



**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.**

(Continued.)

The Animal Kingdom is separated into two grand Divisions:

The first division embraces vertebrated animals, including man, quadrupeds, birds, reptiles and fishes. These are such as have bodies sustained upon a frame work or skeleton of bones, including a backbone, or spine, and ribs. The spine is composed of vertebrae, or short-bones, which move upon one another, and contain a portion of nervous matter, called marrow. In this division, the blood is always red, and the animals have all two eyes, two ears, and two nostrils.

The second division embraces invertebrated animals, as snails, oysters, worms, insects, slypi, &c. They are destitute of the bony skeleton, or spine and ribs. They are generally small, but constitute by far the most numerous portion of living things. Some have the body protected by shells, and some are only covered by a soft skin. None of these have all the organs of sense; some are destitute of sight, or taste, or smell; with a few exceptions they have not red blood. Many have not the power to move, but remain fixed in one spot for life. They have little intelligence, but wonderful powers of instinct.

The First Division including Vertebrated Animals, is subdivided into four Classes, as follows:

**Class 1. MAMMALIA**, including Man, Apes, Quadrupeds, Seals, and the cetaceous fishes, as the Whale, Grampus, &c. It includes all those creatures that suckle their young ones. They are the highest class of animals, having the most numerous faculties, the finest organs and sensations, and the most varied powers of motion.

**Class 2. AVES, or BIRDS** includes the whole feathered tribe.

**Class 3. REPTILIA, or REPTILES**, includes Tortoises, Lizards, Serpents, Frogs, Toads, Salamanders, the Proteus, and Siren,

**Class 4. PISCES, or FISHES**, includes the Eels, Sharks, Sturgeon, Salmon, Perch, &c.: all having red, cold blood: moving themselves by fins.

The Second Division, including Invertebrated Animals is subdivided into fourteen Classes as follows:

**Class 1. MOLLUSCA**, including the Cuttle-Fish, Nautilus and Snail.

**Class 2. CONULIFERA**, including the Muscic, Oyster, Cockle, &c.

**Class 3. TUNICATA**, including several kinds of jelly-like animals enclosed in bags of skin.

**Class 4. CIRRIPEDA**, including several kinds of soft animals in shells, some of which attach themselves to the whale, and other sea animals.

**Class 5. ANNELIDES**, including the Earthworm, Leech, &c.

**Class 6. CRUSTACEA**, including the Lobster, Crab, Shrimp and Prawn.

**Class 7. ARACHNIDES**, including the Scorpion, Spider, Tarantula, &c.

**Class 8. MYRIAPODA**, including the Scolopendra and Gally-worm, &c.

**Class 9. INSECTA**, including the Louse, Flea, Beetles, Cockchafers, Grasshoppers, Locusts, Crickets, Flies, Ants, Bees, Wasps, Butterflies, Moths, Silkworms &c.

**Class 10. ECHINODERMATA**, including sea animals, as the Sea-Star, &c.

**Class 11. ENTZONA**, including those worms that live in and upon other animals, as the Tapeworm, &c.

**Class 12. ACAEPPHA**, including the Sea Anemone, &c.

**Class 13. POLYPI**, including the Corallines, Sponges, Madrepores, &c.

**Class 14. INFUSORIA**, including the myriad races of Animalcules, observed in infusions of different plants.

To be continued.

**BIOGRAPHY.**

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.**

Benjamin Franklin, an American patriot and philosophical writer, was born at Boston in New England, in 1706. His father was a soap-boiler and tallow-chandler in that town, and being a man of good understanding, educated his son himself. His elder brother was bred a printer, and Benjamin was placed under him; but a difference happening between them, he removed to New York, from thence he went to Philadelphia, where, after serving as a journeyman some time he attracted the no-

tice of sir William Keith, the governor, who persuaded him to set up for himself. Accordingly he went to England to procure printing materials, but on his arrival he found that the governor had deceived him by false promises, on which he worked as a journeyman printer in London, and in 1726 returned to Philadelphia, where he became clerk to a merchant. He next entered into partnership with a person named Meredith, in the printing business, which he afterwards conducted alone. In 1730 he was united to a widow lady, whom he had courted before her first marriage. About this period he contributed to the forming of the public library at Philadelphia, and 1732 he published his Poor Richard's Almanack, in which he inserted some useful aphorisms or maxims of prudence. In 1736 he was appointed clerk to the general assembly at Pennsylvania, and the year following post-master of Philadelphia. In the French war in 1744, he proposed and carried into effect a plan of association for the defence of it at province. About this time he commenced his electrical experiments, of which he published an account. He had the honour of making several discoveries in this branch of philosophy, the principal of which was the identity of the electric fire and lightning. In 1747 he was chosen a representative of the general assembly, in which situation he distinguished himself by several acts of public utility. By his means a militia bill was passed and he was appointed colonel of the Philadelphia regiment. In 1757 he was sent to England as agent for Pennsylvania. At this time he was chosen fellow of the royal society, and honoured with the degree of doctor of laws by the universities of St. Andrews, Edinburgh, and Oxford. In 1763 he returned to America, but two years afterwards he again visited England, in his former capacity, as agent, and it was at this period he was examined at the bar of the house of commons concerning the stamp act. In 1775 he returned home, and was elected a delegate to the congress. He was very active in the contest between England and the colonies, and was sent to France where, in 1778 he signed a treaty of alliance offensive and defensive, which produced a war between that country and England. In 1783 he signed the definitive treaty of peace, and in 1785 returned to America where he was chosen president of the supreme council. He died in 1790. Besides his political, miscellaneous, and philosophical pieces, published in 4to and 8vo. he wrote several papers in the