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

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NATURAL HISTORY.

THE CROCODILE.

The crocodile lives on the banks of immense rivers, in hot climates, such as those of India and Africa. He seems to have the whole command on these shores, as much as the lion has in the deserts, or the eagle in the air, or the whale in the sea. He can live either on land or water, and is a dreadful terror to both. He is of an enormous size, and has such strength and power, that no animal within his reach is able to resist him. Crocodiles have sometimes grown to the enormous length of twenty-five feet; and it is thought that, like fishes, they continue to increase in size during their whole life. The sight of this creature is sufficient to fill any one with terror; for he has fierce and fiery-looking eyes, and a frightful row of teeth, which are always seen, for he has no lips to cover them. He is covered with a coat of armour, worked together in a most curious manner; and, on his back, it is strong enough to resist a musket-ball; below, it is thinner and more pliable. The colour of the full-grown crocodile is a blackish-brown above, and yellowish white beneath. The mouth is of vast width, and is furnished with a number of sharp-pointed teeth; and these are so arranged, that, when the mouth is shut, they fit in between one another.

The crocodile seems to have more power in the water, than on the land. The great length of his body prevents him from turning suddenly round; yet, when he is going to seize his prey, he swims forward with astonishing swiftness. On land, his long body, in its hard, stiff, heavy coat, makes him less dangerous. He prefers the water to the land; and he will often lie floating along the surface of the water, looking like a large piece of timber; and he darts upon whatever animal comes within his reach. But, if nothing comes in his way, his hunger will then lead him to the bank. There he will lie concealed, till some land animal comes to drink,—a dog, a bull, a tiger, or even a man. Nothing is seen of the creature till it is too late to escape. He springs upon his victim, seizes him between his teeth, drags him into the water, and instantly carries him to the bottom. He seldom

moves far from the water: so that, in many many parts of the East, it is very dangerous to walk carelessly on the banks of unknown rivers, or among reeds and sedges:—and bathing is often attended with great danger.

On hot days, there are numbers of crocodiles on the rivers of Guinea: they will lie basking on the banks; and, as soon as they observe any one coming, they will plunge into the water. Travellers say, that in the river Senegal, on the western coast of Africa, they have seen more than two hundred of them swimming together, with their heads just above the water.

The young of the crocodile are produced by eggs; and this creature, which grows to so vast a size, comes from an egg not bigger than that of a goose. The female carefully hides her eggs in the sand, and leaves them to be hatched by the heat of the sun. The little creature, when it first gets out of the egg, is seldom more than six or seven inches long. As soon as it is hatched, it runs into the water: and many of them are there destroyed by different kinds of fish. Their eggs too, of which the female lays about eighty at a time, are destroyed in vast numbers by vultures and other animals, which happily prevents the crocodiles from increasing to that fearful number, which might otherwise be expected.

BIOGRAPHY.

GEOFFREY CHAUCER.

Geoffrey Chaucer, the father of English poetry, was born in London, in 1328. His father appears to have been a wealthy merchant, who gave him a liberal education. He was for some time at Cambridge, and afterwards studied at Oxford. He next improved himself by travelling into foreign countries, and on his return studied the law in the Inner Temple, which he soon quitted for the court, and became yeoman to Edward III. who gave him a pension out of the exchequer. In 1370 he was appointed his majesty's shield bearer. He was sent to Genoa some time after to hire ship for the king's service, and at his return obtained a grant of a pitcher of wine a-day, to be delivered by the butler of England; and the place of comptroller of the customs of London, for wool, &c. In the succeeding reign he was obliged to go abroad to avoid the resentment of the clergy for having embraced the doctrines of Wickliffe. He returned privately, but was taken and committed to prison, from whence he was not released till he had made his submission. On this he retired to Woodstock, where he employed himself in correcting his works. Here he published his treatise on the Astro-labe. Henry IV. in the first year of his

reign gave him an amnesty of forty marks for his life. He died in 1400, and was buried in Westminster abbey. Chaucer married Philippa de Rouet, a lady of good family, by which means he became allied to John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, who was his great patron while he was himself in power. Chaucer left two sons, one of whom was speaker of the house of commons, and ambassador to France. Of his poems, the Canterbury Tales are by far the best. There have been several editions of his works, the best is that of Mr. Urry, in folio; but the Canterbury Tales have been published separately by Mr. Tyrwhit, 5 vols 8 vo. They have been modernized by Dryden, Pope, and others.

THE VILLAGE.—No. 2.

JOSEPH AND JONATHAN HENSHAW.

If young people did but consider the advantage of being industrious, they would never be found idle. In the first place, industry keeps us from sin; for what Dr. Watts says, in his hymn book for children, is so true that it deserves the attention of grown-up people; "Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do." In the second place, it keeps us from sorrow; for sin always brings sorrow; and even the common cares of life are relieved, and often are quite forgotten, when we are fully employed. They are the idle, and not the industrious part of mankind, who find time to mourn and murmur over their troubles and disappointments. One hour's hard work will drive away two hours' care at any time; and he or she who is able to be industrious, and yet remains idle, is a great simpleton. Again, industry adds much to our happiness, for, "the hand of the diligent maketh rich," not only in those things which add to our bodily comfort, but also to the peace of our minds. He who is industrious, is generally in good spirits through the day, and commonly sleeps well at night. Habits of industry, like all other good habits, should be obtained when young. Show me a lad who is up betimes at his work, and a girl who keeps her needle well employed, and I will show you those, who, by and by, will abound with comforts, while the idle around them will want bread. "At the working man's house hunger looks in, but dares not enter;" and "one to-day is worth two to-morrows."

The most industrious lads that I know in my native village, are Joseph and Jonathan Henshaw. Their father and mother are both dead, and they are living with their grandfather; but I must say a word or two about him; for if ever there was one man more industrious than another, surely that man is Richard Henshaw.

When I first went from home, quite a lad, it was harvest time, and I left Richard