

# THE WEEKLY MIRROR.



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## The Weekly Mirror,

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WHERE

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

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## NATURAL HISTORY.

### THE SAW-FISH.

Among the monsters of the deep, whose voracity and weapons of attack render them terrible to their fellows, one of the most remarkable is the saw-fish, which inhabits the northern and temperate latitudes of the ocean. Nearly allied to the sharks, it has all their ferocity, and more than all their power, being armed with a weapon of destruction, which gives it pre-eminence even over the mighty whale.

The weapon to which we allude, is a kind of saw of a flattened form, projecting from the snout, armed along the edges with tremendous teeth. With this instrument, it strikes right and left, inflicting the most horrible wounds: or thrusts onwards, ripping the body of its unfortunate victim, on whose flesh it satiates its ravenous appetite. The saw-fish, closely allied, as we have said, to the sharks, constitutes one of the group of soft-boned fishes; the mouth is placed beneath the head, the eyes are large, and situated before the nostrils: the body is long and compressed, and furnished with large and spreading fins.

The snout, or saw, measures five feet in length, and is nearly one foot broad at the base, whence it tapers to the apex, which is rounded, and measures five inches across. The number of teeth on each side are nineteen, but this appears to be subject to considerable variation. These teeth are placed at nearly equal distances from each other, and are from two to three inches in length, tapering to a sharp point. The snout, or saw, measures about one-third the length of the whole body, so that fifteen or twenty feet may be taken as the dimensions of a full-grown saw fish, its weapon included.

With weapons thus adapted for aggression or defence, and with bodily powers en-

abling the possessor to use them to the ut- most advantage, the saw-fish roams the deep in fearless security. Not, however, content with repelling the assaults of its adversaries, it carries on an implacable warfare against all that approach it.

When considering the formation of this wonderful fish, how are we constrained to cry out with the Psalmist, "O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. So is the great and the wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts."

## BIOGRAPHY.

### GEORGE GRAY AND EDWARD HINTON.

These boys, though one was several years older than myself and the other younger, were the school-mates of my early days. Their characters were different when young. The difference was perceived in the school—was seen on the play-ground—and more fully known when they arrived at years of maturity.

GEORGE GRAY was a noted idler. Days, weeks, and months would pass away, and he would be found but little wiser for attending school. There might, perhaps, have been some apology for his indolence in the fact, that many of his teachers were men but poorly qualified to perform their labors; still it was not sufficient for his waste of time, and of almost every privilege.

EDWARD HINTON, on the other hand, improved his time, and acquired a knowledge of the studies then pursued. GEORGE was a boy whom few would choose for their associate; for he was an unpleasant play-fellow, and an undesirable companion.

EDWARD, on the contrary, was distinguished for the kindness of his disposition, and his agreeable deportment. He was never at a loss to find a play-mate; and both his teacher and his school-fellows always looked upon him as a noble-hearted boy. GEORGE was vicious, as well as idle; for he was openly profane, and would often utter falsehoods. EDWARD was a boy upright in all his conduct; and when he gave his word, you might depend upon it.

School-boy days gave place to those of more mature years, and both these boys became sailors. The same traits of charac-

ter which distinguished them at school, were distinctly shown on board the vessels in which they sailed. GEORGE went to sea several years before EDWARD, and like many other unwise young men, he early acquired the habit of drinking ardent spirits. As he grew older, this habit increased; and in a few years he was often seen intoxicated. So worthless did he become, that few respectable men would have any intercourse with him.

A remark made to him by a faithful friend, was almost literally fulfilled—in fact, if I mistake not, it did occur in some instances, just as the teacher had pointed out to him. His teacher often tried various ways to induce him to become orderly and studious; but when his efforts were unheeded by GEORGE, he would tell him that if he continued idle when he became a man, he would feel ashamed to meet respectable persons in the road—that he would crawl over the fence and conceal himself till they had passed. And so it was; for he would never pass by a respectable individual as he ought to have done. He would turn out of the way, and appear ashamed to meet the eyes of those who rightly improved their time at school. While they were in honorable and useful stations in life, he earned his bread only by the most severe service.

His life was short. He sailed on his last voyage. Unfavorable winds caused the vessel on board of which he then was, to put into a harbor on the very day of sailing. He went aloft with another to furl a sail, but having drank too freely of ardent spirits, he fell from the yard and was killed. His body was carried home to his friends, but his head was so mangled as to prevent his being seen by his former acquaintances. He was buried unwept, save by his nearest relatives—his name will soon be forgotten, or if remembered, no pleasing recollection can ever be called around it; and his grave will have no attraction for the passing traveller.

EDWARD HINTON also, as I before observed, became a sailor. When once on a foreign voyage, though we were in different vessels, I often saw him, in the ports to which we went. He was then young—on his second voyage, I think—but his character was manly, and he was respected by all who knew him. He invariably won the esteem of his ship-mates. I never knew, on his part, an instance of unworthy conduct, nor did I ever hear any one speak ill of him.