

November 30th, 1872.

Read the following letter :

“ADMIRALTY, 27th November, 1872.

“SIR,—I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to thank you for your communication of the 22d inst., in regard to the objects of research which the Royal Society have in view with reference to the intended voyage of H.M.S. *Challenger*, and to acquaint you that they are desirous of affording to the President and Council of the Royal Society, as well as the members of the Circumnavigation Committee, an opportunity of inspecting the ship, and the arrangements made with a view to her equipment for the service she is intended to perform.

“2. My Lords therefore invite those gentlemen to proceed to Sheerness on the 6th proximo for the purpose of visiting the *Challenger*; and a saloon carriage will be ordered to be in readiness to convey them to that port by the 10.30 A.M. train from Victoria Station.

“3. The visitors will be able to return by the 5.10 train from Sheerness, and free railway passes will be provided for them both ways. They will also be met by their lordships' hydrographer on the occasion.

“4. I am to request you will inform me, as soon as may be convenient, of the number of the gentlemen who will avail themselves of their lordships' invitation, in order that the proper number of tickets may be procured. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

“ROBERT HALL.

“The Secretary of the Royal Society.”

Before the expedition left England, Dr. William Stirling resigned his appointment as naturalist; and Dr. Rudolf von Willemoes-Suhm, Privat-Docent in Zoology in the University of Munich, was appointed by the Admiralty in his place, on the recommendation of the Council of the Royal Society.