

pealed to the first gentleman as being the only one who could throw light upon the subject; when, lo and behold! as soon as his head appeared in answer to the hasty summons, the three night-caps appeared at the same time upon it, one being ungged over the other, much to the amusement not only of those present, but also of those who long after heard the tale.

Another example of the pleasantries that sometimes enliven the path of the naturalist. It is related by Mr. Spence, and refers to the time when that gentleman was engaged with Mr. Kirby in preparing the work which has for ever combined their names. 'Mr. (now Sir William J.) Hooker was at that time staying at Batham, and being desirous to have pointed out to him, and to gather with his own hands, a rare species of *Murchantia*? from its habitat, first discovered by Mr. Kirby, near Nayland, some miles distant, it was agreed we three should walk thither, entomologising by the way, and after dinner proceed to the hedge-bank where it grew. Entering the head inn-yard on foot, with dusty shoes, and without other baggage than our insect-nets in our hands, we met with but a cool reception, which, however, visibly warmed as soon as we had desired to be shown into the best dining-room, and had ordered a good dinner and wine. We intended to walk back in the evening, but as the bank where the *Murchantia*? grew was a mile or two out of the direct road, and it came on rain, we ordered out a *póschino*, and, merely saying we wanted to drive a short way on a road which Mr. Kirby indicated to the postilion.

'When we arrived at the gate of the field where the bank was, the rain had become very heavy, so, calling to the postilion to stop and open the door, we scampered out of the chaise, all laughing, and hastily telling him to wait there, without other explanation we climbed over the gate, and not to be long in the rain, set off running as fast as we could along the field-side of the hedge, to the bank we were looking for. We saw amazement in the face of our postilion at what possible motive could have made three guests of his master clamber pell-mell over a gate into a field that led nowhere, in the midst of a heavy shower of rain, and then run away as if pursued; and it was the expression in his countenance that caused our mirth, which was increased to peals of merriment when we saw that, instead of waiting for us at the gate, as we had directed, he mounted his horse with all speed, and pushed on in a gallop along the road on the other side of the hedge, evidently to circumvent our nefarious plan (as he conceived) of bilking his master both of our dinners and the chaise-hire. When the cessation of our uncontrollable mirth had allowed us to gather specimens of our plant, perceiving through the hedge whereabouts we stopped, he also halted to watch our motions, and when he saw us run back, he obeyed our orders to return to the gate—where we got into the chaise; still in a roar of laughter at the whole affair, and at his awkward attempt to explain away his not having waited for us there, as we had directed, and evident high satisfaction at bringing back in triumph to our inn the three cheats whose intended plans he had so cleverly frustrated, as he no doubt told his master; to whom, being too much amused with the adventure, we did not make any explanation, but left it to form one of the traditions of the inn.'

When a man excels in anything, it must always be of some consequence to know what were his habits, and what external means he employed, in connection with his particular gift. Mr. Spence says: 'There were two circumstances in Mr. Kirby's study of insects, by which I was always

forcibly struck on my visits to him at Batham. The first was the little parade of apparatus with which his extensive and valuable acquisitions were made. If going to any distance, he would put into his pocket a forceps-net and small water-bell, with which to catch bees, flies, and aquatic insects; but, in general, I do not remember to have seen him use a net of any other description. His numerous captures of rare and new *Coloptera* were mostly made by carefully searching for them in their haunts, from which—if trees, shrubs, or long grass, &c.—he would beat them with his walking-stick into a newspaper; and collected in this way, he would bring home in a few small phials in waistcoat pockets, and in a moderate-sized collecting-box, after an afternoon's excursion, a booty often much richer than his companions had secured with their more elaborate apparatus. The second circumstance in Mr. Kirby's study of insects, to which I allude, was the deliberate and careful way in which he investigated the nomenclature of his species.—Every author likely to have described them was consulted, their description duly estimated; and it was only after thus coming to the decision that the insect before him had not been previously described, that he placed it in his cabinet under a new name. It was owing to this cautious mode of proceeding—which young entomologists would do well to follow—that he fell into so few errors, and rendered such solid service to the science; and a not less careful consideration was always exercised by him in the forming of new genera, and in his published descriptions of new species, as his admirable papers in the *Linnean Transactions* amply testify.'

Considering how well Mr. Kirby performed his professional duties, how much he did to advance his favorite science, and how greatly he contributed to the happiness of society, within the sphere of his personal influence, his may truly be said to have been a well spent life. On this account, Mr. Freeman's memoir may be recommended to the notice of many who are not as yet conscious of the charms of entomology.

## CANADIAN FAMILY HERALD.

TORONTO, C. W., NOVEMBER 13, 1853.

### THE EMPIRE OF JAPAN.

When Paul stood in the midst of the Court of the Areopagus he said, 'God hath made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, but how very impure must that blood, in the lapse of ages have become, that the varied impulses which are warmed by its radiant circulation are so diametrically opposed to each other, that the most transient approximation produces only jarring and strife. Not only has mankind lost all ties of family relationship and of a community of interest, but feelings the most rancorous, passions the most destructive, have supplied their place. The fact is that humanity manifests itself in so many varied aspects that we are frequently tempted to imagine that mankind cannot have sprung from one common stock, or that our great progenitor listened in lonely majesty to the minstrelsy of paradise, or was cheered and refreshed by the ambrosial fruit which clustered so profusely on the heavy-laden boughs. Yet as we can in some measure account for, and reconcile with, this standard, the diversities which exist among ourselves, we are satisfied that if we had the means and appliances to enable us to enquire narrowly into the discrepancies that exist in

more remote circles of life, we would find that they were all brought about by the recurrence of events set in motion by the pride or the covetousness of man. We need not wander far for an abundance of illustrations to shew the correctness of these remarks, but in obedience to the ideas which suggested them, we will turn our steps to the Empire of Japan.—Here we have humanity in its two aspects,—the natural and the unnatural—as fully developed as it can be, by the wildest and most barbarous Indian tribe that may be encountered. At the present moment the laws of that empire are so cruel, "that no Japanese ship or boat, or any native of Japan, shall presume to quit the country under pain of forfeiture and death; that any Japanese returning from a foreign country shall be put to death; that whoever presumes to interfere with offenders shall be put to death;" and these barbarous laws have been in existence since 1637. The insular Empire of Japan is about 1200 miles in breadth containing a population estimated at 30,000,000. On the North it has the sea of Ochotsk, on the east and south the Pacific ocean, and on the west the sea of Japan.

The illustrious Venetian traveller Marco Polo thus describes it under a Chinese name.—'Zippang' he says, "is an island in the Eastern Ocean situated at the distance of about fifteen hundred miles from the main land or coast of Manji. It is of considerable size; its inhabitants have fair complexions, are well made, and are civilized in their manners. Their religion is the worship of idols. They are independent of every foreign power, and governed only by their kings. They have gold in the greatest abundance, its sources being inexhaustible. To this circumstance we are to attribute the extraordinary richness of the sovereign's palace, according to what we are told by those who have had access to the place. The entire roof is covered with a plating of gold in the same manner as we cover houses, or more properly churches with lead. The ceilings of the halls are of the same precious metal, and many of the apartments have small tables of pure gold, considerably thick, and the windows also have golden ornaments." Such is the account given by Marco Polo, but the empire consists of an unknown number of islands, all clustered together between Corea and Kamtschatka, and separated from the continent of Asia by the sea of Japan. Japan proper consists of three large islands, Kioodo or Kowsew, Sitkokf, and Nippon. Kioodo, the most western, is about 200 miles long, with an average breadth of 80 miles. Sitkokf may be 150 miles long by about 70 miles, and Nippon, the largest and principal island is upwards of 900 miles in length and more than 100 miles of average width. The Empire is guarded by dangerous shores and by stormy seas as well as by the jealousy of its government and the severity of its laws. But it was not always so in Japan. The fiercest feelings of our nature had at one time free scope there as in other places, and the ear was not always deaf to the cry of distress. With the exception of the invasion made of the country by Marco Polo in the end of the thirteenth century the islands of Japan were unknown to the European world till 1542, when a Portuguese ship, bound for Macao in China, was driven from her course and forced by the storm to take shelter in the harbor of one of these islands. The Portuguese were received with courtesy and kindness. The first two of them who set foot on shore on this unknown land were named Antonio Mota, and Francisco Zei mola. The Japanese have preserved portraits of them. From this accidental circumstance a regular trade was opened up and a Portuguese ship, laden with woollen cloth, furs, manufactured silks, taffetas, and other commodities in request, was sent once a year to the same island. The Portuguese were thus the first Europeans who had any commercial dealings with the Japanese, and about eight years after the discovery, Francisco Xavier, joint founder with Loyola of the order of the Jesuits, and some other Jesuit fathers embarked for that new territory as missionaries. The faith prevailing at that time was said to be of Brahminical origin. Xavier quitted Japan for China in 1551, and died in the 23d December of the following year at Shan-Shan on the Canton River, not far from Macao. The laborers,