13TH SEPTEMBER, 1854.—Monthly meeting; J. W. Agnew, Esq., M.D., in the chair.

The following gentlemen were after a ballot declared to be duly elected:—

Rev. H. J. D'Emden, of Hobart Town.
George Bisdee, Esq., of Wood Spring.
Edward Bisdee, Esq., M.L.C., of Lovely Banks.
George Morgan, Esq., of Hobart Town.

The Secretary announced the receipt of three Treatises upon Australian and Tasmanian Plants from the author, Ferdinand Müller, M.D., Government Botanist for Victoria; forwarded through Andrew Clarke, Esq., Surveyor-General of that Province; Statistics of Van Diemen's Land, 1844 to 1853, from James Barnard, Esq., Government Printer. Also, from the Royal Society of London, Fasciculus No. 3 of Vol. 7 of Proceedings of the Society.

The Secretary laid before the meeting a letter from John Alexander Smith, Esq., Honorary Secretary to the Auckland Museum, with the annexed descriptive list of a series of auriferous minerals from the Kapunga Diggings, presented to the Society.

"List of Specimens sent from the *Auckland Museum*, New Zealand, 8th July, 1854, to the Secretary of the Royal Society of Van Diemen's Land, Hobart Town.

GOLD SERIES, NEW ZEALAND.	BOX A, No. 1.
From Coromandel Harbour, New Zealand.	No. 1.—Nugget; only four have been received by me; they were discovered in the clay marked (B, No. 3) about 10 feet below the surface.
From Uiou Diggings.	
From Uiou Diggings. This has been broken.	No. 2.—What are termed here Nuggets; the largest yet found was about the size of a hen's egg; they are found in the bed of the stream.
From Uiou Diggings.	No. 3.—Gold in Quartz; also termed a Nugget here.
	No. 4.—Gold Dust; in sand procured from washing earths, marked B, Nos. 1, 2, 3.
	B, No. 1.—Specimen of gold-bearing felspathic quartz, from Kapunga Diggings.
	B, No. 2.—Specimen of gold-bearing dark yellow clay, from Kapunga Diggings.
	*B, No. 3.—Specimen of gold-bearing white clay, mixed with leaves and small fibres of roots, &c., from Kapunga Diggings.
	C, 1—1 Specimen of Chalcedony from Coromandel.

* Gold Dust in iron sand is found in all these earths by washing.

From Uiou Diggings.

D, 1.—Six Geological specimens from Coromandel. Vicinity of gold diggings.

E, 1.—One specimen of earth found in vicinity of gold diggings.

F, 1 & 13.—Thirteen Specimens of quartz from the gold diggings of Coromandel Harbour, New Zealand.

The Uiou and Kapunga or Wynyard Diggings are both at Coromandel Harbour, and about ten miles distant from each other.

The Uiou is a small river, in the bed of which the gold is found, generally in the form of (A, No. 2), the surface being smooth and water-worn; dust is likewise found by washing.

The Kapunga are what are termed Dry Diggings, generally in the bend of a river; for facility of water an excavation is made; the clay marked B, 3 is then carried to the *Long Tom* and washed, when the produce is nuggets like A, No. 3, and gold dust in iron sand, like A, No. 4.

Z, 1.—Specimen of Iron Sand found in large quantities on the coast of New Zealand.

"JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, *Hon. Sec.*,"

"Auckland Museum."

A specimen of native bread *(Mylitta Australis)* was received from Mr. Belbin.

A specimen of keyhole limpet, *Fissurella sp:* found at Sandy Bay, showing the animal with the shell attached, preserved in spirits, was received from Mr. H. Hull.

A few mineral specimens, and a packet of seeds, collected by Captain Berthon, in Australia, were received from that gentleman.

A small collection of Mauritius shells was received from Mr. F. S. Dobson, together with a specimen of *Diodon* from the same place.

A specimen of clay and shale, brought by Mr. Cockburn from Marlborough, part of the erupted matter reported some few months since in the newspapers as having been the work of a volcano or earthquake, was laid upon the table. Mr. Cockburn has visited the locality, and describes the phenomena as strictly those of a land-slip upon a surface having considerable inclination.

Dr. Downing presented from G. F. Euston, Esq., Colonial Assistant Surgeon of Norfolk Island, the skin of an Avocet, *Recurvirostra rubricollis*, Temm.

A specimen of musk duck, *Biziura Lobata*, Gould, was received from the Douglas River Coal Company's Establishment, East Coast. A collection of fine specimens of *Sphæria Gunnii*, obtained at Franklin Village, was received from Mr. W. K. Hawkes, part of which are intended for the Paris Exhibition.

Mr. Milligan added to the collection the cranium of a Seal—*Stenorhynchus leptonyx*, F. Cuv., obtained at Oyster Cove, D'Entrecasteaux Channel.

A sample of Oil obtained from the Mersey Mineral, by distillation, has been presented by Dr. Lee, with the following notes on the subject:—

(Copy from Note Book.)

"Mem. I.—*Concerning the* Mersey Shale, *from Mr. Mac Naughtan.*

Microscopic Structure.

By Reflected Light—(90 Diameters.)

Layers of more or less irregularly-circular discs of a resinous colour, *i. e.*, varying from a pale amber in the brightest light to a dull brownish orange in the shade; feebly translucent; arranged with considerable regularity on their flat surfaces, these surfaces often being indented on the centre, somewhat resembling the form of a human blood corpuscle, in some instances wrinkled as by pressure. The interstices between are interspersed with a quantity of whitish, apparently amorphous, matter, resembling in appearance white sugar, with a similar brightness of surface.

A very few rhomboidal plates, and some remains of prismatic crystals in a state of disintegration: these, however, were only observed in two out of thirty-seven specimens examined.

By Transmitted Light—(90 Diameters.)

Discs vary from ·013 to ·018 and ·019 of an inch in diameter. Some as large as ·02, semi-translucent, mostly marked with an irregular double line, apparently contained in their interior.

When ruptured, the outer coat appears thin, and at 580 diameters amorphous.

Mem. II.

Chemical Relations, &c. &c.

Colour—A dull uniform brown or deep buff.

Fracture—Earthy, in layers.

Specific Gravity—

Apparently wholly *insoluble* in alcohol and ether.

Inflammable—burns with a white flame, giving off a large quantity of smoke: form remains unchanged after combustion.

Residue varies from 67·9 to 71·3 per cent. in 7 specimens examined. Consists of silica and alumina. (Query. Any other metal—copper or iron?)

Destructive Distillation :—At a low temperature it yields—

(1) An oily matter.

(2) A tarry matter.

(3) Gives an acid reaction to the water in receiving-vessel.

At white heat gives off a large quantity of gas of a peculiarly phosphorescent odour.

(Query. Is acid reaction due to phosphorus?)

Gas on standing deposits a large quantity of a black tarry liquid matter, and some oily substance.

"RICHARD LEE."

The Secretary read an elaborate analysis of the combustible schist of the Mersey, made at the Andersonian University, Glasgow, by Professor Penny, accompanied with a table showing the proportions per cent. of volatile matters—fixed carbon, ash, sulphur, and water in various coals, analysed by Professor Penny.

A letter was read from J. Macquorn Rankine, Esq., F.R.S.S.L. & E., acknowledging his election into the Society and promising contributions.

The Secretary announced the receipt at the Gardens of a case of plants from Messrs. Low and Co., of Clapton, London,—all dead.

The following communication from the Rev. T. J. Ewing, of New Town, in reference to the Ornithology of Norfolk Island, was read:—

"*New Town Parsonage, 9th September*, 1854.

"My Dear Sir,—As the Settlement of Norfolk Island is so soon to be given up, I wish through you, as Secretary of the Royal Society, to endeavour to get the permission of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor to have a complete collection of the Birds of the Island formed before it is abandoned. The ornithology of that small spot is interesting on many accounts. Many of the birds originally described by Latham, and figured in Lambert's *Icones*, are supposed to have been brought from there. Several species, characterized by Gould as from Australia, are also attributed to Norfolk Island,—such as *Pachycephala xanthoprocta* and *Pachycephala longirostris*. The *Merula Nestor*, a fine thrush, described by Gould as having been collected by Sturt on the Murrumbidgee, is the *Turdus poliocephalus* of Latham, said by him, and no doubt truly, to be from Norfolk Island.

Most interesting would it be to know if the curious *Nestor productus*, or long-billed Phillip Island Parrot, is still in existence. Major Childs told me in England that the last of its race was tame in his garden when Commandant of the Island.

I have often had specimens of the *Platycercus Pennantii*, the Lowry Parrakeet of Port Phillip, brought from Norfolk Island. Does it breed there? If so, it must have escaped from confinement at first: there is also another lesser Green Parrakeet.

It is said that the common Pigeon has become naturalized there, and has resumed its original habit of breeding in the rocky cliffs surrounding the shores.

A beautiful native pigeon also breeds there.

Does more than one species of tropic bird *(Phaeton)* breed there? Very many sea birds are stated to do so, and it would be desirable to ascertain the fact.

The *Eudynamis Flindersii*, reported at a late meeting of the Royal Society, must have been carried out of its course in migrating. Perhaps the gentleman who shot it can inform us whether it arrived in flocks, or only in a single specimen.

The *Botaurus Australis* too was never before found so far to the eastward.

When the Island was first discovered, Mount Pitt was found to be frequented by thousands of Petrels, probably our mutton birds, *Puffinus brevicaudis*. Do they still frequent the Island?

I lately read that the captain of a whaler had seen on Lord Howe's Island a bird which he describes to be very like the *Notornis Oweni*, a gigantic Rail of New Zealand. If so, it is not unlikely that some representative of this order may be found at Norfolk Island. Does the *Lady Franklin* ever sight Lord Howe's Island either going or coming? What a treat it would be to Owen to send him one of those birds, whose bones have given him so much delight in describing. I must apologize for giving you so much trouble,

And remain, my dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully,

THOMAS J. EWING.

"Joseph Milligan, Esq.,
Secretary Royal Society
of Van Diemen's Land."

After some discussion, the thanks of the Society were voted for the communications and presentations received, and the meeting, which was rather thinly attended in consequence of the bad weather, broke up.

11TH OCTOBER, 1854.—Monthly meeting; the Rev. John Lillie, D.D., a Vice-President, in the chair.

Amongst the Fellows present were Drs. Agnew, Hall, and Lee; Capt. Stoney and Major Berthon; Messrs. Champ, Hone, Kilburn, Perkins, Barnard, Moss, Propsting, &c.

After a ballot, J. E. Calder and Thomas Hewitt of Hobart Town, Esquires, were declared to be duly elected Fellows of the Society.

The presentations were:—By the Rev. T. J. Ewing, of New Town, Two Parts of the "Bulletin de la Société de Geographie."

By Mrs. Tapfield, of Macquarie-street, a manuscript volume containing the