

made-up birds such as I remember seeing formerly at Walton Hall, and Mr Waterton described to me as his "non-descript." If I give the anecdote correctly, there was no positive evidence that Le Vaillant himself had patched up those specimens; the originals might have become moth-eaten since his days, and have been "restored" by others, as picturers are too often restored, i.e., not exactly as they originally appeared.

As to *Corvus Levaillantii*, I do not for a moment dispute with "Zoophilus" (a writer much better informed than I profess or pretend to be on natural history) whether Le Vaillant did or did not find it in S. Africa; but I would observe that various birds have of late years changed their habitats both in S. Africa and elsewhere. Some formerly known, like the dodo and aphanapterix of the Mauritius, have disappeared altogether; and others again, like *Cotyle torquata* and the European swift and swallow (*Apus and Rusticus*)—have appeared in Africa, not known formerly; at least of the two last I assume so, as otherwise Le Vaillant, who is copious on Hirundinids, would have mentioned them. *Vultur fulvus* was once common about Cape Town; now it is rare. Birds, too, change their habits: at one time the little brown swallow of Cape Town (*Cotyle fulgida*) used to build almost entirely on the houses of Cape Town; now, according to Legard, it breeds mostly in the mountains.

To pass from birds to fishes, one of the favourite fishes of Cape Town is the king-klipfish (*Xiphurus capensis*), which has only been known within a comparatively recent date, and since the occurrence of several earthquakes at the Cape some years back, shortly after which one was caught, the first specimen of the kind known. One or more sandbanks had arisen near the entrance to Table Bay, and to their proximity possibly the presence of the fish is attributable.

FREDERIC R. SURTEES.

Chart Sutton, Staplehurst, Kent, August 15.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

ADDITIONS TO THE MENAGERIE, REGENT'S-PARK, FROM AUG. 7 TO AUG. 13.

Table with 5 columns: No., Name, Country, How obtained, Where placed in Gardens. Lists various animals like Gold Carp, Prussian Carp, Jerboa, Hawkheaded Parrot, Chamaeleon, Pantherine Toads, Passerine Owls, etc.

* Never previously exhibited. † New to collection.

crayfish to be found in the tributaries of the Usk or the U-k itself. It comparatively few, too, of the tributaries of the Wye have they been observed, and the larger streams, the Ithon, Irvon, and others, are without them. Crayfish love small streams flowing over clayey land, not too rapid, and their bed diversified with largish stones, projecting lumps of clay, and not over-much gravel. The brooks that join the Wye on the right bank between the Dibunw, and the Llyfni at Glasbury, all contain crayfish, and the soil of the district through which they run, while of course of the old red-sandstone-formation, is peculiarly heavy and stiff—in fact, clayey. Beldom on the silurian beds, of which Carmarthenshire and Cardiganshire are composed, would brooks of the character described be found; crayfish are therefore not found in the streams of those counties. Crayfish love short rivers, and especially those flowing over the silurian strata. The upper portion of the Wye would suit them, but then the distance there from the sea is too great. In the estuary of the Usk there are large numbers of small sewin, but they seldom run up the river far, disliking the hard water coming off the old red sandstone. The Usk and Wye have a course first east, then south-east, then south. The geological structure of the catchment basin has a vast deal to do, in my opinion, with the quantity and description of fish found in any particular river. Your correspondent must work out the history of the crayfish, Arctonotus fuvialis, geologically as well as geographically, and I shall be delighted to help him all I can, even in a hunt among the narrow shaded dingles where that crustacean loves to dwell.—JOHN LLOYD, JUN.

THE LIBRARY.

TRAVELS OF A NATURALIST IN JAPAN AND MANCHURIA.

IT IS A REAL PLEASURE to be taken by the hand by so intelligent a companion as Arthur Adams, and trotted half round the world, seeing everything that is to be seen, having everything explained that one does not clearly understand, and indulging perhaps now and then in a good-humoured smile when we catch, or fancy we catch, our companion napping. This napping is very rare, and perhaps rather in seeming than in reality; but it may possibly strike some hypercritical reader that Rio Janeiro, to which the first and second chapters are devoted, and the Cape of Good Hope, by which the third and fourth are occupied, besides some few other localities we could mention, are not exactly in Manchuria or Japan. It is an instance of seeming discrepancy only when we read the glowing description of Rio, its "unparalleled beauty," and its scenery "the most magnificent in the world;" and then, turning to the title-page, find that the book is not about Rio at all, but about John Chinaman and the Japanese. This is only Mr Adams's way; and his way leads him to all manner of places and all manner of scenes that are not set down in the title of his book, including much wandering on the pathless sea. He is always on the look-out for specimens, and, when found, he always makes a note of them. He says:

When traversing the great oceans, besides keeping the towing net always going whenever the ship is not sailing too fast, and whenever the weather is favourable, I always note down on a track-chart every species of bird, fish, or mollusk I happen to see. If all naturalists did this on their voyage, our knowledge of the geographical distribution of marine life would be greatly extended and improved.

This is the right spirit; it is the spirit that of late years has added so immeasurably to our stores of knowledge. Mr Adams is one of those travellers who know what is worth observing, and how to observe it, but perhaps he forms too high an estimate of the scientific attainments of his readers; on this account we are very willing to skip many long passages, because we have not sufficient acquaintance with the objects incidentally mentioned to make the record of their occurrence interesting. Thus, in the long passage about beetle hunting at p. 34 et seq. we feel that for the unentomological reader it will possess but small interest. The visit to Pratas Shoal is less obnoxious to this objection, and exhibits a specimen of the author's best style:

My next trip was to the Pratas Shoal, or rather reef, in the China sea. As the Dove gunboat was ordered to survey the reef, I went in her as a volunteer. About one hundred miles from Hong Kong a paddi bird was observed on the wing, making futile attempts, poor thing, to get on board. The fact is so far

teeth at all who approached them, were quarrelling among themselves, or stealing everything they could lay their hands on. Lorises, love birds, large black and brown squirrels, and Java sparrows, were confined in neat little bamboo cages. Tamarinds and water melons were exposed for sale. Here and there might be seen a dingy fat-backed water-tortoise, and sometimes a python with splendid spotted skin. Every where baskets of the larger and more showy cocones and coonies were so arranged as to attract customers. There were also mounds of coconuts, heaps of pine apples, enormous yams, huge bunches of ripe bananas, and numerous aromatic shaddocks, which had been grown in the neighbourhood of Batavia, and which always have a finer flavour than any produced elsewhere.

A naturalist's life is not altogether so free from danger as to make it dull or insipid. At Mew Bay, in the Straits of Sunda, a party landing, and bent on a picnic, were lately charged by a rhinoceros, and suffered a signal defeat, being scattered in all directions, completely "demoralised"—to use an expression we have borrowed from our friends beyond the Atlantic. Indeed, the extremity of the island of Java which borders on these straits has long been regarded as a regio feracissima ferarum. Here the tiger reigns supreme—he cares nothing for man, not he; and as the Irish, in days that are gone, quailed before the wolf, so do the inhabitants of this wild region quail before the tiger. When the superiority of a foe is once admitted there is little chance of his being vanquished; and thus, when a solitary Saxon ventures on this treacherous ground, he incurs a risk induced by the relative position of man and beasts as here existing. The risk is brought before us rather vividly by the incident related in the following passage, and it may be added as a fact to be gathered from Eastern periodicals that in many regions tigers are rapidly on the increase; more of life pluck and energy of the Saxon is necessary to keep them at bay.

This wild, tiger-baunted corner of Java is permeated by small trickling rivulets, which flow beneath the undergrowth. Skipping down to take a drink, at one of these I noticed something which made me start. Robinson Crusoe, when he saw "the print of a man's foot on the sand," could not have been more completely taken aback than I was by the object on which my eye was riveted. Under my very nose the fresh imprint of a tiger's paw was manifest, so large that my outspread hand just covered it. A wren, however, of the twilight-loving habits of these cat-like monsters, I felt somewhat reassured, and was by no means inclined to be diverted from my scientific investigations. The finding of some pretty fresh-water shells in the stream diverted my attention from this ominous trace of the much-dreaded manslayer. It must not be supposed, however, that there was no cause for alarm: two villages in the immediate neighbourhood were at that very moment deserted, having been recently desolated by these formidable animals.

But let us hasten into China, and there leave our traveller on the very threshold of his mission; for we cannot afford space to accompany him in his explorations of the "flowery land," neither is there anything new to be told of this well-trodden region of the globe. China is now but a colony of Mingcing-lans, and its pig-tails and mandarins, magpies and chop-sticks, have faded before he money-making emigrants from Cookneydom. Still a trace of old China exists in the buffalo; still that ungainly brute exhibits his truly Chinese abhorrence of an Englishman; still also the two races of pigs seem to be maintained as of yore in all their purity. Let us take a glimpse of these two characteristics of the "flowery land," and then commit our traveller to the care of the "Celestials."

As I returned to the ship, I observed a water buffalo plodding steadily across a padi field, the rude wooden plough-turning up the soil behind her. These unlovely, mud-incrusted ruminants seem to think with the Turk that "of all devils the very worst of devils is a Frank with a round hat;" for no sooner does the unwieldy creature scent the "Panqui" than she stops abruptly, snorts, trembles, and is off; nose in air, and horns at back, she splashes through the watery slabs, the plough at her tail. The rered Chinaman gazes helplessly after his unruly charge; but soon, to the great relief of the unfortunate husbandman, an comer a little boy, who whispers soft nonsense in the vagrant's ear, and leads her back a willing captive by the rope made fast to the cartilage of her nose.

The long segments of the crimson-spotted flowers of Strophanthus arrested my attention as I approached the precincts of a village, and I stopped to gather the sweet-scented corymbs of *Cherodendron fragrans*. I also sniffed an odour not so pleasant, and peeping over a bamboo fence I observed a piggy! And this fact reminds me of the great difference between the social and physical condition of the pig of the north and the pig of the south of China. The pig of the south lies in a clean sty, and is well cared for. She has a short, wrinkled face, glistening eyes, swollen cheeks, a smoky back, short legs, and a pudent belly; and she waddles stolidly along with

NOTES AND QUERIES ON NATURAL HISTORY.

AN "UNKNOWN" SPECIES OF DEER.—I suppose you saw in the Illustration of some—the account of the "unknown species" of deer brought home by the Duke of Edinburgh? It is the common "dray" of Bormah and the Malay coast, which I have shot in numbers there.—R. A.

(Singapore).

HYBRID CAMEL.—In THE FIELD, No. 850, p. 306, will be found an article on "Camels and their Hybrid Progeny." The beast which now does duty as a one-humped camel in the Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, is obviously a hybrid betwixt the one-humped and the two-humped camels, having the comparatively short limbs of the latter species, a long-based hump showing a tendency to division above its middle, and other manifest indications of its hybridity. The shortness of its limbs, as compared with the usual length of limb in the one-humped camel, cannot but have been remarked by numerous visitors to the Gardens.—Z.

DOG IN UNUSUAL POSITION.—My brother and myself the other day observed a dog sitting, with both hind legs stretched out behind him, just like an elephant would do. "Thinking he might have been run over and injured—it was in Douglas Market—we made him get up, when he walked about as any other dog would. One often sees a dog lie down with his hind legs in this position, but I never saw one sitting with them so displayed. Is it not a most unusual circumstance?—DEADFALL. [We have never seen this position adopted; but we should not call it "sitting."—Ed.]

RHINOCEROS DETACHING ITS HORN.—The "accident" that happened to the large single-horned rhinoceros in the Zoological Gardens was mentioned in last week's FIELD (p. 152). It is not unprecedented, as the reader will find by referring to my contributions to THE FIELD, No. 571, p. 192, and No. 577, p. 334. Several years ago, an animal of the same species, knocked off its horn in the Zoological Garden at Moscow, and soon afterwards began to grow another, the detached horn being preserved in the museum of that city; and before learning of that occurrence I had argued on the probability of the so-called horns of these animals being occasionally shed and renewed, as will be seen by reference to the communications mentioned.—Z.

FERAL CATTLE IN THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS.—The notice of these animals by "S. E. W." (in p. 140) might well lead to the supposition that the American bison, or so-called "buffalo" of America, was intended. He says:—"They were formidable-looking animals. I have seen buffaloes only in the Zoological Gardens, but from what I remember they looked quite affable compared to these animals. In their wild state they "buffaloes?" "become very fierce, and grow to a great size, with long manes and short horns." Such a description seems rather to denote the bison, whereas the feral cattle of the Galapagos, like those of the Falkland Islands and of the mainland of South America, are well known to be the emancipated descendants of European domestic cattle, which could not be transformed into the like of bison. In genuine buffaloes, of whatever species (which are peculiar to the Old World), the coat is short and bristly, there is never a long mane, and in the Indian species the horns are commonly very long; and it is out of the question to suppose that our ordinary taurine cattle could develop, under any circumstances, a mane like that of a bison, above all in equatorial latitudes. Our British Highland cattle are about the very shaggy representatives of Bos taurus.—Z.

THE RIVER CRAWFISH.—In THE FIELD of Aug. 6 Mr Parfitt asks for information respecting the geographical distribution of the river crayfish (Astacus fluviatilis). He will find, if he be fortunate enough to gain access to it, an exhaustive monograph on this subject by Gerstfeldt, in the "Mémoires présentés à l'Académie Impériale de Sciences de S. P. St. Pétersbourg, par savants étrangers," tome ix., 1859, entitled "Über die Flusskrebse Europas." Two species of river crayfish are there described, namely, A. fluviatilis, of which there are four varieties—communis, leptodactylus, angulosus, pachypus; and A. torrentium ("S. S. inkreb"). These two species, with their varieties, appear (op. cit., p. 552) to be peculiar to Europe. They are absent from N. Africa, at least from Egypt and Algeria, from S. W. Asia, Persia, and the whole of Siberia. With regard to Great Britain, A. fluviatilis is stated (p. 588) to be not very abundant, though it has been discovered in many parts; and as for Ireland, it appears to have been introduced into that island. Van der Hoeven, in his "Philosophia Zoologica," merely states that the fluviatile species of Astacus appear to be confined to the temperate regions of the globe. I can speak of my own knowledge, only of one English river where the crayfish can be obtained, namely the Cherwell, which joins the Isis—the future Thames—at Oxford. In this stream the "crawfish," as it is called, is sufficiently abundant to be an article of sale in Oxford and the neighbourhood. It is caught in a round net of about a foot in diameter, which, weighted in the centre with a piece of lead, and baited with raw meat, is merely lowered to the bottom of the stream, and allowed to remain there for some time, after which it is hauled up.—With regard to the lovely streams of Devon, I have never heard mention made of the finding of crayfish in them; I presume, however, that Mr Parfitt has, among other local authorities, consulted Bellamy's work on the natural history of S. Devon.—JOHN C. GALTOK (New University Club).

—There is certainly a legend existing in South Wales that sewin are only found in rivers running westward, crayfish in streams flowing eastward.—While there are several exceptions, the rule holds good to the present day, though the geological formation of the country—not simply the points of the compass to which rivers flow—has produced this order of things. First let us quote what Jones, in his history of Breconshire, written in 1800, says about crayfish: "It is remarkable that the crayfish, or fresh-water lobster, is found in many brooks running into the Wye; but seldom, if ever, in those which fall into the Usk or Irvon. Many unsuccessful attempts have been made to remove them into the rivers of Carmarthenshire and Glamorganshire, and even into some brooks communicating with the Irvon, which empties itself into the Wye; but when thus conveyed, they soon disappear either emigrate, or are destroyed and totally devoured by the indigeneous inhabitants of the streams to which they are unnaturally introduced." Except only in the Anwd brook, there is not a

footed swimmers like the gulls, the gannets, and the albatrosses, the winged birds form the earliest colonists of oceanic stolls and other far-off islets. When I landed on the island (which appeared to be merely one end of the horseshoe-shaped coral reef, elevated above the level of the sea, and covered with vegetation, like Robinson Crusoe I lighted a fire, and made a snug tent house out of the sail of the jolly boat, choosing for my bivouac a little sheltered glen, with bushes of Scoparia on one side, and a thicket of stunted Tournefortia on the other. Having appointed one boy as cook, I sent the other boys to collect firewood, and, if possible, to catch a turtle. Having arranged the house to my satisfaction, I took a walk round the island. Prizing it near the sea, I observed a carpet of yellowish-green creeping grass, the flowers with large white anthers, and bearing a delicate feathery stigma; and this green circular border was gemmed all over with innumerable blossoms of a pink and white convolvulus. At the first glance nothing is visible inland but dense rounded masses of glaucous-green shrubs, mostly Scoparia, with here and there traces of Tournefortia. As I advanced, however, I saw open spaces with heaps of finely powdered coral sand, white as the driven snow. The bones of shipwrecked men, mingled with those of the turtle on which they had fed, were scattered all around, bleaching in the sun. The heat was intense, and, with hundreds of gannets hovering over my head, I bathed in the view of the shoreless ocean. So bold grew the gannets as to swoop down upon me, and even to threaten my eyes; and I left the limpid waves to pelt them with lumps of coral, for stones there were none. The dark dot of a shark appearing now and again above the surface of the water looked ominous and ugly, so I dressed and proceeded with my explorations. I had not gone far before I captured a white egret with a crest of two long feathers, and a gannet's nest which I observed I robbed of two light green pointed eggs, as large as those of a duck. In the course of my scientific explorations I was stung by a little scorpion. When I had proceeded some way I came to a small joss-house, filled by grateful mariners with offerings to the Chinese goddess of the sea; this mimic temple having been built by the poor fishers who come here. The fishermen who frequent these coasts catch turtles, and reap a plentiful harvest from the fish-teeming waters which surround the reef. My predilection for the study of nature was here gratified by the sight of several strange creatures. I watched with curiosity the movement of the heronman crabs, lightly skimming over the level sand on the tips of their toes; and there were numbers of huge brown locusts, everywhere leaping about, or spinning round your head with a whirl. A large, downy humming-bird hawkmoth, with rapidly vibrating wings and fan-like tail, hovered incessantly about the white, many-cleft flowers of the Scoparia lobelia, which abounds here. On the outskirts of the lilliputian forest were spread verdant carpets, composed of Crassulaceae, succulent, thick-leaved plants, watered by the salt spray, among the damp roots of which the land-crabs form large, deep burrows. As I wandered on, I came to a shallow lagoon, divided by a tongue of land into two portions. Near the end of it screw pines, or Pandanus, and a few other trees, formed quite a pretty miniature picture of a tropical jungle scene. Madrepore masses of giant proportions, left high and dry by tempests, fringed one margin of the lagoon. On the coral the private crabs carried about their homes, and numbers of them were mauling on the shore, staggering under their borrowed houses. Wading birds were on the yielding sands, some were probing the oozy mudbanks round the margin, and a few ferrous sager for crabs were standing on one leg in the middle of the water. The number of gannets on the island was astounding, the ground in some parts being literally strewn with their eggs. Their nests were shallow, and composed of twigs and sticks. In them generally reposed either two eggs, or two unfledged, callow young ones, with greedy eyes, big heads, and gaping mouths, straining their necks for food. Their mothers stood around, and I noticed that the contents of the pelican-like pouch they carry under their bills chiefly consisted of flying fish, the flavour of which the hungry infant gannets appeared fully to appreciate.

We confers that to us the gossiping and cheerful manner in which the padi bird, the colonising theory, the primal vegetation, the house building, the bones of men and turtles, the audacity of the gannets, the joss house, the heronman crabs, the humming-bird moth, the verdant carpet of Crassulaceae, and the herons standing on one leg—the cheerful manner, we repeat, in which these incidental objects are associated without confusion, is very agreeable and attractive. A second example of this style we extract from p. 42, in which pigs, cockatoos, sand crabs, baboons, love birds, and squirrels are the prominent features.

We shot wild pigs on Thwart-the-way Island, and astonished the noly cockatoos on Krakatau Island. As we invaded their solitudes they ascended screaming in large flocks, and circled round and round the highest tree tops. At Anjer, on the mainland of Java, where we landed on one occasion, we strolled under the shade of the cocoa palms, which stretch along the level sandy shore, and watched the artful manner of the sand crab, which has some very amusing tricks. Near the village we loitered about the great banyan tree, under the shade of whose many-drooping branches and wide-spread foliage cluster the indolent Javanese in their loose sarongs and bamboo hats, offering for sale their multifarious wares. Squinting on the ground at a hideous baboon, complacently munching a banana, at the same time keenly watching, with little twinkling eyes (the expression of which was very mischievous), every movement of those around him. Proseive and subdued, huzzing his knees with his slender hands, I observed a long-armed ape; while several smaller monkeys, grinning, chattering, and showing their

* Travels of a Naturalist in Japan and Manchuria. By Arthur Adams, F.L.S., and Burgeon, R.N. London: Hurd and Blackett, 13, Great Marlborough Street, 1861. 20 pp. Demy 8vo.

lary, has to take care of himself, and, judging from his physique, he is able to do so. He is a black, hirsute, active, and tracible pachyderm, with a Jean body, long legs, a wedge-like head, a bristling crest, an inquisitive nose, a wicked, vigilant eye, a straight, tufted tail, and a shrill, angry voice.

It has been often said that the reviewer must be critical; in other words, he must find fault. Now, with every disposition to be pleased with this cheerful companion, with a feeling of real interest in his record of captures, and with implicit faith in the names he has given us of the beetles and the fishes and the lizards, still there is something wanting. The fact that Mr Adams obtained such and such beetles and fishes and lizards is so clearly of that interest to the general reader which he would have derived from a detailed account of habits and economy that had never previous been recorded. The passages we have selected are not details of beetle-hunting, it is true; but it is equally true that the author was, as he expresses it, always "on the alert for specimens."

THE LAWS OF SHORT WHIST.*

Six years ago the laws of short whist, agreed to by the Arlington and Portland Clubs, were introduced to the public. Since that time sixty clubs, and indeed whist players generally, have adopted the code then issued; and it may now be considered that this code is the recognised authority, and is binding on whist players, whether the club at which they play has formally notified its acceptance of these rules or not. It is well known that in deciding cases in THE FIELD we have always for the last six years been guided by the laws under notice.

The treatise on the game by so distinguished a judge as Mr Clay has peculiar claims on the attention of whist players, the more so as it is written in a most readable and attractive style. On turning over the new edition, we perceive that Mr Clay has touched up a passage here and there; but the main features in the volume are the addition of more cases and decisions, and of a chapter on dummy, which is so interesting that we extract the major portion of it. Mr Clay says:

Dummy whist, as played in England, is to me a dull game, and especially so to dummy's opponents. The game is very frequently over and the cards thrown down before the hand is half played out; and as the player with the dummy cannot deceive his partner, it is his interest always to play false cards, whereby the ordinary calculations of whist become of little use. Some few years back I passed a winter in Algiers, and found dummy whist played there in a way that was altogether new to me, and which I consider vastly superior to the old-fashioned game. It was so great a favourite there that it was played to the exclusion of any other form of whist. . . . It is played thus: Single games are played, and not rubbers, and each player plays one in his turn. Honours are not counted, but each trick counts for one, and the winning of the game for four. Thus, if twelve tricks out of thirteen are made, the value of the game is fifteen points; viz., eleven for tricks and four for the game; and if all thirteen tricks are made, which is commonly called the "grand slam," the winner receives seventeen points from each adversary, viz., thirteen for the tricks and four for the game points. But this hand does not count towards the game in which it has occurred, and that game proceeds as if no grand slam had been made. When dummy whist is played in this way, no hands are thrown up, as every trick is of value, and a vice calculation frequently occurs, whether it may be right to jeopardise even the winning of the game, in order to take the chance of making a very large score. . . . For that which I consider the vice, inseparable from dummy, of an exposed hand, this is a charming and highly scientific game from which the very best players of ordinary whist will be sure to learn much to which their attention had not been previously turned, and they will be surprised to find that they had believed. The advantage, however, to the good player is so great, that this mode of playing dummy whist can never have any great vogue where high stakes are engaged; but where whist is played for the sake of the game, or in family circles where perhaps four players may not be readily found, I strongly recommend it as a great improvement on the old game.

There are several little points connected with the game on which we should like to enter the lists with Mr Clay, especially in his condemnation of leading from intermediate sequences; but to criticise that gentleman is an arduous and presumptuous task, so we content ourselves with advising whist players to get the book, and to criticise for themselves.

* The Laws of Short Whist, edited by J. H. Baldwin, and a Treatise on the Game, by James Clay. Second Edition. London: Harrison, 26, Pall Mall, 1870.

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