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WHERE

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

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NATURAL HISTORY.

CHINCHILLA.

This pretty little animal is a kind of mouse and is about eleven inches in length, with a very long tail. It is found in Chili. Its fur is of a beautiful gray color, mottled with white, and is much used for caps, muffs, &c.

GNU OR GNOO.

An antelope five feet and a half long, of a brown color, with an erect mane, and long hair upon the tail. It has strong horns, flattened at the root, bent forwards, and turning up into a pointed hook. Its body resembles that of a horse. It is a fleet and fierce animal, found in Southern Africa. When travellers meet with a herd, they sometimes hoist a red handkerchief, which excites these creatures in such a manner that they come prancing about, and then fly away at a rapid bound.

BIOGRAPHY.

JOHN BROWN.

John Brown, of Haddington, long professor of divinity among the burgher seceders, was born in the year 1729, at a little village called Kerpool, in the county of Perth. His early education was much neglected, owing to the death of his parents before he was twelve years of age. Afterwards, however, he applied sedulously in private; and before he was twenty, had attained an intimate knowledge of the Latin, Greek and Hebrew languages. The acquisition of these languages without the assistance of a teacher, appeared so wonderful to the unlearned that a report was circulated far and wide, that young

Brown had acquired his knowledge in a *sinful* way, that is, by intercourse with Satan! In 1750 Mr. Brown was licensed to preach by the burgher seceders, to whom he had early joined himself. He was soon after settled at Haddington in East-Lothian, where he unweariedly laboured about 40 years. He was appointed by the associate burgher synod, to superintend the progress of the studies of young men destined for the ministry in their connection: and this important office he long filled with much applause. He published several works of high repute in the religious world, particularly a "Self interpreting Bible;" a "Dictionary of the Bible;" being the substance of lectures delivered by him as professor of divinity; and "Meditation," in which he displays a vivid fancy. He died at Haddington June 19, 1788. He was twice married and had the satisfaction of living to see two of his sons by the first marriage rise to eminence as preachers in the same church whose interest he had long warmly espoused.

ALPHABETICAL WRITING.

When Alphabetical Writing first came into use, is uncertain. Very great and learned men have held different opinions on this subject. How thankful ought we to be that the truths connected with our salvation are not left in such obscurity, but are clearly revealed unto us by the Almighty himself.

Dr. Shuckford, in his "sacred and Profane History of the World connected by a work which will afford you more instruction and pleasure as though you shall be able to read any of Alphabetical letters began very early in the second world, (after the dispersion of mankind, not long after the dispersion of mankind, (See Gen. xi. 8.) Alphabetical letters were perhaps invented in both Assyria and Egypt, and to one or other of these two nations, all other countries are indebted for them." But Dr. Adam Clarke, in his Commentary on Lev. c. xxxi. 18, informs us, that Dr. Wender, in his History of Knowledge, thinks it probable, that the Ten Commandments, written by the finger

of God, on two tables of stone, were the first writing in Alphabetical characters ever exhibited to the world, though there might have been writing in hieroglyphics or symbols prior to this. The Law was written, not at the command of God, but by God himself; as it is expressed, (Exod. xx.v. 12,) "The tables of stone which I have written."

There is little reason to doubt that the Alphabetical Writing had been long in use before a knowledge of it passed into the nations of Europe. According to the most accurate accounts, letters were brought into Greece by Cadmus, a Phœnician, who lived about the time that King David reigned over Israel. The Latins, or Romans, received their letters from the Greeks about one hundred and fifty years after Cadmus brought them into Greece; and the characters now in common use have been derived from the ancient Latin. The ancient order of writing was from right to left, and the Hebrew is still written this way; but the motion from left to right being found more natural and convenient, this method was adopted by all the European nations.

The English alphabet contains twenty-four letters, or if we reckon j and v consonants, twenty-six; the French, twenty-three; the Chaldee, Hebrew, Samaritan, and Syriac, twenty-two each; the Arabic, twenty-eight; the Latin, twenty-two; the Spanish, twenty-seven; the Dutch, twenty-six; the Italian, twenty. But are we not that with amazement, when we see characters, by about twenty or twenty-seven and arranged, being variously representing visibly whatever are capable of being conceived or thought within the compass of human knowledge. Is it then to be wondered at, that some have called writing a Divine Art? Doubtless, the Holy Ghost, the great source of wisdom, has aided and directed the feeble mind of man through all the progressive stages of this astonishing discovery.

Writing is one of the principal means by which we derive our knowledge. Had it not been for this, we never should have known a thousand things discovered in former ages; and should have had very little acquaintance with what is doing in the other quarters of the globe. But, in some sense, it annihilates (destroys) distance of both time and place, and brings us at once into the presence of the inhabitants of