

had adopted the current strange misconception with regard to the distribution of ocean temperature; and it is perhaps scarcely a valid excuse that the fallacy of a universal and constant temperature of 4° C. below a certain depth varying according to latitude, was at the time accepted and taught by nearly all the leading authorities in Physical Geography.

From the time that the Admiralty gave their sanction to the use of a Government vessel for the investigation, Dr. Carpenter's labours in working out all the necessary arrangements and preparations were unceasing, and to his influence in the Council of the Royal Society, and to the confidence placed in his judgment by members of the Government and men in official positions, the success of the undertaking is unquestionably due.

The surveying ship 'Lightning' was assigned for the service—a cranky little vessel enough, one which had the somewhat doubtful title to respect of being perhaps the very oldest paddle-steamer in her Majesty's navy. We had not good times in the 'Lightning.' She kept out the water imperfectly, and as we had deplorable weather during nearly the whole of the six weeks we were afloat, we were in considerable discomfort. The vessel, in fact, was scarcely seaworthy, the iron hook and screw-jack fastenings of the rigging were worn with age, and many of them were carried away, and on two occasions the ship ran some risk. Still the voyage was on the whole almost pleasant. Staff-Commander May had lately returned from Annesley Bay, where he had been harbour-master during the Abyssinian war; and his intelligence and vivacity, and the cordial good-fellowship of his officers,