

every part of it has been visited from the time of Dirk Hartog, 1610, to the present day; nor is there, so far as is yet known, a native animal, from man downwards, in the interior, that can be traced to any other country.

Discarding all notion of Australia being a more recent creation than other countries, we were somewhat startled at an observation made to us by Capt. Groy (now Governor of South Australia), whose intelligence and experience entitle his opinions to notice—but indeed, the same remark has been made by other travellers—that the succession of ridges of which this great country is composed, conveys the idea of the whole country having once been an archipelago of islands. One thing is certain, that the force which has been, and still is occasionally exerted to upheave Islands & mountains of some thousand feet in height in other parts of the world, has been wanting here; no volcanoes, active or extinct, having been discovered in Australia.

The great difference found in man and other animals, as well as in the vegetable products of this continent—for so we must call it—is very remarkable. The whole race of human beings that inhabit it are homogeneous, or of one and the same variety of the species, and that sufficiently distinct to constitute a difference from those of other parts of the world. Nobody has been able to detect the slightest connection between their language, of which there are numerous dialects, and any other variety of human speech.—Their shelter, when the state of the weather requires it, consists in a simple temporary hut of reeds or twigs, of the form of a bee-hive and vertically in two. With the quickest perception, and great powers of mimicry; with a readiness to distinguish right from wrong, they are found to have no sense of religious obligation;—not the most distant idea of a Supreme Being: no prayers or supplications to any sort of idol; no priest, nor any kind of ceremonies indicating a religious feeling. All the indigenous quadrupeds differ from those of other countries; no great mammalia; but few small ones, and all of a peculiar nature, as the kangaroo, and that very strange quadruped with a duck's bill, the ornithorhynchus paradoxus. Neither horses, oxen, sheep nor swine, existed in any part of this great continent. A species of eagle, paraquets without end, black swans and white crows, black crows with white wings, and white crows with black ones, black magpies, with many other peculiar birds, are here found; others more common, may have traversed the sea by help of their wings. This land is free from beasts of prey, and nearly so from venomous reptiles.

Fine forests every where abound; but two-thirds of the timber trees are of one genus, the Eucalyptus, the species unknown elsewhere. There are trees whose tops are grass instead of branches and leaves, yielding a fragrant gum; most of the finest shrubs are of the Banksia family, also peculiar to Australia. The flowering or perennial, are many of them exceedingly beautiful, and so different in general from those of other regions, that Mr. Robert Brown must have been somewhat puzzled to find names for so many new genera. This country has some other peculiarities. Surrounded by islands on which the most violent volcanic eruptions are constantly going on, the only movement of that class we have heard of is a solitary earthquake. Whole tracts are covered with sand; few rivers of magnitude, and most of them dry in hot weather; and occasionally no rain falls for two or three years together. Of some four millions of square miles in the interior we know nothing. Various expeditions have

failed to penetrate regions which present no obstacle but their extent, and their deficiency in means of subsistence. A gentleman, however, of the name of Eyre, has started last year, from the head of Spencer's Gulf, with the design of planting the British standard on the central point of Australia, and proceeding thence to the Gulf of Carpentaria or Port Essington. Let us hope that he may be more fortunate than his predecessor.

Such is the brief and important sketch of a vast region, on a large portion of which we are effecting a rapid change.

NEW MODE OF EXTINGUISHING FIRES.

—A gentleman in Phellenham, England, has invented two plans for speedily extinguishing fires. It is well known that combustion cannot be supported without a supply of oxygen and his first plan is, in case of fire, to shut out the supply, by erecting against the doors and windows iron plates with a wet incombustible compressible substance projecting from the edges. The oxygen in the interior of the house, being only one-fifth of the whole air, would be immediately absorbed, and no more being admitted, the combustion would inevitably cease.

The second plan is to suffocate the flames with carbonic acid gas. The inventor recommends the construction of a large machine, capable of containing one ton of carbonate of lime, a proper proportion of water, and about half a ton of sulphuric acid, the contact of these materials being regulated by valves and tubes, an immense quantity of carbonic acid gas could be generated and conveyed by its own pressure to the interior of the house; combustion could not then for a moment exist.

MIRTHFUL SAINTS.

—It was a maxim of Bishop Elphinstone, an illustrious Scottish saint that when any one sat in company, and any merry thought came into his head, he ought to give utterance to it immediately, in order that all present might be benefited. The Church of Rome did quite right in canonizing this man.—From many passages in the histories of the old saints, as well as from their recorded sayings, several of them appear to have looked on the telling of diverting stories as being absolutely a duty imperative on the sincere Christian. The well known and edifying story of the conference between the pious beggar and the learned doctor which is found in so many Catholic books of devotion, shows that a ready wit and a turn for smart answers were deemed to be suitable accompaniments to a highly devout soul, completely resigned to the will of God. One of the most eminent saints whom the old church produced, has thus spoken of the commendable nature of jocular discourse, in a treatise, the express object of which is to inculcate holiness:—As for jesting words which are spoken by one to another with modest and innocent mirth, they belong to the virtues called *Eutrapelia* by the Greeks, which we may call good conversation, by which we take an honest and pleasant recreation upon such frivolous occasions as human imperfections do offer, only we must take heed of passing from this honest mirth to scoffing; or mocking causeth laughter in scorn and contempt of our neighbour; but mirth and drollery provoke laughter by an innocent liberty, confidence, and familiar freedom, joined to the witness of some conceit.—Some of the good sayings of St. Thomas Aquinas adorn the pages of 'Joe Miller.' The ascetic of St. Francis of Assisi delighted in jocular conversation; and from the very little that has been recorded of his celebrated sermon to the fishes, there is the best reason for believing that it

abounded in passages of genuine humour. Even the mortified Pascal, though he belonged to the sour set of Jesuits—the 'Old Light Seceders' of the Catholic Church—wrote the wittiest book of which France can boast.—*Bruce's Lives of eminent men of Aberdeen.*

LETTERS AND CASH RECEIVED.

Rev. W. Patk McDonagh, Toronto, £2 10s
Rev. Mr. Mills, Dundas, 7s 6d
Mr. Smith, do, 7s 6d
Mr. James Cassidy, Grimsby, 15s.
Patrick Kennedy, London, 7s 6d
John Byrnes, Indiana, 7s 6d
Win. Kerrett, do, 7s 6d
Daniel McKenna, do, 7s 6d

From the Hamilton Gazette.

We have been kindly favored by a friend with the following important document, which it was thought would immediately pass the assembly:—

"The Governor General considering the advantage which the formation of a line of Road from Hamilton to Port Dover would afford to the public, recommends to the House of Assembly to take into their consideration the propriety of making an appropriation of £30,000 for that purpose."
—Kingston, 9th Sept. 1841.

We have to announce with deep regret, the death of the only surviving child of our late excellent townsman, David Macnab, Esq., registrar of the county of Wentworth. The child (a boy) died, we understand, at Kingston, and on Thursday was buried in the private burial ground at Dundurn. Most sincerely do we sympathize with the afflicted widow and the family of Dundurn, on this melancholy bereavement.—*Id.*

On Monday, the 6th inst. an Emigrant just arrived here, named Ogilby, a native of England, went into the Bay at Gunn's Wharf, to bath. He instantly sunk and was drowned. His body was not discovered until the next day. We regret to add, that the deceased has left a wife and five children, whom we understand are now on their way to this country, in the fond but vain hope of joining him.—*Id.*

A teamster, named McConnoll, had a very narrow escape of being killed a few days ago, by his waggon upsetting on the mountain, which was loaded with stone. The load fell upon him, dreadfully fracturing his thigh.—*Id.*

**SAMUEL McCURDY,
TANNER,
KING STREET,
HAMILTON, G. D.**

**HIDES and BARK
WANTED.**

THE SUBSCRIBERS desire to give Notice to the Public, that they have erected a large Tannery in this place, and require a constant supply of Hides, and that they will give a liberal price in cash, for Hides and Bark delivered at their Tannery on Catherine Street.

G. L. BEARDMORE, & Co.
Hamilton, 1841.

THE HAMILTON RETREAT.

THE Subscriber has opened his Retreat in Hughson street a few doors north of King street, and wishes to acquaint his friends that they may rely on every Luxury the markets afford; his Wines and Liquors will be selected with care, and no expense spared in making his guests comfortable.

Oysters, Clams, &c., will be found in their season. He therefore hopes by strict attention and a desire to please, to merit a share of Public patronage.

ROBERT FOSTER.
Hamilton, Sept. 1841.

SCHOOL BOOKS.

IN THE PRESS

AND SPEEDILY WILL BE PUBLISHED,

BY **J. RUTHEVEN,**
HAMILTON,

A SYSTEM OF PRACTICAL ARITHMETIC: to which is added a set of **BOOK KEEPING** by single entry, and a practical dissertation on Mental Arithmetic, Federal Money, Receipts, Bills of Exchange, inland and foreign; Explanation of Commercial Terms, &c., adopted to the circumstances of this country and the present state of Commerce.

By **G. & J. GOULLOCK,**
Late's British Teachers of long experience and extensive practice.

This is the first of a series which they intend to publish for the use of Schools in **BRITISH AMERICA.**

They have other three nearly ready for printing, viz:—

1st A Reading Book for beginners, containing progressive lessons from the Alphabet to words of four syllables, arranged in the most natural and simple manner.

2nd. An Explanatory Introduction to English Reading, to succeed the initiatory one, and prepare pupils for the highest departments of reading or speaking.

3rd. A Pronouncing and Explanatory Vocabulary upon an improved plan. This will be an indispensable book in all schools for three important elements of a good education.

Their fifth will be a Geography, and will be proceeded with as quickly as possible.

Hamilton, 3rd Sept., 1841.

DR. BRANDEAN,

Next door to R. Ecclestone's Confectionary Establishment, King Street.

DEALER IN
Groceries and Provisions.

N. B.—The highest price in cash paid for Wheat, Flour, Oats, Barley, Peas, Timothy Seed, Pork, Butter, &c.
Hamilton, Sept. 15, 1841.

BRISTOL HOUSE,

King Street, Hamilton, near the Market,
By **D. F. TEWKSBURY,**
September 15, 1841.

QUEEN'S HEAD HOTEL.

JAMES STREET, (NEAR BURLEY'S HOTEL.)

THE Subscriber respectfully acquaints his friends and the public generally, that he has fitted up the above named house in such a style as to render his guests as comfortable as at any other Hotel in Hamilton. His former experience in the wine and spirit trade enables him to select the best articles for his Bar that the Market affords; and it is admitted by all who have patronized his establishment, that his stabling and sheds are superior to any thing of the kind attached to a public Inn, in the District of Gore.

N. B.—The best of Hay and Oats, with civil and attentive Ostlers.

W. J. GILBERT.
Hamilton, Sept. 15, 1841.

INFORMATION WANTED

OF PIERCE McHILLGOTT, late of Tralee, County Kerry, Ireland. When last heard of he was employed as principal clerk with Jno Okely, Esq. merchant, Smith's wharf, Baltimore. Any information respecting him sent to this Office, will be thankfully received.

Hamilton, Sept. 15, 1841.