

of the Europeans, or to an old blanket, confessedly insufficient to protect them against cold and wet. Their mode of life has also materially altered: instead of gaining a subsistence by the highly invigorating practice of hunting, as formerly, many live amongst the settlers; while others get a very precarious livelihood between begging and stealing, eating dead stock, &c."

His Excellency the President referred to the Secretary for information as to the religious belief and notions generally on spiritual matters of the aborigines of Van Diemen's Land.

Mr. Milligan said he had ascertained that the Tasmanian aborigines, previous to their intercourse with Europeans, distinctly entertained the idea of immortality as regarded the soul or spirit of man: their legends proved also their belief in a host of malevolent spirits and mischievous goblins, whose abodes were caverns and dark recesses of the dense forests, clefts in rocks on the mountain tops, &c., and that they considered one or two spirits to be of omnipotent energy; but that they do not seem to have invested even these last with attributes of benevolence, although they reposed unqualified trust in the tutelary agencies of the spirits of their departed friends and relations. To these guardian spirits they gave the generic name "Warrawah," an aboriginal term, like the Latin word *umbra*, signifying shade, shadow, ghost, or apparition. Mr. Milligan stated that the dead were variously disposed of by different tribes,—by some they were burnt,—by others placed in various attitudes in hollow trees and abandoned,—while by others dead bodies were thrown into holes made by the casual uprooting of large trees, and therein left, partially covered with rubbish, &c.

The Secretary laid before the meeting an elaborate analysis of the relation between Heat and the Constitution of Gases, by a resident in Melbourne, transmitted by the author to the Society.

The thanks of the meeting having been unanimously voted for the papers produced and the donations made to the Society, His Excellency the President left the chair about ten o'clock, and the members separated soon after.

#### 12TH JULY, 1854.—Monthly meeting.

The members present were:—His Excellency Sir W. T. Denison, President, in the chair; Dr. Agnew, Dr. Butler, M.L.C., Dr. Hall, Dr. M'Carthy, Colonel Last, Lieutenant Lochner, R.E., Messrs. Champ, Hone, R. Butler, Gould, H. Hull, D. T. Kilburn, Mac Naughtan, T. Moore, G. Makeig, Moss, Rolwegan, Vautin, Whitcomb.

The following gentlemen having been balloted for were declared duly elected Fellows of the Society:—Thomas Cruttenden, of Woodsdon; Joseph Ward, of Fingal; Malcolm Laing Smith, of Flinder's Island, Esquires.

The Secretary announced the receipt of Three Parts of the Journal of the Royal

Geographical Society of London from the Rev. T. J. Ewing, of New Town, and read a note from Mr. Ewing promising a paper on the Birds of Tasmania for the August evening meeting.

Mr. Hugh Hull presented for the Library a "History of Van Diemen's Land from 1824 to 1835," printed by Henry Melville, Hobart Town.

A few geological specimens procured during the antarctic voyage of the *Erebus* and *Terror* were received from Mr. Payne, of Melville-street.

The Secretary read a note from Mr. Alderman Elliston transmitting ten Casts of Aborigines of Tasmania, taken in plaster of Paris by the late Mr. Duterreau.

A note was read from Mr. D. T. Kilburn presenting a Folding Stereoscope, the invention of Mr. E. Kilburn, of Regent-street, London, and patented by him in England and France.

Colonel Last presented from Lieut. Gayner, of Norfolk Island, the skins of a Bittern (*Botaurus Australis*), and a Cuckoo (probably the female of *Eudynamis Flindersii*, LATH.), with a dried specimen of Scolopendra.

Mr. Rolwegan presented the *Staff* of Office (Hane) of a Chief of New Zealand.

A Fish (not named, preserved in spirits) was received from Marcus Aitkin, Esq., of Fingal. He had obtained it in a seine at the Scamander River, on the East Coast.

A note from Mrs. Walker, of Launceston, was read by the Secretary bringing under the notice of the meeting a *cranium* which had been forwarded to her, and alleged to have been found in the interior of New Holland. The lower jaw was missing, and there were no teeth in the much-worn alveoli of the upper maxilla. Having been examined by Drs. Agnew, Butler, and others, it was pronounced to be the skull of a Seal of the genus *Arctocephalus*.

The Secretary laid on the table a Report from the Superintendent at the Gardens of the despatch of a case of plants to Geelong per *Iron Tasmania*.

His Excellency the President read a note from Mr. Francis Cotton, of Kelvedon, Swanport, drawing attention to the unusual character of the season, as evidenced by the fact, that in the first week of this month the raspberry plants in his garden were covered with blossom and fruit in different stages of growth up to ripeness in several instances; that many of his roses were then in full blossom, and that the sweet briar hedges presented quite a gay appearance; Mr. Cotton observing, "nothing of the kind has occurred before in our experience, which extends over twenty-five years in this hemisphere."

Sir W. Denison added, that in Dr. Hampton's garden the pear trees had not only blossomed a second time, but produced a second crop of well-formed fruit.

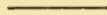
Several members adduced similar recent instances of blossom on fruit trees, rose trees, &c.

The Secretary read a note from the Rev. R. L. King, of Sydney, transmitting a long, learned, and interesting paper upon Australian Entomostracans, illustrated with carefully-executed drawings of new species.

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 *Pterichthys* 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,