2. An attempt to illustrate the remaining monuments of the Ancient Etruscan Language. By the Rev. John Williams, A. M. F. R. S. Ed.

The principal object of this paper, was to defend some interpretations of words in the ancient language of Etruria, proposed by Lanzi, and attacked by Niebuhr; as well as to point out some new analogies with other dialects. The languages which the author proposes particularly to call to his assistance are, Greek, Latin, Anglo-Saxon, and Cambrian or Welsh. The paper concluded with an application of these aids to a variety of words in the Etruscan language.

March 4.

SIR THOMAS MAKDOUGALL BRISBANE,
President, in the Chair.

The following Donations were presented:—

A Brief Inquiry into the State and Prospects of India.—*From William Blackwood, Esq. Bookseller.*

Essays by the late Robert Hamilton, LL. D., Professor of Mathematics in the Marischal College, and University of Aberdeen.—*From Alexander Thomson, Esq. of Banchory.*

Principes de Philosophie Zoologique. Par M. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire.—*From the Author.*

Tableau de l'Hyoide dans les Quatre Classes des Animaux Vertébrés. Par M. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire.—*From the Author.*

The following communication was read:—

On the Gradual Elevation of Land in High Northern Latitudes. By J. F. W. Johnston, Esq. F. R. S. Ed.

In this paper, the author shewed, by a number of phenomena observable within the coasts of Sweden, chiefly around Stockholm, and on the shores of the Lake Macler and its arms, that the conclusion of the Swedish surveyors in 1821, that a change of the relative level of the land and water along the coasts of the Baltic had in many localities taken place, could not reasonably be disputed.

He then considered if it were possible that the level of the Baltic could have fallen, being, by its connection with the North Sea, a branch of the great ocean ; and concluded, from the permanency of the respective level of the land and water on the coasts of Pomerania, among the Danish islands, and at some points on the shores of Finland, that the level of the Baltic Sea had undergone no change of level for the last six hundred years. The change observable on the coasts of Sweden, therefore, must be due to an elevation of the land, now gradually, though insensibly, in progress. This rising is estimated to proceed at present at the rate of about one foot in twenty-five years.

The absence of any record of violent volcanic action in the Scandinavian Peninsula, renders it improbable that the rise is due to such a cause. The author referred it, therefore, to the gradual cooling of the crust of the earth, which, by causing a contraction and compression in parts where the cooling was a maximum tending to elevate other portions of the earth's surface at points or in lines of minimum resistance.

The centre of the action in Scandinavia, he considered to be in the mountain chains which traverse Norway, and Sweden, and Finland respectively ; and which are mutually connected beyond the head of the Bothnian Gulf : and attributing the original elevation of these chains with Elie de Beaumont, to the secular refrigeration of the earth, he found in the rise still observable in Scandinavia a relic only of that once powerful action by which these mountain ranges were originally projected. He suggested the probability also, that on other coasts where high mountain ridges ran parallel with the sea, accurate measurements of the mean level of the water, in reference to the scarped rocks on the coast, if repeated at certain distant intervals, might make known other gradual elevations still in progress, similar to those observable on the shores of the Baltic.

March 18.

PROFESSOR RUSSELL, Vice-President, in the Chair.

The following Donations were presented :

Exposition Elementaire des Principes qui servent de Base à la
Theorie de la Chaleur Rayonnante. Par Pierre Prevost,

F. R. SS. L. and E., Professeur Emerite de Physique et de Philosophie, à l'Academie de Genève.—*From the Author.*

A Variety of Specimens of Minerals from the Coast and Interior of Ceylon.—*From Dr Sibbald.*

The following communications were laid before the Society :

1. Observations on the Anatomy of the Rorqual (a Whalebone Whale of the largest magnitude), drawn up from the dissection of a specimen found dead off North Berwick. By Robert Knox, M. D., F. R. S. Ed.

This paper, composed chiefly of anatomical details regarding the anatomical structure of the Rorqual, scarcely admits of abridgement. The author has described the skeleton of the cavity for receiving the brain and the mechanism of the larynx at greatest length. The entire length of the whale, measured by a straight line, drawn on the sand from the nose to the middle part of the tail, and making a slight allowance for the curved position in which the animal lay, was 80 feet. Length of the head 23 feet. The girth of the carcass at the pectoral extremities (though the animal had been ten days on the beach, and was much collapsed) 34 feet. Breadth of the tail from tip to tip 20 feet. The author describes the appearance of the mouth, lined with whalebone, as very surprising. The whole surface of the palatal plates of the superior maxillary bones, each extending to 14 feet in length, was covered with a mass of what appeared to be well teased baked hair, of a clear and shining black. This was the whalebone, arranged in the most regular manner, and composed of many thousand plates; the number as seen in profile, and which are the largest plates, amounted to upwards of 650. It weighed nearly two tons while soft. The whole skeleton weighed nearly thirty-two tons, and was removed to Edinburgh with much difficulty. The weight of the brain, calculated by Sir William Hamilton's method, from the capacity of the cranium, must have been about fifty-four lbs.

The larynx is quite simple, and totally unlike that of the Dolphin and Porpoise. The nostrils are filled by two enormous cartilaginous masses acted on by muscles occupying the centre of the superior maxillary bones. When the animal breathes, they are withdrawn sideways to admit of the passage of air. This extra-