

THE Editors of the Gentleman's Magazine are sorry to see some hasty remarks in the Gazetteer of the 11th instant, signed *Alexander Cumming*, in which they are charged with being *Puffers* and *Trumpeters* for M. *Le Roy*, a French watch maker; they are sorry, not because they are publicly accused of an unfair artifice, which might otherwise have escaped notice, but because a public defence is become necessary which cannot be made, but at Mr *Cumming's* expence.

In the first place, then the article in the Gentleman's Magazine, which has given Mr *Cumming* offence, is extracted from the memoirs of the Royal Academy of Sciences for the year 1764, from which, it has been the constant custom of the Editors, to translate such articles as relate to the improvement of any art or science.

In the next place, the M. *le Roy*, to whom the article in question relates, is not *le Roy* the watch maker, whom Mr *Cumming* supposes the editors were employ'd to puff, but his brother, a member of the Royal Academy, and a mechanic only for amusement. He is that M. *le Roy*, who so zealously and ably defended our ingenious countryman Dr *Franklin* against his own countryman the Abbe *Nollet*, with a love of truth, and superiority to local attachments and prejudices; seldom found; and, having at his own expence procured two watches to be made on his new construction, presented them to the Academy, which received them with marks of approbation.

The Editors doubt not but Mr *Cumming*, in consequence of his invitation, has already fulfilled his promise to the public by submitting to the inspection of the friends of M. *le Roy* who may have call'd upon him, *Clocks* and *Watches* made by him with their *Fusces* inverted, and at the same time their *Wheels* and *Pinions* in the middle of their *Axils*;—indeed, there is nothing new in the former method, Mr *Hindeley* of York having practised the inversion of the fusee in his table clocks for more than 20 years.

Upon the whole, the Editors would receive with pleasure authentic proofs that Mr *Cumming* has already practised this boasted Improvement of M. *le Roy's* in its full extent, and are ready upon *ocular demonstration* to contribute all in their power to procure him the honour of it by an extensive publica-

tion. In the meantime, as the public has the same claim upon them for the detection of error, as the circulation of truth, they cannot dismiss this answer without observing, that in article 15 of the book lately published by Mr *Cumming*, there is a radical mistake which seems to affect the whole series of his reasoning.

He says, that "the momentum of pendulums is as the versed sines of their angle of vibration into their quantity of matter;" and adds, that this property of the pendulum is demonstrated by *Huyghens* in his *Horologium Oscillatorium*, and translated into English by Dr *Keil* in his Introduction to Natural Philosophy. But it happens unfortunately for Mr *Cumming*, that no such property is laid down either in *Huyghens* or in *Keil*.

It is well known to Mathematicians, that the momentum of bodies is as their velocity multiplied into their quantity of matter: And Dr *Kiel*, in the book just mentioned, has demonstrated, that the velocity of a pendulum is as the chord of the arc described: whence it follows, that the momentum of pendulums is as the chord of their angle of vibration into their quantity of matter. Professor *s'Gravesande*, in his *Introduction to the Newtonian Philosophy*, has demonstrated, that the squares of the velocities of pendulums are as the versed sines of the arcs described; Therefore Mr *Cumming's* article concerning the property of the pendulum, would run thus; "the momentum of pendulums is as the squares of their velocities into the quantity of matter," which is false. Mr *Cumming*, however, has built his theory on this very principle, and reasons from it through his whole book. The foundation therefore being shewn to be bad, let the public think what they please of the superstructure.

MR URBAN,

THE ingenious Mr T. Row may see, in a note of Mr *Hearne's*, at p. 388. of *Chron. de Dunstable*, that there was a place called *Robin Hood's Bower*, upon *Maidenhead Thicket*, in *Berkshire*. See also two other works, published by *Hearne*; namely, *Peter Langtoft's Chron.* p. 667. and *Joh. de Fordun Scotichronicon*, p. 774. An article in *Cowell's Law Dictionary*, deserves consideration here; See it under *Robertus*.