

We give the text of these passages :—

“Bei Lubeck wurde einst ein versteinter Ast mit einem Vogel-Nest gefunden. Ein versteinter Zweig, gar artig proportionirt, wird in der Kunkstammer zu Florenz gewiesen;” p. 187.

“Eben bei diesem glücklichen Zuspruch bekomme nochmahlige Versicherung, wegen eines daselbst gefundenen Vogel-Nests, darinnen 4 oder 5 weisse Eyer, als Wachtel-Eyer, und ein Stein der 4 Ellen starck und sehr feste gewesen gelegen, welches mir von einem andern Freunde vorgebildet worden als Tab. xxi. weiset.” [M. D. S. Buttner's 'Rudera Diluvii Testes,' p. 218, pl. xxi. fig. 6.—Leipzig, 1710.]

“I cannot present now,” says M. Hermann, in his 'Maslographia' * (1711), “all the figures which I possess on my polished pyramids, squares, and other big stones, but I will, nevertheless, give a few of them, plate xiii., from R. 12 to 17, as they are in a polished state.” It is unfortunate for us M. Hermann could not do all he evidently wished, but for our purpose he has done quite enough, and we copy his fig. 17 (in our Pl. XXII. Fig. 3), as it has been referred to amongst the statements of bird-remains.

Hermann also gives in tab. xi. fig. 99 another figure, which we also copy, describing it in his text as “a white stone with the neck of a goose” (see our Plate XXII. Fig. 3).

“Fig. 99. Lapis albus cum collo anserino. Ganss-Hals.”

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

Homo sapiens versus Pithecus indocilis.

SIR,—Page 392 of your periodical for October, contains an allusion to the Andaman Islanders. The subjoined extracts from the 'Friend of India,' † of the 6th August last, may perhaps tend to show that their degraded condition is more to be attributed to the circumstances attending their mode of existence (*toto orbe divisos*) than to any natural deficiency of intellect in them; that their apparent low condition, relatively to the rest of mankind, is owing to deficiencies which are more acquired from the circumstances which have surrounded them hitherto than inherent in themselves.

W. T. N.

EXTRACTS.—“Never, we venture to say, has the Government of India published such remarkable documents as a Report by Lieutenant-Colonel Tytler, with a narrative, by the Rev. Henry Corbyn, of attempts to civilize the pigmies who inhabit the Andaman Islands.” . . . “Mr. Corbyn declares he has unquestionable proof that the Andamanese, who are ‘most imitative and possessed of extraordinary memory and quick intelligence, may soon acquire our language;’ and he speaks of ‘the submissive and

* The title of this work is,—“Maslographia, oder Beschreibung des Schliesichen Massel, im Oelfs-Bernstädtischen Fürstenthum mit seinen Schauwürdigkeiten. Von Leonhard David Hermann. Brieg. 1711.”

† One of the first newspapers in the East.

orderly conduct, good temper, and the pleasure evinced by the twenty-eight inhabitants of the Home." . . . "We would commend Mr. Corbyn's narrative to the study of those who, like Sir W. Denison, enter the lists in a mild fashion against Mr. Darwin and Professor Huxley, in defence of the dignity of the race and its generic difference from the gorilla. If Mr. Corbyn's record is to be trusted, the fact that the most degraded specimens of humanity yet discovered can be taught in a few weeks to show extraordinary memory 'and quick intelligence,' to distinguish the letters of our alphabet and read words of two syllables, will not be overlooked by those who hold the old-fashioned belief that God made man in His own image."

Southampton, 3rd October.

Mr. Guppy's Article on Trinidad Rocks.

MY DEAR SIR,—I am very sorry to see by your last number that Mr. Guppy has most unaccountably misapprehended the tenor and purpose of my former letter to you. I was perfectly aware that Mr. Guppy was not the authority for the correlation of the beds in question with the Neocomian of Europe; nor do I for one moment raise any objection to the connection of the two series of rocks. I merely objected to the use of the term "age;" and without dissenting in one particular from Mr. Guppy's statements, took the opportunity of referring to Professor Huxley's views on "homotaxis." Your correspondent himself states that he has held views similar to those in question; and I am, therefore, surprised that he should have troubled himself to enter into an explanation on other matters, which was alike unnecessary and uncalled for.

Let me assure Mr. Guppy that I concur in all that he has written on this matter, saving the one word "age;" and I am sorry that he should have thought it worth while to correct an error which had no existence but in his own imagination.

Yours truly,

E. R. LANKESTER.

8, Savile Row, W.

PROCEEDINGS OF GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES.

LIVERPOOL GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—The abstracts of the proceedings of this useful society, for the sessions of 1861–2 and 1862–3, have just been printed; they commence with the Report of the Excursion to Holywell on the 11th July, 1861.

The mountain limestone of that neighbourhood contains many species of the ordinary fossils in profusion,—*Productus giganteus*, *P. semireticulatus*, *Lithostrotion basaltiforme*, and *Syringopora geniculata* being the most common. The formation is there divided into the following subdivisions:—1, numerous beds of Chert; 2, Shale and Limestone, with concretions of chert; 3, Black Limestone; 4, White Limestone. The position of the chert nodules in No. 2 is similar to that of the flints in the Chalk, but their form is different, being round flat concretions, thick in the centre, and gradually thinning towards the circumference.

Next follows the Report of the Excursion to Coalbrookdale, on July 31st.

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