

The scientific staff of the 'Challenger' are well aware that for some time to come their rôle is to work and not to talk; but now, on the eve of departure, I think it is only right to take this opportunity of saying that nothing has been left undone by the Government to ensure the success of the undertaking, and that dire misfortune only ought to prevent our furnishing a valuable return.

C. WYVILLE THOMSON.

EDINBURGH,

December 2nd, 1872.

