

“*Report of the Committee appointed at the Meeting of the Council held October 26th, to consider the Scheme of a Scientific Circumnavigation Expedition.*”

“The Committee, having before them the correspondence which has already taken place between the First Lord of the Admiralty and Dr. Carpenter, are of opinion that it is advisable that the Council should make immediate application to H.M. Government for the means of carrying out the objects therein referred to; but that it would not be expedient that such application should include more than a *general specification* of those objects, which may be stated as follows:

“1. To investigate the *Physical Conditions* of the *Deep Sea* in the great ocean-basins—the North and South Atlantic, the North and South Pacific, and the Southern Ocean (as far as the neighborhood of the great ice-barrier); in regard to depth, temperature, circulation, specific gravity, and penetration of light; the observations and experiments upon all these points being made at various ranges of depth from the surface to the bottom.

“2. To determine the *Chemical Composition* of *Sea-water*, not merely at the surface and bottom, but at various intermediate depths; such determinations to include the saline constituents, the gases, and the organic matter in *solution*, and the nature of any particles found in *suspension*.

“3. To ascertain the *Physical* and *Chemical* characters of the *Deposits* everywhere in progress on the sea-bottom; and to trace, so far as may be possible, the sources of those deposits.

“4. To examine the distribution of *Organic Life* throughout the areas traversed, especially in the *deep* ocean-bottoms and at different depths; with especial reference to the physical and chemical conditions already referred to, and to the connection of the present with the past condition of the globe.

“It is suggested that the expedition should leave this country in the latter half of the year 1872; and as its perfect organization will require much time and labor, it is desirable that suitable preparations should be commenced forthwith.

“For effectively carrying out the objects just specified, there will be required:

“1. A ship of sufficient size to furnish ample accommodation and storage-room for sea-voyages of considerable length, and for a probable absence of four years.