

Stated Meeting, December 18, 1868.

Present, sixteen members.

Prof. JOHN C. CRESSON, Vice-President, in the Chair.

A letter accepting membership was received from Mr. O. C. Marsh, dated Yale College, New Haven, December 10, 1868.

Letters of acknowledgment were received from the Royal Society Upsal, Linnean Society London, Historical Society Philadelphia, and Boston Public Library.

Donations for the Library were received from the Societies at Moscow, Riga, Upsal, Freiburg i B. and Leeds, the Museums of Natural History at Paris and Buenos Ayres, the R. I. G. B., Royal Geographical, Chemical, Linnean and Zoological Societies in London, the Historical Society of Lancashire, Boston Natural History Society and Public Library, United States Mint, Department of Education at Washington, State Geologists of Iowa, and catalogues from foreign booksellers.

A donation for the Cabinet, was received through Dr. Hayden, from Mr. Blackmore: 32 Russian medals electrotyped and distributed by the British Museum.

The Librarian, for Mr. William Clark of Philadelphia, laid before the members a lead pencilled copy of the so called human writing on the roof of a coal mine at Hammondville, on the Ohio river, which had given origin to so many absurd newspaper articles in all parts of the United States.

This quasi inscription consists of a single row of twelve leaf scars of a species of *Sigillaria*, out of which the imagination finds no difficulty in manufacturing repetitions of the letters B. D. C. O. and the figure 8.

The Secretary read the following extract from a letter signed Jas. F. Latham, M. D., dated Leechville, Beaufort Co.,

N. C., Dec. 7, 1868; as all evidences of the general movement of the Atlantic seaboard are valuable:

In the bottom of all our fresh water rivers and creeks there are large tracts of the bottom covered with cypress stumps and knees precisely as they grew and undecayed, precisely as they are now above the tide in our swamps. These stumps and knees are now from 6 to 8 feet below the tide level; the land must have sunk since they grew. Again, all along the waters of Pamlico sound, where the farms, even in the memory of middle-aged men, were extremely rich, the tide has submerged them, and they will not now produce in some instances even grass, and the people say the tides rule higher than in old times. Again, the shores are washing away everywhere, and making nowhere. So that at least on the shore line of Pamlico sound, there are at least 500 or 1000 acres taken possession of by the sound every year. Again, in cutting a canal to drain Mallamusket lake into Alligator river, a powerful dredge was used, and some three feet below the tide level, they took up a layer of pine stumps, and immediately below these another layer was taken up, and below these still another layer, showing conclusively to my mind that the land for many ages has been, as now, about level with the tide; and the accumulation of vegetable matter compensates for the sinking. Pine will never rot if always under fresh water. We have here also 8 lakes, some 20 miles long, and from that down to 3 or 4, the lands around which for miles are a dead level, and none of them with a regular natural outlet.

On the Shower of November, Meteors as observed at Bloomington, Indiana, November 13-14, 1868.

BY DANIEL KIRKWOOD, L.L. D.

The Shower of November Meteors has been this year unexpectedly brilliant. Unfortunately, I was unable to watch the display; but during three hours on the morning of the 13th, Prof. T. A. Wylie, D. D., observed 165. A considerable proportion of these were unconformable. The number, however, radi-



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