

# THE WEEKLY MIRROR.



Vol. 2]

HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER 2, 1830.

No. 33.

## The Weekly Mirror,

Is Printed and Published every Friday,

BY H. W. BLACKADAR,

At his Office, nearly opposite Bauer's wharf, and adjoining north of Mr. Allan McDonald's.

WHERE

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

Terms of the Mirror Five Shillings per annum payable in advance.

## NATURAL HISTORY.

In looking around upon the works of Nature, we observe they are divided into three classes. The first consists of those which are endowed with life and possess the power of motion; these we call *Animals*. The second embraces those which possess a species of life, but are without the power of motion; these we call *Vegetables*. The third, including those that are motionless and without life of any kind, as stones and earths, we call *Minerals*.

These three classes constitute the *Three Kingdoms of Nature, Animal, Mineral, and Vegetable*. The scientific description of these is called *Natural History*: the first branch, the science of Animals, is called *Zoology*. The science of Vegetables is called *Botany*; the science of Minerals is called *Mineralogy*. Each of these are full of wonderful knowledge, and the more we know of them, the more interesting they become to us.

There is no branch of Natural History more delightful than that of Animals: their story is a perpetual tale of wonders. In looking casually upon a bee or spider, we are apt to think them stupid insects; but if we go to their hive or web, and study into their works, we shall be struck with never-ceasing admiration. There is in fact no living thing, which on due examination does not unfold to us the wonderful skill and knowledge of the great CONTRIVER of the world and its inhabitants.

Every person has remarked that some animals live on the land, some in the water, and that some soar aloft into the air. Those that live on the land, having four feet, are called quadrupeds, and are generally denominated Beasts; those which dwell in the waters, pass under the general title of Fishes. The science of these is called Ichthyology. The feathered tribe, which fly in the air, are called Birds, and the science of them is

called Ornithology. The science of Insects is called Entomology.

(To be continued.)

## BIOGRAPHY.

### HUGO GROTIUS.

Hugo Grotius, an illustrious writer, was the son of John de Groot, (the family name,) a burgomaster of Delft, where the son was born in 1583. At the age of eight years he composed Latin verses of great merit. In his twelfth year he was sent to Leyden under the care of Francis Junius. In 1598 he accompanied the ambassador Barnevelt to the court of Henry IV. of France, who was so pleased with Grotius, that he gave him his picture and a gold chain; while in France he took the degree of doctor of laws. The year following he commenced practice as an advocate, and pleaded his first cause at Delft. Soon afterwards he published an edition of Martianus Capella, which was well received by the learned. This was followed by a translation of a work of Stevinus, on finding a ship's place at sea. His edition of the Phenomena of Aratus appeared in 1600, and about the same time he composed Latin Tragedies on sacred subjects. He was now appointed historiographer of the United Provinces, and advocate-general of the treasury for Holland and Zealand. In 1609 he published his famous book on the liberty of the sea, which was answered by the learned Selden. About this time appeared his Treatise de Antiquitate Republicæ Batavæ, to prove the independence of Batavia of the Romans. In 1613 he accepted the post of pensioner of Rotterdam, by which means he obtained a seat in the states of Holland. About this time he was sent to England to settle a dispute on the subject of the Greenland fishery. In 1622 he published his Apology, which so stung the States, that they ordered it to be burnt, and the author to be seized wherever he could be found. In 1625 he finished his famous book De Jure Belli & Pacis, which greatly extended his reputation. In 1613 he accepted an invitation from count Oxenstiern, and went to Stockholm, where he was appointed counsellor of state, and ambassador to the court of France. He died on his journey to Holland, at Rostock, August 28, 1645. His remains were interred at Delft. The works of this great man are too many to be enumerated here;

but we must mention his treatise on the Truth of the Christian Religion, which has become a standard book in all universities, for students in divinity, his *Annales* and *Historie de Rebus Belgicis*; and his Commentaries on the Scriptures; these last are an immortal monument of learning.

### SCENES FROM REAL LIFE.

#### THE SUNDAY SCHOLAR.

A year or two since I was associated with a Sunday school in one of the southern cities. Its aspect was very different from that of the schools connected with our New-England churches. The rosy cheeks and bright eyes of this region were wanting, and in their place were pale and sallow faces and languid expressions. There was a want of spirit and animation throughout—in the teachers and scholars—in the tones of each voice and the movements of each body. But still it was a blessed place—for it is always blessed to see a troop of young immortals with the two paths yet before them, collected to learn the way that leadeth unto life.

During the short period that I was allowed to teach in that school, many incidents occurred—for in a southern climate all is change—nothing seems to last beyond a season—death fingers in the first warm breathings of spring, and the pestilential vapors of disease are inhaled with the fragrance and balm of summer evening.

In my own little band, much transpired to interest and move my feelings, besides the gradual advancement of each pupil in the knowledge that maketh wise to salvation.

There was one sweet blue-eyed boy, whose quiet manner and meek attentive look interested me from the first. He seemed to drink in instruction like water, and to thirst for more when the exercises were over. Whenever he heard the story of the Saviour's death and sufferings, or of his love for little children, his earnest eye would be fixed in breathless attention, till it was dimmed with tears. We used to call him our *little minister*, and fondly looked forward to the time when he should preach the "unsearchable riches of Christ." But God had a nobler work for his son. He took him in the morning, and spared him the burden and heat of the day! The tidings of his death reached me soon after I left that part of the country. A friend thus wrote me—"I