

to the serious nature of the ravages of the Colorado beetle (*Doryphora decem-lineata*) in the United States during the past few years, and to the still greater damage caused by the *Phylloxera* in the vine-growing districts of France. Had we possessed a full acquaintance with these insects at the outset of their destructive career, it is probable that much of the subsequent loss and ruin would have been avoided.

The Rev. Dr. Purchas said that several insects were being gradually introduced that would ultimately prove very undesirable colonists. For instance, a wood-borer—the name of which he was not acquainted with—was a most pernicious species, perforating the wooden lining of houses until it crumbled into a mass of dust. He had also seen furniture attacked by it.

SECOND MEETING. 14th June, 1875.

J. C. Firth, President, in the chair.

The Secretary read the list of donations to the Library and Museum during the last month.

PAPERS.

1. "On the Mollusca of Auckland Harbour," by T. F. Cheeseman, F.L.S. (See *Transactions*, page 304.)

The President directed attention to the collection of shells formed by the author to illustrate his paper, and which was now exhibited. It was a matter of surprise to him to find so many different kinds inhabiting so small an area.

2. "Notes on the recent observations for the Transit of Venus," by T. Heale.

3. "Notes on the Mason Bee," by Major W. G. Mair.

The President said that members would doubtless like to know what had been done by the Council towards the erection of a new Museum. It would be remembered that a subscription list was opened at the Annual Meeting, and most liberally headed by two donations of £500 each. Since then, further application had been made to the members, and the subscription list had been raised to £1,700, and, from verbal promises that had been made, he had no doubt would ultimately reach over £2,000. The Council had caused plans of a suitable building to be prepared; the cost of which was estimated at £3,100. It would thus be seen that a sum of about £1000 would be required over what would be realised by subscriptions. He felt sure that this amount would have been given by the Provincial Government, had its financial position allowed it; but, as nothing could be expected from this quarter at present, the Council proposed to introduce a short Bill into the General Assembly, authorising them to mortgage a portion, or the whole, if necessary, of their site. The erection of the building would be commenced immediately upon the passing of the Bill.