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this Academy, has recently removed his residence from the city of Philadelphia, and on that account has resigned his Curatorship,

Resolved, That this Academy has accepted with sentiments of deep regret the resignation of Mr. Ashmead, one of the Curators of the Society without intermission since 1841, a term of office rarely paralleled, and that it does hereby declare its high sense of his very valuable as well as long continued services.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Academy be cordially tendered to Mr. Ashmead, and that the Corresponding Secretary be hereby instructed to furnish him with copies of these Resolutions.

The following was adopted:

Resolved, That the Committee on Proceedings be hereby authorized to furnish to Mrs. Lucy W. Say, widow of the late Mr. Thomas Say, and herself a member of this Society, the Proceedings of this Academy gratuitously after January 1st, 1859.

A resolution was also adopted giving to Mrs. Christiana Watson, widow of the late Gavin Watson, M.D., authority to issue orders and endorse tickets of admission to the Academy.

Dec. 7th.

Vice President LEA in the Chair.

Thirty-one members present.

The following extract from a letter of Mr. C. O. Sanford, dated Petersburg, Va., Oct. 20th, 1858, was read.

I was much interested in the slab of sandstone (mentioned on page 177,) showing the ripple marks on its opposite sides, at right angles, or nearly so, and although I thought I could account for it, I was not willing to venture an opinion until I could have access to my books.

I send an extract from Calver, on the improvement of tidal rivers, which satisfies me that the marks were not made by currents, but by waves caused by winds.

1st. A wind produced the ridges upon the soft bed of sand.

2d. That a deposit of sand was made upon these ridges, which in like manner was ridged by a wind blowing at a different angle from the first. One side of the slab is probably the impression of the ridges first made.

Extract from a letter written by an officer in the British Navy.

"In 1833, while lying in one of H. M. ships, in the port of Santander, on the north coast of Spain, we observed, upon looking over the side at high water, and when the water was unusually clear, that the bottom, composed of sand, was covered by ridges running parallel to the waves that had been on the surface during a strong breeze of two or three days' duration, but which had been succeeded by a calm. Our anchorage was within the harbor, and the wind off shore. The impression it made on my mind at the time was, that as the ridges lay at right angles to the direction in which the wind had been blowing, they were occasioned by a motion given to the water at that depth by the waves at the surface.

Our anchorage at high water (the time alluded to,) was forty feet.

I do not think that the waves, from the crest to the lowest part of the hollow could have been more than five feet, as the wind was an off shore one upon that coast.

The ridges were small, apparently not more than a foot in width, and so, not corresponding in magnitude with the waves on the surface, but only with their direction."

[Nov.

On leave granted, the Report of the Biological Department for November was presented and ordered to be printed, with the Proceedings of last meeting.

Dec. 14th.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Sixty-seven members present.

The following papers were presented for publication in the Proceedings:

Ichthyological Notices, by Charles Girard, M. D.

Prodromus Descriptionis Animalium evertebratorum, quæ in Expeditione ad Oceanum Pacificum septentrionalem, a Republica federata missa, Cadwaladaro Ringgold et Johanne Rodgers ducibus observavit et descripsit W. Stimpson; pars septima, Crustacea Anomoura.

And were referred to Committees.

Mr. Wm. Parker Foulke made a statement respecting the fossil bones, shells and wood presented by him to the Academy this evening.

Passing the summer and autumn at Haddonfield, Camden County, New Jersey, Mr. Foulke learned that one of his neighbors, Mr. John E. Hopkins, while digging marl upon his farm, about twenty years ago, had found some bones. These were described as vertebræ, and as being of large size, and very numerous. Mr. Hopkins being young at the time of the discovery, and not specially interested in such subjects, had permitted visitors to carry away the fossils; so that none remained in his own possession, nor could he remember the names of any of the persons by whom the vertebræ had been taken. According to his recollection, no head had been found, nor any other bones than those of the spine, except one, which was said by him to have resembled, in general respects, a "shoulder blade." It appeared, then, not improbable that upon digging around the old pit, (which was sixteen feet long and eight feet wide,) a head, or at least a portion of one containing teeth, might be obtained. Considering the geological age of the formation upon which Haddonfield stands, and that specimens of Mosasaurus have been discovered in places not very remote from the village, there appeared sufficient motive for exploration. Mr. Hopkins, with an intelligent appreciation of the object proposed, gave to Mr. Foulke, with prompt liberality, permission to dig in any part of the farm, and to take away whatever fossils might be thus procured. There was some difficulty in ascertaining the place of the old excavation. It had been made in the bed of a narrow ravine, in which a brook flows eastwardly into the south branch of Cooper's Creek; but the pit had long since been filled to the common level of the bed, and it was in like manner overgrown with grass, shrubs, and young trees, so as to be undistinguishable by the eye. After conference with one of the diggers who had been employed at the time of the discovery, (whose indication proved to be inaccurate,) and after a careful survey of the vicinage by Mr. Hopkins, a party of experienced marl diggers were set at work; and after one day's preliminary trial, the eastern side of the old pit was detected. In conformity with Mr. Hopkins' recollection of the manner in which the vertebræ lay, the party of diggers was shifted to the western side of the old pit. The superficial deposit overlying the marl here, was only about four feet thick; the ravine being between twenty and thirty feet deep. At nearly four feet further depth, a thin stratum of decomposed shells was passed; and at about two feet below this, overlying and intermixed with another stratum of shells, the workmen came upon a pile of bones—the same now before the Academy. The total depth from the surface was between nine and ten feet.

1858.]