

Proceedings.

11TH JANUARY, 1854.—Monthly Meeting; Joseph Hone, Esq., senior member of the Council, occupied the chair.

The following gentlemen were balloted for and elected Fellows of the Society: Lieutenant-Colonel Kenny, Thomas Macdowell, and J. R. Bateman, Esquires, of Hobart Town; other candidates for membership were proposed.

The Secretary laid on the table a complete series of forty-four charts of winds and currents in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, with "Pilot" and "Whale Charts" of Lieutenant Maury, of the United States Navy, forwarded by the Author through S. P. Griffin, Esq., U.S.N., to His Excellency the President, for the Royal Society's Library.

Sir William Denison also forwarded a Geological Report of Mr. Stutchbury's, dated 1st July, 1853, and printed by order of the Legislature of New South Wales.

The Ven. Archdeacon Davies presented "A Lecture on China, past and present," from the author, the Rev. A. Morrison.

The Secretary drew attention to two skins of birds of the Cuckoo tribe, (*Eudynamis taitensis*?) forwarded to the Museum by Abraham Hort, Esq., of Wellington, New Zealand, and by him procured from Walter Mantell, Esq., who obtained them from Mr. Longust, of Purakami, by whom they were shot in the Otago district. This bird is named *Roekoca* or *Rohoperon* by the natives: it has a general resemblance to *Eudynamis Flindersii*, LATHAM, as figured by Gould, but differs somewhat in plumage, and has a more tapering, elegant, and graceful figure. Mr. Hort's communication was read.

A note was read from James Dixon, Esq., of Skelton Castle, presenting to the Museum the frontal bone of a human cranium picked up by himself on the field of Waterloo in 1825; and stating, with reference to a grass seed brought from New South Wales by James Macarthur, Esq., of Deloraine, and of which a small parcel¹ was sent to the Society for distribution some months ago, as follows:—"The grass seed you gave me was sown in separate seeds about eight inches apart, and has all come up well: it is now about a foot high, it stools out in a grassy manner, and seems now to have a good deal of seed in it. It keeps its green colour well, and if carefully planted out may prove a valuable grass for fodder or for eating down. This dry season is, I think, much against it; we have watered one spot, the other stands the weather," &c. &c. Mr. Dixon adds—"I think it is from want of proper

application that we have overlooked the value of the Bokhara clover. I had almost seed enough to spread over a forty-five acre paddock now in wheat, and trust to see the plant flourish as grass, to be eaten down when the wheat is off: I have also two other plots of Bokhara growing, which will produce a large quantity of seed.

Mr. Dixon's efforts fully and fairly test the adaptation of these grasses to the soil and climate of this island, and their value for the purposes of dry provender and pasturage cannot be estimated too highly, subject, as we are, to seasons of aridity, in which every green thing becomes withered and dried up.

A few small cubes of yellow pyrites of iron from the Fingal gold diggings were presented by Mr. H. Hull.

Mr. Belbin, of Liverpool-street, sent to the Museum skins of the Australian Egret *Herodias symmatophorus*, GOULD, and King-fisher *Aleyone azurea*, LATH., shot by him at Kent's Group, Bass's Strait.

Alexander Reid, Esq., of Bothwell, presented, through Dr. Officer, a stuffed specimen of an unusually large *Ornithorhynchus*, obtained in the Clyde River.

A specimen of Malachite, picked up by Mr. W. R. Giblin in this neighbourhood, but probably of Adelaide origin, was presented by that gentleman.

From Alexander Macnaughtan, Esq., were received a fine model of a Chinese war junk, two glazed cases of insects, and one hundred preserved bird skins from India, together with a magnificent collection of corals from the Indian Ocean, numbering upwards of twenty species, and comprising *Fungia*, *Caryophyllia*, *Pavonia*, *Meandrina*, *Astrea*, *Catenopora*, *Madrepora*, *Porites clavaria*, &c., with a miscellaneous collection of shells, embracing species of the following genera—*Melo*, *Cymba*, *Conus*, *Turbo*, *Turbinella Meleagrina*, *Tridacne*, *Rostellaria*, *Pteroceras*, *Fusus*, *Strombus*, *Cassis*, *Dolium*, *Terebra*, *Cyprea*, *Voluta*, *Oliva*, *Bulla*, *Auricula*, *Nerita*.

Captain Edward Sayers, of the *James Cruickshank*, sent a few fresh Nutmegs for the purpose of being planted and cultivated at the Society's Gardens.

The receipt, per *Creole*, of a case containing twenty-two plants, chiefly Australian, for the Society's Gardens, from Mr. Mason at Melbourne, was announced.

A Meteorological Table, exhibiting a daily statement of observations on the Aneroid and Syphon Barometers, the Sympiesometer and Thermometer, &c., for the month of December, taken at Government House by Mr. Hull and Mr. F. Stanley Dobson, was placed before the meeting.

A letter from S. P. Griffin, Esq., U. S. Navy, written on behalf of Lieutenant Maury, and addressed to His Excellency the President of the Royal Society of Van Diemen's Land, and Sir W. Denison's reply, were read. The Secretary also read a communication from Sir W. Denison to the Society representing the importance to science, navigation, and commerce, of the inquiries and pursuits to which Lieutenant Maury has devoted himself, and soliciting the co-operation and aid of members in accumulating information and facts, to enable Lieutenant Maury to construct charts of the winds and currents, &c., in these latitudes, which may be sufficiently accurate to be practically available in the navigation of the neighbouring seas and coasts.

After examination of the various specimens presented, conversations ensued, and soon after nine o'clock it was moved by Dr. Bedford, seconded by Mr. Henslowe, supported by Dr. Butler, Mr. Perkins, and Mr. Courtney and others, and carried,—“That the thanks of the Society are due to His Excellency Sir W. Denison, and to the other persons who have made communications and donations, and especially to Mr. Macnaughtan for his extensive and valuable gifts this evening.”

On motion of D. T. Kilburn, Esq., seconded by Colonel Last, a vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to Mr. Hone “for his attention to matters before the meeting, and his great urbanity in the chair,” when the meeting broke up.

8TH FEBRUARY, 1854.—Monthly Meeting; the chair was occupied by His Excellency the President, Sir W. T. Denison, F.R.S., &c. &c.

The following gentlemen were, after a ballot, declared to be duly elected into the Society:—

Peter Roberts, Esq., of Ashgrove; W. H. Archer, Esq., of Melbourne, late Registrar-General for Victoria; the Rev. P. V. M. Filleul, M.A., Warden of Christ's College, Bishopsbourne; Henry Berthon, Esq., H.E.I.C.S., the Very Rev. William Hall, (Vicar-General) of Hobart Town; John Thomson, Esq., Robert Pott, Esq., William Tyson, Esq., Henry Graham, Esq., M.D., of Launceston. Other candidates for membership were nominated for next ballot.

The following donations were announced by the Secretary:—

To the Library:—From the Ven. Archdeacon Davies; Linnæus's System of Natural History, by Turton, in 7 volumes, 8vo.

From Charles Mason, Esq., Commissioner of Patents, Washington, U.S.; Reports to Congress (1851), 2 vols., 8vo.: 1st, Arts and Manufactures. 2nd, Agriculture.

From E. Hathaway, Esq., U.S. Consul; Reports to Congress (1848), by Commissioner of Patents, 1 vol., on Agriculture and Machinery, &c.

To the Museum:—From John Johnson, Esq., of Port Albert; the dried skin of a musk duck, *Biziura lobata*.

From James Barnard, Esq.; a specimen of an elegantly-branched *Gorgonia*.

From J. Lucas, Esq., through Mr. Hull; 2 specimens of brown-throated Dragon, *Dracocella hamatopogon* (J. E. Gray), native of Sumatra.

A diminutive but pretty specimen of *Argonaut*, lately found on the beach at Wedge Bay, Tasman's Peninsula, by William Swainson, Esq., F.R.S., &c., was presented by that gentleman, who considers that it is likely, from the almost total absence of even the rudiments of a whorl, its dwarf size, extreme delicacy, and other peculiarities, to prove a new and undescribed species. Mr. Swainson also laid on the table twigs having seed vessels, of what he considers to be three distinct species of Blue Gum. Mr. Swainson rested his distinction on marked permanent peculiarities in the form of the capsules, and observed, “these are three only of