

From the Editor. A Few Answers to the Arguments put forward by the Speakers at the Great Meeting in St. George's Hall, January 20, 1856, in Defence of the Sabbath: extracted from the Liverpool Press. Liverpool and London. 8vo. 2 copies.

From Mr. Genn, presented through Mr. Burke. The Humourist; a Comedy, by Thomas Shadwell: London, 1671. Dedicated to the Duchess of Newcastle, and bearing the autograph of Henry Duke of Newcastle, 1676.

Dr. Hume drew the attention of the Society to some beautiful maps, which are in course of publication. They are accompanied by pictorial and ethnological illustrations; and the political dependencies are beautifully grouped, when possible, round their respective centres.

The following paper was then read, viz:—

“ON THE AREA AND POPULATION OF THE MANCHESTER DISTRICT.” *By J. T. Danson, Esq., V. P.**

21st February, 1856. SCIENTIFIC SECTION.

THE REV. DR. THOM, V. P., in the Chair.

The following Donations were laid upon the table:—

From the Society. Transactions of the Ashmolean Society, vol. i (wanting parts 1 and 8, which are out of print); vol. ii.

From the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Twenty-fourth Annual Report—Liverpool Meeting. 1855.

From Mr. Thomas Gray. Statistics of South Australia, for 1854, compiled from authentic official records in the Colonial Secretary's office, Adelaide.

Mr. Sansom mentioned that the arrangement of the Society's Herbarium was progressing, and submitted for exhibition a series of the rarer plants possessed by the Society.

Mr. C. S. Gregson exhibited four cases of British Lepidoptera, in illustration of his paper for the evening.

Mr. Moore, of the Derby Museum, laid before the Society three pairs of horns, of the Chiru, (Antelope (Pantholops,) Hodgsonii, Abel,) the so-called “Unicorn” of Thibet; also a pair of horns of the Prong Horn Antelope, of North America; and another pair, presenting some remarkable points of difference. These were described shortly before, by Dr. Gray, of the British Museum, as those of the *Antilocapra Anteflexa*, from this specimen, the only one yet obtained.

Mr. Moore read the following remarks, explanatory of these specimens:

ON A SUPPOSED NEW SPECIES OF PRONG-HORNED ANTELOPE FROM NORTH AMERICA.
By Mr. Thomas J. Moore, of the Derby Museum.

The series of Mammalia in the Derby Museum, contains the head and horns of the remarkable Cabrit or Prong-horn Antelope of North America, and also a pair of horns similar in general character, but bent in an exactly opposite direction. I placed them in the hands of Dr. Gray of the British Museum; and after due consideration, they

* Transactions, p. 165.

were described by him before the Zoological Society of London, as a probable new species, under the name of *Antilocapra anteflexa*. As Dr. Gray's description is attached to the specimen now exhibited, it is unnecessary to repeat it here. I am in possession of no other information respecting it except a fact which I learned after placing the horns in Dr. Gray's hands, and that is, that both pairs of horns were obtained by Mr. Burke in North-West America, but in what exact locality was not stated. The common species ranges from 53° North to the plains of Mexico and California, and is found in considerable numbers on the banks of the Colombia and Saskatchewan rivers.

ON THE HORNS OF THE CHIRU, (*Antelope (Pantholops) Hodgsonii*, Abel), THE SO-CALLED UNICORN OF THIBET. By Mr. Thomas J. Moore.

The reader of Huc's Travels in Tartary and Thibet is not a little astonished at the author's assertion, towards the close of his narrative, in recounting his return from Lha-Ssa, the capital of Thibet, of the veritable existence of the Unicorn. He says, "On the fourth day of our departure from Ghiamda, after having crossed a great lake on the ice, we stopped at the Station Atdza, a small village, the inhabitants of which cultivate a few acres of land, in a little valley encircled by mountains, the tops of which are covered with hollies and pines. The Chinese itinerary says, on the subject of the lake you see before your arrival at Atdza, 'The unicorn, a very curious animal, is found in the vicinity of this lake.'" M. Huc then goes on to say, "The unicorn, which has long been regarded as a fabulous creature, really exists in Thibet. You find it frequently represented in the sculptures and paintings of the Buddhist temples. Even in China you often see it in the landscapes that ornament the inns of the northern provinces. The inhabitants of Atdza spoke of it without attaching to it any greater importance than to the other species of Antelopes which abound in their mountains. We have not been fortunate enough to see the unicorn during our travels in Upper Asia. But all we were there told about it, serves to confirm the curious details which M. Klaproth has published on this subject in the new '*Journal Asiatique*,' and who states 'The unicorn of Thibet is called in the language of this country, *Serou*.'" After some further desultory remarks, M. Huc goes on to say "Mr. Hodgson, an English resident in Nepaul, has at length achieved the possession of a unicorn, and has put beyond doubt the question relative to the existence of this species of antelope, called '*tehirou*,' in Southern Thibet, which borders on Nepaul. It is the same word with *serou*, only pronounced differently, according to the varying dialects of the North and of the South." Dr. Abel has proposed to give to the *tehirou* the systematic name of *Antelope Hodgsonii*, after the name of the learned person who has placed its existence beyond a doubt.* Unfortunately M. Huc does not inform his readers that the antelope in question is possessed of a pair of horns like other antelopes, and that the so-called unicorns are at the most only such as have broken one off at the root by fighting!

Dr. William Hooker, in his "*Himalayan Journals*," vol. ii, pp. 157-8, gives a sketch of the head and horns in profile, and also a front view of the Chiru, and states that "The accompanying figures of the heads of the Chiru (*Antelope Hodgsonii*) were sketched by Lieut. Maxwell (of the Bengal Artillery) from a pair brought to Dorjiling; it is the so-called unicorn of Thibet, and of MM. Huc and Gabet's narrative,"—a name which the Doctor thinks the profile no doubt suggested. Dr. Hooker saw them feeding on the short grass about the Cholamoo Lakes, which are 17,000 feet above the sea, in company with another antelope (the *Procapra picticauda*), Hares, (*Lepus oiostolus*), Marmots, and tail-less Hares (*Lagomys*).

The only specimens of this animal which have reached England, are a male in the British Museum, a specimen in the East India Company's Museum, and a male and female formerly in that of the Zoological Society. These, and a few horns in the same museums, are the only remains of this rare species that have been imported, and have been chiefly obtained by B. H. Hodgson, Esq., the late British Resident at the Court of Nepaul, (mentioned above), to whose zeal is due most of the information obtained on the subject, and to whom zoologists are almost entirely indebted for their knowledge of the natural history of that country, and the discovery of some hundreds of new species of quadrupeds and birds.

* From the Illustrated Edition of Huc's Travels in Tartary, &c., translated by Wm. Hazlitt, forming part of the National Illustrated Library, London, 185-. Vol. 2, pp. 244-248.