

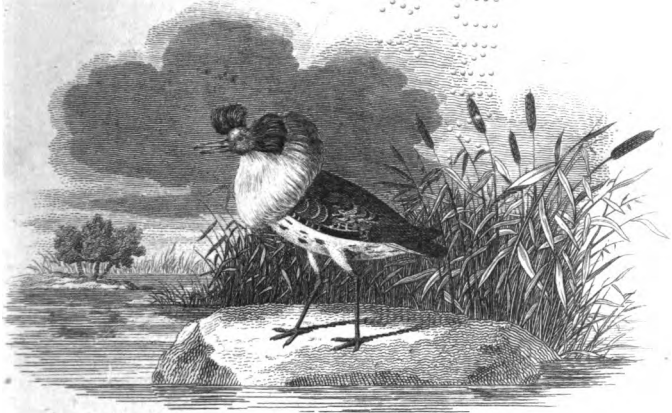
Witneſs of the Improved World
THE

Sporting Magazine
OR
MONTHLY CALENDAR,

OF THE
TRANSACTIONS OF
THE TURF, THE CHASE,
And every other Diversion

Interesting to the
Man of Pleasure Enterprize & Spirit.

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Puff

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The unfortunate woman lived only two hours, leaving eight children to deplore her fate.

FATAL DUEL.—Two gentlemen, of the names of O'Brian and Drew, lately fought a duel at Balbriggan, near Dublin. They fired together, when instantaneously Mr. Drew fell dead! his opponent's ball having entered his forehead over the left eye, passing through the brain, and coming out at the back of his head.

A most distressing accident happened on Saturday, the 10th instant Mr. Gaskill, of Thornhaugh, near Wansford, accompanied by his son, a fine youth about twelve years of age, went out to destroy rabbits, along with Mr. Wing, the Duke of Bedford's game-keeper. About twelve o'clock, they sat down and regaled themselves in a close where some rabbits were running about, one of which coming within gunshot of Mr. Wing, he aimed at it, but unfortunately lodged the whole charge in the head of Mr. Gaskill's son, who, not observing Mr. Wing's intention, got up at the instant he was pulling the trigger. — The youth died immediately. A Coroner's Inquest sat on the body on the Monday morning, and returned a verdict of *Accidental Death*.

A GENTLEMAN of King's College, Cambridge, while amusing himself with a gun at the back of the College, was assailed by a dog belonging to a gang of gipsies encamped near. One of the gipsies (who encouraged the dog) repeatedly dared the gentleman to shoot the animal; which, unfortunately, he at length attempted to do, but, missing his aim, lodged the contents of the gun in the head of a child, who died instantly. A Coroner's Inquest has returned a verdict of

Accidental Death; but the accident made such an impression on the gentleman, that he has never spoken since.

AMONG the useful provisions of the Bill for amending the highways, now pending in Parliament, is one by which no boy under fourteen years of age shall be permitted to drive a waggon, nor under twelve to drive a cart.

ON Tuesday, March 20, the sale of the valuable collection of preserved animals, late the property of Mr. Pidcock, of Exeter Change, deceased, was attended by a number of gentlemen, who devote much of their time to the study of natural rarities. Lord Stanley, and several persons of consequence, were among the amateurs.

It will be recollected, that the public were gratified, some time since, by the exhibition of a stupendous elephant, which died by poison, administered in a clandestine manner, by some insidious enemy. The huge bones of this Asiatic quadruped were afterwards preserved, and on the present occasion the skeleton was put up for sale. The auctioneer informed his hearers that it was the only one in Europe, a great natural curiosity, and worthy the attention of a virtuoso. The first sum bidden was twenty guineas, which increased to forty-nine. Two gentlemen then continued to bid against each other, and the skeleton was finally knocked down for fifty-five guineas; to a gentleman of the faculty. The skeleton of the sperm whale, sixty-six feet long, which formerly appeared in Rackstraw's Museum, sold for nine guineas. A stuffed rhinoceros produced the important sum of five shillings. The horn of this scarce animal was also put up.

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The auctioneer observed—"shew the horn, it is a very fine one, and let the ladies and gentlemen who are partial to horns, have a good opportunity to indulge their fancy." The horn sold for one pound two shillings. A very fine preserved large monkey, denominated the satyr, attracted much attention. He was knocked down to a lady, who professed herself fond of extraordinary subjects, for two pound four shillings. A preserved baboon, bearing a watchman's lanthorn and rattle, sold for one pound twelve. This effigy appeared as capable of performing his duty as many of our nocturnal guardians. Many scarce and beautiful birds sold at low prices, and the whole collection, consisting of 205 lots, produced about 140l.

On Wednesday, being the second day of the sale, the elephant, which arrived, a short time since, in the Lord Keith Indian, was disposed of by private contract. Two lions were sent to the Tower, as the property of the Prince of Brunswick, and the remainder of the savage collection remained to be purchased by the best bidder. A lion and lioness, of majestic deportment, were sold to a person named Miles, for two hundred guineas. Both these animals were so tame, that a child might caress and play with them without danger. It was stated that they had been taken in a French prize, going as a present to Bonaparte. A Royal Bengal tiger sold for eighty guineas, and many more scarce and beautiful quadrupeds produced large sums. This Menagerie once comprised a very useful and valuable collection of wild animals. Our artists have occasionally derived great information by copying the living subjects in their dens; and, on the whole,

its dissolution may be considered a loss to the metropolis. The purchasers in general are showmen, who intend to exhibit their savage companions at country fairs.

Steward v. Hamerton.—Court of King's Bench, March 1.—Mr. Park stated the case. The defendant was a man of property, and son of the late Alderman Hamerton; the plaintiff was a respectable dealer in horses.

At the sale of a Mr. Killock's property at Lee Bridge, the plaintiff going into the stable to examine some horses, was ordered out of it in rather a peremptory manner by the defendant; on his refusing to comply, the defendant seized him, and with the help of his coachman, whom he called to his assistance, dragged him out, tore his clothes, and beat him.

The action was brought to recover compensation for the injury. A number of witnesses were called to the principal facts.

Lord Ellenborough, in charging the Jury, observed on the gross and vulgar nature of the insult, and directed the Jury to give an amount of damages which might teach gentlemen, that to restrain their passions was not one of their least duties to themselves and to society.—*Damages, 50l.*

SINGULAR SPORT.—A singular amusement took place lately in the neighbourhood of Bank-side. A labourer having caught a rat about a fortnight before, and which was fed ever since on young kittens and milk, proposed that the rat should fight as many cats as it could, at *half-a-crown* each, and that the person whose cat killed the rat should be entitled to one guinea. At four o'clock a full-grown cat was put into the rat, in a vat where
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