

## ROBINSON CRUSOE.

The story about the person called by this name is said to have originated in the circumstances here related. We present them as we find them, for the information of our young readers. The account differs a little from that given in Sempron's Biographical Dictionary. The individual there called "Alexander Sulkirk, a Scotch adventurer, born about 1680. He made several voyages to the South Seas, in one of which having a quarrel with the commander, the latter set him on shore on the island of Juan Fernandez, with a few necessaries, where he lived three years. In 1709, he was taken off by Captain Woods Rogers, of Bristol."

When Capt. Watling and his company escaped from Juan Fernandez three years before, they had left a Mosquito Indian on the island, who was out hunting goats when the alarm came.—This Mosquito man, named William, was the first and true Robinson Crusoe, the original hermit of this romantic solitude. Immediately on approaching the island, Dampier, and a few of William's old friends, together with a Mosquito man, named Robin, put off for the shore, where they soon perceived William standing ready to give them welcome. From the heights, he had seen the ships the preceding day, and, knowing them to be English vessels by the way they were worked, he had killed three goats, and dressed them with cabbage of the cabbage tree, to have a feast ready on the arrival of the ships. How great was his delight, as the boat neared the shore, when Robin leaped to the land, and running up to him, fell on his face at his feet! William raised up his countryman, embraced him and in turn prostrated himself at Robin's feet, who lifted him up, and they renewed their embraces. "We stood with pleasure," says Dampier, "to behold the surprise, tenderness and solemnity of their interview, which was exceedingly affecting on both sides; and when these their ceremonies of civility were over, we also stood gazing at them drew near, each of us embracing him we had found here, who was overjoyed to see so many of his old friends, come hither, as he thought, purposely to fetch him."

At the time William was abandoned, he had with him in the woods his gun and knife, and a small quantity of powder and shot. As soon as his ammunition was expended, by notching his knife into a saw, he cut up the barrel of his gun into pieces, which he converted into harpoons, lances, and a long knife. To accomplish this, he struck fire with his gun-flint and a peice of the barrel of his gun, which he had hardened for the purpose in a way he had seen practised by the buccaniers. In this fire he heated his pieces of iron, hammered them out with stones, sawed them with his jagged knife, or ground them to an edge, and tempered them; "which was no more than these Mosquito men were accustomed to do in their own country, where they make their own fishing and striking instruments without either forge or anvil, though they spend a great deal of time about them." Thus furnished, William supplied himself

with goats' flesh and fish, though, till his instruments were formed, he had been compelled to eat seal. He built his house about half a mile from the shore, and lined it snugly with goat skins, with which he also spread his couch or *barbescue*, which was raised two feet from the floor. As his clothes wore out, he supplied his want also with goat skins, and when first seen, he wore nothing save a goat's skin about his waist.—*Edinburg Cabinet Library.*

**RATHER NEW.**—Tempor a Mutantur.—Some of our readers will be not a little surprised to learn that they have made a mistake in their reckoning of time, and that instead of 1835 it is now 1840. An article in the North American Review on the divisions of time, states that there was no attempt made to reckon the years from the time of our Saviour's birth till 527, when Dionysius Exiguus, a Roman abbot, suggested it. There being no historical record, and the science of astronomy being then very imperfect, the only method adopted was to compare sacred history with profane, but this science has been brought to such advancement, that it is now easily ascertained when the eclipse happened which Josephus relates to have occurred during Herod's last illness, (4710th year of the Julian Period,) and knowing that the birth of our Saviour took place before that event, and knowing that the time fixed upon by Dionysius was in the 4714th of the Julian period, it is perfectly plain that the Christian era commenced four years at least sooner than the period commonly supposed, and if it had been correctly determined, the present year would be 1839 or 40 perhaps 41. The mistake has never been corrected, because it is impossible to determine the precise year of the nativity, and any alteration would confound all historical dates. We have heard solitary individuals threatened with being 'kicked into the middle of next week,' but this unceremonious thrusting forward of the entire Christian world five whole years, is such a leap in the dark, over a frightful chasm, that we are not fully prepared for it. The child that was honestly born in the good year of 1835 will find to day to be almost six years old, and he who died yesterday has been in his grave half a dozen years. Besides, the money lender's notes are all outlawed, though taken this month, and provisions that were fresh this morning are kept over to 1840. There is no help for it, they must serve us. If we felt sure of anything, it was that this is the year 1835. But, alas! even time itself is compelled to yield to the restless spirit of the age, break up all its old associations with the years and hours, and to leap headlong into futurity.—*Am. Tra.*

"**JUAN FERNANDEZ.**—This lovely island, on which Alexander Sulkirk was cast away, and thus gave rise to the novel of Robinson Crusoe, has been lately swallow-

ed up by the recent earthquakes which have destroyed a great portion of Chili, South America."

## THE WEEKLY MIRROR.

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1836.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor has been pleased to appoint the following Gentlemen to be a Board for the Management of the Asylum for the Poor in the Town of Halifax:

Hon. Joseph Allison; George N. Russell, John Clark, John Spry Morris, Mat. B. Atmon, James W. Nutting, John Howe, jr. Dr. Lewis J. Weston, Hugh Bell, Thomas Williamson, William Lawson, jr. and Wm. M. Allan, Esquires.

By the *Cordelia*, which arrived yesterday in 6 days passage, we received Boston Papers to the 17th instant.

BOSTON, July 17.

## INDEMNITY BILL PASSED.

The brig Isaac Glason, which sailed from Rochelle on the 10th June, arrived at New-York, brings word that the Indemnity Bill passed the Chamber of Peers on the 12th.—The captain can give no positive information in what shape, but he believes as it was sent from the Chamber of Deputies. Mutual congratulations were exchanged between the French and Americans, at Rochelle, on the termination, as it was considered, of all the difficulties.

**Distressing Shipwreck.**—The schr. Crescent, Joseph Roderick, of and for Albany, bound to Quebec, came in contact with brig Baltic, from New-York for Bath, on the night of 12th inst. 15 miles east of Block Island, and sunk in five minutes, carrying down Capt. R., Mrs. Ruth Williams, and two children, of Nova-Scotia, and Mr. Joseph Wilson, passengers, and Robert Dickenson and John Smith, seamen.

☞ *M. A.* is received—we should like to have the remainder of the letter before we publish the first part.

## MARRIED.

At Windsor, 16th July, by the Rev. William C. King, Rector of University Church, Thomas George Suther Esq. Bachelor of Arts, of King's College Windsor, to Catherine, youngest daughter of the late Hon. James Fraser, of Halifax.

## DIED.

At Bedford Basin, on Tuesday morning, Mrs. Elizabeth Story, wife of Mr. Marshall Story, in the 66th year of her age.

At Dominica, of the yellow fever, on the 23rd ult., Thomas B. M'Gill, a promising young man only son of Mr. William M'Gill, Merchant of Liverpool, N. S., in the 15th year of his age. He was much beloved, and has left a large circle of friends to mourn and lament this bereavement.

On Thursday 17th inst. after a protracted illness, in the 85th year of her age, Mrs. J. W. Adams, of this Town. Sunday evening, 12th inst. Mrs. J. W. Adams, aged 85 years.