

# 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.

### THE TOUYOU.

This bird, which is chiefly found in Guiana, along the banks of the Orinoco, in the inland provinces of Chili and Brazil, and on the vast forests that border the mouth of the Plata, is second only to the ostrich in magnitude, and is the largest bird of the new continent. Buffon is of opinion that it ought not to be classed with the ostrich tribe. It is usually about six feet high, from its head to the ground. The head is small, the neck long, the body round, and the wings short, and entirely unfit for flying. Its thighs are remarkably thick; its legs are three feet long, and it differs from the ostrich in having an additional toe on each foot. It has no tail, but is covered from the back with long feathers, which fall backward and cover the rump. It moves very swiftly; but in its course it uses a very odd kind of action, lifting up one wing, which it keeps elevated for a time, till letting it drop, it raises the other. In this motion it seems to be assisted by a kind of tubercle behind, like a heel, upon which, on plain ground, it treads very securely. The fleetest hounds are frequently thrown out in pursuing it; and we are told of one, which on being surrounded by the hunters, darted among the dogs with such irresistible fury, that they immediately gave way, and thus enabled it to escape in safety. During incubation, the Touyou is said to make a false nest, at some distance from the true one, in which two eggs are laid. These eggs the old one breaks, and by thus attracting a number of flies, beetles, &c. procures the means of sustenance for the young. When first hatched, the young are so familiar that they will follow strangers; but, as they grow older, they become cunning and distrustful. The flesh, especially before it is hardened by age, is good to be eaten.

## BIOGRAPHY.

### JAMES THOMSON;

James Thomson, an eminent poet, was born at Ednam, in the shire of Roxburgh, 1700. He was educated at Jedburgh, and afterwards at Edinburgh, with a view to the ministry in the church of Scotland, which profession he declined. Having written his poem of Winter, he brought it to London, where it was published, but lay unnoticed for a considerable time. Afterwards its great merit brought him into notice and popularity, and the author added the three other seasons. Mr. Thomson accompanied the hon. Mr. Talbot in his travels; and on his return settled at Richmond, in narrow circumstances. He produced some dramatic pieces of considerable merit; Liberty, a poem, and the Castle of Indolence, in the manner of Spenser. But his fame rests upon the poem of the Seasons, to which even Dr. Johnson has borne the testimony of approbation. He died in 1748.

### THE VILLAGE.—No 10.

#### NED HIGGINS AND THOMAS CHANTRY.

Nothing is more common than for sinful people to deceive themselves into the opinion that though others by bad conduct have brought upon themselves calamities, they shall escape; whereas, it is as certain that sin will bring about sorrow, as it is that a stone cast into the air will of itself fall to the ground. Young people should consider this. If a child put his finger into the fire, it will be burned; if he put it into hot water, it will be scalded; and, exactly in the same manner, if he lie, steal, disobey his parents, break the sabbath, or otherwise break the commandments of God, will he, sooner or later, meet with punishment.

Ralph Perkins is a liar: nobody believes him, even when he speaks the truth. Ned Higgins was a thief: no one would ever trust him. Mary Parsons was untruthful to her grandmother, and sorely does she repent it to this day. And Tom Wallis is a sabbath-breaker, and is despised by half the village. We ought never to be surprised when an idle man comes to poverty, or a drunkard to want, a cheat to a jail, and a thief to the gallows; because as I said before, sin must, in one way or other, be followed by sorrow, disgrace, and punishment. "Be sure your sin will find you out." "He that

covereth his sins shall not prosper; but, whose confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

Ned Higgins, from his very childhood, was always a thief; and now he stands a fair chance of being sent out of the country, as he was taken to jail about a week ago for stealing the fowls of Williams the gardener. It is some years since he left the village, but when he went away he took his bad habits with him. I suppose that he would not have left the village when he did, had it not been found out that he had robbed poor widow Harris. Every one had a kindly feeling for the poor widow, and every one hated Ned Higgins; and, knowing that the constable was after him, Ned set off, and became a vagabond about the country. About a month ago, Williams the gardener had his famous pear-tree stripped of almost every pear that was upon it; and he suspected that the robbery was either done by the Tilers or by Bill Hollins. This made him very watchful, yet still his garden was robbed once or twice a week. Determined if possible to take the thief, he sat up the latter part of two nights, with a gun loaded with small shot. On the second night, about twelve o'clock, he thought that he heard a noise in a little back building where he kept a few fowls; and before he could get there, he saw some one making across the yard. He fired his gun, and soon after overtook the thief, whom, when he brought him to the light he discovered to be Ned Higgins. There was Ned, standing, whining for mercy, dressed in a fustian jacket with large pockets, into which he had crammed the fowls, whose necks he had broken. The blood was trickling down his legs! Williams had fired several shots into them and in a little time Bolton the constable had him in custody. Every dishonest person pays twice as much for his comforts and enjoyments as other people. Ned Higgins, it is true, might now and then get something more than he could otherwise have got by his honesty; but look at the price which he paid for it. He lost the respect and good-will of all around him, he lost his peace of mind, "for there is no peace for the wicked." He lost his liberty; and if he does not profit by the lesson of punishment he is about to receive, he may lose his life. Now, if to these losses we add the danger of his losing eternal life, what a fearful price has he paid for his ill-gotten gains!