

Natural History.

THE CREATION.

How admirably has the Great Architect of the Universe distributed the various forms and colours of the animal kingdom on the face of the earth! The structure of their bodies, the mechanism of their functions, their habits, and modes of propagation, are so beautifully illustrated to the student, and also served of nature, who carefully watches their movements, that the arguments of the sceptic would fall like the descent of lightning to the earth, which he brings down to prove that a part of the ascending appears to him equal and spontaneous. "As well might he say that the water generate stagnated other animals that inhabit them, as that the cheese generates mites without the egg." Did such a one consider the geographical distribution of the creatures upon the face of the globe, or even peep into the most minute state of animation in all its vigour, he would arrive at a different conclusion regarding articulated beings. But now, by the aid of science, they are magnified and brought near us, just as the astronomer who, by the adjustment of his wonderful telescope, brings the heavenly bodies near him, when he sees more clearly the concord which predominates in that distant element, in unison with our own globe, which would otherwise to him be lost in space. The scientific researches of sceptical philosophers are sent through the world, but the true philosopher will be careless of their progress, because he sees reasoning such as cannot be founded upon the true light and design of the creation. Surely then, the theorem of natural history should be disseminated to our fellow-creatures, some of whom, I am sorry to say, do not, or care not to investigate the various phenomena which are of daily occurrence before their eyes. He who adheres to the close atmospheric development system, cannot be free from pain, when he considers and reflects upon the periodical revolency and universal workings of our own planet. The gigantic animals now extinct, and those at present indigenous to our globe, I believe were, and are designedly distributed by the Almighty, in the first place to run their race, as will be seen by their fossil remains; that there is a time laid down by Him, for each species to become extinct cannot be denied by such discoveries, secondly, that some of them were sent to some parts of the earth, as a scourge and terror to the good as well as the evil, and for the purpose of moral reflection from a hard-hearted people in fearing him, as much as it has been his pleasure to give some of them for our domestic use, to suit the same end. Everything that creepeth, therefore, should merit our attention, as the Creator has deemed it not unworthy of his. Nature has also given strange balances of gravity to her elements, for instance, in one gallon of air there are about 84 cubic inches of oxygen, while in one gallon of water seldom more than 6 cubic inches are found, I am therefore astonished to find it asserted, that the action of the respirative functions of aqueous animals are nearly the same, and in harmony with the working of some animals of the type geocorise—that an animal could easily depart from its aquatic state and become one of the type geocorise without much trouble, for the remainder of its existence and upon this system some naturalists have given the links connecting the several orders and branches of the creation. It is well known that animals consume in a given time a quantity of oxygen in conformity with the activity of their motions and rapidity of their nutrition,—that the superior animals breathe the more freely in air is evident, from the number of cubic inches the gallon of air contains; also by plunging some terrestrial animals in water will almost instantaneously perish of asphyxia. Any person acquainted with the physiological and anatomical relations of the aquatic and terrestrial animals can easily perceive the difference of form in their breathing organs. I have never known one instance where an aquatic animal lived

any length of time after being taken from its native element, even, although its being brought into air, and provided with a far richer element than the one natural to its respiration. The respiratory organs of aquatic animals are, however, found to live in three distinct worlds, which may seem astonishing, but no less true. The dragon-flies, which are adorned with the liveliest and richest colours, indeed, more so than any other insect which goes through the first stages of transformation in the water, are subject to those changes, and if the form of the insect be taken from the water in its reptile state, it will not survive the change long. Gregarious animals, such as *infusoria* and *medusa*, cannot remain in air; they become emaciated to such an extent as to be unable to perform their functions. Fish, for example, the *branchia*, or gills of the *annelulus*, and even fishes composed of flexible filament, which the animal can easily sustain in water, by permitting the respiratory fluid to reach their opening their surface, which, if brought into air, would fall one upon another, therefore, excluding the oxygen from the parts which would, otherwise, work well, in their native element. A fish, when taken from the water, is seen to keep its mouth opening and shutting, while alive, for the purpose of receiving a sufficiency of air, which, being far richer than that of its native element, and coming with such pressure upon the *branchia*, the circulation not being so active as in superior animals, will soon cause them to dry, resulting in the animal's death. I am aware that a wise and accurate observer of nature would not be told, that an animal destined, at the time of its creation, to lead an aquatic life, was never formed to breathe in air for any length of time: that there is no foundation whatever, to connect the links of the animal tribes, by illustrating the transformation of an aquatic animal, and that, by chance it changes into a terrestrial one. C.

Varieties.

The real object of education is to give our children resources that will last as long as life lasts.

It is said that charcoal placed around rose bushes and other flowering plants, has the effect to add greatly to the richness of the flower.

We are never more deceived than when we mistake gravity for greatness, solemnity for science, and pomposity for erudition.

COOK CAKES.—One pint good cream, one of buttermilk, one egg, one teaspoonful of saleratus, and one teaspoonful of salt. Stir in meal till it foams; bake quick. If made of good meal this will be excellent cake.

IN OLDEN TIMES he was accounted a skilful person who destroyed his victims by bouquets of lovely and fragrant flowers, the art has not been lost—nay, it is practised every day by the world.

ALBANY BREAKFAST CAKES.—Ten eggs, three pints of milk, quarter of a pound of butter, two teaspoonfuls of salt, half a teaspoonful of saleratus, and white Indian meal to make a thick batter, butter scalloped oval tins, fill them two thirds full, (they should hold about a pint,) bake for a full hour in a quick oven.

TRAVELING THE EARTH.—The circumference of the earth measures 25 000 miles. If it were built with an iron railway a train carrying 240 passengers would be drawn round it by the combustion of thirty tons of coke, and the circuit would be accomplished in five weeks.—*Lardner on the Steam Engine.*

A BEAUTIFUL TERTH.—I have been told, says a popular writer, by men who have passed unharmed through the temptations of youth, that they owed their escape from many dangers to the intimate companionship of their affectionate sisters. They have been saved from a hazardous meeting with idle company by some engagement of which their sisters were the charm. They have refrained from mixing with the impure, because they would not bring home thoughts and feelings which they could not share with their loving sisters. The remembrance of some warm, confiding, pure minded female friend, has saved many a youth from the snares so thickly set, into which, but for this, he might have fallen.

A SKEWER.—A friend tells us the following anecdote when we pronounce decidedly good. One of the storekeepers of this place, purchased of an Irish woman a quantity of butter, the lump of which weighed for pounds, he weighed in the balance and found wanting. "Sure it's yer own fault if they are light," said Jolly in reply to the complaint of the buyer, "it's yer own fault, as—for wasn't it a pound of soap I bought here meself, but I had in the other end of the scale when I weighed 'em!" The storekeeper had nothing more to say on the subject.

LAST DAY OF THE FAIR.

We would remind all lovers of the Fine Arts that Barnum's Panorama of the Great Exhibition will only remain here one day longer. We believe it will finally close this Evening, as it is already advertised to appear in Hamilton on Tuesday. We have not been able to spare time to visit this Great Work so often as we would have wished; but would warmly recommend all to take a last fond look, ere it departs.

Biographical Calendar.

Aug. 27	1682	John Locke, born.
" 30	1709	Pius VI, died.
" 31	1844	Francis Baily, died.
	1623	John Bunyan, died.
	1749	J. F. Oberlin, born.
	1746	James Lockington, born.
	1772	William Barlow, died.
Sept. 1	1715	Louis XIV., died.
	1721	Sir Richard Steele, died.
	1757	General Lafayette, born.
	1817	General Matoon, died.
	1831	General Lopez, executed.
" 2	1625	Lady Jane, beheaded.
	1778	Louis Bonaparte, born.
" 3	1634	Thomas Telford, died.
	1673	Sir E. Coke, died.
	1650	Oliver Cromwell, died.
	1722	Matthew Boulton, born.
" 4	1588	Dudley, Earl of Leicester, died.
	1615	John James Buxtorf, born.
	1743	John, 2nd Duke of Argyll, died.

Gilbert Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, was born in 1757, at Charavagne, in Auvergne. Though of high rank, and possessing a large fortune, he went, in 1777, to America, to assist the revolted Colonies.—He there raised and equipped a body of men, at his own expense; fought as a volunteer, at the battle of Brandywine, in 1778, at that of Monmouth in 1779; and received the thanks of Congress. He then proceeded to France, returned with reinforcements, and commanded Washington's vanguard at the surrender of Cornwallis, in 1782. After the peace, he returned to France, and on the breaking out of the Revolution there, he took part with the friends of liberty, though with wise moderation. In October, 1789, he was made Commander-in-chief of the National Guard, and ordered and assisted at the demolition of the Bastille. Having, on several occasions, saved the Royal Family from insult, his patriotism became suspected, and, in 1792, was obliged to flee from France. He now fell into the hands of the Austrians, by whom he was kept prisoner, at Olmutz, for five years, and was only released on demand of Bonaparte, after his first campaign in Italy. Not approving of Napoleon's despotic measures, he withdrew entirely from public affairs, until after the battle of Waterloo. In 1821, he made a visit to America, and was received with distinction and popular enthusiasm, as joint founder of American liberty, with Washington and Franklin. The Revolution of 1830 brought Lafayette on the stage again, in the character with which he commenced his career, that of Commander-in-chief of the National Guards, when he lent his support to Louis Philippe. After the latter was recognized as King of the French, he retired once more to private life, and expired, amidst its tranquil scenes, in 1835—*Albion.*