

to be touched, though he died with near 40 Ulcers upon him.

Dear SIR,

Plymouth,  
Oct. 16. 1739.

Your humble Servant,

John Huxham.

In another Letter dated at *Plymouth*, Nov. 30. 1739. Dr. *Huxham* says, " We have had a very tempestuous Season for several Days past, though now fair; the *Mercury* lower [28.1 Inches] than I have known it for some Years, and the Tides excessively high."

### III. *An Account of Coal-balls made at Liege, by William Hanbury, Esq; F. R. S.*

IN pursuance of the Orders of the SOCIETY, I shall endeavour to give an Account of the factitious Coal made at *Liege*. But first I shall quote Two Authors, who mention it in their Accounts of the Town of *Liege*.

The First is, *Le Curieux Antiquaire, ou Recueil géographique & historique, par le Sr P. L. Berkenmeyer à Leide 1729. p. 182.* Where he says, " This Bishoprick (*Liege*) has rich Mines of *Houille* or *Stone-coal*\*, which the Inhabitants sell in the Ne-

\* The common People call their Pit-coal, *del Hey* or *de la Houille*; and the Mixture of Coal and Clay *de Houchy*.

C. M.  
" *therlands*,

“ *therlands*, and by the Sale of it they get above

“ 100,000 Ducats *per Annum*.”

“ This Coal lights easily, and gives a great Heat :

“ It is not therefore to be wondered, that Fire is

“ reckoned amongst other Advantages the *Liegeois*

“ boast of: They say, they have the best Bread, the

“ hardest Iron, and the hottest Fire: By this last they

“ mean, *de la houille*, which, being once well

“ lighted, casts the greater Heat, if it be wetted with

“ Water.”

The Second Book I shall mention is, *Les Delices des Pais Bas*, Vol. III. p. 243. where I find that this

Town *Liege* is said to be “ the Hell of Women,

“ because they are obliged to work more here than

“ in any other Country. They draw the Boats, and

“ carry on their Backs, like Slaves, *les boilles*, and

“ other Things; and these Women are called *des*

“ *Botresses*.”

In the Year 1628. by a printed Paper produced be-

fore you, it appears, that this Fuel was known in

*England* at that Time; and if you will believe the

Author of that Paper, it was discovered by *Hugh*

*Plat* in 1594.

There is an Account of it printed in the Essays for

the Month of *December* 1716. where it is proposed

to be made with the black Ouse of the *Thames*, and

for Four Pence per Bushel.

I have used this Coal and Clay mixed upwards of

Ten Years, and by Experience I find it to answer

very well. It is a most excellent Fire for Roasting, for

heating of Irons, or warming a Room: I use it in

my Kitchen, Laundry, Parlour, and Library.

The Method in which it is made at *Liege*, where I first saw it, and made some myself, is as follows:

Take  $\frac{1}{3}$  of unctuous Clay, (such as Brewers use to bong their Vessels, in it there must be neither Sand, Gravel, or Stone)

And  $\frac{2}{3}$  of Coal-duft: Mix, and make them incorporate well together; cast them into round Balls, or Bricks; and you may put them on a Coal-fire, and they will burn directly. But if they are made in Summer-time, and laid to dry for Use in Winter, they will light sooner.

Thus you have an hot, clean, lasting Fire, not at all offensive to the Smell.

The Duft is there the Refuse of the Mine, and may be here of the Coal-merchant's Yard, so that this Fuel comes exceeding cheap.

Nor is it necessary to put so much Coal-duft; for some Clay (particularly what I use myself in the Country) will do, if mixed  $\frac{2}{3}$  Clay,  $\frac{1}{3}$  Coal-duft; and the true Proportion of the Mixture must be found by Experience; but it is always better to put in too much than too little Coal-duft at first, because Men are too apt to be discouraged in making Experiments.

This Fuel is not only to be had at an easier Price, but it is likewise more durable.

How far it may be useful in Glafs-houses, Brew-houses, Salt-works, &c. I must leave to the Consideration of the several Persons concerned in them.

I have heard, that at *Liege* they burn both Lime and Brick with it; but, as I never saw it done, I cannot affirm it.