

VI. *Some farther Observations relating to the Natural History of Wales. In a Letter from Mr. Edw: Lhwyd to Dr. Tancred Robinson, F. R. S.*

*Usk in Monmouthshire, June 15. 1697.*

S I R,

THE most considerable Discoveries, since my last, were some new *Species* of *Glossopetra* and *Siliquastra*, (the first *Ichthyodontes*, I suppose, that ever were observ'd in *Wales*) on the top of a high Mountain call'd *Blorens* near *Aber Gavenni*. The *Siliquastra* were smaller than the generality of those I had observ'd in other Countries. Of the *Glossopetra* we found one pretty large; but the rest very small; all black, or atrorubent. The same place afforded also some variety of Fossil Shells, and plenty of *Cuthbert's* Beads, which were very small in comparison of what are found throughout the North of *England*. We also found there a large Testaceous Body, not to be compar'd as to its Figure with any sort of Shell yet describ'd: Together with some embossed Representations of pieces of the Skeletons of Eels, or some lesser Fish. All these were in Limestone; but

Advancing about 3 Miles further into *Brecknockshire*, at a place call'd *Lhan Elhi* we searched some Coal and Iron Mines. Their Coal-works were not Pits sunk like Draw-wells; but great Inroads made into the side of the Hill, so that three or four Horsemen might ride in abreast. The Top is supported with Pillars left at certain distances; and they make their By-lanes (as in other Pits) as the Vein requires. The Slat above this Coal afforded only Stalks of Plants, which we did not

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save, because it seem'd impoitible to reduce them to their several proper *Species*. However, close by the Pit we found a valuable Curiosity, *viz.* a Stone for substance like those they make Lime of; of a compress'd Cylinder Form; and as it were cut off even at each End: About 8 Inches long, and 3 in breadth: Its *Superficies* adorn'd with equidistant Dimples, like Dr. Plot's *Lepidotes*, *Hist. Ox. chap. 5. par. 55.* and in each Dimple a small Circle; and in the Center of each Circle a little Stud like a Pins head. This is the only Curiosity of the kind I have seen; and is not referable to any thing I can think of, either in the Animal or Vegetable Kingdom. Among the Iron Oars of the same Hills we found some new Spars, and several Specimens of Oars shot into a constant and regular Figure, tho not reducible to any Animal or Vegetable Bodies.

About 5 Miles thence, at a place called *Pont y Pwl* in this County (where, as also at *Lhan Elbi*, there are Furnaces and Forges,) we found more Coal and Iron-Mines; and collected some fair Representations of the Leaves of Capillary Plants on the Iron Oar, but found no Branches. One Major *Hanbury* of this *Pont y Pool*, shew'd us an excellent Invention of his own, for driving hot Iron (by the help of a Rolling Engin mov'd by Water) into as thin Plates as Tin: But without a Draught of the Machine I cannot give you a Notion of it. They cut their common Iron Bars into Pieces of about two foot long; and heating them glowing hot, place them betwixt these Iron Rollers; not across, but their Ends lying the same way as the Ends of the Rollers. The Rollers (moved with Water) drive out these Bars to such thin Plates, that their Breadth, which was about 4 Inches, becomes their Length, being extended to about 4 Foot; and what was before the Length of the Bars is now the Breadth of the Plates. With these Plates he makes Furnaces, Pots, Kettles, Sauce-Pans, &c.

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These he can afford at a very cheap rate (about the third part of what is usual) and yet dares warrant them not less serviceable: So that it is not to be doubted, but that he will meet with the Encouragement due to so Ingenious and useful an Invention. He sends most of his Plates to *London* (where he has Workmen) making at home only what he finds the Country will take off. I am,

Sir,

Your most obliged Servant,

E. LHWYD.

P. S. We had at *Pont y Pool*, on the 6th instant, an extraordinary Shower of Hail; which extended about a Mile, and lasted near half an Hour. It broke down the Stalks of all the Beans and Wheat within that Circumference; and ruined as much Glass at Major *Hambury's* House, as cost 4*l.* the repairing. Some of the Hail were 8 Inches about; as to their Figure, very irregular and unconstant; several of the Hail-stones being compounded, as the Major judg'd, who saw them.