

case the scientific appliances required would be provided for from funds at the disposal of the Royal Society.

I am, &c.,

W. SHARPEY, Sec. R.S.

*Lord H. Lennox, M.P., Secretary of the Admiralty.*

*From the Minutes of the Council of the Royal Society  
for Oct. 20, 1868.*

ADMIRALTY, 14th July, 1868.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 22nd ultimo, submitting a proposition from Dr. Carpenter and Professor Thomson to investigate, by means of dredging, the bottom of the sea in certain localities, with a view to ascertain the existence and zoological relations of marine animals at great depths,—a research which you and the Council of the Royal Society strongly recommend in the interests of science to the favourable consideration of her Majesty's Government, for aid in furtherance of the undertaking,—I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that they are pleased to meet your wishes so far as the Service will admit, and have given orders for her Majesty's steam-vessel 'Lightning' to be prepared immediately, at Pembroke, for the purpose of carrying out such dredging operations.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. ROMAINE.

*To the President of the Royal Society.*

It will be seen by the letters from my colleague and myself what our ideas were at that time, and what our anticipations as to the result of our labours. We both more than doubted the 'anti-biotic' view which was then very generally received, and we expected to be able to trace a relationship between the living inhabitants of the deep sea and the fossils of some of the later geological formations which we looked upon as their direct and not very remote ancestors. We