

April 9, 1833.

Joseph Cox Cox, Esq., in the Chair.

Several extracts were read from a letter, addressed by Dr. A. Smith, Corr. Memb. Z.S., to Mr. Yarrell, and dated Port Elizabeth, Algoa Bay, December 22, 1832.

Dr. Smith states his belief that the *Hycæna vulgaris*, Cuv., does not inhabit South Africa; its place being occupied by the *Hycæna villosa*, Smith, which bears, when young, considerable resemblance to that species.

He also states that the *Eagle* from the Cape, which was presented to the Society by the Hon. J. T. Leslie Melville, and which is now living in the Menagerie, is not the young of *Aquila vulturina*, Daud., but of *Aq. Choka*, Smith, (*Falco rapax*, Temm.).

He remarks that *Vultur auricularis*, Daud., is not confined to the interior of South Africa, but is met with close to Cape Town, over which he has seen it flying. The belief that several pairs build their nests together (whence the appellation of *sociable Vulture* has been derived,) is erroneous; for Dr. Smith has never met with more than one nest actually occupied upon the same tree: the error has probably originated in a new nest being occasionally built adjoining to an old one, which had been deserted on account of its having become unserviceable. The bird seems but little disposed to sociability; rarely more than two are seen together, and if four occur in the vicinity of a carcass, the number is considered as great; while of *Vultur fulvus*, it is by no means uncommon to see a hundred, or even more, congregated together where carrion exists.

Dr. Smith adds that *Aquila Verreauxii*, Less., is synonymous with *Aq. vulturina*, which has recently been described by M. Lesson as a *Haliæetus*: it has, however, none of the habits of the *Fishing Eagles*. It inhabits the highest and most rocky mountains, preying chiefly on the *Cape Hyrax*. The error has probably arisen from the white back being concealed, in stuffed specimens, by the wings.

M. Lesson, in November 1830, founded two new genera, *Gymnogenys* and *Teratophius*, on the *Falco Gymnogenys*, Temm., and *Falco ecaudatus*, Shaw. These genera are respectively synonymous with *Polyboroides* and *Helotarsus*, proposed by Dr. Smith in the 'South African Journal' in April of the same year.

The *Circæetus pectoralis* and *Falco Chicquerooides* of Dr. Smith are respectively synonymous with *Circ. thoracinus*, Cuv., and *Falco biarmicus*, Temm.

Dr. Smith also states that the *Antelope* described by Mr. Woods in the 'Zoological Journal' as the *Antilope personata*, is the young of *Ant. pygarga*, Pall., the *Bonte Bok*.