

But, as a Knowledge of the Nature of Things can only be acquired from the Things themselves, I have carefully collected every material Fact I could meet with from those who were best acquainted with the Natural History of this Subject, and whose Industry and Accurateness in observing, and good Faith in relating their Observations, have been generally esteemed unexceptionable. Of these I shall only mention *Wigandus*, *Hartman*, and *Sendelius*; the last who has wrote, as far as I know, professedly upon this Subject.

The Evidence which these Gentlemen afford us, I have endeavoured to throw together, in the most natural Order I could, without respect to any Hypothesis: But as this Enumeration of Facts admits of no Abridgment, my Papers would take up too much room in your Memoirs: Therefore I can only refer to the Essay itself. Upon this Foundation of Facts is built a Discussion of the following Problems:

1. Whether Amber is not strictly a marine Production; or is reduced by some Quality of the Sea-water into the Condition we find it in? Or,
2. Whether it is not to be considered only as a bituminous Body, generated in the Bowels of the Earth? Or, lastly,
3. Whether it is not, in its Origin, a vegetable Production, a Resin; but changed into its present Form by a mineral Acid?

It will only be necessary, in this Place, to mention, that, after having shewn the Difficulty of maintaining the Two first, I have undertaken to support the last of these Opinions.

I endea-