languor, and they almoſt all periſh, luckily for us and our bees, some few females alone excepted, which in the enſuing ſpring become founders of new republics.

3. *Coarctata,* the ſmall waſp ; has black antennas, yellowiſh at the base ; the head is black with a yellow ſpot between the antennas, and another at the baſe of the upper lip. Each ſegment of the abdomen is bordered with yel­low. It is about half an inch long. The hiſtory, as well as the manners of this ſpecies, are the ſame as thoſe of the common waſp ; but their buildings are on a different conſtruction. Their neſt is faſtened to the branch of a tree with a kind of band ; and is in bigneſs from the ſize of an orange down to that of an egg. Wood reduced to paper is the material part of it ; which if it were of a ruddy colour, might be taken for a large opening rose. It is covered over with a varniſh impenetrable by water. One of thoſe neſts was neither mollified nor impaired by that element.

VESPASIAN, the 10th emperor of Rome; remakable for his clemency and other virtues. See Rome, n⁰ 332 — 339.

VESPERS, in the church of Rome, denote the afternoon ſervice ; anſwering in ſome meaſure to the evening prayers of the church of England.

VESPERTILIO, the Bat ; a genus of quadrupeds, belonging to the order of *primates.* All the teeth are erect, pointed, near each other ; and the firſt four are equal. The fore-feet have the toes connected by a membrane ex­panded into a kind of wings by which the creature is en­abled to fly. There are 28 ſpecies, of which 4 are natives of Britain. The moſt remarkable are,

I. The *vampyrus,* vampire, or Ternate bat, with large canine teeth ; four cutting teeth above, the ſame below ; ſharp black noſe ; large naked ears ; the tongue is pointed, terminated by ſharp aculeated papillæ ; talons very crooked, ſtrong, and compreſſed ſidewiſe ; no tail : the membrane divided behind quite to the rump : head of a dark ferrugi­nous colour ; on the neck, ſhoulder, and underside, of a much lighter and brighter red ; on the back the hair ſhorter, duſky, and ſmooth : the membranes of the wings duſky. They vary in colour; ſome being entirely of a red- diſh brown, others duſky.

Theſe monſters inhabit Guinea, Madagaſcar, and all the iſlands from thence to the remoteſt in the Indian Ocean. They fly in flocks, and perfectly obſcure the air with their numbers; they begin their flight from one neighbouring Iſland to another immediately on ſunſet, and return in clouds from the time it is light till ſun-riſe. They live on fruits ; and are ſo fond of the juice of the palm tree, that they will intoxicate themſelves with it till they drop on the ground. It is moſt likely, from the ſize of their teeth, they are carnivorous. Mr Edwards relates, that they will dip into the ſea for fiſh. They ſwarm like bees ; hanging by one another from the trees in great clusters. The Indians eat them, and declare the fleſh to be very good : they grow exceſſively fat at certain times of the year. The French who live in the life de Bourbon boil them in their bouillon, to give it a reliſh. The negroes have them in abhorrence. Many are of an enormous ſize : Beckman meaſured one, whoſe extent from tip to tip of the wings was five feet four inches ; and Dampier another, which extended farther than he could reach with out-ſtretched arms. Their bodies are from the ſize of a pullet to that of a dove : their cry is dreadful, their smell rank, their bite, reſiſtance, and fierceneſs great, when taken.

The ancients had ſome knowledge of theſe animals. He­rodotus mentions certain winged wild beaſts like bats, that moleſted the Arabs who collected the caſſia, to ſuch a de­gree, that they were obliged to cover their faces, all but their eyes, with ſkins. It is very probable, as Μ. de Buf­fon remarks, it was from ſuch relations that poets formed their fictions of Harpies.

Linnæus gives this ſpecies the title of *vampyre ;* con­jecturing it to be the kind which draws blood from people in their sleep. Μ. de Buffon denies it ; aſcribing that faculty only to a ſpecies found in South America. But there is reaſon to imagine that this thirſt after blood is not confined to the bats of one continent nor to one ſpecies : for Bontius and Nieuhoff inform us, that the bats of Java ſeldom fail attacking persons who lie with their feet uncovered, whenever they can get acceſs ; and Gumilla, after mention­ing **a** greater and leſs ſpecies found on the banks of the Oronoque, declares them to be equally greedy after human blood. Persons thus attacked have been known to be near paſſing from a found ſleep into eternity. The bat is ſo dexterous a bleeder, as to inſinuate its aculeated tongue in­to a vein without being perceived, and then ſuck the blood till it is ſatiated ; all the while fanning with its wings, and agitating the air in that hot climate in ſo pleaſing a manner, as to fling the ſufferer into a ſtill sounder ſleep. It is there­fore very unſafe to reſt either in the open air, or to leave open any entrance to theſe dangerous animals : but they do not confine themſelves to human blood ; for Μ. Condamine says, that in certain parts of America they have deſtroyed all the great cattle introduced there by the miſſionaries. See Plate DX. fig. 3.

2. The *ſpectrum,* or ſpectre, with a long noſe ; large- teeth ; long, broad, and upright ears: at the end of the noſe a long conic erect membrane, bending at the end, and flexible : hair on the body cinereous, and pretty long : wings full of ramified fibres : the membrane extends from hind leg to hind leg ; no tail ; but from the rump extend three tendons, terminating at the edge of the membrane. By Seba’s figure the extent of the wings are two feet two inches ; from the end of the noſe to the rump, ſeven inches and an half.

Inhabits South America ; lives in the palm-trees ; grows very fat ; called *vampyre* by Μ. de Buffon, who ſuppoſes it to be the ſpecies that ſucks human blood : but neither Piso, nor any other writer who mentions the fact, gives the leaſt deſcription of the kind. .

3. The *Peruvian* bat hath a head like a pug-dog ; large

ſtraight-pointed ears ; two canine teeth, and two ſmall cut­ting teeth between each, in each jaw : the tail is incloſed in the membrane which joins to each hind-leg, and is alſo supported by two long cartilaginous ligaments involved in the membrane : colour of the fur, iron grey : body equal to that of a middle-ſized rat : extent of the wings two feet five inches.

4. The noctule hath the noſe ſlightly bilobated ; ears

ſmall and rounded ; on the chin a minute verruca ; hair reddiſh aſh-colour : length of the rump, two inches eight- tenths; tail one inch ſeven-tenths ; extent of wings 13 inches. Inhabits Great Britain and France; flies high in search of food, not ſkimmmg near the ground. A gentle­man informed Mr Pennant of the following fact relating to thoſe animals, which he was witneſs to : That he ſaw taken under the eaves of Queen’s College, Cambridge, in one night, 185 ; the second night, 63 ; the third night, 2 ; and that each that was meaſured had 15 inches extent of wings.

5. *The murinus,* common bat ; has a tail: the lips and nose are simple ; and the ears are ſmaller than the head.

It inhabits Europe, and is found in Britain. This ani­mal flies only during the night, living chiefly on moths when it lights on the ground it is unable to riſe again till it has crawled to ſome height ; it remains torpid during win-