

THE  
VOYAGE OF H.M.S. CHALLENGER.

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ZOOLOGY.

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REPORT on the DEEP-SEA FISHES collected by H.M.S. Challenger during the Years 1873-76. By Dr. ALBERT GÜNTHER, M.A., M.D., Ph.D., F.R.S., Keeper of the Department of Zoology in the British Museum.

PREFACE.

ALTHOUGH the collection of Deep-Sea Fishes which was made by the naturalists of H.M.S. Challenger was entrusted to me for investigation nearly ten years ago, the preparation of this Report was delayed by the pressure of other engagements, especially an increase of official duties. Only during the last two years I was able to steadily apply myself in my leisure hours to the work of re-examining the specimens and of preparing the present Report for press.

This delay appeared to be the less a matter of regret as it was known that deep-sea explorations were being actively carried on by two Institutions of the United States of America, and by the Norwegian, Italian and French Governments. As these expeditions had the great advantage of profiting by the experiences of the Challenger, and were likely to materially increase our knowledge of bathybial fishes, and to elucidate points which the Challenger with its initial apparatus had left obscure (such as the vertical range of pelagic forms), it seemed advantageous, in order to produce a complete account of the fish fauna of the deep sea, to await the publication of the results of those explorations. The hope, however, of utilizing those results for the present work became fainter, as in the succeeding years only more or less fragmentary and preliminary notices appeared, with one exception, viz., that of the valuable Report on the Fishes of the Norwegian North Atlantic Expedition.