

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,

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

THOMAS J. EWING.

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 Géographie."

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

characters used to express fifty-four different oriental and other languages, &c., ancient and modern.

From Dr. Knight, of Auckland, New Zealand, through His Excellency Sir Wm^r T. Denison,—Named Specimens of forty-two species of Mosses of New Zealand.

The Secretary read Dr. Knight's letter, in which further contributions are promised and exchanges solicited with the Society and individual members.

From Miss Denison was received two fine specimens of *Voluta fusiformis*, one of the most elegant and showy of Tasmanian shells.

Mr. Moses presented two good specimens of *Nautilus Pompilius*.

From the Rev. Mr. Tanner, of Port Phillip, was received (through Mr. Walch) a packet containing about twenty species of seeds of Australian plants, collected by him at and near Wide Bay, New South Wales.

The Secretary read a note from Mr. Thomas Moore intimating his intention of making a collection of specimens of the coal and associated beds in the Lancashire coal-fields, England, for the Royal Society's Museum, in order to institute exact comparisons with the products of equivalent strata in this colony.

Mr. Milligan also read a note from Sir William Denison transmitting a list of Tasmanian and Australian plants asked for in the way of exchange by Messrs. Veitch, of Chelsea.

Mr. Tapfield, of Macquarie-street, presented a few fine specimens of agate, cut and polished, and said to be from Germany.

From Mr. William Lyons was received a lizard, in spirits, resembling *Cyclodus Casuarinae*, obtained by him on the side of the road to Mount Wellington, by the Springs, about a mile beyond the Cascades.

Mr. Propsting presented a stuffed specimen of one of the smaller species of the *Napu* section of the *Moschidae*, or Musk-deer tribe, which was brought from India by Major Coombe.

From Mr. Belbin was received the skin of the elegant Australian Honey-eater, *Entomyza cyanotis*, shot by him at Port Phillip.

Mr. G. A. Makeig submitted for examination a sample of arenaceous clay from his farm near the "Flower Pot," D'Entrecasteaux's Channel, coloured with the minute green fungus which has so often led to a supposition of the existence of copper in our clay formations.

From Capt. M. L. Smith was received a hand specimen of a calcareous stratum deposited on granite. The Secretary remarked that upon Flinder's Island, and some of the neighbouring islands, this bed of chalk is found of a thickness varying from a few inches to many feet; in some places a few feet only above the level of the sea,—while in others it occurs (still, however, only as a crust over granite) at an elevation of three or four hundred feet: and besides being met with on the Islands, that it exists also at Cape Grim and at other points along the coast, passing occasionally into a coherent and rather hard marl, and into a marly breccia, and that it may be presumed to have been deposited immediately before the last considerable upheaval of these islands.

From the Reverend J. Fereday, of George Town, was received a packet of seeds of the *Alyxia buxifolia*, the shrubby tree from which the scented wood of the north coast of Tasmania is procured.

From Mr. Calder was received a series of specimens of the beds passed through by him in sinking a forty-feet hole in the richest part of the *old* Eureka line; with a fragment of quartz from the Great (134lb.) Nugget-hole at Canadian Gulley; and specimens of slate from Golden Point, Ballaarat.

Mr. Milligan placed before the meeting a paling thickly covered with barnacles, *Pentelasmis*, sp. ? picked up on the sea coast, near the Douglas Piver.

From Mr. Calder was also received a spirit preparation of the small Flying Squirrel, *Acrobates pygmaeus*, (Desm.) of Victoria.

An elaborate paper on Tasmanian Statistics for the decennial period ending 31st December, 1853, was read by Mr. Barnard.

Conversations followed, in which most of the members present took part.

It was then moved by Mr. Hone, and seconded by Dr. Agnew, and carried,—“That the thanks of the meeting are due to Mr. Barnard for his able and valuable paper on Statistics, and to the other persons who have made communications and presentations to the Society.”

The reverend chairman rose, and the meeting broke up by half-past nine o'clock.

8TH NOVEMBER, 1854.—Monthly evening meeting; Joseph Hone, Esq., in the chair.

The following gentlemen were, after a ballot, declared to be duly elected Fellows of the Society: Major Bradshaw, Dr. Atkinson, P.M.O., of Hobart Town; John Sinclair, M.L.C., of Launceston; and Anthony R. Truro, of Campbell Town, Esquires.

The presentations made to the Library were:—By the Rev. T. J. Ewing, of New Town;—“Elements of Physio-philosophy, by Lawrenz Oken, M.D.,” also 2 vols. of the *Bulletin de la Société de Géographie*, and “Westgarth’s Commercial and Statistical Report of the Colony of Port Phillip for 1844.”

First Report of the Adelaide Philosophical Society from the Secretary, from whom a letter has been received seeking an interchange of communications, and co-operation with the Royal Society in the pursuit and working out of their respective objects and views.

From Ferdinand Müller, Esq., Government Botanist of Victoria, his Second General Report on the Vegetation of the Colony, dated the 5th October last.

From the Rev. W. B. Clarke, F.G.S., &c., Sydney, a Council Paper relative to Gold Discoveries in Australia; another on Sir R. I. Murchison’s claim to the same; also Reports Nos. 9 and 10, by the Rev. W. B. Clarke, to the Colonial Secretary, on the Geology of the Clarence District and adjoining regions, and of the basin of the Condamine River, respectively.