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THE WEEKLY MIRROR.

Vol. I.]

HALIFAX, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1835.

[No 7.]

NATURAL HISTORY.

THE GOAT.

This animal is found in every part of the world—easily domesticated,—and too well known to need a description. It is often mentioned in the Bible. Dr. Russell and other travellers inform us, that in Syria they have two kinds of goats; one that differs little from the common sort in Britain; the other remarkable for the length of its ears, which are sometimes upwards of a foot long, and broad in proportion. To this description of the goat it is, as Mr. Hammer reasonably supposes, that the prophet Amos refers, in expressing the smallness of that part of Israel that escaped from destruction, and were seated in foreign countries: 'As the shepherd taketh out of the mouth of the lion, two legs, or a piece of an ear, so shall the children of Israel be taken out that dwell in Samaria, and in Damascus,' ch. iii. 12.

The goat was one of the clean animals which the Israelites were permitted to eat, and to offer on the altar, (Exodus xii. 5, &c. ;) and the flesh of the kid is frequently mentioned in terms which show that it was esteemed as a great delicacy, Gen. xxxviii. 16, 17; Jud. xvi. Solomon promises as a reward to the diligent husbandman, that he shall have *goat's milk* enough for his food, for the food of his household, and for the maintenance of his maidens, (Prov. xxvii. 27 ;) which to us may appear somewhat strange; but Russell assures us, that in Aleppo, these animals are chiefly kept for their milk, of which they yield no inconsiderable quantity; that it is sweet and well-tasted, and frequently used for the making of cheese. This furnishes one amongst many instances of the importance of historical and local information to a right understanding of the sacred writings.

The following story, said to be true, shows that the goat possesses instinct, which in case of necessity, leads it to very ingenious contrivances.

"Round the crag of a high rock in Wales overhanging the sea, are the remains of an ancient castle, once the seat of grandeur but now serving only to heighten the prospect, and many perches above its base runs a projecting ledge, perhaps a foot wide.

A couple of goats grazing about the summit by some means got upon the ledge and one of them advancing till it arrived at an angle, was enabled to turn; but in its way back met its companion, which produced a most perplexing dilemma, for it was impossible to pass each other. Some persons having wandered near the ruins in order to gather some wild strawberries, which grew

in the neighboring woods arrived at this critical moment and were witnesses of their distress without being able to assist them. The poor animals were sensible of their unfortunate condition, and uttered the most doleful cries. After anxiously viewing them for some minutes, they ran to some cottages at a little distance to see if it was possible to discover any means of extricating them.—Men, women and children, led by curiosity, followed them to the spot; but they could only sympathize with the poor animals without giving them any relief lest they should be precipitated on the rocks beneath. Many plans were proposed, but all were ineffectual. After a considerable time, when hope had almost given place to despair, one of the goats was observed to kneel down with great caution and couch as close as it could lie; which was no sooner done, than the other with great dexterity, walked over him and they both returned the way they came in perfect safety."

How different from this was the conduct of the two men whose story is related by Capt. Riley. There is in Africa a pass cut in the side of an almost perpendicular mountain, barely wide enough for the passage of a single man or animal. To prevent trouble from persons meeting in this dangerous road, places were built up at each end from which the traveller could see the whole length. One night a Moor and a Jew, who had neglected the precaution of looking out before they entered the pass, both riding on mules, met in the narrowest part. As the mules could not pass each other, their riders prepared to fight for the passage, by sliding over the heads of their beasts. The Moor had a sharp sword, with which he soon cut in pieces the club, which was the only weapon of the Jew. The latter, finding death inevitable, clasped his antagonist round the waist, and sprung with him down the precipice, by which both were dashed to pieces. The place has ever since been called the *Jew's leap*.

One of the animals and both of the men might have been saved, had they possessed something of the disposition of the goats.

COMMON THINGS.

No. I.—HEAT.

Heat is more common, and more universally diffused, than any other substance connected with our earth. Every particle of air, water, earth, metals, every tree and leaf, every quadruped, fish or insect, contains more or less heat. And various bodies feel cold, not because they have no heat, but because they have less than our bodies, and

therefore take it from them. Most bodies contain heat stored up within them, which is not perceptible to our senses, and may frequently be brought out and rendered sensible. Water which is even cold to the hand, when mixed with three times its quantity of sulphuric acid, is rendered more than boiling hot. The heat is thrown out of the water, because it becomes more solid than before, and cannot retain all the heat it had in store. If water be mixed with lime, and cause it to slack, a portion of it becomes as solid as the lime itself, and of course can retain but a small quantity of the heat it had when liquid, and consequently throws off, or renders sensible an intense heat, and sometimes sets on fire ships or other vessels which contain it.

A piece of iron, which does not feel hot to the hand, may be made red hot, by giving it upon an anvil, a few quick and smart blows, which press out the insensible heat and render it sensible.

The air contained in a fire syringe, by a sudden compression, may be made to throw off heat enough to set fire to tinder, or a piece of cotton prepared for the purpose.

The friction of machinery, and of the limbs of trees, sometimes brings out so much insensible or latent heat, and renders it sensible, as to throw a manufactory or forest into a conflagration.

Although many bodies are not hot, but intensely cold, when tested by our senses, they may still be rendered more cold, or made to give up heat, which is proof that they contain it. And it is supposed that every particle of matter from the highest point in the atmosphere, to the centre of the earth, and even every atom of matter in other worlds and other systems, contains a portion of heat, to whatever degree of cold it may be reduced.

Heat is not only common and almost universal in its existence, but is scarcely less so in its application. Being deprived, during the winter, of a portion of the heat which the sun sends to us in rich abundance during the summer, chills our earth and locks it up in frost; and but for a seasonably returning spring would cease to afford sustenance either to the animal or vegetable creation. If he should withhold, even but a portion of his heat from our earth for a single year, it would present one vast and dismal gloom, without a man, an animal or plant living upon its surface.

EVAPORATION.

Among the most extensive and important operations carried on by heat, is evaporation. By this process, the water furnished to our earth, is constantly performing the

great designs for which it was created. All the water that falls in rain, and furnishes the Mississippi, the Amazon, the Danube and every other river upon the earth, with their supplies for the ocean, is again taken up by the combined agency of heat and air, to form new clouds, and again to water our planet, to give now life, vigor and beauty to all living things growing or acting upon its surface. The services rendered to men and beast by evaporation, are without number, and therefore cannot be named. They are occurring every moment of our existence; we therefore need more to be reminded than informed of them. I am this instant reminded of its use, in the drying of the ink I am now using to write this sentence. If heat and air did not dry our manuscripts, the complaints of printers would be more bitter than at present, of bad copy and careless and slovenly authors.

The farmer depends upon this operation alone for drying his hay, and in removing the superfluous moisture from his plough-fields; the mechanic, in performing innumerable operations in his art; the house-keeper in drying her clothes, and in nameless other cases; and we may all be reminded of it, after applying water to our hands or face.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CIVILITY.

"What a smart, active, obliging young man is that," said Mr. Tims, as he came out of a bookseller's shop, where he had just purchased a volume of poems, "I know nothing that is more pleasing in a youth than civility. He is a recommendation to the shop; and if I were to revisit this place, I would make a second errand there for the purpose of experiencing a renewed gratification." "Such civility is certainly very attractive," remarked Mrs. Tims, "but I am sorry to say, it is an attainment not often cultivated."

"There are some," replied Mr. T. "who are naturally civil and obliging; they require not the aid of Lord Chesterfield, to render them lovely and agreeable. Others are naturally rough and austere, and unless this be checked in early life, it seldom disappears."

"This young gentleman seems to have a good natural disposition; and I very strongly suspect that his education has been regarded; but no doubt our good friend, Mrs. Mountain, will know something of his connexions."

Arrived at their friend's, they detailed the particulars of their visits, the beauty of the walks, the lovely scenery of the surrounding neighbourhood, and at length the polite behaviour of George Stamford. "Pray, Mrs. Mountain, are you at all acquainted with him?" said Mr. Tims, "Oh! his manners

are indeed captivating, his countenance is the index of benevolence and honesty!"

"He is the same to every customer, rich or poor, and would treat you with as much attention, whether you purchased a memorandum book or a cabinet piano."

"I ventured to ask his name," said Mrs. Tims, "and he courteously replied, George Stamford. But I must know a little of his history."

"Even so, Mrs. Tims, I think I can gratify you, for I happen to be acquainted with his father, and it was at my recommendation that he was received into Mr. Boden's employment. Young Stamford was brought up with the greatest care, and from his childhood received the very best instructions from his parents. His education might be styled liberal, as he passed through the routine of classic authors, and some of the modern languages. But his mind was greatly softened by religious instruction. At an early period he was impressed with the necessity and value of prayer, and the great importance of sterling principle and integrity. The propriety of economy was also strongly enforced, and that he was to make his own way through the world, by seeking the blessing of God upon his own exertions. I have heard him say, that he was always charged to be civil to all, nor was he allowed to use offensive language to the servants. 'Remember, George,' said his father, 'that civil words cost nothing, and they are never out of place.' It is true that he has a good natural temper, but it has been greatly improved by the excellent education he has received from his worthy parents; and I am happy to add, that young Stamford has determined not only to adhere to the precepts impressed upon him at home, but expresses himself upon all occasions as under inexpressible obligations for the restraints imposed upon him. I assure you the urbanity of George is proverbial, and his society is courted by all parties."

"Delightful!" said Mr. Tims, "What a pleasing contrast does such a youth form to those proud, haughty, conceited, forward young persons, who throng our streets, and obtrude themselves upon our attention! Civility is as agreeable in a servant, as in a prime minister; and whether we find it in a coachman or a waterman, a secretary or a footman, a lady's maid or a laundress, it renders the individuals agreeable. I am persuaded that the comfort of life is greatly promoted by civility and courtesy, and that we should all strive to promote the practice of the Apostle's christian maxim, which is the best foundation for civility—'Be kindly affectioned one to another, with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another.'"

GEOGRAPHICAL RIDDLE.—Where is that spot on earth, from which a man cannot possibly go in any direction except South?

VISIT OF THE SEA FISH TO THE RIVER FISHES.

There was once a mackerel, who having formed a very exalted idea of his own merits, imagined that his worth was not sufficiently appreciated among his salt water brethren; and he fancied that he should meet with more respect and attention, if he removed to new and distant scenes. He felt, moreover, a strange desire to explore the course of a beautiful river which flowed into the sea. One day, a sly pike, who had observed him hovering near the mouth of this stream, made acquaintance with him, and told him so many interesting particulars respecting the river and its inhabitants, that the curiosity of the marine fish was very powerfully excited; and when the artful pike went on to describe in the most eloquent language, the delights of its ever tranquil waters, the mackerel expressed an ardent desire to remove to these enchanting scenes. On this the pike assured him that he was charged with an invitation to him from all the river fishes to attend a solemn feast they were about to enjoy, in a retired reach of the river, "at which," they said, "his presence would form the greatest attraction, if he would indulge them with his company."

The mackerel was so elated with this compliment, that he could not refrain from boasting to all his marine compeers of the flattering invitation which he had received.

"Do you know any thing of the party whom you are to meet?" asked an old haddock.

"I cannot say that I am personally acquainted with any of them," responded the mackerel; "but my friend the pike has assured me that they are all fishes of the highest respectability."

"And what do you know of your friend the pike, that may warrant you in taking his character of them?" rejoined the haddock.

"He seems a very honourable fish," said the mackerel.

"If you rely upon his supposed honor, so far as to trust yourself in his power, I doubt you will find it is but *seeming*," returned the sagacious haddock.

But the mackerel replied, "that he hated suspicious people, and was resolved to keep his appointment;" and cutting short all further remonstrances, he gaily entered the mouth of the river. The pike received him with a hearty welcome, and presently introduced him to a numerous shoal of his fresh water brethren, who overwhelmed him with compliments and civilities, and pointed out all the beauties of the stream to his notice. The mackerel was charmed with every thing he heard, and every thing he saw; and above all the fascinating politeness of its finny tenants, rendered this river a perfect elysium to him. Nothing in short was wanting that could impart pleasure to every ani-

mal sense save that of taste. In fact he thought it was very strange that his new friends had not as yet offered him any refreshment. Still he was loath to consider them as deficient in the duties of hospitality; he remembered that he had been expressly invited to a feast; and he satisfied the eager cravings of his appetite as well as he could with picturing to his greedy fancy the treat that awaited him at the banquet to which he had been summoned. Hearing, however, no allusion to the subject, his natural voracity at length induced him to say, "The air of your river is a great stimulus to the stomach, I perceive."

"We find it so," was the reply.

"I am happy to hear it," rejoined the mackerel, "as I hope you will be able to do justice to the feast to which you were so polite as to invite me."

"We doubt it not," rejoined the fishes again.

"I begin to wish that your banquet were ready," resumed the mackerel, who thought his new friends kept intolerably late hours, and had become on a sudden very laconic in their replies.

"Here is the spot upon which we intend it to take place," said the fishes, gliding into a dark deep hole under the bank. The mackerel eagerly followed them, and not observing the slightest preparation for the expected entertainment, exclaimed in a tone of great disappointment, "I do not see your fine banquet."

"No matter, we do," replied the fishes, with greedy looks, "and a most inviting one it is."

"Where, where," inquired the mackerel.

"Here!" replied the fishes, turning their ferocious eyes upon the terrified mackerel. "We told you," said the treacherous pike, "that your presence would form the greatest attraction at our feast. When we invited you, we anticipated indeed a greater variety of viands; but since we have not been so fortunate as to procure any thing else, we are content to make our dinner entirely upon you!" So saying, they all darted upon the luckless mackerel, headed by the pike, who took the first bite. The credulous stranger, having been bidden to a feast at which his fare was not to eat, but to be eaten, thus afforded a melancholy addition to the list of the unwary victims of flattery, who have become the prey of those in whom they have placed hasty and misjudging confidence.

A Ride Gratis.—We learn that a few days since, while a young lady was crossing one of our streets in the vicinity of the State House, which afford the boys an opportunity to practice their favorite but exceedingly annoying amusement of coasting, (sliding down hill,) she was struck with a sled, which came with prodigious force, tripped up her heels, and laid her fairly on her back, as a sailor would say fore and aft," across

the sled. The poor boy instead of being overjoyed, was sadly frightened at such an unexpected accession of freight—but the impetus which the vehicle had already acquired was so great, that he found it impossible to check its speed, he therefore wisely judged it best to make the most of his bargain, and with admirable presence of mind, steered the sled with great care, avoiding all obstacles, at the same time bawling out with the lungs of a Stentor. — Hold on Ma'm, hold on—keep your feet well up, and there is no danger."

The double loaded sled sped with the velocity of an arrow—and the astonished damsel, who never travelled at such a rate before, and probably never will again even on a rail road, or in an air balloon, found herself, before she had hardly time to take breath, or scream for assistance safely landed at the bottom of the hill.—*Boston paper.*

FOR THE MIRROR.

A Quaker, who was a barber having been sued by the Parson for tithes, went to him and demanded the reason why he troubled him, as he had never had any dealing with him in his whole life; "Why" said the parson "it is for tithes." "For tithes!" said the Quaker, "I pray thee friend upon what account?" "Why" said the parson for preaching in the church." "Alas! then" replied the Quaker "I have nothing to pay thee; for I go not there." "Oh, but you might," said the parson, "for the doors are always open at convenient times;" and thereupon said he would be paid, seeing it was his due. Yea and nay shook his head, and making several wry faces, departed, and immediately entered his action (it being a corporation town,) against the parson for forty shillings. The parson, upon notice of this, came to him, and very warmly demanded, why he put such disgrace upon him; and for what he owed him the money? "Truly, friend," replied the Quaker, "for trimming." "For trimming!" said the Parson, "Why I was never trimmed by you in my life." "Oh! but thou might'st have come and been trimmed, if thou had'st pleased, my doors are always open at convenient times, as well as thine. J.

The Temperance Societies of this town met last evening, at the Acadian School room, and the meeting was numerously attended. The Rev. Mr. Knight presided. Able addresses were delivered by Judge Marshall, the Rev. Messrs. Cogswell, Crawley, and McDonald—B. Murdoch and J. Slayter, Esqrs. and Serjt. Benson of the 96th. Regt. This was the day appointed for the simultaneous meetings of Temperance Societies.

The Religious Tract Society held its anniversary meeting last week, a committee was appointed to carry into effect a resolution passed at this meeting for a systematic distribution of Tracts to the seamen of this port.

THE WEEKLY MIRROR.

HALIFAX, FRIDAY, FEB. 27.

We commence publishing this week (and intend continuing) a series of articles headed "Common things." These will be found to contain a vast fund of information for youth, and indeed for those more advanced in years. We propose every third or fourth week to insert questions upon the several subjects treated upon, as we feel persuaded that this method will be found beneficial in impressing upon the youthful mind "common things" worth knowing.

The affairs of our neighbours, (the Americans) with France, assume a warlike aspect. A motion has been made in the House of Representatives, to grant to the President, power to issue letters of marque and reprisal, unless the French Chambers consent to ratify the Treaty, granting 5,000,000 dollars to the United States. Insurance Companies at New York, have refused to take French risks.

By the Industry which arrived yesterday in 3 days from Boston, accounts have been received from France to Jan. 14. We give our readers the following extracts, which will put them in possession of the posture of affairs between the Americans and French. The King has recalled M. Serrurier, his Minister at Washington. The Minister of Foreign Affairs has made known this resolve to the Minister of the United States in Paris, informing him at the same time, that THE PASSPORTS WHICH HE MIGHT REQUIRE IN CONSEQUENCE OF THIS COMMUNICATION, are at his disposal. In consequence of the engagements entered into by France, the project of a law relative to the American debt, will be presented to the Chamber of Deputies to-morrow. A clause will be added, the purport of which will be to guarantee eventually those French interests which may chance to be compromised.

The 'engagements entered into by France' here referred to, are no doubt the solemn pledge of the King, that the Bill of Indemnity should be presented to the Chambers. This will accordingly be done, but it will doubtless be rejected instantly. In the meantime the recall of the French Minister and the prompt order (for such it is in effect) for the American Minister to quit Paris leaves no doubt of the determination of the French Government to WITHHOLD THE INDEMNITY AND PREPARE FOR WAR.

LIVERPOOL, Jan. 17.—As far as we can calculate, the number of members elected up to this time amount to 456, of whom 280 are reformers, and 166 ministerial, giving a clear balance of 124 in favour of reform and against ministers.

POETRY.

WE ARE SEVEN.

A simple child, dear brother Jim,
That lightly draws its breath,
And feels its life in every limb,
What should it know of death ?
I met a little cottago girl,
She was eight years old, she said :
Her hair was thick with many a curl
That clustered round her head.
She had a rustic woodland air,
And she was wildly clad ;
Her eyes were fair, and very fair,
Her beauty made me glad.
' Sisters and brothers, little maid,
How many may you be ?'
' How many ? Seven in all,' she said,
And, wondering, looked at me.
' And where are they ? I pray you tell,
She answered, ' Seven are we ;
And two of us at Conway dwell,
And two are gone to sea.
Two of us in the churchyard lie,
My sister and my brother ;
And in the churchyard cottage, I
Dwell near them with my mother.'
' You say that two at Conway dwell,
And two are gone to sea,
Yet ye are seven !—I pray you tell,
Sweet Maid, how this may be ?'
Then did the little Maid reply,
' Seven boys and girls are we ;
Two of us in the churchyard lie,
Beneath the churchyard tree.'
' You run about, my little Maid,
Your limbs they are alive ;
If two are in the churchyard laid,
Then ye are only five.'
' Their graves are green, they may be seen,'
The little maid replied,
' Twelve steps or more from mother's door,
And they are side by side.
My stockings there I often knit,
My kerchief there I hem ;
And there upon the ground I sit—
I sit and sing to them.
And often after sunsèt, Sir,
When it is light and fair,
I take my little porringer,
And eat my supper there.
The first that died was little Jane ;
In bed she moaning lay,
Till God released her from her pain,
And then she went away.
So in the churchyard she was laid ;
And all the summer dry
Together round her grave we played,
My brother John and I.
And when the ground was white with snow,
And I could run and slide,
My brother John was forced to go,
And he lies by her side.'

' How many are you, then,' said I,
If they two are in Heaven ?'
The little maiden did reply,
' O master ! we are seven.'
' But they are dead ; those two are dead !
Their spirits are in Heaven !'
' 'Twas throwing words away ; for still
The little maid would have her will,
And said, ' Nay, we are seven !'

SCENES IN GREECE.

NO. IV.

"Thou shalt be visited of the Lord of hosts with thunder and with earthquake."—Isaiah. 29. 6.

There is a very great difference in our feelings when the house in which we reside is shaken by the wind, and when it is shaken by an earthquake. In England the first is often felt during the winter ; but very rarely indeed, in that favoured land, does the earth tremble. In the Isle of Zante the earth shakes ten or more times every year. Some of these motions are more violent than others ; yet seldom is any harm done. About once in seven years there is generally a greater shock felt ; and once in about thirty years a greater one still, when lives are generally lost. These earthquakes are usually preceded by a noise, similar to that of carriages passing through the street. The houses tremble ; the windows and doors rattle ; and the glasses, if near, strike against each other. The Greeks generally cross themselves, and run into the street ; and all the bells are set a ringing as soon as the people feel the earth to tremble.

Some persons consider these shocks to be produced by electric fluid passing through the isle ; others attribute them to some unknown volcano in the sea or land ; but many suppose that the pitch or tar wells, which are situated in Chieic, are the cause of these phenomena. Herodotus, in his fourth Book, No. 195, thus describes the pitch wells of Zante:—"In Zante I have seen a lake of water, rising with pitch. Here are many lakes of this kind, the greater part of which are in circumference seventy feet. Their depth is two feet. They immerge into them a pole, binding to the end of it a myrtle tree ; and they draw out with the myrtle the pitch, which has a smell of the Asphaltus (or Jews' pitch) ; however, it is like the pitch of Pierices (a mountain near Athens) : they then pour it into a ditch, dug out near the said lake ; and after it is collected in abundance, they put it into vessels. Whatever thing falls into the lake is subterraneously carried into the sea, which is distant about two stadii. The pitch of this lake is similar to that I have seen in Lybia."

Pliny refers to these wells, and says the pitch is the same as that at Babylon. Herodotus lived nearly a thousand years before Christ ; Pliny, about eighty years after the birth of our Saviour. These wells have

been known, then, nearly three thousand years. I have been to the spot, and find one well still boiling up with pitch ; but it is only about three or four feet broad, and two or three deep. There are two or three smaller ones ; and no doubt, if the ground were cleared, others would be found. I saw a man drawing pitch out of the well, and putting it into a skin, as described by Herodotus. In viewing this natural curiosity, the mind is struck with the lapse of time.—Empires change their rulers ; but nature remains the same : and the God of nature is the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever ; and his word is, like himself, immutable.

Of Children's behaviour in their discourse.

Among superiors, speak not till thou art spoken to, and bid to speak.

Hold not thine hand, nor any thing else before thy mouth when thou speakest.

Come not very near the person thou speakest to.

If thy superior speaks to thee while thou sittest, stand up before thou givest an answer.

Sit down till thy superior bid thee.

Speak neither very loud nor too low.

Speak clear, not stammering, stumbling nor dravelling.

Answer not one that is speaking to thee, until he hath done.

Loll not when thou art speaking to a superior, or spoken to by him.

Speak not without sir, or some other title of respect, which is due to him to whom thou speakest.

Strive not with superiors in arguments or discourse, but easily submit thine opinion to their assertions.

If thy superior speaks any thing wherein thou knowest he is mistaken, correct not, nor contradict him, nor grin at the hearing of it, but pass over the error without notice interruption.

Mention not frivolous or little things among grace persons or superiors.

If thy superior drawl or hesitate in his words, pretend not to help him out or prompt him.

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