

THE
SOUTH AFRICAN
QUARTERLY JOURNAL,



EDITED AT
*THE SOUTH AFRICAN LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC
INSTITUTION.*



Vol. II.

SEPTEMBER 1835.



CAPE TOWN :

Printed at the 'Albion Press,' Grave-street ;

AND PUBLISHED BY A. S. ROBERTSON, SHORTMARKET-STREET ;

AND

J. M. RICHARDSON, 23, Cornhill, London.

SOUTH AFRICAN QUARTERLY JOURNAL.

SECOND SERIES.

No. 4.

JULY—SEPTEMBER, 1834.

Part 1.

ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Council of the South African Literary and Scientific Institution, for 1833—34, read at the General Meeting on the 2nd of August.

ON account of the departure of Dr. SMITH, one of our Secretaries, close upon the period fixed by the Regulations for convening the Annual General Meeting of this Institution, and on account of the leisure and attention of many members of the Council being occupied in preparations of various kinds for that event, it has been found necessary to defer convoking the members till this day. The Council requesting the indulgence of the members for this deviation from its rules, would respectfully submit to them, as the Report of the Institution, the following review of the few transactions in which it has been engaged during the past year :

First, As to the business, generally, of the Institution, and its present condition and prospects :—The Council has to remark, that during the year now elapsed an attempt was again made to increase the attendance of members at the Monthly Meetings of the Institution, by changing the hour, but that no perceptible advantage has attended it.

The Institution has always contemplated a two-fold purpose, both capable of exerting extended influence on the condition and progress of society. The first of these is the gathering and spreading of information, and aiding or fostering the facilities by which it may be acquired and rendered useful. To this purpose, especially, is the system of public meetings at stated times applicable and subservient, either by attracting information from those of the surrounding community, who possess it, or by the increase or confirmation of individual knowledge, which arises from mutual communication. Its fulfilment depends evidently on the activity, zeal, and power, and the facility of research possessed by individuals, and must vary with the number of those who are thus equipped for unveiling the mysteries of science, or rising to the triumphs of literary success.

Otus Capensis, Smith. Above brown, finely freckled or marked with pale tawny, undulating lines and the shoulders variegated with some large tawny blotches; face tawny-white, mixed with black near the eyes; egrets small, brown variegated with tawny; cervical collar dark brown, spotted with fulvous in front of neck. Anterior part of breast nearly an uniform brown, rest of breast and belly finely mottled brown and white, the colours principally disposed in zig-zag transverse lines and bars, and in some specimens the shafts are deep brown; vent and tail coverts tawny-white. Primary wing feathers pale fulvous, irregularly barred with brown, and the points entirely brown; secondaries brown with partial fulvous bands, the tips tawny white, more or less mottled with brown. Tail slightly rounded, the two centre feathers brown, with four tawny bars, the distal one broken and indistinct, the outer feathers tawny white with three brown bars, the extremities of all the feathers nearly pure white. Legs tawny white; bill and claws black. Length fourteen inches.

Inhabits South Africa,—in marshy situations.

Marsh Owl of the Cape Colonists.

Otus Madagascariensis, Smith. Above blackish brown, each feather with a tawny blotch on each vane, producing a mottled appearance; scapulars blotched, banded or undulated with tawny. Wing feathers dull brown, with tawny bars, many of them brownish towards their centres. Egrets black-brown, some of the feathers blotched on both vanes with tawny, others only on outer vanes; cheeks tawny-brown; shafts and points of feathers black; rostral feathers black and white. Throat crossed by an obscure white crescent, and below that an indistinct collaret which extends on each side of the neck nearly to the egrets, and is mottled black-brown and tawny-white. Under parts tawny with longitudinal brown blotches, largest on the breast. Legs tawny rufous with a few brown variegations. Tail dark brown, with four or five light brown bands margined with tawny. Bill bluish black; claws black. Length fifteen inches.

Inhabits Madagascar.

Obs. This species stands close to *Otus brachyotos*, but differs from it particularly in the want of white spots on the upper parts, and in the distribution of the colours of the collaret and hinder parts of the belly:

Genus STRIX. Savigny.

Bill straight at base. curved towards tip; ear opening ample with a large operculum; the circle of setaceous feathers of face much developed; no egrets; tarsi feathered; toes covered with hairs.