

missionary ground or in this country; and that in organising churches, provided the principles held in common by the constituencies of this Board be not violated, the persons to be thus organised are free to adopt such forms of organization as they may prefer.

"Resolved, That for the purpose of carrying out in the Prudential Committee the just and salutary principle of representation, with respect to the denominations by which the Board is mainly sustained, two members of the committee be annually elected from the Presbyterian Church, and one from the Reformed Dutch Church; it being understood that a quorum for the transaction of business be, as heretofore, a majority of the members resident in Boston and vicinity.

"Resolved, That this Board deem it inexpedient to receive grants in aid from government by the missions, when such appropriations are accompanied by certain conditions which may lead to embarrassment in the practical working of the system.

"Resolved, That in the judgment of this committee it is proper, and may be desirable, to send deputations to the various missionary stations, for the purpose of obtaining information in regard to them; but that it would be inexpedient for such deputations to have power to originate or make important changes in mission policy, without the express authority of the Prudential Committee, and only in such cases as do not oppose or militate with the principles which have been adopted by this Board.

"Resolved, That in regard to the late visit of the deputation to the Eastern missions, this Board believe they have preformed a great and needful work: that they have discharged their high trust as faithful, devoted men; that they receive the cordial thanks of this Board; and that we may confidently hope that a new spirit may pervade and animate our missions abroad, and a strong missionary impulse be given to our churches, by this labour of love."

From Anderson's Africa.

THE OSTRICH.

The cry of the ostrich so greatly resembles that of a lion, as occasionally to deceive even the natives. It is usually heard early in the morning, and at times also at night. The strength of the ostrich is enormous. A single blow from its gigantic foot (it always strikes forward) is sufficient to prostrate, nay, to kill, many beasts of prey, such as the hyæna, the panther, the wild dog, the jackal, and others. The ostrich is exceedingly swift of foot—under ordinary circumstances outrunning a fleet horse. "What time she lifteth up herself on high, she scorneth the horse and his rider." On special occasions, and for a short distance, its speed is truly marvellous, perhaps not much less than a mile in half a minute. Its feet appear hardly to touch the ground, and the length between each stride is not unfrequently twelve or fourteen feet. Indeed if we are to credit the testimony of Mr. Adamson, who says he witnessed the fact in Senegal, such is the rapidity and muscular power of the ostrich, that, even with two men mounted on his back, he will outstrip an English horse in speed! The ostrich, moreover, is long-winded, if I may use the expression; so that it is a work of time to exhaust the bird. The food of the ostrich, in its wild state, consists of seeds, and tops of various shrubs and other plants; but it is often difficult to conceive how it can manage to live at all, for one not unfrequently meets with it in regions apparently destitute of vegetation of any kind.

Political and General Miscellany.

DR. LIVINGSTON'S RECEPTION.—STATEMENT TO THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

(From the London Times, Dec. 16.)

The members of the George Geographical Society held a special meeting last night to present the society's gold medal to the Rev. Dr. Livingston for his discoveries in Central Africa. The society's rooms were crowded to excess. Among the members and visitors present were Count Lavradio, the Portuguese Minister; the Earl of Shaftesbury; the Right Hon. H. Labouchere, M. P., Secretary of State for the Colonies; Major General Fox; Mr. D. Seymour, M. P.; Mr. A. Kinnaird, M. P.; Major General Sir G. Pollock; Mr. Tite, M. P.; Professor Owen; Dr. Rae, the Arctic Voyager; Sir H. Rawlinson, Colonel Steele, Mr. Oswald, Mr. Gordon Cumming, Captain Vardon, and other Arctic Travellers.

The proceedings excited unusual interest, and Dr. Livingston, on entering the room, was warmly greeted by the distinguished assemblage. The chair was taken at half-past eight o'clock by Sir Roderick Murchison, President of the Society.

The President, in opening the proceedings, said they were met to welcome Dr. Livingston on his return from South Africa to his native country after an absence of sixteen years, during which, while endeavouring to spread the blessings of Christianity through lands never before trodden by the foot of a British subject, he had made geographical discoveries of incalculable importance, which had justly won for him the Victoria or Patron's gold medal of that society. [Cheers.] When the honour was conferred in May, 1855, for traversing South Africa, from the Cape of Good Hope by the Lake Ngami to Linyanti, and thence to the west coast, in 10 S. lat., Lord Ellesmere, their then President, spoke of the scientific precision with which the unarmed and unassisted English missionary had left his mark on so many important stations of regions hitherto blank. [Hear, hear.] If for that wonderful journey Dr. Livingston was justly recompensed with the highest distinction their society could bestow, what must now be their estimate of his powers when they knew that he had traversed the vast regions which he first opened out to their knowledge; nay, more, that after reaching his old starting point at Linyanti, in the interior, he had followed the Zambesi, or continuation of the Leambye river, to its mouth on the shores of the Indian Ocean, passing through the eastern Portuguese settlement of Tete, and thus completing the entire journey across South Africa? In short, it had been calculated that, putting together all his various journeys, Dr. Livingston had not travelled over less than 11,000 miles of African territory; and had come back as the pioneer of sound knowledge, having by his astronomical observations, determined the sites of numerous places, hills, rivers and lakes, nearly all hitherto unknown, while he had seized upon every opportunity of describing the physical features, climatology, and even the geological structure of the country he had explored, and pointed out many new sources of commerce as yet unknown to the scope and enterprise of the British merchant. [Cheers.] The President expatiated at some greater length on the importance of Dr. Livingston's discoveries, and then, turning to the distinguished traveller, said, it was now his duty and his pleasure to present to him their founder's medal, as a testimony of their regard and admiration. He rejoiced to see on that occasion such a numerous