

TORY.

CORRECTIONS.

Page	Line	Correction	Original
8,	1st line from top,	for 1843	read 1841.
" 9,	13th "	" subcarbonate	" subacetate.
" "	21st "	" carbonate	" coal.
" 11,	9th "	" bottom, height	" length.
" 14,	4th "	" top, Hudsonianus	" Hudsonius.
" 17,	19th "	" "	" species.
" 23,	6th "	" "	" clodulus.
" 29,	14th "	" bottom, Bark	" Vark.
" 30,	16th "	" top, Society	" Secretary.
" 40,	10th "	" bottom, Coracius	" Coracius.
" 45,	10th "	" "	" variety Phrynosoma
" 53,	7th "	" "	" Merluccius
" "	17th "	" "	" Scolopoides
" "	24th "	" "	" diaphanus
" 59,	7th "	" top, Prof. F. Hall	" D. A. Hall, Esq.
" 60,	14th "	" bottom, Moretis	" Mantis.
" 62,	14th "	" "	" proventriculum.
" 64,	5th "	" top, Bucca	" Bucco.
" "	9th "	" "	" marilla.
" "	" "	" "	" melodia.
" 86,	12th "	" bottom, armatus	" auratus.
" 88,	11th "	" top, from the salts	" from the alumi- na, the salts.
" 89,	2d "	" "	" Fitzinger.
" 90,	10th "	" bottom, 3,9000	" 3,900.
" 92,	14th "	" top, 100	" 118.
" 93,	2d "	" bottom, achæna	" achænia.
" 94,	5th "	" "	" Partula.
" 95,	16th "	" top, aricari	" aracari.
" 104,	9th "	" bottom, Cervus,	" Corvus.

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DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Essay on the Culture and Commerce of Tobacco. By Wm. Tatham. 8vo. Lond. 1800. From Dr. H. Storer.

The following species have been added to the Catalogue :

Perca flavescens, Mitchill, from Concord River.
Cybiium maculatum, Cuv. " Mass. Bay.
Leuciscus cornutus, Mitch. " Berkshire Co.
Tetraodon mathematicus, Mitch. from Nantucket.
Zygæna malleus, Valenc. from Holmes Hole.
Raia centroura, Mitch. " Holmes Hole.
Squalus macrodon, Mitch. " Lynn.

Dr. Storer has also become satisfied that the fish previously regarded by him as *Perca flavescens*, is *P. granulata*, Cuv. *Trachinotus argenteus*, Cuv. is *Coryphæna perciformis*, Mitch. It is not a *Coryphæna*, however, and has been placed by De Kay in a new genus which he calls *Palinurus*.

The paper contained many other interesting particulars with regard to the characters and habits of various fishes.

The President announced the following donations :

Four Nos. of the Journal of the Calcutta Society of Natural History, from *J. P. McClelland*.

The 53d and 54th Annual Reports of the Regents of the University of New York.

The 3d, 4th, and 5th parts of the 2d Vol. of the Transactions of the Albany Institute, from the *Albany Institute*.

Several Reports on the Geological Survey of New York, from *Professor James Hall*.

A Report of the Superintendent and Inspector of Salt for the State of New York, from *Professor Hall*.

Adjourned,

F. A. EDDY, *Rec. Sec.*

January 5, 1842.

The President in the Chair.

Mr. Couthouy continued the reading of his paper on the formation of the Lagoon Islands in the Pacific.

A letter was received from Dr. T. S. Savage of Cape

Palmas, Africa, accompanying the donation of various objects.

Among them were a very large and valuable collection of insects; a Jar containing Fishes and Reptiles; the elytra and thorax of *Goliathus cacicus*, with a request that they might be committed to some good chemist for analysis, for the purpose of discovering the nature of the colored markings with which the insect is so beautifully adorned. The letter contained copious remarks upon the habits of the objects sent, and full descriptions of many of them. This was referred to the publishing committee.

Voted, That the Corresponding Secretary be authorized to transmit to Dr. Savage, in addition to the thanks of the Society, a copy of the Society's Journal.

Voted, That Drs. Hale and Storer be a committee to procure and send to Dr. Savage, such articles for the collection and preservation of Insects and other objects, as they may deem necessary.

Dr. Storer read an extract from a letter from Dr. J. P. Kirtland, stating that the specimen forwarded by him some time since as the skin of the *Sylvia Delafieldii*, proves, on a closer examination, to be that of the Kentucky Warbler, (*Sylvia formosa*.)

Dr. K. also stated that he had met with a new species of fish in the Ohio River, which he would soon describe.

Voted, That the Recording Secretary be requested for the future to transmit to the Corresponding Secretary, notice of the election of Honorary and Corresponding Members, the reception of donations, and the passage of special votes of thanks, in order to ensure the transmission of due information of the same.

Voted, That the Recording Secretary be also requested to enter upon the Records of the Society full abstracts of all written papers, as well as of verbal communications, with a view to their publication as Proceedings.

Adjourned.

F. A. EDDY, *Rec. Sec.*

January 19, 1842.

The President in the Chair.

Dr. S. L. Abbot exhibited some birds received from Rev. J. H. Linsley of Stratford, Con. on which he made a written Report.

The first was the Swamp Sparrow, (*Fringilla Georgiana* Nutt. *Ammodramus palustris*, Audub.) one of our most common species, but, being young, it differed slightly from the descriptions in the books. The Black and Yellow, or Spotted Warbler (*Sylvia maculosa*, Nutt. *Sylvicola maculosa*, Audub.) The Crested Wren, (*Regulus calendulus*) young of the first year, before the characteristic vermilion spot on the crown has appeared.

Dr. A. announced the following birds which he had procured, and which had been mounted for the Society :

Fuligula mollissima, Eider Duck, male.

Anser Canadensis, Canada Goose, adult male.

Uria Alle, Little Auk, or Sea-Dove.

Of the latter, Dr. A. remarked, that it is a very hardy bird, frequenting the most northern regions, and procuring its prey among the tumbling ice.

Mr. Couthouy remarked that the sailors had the superstition respecting this bird, which they are commonly supposed to entertain respecting the Stormy Petrel, but which, as applied to the latter bird, he had not noticed, viz. that it is a prognosticator of storms.

Dr. Abbot exhibited the stomach of the Cinereous Owl, containing a rounded mass, which, upon being opened, was found to consist of the bones and hair of several mice, showing that these birds reject, undigested, such parts of their prey.

Dr. Henry C. Perkins, of Newburyport, offered to the Society casts of some fossil bones lately found at the Wal-lamet settlement on Columbia River, supposed to be those of a Megatheroid animal.

The larger bones are fragments of the humerus, strongly resem-

bling the humerus of *Orycteropus Capensis*. There is a tooth which Dr. P. regards as a tooth of the *Mylodon* of Prof. Owen. A notice of these bones had been given in a recent number of *Silliman's Journal*. Dr. P. was not aware that any bones of *Megatherium* had been previously found in this country, except perhaps one noticed by Dr. Mitchill as found upon an island on the coast of Georgia. There were found, at the same locality on Columbia River, cervical vertebræ, tusks and teeth of a fossil elephant.

Dr. J. B. S. Jackson mentioned that a Porpoise had been taken in Chelsea, which he thought would be a valuable acquisition to the Cabinet. He was authorized to procure it.

The Recording Secretary announced that he purposed to publish a Catalogue of the Plants belonging to New England, and solicited any information which members might afford him in aid of his purpose.

On motion of Mr. Teschemacher, Voted, that the Journal of the Society be sent to Dr. Shortt of Kentucky, in acknowledgment of contributions of Botanical Specimens received from him.

The following donations were then announced, viz.

The skin of a Dove from Manilla, subsequently found to be the *Columba cruenta*, Lath. From *Lewis Ashmun, Esq.*

Unio intermedius, from *S. S. Haldeman*.

Tellina Spengleri, from *Prof. C. B. Adams*.

The thanks of the Society were voted for the several donations, and the Society adjourned.

February 2, 1842.

Regular meeting—the President in the Chair.

Dr. S. L. Abbot read a Report on a Specimen of *Syrnium cinereum*—the great Cinereous Owl.

The specimen is a very perfect one, and differs somewhat from those described and figured by Nuttall and Audubon. It is rarely found in our latitude, but is common in the woody districts lying

between Lake Superior and latitude 67° or 68° between Hudson's Bay and the Pacific. Only two are recorded by Audubon as having been seen in this State; and Nuttall says that it only appears when driven here by the severity of the winter in its northern haunts. It is a little singular, that two excellent specimens of this bird should have been obtained here the present winter, so remarkable for its mildness.

The length of our bird is 16 inches—its alar extent 57 inches, and its weight about three pounds.

Dr. Storer communicated a paper from William O. Ayres of East Hartford, entitled "Enumeration of the Fishes of Brookhaven, L. I., with remarks upon the species observed."

The paper was accompanied by figures of *Mugil lineatus*, Mitch. and *Raia diaphanus*, Mitch. and is intended for publication in the Journal. The following are the species enumerated, viz.

Perca flavescens, Mitch. ; *Etheostoma Olmstedii*, Storer ; *Labrax lineatus*, Cuv. ; *L. mucronatus*, Cuv. ; *Pomotis vulgaris*, Cuv. ; *Pri-notus strigatus*, Cuv. ; *P. Carolinus*, Cuv. ; *Cottus variabilis*, Ayres ; *Gasterosteus Noveboracensis*, Cuv. ; *G. millepunctatus*, Ayres ; *Otolithus regalis*, Cuv. ; *Umbrina nebulosa*, Mitch. ; *Pogonias gigas*, Mitch. ; *Scolopoides Sayanus*, Gilliams ; *Sargus ovis*, Mitch. ; *Pagrus argyrops*, Lin. ; *Scomber vernalis*, Mitch. ; *Cybium maculatum*, Mitch. ; *Temnodon saltator*, Cuv. ; *Vomer setapinnis*, Mitch. ; *Peprilus triacanthus*, Peck ; *Mugil lineatus*, Mitch. ; *Atherina Boscii*, Cuv. ; *Lophius piscatorius*, Lin. ; *Batrachus variegatus*, Le Sueur ; *Labrus Americanus*, Bloch ; *Crenilabrus burgall*, Schœpp ; *Leuciscus chrysoleucas*, Mitch. ; *Fundulus fuscus*, Ayres ; *Hydrargira fasciata*, Schn. ; *H. pisculentus*, Mitch. ; *H. flavula*, Mitch. ; *Esox reticulatus*, Le Sueur ; *Belone truncata*, Le Sueur ; *Alosa mallowaca*, Mitch. ; *A. menhaden*, Mitch. ; *Morrhua tomcodus*, Mitch. ; *Merluccius vulgaris*, Cuv. ; *Phycis Americanus*, Schn. ; *Platessa plana*, Mitch. ; *Rhombus aquosus*, Mitch. ; *Rhombus aquosus*, Storer ; *Achirus mollis*, Mitch. ; *Echeneis* — ? *Anguilla acutirostris*, Yarrell ; *Ammodytes lancea*, Cuv. ; *Syngnathus fuscus* and *Peckianus*, Storer ; *Diodon* — ? *Tetraodon turgidus*, Mitch. ; *Orthogoriscus mola*, Schn. ; *Acipenser oxyrinchus*, Mitch. ; *Carcharias griseus*, Ayres ; *Mustelus canis*, Mitch. ; *Spinax acan-*

tias, Lin. ; Raia diaphanes, Mitch. ; Trygon centroura, Mitch. ; Myliobatis — ? Petromyzon Americanus, Le Sueur.

A Letter was received from William W. Andrews, Esq., of Malta, enclosing two specimens of Insects from a Collection in that place 96 years old, and perfectly preserved between thin sheets of mica cemented at the edges.

Prof. F. Hall, of Washington, made some statements relative to the collection of objects being made under the direction of the National Institute at Washington. The Cabinet is receiving constant accessions from members of Congress and others, but most of all from the collections made by the Exploring Expedition.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Memoires sur le Canada, depuis 1749 jusqu' à'1760. Svo. pam. Quebec. 1838. From the *Literary and Historical Society of Quebec*.

Remarks upon the Coral Formations of the Pacific, by Jos. P. Couthouy. Svo. pam. Boston. From the *Author*.

Annals and Magazine of Natural History for September, November and December, 1841. By *Subscription*.

Monograph of the Limniades, No. 4. From the *Author*, S. S. *Haldeman*.

Chimie Experimentale et Raisonnée, par M. Baumé. Svo. Paris, 1773.

Essais ; ou Receuil de Memoires sur plusieurs Points de Mineralogie, par M. Macquart. 4to. Paris, 1789.

Elémens de Chimie appliquée à la Medicine et aux Arts, par M. Orfila. Svo. 2. Paris, 1819. From *Wm. B. Fowle*.

History of British Birds, indigenous and migratory. By John Macgillivray. Svo. 2. Lond. 1837.

General Outline of the Animal Kingdom, and Manual of Comparative Anatomy. By Tho. Rymer Jones. Svo. Lond. 1841.
Courtis Fund.

The President read a letter from Dr. John Torrey of New York, acknowledging his election as an Honorary Member of the Society.

Adjourned.

F. A. EDDY, *Rec. Sec.*

March 2, 1842.

Regular meeting—Dr. C. T. Jackson, Vice President, in the Chair.

Dr. Eddy made some Remarks on the "Report on the Herbaceous Plants of Massachusetts," by Prof. Dewey, pointing out many defects in literary execution and scientific detail.

Mr. H. J. Bryant read a Report on a Parrot recently presented by Mr. Teschemacher.

It is the *Platycercus Pennantii* of Vigors, an inhabitant of New Holland, where it is common. It was kept caged for some time with several Canary birds, and was twice detected in the act of devouring one of them which he had killed. This habit probably is not natural, as it is said to feed upon seeds, principally those of grapes and the cereal grasses.

A Letter was read from Prof. Michelotti of Turin, requesting that the Society would exchange its Journal for certain works published by him. Referred to the Publishing Committee, with instructions to accede to his request.

A Letter was read from Dr. Edward Jarvis, of Louisville, announcing that he had sent to the Society some specimens of *Moretis*, male and female. They are common in Green River County, and are occasionally found in the vicinity of Louisville.

A Letter was received from J. Amos, Esq., stating that a case containing Specimens of Birds from the Himalaya mountains, had arrived. They were sent by Hon. A. Amos of Calcutta as a present to the Society.

The Cranium of a Porpoise was presented by Dr. Toomey of Chelsea.

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be communicated to Messrs. Amos, Jarvis and Toomey for their valuable donations.

Adjourned.

F. A. EDDY, *Rec. Sec.*

March 16, 1842.

Vice President, Dr. C. T. Jackson, in the Chair.

Dr. S. L. Abbot made some remarks upon several Birds which had been recently procured and mounted for the Society, viz.

1. Kittiwake Gull, (*Larus tridactylus*, Lath.) shot in the outer harbor in January, in full winter plumage, by Mr. Charles Mayo, and by him presented to the Society. 2. Black headed Gull (*Larus atricapilla*, Lin.) a species which Dr. A. had observed to be very abundant about Yarmouth, but which is not mentioned by Mr. Peabody in his Report on the Birds of the State. 3. Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius longirostris*, Wilson,) an adult female in full plumage, shot in Virginia.

Dr. Gould had examined a paper in the last number of Silliman's Journal, by Henry C. Lea, purporting to describe eight new species of shells.

Dr. G. believed that a large proportion of them were not new. The *Cyrena purpurea*, he was confident, must be a small specimen of *Venus gemma*, Totten. The genus *Cyrena* seldom inhabits salt water. His *Crepidula acuta* is certainly a small specimen of *C. convexa*, Say. His *Carychium exile* is a common variety of *Pupa exigua*, Say. *Pasithea sordida* must be a variety of *Actæon trifidus*, Totten; and *Cerithium cancellatum* is apparently a specimen of *Cingula aculeus*, Gould, with the lip broken.

Dr. G. deprecated such a practice as had been here pursued, that of describing very minute shells, from a few specimens brought from a distance. The natural inference that they might be embryo shells ought to deter one from describing them, unless he were possessed of numerous specimens gathered at different seasons.

Mr. Teschemacher exhibited a number of fossil Ferns which he had collected from the anthracite coal mines at Mansfield, with a view of ascertaining the age of the stratum by a comparison of the fossils with those of other coal mines in this country, particularly those of the Alleghany region.

He had ascertained the following species by the aid of Brongniart's Fossil Ferns, viz. *Sphenopteris Dubuissonis*; *Pecopteris cistii*; *P. Serlii*; *P. punctulata*. There were some species of Neuropteris, one of which appeared to be *N. acutifolia*, and another *N. Scheuchzeri*; also one species of Odontopteris, but none of them perfect enough to be identified. Three or four of these were identical with species found at Wilkesbarre, and figured by Brongniart. He spoke of the abundance and beauty of the Ferns to be found at Mansfield, and hoped other members of the Society would give them attention.

Dr. C. T. Jackson alluded to the singular position of the fossil remains at Mansfield, and stated that the coal strata had been completely inverted by a force acting from beneath on the centre of the strata.

Dr. Storer reported upon some numbers of the Calcutta Journal of Natural History which had been committed to him for that purpose.

He also read an interesting Letter from Dr. Wyman at Paris, and presented a very perfect skeleton of a mole which Dr. W. had bought to replace one which he had formerly broken.

Dr. Abbot stated that Mr. Teschemacher had deposited with the Society two swans which had died suddenly at the Conservatory, and which were to be mounted.

In the pro-ventriculum were found some leaves of *Nerium oleander*, and Mr. T. did not doubt that their death was caused by the poisonous qualities which that plant possessed in common with many belonging to the family Apocynæ, particularly the celebrated Upas Tree of Java.

Dr. H. C. Perkins of Newburyport presented a cast of the fossil femur of the *Orycterotherium Oregonense*.

Dr. J. P. Spooner of Milton, presented a Collection of Plants from the vicinity of Milton, made by D. C. Field.

The thanks of the Society were voted to Drs. Perkins and Spooner.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

British Zoology. By Tho. Pennant, 8vo. 3. Lond. 1768. *Cour-tis Fund.*

Supplementum Indicis Ornithologici, studio et operâ Joannis Latham. 4to. Lond. 1801.

Natural History of Birds. By Eleazer Albin. 4to. 4. Lond. 1738. *Audubon Fund.*

Genessee Farmers' and Gardeners' Journal. Nos. 1. 2. Vol. III. From the Editor, *H. Colman.*

Zoological Contributions No. 1. 8vo. pam. Philad. 1842. From the author, *S. S. Haldeman.*

Final Report on the Geology of Massachusetts. By Edward Hitchcock. 4to. 2. Amherst. 1841.

Report on the Insects of Massachusetts injurious to Vegetation. By T. Wm. Harris. 8vo. Cambr. 1842. *Legislature of Massachusetts.*

Silliman's American Journal of Science and Arts, Vol XLII. No. 2. From the *Editors.*

De Herbarum Virtutibus *Æmilii Macri Veronensis* elegantissima poesis. 12mo. Basilæ. 1508. From *F. A. Eddy.*

Calcutta Journal of Natural History, conducted by Jno. M'Clelland. 8vo. Nos. 1, 3, 4. 1840-1. From *the Editor.*

Proceedings of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences for January 1842. From *the Academy.*

Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, Nos. 15, 16, 18, 19, 20. From *the Society.*

April 6, 1842.

Regular meeting—the President in the Chair.

Dr. J. B. S. Jackson made a written Report on his dissection of a young Spermaceti Whale, in which he demonstrated several interesting points in its anatomy not mentioned in the books.

Dr. Gould stated that he had received from J. Bartlett, Esq., of Cuba, an interesting collection of land and fresh water shells from that island.

He offered descriptions of several species which he regarded as new.

Mr. Bryant made a Report upon the Collection of Birds from Bengal, given by Mr. Amos.

Most of them were in a state unfit for mounting. He had ascertained the following species :

Bucca Philippensis,		Picus medius,
Muscicapa paradisea,		Hurial Pigeon.

Mr. Abbot exhibited two Birds recently procured and mounted for the Cabinet, viz. the male Scaup Duck, (*Fuligula marilla*,) and the Song Sparrow, (*Fringilla melodea*.)

He read a letter from Dr. Brewer to Mr. Audubon, expressing his belief that two birds had been confounded under this name. Mr. A. had published the letter without comment.

The following gentlemen were elected a Committee for the reception of the Association of American Geologists in the Hall of this Society at their approaching meeting, viz. Dr. C. T. Jackson, Messrs. M. B. Williams, and T. Bulfinch.

DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Fourth Report on the Agriculture of Massachusetts. 8vo. Bost. 1841.

Genesee Farmer, Nos. 3 and 4. 1842.

From *Henry Colman*.

General History of the Dichlamydeous Plants. By George Don. 4to. vol. 4th. Lond. 1838. *Audubon Fund*.

North American Review, April, 1842. *Exchange*.

Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, Vol VIII. No. 1. 4to. Philad. 1842. From the *A. P. Society*.

Flora of North America, by John Torrey and Asa Gray. Vol. II. No. 1. 8vo. New York, 1841. From *Thomas Lee, Esq.*

April 20, 1842.

Regular meeting—the President in the Chair.

Dr. Storer communicated a paper from W. O. Ayres of East Hartford, describing four fishes taken at Brookhaven, L. I., which he regards as new.

Carcharias griseus. Color bluish gray above, white beneath. Branchial orifices five on each side. Teeth numerous, and similar in each jaw, not arranged in regular series; long and pointed, spreading at base; edges smooth. Nostrils oval, immediately anterior to the mouth. No spiracles discernible. Pectorals horizontal; first dorsal nearly straight on the anterior edge, concave behind, free posteriorly. The inferior portion of the tail presents two lobes. Length, 41 inches.

Myliobatis acuta. Length, 3 feet; breadth across posteriorly 2 feet 5 inches. Body above smooth, destitute of spines; color reddish brown, beneath whitish. Branchial apertures five on each side. On the tail are two reversely serrated spines, one directly above the other, the upper one 2.75, the lower 3.75 inches in length, inserted 5.5 inches from the origin of the tail, which is very slender and smooth to the tip; no fins beneath.

Gasterosteus millepunctatus. Length, 1.8 inch; depth, .4 inch. Body very thin on the back, widening downwards; compressed behind the anal fin. Color greenish olive on the sides, clouded with brown dots in clusters. Sides destitute of the plates which characterize most species of the genus. Ventral fin represented by a single serrated spine. At the anterior origin of the anal fin is a spine, not quite so high as the ventral spine.

Fundulus fuscus. Length, 2.1 inch; depth, .9 inch. Body rather rounded. Color very dark brown, striped longitudinally with narrow, lighter lines; a black, vertical band in front of the caudal fin. Mouth small; teeth numerous, fine and crowded; those of the upper jaw on the intermaxillaries, a few on the pharyngeals, none on the vomer. Scales large but not prominent.

Dr. J. B. S. Jackson gave a verbal account of his dissection of a foetal Porpoise about three feet long. Several interesting particulars were pointed out relating to the viscera, which will be embodied in a paper for publication in the Journal.

Dr. Abbot reported the following additions to the Cabinet of Birds:

Fulica Americana, Gmel. Cinereous Coot, female.

Anas acuta, Lin. Pintail Duck, male.

Icterus pecoris, Temm. Cow blackbird, male and female.

Fringilla melodia, Wilson. Song Sparrow, Brewer's variety, alluded to at the last meeting.

A communication on the subject of preparing a Diploma of membership was laid on the table until next meeting.

A Letter was read from the Recording Secretary resigning his office. On motion the resignation was accepted.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, for Nov. 1841. 8vo. pam. From the *Academy*.

Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, No. 18. Vol. II. 1841. From the *Society*.

Principles of Geology. By Charles Lyell. 12mo. 3. 1842.
Courtis Fund.

Monographie des Coquilles Bivalves et Fluviatiles de la Rivière Ohio. par C. S. Rafinesque. 8vo. pam. 1820.

Principes Fondamentaux de Somnologie, par C. S. Rafinesque. 8vo. pam. 1814.

Circular Address on Botany and Zoology. By C. S. Rafinesque. 18mo. pam. 1816.

Statistica Generale di Sicilia; da G. E. Ortolani e C. S. Rafinesque, 12mo. pam. 1810. All from *S. S. Haldeman*.

Description of the Geology of the State of New Jersey. By Henry B. Rogers. 8vo. Philad. 1840.

Second, 3d, 4th and 5th Reports on the Geological Survey of Pennsylvania, by H. D. Rogers. 8vo. 4. Harrisburg, 1839—42.

From *Prof. Henry D. Rogers*.

In consequence of the anticipated meeting of American Geologists on the succeeding week, and in order that an invitation might be extended to them for the occasion, the Society adjourned to meet on the 27th inst., to hear the Anniversary Address, being one week in advance of the regular annual meeting.

T. BULFINCH, *Rec. Sec. pro tem.*

April 27, 1842.

The Society met according to adjournment, and was fully attended by members of the Society, and by members of the Association of American Geologists and Naturalists who were present by invitation.

The President gave a brief history of the doings of the Society for the past year.

There had been 26 meetings of the Society. Sixty written and oral Reports had been made, besides numerous letters other than those of a merely formal character. The Library had received 140 additional volumes, and had been removed to a commodious room, convenient for holding the winter sessions of the Society, and accessible at all times. The Treasury was in funds to meet all the liabilities of the Society, the expenditures for the year amounting to \$1213.36.

The Anniversary Address was then read by Dr. Samuel George Morton of Philadelphia. His subject was "The Origin and Characteristics of the Aborigines of America," and was treated in an elaborate and highly interesting manner.

Voted, unanimously, that the thanks of the Society be presented to Dr. Morton for his eloquent and instructive address, and that a copy be requested for publication.

The Society then adjourned.

T. BULFINCH, *Rec. Sec. pro tēm.*

May 13, 1842.

Regular meeting—the President in the Chair.

Dr. Storer communicated another paper from W. O. Ayres, being "Descriptions of four species of Fishes from Brookhaven, L. I., two of which are believed to be new," viz.

Mustelus canis, (*Squalus canis*, Mitch.)

Trygon centroura, (*Raja centroura*, Mitch.)

Diodon nigro-lineatus. Length, 6.75 inches; breadth across the eyes, 1.75 inches, greatest breadth, 2.5 inches. Color above and on the sides black, beautifully marked with somewhat irregular lines of olive. From the head to the dorsal fin, they are longitudinal; in front of the eyes, transverse; from the mouth, obliquely downward and backward. On the sides are three nearly circular black spots. Beneath, yellowish. Body covered with strong, flattened, rather blunt spines. Rays, P. 20; D. 13; A. 12; C. 9.

Cottus variabilis. Length, 6.5 inches; breadth, 1.3 inches. Head rounded, with 8 spines on each side. Color very variable; head and back brown; sides marked with bands or irregular blotches of dark brown; abdomen white, occasionally inclining to greenish yellow, sometimes spotted black; lower jaw generally with brown or black spots. Rays, D. 9-14; P. 17; V. 4; A. 11; C. 11.

Dr. Storer also announced the donation of some Fishes from Dr. J. W. Mighels, of Portland.

Thanks were voted for these donations.

The Committee to audit the Treasurer's accounts, reported that they had found them correct, and a balance of \$136.93 in the Treasury.

The Committee to prepare a Diploma of Membership submitted a design which was adopted.

DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

History of British Zoophytes. By Geo. Johnston, 8vo. Edin. 1838.

Monography of the Family Unionidæ, or Naiades of Lamarck, of North America. By T. A. Conrad. 8vo. 11 Nos. Phil. 1835-8.

Illustrations of the Zoology of South Africa. By Andrew Smith. 4to. Nos. 1, 2, 3. Lond. 1838. From the *Courtis Fund*.

Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, II. Nos. 21. to 54. From the *A. P. Society*.

Fifty-third Report of the Regents of the New York State University, 2. 8vo. New York, 1840-41. From the *Albany Institute*.

Memoir on a portion of the lower Jaw of the Iguanodon. By Gideon Mantell. 4to. Lond. 1841. From the *Author*.

Memoir of William Maclure. By S. G. Morton. Svo. pam. 1841.

Description of some new species of Organic Remains of the Cretaceous Group of the United States. By S. G. Morton. Svo. pam. 1842.

Some Remarks on the Ancient Peruvians, by S. G. Morton. Svo. pam. Philad. 1842.

Descriptions of some new terrestrial and fluviatile Shells of North America. By Tho. Say. Svo. pam. 1840.

From S. G. Morton.

Descriptions of some new species of Quadrupeds inhabiting North America. By J. J. Audubon and J. Bachman. Svo. pam. Philad. 1841. From the *Authors*.

Annals and Magazine of Natural History. Nos. 52 to 55. Svo. Lond. 1842. By *Subscription*.

June 1, 1842.

Regular meeting—the President in the Chair.

The President announced that he had seen a letter from Rev. Charles Brooks, now in Paris, stating that Messrs. Milne Edwards, and Geoffroy St. Hilaire, Professors at the Garden of Plants, had expressed a wish to enter upon a system of exchanges with this Society. Whereupon Voted, that the proffer be accepted.

On motion, it was Voted, that Dr. Jeffries Wyman, now in England, be authorized to appear as the delegate of this Society at the meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, at its approaching session at Manchester.

Dr. Abbot reported the addition to the Cabinet of the following mounted birds, viz.

- St. Domingo Cuckoo (*Coccyzus Dominicanus*.)
- Belted King-fisher (*Alcedo Alcyon*, Lin.) male.
- Wilson's Sand-piper (*Tringa Wilsonii*, Nutt.) male.
- Ash-colored Sandpiper (*Tringa cinerea*, Lin.)

The President communicated, from Dr. Tho. Savage, of

Cape Palmas, Africa, a paper, containing Notes on the Black Ourang (*Troglodytes niger*) and upon specimens of Fishes and Reptiles sent by him to the Society. The paper was referred to the Publishing Committee.

Dr. Gould presented, in behalf of Mr. Mayo, specimens of *Helix iloconensis*, *Neritina*, *Buccinum*, and *Columbella*.

DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Catalogue of Books in the Collection of the Mercantile Library Association of New York. 8vo. 1837. From the *M. L. Association*.

Magazine of Zoology and Botany. 8vo. 2. Edin. 1837-8. From the *Courtis Fund*.

Description of an entire Head and other bones of a Mastodon. By Wm. E. Horner and Isaac Hays. 4to. pam. Philad. 1840. From the *Authors*.

Mr. Charles B. Sherman was elected a member of the Society.

The following gentlemen, recommended by the Council, were elected :

HONORARY MEMBERS.

Prof. Henry D. Rogers of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

Prof. William B. Rogers of the University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

William McGillivray, Esq., A.M. F.R.S.E. Edinburgh.

C. F. P. Von Martius, Munich.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

Prof. Lewis C. Beck, Rutgers College, New Brunswick, N. J.

Samuel L. Dana, M. D. Lowell.

Douglass Houghton, M. D. Detroit, Mich.

Henry King, M. D. Washington, D. C.

Prof. Oliver P. Hubbard, Dartmouth Coll. Hanover.

Prof J. W. Bailey, Military Academy, West Point.

Rev. R. T. Lowe, Madeira.

John M'Clelland, M. D. Calcutta.

Henry C. Perkins, M. D. Newburyport.

Adjourned,

T. BULFINCH, *Rec. Sec.*

June 15, 1842.

Regular meeting, Mr. C. K. Dillaway in the Chair.

Dr. Storer communicated Descriptions of *Acipenser rubicundus*, *A. platyrhyncus*, and *Rutilus Storerianus*, accompanied with figures, which he had received from Dr. J. P. Kirtland of Ohio.

Dr. K., in his description of *A. rubicundus*, observes, that the varieties occasioned by age, sex, locality and other circumstances, have occasioned him much perplexity. But, after five years' examination, he feels great confidence in considering the *A. rubicundus* and *maculosus* of Le Sueur, and the *Scotinus Ohioensis*, and *macrostomus* of Rafinesque, and the fish of which he had sent a description to the Society under the name of "*A. nudus*," to be all the same species.

The true *Rutilus plagurus* of Raf., Dr. K. had been able finally to determine. The species formerly supposed by him to be such, he now proposes to call *R. Storerianus*.

Dr. J. B. S. Jackson read portions of the Letter from Dr. Savage respecting the habits of the Chimpanzee, its food, method of fighting, and flight from enemies, parental affection, &c.

He also mentioned some particulars in which the specimens of crania sent to the Society did not conform to the description of the osseous system given by Mr. Owen. The cranial sutures were not persistent, but completely obliterated. Dr. O. states that the Chimpanzee has but one suborbital foramen on each side, while the Black Ourang has three or more; but in the Society's specimens, the Ourang has but one, and the Chimpanzee has two.

Dr. Gould exhibited a series of specimens of a species of *Neritina*, presenting very wide differences in coloring and marking, the extremes of which would never have been suspected to belong to the same species, some specimens having black, others red, and others yellow for the ground color, and others having two or the three colors intermixed sometimes in bands, and sometimes in longitudinal marks.

Dr. G. also read a paper on *Mytilus edulis*, showing its powers of locomotion, and exhibited specimens in illustration.

It is every where stated, that when the byssiferous mollusks become once attached, they have no power to detach themselves. So far from this, Dr. G. showed that they change place with great facility. The specimen he exhibited had raised itself up the side of a glass jar, three inches in a single night. To do this, the animal first stretched out its finger-like foot to its greatest extent, and attached a fibre, and drew its body within the shell as much as possible, by which the whole was raised about three fourths of an inch. Numerous fibres were then fixed in a radiating manner, until sufficiently secure, and then the whole of the pencil of radiating fibres forming the preceding attachment was thrown off in a mass, at the foot, the ends being still held together by a sort of knot.*

In Griffith's Cuvier, it is advanced that the Byssus "consists of an assemblage of muscular fibres, dried up in a portion of their extent, but living and contractile at their origin." The differing length of the threads, 2 or 3 inches, according as their point of attachment is more or less distant, their indestructibility by maceration in water, and some other particulars, would invalidate this idea.

He alluded to a statement of Lamarck, that the shells of the genus *Modiola* are always destitute of a byssus; whereas, with regard to the species found so abundantly on this coast, *M. papuana*, Lk., this is notoriously an error.

A Letter from Dr. Locke of Cincinnati was read, in which he announced that he had sent to the Society a suite of casts of Trilobites, exhibiting the varieties found in Ohio, and the adjacent region.

Dr. E. Hale read extracts from a Letter from Dr. Savage of Cape Palmas, announcing further contributions to our Cabinet, consisting of parts of the Chimpanzee not before sent, also Fishes and Reptiles.

* In the *Annales des Sciences* for July and August, 1842, it appears that the same fact has been observed by M. Marion de Procé of Nantes. He erroneously states, however, that the fibres of the old attachment are ruptured, whereas they are cast off in a mass, as above stated.

The thanks of the Society were voted to Dr. Savage for his many valuable donations, recently presented.

Dr. Abbot announced the following additions to the Cabinet of Birds, viz.

Charadrius semipalmatus ; female.

Ch. Helveticus ; male and female.

Strepsilus interpres ; female.

Scolopax grisea ; male.

Fringilla tristis ; male.

Tanagra rubra ; male.

DONATIONS TO THE CABINET.

Shells of the genera Nerita, Navicella, Trochus, Monodonta, Truncatella, Auricula, Buccinum, from the Fejee Islands. From *T. J. Whittemore*.

Helicina, Caracolla, Helix and Cyclostoma from the same localities. From *J. P. Couthouy*.

July 6, 1842.

Mr. Whittemore was elected Chairman.

Dr. Cabot read a paper on the *Meleagris ocellata*.

The only specimen of this bird, known to naturalists is in the Jardin des Plantes. This was taken by log-cutters in the Bay of Honduras, and died on its passage to Europe. Plates are given in the Naturalist's Library, and in the work of Temminck, both very imperfect, but the description annexed in the former work is correct as far as it goes. This bird inhabits the region south of Texas to the Isthmus of Panama, and in those countries takes the place of the common or Wild Turkey of North America. Whether it is found in South America is uncertain. Latham expresses doubts whether it should be considered a distinct species ; a doubt which Dr. Cabot says " no one who has seen the living bird could entertain for a moment." The plumage is very different from the common Turkey, as are its form and motions also. The male bird is nearly a foot shorter than the common Turkey. There is no pectoral appendage. The tail consists of eighteen feathers, rounded at the

tips, and having an eye, like those of the Peacock, in the end of each.

Dr. Storer gave some notices of the large Serpent presented by Dr. Savage of Mt. Vaughan, near Cape Palmas, West Africa.

It is described and figured in Dr. Andrew Smith's Zoological Illustrations of South Africa, as the *Python Natalensis*. He considered Dr. Savage's communication accompanying the Python very valuable, not merely for the interesting accounts contained in it of the several individuals which had been met with, and the manner of their capture, but also for the light he threw upon their habits.

"The general habit of this serpent in seeking its prey," remarks Dr. Savage, "is to lie in ambush near a frequented path or watering place; and, suspended from a tree, or with its tail fixed to some other object, to dart upon the unwary animal. The attack is so sudden and violent that the victim is often prostrated and stunned, and then begins the dreadful process of constriction. A bullock was so much injured in a recent attack, as to be supposed beyond the possibility of recovery." Instances of its attack upon man are very rare, and are probably never made but when the animal is in a state of extreme hunger. The natives fear them single-handed, but not in numbers. They seek them for food, esteeming them highly on their bill of fare.

Dr. Storer also presented specimens, male and female, of the *Scaphiopus solitarius*, Holbrook; which he had received from Dr. Andrew Nichols of Danvers.

They were found at Danvers. This is the only locality in which they have as yet been found north of Carolina. Dr. S. observed he had received two very interesting letters from Dr. Nichols respecting these animals, but as Dr. N. would prepare a communication upon the subject for the Journal of the Essex Co. Natural History Society, he was not at liberty to read them at present.

DONATIONS TO THE CABINET.

There were laid on the table a part of the donation of Dr. Savage, lately received—portions of the solid structures and cells of Termites.

Shells principally from the West Indies, 28 species, 20 of which are new to our Cabinet, viz.—1 Columbella, 2 Mitræ, 2 Patellæ, 2 Serpulæ, Melania annulifera (Italy), Hyalæa uncinata ? Petricola lucinalis, Pholas, Gastrochæna modiolina, Pyrgoma semicostata, Modiola fusca and Acasta, from Dr. J. E. Griffiths of Maryland.

Also from the *American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions*, 1 Columbella from the Sandwich Islands ; 1 Conus from Ceylon.

On motion of Dr. Gould, the thanks of the Society were presented to Dr. Griffiths.

Dr. Gould presented a box of Minerals and Fossils.

Dr. Cabot presented a box of Shells from Yucatan.

Mr. Whittemore presented additional specimens of Shells from the Feejee islands, Columbella, Melanopsis, Melampus and others,—in all 88 specimens.

DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Second Report of the Proceedings of the National Institution for the Promotion of Science. Washington, D. C. From J. P. Couthouy.

The same. From the *National Institute*.

Address before the Geological Society of London. 8vo. pam. by Roderick Impey Murchison, Pres. in 1842. From the *Author*.

Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia, Vol. I. Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14. From the *Academy*.

Naturalist's Library, Vol III. Gallinaceous Birds ; Vol X. Fly Catchers ; Vols. IX. and XI. British Birds ; Vol. VII. Birds of Africa. *Audubon Fund*.

North American Review, No. 116, for July, 1842. *Exchange*.

Silliman's American Journal of Science and Arts. No. I. Vol. XLIII. *Editors*.

Instructions and Observations on the use of the Chlorides of Soda and Lime. By A. G. Labarraque. Translated by Jacob Porter. 8vo. pam. 1842. New Haven. *Translator*.

Adjourned,

T. BULFINCH, *Rec. Sec.*

July 20, 1842.

The President in the Chair.

Dr. Storer read a description of a new species of fish.

Hydrargira formosa. Back and sides greenish black; the latter of which are crossed by numerous black bands; a large black spot upon the operculum; a more or less regularly marked black spot upon the posterior portion of the dorsal fin; and an orange colored caudal fin, margined at its extremity with black. This fish was taken near the milldam in this city.

Mr. Whittemore read extracts from a late letter received by him from J. G. Anthony, Esq., of Cincinnati, in which he speaks of some fine Fossils lately found in that vicinity.

A new quarry abounding in strata of compact blue marl has disclosed some important facts with regard to Orthoceratites. They are here found enveloped in what appears to have been a jelly-like inflated mass, now flattened down. Occasionally, the enveloping mass seems to cover the whole striated portion of the Orthoceras; perhaps when perfect, it always did so. Specimens to the number of ten or twelve have been found, some three feet long.

Dr. Cabot presented a list of Birds drawn up from personal observation, common to the region of Central America and the United States. It consists of about one hundred genera.

Dr. Cabot read a memoir on the Paraqua Guan or *Phasianus motmot*.

It is a gallinaceous bird domesticated by the natives of Central America, and which it has been thought might easily be domesticated in Europe and this country. Under the two names above quoted, Latham and others describe two species, but Dr. Cabot thinks they compose but one. The authority of Temminck is also in favor of this opinion.

This bird is very common throughout Mexico, Central America, and the northern part of South America. It lives principally in trees, and feeds on leaves, insects, &c. The male cries in a most

loud and startling manner for some hours after sunrise, and before dark in the evening. The Spanish name of the bird, Chicalacha, shouted in a high key, and repeated rapidly, gives some idea of the sound. The Indians take them young and rear them, and they become very tame in confinement.

A letter was read from Professor Bailey of West Point, acknowledging a notice of his election as corresponding member, and enclosing a "Memoir on the existence of siliceous spiculæ in the exterior rays of Actinia," and suggesting that such might possibly have been the origin of some of the fossil spiculæ found in the infusorial strata of the marine tertiary of Virginia;—also, memoranda on the siliceous animalcules in Boston harbor."

Among them he found a new genus, which he proposes to call *EMERSONIA* in honor of the President of this Society.

Genus EMERSONIA. Carapace siliceous, compressed. Central portion oblong, separated by deep lines of constriction from the two terminal, bi-cuspidate or auricled portions, forming chains, which open in a zigzag manner.

E. elegans. Central portion nearly square, containing yellow globules disposed in a circular group.

E. antiqua. Vide Bailey's Sketch of Bacillaria, pl. 2. f. 25.

The communication also enclosed a note on Cyclosis in plants. Prof. B. has recently noticed this phenomenon in some plants in which it has not been heretofore observed. The plants referred to are *Circæa lutetiana*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Eupatorium*, and *Caulinia flexilis*.

Dr. Gould exhibited some shells with living animals, recently received from the West Indies.

They were packed in dry papers on the 12th June, at Matanzas, and received and opened here on the 19th July; and, on being placed in water, immediately showed themselves alive and vigorous. They were *Neritæ*, *Littorinæ*, *Potamides* and others. Dr. Gould remarked upon the extreme acuteness of their sight, immediately perceiving the approach of a finger, and retreating instantly.

Dr. Abbot announced that Capt. Hunt, of the vessel in which the articles destined for Dr. Savage had been ship-

ped for Africa, had refused to accept any compensation for freight of the same; and, on motion of Dr. Hale, the thanks of the Society were voted to Capt. Hunt, for this instance of liberality.

On motion of Dr. Gould, the gentlemen composing the Association of Dental Surgeons, now in session in this city, were invited to visit the Cabinet of the Society.

DONATIONS TO THE CABINET.

Mr. Bouvé exhibited a series of Casts of Trilobites, presented by Dr. Locke of Cincinnati. The casts are eighty in number, embracing numerous varieties of Trilobites, and other fossils, Encrinites, Fucoides, &c. On motion of Mr. B. the thanks of the Society were voted to Dr. Locke for this acceptable donation.

Several Jars containing Reptiles from Cuba, presented by *Miss Bartlett*, of Roxbury.

A species of *Cottus* from East Hartford, Ct. From *C. J. Olmsted*.

Holothuria squamosa, and *Halithea aculeata*. From *Jonathan Johnson*, of Nahant.

Chiton Indicus, and *Ch. fuscus*. From *Dr. D. H. Storer*.

DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Memoires du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Vols. 9 to 18, and 3 Nos. of Vol. 19. 4to. Paris. 1821 to 1830.

Organic Remains of a former World, by James Parkinson. 3 vols. 4to. London. 1833.

Manuel du Mineralogiste et du Géologue Voyageur. 12mo. Paris. 1805. *Courtis Fund*.

The following gentlemen, nominated by the Council, were elected Corresponding Members, viz.

J. G. Anthony, Esq., of Cincinnati.

Andrew Nichols, M. D., of Danvers.

Rev. J. H. Linsley, of Stratford, Ct.

Frederick Hall, L.L.D., of Washington, D. C.

Jacob Porter, M. D., of Plainfield, Ct.

Adjourned,

T. BULFINCH, *Rec. Sec.*

August 3, 1842.

Regular meeting—Mr. T. T. Bouvé in the Chair.

Mr. Dillaway gave a brief summary of the Papers contained in the volumes of the *Annales du Museum*, recently added to the Library.

The Secretary read a letter from Dr. N. C. Keep in behalf of the Society of Dental Surgeons, expressing thanks to the Society for the invitation to visit the Cabinet.

Dr. Storer announced that the care of the Reptiles would henceforth devolve on Dr. Wyman, who had consented to assume that duty.

Drs. Gould and Wyman were chosen a Committee to ascertain the condition of the Insects belonging to the Society, and to suggest what measures are necessary to ensure proper care and attention to that portion of the Cabinet.

A Letter was received from the Secretary of the American Board for Foreign Missions, accompanying a box of Insects from Western Africa. The thanks of the Society were voted for this valuable donation.

Dr. Abbot announced the addition of the following birds to the Cabinet, viz.

Turdus felivox, *T. aurocapillus*, *Fringilla cyanea*, *F. nivalis*, *F. Canadensis*, *F. erythrophthalma*, *F. Ludoviciana*, *Icterus agripennis*, *Muscicapa crinita*, *M. atra*, *M. Acadica*, *M. rutililla*, *Totanus macularius*.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Genera Filicum; or Illustrations of the Genera of Ferns. By Wm. J. Hooker. Nos. 1 to 9. 8vo. pam. London. 1838 to 1839.

Annals of Natural History, Nos. 56, 57, 58, for April, May, June, 1842. 8vo. London; also, Supplementary Nos. 47 and 54, for September, 1841, and March, 1842. *Courtis Fund*.

Prodromus Systematis Naturalis Regni Vegetabili, 4 vols. 8vo. Parisiis, 1823. *Dr. B. D. Greene*.

A Monograph of the Limniades, or Freshwater Univalve Shells. No. 1. Philad. By S. Stehman Haldeman. 8vo. *Author*.

Histoire de l'Academie Royale des Sciences, 1699 à 1731, 33 vols. 4to. Paris.

Histoire Naturelle des Mineraux. Par M. le Comte de Buffon. 5 vols. 4to. Paris. 1783. *Courtesy Fund.*

Annales des Sciences Naturelles. 8vo. Paris. Vol. III. and 5 Nos. of Vol. IV. 1835. *Exchange.*

Proceedings of the Botanical Society of London. Vol. I. No. 1. 8vo. pam. London. 1839. *Bot. Soc. of London.*

Saggio Storico dei Rizopodi Characteristici dei Terreni Sopracretacei, per Giovanni Michelotti. 4to. pam. Modena. 1841. *Author.*

Monografia del Genere Murex ossia Enumerazione delle principali specie dei Terreni Sopracretacei dell' Italia, per G. Michelotti. 4to. pam. Vicenza, 1841. *Author.*

August 17, 1842.

Regular meeting—Dr. Binney, Vice President, in the Chair.

Dr. Wyman enumerated the characteristics of a Batrachian Reptile of the genus *Trachycephalus*, sent by Dr. Cragin from Surinam.

He also noticed a specimen of *Mygale*, and exhibited a sketch representing the operculum which the animal is said to use for closing the aperture of its dwelling. Dr. Binney asked if Dr. W. had seen this operculum, as doubt of its existence had been expressed by Professor Hentz in his paper in the last number of the Society's Journal. Dr. W. replied that he had seen a specimen in the Museum of the Garden of Plants labelled "Nest of the *Mygale*," and from this his sketch had been taken.

Dr. Cabot made some remarks upon a volume of the Naturalist's Library respecting Gallinaceous Birds.

It is there stated that the Wild Turkey is to be found from the North West Territory to Darien. Dr. C. thinks it does not go so far south as Darien, and is not found west of the Rocky Mountains, and but rarely west of the Mississippi. The Mandan Indians who visited Washington, carried home a stuffed skin of the Turkey as a curiosity. The Turkey is stated to be extinct in the north-east-

ern parts of the United States, but the fact is otherwise. Dr. C. purchased one in the market, brought from New Hampshire. It is common in the western part of New York State.

Of the *Argus polyplectron*, this work asserts that the female has not been described. Dr. C. has one, and will furnish a description of it. *Tetrao urophasianus* is spoken of as abundant on the prairies, and much sought after by hunters. It is so unpalatable that no hunter, unless pressed by famine, would eat it. *Tetrao umbellus* is stated not to be found south of the Gulf of Mexico. Nuttall says not south of Georgia.

Dr. J. B. S. Jackson had recently been afforded an opportunity of examining a specimen of the Tunny or Horse Mackerel.

According to Dr. Storer, the dorsal fin has 14 rays; in this specimen there were but nine.

Dr. Gould remarked that the fin rays of most fishes are exceedingly variable, and differ in number even on the two sides of the same fish.

Dr. Binney confirmed this remark. He also stated that a Tunny had recently been captured off New Brunswick, measuring 16 feet in length. It is not a rare fish, as is usually supposed, but is rarely taken, because its flesh is not prized for food.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

The Botanical Text Book, by Asa Gray, M. D. 12mo. New York, 1842. *Author.*

Naturalist's Library, Vol. II. on Ichthyology. 12mo. London. *Exchange.*

Rapport sur les Plantes Rares ou Nouvelles dans le Jardin de Botanique de Genève. Par M. De Candolle. 4to. pam. Genève, 1824.

Troisième, Quatrième et Cinquième Notices sur les Plantes Rares dans le Jardin de Genève. Par Wm. Aug. Pyr. et Alph. De Candolle. 3 pam. 4to. Genève. *Professor Asa Gray.*

A Flora of the Northern and Middle Sections of the United States, by John Torrey. Vol. 1st, 8vo. New York, 1824.

A Sketch of the Botany of South Carolina and Georgia. By Stephen Elliott. 2 vols. 8vo. Charleston, S. C. 1821.

Flora Britannica, auctore J. E. Smith. Recudi curavit. J. J. Römer. 3 vols. 12mo. Turici. Dr. B. D. Greene.

September 7, 1842.

Mr. Dillaway was chosen Chairman.

Dr. J. B. S. Jackson gave some notices of the anatomy of a Blackfish, *Delphinus globiceps*, Cuv. which was recently harpooned near Craigie's bridge.

Dr. Wyinan gave an account of a *Platydictylus theconyx* from Santa Cruz, presented by Miss Gardiner at the last meeting.

He also noticed Lieut. Wilkes' "Analysis of the Exploring Expedition," to which Mr. Couthouy added many interesting facts and remarks in relation to the Expedition during his connexion with it.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Synopsis of the Cruise of the Exploring Expedition, by its Commander, Chs. Wilkes. 8vo. pam. Washington, 1842. *J. P. Couthouy*.

Revue des Fossiles du Gouvernement de Moscou. 8vo. pam. Par G. Fischer de Waldheim. No. 1. Belemnites. Moscou, 1842. *Charles Cramer*.

Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, Vol. II. No. 22, for May, June, and July, 1842. 8vo. pam. *Amer. Phil. Soc.*

Animal Chemistry, by Justin Liebig, with Notes, &c., by Prof. J. W. Webster. 12mo. Cambridge, 1842. *Exchange*.

Transactions of the Linnean Society of London, Vol. XVIII. also, Part I. of Vol. XIX. 4to. London, 1838-42. *Linnean Soc.*

Proceedings of the Linnean Society of London, Nos. 1 to 10, also 13 and 14. 12mo. pam. London. *Linnean Society*.

ADDITIONS TO THE CABINET.

Dr. Abbot presented a vertebra of a Cetacean, picked up on the beach at Barnstable.

Dr. J. B. S. Jackson exhibited some of the parts of the Chimpanzee presented by Dr. Savage.

The skeleton of a Chimpanzee, prepared by Dr. Lewis, was deposited in the Cabinet by him.

Adjourned,

T. BULFINCH, *Rec. Sec.*

September 21, 1842.

The President in the Chair.

Dr. Gould read extracts from a letter lately received by him from the Rev. Mr. Mason, American missionary at Tavoy, Burmah. An abstract follows :

Some knowledge of the natural sciences is important to missionaries, apart from the consideration of the communications that they may write home. On some it devolves to write dictionaries of foreign languages ; but how can they give proper definitions of the objects of nature, without being first made acquainted with their proper names ? Some become translators of the Bible, and the importance of this knowledge to them is apparent. The Burman translation abounds with unnecessary barbarisms, for the want of a little knowledge of botany in the translator. In Matt. xxiii. 23, "mint, anise and cummin" are transferred, three barbarisms together, and all unnecessary. For dill and cummin are constantly in market, with good native names, and a plant allied to mint is common. Camphire, *Sansonnia inermis*, is disposed of in like manner ; a shrub that may be seen in almost every native garden ; and its leaves are constantly used by the Burmans, as by the Egyptians, to dye the finger nails red. So with the coriander, the seeds of which are always to be had in market ; and so with the acacia, trees found almost every where, in town and country ; and so in other cases. The palm of the scriptures which is the date palm, *Phoenix dactylifera*, has been rendered by the Fan palm, *Borassus flabelliformis*, a very different tree, though there are well known Burman names for each. Missionaries may, however, be excused for falling into some errors on these subjects ; for the books written on them are often indefinite and confused in their statements,

and now and then contain downright error and contradiction. There is a tree in the Jungles, which I suspect is the sycamore ; but for want of a good systematic description of that tree, I cannot be certain, and am afraid to adopt it, in the version. Yet I have commentaries, Bible dictionaries, and Greek and Hebrew lexicons that treat on the word in sufficient abundance, and which tell every thing about it, except what, for my purpose, is important to be known.

Dr. Cabot furnished a list of birds common to this country and the region of Yucatan.

Dr. Abbot brought in, for the Cabinet, a Fork-tailed Fly-catcher, (*Muscicapa savannah.*)

It is a native of North and South America, but rarely found in the United States.

ADDITIONS TO THE CABINET.

Dr. Storer placed on the table three species of fishes, viz.

Argyriosus vomer, taken in a seine at New Bedford, and sent to the Society by Mr. Horatio Leonard of that place. The only specimen Dr. S. has ever heard of as being taken in the waters of Massachusetts.

Esox minor, brought to him by Dr. Larnard of Sherburne. Dr. S. had never seen it, although, in his Report, he states that an *Esox*, with transverse bands, is known in the State.

Monocanthus brocchus. One specimen taken at Lynn, another at Nantucket beach, are the only specimens Dr. S. has ever seen.

Dr. Gould presented, in behalf of Rev. Dr. J. J. Robertson, Episcopal missionary at Constantinople, some shells from that locality, viz. 9 Clausiliæ, 1 Helix, also 3 birds and some insects from Abyssinia.

On motion of Dr. Gould, the thanks of the Society were voted to Rev. Dr. Robertson for these specimens.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Annals and Magazine of Natural History, Nos. 59, 60, and 62 ; for July, August, and September, 1842. *Subscription.*

Supplementary Plates to Zoological Journal. Nos. 1 to 5. 8vo. pam. London. 1825—1835.

Zoological Journal, Nos. XIX. and XX. 8vo. pam. London, 1832, 1835.

Thesaurus Conchyliorum, or Figures and Descriptions of Shells, by G. B. Sowerby, Jr., 8vo. pam. London, 1842. *In Exchange.*

Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London. Part XI. 1841. 8vo. *Zool. Society.*

Adjourned,

T. BULFINCH, *Rec. Sec.*

October 5, 1842.

Dr. Binney, Vice President, in the Chair.

Dr. Binney made a report upon two works of Sig. Michellotti of Turin, recently presented by the author.

The first, a monograph of the genus *Murex*, is minute and careful in its descriptions, qualities of the highest importance in a work of this kind. The other volume is upon Rhizopoda, or microscopic camerated shells. These shells, when first made the subject of investigation by D'Orbigny, were considered as belonging to Cephalopoda of as high an order of organization as the larger animals of that family. But later investigations by Dujardin represent them as internal shells belonging to infusorial animalcules, and of the lowest grade of organization. This author's views coincide with the latter opinion.

Dr. Gould remarked, that, in some recent microscopical investigations with Dr. Wyman, on some of the Gasteropodous mollusca, the conclusion had been forced upon them that many of the Infusorial animalcules would be found to occupy a place in the chain of being very little anticipated.

He hoped soon to present a full development of these observations. He made the general remark that he thought it not safe to

regard any of the forms of the invertebrate animals as mature, unless that form had been detected in the parent state.

Dr. Gould gave verbal notices of a number of the Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society—also, notices of Thesaurus Conchyliorum, No. 1, by G. B. Sowerby, Jr.

He gave the latter work high praise, particularly remarking upon the excellence of the figures. In respect to the reduced figures, all on the same page are reduced in the same ratio, so as to give a correct comparative view. The genus *Helicina* was remarked upon as having been much increased of late with new species. Lamarck enumerated 12; J. E. Gray added 16; this writer makes 77; and yet has mentioned none from the islands of the Pacific, from which source, numerous species have recently been brought. About one third of the species found in the Boston cabinets are not found in this work, showing how much the number of actual species is yet to be extended.

ADDITIONS TO THE CABINET.

Dr. Abbot announced the following additions in his department :
Baltimore Oriole, or Golden Oriole, male and female; *Icterus Baltimore*, Bonap.

Blue-bird, male and female, *Ampelis sialis*, Nuttall.

Black and White Warbler or Creeper, *Sylvia varia*, Latham.

Flicker, or Golden-winged Woodpecker, female, *Picus armatus*, Linn.

Hairy Woodpecker, male, *Picus villosus*, Linn.

Downy Woodpecker, male and female, *P. pubescens*, Linn.

Tropic Bird, *Phaëton ætherius*, Linn.

Bartram's Tatler, *Totanus Bartramius*, Temminck.

Great or Common Tern, *Sterna hirundo*, Linn.

The last named presented by Dr. Abbot.

Mr. Bryant announced a donation from Mr. W. B. Reynolds, Jr. consisting of 29 birds from Bengal, 15 fishes from the Ganges, 3 snakes, 1 crustacean. On motion of Dr. Wyman the thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. Reynolds for this donation.

Shells from the Philippine Islands, as follows :

Helix pulcherrima,	H. cepoides,
H. polychroa,	H. florida,
H. concinna,	H. mirabilis,
H. Valenciana,	H. bizonata,

and three species not named. *From Dr. J. C. Jay, of N. York.*

A box containing fossils from Italy, was committed to Mr. Bouvé and, on motion, the thanks of the Society were voted to Sig. Michelotti for this valuable donation. *From Sig. Michelotti.*

Several specimens from Iowa territory, including Stalactite, Marble, Lead ore, Fossils and Soil, the latter from Huron Co., Ohio, were committed to Mr. Teschemacher. *Presented by Mr. Asa Ward.*

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

An Address delivered before the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, by J. E. Teschemacher. 8vo. pam. Boston, 1802. *Author.*

A Catalogue of the Phenogamous Plants of Columbia, S. C., and its vicinity. By Lewis R. Gilley. 8vo. pam. 1835. Columbia, S. C. *Dr. H. I. Bowditch.*

A Catalogue of the Mammalia of Connecticut. By James I. Linsley. 8vo. pam. New Haven, 1842. *Author.*

October 19, 1842.

Regular meeting—the President in the Chair.

The President read a paper by F. Boott, of London, entitled "Descriptions of Six North American Carices." It is the beginning of a work which Dr. Boott has undertaken and intends to continue, and which he has thus far executed with great minuteness.

Mr. Teschemacher reported on some specimens of corn from Texas, and some minerals from Iowa.

The corn (*zea mays*) from Texas, has several envelopes to each kernel. Bonnafous, who has given a figure of it in his splendid work, ranks it as a species. Mr. T. had planted a single seed

which was enclosed in a single envelope, by his own hand, purporting to have come from the Rocky Mountains. When its seed had arrived at maturity, it was naked, as maize usually is. The same result has been witnessed by others; if so, it cannot claim to be a distinct species, or at least, no specific characters can be founded on these envelopes.

He also reported upon some soil from Huron Prairie, Ohio.

It is clayey and adhesive, and, therefore, likely to retain moisture, and would probably prove, in a high degree, rich and fertile. The power of soils for retaining moisture, results from the salts and other substances contained in them, and is considered one of the most important properties for productiveness. He objected to the usual method of ascertaining the capacity of a soil for moisture, by subjecting it to intense heat, and then weighing the residuum; for the loss of weight which is thus produced, may result from the disengagement of nitrogen, and other gaseous constituents.

Dr. Storer reported on the specimens of fishes from the Ganges, fifteen in number, presented by Mr. Reynolds at the last meeting.

They belong to six different species, viz. : *Lates nobilis*, Cuvier, described by Shaw, Gen. Zool. vol. iv. p. 563, under the name of *Holocentrus calcarifer*, from the spines on the operculum. *Corius polota*, Hamilton, "Fishes of the Ganges," plate 38, fig. 31. *Labrus jaculator*, Shaw's Zool. vol. xiv. p. 485,—derives its name from the instinct which it possesses, of projecting drops of water on insects, and thus securing them for its prey. *Ophicephalus manubrius*, Hamilton, pl. xxii. fig. 19. This species is said to be very tenacious of life; in China, it is carried about in water, and pieces cut off for sale as they are wanted; it brings a high price as long as life lasts; but is not valued when dead. *Tetraodon fluviatilis*, Hamilton, pl. xxx. fig. 1. *Cyprinus rohita*, Hamilton, frequently acquires the length of three feet, and is considered most excellent food.

Dr. Storer also presented for the Cabinet a specimen of *Squalus mustelus*, Lin. *M. laevis*, Cuvier, or "Smooth Shark" of Pennant.

Dr. Wyman exhibited specimens of *Brachycephalus ephippium*, Fitzinger, from South America.

Like other Brachycephali, the superior and lateral surfaces of the head are covered with an expansion of the cranial bones, and on the dorsal region it is in addition provided with a long plate, resembling a saddle; this last is formed by the expansion of the spinous processes of the dorsal vertebræ, and represents, in a rudimentary manner, the dorsal plates of the Testudinata.

He also exhibited preparations of the tegumentary skeletons of the Scorpion, Cetonina and Dytiscus.

Dr. Gould called the attention of the Society to a pamphlet on the Mollusca of Vermont, by Prof. C. B. Adams, of Middlebury College.

None but fresh water and land shells are found in Vermont; and of 87 species enumerated by Professor A., 28 have not yet been found in Massachusetts; 17 species belonging to Massachusetts are not enumerated as existing in Vermont, though *Unio radiatus*, one of them, is known to be an inhabitant of that State. Prof. A. distinguishes *Pupa modesta* from *P. ovata*; Dr. G. regards the former as the young of the latter. *Pupa albilabris* is named on the authority of "Ward inedited" a deviation from the received rule that no name can be recognized until published. This is the *Cyclostoma marginata* of Say; but a change of name being requisite, *P. fallax*, another of Say's names, has been adopted in the Report on the Invertebrata of Massachusetts.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Genessee Farmer, No. 10, Vol. III. Rochester, 1842. 8vo. pam. H. Colman, Editor.

American Journal of Science and Arts, conducted by Professor Silliman and B. Silliman, Jr. No. 2, Vol. XLIII. 8vo. New Haven. Editors.

Annals and Magazine of Natural History, No. 61 of Vol. 9, and 63 of Vol. X. 8vo. pam. London, 1842. Courtis Fund.

Albany Gazette for Oct. 21, 1842. folio. Newspaper. Albany Institute.

Report from Secretary of the Navy, communicating a Report on the Second Invention of I. S. Eaton for preventing Explosion of Steam Boilers. 8vo. pam. 1842. Washington. *W. R. Johnson.*

Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Vol. VIII. Part II. 8vo. pam. Phil. 1842. *Acad. of Nat. Sciences.*

Adjourned,

THOMAS BULFINCH, *Secretary.*

November 16, 1842.

Dr. Binney, Vice President, in the Chair.

Professor Gray gave an abstract of the Botanical Articles in the Transactions of the Linnean Society of London, Vols. XVIII. and XIX. Part 1.

Dr. C. T. Jackson gave an account of some minerals noticed by him in his Geological Survey of New Hampshire during the last summer.

In the town of Cornish he discovered an ore containing antimony, copper, silver, &c., in the following proportions, viz.

Copper,	- - -	28,339
Antimony,	- - -	28,121
Iron,	- - -	11,095
Sulphur and loss,	-	28,050
Silver,	- - -	3,9000
		<hr/>
		100,000

This is a rich ore, and worth \$1 90 per cubic foot.

In the same town was found an ore of antimony and copper without silver. In Warren there exists, in a bed of Tremolite, an ore of copper containing 20 per cent. of metal, and very abundant. In Unity, there exists Polymignite; in Cornish, Titanium; in Charlestown, Staurotide macle passing into Andalusite; and in Grafton, Beryls of a fine quality.

Dr. Abbott gave notices of some recent additions to the Cabinet of Ornithology, viz.

Strix asio, Lin.—Little Screech-owl.

Certhia familiaris, Lin.—brown creeper, male.

Parus atricapillus, Lin.—chicadee, or black-capped titmouse, male.

Fringilla Savanna, Wilson—Savannah sparrow, male.

F. socialis, Wilson—Chipping sparrow, male.

F. Pennsylvanica, Lath.—White-throated sparrow.

Sitta Carolinensis, Lin.—White-breasted nuthatch, male.

Picus erythrocephalus, Lin.—Redheaded woodpecker.

DONATIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Salices Americanæ. North American Willows. By Joseph Barratt, M. D. 4to. pam. Middletown, Con. 1840. *Author*.

Notes of a Tour to the White Hills. By E. W. Southwick. 8vo. pam. 1841. *Author*.

Mollusca. Fresh Water and Land Shells of Vermont. By C. B. Adams. 8vo. pam. 1842. *Author*.

American Antiquarian Society's Fifty-Third Semi-Annual Report. 8vo. pam. Worcester, 1839.

Address before the American Antiquarian Society. By William Lincoln. 8vo. pam. Worcester, 1835. *Dr. Jacob Porter*.

Iconographia Generum Plantarum, edidit Stephanus Endlicher. 8vo. Vindobonæ. 1838.

Genera Plantarum secundum Ordines Naturales disposita. Auctore Stephano Endlicher. 8vo. Vindobonæ, 1836—1840.

Tentamen Pteridographiæ. Auctore Carolo Bor. Presl. 8vo. Pragæ, 1836. *Courtis Fund*.

Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, Vol. II. No. 23, for August, September, October, 1842. 8vo. pam. *A. P. Soc.*

New Genesee Farmer, Vol. III. No. 11, for November, 1842. *H. Colman, Editor*.

Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Nos. 17, 18, 19, Vol. I. for August, September, and October, 1842. 8vo. pam. *Acad. of Nat. Sciences*.

Memoires de la Soc. de Physique et d'Histoire Naturelle de

Genève. Tome VIII. et Tome IX. 1ère partie. 4to. Genève, 1841-42. From the *Society*.

Annals and Magazine of Natural History, No 64, for November, 1842. 8vo. pam. London. *Courtis Fund*.

ADDITIONS TO THE CABINET.

Specimens of Mammals, Fishes, Crustacea, Insects, &c. from Martha's Vineyard. *From L. M. Yale, M. D.*

A suite of specimens of Sulphur from the vicinity of Mount Etna. *From John Randall, M. D.*

Cranium of a Whale. *From Capt. Wm. Cook of Provincetown.*

The thanks of the Society were voted to Drs. Yale and Randall, also to Capt. Cook, for their valuable donations.

A box was also received from Dr. F. W. Cragin of Surinam, a corresponding member of the Society, containing 100 bird skins, skin of the Giant Armadillo, (*Dasypus giganteus*,) crania of a Jaguar and of a Cebus, bird's nests, shells, seeds, &c.

The thanks of the Society were voted to Dr. Cragin for this valuable donation, also for repeated instances of liberality in making additions to the Cabinet.

Adjourned,

T. BULFINCH, *Rec. Sec.*

December 7th, 1842.

The President in the Chair.

Dr. Gould exhibited a Crustacean, from Long Island Sound, presented to the Society by Dr. Yale, which he had figured and determined to be the *Squilla empusa*, of Say.

Three or four specimens of the same species had been recently taken.

He also read a description of a new species of Crustacean of the genus *PASITHOE* (Goodsir) viz.

P. umbonata, Gould. Body oval, orbicular, hirsute, with a prominent process arising from middle of back. Span of legs $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

It differs from the species described by Goodsir, in the circular

shape of its body, the absence of a projecting point from the posterior segment, and the existence of an elevated umbo on the back.

He also exhibited specimens of *Pyrosoma gigantea*, referred to him at a previous meeting, recently presented by Dr. Yale.

Dr. Binney gave the results of his observations made during two successive summers at Nahant, on the habits of the *Orthogarisculus mola*, or short sunfish.

He had found it common in our waters during the summer; it is very sluggish in its motions, and the surface of the body is usually infested with numerous parasites. Dr. Binney had satisfied himself that these animals subsist on the Acalepha. He has frequently found remains of the Medusæ in their stomachs, and has seen one captured while in the act of sucking in a large specimen of one of these animals. Their slow movements, and inefficient jaws prevent them from pursuing a more active prey.

Mr. Bryant stated, that, while off our coast during the past summer, he had sometimes seen ten or twelve in the course of a day.

Professor Gray made some remarks on the Monograph of Professor Choisy on the genus *Cuscuta* published in the "Mem. de la Soc. de Physique and d'Hist. Nat. de Genève."

With regard to the plants to which they attach themselves, Professor Choisy says that they have never been found on those possessing acrid or poisonous juices. Dr. Gray has seen a species on the Cherry Laurel, (*Cerasus Caroliniana*), the poisonous principle of which is Prussic acid. Though most commonly met with on the Compositæ and Leguminosæ, Professor Decandolle had met with it in one instance only upon one of the Grasses; but in this country at least, one genus of Grasses, (*Leersia*), is occasionally infested by these parasites. Six of the species of this country described by Dr. Engelman appear not to have fallen under Professor C's observation. *Cuscuta Gronovii* of Choisy is identical with the *C. vulgivaga* of Engelman; and his *C. glomerata* is Dr. E's yet unpublished *C. adpressa*.

Professor Gray also exhibited, under the microscope, specimens of the papillæ covering the achæna of the seeds of the genus *Senecio*, which, when moistened, project from their extremities spiral

filaments. In the genus *Blennosperma*, (see Torrey and Gray's Flora of North America, Vol. II. p. 272,) these threads are of great tenuity; and in the genus *Crocidium*, they are broad and flat.

Dr. Wyman reported upon a specimen of a marsupial animal from New Holland. This he found to be a rare animal, called by the natives the "Nombite," and is the *Myrmecobius fasciatus*, Waterhouse, and is described and figured in Trans. Zool. Soc. Lond. Vol. I.

Dr. Storer exhibited a drawing of the *Torpedo nobiliana*, Bonaparte, recently captured at Wellfleet, Cape Cod.

He had been well aware of a fish on our coast called by the fishermen the "cramp fish," but having had no previous opportunity to examine it, he had hitherto supposed it to be the *Torpedo vulgaris*. This specimen agrees accurately with a description given by Mr. Thompson, in the Annals and Magazine of Natural History, Vol. V.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Transactions of the Linnæan Society of London, Vol. XVIII. Part 4. 4to. 1841. London.

Proceedings of the same, Nos. 11, 12. pp. 89 to 112. 8vo. London. *Linnæan Society*.

Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, June and July, 1842. Nos. 15, 16, Vol. I. *Acad. of N. S.*

Sull' Ernie, Osservazioni di Placido Portal da Palermo 8vo. pam. Napoli, 1842. *Author*.

Index plantarum quas Societas Imperialis Naturæ Curiosorum Mosquensis pro mutuâ Commutatione offert. 4to. pam. 1840. *Charles Cramer*.

ADDITIONS TO THE CABINET.

Specimens of *Fusus*, *Achatina*, *Parluta*, *Achatinella* three species, *Neritina*, *Bulla* and *Eulima*, all from the Sandwich Islands. *From James J. Jarves*.

Specimens of *Paludina subcarinata*. *From J. G. Anthony of Cincinnati*.

Mycetopus siliquosa, *Unio obtusus*, *Bulimus auris-muris*, B. Capueira, B. Bahiensis, *Cyclostoma Blanchetianum*, *Helicina variabilis*, *Anodonta anserina*, all from Brazil. *From Dr. A. A. Gould.*

January 4, 1843.

Dr. Gould was appointed Chairman.

Mr. E. S. Dixwell exhibited some specimens of lias limestone from Meadville, Pa., in which were imbedded some conical masses of about an inch in height, and somewhat less at base.

He desired an opinion whether they were organic structures or otherwise. They were committed to Mr. Bouvé.

Dr. Abbot made a report upon some of the birds' skins recently received from Dr. Cragin of Surinam. There were five species, all new to our cabinet, viz.

Rhamphastos Tucanus, Lin.	Rhamphastos erythrorynchus, L.
Rhamphastos viridis, Lin.	Rhamphastos aricari, Lin.
Rhamphastos piperivorus, Lin.	

Dr. A. also exhibited some skins of native birds recently added to the Cabinet, viz.

Tringa alpina—Oxbird, (winter plumage.)
Sylvia icterocephalus—Chesnut-sided warbler, (male.)
Sylvia Americana—Parti-colored warbler, (male.)
Sylvia Canadensis—Black-throated blue warbler, (male.)
Sylvia trichas, Maryland yellow-throat, (male and female.)
Sylvia rubri-capilla—Nashville warbler.

Professor Gray exhibited a specimen of *Carex Fraseriana*, an American plant, which had been so long unnoticed as to have been regarded as lost. It was rediscovered by a party of which Prof. G. was one, on Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina.

Dr. Wyman exhibited specimens of *Echinorhynchus nodosus*, Rudolphi, a parasite infesting the intestines of the striped bass, (*Labrax lineatus*.)