

ensuing summer, as well as the scientific preparations which would be required for a new expedition, beg leave to report as follows :—

“The general course proposed to be followed, and the chief objects expected to be attained in a new expedition, are pointed out in the following extract from the letter of Dr. Carpenter, read to the Council on the 24th ult., which was referred to the Committee :—

“The plan which has been marked out between my colleagues in last year’s work and myself is as follows :—

“Having reason to hope that the “Porcupine” may be spared towards the end of June, we propose that she should start early in July, and proceed in a S.W. direction towards the furthest point to which our survey was carried last year; carefully exploring the bottom in depths of 400 to 800 fathoms, on which, as experience has shown us, the most interesting collections are to be made; but also obtaining a few casts of the Dredge with Temperature-soundings at greater depths, as opportunities may occur.

“The course should then be nearly due South, in a direction of general parallelism with the coast of France, Spain, and Portugal, keeping generally within the depths just mentioned, but occasionally stretching westwards into yet deeper waters. From what has been already done in about 400 fathoms’ water off the coast of Portugal, there is no doubt that the ground is there exceedingly rich. When approaching the Straits of Gibraltar, the survey, both Physical and Zoological, should be carried out with great care and minuteness; in order that the important problem as to the currents between the Mediterranean and Atlantic Seas, and the relation of the Mediterranean Fauna to that of the Atlantic (on which Mr. Gwyn Jeffreys is of opinion that the results of our last year’s work throw an entirely new light), may be cleared up.

“Mr. Gwyn Jeffreys is prepared to undertake the scientific charge of this part of the expedition; and if Professor Wyville Thomson should not be able to accompany him, it will not be difficult to find him a suitable assistant.

“The ship would probably reach Gibraltar early in August,