

case at least have not covered actual expenditure in connection with the work of the Expedition.

The great difficulty in carrying through an undertaking of this nature arises from considerations of time. The researches of the specialist tend ever to become more elaborate: in no case were the authors of the larger Special Reports able to terminate their work within the original estimates as to time and bulk. The limitations in reference to expenditure imposed on me by the Government often rendered it imperative to curtail the investigations, and to cut out matter from the Memoirs when in other circumstances I would gladly have fallen in with the views of contributors and collaborators.

The care exercised in all the arrangements connected with these publications is indicated by the fact that every Special Memoir which was commenced has been completed and published. The plan and proportion of the several parts of the Report have been largely determined by the complicated and changing conditions under which the work has been carried on, and this in turn accounts for an apparent want of unity in the contents of the volumes as issued from the press during the past fourteen years. Great care has been taken to insure accuracy in statement and to make the Report, in the first instance, a faithful record of the observations, investigations and scientific results immediately bearing on the work of the Expedition. The researches and publications connected with the Expedition might have been extended in several directions with advantage to science had the allotted time and funds permitted; as it is, a few collections have not been thoroughly examined, and some observations have not been fully discussed.

In June, 1872, I was appointed one of the naturalists of the Challenger when the Expedition was being fitted out. During the past twenty-three years my time has been wholly taken up with the work of the Expedition and in the study of those subjects which the Expedition was organized to investigate. The direction of the whole of the work connected with the publication of the Scientific Results passed unexpectedly into my hands, and I have done my best in the circumstances to place on permanent record a trustworthy account of the labours of this famous Expedition. It has been my earnest endeavour to complete the publications in a manner worthy of the naval position and scientific reputation of this great Empire. Notwithstanding the troubles,