

maining in the *Cranium* but a small quantity of black putrid Matter. This to the best of my remembrance is the summ of all. He had neither *Spasmus* nor Convulsions of any part all the time of his illness.

IV. *Part of a Letter from Mr Ralph Thoresby, F. R. S. to the Publisher, concerning several observables in his Musæum, near Leeds in Yorkshire.*

S I R,

I Remember that upon perusal of the Catalogue of the Natural Curiosities in my poor *Musæum*, you desired a more particular account of the *Skin* of the *Fishes Stomach* from the *Indies*; of the *Crystal*, and the ways of its *Concretion*; of the *Iron* turned into *Ore*; and of the *Octoedra* from the *Copper Mines* in *Sweden*. The first was given me by Mr Robert Midgley of this Town, an Ingenious Apothecary, who made 5 Voyages as Surgeon into the *East Indies*. It is the outward Skin of the Maw of a Fish that was taken at *Macassar*, Febr. 16<sup>88</sup>. and was given him at *Batavia* by a *Dutch-man*, who took it out of the Fish. That the Fibres or Vessels do curiously and naturally resemble a Tree, with its Stem, Branches, Leaves, &c. will appear by the enclosed figure of it, which, tho but slenderly performed, is the best I have time to do now, and is so like the Original that it will save the labour of any further description, (for 'tis exactly the bigness and shape of this Draught,) save that the Skin is very thin, whitish, and transparent; and the Veins that compose the Stem and greater Branches, are now rather Black than dark Red, as I presume they were at first, the



the Leaves a sort of dark and faded Green, variegated. See Tab. 7. fig. 1. The *Crystal* with other Natural Curiosities, was given me by the Learned and Ingenious *Dr Jabez Cay of Newcastle*, who brought it from *Milan*: And because his description will be much more accurate than I can pretend to, I will make bold therewith, only premising his arguments upon a sort of *Spar* within a *Flint*, sent me at the same time. That within the *Flint* (says he) seems to differ from the rest of its substance, and somewhat to resemble *Spar*: Tho after all, *Spar* being nothing else but a *Cristalline* sort of *Lime-stone*, it differs not from *Flint* in reality, but only in appearance, i. e. in the manner of *Concretion*, tho if the inclosed Matter had in its nature differ'd from the rest of the Stone, the thing had not been very uncommon, it being usual enough for Stones (especially those of a globular or oval form) to have Coat upon Coat, and those Coats sometimes very different one from another, some of them soft, some hard, nay, sometimes after a long space of time, one of these Coats will shrink from another, after the manner of a Kernel when the Shell grows dry; and then if the enclosed substance continue soft and marly, they call that Stone *Geodes*; but if stony, it makes one of those Rattling Stones that are known by the name of the *Ætites*, or Eagle Stone. To confirm what I have here advanc'd, it were easie to prove by many Instances that it is no unusual thing for Stones to enclose Substances of a very differing nature from themselves; the *Shells* in the *Sussex Marble* herewith sent you is one proof of this matter, and the *Stones* found in our *Coal-pits*, and known amongst the Workmen by the name of *Cat-heads*, may serve for another; they are found in a particular *Stratum* near the Coal, and enclose a *Fern*, or sometimes *Polypody Leaf* in the middle of them; and for that reason being struck with a Hammer very readily break there: I think they are a sort of *Iron Stone*, akin to that which they call in

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*Staffordshire Ballmine*, and Dr Lister, *Minera ferri pilæformis*; they have it upon the Western Coasts near *Whitehaven*, and call it there by the name of *Cat-scamps*. I have seen of it too upon the *Yorkshire* Coasts in *Robin Hood's Bay*: You may if you please, till I find a better name, call it *Lapis minera ferri, Pilæformi similis, in cujus Meditullio, unum vel plura filicis folia representantur*. (I have since from my said worthy Friend receiv'd Specimens of both sorts.) And to give you an instance that *one and the same piece of Rock does not always shoot into Stone at one and the same time, but first one part of it and then another*, and they too not after the same regular manner, but irregularly enough, I have sent you a piece of *Rock Crystal*, where you may easily observe the *modus concrescendi* in the middle to have differed from that of the outside, nay, sometimes I have seen in the middle of some transparent Stones a small drop that never would take the solid form of the rest of the Stone at all. The 3d Curiosity was also sent me from the same very kind Friend Dr Cay; 'tis a piece of an *Iron-bolt* (2 inches long) found in a *Stone Quarry*, now return'd into *Iron-Ore* again; this being a Property that Iron has, and no other Metal, as Dr Lister observes in his *Journey to Paris*.

4thly, The *Copper Ore* so regulated shot into an *Octædrous* form, was sent me from *Sweden* by Mr *William Sykes* of *Stockholm* Merchant, it has 8 solid Triangles, and consequently 6 angular points, and is as well of the bigness as figure of the enclosed draught of it; my said Cousin receiv'd it from the *Copper Groves* at *Fallum*, where very many of the same form were then found, tho he cannot now get another of them. See Tab. 7. Fig. 2.