

Read letter of 28th April 1842, from Lieutenant A. CUNNINGHAM, intimating that he was "busy with a very long article on the Coins of Kashmere. Fourteen plates are now finished, and the fifteenth is now being lithographed. A supernumerary plate must be added to contain the coins of various new, besides some curious types of known, kings, and the last plate will be one of Monograms, so arranged as to shew at a glance the names of all the kings who used any one Monogram, and all the Monograms which any one king used."

Read letter of 14th April 1842, from Dr. T. A. WISE, assenting to the proposal of printing his Commentaries on the ancient Hindoo System of Medicine.

Read Mr. LOVELL REEVES' letter to Mr. BLYTH, requesting proposal for the purchase of his book, (Systematic Conchology,) by the Asiatic Society. Ordered, that two copies (with colored plates,) of the work be subscribed for the Library of the Society.

The Curator read his Report for the month of April 1842, as follows:—

SIR,—I have the pleasure on this occasion to congratulate the Society on the variety of presentations made for their Museum during the past month, and on the number of different persons who have thus contributed to its enrichment. These donations have principally consisted of Mammalia, Birds, and Shells, with a valuable box of Insects from Afghanistan, and are as follow:—

#### MAMMALIA.

From Dr. PEARSON, the Society has received a number of skins, but unfortunately not prepared for being mounted, which are referrible to the following species:

*Ursus Tibetanus*, the Black Bear of the Himalaya, figured by Mons. F. Cuvier.

*Cervus (Styloceros) Muntjac*, v. *Ratwa* of Hodgson: the *Kakur*, or Barking Deer of sportsmen.

*C. (Rusa) Hippelaphus*: the Sambur, adult and young.

*Næmorhædus Thar*, Hodgson: two skins of males.

*Bos (Bison) grunniens*: the Yak, a particularly fine skin.

*B. (Taurus) Gaurus*, v. *Bibos cavifrons*, Hodgson, and *Bos aculeatus*, Wagler: the Gaour; a very large skin, from Arracan. The Gaour, I may remark, ranges southward into the Malay Peninsula, from which locality there is a horn of this species in the Museum of the Hon. Company in London: the dimensions of one killed on the Keddah Coast, with a figure of the head, are given in the Royal Asiatic Society's Journal, III. 50; and there is a skull of a female, understood to be from the South of China, in the London United Service Museum. Dr. Helfer states that, in Tenasserim, "the great *Bos Gaurus* is rather rare, but *Bison Guodus*\* very common; besides another small kind of Cow, called by the Burmese *F'hain*, of which I saw foot-prints, but never the living animal." *J. A. S.*, VII. 860. Of this latter more presently. In

\* Evidently a misprint for *Gavæus*, the Gayal; for the words may be written to look very much alike.



the Indian Peninsula, the Gaour inhabits all the extensive forest tracts from the Himalaya to Cape Comorin, and there can be little or no doubt that the *Guavera* of Ceylon, noticed by Knox, refers to the same species. Major Forbes, in his recently published 'Journal of Eleven Years' Residence' in that Island (II. 159), informs us that it has been extirpated in Ceylon for more than half a century. A correspondent of the 'Bengal Sporting Magazine,' (for 1835, 217,) writing from the southern Mahratta country, remarks, that "the Bison of this jungle differs materially from those of the Mahabuleshwer hills. The latter is merely a blue Cow of the colour of a Buffalo, but of large size. The regular Bison of Dandelly is a tremendous animal, its highest point being the shoulder." From this it might be inferred, that the North-western animal had not the same elevated spinal ridge; but I am little inclined to suspect that they are different, the more especially as I find the following passage in the 'Transactions of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of India,' VII. 112. "The only wild cattle we have," observes the writer, J. Little, Esq. "is the *Gowha* of the natives (*Bos Gaurus*). This animal is found in the dense jungles, along the whole range of the Western Ghauts from Assurghur to Cape Comorin. A male was shot at the convalescent station of Mahablesher, near the source of the Kristna, which measured at the shoulder fully seventeen hands high." I have credible information of a Gaour which stood not less than nineteen hands in vertical height. That the Gaour varies much in size, I can assert from personal observation of about forty skulls of this species\*: one of an adult male taken to England, by the late Honorary Curator of this Society, Dr. Evans, is quite a pigmy in comparison with the enormous head in the United Service Museum. A head of a female, with the skin on, in that of the Hon. East India Company, was presented by the late Major-General Hardwicke, as the *As'l* or *Asseel Gayal* of that naturalist, (who figures it in one of the volumes of the 'Zoological Journal,') and of Dr. McCrae ('Asiatic Researches,' VIII. 495). The latter author speaks of it as the *Seloi* of the Cucis, or Kookies, and *P'hanj* of the Mugs and Burmabs; which last name is doubtless identical with the *F'hain* of Dr. Helfer, applied to another species.

In the passage I have already quoted from Dr. Helfer's list of Tenasserim animals, three species of this group are mentioned, the second of which I conclude to be the Gayal (*B. frontalis*, Lambert, Lin. Trans. VII. 57 and 302, v. *B. Gavæus*, Colebrooke, 'Asiatic Researches,' VIII. 487, v. *B. Sylhetanus*, Duvaucel, F. Cuv. *Mammal*), which Baron Cuvier strangely suggests to be a breed between the common Ox and Buffalo ('Régne Animal,' I. 280, and again in his 'Ossemens Fossiles'), but which is a genuine species, of which splendid living examples were, not long ago, in the park at Barrackpore, perfectly tame and gentle. This animal has never been found to the westward of the Boorampooter, and its skull has lately been figured by Mr. Hodgson (Journ. As. Soc. 1841, 470). I am unaware that any trace of it exists in any Museum.

Another very fine species of this group is the Banteng of Java and Borneo (*Bos Sondaicus*, Muller, *B. Bentinger*, Temminck, and *B. leucoprymnus*, Quoy and Gay-

\* In London alone, there are specimens in the British Museum, that of the Hon. East India Company, of the Zoological Society, Royal Asiatic Society, Royal College of Surgeons, London University, King's College, the United Service Museum, besides many in private collections, as that of Professor Bell, Mr. Blofeld of Middle Row, Holborn, &c.



exists very generally in the domestic state, particularly in the southern provinces. Those we saw about the capital were short-limbed, compactly made, and often without horns, being never of the white or grey color so prevalent among the cattle of Hindostan. They also want the hump over the shoulders which characterizes the latter. They are used only in agricultural labour, for their milk is too trifling in quantity to be useful, and the slaughter of them, publicly at least, is forbidden even to strangers. Hence, during our stay, our servants were obliged to go three or four miles out of town, and to slaughter the animals at night. The wild cattle, for the protection of religion does not extend to them, are shot by professed hunters on account of their hides, horns, bones, and flesh, which last, after being converted into jerked beef, forms an article of commerce with China."—*Mission to Siam and Cochin China*, page 431.\*

From Dr. Wallich, the Society has received another specimen of *Paradoxurus typus*, recent.

From P. Homphrey, Esq., a recent young specimen of *Pteromys Oral*, Tickell, procured at Midnapore.

From T. H. Maddock, Esq., Secretary to Government, four heads of Rhinoceroses, from Tenasserim; two of them belonging to the common Indian species (*Rh. Indicus*), and the others to the oriental double-horned Rhinoceros (*Rh. Sumatrensis*). The fact of all three of the Asiatic species of this genus inhabiting the Tenasserim Provinces was first made known in Dr. Helfer's list of the animal productions of that region, published in *J. A. S.* VII. 860; and that "a double-horned Rhinoceros is said to have been seen by the natives in the neighbourhood of Ye," is stated in the 'Bengal Sporting Magazine' for August, 1841; where, however, it would accordingly appear to be much rarer than the single-horned, "of which latter several have been shot by Europeans. They frequent the large jungles to the Eastward, but are more often met with in the jungles South of Ye." According to Dr. Helfer, it would, on the contrary, appear, that the double-horned is the prevalent species in that range of territory. "The *Rh. Indicus*," he informs us, "is found in the northern parts of the provinces, in that high range of mountains bordering on Zimmay, called the Elephant's-tail Mountains; the *Rh. Sondaicus* occupies the southernmost parts; while the *Rh. Sumatrensis*, or double-horned species, is to be found throughout the

\* It is difficult to comprehend what animal can be meant by the Gyll of Bishop Heber's *Journal*, briefly noticed, and very rudely figured, as having been seen by that prelate in the Governor's Park in Ceylon; and equally difficult to understand what the following passage alludes to, in Mrs. Graham's work. At the Governor's house in Ceylon, this lady "saw, feeding by himself, an animal no less beautiful than terrible,—the wild bull, whose milk-white hide is adorned with a black flowing mane." Let me mention here, also, that there is a wild race inhabiting Madagascar that merits investigation. In Mr. Ellis's History of that Island, we read, that—"horned cattle are numerous, both tame and wild: many of the latter resemble, in shape and size, the cattle of Europe," whereas the domestic are all humped like those of India. Pennant notices this wild Madagascar race by the name of *Boury*. There is also some animal bearing the appellation of "Wild Cow," which is met with in herds on the route from Agra to Barielly; and there are many wild humped cattle, of the common Indian species, said to be merely the descendants of domestic individuals, found in herds in certain of the jungles of the province of Oude, which are extremely shy and difficult of approach, and are of some interest as solving the problem in the affirmative as to whether the Zebu could maintain itself wild in regions inhabited by the Tiger (vide *Journal of the Asiatic Society*, IX. 623, and *Transactions of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society India*, VII. 112.



extent of the territories from the 17° to 10° of latitude." Now, from what is known of the habits of these animals, it is probable that the *Rh. Sondaicus* will prove to be the principal mountain species, though by no means limited to the mountains. In Java, according to M. Reinwardt, this animal "is found everywhere in the most elevated regions, and ascends, with an astonishing swiftness, even to the highest tops of the mountains" (*vide* 'Edinburgh Philosophical Magazine,' XIII. 34); and Dr. Horsfield notices, that "it prefers high situations, but is not limited to a particular region or climate, its range extending from the level of the ocean to the summits of mountains of considerable elevation.\*\*\* Its retreats are discovered by deeply excavated passages, which it forms along the declivities of mountains and hills. I found these occasionally of great depth and extent." This species is also an inhabitant of Borneo, where it is styled *Bodok*; but, according to Sir Stamford Raffles, ('Linnæan Transactions,' XII. 269,) it does not appear that a single-horned species inhabits that part of Sumatra with the productions of which he was best acquainted; "and the single horns which are occasionally procured, appear to be merely the larger horns of the two-horned species separated from the small one;" this, however, may be doubted now that the *Rh. Sondaicus* has proved to be common to Java and Tenasserim, and it appears probable, that while the latter only inhabits Java, it will be found to exist together with *Rh. Sumatrensis* in Sumatra, as both of these are said to be found together with the Indian species in Tenasserim. Whether more than one exists in Borneo we have at present no data for forming an opinion, and the discovery of the formerly supposed exclusively insular species on the Burmese mainland, casts a doubt upon which is the Chinese species noticed by Du Halde to inhabit the province of Quangsi, in latitude 25 degrees.

From M. J. Athanass, Esq., the Society has received a head, with the skin on, of the great Jerrow Stag of the Himalaya (*Cervus Aristotelis*), which I exhibit together with a very fine head of the Sambur of India generally (*C. hippelaphus*). On comparison, it is seen that the former is of a lighter colour, with the hairs more conspicuously tipped with pale fulvous or yellowish-brown; but there is little marked difference between the specimens that would induce a suspicion that they appertained to different species, although the Jerrow is somewhat broader in the forehead, and its antlers are more divergent. Had these antlers belonged to a fully mature animal, however, they would have exhibited a size such as is never attained by those of the Sambur; a magnificent pair in the Museum of the Hon'ble Company in London are nearly four feet in length; whereas it is rare that those of the Sambur exceed two feet and a half. This I am enabled to assert with more confidence, since I have examined numerous bales of Stag-antlers imported from this country, in the hope of discovering among them some belonging to new or little known species; but I have invariably found these packages to consist solely of those of the Sambur and spotted Axis, generally in about equal proportion, and have never once thus met with a specimen of a Sambur antler that approached in magnitude to that of an adult Jerrow. Mr. Hodgson has distinguished these species in the Society's Journal, (I. 66,) together with another which I am enabled to state positively is the *C. niger* of Prof. de Blainville (*Bull. des Sc.* 1816), and which is styled by Mr. Hodgson *Rusa Nipalensis*. The latter naturalist has supplied representations of the antlers of all three species, which are published in the Journal of the Asiatic Society, I. 115. "The Nipalese," he remarks,