



## ( 1843 )

II. A Letter from Mr Anthony Van Leeuwenhoek, F. R. S. concerning the Barks of Trees.

Delft in Holland, March 27, 1705.

ALtho I have been many years fully convinc'd in my own particular, that the Bark of Trees was produced from the Wood, and not the Wood from the Bark, as many have affirmed; yet I find that fome, and thofe perfons of good Learning, do maintain the fame Hypothefis;
d fo efpecially did a certain Gentleman, that was lately at my Houfe. This induced me to make a nicer Enquiry into the Barks of Trees, in order, it it were poflible, more fully to convince the World than I have yet done, that the Bark of Trees does always proceed from the Wood. I had a piece of Cinnamon Wood, about the bignefs of a Quill that's ufed for writing, which had its Bark ftill upon it; I judged that this piece of Cinnamon Wood would be the moft proper to prove that the Bark is made out of the Wood, becaufe that the Horizontal Veffels of that Wood were of the fame Colour with the Cinnamon iffelf. But as nicely as I dealt with this Wood, I could nor cut it into pieces acrofs, fo as to keep the Bark and the Wood united, but the Bark would always be feparated from the Wood, of which I could not undertand the meaning, till I call'd to mind that the Ifland of Ceyion is ituated between the 5 th and 1 oth Deg. of Northern Latitude; fo that the Fruits, Wood and Bark are of a conrinned whole years Growth, whereby new Saps and Juices are always carried up between the Wood and the Bark, in order to make the new Wood and the new Bark. For this is the reafon that the Bark of Cinnamon is fo eafily feparated Ffffffffff
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from the Wood.-Wherefore, not finding my account in this Experiment, I turn'd my thoughts upon the Bark of Cherry, Plumb, Beach-tree, Orc. the Veffels of which Barks are not extended lengthways, but circularly about the Wood; and in order to demonftrate the fame, I cut off this fnall Twig of a Chery-tree.

Fig. i. ABCDE reprefents a thin Twig of a Cherrytree, in the Wood of which the Canals or Veffels of the Bark, by which the fame is fed, are not extended lengthways, but circularly about the Wood; for which reafon the Bark of the faid Wood can't be ftripp'd off longways, but only circularly, contrary to fome other Wcods, as in the aforefaid Figure ; where by CFDG, a fmall piece of the fame Bark, as it is ftrippid off, is reprefented; in which you may obferve, that the Canals or Veffels, of which it is compos'd, run from $C$ to $F$, or from $D$ to $G$.

I have afferted formerly, that in all Countries where there is any Winter, fo far as to put a ftop to the Growth of Trees, at all times as long as the Growth endures the Bark grows thicker, and that the New Barik dots prozrude that which was made before further and further from the Wood; infomuch that in the Barks of Old Trees, one may cut a Fingers Breadth in Depth before one can come at any thing like Greennefs or Sap: And if one confider thofe Barks with care, one fhall difcover what part of the Bark from time to time is deprived of Its Nourifment, and confequently what part of it is quite dead.

By thefe my laft Obfervations, 1 have difcovered in a Twig of a Cherry-tree of one years Growth, that the Bark does confift of at leaft fix thia dembranes, whofe exceeding thin Veffels or Fibres extended themfelves circuJarly about the Wood, and thofe Mambranes were very clofely united to one another.

I placed one of theie Nembranes, that was as nicely feparated from the reft, as it was poffible for me to do, before

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before a Microfcope, and caufed the Painter to draw it as it appear'd to him, as you may fee in Fig. 2. H I K L, where you may obferve the Veffels or Canals do not run longways, but circularly about the Wood; which being fo, the faid Veffels can't remain long whole, but muft from time to time be broken in pieces.

When I cut crofs the Wood of a Cherry Tree, which was about a year old, in order to thew the Painter the Horizontal Veffels that are derived from the Wood to the Bark, and whereby the Bark receives its Growth and Nourifhment, the Bark, by reafon of the Softnefs and Flexibility of thofe parts that lay next the Wood, did always yield fo much, that it was impoflible for me to thew him the faid Veffels.

Upon this I turn'd my Thoughts upon the Beach-wood, becaufe the greateft part of that Wood is cloathed with a Red Bark, which fticks clofe to the Wood, and grows yearly thicker; and upon the outfide of that Bark there is produc'd a Whitifh fort of Bark Ceveral times in a year, which falls off from the Wood as if 'twas pill'd; buc this only happens in Beach Wood of an ordinary thicknefs; for in the thickeft Wood this Peeling or Scaly fort of Bark is not produc'd, and then the Bark grows exceeding thick; but the moft part of fuch Bark is thruft away, and remains as it were without Nourilhment; and in fuch there is no outermoft Scaly fort of Bark produced.

I fteepd this laft mention'd Wood in Water, becaufe it was very dry, that I might the better cut it through with a fharp Knife, whereby the Afcending and Horizontal Veffels or Canals might receive the leaft damage in cutting.

Fig. 3. LMNOPQR reprefents a fmall particle of the laft mentioned Wood, as it were cut acrofs, in which the Afcending Veffels or Canals, both great and fmall, are eafily feen, and between which ran the Horizontal Velleis, which receive their Juices from the Afcending ones.

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After feveral cuts made with a harp Knife, I found the Bark of the Wood to be exceeding hard; and this was moftly occafion'd, as I imagin'd to my felf, by a Coagulated Whitifh Matter, which one would take to be Rofin; the hardnefs of which hindred me from cutting the Wood and the Bark fo eafily together, as not to hure the Horizontal Veffels which were continued from the Wood into the Bark in a Right Line; for the Bark being much harder than the Wood, always yielded to my Knife.

Wherefore I cut off as well as I could a fmall piece of Wood and Bark at one cur, and placed the faid piece before a Microfcope, that the Painter might view the Wood and Bark together.

In the faid Fig. 3. by QUTSR is reprefented a Particle of the abovementioned Bark, in which the Horizontal Veffels, as they lye in the Wood, and are continu'd on to the Bark, and from whence the Bark is produced, are fhown by NMOP, of which $\mathbf{N}$ and $O$ do not go quite throughout into the Bark, by reafon of that hard Matter which we mention'd before, and which you may fee in $\mathbf{X}$.

But the Horizontal Veffels, that are defcribed by MRS, and PQUTz go throughout the Wood into the Bark, 5 far as to preferve the Bark from any Mortification.

Now as the Bark of the Beach Tree, or rather its Veffels or Canals, run circularly about the Wood, I could not at firt conceive how thofe Canals could be produc'd out of the Horizontal Veficls; but at laft I difcover'd that as the Horizontal Veifels are contineed from the Wcod into the Bark, fo th re froutal ous from every fide of ihofe Veffels eaceeding fmall Canals, "which $r$ circularly about the Wood, and fo for the moft part poduced the Bark of that Wood.

In the iad Fig. 3. I have repriented by PGUT one of thofe Horizontal Veffels, as they are continad from the Wood', and carried on into part of the Eark, which
is defcribed by QUT, and between $Q$ and II I Thew a few of thofe Veffels which fprout out of the faid Borizontal ones, and run circularly about the Bark; and how nicely foever 1 obferved them, I could not difcover one Afcending Canal, which muft needs run lengthways up the Bark, in cale the faid Bark had its Rife from the Root of the Tree.

I placed alfo a thin Scaly Particle of the Bark of the faid Wood before a Microfcope, which I caufed likewife to be drawn as in Fig. A 4. $\triangle B C D$, the Veffels or Canals of which run alfo horizontally from $A$ to $B$, or from C to D.

But you muft not imagin that this and the preceding fmall Particle of Bark is fo open as is here repreferted, bue conclude, that the Veffels which run circuiarly about the Wcod are only defcrib'd, and that thefe Veffels at firft lay clofe to each other, but as the Wood grew greater, they were feparated more and more from one another.

Fig. B 4: W X Y Z. Thews alfo a little Scale of the Bark of the Tiwig of a Tree, in which the Veffels deferib'd by W X or Z Y do alfo rum circular!y about the Wood, but I have forgot to what Tree it belong'd, it having been fome time drawn before I took any notice of it.

After thefe Obfervations, I remembred that I had lying by me a piece of the Bark of a Cinnamon Tree, which was given me by an Officer that had been a Prifoner at Candi in the Illand of Ceylon.

This piece of Cimamon Bark was near 8 inches long, a fimall part of which is reprefented by Fig. 5. EF G H.

I judged by the divifion, which I obferv'd between I and $G$, and which was the thicknefs of the Bark, that the Cinnamon Tree to which this belonged, was very near 12 years old, and according to the fame remarks, that the Tree was about 6 inches diameter.

I have feveral times examined the outhde of this Bark, and always found it was fo weak or brittle as if it were partly

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partly corrupted or perifhed, and when I cracked thofe brit. tle Particles between my Teeth, I could perceive no talte of Cimamon in them, fo that I was forced to pare away two third parts of the outfide of the Bark before I could come to the ftrong and true Tafte of the Cinnamon.

I have moreover enquird into that part of the Bark that lycs next, and is as it were join'd to the Wood, and in cutting it to pieces have fatisfy'd my felf morethan before, that the Cinnamon, otherwife calld the Bark, receives both its Nourimment and Increafe alone from the Wood, and not from the Root; for when I divided this Bark into fuall parts, I could difcover no Afcending Veffels in it; but on the contraty, fo many Horizontal Veffels coming out of the Wood, and thofe too fo large, that I don't know that ever I have difcover'd fo many Veffels in the Barks of any other Trees.

Fig. 6. L M N O P QR S, reprefents a very fmall Particle of the Bark of a Cinnamon Tree, in which the Horizontal Veffels lye by one another in fuch Order, as is here reprefented between LMNRS, or between NOQR, in which they are all cut acrofs.

Many of thefe Horizontal Veffels are ftopp'd or fill'd with an inclos'd reddifh Matter, which in fome Veffels is not fo high colour'd as in others, fome of them being almoft yellow.

You may obferve the Painter has reprefented thefe Horizontal Veffels in a manner Hexangular, as they indeed appear'd to him, which is alfo the moft perfect Figure that Nature could beftow on 'em, in order to prevent any Interfitia, or Vacuities among them,

We alfo fee that about the faid Horizontal Veffels there lye longifh Parts, that run into a Point at both ends, which Parts defcribed by L MN lye together, and fome of them are bigger than the others; we may obferve alio how the faid Parts do furroundthe Horizontal Veffels.

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We fee moreover, that the aforefaid Parts have ofter contained in 'em a ivatter of different colours, which co. lours are wholly feparated from each other, and appear as in NR S, and where no coicurs are to be perceived in the faid Figures, there they are Tranfparent.

Thefe long Tramfarent Parts, as alfo thofe that are colour'd, together with the Horizontal Veffels, which are almoft all of 'em filled with a colour'd Matter, are in my Opinion the fole Ingredients of the abovementioned Bark or Cinnamon.

In the faid Fig. 6. O PQ reprefent but a part of the Horizontal Veffels, that lye by one another.

All the faid long Partieles, which in a great meafure compofe the Cinnamon Bark, are not incurvated, as in Fig. 6. but a great many of 'em are extended in Right Lines, as you may fee in Fig. 7. ABCDEFG, which reprefents a very fmall Particle of the abovemention'd long Parts, which likewife inclofes fome Horizontal Vef. fels; and wherein you may fee at A how regularly the tharp Points are ranged by one another, as alfo between $B F$ and $C E$, between which the Horizontal Veffels are to be feen in that order in which they always lye.

That harp and pointed. Particle that is reprefented by FH, feems to be out of its place; and I fancied that in dividing it from the other Parts, I might have broke it off at F .

I alfo placed 3 other long tharp pointed Particles before a Microfope, as in Fig. 8. IKLM, in which you may alfo fee in how regular an order the pointed parts appear, as in KM for inftance; from whence we may conclude, that all the other parts of the like Nature are difpofed in the fame manner.

I moreover cauled the Painter to draw another Pointed Particle, that was exceedingly incurvated; which, I fuppofe, might be occafion'd by its having furrounded two feveral Divifions of the Horizontal Veffels. See Fig.g. NOP.

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We may pretty caflly conceive how one Canal is produced (or comes out) from another, but how the faid long fharp pointed Particles, reprefented by Fig. $6,7,8$ and 9 are produced, is, as well as a great many other Pbenomena, paft my Underftanding.
I have moreover examind into the Nature of the Bark of a thick Lime Tres, the rath: becaufe I know no orher Barks of Trees whofe parts are í eafily feparated from one another, either in length or breadth; infomuch that they make thereof in Mafcouy Mats for Packing, and Ropewoik, which is very ftrong, and if I am rightily informed, is not cafily fubject to rot, the it fhould lye long wer.

This Bark I alfo cut acrofs, in order to difcover the Bent or Run of the Horizontal Veffels that come out of the Wood.
Fig. 10. ABCDEFGHI reprefents a fmall Particle of the Bark of a Lime Tree, as it was cut acrofs, where, by ABC are hown the Horizontal Veffels that corne out of thic Wood, and confequently thefe Veffels are cut lengthways.

Thefe Veffels, altho at their firt coming out of the Wood they lye clofe to one another, as from A to B, and from B to C, yet they don't remain always fo clofé, but as the Tree grows thicker and bigger, the Horizontal Veffels are more divided from one another; as for inflance, that which at $B$ is but one Bundle or Coilection of Veffels, with the Increafe of the Tree divides itfelf into two, and the Separation grows larger and larger, as in BMK and BML.
Now, that there may remain no Interfice or Vacuity between the faid Horizontal Veffels, there are other Veffels produced from thofe, as you may fee between MID, which new Veffels produce a Matter that fills the Place of MLK.

Thefe Parts are Roundifh, but fo interlinkt with one another, that they ferve for Canals; they appeard fo fmall
fmall to the Painter, that if he had not drawn em bigger than they were, you could not have made any Judgment of them.

Thefe Horizontal Veffels don't run through the thicknefs of the old Bark, for in fome places the Bark dies fooner than in others for want of Nourifhment, infomuch that you may perceive in the Bark of a Lime-Tree of an ordinary thicknefs, three diftinct Crufts lying one upon another; the outermoft of which being deftitute of Nourifhment, by little and little become dry and wither'd.

I fhall never fuffer my felf to be perfwaded that the great number of defcending Veffels which are difcovered in the Bark of a Lime Tree can proceed from the Root of the faid Tree, but depend on the horizontal Veffels of the fame, which by reafon of their exceeding fmallnefs are hardly vifible in Fig 10. For if the Nourifhment of the Bark does proceed out of the Root, the Bark would never perifh unlefs the Tree did alfo, whereas we fee that in fome Trees the greateft part of the Bark is dead or wither'd.

I took a fmall flice of the faid Bark and cut it acrofs, and placed it before a larger Microfcope, and caufed the Painter to draw it as well as he could, who affirmed to me'twas impoffible for him to defcribe all the fmall Holes or Orifices which he faw.

Fig. II. N OPQRS reprefents a verv fmall Particle of the Bark of a Lime-Tree, wherein are fhown partly the mouths of the Canals that lye lengthways in the Bark, and are here cut acrofs, but chiefly to give you a view of the horizontal Canals, as they are cut in their length, as at NS or $P Q$; the which horizontal Veffels are reprefented in Fig. 10. by AIH, BMLG, BMKF and CDE.

Thefe Canals, or Veffels, defcribed by NS or PQare not of a continued Hollownefs throughout, but rather feem to confift of Oval Particles linkt to ane another.

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lhave been thinking with my felf whether each of the aforefaid Oval Particles were not provided with a Valve, which. Valves make them appear like fo many Oval Figures; and the ufe of which Valves might be to hinder the Juices or Saps, which by the force of the Sun are raifed up into thofe parts, falling down or defending, after the Sun fet; efpecially if we confider, that by the faid Canals there muft be caufed fo ftrong a Protrufion, in Spring time, as not only to thruft away and feparate the Bark from the Wood, but alfo to burft the outermoft parts of the Bark, that are already hard, dry and wither'd.

I have faid before, that the Horizontal Veffels or Ca nals in Cinnamon are Hexangular, which Figure is the moft perfect, and takes up the leaft room or face; from whence I conclude likewife that the Horizontal Veffels in Fig. II. are likewife Hexangular, tho I did not fee them lying in the fame order; for when I examin'd into the Horizontal Veffels or Canals of the Cinnamon, I found that they were of the fame Configuration as in Fig. 11. NS and $P Q$, viz. that they confifted of Oval Figures.

I had placed before a Microfcope a little bit of a LimeTree, which was cut off of the Wood lengthways, and the Horizontal Veffels cut acrofs, to the end that you may fee how thofe Horizontal Veffels or Canals lye in the Wood; the which Veffels are alfo continued into the Bark, fo far as it is alive, and ferve for the feeding and increafing of the fame.

Fig. 12. ABCDEFG reprefents a little flice of the Lime-Tree Wood, in which you may count in 9 feveral places the Horizontal Veffels or Canals that are cut acrofs, and which Canals are fituated berween the fmall afcending Veffels, which for the moft part do nourifh the Wood. Now between the Horizontal Veffels and Canals in the Wood and in the Bark there is no differerie, but in the Afcending Veffels and the Bark there is a difference; for
they are of fuch a Difpofition as the Horizontal Vellels which are in the Wood and the Bark; and thus they agree with thofe Veffels defcribed in Fig. Ir. by NS or PQ.

Now if we find that the Horizontal Veffels or Canals, as well in the Wood as in the Bark, are of one Contex ture, and that the Afcending Veffels in the Bark of a Lime-Tree are alfo of the fame, we may more firmly conclude, that the Bark is produced from the Wood, and not from the Root.

I have moreover turned my thoughts again upon the confideration of Cork, which is faid to grow as the Bark of a Tree upon a certain fort of Oak in Spain; which if it be fo, I imagine that the Burning which we perceive in the Leaves of Cork, is done by 2 hot Iron Plates, in order to make it flat and frait.

I took then one of thole pieces of Cork which are cut into Stoppers for Bottles, as is defcribed by Fig. I $_{3}$. ABCDEF.

In this piece you muft fuppofe that $B G$ is the part that lay next the Tree, and that $E$ was the outide of the fame.

In the faid piece of Cork, between GHIKE, I obferv'd five diftinct Divifions, running acrofs from $F$ to $D$, which is the part that furrounded the Tree; and from whence I conclude, that the Cork was arrived to fuch a thicknefs in 5 years time, for each Streak denotes the growth of that year.

I obferv'd alfo 4 diftinct dark Atrokes, of which GI is the middlemoft; I fuppofed they were great Canals, but could not conceive to what end they were made; but I concluded from thence, that in cafe thefe great Canals had not beenfo cut through lengthways, the Cork would not have been fo thick.

We mult likewife conclude, that the length of all Corks (in order to prevent either Moifture or Air from Gggggggggga ${ }^{2}$
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paffing thro them) mult be confonant to the length of the Cork as it grows upon the Tree, and fo that part of the Cork reprefented by ABC was the lowermoft part, and DEFG was the uppermoft or near the uppermoft, according to its fituation upon the Tree.

Now for my own and others fatisfaction, I cat a little piece of a Cork as from G, where youmay fuppofe that it was joyn'd to the Tree, that is to fay, I cut it after fuch a manner, that the cat of the Knife went from G to H ; and having placed the faid piece before a Microfcope, I perceived all the Canals fo placed as if they come out of the Wood, without difcovering in the leaft any afcending Veffels, tho I cut it never fo often; from whence I muft conclude again, that the growth of the Cork proceeded from the Wood.

Now to give you a better Idea hereof, I have caufed the Painter to draw a fmall Particle of the Cork.

Fig. 14. LM N-a O P Q b, flrews a fmall Particle of a Cork, as it was cut off between $G$ and $H$, of which L M N we muft fuppofe to be the part next the Tree, and fo the Veffels or Canals, by which it receives its Increafe, run horizontally, as from $L$ to $Q$, from $M$ to $P$, and from N to O ; but I could not find one fingle Canal that was perpendicular, or can be faid to proceed from the Root.

Thefe forementioned Canals have no thorough paffage, and it feems to me that in each Canal there are fo many Valves as there are Horizontal Veffels in shem.

In the faid Figure by a $b$, is reprefented a Line running quite acrofs and fomething incurvated, the which Line is that part of the Cork, where, the Seafon of the year being over, a ftop was put to the growth thereof

For further fatisfaction, I cut another fieco of a Cork after the fame manner, that whereas in the fris oing Figure, the Horizontal Canals were defcribed in the ength, now the fame Canals were cut acrofs.

Fig. 1\%. R S TV repretents a litle piece of Cork, as it appeared thro a Microcope, the was more magnifying than the former in Fig 14. this picce of Cork was cut off from Fig. 13. between B and G, and was that part that was next, of that was united to the Tree, and from whence it receiv'd its Increafe, and confequently then were thofe Canals which in Fig. 14. were cut long ways, but now acrofs.

In the faid Fig. 15, you may perceive that almof all thole parts that vere cut acrofs did not confift of round Canals, but of $r$ exangular ones, which is agreeable to the moft perfect order, becaufe it prevents all the vacuities between the: 1 ; and I imagin to my felf, that in cafe one could procuie a piece of Cork, before it had been made ftrait and flat, after the abovementioned manner, we fhould fee the Canals fo cut acrofs, as in Fig. 15, between R S T U, much more perfectly than we now do. Whereas by the bending it to make it ftrait, a great many Canals are difplaced and difordered; as in the cutting of it with a Knife the exceeding fine Membranes, of which the Canals are compos'd, are often torn and broke to pieces.

This is what have thought fit to trouble you with about Cork, but if 1 were Mafter of that Wood which produces it, 1 fhould receive greater fatisfaction; whereas I cannot now conceive how the vaft number of Horizontal Veffels which are feen in the Cork, and of which the whole Cork confifts, can be produced by the Wood thereof.

