

NOTES.

FROM the nature of the foregoing poem, some allusions necessarily arose which may not be generally obvious. To elucidate these the author has subjoined a few notes, for which if he should receive the slightest thanks from any of his fair readers, he will be amply satisfied. The learned philosopher, for whom they are not intended, should pass them by without spleen, as he does the toy-shop, or the perfume warehouse.

Line 21.—Carrier-Pigeon.] These pigeons used to arrive at Aleppo with expresses from Bagdad, or from Babylon, (30 days journey,) in 48 hours. Within these few years past, this rapid post has been broken up; the Curds having learned to rob the mail, and kill the couriers.

L. 25.—Montgolfier.] The balloon of Montgolfier, (the first mere mortal who explored the skies,) was elevated by fire. Since his time balloons have been generally constructed with inflammable air, which is about twelve times lighter than an equal bulk of the atmosphere.

L. 31.—Iris.] The rainbow; the messenger of the Gods, and generally employed on hostile occasions.

L. 47.—Phosphorescent.] The beautiful and astonishing brightness which the agitated ocean sometimes exhibits is known to derive its origin from the phosphoric light of myriads of minute animals who inhabit its waves.

L. 51.—Heraclea.] The magnet is said to have been first discovered at Heraclea, a celebrated sea-port of the ancient Lydia; and hence it has been sometimes called the Heracleian Stone. Its application to the compass is usually ascribed to Flavio da Molise, a Neapolitan; in memory of whom the territory of Principato, that boasts the honour of having given him birth, quarters a compass in its arms.

L. 62.—Science smiles.] Every one knows that "the Loves of the Plants," as gravely expounded by Linnæus, constitute the foundation of modern botany; and under this title Dr. Darwin has favoured the world with an elegant, philosophic poem. All this is very imposing, nay fascinating; still however Science does smile.

L. 70.—Kingdom of the Bee.] Those modern philosophers who so sagely tell us that monarchy is a state of society not conformable to nature, have unluckily, (I suppose,) never had the opportunity of peeping into a bee-hive.

L. 86.—Magic rod.] The electrical conductor silently disarms the thunder-cloud.

L. 159.—Achromatic.] The achromatic glass, (familiar to astronomers,) corrects the false colours, or aberration of light occasioned by others.

L. 196.—The skiff Velella.] This elegant and curious little animal, (a species of Medusa,) has an oval, light-blue body, from the lower part of which, on each side, issue a number of