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All kinds of JOB PRINTING will be executed at
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NATURAL HISTORY.

THE ICHTHYOSAURUS.

Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed
with water, perished.—2 Peter iii. 6.

There are certain persons who boast of their knowledge of the formation of the world, and talk as if they had penetrated through the globe. Those only who conform their views to the bible, write sensibly upon the subject, for the others are continually quarrelling unconsciously and indirectly with their own littleness and conceit. They take great pains to refute objections which exist nowhere but in their own fancy; and impose unnecessary limits upon the assertions of each other, that they may combat opinions which have never been expressed. But Mr. Granville Penn considers that the earth was broken up and destroyed at the universal deluge; and that the world which we now inhabit is built upon its ruins. Our text says that it "perished," and there are other passages in the sacred volume, which prove it to have materially changed. But nothing shows this so plainly as the abundance of fossil remains found imbedded in the different soils of which it is composed.

There are some surprising antediluvian animals in the British Museum, changed entirely into stone, one of which is the Ichthyosaurus. It must have been an enormous creature indeed, but very possibly quite in character with the time in which it lived; for men then attained to the age of many hundred years, and might have been proportionably larger and stronger than they are now. The bible, indeed, speaks of giants: "The head of the Ichthyosaurus, which is the most perfect part remaining, very much resembles that of a pike or jack, though it is beyond all comparison larger. A very short time ago, a similar animal was dug up near Bedford, and may be seen in one of the rooms belonging to the public library in that town.

Though the world is now some thousand years old, men are constantly making new discoveries in the three kingdoms of nature. This circumstance alone should lead us to speak cautiously, think soberly, and act humbly.

BIOGRAPHY.

JAMES I.

No prince, so little enterprising and so inoffensive, was ever so much exposed to the opposite extremes of calumny and flattery, and satire and panegyric. And the factions which began in his time, being still continued, have caused his character to be as much disputed to this day, as is commonly that of princes who are our contemporaries.

Many virtues, however, it must be owned, he possessed; but not one of them pure, or free from the contagion of the neighbouring vices. His generosity bordered on profusion, his learning on pedantry, his pacific disposition on pusillanimity, his wisdom on cunning, his friendship on light fancy and boyish fondness.

While he imagined that he was only maintaining his own authority, he may perhaps be suspected in some of his actions, and still more of his pretensions, to have encroached on the liberties of his people.

While he endeavoured, by an exact neutrality, to acquire the good-will of all his neighbours, he was able to preserve fully the esteem and regard of none. His capacity was considerable; but fitter for discourse on general maxims, than to conduct any intricate business.

His intentions were just, but more adapted to the conduct of private life than to the government of kingdoms. Awkward in his person, and ungainly in his manners, he was ill qualified to command respect: partial and undiscerning in his affections, he was little fitted to acquire general love. Of a feeble temper more than of a frail judgment: exposed to our ridicule from his vanity; but exempt from our hatred by his freedom from pride and arrogance. And upon the whole, it may be pronounced of his character, that all his qualities were sullied with weakness, and embellished by humanity.

Of political courage he was certainly destitute; and thence chiefly is derived the strong prejudice which prevails against his personal bravery; an inference, however, which must be owned, from general experience, to be extremely fallacious.

That James was but a middling writer, may be allowed: that he was a contemptible one, can by no means be admitted. Whoever will read his *Basilicon Doron*, particularly the last two books; the *True Law of Free Monarchies*; his *Answer to cardinal Peiron*; and almost all his speeches and messages to parliament; will confess him to have possessed no mean genius. If he wrote concerning witches and apparitions, who, in that age, did not admit the reality of these fictitious beings? From the grossness of its superstitions, we may infer the ignorance of an age; but never should pronounce concerning the folly of an individual, for his admitting popular errors consecrated by the appearance of religion.

He expired on the 27th of March, 1625, after a reign over England of twenty-two years and some days: and in the fifty-ninth year of his age. His reign over Scotland was almost of equal duration with his life. In all history it would be difficult to find a reign less illustrious, yet more unspotted and unblemished, than that of James, in both kingdoms.

THE VILLAGE.—No. 5.

HARRY STANLEY, AND MARY PARSONS

This morning I had occasion to cross the river, so I walked down to Job Stanly, the ferryman, that he might ferry me over in his boat. Job was, however, in bed, and could not attend to his boat himself, for he had just had such a ducking in the river, that it was necessary for him to jump into a warm bed to avoid taking a severe cold. I will relate the circumstance just as it took place.

It appeared that Job Stanley's wife had taken a pail down to the river's side to fetch some water; but having occasion to go further, she set down the pail, and walked along the bank of the river. Soon after this, one of the children, a little girl, seeing the pail standing near the boat, took it into her head that her mother had fallen into the water, and away she ran to tell the tale to her father.

Job Stanley and his wife did not live together on the best terms, but, on the contrary, often quarrelled, and sometimes even struck each other. I have reproved them again and again on this account, but all in vain.

We must not be surprised that evil passions should reign where the fear of God has not subdued the heart. A meek and for-