losophical Tranſactions ; nor did he publiſh in the courſe of that time any work. His biographer has found no traces of his learned labour, excepting a Treatiſe of Logarithms, which was committed to his friend Lord Paiſley (after­ward Abercorn), in order to be prepared for the preſs ; but which probably was never printed. His health was now much impaired ; relaxation became necessary, and he was di­verted by new connections from the habit of ſevere ſtudy, which had diſtinguiſhed the early period of his life, and which had contributed to contract the duration of it. Hap­py in the ſocial circle of domeſtic enjoyment, and devoting his attention to buſineſs or amuſement as they occurred, his application and his literary emulation ſeem to have declined. He did not long ſurvive the loss of his second wife ; and his remaining days were days of increaſing imbecillity and sorrow.

“ The essay entitled *Contemplatio Philosophica,* publiſhed by Sir William Young, 1793, appears to have been written about this time, and probably with a view to abſtract his mind from painful recollections and regret. It was the effort of a ſtrong mind, and is a moſt remarkable example of the cloſe logic of the mathematician applied to metaphyſics. But the blow was too deep at heart for ſtudy to af­ford more than temporary relief. The very reſource was hurtful, and intenſe ſtudy but accelerated the decline of his health. His friends offered every comfort ; in particular Lord Bolingbroke preſſed his consolation, and sought to call his mind from regret of domeſtic endearments to ſocial friendſhip at Dawley.

The attention and kindneſs of his friends, however, could not ward off the approaches of dissolution. “ Having survived his second wife little more than a year, Dr Brook Taylor died of a decline in the 46th year of his age, De­cember the 29th 1731, and was buried in the church-yard of St Ann’s, Soho. I am spared (says his deſcendant) the neceſſity of closing this biographical ſketch with a prolix de­tail of his character : in the beſt acceptation of duties rela­tive to each ſituation of life in which he was engaged, his own writings, and the writings of thoſe who beſt knew him, prove him to have been the finiſhed Chriſtian, gentleman, and ſcholar.”

Taylor (Dr John), a learned dissenting miniſter, born in Lancaſhire. He ſettled firſt at Kirkſtead in Lincoln- ſhire, where he preached to a ſmall congregation, and taught a grammar-ſchool for near 20 years. Afterward he remo­ved to Norwich, where he preached many years in great repute, until he was invited to ſuperintend the academy formed at Warrington in Lancaſhire : but a few idle diffe­rences on formal punctilios and uncertain doctrines kindled into ſuch a flame there, as subjected him to much scurrility and ill treatment, and endangered the very being of the academy. He died in 1761 ; and among ſeveral other ju­dicious performances, his Hebrew and Engliſh Concordance, 2 vols folio, will remain a monument of his critical ſkill and indefatigable induſtry.

Taylor*-Bird.* See Motacilla.

TEA, the dried leaves of the tea plant.—A com­modity with which we are ſo well acquainted, which af­fords a beverage ſo generally uſed and ſo generally agree­able, and which forms ſo conſiderable an article of com­merce, muſt excite the curioſity of the public at large to know something of its hiſtory, and of the nature of the plant from which it is obtained. We are sorry that we can neither gratify their curioſity nor our own completely, We have conſulted all the botanical books to which we had acceſs, and we believe we have had access to the beſt, yet we have not been able to diſcover with certainty whether there be various ſpecies of the tea plant ; or whether all the dif­ferent kinds of tea, so unlike to one another in their fla­vour, and ſtrength, and colour, be derived from one single ſpecies. As an apology for this imperfection in botanical knowledge, it is proper to obſerve, that the country of which the tea plant is a native is hidden from the exploring eye of the philosopher ; that it is jealous of Europeans, and ſeldom gives them an opportunity of ſtudying its produc­tions. While we apologize for the ignorance of Europeans in this point, and sincerely regret it, we ſhall be careful to ſelect every important fact, that we may preſent our read­ers with as accurate and complete an account as our mate­rials can ſupply.

The tea plant is a native of Japan, China, and Tonquin, and has not, as far as we can learn, been found growing ſpontaneouſly in any other parts of the world. Linnaeus ar­ranged it under the claſs of *polyandria,* and order of *monogynia.* We are told he was led into this miſtake from having no ſpecimens of the flower to examine but such as were dri­ed. If Linnaeus has in this arrangement fallen into error, it is ſurprising that he has not been corrected by one who had the beſt opportunity of examining the matter. Sir Charles Thunberg, one of the moſt diſtinguiſhed pupils of that illuſtrious botanistg, who resided 16 months in Batavia and Japan, has given a full botanical deſcription of the tea plant ; and having claſſed it in the ſame manner as his ma­tter, says expreſsly that it has only one ſtyle. Several of the Britiſh botaniſts, on the other hand, refer it to the order of *trigynia;* deriving their authority from a plant in the Duke of Northumberland’s garden at Sion-houſe, which had three ſtyles.

Linnæus says that there are two ſpecies of the tea plant; the *bohea,* the corolla of which has six petals ; and the viri*dis* or green tea, which has nine petals. Thunberg makes only one ſpecies, the bohea, consiſting of two varieties ; the one with broad and the other with narrow leaves. This botaniſt’s authority is deciſive reſpecting the Japaneſe tea plants ; but as China has not yet been explored, we cannot determine what number of ſpecies there are in that country. Of the bohea plant we have been favoured with a beautiful drawing, and an accurate botanical deſcription, by a learned gentleman, which we ſhall here preſent to our readers.

*Calyx.* K, fig. 1, 2, 3, 10. a perianthium quinquepar­tite, very ſmall, flat, the ſegments round, obtuſe, permanent. Fig. 1. K.

*Corolla.* C, fig. I, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8. the petals ſix, roundiſh, concave ; two exterior (fig. 4, 7.) CC ; leſs, unequal, incloſing the flower before fully blown (fig. 3.) C; four interior (fig. 5, 6.) CCCC ; large, equal, before they fall off recurvate (fig. 8.) CC ; @@(a).

*Stamens. f,* fig. 6, 9, 10, 11. the filaments numerous @@(b) fig. 6, 9*. f a ;* about 200 ; filiform, white, ſhorter than the corolla, and inſerted in the receptacle ; *a,* the antheras cordate; and didymous (fig. 10, 11.), magnified @@(C).

*Pistillum.* Fig. 1, 10, 12. magnified; *g,* the germen, three globular bodies joined in a triangular form ; *s,* the ſtyles, three, connected at their base (fig. 12.) ; tabulate,

(a) Thunberg ſays, that three of the petals are exterior and three inferior.

(b) In a flower received from J. Ellis, Eſq; upwards of 280 filaments were told.

(C) Kempſer deſcribes the antheras as single.