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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.

most scapulars principally white, forming an irregular oblique band of that colour on each side; shoulders also with some large white spots. Primary quill feathers dull brown, the outer vanes barred with white, the inner ones with tawny; secondaries light brown. Facial disc white sprinkled with brown, but immediately around the eye pure black; eyebrows white, feathers crossed by narrow black bars; guttural collar white, crossed with black lines; sides of neck and breast tawny brown marked with brown and white transverse bars; belly irregularly banded black and white, and more or less clouded with pale rufous; legs rufous white with waved transverse brown lines. Tail brown with narrow bands of tawny white, which are generally edged by a darker brown; tips of feathers dull white. Bill and eyes yellow, the feathers about base of bill setaceous, white towards bases, black toward extremities; toes above covered with setaceous feathers, on the sides bare, reticulated and yellow; claws a dark horn-colour. Length about twelve inches.

Inhabits South Africa,—*rare*.

Large-eyed Owl, Latham. ? *History of Birds*, vol. i. p. 360

Noctua Capensis, Smith. The upper parts of the head, and the back and sides of the neck, brown, each feather towards tip crossed by a narrow white bar; interscapulars, back, rump and shoulders, black-brown, the feathers with two or more waved, narrow, rufous, transverse stripes, several of the outermost scapulars principally white, giving rise to a stripe of that colour on each side of the back; on shoulders also some large white blotches; edges of shoulders white. Quill feathers brown, crossed with narrow rufous or white bands. Throat brown mixed with white; breast brown, barred irregularly with white and tawny; belly pure white variegated with ferruginous-brown blotches; thighs tawny, mottled with black-brown. Tail dark black-brown, crossed by twelve very narrow rufous bars, and tipped with rufous. Bill greenish yellow; claws yellow at bases, blackish towards points. Length nine inches.

Inhabits South Africa,—*rare*.

Noctua perlata, Vieill. Upper parts of head and neck rufous-brown or simple brown, spotted freely with white; in front of interscapulars a more or less distinct light rufous collar; the rest of upper parts brown, sparingly spotted with white, each spot encircled by black-brown; several of the outermost scapulars half-white, forming a continuous line of that colour on each side of back; shoulders with a few white blotches intermingled with the white spots. Wings brown, imperfectly barred with white or pale rufous. Under parts either rufous variegated