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A Description of the Animal Flower, from the Reverend Mr. Hughes's Natural History of BARBADOES.

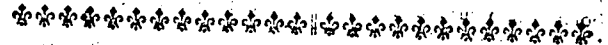
IN the Parish of *St. Lucy*, which lies in the North Part of the Island, there is an high rocky Cliff, that fronts the Sea, near the bottom of which there is a Cave, spacious enough to contain 500 Persons; the Roof is imbofied with conglaciated Incrustations, intermixed with small Tubes, through which a small quantity of the most limpid Water perpetually drops. This Cave opens into another, the bottom of which is a Basin of Water, 15 Feet long, and 12 broad; the Surface at low Water * is 11 Feet higher than that of the Sea, when the Wind is high, and blows towards the Shore, dashes into it, so that the Water is entirely salt, except a small mixture of fresh, which oozes and drops through the Roof of the Cave. In the middle of this Basin is a Kind of Rock, the highest Part of which is always below the Surface of the Water. On the Sides of this Rock, and at several Depths, seldom exceeding 18 Inches, are seen at all Times of the Year, issuing out of little Holes, certain substances that have the appearance of fine radiated Flowers, of a bright Straw colour, faintly tinged with green, having a circular Body of thick set Petals, in size and shade greatly resembling those of a single Garden Marigold, thro' the Marigold is a little darker at the discus, or setting on of the Leaves. The Author often attempted to Pluck one of these from the Rock, to which they were always fixt, but could never effect it, for as soon as his fingers came within 2 or 3 Inches of it, it contracted, closed up its Border, and shrunk back into the Hole in the Rock, from whence it again gradually issued, if left undisturb'd a few Minutes, and expanding by degrees at length appeared full blown; the same effect was also produced by his attempting to touch it with a Glass: However, he still imagined it might be an aquatic sensitive Plant, and that the great quickness of its contraction might be caused by the more delicate texture of its Leaves, and the undulation produced by the Hand or Stick in the Water, a Medium which is 800 Times more Dense than Air. But in a subsequent examination he discovered 4 dark colour'd filaments, resembling in some degree the Legs of a Spider, which rise from the Center of the Discus, and moved from one side of the yellow Border to the other, with a very quick and spontaneous Motion, and frequently closed like the forceps of Insects, as if to seize their Prey, which the yellow Border immediately contracted to secure by closing over it. This Discovery convinced him that what he had Regarded as a Flower, was an Animal; for it now appeared to be endowed with the power of Motion, and an instinct, by which it is impelled to preserve and to continue its existence. That which appeared to be the Stalk of the Flower, and which may be considered as the Body of the Animal, is about as big as a Raven's Quill, and its colour is nearly black.

The Author observes that this Creature differs in the vivid yellow colour of its feelers from every other fungous Animal, and that this Circumstance seems to be absolutely necessary to procure it Food; for the Animals of this Kind that are found clinging to the Rocks in the Sea, may be fed with Spawn, or other Animalcula which the Flux or Reflux of the Waves may bring in their Way; but the Water in the Cave has very seldom any Motion that can convey Food to these Animals; the prudent Wise and Good Father of Nature, whose tender Mercies are over all his Works, has therefore endowed this Creature with a quality that may allure its Prey; for bright colours

invite many Animals, especially of the Aquatic Kind, as the Flame of a Candle does Flies.

There are also a great Number of Animal Flowers, of a greyish purple colour, variegated with black Spots, sticking to the Surface of the Rock, not issuing out of Holes, and seldom more than 9 Inches below the Surface of the Water. One of these Mr. Hughes plucked from the Rock, and observed its Body, which was about an Inch long, to have a Sensible Vermicular Motion, as he held it between his Finger and Thumb; the feelers also shrunk up, and the whole appeared lifeless soon after it was exposed to the Air, but upon being again immersed in Water, it recovered its Vigour and Beauty.

The Discovery of these Animals brought great Numbers to view them; but as this was attended with a small inconvenience to the Person through whose Ground they were obliged to pass, he resolved to destroy the Object of their Curiosity; and that he might effectually accomplish his Design, he caused all the Holes in which these Animal Flowers appeared to be bred, and from which they issued, to be carefully Drilled and Bored with a Piece of Iron prepared for that Purpose; but altho' the Animals were by this Method Ground to Atoms, or reduced to a Jelly, yet in a few Weeks they appeared again to issue from the same Holes.



The *Westminster Journal* of June 2, has some long Animadversions on the three Dutch Fleets, designed to obstruct our Fishery, among which is the following.

THE Dutch, by what they have published, manifestly set up for a Kind of Monopoly in the Herring Fishery; and the little Respect they have shewn, gives us the Advantage of making Reprisals upon them.

The *Westminster Journal*, June 9. considers the Obligations which the Dutch have to the Crown of England.

Queen Elizabeth, saith he, having assisted them to throw off the Spanish Yoke of Oppression, they in their distress'd State offer'd the Sovereignty of their Country to her; but she left them to form a Government of their own, which at Times hath ever since gratefully insulted her Successors. The Author quotes several Instances from a Pamphlet with the above Title, particularly their assisting Oliver Cromwell to form a Republic, and the Maxim of *De Witt*, "To keep England as poor and as much divided as possible."

"After the happy Restoration, they were always either stirring up Rebellion, or making War against King Charles II. When they found that neither Force nor Faction could shake him off his Throne, they sued for a Suspension of Arms, which was granted to them. To make it more secure, the French King was Guarantee between us, that no Hostilities should be committed on either Side. Whilst thus the King thought himself secure from all Danger, measuring their Honour by the sincerity of his own intentions, sent out a Fleet, surprized us in our Harbours, burnt and destroy'd several Ships of the Royal Navy.

"What passed in King James II. his Reign, I am willing to overlook: Tho' I cannot forbear saying, I am afraid their sending over the *P* of *O* was not purely for the preservation of our Church and Liberties. It would be very particular indeed if they should have such a tender Regard for our Liturgy and Religion, and have so little regard to their own. I have heard it put very home to them, that they had no other Creed than the Table of Interest; and I fancy that they, who, for the sake of Trade, can deny and abjure Jesus Christ

We wish Mr. Hughes, who is very accurate in his Descriptions, had told us how he imagined this Basin to be supplied.