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No.31.

The Weekly Mirror,

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BY H. W. BLACKADAR.

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

Allikinds of Job Printing will be executed at a cheap rate.

Terms of the MirrorFive Shillings per annum payable in advance.

NATURAL HISTORY.

SERPENTS &c.

Linnaus divides the Amphibia into two orders, Scrpents and Reptiles. The Serpeut tribe have neither fins, ears, nor feet, and their jaws are dilatable, and not articulated. The construction of their back bone enable, them to advance with an elegant sinuous motion. It is composed of moveable articulations, and runs through the arhole high of the body. Some of the species may the power of rendering their bodies perfectly stiff, which enables them to spring on their prey with great force and velocity. Most Serpents are covered with scales. The breast and abdomen are surrounded with ribs. Like quadrupeds they breathe through he mouth, by means of lungs. The head joins immediately to the body, and the jaws are so expansible that the animals can swallow prey which is thicker than themselves. The tongue is slender and forked. parting near the head, and the creature movement. The colours of the Serpent are, in general, exceedingly varied and beautiful.

Of the whole number of serpents the noisonous species constitute not more than onesixth. They differ from the harmless kinds in having only two rows of true or proper still filled by his descendants. a proof that teeth in the upper jaw, whilst the others have four; and in having long tubular fangs on each side of the head, the purpose of which is to convey the venom from a bag or receptacle at the base of these fangs into the wound made by their bite. A head wholly covered with small scales, and scales on the head and body furnished with a ridge or prominent middle line, are also signs, though more equivocal, than those first mentioned. --

Reptiles have legs, and flat naked cars, devoid of auricles. Tortoises, Lizards, and Frogs are the principle tribes.

BIOGRAPHY.

WILLIAM THE FIRST.

Few princes have been more fortunate than William, surnamed the Conqueror; or were better entitled to prosperity and grandear, for the abilities and vigour of mind which he displayed in all his conduct. His spirit was bold and enterprising, yet guided by prudence. His ambition, which was exorbitant, and lay little under the restraints of justice, and still less under those of humanity, ever submitted to the dictates of reason and sound policy. Born in an age when the minds of men were intractable, and unacquainted with submission, he was yet able to direct them to his purposes; and, partly from the ascendant of his vehement disposition, partly from art and dissimulation, to establish an unlimited monarchy. Though not insensible to generosity, he was hardened against compassion; and seemed equally ostentatious in his elemency and in his severity.

The maxims of his administration were severe; but might have been useful, had they been solely employed in preserving order in an established government; they were ill calculated for softening the rigours which, under the most gentle management, are inseparable from conquest His attempt against England was the last great enterprise of the kind, which, during the course of seven hundred years, has fully succeeded change their skin twice a year; the old skin in Europe; and the force of his genius broke through those limits, which first the feudal creeping, from it by an undulatory kind of institutions, then the refined policy of princes, have fixed to the several states of Christendom.

> Though he rendered himself infinitely odious to his English subjects, he transmitted his power to posterity, and the throne is the foundations which he laid were firm and solid; and that amidst all his violence, while he seemed only to gratify the present passion, he had still an eye toward futurity. His stature was tall, and the composition of his bones and muscles uncommonly strong: there was scarcely a man of that age who could bend his bow, or handle his arms. He died September 9. 1087, sged 63.

Eastern Proverb .- The wise man warms himself by the same firebrand with which the madman burneth the tent.

WHERE DID HE GET THAT LAW?

In a neat and beautiful city, in one of the Northern States, lived a lawyer of eminence and talents. I do not know many particulars of his moral character; but he was notoriously profane. He had a negro boy, at whom his neighbors used to hear him swear with awful violence. One day, this gentleman met an elder of the Presbyterian church, who was also a lawyer, and said to him: "I wish sir, to examine into the truth of the Christian religion. What books would you advise me to read on the evidences of Christianity?'

The elder, surprised at the juquiry, replied: - 'That is a question, sir, which you ought to have settled long ago. You ought not to have put off a subject so important to

this late period of life.'

'It is too late,' said the inquirer. 'I never knew much about it; but I always supposed that Christianity was rejected by the great majority of learned men. I mtend however now to examine the subject thoroughly myself. I have upon me, as my physician says, a moral disease, under which I may live a year and a half or two years, but not probably longer. What books sir, would you advise me to read?

'The Bible,' said the elder.

'I believe you do not understand' me, resumed the unbeliever, surprised in his turn; 'I wish to investigate the truth of the Bible.

'I would advise you, sir,' repeated the elder, to read the Bible. And, he continued, 'I will give you my reasons: most infidels are very ignorant of the Scriptures. Now to reason on any subject with correctness, we must understand what it is about which we reason. In the next place, I consider the internal evidence of the truth of the Scriptures stronger than the external.

'And where shall I begin?' inquired the unbeliever. _'At the New Testament?'

'No,' said the elder; at the beginning-

at Genesis.'

The infidel bought a Bible, went home, and sat down to the serious study of the Scriptures. He applied his strong and well disciplined powers of mind to the Bible, to try rigidly but impartialy its truth. As he went on his perusal, he received occasional calls from the elder. The infidel freely remarked upon what he read, and stated his objections. He liked this passage, he thought that touching and beautiful, but he could not credit a third,

One evening the elder cailed and found a the unbeliever in his house or office, walking the room with a dejected look, his mind apparently absorbed in thought. He continued not noticing that any one had come in, busily to trace and retrace his steps. The eider at length spoke :- You seem, sir, said he, 'to be in a brown study. Of what are you thinking?'

*I have been reading,' replied the infidel,

'the moral law.'

'Well, what do you think of it? asked the elder.

'I will tell you what I used to think,' answered the infidel. 'I supposed that Moses was the leader of a horde of banditti: that having a strong mind, he acquired great influence over a superstitious people; and that on Mount Sinai, he played off some sort of fire works, to the amazement of his ignorant followers, who imagined, in their fearful fear and superstition, that the exhibition was supernatural.

But what do you think now?' inter-

posed the elder.

'I have been looking,' said the infidel, 'into the nature of the law. I have been trying to see whether I can add anything to it, or take anything from it, so as to make it better. Sir, I cannot. It is perfect.'

The first commandment,' continued he, directs us to make the Creator the object of our supreme love and reverence. That is right. If he be our Creator, Preserver, and Supreme Benefactor, we ought to treat him, and none other, as such.—The second forbids idolatry. That certainly is right. The third forbids profaneness. The fourth fixes a time for religious worship. If there be a God, he ought surely to be worshipped. It is suitable that there should be an outward homage significant of our inward regard. If God be worshipped, it is proper that some time should be set apart for that purpose, when all may worship him harmoniously, and without interruption .- One day in seven is certainly not too much; and I do not know that it is too little. The fifth defines the peculiar duties arising from the family relations. Injuries to our neighbor are then classified by the moral law. They are divided into offences against life, chastity, property, and character. And,' said he said he, applying a legal idea with acuteness, · I notice that the greatest offence in each class is expressly forbidden. Thus the greafest injury to life is murder: to chasinty, adultery; to property, theft; to character, perjury. Now the greater offence must include the less of the same kind. Murder must include every injury to life; adultery every injury to purity, and so of the rest. And the moral code is closed and perfected, by a command forbidding every

improper desire in regard to our neighbour.

1 have been thinking," he proceeded,
where did Moses get that law? I have read history; the Egyptians and the adja-

cent nations were idolaters; so were the /caution, and previous sounding, is necessar Greeks and Romans; and the wisest and best Greeks or Romans nover gave a code of morals like this. Where did Moses get this law, which surpasses the wisdom and philosophy of the most enlightened ages? He lived at a period comparatively barbarous, but he has given a law, in which the learning and sagacity of all subsequent time can detect no flaw. Where did he get it? satisfied where he obtained it. It came down from heaven. I am convinced of the truth of the religion of the Bible."

The infidel—infidel uo longer—remained to his death a firm believer in the truth of Christianity. He lived several year after this conversation; about three, I believe. He continued to pursue the study of the Bible, his views of the Christian religion expanding and growing correct. Profuncness was abandoned. An oath was now as offensive to him as it was familiar before. When his former gay companious used one, he habitually reproved them, he remonstrated with them upon its folly and want of meaning, and said that he could never imagine before, how painful profane language must be to a christian. But did he become a sincere disciple of Christ? He always expressed great doubt upon that point. He could hope for nothing from the world, and he was afraid that he might choose other pleasures from that circumstance, without a radical change of

since, from one of the parties. The lapse of time may have caused some immaterial larger allowance of brain-he followed every variation, but I believe no other. I have where; he felt jealous uncomfortable, savage endeavoured to be more than substantially if she looked even civilly at another and correct, and have therefore left many im- yet notwithstanding the encouragement afportant ideas unexpanded, as I understood forded him by the lady a woman of sense,

for it is believed to be rich in practical in- girlish affection and made every advance construction. The main thought is this, that sistent with womans delicacy—the winter the moral law is a monument, a sublime was fast fading into spring, and he had not monument—of the great moral transaction at Sinai, at the delivery of the ten commandments. But let him mark also the species of unbelief, the practical temper inspired by disease, the lingering nature of the complaint, the judicious advice and kind attention of the christian elder, the beautiful arrangement of Providence by which these concurred, the excellence of the moral law as explained and felt, and the glorious reforming power of the Bible. -Religious Magazine.

POPPING THE QUESTION.

There is no more delicate step in life-than the operation designated by the elegant phrase I have selected for the title of my present lucubration. Much winding, and

when you have got a favor to ask of a grea It is ten chances to one that he man. takes it into his head to consider your re quest exorbitant, and to make this the pretext for shaking off what he naturally considers a cumbersome appendage to his stake-a man who has a claim upon his good offices. But this hazard is nothing in comparison with the risk you run in laying your-He could not have soured so far above his self at the mercy of a young gypsy, funder age, as to have devised it himself. I am of fun and frolic than any thing in life. Even though she loved you with the whole of her heart; she possesses a flow of spirits, and woman's ready knack of preserving appearances; and though her bosom may heave responsive to your stammering tale, she will lure you on with kind, complacent looks, until you have told your pitiful story, and then laugh in your face for your

The desperate struggles and flounderings by which some endeavor to get out of their embarrassments, are amusing enough. We remember to have been much delighted the first time we heard the history of the wooing of a noble lord, now no more, related. His lordship was a man of talents and enterprise, of stainless pedigree, and a fair rent-roll, but the veriest slave of bashfulness. Like all timid and quiet men, he was very constant, as long as he was in the habit of seeing the object of his affections daily. He chanced, at the beginning of un Edinburgh winter, to loose his heart to Missas their families were in habits of intimacy, he had frequent opportunities of meeting I learned these particulars a few years with her. He gazed and sighed incessantly -a very dumbiedikes, but that he had a them to occur, in the actual conversation. who saw what his lordship would be at,
Let the reader meditate on this history, esteemed his character was superior to yet got his mouth opened! Mamma at last lost all patience, and one day when his lordship was taking his usual lounge in the drawing room, silent, or uttering an occasional monosyllable, the good lady abruptly left the room and locked the pair in alone. When his lordship, on essaying to take his leave, discovered the predicament in which he stood, a desperate fit of resolution seized him. Miss-sat bending most assidu. ously over her needle, a deep blush on her cheek. His lordship advanced toward her but losing heart by the way, passed on in silence to the other end of the room. He returned to the charge, but again without effect. At last, nerving himself like one about to spring a powder mine, he stopped short before her Miss will you marry me? With the greatest pleases,

f

P fı

my lord, was the unswer, given in a low somewhat timid, but unfaltering voice, while a deeper crimson suffused the face of the speaker. And a right good wife she made

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THE POWER OF PROST IN THE POLAR REGIONS.

A small bottle of pyroligneous acid froze in less than thirty minutes, at a temperature of 57 deg. minus; as did also the same quantity of 1 part of rectified spirit and 2 of water; I part of the same and I of water. Leeward Island rum became thick in a few minutes, but did not freeze. A mixture of 2 parts pure spirit and 1 of water froze into ice in three hours, with a temperature from 65 deg. and 61 deg. minus. Another mixture of 4 parts spirit and 1 water became viscid in the same time. A buttle of nitric ether, having been out all night, was thick, and the bubbles of air rose slowly and with difficulty; the mean temperature at six a. m., January 17th, being 70 deg. minus! A surface of four inches of mercury, exposed in a common saucer, became solid in two hours, with a temperature of 57 deg. minus. On the 4th of February the temperature was 60 deg. minus, and, there being at the same time a fresh breeze, was nearly insupportable. Such, indeed was the abstraction of heat, that with large logs of dry wood in the fire-place of a small room, I could not get the thermometer higher than 12 deg. plus. Ink and paint froze. I made an attempt to finish a sketch, by placing the table as near the fire as I could bear the heat; but a scratchy mark, and small shining particles at the point of the table, convinced me that it was useless. The sextant-cases, and boxes of seasoned wood, principally fir, all split. Nor was the sensation particularly agreeable to our persons; the skin of the hands, especially, became dry, cracked, and opened into unsightly and smarting gashes, which we were obliged to anoint with grease. On one occasion, after washing my face within three feet of the fire, my hair was actually clotted with ice before I had time to dry it. From these facts some idea may. perhaps, be formed of the excessive cold. -From Captain Back's Journal, just pub-

NEW THEORY OF THE AURORA. Sir John Rose's new theory of the Aurora

Bore is was brought forward at the last meeting of the British Association. It was not generally, we believe, considered satisfactory; as, however, he had undoubtedly peculiar advantages for observing this beautiful phenomenon, we think it well to give an outline of it:—As the expedition which I commanded in 1818 did not winter in the Artic Pegions, my observations during t'at voyage were confined to the months of September and October, during which time the ships were moving in a southerly direction | ir so'serious a nuisance.

from the latitude of 74 to 58 north, when it was observed, that from the latitude of 74 until 68, the phenomenon was seen to the southward, particularly at midnight; but when the ship had passed to the southward of the latitude of 00, if was seen to the northward. In several instances the Aurora was distinctly observed to be between the two ships, and also between the ships and icobergs; proving unquestionably that it could not be at that time beyond the atmosphere and the earth.-This indeed was the only fact which I completely established during that voyage but which was a conclusion that led me to inquire how its proximity to the earth was to be accounted for. Both at my observatory in Scotland, and during my late and long protracted residence in the Artic regions, my attention has been particularly directed to this interesting subject, and my conclusious are that the splendid phenomenon, called the Aurora, is entirely occasioned by the action of the sun's rays upon the vast body of icy and of snowy plains and mountains which surround the poles. The rays of the sun, in the first instance, are reflected, from uneven, plain, or varigated surfaces, of the colored, icy, or snow clad substances, which are presented to them at the point of incidence by the rotation of the earth, and passing over the poles reach and illuminate clouds which are only rendered visible to us by such illumination. These clouds, having positive, negative and reflecting qualities, possess the power of producing all the surprising effects which have been observed by distributing the rays they have received; and as they receive them, in every direction, and according to the state of the atmosphere, give additional variety to the original colours as reflected from the point of incidence; and further, if due regard is paid to the properties of light, its convexion both with magnetism and electricity may be satisfactorily explained.

CURIOUS EXPERIMENT WITH A TULIP. -The bulb of a tulip in every respect resembles the buds, except in the bulb being produced underground. It includes the leaves and the flower in miniature, which are to be expanded the ensuing spring. By cautiously cutting in the early spring, through the concentric coats of a tulip-root, longitudinally from the top to the base, and taking them off successively, the whole flower of the next summer's tulip is beautifully seen by the naked eye, with its petals, pistil, and stamina.

A blacksmith of Milan, named Ponti, has discovered that by suspending a length of chain to one of the corners of the anvil by means of a ring, the noise of the hammer may be almost entirely deadened. This discovery would be of great importance in large towns, where the noise of the hammer-

An omnibus is about being shipped from London for Athens, which, no doubt, will astonish the inhabitants of that ancient city. Gas apparatus is shipping in the London Docks for Constantinople, for the purpose of lighting with gas a part of that capital, which hitherto has been kept in a state of complete nocturnal darkness.

HALIFAX, AUGUST 19, 1836.

The last Gazette contains a Proclamation further proroguing the Legislature of the Province to the 13th October.

MR. dichael Tobin, Junior, has been appointed Vice Consul for the Brazilian Government in the Provinces of Nova-Scotia and New Brunswick.

The Mail for England, by H. M. Packet Skylark, will be closed on Saturday afternoon next, at 5 o'clock.

On Monday evening by the Rev. Arckdeacon Willis, Mr. James Forbes, of this town, to Miss Sophia Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr. Patrick Connor, of Dartmouth.

On Tuesday the 4th inst. by the Revd-William Cogswell, Mr. John Croxton of England, to Miss Susan Sadler, of this Town. After the ceremony was over the happy pair proceeded to Newport to spend the Honey Moon.

On Sunday evening, at Sackville, Bedford Bason, after a lingering illness, Mr. George Parker, Senior, aged 80 years, an old and respectable inhabitant of this town.

On Tuesday morning at D. Creamer's, Dartmouth, Johanna, second daughter of the late Thomas Hollihan, in the 16th year

of her age.

Yesterday morning at 6 o'clock, Mr. Charles Tillman, aged 47 years; funeral will take place on Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, from his late residence in Dutch Town, when the friends and acquaintance of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

William Tapper. TAILOR.

IN tendering his sincere thanks to his numerous friends in Halifux, and the public generally, for their very liberal support since his commencement in business, begs to inform them that he has removed his Establishment from Upper Water Street, to the premises lately occupied by John Whidden, Esq., No. S. Granville Street, directly opposite Mesers. Miguowitz & Greetham's new store, where he intends carrying on the above business in all its branches; and hopes, by unromitting attention to merit a continuance of their patronage and support.

W. T. also begs to intimate that he has received per late arrivals from Great Britain—superfine Black, Navy Blue, Invisible Green, and other shades, of BROAD CLOTHS; Kerseymeres, Buckskins, for gen smen's pantaloons, of various colours, and a varia y of RICH VESTINGS, suitable for the season; all of which he is prepared to make up at the shortest potice, and in the most lashionable style, at reasonative terms, for Cash or approved credit.

August 1876. ...



From the Imperial Magazine. THE NORTHERN STAR.

The howling winds around us sweep, The storms about us runs, And we, we skim the feaming deen. A thousand miles from shore. Fierce o'er the wave the tempests ride, And far from land are we. Star of the North; with none to guide, But Providence and thee.

When o'er our deck the hillows dash, And howls the rushing blast When from afar the thunder-flash, Has split our gallant mast; When darkness deep has yeiled the sky. Star of the troubled sea, The sailor turns his anxious eye Confidingly to thee.

One beam of thine, O welcome star, The seaman's beacon light, Cheers his lone heart when wandering far In dangerous lo vering night. Fierce o'er the deep, the whirlwinds ride, Far, far, from land are we, Star of the north with none to guide But Providence and thee.

THE PERIODICAL RECURRENCE OF FEELINGS.—It is evidently owing to the established periodicity of actions and feelings, that those who retire from active business almost uniformly fait in finding the comforts and enjoyments they had anticipated. It is not many years since an eminent surgeon, having accumulated a handsome fortune, retired to an estate in the country, to enjoy the fruits of his professional success, but he soon grew weary of farming and gardening, and improving inanimate objects, so different from his periodical visits, to his patients; and his professional ideas recurring and re-recurring, he at length belook himself to the hopeless experiment of bringing old jaded horses into condition. He might as well have tried to rejuvenilise him self into second boyhood or youth; and as all unsuccessful experiments, when often fruitlessly tried, end in tiring out the experimenter, he soon abandoned the hopeless attempt, But what was he to do with his time? Farming, gardening, architectural and other improvements, had all been successively abandoned. He had no other resource, therefore, but to go back into the bustle of active practice, and, to save himself from any drudgery he might not relish, took a junior partner. Retired merchants usually feel the time hang exceedingly heavy, if they retain any of the activity which helped them in earlier life to make a fortune. No rural interest van ever be brought to replace periodical habits which have been the growth of half a lifelime; for though they may do very well for an hour or a day, for a holiday or a by-start, as the man of business, finds in his suburban-villa, in the mornings other evening, several gentlemen contested

and evenings or on Sundays, yet they will not supply the staple of his every-day life; and unless he becomes besotted, or dozes away his hours in sleep, he must be miserable in retirement. In a word, all our actions and feelings have a very strong tendency to become periodical, the bad no less than the good. It therefore behoves us to watch well over the first symptoms of periodicity in any action or feeling that it may be improper or inconvenient to indulge. More parlicularly, those who have the management of children young people ought to foster the tendencies in question, in all circumstances of a beneficial kind, and as carefully check the groveth of habits of an objectionable nature.

ECONOMY IN LINEN-WASHING .- A correspondent of the Dundee paper writes as follows:---After many experiments made by myself and others, I find that pipe-clay, dissolved among the water employed in washing, gives the dirtiest linms the appearance of having been bleached, and cleans them thoroughly with about half the labour, and full a saving of one-fourth the soap. The method adopted was to dissolve a little of the full a saving of one-fourth the soap. pipe-clay among the warm-water in a washing-tub, or to oub a little of it together with the soap on the articles to be washed. The process was repeated as often as required until the articles to be washed were made thoroughly clean, All who have made the experiment have agreed that the saving of soap and labour is great; and the the clothes are improved in colour equally as if they wer · bleached. The peculiar advantage of employing this article with the soap is, that it gives the hardest water almost the softness of rain water."

POWER OF NATIONAL MUSIC.-No man who has lived among the peasantry of Scotland will deny the effects produced on then by their popular songs. During the expedition to Buenos Ayres, a Highland soldier, while a prisoner in the hands of the Spaniards, having formed an attachment to Spaniards, having formed an attachment to Guards, Lavender, and Cologue Water, Creaped a woman of the country, charmed with the Amber, Macassar and Bear's Oil, Scented Smily easy life which the tropical fertility of the soil evabled the inhabitants to lead, had resolved to remain and settle in South Amesolved to remain and settle in South Ameprices. ALSO—2 very superior ACCORDIANS.

EDWIN STERNS. his comrade, the latter did not argue with him; but, leading him to his tent, he placed him by his side and sang him. Lochaber nae mair." The spell was on him. came into his eyes, and, wrapping his plaid around him, he murmured, "Lochaber nae mair!-I maun gang back-Na!" The songs of his childhood were ringing in his cars, and he left that lund of ease and plenty for the naked rocks and sterile valleys of Badenock, where, at the close of a life of toil and hardship, he might lay his head in his mother's grave.

A miracle of Honesty.—At a party the

the honor of having done the most extraordivary things-a certain learned gentleman was appointed to be the sole judge. One produced his tailor's bill with a receipt attached to it-a buzz went through the room that this would not be undone ? when a second proved that ha had arrested his tailor for money lent him. "The palm is his," was the universal cry; when a third observed, "Gentlemen, I cannot boast of the feats of either of my predecessors, but I have returned to the owners two umbrellas that they had left at my house." "Ill hear no mcre," shouted the arbiter-" Tais is the very ne plus ultra of honesty and unheard-of deeds, the prize is yours."

SCIENTIFIC PUN .- A gentleman was showing a friend a balloon of an ox-bladder inflated with oxygen. But (observed the friend) if the oxygen should escape, how can you get it into the bladder again?" 'That is not the difficulty (quoth a by-stander), it is not how to get the oxygen into the bladder again, but how to get the bladder into the ox-again!'

SILVER PLAYE. JEWELRY, &c.

The Subscriber tenders his grateful acknows ledgements to his friends and the public. for the liberal encouragement he has heretofore received, and begs leave to inform them, that he continues to manifacture SILVER PLATE, of all descriptions, of the purest quality, on very low terms

He has now on hand, a good supply of Silver Tuble, Dessert, and Tea Spoons, Forks, Sogar Tongs, Mustard and Salt Spoons, Watch Guards, &c; and he has lately received an assertment of JEWELRY viz:—Cornelian Ear Rings, (white and red,) Plan Gold do, a variety of Broaches, plain and ornamented. Silver ever pointed Pencil cases, Silver Thimbles, Tortoise Shell back and side Combt, vrought and plain, Horn Combs of overy descriptor, Hair, Nail, Tooth and Plate Brushes, Git Watch

Corner of Buckingham and Barrington streets August 1836.

G. HOBSON,

Engraver and Copper-Plate Printer, No. 39, Duke-Street.

Maps, Plans, Bills of Exchange Bill Heads, Address and Visiting Carls Arms and Crests, Labels, &c, neatly design ed, engraved and printed. Metal Seals Door Plates, Dog Collars, and Dandy Co. naments, neatly engraved.

May 13, 1836.