

alchemy, &c., are here brought forward; and we can enter into the details with all the pleased feelings of conscious superiority. Altogether, this is a very curious and amusing volume.

British Farmer's Magazine, Nos. I. and II.

THIS agricultural magazine is a continuation in London of that very respectable quarterly periodical, the "Farmer's Magazine," published in Edinburgh, and which was discontinued last year, in consequence of the pressure of circumstances which so greatly affected the publishing business. It contains a great mass of various information on the very interesting and important subject of agriculture; and presents us with original papers on agricultural improvements or defects; as well as discussions of those questions between the cultivators and manufacturers, which have so long agitated the public mind. It also reviews agricultural works. Biographical sketches of eminent agriculturists, with an obituary, and reports of country sports, are new additions in this magazine. The Second Number gives a sketch of the life of Mr. Coke, of Norfolk; and is ornamented with portraits, engraved by T. Landseer, of a British boar and a French hog, a pair of the same kind of animals, forming a very singular contrast. Indeed, to those who have not seen the French swine, the latter will appear quite a caricature, though it is as correct a likeness as that of its antipode, the British boar. This magazine, like the Gardener's, is published quarterly.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

OUR NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

It is now generally understood that the house erected for his late Royal Highness the Duke of York will be appropriated to the reception of several of our National Institutions. It is stated, that the Royal and Antiquarian Societies have already had it intimated that apartments would be assigned to them; and within these two days the building has been examined, in order to ascertain its fitness to have the National Gallery constructed in the centre, which is lighted from a large dome. We are not aware of the determination come to in this respect, but believe it to be likely that the National Collection of Pictures will, in the first instance, be transferred to this situation. At the same time, we understand that the Royal Academy could not be sufficiently accommodated in York House: it will therefore occupy a separate building, either at Charing Cross, or near the site of Carlton House. The Royal Society of Literature has also a site to be given to it.

The portion of Somerset House liberated by the removal of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies, together with that part where the Lottery Office affairs have hitherto been transacted, (now no longer needed), will be appropriated for the business of the Exchequer; and all the old buildings on the side of Palace Yard towards the river, where the Exchequer Offices now stand, will be taken down;—a grand improvement in that quarter.

Among the novelties at Windsor Castle, there will be one of striking effect. When his Majesty is there, a flag is to fly on one of the towers during the day, and during the night a blaze of gas-light will occupy the same station.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence has been unanimously elected an Honorary

Member of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, in Albemarle Street, of which the King is the Patron.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

ON Wednesday we gave a hasty inspection to the rooms of the Society in Bruton Street, and were gratified to find, not only that it is looking forward under the fairest auspices, but that it already possesses a fine collection in several interesting branches of Natural History. The objects which we could hardly help considering to be rather outré in the original plan, have been successively abandoned, as they came to be more maturely weighed and discussed; and what remains, seems to us to be eminently calculated to be both interesting as a national spectacle, and useful as a national improvement. There is no question but that many animals of great value in every point of view, whether economical or luxurious, may be introduced and naturalised in this country, as so many have already been. The food, the clothing, the arts, the manufactures of Great Britain may be incalculably benefited by the cultivation of new materials, fitted to furnish variety for each;—the rein-deer of Lapland, the silkworm of China, are not beyond the reach of British science and industry. But we will not speculate upon what may be done. We trust to be able to tell what is done, as the ameliorations are effected. Mr. Vigers, we understand, begins a series of lectures next Wednesday, of which and of the present state of the collection we purpose giving an account.

ENTOMOLOGY.—Two very interesting insects, hitherto unrecorded as inhabitants of our island, have lately been added to the collection of Mr. J. O. Westwood, of Chelsea. *Psilus Boscii*, of Jurine—a small four-winged ichneumon-like fly, with a black body, possesses great singularity, in having a long, thick, and curved black horn arising from the upper side of the first segment of the abdomen, and extending its defence over the back of the thorax and head, which are both channelled to receive it when the insect is at rest. The other appears to be the *Dryinus fornicarius* of Labreille, and (as the name implies) considerably resembles a small ant: its thorax is composed of two parts, resembling knots; and each of the fore feet is armed with a pair of very long claws, which are turned back, and which are apparently used by the insect as nippers. Mr. W. is preparing accounts of these singular little creatures; which, together with coloured magnified figures of them, will (as we are informed) appear in an early number of the proposed periodical Entomological Miscellany.

EXPEDITIONS.—Captain Parry, in the *Hecla*, is on the eve of starting, and his ship has, as usual, been made the object of much public curiosity. He drops down from Deptford on Sunday, and is expected to sail on the Sunday following. The appointments are most complete, and the new apparatus for travelling over the ice extremely ingenious.—On the theme of northern expeditions, it is odd enough to remark, that while not a syllable is said on this side of the water, Mr. Arago has stated to the French Institute, on the authority of a letter from Captain Sabine, that Captain Franklin had reached Behring's Straits in October last. We presume that this must be premature, since surely such interesting information could not be communicated to France, and withheld from England.

LITERARY AND LEARNED.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE.

SINCE our last report of the proceedings of the Society, the following communications have been read at the *Ordinary Meetings*:—

December 20th, 1826.—Mr. Granville Penn on "an insidious Latin term in the Hellenistic Greek, invelerately mistaken for a genuine Greek word."

The term referred to is *ιάζνας*, which occurs (Acts, i. 18.) in St. Peter's account of the suicide of Judas: *σπώνς γυνίμους ιάζνας μέος*.—Eng. trans. "Falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst." The word used by St. Matthew in relating the same event, is *ἀντήλαστος*, (c. xxvii. v. 5.) "He went out, and hanged himself."

After noticing the unsuccessful attempts of the commentators to reconcile the apparent discordance between these statements, Mr. Penn proposes his own method, by shewing that *ιάζνας* is not, as has generally been supposed, an inflection derived from a *thema λακίω*, identified with the obsolete Greek word *λάκω*, (existing in *λάκι*, *ιάκκι*, &c.), *sonare*, *sonitum dare*, *cum strepitu rumpi*; but that, in common with many other words used in the New Testament, it is taken directly from the Latin; viz. from *laguco*, to halter. All difficulty is thus removed; the single word used by St. Matthew, and the periphrasis of St. Peter, being proved to express identically the same act.—This paper was a good specimen of the philological acuteness and ingenuity which distinguish the writer.

January 3d, 1827.—An entertaining collection of extracts from MSS. relative to English history, in the British Museum; by the Rev. T. D. Fosbroke.

February 7th, 1827.—A Memoir on the Portland Vase; by Mr. Millingen. The object of this learned Essay was to demonstrate the story sculptured on that celebrated monument of ancient art.

By the antiquaries who first announced its discovery, it was supposed to represent the birth of Alexander the Great. Another opinion was, that the subject related to the Judgment of Paris; a third, that it contained the story of Orpheus and Eurydice.

Winkelmann and other eminent archaeologists, however, think the subject of this vase is the marriage of Thetis and Peleus; to this opinion Mr. Millingen accedes, and, by his description of the sculptures, shews it to be highly probable. Various ancient monuments, he observes, since discovered, confirm this explanation, and confer upon it all the certainty of which such inquiries are susceptible. Mr. M. assigns the beautiful work of art in question to the age of the Antonines, or, at the earliest, to the time of Hadrian.

February 21st, and March 7th, 1827.—"On Vitriified Forts;" by the Rev. J. Jamieson, D.D. To account for the present appearance of those remarkable structures, peculiar to Scotland, known under this name, four different theories have been conceived.

The first theory, published (1787) in the Edinburgh Magazine, that they were formed by pouring a liquid mortar between two walls of loose stones, Dr. J. treats as a vulgar tradition. For the second, viz. that these forts are the remains of extinct volcanoes—an idea which originated with Pennant—he proves that there is no foundation in their actual appearance. In the third theory, proposed by Lord Woodhouselee, in a memoir published in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edin-