

The Secretary drew the attention of the meeting to a small flat fish, about three inches in length, having a somewhat shield-like form of body, enclosed in fixed enamelled plates above and below, with a sauroid tail terminating in a filamentous point: the upper jaw is a continuation of the superior enamelled plate, the snout is in the form of a delicate flexible little trunk, a little behind which is the mouth on the under surface, the under jaws being apparently constituted for moving, when fresh, upon the upper fixed portion, with a slit between for gills. On either side, from a point corresponding to the upper quarters of a shield, a fin composed of soft tapering rays passes off, having much the aspect of the lateral processes characterizing the *Pterictyus* of the Devonian rocks in Scotland. This remarkable little animal was obtained recently from the stomach of a fish taken with hook and line at a depth of two or three fathoms in D'Entrecasteaux's Channel, opposite to Oyster Cove.

Mr. Mac Naughtan drew the attention of the meeting to a report in the *North British Daily Mail* newspaper of the proposed scheme for supplying Glasgow with water from Loch Katrine, a distance of about 60 miles, and the probability of the undertaking, upon which £20,000 had been expended, being abandoned, in consequence of the extreme purity of the water rendering it liable to become rapidly impregnated with lead from the piping used. The Secretary read the analysis by Professor Penny.

The thanks of the meeting having been unanimously voted for donations and papers, His Excellency left the chair soon after nine o'clock, and the members separated.



9TH AUGUST:—Monthly meeting; His Excellency Sir W. T. Denison, President, occupied the chair.

Amongst the members present were:—Dr. Agnew; Messrs. Barnard, Bisdee, Boot, Brown, Fraser, Mac Naughtan, and Dobson; Rev. Alexander Cairnduff; Captain Hawkins, R. E.; Messrs. Hone, Hall, Kilburn, Loch, Matson, Moss, Makeig, Lee, and Rolwegan.

Dr. Macnamara, late of Ross, and Mr. Deakin, of Murray-street, were elected Fellows of the Society. Other candidates were proposed preparatory to the next ballot.

The following presentations were made:—

To the Library,—From Mr. MacNaughtan, "The Electric Telegraph—its History and Progress," by Edmund Highton, C. E.

Report of the Celebrated Trial in the case of the *Torbane Mineral*, before the Lord Chief Justice General and a Special Jury.

From Mr. Deakin,—Coloured Map of the Seat of War in the North of Europe and the East.

From Mr. Rodd,—A Dutch work on the Transformations of Insects, dated 1774,

and copiously illustrated with coloured plates of moths, butterflies, and caterpillars, &c., and the plants on which they are found.

From the Tasmanian Steam Navigation Company,—Design and Plan of the *City of Hobart* Steamer.

To the Museum, from Peter Fraser, Esq., M.L.C.—A specimen of Land Rail, *Gallinula crex*, shot by him in Scotland, and stuffed and mounted by himself.

From Mr. L'Estrange, a small collection of Sea Shells picked up by himself at Singapore, Penang, Sydney, and other places.

From Mr. Mac Naughtan, a large specimen of the Black Bituminous Schist, known as the Torbane Hill Mineral. Also a specimen of the combustible Schist from the Mersey River, exhibiting an imperfect impression on one side of a Bivalve Shell.

From Mr. Duncan Macpherson, a section of Timber from a large Gum Tree, displaying a solid centre of an inch to an inch and a half in diameter, closely embraced by the exterior concentric circles of ligneous matter, but standing out clearly and distinctly apart, with thick short branches projecting irregularly into the surrounding wood, conveying the idea of a tree within a tree. Also a fragment of Sand Stone from Sandy Bay, exhibiting in its substance numerous mammillary forms, cemented with ferruginous matter.

From Captain Smith, of the Coal Mines, Tasman's Peninsula, a collection of Ova-cells of the large *Fasciolaria* of these shores, each of which on being opened yield a number of minute shells of a white colour.

From Dr. Moore, of New Norfolk, specimens of Steatite from crevices in Greenstone obtained in that neighbourhood.

From Mr. J. L. Mac Laine specimens of Sandstone believed to belong to the carboniferous series, and represented to have been obtained in the immediate vicinity of coal upon the left bank of the Huon River, near Surveyor's Beach.

The attention of the meeting was called to a bunch of raspberries in various stages of advancement, from blossom to perfectly ripened fruit, sent to the meeting by Sir Henry Atkinson, from whose garden, at the upper end of Macquarie-street, they were taken. A note from Mr. H. Hull on the extreme mildness of the present winter, as exemplified by the ripening of these and other fruits, was read.

A communication from Mr. H. Hull was also read on a paragraph in the writings of Christian Franc. Paulinus, in the 9th century, wherein he states that certain trees in the Island Sombroero, in the East Indies, have large worms attached under-ground in place of roots, &c., and which Mr. Hull supposes to indicate the knowledge in that early period of some species of *Spheria*, or plant-caterpillar like that of New Zealand, or of Franklin's Village, Van Diemen's Land.

A letter was read from Mr. J. Hobbs, of H. M. Customs, Melbourne, addressed to Dr. Bedford, of this city, drawing attention to an article in the *United Service Journal* upon the character and virtues of a plant known by the name of Guaco, and said to be indigenous in the Caraccas, South America, and in some of the

West India Islands, the juice of which has been considered an antidote to the poison of serpents and venomous insects, and when administered in certain prescribed modes to secure immunity from their bites.

The Secretary reported receipt of a short paper by Mr. Hawkes, of Franklin Village, upon the *Sphaeria Gunnii*, lately read at a meeting of members of the Society at Launceston.

The Secretary read a communication from the Rev. T. J. Ewing, of New Town, accompanying Part I. of a classified catalogue of the Birds of Tasmania, which Mr. Ewing has undertaken to complete forthwith for publication. The reverend gentleman has offered to place at the disposal of the Society for their library a copy of that portion of his stupendous collection of descriptions of species which embraces the Ornithology of Tasmania.

Tables of Meteorological Observations taken at Government House during the months of May, June, and July last, by Mr. F. Stanley Dobson, were laid before the meeting.

Tables of Meteorological Observations made daily at Norfolk Island, from 1st April, 1853, to 31st March, 1854 last, were also submitted to the meeting.

Mr. Mac Naughtan read a carefully-compiled statement of the characteristics and qualities of the Torbane Mineral, as compared with the ordinary coals of England and Scotland, with the cannel coal, and with the combustible schist from the Mersey River. The subject excited much interest, and led to a protracted discussion, in which many of the members present joined.

Mr. Phineas Moss then read an interesting paper "On the Science of Astronomy as known to the Ancient Jews," which was amply supported by quotations of the original Hebrew from the Scriptures, throughout which Mr. Moss showed there were numerous allusions and circumstances having reference to the subject from the time of Job (about 1400 years before the Christian era) downwards.

Conversation was kept up till after ten o'clock, when, upon a vote of thanks having been passed to the various persons who had made presentations and produced papers, His Excellency the President left the chair; and the meeting separated about half-past ten, to meet as usual on the second Wednesday of next month.