

that it was proposed that the usual annual dinner should take place, of which due notice would be given to the Members.

Election of Members.

The Chairman then announced that the following gentlemen had been unanimously elected Honorary Members:—Colonel Sabine, F.R.S., President of the British Association; Thomas Bell, Esq., F.R.S., President of the Linnean Society; Sir William Jackson Hooker, K.H., &c., Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Edward Newman, Esq., President of the Entomological Society; J. O. Westwood, Esq., Ex-President of the Entomological Society; Joshua Alder, Esq.; and — Martin, Esq., Dublin, Ordinary Member.

The session was then adjourned to November.

Proceedings of Natural-History Collectors in Foreign Countries.

MR. A. R. WALLACE. — “Singapore, May 9, 1854. — As I have no doubt that my entomological friends will be glad to hear that I have arrived safe, and have commenced work, I will give you a short account of my progress up to this time.

“I landed at Singapore on the 20th of April, after a 46 days’ passage from England without any incident out of the common. For a week I was obliged to remain in the town at an hotel, not finding it easy to obtain any residence or lodging in the country. During this time I examined the suburbs, and soon came to the conclusion that it was impossible to do anything there in the way of insects, for the virgin forests have been entirely cleared away for four or five miles round (scarcely a tree being left), and plantations of nutmeg and *Oreca* palm have been formed. These are intersected by straight and dusty roads; and waste places are covered with a vegetation of shrubby *Melastonias*, which do not seem attractive to insects. A few species of *Terias*, *Cethosia*, *Danais* and *Euplœa*, with some obscure *Satyridæ*, are the only butterflies seen, while two or three lamellicorn beetles on the *Acacia* trees were the only *Coleoptera* that I could meet with.

“At length, however, I obtained permission to reside a few weeks at a Roman Catholic mission near the centre of the island, from which place, called ‘Bakit Tima,’ I now write. Here portions of the forest, which originally covered the whole island, and which is rapidly disappearing, still exists, and it is in them that I find my only good hunting-grounds.

“From the highest point in the island near here (only 500 feet) a good view is obtained of the plantations which are everywhere formed by the Chinese for the cultivation of pepper and gambic; and it is apparent that but few years can elapse before the whole island will be denuded of its indigenous vegetation, when its climate will no doubt be materially altered (probably for the worse), and countless tribes of interesting insects become extinct. I am therefore working hard at the insects alone for the present, and will give you some little notion of what I have done and may hope to do.

“First, then, in Lepidoptera I have been tolerably successful, having in about twelve days obtained 80 species of Diurnes. If other localities prove equally rich I think the Eastern Archipelago may not fall much short of S. America. I have already about 30 species of Lycænidæ and Ericinidæ, some of which I have no doubt will prove new. Among the larger species the most remarkable is a magnificent *Idæa*, which is abundant in the forest, sailing or rather floating along, and having to my eye a far more striking and majestic appearance than even the *Morphos* of Brazil. It was a great treat to me to behold them for the first time, as well as many other of the Eastern forms to which I had pretty well familiarised my eye in collections at home. The *Euplœas* here quite take the place of the *Heliconidæ* of the Amazons, and exactly resemble them in their habits. I have taken the singular *Danais Daos*, *Doub.*, figured by Boisduval as an *Idæa*, which it exactly resembles in its colour, markings and flight; indeed there are small specimens of the *Idæa* from which it cannot be distinguished till captured, yet it is certainly a true *Danais*. The *Leptocercus Curius* is not uncommon here; it is a *Papilio Protesilaus* in miniature. Of true *Papilios* I have only four common species, and one of the group resembling *Euplœa*, which may prove new.

“I must now turn to the Coleoptera. I am delighted with them; for though all small at present, they are exceedingly beautiful and interesting. I have 6 species of *Cicindelas*, all small; 13 *Carabidæ*, mostly minute, but very beautiful; 10—12 *Cleridæ*; about 30 very small *Curculionidæ*; and, *mirabile dictu!* 50 species of *Longicornes*, and it is only ten days since I took the first. Imagine my delight at taking 8 to 10 a day of this beautiful group, and almost all different species; but the worst of it is that I have got into a place where there are many woodmen and sawyers at work, and it is in the neighbourhood of the fallen timber that I get most of them, on the wing. Almost all are small, few exceeding an inch and many not much more than a line. Under *Boleti* I have found some extraordinary *Erotylidæ*.

The Elaters and Buprestidæ are all very small, as well as the Chrysomelidæ and other small groups. In all I have now 250 species, which will increase daily, but at a slower rate.

“In the other orders there is nothing very remarkable. Hemiptera, as well as bees and wasps, are very scarce. Tenthredinidæ are rather abundant. Of dragon-flies I have many pretty species, and the Diptera are plentiful and very curious. I have taken a species (of the genus *Diopsis* I believe) with telescopic eyes, and some other singular forms. Ants are very abundant, also scorpions and centipedes, but these I do not seek after.

“In the midst of this entomological banquet there is, however, one drawback—a sword suspended by a hair over the head of the unfortunate flycatcher: it is the possibility of being eaten up by a tiger! While watching with eager eyes some lovely insect, the thought will occasionally occur that a hungry tiger may be lurking in that dense jungle immediately behind intent upon catching you. Hundreds of Chinamen are annually devoured. Pitfalls are made for the animals all over the country; and in one of them, within two miles of our house, a tiger was captured a short time before my arrival. Only last night a party of Chinamen, going home to their plantation, turned back afraid, having heard the roaring of a tiger in the path. These are unpleasant reminders of the proximity of a deadly foe; and though perhaps the absolute danger is little enough, as the tiger is a great coward and will not attack unless he can do it unawares, yet it is better to have the mind quite free from any such apprehensions. I shall therefore most probably leave here in a month or so for Borneo, before which, however, I hope to make such a collection as to give a tolerably correct idea of the Entomology of Singapore.”

MR. H. W. BATES.*—“Santarem, January 18, 1854.—Although I have no collection to forward this month, and nothing very important to say, I write you to convey my great gratification at the receipt, a few days ago, of the two missing parcels sent by you; not only the one sent in May last, but also the long-lost one of May, 1852, containing the water-colours, &c., &c.; all quite complete and undisturbed: they have been lying at the Custom-House in Parà, on account of no one making application for them. I believe now I have received everything you have sent me up to this time. In December I sent you the collection I had made in a three months' sojourn up the

* Communicated by Mr. S. Stevens.