

which I have already mentioned dredged by his son at a depth of 300 to 400 fathoms off the Loffoten islands. I propounded my views to my fellow-labourer, and we discussed the subject many times over our microscopes. I strongly urged Dr. Carpenter to use his influence at head-quarters to induce the Admiralty, probably through the Council of the Royal Society, to give us the use of a vessel properly fitted with dredging gear and all necessary scientific apparatus, that many heavy questions as to the state of things in the depths of the ocean which were still in a state of uncertainty, might be definitely settled. After full consideration, Dr. Carpenter promised his hearty co-operation, and we agreed that I should write to him on his return to London, indicating generally the results which I anticipated, and sketching out what I conceived to be a promising line of inquiry. The Council of the Royal Society warmly supported the proposal; and I give here in chronological order the short and eminently satisfactory correspondence which led to the Admiralty placing at the disposal of Dr. Carpenter and myself the gunboat 'Lightning' under the command of Staff-Commander May, R.N., in the summer of 1868, for a trial cruise to the north of Scotland, and afterwards to the much wider surveys in H.M.S. 'Porcupine,' Captain Calver, R.N., which were made with the additional association of Mr. Gwyn Jeffreys in the summers of the years 1869 and 1870.

*From Prof. Wyville Thomson, Belfast, to Dr. Carpenter, V.P.R.S.*

*May 30, 1868.*

MY DEAR CARPENTER,—When I last saw you, I suggested how very important it would be to the advancement of science to