

many brace of the still rarer *Phasianus mongolicus* without the slightest compunction.

Mr. Cassin's second article upon the "birds collected in China, the Loo Choo Islands, Singapore, Ceylon, and California," is acceptable, as giving exact localities to many species of the correct *habitat* of which we were not hitherto very certain. There are also nice figures of *Garrulax perspicillatus*, *Heterornis sericea*, and the true *Ixos hæmorrhous* of China. Only four birds are noticed from the Loo Choo Islands, which, curiously enough, are, with one exception, identified with European species: *Ardea cinerea*, *Alcedo bengalensis*, *Fulica chloropus*, and *Sterna minuta*. Mr. Brevoort's notice of Japanese fish, or rather, of the drawings of them made by members of the Expedition (for it appears that no specimens were brought home), accompanies a series of plates made from these drawings. We decidedly object to the practice of describing new species of fishes (or, in fact, of any animals) from drawings, particularly when made, as these are confessed to have been, without a "close attention to the specific characters." But the discovery that *Ditrema Temmincki* probably belongs to the singular viviparous family *Embiotocidæ*, recently discovered in California, is certainly of great interest.

Mr. Jay has contributed a report upon the "Shells" collected by the Expedition, and Professor Asa Gray and others an essay on the dried plants.

There is also a very interesting account of the "Gulf-stream" and cyclones of the Western Pacific; and the volume closes with a facsimile of the Japanese version of the celebrated treaty of Kan-a-ga-wa, the "first formal instrument of the kind ever negotiated by the empire of Japan with any Christian nation."

The Angler in the Lake District; or Piscatory Colloquies and Fishing Excursions in Westmoreland and Cumberland. By JOHN DAVY, M.D., F.R.S. &c. Longmans.

Sir Humphry Davy was the author of two delightfully desultory works, one, the 'Salmonia,' and the other, 'Consolations in Travel, or the Last Days of a Philosopher.' Dr. Davy, the brother of the great chemist, is also an accomplished man, who has been engaged in the army medical service from his early manhood. Dr. Davy resided long in Ceylon and the West Indies, traversed many parts of the world, and in mature age has retired to the Lake country. He lives not far from another distinguished medical officer, well known to our readers as the friend and companion of Sir John Franklin, who did what he could, brave man! to find that arctic hero on the dreary North American coast. He is the author of the 'Fauna Boreali-Americana,' and many a goodly memoir and work on Exotic Fishes; while his new edition of Yarrell's 'British Fishes,' expected this year, will have a scientific exactness which the worthy Waltonian disciple, who wrote 'British Birds' and 'British Fishes,' never affected to possess, to say nothing of its many additions. Dr. John Davy and Sir John Richardson are resting (*not* on their oars) amid the calm

scenery of the Lakes of Cumberland and Westmoreland, and still think and work and publish. Here is a book by Dr. Davy, full to the brim of natural-history notes, in the wide—the Linnæan—sense of the term. The ichthyologist may derive much valuable information on the breeding and embryology of fish of the family Salmonidæ; see pages 165–183, where the author shows himself to be a keen observer and an accurate as well as pleasing writer. Turn to page 209, where he shows how the *smolt* loses in great measure the transverse markings of the *parr*,—the very silvery scales of the *smolt* having much lustrous matter deposited on their inner surface, and thus hiding the markings in the true skin.

But, besides Fish, Dr. Davy enlightens his readers on many other points of natural history.

Sir Emerson Tennant might derive an excellent anecdote for the inimitable monograph, *Biography of the Elephant*, still unpublished, but eagerly expected in his great work on Ceylon, were he to turn to p. 23, where Dr. Davy gives a striking proof that the Elephant *can* submit, without flinching, to a painful operation as well as many a man.

Dr. Davy introduces anecdotes of dogs;—of poultry in the West Indies, see p. 26;—the swan's nest, and how and by whom constructed, at p. 281. Ulpha Kirk and the beautiful lines of Wordsworth lead him to the wilds of Ceylon, and the pleasure he experienced, after a long journey, on coming in sight of a cocoa-nut palm,—as he remarks that it is never met with in the wild woods, but, by its presence, always marks out human dwellings (p. 245).

Meteorology and geology are treated most interestingly, in certain aspects that come before "Piscator" and "Amicus" as they wander amidst the scenery where William Wordsworth lived, observed, and wrote. What naturalist loves not to read and quote Wordsworth, particularly if wild flowers and gentle birds be his subjects? This pleasant book contains much to interest him, and indeed every reader of that great poet who sung the praises of the March Celandine, and in *one line* fixed, for ever, the Swan, that "queen of our lakes" and calmly flowing rivers. At this autumn season, the hills have a quiet soothing melancholy pleasure in their contemplation; and should any of our readers visit the hills and lakes of Westmoreland, they would thank us for recommending them to take, in addition to their guide-book, be it Adam Black's or Miss Martineau's, this prettily got-up green cloth pocket volume, full of facts and records of the wanderings and observations of an accomplished physician. The book is pervaded by a quiet religious and poetic tone, and is also full of kindly views of man and every lower creature.

The Practical Naturalist's Guide, containing Instructions for Collecting, Preparing, and Preserving Specimens of all Departments of Zoology. By JAMES BOYD DAVIES, Assistant Conservator in the Natural History Museum, Edinburgh. Maclachlan and Stewart, Edinburgh. 1858, 12mo.

In this little book of about 80 pages Mr. Davies has furnished the student of Zoology with an excellent manual of directions for



1858. "The angler in the lake district; or piscatory colloquies and fishing excursions in Westmoreland and Cumberland. By John Davy, M.D., F.R.S. &c. Longmans." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 2, 211–212.

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