

nerves, a species of St. Vitus's dance; and he inclines the more to the idea, as there are numberless churches and places throughout these provinces dedicated to that saint.

Many sensible people of the country, however, differ, in opinion, from Dr. Serao and other authors, who have ridiculed the pretended disorder, and have affirmed that the venom of this species of spider can produce no effects but such as are common to all other. The Brindisians say, that the tarantulas sent to Naples for the experiment were not of the true sort, but were much larger and more innocent; and that the length of the journey, and want of food, had weakened their power so much, as to fuffer the Doctor, or others, to put their arm into a bag where they were kept with impunity. They quote many examples of persons being bitten as they slept out in the fields during the hot months, who grew languid, stupid, deprived of all courage and elasticity, till the sound of some favourite tune roused them to dance, and throw off the poison. These arguments, however, Mr. Swinburn thinks of little weight, for they acknowledge that elderly persons were more frequently afflicted than young ones; and that most of them were
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