

Wild Ducks are very numerous in the *Cape-Countries*; and there are many Sorts of 'em. I shall not stay to describe any Sort, but shall only set down the Peculiarities of a Few. Some are distinguish'd by the Head-Feathers; which are blew. Others are distinguish'd by the Neck- and Head-Feathers; which are of a Chestnut-Colour. Some are distinguish'd by their Bills; which are very broad. And others are distinguish'd by their Smallness. Every body is at Liberty to shoot 'em.

The YELLOW - HAMMER.

Yellow - hammers, (which are, as it were, another Species of Chaffinches) are pretty much seen in the *Cape-Countries*. They differ not, either in Size, Shape or Colour, from the *European Yellow-hammer*; and 'tis therefore needless to describe 'em. They are great Devourers of Corn. For which Reason they are, in *Germany*, call'd Corn-Birds.

The EDOLIO.

THERE is a Bird at the *Cape*, which the *Europeans* there call *Edolio*. In Size, Shape and Colour it perfectly agrees with the *European Cuckoo*. It keeps mostly in thick Bushes, or on high Trees; and, in fine Weather, cries, in a low melancholy Tone, *Edolio, Edolio*. This is all its Song. It repeats it often, and utters it as articulately as any Man in the World can. There are, as I have said in my Topographical Account of the Colonies, Two Thickets near the *Cape*, the one, call'd *Paradise*; the other, *Hell*. I have frequently heard it in those Thickets, crying *Edolio, Edolio,*
over

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 151

over and over again; and could not once observe the least Defect in its Utterance of the Word.

The Common People at the *Cape* account for the Cry of this Bird by a very idle Story. They tell you, that, long ago, a certain Boatwain was murder'd in one of the abovemention'd Thickets; and that this Boatwain, when he encourag'd a Ship's Crew, was us'd to say, *Edolio, Edolio*. That, upon his Death, his Soul enter'd into all the Birds, call'd *Edolioes*; which Birds, say they, till that Time were mute; and that his Soul gave those Birds a Faculty of uttering the Word *Edolio*; which Faculty their Posterity has inherited ever since. Absurd as this Story is, there are People at the *Cape of Good Hope*, who give into it all.

LARKS.

LARKS are seen in the *Hottentot* Countries; but they are never seen there in Flocks, as they are in *Europe*. They agree, in Size, Shape and Colour, with the *European* Larks; and 'tis therefore needless to describe 'em.

The CHLORIS, or GREEN-FINCH.

IN the *Hottentot* Countries this Bird is much more frequently seen than in *Europe*. The *Cape-Chloris* is about the Size of a Nightingale. The Bill is broad. The Back- and Belly-Feathers are of a Grass-Green. Most of the Feathers in the Tail are green. But the Wing-Feathers are mostly black. The Notes of this Bird are loud and pleasant.

L 4

The

The BLUE -BIRD.

THE Description *Rapbael Seuler* has given of the *Cape Blue Bird*, being a very exact one, I shall copy it here. This Bird, says he, is of the Size of a Sterling. The Feathres are blue. Those upon the Neck and Thighs are of a Sky-Blue, but somewhat darker than the Feathers of the King's Fisher. The Back- and Wing-Feathers are of a dark blue, approaching to a Black. The Bill is between Three and Four Inches long, and pointed. The nether Mandible is of a dark Red. This Bird is sometimes seen in Gardens; but it keeps for the most Part upon high Hills. The Flesh is delicate Food.

The BLACK -BIRD.

TH E R E are, in the *Cape-Countries*, several Sorts of Birds, which the *Europeans* there call Black-Birds, the Notes of all of 'em being much the same. The Feathers of some of those Birds are totally black; and the Bills, of the Colour of Gold. The Feathers of others are totally brown, and the Bills black. And some have their Feathers, throughout, of a reddish Colour, with dark-brown Bills. Beyond the Colonies they mostly keep in Thorn-Bushes. But in the Colonies, they are seen mostly in the Laurel-Trees.

WAG-TAILS.

TH E R E are several Sorts of Wag-Tails in the *Cape-Countries*, all very large. Some are Ash-colour'd. Others are yellowish, with a black Streak running from the Bill, over the Head.
'Tis

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 153

'Tis needless, methinks, to give a Description of these Birds.

FINCHES.

F Inches are seen, in the *Cape*-Countries of all the Sorts that are seen in *Europe*. And there is one Sort which, I am apt to think, is not seen in *Europe*. The Finch of this Kind is somewhat larger than a Chaffinch. In Winter the Feathers are Ash-colour'd, throughout. In Summer the Bird casts those Feathers, and gets a new Plumage; which, on the Head, Belly, Wings and Tail, is black; but on the Neck and Back 'tis of a high Scarlet. The Bill is short, straight and pointed, and yellow. The Nest of this Bird is of a peculiar Contrivance. 'Tis made with small Twigs, interwoven, very closely and tightly, with Cotton. 'Tis divided into Two Apartments, but has only one Entrance. The Upper is the Apartment of the Male: In the Under lodges the Female. 'Tis so close and tight, that it is not to be penetrated by any Sort of Weather. I have seen many of those Birds. The Most of Those, that are near the *Cape*, are ever seen about the *Mossel-Banks*.

B A T S.

B A T S are as much seen in the *Cape*-Countries as they are in *Europe*, and differ in Nothing from the *European* Bats. I have seen one, that was taken on the Island *St. Maurice*, as big as a Hen.

The TIT-MOUSE.

A T the *Cape* are seen so many Sorts of Tit-mouses, that it would be a very tedious Work to describe them all. I shall only set
down

down the Distinctions of some of the most remarkable.

The smallest Sort of the *Cape-Titmoufes* has the Feathers on the Head blew, with white Spots about the Eyes: And the Breast- and Belly-Feathers are yellow. Another Sort has black Feathers on the Head. A Third Sort is distinguish'd by the Length of the Tail-Feathers, which shoot out far beyond Proportion to the Body. A Fourth Sort is distinguish'd by a white Spot on the Head, all the other Head-Feathers being black. A Fifth Sort has the Head black, with a red Spot upon it; the Wing-Feathers black, and the Feet reddish. Another Sort has the Feathers on the Head black: All the other Feathers are of a yellowish Green. This last is of the Size of a Chaffinch.

The *Cape-Titmoufes* sing very prettily. And as the Canary Birds mingle with 'em, there is frequently heard at the *Cape*, from Titmoufes and Canary Birds together, very ravishing Pieces of Wild Musick.

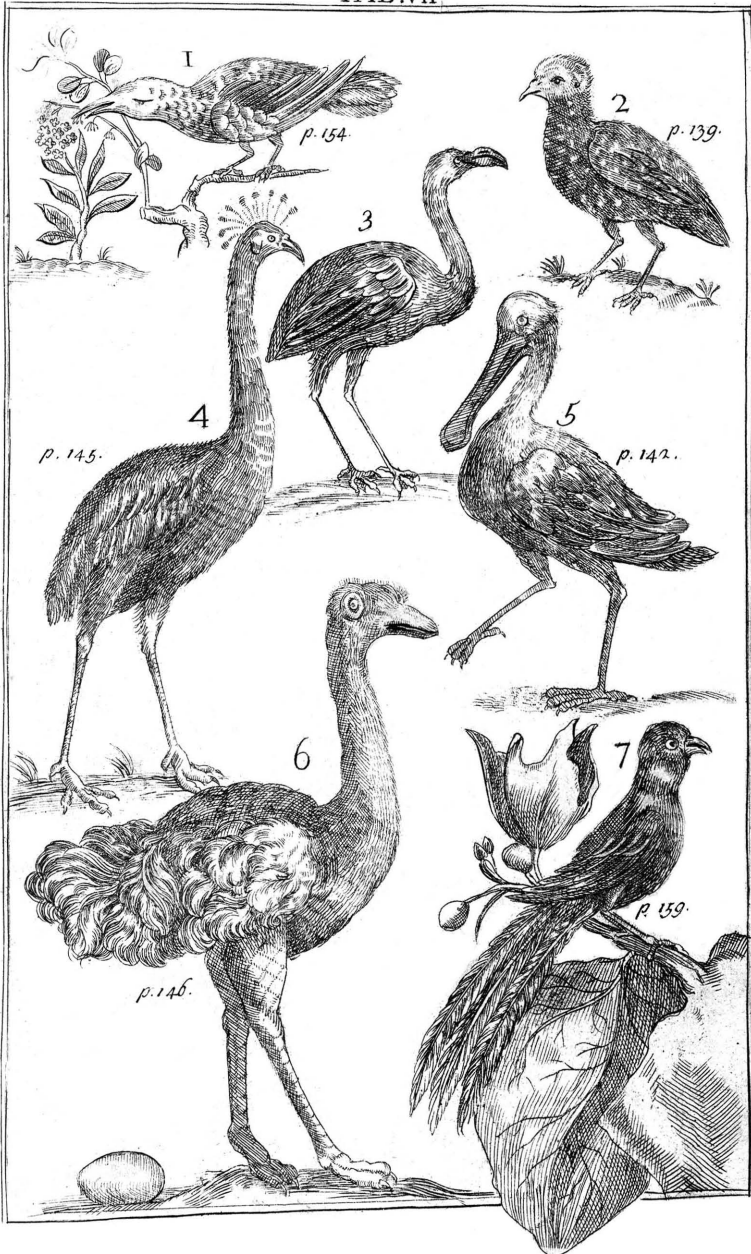
G N A T - S N A P P E R S.

G Nat-snappers, which are much seen at the *Cape* (where they are likewise call'd Honey-or Bee-Eaters)* Some reckon a Sort of Titmoufes: But I can see no Reason for it; for they differ from the Titmoufes in almost every Particular. The Notes of the Gnat-snapper are nothing near so sweet as those of the Titmoufe. The Gnat-snapper feeds wholly on Flies, Bees and Honey; whereas the Titmoufe feeds not at all, either upon Flies, Bees or Honey.

* Vide Tab. VII. Fig 1.

The

TAB.VII



the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 155

The Bill of the Gnat-snapper is long, streight and very strong, and red. The Feathers on the Upper part of the Breast are of a deep Blew : Those on the lower-part are of a faint Blew. The Wing- and Tail-Feathers are black. The Legs are likewise black and very long.

These Gnat-snappers, or Honey-Eaters, are a Sort of Guides to the *Hottentots* in the Search of Honey, which the Bees lay up in the Clefts of Rocks.

The LONG TONGUE.

THERE is a little Bird at the *Cape*, for which I know no other Name than what the *CAPE-Europeans* give it, which is *Long Tongue**. 'Tis somewhat larger than a Gold-Finch. The Feathers on the Belly are yellow. The Rest are speckled. The Tongue is long and pointed ; as hard as Iron ; and as sharp at the Point as is the Point of a Needle. When Hands are endeavour'd to be laid on this Bird, it pricks and wounds 'em with its Tongue : And the Tongue, perhaps, is the defensive Weapon of this Bird against its Enemies in the Animal World. The Foot of this Bird is like that of the Nightingale : And the Claws are pretty long. The Flesh (of which I have often eaten) is wholesome and well tasted.

CANARY BIRDS.

CAnary Birds are seen at the *Cape*, differing from the Birds of the same Name in *Germany* only in their Colours. They are very destructive to

* *Torquilla* Willoughby, p. 138. Tab. 22.

Seed-Plants ; and are therefore much shot. And their Flesh is very delicate Eating.

The SERINUS.

IN the *Cape-Countries*, there is a small Bird, which *Heuslinis*, in his Treatise of Birds, calls *Serinus*. I met with no Name for it at the *Cape*. 'Tis reckon'd of the Green Bird-Clas. It sings charmingly, much like a Canary Bird. But the *CAPE-Europeans* taking very little Delight in Singing Birds, there are but very few of this or any other Sort of Singing Birds seen in the Colonies. They are there shot and upon the Spit with other Birds.

The Breast- and Belly-Feathers of *Serinus* are of a yellowish Green. The Back-Feathers are of the same Colour, with a Mixture of Grey.

The ÆGITHUS.

THIS little Bird is much seen in the Colonies, and up and down the *Cape-Countries*; and is at great Enmity with the Asses there for destroying its Nest, which it constantly builds upon Thistles. As this Bird is very well known in *Europe*, 'tis needless to describe it.

HAW-FINCHES, or GROS-BEAKS.

THERE are, in the *Cape-Countries*, great Numbers of Haw-Finches. They agree, in Size, Shape and Colour, with the Haw-Finches of *Europe*; Birds that are fond of Feeding on Cherry-Stone Kernels, and, on that Account, ever destructive to Cherries when they can meet with them. There being but few Cherry-Trees in the *Cape-Colonies*, the *Cape-Haw-*

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 157

Haw-Finches come at but few Cherries. They eat the Kernels of Olive- and other Fruit-Stones; which fatten 'em as well. They are call'd likewise *Stone-Biters*.

The UPUPA, or HOOPOE.

THERE are several Sorts of *Hoopoes* in the *Cape-Countries*. Some are grey; some, Ash-colour'd; and some, green. The grey and the Ash-colour'd are somewhat less than the *Hoopoes* of the same Colour in *Germany*. But the Green are much of the same Size with the *German* green. All the Difference is, that the Crests of the *CAPE-Hoopoes* are shorter.

STERLINGS.

STERlings are very numerous in the *Cape-Countries*; but they keep mostly near the Marshes, and low well water'd Grounds, and particularly those low Grounds where much Cattle is kept; for from the Dung of Cattle they pick much of their Food. In *February* and *March*, when the Grapes begin to ripen, these Birds come in large Flocks to the Vineyards; being not only Lovers of Grape-Stones, but of the Juice likewise. One or Two Persons are therefore, during those Months, kept in every Vineyard at the *Cape*, to shoot or fright them away. And perhaps my Reader will not think it unworthy of Mention, that the Watch in the Vineyards fright these Birds off by the Cracking of a long Whip.

The STONE-PECKER.

THE *Dutch* call this Bird *Strand Loper*, i. e. Shore Courfer. She is frequently seen about the *Cape*. - The Bill is streight, and of a dark brown.
The

The Legs and Feet are of a light Yellow. The Head- Back- and Tail-Feathers are Ash-colour'd. The Belly-Feathers are white. This Bird feeds on Worms, and is almost continually wagging the Tail. She flies not-often, and not far at once. She is rarely shot, because her Flesh is but indifferent Food.

PIGEONS.

IN the *Cape*-Countries, there are both Wild and Tame Pigeons. The Tame agree, in every Respect, with the *European* Tame Pigeons. But among the Wild there are two or three Sorts, which differ much from any Wild Pigeons I have seen in *Germany*. The First of These is call'd at the *Cape*, the *Hill* or *Mount*-Pigeon. The Feathers of this Bird are greenish; and the Bill and Feet are reddish. The Second is call'd the *Bush*-Pigeon. The Neck-Feathers are greenish. The Rest are white, with a great Number of grey Specks. The Third is call'd the *Sea*-Pigeon. The Feathers are black: The Bill and Feet red.

SWALLOWS.

THERE are three Sorts of Swallows in the *Cape*-Countries. The Head- Back- and Tail-Feathers of the first Sort are black, and the Belly-Feathers whitish. All the Feathers of the second Sort are black. The Swallows of this Sort are call'd *Prey*-Swallows, on Account of their beating the *House*-Swallows out of their Nests. All the Feathers of the third Sort are grey; and the Feet are cover'd with long Feathers. All these Sorts are to be met with in the *Cape*-Countries throughout the Year; but

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 159

but more of 'em are to be seen in the Summer- than in the Winter-Season.

There is a Sort of Swallow, which is frequently seen at Sea, and which Seamen call the *Sea-Swallow**. The Naturalists call it *Apus*, from a Notion that it has no Feet; but that Notion is a mistaken one; for this Bird has Feet; but they are very short, and are overgrown with Feathers as far as the Claws. I never saw the Bird but at Sea: And I have seen it there oftner than I chose to see it. For the Sailors say, (and by an Instance or two I was almost brought to their Opinion) that the Settling of a Sea-Swallow upon a Ship, is a Prognostick of an approaching Storm. She sometimes hovers about a Ship a considerable Time before she settles upon it; and she never settles but upon the Stern. Having sat upon the Stern a little While, she puts herself again on the Wing, and hovers about the Ship for some Time, and then flies quite away. While she hovers about a Ship, or sits upon the Stern, not one of the Ship's Crew will offend her, for Fear the Offence should bring upon 'em their own Destruction.

SPARROWS.

THESE Birds are very numerous in the *Cape-Countries*. They are of several Kinds; differing in Size and Colour: But their Notes (which are disagreeable) are alike†.

WOOD-PECKERS.

OF the several Kinds of Wood-Peckers in the *Cape-Countries*, I know none so well as I do the Kind, call'd the *Green Peak*. The *Green Peak*

* The Pitterel

† Vide Tab. VII. Fig. 7.

is a beautiful Bird. She is all over green, excepting a red Spot on her Head, and another of the same Colour on her Breast. She feeds upon small Insects, which she picks from the Bark of Trees, and builds her Nest sometimes upon high and steep Rocks, but generally in Bushes in the Vallies.

The THRUSH.

I Have seen no other Sort of Thrush at the *Cape*, than what the *Europeans* call the *Wine*-Thrush. The *Wine*-Thrushes have their Name from their loving of Grape-Stones, and being much seen in and about the Vineyards when the Vintage approaches. They do not a little Damage to the Grapes, if a good Watch is not kept against 'em. They build their Nests in the same Manner, and with the same Materials as other Thrushes; that is to say, they make the Inside of their Nests with rotten Wood, and the Outside with Moss, fashioning them in such a Manner, and making 'em so firm and tight, that no Water can get into 'em. The Flesh of the *Wine* Thrush is very delicate Food.

QUAILS.

Quails are found in the *Cape*-Countries. They answer, in Shape, Size and Colour, to the Quails of *Europe*. I cannot say what Sort of Eating their Flesh is, having never tasted it: But the *CAPE*-*Europeans* think it not fit for the Table.

D A W S.

TH E R E are two Sorts of Daws at the *Cape* of *Good Hope*; the one Tame, the other Wild. The Tame agree in every Respect with the
Eu-

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 161

Europeans Daws. The Feathers of the Wild are all black ; and their Bills are round and red. There is likewise a Sort of Birds at the *Cape*, which I know not whether to reckon a Sort of Daws or a Sort of Pies. But I am inclin'd to think, that when I have describ'd this Sort of Bird, the Reader will look upon it as a Kind of Pie. 'Tis of the Size of a Daw. The Bill and Legs are red. The Feathers are all black, excepting a Ring of White about the Neck. This Bird delights to be upon Rocks, or upon high spreading Trees ; feeds much upon Wild Almonds, and may be taught to talk, like the Parrot.

COCKS, HENS, &c.

COcks, Hens, Capons and Turkie are so numerous in the *Cape-Colonies*, that they are cheaper there than Butcher's Meat. They differ not in any Thing from the Fowls of the like Names in *Europe*.



M

Of



*Of the SERPENTS and INSECTS at the
CAPE of Good Hope.*

THERE are Serpents of many Kinds at the *Cape of Good Hope*. But not one Kind of 'em has yet obtain'd any particular Name there. The *CAPE-Europeans* use no other Term than *Serpent* for any one of 'em. I believe, however, that there is no Species of Serpents at the *Cape*, which is not mention'd by some Appellation in ancient Authors. But it were a difficult Matter for a Man, who is not well vers'd in those Authors, and likewise in this Part of *Natural History*, to ascertain, from them, the Appellation of each Species. *Gesner*, *Carron* and others have assign'd Names to some Sorts of Serpents at the *Cape*: And these I shall follow, as far as they go.

The ASP.

THIS Serpent is of an Ash-Colour, speck'd with Red and Yellow. The Head and Neck are very broad. The Eyes are flat, and far in the Head. Near each Eye grows a fleshy Protuberance, about the Bigness of a Hazzle-Nut. These Serpents are of various Lengths. Some are several Yards long.

The

The EYE-SERPENT.

THIS Serpent is so call'd, on Account of many white Spots she has, appearing something like Eyes, on a Black Skin. She is likewise call'd the *Dart-* or *Shoot-Serpent*, on Account of her darting her self very swiftly either at or from an Enemy. If she finds an Opportunity, she darts her self at her Enemy very fiercely: If not, she shoots away from him with wonderful Speed. But a smart Stroke with a Stick, upon her Back, stops and disables her: After which, 'tis an easie Matter to kill her. For other Particulars, concerning the *Asp* and the Eye-Serpent, I refer my Reader to *Gesner*, *Carron* and *Francisci*, who have written very largely upon these Serpents.

The TREE-SERPENT.

THIS Serpent is so call'd on Account of her being seen mostly in Trees. She is about Two Yards long, and about Three Quarters of an Inch thick. She winds her self about the Branches of Trees, and remains so for a long Time without Motion; and is, in that Posture, so like a Branch, that a Man, who has not a very good Eye, or some Knowledge of her Ways, would take her for nothing else. All the Difference, in Point of Colour, is, that she is a little speckled. Hence it is, that Persons are sometimes surpris'd by her. While they stand to gaze at a Tree, if they are near the Side on which she is lodg'd, she darts her Head at their Faces, and sometimes wounds 'em. And 'tis ever her Way, that as soon as she has drawn her Head in again, she turns about and descends, in order to abandon the

Tree. But she is so slow in Descending (which she does by Winding her self from one Part to another) that 'tis easie to knock her on the Head before she gets to the Ground.

Some Persons at the *Cape*, when they get Tree-Serpents, send 'em in Spirits as Presents to their Friends in *Holland*; or else they melt the Fat of 'em, and mixing it with something or other, make a Candle with the Mixture, which has a very surprizing Effect; for this Candle, in the Night Time, makes the Room it burns in appear to be full of Serpents.

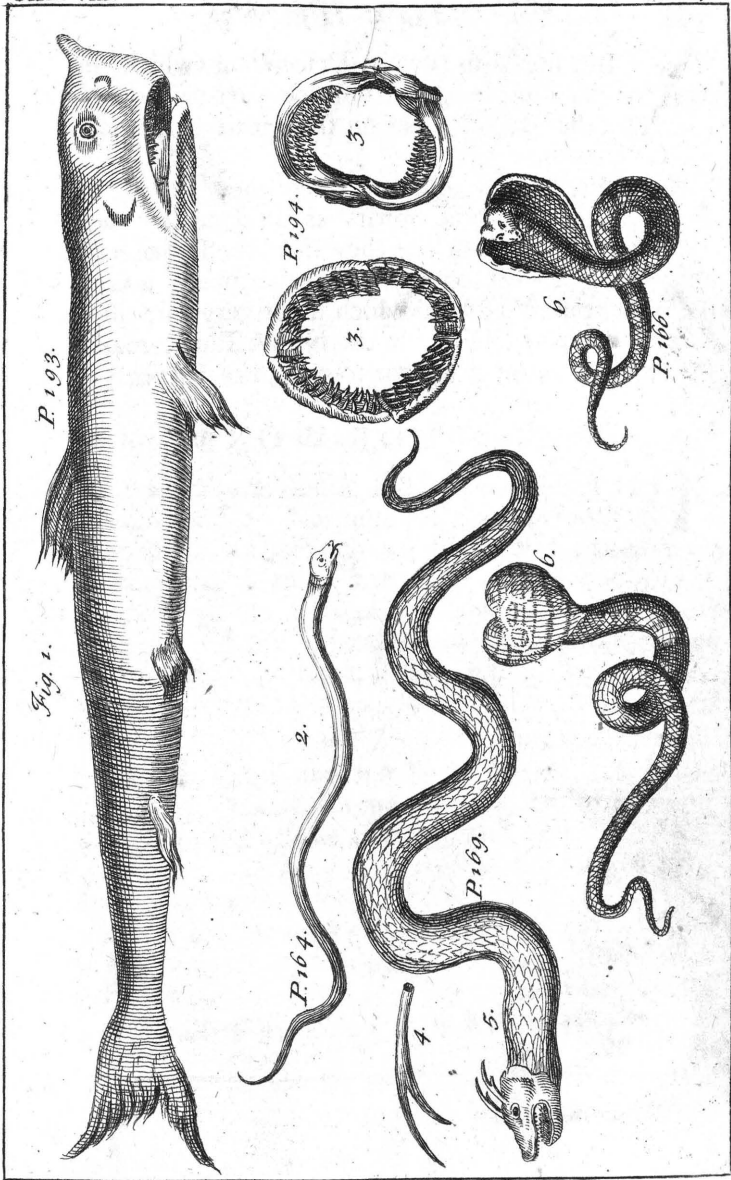
The B L I N D S L O E - W O R M.

TH E Serpents call'd *Blind Sloe-Worms*, are seen in the *Cape-Countries**. The Scales of these Serpents are black, with Specks of Brown, White and Red. Their Bite is not so poisonous as that of other Serpents. They are mostly found in and near the Roads, and are easily kill'd. As these Serpents are pretty well known in *Germany*, 'tis needless for me to say any more of 'em.

The D I P S A S.

TH E *Dipsas* or *Thirst-Serpent*, so call'd from its Bite's causing a burning Thirst, is frequently met with in the *Cape-Countries*. 'Tis likewise, for the same Reason, call'd *Prester*; the *Greek* Verb, of which that Word is form'd, signifying *to enflame*; as the Verb, in the same Language, of which *Dipsas* is form'd, signifies *to thirst*. This Serpent is about Three Quarters of a Yard long.

* Vide Tab. VIII. Fig. 4



the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 165

The Neck is broad, and the Back blackish. 'Tis very nimble in its Assaults. And its Bite presently enflames the Blood, and causes a very dolorous Thirst.

I knew a Fellow at the *Cape*, who had been bitten by the *Dipfas* in the Calf of the Leg. As soon as he had receiv'd the Wound, he tied his Garter very tight above the Knee ; and above the Garter he tied some other Things he had at Hand, by Way of Bandage, to stop the Course of the Poison upwards. He then made what Hast he could to the nearest House, which happen'd to be a Smith's, an Acquaintance of his. But before he got thither, his Leg was very much swell'd, and he was seiz'd with a burning Thirst. As soon as he saw the Smith (who happen'd to be at Home) he ask'd impatiently for Water to drink, giving at the same Time an Account of his Misfortune. The Smith knowing the Nature of the Poison, and having an Antidote against it, would neither give him Water nor any Thing else to drink; but told him, that he must yield forthwith to have the swell'd Leg laid open, and trust to him for a Cure. The Fellow submitted ; and the Smith laid open the Leg ; and out there issued a great Deal of a watery yellow Humour. The Smith then prepar'd a pretty large Plaister, and tied it round the Leg, over the Incision ; advising his Patient to refrain from Drink for a Quarter of an Hour. The Patient did so : And in a Quarter of an Hour his Thirst was considerably abated by Means of the Plaister ; which had in that Time likewise drawn to it a great Deal more of the yellow Humour. The Smith then took off the Plaister, to let the Humour out ; and as soon as he had cleans'd the Wound, he clapt the Plaister on again. The Swelling was by
M 3 this

this Time considerably abated, and the Patient much at his Ease, the Bandages above his Knee being now taken off. And in a little Time he was perfectly cur'd, wholly by the Care and Skill of the Smith.

Gesner, Carron, and several other Authors, are of Opinion, that the Serpents, sent among the *Israelites* (Numb. 21. 6. Deut. 8. 15.) were of the *Dipsas* Kind.

The HAIR-SERPENT.

THERE is, in the *Cape-Countries*, a Sort of Serpents, call'd *Hair-Serpents**. The *Portuguese* call 'em *Cobras de Capello*, on Account of their being of a yellow Colour. The *Cape Hair-Serpent* is about a Yard long, and about Three Quarters of an Inch thick. Its Poison is reckon'd to be more malignant than that of any other Sort of Serpent; its Bite causing immediate Death, unless an Antidote be immediately applied.

Some affirm, that there is in the Head of the *Hair-Serpent* a Stone, which is a never-failing Antidote both against the Poison of this and every other Sort of Serpent. I kill'd a great many *Hair-Serpents* at the *Cape*, and search'd very narrowly the Heads of all I kill'd, in Order to find this Stone; but I could never once discover any such Thing. Perhaps, it is not to be found but at one Season of the Year, as are the Stones in the Heads of *Craw-Fish*.

There are in the Hands of the *CAPE-Emropeans* a great many Stones, call'd *Serpent-Stones*; but they

Vide Tab. VIII. Fig. 6

are

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 167

are artificial ones. They are brought from the *East-Indies* ; where they are prepar'd by the *Brachmans*, who are alone, it seems, possess'd of the Secret of the Composition, and will not let it go out of their own Body for any Price. I am heartily sorry the Secret is not in the Christian World ; and that the *Brachmans* are inflexible in this Particular, because those Stones are of admirable Virtues. I saw one of 'em tried upon a Child at the *Cape*, who had receiv'd a poisonous Bite in one of the Arms ; but it could not be discover'd from what Creature. When the Stone was brought, the Arm was prodigiously swell'd and inflam'd. The Stone being applied to the Wound, stuck to it very closely, without any Manner of Bandage or Support, drinking in the Poison till it could receive no more ; and then it dropt off. The Stone was then laid in Milk, that it might purge it self of the Poison ; and it did so presently, the Poison turning the Milk yellow. The Stone, as soon as it was purg'd, was again applied to the Wound ; and when it had drank in its Dose, it was again laid in Milk. And this was reiterated till such Time as the Stone had exhausted all the Poison ; After which the Arm was quickly heal'd.

The artificial *Serpent-Stone*, which I here speak of, is shap'd like a Bean. The Matter in the middle is whitish. The Rest is of a Sky-blew. Tenacious as the *Brachmans* are of the Secret of the Composition, there are *Europeans* who pretend to have discover'd a great Deal of it. They say, the *Brachmans* get the natural *Serpent-Stone*, and adding to it some Parts of the Head of the Serpent in which they find the Stone ; likewise some of the Teeth, and a little of the Heart and Liver, together with a little

white medicinal Earth, or *Serpent-Wood*, grind the Whole together, and of this Mixture make their *Serpent-Stones*. But I could never hear, that this Receipt was tried : Nor can I think it approaches the Secret of the *Brachmans*.

HOUSE-SERPENTS.

THERE is, at the *Cape*, a Sort of Serpents which we call *House-Serpents*. They love to be in and near Houses ; and will, if they can, get into People's Beds, and lye with 'em all Night. If they are offended, they bite ; but their Bite is not poisonous ; nor has it any ill Consequence. They slip thro' the Hands like Eels ; and when you drive them out of Bed, use 'em in what Manner you will, saving that you do not disable 'em, they will return and get into Bed again if they can. They are from an Inch and a Quarter to an Inch and a Half thick, and about an Ell long. While I was at the *Cape*, there were some *House-Serpents* found in old Brick Walls (when the Walls were pull'd down) that were a Yard and a Half long.

A worthy Friend of mine has in his Possession a bony Substance, which grew upon the Head of a *House-Serpent* that was kill'd by a Miller in the *Hartz* near *Elbingrode* in *Germany*. This bony Substance the *Sieur Acxtelmeir*, in his *Idea Harmonicæ*, judges to be the Serpent's Crown.

The CERASTES *or* Horn'd SERPENT.

Father *Tachart*, in his *Journey to Siam*, says there are Horn'd Serpents in the *Cape-Countries*. Many *Europeans* at the *Cape* say so too. But

* Vide Tab. VIII. Fig. 5.

I could never discover one of those Serpents there; tho' I took a great Deal of Pains to do it, and offer'd a considerable Reward to Any body that would help me to the Sight of one. Nor could I meet with Any body who was able to give me any satisfactory Account of the Make and Nature of the *Cape-Horn'd* Serpents. A Horn of a *Ceraftes* is in the Possession of an eminent Phyfician at the *Cape*: But that *Ceraftes* was not taken in the *Cape-Countries*. This Horn is, in Colour, not unlike polish'd Ivory. For the Shape and Dimensions of it*.

Erafm. Francisci, in his *American Flower-Bush*, fays, there are Horn'd Serpents about *Mexico*, that are about 20 Feet long, and as thick as a Man's Wast. The Horn'd Serpent is call'd there, he fays, *Macacoath*, i. e. *Stag-Serpent*, becaufe the Head is like that of a Stag; but the Horns appear not upon it till the Serpent grows old.

An Acquaintance of mine at the *Cape*, made me a Prefent of a Serpent he had kill'd there, of the Nature of which I could not meet with any Account; the like, perhaps, not having been feen by the *CAPE Europeans*. Nor have I been able to meet with any Name for it. It was a Foot and a Half long, and about Three Quarters of an Inch thick. The Head was whitifh; and the Back red, fpeck'd with Brown. I accepted the Prefent, and preserv'd it in Spirits.

I faw feveral other Sorts of Serpents in the *Cape-Countries*. But I know not the Names of 'em, and fhall therefore give no more than the following general Account of 'em. One Sort is moftly feen upon Rocks: Another Sort is moftly feen on flat fandy

* Vide Tab. VIII. Fig. 5.

Grounds. There is a Sort that is mostly seen in and about the Roads in the *Cape-Countries*; and a small Sort, of a black Colour, that loves to harbour in Straw and Reeds. Numbers of this last Sort harbour in the Thatch on the Houses in the Colonies; and lay their Eggs and breed their Young there. A full-grown Serpent of this Sort is not longer than a Man's middle Finger, nor thicker than a Goose-Quill. This Serpent's Egg is about the Bigness of a small Pea.

I shall now give an Account of the Insects that are found at the *Cape of Good Hope*. I divide 'em into Three Classes, namely, *Sea-Insects*, *River-Insects*, and *Land-Insects*. I begin with an Account of the *Sea-Insects*.

The SEA-FLEA.

THIS Insect is only seen on the oea; and is so call'd on Account of its Drawing its Legs together in a Cluster, and jumping much after the Manner of a Flea. 'Tis of the Size of a young Shrimp, and is nearly of the Shape of a Shrimp, being cover'd with Scales much after the Manner the Shrimp is. It keeps sometimes under Water, and appears there very much like a Shrimp. 'Tis provided with a Sting, and is by that Means a great Plague to Fishes; for when it 'lights on 'em it clings to 'em so fast, and stings 'em so grievously, that they fling themselves in a Fury upwards and downwards, and then whisk away as quick as they can to a Sea-Rock or a stony Shore, in Order to rid themselves of this Enemy by Rubbing themselves against it.

The

The SEA-LOUSE.

THIS Insect is much like a Horse-Fly. The principal Difference is, that 'tis somewhat broader. 'Tis cover'd with a hard Shell, and has a great Number of Legs; every one of which ends in a Hook. It keeps mostly under Water, and is a great Plague to Fishes; for when it gets upon a Fish, it clings fast to the Body by its hooked Legs; and having fix'd its Mouth in it, gives the Fish a great Deal of Torture by Sucking it. And if the Fish finds not some Means to rub it off, the Insect will suck it to Death.

SEA - WORMS.

THERE are many Sorts of Sea-Worms at the *Cape of Good Hope*. One Sort is frequently found in the Sand on the Sea-Shore. The Worms of this Sort are from a Yard to a Yard and a Half in Length; and are not much unlike the Worms brought from Children. In calm Weather they creep a great Way into the Sea, in Search of Food: And they remain there till a Storm of Wind sets into the Shore; at which Time they rise to the Surface of the Water, and are driven to Shore by the Waves. When they get ashore, they hide themselves in the Sands.

There are several other Sorts of Sea-Worms at the *Cape*, that keep continually in the Sea. Among these there is a Sort that is thick in the Middle, and pointed at both Ends; and has neither Eyes nor Mouth that can be discern'd. On both Sides of a Worm of this Kind there grows green Hair; and on the Back there are several little Protuberances like
like

like Warts. When this Worm is touch'd by Any body, it blows it self up after the Manner of the *Blower*, a Fish I shall describe hereafter.

There is another Sort of Sea-Worms at the *Cape of Good Hope*, which may very properly be term'd Sea-Horfes; for the Head, Mouth, Neck and Breast of one of those Worms are exactly, in Shape, like those of a Horfe. The Hind-Part is crooked, and runs to a Point. 'Tis not above Six Inches long; and is about an Inch broad in the broadest Part. The Body or Trunk, below What I call the Neck, is flattish, and seems to have Ribs. The Back is yellow; the Belly whitish. I never saw a living one; but I have taken up many a dead one, which the Waves had cast ashore. I put 'em in Spirits, and intended to have brought some of 'em to *Europe*. But I never kept one of 'em long, before one or other of my Friends at the *Cape* perswaded me to part with it to him, in order to make a Present of it to some Friend of his own.

I know not whether I should reckon as a Sea-Worm, a Worm that is found only on the Rocks, and stony Cliffs at the *Cape*, that are contiguous to the Sea. 'Tis a red Worm, and is something like the hairy Catterpillar that is frequently found in our Cabbage-Gardens; but 'tis broader and longer. If 'tis handled, it stings like a Nettle; and if 'tis spit upon, it bursts, and sends out a very offensive Stench.

With Regard to the River- or Fresh Water-Insects that are found near the *Cape*, most Sorts of 'em are such as are seen and well known in *Europe*. Some, which are of the Sorts that are found in *Europe*, differ from 'em, indeed, in Colours. There are Leaches in the *Cape*-Rivers, that are of a dark red, speck'd with

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 173

with black. I never saw a Water-Mouse at the *Cape*; nor could I meet with Any body there that had. But Water-Snakes are frequently seen there. The *Cape* Water-Snake is not above Six Inches long, and is about as thick as a Swan - Quill.

I shall now give an Account of the several Sorts of Land-Infests that are seen at the *Cape*.

A N T S.

THERE are several Sorts of Ants in the *Cape*-Countries. One Sort of 'em agrees in every Respect with the *European* Ants. The Ants of this Kind are so numerous in the *Cape*-Countries, that several Vallies there, are, in a Manner, cover'd with their Hills. There is another Sort which differs from the *European* Ants only in Size; which is much larger; and larger likewise are their Hills. There are others, which have the Head red, the Back brown, and the Belly and Legs ash-colour'd. An Ant of this Sort is about half an Inch long: And the Vessel which separates the Fore- from the Hind-Part of her Body is so small, that one is apt to wonder at her Strength, in the Carrying of Provision, and that she breaks not that Vessel by the Briskness of her Motions. There is a Sort that frequently flies; having red Wings, and differing in Nothing else from the Sort last mentioned. This flying Sort flings up the largest Hills; and is wonderfully nimble and industrious.

As numerous as Ants are in the *Cape* Countries, the Colonies have not much Reason to complain of 'em. There are none seen either in the Corn-Fields or Vineyards. They were, before those Lands were settled, as much seen upon 'em as they are upon any Part about the *Cape*. But the Cultivation of those
Lands

Lands drove'em from their Holds there. They are sometimes, indeed, seen in the Colonies 'Gardens, and sometimes damage Figs, Lemons, Oranges &c. by Running over'em. But this is owing to the Carelessness of People; for it is an easy Matter to keep the Gardens clear of'em.

B E E S.

THERE are Abundance of Bees in the *Cape*, Countries: And the *Cape-Bees* and the *European* are alike in every Respect; that is to say, in Shape, Colour, Size and Nature. Yet but few Hives of 'em are seen in the Colonies. The *Europeans* there have little or no Fancy for hiving them. I am pretty certain, that when I left the *Cape*, there were not half a Score Persons there, who kept *Bees*; and that not One had more than three Hives. But the *Hottentots*, indeed, make it in a Manner needless for the *CAPE-Europeans* to keep *Bees*. The *Cape-Bees* lay up their Honey in Clefts, or hollow Trees, on the Tops of high and steep Rocks. To the Tops of these Rocks the *Hottentots* clamber up, and get the Honey, and sell it to the *Europeans* for a little Tobacco or Brandy, or a few Trinkets. And the *Cape-Rock-Honey* has a much better Flavour than that of the Hive. All the Fault is, that the *Hottentots* foul it with their filthy Hands, and with the Bags they put it in, which they make of Skins, the hairy Side inward.

F L I E S.

IT wou'd be tedious to describe all the Sorts of Flies that are seen at the *Cape*. I shall only give an Account of the most remarkable.

There

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 175

There is a very small Sort of Flies at the *Cape*, so numerous, that at Times they seem to fill the Air. They are provided with Stings; and sting, if they can, all the People that come in their Way. This makes them excessively troublesome. Sometimes they fly into Peoples Eyes, and cause very sharp Pains there.

There is a Sort of Flies at the *Cape*, that agree with the *European* House-Flies in every Respect but this, that they always chuse the open Air.

There are others which are much larger than *European* House-Flies, and are of a brown Colour. These are call'd *Blind* Flies, on Account of their falling, as it were, blindfold upon either Man or Beast. They are provided with Stings, which cause a very tormenting Pain; and People are therefore very watchful, when they come in the Way of those Flies, to keep 'em from their Legs, Hands and Faces.

There is a Sort of Flies at the *Cape*, that are of a Size between those of the Two last mention'd Sorts, and of a greenish Colour. They are of the Nature of *Spanish* Flies; for they raise a Blister upon whatever Part of the Body they light on that is bare. The *Cape*-Surgeons get up large Quantities of 'em, and use 'em for Blisters: And they raise a Blister altogether as well as *Spanish* Flies. I have had several Blisters rais'd upon myself with 'em.

F L E A S.

THE *Cape*-Countries sometimes swarm with Fleas; but there are not many Sorts of 'em in those Countries. The *Kraals* and the Places where Cattle is kept abound with Fleas, especially in the Summer-Season. In that Season they are often so numerous and troublesome in the *Kraals* as to oblige the
the

the *Hottentots* remove their Quarters. But the Nastiness of the *Hottentots* does not a little contribute to the Propagation of this Vermin.

NITS.

THERE are Nits at the *Cape*; and they are much more eager after Human Blood than are the Nits in *Europe*. Yet they assail not the Inhabitants so much as they do Strangers. A being season'd to the Country, is a Sort of Truce with 'em. But when a Man first arrives there, they annoy him exceedingly.

'Tis a common Saying at the *Cape*, that there are Three Plagues there; *Flies, Fleas and the Wind*; and that were the *Cape* rid of 'em, it would be one of the most delightful Places in the World. Flies and Fleas are, indeed, great Plagues at the *Cape*; but they would be much greater, were it not for the Fury of the Winds; which, as I have observ'd in my Account of the *Hottentots*, is a necessary Plague there. For a raging Wind clears the Country of all the Flies and Fleas it meets with, and restores Sanity to the Air; which, in the Summer Season, if the Wind keeps down for many Days together, corrupts, and causes, in the Colonies, the Head-Ach and several other Distempers, which vanish when the Wind sets briskly in again:

EARTH-FLIES.

THERE is a Sort of Flies at the *Cape*, which the *Europeans* there call *Earth-Flies*. They are mostly seen in the Gardens and Corn-Fields, feeding upon the Seed and young Sprouts, and doing, if they are not prevented, a great Deal of Damage. The *Europeans*, when they discover 'em in those

those Places, scatter I know not what in their Way; which either kills 'em, or makes 'em abandon those Places.

GRASHOPPERS.

THERE are several Sorts of Grashoppers at the *Cape of Good-Hope*. I shall only describe two Sorts of 'em, which I reckon the most remarkable. One is a very small Sort, seen almost all the Summer-Season. The Back is brown; the Wings, green; the Belly, of a silver Colour; the Legs ash-colour'd. These, in the Spring, are found mostly upon Cabbages, and on Corn-Grounds. They damage both Cabbages and growing Corn very considerably, if they are not prevented. But the *CAPE-Europeans* generally take Care to prevent 'em, by sprinkling upon the Cabbages and Corn-Grounds, as soon as they discover these Grashoppers upon 'em, Water in which Tobacco has been boil'd. Such Water is so hateful to 'em, that they quit immediately the Places where 'tis sprinkled, and return not for that Season; and if they find not Cabbages or Corn Grounds, that have not been sprinkled, they betake themselves to the Pasture Grounds, and feed upon Grass, till Summer; when they ordinarily mount the Trees, and feed upon Leaves.

The other Sort is of the same Size, but the Colours are different; the Head being red; the Wings of a brown red; the Back ash-colour'd; the Belly, of a silver Colour; the Legs red. The Grashoppers of this Sort are not seen till long after the Appearance of the other; but when they do come, they come in vast Hosts, and do Abundance of Damage in the Gardens, Orchards and Corn-Fields, if they are not driven away.

N

BEETLES

B E E T L E S .

THERE are several Sorts of Beetles in the CAPE-Countries. Some of 'em resemble pretty nearly such as are seen in *Europe*. Of These, therefore, I think it needless to say any Thing here. The Rest are, perhaps, peculiar to the *Cape*-Countries; and These I shall describe.

There is one Sort, which I may call *Gold-Beetles*; the Head and Wings being of a gold-Colour. The Back is green, speck'd with White and Red, as is likewise the Belly. The Legs are of a light Grey. 'Tis provided with two Wings, and on its Head with two Horns. What I call the *Gold-Beetle*, is one of the Deities of the *Hottentots*; and they pay it Divine Honours whenever they see it. See my *Present State of the CAPE*. Page 98.

There is a Sort of *Beetles* at the *Cape*, the Bodies of which are green. The Wings seem to be interwoven with fine silver Wire. These *Beetles* are larger than the *Gold-Beetles*, but have not so hard a Coat, or Shell. They are generally found upon green Trees, feeding upon the Leaves: And I am apt to think, it is to this Food they owe their Colour. They seem to be the fondest of Lemon and Orange Trees, especially when those Trees are in Blossom, or full of young Leaves.

There is another Sort of *Beetles* at the *Cape*, which have the Head black; the Back brown, speck'd with White; and the Belly of a Chesnut Colour. In the Cavity of the Belly of the *Beetles* of this Sort, there is a Part, which somewhat resembles a Pair of Spectacles. They can beat one End of this Part against the other, and frequently do so; by that Means making a Noise, not unlike that of a Cricker.

In

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 179

In the Morning they are pretty much upon the Wing. But in the Heat of the Day they rest upon Elm-Trees, sheltering themselves among the Leaves from the Rage of the Sun. I have often found them upon Elm-Trees, and never found them upon any other. And the CAPE-Europeans say, they are only to be seen about Elms. But whether they feed upon Elm-Leaves or Grass, I could not learn.

L I C E.

AS much over-run as the *Hottentots* are with Lice (as I have shewn in my *Present State of the CAPE*) the *Europeans* at the *Cape* are but little troubled with this Vermin. Lice will not stay upon an *European* at the *Cape*. Let an *European* arrive there, as much over-run with 'em as he may, they all abandon him in a few Days, and he sees no more of 'em. And the *Europeans* in the *East Indies* are, in this Respect, altogether as happy; for neither will Lice stay upon 'em there. I shall not here enter into the Reasons that may be assign'd for this.

The *Hottentots* are certainly the loufiest People in the World. They have no Lice in the Hair of their Heads, because the Fat, with which they keep it constantly loaden'd, bars the Vermin out of it. But their *Krosses* (or Mantles) swarm with 'em. On a fine Sun-shiny Day the *Hottentots* are frequently seen in Troops, lousing themselves. The large swagging Lice they eat: And this they do, they tell you, to be even with 'em. *They suck our Blood, say they, and we devour 'em in Revenge.*

B U G S:

THE *Europeans* at the *Cape* are not a little plagu'd with Bugs. The only Method they have to rid themselves of 'em is, to paint the Wain-
feet

scots and Bed-pofts with Oil-Colours, in which *Mercury* is mix'd. And this Method is practis'd by most of the *CAPE-Europeans*.

CATTERPILLERS,

THERE are divers Sorts of *Catterpillers* at the *Cape*: And every Sort of 'em there is very different from any I have seen in *Germany*. Some are of a pale Yellow. Others are white. Others are green. Others are green, speck'd with red. Others, again, are brown, speck'd with white and red. They are of different Sizes. But the Backs and Sides of all, or most of 'em, are cover'd with a Sort of Hair or Down. The largest Sort is found in the Fields, in Hedges, and wild Bushes. The *Catterpillers* of this Sort have the Head red, a Mixture of red and green on the Back, and the Belly white.

A young *Cape-Catterpillar* comes quickly to Maturity. Soon after which, it clings and fixes itself very closely to a Plant, Tree, or Flower; sometimes to a Wall. Quickly after it is thus clung, a crusty Matter grows over it in the Nature of a Shell. And in 14 or 15 Days Time (sometimes more, sometimes less) the *Catterpillar* changes both its Nature and Form, and becomes a charming *Butterfly*; when the crusty Matter opens, and out the beautiful Insect flies; the Wings of which are enamell'd with Gold- and various other charming and lively Colours. I have frequently, with the highest Pleasure, observ'd these *Butterflies* in the Shells, before they were perfected, and the Openings were wide enough for 'em to get out.

BUTTER-

BUTTER - FLIES.

THERE are as many Sorts of Butterflies at the *Cape* as there are Sorts of Catterpillers. And every Butterfly there retains much of the Colours of the Catterpillar, from which it was chang'd. It would be a tedious Work to describe 'em. And I have as little Inclination as Fitness for the Task. I know little or nothing of the Names the *Vertuosos* assign to each Sort of Butterfly, or of the Terms they use for the several Parts in the Description of 'em. A Man that would perform this Task well, must, I apprehend, first study a Cabinet of these Insects. There are several Cabinets of 'em in *Holland*, each of which stands its Owner in several thousand Florins.

MAGGOTS.

THERE are at the *Cape* as many Sorts of the Insects, call'd *Maggots*, as there are in *Germany*. And they agree with the *German* in every Respect. 'Tis, therefore, needless for me to describe 'em.

SNAILS.

THERE are several Sorts of *Snails* at the *Cape*: But they are such as are seen in *Europe*. One Sort of 'em, which is very small, sticks to the Leaves of Trees and Shrubs. Another Sort, which is larger, is mostly seen in Paths and Garden-Walks; some of 'em with, and some of 'em without Shells.

I shall only add here, that *Snails*, dry'd and beat to Powder, are esteem'd an admirable Remedy for the Strangury. A Water is prepar'd with 'em, which is reckon'd excellent in Consumptions. And the slimy Matter of 'em is esteem'd good against Inflammations.

SCORPIONS.

Scorpions are very numerous at the *Cape*, and harbour there mostly among Stones; which makes the *Cape-Europeans* very cautious when they put their Hands among Stones, for fear of being stung by those Creatures; the Sting causing intolerable Pain, and frequently endangering Life. A *Cape-Scorpion* is from Two and a Half to Three Inches long; and of a dark Green, speck'd with Black. 'Tis much like the little *Craw-Fish* in every Part but the Tail; which is longer and narrower. I have seen some of the *Cape-Scorpions* on board Ships in the *Cape-Harbour*; and they are very frequently seen on board Ships at the *Cape*. But how they get on board No body knows. I kill'd and put many of 'em in Oil, and us'd several of 'em for the Cure of poison'd Wounds; in which Cases they are good Remedies. And several I parted with to Persons, who had a Mind to keep 'em for the like Occasions.

SPIDERS.

Of Spiders there are several Sorts at the *Cape*, differing not only in Size, Shape and Colour, but in their Webs too. It would be a tedious Work to give a particular Description of each Sort of 'em there. Some are poisonous; Others are not so. Some keep in Houses; Others in the Fields. There is one Sort, against which People ought to be very cautious; and the *CAPE-Europeans* are so. This is a Spider of the smallest Sort; being no bigger than a white Pea. 'Tis of a black Colour; and is very active. In Houses she fastens on the Wall or Ceiling. In the Fields she fixes her Web on the Grass.

Her

Her Bite is so poisonous, that it causes Death, unless an Antidote is us'd in good Time. A Negro at the *Cape*, who was bit by this Spider, neglecting the Wound till it was too late, died of it in a few Days. I knew an *European* Boy there, who suffer'd the most tormenting Pain from the Bite of this Insect. His Life was sav'd by a *Serpent-Stone*, which being thrice applied to the Wound, exhausted all the Poison. This Insect likewise does frequently great Damage to both the Great and Small Cattle. The *CAPE-Europeans* are therefore very watchful to prevent its lodging in their Houses, or Stables, and likewise to guard their Cattle from it in the Fields.

M O T H S.

MOTHS are not a little mischievous in the *Cape-Colonies*; and the Cloaths, especially the Linnen of the *CAPE-Europeans*, suffer not a Little by 'em. They do great Damage to all Sorts of Linnen and Woollen they get among, if they are suffer'd to remain but a little Time. Ships are much pester'd with these pernicious Insects; and it costs a great Deal of Care and Pains to keep 'em out of the Cloath-Chests.

W A S P S.

WHEN the Wind is down, or but low, at the *Cape*, especially in the Summer Season, the Colonies there are much pester'd with Wasps. But when the Wind rises to any considerable Height, it drives 'em out of the Region. The *Cape-Wasps* are a Plague to both Man and Beast. In Size, Shape and Colours they agree with the Wasps of *Europa*.

N 4

Thou-

THOUSAND LEGS.

THERE are seen at the *Cape*, not a few of the Insects we call *Thousand Legs*. The *CAPE Thousand Legs* is Red and White; about a Finger long, but scarce half so thick. 'Tis downy, like the *Cape-Catterpillar*. No Eyes have been discover'd in this Insect. But it is provided on the Head with two moving Horns, which the Insect moving this Way and that, when it is upon the March, it is suppos'd to grope its Way with 'em.

This Insect is poisonous; and its Bite as dangerous as that of a Scorpion. But the Serpent-Stone is an effectual Remedy for its Bite; and so likewise are roasted Onions. I have seen the Experiment with roasted Onions on board a Ship. A Sailor being bit by this Insect, underwent a great Deal of Pain; and the Poison had manifestly put his Life in Danger; when some roasted Onions being brought and applied to the Wound, they quickly exhausted all the Poison; after which, the Wound quickly heal'd.

RAIN-WORMS.

IN the *Cape-Countries* there is a Sort of Rain-Worms, that are altogether like the Rain-Worms seen in *Germany*. And there is another Sort which is peculiar, perhaps, to the *Cape-Countries*. This last Sort is only seen in the Rainy Season, about the Month of *June* and *July*. In those Months they are frequently seen issuing out of the Ground. A Worm of this Sort is about an Inch long; and, like the *European Glow-Worm*, it casts a Luitre in the Night.

The

The WOOD-LOUSE.

AT the *Cape* there are but very few Wood-Lice; and they are only seen upon the Cripple-Wood.

WEEVILS.

THERE are Abundance of Weevils in the Corn - Lofts in the *Cape-Colonies*. The *CAPE-Europeans* call 'em *Klanders*; and they go by the same Name among the *East-Indians*. One would think, that Name was deriv'd from the Latin Word *Glandestinus*, signifying, *secret, bidden, private*; because this Insect, having enter'd a Grain of Corn, hides it self in it, as it were. 'Tis about Half as big as a Grain of Rye; is of a brown Colour; and the Mouth is pointed. If a great Deal of Care is not taken against 'em, they do a great Deal of Damage to Corn, especially when 'tis new. The *CAPE-Europeans* frequently let a Corn-Loft stand empty for Two Years together, in order to starve out the Weevils.

T O A D S.

I shall close this Chapter with some M^ention of the Toad. This hideous Reptile is but rarely seen at the *Cape*. And the *Hottentots* know no Difference between it and a Frog. I have no Inclination to give a Description of this hateful Reptile. Such as are curious to see a particular Description of it, may consult *Gesner, Aldrovand, or Cyprian*; who treat largely of it. But *Paulinus*, in his *Treatise de Bufone*, will give 'em full Satisfaction upon the Matter.

Of



*Of the Sea- and River-Fish at the
CAPE of GOOD HOPE.*

I Shall now let the Reader, as far as I can, into the Wonders of the Deep at the *Cape*. Both the Sea and the Rivers there afford great Plenty and Variety of Fish. And I shall here give Descriptions of such Sorts of 'em as fell under my Observation.

The B L O W E R,

SO call'd from a Faculty it has of Blowing it self up into a globular Form, is frequently seen about the *Cape*. 'Tis a very smooth Fish, being quite without Scales. The Back is of a dark Yellow, with a Cast of Transparency. The Belly is white. The Mouth is small, but furnish'd with Four broad Teeth. I have taken and dried many Blowers at the *Cape*, and presented not a few to several Gentlemen who touch'd at the *Cape* in their Return to *Europe*, and who were desirous of Carrying such Curiosities Home with 'em.

But the Blower is not Food for Man; nor do I know, that it is the Prey of any Fish. The *CAPE-Europeans* know the pernicious Nature of this Meat, and caution every Stranger that comes among 'em against it. Yet a Sailor at the *Cape*, in my Time there, was so fool-hardy, against all Admonition, as to dress and eat this Fish. But lo, the Consequence! He had no sooner eaten it than he fell sick,
and

and in a few Days after, he died of it. If my Reader shall ever go into those Parts where the Blower is seen, I wish he may call to Mind this Story.

The BENNET.

IN the Sea, about the *Cape*, there is Plenty of the Fish, call'd *Bennets*. But how they come by that Name I know not. As I drew near the *Cape*, in my Voyage thither, I saw the Sailors take many of 'em with Angles. A *Bennet* is about the Length and Thickness of a Man's Arm; and weighs from Six to Eight Pound Weight. 'Tis a beautiful Fish, having large Scales, of a bright Purple, with Streaks of a Gold-Colour. The Eyes are red; the Mouth small and without Teeth. Near the Gills it has Two Fins of a Gold-Colour. Its other Fins are of a light Yellow. The Tail is reddish, and has much of the Form of a Pair of open'd Scizzars. The Scales appear transparent; and so likewise does the Skin. When the Scales are off, the Skin appears of a bright Purple. The Meat is of a Crimson-Colour, and is divided into several Lumps or Parcels by a Sort of membranous Substance, which is interwoven, as it were, with it. It loses Nothing in Point of Colour, by Boiling, but a Little of its Lustre. 'Tis dry Food, but agreeable to the Palate, and easie of Digestion.

The BROWN-FISH.

AS I drew near the *Cape*, the Sailors shew'd me several of the Fishes they call *Brown Fishes*. They often appear above Water, in Pursuit of the Flying Fish. However, I never saw the *Brown-Fish* but at some Distance; and it always seem'd

feem'd to me to be of a dark Green. 'Tis as thick as the Body of an Ox, and, as nearly as I could judge, about 15 or 16 Foot long. The Back is somewhat rais'd. This Fish is a great Devourer of Flying Fish.

The C A B E L I A U.

AT the *Cape* there are several Sorts of the Fish, call'd *Cabeliau*. And the *Europeans* there take great Numbers of them; but they only salt one Sort of 'em. The *Cabeliau* of the Sort that is salted at the *Cape*, is not spotted, as is the *India-Cabeliau*. 'Tis of an Ash-Colour; and has large Scales. From the Top of the Head, along the Ridge of the Back, to the Tail, there runs a black Streak. This Fish is from Two to Three Foot long. The Fins are very hard. The *Cabeliau*, boil'd fresh, is very tender and delicate Food: But when 'tis boil'd salted, 'tis somewhat tough, and not of very easie Digestion. 'Tis however, when salted, nourishing wholesome Food, especially for the Slaves and such like working People.

The D O L P H I N.

TH E Dolphin, in my Opinion, may as properly be stil'd the King of Fishes, as the Lion is stil'd the King of Quadrupeds, or the Eagle the Sovereign of Birds; and this on Account of his wonderful Quickness in Smelling and Pursuing his Prey. 'Tis so nimble a Fish, that no Sort of its Prey could escape it, were it not for the Mouth, which being plac'd, as I may express my self, under the Head, this Fish cannot seize its Prey with any Thing near the Quickness with which it pursues.

There

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 189

There are several Sorts of Dolphins: But I shall only describe Two Sorts of 'em; which Sorts I have frequently seen, and have likewise frequently eaten of 'em.

The Dolphin of the First Sort which I shall describe is call'd the Common Dolphin. The Mouth of this Fish is wide, and is provided with a Sort of Bill, something like the Bill of a Goose. The Skin is very sleek, being quite without Scales. The Teeth are small, hard and sharp-pointed; and the Two Rows bite in with one another, like two Tallies. The Tongue is long and fleshy. There is, near each Eye, a little Hole; and these Holes are call'd the Ears of the Fish. The Colour on the Back is black; on the Belly white. The Tail ends in the Shape of a Half Moon. This Fish is from Five to Six Foot long.

The Dolphins of this Sort are not much seen near the *Cape-Harbour*; but at the Distance of some Miles, they are seen in vast Numbers, especially in Windy-Weather, throwing themselves frequently Four or Five Foot above Water. I have seen many of 'em caught with a Hook, fasten'd to a strong Cord, and baited with a Piece of Pork. The Way at the *Cape*, is to cut 'em in Pieces, and lay 'em for some Days in Salt. After which, they are boil'd for the Table, and they are very good Food. The Tongue and Liver are reckon'd Dainties at the *Cape*.

The other Sort of Dolphin, which I propose to describe, is call'd by the Negroes *Waraku Pempe*. The *Portuguese* call it *Dorados*, i. e. gilded, because when it is first taken, the Skin appears of a Gold-Colour; but that Colour vanishes about Half an Hour after the Fish is dead. It agrees, in every
other

other Respect, with the Dolphin describ'd above, excepting the Mouth; which is flat and round. I must likewise except another Thing; which is, that this Fish is much finer and more agreeable Eating than the Dolphin describ'd above.

Eras. Francisci, in his *East- and West-India Pleasure-Garden*, says, of this Sort of Dolphins, that "they are delicate Food, and of a very agreeable Taste, if they are first boil'd, and then laid for some Time in Pickle, prepar'd with Oil, Pepper, Vinegar, Salt, Garlick and the Like. In this Pickle they will keep a long Time good: And by this Means they are made very serviceable on board Ships that go to the *Molucca* Islands and other Parts where Provisions are scarce".

The same Author mentions a Method of preparing this Sort of Dolphin, answering to the Method among us, by which Pork is made Bacon. They take out, says he, the Back- and Side-Bones, together with the Guts. They then separate the Sides; salt 'em and hang 'em up in the Chimney to smoak-dry 'em. The Fat of this Sort of Bacon, says he, is ordinarily about a Finger thick. He adds, that in some Parts young Dolphins are roasted; and that so dress'd they taste liké roasted young Pig.

The E L F T.

IN the *Table-Bay*, and in *Bay-Falzo*, is caught a Sort of Fish the *Dutch* call *Elft*. The *Elft* is Three Quarters of a Yard long or more; and is scal'd much like a Herring. The Scales are mostly yellowish. The Back is blackish; the Belly white, speck'd with Black, and divided, Length-way, by a Streak of Black. This Fish is full of Bones; and being of a dry Quality, requires a good Deal of Sauce

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 191

Sauce to make it go down well. The Spawn of this Fish is in high Esteem in several Parts. *Erasm. Francisci* says, the Inhabitants of the *Molucca* Islands drive a great Trade with it.

The FLYING FISH.

THERE is certainly no Creature, either upon the Earth or in the Seas, that is so plagued with Enemies as the Flying Fish*. In the Water, they are almost every Moment in Danger of being devour'd by the Dolphins, the Sharks, and other Fishes that prey upon 'em. And out of the Water, when they are upon the Wing (on which they put themselves to escape their Enemies in the Deep) they are in Danger of being snatch'd up and devour'd by Birds of Prey. They fly very quick, but not a great Way at once. They fly but so long as their Wings remain well moisten'd; and the quick Motion of their Wings in Flying soon deprives 'em of their Moisture; when down the Fish drop again into the Sea, often into the very Mouths of their Enemies. They continue the longest on the Wing in Rainy Weather. Sometimes, to avoid the Fish of Prey, they leap aboard Ships; and sometimes they 'light upon the Sides of Ships, and stick to 'em for a considerable Time by their Wings. They are always in large Shoals; and fly out of the Water frequently by several Hundreds together.

There are several Sorts of Flying Fishes; but they are all of the same Size; and a Flying Fish is of the Size of an ordinary Herring. A Flying Fish is

* Tab. IX. Fig. 3.

shap'd

shap'd like a Herring too in every Thing but the Wings. All the Sorts of Flying Fish differ from one another only in their Wings and Colours. Some Flying Fishes have Two large Wings only. Others have Two large Wings and Two small ones; cover'd with a brown Skin, and interwoven, as it were, with several very small bony Substances. Others have four, long, narrow smooth Wings, without any bony Substance in 'em. They are, all of 'em, delicate Food, far exceeding the finest fresh Herrings. Several Flying Fishes flew on board the Ship I went in to the *Cape*. I had the Curiosity to view very narrowly the Wings of all or most of 'em; and found none of the Wings to be much unlike those of a Bat.

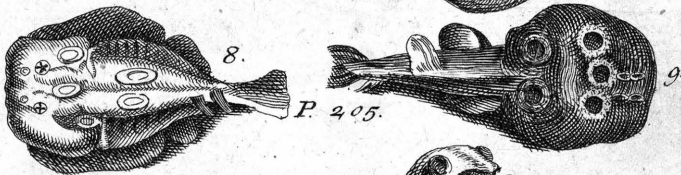
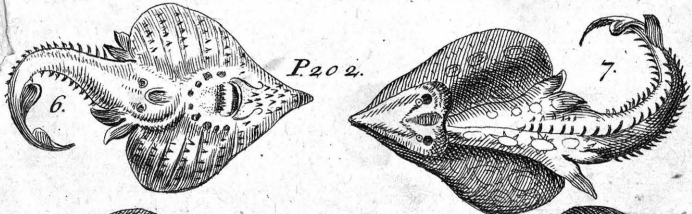
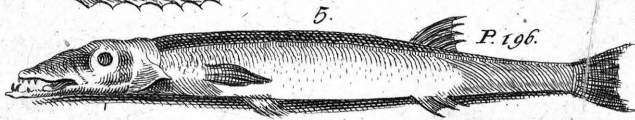
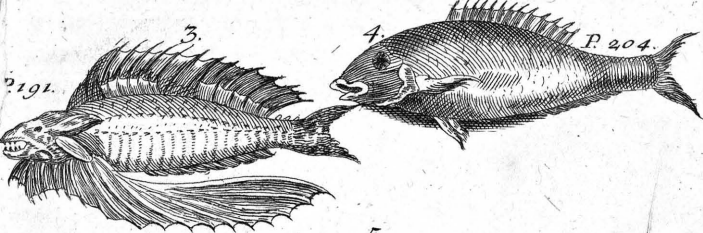
Flying Fishes ever keep within the Tropicks. Neither on the other Side the Tropick of *Capricorn*, nor on this Side the Tropick of *Cancer*, is there a Flying Fish to be seen.

The GOLD-FISH.*

THIS Fish is so call'd from a Circle, of a Gold Colour, about each Eye, and a Streak of the same Colour from the Head, along the Ridge of the Back, to the Tail. The *Cape*-Gold-Fish is about a Foot and a Half long, and weighs about a Pound Weight. The Teeth are small, but very sharp; and do good Execution upon Muscles and other Fishes that are of the Prey of the Gold-Fish. But Gold-Fishes are never seen near the *Cape*, but in the Months of *May*, *June*, *July* and *August*. In those Months they appear in great Shoals; and the

* Vide Tab. IX. Fig. 2.

TAB. IX.



CAPE-*Europeans* take great Numbers of 'em. The Colour of the Meat is a Mixture of White and Red. The Meat is of a delicate Taste; is very wholesome; and is esteem'd a great Cleanser of the Blood. I have often eaten of it with a great Deal of Satisfaction.

HERRINGS.

IN the *Cape-Sea* there are Shoals of Herrings, agreeing in every Particular with the *European-Herrings*. There is likewise about the *Cape* a Sort of Herrings the CAPE-*Europeans* call *Harters*. These likewise are seen in Shoals together; and are much of the same Size and Colour with the other Herrings. They sometimes pass in large Shoals into the Rivers about the *Cape*, and feed upon Grass, Carrion, and What else they find, proper for 'em, upon the Borders. The Negroes at the *Cape* frequently take vast Quantities of Herrings with Nets; and having let 'em lye for some Days in Salt, they eat 'em. None of the CAPE-*Europeans*, that I know of, have yet got the right Method of Pickling Herrings. This is no inconsiderable Disadvantage to the Colonies; since, 'tis pretty certain, if they had the right Method, they might turn the *Cape-Herrings* to very good Account, both for Sea- and Land-Service. The Pickled Herrings that are sent from *Holland* to the *Cape* mostly *turn* and become unfit for Use before they get thither.

SHARKS*.

THERE are, in the *Cape-Sea*, Two Sorts of Sharks. The CAPE-*Europeans* call 'em *Hayes*. The First Sort is very large; many of 'em being

* Vide Tab. VIII. Fig. 1.

O

from

from 12 to 16 Foot long. The Jaws of a Shark of this Sort are so large, and the Gullet so wide, that it may easily be believ'd, he can swallow a full dress'd Man. His Teeth are crooked, strong and pointed; and he has Three Rows of 'em*. He has Two Fins on the Back; one pretty near the Head; the other about Two Foot from the Tail. And he has Four very large and strong Fins on the Belly; Two not far from the Head; and Two not far from the Tail. There is on the Belly, between the Two hindmost Fins, a Slit. His Skin is rough and hard, and quite without Scales. To his Sides generally cling, or suck themselves fast, several little Fishes. Most Ships that pass or go near the Line are provided with Tackle for the Catching of Sharks: And the Tackle is a large Iron-Hook, generally fix'd to a pretty strong Chain, of about a Dozen Links; the other End of the Chain being fix'd to a good Length of very strong Rope. The Bait for him is a pretty large Piece of Beef or Pork. When the Sailors discover him, they throw out the Tackle for him, and fasten it abaft. And the Motion of the Ship, if it is under Sail, keeping the Bait pretty near the Surface of the Water, the Shark quickly 'spies it, and comes and swallows it with a great Deal of Fury. The Men haul him on Board; and Two or Three stand ready with Hatchets to kill him the Moment he is thrown upon Deck; because, if he is not kill'd immediately, he does a great Deal of Mischief by the furious Motions of his Head and Tail.

For the other Sort of Sharks, the Backs and and Heads of 'em are much broader than are those

* Vide Tab. VIII. Fig. 3.

the CAPE *of* GOOD HOPE. 195

of the first Sort. They differ likewise from the first Sort of Sharks in their Teeth ; for they have each Six Rows of 'em : And all their Teeth are hard, sharp and notch'd like a Saw. The out-most Row bends towards the Out-side of the Mouth. The Row, next to That is erect. The third, fourth, fifth and sixth Row bend towards the Gullet ; which is so large, that a Man may easily slip down it. The Skin is as rough as a File. The Tail ends in the Shape of a Half-Moon. The Fins are of the same Number and Shape, and in the same Situation, with those of the first Sort. A middling Shark, of this second Sort, is as much as two Horses can draw at the ordinary Stretch.

Both Sorts are very ravenous, and are thought to hanker after human Flesh more than any other Sort of Food. A Shark will often follow a Ship a vast Way. There are many Instances of Men that have escap'd 'em with the Loss of a Leg or an Arm, which those ravenous Fishes have bit off.

Sailors, when they get a Shark, generally cut him into small Pieces, and boil and feast upon him. The Crew, on board the Ship I went in to the *Cape*, having got a Shark, feasted jovially on him. I had the Curiosity to taste with 'em ; but found the Food so hard of Digestion, that I could never be induc'd to taste it after.

Whether it is not much more probable, that it was the Shark, rather than the Whale, that swallow'd the Prophet *Jonas*, I leave the Reader to determine.

The P I K E.

PIKES, at the *Cape*, are only found in Salt Water. The *Cape-Pike* * is of a dark Yellow. In every other Respect it agrees with the *European-Pike*. This Fish is very choice Food, either boil'd or broil'd.

The B R A S S E M.

THERE are two Sorts of *Brassems* in the *Cape-Sea*. The *CAPE Europeans* call 'em *Hottentot* Fish. That Name was given 'em by the first *Dutch* Settlers there, on Account of the said Settlers buying some of them of the *Hottentots*, when they first settled. One Sort of the *Cape-Brassem* is somewhat rounder, broader and shorter than the other. This Sort is of a blackish Colour on the Back and Side : But the Head is of a dark Purple. The other Sort is of a dark Blew, and seems speckled. A *Brassem* of this Sort is about 7 or 8 Inches long, and weighs about a Pound Weight.

Both Sorts feed upon Sea-Grass, and upon Dung and Offals when they meet with 'em. They are rarely taken in the Net, unless in very stormy Weather ; when they come in Shoals to the Shore. The *Hottentots*, and the *European* Fishermen at the *Cape*, take 'em, for the most Part, with the Line. And both *Europeans* and *Hottentots*, when they are at this Sport, sometimes whistle, and sometimes make a hideous bawling Noise ; the *Brassems* delighting to hear a Whistling and Bawling, and being thereby allur'd in Shoals about the Baits.

* Vide Tab. IX. Fig. 5.

These

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 197

These *Brassems* are very wholesome and well tasted. Three or Four or of them fetch about Two Pence at the *Cape*. What the Fishermen take, more than they can presently dispose of, they cut in Slices, salt, and dry in the Sun, for Masters of Ships; who frequently buy 'em up for Ship-Provisions.

RED STONE-BRASSEMS.

THERE is a Sort of Fish at the *Cape*, which the *Europeans* there call *Jacob Everffons*. We call 'em in *Europe* Red Stone-*Brassems*. The Skin and Scales of the *Cape-Red Stone-Brassem* are red, speck'd with Blew, and in the Middle of the Fish, with Gold-Colour. The Belly is of a pale Red. The Eyes are large and red, with a Circle, of a Silver-Colour about each. The Mouth is small, and, as it were, under the Gullet; and is furnish'd with little sharp Teeth. The Fish is very wholesome nourishing Food, and of a delicate Taste.

There is another Sort of Red Stone-*Brassems*, or *Jacob Everffons*, at the *Cape*, which differs from the Sorts above describ'd, in the following Particulars: They are larger, have shorter Mouths; and the Out-Parts of their Gullets are of a deep Red. Both Sorts keep altogether in the Sea; and are rarely found but in great Depths of Water.

Francisci, in his *East and West India Pleasure Garden*, has very justly related how the *Red Stone-Brassem* at the *Cape* came by the Name of *Jacob Everffon*. I cannot do it better than he has done; and shall therefore quote him here for his Account of the Matter. “ There was, says he, at the *Cape*, “ many Years ago, a Master of a Ship, whose “ Name was *Jacob Everffon*. This Man had a
O 3 “ very

“ very red Face ; and was so deep-pitted with the
 “ Small Pox, that his Beard, which was black,
 “ could never be shav’d so close, but that several
 “ Hairs would remain in the Pock-Frets. So that
 “ his Face, when it was shav’d, had the Colour,
 “ and seem’d to have the Specks of the Red stone-
 “ *Brassem*. This *Jacob* being once a Fishing with
 “ his Crew for Red-Stone *Brassem*s, at the *Maurice-*
 “ *Island* beyond the *Cape*, and the Crew dining that
 “ Day very jovially upon this Sort of Fish, one of
 “ them took it in his Head, in a Fit of Mirth, to
 “ call it the *Jacob Eversson*. The Crew was struck
 “ with the Brightness of the Allusion ; and re-
 “ ceiv’d it with the highest Agitations of Mirth,
 “ and with Thunders of Applause : And when
 “ they got back to the *Cape*, they took a Pleasure
 “ in Publishing this new Name for the Red Stone-
 “ *Brassem*. The Settlers (among whom *Jacob* was
 “ very well known) were as much struck as the
 “ Crew with the Justness of the Name, and very
 “ merrily agreed to call a Red Stone-*Brassem* a
 “ *Jacob Eversson* ever after. Every one that knew
 “ *Jacob*, being ravish’d with the Mirth in the Al-
 “ lusion, this new Name for the Red Stone-*Brassem*,
 “ together with the Reason of its Assignment, soon
 “ after reach’d several Settlements in the *Indies* ;
 “ and was so well receiv’d there, that Red stone-
 “ *Brassem*s (of which the *Indian* Seas furnish Plenty)
 “ have gone there by the Name of *Jacob Everssons*
 “ ever since.

The PILOT-FISH.

THIS Fish is so call’d from its being suppos’d
 to pilot or be a Guide to the Shark. ’Tis
 from five to six Inches long ; of a dark-brown Co-
 lour

the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 199

lour, much speck'd with Blew. From the Head, along the Ridge of the Back, to the Tail there runs a black Streak ; from which run several others, right down, almost to the Belly. The Back is full of Specks, and is a little channel'd. About the Eyes there is something of a Gold-Colour. The lower Jaw is something like a Saw ; and with this, 'tis said, he fastens himself so firmly to a Shark, that the Shark cannot shake him off. When the Shark is taken, the Pilot-Fish leaves him, and makes off. And 'tis at all Times, it seems, and in all Places, a very difficult Matter to take the Pilot-Fish. 'Tis said, they smell Land ; and when they reach the Scent of it, they turn about and make off to Sea.

The SEA-LION. *

I Never saw a Sea-Lion but once ; and that was at the *Cape*, in the Year 1707. A Sea-Lion that Year came into the *Table-Bay* ; and having sported for some Time in the Water, got upon a Cliff, and lay there basking in the Sun, just on the Edge of the Water. The *CAPE-Europeans* had their Eyes upon him immediately ; and the Governour was quickly informed of this Visitor. 'Twas then Ebb-Water. But it was not thought proper to attack him till the Water should be fallen a good Way from him. When the Water had left him some considerable Way, the Governour order'd out a Shallop, with three Men, and as many Fire-Arms loaded with Bullets, to kill this Creature. And the Shallop coming pretty near

* Vide Tab. IX. Fig. 10.