



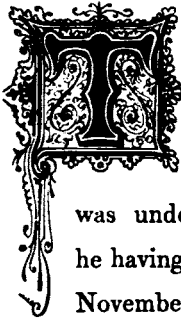
AN  
ABRIDGED  
**Catalogue**  
OF THE  
SAFFRON WALDEN  
MUSEUM.



1845.

## INTRODUCTION.

---



THE Saffron Walden Natural History Society was constituted in the year 1832. Their first meetings were held in a house, the property of the late JABEZ GIBSON, Esq. adjoining the Cattle Market. It was under his fostering care that the MUSEUM commenced, he having contributed the first presentations, in the month of November, 1832.

On the 22nd of that month, the Society met, and came to the Resolution, among others, "That a Museum be formed, to include Specimens in the several departments of Natural History, with Antiquarian remains, and such other articles, as might be of general or local interest."

Various circumstances conduced to a material alteration of the rules then deemed advisable; but from that time, the Society steadily pursued its just intention, gradually accumulating objects of interest, until the expiration of the year 1834, when the Collection was removed from Mr. GIBSON's premises, to the house on the Bury, or Castle Hill, an

arrangement having been made with Lord Braybrooke, to have a building, which his Lordship kindly erected for a Museum, and other public purposes.

The Institution had sufficiently advanced in 1834, to enable the members to frame the Laws and Regulations for their future guidance; and a circular address was also determined upon, explanatory of their intentions, of which the following are extracts:—

“The Saffron Walden Natural History Society having been instituted for the purpose of extending the knowledge of the Science as one of the most interesting studies which can occupy the intelligent mind, its first object is to cultivate a taste for the beautiful in nature, and thus to lead to an examination of the wonderful and varied productions of the Great Architect of the Universe, whose matchless skill is perceptible in works of his Creation so minute, yet so completely adapted to their purpose and design, as to convince the most sceptical of their origin, and to induce the most thoughtless to stand awhile and admire.

“The Members of this Society are therefore desirous of forming such a collection of objects as would be acceptable not only to the Naturalist, but to the enquiring of every class; and they have accordingly commenced a Museum which already includes Specimens, many of them rare and valuable, in the Departments of Geology, Mineralogy, Entomology, and Zoology in general, as well as Antiquities and other Productions, illustrative of the Arts, Manufactures, and Habits of different Nations. They have also the assurance that so soon as they are enabled to occupy the Building now in great forwardness, they shall be furnished with loans and other accessions calculated to excite the attention, and gratify the inclination of all who value

Natural History for its own sake, or who perceive in the encouragement of the study, a never-failing source of pleasure to the youthful and ardent mind, and one advisable means of improving the neighbourhood and times in which they live.

“ The concentration of Specimens peculiar to the District in which the Museum is established will form a leading feature in its arrangement. Every one who correctly estimates the sources of domestic satisfaction has more or less pleasure in the contemplation of matters which give an interest to the locality of his home. Without, too, some acknowledged Receptacle in which Articles rare or singular may be safely deposited, many of which would gratify the curious, are carelessly disposed of, or hid in Private Dwellings, unnoticed and unknown. Similar Institutions in other places have been honored and valued ; and from very small beginnings have become objects of general attraction, and sources of commendable gratification. ‘ No man lives for himself only ;’ nor can any Society established on correct principles proceed in its course, without imparting some tone and creating some interest in its immediate vicinity.

“ The Members feel confident that their pursuits are obtaining much attention in the present day ; and they consider, with no little satisfaction, that in this District there are many Individuals who have their favorite branch to which they devote, with true wisdom, a portion of their leisure. Among the Gentry, and the intelligent of all classes, many might be named, were that desirable, who have both taste and ability to estimate the importance and the value of works both in Nature and in Art. To these, the Members unquestionably look for encouragement in this plan of their Society ; and in throwing open to the gratification of their Neighbours and others, which they intend

doing as soon as possible, a Collection which has already been attended with much labor and very considerable pecuniary sacrifices, they indulge the hope that their motive will be fairly appreciated, and that they shall obtain such co-operation and assistance as will be the means of rendering this Museum one of the most agreeable attractions in this part of the country."

JABEZ GIBSON,  
*Chairman.*

*27th February, 1834.*

The result of this address, was such an accession of trustees and annual subscribers, as to encourage the Society to pursue their object with still greater diligence; and at the beginning of 1835, they were enabled to arrange their Cases and Specimens in the new Building. They had recently received some valuable accessions, including the African Elephant, the Coudu, the double-horned Rhinoceros, and many other of the South African animals. These were obtained through a gentleman then residing at Algoa Bay, who, in consequence of a communication from this Society, explored in company with a hunting party, a considerable extent of that portion of the African Continent, and succeeded in procuring a great number of Specimens, most of which are now deposited in this Museum.

On the 12th of May, 1835, the Museum was first opened to the public, on which occasion the late Rev. ROBERT FISKE, of Elmdon, delivered an address, in further explanation of the objects of the trustees; and a general testimony was borne by the highly respectable company then present to the interest excited in their minds, and to the value and extent of the Collection submitted to their inspection.

From that period the Society have had the pleasure of knowing,

from season to season, that their Collection was progressing, and with permanent acquisitions of a like interesting character.

In March, 1838, it became, however, their very painful duty to record the decease of their Treasurer, the late JABEZ GIBSON, Esq. to whose activity and judicious liberality, in connexion with the effectual co-operation of their Honorary Secretary, JOHN PLAYER, Esq. and others of the Trustees, this Institution is most materially indebted for its prosperity and success. A list of the present Trustees will be found at the close of this Introduction.

To these concise remarks may be appended the Address, circulated by the Trustees, previously to the opening of the Museum, for the season of 1844, as it exhibits their present intentions, and prevailing desire to provide still further for the rational gratification of the locality to which they belong.

“The Saffron Walden MUSEUM was established in the Year 1834, for the purpose of forming a Collection of Specimens in each department of Natural History; objects of Antiquarian and local interest; and the occasional exhibition of works of Art.

“The Trustees of this MUSEUM have the satisfaction to state, that these views have been, to a large extent, realized by the formation of a Collection, which, in some of its departments, it is believed, is surpassed by few, if any, local institutions of a similar character, in the United Kingdom. This object has been thus far accomplished at the expense of a large outlay, both of time and money, on the part of the Trustees themselves, as well as by the aid of a number of Annual Subscriptions. These last are, however, at present, inadequate to meet the necessary expenses attendant on the Establishment.

“The Trustees of this Society beg to solicit your aid, in the further-

ance of their views, either by the temporary, or more permanent, deposit of interesting specimens of Natural History, Models of Machinery, Curiosities, Antiquities, the Loan of Pictures or Drawings for the Season, and, more especially, that you would allow your name to be added to the List of Members by the payment of an Annual Subscription.

“At a time when the attention both of the Legislature and the Public, is peculiarly alive to the importance of providing innocent amusements for the people of this country, the Trustees feel that they have a strong claim upon the patronage and support of all classes of the community.

“The Trustees beg further to state they have in contemplation the preparation of a Catalogue of the Museum, which, when completed, they will be happy to present to their Members.”

“*May, 1844.*”





## ZOOLOGY.

The specimens of quadrupeds (Mammalia) are contained in the cases Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 13; there are also some in the lower room. There is an interesting collection of the British species in case 13; these are marked with an asterisk. (\*)

### ORDER I.—PRIMATES.

#### *Fam. Simiadae.*

		Habitat.	Presented by
Simia Satyrus, <i>Linn.</i> .....	The Orang-Outan. (Young Female)	Borneo .....	Mr. G. Wombwell.
Siamanga Syndactyla, <i>Gray</i>	The Siamang .....	Sumatra.....	
Hylobates Lar., <i>Geoff</i> .....	The Gibbon .....	Malacca .....	
Cercopithecus pygerythrus, <i>F. Cuv.</i>	The Vervet .....	South Africa .....	Mr. Dunn.
Presbytes entellus, <i>Gray</i> ...	Entellus Monkey ....	India .....	Mr. Gould.
Cynocephalus porcarius, <i>Desm.</i>	The Chacma .....	South Africa .....	
Cebus Capucinus, <i>Erl.</i> ...	The Sia, or Weeper..	Brazils .....	

The Siamang and Entellus Monkey are rare.

		Habitat.	Presented by
*Cervus Dama, <i>Linn.</i> .....	The Fallow Deer ....	Audley End .... {	Right Hon. Lord Braybrooke.
— Axis, <i>Erxl.</i> .....	The Axis Deer .....	India .....	
Camelopardalis Giraffe, } <i>Gmel.</i> }	The Giraffe.....	Central Africa . {	Zoological Society of London.
	Female .....	Ditto .....	Mr. G. Wombwell.
Llama Pacos, <i>Less.</i> .....	The Llama, or Alpaca	South America ...	Ditto.

*Fam. Equidæ.*

Equus Zebra, <i>Linn.</i> .....	{ The Zebra .....	Africa.....	{ Mr. G. Wombwell.
---------------------------------	-------------------	-------------	--------------------

*Fam. Elephantidæ.*

Elephas Africanus, <i>Bleum.</i> ..	{ The African Elephant }	South Africa .....	{ Jabez Gibson, Esq.
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------	----------------------

This species is distinguished from the Asiatic by its more rounded head, and very large ears, as well as by the form and structure of the cheek teeth, which have the divisions of the crown lozenge-shaped. It has hitherto been scarcely domesticated, and is now become rare in the neighbourhood of the Cape Colonies. This specimen is believed to be the only one at present in this country.

Rhinoceros Simus, <i>Burch</i> {	{ The Double Horned Rhinoceros .....	South Africa .....	{
----------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------	---

This Rhinoceros was first described by Dr. Burchell. The specimen here preserved is probably the first that was ever brought into this Kingdom, or perhaps into Europe: another has been recently introduced by Dr Smith, and is in the British Museum.

Phascolochærus Africanus, <i>Cuv.</i>	{ The African Hog....	South Africa .....	{
Hyrax Capensis, <i>Schreb.</i> ....	{ The Klip-das, or Dais }	Ditto .....	{

*Fam. Dasypidæ.*

Myrmecophaga jubata, <i>Linn.</i>	{ The Great Ant-eater. }	South America ...	{
— dydactyla, <i>Linn.</i>	{ The Ant-eater..... }	Ditto .....	{ G. S. Gibson, Esq.
Echidna Hystrix, <i>Cuv.</i> .....	{ Porcupine Ant-eater. }	Ditto .....	{ F. Hobler, Esq.
Orycteropus Capensis, <i>Geoff.</i>	{ The Aard-vark, or Cape Ant-eater ... }	South Africa .....	{
Ornithorynchus paradoxus, <i>Blum.</i>	{ The Platypus..... }	New South Wales	{ J. H. Wedge, Esq.

The Great Ant-eater, and Cape Ant-eater, are rare and fine specimens.

*Fam. Bradypidæ.*

Bradypus tridactylus, <i>Linn.</i>	{ The Sloth, or Ai .... }	South America ...	{ G. S. Gibson, Esq.
------------------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------	----------------------