

days since, by a judicious and unprejudiced person; which is, “ that being in the country of
 “ Otranto, where these insects are in great num-
 “ bers, there was a man, who thinking himself
 “ stung by a tarantula, shewed in his neck a
 “ small speck, about which in a short time there
 “ arose some pimples, full of a serous humour
 “ and that, in a few hours after, the poor man
 “ was afflicted with very violent symptoms,
 “ as synopes, very great agitations, giddiness
 “ of the head, and vomiting; but that without
 “ any inclination to dance, and without a desire
 “ to have any musical instrument: he miserably
 “ died within two days. The same person af-
 “ firmed to me, that all those that think them-
 “ selves bitten by tarantulas, except such as for
 “ evil ends feign themselves to be so, are for
 “ the most part young wanton girls, whom the
 “ Italian writers call *Dolci di Sale*; who by
 “ some particular indisposition falling into this
 “ melancholy madaess, persuade themselves,
 “ according to the vulgar prejudice, to have
 “ been stung by a tarantula.”

Dr. Serao, an Italian physician, has written also an ingenious book upon this subject, in which he has effectually exploded this opinion as a popular error; and in the Philosophical Tran-