

## PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE.

Life is short certainly; and a youth lost in idleness makes a fearful subtraction from its scanty sum: That wonderful scholar Sir William Jones, who in addition to great acquirements in various other departments of knowledge had made himself acquainted with no fewer than 28 different languages, was studying the grammars of several of the Oriental dialects up to within a week of his lamented death. It was by a persevering observance of a few simple maxims that Sir Wm. Jones was principally enabled to accomplish what he did. One of these was never to neglect an opportunity to improvement, another was, whatever had been attained, was attainable by him, and that therefore the real or supposed difficulties of any pursuit formed no reason why he should not engage in it, and with perfect confidence of success. "It was also," Lord Teignmouth tells us, "a fixed principal with him from which he never voluntarily deviated not to be deterred, by any difficulties which were surmountable, from prosecuting to a successful termination what he had once deliberately undertaken. But what appears to me, adds his Lordship more particularly to have enabled him to employ his talents so much to his own and the public advantage was the regular allotment of his time to particular occupations and a scrupulous adherence to the distribution which he had fixed: hence all his studies were pursued without interruption or confusion. Nor can I omit remarking the candour and complacency with which he gave his attention to all persons of whatever quality, talents or education: he justly concluded that curious or important information might be gained, even from the illiterate, and whatever it was to be attained he sought and seized it. By these means it was that he accumulated that vast mass of knowledge, and enabled himself to accomplish those profound and extended labours which remain even now that he is dead, for the benefit of us who yet live, and of those who come after us. This is truly to make a short life long—to exist, in spite of death for unnumbered generations.

## DESTRUCTIVE TORNADO.

The city of New-Brunswick, N. J. was lately visited with a most desolating tornado, which swept over the western section, causing much destruction of property, and loss of life. It first made its appearance with a falling of ice in the township of Amwell, and taking a zig-zag course, spent its fury over State Island. Its first approach to N. B. was from the north-west, passing over Middlebush, about 3 miles from that place, when a dwelling house and barn were laid prostrate with the earth, it then passed over several farms unroofing and blowing down all the buildings in its course—when it reached an hill, where it remained appa-

rently fixed for a minute or two, presenting the appearance of a pillar of fire—its base resting on the earth, and its top reaching a mass of black clouds. It then took another direction tearing the roofs off of some, and making complete wrecks of other buildings, and either uprooting or twisting off the largest trees—in some instances carrying the latter 20 or 30 paces. Among the extraordinary occurrences, which took place on this melancholy occasion, the fate of the son of W. G. Dunham, (a small lad) was the most singular. He was taken of the piazza of the house, carried in the air a distance of 300 yards and landed on a wharf, having only sustained a slight injury in one of his arms. On being questioned as to his feelings, he said he recollected having passed through the top of a willow tree, and the sensation produced by being carried up in the whirlpool was like that of being pulled in contrary directions. A bedstead was taken from the third story of a house, and carried a distance of 200 yards—without having sustained the slightest injury. A carpet bag, and some bedding were carried nearly half a mile. A person who was an eye witness says:—"The first intimation I had of the tornado's approach, was the wind blowing in from both sides of the house where I was sitting. The cry of fire was raised—I ran to the corner of the street, and perceived in a westerly direction, at half a mile distance, a black column moving onward, which had the appearance of a smothered fire and was mistaken for it. I saw what it was, and ran into the house and closed all the windows before it reached us. The whole atmosphere was soon filled with fragments of timber, &c. in a moment the house opposite was unroofed, as if it had been covered with paper. The house in which I was, being at the edge of the current, escaped uninjured, save that a rafter from the roof of a house about half a mile distant, 30 feet long, struck the edge of the window, tearing away the brick work, and demolishing the sash, passed into the wall of the room. As near as we can ascertain, 50 dwelling houses are entirely destroyed, and a vast number much injured—4 persons were killed, and from 100 to 150 much injured.

## THE MONTHS.—No. 7.

JULY is so called from Julius Cæsar, the celebrated Roman general and historian. On the third day of this month the "Dog-days" begin their course, and continue till the eleventh of August. This singular designation was given in consequence of Sirius, or the dog-star, rising and setting with the sun during this period.—The advancement of knowledge has dissipated the absurd notion formerly entertained, that on these days, "the sea boils, wine turns sour, dogs go mad," &c. &c. Sound philosophy ascribes effects to their true causes. Heat, and not the conjunction of planets, produces some of the effects described; the others are pure fictions.

The heat of July is often very intense, and requires caution. An unguarded exposure to the rays of the vertical sun in tropical climates, has often produced instantaneous death. The Shunamite's child appears to have been fatally smitten by the Sun, when he cried, "my head, my head!" 2 Kings, iv. 18, 20. The atmospheric changes of this month are numerous and important. Electricity is now exerting its powerful agency and giving proof of its energy, in the pealing thunder and vivid lightning. The approach of the thunder-storm is indicated by the sultry heat, the darkened sky, and the oppressive air. The swallow flies just above the earth in pursuit of insects whose upward flight is prevented by the state of the atmosphere. A profound stillness reigns. At length the moment arrives, the lightning flashes through the air, and the thunder rolls impetuously along the sky. Science may explain the causes of the thunder-storm, yet few persons can witness its awful phenomena without some emotion. The Bible professes not to be "a Book of the seasons," yet its individual and occasional notices of the changes and productions of the year, are just, simple, and sublime. The close of the 65th Psalm describes an English July as well as a Syrian May. "Thou crownest the year with thy goodness, and thy paths drop fatness. The pastures are covered with flocks; the valleys also are covered with corn: they shout for joy, they also sing."

## WEEKLY MIRROR.

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1835.

*The present, is the last number for the half year, and with it, we regret very much to add, ends our proprietorship of the MIRROR; this course we have been compelled to pursue, although we certainly should not have discontinued till the end of the year, had not a favourable opportunity offered of handing it over to a person every way competent—and who has promised to supply our subscribers, we doubt not much to his own credit, and their satisfaction.*

By H. M. Packet Tyrian, which arrived on Tuesday, 31 days from Falmouth, London papers to the 4th, and Falmouth to the 6th June, were received, but they contain nothing of importance.

On the day appointed for celebrating the King's birth day, the usual observances were kept up. Her Majesty held a drawing room, which was numerously attended—among the presentations at the Levee, we noticed "Mr. Archibald, Attorney General of Nova Scotia, on his arrival." After the Levee the King gave audience to Lord Gosford, who has been appointed chief Commissioner to Lower Canada.

UNITED STATES.—The Constitution Frigate, with Mr. Livingston on board, arrived at New York on the 23d June. With reference to the Indemnity question the Journal of Commerce says:—"We are glad to learn from the conversation of Mr. Livingston, that his return to the United States is not to be taken as an evil omen."