

still have 4,000 feet of water whose conditions have probably not varied greatly since the commencement of the Eocene epoch.

Yours most truly,

WYVILLE THOMSON.

*From Dr. Carpenter, V.P.R.S., to the President of the Royal Society.*

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, BURLINGTON HOUSE, W.

June 18th, 1868.

DEAR GENERAL SABINE,—During a recent visit to Belfast, I had the opportunity of examining some of the specimens (transmitted by Prof. Sars of Christiania to Prof. Wyville Thomson) which have been obtained by M. Sars, jun., Inspector of Fisheries to the Swedish Government, by *deep-sea* dredgings off the coast of Norway. These specimens, for reasons stated in the enclosed letter from Prof. Wyville Thomson, are of singular interest alike to the zoologist and to the palæontologist; and the discovery of them can scarcely fail to excite, both among naturalists and among geologists, a very strong desire that the zoology of the *deep sea*, especially in the Northern Atlantic region, should be more thoroughly and systematically explored than it has ever yet been. From what I know of your own early labours in this field, I cannot entertain a doubt of your full concurrence in this desire.

Such an exploration cannot be undertaken by private individuals, even when aided by grants from Scientific Societies. For dredging at great depths, a vessel of considerable size is requisite, with a trained crew, such as is only to be found in the Government service. It was by the aid of such an equipment, furnished by the Swedish Government, that the researches of M. Sars were carried on.

Now, as there are understood to be at the present time an unusual number of gun-boats and other cruisers on our northern and western coasts, which will probably remain on their stations until the end of the season, it has occurred to Prof. Wyville Thomson and myself, that the Admiralty, if moved thereto by the Council of the Royal Society, might be induced to place one of these vessels at the disposal of ourselves and of any other