

JUVENILE ENTERTAINER.

"Torquet ab obscænis jam nunc sermonibus aurem."

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JUVENILE ENTERTAINER

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BIOGRAPHY.

The Progress of Genius

IN OBSCURE AND LOW SITUATIONS, TO EX-
MINENCE AND CELEBRITY.

It is that gift of God which learning cannot
infer, which no disadvantages of birth or educa-
tion can wholly obscure.

THOMAS EDWARD BOWDICH;

An ingenious and enterprising man; one of the vic-
tims of the attempt to explore the interior of the Afri-
can continent. He was born at Bristol, in June, 1793,
and was sent to Oxford, but was never regularly matricu-
lated. At an early age, he married, and engaged in
business at Bristol. Finding the details of business irks-
ome, he obtained the appointment of writer in the ser-
vice of the African company. In 1816, he arrived at
Coast Castle. It being thought desirable to send an
ambassy to the Negro king of Ashantee, Bowdich was
chosen to conduct it; and he executed with suc-
cess the duties of his situation. After remaining two
years in Africa, he returned home, and soon after pub-
lished his Mission to Ashantee, with a Statistical Ac-
count of that Kingdom. Geographical Notices of other
parts of the Interior of Africa (1819, 4to.) Having
been in the company in whose service he had been
employed, and having therefore no prospect of further
employment, yet wishing ardently to return to Africa
for the purpose of visiting its hitherto unexplored re-
gions, he resolved to make the attempt with such assist-
ance as he could obtain from private individuals. He
never, previously went to Paris, to improve his
acquaintance with physical and mathematical science.
On his return, a reception from the French literati was extremely
warm. A public eulogium was pronounced on him
at the meeting of the institute, and an advantageous
allowance was offered him by the French government.
To obtain funds for the prosecution of his favourite
study, Bowdich also published a translation of Mol-
lath's Travels to the Sources of the Senegal and Gam-
bia, and other works; by the sale of which he was en-
abled, with a little assistance from other persons, to
make the necessary preparations for his second African expedition.
He sailed from Havre in August, 1822, and arrived in
Senegal in the river Gambia. A disease, occasioned by
the heat and anxiety of mind, here put an end to his
life on the 10th, 1824. Bowdich is said to have been a
good classic and linguist, and excellent mathematician.
He was well versed in most of the physical sciences, in
natural and modern history, and in polite literature.
He was a member of several literary societies in Eng-
land and abroad.

ALEXIS BOYER, Baron.

One of the first surgeons in Europe, clinical
professor in Paris, and *chirurgien en chef* adjoined
at the hospital of charity. Surgery is indebted
to him for many instruments which he has either
invented or approved. He was born in 1760,
at D'Uzerche, in the Limosin, became a pupil
of the celebrated Baisnault, and, as early as 1787,
delivered lectures. He accompanied Napoleon
on his campaigns as chief surgeon. *Traite com-
plet d'Anatomic* (four vols.) has gone through
four editions. His *Traite des Maladies chirur-
gicales et des Operations qui leur conviennent* is
not yet finished. He explains diseases and
their remedies very circumstantially. Without
relating to what others have done, he describes
his own mode of treatment, and the advantages
of it. He was long time fellow-labourer with
Roux and Corvisart in the *Journal de Medicin
Chirurgie et Pharmacie*. He also wrote many
surgical articles for the *Dictionnaire des Scien-
ces medicales*. When the king wished for an of-
ficial statement of the circumstances of the medi-
cal and surgical colleges in the kingdom, in
1815, drawn up by the most learned physicians
and surgeons, Boyer was a member of the com-
mittee of inquiry.

NATURAL HISTORY.

From the *New Preceptor*.

THE CONGAR.

Of all the animals that infest the new world
the Congar justly excites the greatest degree of
dread; and so much in its disposition does it re-
semble the tiger, that the inhabitants have given
the same name, though the colour is be-
tween a dark brown and red.

The red tiger, or more properly speaking the
congar, is very common in South America: and
where towns are bordering upon woods and for-
ests, make frequent incursions into them during
night, for the purpose of carrying off fowls, dogs,
and other domestic creatures that may unfor-
tunately be wandering through the streets. They
are, however, weak and contemptible, when
compared to the great tiger, and are capable of
being vanquished by a single man, if properly
armed with a lance and scymitar, which are the
common weapons they use in fight.

Though this animal is seldom victorious in his
combats with the negroes, who provoke him to
action for the sake of his skin, yet he will fre-
quently attack the crocodile, and conquer a
creature of much greater might. When the con-
gar, impelled by a thirst that seems to consume
it, comes down to the river side to drink, the
crocodile, which makes no distinction in its prey,
raises its head above water to secure a perfect
hold; then the congar instantly darts its claws
into its eyes, whilst its adversary plunges be-
neath the waves, where they continue for a
length of time together, though the congar is
frequently known to escape.

This animal is common in Brazil and Para-
guay; likewise in the country of the Amazons,

and in several other parts of South America:
they often climb trees in quest of prey, or to
avoid their pursuers. Like the tiger, they have
an antipathy to fire, which the natives kindle
near their flocks and herds, to deter them from
venturing to approach.

THE PANTHER.

This animal has been mistaken by many na-
turalists for the tiger; and, in fact, it approaches
nearest to it in size, fierceness and beauty, of
any quadrupid that is known. It is distinguish-
ed, however, by one obvious and leading feature,
that of being spotted, not streaked; for in this
particular the tiger differs from the panther,
the leopard, and almost all the inferior ranks of
this mischievous race.

THE LEOPARD.

Next to the panther is an animal which Mr
Buffon terms the leopard; or, as it is sometimes
called the *panther of Senegal*, where it is chiefly
to be found. The difference between this crea-
ture and the panther, consists in its size, and
the distribution of the spots upon the skin. From
the tip of the panther's nose to the insertion of
its tail, is generally about six feet; but the leo-
pard seldom measures more than four. The
leopard's skin is more bright and shining, and
the spots are disposed in clusters instead of
rings.

LITERATURE.

A FATHER'S ADDRESS TO HIS CHILDREN.

No. 2.

On the Starry Heavens.

You have often been out in the open air af-
ter the sun has been set, and seen multitudes of
what are called, stars, glittering throughout the
sky. These are very distant from us, more dis-
tant perhaps than you have ever imagined. A
million of miles is a long way for you and me;
nay, ourselves are so small, that we can scarce-
ly be seen at little more than the distance of a mile
in the clearest day; but a million of millions is a
short line compared with the distance of some
of the stars from each other, or from us. It is
thus distance which makes these stars appear so
small to us; though many of them are larger
than the earth we live on, by many thousand
times. The sun is reckoned by some, to be at
least a million of times bigger than the earth,
and to be above ninety millions of our miles dis-
tant from it—I fancy, you are surprised, my
dear, but let this vastness of things lead you to
admire the greatness of God. These, though
immensely great, have a bound, a certain com-
pass, which may be measured; but He is un-
bounded, and of his being, in any and every
sense, there is no end.

The study of the heavenly body is called *A-
stronomy*; a Greek word, signifying the law or
order, which God hath given to the stars; and
the people, who study this law or science par-
ticularly, are therefore called *astronomers*.

These studious people tell us, that, in this