

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include a Bonnet Monkey (*Macacus sinicus* ♂) from India, presented by Mr. J. L. Ellis; a Black-backed Jackal (*Canis mesomelas*) from South Africa, presented by Mr. H. P. Plummer; a Spotted Eagle Owl (*Bubo maculosus*) from Africa, presented by Capt. Lerner; a Nicobar Pigeon (*Caloenas nicobarica*) from the Indian Archipelago, presented by Mr. Thomas H. Haynes; a Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), European, presented by Dr. E. H. Cree; a Bonnet Monkey (*Macacus sinicus* ♂) from India, deposited; a Rabbit-eared Perameles (*Perameles lagotis*) from West Australia, two Specious Pigeons (*Columba speciosa*) from South America, purchased; a Bennett's Wallaby (*Halmaturus bennetti* ♂) from Tasmania, received in exchange; a Wapiti Deer (*Cervus canadensis* ♂) born in the Gardens.

GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES

IN *Petermann's Geographische Mittheilungen*, 1884, Heft iv., is an article on the island of São Thomé, accompanied by maps both of that island and of the neighbouring island of Rolas, by Prof. R. Greeff in Marburg. The contribution is the result of several months' residence on those islands in the course of a scientific tour through the islands of the Gulf of Guinea in 1879 and 1880. The map of the two islands in question is the united product of Prof. Greeff and of the proprietor of Rolas, Francisco José de Araujo: a map based partly on immediate exploration and observation, partly on careful information derived from natives. It both corrects and supplements in considerable measure the only two previous maps of St. Thomas known to the authors—that of 1829 by the English commander, T. Boteler, and that of 1844 by the Portuguese, Lopez de Lima. In the present map are entered for the first time the districts into which St. Thomas is divided, its "villas," its connecting highways, its more important plantations, and also the demarcation between the comparatively small cultivated part and the large wooded wilderness of the south and the interior. The map of Rolas is the first that has yet appeared of this island, which is intersected by the Equator. The history of St. Thomas is sketched from the year 1470, when it was discovered, without a single human inhabitant and almost wholly overgrown with forest, by the Portuguese sailors, João de Santarem and Pero de Escobar. Prof. Greeff calculates the dimensions of the island, which stretches ovally from $0^{\circ} 2'$ to $0^{\circ} 30'$ N. lat. and from $6^{\circ} 34'$ to $6^{\circ} 54'$ E. long., at about 52 kilometres by 34 kilometres, or altogether about 920 square kilometres.

WRITING from Bakundu-ba-Nambeleh in October 1883, St. von Rogozinski gives an account of his travels between Cameroon and Calabar. On August 13 he left the coast in company with Clemens Tomczek, made his way up the Mungo for Bakundu, his other fellow-travellers being bound for the station of Mondoleh. On September 11 they determined on traversing the region of the Upper Mungo as far as its falls. Making their way through thick forest and over mountain chains, they came on Eliké, where were three rapids, and from which point the Mungo is no longer navigable. The land to the north-east gets even more elevated, and the path of the travellers became continually crossed by streams. At length, at $4^{\circ} 46' 15''$ N. lat. and $9^{\circ} 33' 30''$ E. long., they looked down from a hill on the sources of the Yabiang or Abo, a deep and "indescribably beautiful" valley clothed in the most exuberant tropical vegetation. The principal town here is Balombi-ba-Kange, built like all towns of that quarter in the form of a crescent or arch, with fetish houses in the middle. On September 14 they left Kange, and passed the slave town of Bakú. Further to the north they entered, the same day, the large town of Mokonje, the centre of the ivory trade for the lands of Biafra Bay. Next passing Bao, they reached Mambanda, close to the falls and the new lake, Balombi-ba-Mbu, they were in quest of, on the 16th. Quite exhausted, and finding their way further to the north rendered impossible by troops of elephants and the want of any guide that would venture, they were reluctantly obliged to fall back on the mission station of Bakundu, where Rogozinski was compelled to stay and nurse the wounds on his feet and ankles. On the 23rd Tomczek resumed alone the march northwards by a different route, and happily reached the lake M'bu at half a day's march from Bao. The beautiful lake is four miles long, of

round shape, inclosed by thickly-wooded hills, is deep, abounds in fishes, and receives on the west the river Soho, six or seven metres broad. Apparently it is of volcanic origin.

IN a series of papers upon Early Discoveries in Australasia which Mr. E. A. Petherick, F.R.G.S., is contributing to the *Melbourne Review*, some curious and interesting facts are now made known for the first time, namely, the discovery of the west coast of Australia by the survivors of Magellan's expedition in 1522, the passage of Torres Straits by another Spanish vessel in 1545, sixty years before Torres, whose discovery and that of a Dutch vessel, the *Duyphen*, in the same year (1606) are hitherto the earliest authenticated accounts of the sighting of any part of the Australian coast by European vessels. But the most noteworthy statement Mr. Petherick makes is that the name of New Guinea belongs to that part of Australia now known as Queensland, and that the great island of Papua has borne the name of New Guinea erroneously for more than three centuries. Mr. Petherick is also able, from evidence upon a French *mappemonde* dated 1566, now in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, to refute all claims to the discovery of Australia made at various times during the present and the last century on behalf of French navigators. Notwithstanding the early Spanish discoveries of Australia now referred to, Mr. Petherick asserts that the Portuguese were in the eastern seas twenty years earlier, and probably discovered Australia in the first decade of the sixteenth century.

LAST autumn the expedition under Lieut. Holm for exploring the east coast of Greenland, and which is again to start northwards this spring, met a party of about sixty East-Greenlanders—men, women, and children—south of the island of Aluk, on the east coast. They were on the way to the west coast to sell bear-, fox-, and seal-skins. Every attempt was made by the Danish explorer to induce some of them to return and act as guides on his journey northwards, but the prospect of a visit to a Danish settlement proved too great. A considerable number of East-Greenlanders die on their way to the west coast. The East-Greenlanders are reported to differ much from the West-Greenlanders in stature and appearance, the men being often tall, with black beards and European cast of face. This seems to be particularly the case with those living far north. Both East- and West-Greenlanders have small hands and feet. During the year 1883 four boats with heathen East-Greenlanders arrived at Julianshaab. Three of these came from the distant Angmasalik, and in them there were also, for the first time, natives from Kelualualik, which is five days' journey further north. The latter stated that in the winter they were in the habit, when journeying on sleighs, of meeting with people living much further north. Kelualualik being situated, it is believed, between lat. 67° and 68° N., it may be assumed that the whole line of coast from lat. 65° to 70° is to some degree populated.

FROM the annual report of the Russian Geographical Society for 1883 we learn that the meteorological observations of the Novaya Zemlya Station are expected to be published in full in the course of this year, while the observers of the Sagastyr Meteorological Station, on the Lena, have remained there for a year longer. The publications of the Society, besides the *Izvestia* have been the following:—Prjevalsky's third journey to Central Asia, Potanin's sketches of North-Western Mongolia, Karelin's travels on the Caspian, and Maynoff's anthropology of the Morovinians. The next publications will contain: the report of Unkovsky's embassy to Kontaisha under Peter I., M. Sadovnikoff's folklore of Samara, the third volume of M. Potanin's work on Mongolia, a geological map of the shores of Lake Baikal, by M. Chersky, the remarkable collection of maps of the delta of the Amu-daria, by M. Kaulbars, and the concluding fascicule of the capital work of M. Semenov, the "Geographical and Statistical Dictionary of Russia." The great gold medal has been awarded to M. Severtsoff for his explorations in Turkestan, and Count Lütke's medal to Prof. Wild for his labours in Russian meteorology, and for his work, "On the Temperature of the Air in Russia." The smaller gold medals were awarded to M. Lessar for his journeys, MM. Agapitoff and Khangeloff for their work on Shamanism in Siberia, M. Adrianoff for his journey to the Altay and Kuzuetzky Alatau, and M. Usoff, member of the West Siberian branch of the Society. Silver medals were awarded to Lieut. F. Schwatka and Mr. W. Hoffman, Secretary to the Anthropological Society of Washington; to MM. Andréff, Grinevetsky, Konshin, Kosyakov, Krivosheya, Kudryavtseff, Prince Urusbieff, Fuss, Wereschaghin, and Dobrotvorský. The library has been increased by 4001 volumes.