

tion (vol. i. pp. 108-111) in the Amazons' delta, and his judicious deductions therefrom.

Before concluding, however, we must express our satisfaction at the handy size of Mr. Bates's work. Instead of a mighty cumbrous book, we have here two volumes of small and convenient dimensions; and the first is furnished with a very excellent map, which greatly enhances the pleasure we have in following the traveller's progress on the "Mediterranean of South America." The work, too, has a liberal supply of illustrations, some of which are good, though of others we cannot say much. They are all woodcuts, and, for figures to be inserted in the text, nothing more is required; but for whole-page engravings, we think this system, so much employed in the publications of Mr. Murray, is decidedly to be reprobated. Mr. Wolf's designs are, of course, beautiful: nothing can be more animated than the drawing of the frontispiece, representing Mr. Bates "mobbed" by an angry crowd of croaking Toucans, or of the assemblage of water-birds in the foreground of the river-view in the first volume. But both are marred, and the first absolutely spoilt and rendered ridiculous, by the coarse clumsy hand of the wood-cutter, whose name, though it is perceptible in the corner of the engraving, we will mercifully withhold here*. What, however, shall we say of the illustration representing the big Spider garotting the Finches, or rather, we suppose, the Tanagers? We should like to know whether Dr. Sclater (for whose special delectation that pretty family of birds is supposed to have been developed) is aware of a species having *four anterior toes*, and these toes *equally articulated*; for such a one is here delineated by the artist, whose name, whether Brown, Jones, or Robinson, is immaterial. It is enough to say it is not Wolf.

Here, then, we must leave this interesting work. We can only tender our hearty congratulations to Mr. Bates on his safe return among us; and trusting that his four years' residence at home may have fully restored his health, so materially impaired by his unremitting toil on the Amazons, hope that in England he will not forget that virtue which carried him so successfully through all his difficulties in Brazil, but that, by still continuing the wholesome practice of "paciencia," he may be enabled thoroughly to work out all his remaining collections, and thus reap to the full the well-merited fruits of his labours.

Iceland: its Scenes and Sagas. By SABINE BARING-GOULD, M.A. &c. With numerous Illustrations and a Map. London: Smith & Elder, 1863.

A nephew of so distinguished an Arctic voyager as the present highly respected President of the Royal Society, it seems but natural

* Since the above was written, we perceive that the critic of our learned cotemporary, the 'Natural History Review' (July 1863, p. 389), especially commends this frontispiece as "one of the best *executed* scenes" ever produced! Of a truth, tastes differ.

for Mr. Sabine Baring-Gould to exclaim with the Prince of Morocco, "Farewell heat, and welcome frost." The magnificently illustrated volume on Iceland, its Scenes and Sagas, without doubt deserves a brief mention in these pages; for the author, in addition to his accomplishments as a classical and an Icelandic scholar, shows that he has a very fair knowledge of natural history. Indeed, if we are not greatly mistaken, the book before us contains more information on the zoology of Iceland than has ever hitherto been given by any of our fellow-countrymen, and, with regard to the botany, more than has been published in the English language since Sir William Hooker, some fifty years ago, brought out his 'Journal.' Mr. Baring-Gould narrates his adventures in a very agreeable manner, interspersing them with fragments of Sagas, most of which will be new to the British public, and, what is more to our purpose, with notices of the natural history of the island. To these are added certain appendices—one, on Icelandic Ornithology, contributed by Mr. Alfred Newton, and another, by the author himself, giving a list of Icelandic Plants. The former seems to have been drawn up with some care, though at least one species, *Ibis falcinellus*, recorded so long ago as 1836, and by so distinguished an authority as the late Professor Reinhardt (Vidensk. Selsk. Afh. vii. p. 96), has escaped attention. Altogether we feel sure that our readers will derive a large amount of amusement and interest from the perusal of this work, and we have much pleasure in recommending it to their notice generally, but more especially to any intending visitor to Iceland.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Jan. 27, 1863.—G. R. Waterhouse, Esq., V.P., in the Chair.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE HERPETOLOGY OF CERAM.

BY DR. A. GÜNTHER.

We are indebted for our knowledge of the reptiles of Ceram to Dr. P. v. Bleeker, who, in a paper, "Over de Reptilien-Fauna van Ceram"*, enumerates thirty-eight species collected at Wahaai, on the northern coast of that island, and at Paulohi on the southern coast.

Having received a small collection of these animals from North Ceram, I am enabled to add the following species:—*Tiliqua rufescens*; *Cyclodus carinatus*, n. sp.; *Coluber holochrous*, n. sp.; *Fordonia unicolor*, Gray; *Cerberus acutus*, Gray; and *Diemennia Mülleri*, Schleg. However, it is probable that three of these species are comprised in Bleeker's list, but under different names, viz., *Cyclodus carinatus*, mihi, as *C. Boddaërtii*, D. & B.; *Fordonia unicolor*, Gray, as *Eurostus plumbeus*, D. & B.; and *Cerberus acutus*, Gray, as *Cerb. boæformis*, D. & B. Therefore, taking the number of Ceramese reptiles known as forty-one, we find that thirty-five of

* Nat. Tydschr. Nederl. Ind. 1860.



1863. "Iceland: its scenes and sagas. By Sabine Baring-Gould, M.A. &c. With numerous illustrations and a map. London: Smith & Elder, 1863." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 12, 396–397.

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