

# THE WEEKLY MIRROR.

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## The Weekly Mirror,

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WHERE

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

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## NATURAL HISTORY.

### COCHINEAL.

This little insect is of an oval form, of the size of a small pea, with six feet, and a snout or trunk. It is of a blackish red color, and scarlet within. When once placed upon a plant it is stationary, feeding upon the juices, which it draws by means of a tube placed in the breast. It is a native of Mexico, but is now cultivated not only in that country, but in different parts of S. America. It feeds upon the nopal tree, which is reared for the purpose in immense numbers. The insects are brushed off by women with the tail of a squirrel or stag; they are then killed by being thrown into boiling water, and dried upon hot plates or in the sun. The natural dye which this little insect affords is a deep crimson. The best cochineal comes from Mexico; an inferior species is produced in India.

## BIOGRAPHY.

### ARCHIMEDES.

Archimedes, a great mathematician, was born at Syracuse, and related to Hiero king of that place. He boasted, that if he had a place to fix his machines, he would move the earth. His method of discovering the fraud of a jeweller, discovers the singular penetration of his mind. Hiero suspecting that the crown he had ordered did not contain the quantity of gold which he had given to the workman, desired Archimedes to find out the fraud. His thoughts being intent upon this problem while he was in the bath, he observed that a quantity of water overflowed equal to the bulk of his body; which at once suggested to him a method of determining the question; and leaping out of the bath, he ran home, exclaiming as he went, *I have found it!* Then procuring two masses of gold and silver of equal weight with the crown, he carefully noticed the

quantity of water which each displaced, after which he observed how much the crown caused to flow over; and on comparing this quantity with each of the former, he was able to ascertain the proportions of gold and silver in the crown. Some ancient authors celebrate a glass machine made by him, which represented the motions of the heavenly bodies. He is also said to have made burning-glasses which destroyed ships at a great distance. Several of his works are extant, but some of the most valuable are lost. Those which remain were printed at Basil in 1554, folio; but the best edition is that of Oxford, in 1792, printed from the revision and collection of Joseph Torrelli, purchased of his executor Albertini, by the correctors, of the Clarendon press.

### WHO IS THE HAPPIER.

In a very elegant house which stood near the bank of a beautiful river, lived a family of great wealth. The extensive grounds around the house, were laid out in the most delightful manner. Cooling fountains of pure water, shady walks, and pleasant arbors, charmed the eye, and gave beauty to the scene; and an elegant garden near the house, was filled with every variety of fruits and flowers.

The family who resided in this lovely spot, consisted only of a lady, and her little son, who at the death of his parent, would be sole owner of all this beauty and wealth. Frederick E. had never known a wish denied, which the exertions of his fond parent could gratify. His very desires were anticipated, and the invention of his mother exhausted to obtain for him every indulgence which wealth could procure.

Teachers were ready to instruct him in every branch of learning, and new and interesting books filled his library. If he wished to ride, the carriage was soon ready for him; or if to walk, a servant to attend him. If he desired society, there was not a child in the neighborhood, who was not glad to visit his splendid dwelling, and play in those beautiful grounds.

But although his every wish, if possible, was gratified, Frederick E. was always discontented, and never pleased with any thing that was done for him. His play-fellows did not love him; and the domestics in the house did not respect him, for he treated them with contempt and unkindness. He did not feel the value of the blessings

which he enjoyed, and he was not thankful for them. He was very ignorant; and he was unwilling to learn any thing from his teachers, for he fancied that his wealth would be always sufficient to procure him respect and esteem. He was fretful and impatient, and no one but his mother could bear with his self-will and ill-humor with patience. Was Frederick happy?

In a small house, near the mansion of which I have told you, lived a poor industrious widow, whose husband had once been gardener to the father of little Frederick. He had been dead some years, and the widow earned a scanty support for herself and her little son, by the labor of her hands.

William was a fine healthy little fellow, active, good tempered; his great delight was to assist and please his mother. For this he would labor with all his strength, for he loved her dearly.

He was early sent to the Sunday school, and there, with the assistance of his mother at home, he soon learned to read in the New Testament; and there, while very young, he learned to believe in and love that dear Saviour, who is ever pleased with those who seek him early.

\*William was often hungry, and knew not how his next scanty meal would be supplied; often he had no blazing fire to go to, or warm clothing to keep him from the cold. But William was always cheerful and contented; he was improving by every opportunity which he had, and his mother loved him, and called him her good boy. He often thought of the day when all should stand before the judgement seat of God, and he looked forward to a better, even a heavenly country; where at last with his beloved mother, he should be ever with the Lord, and 'all tears should be wiped from their eyes.' Dear children, which of these little boys, do you think was the happier?—*Youths Friend.*

### THE DOINGS OF IGNORANCE.

WHEN we look into the history of this world, two things are seen upon nearly every page—man's ignorance and man's wickedness. History presents another truth, the most ignorant individuals and nations have been the most vicious and degraded. The present condition of the world reveals slavery and misery where the people are ignorant, and liberty and happiness where there is mental and moral light. When the mind is not