

any, but to give every one his due, as near as can be discerned by the *Publisher*.

Answers

To some of the Inquiries formerly publish'd concerning Mines.

THat the *Queries*, scattered up and down in these *Tracts*, may not seem lost, or left un-regarded, the *Publisher* intends to impart at convenient times such of the *Answers*, shall be sent in by observing men, as may be thought acceptable to the *Reader*.

He begins now with an Account, communicated to him by the Learned and Inquisitive Mr. *Joseph Glanvil*, who premises in a *Letter*, that he procured the following *Answers* from a Person living near the *Mendip-Mines*, and upon whose relations we may securely depend: Adding, that he does not by these few suggestions think himself absolved of his Taske, but shall pursue the matter farther, as soon as he has an opportunity of going into these Parts, whence he expects to be farther inform'd.

The *Reader* will be pleased to look back to the said several *Queries*, as they are extant in the *Number 19*; the following *Answers* respecting thither, and being accommodated to the Mines of *Mendip* in *Somerset-shire*, where the following Observations were made; *viz.*

To the 1, 2, 3 *Queries*. That all *Mendip* is Mountainous, yet the Hills not equal in height. That it is barren and cold, and rocky in some places. That the Ridges thereof run confusedly, but most *East* and *West*, and not in any *Parallel* one with another. That upon the *Surface* thereof it is Heathy, Ferny and Furzy; and the Cattle, it feeds, for the most part are Sheep, which go there all the year; and young Beasts, Horses and Colts at Spring and Fall. That the Sheep are not faire, but big-bellied, and will grow to no bigness, after they have been there fed; but will grow fat, if they are removed into better soyle, and so their Beasts and Horses.

To the 4, 5, 6, 7 *Queries*. That the Natives and Inhabitants
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live neither longer or shorter, than ordinary, but live healthy, saving such, as are employed about melting of the Lead at the Mines; who, if they work in the smoak, are subject to a Disease, that will kill them; and the Cattel likewise that feed thereabout. The Smoak, that rests upon the ground, will bane them. And therefore the Inhabitants have keepers to keep them from it, for fear of the Infection. That the Country is not furnisht with many Rivers, and Waters, that rise upon the Hills: But from the bottom of the hills there are many Springs round about, both to the *North*, *South* and *West*; and those Waters are very wholesome, and produce Rivers, after they have run to some distance from thence. That the *Air* is moist, cold, foggy, thick, and heavy. That it is observed often covered with mists and fogs; and if any Rain be in the Country thereabout, it is surely there; and 'tis probable, it may arise from the Mineral and Subterraneous Steams. That the *Soyle* near the surface of the Earth is red and stony; and the stones that are drawn out thence, are either of the nature of *Fire-stones*, or *Lime-stones*, but no way *Clays*, *Marly* or *Chalky*.

To the 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 *Queries*. That the *Trees*, growing thereon, have their tops burnt, and their leaves and out-sides discoloured, and scorched with the Wind, and grow to no bigness or stature. That the *Stones* and *Pebles*, that are washed with the Brooks and Springs, are of a *reddish* colour, and ponderous. That *Snow*, *Frost* and *Dew* stay upon *Mendip* longer, then upon any of the neighbouring grounds; but whether the *Dew*, falling upon the ground, will discolour Linnen, I have not observ'd.

To the 16, 17, 18, 19, *Queries*. That *Mendip* is more than ordinary subject to Thunder and Lightning, Storms, Nocturnal Lights and fiery *Meteors*. That the Mists arise out of the *Vales*; but whether they signifie, where the Minerals are, I cannot say. That the *Virgula divinatoria* hath not been known to have been seen used in these parts. That there are no certain signes above ground, that afford any probability of a Mine, to my knowledge.

To the *Querie* in the *fifth* Title, I can say little, save only, That the Ore upon *Mendip* lies in Veines as a Wall; in some places

places deeper, in some shallower; in some places narrower, in some broader; but lies altogether, and is *perfect Lead*, only in the Outside, covered with *reddish Earth*.

To the *Queries* in the *sixth Title*, I cannot say much; it must be resolv'd by them, that melt the Lead-Ore, with which I have not been much acquainted, save only, that they beat the Ore small; then wash it clean in a running stream; then sift it in Iron-Rudders; then they make of Clay or Fire-stone a Hearth or Furnace, which they set in the ground, and upon it build their Fire, which is lighted with Char-coal, and continued with young Oaken-gadds, blown with Bellows by Mens treading on them: And after the Fire is lighted, and the fire-place hot, they throw their Lead-Ore upon the Wood, which melts down into the Furnace; and then with an Iron-Ladle they take it out, and upon sand cast it into what forme they please.

So far this Account, which is hoped will be made in time more compleat, and succeeded with the like *Answers* from other places.

An Extract

Of a Letter, sent from Paris, about the Load-stone; where chiefly the suggestion of Gilbert touching the Circumvolution of a Globous Magnet, call'd Terrella; and the Variation of the Variation, is examined.

This Letter was written by the Intelligent and Experienced Monsieur Petir, Intendant of the Fortifications of his Most Christian Majesty, to the Publisher, as follows;

I Have received yours, wherein you desire to know my sentiment about the present *Variation* of the *Needle*, intimating withal, that an Artist in *London* affirms, that whereas heretofore the Declination was *East-ward*, 'tis now about *one degree and a half* to the *West*.

Nothing can be more welcome to me, than to have occasion given me to discourse of this Subject, especially to the Philosophers of *England*, whence the Philosophy of the *Magnet*