

## SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTION.

6th Nov. The Secretary reported that the Rev. Dr. Philip had presented two interesting Zoological Specimens for the Society's Museum,—the one *Manis Temminckii*, the other *Python Natalensis*; and that both of them had been brought from the interior, eastward of Latakoo. The latter, Dr. Smith stated, was also found in the country about Port Natal; and that he had in his possession a specimen which was killed by his party whilst he was there.

At the request of Mr. Verreaux, the attention of the meeting was called to three birds which he had lately received from Madagascar, and which, from considering them new to science, he had named and characterised as follows:—

*Accipiter Madagascariensis*. Above dull brown with an irregular white spot on the nape; beneath white freely crossed with fine brown bars: vent and under tail coverts, pure white; tail brown above, ashy white beneath, and both surfaces crossed by eight narrow brown-black bands. Length thirteen inches and a half.\*

*Glareola ocularis*. Head and shoulders green-black; under each eye a fine transverse white stripe; upper parts of neck and back green-grey; chin white; under parts of neck and the breast brownish grey; anterior part of belly pale chesnut; hinder parts, and under and upper tail coverts white; base of tail partly black and partly white, the tips of a few of the feathers white, the other parts pure black; bill black with the edges of the mandibles towards the angles of the mouth, red. Length about eight inches and a half.

*Rallus Madagascariensis*. Head and chin grey; neck, breast and belly rusty grey-brown; back rusty olive blotched with black; vent barred transversly with reddish white; under tail coverts white; point of bill and upper surface of upper mandible blackish brown, the other parts of the bill yellowish. Length eight inches and a half.

Dr. Smith stated, that the Rev. Mr. Wright, of the London Missionary Society, had found, by means of a Trochiometer connected with one of the wheels of his wagon, that the distance between Griqua Town and Cape Town, *via* Beaufort, was 622 English miles.

The reading of Mr. Chase's paper, entitled "An Account of the Progress of Geographical Discovery in the African Continent made from the Cape of Good Hope," was resumed and concluded. The author in this part of his paper gave a brief detail of the various attempts which had been made to explore the country along the South-east Coast, and concluded by a summary of the information which had resulted from those expeditions.

\* Can this be the *Astur fasciatus* of Vigors and Horsfield? Ed.