December 14, 1830.

G. B. Greenough, Esq. in the Chair.

A letter was read from Dr. Andrew Smith, addressed to N. A. Vigors, Esq. The following are extracts:

"Cape Town, 8th Sept. 1830.

"I am sure you will be pleased to learn that I have discovered another species of *Macroscelides*, as well as a new one of *Erinaceus*; and three species of the genus *Otis*, together with one of *Brachypteryx*. The descriptions of these I hope to be able to forward to you in the course of three weeks or a month. The first is designated in our Museum, *Macroscelides rupestris*; the second, *Erinaceus Capensis*; the third, fourth, and fifth, *Otis Vigorsii*, *Ot. ferox*, and *Ot. Afraoïdes*; the sixth, *Brachypteryx Horsfieldii*. The first was found by myself on the mountains near to the mouth of the Orange river, and the circumstance of its always residing among rocks, together with the difference in its colouring, readily pointed it out as being of a distinct species. As to the colour, the most marked distinction consists in the Cape species having a large tawny rufous or chestnut blotch on the nape and back of the neck. The second, *Erinaceus Capensis*, exhibits considerable affinity to the European species, yet betrays such marked peculiarities as to warrant its being considered as really different from it. The third, *Otis Vigorsii*, inhabits the most dry and barren situations in the south of Africa, and is known among the colonists by the name of *Karor Koran*. The prevailing colour above is a light tawny or reddish yellow, and below tawny gray, passing into dirty white on the belly. The back is variegated by numerous violet blotches or reflections, as well as by whitish spots, and the under parts by transverse narrow zigzag black lines. The fourth is above principally tawny yellow, and below dull blueish gray: it is found in the country toward Latakoo. The fifth is met with on the flats near the Orange river, and is called the *Bushman Koran*. With the exception of a great portion of the quill feathers being white, it resembles much the common *Koran* of the colony, the *Otis Afra*. The sixth is met with in high rocky situations, and agrees in most respects with the generic character of *Brachypteryx*, as described by Dr. Horsfield."

With the above letter Dr. Smith transmitted to the Society a present of sixteen specimens of fishes, obtained in the neighbourhood of the Cape of Good Hope, "the details relative to which," he states, "will be forwarded as soon as possible." The specimens were exhibited, and Mr. Bennett laid on the table a list in which they were enumerated as the *Sebastes Capensis*, *Agriopus torvus*,

Sciæna hololepidota, *Otolithus æquidens*, *Chrysophris globiceps*, *Chr. gibbiceps*, and *Pagrus laniarius*, of MM. Cuvier and Valenciennes; an undetermined species of *Dentex*; a fish allied to *Oblada*, Cuv., and apparently the type of a new genus; a new species of *Scomber*, Cuv.; a *Lichia*?; two species of *Clinus*, Cuv., one of which is probably the *Clinus Capensis*; an undescribed species of *Bagrus*, Cuv., of the section distinguished in the "Règne Animal" by having six *cirri* and a rounded and smooth head; a species of *Scyllium*, Cuv., probably new to science; and a second species of the genus *Rhina*, Schn., which deviates from the type by a slight production of the front of the head, and thus makes an approach to *Rhinobates*, Schn.

Mr. Vigors exhibited several species of *Humming-birds* from the collection of Mr. John Gould, one of which, previously undescribed, had been dedicated to Mr. George Loddiges, F.L.S., &c. It approaches most nearly to the *Trochilus Lalandei*, Vieill., but may be distinguished from that bird (in which the crest is brilliantly green and the throat and breast rich blue,) by the following characters:

Trochilus Loddigesii, Gould. *Troch. cristâ elongatâ, purpureo-lilacinâ; gulâ crissoque saturatè cinereis; pectore abdomineque nigris.*

This species is from Rio Grande.

Mr. Loddiges stated that both species belonged to a genus which he had distinguished among the *Trochilidæ* by the name of *Cephallepis*; and promised to bring before the Committee, at an early meeting, the results of his researches on the *Trochilidæ* generally.

At the request of the Chairman, Mr. Martin reported the diseased appearances noticed on the examination of the *Beaver* which recently died in the Society's Menagerie. They were stated to be such as result from great and universal inflammation. On examining the stomach, its lining membrane was found covered with a blush of inflammation, prevailing more especially about its cardiac portion, where a number of dark-coloured spots and patches indicated the existence of gangrene. Both the stomach and the *colon* contained undissolved fibres of bark in considerable quantity, the function of digestion having been for some time past necessarily deranged. Along the course of the small intestines, traces of high arterial action were still presented; in the large intestines the traces of inflammation were more obscure. The *pericardium* was highly inflamed, its inner surface presenting a granulated appearance. The heart also, as well as the lungs, gave evidence of having partaken in the general disease. Much disease existed about the lower jaw, which may probably have been the primary cause of all the mischief, as it must have existed for several months, and necessarily have produced a continued state of irritation in the system. The alveolar processes of the lower jaw, embracing the incisor teeth, were destroyed by *caries*, and the teeth themselves had fallen out.