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# THE WEEKLY MIRROR.

Vol. I.]

HALIFAX, FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1835.

[No. 12.]

## NATURAL HISTORY.

### THE FLYING-FISH.

Some of our young readers may perhaps be surprised to hear that there is such a thing in the world as a fish that can fly. It is, nevertheless, very true. We must not, however, suppose that this fish is to be seen flying about the air like a bird. It flies but a short distance at a time, seldom more than sixty or seventy yards; and this very near to the surface of the water. Indeed what appears to be wings is nothing more than fins, but these are much longer than in other fish, and can be moved, in some degree, backwards and forwards, so as to answer the purpose of wings.

This fish would soon be devoured by its savage enemies, if Providence had not furnished it with this extraordinary means of escaping them. It probably cannot continue long out of water. It keeps dipping down, and thus moistens its wings, and moreover gets fresh force for another spring into the air.

The air bladder in this fish is unusually large, which gives him great lightness, and thus particularly fits them for continuing in the air.

These fish are common in hot climates.

## COMMON THINGS.

### No. 6.—OXIDS.

Some will be inclined to ask, perhaps, what is the connection between the head and the subject of this article; in other words, whether oxids are common things. They may be answered, that they are some of the most common things in the world. Late discoveries in science have led to the belief, that every particle of dust is an oxid—that sand, lime, clay, potash, soda, and many other common substances, are oxids. Most ores of the metals are oxids. Nearly all the paints are either oxids, or salts formed from oxids. The rust of iron, the dross of lead, are combinations of those metals with oxygen. Water has sometimes been called the oxid of hydrogen. Perhaps some might be disposed to rank sugar and alcohol under the same class of bodies.

The word oxid, is a general term to express the combination of oxygen with other substances, especially the metals, but in a less quantity than in an acid. The oxid of iron is perhaps a more common coloring matter in the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms, than any other substance. If rocks and soils were entirely free from the oxid of iron, they would probably in most cases be white; quartz almost always con-

tains some iron, and when it does not it is white or transparent, or both.

Many persons who read this article, will probably recollect of having seen that portion of boards on buildings and fences, which is directly under the nails by which they are fastened coloured black. This may always be observed on chesnut boards, and it always arises from the oxid of iron combining with a substance called gallic acid, contained in large quantities in chesnut wood, oak bark, tea, and numerous other vegetables.

Nearly all the iron ores, which are used to produce the iron of commerce are oxids of iron, and the principal business in reducing the ore to a metallic state, is, to free them from their oxygen, which is done by exposing them to a high heat, when connected with charcoal or some other combustible, which, in the process of combustion, takes the oxygen from the ore, and by that means reduces it to metallic iron.

The oxid or dross of lead, is much less difficult to bring into a metallic state. In lead tube manufactories, and for many other purposes where lead is melted in large quantities a great portion of it becomes dross, which, if it is mixed with charcoal, and burnt, returns to a pure metallic lead. By burning a red wafer in a candle, and still more by throwing a little red lead upon a burning coal, small globules of lead will be produced from the oxid.

A gentleman who was acquainted with the nature of the dross of lead, procured a large quantity of it, a few years since, for little or nothing, from a lead tube manufacturer, who considered it as useless. By a very easy process, the purchaser restored the dross to pure lead, and sold it as such to the manufacturer from whom he procured it. The one, of course, reaped the benefit of his knowledge of science; the other suffered the evil of his ignorance of it.

Knowing the nature of oxids, and the cause of rust upon iron, brass, copper, lead, &c. and that it is produced by the action of oxygen upon the metals, and generally from oxygen contained in the atmosphere, we should be led of course to cover the surface of articles made from them, with varnish, oil, wax, or some other substance, to exclude them from the air.

The oxids are so numerous, and such constant agents in the domestic and useful arts, that a general notice of this kind can do little more than give a glance at them, and prepare the way for a separate and more particular account of the various kinds, with the mode in which they are formed, their application, modes of using them, means of avoiding the evils arising from them, &c.

## THE ARTS.

### PRINTING.

Three kinds of printing, conducted upon different principles, are now extensively used in this art of arts. These are type, copper-plate, and lithographic printing. In types, the ink is applied to their most extended surfaces, when they are pressed on the paper to leave the ink in the form of letters. In copper-plate printing, the most extended surface of the plate is made perfectly clean, or free from ink, which is left only in the lines, indentations, and cavities formed by the engraver, into which the paper is forced by hard pressure to receive the ink.

The secret of lithographic printing is in the fact, that oil will unite with oil, and not with water. The lines, sketches or drawings, are first made on the smooth surface of the stone, (in Greek *lithos*) a compact limestone, with ink, or crayon, containing oil. After the drawing is completed, and the stone placed in the press, it is wrinkled with water, which is spread by a sponge, and wets the whole surface of the stone except the drawing; that being made of oil, is not affected by the water. After the sponge follows the ink roll, many times repeated, which ink, being of oil, unites with the oil in the drawing, but does not touch the surface of the stone covered with water.

After the ink is applied, the impression is not obtained by the mere pressure of the type on the paper as in type printing, nor by applying a roll to it with great force, as in copper-plate printing, but by a scrape with a rounded edge, passing over a piece of leather, with great force, under which is the paper to be printed.

To be Continued

### HUMAN SYMMETRY.

The symmetry of human character, as it is formed by its Creator, is transcendently beautiful and sublime. The physical, intellectual, social and moral powers of man, are so beautifully blended and wisely fitted to exercise and strengthen each other, that the principal business of the parent and teacher is, to preserve this proportion, and to bring these powers to act upon each other.

Each power is strengthened by its own exercise, and all are strengthened by exercising each other. The child strengthens his muscles, and learns to walk, by walking; he cultivates his voice, and learns to sing, by singing; he strengthens his mind, and learns to judge by examining, comparing, and drawing conclusions: he cultivates his social faculties, by free and friendly intercourse with other members of his family, or

with his school or playmates. Above all, he strengthens the power and love of doing good deeds, by acts of kindness and benevolence—little, if any, by precepts.

The evident design of our Creator is, to have all the other powers exercised, so as to strengthen the moral powers; to be effected and shown, by love to God and our neighbor—by good works—by efforts to benefit our fellow-men—by seeking opportunities to bestow favours—by aiming, in every act, to make some fellow-being or some creature happy.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

#### THE WEDDING.

It was a clear moonlight night in autumn, in 1724, and the old garrison house of the valiant Captain Wheelright, the terror of all the Indians within twenty miles of Wells, was brilliantly illuminated for the wedding of the veteran's daughter, to a young and valiant ranger belonging to the band of Captain Harman. The house was crowded with guests, principally with military men, for at that period every man was a soldier, and every woman, if she could not merit that appellation, was at least worthy of being a soldier's wife.

It was a grand time—that wedding!—There was an abundance of maple sugar and pumpkin pies, and all the young ladies within 36 miles, had been invited to partake of the festivities on the occasion. The dance went nimbly down the rude hall, and every one seemed desirous of adding something to the general expression of merriment and joy.

Yet there were watchful eyes and anxious hearts amidst the joyous assembly. At every sound from without—the sudden bark of a dog, or the creaking of the old trees in the autumn wind, a thrill like that of electricity passed through the throng of revellers.—More than once had the hands of the rangers instinctively fastened on their rifles, which leaned ready for execution, in every corner of the building. It was known to all that the eastern savages were in motion; that the implacable hate of the red men was brooding like a thunder-cloud over the encroaching advance of the English. The inhabitants of Wells had not indeed suffered recently from the vengeance of their subtle enemy—but they felt no security from the vengeance of foes, who were unappeasable in their resentment, and whose transient forbearance, like the crouch of the panther, or the coil of the roused rattle snake, might be only the preparation for a sudden and deadly blow.

But the wedding went on without interruption. The beautiful Emily Wheelright stood up with the young lover before the venerated clergyman. She was a fine specimen of natural beauty—her dark hair fell richly and carelessly upon her neck—her

full cheek glowed with the freshness of health and the free waist and unconfined form, gave to her motions an elasticity and a gracefulness to which the modern victim is a stranger. And the bridegroom in the strength and manly proportions, presented a striking contrast to the fashionable exquisite of modern days.

The rites were concluded: and Charles Hanwell had just imprinted on the blushing cheek of the bride the ceremonial kiss, when a terrific cry from without rang through every nook of the mansion. All sprang on their feet at the fearful alarm. The next instant the report of the rifles came sharply on their ears.

'To arms!—the heathen are upon us!' shouted Captain Wheelright, snatching his musket from the hooks by which it was suspended.

There was a sudden rush towards the door. The moon shone full upon the wild scenery around, but there was no visible traces of an enemy. At length a solitary figure made its appearance at a remote corner of the building. 'Help, for heaven's sake!' said a well known voice. 'I am wounded. The bloody red skins are abroad.'

The wounded man staggered slowly toward the half bewildered group. At that instant a rifle flash gleamed from the nearest thicket. The aim was a fatal one, for its unfortunate object had nearly reached his comrades sprang suddenly and convulsively from the earth, and fell dead at their feet. The exulting whoop of an invisible foe was drowned in the report of the muskets of the white men, which were now directed to every bush and thicket.

'To your horses men!' exclaimed Capt. Harman, as the dusky forms of the enemy became visible at a distance, which was beyond the certain aim of his rangers. Charles Hanwell turned anxiously to his bride—she was deadly pale; she did not join in the cries and tears around her—but she sat still and white as a statue. 'Do not be alarmed,' said Charles, affectionately pressing her hand. 'The savages will not molest us after one vigorous attack from our rifles and there is little danger to be apprehended. Be quiet, we shall return immediately.'

The spirit of her father was strongly within the heart of Emily. 'Go, Charles,' she said, 'and may God preserve!' A party had already mounted, and in a moment the band to which he belonged disappeared in the shadows of the surrounding woodlands. Captain Wheelright undertook to garrison his dwelling with the remainder of the company.

It would be impossible to describe the anxiety with which the wedding guests listened to every sound which came from the direction which the rangers had taken. The trampling of their horses gradually died away; then the sound of fire arms was heard;

and ever and anon, the shrill and terrible war-cry of the savages rose fearfully on the wind.

The heavy tread of horses soon announced the return of the adventurers. They wheeled into the rude enclosure, and the next moment Harman confronted the agitated assembly. 'The vile heathen,' he muttered between his clenched teeth; and turning to the bride, 'your husband is among the missing! It has been a horrid night's work!' and he threw himself into a chair, apparently exhausted.

'Is he dead?' ejaculated Emily Hanwell, springing up, and grasping convulsively the hand of the soldier. 'Tell me Captain Harman, as you hope for mercy, tell me, is he dead?'

'Your husband is a prisoner,' said Harman, 'but he fought desperately before he yielded. He was overpowered by numbers, and we were unable to effect his rescue.—

There was a fearful skirmish for the Indians were twice our number. They have lost many of their bravest warriors, and some of my own little troop are now lying cold and stark beneath the moonlight.'

'And you have left your comrade to perish by the foul tortures of the enemy!' said Emily Hanwell, her tone of entreaty changing to that of indignation, 'to die by the fire and scourge, without a blow for his rescue—without so much as a wound received in his defence! Would to heaven that the powers of man were mine!

She trembled in every limb, and her tears fell fast. The countenance of Harman worked for a moment with resentment, but he overcame the feeling, and turning to his comrades, he avowed his resolution of pursuing the retreating foe, and attempting once more the rescue of the prisoner. The party immediately acquiesced—several new recruits volunteered their services, and in a few moments a second sally was made from the mansion.

It boots not now to relate the particulars of the rescue—suffice it to say that the foe was overtaken—and that in the struggle which ensued the prisoner was liberated.—The party immediately returned to the house of the veteran Wheelright. His daughter met them at the door; after one long embrace of her husband, she clasped with her heart-felt gratitude, the rough and war-worn hand of Harman, and from that moment he was regarded as brother by Charles Hanwell and his bride.

#### A RIDDLE.

*Little Miss Fidget, with only one eye,  
A prodigious length of tail lets fly,  
And as she skips from gap to gap,  
She leaves a bit of her tail in the trap.*

A Needle.

## POPULAR SUPERSTITIONS.

Continued.

Anyone who is acquainted with the wonderful powers of ventriloquism, knows that a person may abuse that power, to the very serious annoyance of those who are easily alarmed. A ventriloquist can, without difficulty, cause unearthly sounds, groanings, knockings, &c. to be heard in different parts of the house, and he can be all the time moving about with the family, an unsuspected spectator. Many a house has been thus haunted, to the extreme terror of its occupants, and to the great mirth of the mischievous joker.

These principles will account for a vast number of those appearances, which seem to be supernatural. The man who is acquainted with these laws, thinks at once, and very naturally, that there must be ghostly agency in the production of effects, which to him are so unaccountable, and he is, therefore, too much alarmed to give the subject a cool investigation.

We have, somewhere, met with another account illustrative of the same principle.—A ship was lying becalmed, one warm summer afternoon, in the middle of the Atlantic. The atmosphere was clear, and the sky, serene, with the exception of a few clouds floating in their fleecy whiteness. As the officers of the ship were carelessly reclining upon the quarter deck, and the sailors lolling in the listlessness of a calm at sea, whistling for the wind, all were surprised by seeing, far off in the horizon, where the sky and the water seemed to meet, a ship under full canvas sailing along in the sky. The ship was upside down, the masts pointing towards the water. The vision was so distinct, that all perceived it, and marked the peculiarities of her rigging. For some considerable time she continued in view, attracting the gaze of the whole ship's company, till finally she vanished. The sailors with their customary superstition, were exceedingly alarmed. This was to them a new kind of navigation. They deemed it the certain foreboding of their own destruction. The officers, better informed with regard to the laws of nature, saw in the occurrence, a very surprising and very interesting natural phenomenon. By the peculiar state of the air and the situation of the clouds, a mirror was formed, in which by the natural operation of reflected light, they saw the image of a ship, which had not as yet ascended the horizon. There are various kinds of mirrors. Sometimes they are made of glass, sometimes of burnished steel. The water is a mirror in which you see the trees which wave luxuriantly upon the river's banks, and from the vapors which float in the heavens, as from a looking glass, images are often reflected. In a few hours after the appearance of the vision, the identical ship herself made her appearance, rising

over the convex waters. This was the ghost of a ship, and the tale has probably been narrated, with exaggerations of terror, to thousands of seamen.

Another case, somewhat similar, we somewhere have met with, though we cannot now recollect in what work, which shows how incidents, at first apparently supernatural, may be explained by known principles. On a calm day, the sailors on board a ship, many hundred miles from land, and with no other sail in sight, had their attention arrested by the distinct ringing of a bell. They ascended the topmast, but far as the eye could extend along the unobstructed horizon, nothing could be seen. From whence could this sound proceed? No bell by the common conveyance of sound, could be heard the distance that they could see.—To the sailors, this apparently unearthly ringing, seemed to be the ship's funeral knell. The mournful monotony of those mysterious tones, sent paleness into the cheek of many a hardy tar. And surely it was strange to hear such a sound in the solitude of the ocean. They thought it must come from the world of spirits, a monition of their ruin. Scientific men on board accounted for it at once, upon the well understood principle of an acoustic tube. As the report of a gun discharged upon some Alpine summit, is thrown in thundering reverberations from cliff to cliff, so in the present case, the clouds reflected the sound of the bell, of a distant ship into the focus, in which they were placed. In the tongueless voices of every echo, there is just as much of a supernatural agency. The next day they met the ship, whose bell they had heard, and found by inquiry, that at the hour they heard the sound, the crew had been violently ringing for their amusement. How many of the apparently unnatural sounds which are heard, are capable of an equally simple explanation.

To be Continued

## THE MONTHS.—No. 4.

April is so called from the Latin Aprilis, which is derived from Aperine, to open.—April is the first and only month in the year, whose name is expressive of the season. It is to be deplored that the first day of this month should be still in this enlightened age, disgraced by the ridiculous custom of April fooling. The wilful lying practised and encouraged on this day, is inexpressibly injurious to the morals of the young. Lying for sport is looked upon as harmless; and hence, the habit of lying on other occasions is acquired. They, in fact, are the fools, who are guilty of the deception and falsehood.

Easter Sunday, which is always the first Lord's day following the full-moon, after the 21st March, occurs this year on

the 19th of the present month. Hence "Good," or, as it used to be called "Long" Friday, occurs on the 17th. These two days are kept in commemoration of two of the most important events that ever took place in the history of the world,—the death and the resurrection of the Saviour.—This month is distinguished for the versatility of the weather—bright sunshine, interrupted by frequent showers—a wild mixture of clear and cloudy skies, flying hail and pelting rain. Hence, an April day, is often made proverbial of fickleness of temper and conduct.—Its rapid alternations of sunshine and shower, of heat and cold, of wintry gloominess, and summer brightness, both surprise and delight us, and furnish us with a striking emblem of the variable conditions of life. Across the darkened cloud, there is often thrown the beauteous 'bow of heaven;' bright harbinger of a subsiding storm, and a pledge of security against a returning deluge. The rainbow should ever be witnessed with delight, by the young and the old, the philosopher and the saint. April is a month of hope, inspiring alike the farmer and the gardener, the voyager and the traveller, we are irresistibly led to look forward, to anticipate, with a delightful enthusiasm, the progress of the season. It is one of the excellent laws of Providence, that our minds shall be insensibly moulded to a sympathy with that season which is passing, and become deprived in a certain degree of the power of recalling the images of those which have gone by; whence we reap the double advantage of not being disgusted with the deadness of the wintry landscape, from a comparison with the hilarity of spring; and when spring appears, it comes with a freshness of beauty which charms us at once with novelty and a recognition of old delights.

## WEEKLY MIRROR.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 1835.

*American papers received since our last, contain English and French dates to the 11th Feb.—Parliament was to be opened by the King, in person, on the 19th Feb.—Money is said to be abundant in England, and all branches of trade flourishing.*

PARIS, Feb. 7.—*There cannot be the least doubt now that the American indemnity will be voted by the Chamber, since the members of the Commission elected on Thursday to report on the question are unanimously in its favor. The vote of the United States Senate, which subsequently arrived, must remove most of the objections raised by the hurt pride of the French against the payment of the claims. Many members of opposition supported Ministers, or at least insisted on the necessity of fully satisfying the United States.*

## POETRY.

## THE SNOW.

From the Forget Me Not.

*The silvery snow!—the silvery snow!—  
Like glory it falls on the fields below,  
And the trees with their diamond branches  
appear,  
Like the fairy growth of some magical sphere.*

*While soft as music, and wild and white,  
It glisters and floats in the pale moonlight,  
And spangles the river and fount as they flow;  
Oh! who has not loved the bright beautiful  
snow!*

*The silvery snow and the crinkling frost—  
How merry we go when the earth seems lost:  
Like the spirits that rise from the dust of  
Time,  
To live in a purer and holier clime!*

*A new creation without a stain—  
Lovely as heaven's own pure domain!  
But Ah! like the many fair hopes of our  
years,  
It glitters au hile—and then melts into tears!*

## VARIETIES.

**REMARKABLE INVENTION.**—When the properties of steam and its power were first ascertained, it was supposed that human genius could extend no further, still, since then we have had our streets lighted by gas, and now we are to have our residences warmed and our provisions dressed without the use of 'fire, flame, smoke, steam, gas, oil, spirit, Chemical preparation, or any dangerous substance whatsoever.' Incredible as this may appear, it is no less true, an ingenious German having invented a machine by which it may be accomplished. It is made of brass, is about 22 inches high, 12 inches wide, and six deep, has the appearance of a miniature chest of drawers, and is surmounted by an inverted crescent, which is hollow for the purpose of containing water. It is called "Wenn's Solar Stove," and heated by 'elementary heat,' produced (according to the words of the inventor) by 'separate and combined elements.' It may be used with the greatest safety in ships and manufactories and ware-houses, where in consequence of the combustible nature of the stock, fires are prohibited.—The process of heating is so simple that a lady having white gloves on may perform it without soiling them, or a child three years of age without injury.—*English paper.*

**TALK OF WAR.**—Advices from France give but a faint hope that the debt due to the U. S. from that country will be paid according to the treaty. As it now appears possible that we may have war, we will give our young readers in a few words the causes that seem almost ready to produce that lamentable evil. During the French and

English war in the reign of Napoleon Bonaparte, much injury was done to our merchant vessels in French ports, by seizures, detentions, &c. principally through the unavoidable consequences of war. Our government from that time to the present have been appealing for redress of these wrongs. About three years ago our minister to France, Mr. Rivers, succeeded in making a treaty in which the French Executive (King and Ministers) agreed to make up for the losses of our merchants, by the payment of about five millions of dollars. The difficulty was now considered at an end. Our government drew for the money, through the medium of the U. S. Bank, but the drafts came back unpaid. The French Chambers (an assemblage answering to our House of Representatives) with whom lay the power to raise money, would not consent to it, and thus the matter has remained to this time.—Our President in his late message recommended to Congress that some strong measures be taken in relation to the subject,—and suggested the propriety of seizing French shipping to repair the damage, in case the Chambers at the present Session should not vote the necessary funds to fulfil the treaty aforesaid. We have just received the news relative to the reception of this threat in France by the editors of French papers.—They bear hard upon our boasted respect to the reformed laws of nations, touching the right to seize private property for national offences, and affirm that the question of paying over the money according to the treaty is now at an end. This, however, remains to be proved.—*American Juvenile paper.*

**WHAT IS HONOR?**—Honor is a very different thing with different communities. With a Trades Union it consists in sticking to the combination, and never working under price. With the servants in your kitchen it consists of never telling tales to their mistress. Among thieves it is a thing of notorious importance, and among duelists it consists in setting one's self up to be shot at by every blackguard who takes it into his head to be insolent. All such honor we deem false, spurious, and mean. It is maintained by the grossest violations of our duty to God and man. Yet it is this spurious, querulous honor, which has ever been in vogue in the world. It is this nothing, and worse than nothing, which has involved individuals and nations in ceaseless fighting, and brought on the human race unending woe. The individual or nation which is excessively tenacious about what is called honor, will ever be involved in broils and disgrace.—It is a cowardly consciousness of meanness which prompts to the measure often called honorable. It is a liberal, generous, and we may add forgiving spirit, which is truly honorable. The principles of christianity are the most honorable, nay the only truly honorable principles which have ever been pro-

mulgated as a system in our world. They are principles of benevolence broad as the human family. They are the principles of Heaven's honor and Heaven's nobility.—The principles of what is commonly called honor, are the principles of darkness. They engender never ending war and wretchedness. Wherever they prevail, there is an end of peace.

**HAPPINESS.**—It would form perhaps one of the most amusing, if not the most instructive chapters in poetic history, to compare the various opinions expressed by the inspired respecting happiness. He who dwells in a lonely valley believes happiness resides in the crowded city among company and books; while he who sighs amid the rattle of other men's charriot-wheels, and the smoke of ten thousand chimneys, fixes the abode of happiness by the side of some purring brook—beside a green hill, where the wind is ever fragrant, and the voice of nature aloud is heard. The highborn bard, sick of the hollow courtesies of polished society, sighs for pastoral solitudes, where flowers never fade, and flocks never stray, and beauty is never out of blossom; the shepherd bard, on the other hand, who has to wander over moors and mountains, half choked in winter with drifting snow, and half scorched in summer with burning suns—who has to smear and clip his flocks, as well as keep them from the tox, and save them, too, from smothering in a snow wreath, envies the opulent, and longs to be a lord. There was some sense in the remark of a Scotchman, who, in reading the saying of Solomon, "Snow is beautiful in its season," exclaimed, "Aye, nae doubt it was beautiful to you, sitting with the rich vines and the lasses o' Jerusalem aside you: but had ye been a poor stone-mason ye would hae said no such thing."

## QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINATION.

*How may the Harpy Eagle be distinguished from other Eagles?—What is its general character?—What is the size of the Ox? How is it generally used in this Province? What is its flesh called?—What may be said of the Cow? What use is made of her horns?—her skin?—her flesh?—her hoofs? What is the form of the Lion indicative of? Does the Lion evince a preference for man or quadrupeds when in search of prey?—Is he easily tamed?—Where is the Lion found?*

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