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# THE WEEKLY MIRROR.

Vol. I.]

HALIFAX, FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1835.

[No. 10.

## NATURAL HISTORY.

### THE LION.

The figure of the lion is bold, his motions are stately, and his voice is terrible. He has a very broad face, surrounded with a long mane, which gives him a grand and majestic appearance. His eyes are bright and fiery, and though he has a generous look in general, yet, when he is angry, his looks are furious and terrific. When his roaring is heard in the night, and re-echoed from the mountains, it is like the sound of distant thunder. Goldsmith says, that "when the lion is excited by opposition, he summons up all his terrors, and nothing can be more formidable. He then lashes his sides with his long tail, which is alone strong enough to lay a man level: his mane seems to rise, and stand like bristles round his head; the skin and muscles of his face are all in agitation; his huge eye-brows half cover his glaring eye-balls; he discovers his terrific teeth and tongue, and extends his claws, which appear almost as long as a man's fingers. Prepared in this manner for war, even the boldest of the human kind are daunted at his approach, and there are few animals that dare attack him."

It is said, that when the lion is seeking his food, and finds men and other animals in the same field, he will attack the animals, and will never meddle with men, unless they provoke him to engage. His teeth are so strong, that he easily breaks the bones of his victims, and swallows them with the rest of the body.

This fierce animal may be tamed without much difficulty, and it is curious to see how calm and gentle he is to his keepers. He will allow them to play with him, to pull out his tongue, and even to put their heads into his mouth, without the least attempt to do them an injury.

The lion is generally found in Africa and the East-Indies: these hot climates seem to be best suited to his habits.—The most usual way of taking these animals, is when they are little cubs; and being then brought up in a domestic manner, they are tame and gentle. Sometimes, however, lions are taken in pit-falls, or deep holes made in the ground, and covered over slightly with sticks and earth, so that they give way beneath the weight of the lion, and he sinks to the bottom, and cannot escape. Lions, like Elephants, are said to remember, after many years, those who have been kind to them, and to shew surprising signs of affection and gratitude.

## COMMON THINGS.

### No. 4.—ALKALIES.

Potash, soda and ammonia are called alkalies. The two first are used in one form or another every day in every family in civilized society. The last is much more extensively used in agriculture and the arts than is generally supposed. Potash and soda are both used for making soap: the one for soft, the other for hard soap. We are, of course, indebted to them in no small degree for the means of cleanliness, which are essential to comfort and decency, and in days of cholera to health and safety.

Potash is a part of salt petre, also of other salts, and of many rocks, and other minerals. Soda constitutes a part of table salt, and a large part of some other substances.

Ammonia is commonly, if not always produced, where there is fermentation and decay of animal matter, and is perhaps one of the most efficient aids to farmers in giving them abundant crops.

Lime and magnesia have some of the properties of alkalies, and are hence called alkaline earths.

The principal object in introducing the acids and alkalies at this time, is to show their relation to each other, which is intimate and intimately connected with our daily comfort and even our existence. The most prominent and interesting point in this relation is, their strong attraction for each other.—In nature they are almost always united.

It is even difficult to separate them. Indeed the most direct, if not the only way, in which an alkali can be induced to give up the acid with which it is associated, is, to present it with another which it likes better. The potash in saltpetre will discharge the nitric acid, which has been its associate perhaps for centuries, if it can have the society of sulphuric acid, for which it uniformly has a stronger partiality. Sulphuric acid will also induce the soda, in common table salt, to discharge the muriatic acid which has been its most intimate, and almost only friend from their youth, even for five or six thousand years, on condition of the society of the new comer. Pearlash will immediately discharge the carbonic acid which it has taken into compact, when madam vinegar presents herself, though not without some struggles and commotions, between the three, which chemists call effervescence; and it would be well for society, perhaps, if effervescence between old friends and associates, was confined to acids and alkalies.

Acids and alkalies, when alone, are corrosive, and disposed to attack many things

coming in their way; but when united, they are both so far softened in their character, and appeased in their wrath, as to be harmless and exceedingly kind and serviceable.

For example, potash and nitric acid, which compose salt petre, and soda and sulphuric acid, which compose glauber salts, when pure and alone, are some of the most biting, corrosive things in the world; when united, both are mild and comparatively harmless, and for many purposes highly important. This softening down of the character of acids, alkalies, and many other substances, by uniting them, is what chemists call *neutralizing*. If the asperities of living, acting, talking things, could be more frequently neutralized, by some kind of friends, it would be for their own peace and credit, and for the quiet and happiness of those around them.

Acids and alkalies, being in daily and almost constant use in every family, it could hardly fail of being a source of great interest, as well as practical utility, to have their properties and relations as familiar as the names of the common household furniture. It is not uncommon for accidents to occur, and sometimes life is destroyed, or a wretched existence prolonged by a mistake, in using an acid or alkali for some other substance. Three fourths of the evil arising from these mistakes might be prevented by a knowledge of the remedy which is almost always at hand: a knowledge, too, which can be acquired in a few hours, or a few days at most.

For example, if a person, by accident, drink a solution of potash, pearlash, or common lye, a knowledge that it was an alkali and of course neutralized by an acid, would direct him or a friend to the vinegar cruet. If an acid were taken, he would go directly to the pearlash bottle, or throw some ashes into water and make some quick ley which he would drink.

If an acid or an alkali is spilt upon a garment and in danger of producing a stain or destroying its texture, if the other be applied, the evil in nine cases out of ten, will be prevented.

More of these two classes of bodies, with their relations and uses in the domestic and useful arts, in the future numbers.

## THE ARTS.

The general operations of mechanics or artists are to separate bodies, and again unite them, or change them into the different forms. They resort to mechanical and chemical operations, both in separating and uniting bodies.

Some of the instruments for mechanical separation are, the hammer, saw, axe, knife,

hatchet, chisel, shears, gouge, plane, lathe, auger, drill, punch, needle, stamp, grinding mills of many kinds, muller, plough, hoe, harrow peck, wedge, &c.

The instruments and operations for uniting bodies mechanically, are the nail, bolt, screw, rivet, thread, twine, cord, rope, latch, hook, staple, link, button, glue, putty, wafer, sealing-wax, starch, paste, numerous cements, mortise, dovetail, groove and tongue, lapping and folding.

The chemical operations of separating and uniting, are frequently done in the same process. The same process of heating copper and zinc first dissolves each, and then unites or combines them, to form brass.

The same process which dissolves gum copal, unites it with the spirit and forms varnish.

The chemical agents and operations for dividing and again uniting bodies, are almost innumerable, but some of the most common are heat, acids and alkalies, which produce fusion or melting, solution, welding, soldering, &c.

To be Continued.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

### THE HAPPY MATCH.

"Now," said Harry Williams to his young wife, when they went to housekeeping, "it is my business to bring money into the house, and yours to see that none goes foolishly out of it." This was the agreement with which they set forward in the world. He chose her, first, because he loved her, and in the second place, because he knew she was sensible, economical and industrious—just the reasons which influence a sensible man in his choice now. And he thought it best that each should have a distinct sphere of action. Their interests were one and indivisible—consequently each had the same motive to act well the allotted part. His business called for his whole attention; he wished, therefore, to pursue it undistracted by other cares—for himself, he looked for happiness only at home; there he expected a supply for all his wants, and he was of course not disposed to spend any thing abroad, in pursuit of what he thought every reasonable man ought to look for in the bosom of his own family. Her duties being all domestic, she was able to compass them the better by turning her whole attention to them. Her husband's business doing habits—his temperate and correct life, had all the power of example, increasing her esteem, and doubling her anxiety to deserve his.

They married without waiting to get rich—they neither distrusted Providence nor each other. With little besides health, and a disposition to improve it, they nevertheless had that strong confidence of final success, which prudent resolutions inspire in

those who feel that they have perseverance enough to adhere to them. Thus they began the world.

To attach a man to his home, it is necessary that home should have attractions.—Harry Williams had. There he sought repose after the toil and wearisomeness of the day, and there he found it. When perplexed and low spirited, he retired thither, and amid the soothing influence of its quiet and peaceful shades, he forgot the heartlessness of the world, and all the wrongs of men. When things went ill with him, he always found a solace in the sunshine of affection that in the domestic circle beamed upon him, and dispelled every cloud from his brow. However others treated him, there all was kindness, confidence and affection; if others deceived him, and hypocrisy, with its shameless face, smiled on him to delude and injure him, there all was sincerity—that sincerity of the heart which makes amends for suffering, and wins the troubled spirit from misanthropy.

Nothing so directly tends to make a good wife, a good housekeeper, a good domestic economist, as that kindness on the part of the husband, which speaks the language of approbation, and that careful and well directed industry which thrives and gives strong promise that her care and prudence will have a favourable issue. And Mary Williams had this token and this assurance.

Harry devoted himself to business with steady purpose and untiring zeal: he obtained credit by his plain and honest dealing—custom by his faithful punctuality and constant care—friends by his obliging deportment and accommodating disposition. He gained the reputation of being the best workman in the village; none were ever deceived who trusted to his word. He always drove his business a little beforehand; for, he said, "things go better when the cart gets before the horse." I noticed once a little incident which illustrated his character: A thrifty old farmer was accosted on the road at the end of the village by a youngster who was making a great dash in business, and who wanted to borrow a few hundred dollars. The wily old man was perfectly ignorant where it could be had, and slid off from him as soon as he could. He rode directly down to Williams, and told him he had a few hundred dollars to loan, and wished he would take it; the payments should be easy—just such as would suit. Indeed, replied Harry, you have come to a bad market—I have a little cash to spare myself, and have been looking round these two weeks for a good opportunity of putting it out.

While Harry was prospering in his business, all went on like clock-work at home; the family expenditures were carefully made—not a farthing was wasted, nor a scrap lost—the furniture was all neat and useful,

rather than ornamental—the table plain, frugal, but wholesome and well-spread—little went either to the seamstress or tailor—no extravagance in dress, no costly company keeping, no useless waste of time in careless visiting, and yet the whole neighbourhood praised Mary Williams and loved her; she was kind without dissipation—and while few people lived more comfortably, none lived more economically.

The results of such management can never disappoint the expectations to which it looks. Even the angry frown of misfortune is almost put at defiance. Advantage-ground is soon gained, which the storm seldom reaches. And the full reward comes in the proper time, to crown the meed of lives thus spent.

The music of Harry's tools was in full play, on the morning that I left the village for a distant residence. It was not yet sunrise. And as the coach bore me rapidly past the cool and quiet residence of the villager, I saw the door was open, and the breakfast smoking on the table. Mary in neat morning dress and white apron, blooming in health and loveliness, was busy, amid her household affairs; and a stranger who chanced to be my fellow-passenger to the city, observed it, and said, "there is a thriving family, my word for it." And he spoke well. There are certain signs always perceptible about those who are working things right, that cannot be mistaken by the most casual observer.

On my return to —, many years afterwards, I noticed a beautiful country residence on the banks of the river, surrounded by all the elegance of wealth and taste. Richly cultivated fields stretched themselves out on every side as far as the eye could reach—and flocks and herds were scattered in every direction. It was a splendid scene; the sun was just setting behind the western hills, and while a group of neatly dressed children sported on the adjacent school-house green, the mellow notes of the flute mingled with their noisy mirth.—"There," said an old friend, "lives Harry Williams—that is his farm—those are his cattle—here is the school-house, and these his own and some orphan children of his adoption, which he educates at his own expense—having made a noble fortune by his industry and prudence, he spends his large income in deeds of charity, and he and Mary mutually give each other the credit of doing this."

My heart expanded then—it expands still when I think of them—and I pen their simple history in the hope, that as it is entirely imitable, some who read it will attempt to imitate it.

*Inscribe injuries on sand, and benefits on marble.*

*Idleness has no advocate, but many friends.*

## POPULAR SUPERSTITIONS.

There are few persons, who will acknowledge that they are superstitious; but there are still less, who are not in some degree, under the influence of superstitious fears. There is almost a universal apprehension of something supernatural. Those who laugh the loudest at ghosts, and hobgoblins, will still quicken their pace, as they hear some unusual sound when passing the graveyard at the gloomy hour of midnight. The calm and intellectual philosopher, whose reason spurs all imaginary evils, is compelled at times to be ashamed of himself, as he finds that imagination has the mastery over judgment. The reason of the universal prevalence of these feelings is to be found in a great degree, in the impressions we receive in childhood. The tales of the nursery awaken a belief, which the future judgment may pronounce to be foolish, but the influence of which, in a greater or less degree, is felt through life. There is undoubtedly much in the peculiarity of our present condition, to give the mind a strong tendency to apprehend supernatural events. The mysterious union of soul to body: the awful phenomenon of death—the departure of friends we love, from present scenes, and their entrance upon a condition we know not what, and into worlds we know not where—the certain knowledge of spiritual existences unseen and unheard, all prepare the mind to be easily excited by occurrences, apparently conflicting with acknowledged laws. But it is generally in childhood that we receive those impressions, which future years are unable to erase.

And lest any, from the selection of this subject should anticipate a *mirth making* performance, we forewarn our readers that it will not be our endeavour to amuse with witty speculations but to interest with facts.

It is a fact, humiliating though it be, that there is hardly an individual in any land, who does not at times experience momentary inconveniences from such feelings. And there are great multitudes who have undoubted confidence in the reality of ghostly interference in mortal concerns.

Those who are not habituated to reflection, often retain undiminished till a dying hour, a belief in those signs and omens which they were taught in childhood. They do not question the truth of those ideas, which have been instilled into the mind in earliest infancy, and which have been the motives to which parents have first appealed, in imbecile efforts to govern. How often is a child told that unless he ceases crying, he shall be shut up in a dark closet, where the ghosts will come and catch him. And what an indelible impression must such a threat produce upon the pliant mind. With the unreflecting, superstition is consequently strong. Their minds are not sufficiently cultivated to throw off the load which has

been imposed upon them. The better informed, who are accustomed to examine their feelings, and inquire into the grounds of their belief, emancipate their judgment from these unreal fears, but are generally through life in some degree under the control of the strong prejudices, which were early inculcated. The belief in supernatural appearances is so general, and is productive of such evil consequences, that the subject deserves a sober treatise.

1. We shall first allude to those appearances which are unusual, and which to the uninformed seem supernatural, but which are capable of explanation from the known principles of philosophy or natural science. The fire balls usually known by the name of 'Jack with the Lantern,' or 'Will o' the Wisp,' so often seen dancing over the marsh, produce great terror and often serious injury. Now here there is no delusion. A person actually sees a light where there is no human being who bears it, and not acquainted with the chemical principles of inflammable gases, and spontaneous combustion, he naturally concludes, that it must be some apparition sent as a warning to himself, or to the village. Perhaps in a few days some accident occurs, or some neighbor dies, and he feels without a doubt, that this luminous meteor was sent as a monition. This story is circulated through the whole village. As it passes from house to house, it is receiving constant accessions, and grows more marvellous and more appalling, till every child is afraid to venture out of doors, after nightfall. The man who is conversant with natural science, beholds in this appearance no cause of fear, but an interesting natural phenomenon.—An inflammable gas oozes from the ground, and it is set on fire by spontaneous combustion. A person who is acquainted with gases, can take a tumbler and go to the marsh and fill it with this gas, and returning to his house burn it there. But how is it set on fire, down in the marsh, where every thing is damp? It is well known that barns are frequently burnt in consequence of hay being put into them before it has been sufficiently dried. The damp hay inflames itself. In the same manner this gas, which is so very combustible, may be set on fire, and the innocent flickering of its feeble flame, sends dismay through an ignorant and superstitious village.

Every boy is acquainted with lightwood, and yet many a man has fled as though demons were in pursuit of him, because he has seen in some rotten stump the bright light which decayed wood emits. His terrified imagination, aided by the darkness of the night, transforms the stump into a giant with eyes of fire and tongue of flame, and remembering that the 'better part of courage is discretion,' he seeks safety in flight.—When he arrives at his home breathless, and pale, and trembling, to satisfy his affright-

ed hearers that he had good cause for his terror, he declares that the giant called after him and pursued him, and that he heard the loud clatter of the monster's feet close behind him. The children creep off trembling to bed, and dream all night of ghosts, and never forget the occurrence till their dying hour. The poor stump remains in the field perfectly unconscious of the injury it has done. The light in this decayed wood is produced by a substance called phosphorus. It is this which God has given, as a lamp to the firefly. This substance, chemists can collect in large quantities. The light which it emits is so pale, that it cannot be seen in the day, but is easily discernible in the night.

To be Continued.

## WEEKLY MIRROR.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1835.

CANADA.—*Henry Jessop, Esq. Collector of H. M. Customs at Quebec, has been committed to jail, by a warrant from the Speaker of the House of Assembly. Mr. J. had been ordered by the House, to furnish some official documents for their use, which he declined doing unless authorized by the Governor.*

BERMUDA.—*An American Brig from Alexandria, bound to Charleston, was blown off the American coast and put into Bermuda, in distress. She had 78 slaves on board, who were brought before the Chief Justice of the Island, by a writ of Habeas Corpus, and 72 were emancipated. The remaining six, (a woman and her five children,) preferred, to remain in slavery and returned to the vessel.*

March 3.—*Arrived yesterday, H. M. Frigate President, Capt. Scott, bearing the flag of Vice-Admiral Sir George Cockburn, G. C. B. : sailed from Jamaica on the 15th ult. The Island of Jamaica was particularly quiet, and free from disease of any kind.*

UNITED STATES.—*The Committee of Foreign relations of the House of Representatives, have submitted the following Resolutions to the House:—*

*Resolved, That it would be incompatible with the rights and honor of the United States further to negotiate in relation to the treaty entered into by France on the 4th July, 1831, and that this House will insist upon its execution as ratified by both governments.*

*Resolved; That the Committee of Foreign affairs be discharged from the further consideration of so much of the President's Message as relates to Commercial Restrictions, or to reprisals on the commerce of France.*

*Resolved, That contingent preparations ought to be made to meet any emergency growing out of our relations with France.*

## POETRY.

## DIRGE,

TO THE MEMORY OF MISS ELLEN GEE,  
OF KEW, WHO DIED IN CONSEQUENCE  
OF BEING STUNG IN THE EYE.

Peerless, yet hapless maid of Q !  
Accomplish'd L N G !  
Necer again shall I and U  
Together sip our T.

For ah ! the Fates ! I know not Y,  
Sent 'midst the flowers a B,  
Which ven'rous stung her in the I,  
So that she could not C.

L N exclaim'd, " vile, spiteful B !  
If ever I catch U  
On jess'mine, rose bud, or sweet P,  
I'll change your stinging Q.

" I'll send U, like a lamb or U,  
Across the Atlantic C,  
From our delightful village Q,  
To distant O Y E.

A stream runs from my wounded I,  
Salt as the briny C.  
As rapid as the X or Y,  
The O I O or D.

" Then fare thee ill insensate B !  
Who stung nor yet knew Y ;  
Since not for wealthy Durham's C  
Would I have lost my I."

They bear with tears fair L N G  
In funeral R A,  
A clay cold corpse now doom'd to B,  
Whilst I mourn her D K.

Ye nymphs of Q, then shun each B,  
List to the reason Y !  
For should A B C U at T,  
He'll surely sting your I.

Now in a grave L deep in Q.  
She's cold as cold can B ;  
Whilst Robins sing upon a U  
Her dirge and L E G.

## BIOGRAPHY.

## JOHN STOW.

John Stow, the learned, industrious, and indefatigable antiquary, author of the *Annals of England and the Survey of London*, was born in the parish of St. Michael, Cornhill, in 1525; being the son of Thomas Stow, woollen-draper and tailor, which occupation he followed for some time.—What kind of education he received, or whether the acquirements he possessed were not entirely the fruits of his own exertions, cannot now be ascertained; yet from the deep knowledge of the customs of ancient times, the abstruse erudition and the intimate acquaintance with mankind displayed in the production of his pen, it will be fair to infer, he at last received a tolerable share

of school learning. The mental propension of Stow was towards the study of English history and antiquities, and doubtless, his mind was early directed towards this, his ruling passion. While a very young man, he became conspicuous for collecting and amassing MSS. and old records, then dispersed by the recent dissolution of the religious houses.

Such was the avidity of Stow in collecting old papers and books,—

"With clasps embossed and coat of rough bull's hide,  
Which now are all the bibliomaniac's pride."

that he actually travelled on foot during the suppression of the monasteries, from one part of England to another, collecting all the remains of records relative to estates, families, and historic events, then brought to light from the monastic librarian.

A very predominant feature in the character of Stow, (and a most invaluable quality it is when possessed by an historian) was his love of truth; he suffered no error, however long sanctioned by the voice of prejudice, to deceive his enlightened vision; he allowed no name, however high in literary estimation, to mislead his judgment; falsehood shrunk from his grasp, and the fine-told, specious, long received and credited historic errors, vanished at his approach as the mist before the noon-day sun. Yet, even this intimate love of verity produced him many enemies among men, who ought rather to have honoured than envied his acquirements. Indeed, it was the fate of Stow, like many other laborious and useful writers, to have lived more to the advantage of others than himself; and from the superior light in which his works are viewed at the present day, it is surprising that their author should have produced from them so little benefit to himself. An acute and morbid sensibility combined with neglect and disappointment to render the old age of the learned antiquary uncomfortable; his latter days were spent in poverty and obscurity; his natural irritability of temper soured by disappointments, and rendered worse by the attacks and want of feeling of his opponents and pretended friends, contributed to hasten his dissolution; and the man who had alone preserved to the city of London the records relative to its wards, parishes, palaces, public edifices, monuments, charters, customs, privileges, arms, &c. passed through existence in difficulties, and closed his eyes in want, without that assistance and commiseration which his learning, abilities, and perseverance merited.

He expired in the 80th year of his age, on the 5th of April, 1605, and was buried in the church of St. Andrew, Undershaft, where a monument to his memory was erected by his wife, on which his effigy, sitting in the posture of deep meditation, with a long Latin inscription, is still extant.

## EDUCATION OF DAUGHTERS.

Since there is a season when the youthful must cease to be young, and the beautiful to excite admiration, to learn how to grow old gracefully, is, perhaps, one of the rarest and most valuable arts that can be taught to woman. And, it must be confessed, it is a most severe trial for those women who lay down beauty, who have nothing else to take up. It is for this sober season of life, that education should lay up its rich resources. However disregarded hitherto they may have been, they will be wanted now. When admirers fall away, and flatterers become mute, the mind will be driven to retire into itself, and if it find no entertainment at home; it will be driven back again upon the world with increased force. Yet forgetting this, do we not seem to educate our daughters exclusively, for the transient period of youth, when it is to maturer life we ought to advert? Do we not educate them for a crowd, forgetting they are to live at home? for a crowd, and not for themselves? for show, and not for use? for time and not for eternity?—*H. More.*

MURDER.—A correspondent has suggested to us, (says the Presbyterian) that if we read the word MURDER, backwards, we will find the principal cause of the frequent occurrence of that horrible crime.—*Am. pap.*

## QUESTIONS ON NATURAL HISTORY.

Does the Goat possess instinct?  
Is there more than one sort of goat?  
State how they differ?  
What is the size of the Mole?  
Is it provided with eyes?  
Why are they small?  
Would not large eyes have been more useful?  
To what reflection, should this description of the mole lead?  
Is the Torpedo a fish or a beast?  
How is it known?  
Describe its shape and weight?  
Where is it found?  
What remarkable power does it possess?  
To what purposes can it be applied?  
Do other fishes possess it?

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