

would result from equipping an expedition for the examination of the physical conditions of the deep sea throughout all the great oceanic basins, and for other special objects therein named,

“1. I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the President and Council, that they have had the subject under their consideration, and have decided to fit out one of Her Majesty’s ships to leave England on a voyage of circumnavigation toward the close of the present year, in prosecution of the objects specified in your letter.

“2. I am further desired to inform you that their lordships will be prepared to receive from the President and Council of the Royal Society any suggestions that they may desire to make on the scientific equipment of the vessel, the composition of the civilian scientific staff, or any other scientific matter connected with the expedition upon which that body may desire to offer their opinion. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

THOS. WOLLEY.

“The Secretary to the Royal Society.”

*Resolved*, That the letter from the Admiralty be referred for consideration and for report to the Council, to a Committee consisting of the President and Officers, Dr. Carpenter, Dr. Frankland, Dr. Hooker, Professor Huxley, the Hydrographer of the Admiralty, Mr. Gwyn Jeffreys, Mr. Siemens, Sir William Thomson, Dr. Wyville Thomson, Dr. Williamson, and Mr. Alfred R. Wallace, with power to add to their number.

June 20th, 1872.

In reference to the arrangements to be made for the circumnavigatory expedition, for which H.M.S. *Challenger* has now been put in commission, the Committee presented the following Report to the Council, viz.:

“The Committee suggest that the President and Council should direct a letter to be written to the Secretary of the Admiralty to the following effect: ‘That it appears desirable that the scientific gentlemen who are to accompany the *Challenger* expedition should be selected at an early date and their salaries decided on, in order that they may be enabled to make the necessary arrangements for an extended absence from England.

“The President and Council of the Royal Society therefore recommend as a fit and proper person, to superintend and be at the head of