

## APPENDIX A.

*Official Correspondence with Reference to the "Challenger" Expedition.  
Extracted from the Minutes of Council of the Royal Society.*

*June 29th, 1871.*

Read the following letter from Dr. Carpenter :

“UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, BURLINGTON GARDENS, W., *June 15th, 1871.*

“DEAR PROFESSOR STOKES,—The information we have lately received as to the activity with which other nations are now entering upon the Physical and Biological Exploration of the Deep Sea, makes it appear to my colleagues and myself that the time is now come for bringing before our own Government the importance of initiating a more complete and systematic course of research than we have yet had the means of prosecuting.

“The accompanying slip from last week’s *Nature* will make known to the Council what is going on elsewhere, and the feeling entertained on the subjects alike in the scientific world and (as I have good reason to believe) by the public generally.

“For adequately carrying out any extensive plan of research, it would be requisite that special provision should be made; and as the estimates for next year will have to be framed before the end of the present year, no time ought now to be lost, if the matter is to be taken up at all.

“In order that the various departments of science to which these researches are related should be adequately represented—so that any application made to Government should be on the broadest basis possible—I should suggest that the Council of the Royal Society, as the promoters of all that has been already done in the matter, should take the initiative; and should appoint a committee to consider a scheme, in conjunction with the President of the British Association, and the Presidents of the Chemical, Geographical, Geological, Linnæan, and Zoological Societies. Such a committee might meet before the recess, and decide upon some general plan; and this would be then considered as to its details by the members representing different departments of