

An Account of some Books.

I. ΚΑΛΥΔΙΟΥ ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΙΟΥ ΑΡΜΟΝΙΚΩΝ ΒΙΒΛΙΑ Γ.

CLAUDII PTOLEMÆI *Harmonicorum Libri Tres. Ex Codd. Mss. Undecim, nunc primum Græce Editi.* Johannes Wallis, ꝑ. Th. D. *Geometriæ Professor Savilianus Oxoniæ, Regiæ Societatis Londini Sodalis, Regiæque Majeſtati a Sacris; Recenſuit, Edidit, Verſione & Notis illuſtravit, & Auclarium adjecit.* Oxonii, e Theatro Sheldoniano, A. D. 1682. In Quarto.

THis work having been never before Printed in Greek, and but very imperfectly in *Latine*, by Anton. Gogavinus of *Graves*, above a 100 Years ſince, when good ſkill in the *Greek* Tongue was more rare: our learned Profeſſor took it for a Task well agreeing with his Province, to give it us in a more perfect Edition. For which purpoſe, he hath moſt diligently compared the *Manuſcript* Copies, for reſtoring and perfecting the *Greek* Text. And adjoyned a new *Latine* Tranſlation of the whole: together, with *Notes* on the *Text*. Therein rectifying many Miſtakes of the *Transcribers*; eſpecially in the *Numbers*; which (by Calculation of the whole anew, according to the mind of *Ptolemy*, declared in the *Text*) he hath reſtored to their Integrity.

This Work of *Ptolemy*, gives an Account of the Nature of Sounds in general, but eſpecially of thoſe which are *Muſical*; as of the ſeveral Sorts of *Tones*, and their *Ratios* one to another; with other Particulars. Shewing alſo, how *Harmony* may be fitly compared to the *Motions* of the *Humane Soul*; and thoſe of *Cæleſtial Bodys*. And is the more conſiderable, as being not only the beſt of all the *Greek Muſicians*; but as it alſo gives an Account of the reſt; wherein they agreed, or diſagreed, one with another; and upon what Principles.

There is alſo added an *Appendix*, by the *Doctör*, Containing a brief Account of the *Ancient Harmonicks*, according to the different *Setts* of the *Authors*, compared one with another; and with the *Muſick* of this Age: Shewing how

how and wherein the *Greek Musick* agreed or differ'd from ours; And how the several particulars thereof, are, for the most part, retained in ours, but very differently expressed; and what in the one, answers to what in the other. There is herein, a short Collection of all or most of what occurs material, in the several *Greek Authors* on this Subject; as well those Published by *Meibomius*, as others yet remaining amongst us in *Manuscript*; all Methodically digested, and brought into a Narrow Compass, that the *Reader* may have at once a view of the *Greek* and *Modern Musick*, compared together. A Work which we doubt not, will be very acceptable to those who are willing to look into the *Speculative Part of Musick*.

He hath now also, in the Press at *London*, a Treatise of *Algebra*, Historical and Practicall; Shewing its Original and Progress in several Ages, and the several steps whereby it hath advanced to the height at which now it is. Whereof a further Account is intended, when it is Printed.

II. *Observations upon the DUBLIN-BILLS of Mortality, 1681. And the STATE of that CITY. By the Observer on the LONDON-BILLS of Mortality. London Printed for Mark Pardoe at the Black Raven over against Bedford-House in the Strand, 1683.*

THis little Book (consisting but of 3 Sheets of Paper) is *Magnum in Parvo*. Containing very Considerable Remarques deduced only from 6 *London-Bills*, 15 *Dublin-Bills*, and a Note of the Families and Hearths in each Parish of *Dublin*: all digested into 3 Tables, marked *A, B, C*, which the excellent Author ingeniously, yet gravely and truly, calls, *The A, B, C, of Publique Oeconomy*.

To which he hath also subjoyned, the Forms for *Weekly, Quarterly, and Yearly Bills*, in 3 Tables; which he conceiveth might be made an Excellent Instrument of Government: And to that end proposeth them to the Consideration of Authority.

III. JOHANNES GODARTIUS of INSECTS.

Done into English, and Methodized; with the Addition of Notes. By Martin Lister Esq; The Figures Etched upon Copper, by Mr. F. Pl. York, Printed by J. White, for the Publisher, 1682. In Quarto.

THe Learned *Interpreter* doth conjecture, That *Godartius* had no design of Publishing his *Papers* of this *Subject*; but only to gratify his Phancy, and the Excellent Skill he had in Limning. As appears from his almost total neglect of *Descriptions*, which he had sufficient opportunity to have well performed: Besides the tumultuous *Order* in which they were first Published, after his Death. So that he seems rather to have diverted himself by conversing with these *Animals*, (which he did for 40 *Years*) than to have given himself the trouble of well understanding them.

And yet after all this (saith *Mr. Lister*) we shall find him every where, very just and true in his *Observations*. That all the *Insects* he writes of, he most industriously *sed*, and brought up to their *Change*, which is more than any Man ever did before him. And though the *Historys* he hath given, may seem but few, for so long a time; yet in these few, we have something of all the *Genus's* of *Insects* that are in Nature.

He left his *Papers* in *Dutch*; which were several Times put forth in *Latine*, by divers *Interpreters*; but those wholly ignorant in *Natural History*; and their *Comments* altogether impertinent to the Explication of any one *History* of *Godartius*. Which therefore, in this *Translation* are all omitted; and many Curious and Luciferous *Remarques* subjoyned to the Authors *Text*. Which is here also reduced to a *Method* more agreeable to the several *Tribes* of *Insects*. Whereby those, who have leisure, may be put into a ready way of pursuing this Part of *Natural History*.

Mr.

Mr. *Lifer* hath also taken great Care, and at his own Charges, to have all the *Figures* finely *Etched* upon *Copper Plates*. The whole Impression, intended for the more curious, consists but of 150 Copies.

IV. EPISTOLA INVITATORIA,

*Ad Observationes Magneticæ Variationis, communi Studio
junctisque laboribus instituendas. Dat. Altorfi Noricorum
Pridie Festi Paschalis, 1682.*

DR. *Sturmius*. *Mathem.* Professor at *Altorf*, the Author of this Letter, herein first takes notice of the several steps by which the Doctrine of the *Magnet*, hath been advanced to its present State. That its Power of attracting Iron, hath been taken notice of beyond all *History*. But that its verticity to the *Poles*, was first observed about 400 years since by our Countryman *Roger Bacon*. That it gives the same vertue to Steel, (whence the Invention of the *Needle* between 300 and 400 years since) by the *Italians*. The various Delineation of the *Needle* from the *Meridian* in various Places, by *Sebastianus Cabottus*. The Inclination hereof to the nearer *Pole*, by our Countryman *Robert Norman*. And that within these few Years, the Variation of the Declination, and that in one and the same place, hath also been taken notice of by *Mr. Hevelius*, *Azzout*, *Petit*, *Volckamer*; and others.

Upon consideration whereof, and for that it seems by the Observations mentioned, that the said Variation being regularly made, depends not, according to the Conjecture of *Des-Cartes*, upon the Earth, its being more *Irony* or *Magnetick* in some places, than in others; nor upon any other irregular Cause: he here Incites the Ingenious in all Countrys, to give their joynt assistance, for the bringing this *Point* to a certainty. From whence we may reasonably expect, amongst other particulars, great Improvements in these two, *Navigation* and *Geography*.

For this purpose, he wishes, That the Observations may be made every where about the same time, especially, about the *Equinoxes* and the *Summer Solstice*. That the *Meridian* line be taken by *Azimuths*, as one of the best ways. That every Observation be made at least with two *Needles*; and that these *Needles* be neither too little, nor too great; he having frequently experienced the deceitfulness of both extremes. Concluding with a Caution, that the Observations be made upon an exact level.

It is intended, that the *Transactions* for the next Month, shall come forth about the end of the *Term*.

L O N D O N:

Printed for *Henry Hunt*, Operator to the *Royal Society*.
 And Sold by him at the *Repository* in *Gresham College*:
 By *J. Rogers* at the *Bible* in *Westminster-Hall*; and by
J. Smith at the *Princes-Arms* in *St. Pauls Church-
 Yard*.

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