

breeds, now extinct or rare, both of quadrupeds and birds, were still common. The fox, whose life is, in many counties, held almost as sacred as that of a human being, was considered as a mere nuisance. Oliver St. John told the Long Parliament that Strafford was to be regarded, not as a stag or hare, to whom some law was to be given, but as a fox, who was to be snared by any means, and knocked on the head without pity. This illustration would be by no means a happy one if addressed to country gentlemen of our time: but in St. John's days there were not seldom great massacres of foxes to which the peasantry thronged with all the dogs that could be mustered: traps were set; nets were spread; no quarter was given; and to shoot a female with cub was considered as a feat which merited the gratitude of the neighbourhood. The red deer were then as common in Gloucestershire and Hampshire as they are now among the Gramscian hills. On one occasion Queen Anne, on her way to Portsmouth, saw a herd of no less than 500. The wild bull with his white mane was still to be found wandering in a few of the southern forests. The badger made his dark and tortuous hole on the side of every hill where the copsewood grew thick. The wild cats were frequently heard by night wailing round the lodges of the rangers of Whittlebury and Needwood. The yellow-breasted martin was still pursued in Cranbourne Chase for his fur, reputed inferior only to that of the sable. Fen eagles, measuring more than 9 feet between the extremities of the wings, preyed on fish along the coast of Norfolk. On all the downs, from the British Channel to Yorkshire, huge bustards strayed in troops of fifty or sixty, and were often hunted with greyhounds. The marshes of Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire were covered during some months of every year by immense clouds of cranes. Some of these races the progress of cultivation has exterminated. Of others the numbers are so much diminished that men crowd to gaze at a specimen as at a Bengal tiger or a Polar bear."—*From Macaulay's History of England.*

ON THALIELLA, A NEW GENUS OF CIRRIPEDES ALLIED TO SCALPELLUM.
By J. E. GRAY, Esq., F.R.S. ETC.

THALIELLA.

Valves 11; opercular valves subtriangular; dorsal elongate, curved; lower dorsal and anterior compressed, with two pairs of lateral valves in the middle of the body above the base. Peduncle with rings of imbricate horny scales.

This genus chiefly differs from *Scalpellum* in the front and hinder lateral pair of valves being each united into a single compressed valve, and in having no middle basal lateral valve.

This genus was shown to me by Mr. J. S. Bowerbank, who received it from Algoa Bay attached to some species of *Plumaria*.

THALIELLA ORNATA.

Pale horn-coloured, varied with red spots, or with a single red band on each side; valves horny, subpellucid, radiately striated.

On *Plumaria*, Algoa Bay, Cape of Good Hope. Presented to the British Museum by J. S. Bowerbank, Esq.

Stroem (*Nym. Saml. Danske*, 1788, 295, n. 111, f. 20) described a *Lepas testâ compressâ 7-valvis stipite lamellosâ*, found on *Gorgonia placomus* in the North Sea, which is probably allied to this genus.—*From the Proceedings of the Zool. Soc. for March 14, 1848.*

POST-OFFICE REGULATIONS.

The speedy and cheap transmission of intelligence is of the highest importance for the interests of science. The want of it has been a subject of general complaint, and the editors of scientific journals can but too well appreciate the inconvenience, discouragement and loss which it occasions.

In the Advertisement prefix to the eighth volume of the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, the Council regret the difficulty and delay in receiving scientific information. "With other countries," they observe, "and for larger parcels, the communication is most unsatisfactory. The expenses and extra charges at the English ports are equivalent to a negative upon direct intercourse, even where the freight is prepaid, and the duty trifling. The Post-office charges for pamphlets over-sea are the same as for letters. Until these matters are better regulated, a greater service can scarcely be rendered to scientific bodies than by facilitating the rapid transfer of international communications at a moderate cost."

Our friend Mr. Thompson of Belfast, in communicating to us the letter from Dr. Gould of Boston, U.S., has also directed the attention of our readers to the defective state of our means of communication, at p. 366 of our last volume; and we are glad to find that the hope which we there expressed has in some degree been realized, the subject having at length received attention from the authorities of the Post-office, by whom some important improvements have been introduced. With a view therefore to render these available, we subjoin the following particulars from the Post-office regulations of the most recent date.

Periodicals published as pamphlets, and parliamentary proceedings, provided they are made up in the same manner as newspapers, in covers open at the sides, so as to admit of examination, are forwarded to the countries mentioned below at the following rates, which must be prepaid either in stamps or money.

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8 " " " " " 9 " " " " " 1	6				

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* We cannot see the reasonableness of the scale in one particular; where the charge for 3 ozs. is six times as much as for 2 ozs.—ED.