

aggregation with which they are invested. We have the elephant, then as at present, the largest of land animals, a fit supporter of the infant world; in the serpent Basokee, used at the churning of the ocean, we may trace a representative of the gigantic Indian python; and in the bird-god Garúda, with all his attributes, we may detect the gigantic crane of India (*Ciconia gigantea*) as supplying the origin. In like manner, the *Colossochelys* would supply a consistent representative of the tortoise that sustained the elephant and the world together. But if we are to suppose that the mythological notion of the tortoise was derived, as a symbol of strength, from some one of those small species which are now known to exist in India, this congruity of ideas, this harmony of representation would be at once violated; it would be as legitimate to talk of a rat or a mouse contending with an elephant, as of any known Indian tortoise to do the same in the case of the fable of Garúda. The fancy would scout the image as incongruous, and the weight even of mythology would not be strong enough to enforce it on the faith of the most superstitious epoch of the human race.

“But the indications of mythological tradition are in every case vague and uncertain, and in the present instance we would not lay undue weight on the tendencies of such as concern the tortoise. We have entered so much at length on them on this occasion, from the important bearing which the point has on a very remarkable matter of early belief entertained by a large portion of the human race. The result at which we have arrived is, that there are fair grounds for entertaining the belief as probable that the *Colossochelys Atlas* may have lived down to an early period of the human epoch and become extinct since:—1st, from the fact that other Chelonian species and crocodiles, contemporaries of the *Colossochelys* in the Sewalik fauna, have survived; 2nd, from the indications of mythology in regard to a gigantic species of tortoise in India.”

Report of Curator, Zoological Department, for February Meeting, 1855.

SIR,—The following specimens have been added to the Museum since the preparation of my last Report.

1. From Capt. T. C. Blgrave. A small collection, procured (as there is reason to believe) in the Alpine Punjab. Of mammalia, are sent one Bat, *NYCTIGIGUS LUTEUS*, and skulls of *GAZELLA CORA*. And of birds, the following species, including one novelty.—*GARRULAX LINEATUS*, *PARUS CINEREUS*, *PASSER INDICUS* (albinoid young), *P. CINNAMOMEUS*, *HESPERI-*

PHONA AFFINIS, *n. s.** HETERURA SYLVANA, MOTACILLA BOARULA, DRYMOICA CEINIGER, LANIUS HARDWICKII, MONTICOLA CINCLORHYNCHA, PRATINCOLA FERREA, MUSCICAPULA SUPERCILIARIS, STOPAROLA MELANOPS, PHYLLOSCOPUS VIRIDANUS, and TURTUR ORIENTALIS.

2. Lt. S. Owen, 19th B. N. I. The skin of a Tern, procured in the Bay of Bengal; being the young of ONYCHOPRION MELANAUCHEN, (Tem.), formerly described by the provisional name *Sterna (?) marginata* in *J. A. S.* XV, 373. This specimen is peculiarly interesting, as further confirming, by its coloration, the propriety of arranging the species as an ONYCHOPRION. The head is quite as in O. ANASTHÆTUS; and the dusky hue of other species of the genus is conspicuously shewn on the anterior margin of the wing, and less intensely on the remiges. The structure is altogether that of ONYCHOPRION.

3. Capt. Berdmore, Scheu Gyen, Pegu. Skin of CAPRICORNIS SUMATRENSIS; and a young living Monkey, apparently of the species INUUS ARCTOIDES.

4. Capt. S. R. Tickell, Maulmein. A few bird-skins, including TRICHASTOMA ABBOTTI, nobis; never previously received from so southern a locality.

5. From the Barrackpore menagerie. A dead Tenasserim Pheasant, GALLOPHASIS LINEATUS.

6. Mons. St. Ives. A pair of small Australian birds, MYZANTHE HIRUNDINACEA.

7. Capt. W. S. Sherwill. Two snakes in spirit, BOA CONICA and LYCODON AULICUS.

* HESPERIPHONA AFFINIS, nobis. Nearly affined to H. ICTERIOIDES (*Coccothraustes icterioides*, Vigors). From which the male is distinguished,—1, by being smaller, the closed wing measuring $4\frac{3}{4}$ in. (instead of $5\frac{1}{4}$ in.) and tail $3\frac{1}{4}$ in. (instead of $3\frac{3}{4}$ in.);—2, by the black portion of the plumage being of a deep and shining black, instead of being dull with a distinct ashy tinge;—and 3, by having black axillaries and yellow tibial feathers, instead of yellow axillaries and black tibials, as in H. ICTERIOIDES. The females are much more dissimilar: that of H. AFFINIS having the upper parts olive-green, tinged with yellow on the collar and rump, and more brightly on the lower parts; wings and tail black, the coverts, secondaries and tertiaries broadly margined externally with yellowish olive-green, occupying the whole outer web of the last; crown and ear-coverts ash-coloured, passing to pale grey on the throat. Young male like the adult, but the yellow much less intense. The adult male so nearly resembles that of H. ICTERIOIDES, that its distinctness would scarcely have been suspected, had it not been for the great difference of the other sex.

8. Capt. H. B. Weston. Some portions of timber honey-combed by the *TEREDO NAVALIS*.

9. Mr. P. Anderson (provisionally). The carcass of a Caracal (*FELIS CARACAL*), from Multan; both skin and skeleton of which have been prepared.

We have also to notice a small purchased collection of bird-skins, which has yielded several species new to the museum, and among them some of considerable rarity and beauty. They are from various parts of the world. From China, a fine specimen of the Mandarin Duck (*AIX GALE-RICULATA*), in splendid plumage. From Malacca, *IERAX EUTOLMOS*, Hodgson, never before recorded from so southern a locality, though known to inhabit the Tenasserim provinces; and two or three others. From Australia, *TINUNCULUS CENCHROIDES*; *ACCIPITER TORQUATUS*, *juv.*; the beautiful Chesnut bronze-wing Pigeon, *PHAPS ELEGANS*; *AMADINA OCULEA*; and other species new to the museum. From S. Africa, *TROGON (APALODERMA) NARINA* (fine); *HYPHANTORNIS (?) OCULARIUS*; and *NECTARINIA SENEGALENSIS*, of extreme beauty. From America two superb Jays, *CYANOCORAX (Uroleuca, Pr. Bonap.) CYANOLEUCA*, Pr. Max. (*Corvus cristatellus*, Tem.), and *CYANOGARULUS CORONATUS*, (Swainson); *AMPELIS CAROLINENSIS* (very fine); two Parrots, *CYANOLISEUS PATAGONICUS*, and *MICROSITTACE SQUAMATA*, (Latham, v. *versicolor*, Shaw, and *erythrogaster*, Lichtenstein); *PHIBALURA FLAVIROSTRIS*; *TITYRA ROSEICOLLIS*; *SALTATOR MAGNUS*, (Gm.); *S. RUBICUS*, Vieillot; *CALLOSPIZA CAYANNENSIS*; *PITYLUS AUREIVENTRIS*, *juv.*; *EMBERNAGRA Sp.*; *CERÆRA CYANEA*, fœm.; *DACNIS CAYANA*; *TRICHAS MARILARDICA*; *TR. CANICAPILLA (Tanagra canicapilla*, Swainson, *Zool. Ill.* 1st series, pl. 174; *Tr. Delafieldi*, Audubon); *PIPRA* (2 sp., undetermined); and *TRINGA PECTORALIS*: altogether an interesting series of acquisitions. E. BLYTH.

LIBRARY.

The following books have been added to the library since Dec. last.

Presented.

The Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York, for 1851-52.—BY THE LYCEUM.

A Narrative of a Mission of Inquiry to the Jewish Synagogue at Kae-fung-foo, 8vo. pamphlet.—BY HIS GRACE THE BISHOP OF VICTORIA.

Facsimiles of the Hebrew MSS. obtained at the Jewish Synagogue in Kae-fung-foo, 8vo. pamphlet.—BY THE SAME.

Catalogue of the Described Coleoptera of the United States, by F. E. Melsheimer, Washington, 1853, 8vo.—BY THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, Vol. VI.—BY THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

Norton's Literary Register, for 1854, 12mo.—BY THE SAME.

Seventh Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution for 1853.—BY THE SAME.

Literaturgeschichte der Araber, V. Band 2, abtheilung. By the Baron Von-Hammer Purgstall.—BY THE AUTHOR.

Bijdragen tot de Zool-Land en Volkenkunde von Neerlandsch Indie, Vols. I. II.—BY THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF NETHERLANDS, INDIA.

Die Neusten Forschungen auf dem Gebiete des Buddhismus, Von A. Weber, pamphlet.—BY THE AUTHOR.

Collection des Ouvrages Orientaux. Ibn Batutah, 2 Vols. 8vo.—BY THE SOCIÉTÉ ASIATIQUE.

Transactions of the Bombay Geographical Society, Vol. XI.—BY THE SOCIETY.

Memoirs of the Royal Astronomical Society, Vol. XXII.—BY THE SOCIETY.

Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, Vol. XIII.—BY THE SOCIETY.

Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Vol. II. p. III.—BY THE ACADEMY.

Natuurkundig Tydschrift voor Nederlandsch Indie. Decl VII. p. III. and IV.—BY THE EDITOR.

Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society, No. 40.—BY THE SOCIETY.

Indische Studien, Vol. III. p. I.—BY THE EDITOR.

Selections from the Records of the Madras Government, No. II.—FROM THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Report on the Trade and Commerce of the British North American Colonies. By J. D. Andrews, 1 Vol. 8vo.—BY THE AUTHOR.

Collection Orientale. Le Livre des Rois, Vol. III.—BY THE FRENCH GOVT.

Ruze Rondom Het Eiland Celebes von G. van der Hart.—BY THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGES OF NETHERLANDS INDIA.

Banka Malakka en Billiton, Verslagen von Dr. J. H. Croockewill, 1 Vol. 8vo.—BY THE SAME.

Kitab Tochpah Javoosch Mohammedoansch Wortboek. Door Mr. S. Keiysers.—BY THE SAME.

Oriental Christian Spectator, for January, 1855.—BY THE EDITOR.

Die neuern Forschungen über das alte Indien, Von Dr. A. Weber, 12mo. pamphlet.—BY THE AUTHOR.

Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia, for May and June, 1854.—BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

The Calcutta Christian Observer, for January, 1855.—BY THE EDITOR.

The Oriental Baptist, No. 97.—BY THE EDITOR.

The Upadeshak, No. 97.—BY THE EDITOR.

Address of the Right Hon'ble the Earl Rosse, President, read at the Anniversary Meeting of the Royal Society on Wednesday, November 30th, 1853.—BY THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

Proceedings of the Royal Society, for 1852.—BY THE SAME.

Philosophical Transactions, for 1852, p. II.—BY THE SAME.

Address to the Individual Members of the Board of Visitors of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, June, 1853.—BY THE SAME.

Natural History of New York, Parts V. 3 vols. Part VI. Vol. II.—BY THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

Notices of the Meetings of the Royal Institution, part IV.—BY THE INSTITUTION.

Purchased.

Johnson's Dictionary in Persian, Arabic and English, 1 vol. 4to.

Extract du Fakhri Traité d'Algèbre par Abu Bekr Mohammad ben Alhaçan Alkharkhi. Par F. Woepeke.

The Annals and Magazine of Natural History, No. 84.

Westergaard's Zendavesta, Vol. I. pp. i. ii. iii.

Chodzko's Grammaire Persane.

Vuller's Lexicon, Persico-Latinum, 2 parts.

Westergaard's Bundeshesh.

Renan's Averroas et l' Averroisme.

Journal des Savants—for September, October and November, 1854.

Weber's White Yajur Veda, Part II. Nos. 2-3, 20 copies.

Anvar i Soheli, being the Persian version of the Fables of Bidpae. By Husain Vaiz Keshifi,

Exchanged.

The Athenæum for October and November, 1855.

Philosophical Magazine, No. 55.