

naturalists who might be willing to accompany us, for the purpose of carrying on a systematic course of deep-sea dredging for a month or six weeks of the present summer, commencing early in August.

Though we desire that this inquiry should be extended both in geographical range and in depth as far as is proposed in Prof. Wyville Thomson's letter, we think it preferable to limit ourselves on the present occasion to a request which will not, we believe, involve the extra expense of sending out a coaling-vessel. We should propose to make Kirkwall or Lerwick our port of departure, to explore the sea-bottom between the Shetland and the Fjæroe Islands, dredging around the shores and in the fiords of the latter (which have not yet, we believe, been scientifically examined), and then to proceed as far north-west into the deep water between the Fjæroe Islands and Iceland as may be found practicable.

It would be desirable that the vessel provided for such a service should be one capable of making way under canvas as well as by steam-power; but as our operations must necessarily be slow, *speed* would not be required. Considerable labour would be spared to the crew if the vessel be provided with a 'donkey-engine' that could be used for pulling up the dredge.

If the Council of the Royal Society should deem it expedient to prefer this request to the Admiralty, I trust that they may further be willing to place at the disposal of Prof. Wyville Thomson and myself, either from the Donation Fund or the Government-Grant Fund, a sum of £100 for the expenses we must incur in providing an ample supply of spirit and of jars for the preservation of specimens, with other scientific appliances. We would undertake that the choicest of such specimens should be deposited in the British Museum.

I shall be obliged by your bringing this subject before the Council of the Royal Society, and remain,

Dear General Sabine, yours faithfully,

WILLIAM B. CARPENTER.

*The President of the Royal Society.*