

*March 5th.*

DR. ELWYN in the Chair.

A communication was read from the American Philosophical Society, dated March 2d, 1850, acknowledging the receipt of Part 4, Vol. 1, of the Journal of the Academy.

A letter from H. W. Ravenel, Esq., dated Black Oak, South Carolina, Feb. 26th, 1850, stating his intention to forward without delay a package of South Carolina plants for the Academy, and making inquiries respecting exchanges. Referred to the Botanical Committee.

Dr. Morton presented the following letter from Elliot Cresson, Esq., of Philadelphia, addressed to the members of the Academy, dated March 5th.

“It will doubtless be gratifying to you to learn that the attention of scientific men is turned, with deep interest, upon the long neglected continent of Africa: and it is equally due to you and to the distinguished gentlemen who have made so liberal an offer, to state that Hon. John Short, of Cincinnati, and Professor Charles Short, of Louisville, have most munificently offered to bear all the expense of a botanical mission to Africa, provided a person of proper zeal and other qualifications can be obtained for the service. Professor Christy, of Oxford, Ohio, has also expressed to us his wish to make a geological survey of Africa.”

The letter was, on motion, referred to the Zoological Committee.

The following, from the same, was also read.

*Extract from a letter from Senator Stephen A. Benson to Elliott Cresson, dated Bassa Cove, Republic of Liberia, October 28th, 1849.*

“I had almost forgotten to tender you my thanks for the pamphlet forwarded to me, containing some observations on the Hippopotamus *Liberiensis*. This animal inhabits all the larger rivers of Liberia, and I have known seven in all to be killed by the natives living near the St. John’s river, but have never seen but one myself. This one was shot by a native in 1835, on an island in this river opposite Bexley, and so far as I can now remember, it corresponded with the description given by Dr. Morton and his correspondents. The natives say that they are to be frequently seen upon the islands opposite and above Bexley.”

*March 12th.*

MR. PEARSALL in the Chair.

A note was read from Elliott Cresson, Esq., dated Philadelphia, March 8th, 1850, presenting a collection of Coleopterous insects from Liberia.

A letter from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, dated Boston, March 6th, 1850, acknowledging the receipt of Part 4, Vol. 1, new series of the Journal, and requesting a copy of the first series, and