

## An Account of Three Books.

### I. *De ANGLORUM GENTIS ORIGINE DISCEPTATIO*, Auth. Rob. Sheringhamo *Cantabrigiensi*, Colleg. *Gonvillii & Caii Socio*. Cantabrigiæ, 1670. in 8°.

THE Learned Author of this Discourse doth therein inquire into the Origine both of the Antient *Britains*, and of the *Angli* or *English*; having first described the Scituation, Latitude, Form, Fertility, and Temper of the Inhabitants of this *Island*. In his Inquiry he finds nothing that may be more certain in so great obscurity, than that the Old *Britains* were descended from the *Trojans*, by *Brutus*, the Offspring of *Aeneas*; and that the *Angli* are the Race of the *Gothick* Nation ( which he maketh the Offspring not of *Japhet*, but of *Sem* : ) Further, that the *Geta* or *Goths* did pass through *Scythia* into *Scandia* and *Sarmatia*, and from *Scandia* into the Isles of the *Baltick* Sea and *Germany*; but that under that great Captain *Filemer* they made an Excursion again into *Asia*, and having there ejected out of their Seats the *Magogean Scythians* and the *Cimmerians*, settled themselves and their Empire in *Asia*; whence the *Saxons*, *Getes* and *Angles*, ( the Forefathers of the English ) were brought back again into *Germany*, to the Antient Seat of the *Getes*, under the Conduct of that Famous *Woden* ( the Progenitor of the chief Kings of *Europe* ) about the year 2910. All which, and much more our Author renders very probable, and in doing so, gives proof of much Learning and Industry.

### II. *A Vindication of HYDROLOGIA CHYMICA*, by William Sympson M. D. London, for R. Chiswell in Little Britain, 1670.

THIS Author, esteeming, that his Antagonist, Dr. *Wittie*, hath fallen short in strength of Argument against his first Book, written upon the *Scarborough-Spaw*, and made supplies by groundless accusations, maketh it his business in this Reply, to Answer the most material Objections urged against him, endeavouring to confirm what he had said before, and adding new Observations.

And for a further Discovery of the nature of the other Medicinal Waters at *Knaresborough*, he gives a particular Discourse both of the *Sweet-Spaw*, and *Sulphur-Well*, found there; where he propounds some Experiments, which, in the Authors opinion, not only demonstrate the Nature and Essence of their constitutive Ingredients, but by which also any *Simple Spring-Water* may be changed into an *Artificial Mineral Water*,

Water, of the same taste and operation with the *Natural*. And as to the Experiments, which concern the *Sulphur-Water*, and consequently all other the like *Sulphur-Springs*, he affirms them to be such, as no Author, that he knows, hath taken notice of, believing also, that they may yield no very small light for the further advancement of Sulphurous and other Mineral Waters.

And forasmuch as the Essence of the *Scarborough-Spaw* consists, in his opinion, mostwath of an *Aluminous Salt*, he thence, taketh occasion to give an Account of the *Alome-Works* at *Whitby*; describing also the Difference betwixt the *Natural* and *Facitious Alome*.

To all which he annexeth; *First*, A return to some *Queries*, formerly propounded in N°. 52. of these *Traacts* by D. *Dan. Foot*, concerning Mineral Waters. [Where the Reader is desired to take notice of the great mistake of Dr. *Sympson*, in calling these Papers the *Ph. Transactions of the R. Society*; which is a great injury to that Illustrious Body, these *Traacts* being only the Communications of a single Person, who hath also heretofore expressly signified so much to the World N°. 11. of these Books; and still signifieth the like at the end of every year, in the several Dedications of the same.] *Secondly*, Some Reflexions upon the most material Passages and Experiments, in a late Treatise, printed in *London*, and Entitul'd, *Scarborough Spaw*, *Spagyrically anatomized* by Dr. *G. Tonstal*: in which Reflexions, a way is propounded for preventing all Inconveniencies, which may happen to those that drink the said *Spaw*. *Thirdly*, An Examination of the *German Spaw-Water*, as he found some of it seal'd up in Bottles in *Holland*. *Fourthly*, Some Observations on a Dissected Woman, who dyed of the *Jaundice*.

Through the whole Book are to be met with, divers Observations, Experiments, and Hints, which may give occasion to the Reader to improve the several Subjects, which they relate to. Among other particulars, he insinuates, that he knows, by a *Dissolvent*, not rare among Chymists, with the addition of a Man's breath, to calcine a Metal, *viâ humidâ*, without which (or something equivalent thereto) the humid Calcination of that Metal cannot be perform'd; *item*, How to melt another Metal (prepared after a certain manner) with the help of one single Lamp, un-assisted by any blast; *item*, That some *Menstruum's* may dissolve or break in pieces the close riveted parts of compact Bodies, when yet they leave other Bodies of a softer and slighter texture untouched: which, he adds, giveth light to the possibility of finding out by Art such *Menstruum's*, as may dissolve and comminute the hard Stone in the Bladder, without touching the soft membrane of it, and other entrals: *Item*, That not only *Niter* is a-fresh to be got out of the same Earth, it was formerly extracted from; but the like is observ'd in the Minerals of *Vitriol* and *Alome*; and, which is more, that the Generation of Metals is not terminated with one production, the *Tinners* in *Cornwal* having found after 30 years,

*Tin* generated anew, where it hath been formerly digg'd up and fill'd with Earth. *Item*, That taking a pint of simple Spring-water, in which he dissolv'd betwixt one and two drachms of Sal marine in *Frigido* (since about that quantity of Common Salt the *Sulphur-water* in the North contains,) he added to this Solution of Salt in water, about two or three ounces of *Calx Viva* and the Marcasites of *Vitriol* ( found near the *Sulphur-Well* ) grossly pulverized; which presently became considerably hot: whereupon pouring off some of the Water, he poured into the same, filtred, a little Solution of the simple *Alome-Salt*; and it immediately caused a precipitation of a Sulphur, and sent forth the very smell, and had also the exact tast of the *Sulphur-Well*.

*Again*; That, seeing all Bodies are but Concretions and Hardnings of their primitive Juyces, under various disguises, generally perform'd by the operation of the Air, therefore the Preparation of a Dissolvent by Art, (which may work wonders in this kind) is no more, to him, than to make such an one, as may soften these Concretions, made by the Air, and by taking away their hardness, reduce them into their first Juicy Liquors. Where he observeth, that if it were not for the perpetual Circulation of the Juyces in the Body, constantly transpiring through the pores thereof, we should either become petrified, or be incircled with a Bark.

III. *A Discourse in Vindication of Des-Cartes's Systeme, by M. Des-Fourneillis: to which is annexed the SYSTEME GENERAL of the same CARTESIAN Philosophy, by Francis Bayle, M. D. at Tolose. Printed at London for Moses Pit, in Little-Britain.*

Both these Tracts were lately *English't* out of *French*: Of the latter of which, whilst it was yet un-translated, some Account was given in *Numb. 54*: the former shews only, that the Systeme of *M. Des-Cartes* seems to have been taken out of the first Chapter of *Genesis*; and particularly, that his Opinion concerning *Brutes* contains nothing dangerous.

Errata.

Pag. 2012. l. 36. r. was not yet, p. 2016. l. 18. r. rested himself, p. 2023. l. 19. r. being pur.

L O N D O N.

Printed by T. R. for John Martyn Printer to the Royal Society, 1670.