

quiescunt interni musculi. Hæc ad primam quæstionem.

Ad alteram.

Sumatur animal quodcumque vivum aut mortuum, mergatur sub aqua, et sub aqua prudenter, ne pulmonem lædas, pertundatur pleura. Si aer elasticus est inter pleuram et pulmonem, bullæ adscendent per aquam. Si nullæ adscendunt, nullus adest aer. Id me rectius nôstis, et ex principiis patet.

Sed repetita satis experimenta feci. Bullæ nunquam adparuerunt in ullo experimento, et videor mihi nihil præcipitis corollarii inde deducere, si inde concluderem, nullum adeo elasticum aerem inter pleuram et pulmonem esse.

D. Gottingæ, d. 6. Jan. 1749.

VIII. *A Letter from Father Anthony Gaubil Jesuit, to Dr. Mortimer, Secr. R. S. containing some Account of the Knowledge of Geography among the Chinese, and of Paper-Money current there. Translated from the French by T. S. M. D. and F. R. S.*

Peking Nov. 9. 1748.

SIR,

Read Feb. 1.
1749.

IT is now some time since I received from M. de L'isle Part of a Map of the World, found among the Papers of the late Dr. Kæmpfer. In this Map were several *Chinese*

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Characters, some well, some ill written, which the late Professor *Bayer* had attempted to decypher. — In my Answer to *Monf. de L'isle*, I informed him that it was by no means a *Chinese* Work*; that it could be of no Service to a learned *European*, such as he or you were; and that *Mr. Bayer's* Explanations were full of Faults. I suppose that *M. de L'isle* has already writ you my Thoughts concerning it from *Petersbourg*. You have possibly seen in several Books, what the *Chinese* know, and have set down, concerning foreign Countries: And there is no Monument extant to prove, that before the arrival of the *Jesuits* in this Country, they had Charts or Maps of the World, any way resembling that, which you found among *Kampfer's* Writings.

It is now above sixteen hundred Years since they tolerably well knew the Northern and Eastern Countries of *India*, and those which lie between *China* and the *Caspian* Sea. On these different Countries their History affords several Informations, which are not to be found in the *Greek*, *Latin*, or other Historians. They had some, but very confused, Notions of the Regions beyond the *Caspian* Sea; such as *Syria*, *Greece*, *Egypt*, and some Parts of *Europe*. I do not speak of the Times of *Gentchiskan* and his Successors; for then the *Chinese* were made acquainted with *Russia*, *Poland*, *Germany*,

* Doubtless it is the Work of an *European*, who was giving some Notion of Geography to a *Chinese* or *Japanese*; or perhaps that of a *Chinese* or *Japanese* from Memory of what he had heard from *Europeans*, or of the Map which he might have seen with them.

Hungary, Greece, &c. from Accounts given by their own Countrymen who followed that Prince, his Sons, and Grandsons: But the Monuments that remain of this their Knowledge are very confused. As to the Countries to the East of *China*, there are Proofs remaining in Books, that, above seventeenthundred Year ago, the *Chinese* were well acquainted with the Eastern Part of *Tartary* as far as the Sea, and the River *Ameur*, *Corea*, and *Japan*. Their Books speak also in general, and without sufficiently entering into Particulars, of many Countries to the East and to the North of *Japan*. With regard to the Monuments of the *Cap of Good Hope*, which have been mentioned by some, there are none in *China*; and if there have been any, they are now lost. It was from the *Europeans*, that the *Chinese* have learnt the Name and the Situation of the *Cape*: [and you will soon see a Dissertation, whercin all this Affair will be circumstantially treated].

I herewith send you two Paper Money-Bills; do me the Favour to accept them. Next Year we may possibly send something to *Canton*, either for you, or for your illustrious Society.

I am, with great Respect,

S I R, Yours, &c.

A. GAUBIL.

*An Account of the above-mentioned Bills.***T**WO Paper Money-Bills of the Reign of *Hongvou*.

The Year of Christ 1368. was the First of the Empire of *Hongvou*, Founder of the Dynasty of *Ming*. During the Dynasty of *Yuen* (who were *Mogul Tartars*) which *Hongvou* destroy'd, there was a great deal of Paper-Money. There had also been some, 140 Years before, under the Dynasty of *Kin* (oriental *Tartars*) who reign'd in the Northern Provinces of *China*, and in *Tartary*. The *Yuens* destroy'd this Dynasty, as well as that of the *Song's*, who were *Chinese*, that reign'd in the Southern Provinces of *China*. We find no Paper Money of the Dynasties of the *Yuen's* and *Kin's*; and that of *Hongvou* is scarce. The *Bonzes* and *Chinese* Empirics superstitiously say, that this Paper-Money laid upon Children brings them good Luck.

These two Bills are the same with those, the Figures and Explanations of which are to be seen in Father *du Halde's Description de la Chine*, Tom. II. pag. 168.

I send you the Two,* because probably you have none of that Sort.

The late Father *Dentrecolles* formerly sent to *France* an Account of the *Chinese* Money, antient and modern: And some Notes and Remarks on this Sort of Money were of late Years sent hence to *Petersbourg*.

* One of which I presented to the Royal Society. *C. M.*