

THE WEEKLY MIRROR.

VOL. 2]

HALIFAX, JULY 29, 1856.

No 28

The Weekly Mirror,

Is Printed and Published every Friday.

BY H. W. BLACKDAR.

At his Office, nearly opposite Bauer's wharf, and adjoining north of Mr. Allan McDonald's.

WHERE

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

— 0 —

Terms of the Mirror five Shillings per annum payable in advance.

NATURAL HISTORY.

THE POISONOUS, OR TOAD-FISH OF VAN DIEMEN'S LAND.

James Scott, Esq. R. N., Colonial Surgeon says, this fish is found in the bays and on the shores of Van Diemen's Land, and is supposed to be a species of the toad fish.

The melancholy and dreadful effect produced by eating it was lately instanced in the neighbourhood of Hobart Town, on the lady of one of the most respectable merchants, and two children, who died in the course of three hours, without being able to give any notice of their danger; and several servants were only saved by the timely discovery of the death of their mistress and their fellow-servants' children.

The poison is of a powerful sedative nature, producing stupor, loss of speech, deglutition, vision, and the power of the voluntary muscles, and ultimately an entire deprivation of nervous power, and death. At the inquest over the above bodies, the effect of the poison was satisfactorily proved by giving part of the fish left by the unfortunate individuals, to two cats, which soon became affected. When both were in a dying state, one had twenty-five drops of the arsenical solution introduced with a silver tube in the stomach, and rapidly recovered; while the other, which was allowed to take its chance, quickly died. The bodies at death were flaccid and blanched, with no odor, but rather a smell like that of new hay, particularly about the mouth; but in about twelve hours they became livid, swollen, with bloody serum issuing from all the external parts, intolerably fetid, and rapidly running into decomposition.

The general size of the fish is about five inches in length, the girth is great in proportion to the length; the back is of the colour and spotted like tortoiseshell; the belly is

of a white kid skin feel and appearance. The animal has one ventral fin posterior to the anus, one caudal and two pectoral. The tail is perpendicular; the gills are anterior to the pectoral fins, and are about three-eighths of an inch in length, and of a simi-lunar form; the eyes are rather large and prominent, like that of the toad; the nares are anterior to the eyes.

BIOGRAPHY.

SIR THOMAS WHITE.

Born, A. D. 1492, Died, A. D. 1566.

SIR THOMAS WHITE claims our notice as pre-eminent among the British merchants and traders for his liberality. That class has produced several individuals of this description, who have answered the pithy description given by Old Honest in the Pilgrim's Progress,

"A man there was, tho' some did count him mad,
The more he cast away, the more he had."

Their conduct, and the result, having rendered the interpretation given by Gaius,

"He who bestows his goods upon the poor,
Shall have as much again, and ten times more."

But Sir Thomas White must ever be reckoned as one of the earliest and most remarkable. He was born at Reading, A. D. 1492, where his father carried on business as a clothier, in the street called the Butter market.

When twelve years old, he was apprenticed to a tradesman of London, whom he served ten years, and conducted himself so well that his master bequeathed him one hundred pounds. With that sum, and a further amount left him by his father, who died in 1523, he began business on his own account, and in a few years rose to wealth and honours, and from an early period was distinguished for acts of munificence.

It is to be regretted that we have no account of the personal character and pursuits of Sir Thomas White. Much however, may be inferred from his extraordinary acts of liberality, and as Chalmers has well remarked, "He must have been no common man, who showed the first example of devoting the profits of trade to the advancement of learning."

All we gather of his personal history is, that he was sheriff of London in 1546, and Lord Mayor in 1553, the year Queen Mary came to the throne, and was knighted for his

services in preserving the peace of the City, and assisting to suppress the ill-concerted and rash attempt of Sir Thomas Wyatt to disturb the Queen's government. He died at Oxford in 1566, and was buried in the chapel of St. John's college, which he had founded not long before. He was twice married, but left no family.

Among the charities of Sir Thomas White, the following may be enumerated; and it must be remembered that a hundred pounds in those days was equal to more than a thousand at the present time. He gave to Coventry one thousand pounds, to Bristol, two thousand pounds, and to Leicester, two thousand pounds; to form funds from which sums might be lent to industrious tradesmen, and for the relief of the poor in times of scarcity. The principal benefaction was the founding of St. John's College, Oxford, for which he purchased the site of Bernard College formerly an establishment of the Cisterian monks, and endowed it with various manors and estates, and left the sum of three thousand pounds to this institution at his decease. Nearly the whole of the advantages of the college, were by the founder's direction appropriated to the scholars of merchant tailors' school in London.

THE BEST ON THE OUTSIDE.

I remember, when very young, walking through the market with my grandfather, and stopping at a booth where a man sold fruit. I saw some very fine filbert-nuts; so, paying my money, I soon had a pint of them put into my hat crown. After I had walked a little way, "Grandfather," said I, "that man is a rogue, for I have so many bad nuts and leaves in my hat, that I am sure he must have put the best on the outside."

My grandfather smiled at me and my filbert-nuts, telling me, that before I got much older I should find that not only this man, but a great many other people in the world were accustomed to put the best on the outside. Soon after we came to a show that took up all my attention. There was a grand picture on the outside, of Tippoo Sultan, with his turban on his head, giving up his two sons to Lord Cornwallis: several tigers were painted behind them, and as the showman cried out, "All alive! all alive!" I begged my grandfather to let me see the great people. In we went, for my grandfather was determined that the lesson he wished to impress on my mind should be