

SALMON FISHERY.

A committee has been appointed, and a subscription entered into, for the laudable purpose of preserving the brood of fish in the river *Mersey*. A fisherman of *Runcorn* was lately convicted, and paid the penalty of 10*l.* for taking young salmon, and using unlawful nets, called mallingers, which, together with his boat, were forfeited.---The importance of protecting this fish from premature destruction is strongly marked by the singular fact in natural history, that, like the swallow, it returns each season to the self-same spot to deposit its spawn. This has been proved by Monsieur de la Lande, who fastened a small piece of copper to the tails of some of them, and then set them at liberty, and found that they returned to the same place for three succeeding seasons. The rapid growth of this fish is astonishing, which appears from the testimony of a gentleman at Warrington. A salmon taken on the 7th of February then weighed seven pounds and three quarters; being marked with scissors on the back, fins, and tail, and turned into the river, was again taken on the 17th of the following March, and was then found to weigh seventeen pounds and a half.

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STONE FROM THE MOON.

At the village of *Slobodka*, in the government of *Suodensko*, there fell on the 29th of July, 1818, an aerolite, with such violence from the air, that it penetrated nine *werschoks* deep into the ground. The stone weighed 7*lb.* has a rough surface, and through the dark brown mass that covers it glimmers the proper substance of stone itself, which is of a grey colour, and sprinkled with metallic sparkles.

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THE RHINOCEROS.

It has been questioned if a musket-ball would penetrate the hide of a rhinoceros. An opportunity lately occurred of making the experiment on the carcass of an old animal of uncommon size, which had been killed near *Givalpara*, on the border of the wild country of *Assam*, a spot where rhinoceroses abound. After repeated trials the bullet was found always to fly off, for the skin being very thick and extremely loose, it was constantly by that means put out of its course.

In that part of the country there are many rhinoceroses, and elephants in vast numbers. So numerous a flock was seen crossing the *Burhampura* River, at a breadth of two miles, that the channel seemed full; nor was the end of the line perceptible, although they had been some time passing. A boat, going down the river, was obliged to put about, as it was impossible to get by them; and it was a considerable time before the line had left the jungles of the eastern side, whilst the jungles on the western side prevented their course being traced by the eye.

The people of the country say, that the rhinoceros is much an overmatch for the elephant; as the former being very nimble, gets round the elephant, makes his attack in the same manner as the wild boar, and rips up the belly of his antagonist.

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FORGERY.

The number of persons executed for Forgery in England from 1790 to 1818, is 146.

SIGNOR BELZONI, THE TRAVELLER.

Died at Cairo, Signor Belzoni, an Italian antiquary, who, by his recent discoveries among the ruins of Egyptian grandeur, has enriched the British Museum with several valuable relics. The name of this gentleman is favourably known to every man of taste and science in Europe. He had been for some years incessantly and indefatigably employed in Egypt, in connexion with Mr. Salt, the enlightened British consul, in tracing the monuments of antiquity, in which his efforts have been attended with the most brilliant success. He had laid open the front of the great sphynx, and made many interesting and surprising discoveries. With a sagacity and perseverance seldom equalled, he opened the great temple at *Ipsambul*, which was covered with sand to the depth of fifty feet. At *Thebes* he made many surprising discoveries, and thence brought away the magnificent head of the statue of *Momnon*, which is now deposited in the British Museum. His surprising discoveries of the Egyptian catacombs, in one of which he discovered an exquisitely beautiful sarcophagus of alabaster, nine feet five inches long, by three feet nine inches wide, sounding like a bell, and transparent as glass, and ornamented with hieroglyphics and figures in *intaglio*. The most extraordinary, however, of M. Belzoni's labours, and that which most displays his sagacity and firmness, and the enthusiasm of his character, is the opening of the second pyramid of *Ghiza*, known by the name of *Cephrenes'* pyramid. Herodotus was informed that this pyramid had no subterraneous chambers, and his information being found in latter ages to be generally correct, may be supposed to have operated in preventing that curiosity which prompted the opening of the great pyramid of *Cheops*. M. Belzoni, however, perceived certain indications of sufficient weight to induce him to make the attempt.

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THE ALGERINES.

De Witt, the Dutch statesman and political writer, says, in his book called "the Interests of Holland,"---"that, although the Dutch ships loaded to the Mediterranean should be well guarded by convoys against the Barbary pirates, yet it would by no means be proper to free that sea of those pirates; because (says he) we should thereby be put upon the same footing with the Eastlanders, English, Spaniards, and Italians; therefore it is best to leave that thorn in the sides of those nations, whereby they will be distressed in that trade; while we, by our convoys, engross all the European traffic and navigation to Holland."---(See *Macpherson's Commerce*, vol. 2, page 472.)

This was in 1557, and King James I. in his turn, encouraged the Algerines against the Dutch, and allowed them shelter in the British ports, and to sell their prizes; so that in six months the Dutch lost thirty rich merchantmen.

The Algerines, it would appear, have not, therefore, been alone to blame; but, supposing, as is likely, that there has always been that sort of connivance which De Witt recommends, surely the end might have been attained without dragging the people taken to slavery. It is even plain that the