

The following Draft of a Letter to be transmitted by the Secretary to the Secretary of the Admiralty was approved :—

“ THE ROYAL SOCIETY, BURLINGTON HOUSE,  
“ *February* 18, 1869.

“ SIR,—Referring to the ‘Preliminary Report’ by Dr. Carpenter of the Results of the Deep-Sea Exploration carried on during the brief Cruise of Her Majesty’s Steam-vessel ‘Lightning’ in August and September last, which has already been transmitted for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty—I am directed by the President and Council of the Royal Society to state that, looking to the valuable information obtained from these Marine Researches, although comparatively restricted in duration and extent, they deem it most desirable, in the interests of Biological and Physical Science, and in no small degree also for the advancement of Hydrographical knowledge, that a fresh exploration should be entered upon in the ensuing summer, and extended over a wider area ; and they now desire earnestly to recommend the matter to the favourable consideration of My Lords, in the hope that the aid of Her Majesty’s Government, which was so readily and liberally bestowed last year, may be afforded to the undertaking now contemplated, for which such support would be indispensable.

“ In favour of the practicability and probable success of the proposed fresh exploration, I am directed to explain that the objects to be aimed at, as well as the course to be followed and the measures to be employed for their attainment, have mainly been suggested by the observations made and the experience gained in the last Expedition.

“ Further information as to the proposed exploration will be found in the Report, herewith transmitted, of a Committee to whose consideration the subject was referred by the Council.

“ It is understood that the requisite Scientific Apparatus and the remuneration of the Assistants to be employed would be provided by the Royal Society. With regard to the appliances which Her Majesty’s Government may be asked to provide, the experience of the previous Expedition will furnish adequate guidance, whenever the general scheme may be approved. It