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## NATURAL HISTORY.

## THE PORCUPINE.

The Porcupine is a native of Africa, India, and the Indian Islands; and is someinpor found in Italy and Sicily. It is a narmiess inoffensive animal, and seems to winh to be at peace; and, if it should be ftacked by other animals, it has no treigeth of limbs to enable it to resist, neiher hes it much swiftness of foot to enable tto run away. But Providence has supolied it with a defenco of a very wonderful Cind;-a covering of hard sharp quills, all pver its body. It is a common notion that the Porcupine has the power of shooting out hese quills, to a distance, against its enemy; but this is a mistake. If he is attacked, indeed, be will lift up his slarp quills, and thos offer a good defence agrainst any animal that might come uear him. The quills are from nine to fifteen inches in length; and, wher the Porcupine is angry, he shalies these quills, and stamps with his feet on the ground like a rabbit, making, at the same time, a sort of grunting noise. Most animals are afraid of attacking the Porcupine, from their dread of his sharp quills, which wouldgive a serions wound to any ciesture that should make war upon lim.

## THE YALM-TREE.

The palm is one of the most beautiful trees in the vegetable kinglom, and frequently rises to the leight of a hundred feet. The leaves, when the tree has grown to the size for bearing fruit, are six or eight feet ling, are very bröd, and are used for covering houses and other similar purposes. The fruit of the tree is called date, and grons in clusters below the leaves, and is of assweet agrecable taste.
From the leares the natires make couch. es, baskets, bags, mats and brushes; and from the branches cages for the poultry, and fences for the gardens; from the fibres of the boughs, thread, ropes, and rigsing; from the sap, a spirituous liquor isprepared; and the tree furnishes fuel. It is said, that from the body of one variety of the prinn-tree, meal has been extracted, which is found among the fibres of the truak, and has been used for food.
$\sim$ Thistree arrivesat its greatest vigourabnut bitty years after its transplantation, and so contioues for seventy-years afterward, annually bearing fifteen or twenty clusters of dates, each of them weighing 15 or 20 pounds. After this period it begins gradually to decline, and usnally falls about the latter end of its second centurs.
The root of the palm-tree produces a
great number of suckers, which, spreading upward, form a kind of forest. It is, prebably, to this multiplication of the palmtree, that the prophet alludes, when he says, 'Ihe rightcous shall flourish like the palm-tree.'

## COMNION THINGS.

## No. 10.-MIND.

The universe is composed of mind or spirit, and matter. The various faculties of the mind, embracing holl intellects aud affections, with their actions and infuences upon each other; and matter, with its combinations, and the laws which govern it, and its action upon mind, present one of the most common and one of the most sublime objects in a boundless creation. Not merely every rational being, but every aninal, eyen in the lowest orders of insects and reptiles, possesses something distinct from matter. It possesses the power of moving itselfof contracting its muscles at pleasure. Many orders in the animal kingdom possess passions or propensities in common with men. They have fear, anger, love, hatred, lore of power, ambition, revenge, gratitude, Yud at interivr specias-cif remmorthe faculty of fitting means to ends, varying with circumstances.
Most animals have in common with man the five senses-they can see, hear, taste, snefl, and feel; and in maty instances these senses are much stronger and more delicate, amony animals than anong men.Mind or spirit, or something distince from :natter, is visible in its operations or effects every where.

But what is nore appropriately caned mind, is not only common, existing as it does wherever there is a rational being to contemplate it, but it constimes the highest, the most interesting. and the most sublime part of the universe of Godi. It is not only as common as luman beiugs, aud ar sublime as the Great Creator, but is so plain and simple as to be within the comprehension of a child three or four years old. It is a great and lamentable mistake, that intellectual and moral philosophy can be comprehended only by sage philosophers. Young philosophers, for such are all children, and much more rational than the old ones, are exactly fitted and prepared to understand and to relish the operations and the results of mind. Ask a child of fire yearsold, whata brute, such as a horse or clog, can do that a tree cannot, and although it is the first time the question was asked him, or his mind brought to it except by its orn voluntary act, and he will at once prove that he has the power of
disciicinination, and that he has been much in the habit of discriminating. Ask him again, tifiat a child cas: do thata brute cannot, or to distinguish betryen the rational and thé dhimal powers, and he will soon convince you that he is not merely able to understand, but that he has studied, and studied with effect, the powers of mind as distinct fromi matter. He will convinice you that hie lias studied both the intellectual and moral faculties of his nature-that ho has made great progress in the exercise and improvement of his intellectual powersthat he is quite competent to decide questious of right and wrong-and to understand his obligakion to pursue the one and araid the other. Enestion him respecting the ndture and tondency of the great christian principle of lobing our neighber-of doing good to cack other,-and he will convince you that his perceptions un moral subjects are accurate and clear-and that he is far more aice in hisdiseriminations than adults.
How delightiul and animating would be the reflectioy, if the operations and intescourse of siands a:id hearts produced nothing but grod frit. How consoling and how glorious would be the thought, that all the retations mityntercourse in namizerseof minds were con!y calculated to elevate and ennoble then, and render them more worthy of themselves, and more like their Creator.

## THE MIONTMS.-No.

May, the firth month in the year. reckoning from our first, January; and the third; ccunting the year to herm with March, as the Romans anciently dial, was called Maiks by Romenhs, in respest to the senators and nobles of lisis city, who were named Majores:
The first of May was dedicatedy by the Romans to on - of the most pleasinty ant splendid of their festal rites. Their houses were decked with garlands of nowers and the diay was deroted to pleasure. Some are of opinion, that the customs formerly so much observed in England on the first of May, have rather been borrowed from our gothic ancestors than from the lRomans. Nhakecpeare says, that it was "impossible to make the people sleep on May-horning, and this eagerness
"To do observance to a morn of May;": was not confined to any particular rank tue society, but royal and noble personages, os well as the lower orders, went out a "dlay-: ing" early in the moraing of the first of May."
May has ever been the favourite month of the year in poctical description; but the ${ }^{\text {: }}$ praises so lavishly bestowed upor it, took-
their rise from climates more southern than far to travel to-day; you look as though you ours. In guch it really uniteg all the soft beauties of spring with the radinuce of summer; and has warmith enough to cheer and invigorate, without overpowering. With us, a great part of the month is yet too chill for much cujoyment of the charms of nature, and frequent injury is done to young plants, \&c. by frosts and nipping winds.

It is scarcely possible to conceive a more beautiful picture than is now presented to the traveller through some of the counties of Eugland. The fields and meadows are clothed in the freshest green of the young grass and corn, the edges are rich in fragrance from the beautiful bloom of the hawthorn or may, the barberry, too, mingling its delicate branches of bright yellow blossom, and the horse-chesnut its elegant clusters of white, with here and there a bright crimson streak. The hedge banks are still gay with blue bells, cowsilips, \&e. and the gardens and orchards now display their highest beauty in the delicate blush of the apple blossom.

## POPULAR SUPERSTITIONS.

(Concluded.)
Many persons have from a dream, or from the prediction of a fortune-teller, imbibed the belief that they must die at a certain tine. The impression has been so powertul, as to be itself the cause of sickness and death.The experiment tried by three London physicians, has been often mentioned. They agreed to find some rugged and healthy man, and see what effect their reiterated assurance that he was dangerously sick would produce. In the following mamer they carried their concerted plan into execution. They went to a road passing over an extensive plain, and a road which was thronged with countrymen crowding iuto the metropolis. Proceeding along at considerable distances from each other, the first looked earnestly for some suitable subject for their experiment. He had not proceeded far before he met a stout man driving a team, who appeared the very picture of health and strength. 'Good norming, my friend,' said the physician, 'you look too sick to be so hard at work, sir.' 'Sick,' answered the countryman, 'I never had a sick day in my life.' 'Indeed,' said the physician in reply, shaking his head with a look of solicitude, -that's bad, such persons seldom survive the first illness. 1 advise you, my friend, to take care of yourself. 1 am afraid you are not long for this world.' The physician then rode on. The countryman began to feel alarmed. He felt of his foreheari to ascertain if he were feverish-thought he felt some peculiar sensation of the brain, and felt a little nausea at the stomach. He had not adranced far on the road, before the second physician met him. 'Friend,' said the gentleman, "i hope you have not
ought to be in bed, rather than at work.' ' I do feel rather strangely,' said the man, 'I am afraid I am going to be sick.' 'Going to be sick,' said the gentleman, 'if you were one of ny patients, I should fear you were never going to be well. If you ralue your life at all, I advise you to go home as quick as possible, and send for a physician.' Whe sountryman now began to feel that he was a sick man; faint and trembling he proceeded a little farther, when the thrid physician met him. He eyed te countryman for a moment with an earnest gaze, and then remarked, 'you must hold your life pretty cheap, my friend, to be out. sick as you are; you look as though you had just escaped from the coffin.' The poor countryman could stand it no longer. His knees trembled, his head grew dizzy, and he was carried into a house, and placed in a bed, a sich man. And it was the unanimous opinion of the physicians, that if the deception had not been explained, he would have died.

Now is the re any; difficulty in accounting for the fact, that now ond then instances have occurred, in which persons have received an impressicu, from a dream, or from the prediction of a fortune-teller, that they must die at a particular time, and at that time have died. The firm belief that their destiny was fixed, has produced the sickness and the death. Such is the well known effects of inagimation.
We will make a few remarks in conclusion, upon the efforts which should be used to arrest the progression of those foolish fears. The influence of these feelings is in a greater or less degree, almost universal.
The sailor wilh climb to the topmast's dizzy height, and there in darkness, when the tempest has broken loose, and wild confusion is warring around him, be fearless and unagitated; and yet will he tremble in his hammock, as he hears the little insect called the death-watch, ticking in the timber by his side.
The soldier will go undaunted to the bloody conflict and grapple with his foe, and not a nerve will tremble, as the instruments of death are showered around him, cad yet he will be afraid to enter the batte field in the night after the conflict, when the ground is strewed with the bodies of the powerless dead.
The stories of childhodod awaken a class of feelings, which it is almost impossible by future efforts to eradicate. Even the most cautious parents, are hardly avare of the greediness, with which clildren catch these tales. And the parent who appeals to supernatural fears to govern his child, is doing the clild an injury which is irreparaole.There are many persons who are afraid even to go about their own houses in the dark. How careful then ought they to be who are
placing ideas in the infant mind, to exclude these false ideas. If a child be properly taught to trust in God as its father and its iriend, it will feel that that protection is as sure in the darkness as in the light. Some children are afraid to go to sleep at night, without a candle burning in the roum. What a censure is this upon a mother's instruction. Other children who have been properly tanght, are willing to go alone to their chambers, and in the dark find the way to their place of rest. What a testimony does this present, of the faithfuluess of parental instruction. This is the advantage which we hope may be derived from tie discussion of this subject;-that greater efforts may be made, to keep from the minds of the rising gencration, the knowledge of these superstitious notions. We should make the love and the fear of God the basis of education, and upon this, endeavour to rear a superstructuse of high, ami honousable, and clevated character; lead a man in humility to the footstool of his God, and under the protection of that almighty arm to fear nothing.

## VISIT TO A STEREOTYPE FOUNDRY:

On entering, we were politely received by Mr. B. who conducted as first into a room appropriated to the setting of types and the currection of proof-sheets. The first thing which arrested our attention was two females-one of whon was reading the perfeet cony of a work then in press to the other, who held a proof-sineet of the satne work in her hand, and corrected all imperfections. The nanner in which she read, appeared very amusing to us-for instance, when she came to a conma, she abbreviated it by saying com.; for semicolin, sem.; for a period, puint, sec. At the farther end of the room, other females were setting types, and in the centre of the same apartment were young men locking them up.We then descended into a small dark room, where every thing was coverel with a white dust, which we found, on examination, to be plaster of Paris. This was called the mouldiny room. Here the pages of types were brouglat and enclused in a frame, and then covered with this plaster, mixed with water to the consistence of cream. This was suffered to remain till the paste became hardened, when the page of types was taken from the under side, and we found it had left a perfect impression on the mould.

Mr. B. then conducted us to a small and very dirty room, where he said the moulds were brought from the moulding-room. We saw very large pieces of type mould lying about the room on the floor. In one corner there was a large kettle, which was halffilled with type metal, melted by a fire uno derneath. Over the kettle there was a crane, to which was attached by a chain a basin a foot and a half in length and six inches in depth. This basin descended into the
kettie, and hung so low as to be entirely have it about our ears." Notwithstanding covered by the type metal. A man who was standing near; and who had the charge of this part of the business, soon took it ott, and placed it in a reservoir of water which was in the middle of the room, that it might cool. While this was cooling, he took another basin, and filling the bottom of it with mould, with the printed side downwards, he placed an iron cover upon it, which had holes perforated in the corvers of it, and sunk it in the metal, in the samo way with the other. If ter having clone this, he took the busin first spoken of from the water, and placed it on a $\log$ which was in another part of the room. He then took off the cover, and we saw a perlect impreszion of the letters of the nould made upon the type metal. These are called stercotype plates, which are now conveyed to another room, where they are all made of an equal thickness by shaving. After shaving, the piates belonging to one work are placed in adrawer, and the name of the work written upou the outsile of the drawer. These plates, after being blocked, are ready for use, and when they have been used, are again melted and prepared with other moulds for some other book.

## the langer of delay.

Johnand William Davis were millers, and occupied a place on the side of the river. A channel which hail been cut from the river supplied them with water, and no one ever passed the little foot-bridge, by the floodgates, without peeping into the mill; for the hoppers made such a clatter, and the socks weat up and down so briskly, that it was quite clear John and William Davis were doing considerable business. Up in the morbing at fis, , they industriously began the busy day, ond it was only when the river was very low that the water wheels were not whirling round anid the foaming waters.
The mill had belonged to their father before them, and had got much out of repair; and the roof let in the rain, and the river had, by little and little, worn away the bank till there was some fear that the foundation of the mill wouid be weakened. John and William were told this by their neighborsthey saw it with their own eyes; but still they delayed repairing the roof and the entbankment, till the danger had considerably increased. "We must do something to them next summer," said John. "Ay," replied William, "for if we do not, the mill will come down sure enough." The summer came, but as it was a very dry one, they continued very busy, and the repairs of the mill were quite out of the question. "I tell you what," said William, "it does not signify talking, but the mill must be repaired this next summer. "True," replied John, "for if it be not, we shall soon
have it about our ears." Notwithstanding
these resolutions, sumuner came und went, and no repairs took place at the mill.

Now all this time, the rain was pelting worse and worse through the roof, and the bank was being washed away by little and little, till every neighbor saw that the danger was great. Jolun and William had, from tinie to time, patched up, here and there a hole in the roof, and now and then put a few spades of earth against the bank, but all this amounted to nothing. Judeed it was worse than nothing, for it only deceived them into a belief of their security.
"I an thinking." said Mr. Horton, the stone-mason, as he passed one windy day, over the foot-bridge, "that meither this bridge nor the mill will stand filty years longer. The first thood will brimg ain old house over somebody's head."

Mr. Horton saw the danger but tro clearly, for that very same day the river rose rapidly, in consequence of the rain which had fallen on the hills, and the wind a.d rain beat upon the root of the mill, till a part of it fell in with a terrible crash. This was a sad affair, for now there was no possibility of putting of the repars, thongh it was a bad time of the year to begin them.John and Willian went off in a hurry to consult Mr. Horton about the expense of a new roof, but while they were talking about it, Samuel Ball, the miller's man, came breathless with haste, and pale with: fear, to tell them that the civer had undermined the foundation of the mill, and that one half of it was level with the ground.
John and William Davis had been recommended, fifty times over, to build a new mill a little further from the running waters, but they thought of the expense, and hoped the old mill would last at least a few years longer, especially as every summer they intended to putit in repair. They had, however, ne, lected to repair the old mill, and delayed to build a new one, till it was too late. The old one was now in a condition too bad to be repaired, and they had no new one to remove to. So they lostat once, their mill, their customers, anil their means of support.

## changing places.

"Think twice before you act once," said Mr. T. to a journeyman, who talked of leaving his master for the sake of higher wigges. "You may, perlhaps, get higher wages for 2 few weeks, $j$ ist while the run lostis, but how will it be all the year round? Besides, think how ungenerous it would be, in the busy tine, to leave a master who has kept you employed when trade was dull?
" When 1 was in business," added Mr. T. "I had many men in my employ, and was always desirous of keeping them in constant work, at such wages as would en-
at a time when work was dull, but found them employment in what 1 hoped afterwards to bring into use. I seldom had occasion to take on extra hands, at a busy dime, and 1 made it a rule never to take on a man who lad once deliberately left my employ. If ainy ane siguified his intention of leaving, I generally advised him to sleep upon his resolution, and to remember that, if he onee lett, he would have no chánce of being taken on again. By steadily maintaining chis plan, 1 and my men came to understand each other; they were satisfied that moderate gains, all the year round, were, on the whole, preferable to an occasional flush and frequent destitution; they lost the restlessilesire of changiug, and I had the pleasure of leaving in the employ of my sons, scores of men who had worked many years for their fither, men who had maintained their tamilies in decency, and who had most of them laid by a suly tride for a rainj day."- F'emily Bjol.

## maising a capital.

About fifty years back, thi. young fellows, brothers, went to Jamaic ; they were by trale blacksmiths. Finding, soon after their alrival, that hey could do nothing without a little money to berin with, but hat with 601. or 70l. they might be able to realize a fortune, they hit upon the following novel and ingenious expedient.-One of them stripped the other naked, shaved him close, and blackened him from head to foot. This ceremony being performed, he took him to one of the nerrodealers, who was so pleased with the appearance of the young fellow, that he advanced 80l. currency upon the bill of sale, and prided himself much upon the purclase, supposing him the finest negro on the island. The sume evening, this paanufactured negro made his escape to his brother, washed hiuself clean, and resumed his formar appearance.-Rewards were then in vain offered in handhills, pursuit was eiluded, and discovery, by care and precantion, renderell impracticable. The brothers with the money commenced business, and actualIy returned to Eingland, not many years since, with a fortune of $20,000 \mathrm{l}$. Previous, however, to their departure from the island, they waited upon the genteman from whom they had received the money, and recalling the circumstance of the negro to his recollection, paid him the principal and interest zoili thunks.

## GREEN BANK SCHOOL.

The Subscriber respectfully informs the inhabitants of Halifax, that he intends opening a School on Monday, the 4th of May next, nearly opposite Mr. Slbro's Barn, Acwtown, wohere Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, in their different branches will be taught.

## POBRRT.

## MAY DAY.

" Mother, what makes you feel so sad?
The day is very fair-
And see hosv very, rery glad, Our little neighbors are.
Dear cousin Jane is May-duy queenShe has a now pink gownMother, I wish you could have secn
Them weave the daisy crown.
Ilove to sce them dancing soAnd they are very atearBut, mother dear, I cannot go, While you sit ucepping here.
What makes you feel so vory sad' Tell iittle Ann and 1-
If you dop't love to see us glad, We'll sit doun too and cry."
"Mfy darling boy," the mother said,
"It gives me joy lo see
So muny huppy forms arraycd Around the May pole tree:
And you may go and dance, my dears,And beas glad as they; I'll try to dry up all my tears If you'll enjoy your play.

## $I$ thought of gentle sister Rose, Who last year was their queen; And now licr little limbs repose Beneath the church yardgrect.

Sweet little Anna's mild blue eye
Has just her loving glance-
${ }^{\prime}$ Theas this, my son, that made me cry, Amid the May day dance."
"But, mother, you hare often said, God took but what he'd given;
And that we must not mourn the dead, Because she was in heaven."
"Oh, kiss me-hiss me, my dear boy ! No other tear I'll shed;
And I will skare thy childish joy: Fer happy is the dcad."

## BIOGRAPHY.

Alexander Cnuden-author of the well-known and valuable Concordance of the Old and New Testament, was a bookseller in London, as much distinguished for eccentricity as for learuing. He opened a shop under the Royal Exchange in 1732, and it was here that he composed his Concordance. The work appeared in 1737, and was dedicated to Queen Caroline, who died, however, only a few days afterreceiving the presentation copy. Poor Cruden had formed very extravagant expectations from the patronage of his royal mistress, and this disappointment was too much for him. He
occasions, and he was now reduced to such a state that his friends found it necessary to send him to a lunatic asylum. This interruption did not, however, terminate his litemary career. Having made his escape from his place of confinement, he published a vehement remonstrance on the manner in which he had been treated; and at the same time brought an action against Dr. Monro and other persons who liad been concerned in the affiar, in which, however, he was non-suited. This new injustice as he conceived it to be, gave occasion to several more pamphlets. After this, he found employment for several years as a correctur of the press-the character in which he had first appeared in London, and for which he was well fitted by his education and acquirements. Very accurate editions of the Greek and Latin classips appeared at this time, printed under his superintendence. But, in the course of a few years, his maladiy re turned, and he was again placed in confinement: on his liberation from which, he again tried his old expedient of prosecuting the persons who had presumed to offer him such an indignity, laying his damagos, on this occasion at $£ 10,000$. Being agais, unsuccessful, he determined as before, to pullisk his case to the world; and accordingly forth came the statement, in four successive parts, under the title of the 'Adecntures of Alexunder the Corrector-a name which lie now assumed, not as the reader might suppose, in reference to his occupation of inspector of prool sherts, but as expresive of his higher character of censor-general of the public. His favourite instrument and chief auxiliary in executing the duties of this oflice was a large sponge, which he carried constantly about with him in his walks through town, for the purpose of obliterating all offensive inscriptions which he observed on the walls, especially the famous ' No 4.5,' the mark of the partisans of Wilkes, to whose excesses he strenuously opposed himself, both in this way and by various admonitary pamplatets. On the publication of the second part of lis adventures, he went to present it at court, in the expectation of being knighted; and soon after oftered himself is a candidate to represent the city of London in Parliament. Giving out, too, that he hed a commission from heaven to preach a general reformation of manners, he made the attempt first among the gownsmen at Oxford, and then anong the prisoners at Newgate; but in both cases with very little effect. In the midst of these and many other extravagances, he both brought out a second and shird enlarged edition of his Concordance, and pursued his labours as a corrector of the press, and a fabricator of indexes, with as much steadiness as if his intellect had been perfectly sound; had to and doubtless it was so when properly ex-

