (the violin) was used by David, along with others in praising God, when his wife laughed at him. The instrument could not have been long formed, because, it was the only one then used, which had no name—for Flavius Josephus (if I recollect rightly,) has recorded, ‘ that it was an instrument formed of wood, had four strings, was held in the hand, and played upon by a bow.’ Whether such was the case, that the Phœnicians—who must often have visited America, invented that instrument, or improved it, by cutting the hole at each end of the bridge, from the organs of the tree toad, is impossible for an ignorant wanderer like me to decide. Nor do I care a pin, for I am quite happy, when hearing the little warblers of the night, or the art of man, calling forth such sounds of feeling from the work of his imperfect hands:—rapture is a word not to be used,—because, from my extreme ugliness, the ladies always try to shun me, so that I have seldom an opportunity of seeing one, all elegant and lovely, seated at a grand Piano, causing sounds to issue sweeter than zephyrs from a bed of violets—sweet—as her own breath!

This last, I am seldom favoured by, and therefore must ‘put up’ with the others ; I have merely mentioned the hypothesis about the toad and fiddle, in order, that those who paid attention to their learning, at school and college ; improved their minds by books, travel, and know ‘ a thing or two,’ may decide ; favouring an animal like me, who never was good at any thing but idle-sett, with their arguments and opinions. They may not make the world wiser, but, if such discussions have the effect of keeping fops and dandies from working

* It is not so ugly as the common Toad of America or Britain.

† The musical instruments which required great practice—with the exception of the violin, were not known until long after. The Piano Forte has been for some time in use among the Birmahs. It is different from ours, though of similar shape. The notes are covered with dried pieces of orange skin, and struck by small sticks, the ends of which are covered with Indian rubber. The music is pleasant, and somewhat resembles that produced by the drum of the Don Kozacks ; to which the beautiful, but unfortunate wife of Jameljan Pugatchew, danced by moonlight. He (J. P.) was chief of these fellows, and beheaded by Peter the Great. His story, which is not generally known, will be told hereafter.—EDITOR.