

CHAPTER II.

THE CRUISE OF THE 'LIGHTNING.'

Proposal to investigate the Conditions of the Bottom of the Sea.— Suggestions and Anticipations. — Correspondence between the Council of the Royal Society and the Admiralty.—Departure from Stornoway.—The Færoe Islands.—Singular Temperature Results in the Færoe Channel.—Life abundant at all Depths.—*Brisinga coronata*.—*Holtenia carpenteri*.—General Results of the Expedition.

Appendix A.—Particulars of Depth, Temperature, and Position at the various Dredging Stations of H.M.S. 'Lightning,' in the Summer of 1868; the Temperatures corrected for Pressure.

* * *The bracketed numbers to the woodcuts in this chapter refer to the dredging stations on Plate I.*

IN the spring of the year 1868, my friend Dr. W. B. Carpenter, at that time one of the Vice-Presidents of the Royal Society, was with me in Ireland, where we were working out together the structure and development of the Crinoids. I had long previously had a profound conviction that the land of promise for the naturalist, the only remaining region where there were endless novelties of extraordinary interest ready to the hand which had the means of gathering them, was the bottom of the deep sea. I had even had a glimpse of some of these treasures, for I had seen the year before, with Professor Sars, the forms