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

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NATURAL HISTORY.

ORNITHORHYNCHUS.

The Ornithorhynchus, or the *platypus* of New-Holland belongs to Cuvier's sixth order of mammalia, namely edentata; so called from the limited number, or absence of teeth. When first discovered, the structure of this singular creature excited the utmost astonishment among the scientific of the day, and many points in the economy of its organization are yet enveloped in mystery. It appears, indeed, in some respects, to form a link between the birds and the mammalia.

Inhabiting marshes and rivers, its conformation is adapted, as is very evident, for such a locality; the body is covered with short close-set fur, like that of an otter, the hind-feet are partially webbed; the fore-feet so much so, that the webs do not only extend from toe to toe, but pass considerably beyond their extremities; forming a broad membrane. The nails of the hind feet are constructed for digging. The limbs are short, those behind being armed in the male, with a strong sharp horny spur. The eyes are very minute, and buried deep in the fur. The muzzle is elongated into the form of a broad and flattened beak with serrated edges, like those in the beak of a duck, to act as a strainer in sifting food from the water; and each mandible is furnished with a leathery projection rising from its root where it joins the fur of the head. At the bottom of the mouth there are, however, two small rudimentary teeth above and below, destitute of roots, and adhering only to the gum.

The ornithorhynchus, is shy and reclusive in its habits; in the water it dives with the utmost rapidity, and on land, notwithstanding the shortness of the legs, it trips along with considerable quickness.

Lieut. Maule, from whose zeal much information has been derived respecting this animal, observes, that "the platypus burrows in the banks of the rivers, choosing

generally a spot where the water is deep and sluggish, and the bank precipitous and covered with reeds, or overhung by trees. Considerably beneath the level of the stream's surface, is the main entrance to a narrow passage which leads directly into the bank, bearing away from the river (at a right angle to it), and gradually rising above its highest water-mark. At the distance of some few yards from the river's edge this passage branches into two others which, describing each a circular course to the right and left, unite again in the nest itself, which is a roomy excavation, lined with leaves and moss, and situated seldom more than twelve yards from the water, or less than two feet beneath the surface of the earth. Several of their nests were with considerable labour and difficulty, discovered.

The ornithorhynchus is scarce where it was formerly very common, and is now only to be met with in abundance in the interior of New Holland, remote from the colonial settlements.

The average length of this animal is from twelve to fifteen inches; the fur is of a uniform blackish chocolate brown, a small white spot indicating the situation of the eye. The fur of the tail is harsh, and grows so as to make the extremity bifid.

BIOGRAPHY.

ORIGEN.

Origen a father of the church, was born at Alexandria A. D. 185, of christian parents. He taught grammar for his own support, and that of his mother and brethren, but was relieved of this employment by Demetrius, who appointed him catechist of his church. From Alexandria he went to Rome, where he began his famous Hexapla, or the Bible in different languages. At the command of his bishop he returned to Alexandria, and was ordained. Soon after this he began his Commentaries on the Scriptures; but Demetrius, who envied his reputation, persecuted him with violence, and in a council assembled in 231, it was decreed that Origen should desist from preaching, and quit the city. On this he went to Casarea, where he was well received by the bishop, and permitted to preach. He was consulted in several episcopal synods: but in the persecution under Decius he was thrown into prison, and put to the torture. On his release he applied himself to his ministerial labours, and to writing. He died in 254.

OVID.

Ovid, Publius Ovidius Naso, a Latin poet was born at Sulmon Italy, B. C. 43. Being intended for the law, he was sent to Rome for education, and from thence to Athens. He made a considerable progress in eloquence; but poetry had more charms for him than the art of pleading. On settling at Rome, his accomplishments procured him many friends, particularly Augustus, who, however, ordered him to be banished to the banks of the Euxine sea, where he died A. D. 17. The works of Ovid extant are, his *Metamorphoses*; the *Art of Love*; *Elegies*; *Epistles*; and fragments. The best edition is that of Burmann, 4 vols 8vo.

THE VILLAGE.—No. 8.

ESTHER WILLIAMS.

Those who are unaccustomed to the country sometimes wonder, when they pay it an occasional visit, how such large tracts of land are cultivated; for, unless it be in the busy seasons, there are very few labourers to be seen. A stranger might, at times, walk over a thousand acres without seeing a score of men at work on the land. One man may be seen, perhaps, mending a hedge; another digging a ditch; while two or three at a distance are spreading manure; but for the most part, the fields are seen without labourers. In busy times, however, the case is very different. In the ploughing season half a dozen teams may be seen in one field; and what with picking stones, clearing the ground, burning weeds, sowing, harrowing, and rolling, the country appears busy enough. Then when haymaking comes, go where you will you will find the working people all alive—men, women, boys, and girls. Here are the mowers all in a row, sweeping down with their scythes the long fresh grass. There are the laughing haymakers with their forks and rakes, tossing about, raking, and forming into cocks the sweet scented hay; and yonder are the wagons being loaded; men on each side pitching up the hay with long forks, and others at the top receiving and putting it in order. Some of the labourers' clothes are placed under the hedge with the wooden bottles of drink, and Tiger, the little black terrier dog, is lying on a blue jacket, keeping guard; with two or three children playing around. I never gaze on such a scene without gratitude and joy. Look on the bountiful provision that a gracious God has made, even for the beasts of the field.