

II. *An Account of the first Decade of a Book, Intituled, Johannis Martyn Historia Plantarum rariorum. Printed at London ; by Richard Reily, 1728. by Mr. Rand, F. R.S.*

MR. *Martyn* in this Work has had the Plants, of their natural Bigness, exactly designed after the Life, and with great Accuracy and Success printed in their proper Colours. This curious Invention was never more aptly applied, though I think this is the first time it has been used in *Botany*. By this Means, without a long tedious Description, a Plant may be known by meer Inspection. However, that nothing may be wanting, the Author has thought fit to give short Descriptions, insisting more particularly on those minute Parts which cannot be so clearly expressed by Sculpture ; and has added, where they could be obtain'd, some Account of their Uses, &c.

The Plant in the first Table he calls *Falapa Officinarum*.

The *Falap* Root has been in common Use above a hundred Years ; yet the Plant it self wholly unknown to us in *Europe* till P. *Plumier* and M. *Lignon*, who had both passed a considerable Time in *America* in Botanical Disquisitions, at their Return, severally assured Mr. *Tournefort*, that it was a Species of the Plant commonly known by the Name of *Marvel* of *Peru* ; who thereupon thought fit to make *Falapa* the Name of the Genus, and distinguish that of the Shops by the Seeds being more rugose than those of the common.

Tab. 2.

Tab. 2. Shews the *Geranium Africanum, Arbore-
scens, Malvæ folio, lucido; flore elegantis-
simo Kermesino Domini van Leur. Boerb.
Ind. alt. 262.*

3. *Geranium Chium, vernum; Caryophyllata
folio T. Cor. 20.*

4. *Brunella Caroliniana, magno flore, dilute
cæruleo, internodiis prælongis, Phil. Transf.
No. 395. Pag. 125.*

5. *Amaranthus Sinensis foliis variis; panicu-
lâ eleganter plumoso.*

6. *Amaranthus spicâ albescente habitiore.*

7. *Parietaria Orientalis, Polygoni folio ca-
nescente T. Cor. 38.*

8. *Niruri Barbadenfe, folio Ovali subtus glau-
co, pediculis florum brevissimis, Phil.
Transf. No. 399. Pag. 295.*

This is of the same Genus with that called
Niruri, Hort. Malab. Tom. x. and there
described, p. 53. Ours is a much smaller
Plant, the Leaves are less, and grow much
closer on the Stalks, and the Pedicle of each
Flower by two thirds shorter.

9. *Lychnidea Caroliniana floribus Umbellatim
dispositis, foliis lucidis crassis.* This
Plant is something like *Lychnidea Virgi-
niana Holstei ampliore folio, floribus
umbellatis purpureis Phil. Transf. No. 395.
Pag. 126.* but the Leaves are much larger,
thicker, and of a deep shining green Colour.

10. *Aloe Africana, foliis planis, conjugatis,
carinatis verrucosis, caule & flore Co-
rallii colore Boerb. Ind. alt. p. 2. Pag. 131.*

The ingenious Author propofes, in the Sequel of this Work, to give an Account of new Plants only, or at leaft fuch as have not been well figured by others : If he proceeds with the fame Exactnefs, as I don't doubt he will, the Work very well deferves Encouragement ; for of Plants thus figured and defcribed, there can be no future Doubts.

Happy had it been for us, had the Antients left fuch Types or Descriptions of thofe they recommended as confiderable for their Ufe in Medicine. This would have faved the Learned World much Labour and Study in an Enquiry, which 'tis to be feared, for want of fuch Helps, will prove unfecefful.

III. *An Attempt to folve the Phenomenon of the Rife of Vapours, Formation of Clouds and Defcent of Rain. In a Letter from Dr. J. T. Defaguliers, L. L. D. F. R. S. to Dr. Rutton, R. S. Secr.*

S I R,

THE Reason of my writing upon a Subject which has been fo often treated of, is, that none of the Accounts hitherto given of this *Phænomenon* (at leaft that I have met with) feem to me fufficient to folve all the Circumftances of it.

Dr. *Niewentyt* and fome others fay — That Particles of Fire feperated from the Sun-Beams, by adhering to Particles of Water, make up *Moleculæ*, or fmall Bodies fpecifically lighter than Air, which therefore, by hydroftatical Laws, muft rife and form Clouds that remain fufpended when they are rifen up to fuch an
Height