

2. I take for granted that the first object in importance is to prepare from the journals and notes, and from the study of the collections, a complete account of the scientific results of the voyage, comparable perhaps with that which is now being published in Vienna of the results of the voyage of the Austrian frigate *NOVARA*; and that the other object is to put the various collections in a form in which they can be used for comparison and study, and finally to distribute them to different museums according to a given plan. I do not see that it is possible, in the present case, to separate entirely these two principal objects. The specialists who undertake the different groups must see the whole of the specimens of each group; and it is by their separating and naming allied species, and describing new forms and selecting specimens for study, that the collections will be prepared for final distribution. I do not think that the account of the voyage could be fully published and the whole matter closed in less than five years from the 1st of May 1877. During these five years the expenses might be estimated at £4000 a year, one year with another, supposing the printing to be done at the Government printing-office.

3. This ship may probably pay off in England towards the end of June 1876. As we shall be engaged with observations up to the very last, the first step must be to get the collections and notes into order, and to prepare the specimens for reference and study. This will be a heavy matter, and it will require for a time the co-operation of the whole staff, each in his own department. I would suggest that the positions of the members of the civilian staff remain as they are, and that their salaries be continued up to the end of the quarter which closes on the 31st March 1877. Besides being by far the most convenient way of winding up the practical work of the cruise, I think that so much consideration is due to the members of the civilian staff; for all of them gave up remunerative situations to join this expedition, and it is impossible for them to count upon slipping at once into equivalent positions.

4. After careful consideration I think I can undertake that the preliminary reports and journals shall be made up to the end and put into form, and the collections roughly arranged and put into a condition for distribution to experts, on the 1st of May 1877, but not before that date.

5. From the paying-off of the ship till the end of April 1877, taking the time as a whole year, I would estimate the expenses at £2800, viz. :—

The Salaries of the present Staff	£2000
The Salary of Pearcey as trained Assistant	100
Contingent Expenses, including the pay of a servant, the putting up of fittings and other carpenter's work, the purchase of a large quantity of glass jars and spirits of wine, travelling expenses, &c.	700

This is supposing that we can get accommodation free, which I believe we can. It would be about three quarters of a year; so that the actual sum would be £2100 or £2200, for I do not think the contingent account for that period would bear much reduction.

6. After the 1st May 1877, I would propose that the arrangements be put on a new footing. It will then be necessary to call in the assistance of outsiders, who are experts in the different departments. The members of the present scientific staff will be free to undertake other employment, and certain work will be put into certain men's hands, and they will be paid for what they do according to a scale for which we have sufficient precedent. I think it would be only right that those who have taken part in the expedition should be allowed the first choice of the departments which they propose to take up.

Mr Murray will report upon the nature of the Sea-bottom; but I propose that he shall be retained