

About a year and half ago, I hapned to See one of your Books, Intituled the Microscope made Easy. I Bought one, and since then have made Several, both reflecting, and Solar, to the Satisfaction of all that have either purchased or Seen them. And now, I having done with making them (having Satisfied the Curious in all this Part of the Country) I employ my spare minutes in the Use of them: and the more I view, the more I am astonish'd, in beholding the wonderfull works of God in his Creation and Providence. To give you an account of Every thing that I have Seen this Spring in our fresh Waters would be an endless Task, therefore I shall omit all, and only excepted, which I imagine that you have neither Seen nor heard of: the description is as followeth.

It is very much like the Polype, and Broods from its Side as the Polype Doth: It is of the Colour of Bright Copper, and much Smaller than the Polype; It has 6 or 7 Arms like y^e Polype; I have found some Single, some with one young one growing from its Side, and some with two, one Directly opposite against the other; it can extend it self to a quarter of an Inch in Length before the Naked Eye, and at Pleasure contract it self into a Globule not Larger than the Head of a Small Pin. It being Put into a Concave Glass with a little water, and apply'd to the Reflecting Microscope, you will soon See it extend it self to its full Length, both Body and Arms, as if it were Searching for food, but I could never perceive it to Eat any thing; I have Seen other Animalcules fix themselves upon it (viz) Tail, Body, and even upon the very Arms themselves, in a feeding Posture, and yet the Creature remain undisturbed, when an Animalcule had swam furiously, and hit against an Arm, I have Seen that Arm flinch, but would presently extend it again. It hath a very slow motion, not quicker than a Snail, and is almost always Rolling and tumbling about.

If you think it worthy of your view I will Send it you, but then I must beg that you will please to give me your Letter of Directions, that it may be Delivered from the Coach immediately to you.

I have Seen the Acknowledgment of another Book of yours in folio, 13^s price, but I do not hear of any Gent. yet that will purchase it; So fear that I shall not have the Happiness to See it.

I am with Sincere Respect

Your most humble obedient Serv^t

From Great Yarmth
in Norfolk May 23: 1745

John Greenleaf

I am well known in Yarmouth and there is no other in town of my Name

Mr Baker to Mr Greenleaf at Yarmouth in Norfolk.

Sir,

London June 6th 1745.

Your Letter reach'd me a Week agoe, tho' I have not found Time to answer it till to Day. The Animal you mention is certainly a Species of the Polype of which I have seen white, reddish & green, but not any of a bright Copper Colour. If therefore you can send me some, by any Friend that comes up in the Coach & will take the Care of them without Expence or Trouble I shall be thankful for them, and shall be glad also at any Time to hear of any Discoveries you may make in the Minutiae of Nature, where there is such abundant Room for new Discoveries; the little we know already being next to Nothing in Comparison of what is yet unknown. In many Pursuits much Labour is bestowed without any Return either of Pleasure or Profit, but in the Study of Nature the curious & diligent Enquirer is sure to find his Pains amply recompensed by the internal Delight which nothing can afford so perfectly as to know God by observing the Variety & Perfection of his Creatures; & surely who We can know him by his Works only, & surely who knows most of them must be the wisest & most Religious & consequently the happiest Man. I wish you all imaginable Success & Satisfaction in your Enquiries, & am

Sir

Direct to me at Mrs Morris's Seed Shops
against the new Church in the Strand.

Your humble servant.

Pray send the Vial full of Water or the Creatures will be
Shaken to Pieces & desire the Bearer to pull out the Cork & give
them Air some Times on their Journey.