

*Stated Meeting, May 18.*

Present, ten members.

JUDGE KANE, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters were read:—

From the Imperial Academy of Sciences at Vienna, dated Dec. 27, 1854:—from the Royal Society of London, dated Jan. 25, 1855; and—from the Linnean Society, dated London, Nov. 10, 1854—returning thanks for Vol. X. Part 3, of the Transactions, and Nos. 49, 50 of the Proceedings of this Society:—

From the Batavian Society of Experimental Sciences at Rotterdam, dated Dec. 13, 1854, acknowledging the receipt of the Transactions, Vol. X. Part 3, and of No. 49 of the Proceedings.

From the Bavarian Royal Academy of Sciences, dated Munich, Dec. 20, 1854, returning acknowledgments for Vol. X. Part 3, of the Transactions, and Nos. 49, 50, of the Proceedings,—and also announcing a donation for the Library of the Society: and—

From the Etat Major of the Corps of Mining Engineers of Russia, dated St. Petersburg, May 1, 1854; and—from the Ethnological Society of London, dated Jan. 1, 1855, accompanying donations for the Library.

A letter was also read from the Royal Society of Sciences at Göttingen, as follows:—

*To the American Philosophical Society, at Philadelphia:—*

On the night of February 23, at one o'clock, *Charles Frederick Gauss* closed, in the 78th year of his age, his renowned earthly career. Since the year 1802, the Royal Society of Sciences has with pride called him its own, and is now plunged in the deepest grief by the great and irreparable loss of its honoured oldest member and former director.

The universal respect and admiration enjoyed by this great mathematician, astronomer and physicist, warrant a kind participation with the Society in their just sorrow.

This notice is very respectfully communicated, in the name of the Royal Society of Sciences, by the Secretary.

HAUSMANN.

Göttingen, 26th Feb. 1855.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

- Annales de l'Observatoire Physique Central de Russie, publiées par ordre de sa Majesté l'Empereur Nicolas I. sous les auspices de S. Exc. M. de Brock, Ministre des Finances, &c. Par A. T. Kupffer, Directeur de l'Observatoire. Année 1851. Nos. 1, 2. St. Petersburg, 1853. 4to.—*From the Corps of Mining Engineers of Russia.*
- Abhandlungen der Mathematisch Physikalischen Classe der Königl. Bayerischen Akademie der Wissenschaften. Band VII. Abth. 2. München, 1854. 4to.—*From the Royal Bavarian Academy of Sciences.*
- Jahrbuch der K. K. Geologische Reichsanstalt. V. Jahrgang, 1854. No. 3. Jul. Aug. Sept. Wien. 8vo.—*From the Imperial Geological Institute, Vienna.*
- Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, for the year 1854. Vol. 144. Parts 1, 2. London. 4to.
- Proceedings of the Royal Society of London. Vol. VI. No. 102. Vol. VII. Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10:—With the Address of the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Rosse, &c. &c. President: delivered at the Anniversary Meeting of the Royal Society, on Thursday, Nov. 30, 1854. London. 8vo.—*From the Society.*
- Astronomical and Magnetical and Meteorological Observations made at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, in the year 1853, under the direction of George Biddell Airy, Esq. M.A. Astronomer Royal. London. 4to.—*From the same.*
- Catalogue of Stars near the Ecliptic, observed at Markree during the years 1852, 3, 4, and whose places are supposed to be hitherto unpublished. Vol. III. Containing 15,018 stars. Dublin, 1854. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Journal of the Ethnological Society of London. Vol. III. London, 1854. 8vo.—*From the Society.*
- A Manual of Ethnological Inquiry: being a series of Questions concerning the Human Race,—prepared by a sub-committee of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, appointed in

- 1851, and adapted for the use of Travellers and others, in studying the varieties of Man. London, 1852. 8vo.—*From the same.*
- Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society. Vol. XV. No. 5. March 9, 1855. London. 8vo.—*From the Society.*
- Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History. Vol. V. No. 11. Boston, 1855. 8vo.—*From the Society.*
- Journal of the Franklin Institute. Third Series. Vol. XXIX. No. 5. May, 1855. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From the Institute.*
- The American Journal of Science and Arts. Second Series. Vol. XIX. No. 57. May, 1855. New Haven. 8vo.—*From Profs. Silliman & Dana, Editors.*
- Martin Behaim, the German Astronomer and Cosmographer of the times of Columbus:—being the Tenth Annual Discourse before the Maryland Historical Society, Jan. 25, 1855. By John G. Morris, D.D. Baltimore. 8vo.—*From the Maryland Historical Society.*
- Nineteenth Report of the Executive Committee of the Young Men's Association of the City of Buffalo: Also Record of the Proceedings of the Association. Buffalo, 1855. 8vo.—*From the Association.*
- Beobachtungen und Wahrnehmungen welche bei der totalen Sonnenfinsterniss am 28 Juli, 1851, gemacht worden sind. Von Dr. Busch, Director der Königl. Sternwarte zu Königsberg, &c. 1852. 8vo.
- Beobachtungen der totalen Sonnenfinsterniss am 28 Juli, 1851, und Bestimmung der geographischen Lage des Leuchthturms zu Rixhöft, von Busch und Fearnley. Herausgegeben von Dr. A. L. Busch, Director der Königl. Universitäts Sternwarte in Königsberg. 1854. Folio.—*From the same.*
- Fossil Foot-marks in the Red Sandstone of Pottsville, Pennsylvania. By Isaac Lea, Vice-President of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, &c. &c. Philadelphia, 1855. Large Folio.—*From the Author.*
- The African Repository. Vol. XXXI. No. 5. May, 1855. Washington. 8vo.—*From the American Colonization Society.*
- Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. New Series. Vol. III. Part 1. Philadelphia, 1855. 4to.—*From the Academy.*

Dr. Coates read extracts from a letter received by him from Dr. L. P. Yandell, Professor of the Institutes of Medicine in

the University of Louisville, Kentucky, relative to some statements in the obituary notice of Dr. Caldwell, read before the Society in January last, and published in pamphlet form. In this pamphlet, in speaking of Dr. Caldwell's connection with the University, and of its medical class, it is said, "Its numbers reached four hundred. After he left it, these advantages underwent a slow but visible and progressive decline." Dr. Yandell shows that the diminution in the number of students is mainly to be attributed to the establishment of other medical schools in Louisville and Nashville, after Dr. Caldwell left the University.

The minutes of the Board of Officers and Council at their last meeting were read. In accordance with the recommendation of the Board, it was agreed that an amendment to the laws of the Society be proposed, as follows:—In Chap. I. Art. 10, add the words "and pay their admission fee," after the word "laws," in the third line of the article.

The recommendation of the Board with regard to giving notice concerning the Magellanic Premium, was adopted, as follows: "That the Secretaries be authorized to publish so much of the conditions of the Premium as they may think proper, once a year in the American Journal of Science and Arts,—the Journal of the Franklin Institute,—and in the Proceedings of this Society."

So much of the report of the Board as relates to the application of the fund advanced by the city to the Society, in aid of astronomical observations, was referred to a committee of three members, to be appointed by the presiding officer and announced at next meeting.

So much of the report of the Board as relates to re-engraving the seal of the Society, was referred to a committee to consider and report upon a proper device for a new seal, should a change of device be deemed expedient. The Committee consists of Dr. Franklin Bache, Mr. Fraley and Mr. Peale.