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WHERE

All kinds of JOB PRINTING will be executed at a cheap rate.

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NATURAL HISTORY.

THE ECHINUS, OR SEA-URCHIN.

The species of the Sea-urchin are very numerous, and the individuals are various in shape. The great characteristic of the genus Echinus is, that the animals are of a roundish form, covered with a bony crust beset with spines, and having the mouth beneath. The spines are the instruments of motion. The Sea-urchin is oviparous, and spawns in the spring. It lives chiefly on crabs, and other testaceous animals, marine worms, &c. Some of the species are excellent food. Most of these species of fish have a great variety of beautiful tints and curious forms, and many of them are highly valued in collections. Oppian tells us that the Sea-urchin was believed to have the power of uniting its dissevered parts.

"Sea-urchins, who their native armour boast,
All stuck with spikes, prefer the sandy coast.
Should you with knives their prickly bodies wound,
Till the crude morsels pant upon the ground;
You may e'en then, when motion seems no more,
Departing sense and fleeing life restore.
If in the sea the mangled parts you cast,
The conscious pieces to their fellows haste;
Again they aptly join, their whole compose,
Move as before, nor life nor vigour lose."

BIOGRAPHY.

EDMUND WALLER.

Edmund Waller, an English poet, was born at Colshill, in Buckinghamshire, in 1605. He became a member of parliament at the age of eighteen, and in 1643 was sent to the Tower on a charge of conspiring to deliver the city to the king. Two persons were executed for the plot, and Waller was condemned to be hanged, but saved himself by an abject submission and a liberal distribution of money. After a year's imprisonment he went into exile; but returned by

favour of Cromwell, on whom he wrote an elegant panegyric. He also wrote another on the death of the protector, and afterwards celebrated the restoration and praised Charles II. He was also elected into parliament, where, by his eloquence and wit, he was the delight of the house. He endeavoured to procure the provostship of Eton, but being refused by Clarendon, he joined in the persecution of that great man. He died in 1687, and was buried in the church of Beaconsfield. His poems are easy, smooth, and generally elegant.

THE VILLAGE AUCTION.

That folly may not soil thy youth,
Be careful to distinguish truth;
For thousands are directed wrong,
Deluded by a flattering tongue.

Some years ago an auctioneer was employed to sell the furniture of an old house, which stood in a lonely situation. The gentleman who once lived there was dead, and all his property was about to be divided among his relations. For this purpose the old house, the grounds round about it, and the furniture within, were disposed of, with the exception of a few trumpery articles, which were, really, too bad to be sold. The auctioneer agreed to give a trifle for this old lumber himself, determined, in his own mind, that he would contrive, by hook or by crook, to make his money of it.

No sooner was the sale over, than the auctioneer removed his lot of trumpery to a village, at a considerable distance from the place, and had a number of handbills printed to invite the attention of the ladies and gentlemen, farmers, and respectable people of the neighbourhood, to inspect an assortment of choice, valuable and useful articles, well worth their attention, which he had to dispose of. The day for the auction was fixed, and the lumber of the auctioneer was placed in the great room at the Fighting Cocks, where it was to be sold.

How any man could have the impudence to offer such a heap of rubbish for sale, it is difficult to imagine; but the auctioneer was accustomed to such matters, and he had made up his mind to make a good bargain of his odds and ends. It was not possible to do this without telling many untruths, and deceiving his customers, but this he did not care a fig for. The day of the auction arrived, and as a sale was rather an unusual thing in the village, it produced quite a

bustle in the neighbourhood, and drew together a great many people. Even the squire and his lady were there, but more out of curiosity, than because they wanted to buy. The lieutenant, on half pay, who lived in the white cottage, the farmers with their wives and daughters, and not a few of their labourers attended, as well as a score or more of the cottagers around.

When the large room at the Fighting Cocks was opened, and the company arrived, one after another, there was strange sneering and joking at the odd lot of things placed all together. It is true there were a few articles of some value, which the auctioneer had sent in among the rest, but the principal things were hardly worth carrying away. Old tables, broken chairs, chest of drawers, and a frying pan, two dish covers and a pepper box, a saddle and bridle, a large bunch of keys, and a set of cracked china, a copper teakettle, three books, a tobacco box, a set of harness, a bootjack, and an old carpet, a painting, an ivory toothbrush, and a brass finger ring, brass fireirons, a straw hat, and a pair of lace ruffles; these things, and a hundred others, were placed together, but no man in his proper senses would have given twenty shillings for the lot.

A table at the other end of the room was well supplied with jugs of ale, glasses, and drinkings cups, and the auctioneer made his appearance as the church clock struck twelve.

Perhaps there was not a man in the kingdom who could trump up a readier tale about what he had to sell than Slingsby, and no man knew better than himself how much a glass of good ale disposes people to buy at an auction. No sooner did he enter the room than he began to push about the glasses and drinking cups, and most of the company, seeing that there was nothing that they should like to buy, thought themselves entitled to a glass of ale, at least, for their attendance. At last Slingsby mounted a chair, while his clerk sat down to the little round table below, to write down the names of the buyers, and the articles sold.

"Ladies and gentlemen," said Slingsby, "I feel happy in seeing myself surrounded by so highly respectable a company, and I have no doubt but the result of this day's sale will show that your taste and judgment are equal to your great respectability. I shall first offer to your notice a few superior articles, after which I will proceed to ex-