

THE WEEKLY MIRROR.

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WHERE

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

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NATURAL HISTORY.

THE KANGUROO.

There exist three species of the Kangaroo, all of which are natives of New Holland. The principal of these is the Great Kangaroo, which was first discovered in 1770, by some of the persons who accompanied Captain Cook. It often measures nine feet in length from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail, and weighs a hundred and fifty pounds. The head and neck are very small, while the lower parts gradually dilate to a very great size; the fore legs are hardly nineteen inches long, while the hinder ones, which are perfectly bare and callous beneath measure three feet seven inches. The head bears some resemblance to that of the deer, having a mild and placid visage; the ears are moderately large and erect, the eyes full, and the mouth rather small. The general colour is a pale brown, inclining to white underneath. From the great difference in length of the fore and hind legs, the pace of this animal consists in vast springs, or bounds, which are said at times to exceed twenty feet in length. It can with ease leap over an obstacle above nine feet high. In its state of rest, it sits erect on the whole length of the hind feet, supporting itself by the base of the tail; which is occasionally used as a weapon of defence, and is of such prodigious strength as to be able to break the leg of a man at a single blow.

BIOGRAPHY.

ANDREW KIPPIS.

Andrew Kippis, an English divine and biographical writer, was born at Nottingham in 1727. He was a writer in the Monthly Review some time; and in 1761 had a share in a periodical work, called the Library, which failed. Two years afterwards he was chosen philological tutor in the academy for the education of dissenting

ministers. In 1773 he published a Vindication of the protestant dissenting Ministers, with regard to their late Application to Parliament, which brought him into a controversy with dean Tucker. In 1777 he became the editor of the new edition of the Biographia Britannica. Five volumes of this work were published in his life-time, and the greatest part of the sixth was prepared before his death. In 1788 he published the Life of Captain Cook, in one volume, 4to. and the same year a Life of Dr. Lardner, prefixed to his works. Dr. Kippis was also the writer of the History of Knowledge, &c. in the New Annual Register, and a variety of other pieces, particularly sermons and tracts. He died in 1795.

MARY MARGARET KIRCH.

Mary Margaret Kirch, a learned woman, who distinguished herself by her skill in astronomy, was born near Leipsic in 1670. She married M. Godfrey Kirch, an able astronomer, and assisted him in his astronomical observations, and in the calculation of his Ephemerides. When the king of Prussia founded the academy of sciences at Berlin in 1700. M. Kirch was appointed astronomer, with a pension. In 1702 she discovered a comet, of which her husband published their observations. In 1707 she made a discovery of a remarkable aurora borealis, of which mention was made by the academy of science at Paris. Mr. Kirch died 1710, and the year following his widow published a discourse on the approaching conjunction of Saturn, Jupiter, &c. She died at Berlin in 1720. Her son *Christian Frederick* was astronomer to the academy of sciences at Berlin, and acquired great reputation by his observations. He died in 1740, aged 46.

THE VILLAGE—No. 6.

BETSY JONES.

How great, how unbounded is the goodness of God! There are seasons when it so melts my heart that I could weep like a child. This morning I walked in the Knolly field, one of the most pleasant spots that I know, admiring the beautiful creation of the Almighty. The clear blue sky was dappled with white fleecy clouds, and the beams of the all-glorious sun was shooting in every direction. The distant mountains were partly seen, and partly hidden by a white

mist, which rolled rapidly away before the sunbeams. The woods, the groves, the trees, were beautifully clothed with their freshest foliage; the birds were warbling forth their liveliest songs, making the heart glad, and the spirit cheerful, while the waters of the running brook, and the more distant river, glittered here and there, where the sun shone upon them.

It was a sight to call forth the thanksgivings and praises of the young and old. In some fields men were at plough; in others the merry haymakers were at work; while the morning breeze from the clover and the newly made hay was delightful.

Such a display of the providence of God, called forth, in some degree, in my breast, the remembrance of the richer displays of his grace; and while I stood gazing with wonder on the works of the Creator, my heart was melted by the mercies of the Redeemer. If such be the beauty of earth, what will be the glory of heaven! If here we can feel so much thankfulness and joy, what shall we feel when in His presence, where are to be found "fullness of joy, and pleasures for evermore?" While we see the promise fulfilling, that, "while the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night, shall not cease," let us believe in every other promise contained in the word of God especially in that which says, Jesus Christ "is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him; seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

As I turned down the narrow lane which leads from the Knolly field, I saw little Betsey Jones, the shepherd's daughter, standing with a child in her arms, tending two ewes and lambs. Betsey is a little creature herself, and yet she was trusted with the care of an infant child, as well as of the sheep and lambs in the lane. She is quite a favourite of mine, being the most tractable and obedient little girl I ever knew. How desirable it is that simple-hearted and confiding children should have the best of instruction poured into their undoubting minds.

As I stood near little Betsey, a boy came down the lane with a dog, and she had enough to do to keep the sheep and lambs together. Then came a man driving some sheep before him, when Betsey laid down the infant gently upon the green grass, to keep her sheep and lambs from wandering away with the others. I told Betsey that, while