

II. *Part of a Letter from Mr. Edward Floyd, Cim. Ashm. Oxon. To Dr. M. Lister, giving an Account of Locusts lately observed in Wales.*

S I R,

YOU have probably been already informed from some other Parts of the Kingdom, of swarms of *Locusts* that have lately appeared on our *British* Coasts. However because I am not certain that they have been observed elsewhere, I shall take this Occasion of giving you what Account I can at present, of some that have been seen in *Wales*. As far as I have been yet informed, they were first seen on the 20th. of *October*, scattered about the Fields in *Marthery* Parish, *Pembroke-shire*, where they were generally taken notice of, at first, because of the unseasonableness of the time for Grasshoppers; but afterwards, for that upon further Examination, they found them distinct from our *English* Grasshoppers, in bigness, colour, &c. I could not learn that any of them have been seen flying in that Country; but from *North Wales* I am informed that two vast swarms of them had been seen in the Air not far from *Dôl-gelheu*, a Market-Town of *Merioneth-shire*. I cannot assure you of the time when these flying *Locusts* were observed, but by the date of my Friend's Letter, &c. I guess that it was near the same time that those others of *Pembroke-shire* had been taken notice of in the Fields. What part of the World these Creatures should come from, I must leave to your Conjecture; in the mean time I can assure you that they are of the very same Species with some *African Locusts* in my Custody in the *Museum*; for which (and many other valuable Curio-

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sities)

ties) we are obliged to that very Inquisitive and Ingenious Gentleman, Mr. J. Aubrey, S. R. S. who received them some Years since from *Tangier*. As yet I have but one sent me out of *Wales*, which you may Command if you please, for I expect shortly more of them.

This Pilgrim-Locust I call, *Locusta erratica, alis ichthyocollæ adinstar pellucidis, reticulatis maculis conspersis*. It is in length (from the Head to the tips of the Wings) three Inches and $\frac{1}{4}$, of a reddish colour all over, except the Wings. As to the Head and *Caputium*, it resembles the Fourth Figure of *Moufetus*. The Eyes are prominent and very large, somewhat of the form and bigness of Gromwel-seeds, of a reddish colour, elegantly streaked. The *Antennæ* are broken so that I can say nothing of the length of them: They are about the bigness of a Hog's bristle, and curiously *geniculated*. As to the Legs, the first pair are not quite an Inch long; the second, somewhat above that length; but the third two Inches and $\frac{1}{4}$. These hind-legs are very beautiful; for the Thighs are hexangular, and elegantly scaled on the outside, with a black List extended lengthways through the midst of them. The shanks are of a lively red colour, adorned on the hind-part with two orders of small sharp prickles, placed not opposite to each others, but alternately. The Wings are about three Inches long, resembling very much those of the larger *Libellæ*, or Dragon-flies, but all over garnished (the outer Wings at least) with reticulated black spots.

I see not much reason to doubt but that these are the very same *Species* of Locusts, so Famous in History for their wandering over, and depopulating whole Regions.

In *Pliny, Lib. xi. c. xxix.* we find these words, ---*Solémque obumbrant sollicitè spectantibus populis ne suas operiant terras. Sufficiunt quippe vires; Et tanquam parum sit maria transisse, immensos tractus permeant, diraque messibus contegunt nube, multa contactu adurentes: Omnia*
vero

vero morsu erodentes, & fores quoque tectorum. Italiam ex Africa maximè coortæ, infestunt, sæpe populo ad Sibyllina coacto remedia confugere, incipiæ metu. Now whether this multa contactu adurentes makes any thing for the firing or the Hay-ricks I question. For I sh^d be apt to understand those words, as if they meant only *See the following Letter, Numb. 4.* Exarefaction, and perhaps Poysoning, not down right Firing or Combustion.

Julius Obsequens in libro prodigiorum, p. 69. Edit. Bas. 1599. Locustarum ingentia agmina in Africa, quæ à vento in mari dejectæ, fluctibusque ejectæ, odore intolerabili Cyrenis mortifero vapore gravem pestilentiam fecerunt pecori, hominûmque DCCC millia consumpta tæbe, proditum est.

I was suspicious of this at the very first reading of Mr. Jones his Letter, and therefore writ to him the very same day I writ to you and Mr. Ray, to examine the Sea *Algæ* and *Fuci* for dead *Locusts*.

The like Account also *Mouf.* cites out of *Otho Frisingensis*. — Tandem verò in Mare Britannicum sublata ventorum vi, fluctibus obruebantur. Sed æstu Oceani incaluit rejectæ aërem infecerunt, pestemque anteaclâ fame non minùs sævam intulerunt. And which comes nearer to our purpose, in *Mouf.* p. 123. Postea per Germaniam errantes ad Mediolanensem usque agrum iter ceperunt, eoque depasto in Poloniam & Sileham revertebantur. Tandem Mense Novembri (tam diu enim vixerant) et frigoris vitabefactæ maximum fætorem excitarunt, & nisi suis apisque Sylvestribus pabulo fuissent, non minus peste gravissimâ quàm fame tam Germanos quam Itatos affecisset. But in *Wales* there are no Creatures to devour them, unless the *Badgers* and *Crows* may take off some.