

lowed the profession of an attorney, or a scrivener, who had a very amorous wife. But he had not leisure to attend to all her gayeties. Once, that he was unable otherwise to free himself from her importunities, in toying with her he upset his ink bottle in her shoes. She brought him a black child in consequence. He reproached her, but she re-

minded him of the ink bottle, and of his awkwardness. There is also the story told by Malebranche, of the woman who saw a man broken on the wheel, and bore a mangled and disjointed child. If such changes as the last are true (and there is strong authority for it), then the mere change of color or complexion is not difficult to believe.

[The cross-examination of Dr. Mitchell was continued by Mr. Sampson; and extending to a variety of topics, produced much anecdote and repartee. The subject of the albinos was fully discussed. Their feeble structure—weak eyes—leprous appearance—their being found chiefly in low latitudes; and the Chacrelas of Java, the Bedas of Ceylon, and the white indians of Darien were instanced; who are all within the eighteenth degrees of north or south latitude. Mr. Buffon's opinion was cited, that they were not a distinct race, but individuals degenerating from black to an adulterated white: supposing the blacks to have degenerated originally from the white to black. But as it was admitted, that the whiteness of this child bears no resemblance to that of the albinos, and cannot be explained on the same principles, it is unnecessary to pursue all the details of the examination on that point.

The proximate cause of the fairness of the albinos was stated to be the absence of the *rete mucosum*, which gives color to the black men: and the dots and redness of the eyes in albinos was supposed owing to organic debility which admits of extravasation of the blood, and of its lodging in the globules in the iris. The want of the *rete mucosum*, which fortifies the eye of the negro against the sun's glare, is the reason at once why the eyes of an albino are unable to bear the sun, and more fitted to see by night.

Mr. Sampson mentioned the two children of Chamouni, or albinos of the Alps, with whom he had frequently conversed. He compared their eyes to those of owls and other animals, fitted for night or long twilight, which called forth an anecdote from the witness, of a numerous flight of white arctic owls, which had some years ago visited this city, remained some time, and then disappeared, having never been heard of before or since. Dr. Mitchell also mentioned the white sparrows of Sweden, the hares of Albany, and a white bird with which he had been regaled in Canada, whose flesh was very delicate. But to a question put by the counsel, he answered that he had never seen a race of white deaf dogs.

Mr. Sampson. Doctor, since your opinions were likely to be unfavorable to the side I am to advocate, I must avail myself of the privilege of cross-examination. It would be necessary with so learned a witness to say, that the adverb cross was not to be taken in the vulgar acceptation. Cross was in contra-distinction to direct;