

full report; when the expedition returned the interest was to a great extent over, and some other interest had taken its place; and an inadequate sum was voted which started a publication which was afterwards allowed to drop. The *NOVARA* expedition is an important exception, and Wilkes' expedition was in some departments worked out admirably and fully. The collections from the French expeditions usually passed into the hands of the authorities at the Jardin des Plantes. They were frequently described at great expense by Government; but much of their value was lost from their not being published at once with the fresh details by the naturalists by whom they were made. I have briefly indicated in a former letter my reasons for proposing that the whole of this collection should be sent in mass to Edinburgh. From my connection with the University I can there command space for storing the things, and assistance in having them looked after. The deep-sea collections, which I regard as of infinitely the greatest importance, are packed in tins and in cases of large glass jars; all of these are liable to injury on the passage, and Professor Turner of Edinburgh has most kindly agreed to see to them, and to have the spirit or brine renewed when necessary, and any reparable injuries repaired.

This recommendation was adopted by the authorities.

After some further correspondence, the following letter was addressed by the Secretary of the Admiralty to Captain Thomson:—

ADMIRALTY, July 14, 1875.

SIR,—I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that, as the voyage of the *CHALLENGER* is approaching its termination, it is desirable that they should be in possession of detailed information as to the probable expenditure which will be required after the ship pays off, for the final disposal of the Natural History specimens collected during the voyage, as well as the arrangements for the publication of an account of the Natural History portion of the proceedings of that ship.

2. You are therefore to call on Professor Wyville Thomson to report:—

*First*, The steps he considers desirable for the disposal and conservation of the Natural History specimens, the time to be occupied, and the number of persons he requires to assist him in that duty; also the details of the probable expenditure for that service, including salaries, for the financial year 1876-77.

*Second*, The measures he would propose, so far as he can foresee, for the publication of the Natural History portion of the *CHALLENGER*'s proceedings, with detailed explanation of the probable expenditure as above.—

I am, &c.,

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Captain Thomson, R.N.,  
H.M.S. *CHALLENGER*, Valparaiso.

Captain Thomson handed me Admiral Hall's letter in due course, and in my reply I gave an outline programme of future work, from which there has been no reason to deviate materially. Some of the minor details arranged themselves somewhat differently, but the general scheme was sanctioned by their Lordships, and has worked satisfactorily throughout.

H.M.S. *CHALLENGER*,  
VALPARAISO, Nov. 22, 1875.

SIR,—In accordance with your instruction, dated 21st November, 1875, I have the honour to submit to you a report on the steps which I consider desirable for the disposal of the Natural History specimens procured during the *CHALLENGER* Expedition, and the measures which I would propose for the publication of the Natural History portion of our proceedings.