

vestigations, and for the study and preservation of the specimens of organic life.

“The President and Council hope that, in the event of their recommendation being adopted, it may be possible for the expedition to leave England some time in the year 1872; and they would suggest that as its organization will require much time and labor, no time should be lost in the commencement of preparations.

“The President and Council desire to take this opportunity of expressing their readiness to render every assistance in their power to such an undertaking; to advise upon (1) the route which might be followed by the expedition, (2) the scientific equipment, (3) the composition of the scientific staff, (4) the instructions for that staff; as well as upon any matter connected with the expedition upon which their lordships might desire their opinion.

“The President and Council have abstained from any allusion to geographical discovery or hydrographical investigations, for which the proposed expedition will doubtless afford abundant opportunity, because their lordships will doubtless be better judges of what may be conveniently undertaken in these respects, without departing materially from the primary objects of the voyage; and they would only add their hope that, in accordance with the precedents followed by this and other countries under somewhat similar circumstances, a full account of the voyage and its scientific results may be published under the auspices of the Government as soon after its return as convenient, the necessary expense being defrayed by a grant from the Treasury.

“The President and Council desire, in conclusion, to express their willingness to assist in the preparation for such publication of the scientific results. I remain, etc.”

*Resolved*, That the appointment of the Committee proposed in the Report be deferred until an answer has been received from the Government.

*March 21st, 1872.*

Read the following communication from the Admiralty:

“ADMIRALTY, 2d March, 1872.

“SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 8th of December, 1871, conveying a representation from the President and Council of the Royal Society that advantages of great importance to science and navigation