

In order to prepare within a reasonable time a report which should fully embody the results of the expedition, and indicate the extent to which the instructions of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty had been carried out, it was obviously necessary to invite the assistance of specialists in the different departments, and particularly in the different branches of Zoology. In doing this I had no hesitation in regarding the enterprise as thoroughly cosmopolitan in character; and although the manifest convenience of avoiding as far as possible the necessity for sending large series of specimens out of the country caused a preponderance of British workers on the list, I requested the co-operation of those naturalists with whom I was acquainted whose authority in the different groups was most generally recognised and who had time to undertake the task, without the slightest reference to nationality; this principle of selection was endorsed by nearly all the leading English men of science. From the nature of my instructions, the responsibility of selecting my colleagues in the preparation of the official report rested entirely with myself. I acted, however, in almost every case under the advice and with the concurrence of some of the leading members of the Royal Society. A few of the gentlemen to whom I applied for assistance found that their engagements were such as to prevent their undertaking so heavy a piece of work, but most met my views with friendly readiness; and for the generous consideration with which so many men of high distinction at home and abroad have given me their support and assistance in a task of no little difficulty, I cannot be sufficiently grateful.

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