

JOURNAL
OF THE
ASIATIC SOCIETY
OF
BENGAL.

EDITED BY
THE SECRETARY AND SUB-SECRETARY.

VOL. XII.

PART I.—JANUARY TO JUNE, 1843.

NEW SERIES.

"It will flourish, if naturalists, chemists, antiquaries, philologers, and men of science, in different parts of *Asia* will commit their observations to writing, and send them to the Asiatic Society, in Calcutta; it will languish, if such communications shall be long intermitted; and will die away if they shall entirely cease."—SIR WM. JONES.

CALCUTTA :
BISHOP'S COLLEGE PRESS.

1843.

12. Leaving Kaece, the direction varies to N. W. 60°, distance from Ghat Awril to this place is little more than twelve miles. Shikarpoor is the next stage, before coming to which you pass through a good path, road on both sides free from jungle, and after reaching Lubauna, you pass the Sinda canal. Lubauna is a village under Meer Aly Moorad, and to appearance the inhabitants are in a comfortable way ; patches of cultivation mark the road on to Shikarpoor. Distance from Kaece nearly twelve miles.

(Signed) J. NOCK.

(True Copy,)

(Signed) ALEX. BURNS,
Envoy to Kelat.

Proceedings of the Asiatic Society.

(Friday Evening, 13th January, 1843.)

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held on Friday evening the 13th January, the Hon'ble the President in the Chair.

The following Gentlemen were proposed as Members of the Society :—

The Rev. CHARLES IRVINE, St. Xavier's College. Proposed by the Hon'ble Sir H. SETON, seconded by H. TORRENS, Esq.

Lieut. BAIRD SMITH, Bengal Engineers. Proposed by H. TORRENS, Esq., seconded by Lieut. A. BROOME, B. A.

Baboo CASSINATH BHOSLE. Proposed by Dewan RAM COMUL SEN, seconded by Baboo PROSSONO COMAR TAGORE.

JOSEPH ST. POURCAIN, Esq. Chandernagore. Proposed by Dr. WISE, seconded by the Acting Secretary.

Library.

The following list of Books, presented and purchased, was read :—

Books received for the Library of the Asiatic Society, for the Meeting of the 13th January, 1843.

The Calcutta Literary Gleaner, for January 1843. Vol. I, Nos. 9 and 11, from the Editor.

The Calcutta Christian Observer, for January 1843. New Series, Vol. IV, No. 37, from the Editor.

Oriental Christian Spectator, 2d Series. Bombay, November 1842. Vol. III, No. 11, from the Editor.

Journal des Savants, Juillet 1842. Paris.

Annals and Magazine of Natural History. London, September 1842. No. 62. Purchased.

London, Edinburgh, and Dublin Philosophical Magazine and Journal of Science, 3d Series. Vol. 21, No. 136, August, 1842.

Transactions of the Society of Arts, &c. London, 1841. Vol. LIII, Part 2d.

Proceedings of the Geological Society of London, 1840-41. Vol. III, Part II, Nos. 72 to 76.

Yarrell's *History of British Birds.* London, 1842, Part 31. Purchased.

Chinese secret Tried Society of the Tien-ti-Hi-uh, by Lieut. Newbold and Major General Wilson. Presented.

Stevenson's Translation of the *Sanhita of the Samadeva.* London, 1842.

Iben Khallikan's *Biographical Dictionary*, translated from the Arabic, by Bn. Mac-Gluckin de Slane. Paris, 1842. Vol. I. from the Author.

Archæologia, or Miscellaneous Tracts relating to Antiquities. London, 1842. Vol. XXIX. from the Archæological Society.

Meteorological Register kept at the Surveyor General's Office, Calcutta, for the month of November 1842, from Government.

Read the following letters from Government.

No. 1184.

To H. TORRENS, Esq.

Secretary to the Asiatic Society.

General Department.

SIR,—In continuation of the previous correspondence respecting the proposed publication of Dr. Cantor's Chusan Report in the *Researches of the Asiatic Society*, I am directed by the Hon'ble the Deputy Governor of Bengal, to transmit to you for the purpose therein mentioned, copy of a further letter from Dr. Cantor, dated the 10th of October last, together with the Manuscript which accompanied it, entitled, "Some account of the Botanical Collections made by Dr. Cantor during his service in China," drawn up by Assistant Surgeon W. Griffith.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant.

H. V. BAYLEY,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Fort William, the 14th December, 1842.

To G. A. BUSHBY, Esq.

Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the accompanying Manuscript, entitled, "Some account of the Botanical Collection made by Dr. Cantor, during his service in China," drawn up by Mr. W. Griffith, who on receiving a series of duplicates of the botanical collections formed for Government during my service in China, promised to undertake the task now performed.

2. As the contents of Mr. Griffith's Manuscript are illustrative of the *Descriptive Catalogue of Animals*, collected at Chusan, which I had the honor to draw up by order of the Right Hon'ble the late Governor General, it would be desirable that both should be published in conjunction.

3. As you have been pleased to present my Manuscript to the Asiatic Society, I have the honor to solicit that you will favor me by presenting Mr. Griffith's Manuscript to the Asiatic Society, with a view, that it may appear in the same volume of the Society's Researches, in which my Manuscript is to be printed.

4. Mr. Griffith has offered to correct the press when he shall have arrived in Calcutta.

5. Finally, I beg to apologize for the unavoidable delay which has taken place in the transmission of the accompanying Manuscript.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed)

T. CANTOR,

P. W. Island, the 10th October, 1842.

Assistant Presy. Surgeon.

(True Copy.)

H. V. BAYLEY,

Deputy Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Ordered—That the thanks of the Society be returned to Government, and that the MSS. be published in the Transactions.

No. 317 of 1842.

From G. A. BUSHBY, Esq. Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, to H. TORRENS, Esq, Secretary to the Asiatic Society. Fort William, the 7th December, 1842.

Political Department.

SIR,—I am directed by His Honor the President in Council to forward to you for submission to the Asiatic Society, the accompanying Fac Simile of an Ancient Inscription recently discovered in Aden, by work people employed in excavating a new road, together with transcript of a letter from the Political Agent at Aden to the Secretary to the Bombay Government, forwarding the same, with his observations.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

Fort William, the 7th December, 1842.

G. A. BUSHBY,

Officiating Secretary to the Government of India.

Ordered—That the letters be duly acknowledged, and that Captain HAYNES' letter with a lithograph of the Inscription be referred to the Secretary for early publication in the Journal.

Read extracts from private letters of Major TROYER to Mr. TORRENS and to Baboo RAM COMUL SEN, enquiring as to the transcription of the Vedas for the French Government. The Hon'ble the President stated that this had been a private account between the late Mr. JAS. PRINSEP and the French Government, and that on the retirement of M. GUIZOT from office, the allowance of 1500 francs annually had been stopped; that the accounts had been duly rendered; and that there was even a small balance due. Upon enquiry of KAMALAKANTA PUNDIT, who had conducted the Benares correspondence, he stated, that about "seven anas" 7-16ths were copied and sent, and that the remainder 9-16ths could be obtained whenever cash

arrangements were duly made.* The Acting Secretary was requested to communicate officially with Major TROYER, on the subject of his letter, after making due enquiries.

Read the following letter from T. S. STOPFORD, Esq. accompanying the handsome Donation to which it refers, and for which the best thanks of the Society were voted, for his polite attention in supplying this blank in the Museum.

Chandpore, Diamond Harbour Road, 2nd January, 1843.

MY DEAR SIR,—Mr. Higginson tells me, that the Asiatic Society is in want of a good specimen of a *Wild Boar*.

By the bearers I send one I killed yesterday, than which I have seldom seen a finer. He was a famous one too, having been hunted last year several times by the "Tent Club," without success, and became the terror of the villages about this place.

If it could be stuffed, it would be better than a *skeleton*, and ticket it, "Presented to the Asiatic Society's Museum in behalf of the "Tent Club," and killed by J. S. Stopford, 2nd January, 1843."

I remain, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

J. S. STOPFORD.

The following list of articles presented to the Society by Lieut. W. S. SHERWILL, 66th Regt. N. I. Revenue Survey, Gya, was read. They will be found referred to more particularly in the Zoological Curator's report.

List of Specimens presented to the Asiatic Society's Museum. By LIEUTENANT WALTER S. SHERWILL.

One Horn of South African black Rhinoceros. R. Africanus.

One ditto, polished.

One pair of Horns of Male Hartebeest. Damalis Canna.

One pair of Horns of Male Bontibok. Gazella Pygarga.

One Skull of Ethiopian Hog, Sus Larvatus, from Port Natal, South Africa.

One lower Jaw of Hippopotamus.

One pair of Horns of Roeë Rhibok, Redunca Villosa.

Two Tusks from lower Jaw of Hippopotamus, (S. Africanus.)

One strip of Hide from Hippopotamus, of which are manufactured the Cape "Samboka," or Whips.

Two Tusks of Hippopotamus, (lower jaw.)

Two lower projecting circular Tusks or Rooters of the same animal and individual; killed at Port Natal.

One Skull of Hyrax, or Rock Rabbit, from the summit of the Spitzkopf Mountain, the highest peak in S. Africa, height 10,250 feet above the sea, which is seen to the south at the distance of 126 miles.

Two Wooden Spoons of Hoolu manufactory. Tribe of King Moselekatse.

One Horn of Springbok, Gazella Euchore.

* Major Troyer's letters also stated, that the Société Asiatique had not yet received the 4th Vol. of the Mahabarata though dispatched long ago.

Two odd Horns of Blesbok, *Damalis Canna*.

One single Horn of a Cow Eland or Impoofoo, *Damalis Oreas*. Bull stands six feet six inches high at the shoulder.

Six Poisoned Arrows of Bushman manufacture, made of reeds, tipped with bone from the Ostrich thigh bone, inserted in a piece of strong wood, and bound with the dorsal sinew of the Springbok Antelope. The poison is composed of a species of red slime or moss, called by the Dutch "klip gift," or "rock poison." It is common to all waterfalls and damp spots in the snowy mountains in South Africa; this ingredient mixed with the poison from the poison-fangs of the Cobra-de-Capello and the inspissated juice of a bulb named by the Dutch "telp," resembling a crocus with a blue flower, forms a mass which is smeared on the shaft and bound with sinew. The effects of this poison are sudden, and very fatal.

Three Tails of Cameleopards, *C. Australis*.

6th November, 1842.

The grateful thanks of the Society were ordered for this handsome Donation, of which many of the objects excited great admiration, and are most valuable additions to the Museum.

Read the following extract of a letter from Lieut. BAIRD SMITH, referring to his former enquiry as noticed in the Proceedings of (See November or December Proceedings.)

Camp Delhi, 11th December, 1842.

MY DEAR SIR,—Accept my best thanks for the trouble you have taken in forwarding to me the extract from the Papers, relative to the Earthquake of the 11th ultimo, and those in Persian &c. relative to Earthquakes in general. Both are most acceptable, and you will oblige me by thanking Mr. Torrens in my name for the latter.

There is no doubt whatever as to the existence of the Zill Zillee Namah, and that portion of the Calcutta native *savans* who doubt of this, because not themselves aware of it, have fallen into the not unusual error of reducing the information of others to the standard of their own ignorance. Dr. Falconer has repeatedly seen and examined it during his travels in Cashmeer, and by a note just received I learn, that although a copy of it cannot be procured in Delhi, many of the learned natives there are acquainted with the work. I fear, however, that it is from Cashmeer only that it is to be procured, and I have sought the aid of Mr. George Clerk in procuring it thence.

Very sincerely yours,

R. BAIRD SMITH.

Read the following letter from the Curator in the Zoological Department:—

Asiatic Society's Museum, 13th December, 1842.

SIR,—I beg to represent to you the urgent necessity that exists for not longer delaying to supply cases for our rapidly increasing collection of stuffed Mammalia.

Of the many specimens that are now risking the consequences of exposure, I find that two have already suffered from insect ravages. Fortunately, these chance not to be of value (further than as regards the time expended on the preparation of them), being merely a Jackal and a common Fox; but the same injury might have happened to species which are not so easily replaced, and which are still liable to be thus attacked and ruined.