



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.

SILK WORM.

This insect is said to have come originally from the northern parts of China, and by degrees, the cultivation of it has extended to Europe and America. It feeds upon the leaves of the black or white mulberry for about six weeks, during which period it changes its skin four times. It then ceases to feed, and begins to form an envelope, or cocoon, of silken fibres in some convenient spot, producing minute threads, till it has formed an oval yellow case, about the size of a pigeon's egg. In this case, it changes into a chrysalis, and in about fifteen days, the moth is produced, which is very short-lived. The cocoons are generally exposed to great heat, in order to kill the insect before the moth is produced, as it discharges a colored fluid which injures the quality of the silk. The length of the thread is from three to five hundred yards, composed of two united filaments glued together. The manufacture of silk goods has been known from the earliest times.

BIOGRAPHY.

HENRY ALDRICH.

Henry Aldrich, was born in Westminster in 1647. From Westminster school he went to Christchurch, Oxford where he was elected student. In 1681 he was installed canon of Christchurch, and in the same year took the degree of D. D. He wrote, in the reign of James II. two able tracts, "On the Eucharist." At the Revolution he was made dean of Christ church,

and every year published a Greek classic, or part of one, by way of present to the students of the college. He was one of the persons entrusted with the publication of Lord Clarendon's History; he had a great knowledge of architecture and music, as appears by Peckwatersquare, in oxford, the chapel of Trinity college, and the church of All Saints, designed by him; and the numerous church services and anthems which he composed. The dean was also the composer of two catches, viz "Hark the bonny Christ-church bells," and the other, "A smoking Catch." He held the rectory of Wem, in Shropshire, and in the convocation of 1702 he sat as prolocutor. He died in 1710. Besides the above works he printed "Artis Logicæ Compendium," and the Elements of Architecture, in Latin

THE ORPHAN OF BATTERSEA,

OR, THE JUDGEMENT OF SIR THOMAS MORE.

In the pleasant fields of Battersea, near the river side, on a spot which is now covered with houses, dwelt, three hundred and ten years ago, the blind widow, Annice Collie, and her orphan grandchild, Dorothy. These two were alone in the world, and yet they might scarcely be said to feel their loneliness; for they were all the world to each other.

Annice Collie had seen better days; for she was the daughter of a substantial yeoman, and her husband, Reuben Collie, had been a gardener in the service of good Queen Catherine, the first wife of King Henry the Eighth; and Annice had been a happy wife, a joyful mother, and a liberal house-keeper, having wherewithal to bestow on the wayfarer and stranger at their need. It was, however, the will of God that these blessings should be taken from her. The Queen fell into adversity, and being removed from her favorite palace at Greenwich, to give place to her newly exalted rival, Anne Boleyn, her faithful servants were all discharged; and, among them, Reuben Collie and his son, Arthur, were de-

prived of their situations in the royal gardens.

This misfortune, though heavy, appeared light, in comparison with the bitter reverses that had befallen their rival mistress; for the means of obtaining an honest livelihood were still in the power of the industrious little family; and beyond that their ambition extended not.

Reuben Collie, who had spent his youth in the Low Countries, had acquired a very considerable knowledge of the art of horticulture, an art at that time so little practised in England, that the salads and vegetables with which the tables of the great were supplied, were all brought, at a great expense, from Holland, and were, of course, never eaten in perfection. Reuben Collie, however, whose observations on the soil and climate had convinced him that these costly exotics might be raised in England, procured seeds, of various kinds, from a friend of his in the service of the Duke of Cleves, and was so fortunate as to rear a few plants of cabbages, savoy, brocoli, lettuces, artichokes, and cucumbers, to the unspeakable surprise of all the gardeners in London and its environs; and honest Reuben narrowly escaped being arraigned as a wizard, in consequence of their envy at the success of his experiment. He had hired, on a long lease, a cottage, with a small field adjoining, at a reasonable rent, of Master Bartholemew Barker, the rich tanner of Battersea; and this, he and his son, Arthur, had, with great care and toil, converted into a garden and nursery-ground, for rearing fruit trees, vegetables, costly flowers, and herbs of grace; and this spot he flattered himself would, one day, prove a mine of wealth to himself, and his son after him. That golden season never arrived; for Arthur, who had, during a leisure time, obtained work in a nobleman's garden at Chelsea, for the sake of bringing home a few additional groats, to assist in the maintenance of his wife, Margaret, and his little daughter, Dorothy, who lived with the old people, was