

"2. The object of their lordships is to frame their instructions to the officer in command of the *Challenger*, so far as may be possible, to meet the recommendations of the President and Council of the Royal Society. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

"VERNON LUSHINGTON.

"W. Sharpey, Esq., M.D., etc.,

"Secretary of the Royal Society, Burlington House."

The Report having been considered, was adopted as follows :

The Circumnavigation Committee have had before them the letter from the Admiralty to the Royal Society, dated August 22d, 1872 ; and as the Council were not in session, and the matter was pressing, they have thought it best to treat the letter as having been referred to them by the Council. They beg leave to recommend to the Council that an answer be returned to the Admiralty to the following effect :

The principal object of the proposed expedition is understood to be to investigate the physical and biological conditions of the great ocean-basins ; and it is recommended for that purpose to pass down the coast of Portugal and Spain, to cross the Atlantic from Madeira to the West Indian Islands, to go to Bermuda, thence to the Azores, the Cape de Verde Islands, the Coast of South America, and across the South Atlantic to the Cape of Good Hope. Thence by the Marion Islands, the Crozets, and Kerguelen Land, to Australia and New Zealand, going southward *en route*, opposite the centre of the Indian Ocean, as near as may be with convenience and safety to the southern Ice-barrier. From New Zealand through the Coral Sea and Torres Straits, westward between Lombok and Bali, and thence through the Celebes and Sulu Seas to Manilla, then eastward into the Pacific, visiting New Guinea, New Britain, the Solomon Islands ; and afterward to Japan, where some considerable time might be profitably spent. From Japan the course should be directed across the Pacific to Vancouver Island, then southerly through the eastern trough of the Pacific, and homeward round Cape Horn. This route will give an opportunity of examining many of the principal ocean phenomena, including the Gulf-stream and equatorial currents ; some of the biological conditions of the sea of the Antilles ; the fauna of the deep water of the South Atlantic, which is as yet unknown, and the specially interesting fauna of the borders of the Antarctic Sea. Special attention shall be paid to the botany and zoology of the Marion Islands, the Crozets, Kerguelen Land, and any new groups of islands which