also many ſpecies, and thoſe in great numbers, which are in their recent ſtate, the inhabitants of other yet unknown or unſearched seas and ſhores. The cockles, muſcles, oyſters, and the other common bivalves of our own ſeas, are very abundant : but we have also an amazing number of the nautilus kind, particularly of the nautilus græcorum, which though a ſhell not found living in our own or any neighbouring ſeas, yet is found buried in all our clay-pits about London and elſewhcre ; and the moſt frequent of all foſſil ſhells in ſome of our counties are the conchæ anomiæ, which yet we know not of in any part of the world in their recent ſtate. Of this fort also are the cornua ammonis and the gryphitæ, with ſeveral of the echinitæ and others.

The exact ſimilitude of the known ſhells, recent and foſſil, in their ſeveral kinds, will by no means ſuffer us to believe that theſe, though not yet known to us in their living ſtate, are, as ſome have idly thought, a lort of *luſus natures.* It is certain, that of the many known ſhores, very few, not even thoſe of our own island, have been yet carefully searched for the ſhell-fiſh that inhabit them ; and as we ſee in the nautilus græcorum an inſtance of ſhells being brought from very diſtant parts of the world to be buried here, we cannot won­der that yet unknown ſhores, or the unknown bottoms of deep ſeas, ſhould have furniſhed us with many un­known ſhell-fiſh, which may have been brought with the rest ; whether that were at the time of the general deluge, or the effect of any other cataſtrophe of a like kind, or by whatever other means, to be left in the yet unhardened matter of our ſtony and clayey ſtrata.

Shells, in gunnery, are hollow iron balls to throw out of mortars or howitzers, with a fuſe-hole of about an inch diameter, to load them with powder, and to receive the fuſe. The bottom, or part oppoſite to the fuſe, is made thicker than the rest, that the fuſe may fall upoermoſt. But in ſmall elevations this does not always happen, nor indeed is it neceſſary ; for, let the ſhell fall as it will, the fuſe ſets fire to the powder with­in, which burſts the ſhell, and cauſes great devaſtation. The ſhells had much better be of an equal thickneſs ; for then they burſt into more pieces.

*Meſſage. Shells, are* nothing more than howitz ſhells, in the inside of which a letter or other papers are put ; the fuſe hole is flopped up with wood or cork, and the ſhells are fired out of a royal or howitz, either into a garriſon or camp. It is supposed, that the perſon to whom the letter is ſent knows the time, and according­ly appoints a guard to look out for its arrival.

*SHELL-Fish.* Theſe animals are in general ovipa­rous, very few inſtances having been found of ſuch as are viviparous. Among the oviparous kinds, anatomists have found that ſome ſpecies are of different ſexes, in the different individuals of the same ſpecies ; but others are hermaphrodites, every one being in itſelf both male and female. In both cafes their increaſe is very nume­rous, and ſcarce inferior to that of plants, or of the moſt fruitful of the infect claſs. The eggs are very ſmall, and are hung together in a sort of clutters by means of a glutinous humour, which is always placed about them, and is of the nature of the gelly of frog’s ſpawn. By means of this, they are not only kept to­gether in the parcel, but the whole clutter is fastened to the rocks, ſhells, or other ſolid ſubſtances ; and thus they are preſerved from being driven on ſhore by the waves, and left where they cannot ſucceed. See TestAcea.

*Shell-GoLD.* See Gold.

SHELTIE, a ſmall but ſtrong kind of horſe, ſo called from Shetland, or Zetland, where they are pro­duced.

SHELVES, in ſea-language, a general name given ta any dangerous ſhallows, sand banks, or rocks, lying immediately under the ſurface of the water, ſo as to intercept any ship in her paſſage, and endanger her deſtruction.

SHENAN. See *Dying of Leather,* vol. ix. p. 750, foot-note.

SHENSTONE (William), an admired Engliſh poet, the eldest ſon of a plain country gentleman, who farmed his own eſtate in Shropſhire, was born in No­vember 1714. He learned to read of an old dame, whom his poem of the “ School miſtreſs” has deliver­ed to posterity ; and ſoon received ſuch delight from books, that he was always calling for new entertain­ment, and expected that, when any of the family went to market, a new book ſhould be brought him, which, when it came, was in fondneſs carried to bed, and laid by him. It is laid, that when his requeſt had been ne­glected, his mother wrapped up a piece of wood of the same form, and pacified him for the night. As he grew older, he went for a while to the grammar-ſchool in Hales-Owen, and was placed afterwards with Mr- Crumpton, an eminent ſchool matter at Solihul, where he diſtinguiſhed himſelf by the quickneſs of his progreſs. When he was young (June 1774), he was deprived of his father ; and ſoon after (August 1726) of his grandfa­ther ; and was, with his brother, who died afterwards unmarried, left to the care of his grandmother, who managed the eſtate. From ſchool he was ſent, in 1732, to Pembroke college in Oxford, a ſociety which for half a century has been eminent for Engliſh poetry and ele­gant literature. Here it appears that he found delight and advantage ; for he continued his name there ten years, though he took no degree. After the firſt four years he put on the civilian’s gown, but without Aw­ing any intention to engage in the profeſſion. About the time when he went to Oxford, the death of his grandmother devolved his affairs to the care of the reverend Mr Dolman, of Brome, in Staffordſhire, whoſe attention he always mentioned with gratitude. — At Oxford he applied to Engliſh poetry ; and, in 1737, publiſhed a ſmall Miſcellany, without his name. He then for a time wandered about, to ac­quaint himſelf with life, and was ſometimes at Lon­don, ſometimes at Bath, or any place of public reſort ; but he did not forget his poetry. He publiſhed, in 1740, his “ Judgment of Hercules,” addreſſed to Mr Lyttleton, whoſe intereſt he ſupported with great warmth at an election ; this was two years afterwards followed by the “ School-miſtreſs.” Mr Dolman, to whoſe care he was indebted for his eaſe and leiſure, died in 1745, and the care of his fortune now fell upon himſelf. He tried to eſcape it a while, and lived at his houſe with his tenants, who were diſtantly related ; but, finding that imperfect posseſſion inconvenient, he took the whole eſtate into his own hands, an event which rather improved its beauty than increaſed its pro­duce. Now began his delight in rural pleaſures, and his paſſion of rural elegance ; but in time his expences