



Astronomical Society

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XLVI. *Proceedings of Learned Societies.*

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

April 7.—**T**HE following communications were read:—1. Observations of the Planets made at the Imperial Observatory of Vienna, in the year 1828, by J. J. Littrow.

2. Observations of Occultations of Stars by the Moon, at Mr. South's Observatory, Kensington.

3. *Extract of a letter from Charles Perkins, Esq. to the President:—*

“ I observed most of the occultations last night (March 28). My friend Mr. Holland was with me, and we both considered the stars 99 Tauri, and Piazzini IV 102, to have been visible on the moon's disc. Each observer used a 42-inch achromatic with $2\frac{3}{4}$ aperture, mine with a power of 120, and Mr. Holland tried one of his own eye-pieces, the power of which he estimated at 336. With this he observed the star distinctly, and the moon's dark limb well defined.”

4. On a method of ascertaining any inaccuracy in the formation of the Pivots of Transit Instruments, &c., or any subsequent derangement in their shape. By Lieut. Peter Lecount, R.N.

5. “ Fourth Series of Observations with a 20-feet Reflector, containing the mean places and other particulars of 1236 Double Stars, as determined at Slough in the years 1828 and 1829 with that instrument (the greater part of them not previously described). By J. F. W. Herschel, Esq.”

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

A numerous Meeting of the Members of the Raleigh Travellers' Club, and other gentlemen, was held at the Thatched House, on Monday, the 24th of May, John Barrow, Esq., in the Chair; when it was submitted,—That, among the numerous literary and scientific societies established in the British metropolis, one was still wanting to complete the circle of scientific institutions, whose sole object should be the promotion and diffusion of that most important, useful, and entertaining branch of knowledge, Geography.

That a new and useful Society might therefore be formed, under the name of “The Geographical Society of London.”

That the interest excited by this department of science is universally felt; that its advantages are of the first importance to mankind in general, and paramount to the welfare of a maritime nation, like Great Britain, with its numerous and extensive foreign possessions.

That its decided utility in conferring just and distinct notions of the physical and political relations of our globe must be obvious to every one; and is the more enhanced by this species of knowledge, being attainable without much difficulty, while at the same time it affords a copious source of rational amusement.

That although there is a vast store of geographical information existing in Great Britain, yet it is so scattered and dispersed, either in large books that are not generally accessible, or in the bureaus of the public