

of the age. They are full of discussions upon the animals known to the ancients, mixed up with a few original observations, showing plainly the influence exercised by the revival of letters even upon the cultivators of science.

The naturalists of the second half of the seventeenth century gradually turn their attention more exclusively to nature, and are less engrossed by mere questions of erudition. This salutary change is no doubt owing to the influence of the discovery of America, and the progress of navigation around the Cape of Good Hope and in Asia, upon the study of Natural History. The animals and plants brought back to Europe by travellers, and still more the observations published by physicians and naturalists who explored the new world, must early have impressed on every one the conviction, that the productions of these countries could not be illustrated by references to the writers of past ages. No expedition contributed more powerfully to strengthen this impression, and to extend the range of human knowledge respecting the animals and plants of foreign lands, than that of Count Maurice of Nassau to the Brazils. The work of Maregrave,<sup>1</sup> who was naturalist to that expedition, remained until the beginning of this century the principal source of information respecting the animals of South America; but it contains nothing relating to Acalephs. Durtre<sup>2</sup> and Martens<sup>3</sup> have only a few remarks about them, while Boccone's<sup>4</sup> investigations relate chiefly to the Corals. At home, both naturalists and zoölogists, as well as philosophers generally, apply themselves with increased zeal to the investigation of minute objects and abstruse questions requiring improved methods of study; and, of course, the advance made in one branch leads to new researches in other branches, so that it may well be said, that there never was a time when the aspirations of men for knowledge were higher and more intense than during this period. This intellectual movement naturally gave birth to the scientific academies founded with a special view to the promotion of experimental researches. The principal of these academies were, that of the Lyncei in Rome, the Philosophical Society in London, the Academia Naturæ Curiosorum in Germany, and the Académie des Sciences in Paris.

1616, 4to. — SCILLA (AGOST.), *La vana speculatione desingarata del senso*, Napoli, 1670, 4to. fig. Though many of the works quoted are insignificant for the study of Acalephs, their value is very great in other respects. Scilla, for instance, opens that series of investigations upon fossil remains which has made Palæontology a distinct science. The works of Clusius, Matthioli, and Cæsalpinus, are essentially botanical, and that of Salviani is entirely ichthyological.

<sup>1</sup> MARCGRAVE (G.), *Historiæ Rerum Naturalium*

*Brasiliæ Libri VIII.*, a Joh. de Laët in ordinem digesti, Lugduni-Batavorum, 1648, fol. fig.

<sup>2</sup> DURTRE (J. BAPT.), *Histoire générale des Antilles*, etc., Paris, 1656-1671. 4 vols. 4to.

<sup>3</sup> MARTENS (FR.), *Spitzbergische und Grönländische Reise-Beschreibung*, im Jahr 1671, Hamburg, 1675, 4to. fig.

<sup>4</sup> BOCCONE (P. SILV.), *Recherches et observations d'histoire naturelle touchant le Corail*, etc., Paris, 1670, 12mo. fig.