

THE
VOYAGE OF H.M.S. CHALLENGER.

ZOOLOGY.

REPORT on the REEF-CORALS collected by H.M.S. Challenger during the years 1873-76. By JOHN J. QUELCH, B.Sc. Lond., late Assistant, British Museum; Curator of the British Guiana Museum, Georgetown, Demerara.

PREFACE.

SOME years after the return of the Challenger Expedition, the Reef-Corals collected during the voyage were sent to the British Museum; being of a more or less fragmentary character, it was not at first proposed to publish any detailed Report on the collection. The specimens were placed in my hands for examination and identification, and as on the whole they proved to be of very great interest, the following short Report was prepared at the request of Mr. John Murray, to whom I desire to express my obligation for the opportunity afforded me of visiting several Continental Museums in order to examine types and named specimens of Corals.

The Report, it was agreed, was to be short, limited both in its text and in its plates; and indeed my engagements and the conditions under which the work has been accomplished would have made it necessarily of such a nature.

That the Report is incomplete in many respects no one can be more fully aware than myself; but, on the one hand, it must be stated that this was necessarily so, owing to the limitations under which it was permitted, while, on the other hand, the time at my disposal for its completion has been so repeatedly and seriously interrupted, that it has been almost with a feeling of despair that the work has been brought even to its present form. It is consoling, however, to reflect that even though it is incomplete, the report will yet form a small contribution to our knowledge of the distribution of the Reef-Corals.

To Dr. Günther, F.R.S., my thanks are especially due, since it was at his direction that the examination of the Reef-Corals was undertaken, and owing to his kindness that an account of them was possible.