

ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

VOL. VI.

March 14, 1845.

No. 14.

CAPT. W. H. SMYTH, R.N., President, in the Chair.

John Washington, Esq. Capt. R.N. F.R.S., and Edwin Dunkin, Esq., of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, were balloted for, and duly elected Fellows of the Society.

The Secretary read the following extract of a letter from the Rev. C. Turnor to the President, accompanying the gift of a valuable astronomical manuscript, concerning which a paper was recently presented to the Society by Mr. Harris :—

“ The favourable opinion you have expressed to me of the merits of the two volumes of Astronomical MSS., written on vellum, in, I think, the fourteenth century, which I purchased of Mr. Thorpe, the London bookseller, induces me to think they might be acceptable to the Royal Astronomical Society ; may I, then, request the favour of you to present them, in my name, to that Society ? I beg to assure you I shall feel great satisfaction in their being preserved in the library of that Society, which has been instituted for the purpose of advancing the science of Astronomy.”

The following letter from the President to the Secretary was read :—

“ No. 3 Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, March 13, 1845.

“ Dear Sir,—As the cabinet-box of which I make mention on page 423, Vol. I., of my *Cycle of Celestial Objects*, contains the original slips from which my work was written, it may, possibly, be a desirable reference at some future day, and, in that view, I beg to present it to the Royal Astronomical Society. It contains the whole results of my measure-department in the working-list order of right ascension, the means having been reduced most carefully by myself, and repeatedly compared with such rigour, that none but the most insignificant error can possibly remain. In addition to what has been printed, these slips contain the diagrams and quadrants of each object, to the absence of which all the graver double-star mistakes which I have yet encountered are directly imputable. There are also a few unprinted remarks relative to the identity, &c., of the objects.

“ It was intended that this cabinet should remain at Hartwell