the evidence I have brought inſufficient to prove it, he is deſired to invalidate what I have here ſaid, by a deduction of freſh evidence, and to account for theſe ſeveral expreſſions in old authors, which ſeem to prove, that ſuch a change has really happened.

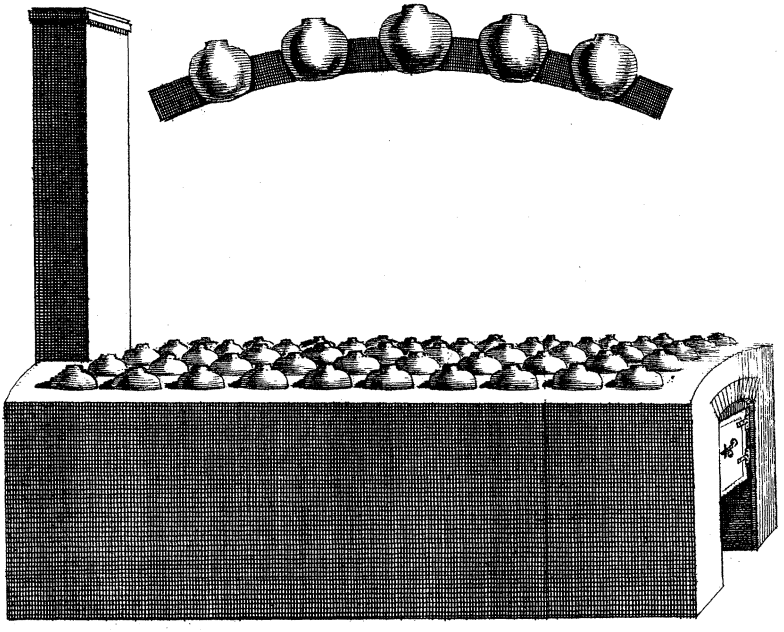
XLVIII. *The Method of making Sal Ammoniac in* Egypt; *as communicated by Dr.* Linnæus, *from his Pupil Dr.* Haſſelquiſt, *who had been lately in thoſe Parts: By* John Ellis, *Eſq*; *F. R. S.*

Read Jan. 31, 1760.

SAL Ammoniac is made from the ſoot ariſing from the burnt dung of four-footed animals, that feed only on vegetables.

This dung is collected in the four firſt months of the year, when all their cattle, ſuch as oxen, cows, buffaloes, camels, ſheep, goats, horſes, and aſſes, feed on freſh ſpring graſs, which, in Egypt, is a kind of trefoil, or clover: for when they are obliged to feed their cattle on hay, and their camels on bruiſed date kernels, their excrements are not fit for this purpoſe; but when they feed on graſs, the poor people of Egypt are very careful to collect the dung quite freſh, and, for that purpoſe, follow the cattle all day long, in order to collect it as it falls from them; and, if it is too moiſt, they mix it with chaff, ſtubble, ſhort ſtraw, or duſt, and make it up in the form of cakes, about the ſame ſize and ſhape as it lies on the ground.

Then



A Plan of the subliming Furnace or Oven for making Sal Ammoniac in Egypt taken from the description here given.

J. Haynde sc.

Then they fix it to a wall to dry, till it is fit to be burnt.

For want of wood, which none but the rich in Egypt can afford to buy, they burn this dung through the whole country, and ſell a vaſt quantity of it to the ſalt-makers.

The excrements of the camel are not found at all preferable to any other; and its urine is never uſed for this purpoſe, although generally reported ſo by authors.

The ſalt-workers pretend, that the human excrements, and thoſe of goats and ſheep, are preferable to any other.

The months of March and April is the only time they make the ſalt.

Sal ammoniac is made in the following manner:

They build an oblong oven, about as long again as broad, of brick and moiſt dung, of ſuch a ſize, that the outſide, or flat part of the top of the arch, may hold fifty glaſs veſſels, ten in length, and five in breadth, each veſſel having a cavity left for it in the brick-work of the arch. *See Tab.* XI.

Theſe glaſs veſſels are globular, with a neck an inch long, and two inches wide.

Theſe veſſels are of different ſizes, in different ſalt-works, containing from a gallon to two gallons; but, in general, are about 18 inches diameter.

They coat each veſſel over with a fine clay (which they find in the Nile), and afterwards with ſtraw; they then fill them two-thirds full of ſoot, and put them into their holes on the top of the oven.

They make the fire gentle at firſt, and uſe the afore-mentioned dried dung for the fuel; they in-

creaſe

creaſe the heat gradually, till they bring it to the higheſt degree, which the workmen call hell-fire, and continue it ſo for three days and three nights together.

When the heat is come to its due degree, the ſmoke ſhews itſelf, with a ſouriſh ſmell, that is not unpleaſant; and, in a little time, the ſalt ſticks to the glaſſes, and covers the whole opening. The ſalt continues ſubliming, till the above-mentioned time is expired; then they break the glaſſes, and take out the ſalt, juſt in the ſame form, and of the ſame ſubſtance, that it is ſent all over Europe.

At each ſalt-work, they have a glaſs furnace, to melt the old glaſſes, and make new ones.

XLIX. *Montium quorundam prælatorum, magna ligni foſſilis copia quaſi infarctorum, brevis deſcriptio* Sam. Chriſt. Hollmanni, *Philoſophiæ Profeſſor.* Goettingenſis, *et S. R. Sodalis.*

Read Feb. 14, 1760.

SUNT in Haſſiæ et principatus Goettingenſis confiniis montes quidam prælti, qui tanta *ligni foſſilis* copia abundant, ut fidem fere ſuperet. Horum alter non procul Mundenſi oppido, circa Werram Fuldamque confluentes poſito, verſus meridionalem plagam ad tantam altitudinem aſſurgit, ut mercurius barometricus in eodem ad $1'' 25'''$ pedis Lond. ab illo gradu deſcendat, quem ad Werræ Fuldæque, ipſiuſque adeo ex iiſdem oriundi Viſurgis, ripas habet: unde ex repetitis in utroque