

and every individual character presented to his observation. The vale of Leven and its associations were early dear to his fancy and affections; and his ardent feelings prompted him to display the objects so beloved in his youth, in verses which the best of poets would be glad to have written. But even in his boyhood, the shrewdness and penetration, the love of satire and caricature, which appear so markedly in his subsequent writings, seem to hold more than half possession of his mind; and his course from the commencement, was that of an active, aspiring man, of great intelligence, and warm temperament; but possessing a knowledge of character, and a susceptibility to external scenes, in far greater proportion than either imagination or sentiment.

#### UNITED EFFORTS:

A MODEST volume of 100 pages, "the mutual offspring of a Brother and Sister." The following lines on the Violet, are in a pleasing strain:

Beauty and innocence combin'd  
Resemble thee; in thee we find  
A blessing oft desir'd;  
Amid the bustling scenes around,  
Tho' one, alas! but seldom found,  
To live in peace, retir'd.

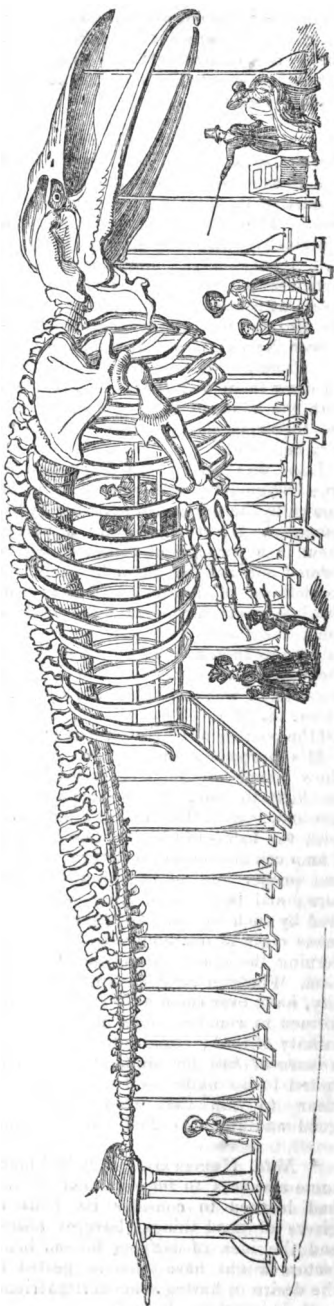
We know that families are checkered in brains as in bulk, so that these "Efforts" are worthy of treasure. Let not their modest title mar their merit.

### The Naturalist.

#### THE GIGANTIC WHALE.

MUCH of the small-shot of wit and pun has been lately fired at an extensive Pavilion erected upon the area of the King's Mews, at Charing Cross. Epigrammatists, (probably with Carlton House in their recollection,) have called it the "Palace of the Prince of W(h)ales;" others a tub for a Whale, &c.; but we must assure them that the stupendous occupant, (if a skeleton can be so called,) of this handsome building is entitled to their courteous attention.

The interior of the Pavilion is tastefully fitted up: in its centre is placed the entire skeleton of an immense specimen of the Greenland Whale (*Balæna Mysticetus*.) The entire animal was found dead, floating off the coast of Belgium, about twelve miles distant from Ostend, November 3, 1827, by a crew of fishermen; their boat being of too weak tonnage and sail to move so enormous a mass, they hailed two other boats to their assistance, and the three together towed the Whale towards Ostend Har-



bour, on entering which, the cable with which it was fastened to the boats, broke, and it was cast on the sands east of the harbour, where the preparatory operations of dissecting, cleaning, &c. were effected. The dimensions, weight, &c. of the Whale are stated as follow:—

	Feet.
Total Length of the Animal - - -	95
Breadth of ditto - - -	18
Length of the head - - -	22
Height of the cranium - - -	4½
Length of the vertebral column - - -	69½
Number of the vertebrae - - -	62
Number of the ribs, 28—Length of ditto - - -	9
Length of the fin - - -	12½
Length of the fingers - - -	4½
Width of the tail - - -	22½
Length of ditto - - -	3
Weight of the Animal when found, 249 tons, or 480,000 lbs.	
Weight of the Skeleton only, 35 tons, or 70,000 lbs.	
Quantity of Oil extracted from the blubber, 4,900 gallons, or 40,000 lbs.	
Weight of the rotten flesh buried in the sand, 85 tons, or 170,000 lbs.	

Cuvier, and the Professors of the *Jardin des Plantes* at Paris, estimate this enormous animal to have lived from 900 to 1,000 years; and one proof of its great age is in the cartilages of the fingers of the *hands* or side fins, which are perfectly ossified, or converted into bone.

At Ostend this wonder of the deep created what journalists call a sensation among all ranks of the people, and our gay neighbours made its capture the occasion of three days *fêtes*, with a host of allegorical and processional accompaniments, which are detailed in a *Memoir pour servir* of the whole affair. The proprietors next visited Paris, and there pitched their pavilion in *Place Louis XV.*, where the Skeleton was inspected by all the *savans* as well as the sight-loving persons of the Capital. Thence they journeyed to London, where we hope the exhibition will receive all the encouragement it merits.

The skeleton, as our Engraving shows, is ingeniously supported upon iron-work. The bones are bound or cemented together, and the appearance of the whole is unique. The breast-fins, or *hands*, as they are properly called, can scarcely fail to attract the notice of the most listless visitor.\* The upper jaw was provided

\* Dr. Harwood in his recent Lecture on the Whale, says, "The breast fins, instead of being composed of straight spines, like those of fishes, conceal bones and muscles formed very like those of the fore-legs of land animals; but so enveloped in dense skin, that the fingers have no separate motion, though the *hand* (if it may be called so) is flat, very pliant, large, and strong, enabling the whale to sustain the young closely compressed to its body, as was remarked by Aristotle. Cuvier states the young of the whale to be twenty feet long at the moment of its birth.

with 800 pieces of baleen, improperly termed *whalebone*.† The brain, a model of which is exhibited, appears extraordinarily small.‡

The fitting-up of the Saloon or Pavilion is in tasteful convenience. Around the building is a gallery, the skeleton being placed in the area, or pit. Within the ribs is a stage, to which the visitor ascends by a flight of steps. Here are tables and seats; on the former we found three volumes of Lacepède's *Natural History*, and a folio Album, with epigrams, puns, and other small wit of visitors at Ostend and Paris—and not a few London gleanings. One specimen, a conundrum, signed by two illustrious gladiators, is as follows:

"Why should we be mourned for if killed by the falling of the bones of the whale?"

MOUNTMOORE.

"We should be be-wailed."—MUNSTER.

*Below Stairs* is a table with another album for the entry of visitors' names: among them we noticed the Duke of Braganza, Donna Maria, and a few names with "Pair d'Angleterre" attached. Altogether "the Pavilion of the Gigantic Whale" is one of the pleasantest places we have visited this season.

There is an interesting fact connected with the food of the above species, or the Greenland Whale. They abound in the olive waters of the Greenland sea, on account of the incalculable number of the animalculæ, or medusæ, which occupy about a fourth of that sea, or about 20,000 square miles. The whales cannot derive any direct subsistence from the animalculæ; but these form the food of other minute creatures, which then support others, till at length animals are produced of such size as to afford a morsel for their mighty devourers. Mr. Scoresby estimates that two square miles of these waters contain 23,888,000,000,000,000 animalculæ; and, as this number is beyond the range of human words and

† These plates of baleen strain the water, which the whale takes into its large mouth, and retain the small animals on which it subsists. For this purpose the baleen is in sub-triangular plates, with the free-edge fringed towards the month, the fixed edge attached to the palate, the broad end fixed to the gum, and the apex to the inside arch. These plates are placed across each other at regular distances.—*Fleming's Philosophy of Zoology*.

‡ Mr. Scoresby found the brain of a whale 19 feet in length to weigh about 3½ lbs. although the weight of the animal was nearly 11,200 lbs. Here the weight of the brain was about 1-1000th part of that of the body, whilst that of the brain of an adult man is about 4 lbs. and that of the body 140, the brain being the 1-35th part of the whole body.—*Notes to Blumenback's Man. Nat. Hist.*

conceptions, he illustrates it by observing that 80,000 persons would have been employed since the creation in counting it.

A single glance at this stupendous skeleton will convince the reader of the vulgar error of terming the whale a fish. Upon this distinction we find the following judicious observations in a recent work.\* Speaking of *Cetacea*, to which class of animals whales belong, the writer says: "Although their home be entirely in the depth of the waters, they have several features in common with the larger quadrupeds. They belong to the Linnæan class of *mammalia*, or suck-giving animals; they produce their young alive; their skin is smooth, and without scales; their blood warm; and the flesh tastes somewhat like coarse beef. They have a heart with two ventricles, and lungs through which they respire; and being unable to separate the air from the water, as fishes do by means of their gills, they must come to the surface in order to breathe. *It is thus by no means strictly scientific to call the whale a fish*; yet he is entirely an inhabitant of the sea, having a tail, though placed in a different position from that of ordinary fishes, while his front limbs much more resemble fins than legs, and are solely used for pawing the deep. Hence the vulgar following a natural and descriptive classification, obstinately continue to give the name of fish to these watery monsters."

Among the cetaceous tribes the chief place is due to the *whale*, of all animals "mightiest that swim the ocean stream." Enormous as his bulk is, rumour and the love of the marvellous have represented it as being at one time much greater, and the existing race as only the degenerate remnant of mightier ancestors. Mr. Scoresby, however, by collecting various good authorities, has proved that sixty feet was always nearly the utmost length of the *mycticetus*, or great Greenland whale. Of 322 individuals, in the capture of which that gentleman was concerned, none occurred of a length exceeding 58 feet; and he gives no credence to any rumour of a specimen which exceeded 70 feet. Even 60 feet implies a weight of 70 tons, being nearly that of 300 fat oxen. Of this vast mass, the oil in a rich whale composes about thirty tons, and when, as was the case some years ago, that article brought 55*l.* or 60*l.* per ton, we

may form some idea of the great value of the capture; the bones of the head, fins, and tail, weigh 8 or 10; the carcass, 30 or 32 tons. The oleaginous substance or blubber, the most valuable part of the animal, forms a complete wrapper round the whole body, of the thickness of from 8 to 20 inches. The head is disproportionally large, forming about a third of the entire bulk. The basis consists of the crown-bone, from each side of which descend those immense jaw-bones which are sometimes presented to our wondering eyes, and which the whalers place on deck as trophies of their success, and in order that the fine oil contained in them may ooze from their lower extremities. These jaw-bones are from 16 to 20 feet in length, and extend along the mouth in a curved line, till they meet and form a species of crescent. The lips, nearly 20 feet long, display, when open, a cavity capable of receiving a ship's jolly-boat with her crew. The whale has no external ear; but, when the skin is removed, a small aperture is discerned for the admission of sound. This sense accordingly is very imperfect; yet the animal, by a quick perception of all movements made on the water, discovers danger at a great distance. The eyes are proportionally small, though the sense of seeing is acute; more so, however, through clear water than through an aerial medium. But the most unique feature in the structure of this animal consists in the *spiracles* or blow-holes placed nearly on the crown of the head. These have been compared to natural *jets d'eau* throwing up water to the height of 40 or 50 feet; but the more careful scrutiny of Mr. Scoresby ascertained, that they emit only a moist vapour, and are neither more nor less than huge nostrils. When, however, the vehement breathing or blowing is performed under the surface, a considerable quantity of water is thrown up into the air. The sound thus occasioned is the only thing like a voice emitted by the animal, and, in the case of a violent respiration, it resembles the discharge of a cannon.

The tail is the most active limb of this mighty animal, and the chief instrument of his motion. It does not rise vertically like that of most fishes, being flat and horizontal, only four or five feet long, but more than twenty feet broad. It consists of two beds of muscles connected with an extensive layer surrounding the body, and enclosed by a thin covering of blubber. Its power is tremendous. A single stroke throws \*

\* *Edinburgh Cabinet Library*, (one of the most valuable of all the Periodical Libraries.)—Vol. I. Polar Seas and Regions, the above portion by Hugh Murray, Esq. F. R. S. E.

large boat with all its crew into the air. Sometimes the whale places himself in a perpendicular position with the head downwards, and, rearing his tail on high, beats the water with awful violence. On these occasions the sea foams, and vapours darken the air; the lashing is heard several miles off, like the roar of a distant tempest. Sometimes he makes an immense spring, and rears his whole body above the waves, to the admiration of the experienced whaler, but to the terror of those who see for the first time this astonishing spectacle. Other motions, equally expressive of his boundless strength, attract the attention of the navigator at the distance of miles.

The fins, called by the French *nage-voires*, and by Dr. Fleming "swimming paws," are placed immediately behind the eyes. They are nine feet long, enclosed by very elastic membranes, and provided with bones similar in form and number to those of the human hand. Such is the spring and vitality of the parts, that, if we may believe *De Reste*, they continue to move for some time after being separated from the body. According to Mr. Scoresby, however, while the whale swims, these organs lie flat on the surface of the water, and are not at all instrumental in producing his motion, which arises entirely from the tail. The fins merely direct and steady the movement, and thus serve rather as a helm than as oars.

### SPIRIT OF THE Public Journals.

SIR CHARLES WETHERELL.

SIR CHARLES is a tall man with a considerable stoop, and a swing in his gait—his face is intelligent and rather remarkable; the forehead expansive, the eyes not large but expressive of humour; the nose straight and rather short, or appearing so from the unusual length of the upper lip and chin; his voice is good but not musical, and his manner is sometimes calm and impressive, but, for the most part, his efforts, even upon the most important occasions, are attended by a whimsicality which is the most distinguishing feature of his manner as an advocate.

His oratory is a most curious combination of really serious and sound argument with out-of-the-way irrelevancy, or what seems irrelevant, until he, by some odd application, which no one under Heaven but himself would have thought of, contrives to connect it with his argument. His violent excitement

about matters of dry equity, is of itself sufficient to give a character of extreme singularity to his pleading in the Court of Chancery; but when we add to this his unusual gesticulation—his frequent use of uncommon and antiquated words—his bits of Latin so oddly and familiarly introduced, and his circumlocution, where the use of an ordinary phrase would express his meaning, we find they all combine to make up his character for eccentricity as a Chancery Barrister. When he goes forth into the street, he is even more strange than in Court. He wears clothes that seem to have been suddenly grabbed from some shop-window in Monmouth-street, without any consideration as to the fit. He scorns the appendages of suspenders, and only sometimes wears a waistcoat long enough to meet the other garment, which, for lack of the appendages aforesaid, are wont to sink below the ordinary level—his inside coat is old, his outside one, for he often indulges in two coats, is of great antiquity, and commonly flies behind him in the breeze, while he strides along, muttering to himself, with his hands lodged deep in the recesses of his breeches-pockets—his cravat seems as if it had not been folded, but rolled up, and tied on in the dark, by hands not of the cleanest—he wears huge shoes, tied with great black tapes, or what should be black, except that, like his hat, the vicissitudes of time hath turned them to a hue of brown. In this costume he moves along, cheery and pleasant, nodding to many, talking to some, and recognised by many, who say, "There goes honest old Charley Wetherell." I am persuaded there is not a particle of affectation in his singularities—they arose, perhaps, out of the darling notion of his mind "independence," and have become confirmed by long habit. Many stories are told of the strange way in which he lived in Chambers, when it was not his custom to come to Court: they say he had a bit of looking-glass fixed into the wall, which answered all the purposes of his toilet, and sometimes, when some one would come in after he had commenced the process of shaving, he would quite forget to complete it, and has been found in the evening with a crust of "lather" upon his face, which had remained from the morning, without his being conscious of it. Sometimes he will be seen walking quickly along, his mind evidently full of something, which he indistinctly mutters as he goes, when some article in a pawnbroker's shop-window will attract his attention, and he will travel from