Tor t, the 19th letter and 16th conſonant of our alphabet ; the sound whereof is formed by a strong expulsion of the breath through the mouth, upon a hidden drawing back of the tongue from the fore-part of the palate, with the lips at the same time open. The proper sound of *t* is expressed in most words beginning or ending with that letter ; as in *take, tell, hot, put. Ti* before a vowel has the sound of si, or rather of shi*,* as in *creation,* except when *ſ* precedes, as in *question ;* and in derivatives from words end­ing in *ty,* as, *mighty, mightier. Th* has two sounds ; the one ſoft, as *thou, father ;* the other hard, as *thing, think.* The sound is ſoft in theſe words, *then, thence,* and *there,* with their derivatives and compounds ; and in the words *that, this, thus, thy, they, though ;* and in all words in which *th* comes be­tween two vowels, as, *whether, rather ;* and between *r* and a vowel, as *burthen.*

In abbreviations, amongst the Roman writers, T. stands for *Titus, Titius,* &c. ; Tab. for *Tabularius ;* Tab. P. H. C. *Tabularius Provinciae Hiſpaniae Citerioris;* Tar. *Tarquinius·,* Ti. *Tiberius ;* Ti. F. *Tiberii filius ;* Ti. L. *Tiberii libertus ;* Ti. N. *Tiberii Nepos* ; T. J. A. V. P. V. D. *tempore judi­cem arbitrumve postulat ut det ;* T. Μ. P. *terminum posuit ;* T. Μ. D. D. *terminum dedicavit;* Tr. *trans, tribunus ;* Tr. Μ. or Mil. *tribunus militum ;* TR. PL·. DES. *tribunus plebis designatus* ; TR. AER. *tribunus serarii ;* TRV. CAP. *trium­viri capitales* ; T. P. or TRIB. POT. *tribunicia potestate ;* Tul, H. *Tullus Hostilius.*

Amongst the ancients, T. as a numeral, stood for *one hundred and sixty* ; and with a dash at top, thus, T, it signified *one hundred and sixty thousand.* In music, T stands for *tutti,* “ all, or altogether.”

TABANUS, the breeze-fly : a genus of insects be­longing to the order of *diptera.* The mouth is extended in a fleshy proboſcis, terminated by two lips. The rostrum is furniſhed with two pointed palpi placed on each side of the proboſcis, and parallel to it. Gmelin has enumerated 38 ſpecies ; of which three only are found in Great Britain, the bovinus, pluviatilis, and cœcutiens.

1. The *bovinus,* or great horſe fly, has a grey head ; the eyes almost of a black brown, occupying the greatest part of it. The thorax is of a grey colour ; the abdomen is yellowish, with a triangular white ſpot on the middle of every ring, which constitutes a longitudinal band of foots, the point of which is directed towards the thorax. The thighs are blackish, and the legs yellow. The wings are somewhat dusky, with brown veins of a deeper dye. This inſect is the terror of horned cattle, horſes, &c. Its mouth is armed with two sharp hooks which penetrate their hide ; while with its proboſcis, which is shaped like a sting, it sucks their blood, of which it is very greedy. The punc­ture of the tabanus is keen and painful. The insect is very common in damp woods and meadows, especially during the great heats, when it is most troubleſome. The horned cat­tle are fometimes ſo molested by their stings, that they go mad, run down precipices, tear themſelves on the flumps of trees, stones, &c.

*2.* The *pluviatilis* is of an ashen grey colour ; its eyes are green, with brown streaks. The thorax is brown, marked with about ſeven longitudinal grey lines ; the wings, which are brown and ash-coloured, are dotted over with ſmall white ſpots, and have a black ſpot on the margin ; the legs are ſurrounded with brown and white rings alternately. This ſpecies is very common in meadows, and is about four lines in length.

3. The *caecutiens* has a brown head; eyes green and brown, with black ſpots ; the thorax brown with black ſpots ; the abdomen above, yellow with triangular brown ſpots ; yel­low legs, and white wings with black and brown ſpots. The length is four lines and a half.

TAΒΑRCA, a little island lying oppoſite to a ſmall town of that name, which divides the maritime coatis of Tunis and Algiers, in Africa, two miles from the land, in possession of the noble family of the Lamellini of Genoa, who have here a governor and a garriſon of 200 men to protect the coral fishery. N. Lat. 36. 50 E. Long. 9. 16.

TABASHEER, a Persian word, signifying a hard ſubstance found in the cavities of the bamboo or Indian reed, and highly valued as a medicine in the East Indies. Though ſome account was given of the tabasheer by the Arabian physicians, no accurate knowledge of it was obtained till Dr Russel favoured the public with his obſervations on it.

According to this gentleman’s information, the tabasheer is produced from the female bamboo, which is distinguished from the male by the the largeneſs of its cavity. It is eaſy to diſcover, without opening them, what bamboos contain it, as they make a rattling noiſe when shaken. Dr Russel having examined a bamboo brought from Vellore, consisting of six joints, found no appearance of tabasheer in two of them ; all the red contained ſome, but of various qua­lity and quantity ; the whole amounting to about 27 grains. The bed was of a bluish white reſembling ſmall fragments of shells, harder alſo than the rest, but which might be easily crumbled between the fingers into a gritty powder ; and when applied to the tongue and palate, had a flight ſaline and testaceous taste; the weight not exceeding four grains. The colour of the red was cineritious, rough on the ſurface, and more friable; having ſome particles of a larger size inter­mixed, but light, ſpongy, and ſomewhat reſembling pumice stones ; which appearance, our author ſuppoſes, led the Arabians to think that fire was concerned in the production. The two middle joints were of a pure white colour within, and lined with a thin film. In theſe the tabasheer was prin­cipally found. The other joints, particularly the two up­per ones, were diſcoloured within ; and in ſome parts of the cavity was found a blackish ſubstance in grains or in pow­der, adhering to the sides, the film being there obliterated.