

THE WEEKLY OBSERVER, PUBLISHED ON TUESDAYS, BY DONALD A. CAMERON.

Office.—In Mr. HATFIELD'S brick building, west side of the Market-Square, St. John, N. B. TERMS.—City Subscribers ... 15s. per annum; Country do. (by mail) ... 17s. 6d. ditto; Country do. (not by mail) 15s. ditto; (half to be paid in advance.)

PRINTING, in its various branches, executed with neatness and despatch, on very moderate terms.

Weekly Almanack.

Table with columns: SEPTEMBER—1831, SUN, MOON, FULL SEA. Rows for days of the week with moon phases and times.

First Quart on 14th, oh, 18m, morning.

Assize of Bread.

THE Sixpenny Wheaten Loaf of Super-Br. ac. fine Flour, to weigh ... 2 5 The Sixpenny Rye ... 3 12 And Shilling, Three-penny, and Penny-half-penny loaves in the same proportion.

LAUCHLAN DONALDSON, Mayor.

THE GARLAND.

INFANCY.—BY R. MONTGOMERY. "The smile of childhood on the cheek of age." A child beside a mother kneels, With eyes of holy love, And faintly would the vow it feels To him enthroned above.

MISCELLANEA.

"We endeavour, by variety, to adapt some things to one reader, some to another, and a few perhaps to every taste."—Flint.

THE TRIUMPHS OF SCIENCE AND ART.

From the Liverpool Times. Whether the caricatures which represent a steam engine as flying like a balloon through the air, shall ever become any thing more than a caricature may be doubted; but such has been the achievements of science and art, within the last few years, and the discovery that it is really difficult to fix any limits to their future conquests.

ropolis, before the speakers of the previous night have risen from their beds. In navigation, as in printing, invention slumbered for centuries, and then suddenly awoke in the wondrous steam-vessel. Steam navigation is probably yet in its infancy, yet it has already effected an astonishing extension of intercourse between all parts of the British Isles, the widely separated towns and territories of the U. States, and several of the countries of Europe.

Such are a few of the more striking inventions and improvements of modern times. Yet invention is not exhausted. These seem to be but the commencement of an endless series; and the late experiments of Locomotive Carriages on our Railway give us quite a new idea of what science and art may yet do to quicken the transport of travellers and goods through the land.

The performance of the Rocket and the Northey give a sudden spurt to our drowsy imaginations, and make our ideas fly as fast as the machines themselves.—These engines with all their apparatus skim over the earth at more than double the speed of the lightest and fastest mail, drawn by the swiftest blue horses, and driven by the most desperate coolsmen, over the smoothest roads in England.

On a well constructed railway, like that between Liverpool and Manchester, there is less danger in moving at the rate of thirty miles per hour than there is in travelling at the rate of ten miles per hour on a turnpike road. On the railway there is not a single turn, and scarcely a single inequality; in these respects the engineer has boldly and wisely aimed at perfection, though he thereby incurred what many deemed an extravagant expense.

OPBE. We have heard little of Opie, but his biography is well written, and as the husband of the celebrated authoress, is highly interesting. His love of art came upon him early. When he was ten years old he saw Mark Oates—an elder companion and now a Captain of Marines—draw a butterfly;—he looked anxiously on, and exclaimed—"I think I can draw a butterfly as well as Mark Oates."

DISORDERED AND DECAYED TEETH.—CAUSES. It unfortunately often happens that before the regular period of decline in the organs of the animal economy, the teeth begin to decay, and greatly deteriorate, in consequence, the functions of digestion and nutrition. Hufeland enumerates firm and sound teeth among the signs of long life.

"The ladies who sat for their portraits he found more difficult to deal with than the great leader of the Whigs. There was at first a want of grace and softness in his female heads—he felt this early, and labored to amend it—but it is said that he did not wholly succeed till his second marriage. 'Opie,' said one of his brethren, when he exhibited several male portraits soon after that event, 'never saw anything like this in you before—this must be owing to your wife' and it is likely that the compliment, though paid perhaps in jest, was nevertheless just."

"Of all employments portrait painting is perhaps the most painful and trying to a man of pride and sensibility, and the more irritable man. To hear beauties and meriting to a portrait often stigmatized as deformities and blemishes—to have high lights taken for white spots, and dark effective shadows for the dirty appearance of a snuff-taker—to witness discontent in the by-standers, because the painting does not exhibit the sweet smile of the sitter, though it is certain that a smile on canvas looks like the grin of an idiot; while a laughing eye, if the artist attempts to copy it, as unavoidably assumes the disgusting resemblance of progressive intoxication.

Sitters themselves, Mr. Opie rarely found troublesome; and persons of Worthip, as he called them, that is, persons of great consequence, either from talent, rank, or widely spread connections, are sometimes attacked by others whose aim is to endeavor to please the great man or woman by flattery wholly at the expense of the poor artist; and to minister sweet food to the vanity of the patron, regardless though it be the palate of the painter. Hence arises a great evil, and the beauties and perfections of the person painted, and regrets that they are so inadequately rendered by the person painting; while frivolous objection, succeeds to frivolous objection, and impossibilities are expected and required as if they were possibilities.

"Let all those youths who desire to become artists read the following admirable passage three or four times before they wet the brush—"I'm pressed as I am at the present moment with a full conviction of the difficulties attendant on the practice of painting, I cannot but feel it also my duty to caution every one who hears me, against entering into it from improper motives, and with inadequate views of the subject; as they will thereby only run a risk of entailing misery and disgrace on themselves and their connections during the rest of their lives. Should any student, therefore, happen to be present, who has taken up the art on the supposition of finding it an easy and amusing employment—any one who has been sent into the Academy by his friends, in the idea that he may cheaply acquire an honorable and profitable profession—any one who has mistaken a petty kind of imitative monkey talent for genius—any one who hopes by it to get rid of what he thinks a more vulgar or disagreeable situation, to escape confinement at the counter or the desk—any one urged merely by vanity or interest—or, in short, impelled by any consideration but a real and unconquerable passion for excellence; let him drop it at once, and avoid the walls and every thing connected with them, as he would the pestilence; for if he have not this unquenchable liking, in addition to all the requisites above enumerated, he may pine in indigence, or skulk through life as a hackney likeness-taker, a copier, a drawing-master, or pattern drawer to young ladies, or he may turn picture cleaner and help time to destroy excellencies which he cannot rival—but he must never hope to be in the proper sense of the word, a painter. Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way that leads to excellence, and few are they that find it."

"In person, Opie looked like an inspired peasant; even in his most courtly days there was a country air about him, and he was abrupt in his language and careless in his dress, without being conscious of either. His looks savored of melancholy; some have said of moroseness. The portrait which he has left of himself shows a noble forehead and an intellectual eye.—There are few who cannot feel his talents, and all must admire his fortitude. He came coarse and uneducated from the country into the polished circles of London; was exercised, incited, praised, and patronized for one little year or so, and then the giddy ride of fashion receded; but he was not left a wreck.—He had that strength of mind which triumphs over despair. He estimated the patronage of fickle ignorance at what it was worth, and lived to invest his name with a brighter as well as sturdier halo than that of fashionable wonder. His literary productions have, I think, been overrated, yet they are respectable; I will even allow them to be wonderful for one who had a laborious profession to follow. The great defect is what one would least have expected—the want of vigor and energy."—Cunningham's Lives of Painters.

BEARISH. The following interesting account of the Polar Bear is extracted from the Family Library, a work abounding in the most useful and amusing information.

"In the caves of the rocks, or in the hollows of the ice, dwells the most formidable of Arctic quadrupeds, the Greenland or Polar Bear. This fierce tyrant of the cliffs and snows of the north unites the strength of the lion with the untamable fierceness of the hyena. A long shaggy covering of white soft hair and a copious supply of fat enable him to defy the winter of this rigorous climate. Under the hair of Britain he suffers the most painful sensations; Pennant saw one, over whom it was necessary from time to time to pour large quantities of water. Another, kept for some years by Professor Jameson, evidently suffered severely from the heat of an Edinburgh summer. The haunt of the bear is on the dreary Arctic shores, or on mountains of ice, sometimes two hundred miles from land; yet he is not, strictly speaking, amphibious.—He cannot remain under water above a few moments, and he reaches his maritime stations only by swimming from one icy fragment to another. Mr. Scoresby limits the swimming reach to three or four miles; yet Parry found one in the centre of Barrow's Strait, where it was forty miles across. This bear prowls continually for his prey, which consists chiefly of the smaller cetacea and of seals, which, unable to contend with him, slum their fate by keeping strict watch, and plunging into the depths of the waters. With the walrus he holds deadly and doubtful encounters; and that powerful animal, with his enormous tusks, frequently beats him off with great damage. The whale he dares not attack, but watches anxiously for the huge carcass in a dead state, which affords him a prolonged and delicious feast; he scents it at the distance of many miles, and when he has reached it, he is sometimes left for weeks without food, and the fury of his hunger then becomes tremendous. At such periods, man, viewed by him always as his prey, is attacked with peculiar fierceness.

tered, that these are formed before the first set come away. Not only the diseases, but the remedies employed for their cure, may exert a most injurious influence over the future constitution of the teeth.—Among these is mercury in immoderate doses; and it is too often prodigally administered in early infancy: nor is the eye confined to this first period of life; adult subjects suffer from the same cause. To the profuse administration of this remedy in tropical diseases, many attribute the decay of the teeth. We often see children, whose teeth are in the bud, and who are very fond of sweets and cakes; and whose teeth are said, by indulgence in these articles, to be readily decayed; in these very articles, the teeth are said to be injured, and in this way affect the teeth secondarily. Sugar, or any of its compounds, directly affects or injures the teeth, but by being swallowed in excessive quantity, either after a full meal or at different hours of the day, these things enfeeble the stomach, bring on indigestion, and in this way affect the teeth secondarily.

Many young persons, thin, and with bad complexions, are fond of a diet almost exclusively of animal food. These have often weak digestion, had breath and bad teeth; all of which will be aggravated by a continuance of such a diet; a light and nutritious vegetable and milk one should therefore be substituted. Such a change is the more necessary if the gums be spurge and soft, and readily bleed on pressure or rubbing them. They who live on the simplest fare have usually the finest teeth, and preserve them for the longest time.

Whoever persons are continually exposed to cold or rain and damp air, without being able to use sufficient exercise, or to take wholesome food in adequate quantity, we cannot hope that they shall escape indigestion, and imperfect growth of the organs generally, including the teeth, which one after another become subject to decay. Thus, persons, directed especially to the teeth are of any avail in their cases. The only resource of any moment is change of climate and of locality; and if this is impossible, to at least protect the skin by warm clothing, and to strengthen it by bathing and friction. A change in the diet is also indispensably necessary.

In districts of country where the morbid causes above mentioned act, as in low situations near the sea coast, the inhabitants are all more or less sufferers from bad and decayed teeth, with swollen and spungy gums, which may in such circumstances be regarded as among the symptoms of scurvy.

Any sudden and considerable change of temperature of the parts, whether the effect of exposure to a cold atmosphere, or of taking very hot or very cold substances into the mouth may become an exciting cause of inflammation of the teeth, and this lead to their decay. Thus drinking very hot fluids on the one hand, and on the other taking ice without the precaution of preventing it from lying in contact with the teeth, are fertile sources of disease in these organs.

The connection between diseased gums, indicated by swells, spunginess, less adhesion to the neck of the teeth, and tenderness to the touch, and diseased teeth, or disease of the bony case (border of the jaw bone) in which they are implanted, is so close, that it is difficult to tell which is the cause of the other. Of one thing, however, we may be well assured, that whenever the gums are affected in the manner described, or develop in any way from their usual appearance and sensibility, the teeth are in danger, and therefore no time is to be lost in adopting the necessary means of relief.

A few words on the matter called tartar, formed on the teeth, will close our remarks for the present. It is a calcareous matter to be formed by the saliva, and hence called salivary calculus. At first it is soft, friable, and readily crumbled under the fingers, but gradually, and as it were, by a kind of slow crystallization, acquires almost a rocky hardness. Its usual colour is a dull whitish yellow, or buff, though in some cases it is dark brown or black, and in others has a greenish hue. With the exception of gangrene, or mortification, there is no kind of injury to which the teeth are exposed, so commonly and so extensively destructive as this concreted tartar. As it is generally first of all deposited at the necks of the teeth, and especially underlying the free edge of the gum, its first effect is to excite more or less irritation to that structure, producing increased redness and sensibility, with spunginess, and the separation of its edge from the necks of the teeth. As the accumulation increases, its effects keep pace with it; the gum becomes exceedingly painful, so as to render the ordinary operation of brushing the teeth almost impracticable, and thus, by inducing a neglect of the common means of preventing its accumulation, it becomes the unavoidable cause of its continued increase. The lazy youth of both sexes take this hint in time, and do not think it too much trouble to brush their teeth at least once a day—early in the morning after rising. Destruction of the gum and lony bed of the teeth by absorption is the next consequence, which gradually goes on until the teeth, losing their support, become loosened, and at length fall out.

tone, "Who's there? pray stand off." His comrade looked, and screamed out, "A bear! a bear!" then running to the ship, alarmed the crew with loud cries. The sailors ran to the spot armed with pikes and muskets. On their approach the bear very coolly carried his comrade, sprang upon another sailor, carried him off, and plunging his teeth into his body, began drinking his blood at long draughts.—Hereupon the whole of that stout crew, struck with terror, turned their backs, and fled precipitately to the ship. On arriving there they began to look at each other, unable to feel much satisfaction with their own prowess. Three then stood forth, undertaking to avenge the fate of their countrymen, and to secure for them the rites of burial. They advanced, and fired at first from so respectful a distance that they all missed. The pursuer then courageously proceeded in front of his companions, and taking a close aim, pierced the monster's skull immediately below the eye. The bear, however, merely lifted his head, and advanced upon them, adding still in his mouth the victim whom he was devouring; but seeing him soon stagger, the three rushed on with sabre and bayonet and soon dispatched him. They collected and bestowed decent sepulchre on the mangled limbs of their comrades, while the skin of the animal, thirteen feet long, became the prize of the sailor who had fired the successful shot.

The history of the whale-fisheries records a number of remarkable cases from the bear. In 1783, the captain, James Kees, in 1668, with two axes, undertook to attack one, and with a lance gave him so dreadful a wound in the belly, that his immediate death seemed inevitable. Anxious therefore, not to injure the skin, he merely followed the animal close, till he should drop down dead. The bear, however, having climbed a little rock, made a spring from the distance of twenty four feet upon the captain, who, taken completely by surprise, lost hold of the lance, and fell beneath the assailant, who placing both paws on his breast, opened two rows of tremendous teeth, and passed for a moment, as it is slow him all the horrors of his situation. At this critical instant, a sailor, rushing forward with a screech, succeeded in alarming the monster, who made off, leaving the captain without the slightest injury.

In 1788, Captain Cook of the Archangel, when near the coast of Spitzbergen, found himself suddenly between the paws of a bear. He instantly called on the surgeon, who accompanied him, to fire, when the latter did with such admirable promptitude and precision, that he shot the bear through the head, and delivered the captain. Mr. Hawkins of the Everhorpe, in July, 1818, having pursued and twice struck a large bear, had raised his lance for a third blow, when the animal sprang forward, seized him by the thigh, and threw him over its head into the water. Fortunately it used this advantage only to effect its own escape.—Captain Scoresby mentions a boat's crew which was attacked a bear in the Spitzbergen sea; but the animal having succeeded in climbing the sides of the boat, all the sailors threw themselves for safety into the water, where they lay by the gunwale. The victor entered triumphantly, and took possession of the barge, where it sat quietly till it was shot by another party. The same writer mentions the ingenious contrivance of a sailor, who, being pursued by one of these creatures, threw down successively his hat, jacket, handkerchief, and every other article in his possession, when the brute pausing at each, gave the sailor always a certain advantage, and enabled him finally to regain the vessel.

Though the voracity of the bear is such, that he has been known to feed on his own species, yet maternal tenderness is as conspicuous in the female as in other inhabitants of the frozen regions. There is no exertion which she will not make for the supply of her progeny. A she bear, with her two cubs, being pursued by some sailors across a field of ice, and finding that, neither by example, nor by a peculiar voice and action, she could urge them to the requisite speed, applied her paws and pitched them alternately forward. The little creatures then themselves, as she came up, threw themselves before her to receive the impulse, and thus both she and they effected their escape.

Bears are by no means devoid of intelligence. Their schemes for entrapping seals, and other animals on which they feed, often display considerable ingenuity. The manner in which the Polar bear surprises his victim, is thus described by Captain Lyon.—On seeing his intended prey, he gets quietly into the water, and swims to a leeward position, from whence, by frequent short dives he silently makes his approach, and so arranges his distance, that at the last dive he comes to the spot where the seal is lying. If the poor animal attempts to escape by rolling into the water, he falls into the paws of the bear; if, on the contrary, he lies still, his destroyer makes a powerful spring, kills him on the ice, and devours him at leisure. Some sailors, endeavouring to catch a bear, placed the nose of a rope-net where the seal was lying. The bear, however, caught three successive times to push the nose aside and to carry off the bait unharmed. Captain Scoresby had half-famished two cubs, which used even to walk the deck; but they showed themselves always restless under this confinement, and finally effected their escape.

According to Pennant and other writers, the bear forms chambers in the great ice mountains, where he sleeps the long winter nights, undisturbed by the roar of the northern tempest; but this regular liberation is doubted by many recent observers. The fact seems to be, that the males roam about all winter in search of provisions, not being under the same necessity of submitting to the torpid state as the black bear of America, which feeds chiefly on vegetable food; but the females, who are usually pregnant during the more rigorous season of the year, seclude themselves for nearly the entire winter in their dens.

A PARENT'S BLESS.—What care and anxiety parents must endure! For a time the mother's love is grievously tried by the passionate baby, yelling to the pitch of its voice, and spurning with its feet like drumsticks, frightening her sleep—to say nothing of the other conditions that make the miseries of a nurse's lot and a parent's such as are a mother's fancy, chiefly nocturnal. But these are light to those of gubbling childhood. If a Miss, she has a doll; it sulks when she sighs; and then the poor mother assures her, to no purpose, that it is wood—the terna-gemmed demoiselle knows better! If a Master, he has a trumpet, perhaps a drum; the peace of the house is gone; and with paper cap and sword—his elders have but fur—he struts a hero, and fights with Hots-pur in a mirror.—Smash, it lies in fragments! or, lumpy his sister fences with him, and with a stamp, his foil has made her beautiful right eye as blind as an oyster! These are but the mother's cares!—Then come the sires; of which to guess at but for an inspection of their variety, read all histories; the wars of Kingdoms, battles, elopements, marriages, divorces, deels, bankruptcies, and broken hearts.—These make not half the moiety of the disasters that stuff with restless anxiety a parent's pillow."—Bogle Corbet: by John Galt. vol. ii.

FALLING IN LOVE WITH A LARGE FAMILY.—There was a certain Lady Mapleberry, "with six unmarried daughters; one of these large, lively, good humoured, singing, riding, chatting families, where a young man seeking a wife is apt to fall in love with the joint stock merit and animation of the whole group; and to feel quite astonished, after his union with Harriet, or Jane, or Julia, how moderate a proportion he has received in his lawful sixth of the music, information, accomplishments, and good humoured gossip of the whole tribe.—Pin Money: a novel.

A steam-boiler exploded on the 8th of July in Liverpool on the Mersey. The men were trying the strength of the boiler when it burst, and blew up the building, killing one man and badly wounding two others.





