LIII.—*Information respecting Zoological and Botanical Travellers.*

Mr. Forbes and Mr. Thompson.—We have just seen Mr. Thompson, who after visiting Constantinople, Smyrna, Athens, &c., has returned from the Archipelago in consequence of the survey of Candia being abandoned for the present year, or until the island becomes more settled. We are happy to hear from him that he left Mr. Forbes very well on the 10th of June at Port Nousa, in the island of Paros, where he had then been for a month most successfully engaged in his researches, especially in marine zoology. Mr. Forbes hopes to be able to visit all the islands composing the Cyclades group during the summer and autumn of the present year.

We have received from him descriptions of some new and very remarkable marine invertebrate animals, which we shall soon lay before our readers.

Mr. Schomburgk.—Recent letters from Mr. Schomburgk, dated Demerara, 12th of April, mention his safe arrival at that place, and that he was about to start on the following day to the westward to the mouth of the Wayina, where would be his head-quarters for a short time. All the party were well with the exception of Mr. Walton the draughtsman, who not finding himself strong enough for a tropical climate was about to return to England. Mr. Schomburgk expected to start for the interior of Guiana about the beginning of August.

Mr. W. S. MacLeay.—"As might be expected, the time spent on the long voyage from England to Sydney was not lost; the ocean indeed is a rich domain to the philosopher. Mr. MacLeay mentions having fallen in with the American Scientific Expedition, which left the United States about eighteen months ago, in two corvettes and four schooners. They had visited, when Mr. MacLeay met them, the Cape de Verds, Brazil, Patagonia, Terra del Fuego, Chili, Peru, and the South Sea Islands, and had made extensive collections in all departments of natural history. The following are the scientific men who compose the expedition, and their duties. Titian Peale for mammalia and birds; Dr. Pickering for insects, reptiles, and fishes; Mr. Coulter for mollusca, and Mr. Dana for crustacea, pelagic animals, and geology; Mr. Rich for botany; two gardeners, and two artists, complete the scientific corps. The expedition is creditable to the United States, and we trust will prove highly important to the advancement of science. Extensive collections were making in every department of nature, which were forwarded to Philadelphia as opportunities offered. With regard to Mr. MacLeay himself, it is his intention to remain four or five years in New South Wales, where he thinks he will have occasion to publish some of the results of his investigations without waiting for the remote prospect of his return to England. He had made one journey to the Hunter river; there

are bones, he observes, in limestone caves of Wellington valley, which prove to be those of gigantic marsupials, now extinct; but with the exception of these, few fossils have been found in New South Wales. The impressions of a fern and of a fish, some corallines, molluscous shells, and a few radiata, are all that he has yet seen or heard of. No crustacea or annulosa or cirripedous shells have yet been found, nor reptiles or birds. Indeed, he observes, this *new* country is in reality a very old one, if we may judge from the low organization of its fossil remains.

“Mr. MacLeay asks many questions regarding India, which perhaps we shall do better by publishing than by attempting to answer ourselves. He is particularly interested in those fossil remains which, as he himself expresses it, ‘fill up gaps in the chain of living nature,’ and asks if we have any Trilobites. They occur, he says, at the Cape of Good Hope, and might be expected in Silurian rocks. He is desirous of being informed if leeches abound in the dark damp forests of India, and also if there be any insects parasitical in ants’ nests, and whether bees and wasps are infested with parasites in India. He is desirous of having some of the Hymenopterous and Dipterous insects of India, with all the parasitical kinds, and the names of the animals they infest. We had sent a small collection of the commoner insects collected in the cold season, but Mr. MacLeay is now desirous of having some of those which are found on plants of various kinds during the rains; and in making collections during winter, he recommends stones to be turned, and the bark of trees to be removed in search of the rarer sorts. Calcutta is not the most favourable place for making collections of any kind, but we shall procure what we can; we shall also be very happy to forward to Mr. MacLeay any collections that may be entrusted to us for the purpose by friends in the *Mofussil*.”—*Calcutta Journal of Natural History*, No. 2.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A new Genus of Mexican Glirine Mammalia.—Mr. John Phillips, who has lately returned from Real del Monte, Mexico, has, at the recommendation of Mr. John Taylor, sent to the British Museum the skins of some very rare and interesting birds, of a *Bassarid*, and of the new animal which I shall now proceed to describe. This animal is very interesting, as having all the external form and colouring of a *Gerboa*; and it is doubtless the American representative of that African genus, though differing from it very essentially, in being provided, like some other American genera, as *Saccophorus*, *Sacomys*, and *Heteromys*, with large cheek-pouches, which open externally on the side of the cheeks. I propose to call it

DIPODOMYS.

Body covered with soft hair. Head moderate, with large cheek-pouches opening externally on the side of the cheeks. Ears and eyes rather large; the fore-legs short; the hind tarsus long and

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