PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

HELD AT PHILADELPHIA

FOR

PROMOTING USEFUL KNOWLEDGE

Vol. XVI.

JANUARY 1876 TO MAY 1877.

PHILADELPHIA:
PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY
BY M'CALLA & STAVELY.
1877.

Stated Meeting, October 20th, 1876.

Present, 20 members.

Vice-President, Mr. FRALEY, in the Chair.

Letters of acknowledgment were received from the J. V. N. in Würtemberg, dated Stuttgard, June 24th (complete set of T. & P); the Swiss Society at Berne (92–96), and Professor C. E. Anthon, dated New York, Oct. 19.

Letters of envoy were received from the Swedish Academy, Stockholm, July, 1876; Royal Saxon Society, Leipzig, June 1; Swiss Society, Berne; and Royal Belgian Academy, Bruxelles.

Donations for the Library were received from the Academies at St. Petersburg, Stockholm, Copenhagen, and Bruxelles; the Observatories at St. Petersburg, and Prague; the Geological, Geographical, Zoölogical, and Meteorological Institutions at Vienna; the German Geological Society, Berlin; the Saxon Society at Leipzig; the Societies at Stuttgard, Ulm, Bern, and Lyons; M. de Koninck at Brusselles; the Geographical and Antiquarian Societies at Paris; the Geographical Society, the Victoria Institute and Nature, London; the Glasgow Philosophical Society; Melbourne Inspector of Mines; Canadian Journal; Essex Institute; Boston Nat. Hist. Society, and Massachusetts Commission to the Centennial; Cambridge Museum; American Antiquarian Society; Franklin Institute; Penn Monthly; Journal of Pharmacy, American Journal of the Medical Sciences; and Engineer Department of the United States Army.

Donations for the Cabinet were reported from Professor Guyot, of copies of original antiquities in the Museum of Princeton College, made by Professor Matile, who, with these copies, returned to the Cabinet the originals loaned to him from the Poinsett collection, having made copies of them for the Princeton Museum. Other originals were then selected to be copied and returned in due order.

The Secretary, in exhibiting these donations, said that they

were copies of prehistoric remains: snakes, tortoises, and other bizarre figures, found in Porto Rico.

He had suggested to Professor Matile that certain duplicates in the Poinsett collection might be exchanged for duplicates in the Princeton collection. Mr. Matile and Mr. Guyot subsequently requested that the Society would consider a request for such exchanges; Mr. Matile selected duplicates; and the Secretary displayed specimens of the selection to show in what form the exchanges might be effected.

The death of Sir William Jardine, and Dr. John Hughes Bennett, of Edinburgh, members of this Society, was put on record, the Smithsonian Institution having returned copies of the Proceedings so marked.

The Committee on Dr. Valentino's Memoir reported that they considered it advisable to return it to the author for certain emendations, which, on motion, was so ordered.

Dr. Genth reported his discovery of a new mineral, the telluride of mercury, in the Keystone Lode, Magnolia District, Colorado. Further investigations are in progress and will be reported. The ore contains no silver. Native mercury is said to have been noticed in the mine.*

Pending nominations 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, and new nominations 809, 810, 811, 812, were read.

Ballots were then cast for Nos. 804 to 808.

The subject of providing additional conveniences for the members in the rooms of the Society was referred to the Hall Committee with power to act.

The formal application of Mr. Wooten for the premium of $500 for inventing a successful method of using anthracite slack was referred to the Officers and Council.

On motion, the subject of exchanges of duplicates with the Princeton Museum was referred to the Curators, with instructions to report their action at the next meeting.

Mr. Lesley communicated the fact of experiments being made at Johnstown, by order of the Geological Commission, to obtain some reliable facts about the conduct of mixed an-

* Dr. Genth has named the new species *Coloradolite*.

thracite and bituminous slacks, with and without pitch, in the coke oven.

Mr. Briggs urged the need of circumspection in offering and decreeing premiums to inventors before continuous and complete success; and instanced the use of all the anthracite slack in the manufacturing establishments of New England for the last twenty years, by a variety of methods, all of them successful. In respect of the mixed anthracite and bituminous slacks his experience had been that their combined clinkers were so much worse than the clinkers from either one separately that the mixture could not be used in the fire box.

The meeting was adjourned after scrutiny of the ballot boxes by the presiding officer, who declared the following persons duly elected members:

Mr. Samuel Davenport, of Adelaide, Australia.
Dom Pedro d'Alcantara, Emperor of Brazil.
John F. Hartranft, Governor of Pennsylvania.
Mr. W. Milnor Roberts, of New York.
Mr. Aug. R. Grote, Director Mus. Buffalo S. N. H.

Stated Meeting, November 3rd, 1876.

Present, 13 members.

Vice-President, Mr. FRALEY, in the Chair.

Letters accepting membership were received from Mr. Samuel Davenport, dated Main Cent. Building, Phila., Oct. 26; Mr. A. R. Grote, dated Buffalo, New York, Oct. 26; Mr. John Johnston, dated 812 Broadway, N. Y., Oct. 31, 1876.

A letter from Professor Jos. Henry, dated Smith. Inst. Washington, D. C., Oct. 27, requested a set of Transactions for the Wellington Museum, in New Zealand, under the charge of Dr. Hector, Director of the Geological Survey. On motion the request was granted.

Donations for the Library were received from Mr. Levi Capron (Kaiticushi, Tokio, Japan); the Academies of Ber-