

The NORTH-CAROLINA  
MAGAZINE;  
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UNIVERSAL INTELLIGENCE.

From FRIDAY OCTOBER 19, to FRIDAY OCTOBER 26, 1764.

*A curious Incident, translated from the  
SPANISH.*

HE connoisseurs of this age, who pique themselves upon their incredulity, have for some years employed the shafts of their ridicule upon the Norwegian Bishop Pontoppidan, for seeming to adopt, in his natural history of Norway, certain extraordinary incidents relating to the wonders of the deep, some of which, according to his account, are indeed altogether astonishing. This may likewise be the fate of the following relation, translated from the *Theatro Critico* of that eminent author Padre Feijoo, who hath enriched his native country by transplanting into it those discoveries of modern philosophy, to which, before his time, Spain was an utter stranger. It may not be amiss to observe that his country has been grateful for the service he has done her, and that he has for some time been promoted to the dignity of a Bishop.

In the 8th essay of the 6th volume of his *Theatro Critico*, after a preamble, in which he informs us of the pains he had taken to investigate the truth of a very extraordinary report, he favours us with the following narrative, transmitted to him by the marquis of Valbuena, resident in the city of St. Andero, and procured by means of Don Joseph de la Torre, his Catholick majesty's minister in the royal audience of the Asturias.

“ In the village of Lierganes, of the district of Cudeyo, in the arch-bishoprick of Burgos, about two leagues to the south west

of Santandero, there lived Francisco de la Vega, and his wife Maria del Casar, who had 4 sons: Don Thomas, who was in holy orders; Francisco, Joseph, and John, which last is now alive, and in the 74th year of his age. Maria del Casar, being left a widow, sent her son Francisco to the town of Vilboa, when he was about 15, to learn the trade of a carpenter; and this business he exercised for 2 years. At length, in the year 1674, on the eve of St. John, going to bathe with some of his companions, in the river of the said town, they saw him swim away to the mouth of it; but, as he had left his clothes ashore, they never doubted but he would return. In this expectation they waited until the evening, and then giving him up for lost, reported the news to his master. He transmitted the account to the lad's mother, Maria del Casar, who lamented the death of her son Francisco. In the year 1679, there appeared to the fishermen of Cadiz, the figure of a human creature floating on the surface of the sea, and diving occasionally; but when they approached him, the first day he disappeared: They saw him, however, on the following, when having again examined his figure, and experienced his flight, they returned ashore and recounted this novelty, which being divulged, excited the desire of knowing what it was, and employed the invention of many, to contrive means to satisfy their curiosity. At length, having provided nets of a large sweep, in order to surround this apparition, they threw pices of bread in the water, which they saw him take and eat; then rowing round him in a boat, they caught him in the net, and dragged him ashore.