

tary then read Mr Hay Cunningham's paper on the geology of the islands of Eigg, Rume, and Canna; exhibiting, at the same time, illustrative sections and specimens.—The Secretary read a memoir by Mr James Macnab on the local distribution of trees in the native forests of North America.—Professor Jameson placed before the meeting a series of birds from the Himmalaya Mountains, most of which seem identical with the European species, including the *Gypaëtas barbatus*; *Falco tinnunculus*, subbuteo; *Nisus communis*; *Circus cyaneus*, cineraceus, æruginosus; *Lanius excubitor*; *Oriolus galbula*; *Turdus merula*; *Gracula rosea*, cyanea; *Sylvia rubecola*, tithys; *Saxicola stapazina*; *Curruca atricapilla*; *Sturnus vulgaris*; *Upupa epops*; *Picus major*, viridis; *Yunx torquilla*; *Pyrgita domestica*; *Anthus arboreus*; *Hæmatopus ostralegus*.

Bindon Blood, Esq., Vice-President, in the chair.—Sir Patrick Walker exhibited a specimen of a small species of the Mus family, possessing some of the characters of the Marmot, which had been found on his property at Drumsheugh, in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, its haunts having been disturbed by the progress of building.—Mr Macgillivray read remarks on varieties of the Fox observed in Scotland. The author distinguished four races or varieties: 1. The *Hound Fox*, tall, slender in the limbs, with a very attenuated muzzle, a bright reddish-yellow fur, the lower parts of the body greyish-white, the tail yellowish-grey, with long black hairs scattered towards its extremity, and about three inches of the tip white. 2. The *Cur Fox*, similar to the hound fox, but smaller, with the body deeper, the legs shorter, the tip of the tail white. These two races seem to pass into each other, and can scarcely be distinguished except in the extremes. 3. The *Dog Fox*, compact in form, with comparatively short limbs, the head rather broad, the muzzle pointed, the fur deep red, the lower parts brownish-red, the tail yellowish-grey, darkened with black hairs, and having the tip of the same

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colour. 4. The *Mastiff Fox*, larger and stronger, its limbs more robust; the head much broader, a dull greyish-yellow fur, profusely interspersed with whitish hairs, the tail dusky, with long black hairs scattered over it, and a small white tip.—Dr Traill then exhibited a series of beautiful and correct drawings of British quadrupeds, cetacea, birds, reptiles, and fishes, executed by Mr Macgillivray, and which are intended for his projected work on the vertebrate animals of Great Britain. The Assistant-Secretary read Mr Nicol's account of his examination of the specimens of fossil wood from the island of Mull, collected by Mr Cunningham; also of various specimens from the North African Desert, collected by Mr Munro and others from the Karoo Ground in Southern Africa.

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Dr Charles Anderson, formerly Vice-President, in the chair.—The Assistant-Secretary read Mr Hay Cunningham's paper on the geology of the Island of Skye, which was accompanied by numerous sketches and specimens.—Sir Patrick Walker laid before the meeting a series of fine marbles which he had brought from the quarries of Bagnères de Bigorre.—Professor Jameson exhibited and described a series of birds from the Himalayan Mountains, considered as identical, or nearly so, with the European: *Strix passerina*; *Alcedo ispida*; *Parus major*; *Motacilla alba*, *boarula*; *Garrulus glandarius*; *Caryocatactes vulgaris*; *Ardea nycticorax*; *Numenius arquata*, *phœopus*; *Tringa squatarola*, *hypoleucos*, *pusilla*, *ochropus*; *Charadrius pluvialis*; *Cursorius hæmantopus*; *Podiceps minor*; *Ædicnemus crepitans*; *Pterocles arenarius*; *Anas clypeata*, *penelope*, *querquedula*, *crecca*. After exhibiting and comparing the trivial characters of the above species with the European, it was stated, that even if all the external characters were the same, but if the shape of the head differed, we were entitled, from that character alone, to make a new species; and as illustrative of this opinion, it was stated, on the authority of Brehm and others, that, gene-