

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