

MISCELLANY.

WONDERS & MURMURS.

BY S. C. HALL.

Strange, that the wind should be left so free,
To play with a flower, or tree to tree;
To rage or ramble where'er it will,
And as it lists, to be fierce or still;
Above and around, to breathe of life,
Or to mingle the earth and the sky in strife;
Gentle to whisper, with morning light,
Yet to growl like a fettered fiend, ere night;
Or to love, and cherish, and bless to-day;
What to-morrow it ruthless rends away!

Strange, that the sun should call into birth
All the fairest flowers and fruits of earth,
Then bid them perish, and see them die,
While they cheer the soul, and gladden the eye;
At morn it is the pride of spring—
At night, a shrivelled and loathsome thing!

To-day, there is hope and life in its breath;

To-morrow, it shrinks to a useless death;

Strange does it seem that the sun should joy

To give life alone that it may destroy!

Strange, that the ocean should come and go,
With its daily and nightly ebb and flow—

To bear on its placid breast of morn,

The bark that, ere night, will be tempest and

torn;

Or cherish it all the way it must roam,

To leave it a wreck within sight of home;

To smile, as the mariner's toils are o'er;

Then wash the dead to his cottage door;

And gently ripple along the strand,

To watch the widow, beheld him land!

But, stranger than all, that man should die

When his plan is formed, and his hopes are

high!

He walks forth a lord of the earth, to-day,

And the morrow behold him a part of its clay!

He is born in sorrow, and cradled in pain;

And from youth to age—it is labor in vain;

And all that seventy years can show,

Is, that wealth is trouble, and wisdom woe;

That he travels a path of care and strife;

Who drinks of the poisoned cup of life.

From the Courier des Etats Unis.

MR. JEFFREY.

Who would have thought it? Mr. Jeffrey, the pride of the Irish bar, the late editor of the Edinburgh Review, who, for more than twenty years has held a mild but pretty absolute sway over the literature of Britain, and even that of the continent, amuses himself sometimes with school-boy jests, the pleasantries of which is not unmixed with cruelty. The vivacity of his criticism procured him a challenge from the wounded vanity of Moore; and his roguery once came very near furnishing him with an affair of honor.

Some time ago, the assizes were held in Aberdeen, a city of Scotland, near the sea, in which there is a college of some note. In this college there was a professor profoundly versed in the dark history of the middle ages, whose character exhibited a compound of good nature and credulous vanity, with which the malice of Mr. Jeffrey has more than once amused itself. In order to provide himself with some further sport, the Edinburgh Aristarchus, extolling to him very highly the pleasure of shooting, persuaded him that he was particularly qualified to excel in it; though the professor was in fact so short-sighted, that he could hardly distinguish a person at the distance of ten paces. Accordingly Mr. Jeffrey and an accomplice of his prevailed upon him to accompany them to Skateron, a village on the sea-shore, at some distance from Aberdeen, where sportsmen are in the habit of resorting, to shoot the sea-birds, which abound among the rocks in this neighborhood, at certain seasons.

After having ordered a good dinner at the best hotel, to which the life of the literati of Aberdeen were invited, their novice in sporting is provided with a fowling piece, and Mr. Jeffrey succeeds in drawing him to a certain point to which he directs him. At every discharge a multitude of birds fell like thunder at his feet. While his companions at a little distance could shoot only a single bird, he brought down fifty at a shot. The secret of this miracle was, that Mr. Jeffrey had caused a cart load of game to be collected some days before; and a peasant, concealed in the clefts of a rock, threw down a vast quantity at every discharge of the professor.

Enchanted at his own skill, he did not perceive, in the midst of his triumph, that the waves had completely surrounded the spot on which he was standing, his prefigurative friends having given him no warning of the calamity. A sailor came to his aid, and took him upon his broad shoulders. In this way, he had nearly reached the shore, when the sailor, who had received his instructions beforehand, cried out that his leg was seized by a shark, and forthwith tumbled his burden into the water. The unhappy professor thought himself for an instant in the mouth of the monster: but the stout arm of the sailor dragged him from the waves, and laid him dripping on the bank.

He was then escorted by his friends, with the most comic air of compassion, to the inn of Skateron. There one of the company, a physician, represented to the historian the urgent necessity for changing his clothes. But, how unfortunate! no man's dress was to be found, and a woman's habiliments only could be furnished him. The physician insisted that he should put them on. It was urged that he was surrounded by his colleagues and friends, and necessity compelled him to submit

to this odd masquerade. After an absence of a few minutes, he repaired to the dining-room, clothed in a woman's dress from head to foot, with embarrassment according very well with the character of the sex whose garments he had assumed. The guests found it difficult to repress their mirth. Let one imagine this huge figure, with his grey locks covered with a lace cap, with which the merciless doctor had invested him, his periwig having fallen in the sea. The rest of his costume was in keeping—his broad shoulders being covered with a red shawl, forming a brilliant contrast to his blue gown.

The professor was just beginning to forget his fatigue and trouble, and apply himself in earnest to eating, when suddenly a person who was known to him rushed hastily into the room, shouting, "The college is in flames!" At these words, the professor starts up; but his terror is doubled, when he learns that the fire is in that wing of the college in which are all his books and manuscripts, the fruits of his patient researches into the middle ages. At this moment, he would willingly have exclaimed, like Richard, "My kingdom for a horse!" but the foresight of friends had already provided one. Forgetting his strange costume, he leaps upon the horse's back, and the postillion, by a crack of the whip, sets him off at full gallop. All the company, with Mr. Jeffrey at their head, followed to witness his entry into Aberdeen.

Never was Scotch gravity so completely discomposed. It would be impossible to give an idea of the astonishment and laughter of the people of Aberdeen, on seeing their learned fellow citizen rushing into the city, with the ruffles of his cap and his shawl flying in the wind. To make his appearance still more grotesque, his stirrups had been shortened like those of Mame-luke, so that the whole of his large person appeared to rest upon his knees.

The fire, as may well be conceived, was a mere joke; so that when he entered the college, both students and professors were wholly at a loss to account for his consternation, as well as his costume. When he found his books and manuscripts in safety, he took the jest very ill; but as he entertained not the slightest suspicion in regard to the other events of the day, and as his success in shooting had satisfied him of his skill, it was with great difficulty that he was dissuaded from a trial of it on the person of Mr. Jeffrey, who had been denounced by some false brother as the author of the mystification.

BEARISH.

The following interesting account of the polar Bear is extracted from *Harper's Family Library*, a work abounding in the most useful and amusing information.

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

The annals of the north are filled with accounts of the most perilous and fatal conflicts of the Polar bear. The first, and one of the most tragical, was sustained by Barentz and Heemskerke, in 1596, pursuing their voyage for the

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

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

In 1783, captain Cook, of the Archangel, when near the coast of Spitzbergen, found himself suddenly between the paws of a bear. He instantly called on the surgeon, who accompanied him, to fire, which the latter did with such admirable promptitude and precision, that he shot the beast through the head, and delivered the captain. Mr. Hawkins, of the Everthorpe, in July, 1813, having pursued and twice struck a large bear, had raised his lance for a third blow, when the animal sprang forward, seized him by the thigh, and threw him over its head into the water. Fortunately, it used this advantage only to effect its own escape. Captain Scoresby mentions a boat's crew which attacked a bear in the Spitzbergen sea; but the animal having succeeded in climbing the sides of the boat, all the sailors threw themselves for safety into the water, where they hung by the gunwale. The victor entered the sea, and took possession of the barge, where it sat quietly till it was shot by another party. The same writer mentions the ingenious contrivance of a sailor, who, being pursued by one of these creatures, threw down successively his hat, jacket handkerchief, and every other article in his possession, when the brute pausing at each, gave the sailor always a certain advantage, and enabled him finally to regain the vessel.

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

Bears are by no means devoid of intelligence. Their schemes for entrapping seals, and other animals on which they feed, often display considerable ingenuity. The manner in which the Polar bear surprises his victim, is thus described by captain Lyon:—On see-

ing his intended prey, he gets quietly into the water, and swims to a leeward position, from whence, by frequent short dives, he silently makes his approaches, and so arranges his distance, that at the last dive he comes to the spot where the seal is lying. If the poor animal attempts to escape by rolling into the water, he falls into the paws of the bear; if, on the contrary, he lies still, his destroyer makes a powerful spring, kills him on the ice, and devours him at his leisure. Some sailor, endeavouring to catch a bear, placed the noose of a rope under the snow, baited with a piece of whale's flesh. The bear, however, contrived three successive times to push the noose aside and to carry off the bait unburdened. Captain Scoresby had half-tamed two cubs, which used even to walk the deck; but they showed themselves always restless under this confinement, and finally effected their escape.

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

Hints to farmers. Never feed potatoes to stock without boiling or steaming, as this increases their nutritive qualities.

Grind your corn with the cob—it is better feed and pays well for the trouble.

One bushel of flax-seed ground with eight bushels of oats, is better for horses than sixteen bushels of oats alone, and will effectually destroy the bolls.

Never burn all dry wood in your fire place, nor use a fire place when you can get a stove.

Cut your trees for rails in the winter, as they are more durable.

Never dew rot your flax or hemp, unless you wish to render it worthless.

Never select your seed corn from the crib, but from the stalk.

Never feed out your best potatoes and plant the refuse, nor sell your best sheep and keep the poorest.

A fat ox is worth more than a poor horse, though he does not eat as much, and a yoke and chain can be bought for less money than a wagon harness.

Keep plenty of cows and bees as the surest way of having milk and honey.

Confine your cows with good fences, but let your bees go at large.

CIRCULAR.

OFFICE OF AMERICAN AND FOREIGN AGENT FOR CLAIMS, 49 WALL-ST. NEW-YORK, JAN. 1831.

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given to all persons whom it may concern, having Claims, Debts, Inheritances, &c., payable or recoverable, abroad, that this Agency has established, under the special auspices and patronage of distinguished individuals in this country, a regular correspondence with eminent Bankers, &c., in the principal ports and capitals of Foreign Governments, in commercial relations with the United States; through the mediation whereof such valid claims as may be confined thereto, will be expedited for settlement, and promptly and effectively recovered; when furnished by the claimants with the suitable legal proofs and vouchers, together with the requisite Power of Attorney, to be taken and acknowledged before any Judge of a Court of Record, or other competent Civil Magistrate, Municipal Authority, or Notary Public; and the whole duly authenticated by the Governor of the State, or Territory in which the same may be perfected, and legalized by the appropriate Foreign Consul.

Having also established similar correspondence throughout the United States and British America, the like claims for recovery in any part thereof respectively, will be received and efficiently attended to in behalf of American as well as Foreign claimants. Orders for the investment of funds on Mortgage of Freehold property, or in the purchase of Public Securities of the United States, Canal Loans of the States of New-York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, &c. punctually and faithfully executed.

Applications addressed to this Agency in cases requiring the investigation of claims, search of records, or the intervention of legal proceedings, should be accompanied with an adequate remittance to defray the preliminary charges and disbursements attending the same, and all letters must be *post paid*.

AARON H. PALMER,

Counsellor of the S. C. of the U. S. Actuary

OHIO REFORMED MEDICAL COLLEGE WORCESTER.

BY and with the advice and consent of the Reformed Medical Society of the United States, the New Reformed Medical Institution has been located in Worthington, an interesting and flourishing town on the Whetstone river, eight miles north of Columbus, on the northern turnpike. This site has been chosen because it presents the greatest advantages to facilitate the researches of the Botanical student—the country around it abounding with every variety of medical plants; and the situation being the most natural and delightful in the Western country—and because the occupancy of the large College Edifice, together with ground of every variety of soil for an extensive Botanical Garden has been presented to us by the Board of Trustees of Worthington College.

There will be attached to the Institution, Dispensary for analyzing and preparing Vegetable medicines; and an Infirmary, where persons from the neighborhood or a distance, labouring under Fevers, Consumptions, Dyspepsia, Cancers, &c. &c. will be successfully treated, without BLEEDING, MERCURY, or the KNIFE, and from which the student will acquire a correct knowledge of the nature, operation, and superior efficacy of vegetable agents in removing disease.

The necessity for an Institution of this kind, in the West, to be under the direction of competent Professors is strikingly evident. It is an institution that is designed to concentrate and disseminate, all the knowledge and discoveries of Doctors of Medicine and empirics, savages, and that will demonstrate to the student and the sick that Vegetables alone, afford the only rational, safe, and effectual means of removing disease, without impairing the constitution, or endangering life or limb. That the present system of Practice, which treats diseases of every form, with Metallic minerals, the Lancet or the Knife, is dangerous, and inefficient—the lamentable facts which every day present too fully illustrate. Nor is this truth more clearly exhibited, than the fact, that Vegetable substances alone, are void of danger, and powerfully efficient when properly administered; a reference to the success of our New York Infirmary, and the success of ignorant Botanical physicians, prove this fact.

The College and Infirmary will be opened the first week in December, where students from all parts may enter and complete their Medical education, and where persons labouring under every species of disease shall receive prompt and faithful attention.

The course of study to be pursued, and which will be taught according to the OLD and the REFORMED systems, by Lectures, Recitations, Examinations and suitable text books, is 1 Anatomy and Physiology. 2 Old and Reformed Surgery. 3. Theory and Practice of Medicine. 4. The old and an improved system of Midwifery, with the diseases of women and children. 5. Materia Medica, with practical and general Botany. 6. Medical & Botanical Chemistry and Pharmacy. 7. Stated Lectures on collateral Science—Moral and Mental philosophy—Phrenology—Medical Jurisprudence—Comparative Anatomy—Medical History, &c. &c.

By attending this Institution, the Student will acquire a correct knowledge of the present practice of physicians—a knowledge of the use, and abuse, of Minerals, the Lancet, Obstetrical Forceps and the Knife, and a knowledge of a new and Improved system, that supercedes their use, with ten fold more safety and success. There will be no specified time to complete a course of study; whenever the student is qualified he may graduate and receive a Diploma—some will pass in one year, others will require more.

REQUISITIONS FOR ADMISSION.

1. A certificate of good moral character. 2. A good English education.

TERMS.—The price of qualifying a person to practice, including a Diploma, and access to all the advantages of the Institution, will be \$150 in advance