

September 2d, 1851.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

A letter was read from the Trustees of the New York State Library, dated Albany, August 11th, 1851, acknowledging the receipt of late numbers of the Proceedings.

Also a letter from Mrs. Charlotte H. Townsend, dated Philadelphia, 1851, returning her acknowledgments for certain resolutions recently adopted by the Academy.

Mr. Lea remarked that he had observed in a recent number of the Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, a communication on the subject of the "Wave Theory," in regard to the dynamics of earthquakes. He observed that this "wave theory" was by no means of as recent a date as was generally imagined, and stated that Dr. Franklin, while in France in 1782, distinctly suggested this wave motion, produced by a central force reaching to an immense distance. Mr. L. read part of Dr. Franklin's letter to the Abbé Soulavie, Trans. Am. Phil. Soc., vol. 3 p. 1, old series,) dated at Passey, September 22, 1782, in which he says, "But we are still subject to the accidents on the surface, which are occasioned by a wave in the internal ponderous fluid; and such a wave is producible by the sudden violent explosion you mention, happening from the junction of fire and water under the earth, which not only lifts the incumbent earth which is over the explosion, but impressing with the same force the fluid under it, creates a wave that may run a thousand leagues, lifting thereby successively all the countries under which it passes."

September 9th.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

A communication was read from Aug. A. Gould, M. D., and D. Humphreys Storer, M. D., Executors of the late Amos Binney, M. D., of Boston, dated Boston, July, 1851, presenting, in accordance with his will, a copy of Vols. 1 and 2 of his work on the Terrestrial Mollusks of the United States.

Dr. Leidy called the attention of members to a fragment of rock a few inches square, covered upon one surface with numerous root-like fibres, which he stated belonged to a species of branching, fresh water, ciliated polyps of the genus *Plumatella*. The piece had been broken from a slab 15 inches square, which was entirely covered upon its under surface in the same manner. The species he characterized as follows:

PLUMATELLA, *Bosc.*

PLUMATELLA DIFFUSA, *n. s.*

Polypidom diverging from a centre over large surfaces, consisting of a series of simple curved branches, from one to two lines long, rising from one another upon the convex side, and attached throughout their length except at the extremities for 1-3th to 2-5ths of a line, which are erect, keg-shaped, or a little dilated at the middle and contracted at the orifices. Border of the orifices



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