

PRINCE HENRI D'ORLEANS AND HIS COLLECTIONS.

The Paris Museum of Natural History has received a large collection of animals killed by Prince Henry d'Orléans and his companions during their march from Tonquin to Yunnan; and at the last meeting of the council, M. Milne-Edwards, the director of the museum, read a long letter which the Prince had sent him with the collection, writing from Ta-li-fu, where he was making a short halt in order to give his men a rest. He says:—I have not got so many specimens as I should have liked to send you, but hope to be more fortunate when I get to Tchékow, where is to be found, by all accounts, the black and white monkey described by Mgr. Blet. Among the thirty-two skins you will find one of the black panther, which comes from Muong-ló, where these animals are not at all rare, though the Chinese will insist that it is a tiger and not a panther. At Muong-ló, which is the northern frontier of Tonquin, I saw the skull of the two-horned rhinoceros indigenous to the district but the owner asked such a high price for it that I could not come to terms with him. Then, when in the valley of the Mé-kong I heard of the existence of mountain mules; but as we were told that we should have to wait at least a week before getting even the chance of a shot, we had to push on. In the way of birds I have 165 specimens, representing ninety-eight different species, while I have designedly omitted the pheasants, similar to those we breed in Europe, the black crow, the magpie, the sparrow, small herons, &c. There are six kinds of fish, a water turtle and a chameleon, and I have 119 kinds of plants, but there is not much to glean after Père Delavay, and there is little variety in the flora.

All the specimens received are being classified in the museum, which was enriched a few months ago by a number of birds from the same region, collected by Prince Henri and M. Bonvalot during a previous journey, and by Mgr. Blet, the Apostolic Vicar of Tibet.