

TWELFTH MEETING. 23rd October, 1872.

Dr. Hector, F.R.S., President, in the chair.

*New members.*—Rev. R. Taylor, F.G.S., John Clarkson, Charles Napier Bell.

Mr. Charles C. Graham was chosen to vote in the election of the Board of Governors for the ensuing year in accordance with clause seven of the New Zealand Institute Act.

1. "Notes on some of the Birds brought by Mr. Henry Travers from the Chatham Islands, with Descriptions of the New Species," by Capt. F. W. Hutton, C.M.Z.S. (See *Transactions*, p. 222.)

2. "Description of the Extinct Gigantic Bird of Prey Hokioi," by a Maori; communicated by Sir G. Grey, K.C.B., Hon. Mem. N.Z. Inst.

(TRANSLATION.)

This bird, the Hokioi, was seen by our ancestors. We (of the present day) have not seen it—that bird has disappeared now-a-days. The statement of our ancestor was that it was a powerful bird, a very powerful bird. It was a very large hawk. Its resting place was on the top of the mountains; it did not rest on the plains. On the days in which it was on the wing our ancestors saw it; it was not seen every day as its abiding place was on the mountains. Its colour was red and black and white. It was a bird of (black) feathers, tinged with yellow and green; it had a bunch of red feathers on the top of its head. It was a large bird, as large as the Moa. Its rival was the hawk. The hawk said that it could reach the heavens; the hokioi said it could reach the heavens; there was a contention between them. The hokioi said to the hawk, "what shall be your sign?" The hawk replied, "kei" (the peculiar cry of the hawk). Then the hawk asked, "what is to be your sign?" The hokioi replied, "hokioi-hokioi-hu-u." These were their words. They then flew and approached the heavens. The winds and the clouds came. The hawk called out "kei" and descended, it could go no further on account of the winds and the clouds, but the hokioi disappeared into the heavens.

"Kei" is the cry of the hawk. "Hokioi-hokioi" is the cry of the hokioi. "Hu-u" is the noise caused by the wings of the hokioi. It was recognized by the noise of its wings when it descends to the earth.

3. "On the Origin in New Zealand of *Polygonum aviculare*, L.," by W. T. L. Travers, F.L.S. (See *Transactions*, p. 310.)

In the discussion that followed Mr. Travers stated that he did not believe that Capt. Cook succeeded in introducing the potato and grasses, but that the seeds he scattered were anti-scorbutic plants.

4. "Description of a Reflecting Telescope made in Wellington," by W. F. Parsons; communicated by Dr. Hector, F.R.S. (See *Transactions*, p. 125.)

The instrument described was exhibited, and the use of certain machinery employed in its construction was described by Mr. Parsons.

Mr. Travers asked why the speculum was not made of metal instead of glass.

Mr. Parsons explained that metal was likely to corrode, and that the glass speculum could always be resilvered and made as good as new. Besides that the glass specula prepared by Browning's process gave greater light than any others.

5. "Observations on the Comparative Anatomy of the Penguin," by F. J. Knox, L.R.C.S.E. The author gave a demonstration of two beautifully prepared skeletons of *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus* and *Eudyptula minor*, which were exhibited.

Mr. Travers did not think the penguin was a deep diver.

Capt. Hutton, on the other hand, considered that the penguin's wings were particularly adapted for diving.

6. "On the Kingfisher (*Halcyon vagans*) and the Green or Striped-faced Wren (*Xenicus longipes*)," by T. H. Potts, F.L.S. (See *Transactions*, p. 171.)

Capt. Hutton said he thought the name *Xenicus longipes* was incorrect, and that it probably should be *X. stokesii*, but Mr. Potts had taken the name from Dr. Buller's work now being published.

Captain Hutton said in answer to Mr. Graham that the increase of the Kingfisher might be due to the increase of cultivation, for they lived chiefly upon insects.

7. "On the Absorption of certain Alkaloids by Aluminous Silicates," by W. Skey, Analyst to the Geological Survey of New Zealand. (See *Transactions*, p. 375.)

8. "On the Proposed Substitution of Acetate for Sulphate of Copper in the Manufacture of Iodine," by W. Skey. (See *Transactions*, p. 376.)

9. "Critical Notes upon the alleged Nuclear Action of Gold reduced from Solution by Organic Matter," by W. Skey. (See *Transactions*, p. 372.)

10. "On the Mode of producing Auriferous Alloys by Wet Processes," by W. Skey. (See *Transactions*, p. 370.)

11. "On the Formation of Gold Nuggets in Drift," by W. Skey. (See *Transactions*, p. 377.)

12. "Directions for Raising and Spreading *Ammophila arundinacea* and *Elymus arenarius*," by J. C. Crawford, F.G.S. (See *Transactions*, p. 111.)

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