

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL,

FOR FEBRUARY, 1859.

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The Monthly General Meeting of the Asiatic Society was held on the 2nd instant.

The proceedings of the December and January meetings were read and confirmed.

Presentations were received.

1. From Lieut. E. H. Fergusson, Superintendent, Government Observatory, Bombay, a copy of the Magnetical and Meteorological Observations made at the Bombay Observatory in the year 1857.

2. From Captain Burbank, Steamer *Fire Queen*, an Andaman Canoe.

3. From Rt. Rev. P. Bigandet, Bishop and Vicar Apostolic of Ava and Pegu, a work on Buddhism in Burmah.

4. From Captain F. A. V. Thurburn, a small tin box containing 124 copper coins collected at Ajodheia, of which 5 or 6 may prove valuable, and which he begged to present to the Society.

5. From Dr. Macgowan of Ningpo corresponding member of the Society, some Chinese iron coins.

6. From Mr. Jennings of Messrs. Osler and Co. through Major Thuillier, a map of China and part of Hindostan, published in the 16th century. (Sent for exhibition.)

7. From His Highness the Maha Rajah of Burdwan, a ball found in the small intestines of a Giraffe which died suddenly.

8. From E. A. Samuells, Esq., Dinapore, two wooden cannons bound with iron, and a female figure in stone.

9. From M. Natalis Rondot of Paris, commercial delegate attached to the mission of M. de la Grene in China, two copies of his

new work entitled *Vert de Chine et de la Teinture en Vert Chez les Chinois.*

Maharajah Suttish Chunder Roy Bahadoor, and C. Alabaster, Esq., duly proposed at the December meeting, were balloted for and elected ordinary members, and Dr. Max Muller, likewise proposed at the December meeting, was balloted for and elected a corresponding member of the Society.

*Letters were read.*

From Captain F. A. V. Thurburn and B. J. Colvin, Esq., announcing their withdrawal from the Society, and from W. S. Seton Karr, Esq., stating that he had ceased to be a member of the Society at the close of 1853, before his departure for Europe (letter not received.)

The following gentlemen were proposed as members.

Major A. H. P. Stuart Wortley, M. P., proposed by A. Grote, Esquire, seconded by W. S. Atkinson, Esq.

H. Stainforth, Esquire, B. C. S., proposed by A. Grote, Esq., seconded by Col. R. Strachey.

Baboo Kassy Nauth Roy Chowdry, proposed by Baboo Rajendra lal Mittra, and seconded by Baboo Ramapersaud Roy.

H. Scott Smith, Esq., Civil Engineering College, proposed by Dr. W. Crozier, and seconded by E. B. Cowell, Esq.

W. Theobald, Esq., junior, proposed by A. Grote, Esq. and seconded by W. S. Atkinson, Esq.

Lieut. W. G. Alexander of the 93rd Highlanders, proposed by Major H. L. Thuillier, and seconded by W. S. Atkinson, Esq.

Capt. F. W. Stubbs, Bengal Artillery, proposed (for re-election) by Major H. L. Thuillier, and seconded by W. S. Atkinson, Esq.

The Council reported that they had appointed the following Sub-Committees for the year 1859,

*Finance.*

Capt. C. H. Dickens.

Baboo Ramgopaul Ghose.

*Philology.*

E. A. Samuells, Esq.

Rev. J. Long.

F. E. Hall, Esq.

Dr. E. Roer.  
 Captain W. N. Lees.  
 Baboo Rajendralal Mittra.

*Library.*

E. A. Samuells, Esq.  
 Baboo Ramapersaud Roy.  
 Lieut. Col. R. Strachey.  
 Captain W. N. Lees.  
 Captain C. H. Dickens.  
 Baboo Rajendralal Mittra.

*Natural History.*

Dr. T. Boycott.  
 E. A. Samuells, Esq.  
 T. Oldham, Esq.  
 Dr. T. Thomson.  
 Dr. W. Crozier.  
 Lieut. Col. R. Strachey.  
 H. F. Blanford, Esq.

*Meteorology, and Physical Science.*

The Ven'ble J. H. Pratt.  
 Major H. L. Thuillier.  
 Lieut. Col. R. Strachey.  
 Baboo Radha Nauth Sikdar.  
 T. Oldham, Esq.

The Council presented a report recommending that the Hon'ble Sir James Colville, Kt., be elected an Honorary member as a mark of respect for his long and zealous services as President of the Society.

*Communications received.*

1. From F. E. Hall, Esq., a paper on certain Sanscrit Inscriptions.
2. From Baboo Radhanauth Sickdar, an Abstract of the Meteorological Observations taken at the Surveyor General's office, during the months of August and September, 1858.

The Curator exhibited a skull with magnificent horns of the Wapite stag, of North America, or miscalled Elke of the Anglo Americans, from California; the specimen sent for the occasion by J. W. Linzee, Esq., of the firm of Dutts, Linzee and Co., American

merchants. The peculiar characteristics of the Wapite, as distinguished from the *Shou* of Thibet and other large stags, were explained, and some observations made on the geographical distribution of the particular group of Deer, in which the *Cervus elaphus* of the British Islands is included.

The Curator also exhibited the lower jaw and other bones of a Dugong, found in an Andamanese hut, and presented to the Society by Captain Niblett of the Steamer *Sydney*. Though inhabiting the Straits of Malacca, he was unaware of this marine animal having previously been met with in the Bay of Bengal. It is not rare, however, in the Gulf of Calpentyu, in Ceylon, and occurs also along the Malabar Coast, where it is miscalled 'Seal' by Europeans. The entire skeleton of an adult, it was remarked, would be a valuable acquisition for the Society's Museum.

Various other donations were announced, as especially some rare bird skins and skeletons from J. H. Gurney, Esq., M. P., of Norwich, and a variety of specimens from the Andamans and interior of the Tenasserim Provinces collected and presented by the Secretary.

Read a paper by Dr. Anderson on the flora of Lucknow and its neighbourhood.

The thanks of the meeting were voted to Dr. Anderson for his interesting communication.

#### *Reduction of Subscriptions.*

Mr. Oldham begged to state for the information of members that the Council had under discussion a proposal for the reduction of the contributions payable by members. He thought it desirable that this should be known as widely as possible.

The Officiating Librarian submitted his usual report for December and January last.

#### LIBRARY.

List of fresh accessions to the Library during December and January.

#### *Presentations.*

Letter to Sir David Brewster, F. R. S., &c. on Results in Terrestrial Magnetism.—By JOHN ALLAN BROWN, F. R. S.

Annalen der Chemie und Pharmacie for August and September, 1858.

The Oriental Christian Spectator for November and December, 1858.—  
BY THE EDITOR.

The Oriental Baptist for December, 1858, and January, 1859.—BY THE  
EDITOR.

Comets and the Comet of 1858. A Lecture by J. Burgess, Esq.—BY  
THE AUTHOR.

The Calcutta Christian Observer for December, 1858, and January,  
1859.—BY THE EDITORS.

Ueber das Catrunjayu Mähátmyam, Ein Beitrag zur Geschichte der  
Jaina. Von Albrecht Weber, Leipzig.—BY THE AUTHOR.

Zur Litteratur und Geschichte des Weda, drei Abhandlungen von Ru-  
dolph Roth. Stuttgart, 1846.

Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Session 1857-58.

Indische Studien Band IV. parts 2 and 3.

Journal of the Indian Archipelago. Vol. 2. New Series, No. 4.

Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government. No. 47, Re-  
port on a Project for the supply of Water to the Poona Cantonment.  
With Plans and Sections in a separate case. No. 48, New Series. A short  
Review of Mr. Plowden's Report on the Salt Excise of the Bombay Presi-  
dency. By Nicholas A. Dalzell, Esq.—BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY.

Selections from the Records of the Madras Government No. 50. Re-  
port on the Agricultural Exhibitions in the Provinces in the year 1857.  
Desiderata for the Madras Exhibition of 1859.—BY THE BENGAL GO-  
VERNMENT.

Annals of the Indian Administration, Part IX. 1858. Edited by Mere-  
dith Townsend.—BY THE HOME GOVERNMENT.

Bibidhartha Sangraha for Bhadro, 1265.—BY THE EDITOR.

Sanscrit Wörterbuch von Otto Bohtlingk und Rudolph Roth. Bogen  
41—72.—BY THE EDITORS.

The Athenæum for September, 1858.—BY THE EDITOR.

The London, Edinburgh and Dublin Philosophical Magazine and Jour-  
nal of Science. Nos. 107-108 for October and November, 1858.

Journal Asiatique No. 45 for July, and No. 46 for August, September,  
1858.

Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenlandischen Gessellschaft. Zwölfter  
Band IV. Heft Leipzig, 1858.

Verhandelingen van het Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en We-  
tenschappen. Deel 26, Batavia 1854-57.

Tijdschrift voor Indische Taal, Land-en Volkenkunde. New series,  
Deel 3, parts 1 to 6. Batavia.

Proeve van Soendasche Poezij (sindirís) Door K. F. Holle.

A Lecture on Surveys and Surveying, by Captain Walter S. Sherwill. F. G. S.

Journal of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society, Vol. X. p. II.—BY THE SOCIETY.

Bombay Magnetical and Meteorological Observations, 1857.—BY THE BOMBAY GOVERNMENT.

Reports of the Juries of the Madras Exhibition of 1857.—BY THE BENGAL GOVERNMENT.

Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India, Vol. I. Part 2.—BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Notice du Vert de Chine et de la Teinture en Vert chez les Chinois-Paris.—BY M. NATALIS RONDOT.

*Purchased.*

Revue des Deux Mondes, Tomes 25 to 28, 1858.—Paris.

— et Magazin de Zoologie, Nos. 8 and 9, 1858.

Annals and Magazine of Natural History, Nos. 10 and 11, for October, and November, 1858.

Annales des Sciences Naturelles, Tome VIII. and IX. No. 1.

Comptes Rendus, Nos. 10 to 18, 1858.—Tables des do. Tome XLVI for 1858.

The Westminster Review for October, 1858.

Analectes sur l'Histoire et la litterature des Arabes D'Espagne par Al-Makarri. Tome 2, p. 1.

Kitabe Seerute Rosoul Allah, by M. Ibn Ishák, translated by Dr. Ferdinand Wüstenfeld, Gottinger, Erste and Zweite Abtheilung for 1857-58.

Useful Plants of India. By Major Heber Drury, 1858, Madras.

Journal Des Savants, for September and October, 1858.

Edinburgh Review for October, 1858.

Quarterly Review for October, 1858.

The Literary Gazette, Nos. 16 to 19. New series.

American Journal of Science and Arts, No. 77, September, 1858.

The Natural History Review, No. 4, for October, 1858.

Precis de Jurisprudence Musalmane, Par Sidi Khalil, Deuxieme Tirage. Paris, 1858.

LIBRARY.

List of Books received in February, 1859.

*Presented.*

Essays on the Religion and Philosophy of the Hindus. By H. T. Colebrooke, Esq.—BY MESSRS. WILLIAMS AND NORGATE.

Calcutta Christian Observer for February, 1859.—BY THE EDITORS.

Oriental Baptist for February, 1859.—BY THE EDITOR.

Selections from the Records of the Madras Government, No. 51, Re-

port on Vaccination. No. 52, Rules respecting applications for Grants-in-aid of Schools unconnected with Government.—BY THE HOME GOVERNMENT.

Ditto No. 53, Papers relating to the General Revenue Survey of the Madras Presidency.—BY THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

A Catalogue Raisonnee of Oriental Manuscripts in the Library of the (late) College Fort Saint George now in charge of the Board of Examiners, 1857. By the Rev. Wm. Taylor, 2 copies.—BY THE SAME.

Selections from the Records of the Bengal Government, No. 29. Report on the Rivers of Bengal, by Capt. W. S. Sherwill. Papers of 1856-57 and 58 on the Damooda Embankments 2 copies.—BY THE BENGAL GOVERNMENT.

Memorandum on the Province of Assam, by G. R. Barry.—BY WM. SMOULT, ESQ.

On the Nature and Use of the Indian *Bael* in Diarrhœa, Consumption, &c.—BY HENRY REMFRY, ESQ.—BY THE AUTHOR.

Journal Asiatique, No. 47, for October, November, 1858.—BY THE ASIATIC SOCIETY, PARIS.

Annalen der Chemie und Pharmacie for October and November, 1858.

The Athenæum for December, 1858.

The London, Edinburgh and Dublin Philosophical Magazine, Nos. 110 and 111, for January, 1859.

*Purchased.*

Revue des Deux Mondes, 15th November, 1st and 15th December, 1858, and 1st January, 1859,

Annuaire des Deux Mondes, 1857-58.

Annales des Sciences Naturelles. Tome 9, Nos. 2, 3, and 4.

Comptes Rendus, Nos. 19, to 26, 1858, and No. 1 for January, 1859.

Literary Gazette, Nos. 20, to 29 New Series, 1858.

Annals and Magazine of Natural History. Third series, Vol. 2, Nos. 12, and 13, for December, 1858, and January, 1859.

Journal of the Statistical Society, London, for December, 1858.

Revue et Magasin De Zoologie, Nos. 10 and 11, 1858.

Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of London for October, 1858.

Mutanabbii Carmina Cum Commentario Wádhidii, Fasc. 2. Berlin, 1858.

The Athenæum for November, 1858.

Reis naar het Oostelijk Gedeelte van den Indischen Archipel. in het jaar, 1821; Amsterdam, 1858.

Journal des Savants for November and December, 1858.

Lieder des Hafis, Vol. II. Part 1, by Dr. Hermann Brockhaus, 1858, Leipzig.

## FOR MARCH, 1859.

The Monthly General Meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bengal was held on the 2nd instant.

Lieutenant-Colonel Strachey, Vice-President, in the Chair.

The proceedings of the February meeting were read and confirmed.

Presentations were received.

1. From the Home Government of India, certain copies of Selections from the records of the Madras Government.

2. From the Bengal Government, certain copies of Selections from the records of the Bengal Government.

3. From W. H. Smoult, Esquire, a copy of "Memorandum on the Province of Assam" by G. R. Barry, Esq.

4. From Henry Remfry, Esq., Attorney at Law, a copy of his tract "On the Nature and Use of the Indian *Bael* in Diarrhœa, Consumption, &c."

5. From Captain H. Strachey, five rare MSS.; viz., 3 vols. of the Persian Tarikhi Hyderi, by Mirza Hyder, and the Diwans of two Turki poets.

6. From D. I. Money, Esq., B. C. S., 4 Sepulchral Alabaster Urns found in Thebes, in 1846.

The following is an extract from the letter accompanying them:—

"MY DEAR ATKINSON,—I brought with me from Thebes in 1846, four Sepulchral Alabaster urns, which were found in a tomb not far from the Tombs of the Kings. They contained some part of the human body mummied, but the contents in moving about have been lost. The top of each is separate, and represents one of the Egyptian deities. You can easily recognize their Jupiter Ammon, Anubis, and the Cynocephalus, and the 4th must be familiar to the Asiatic Society, to whom I wish you to present them. One of the urns has been broken and another repaired. There are therefore only three, with four tops; one has a saucer at the bottom on which the urn rested."

The thanks of the Society were specially voted to Mr. Money for these valuable presents.



The following gentlemen were named for ballot at the next meeting:—

The Bishop of Calcutta, proposed by Mr. W. S. Atkinson, seconded by Dr. T. Thomson.

Sir Mordaunt Wells, proposed by Sir J. Colville, seconded by Mr. W. S. Atkinson.

Lieutenant-Colonel Baird Smith, proposed for re-election by Mr. W. S. Atkinson, seconded by Dr. T. Thomson.

Baboo Nundolala Bose, proposed by Baboo Rajendralal Mittra, and seconded by Baboo Jadaba Krishna Singha.

A letter was read from Rev. W. O'Brien Smith announcing his withdrawal from the Society.

The Hon'ble Sir James Colville was balloted for and elected an Honorary Member.

The following gentlemen duly proposed at the last meeting were balloted for and elected ordinary members.

Major A. H. P. Stuart Wortley, M. P.

H. Stainforth, Esq., B. C. S.

Baboo Kassynauth Roy Chowdry.

H. Scott Smith, Esq., Civil Engineering College.

W. Theobald, Esq., junior.

Lieutenant W. G. Alexander of the 93rd Highlanders.

Captain F. W. Stubbs, Bengal Artillery (re-elected).

Mr. E. B. Cowell read a paper on the traces of the *Swayamvara*, an Indian form of Royal marriage, as found in different parts of the ancient world.

The thanks of the meeting were voted to Mr. Cowell for his interesting communication.

The Officiating Librarian and the Zoological Curator submitted their usual reports.

## FOR APRIL, 1859.

The Monthly General Meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bengal was held on the 6th instant.

Fitz Edward Hall, Esq., senior member present, in the chair.

The proceedings of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

*Presentations were received :*

1. From George Loch, Esq., B. C. S., ten Jeypore marble Figures of Hindu Divinities, some of them partially mutilated.

2. From the Royal Institution of Great Britain, the Proceedings of the Institute.

3. From the Madras Government, No. LIV. of the Selections from the records of that Government.

4. From the Home Government, No. XVIII. of the Selections from the records of the Bombay Government.

The following gentlemen duly proposed at the last meeting were ballotted for, and elected ordinary members :

The Bishop of Calcutta.

Sir Mordaunt Wells.

Lieut.-Col. Baird Smith (re-elected).

Baboo Nundolal Bose.

The following gentlemen were named for ballot as ordinary members, at the next meeting.

The Hon'ble G. F. Edmonstone, B. C. S., proposed (for re-election) by A. Grote, Esq., seconded by W. S. Atkinson, Esq.

E. C. Bayley, Esq., B. C. S., proposed by A. Grote, Esq., seconded by W. S. Atkinson, Esq.

The Council also proposed Dr. P. Bleeker, of Batavia, as a corresponding member of the Society.

*Letters were read :*

1. From the Hon'ble Sir James Colville, Kt., tendering his thanks for the honor conferred on him by the Society, in electing him an honorary member.

The letter is as follows :

“MY DEAR SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, announcing my election as an honorary member of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.

“ I beg you to express to the Society my high sense of the honor it has done me in conferring upon me this far more than adequate reward for my poor services as its President.

“ I have, &c.,  
(Signed) “ J. W. COLVILLE.”

“ W. S. ATKINSON, ESQ.”

*Communications were received :*

1. From Captain H. Strachey, some additional memoranda upon the fate of Herr Adolphe Schlagintweit, with a suggestion that the Society should address the Government to enquire whether any steps have been taken officially to ascertain the fate of the traveller, and to recover his papers and property.

*Note by Capt. H. Strachey.*

The proceedings of the Asiatic Society for November, 1858, contain a memorandum by Capt. H. Strachey, dated 20th August, regarding the fate of Herr Adolphe Schlagintweit, and the recovery of his collections, instruments, and manuscripts. Captain Strachey has subsequently obtained some further information on the same subject, which is given in the accompanying memorandum, No. 2, dated January, 1859. This information is still very meagre, but goes to confirm the other numerous reports of the traveller's death, as given in the annexed extracts from the up-country newspapers.

As it does not appear that Government has yet taken any steps for the recovery of Schlagintweit's effects, or of instituting more particular enquiries regarding his fate, as suggested in the concluding paragraphs of Captain Strachey's first memorandum, or otherwise, it is recommended that the Asiatic Society do address the Government on the subject, and solicit their action.

In the continued absence of instructions from Government Captain H. Strachey has now himself collected and forwarded to Messrs. H. and R. Schlagintweit in Berlin, all manuscripts recovered in Kumaon, and such of the instruments (chiefly German Thermometers) as appeared to be worth transmission. None of the collections have come within his reach.

*Memorandum No. 2.*

Man Singh and Nain Singh Milmal of Jwar in Kumaon, left Adolphe Schlagintweit at Peshawur at the end of December, 1856,

or beginning of January, 1857, and returned to their own country during the next three months, making a few observations by the way. After this they had no further communication with him, excepting by a message sent in March, 1857, through Capt. H. Strachey, 66th Ghorka Regt., which requested Man Singh to join Adolphe Schlagintweit again, either at Kangra in April, or later in Ladak, which, however, Man Singh did not attempt.

Going as usual to the Gar fair, in the summer of 1857, Man Singh heard only some vague reports about Adolphe Schlagintweit from traders of Ladak, the substance of which is given in the 9th paragraph of memo. No. 1.

In December, 1857, Man Singh received a packet of thermometers, &c., with sundry notes from Hermann Schlagintweit, through Mr. B. Colvin, Assistant Commissioner of Kumaon. These had been sent from Calcutta in April of that year, but owing to the disturbed state of affairs in Upper India soon after, and Man Singh's absence in Bhotan, their delivery was delayed till his return to the lower hills at the end of the year. He made little or no use of these instruments since, and ultimately returned them to Captain Strachey.

In September, 1858, Man Singh, being again at the Gar fair, got some further information about Adolphe Schlagintweit, chiefly from one *Nurpur*, a native of Sunam in Kumaon of Bischir, trading to Ladak and Yarkund. This person was himself at Yarkund in 1857. When Adolphe Schlagintweit arrived in that quarter the Turks of Khokund, were already at or near the city. Adolphe Schlagintweit himself did not enter the town, but his guide, Mahomed Amin, did so, and left it again, either before or during the siege, under what relations with his own master or with the Turks was not known to informant.

As the siege continued, and the Chinese were shut up in their citadel, they obliged sundry of the inhabitants of the place to take part in the fighting; among others, a lot of foreign merchants, including about forty-five (45) of the Bischris, of whom 15 only returned, informant *Nurpur* being one of them; the rest were either killed or made prisoners.

After the siege was raised, informant heard that Adolphe

Schlagintweit had joined the camp of the Turks, and been at first well received by them; and on their retreat towards Khokund, he accompanied them as far as Kashghar. As they were carrying off with them a lot of their prisoners to be kept or sold for slaves (according to the custom of Turkistan), some of the Bischris being among the number, Adolphe Schlagintweit remonstrated that they were British subjects and should be released. On this arose a dispute; the Turks accused Adolphe Schlagintweit of taking part with their enemies, and ended by killing him.

Informant had certificates from the Chinese Authorities of Yarkund, testifying his services in the siege, and promising him some reward at a future opportunity.

The above account of the Bischri *Nurpur* was confirmed by one *Uniar*, an Argon of Ladak, who had received letters from his friends at Yarkund to the same effect.

*Recovered from Man Singh.*

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|------|---|--|
| 1 .. | { | 1 Boiling Thermometer (German).  |
|      | 2 | Ground ditto in cases ditto.   |
|      | { | 1 Large Newman's Thermometer (broken).   |
| 2 .. | 1 | Boiling Apparatus, in box.   |
|      | 1 | Old Geneva Watch.  |
|      | 1 | Small Magnifying Glass.  |
| 3 .. | { | 1 Set of observations on temperatures of rivers and wells in the Punjab and Rohilkund, &c., from January to March, 1857; and a few other papers. |

Of these, 1 and 3 have been kept by Capt. Strachey to send home, and 2 left with the Assist. Commissioner at Almora, being of no further use.

(Sd.) H. STRACHEY,

*Capt. 66th Goorkha Light Infantry.*

*Almora, January, 1859.*

*Newspaper Extracts referring to the above, furnished by Captain Strachey.*

“A letter written from the borders of Thibet, informs us, we are sorry to say, of there being no doubt of the murder of the enterprising and scientific traveller, Mr. Adolphe Schlagintweit. This, it now appears, took place at the end of the past, or beginning of the present year. It has, however, only become recently known, at

least publicly so, in this country, though it would appear to have been communicated to the friends of the deceased gentleman in Germany so far back as April last; his death having been sent to Europe from Lahore, where it was known through official letters received from Cashmere. ‘Why,’ asks our correspondent, ‘was this not made known to the public generally?’ Our present information is very scanty, but is to the effect that Mr. Schlagintweit was murdered by a plundering party of Khokund people, who suspected that he was connected with their enemies, the Chinese. None of Mr. Schlagintweit’s instruments or papers have yet been discovered, though people have been sent in search of them, and some have, it is supposed, been taken by servants by the Cashmere route.

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“Some short time ago, we announced that the enterprising and scientific traveller, Herr Adolphe Schlagintweit, had been murdered, and we now find confirmation of the fact in an extract from the letter of the Simla Correspondent of the *Evening Mail (Times)* of the 17th ultimo, as follows—

“From the same source, positive, and, I fear, authentic information has been received of the death of the adventurous explorer and naturalist, Adolphe Schlagintweit, one of the three brothers already so well known for their scientific researches, pursued under the auspices of the East India Company in India and among the Himalayas. Although rumours of his death, some accompanied by circumstantial details, have been for some time circulated, they were not known to rest on any good authority. It appears that a party of Khokundhis belonging to a tribe which was in revolt against the Chinese, came into the Yarkund territory early in the spring, and drove the few Chinese troops in the villages into the town of Yarkund. In one of the villages near the town, the Khokundhis found Schlagintweit residing, and in the course of conversation he asked them why they did not attack Yarkund itself, where the Chinese force was so small, and they were so numerous. For some unexplained reason they were offended at this question. They retired and held a consultation, the result of which was that they decided he must be a friend of the Chinese, and wished to ensnare them; and in the dead of night they surrounded his house and killed him, to the great regret of

their chief, who has saved some of the unfortunate traveller's instruments. The letter contains a few details respecting his collections and the movements of his retainers, which I have forwarded to one of the most eminent of our English *savans*, as perhaps the information is not of sufficient general interest for newspaper readers. Major Lake on one side of the Sutlej, and Lord William Hay at the other, will no doubt exert themselves to get the most complete information respecting the manner of his death, and to secure his valuable collections, instruments, and papers. Some of his followers left for Cashmere, others for the Cis-Sutlege, before the snows set in, for the purpose of making observations."

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From reliable information received from the Commissioner Trans-Sutlege States, we fear but little doubt now remains as to the fate of Mr. Adolphe Schlagintweit. It appears that he was taken prisoner by the Indijans about 12 or 14 months ago, and, if not killed, is still in captivity."

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The Secretary reported that the Council recommended that Capt. H. Strachey's suggestion be adopted, and moved "that the Society do address the Government accordingly."

This resolution having been seconded was put by the chairman and carried unanimously.

2. From Baboo Radha Nauth Sikdar, an Abstract of the Meteorological Observations taken at the Surveyor General's Office, Calcutta, for the month of October, 1858.

*Reduction of Subscription.*

The Council submitted the following report :

"The Council have again taken into consideration the rates of subscriptions of members, with a view to their reduction.

They have long felt that such a measure was on every account most desirable, provided only it could be effected without serious danger to the financial credit of the Society.

An apprehension that the immediate loss of income, which any reduction must occasion, would cause serious embarrassment, and the uncertainty how soon, if ever, the influx of new members would be sufficiently large to restore the balance, has hitherto deterred the Council from recommending any reduction.

The great importance, however, of widening the basis of the society, and obtaining for it a more general support, has been so frequently and urgently pressed upon them, that, after much anxious consideration, they have at length agreed to recommend that the experiment should be tried, trusting that a large accession of members may justify the anticipations of its advocates.

The Council have come to the conclusion that, if any reduction is made, it ought to be a considerable one, in order that the measure may obtain any fair chance of success.

The rules which fix the present rates of payment are as follows :

Rule 8.—Ordinary members shall pay an admission fee of Rs. 32 and a quarterly payment of Rs. 16 in advance, commencing from the quarter in which they are elected, so long as they are resident in India. These rates to be continued for 2 years, and to be then subject to revision.

Rule 10.—It shall be optional for any member to compound for the quarterly contributions by the payment of 500 Rs.

Rule 11.—All sums so paid shall be invested in Company's paper, and kept as a reserve fund, the interest of which alone shall be appropriated to the current expenses of the Society.

The Council propose to rescind these rules and substitute for them the following.

“ Ordinary members shall be divided into two classes,—one *Resident*, one *Non-resident*.

“ All members who reside within 30 miles of Calcutta shall be deemed *Resident*.

“ *Residents* shall pay an admission fee of Rupees 32, and a quarterly payment of Rs. 12.

“ *Non-residents* shall pay an admission fee of Rupees 32, and a quarterly payment of Rs. 6.

“ All payments to be made in advance, commencing from the quarter in which members are elected, and continuing so long as they are resident in India.”

At present the number of paying members is 102, of whom about one-half are resident. Supposing this proportion between residents and non-residents to be maintained in future, the Council have calculated that 200 members of both classes will be required in order to provide for the present necessary expenditure of the Society.



## EXPENDITURE.

General charges for Library, Museum and Establishment, .....	6000
Journal,—say .....	1200
	——
	7200

## INCOME.

100 Residents at Rs. 48, .....	4800
100 Non-Residents at Rs. 24, .....	2400
	——
	7200

The present number of members must therefore be nearly doubled, if the Society is to be enabled to maintain the position it now occupies.

The Council do not disguise from themselves that the measure they are proposing is one which is not free from risk. They are satisfied that it *ought* to be successful, but they are no less impressed with a conviction that to ensure success a resolute effort is necessary.

They therefore make an earnest appeal to all the members of the Society, and more especially to such as have been the active promoters of a reduction, that in the event of the measure being carried, they will use all their influence to obtain for the Society that enlarged support without which its resources must be seriously crippled, and its usefulness proportionally impaired.

The Council entertain the fullest confidence that this appeal will be responded to by all who have at heart the welfare of the Society and the advancement of science and literature in India; and with this conviction they have no hesitation in recommending the proposed measure to the adoption of the Society."

The Secretary proposed that the ordinary general meeting in July be made special for the consideration and final decision of the question, and that in the interval the votes of non-resident members be taken, in compliance with rule 45.

This resolution was put and carried.

The Curator exhibited the skull of a Tibetan *Kyang* (or so called 'wild Horse'), together with that of a *Ghor-khur* (or so called

'wild Ass'), from Bikanir, lent to him for that purpose by Major Robert C. Tytler.

LIBRARY.

List of books received for the April meeting.

*Presentations.*

The Athenæum for January, 1859.

London, Edinburgh and Dublin Philosophical Magazine, No. 112, February, 1859.

Journal Asiatique, No. 48, December, 1858.—BY THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF PARIS.

Proceedings of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, Part VIII. November, 1857, to July, 1858.—BY THE ROYAL INSTITUTE.

Memorandum of Col. A. Cotton on a Railway from Beikul Harbour to Hydrabad.—BY THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Bibidharta Sangraha for Kartic, No. 55.—BY THE EDITOR.

Oriental Christian Spectator for January and February, 1859.—BY THE EDITORS.

Calcutta Christian Observer for March, 1859.

Oriental Baptist for March, 1859.

Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government, Continuation of No. XVIII. New series, Revenue Settlement in the Province of Sind, —BY THE HOME GOVERNMENT.

Selections from the Records of the Madras Government, No. LIV. Papers relating to the Budget of Public Works for 1857-58.

The Calcutta Review for March, 1859.

*Purchased.*

Journal des Savants for January, 1859.

Comptes Rendus, Nos. 2, 3 and 4 for January, 1859.

Literary Gazette, Nos. 30 to 33 for January and February, 1859.

Revue des Deux Mondes for 15th January and 1st February, 1859.

Annales des Sciences Naturelles. Tome IX. No. 5.

Annals and Magazine of Natural History, Vol. III. No. 14.

Westminster Review, No. 29, January, 1859.

The Quarterly Review, No. 209, January, 1859.

The Edinburgh Review, No. 221, January, 1859.

American Journal of Science and Arts, Nos. 78 and 79, November 1858, and January, 1859.

Revue et Magasin de Zoologie, No. 12, 1858, and No. 1, 1859.

Catalogue Annuel de la Librairie Francaise, pour 1858, par Ch. Reinwald.

El-Azraki's Stadt Mecca, by Ferdinand Wüstenfeld, Leipzig. Erster Band, 1858.

Natural History Review and Quarterly Journal of Science, Vol. VI. No. 1, January, 1859.

Memoires sur les Contrees Occidentales par M. Stanislaus Julien. Tome II. Paris, 1858.

Le Boustan de Sádi, Texte Persan avec un commentaire Persan, par Ch. H. Graf. Vienne, 1858.

Opuscula Arabica by William Wright, 1859.

Avesta die Heiligen Schriften der Parsen Von Dr. Friedrich Spiegel, Zweeter Band, Leipzig, 1859.

Dorin, Bernhard. History of the Afghans, from the Persian of Neamut Ullah, London, 1836.

Weber, Dr., Catrunjaya Mahatmyam, Band I. No. 4, Leipzig, 1858.

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#### FOR MAY, 1859.

The Monthly General Meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bengal was held on the 4th instant.

E. A. Samuells, Esq., senior member present, in the chair.

The proceedings of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Presentations were received:—

1.—From Chaloner Alabaster, Esq., some Chinese curiosities in two boxes.

2.—From Mons. Garcin de Tassy, Paris, copy of a pamphlet on the Bostan of Sadi.

3.—From Devidyal Singh, of Benares, through Pundit Iswara Chundra Bidya Sagara, a copy of Manava Dharma Prokash, or Menu Smriti Ka Vasha, being a Hindi translation of the Institutes of Menu.

4.—From the Bombay Government, No. XLIV. of the Selections from the records of that Government.

The following gentlemen duly proposed at the last meeting were balloted for and elected ordinary members :

The Hon'ble G. F. Edmondstone, B. C. S., Lieut.-Governor, North-western provinces (re-elected).

E. C. Bayley, Esq., B. C. S.

Dr. P. Bleeker was elected a corresponding member.

Major R. Tytler, proposed by Mr. Atkiuson and seconded by Mr. Samuells, was named for ballot as an ordinary member at the next meeting.

The Council submitted the following report:—

The Council beg to recommend that Rule 49, which directs that “no person shall be proposed or elected a member of the Society on the day of the annual meeting,” be rescinded.

The annual meeting is devoted specially to business matters relating to the general affairs of the Society; but there is no apparent reason why the election of members, which is strictly a matter of business, should be prohibited.

Practically the rule has been found for the last two years extremely inconvenient. In both years several candidates who had been proposed in December stood over for election till February, and in the former of these years, 1857-58, one candidate who was anxious to be elected in order to make use of the Library expressed annoyance at the delay.

The Council therefore propose to rescind the rule; and as an appeal to non-resident members is in this case necessary under Rule 45, they recommend that the votes of such members be at once taken, so that the question may be disposed of at the special meeting which is to be held after the disposal of the ordinary business on the first Wednesday in July.

Communications were received:

1.—From Messrs. Hermann and Robert Schlagintweit.

A Circular note in reference to the fate of Herr Adolphe Schlagintweit.

The note is as follows:—

SIR,—Lord Stanley, the Secretary of State for India in Council, has been kindly pleased to send us for our information a most carefully compiled collection of official papers and memoranda, which the Government of India as well as several Civil and Military Officers have been good enough to collect in the hope of elucidating the fate of our brother Adolphe Schlagintweit, in charge of the Magnetic Survey of India since 1854.

The papers contain :

1. A large and most elaborate memorandum, which Capt. Henry Strachey, 66th Gorkhas, has given himself the great trouble to compile, partly from evidences of several Natives, partly from notes contained in the Indian newspapers. This memorandum is accompanied by another most valuable communication, the result of Capt. Strachey's indefatigable personal inquiries.

2. Letters from the Dewan of Kashmir to the Chief Commissioner of the Punjaub.

3. Several evidences taken by Major Lake and Messrs. Knox and Taylor, the Civil Officers of the Kangra District.

Besides these official letters, the following gentlemen obliged us by private communications :

a.—Rev. H. Jäschke, Missionary at Kyelong in Lahoul with whom, before starting for Ladak, Adolphe had the pleasure of staying some weeks. The Rev. gentleman also was kind enough to take charge of a part of his luggage, and of such spare instruments which Adolphe did not think advisable to take with him on his journey to the North.

b.—A. C. Gumpert, Esq. Consul of Hamburg and Oldenburg at Bombay who had kindly put himself in communication with several officers of the Panjáb and regularly forwarded us the results of his inquiries.

c.—Lord Elphinstone, Lord Hay, Major Ramsay, Hon'ble W. Elliot, L. Bowring, Esq., W. Russel, Esq., the particularly well informed special correspondent of the *Times* and some other gentlemen, equally obliged us, when occasion presented itself, with their advice and information, in addition to that which we owed to the Indian press. In England especially, Col. Sykes, M. P., and Sir Roderick Murchison communicated us any letters they had received; in Germany it was chiefly our celebrated and most kind friend, Baron Humboldt, who assisted us in making our inquiries.

From an examination of these papers there is but too much reason to fear that Adolphe Schlagintweit has lost his life in Central Asia, probably in Kashgar after having left Yarkand.

Capt. Strachey's last memoir, Almora, January, 1858, says :

“ After the siege of Yarkand was raised, Adolphe Schlagintweit

had joined the Camp of the Turks and accompanied them as far as Kashgar. As they were carrying off with them a lot of their prisoners to be sold for slaves, some of the Bissahirs being among the number, Adolphe Schlagintweit remonstrated that they were British subjects and should be released. On this arose a dispute. The Turks accused Adolphe Schlagintweit of taking part with their enemies and ended by killing him."

A quite recent letter from December 31st, 1858, to January 11th, 1859, from Mr. Vardouguine, Russian Officiating Consul at Tchougoutchak in the Russian part of Central Asia, seems also to confirm his death. We received this letter through the energetic exertions of Prince Gortschakoff and it was delivered to us by Baron Budberg, the Russian Minister at Berlin. This letter had taken an admirably short time to reach us, being the answer to a request of November 8th, 1858. In this letter he is said to have been killed by order of Bouzrook Khan from Kokand who had besieged Kashgar and invaded Turkistan.

We feel most deeply obliged for all these numerous proofs of general sympathy in Europe and India, and we allow ourselves to draw the attention of our friends in India to the fact, that even now it will not be quite impossible to save at least through their zeal a great part of his journals, observations, instruments and collections, which are the more valuable on account of the countries in which they were made.

Capt. Henry Strachey states, that according to information he received, several boxes with collections, drawings, books and some instruments are in Dehra in the Surveyor General's Office; the Missionaries of Lahoul have informed us that similar objects are still left in their charge; we do not think it improbable that even those, which Adolphe Schlagintweit carried with him, during his travels in Turkistan, might be recovered by a plan we have the honor to propose.

We are perfectly aware, that these objects cannot be got without Government's usual energetic assistance, and without the sanctioning the comparatively small expenses necessary for this purpose. In consequence of the following extract of a letter addressed to us by the India House as early as July, 1858, we consider it our duty again officially to request the kind assistance of Government.

The letter says :

With reference to the letter addressed by General Sabine to the Secretary of the Royal Society, dated 14th May, 1858, in which he states " that the eighty stations visited by the Messrs. Schlagintweit are independent of those visited by Adolphe Schlagintweit in his last and fatal journey of which they have a prospect of receiving a journal and observations," the Court expect that you will use every exertion to recover your late brother's Memoranda of the researches on which the Government of India employed him.

(Signed) J. D. DICKINSON.

We therefore have the honor to propose in reference to his manuscripts and collections :

1. That the objects at Dehra be repacked in accordance with Capt. Strachey's plans.

2. That the Missionaries at Lahoul be requested to send at Government's expense from Lahoul to Kangra the collections, observations and instruments, &c., and to draw up a report, specifying the claims to which Hari Chand, the son of the Negi of Lahoul is entitled, for the journeys he undertook last summer in search of our brother.

3. That a note may be issued to the Lieut.-Governor of the Punjab and to the Commissioners of Kamaon, Simla and Kangra authorizing them to distribute freely circulars in the vernacular languages among the trading people of their districts, promising a reward for any papers, drawings, instruments or other property of Adolphe Schlagintweit delivered to them, the amount of remuneration being dependent on the nature and quantity of the property restored. It is beyond all doubt, that the traders would carry on such circulars to Kashmir, Ladak and the countries of Central Asia which Adolphe Schlagintweit has visited.

4. That all the instruments, collections and observations thus recovered, be forwarded to us, if small parcels, overland to Berlin, if boxes, to London, addressed " Schlagintweit, India House," for being worked out and put up like our other collections.

Finally we have the honor to add that copies of this circular note have been officially dispatched,—

To the India House, London; to the Seats of Government in India; and to the following officers and gentlemen in India.

Col. R. J. H. BIRCH, Calcutta.

L. BOWRING, Esq., Private Secy. to the Governor-General.

The Commissioners of Kamaon, Kangra and Simla.

G. EDMONSTONE, Esq., Calcutta.

Hon'ble WALTER ELLIOTT, Madras.

A. C. GUMPERT, Esq., Bombay.

Rev. JASCHKE, Lahoul.

W. MUIR, Esq., Allahabad.

Col. RAMSAY, Nepal.

W. RUSSEL, Esq., Oude.

The President of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta.

Major RICHARD STRACHEY, Ditto.

Capt. HENRY STRACHEY, Ditto.

Col. WAUGH, Mussoori.

We have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedt. Servts.,

(Signed) H. and R. SCHLAGINTWEIT.

The secretary stated that before this circular had reached him he had written a letter to Government on the subject, in accordance with the resolution agreed to by the Society at the last meeting.

He begged to read the letter, which was as follows :

“ FROM THE SECRETARY TO THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL.

“ TO C. BEADON, ESQ.

“ *Secy. Govt. of India, Foreign Department.*

“ SIR,—I am directed by the Asiatic Society of Bengal to address you in reference to the fate of the lamented traveller, Herr Adolphe Schlagintweit.

“ From intelligence which has been received, there is unfortunately little room to doubt that this gentleman was murdered by a party of Turkomans near Yarkand, at the end of 1857, or the beginning of 1858.

“ Accounts of his death have been derived from various sources, but it does not appear, from the information which has reached the Society, that any steps have been taken by the Government officially to ascertain the particulars of his fate, or to recover his papers and



collections, which must be of very considerable interest and importance.

“The Society have therefore directed me to inquire whether the Government have at present moved at all in this matter, and if they have not done so, to express a hope that they will at once take such steps as may be desirable to ascertain the circumstances attending his death more accurately, and if possible to recover his papers and property, thus showing that the Government of India does not regard with indifference the fate of a gentleman employed in the public service, who lost his life in the prosecution of scientific discovery and research.

“I have, &c.,

“(Sd.) W. S. ATKINSON,

“*Secy. Asiatic Society.*”

2.—From Professor Mäx. Muller, of Oxford, a paper on the origin of writing in India, and the probable period at which it came into use for literary purposes.

3.—From Baboo Radhanauth Sikdar, Abstract of the results of the hourly meteorological observations taken at the Surveyor General's Office, in the month of November last.

4.—From E. Blyth, Esq., a paper on the cartilaginous fishes of Lower Bengal.

5.—From the same, a paper containing remarks on the different animals known as wild asses.

6.—From the Secy. to Government, Public Works Department, a paper by Capt. Henderson, on the nature and effects of the recent flood of the Indus.

This paper was read by the Secretary, together with a note by Col. R. Strachey, who differed from Capt. Henderson as to the probable origin of the flood. Some discussion ensued, in which Capt. Yule, Col. Baird Smith, Mr. Oldham, and others took part.

The general impression was that the catastrophe which caused the inundation must have occurred in the neighbourhood of Acho, not far from the Gilgit valley, and not towards the head waters of the Nubra or Shayook, as supposed by Capt. Henderson.

Mr. Samuells read the following note upon the wooden guns taken at the battle of Berhampore by Col. Dunsford in October, 1858, and which he lately presented to the Society:—

“In the proceedings at the February meeting, as published in the newspapers, it is stated that the two wooden guns now before the meeting were presented by me to the Society on behalf of Col. Rowcroft. This is a mistake, arising probably from Col. Rowcroft having last year made me the medium of presenting a chair of state, and other articles, which he had captured at Suttasee in Goruckpore.

“These wooden guns were taken by the force under Col. Dunsford at Berhampore, a place on the road between Buxar and Arrah, where the rebels were signally defeated towards the end of October last. They had no carriages, and were simply laid on raised beds of earth, and pointed over a low wall so as to command the road up which it was supposed our troops would advance.

“The maker, a Nepalese, it is understood, had guaranteed that they should stand three discharges without bursting; but in fact they both burst at the very first discharge. A large piece was blown out of the side of one, which is said to have killed a sepoy in the firing, and the others fairly broke into two pieces.

“These were the only two wooden guns which the rebels ever finished, but several others were found in course of construction at Jugdispore, when the place was captured. The mode of construction was peculiar. The guns, it will be observed, are fashioned out of solid blocks of saul timber, and in order to facilitate the labour of boring and get rid of the sawdust, the blocks were suspended from one end, and allowed to rest on the point of the augur, which was worked from beneath by means of the common native bow. The guns were about six feet in length, and were bored to about two-thirds of their length. A copper cylinder was then inserted as a lining, but it appears to have had no base, and this was probably the chief cause of the destruction of the gun, as the powder must have got in behind the cylinder, and forced the copper forward in a crumpled state when the gun was fired. The diameter of the bore is  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches, and of the block from 9 inches at the muzzle to 12 inches at the breech. It was bound with stout hoops of iron at distances of a few inches apart, and with rope between the hoops. The whole was covered with leather, which, however, had disappeared before the guns came into my possession.

“I have only to add that after the battle of Berhampore the guns

were removed to Buxar, by Mr. Garstin, the Deputy Magistrate at that place, and that I obtained them from him. He informed me that there were several balls of hammered iron belonging to them lying at Doomraon, and promised to forward them, but they have not yet reached me.

“ We have notices of several wooden guns having been observed in Burmah and China, but this is, I think, the first instance of guns of this description having been employed in Indian warfare.”

Major Robert C. Tytler exhibited some fine Positive Photographic illustrations of Indian Architecture and scenery, of which the Negatives as well as the Positives were taken by Mrs. Tytler and himself, chiefly in the Upper Provinces. The pictures were of great beauty and of an extraordinarily large size, being the full size of Hollingsworth’s largest negative paper 22 inches by 18. They elicited great admiration.

Major Tytler remarked that he had brought them to the notice of the Society, chiefly with the object of encouraging Photography, in a scientific point of view ; such illustrations were of great value in elucidating the researches of the Society.

The cordial thanks of the Meeting were voted to Major and Mrs. Tytler for this very interesting exhibition and a hope was expressed that at the next meeting Major Tytler would oblige the Society by shewing a further selection from his Photographs.

The Officiating Librarian submitted the usual monthly report.

#### LIBRARY.

The Library has received the following accessions during the month of April last.

#### *Presented.*

Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society, No. 57, for February, 1859.

Address delivered at the Anniversary Meeting of the Geological Society of London, by the President of the Society.

Journal of the Statistical Society of London, Vol. XXII. Part I., March, 1859, London.

Journal Asiatique, No. 49, January, 1859, Paris.

London, Edinburgh and Dublin Philosophical Magazine and Journal of Science, No. 113, March, 1859.

Annalen der Chemie und Pharmacie, for December, 1858.

Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of London, No. I, 1859, London.

The Athenæum for February, 1859.

The Calcutta Christian Spectator for March, 1859.

Bibidhartha Sangraha for Agrahayun Saka, 1780.

Le Bostan de Saadi, par Garcin de Tassy. Paris, 1859.

Annals of the Indian Administration, Part I. Vol. III. March, 1859.—

BY THE HOME DEPARTMENT.

Manuva Dhurma Prokash, or the Institutes of Menu in Hindui.—By DEVIDYALL.

Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government, No. XLIV. Report of the examination of the Mineral Districts of the Nerbudda Valley.—By J. H. BLACKWELL, Esq.

Quaritch's Catalogue of valuable Books. London, 1859. 2 copies.

*Books purchased.*

Garnett, Rev. Richard, Philological Essays. London, 8vo. 1859.

Annals and Magazine of Natural History, &c. No. XV. March, 1859, London.

Journal des Savants, for February, 1859, Paris.

Grimm, Jacob und Wilhelm, Deutsches Wörterbuch—Dritten Bandes erste Lieferung Leipzig, 1859.

Brockhaus, Hermann, Die Lieder des Hafis, Persisch mit dem Commentare des Sudi, Zweiten Bandes Zweites Heft, Leipzig, 1859.

Comptes Rendus, Tome 48, Nos. 6, 7 and 8. Paris, 1859.

Revue des Deux Mondes, for 15th February and 1st March, 1859, Paris.

Literary Gazette, Nos. 34 to 37 for February, 1859.