

December 7th, 1871.

The Report of the Committee on the subject of a Scientific Circumnavigation Voyage, received at the last meeting, having been taken into consideration, it was

*Resolved*, That application be made to H.M. Government, as recommended by the Committee, and that the following draft of a letter to be addressed by the Secretary to the Secretary of the Admiralty be approved:

*"To the Secretary of the Admiralty.*

"THE ROYAL SOCIETY, BURLINGTON HOUSE, December 8th, 1871.

"SIR,—I am directed by the President and Council of the Royal Society to request that you will represent to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that the experience of the recent scientific investigations of the deep sea, carried on in European waters by the Admiralty at the instance of the Royal Society (reports of which will be found in their 'Proceedings' herewith inclosed), has led them to the conviction that advantages of great importance to science and to navigation would accrue from the extension of such investigations to the great oceanic regions of the globe. The President and Council therefore venture to submit to their lordships' favorable consideration a proposal for fitting out an expedition commensurate to the objects in view; which objects are briefly as follows:

"(1) The physical conditions of the deep sea throughout all the great ocean-basins.

"(2) The chemical constitution of the water at various depths from the surface to the bottom.

"(3) The physical and chemical characters of the deposits.

"(4) The distribution of organic life throughout the areas explored.

"For effectively carrying out these researches there would, in the opinion of the President and Council, be required—

"(1) A ship of sufficient size to afford accommodation and storage-room for sea-voyages of considerable length and for probable absence of four years.

"(2) A staff of scientific men qualified to take charge of the several branches of investigation.

"(3) A supply of every thing necessary for the collection of the objects of research, for the prosecution of the physical and chemical in-