

which had been extracted by him from the eye of a man, who was ignorant of its having entered it. The presence of some foreign substance in the ball of the eye was inferred from the constant inflammation kept up in the organ.

Stated Meeting, December 1.

Present, eighteen members.

Dr. PATTERSON, Vice President, in the Chair.

Letters were received:—

From the President of Harvard University, dated Oct. 18, 1843, acknowledging the receipt of No. 26 of the Proceedings:—

From William B. Rally, Esq., dated Baltimore, Nov. 20, 1843, on the subject of a proposed scientific correspondence between the Royal Academy of Bohemia and this Society:—

From Sir William Jardine, dated Jardine Hall (Scotland), Oct. 28, 1843, in regard to his work on the Scottish Salmonidæ.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Journal Asiatique. Quatrième Série. Tome I. Nos. 5 et 6. Mai et Juin, 1843. 8vo.—*From the Asiatic Society of Paris.*

Annales des Mines. Quatrième Série. Tome III. 1ère Livraison. Paris, 1843. 8vo.—*From the Engineers of Mines.*

Transactions of the Historical and Literary Committee of the American Philosophical Society. Vol. III. Part I. Philadelphia, 1843. 8vo.—*One copy presented by Samuel Breck, Esq., and one copy by Job R. Tyson, Esq.*

Journal of the Franklin Institute. Vol. VI. Nov. 1843. 8vo.—*From Dr. R. M. Patterson.*

The African Repository, and Colonial Journal. Vol. XIX. No. 11. November, 1843. 8vo.—*From the American Colonization Society.*

A Manual of Gold and Silver Coins of all Nations, struck within the

- past Century, &c. &c. By Jacob R. Eckfeldt and William E. Du Bois, Assayers of the Mint of the United States. Philadelphia, 1842. 4to.—*From the Authors.*
- Memoir on the Reconnaissance of Rivers. Translated from the French by Lieut. W. R. Palmer, U. S. Corps of Topographical Engineers. Philadelphia, 1843. 8vo. 2 copies.—*From the Translator.*
- Vierter Bericht über das Museum Francisco-Carolinum. Linz, 1840. 8vo.—*From the Rev. Professor Rally, of Baltimore.*
- Fünfter Bericht über das Museum Francisco-Carolinum. Linz, 1841. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Sechster Bericht über das Museum Francisco-Carolinum. Linz, 1842. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Zweyter Bericht über die Leistungen des Vaterländischen Bereines zur Bildung eines Museums für das Erzherzogthum Oesterreich ob der Enns und das Herzogthum Salzburg. Linz, 1836. 4to. *From the same.*
- Der Führer im Salzkammergute und auf der Linz. By W. B. Rally. Wien, 1841. 12mo.—*From the same.*
- Die Donaureise von Regensburg bis Linz. By W. B. Rally. Wien, 1840. 12mo.—*From the same.*
- Statuten des Bereines: Museum Francisco-Carolinum. Linz, 1841. 8vo.—*From the same.*

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY BY PURCHASE.

- Journal Général de la Littérature de France. Douzième Cahier. Décembre, 1841. 8vo.
- Title and Index to L'Institut. 1ère Section, Tome X. 2ème Section, Tome VII.
- Astronomische Nachrichten. Nos. 487, 488. September, 1843. 4to.

Dr. Bache announced the death of Mr. Ferdinand Rudolph Hassler, a member of the Society, at the age of 73 years, which occurred in this city on the 21st of November last.

Mr. Thomas Gilpin read an Essay on the Position of the Organic Remains, as connected with a former tropical region of the earth.

The general principle advocated in this essay is, that the position of the organic remains gives evidence that in a former zone of equatorial heat the tropical products encircled the earth uniformly, and of course under different influences from any of the present climates.

The location of this zone, for which the appellation of *the organic zone* is assumed, is on a south-west direction as it passes from the north-east of Europe. It is indicated from thence by the fossil remains of ancient animals, and by the consecutive coal field districts of Germany, France, England and Ireland; and it is again found through Newfoundland and Nova Scotia; and, with the exception of the granite region of New England, it is largely developed through the centre of the United States, as in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and the Mississippi country and Texas; and thus it is *specifically established through one-third of the circuit of the earth.*

Continuing in the same course, it crosses in a straight line into the southern hemisphere, and appears in New Zealand, New Holland, part of China, the Kingdom of Ava, and the Himalaya Mountains, so as to come to the commencement of the circuit.

In all this latter part of the route, through the islands and through Asia, coal is found under the same circumstances and appearances as in Europe and America; and along all the circuit, the fossils of the great elephantine animals are more largely distributed than on any other part of the earth: they have also been taken, in this course, out of the ocean and deep sea of the British Channel, along the shores of which they are found on the recess of the waters. But the essay states that the theory does not depend upon the location of the remains of these animals, "*partly migratory*" in search of feeding ground in changes of climate, but upon vegetable and animal remains of the more resident animals of the land and ocean—for "*these have not migrated.*"

The facts claimed in favour of this essay are stated to be,—

1. That there is around the earth, in the direction described, a uniform zone of former vegetable and animal life, to which the fossil remains belong.
2. That the zone has been tropical or torrid, and has passed through nearly all the present climates.
3. That a uniformity of products has been found in many places, but not noticed heretofore to have pertained to a general connexion.

The general principles of this essay are offered as a substitution for the former hypothesis, which attributed the anterior existence of the tropical plants in the cold latitudes to an original high state of heat of the earth, and that they grew upon it when it had become cooled to a proper temperature to favour them; and a statement is made of the comparative claim of both these propositions.

The essay closes with a general reference to the changes which

have taken place in the climates and waters of the earth, by the gradual influences of the precession of the equinoxes and the perihelion position, during the astronomical course under which the sun and earth have been related to each other.

In the course of the essay, references are made largely to the geological authorities.

Professor Bache, on behalf of Dr. John Locke of Cincinnati, communicated the results of four magnetic tours in the United States and Territories. Dr. Locke proposes to communicate the details of his observations at a future day.

The Treasurer submitted his annual account; and Mr. Lea presented the Report of the Publication Committee.

Dr. Patterson, from the Committee on the erection of an Observatory, and the Committee on the Museum property, reported finally; and on his motion, the Committees were discharged.

Stated Meeting, Dec. 15.

Present twenty-four members.

Dr. BACHE, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters were received and read:—

From the Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, dated London, Nov. 17, 1843, acknowledging the receipt of the Transactions and Proceedings:—and

From Mr. W. P. Smith, dated Dec. 15, 1843, in reference to certain taxes on the Museum property.

The letter of Mr. Smith was referred to the Finance Committee, to report thereon.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

The Medical News and Library. Vol. I. No. 2. December, 1843.
8vo.—*From Lea & Blanchard.*

Introductory Lecture before the Medical Class of the University of Pennsylvania, delivered November 9th, 1843. By W. E. Horner, M.D. 8vo.—*From the Author.*