

when the whole of the Manuscript was placed in the hands of the late Sir C. Wyville Thomson.

On the death of Sir C. Wyville Thomson in March 1882 I was entrusted by the Government with the direction of the whole of the work connected with the publication of the Official Reports on the Scientific Results of the Expedition, and as the Meteorological and Magnetical Observations had been for several years in type, these were at once issued as Volume II. of the Narrative, along with two Appendices: one on the Pressure Errors of the Challenger Thermometers, by Professor P. G. Tait, and the other on the Petrology of St. Paul's Rocks, by the Abbé A. Renard.

In his Provisional Preface to the first volume of Zoological Reports, published in 1880, Sir Wyville says:—"The first volume will contain a short narrative of the voyage, with all necessary hydrographical details; an account of the appliances and methods of observation; a running outline of the results of the different observations; and a chapter epitomising the general results of the voyage. This volume will be illustrated by a general physical chart; a series of charts of the ship's course; a series of diagrams of the vertical distribution of temperature; and some photographs of scenery. It will probably be in two parts, and is being prepared by Staff-Commander Tizard, R.N., and myself."

Although the form and scope of the present volume was thus sketched out, yet, owing to ill health and his many professional occupations, Sir Wyville was never able to make any progress with the preparation of the Manuscript for the press; he had, however, selected and caused to be printed the thirty-seven photographic plates which now accompany the text.

Under these circumstances I consulted with my former colleagues in the Challenger, Staff-Commander T. H. Tizard, Professor H. N. Moseley, and Mr. J. Y. Buchanan, as to the best course to adopt, and it was finally arranged that the first volume of the Narrative of the Cruise should be undertaken by us jointly, and should embrace as far as possible a general account of the Scientific Results of the Expedition—an arrangement which has now been carried out.