

THE
VOYAGE OF H.M.S. CHALLENGER.

ZOOLOGY.

REPORT on the *ALCYONARIA* collected by H.M.S. Challenger during the
Years 1873-76. By Professor E. PERCEVAL WRIGHT, M.A. Dub. and
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PREFACE.

IN July 1879, Sir C. Wyville Thomson invited Professor E. Perceval Wright to undertake the description of the *Alcyonaria* other than the *Pennatulacea*, which latter had been described by Professor v. Kölliker, and as, on inspection of the collection at Edinburgh, the number of species did not appear to be very extensive, the invitation was accepted, and the *Alcyonaria* were sent to Dublin in October 1879.

This collection was contained in sixty-nine bottles, and the sorting and provisional naming of the series was well advanced in the summers of 1880 and 1881, but it was not found possible to get the new species drawn until the spring of 1882, when Dr. Murray secured the services of Mr. George West, jun., by whom all the species figured, from the series referred to, have been drawn.

In 1882 a fresh collection of specimens of *Alcyonaria* was sent from Edinburgh; this collection, packed in six boxes, reached Dublin in July 1882. Five of these boxes contained tin cases, in which were found an immense assortment of forms which had been placed in strong spirits, just as they had been taken from the dredge. One box was filled with bottles and tubes containing numerous small species.

This second collection was found on examination to contain a number of new and rare species not found in the first series. Among others may be mentioned the remarkable