

THE
VOYAGE OF H.M.S. CHALLENGER.

ZOOLOGY.

REPORT on the BIRDS collected during the Voyage of H.M.S. Challenger in the years 1873-1876. By PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., F.L.S., F.G.S., F.R.G.S., Secretary to the Zoological Society of London.

INTRODUCTION.

ON the return of the Challenger, I had great pleasure in acceding to the request of Sir C. Wyville Thomson to undertake the examination of the skins of the birds collected during the voyage. The whole collection embraced about 900 specimens in skins, besides which there was a considerable series of sea-birds in salt and spirit, useful principally for anatomical purposes, and a collection of eggs, mostly of oceanic species.

The collection was formed under the superintendence of Mr John Murray, one of the naturalists of the Expedition, and the skins were chiefly prepared by Mr Frederick Pearcey, who accompanied the vessel as taxidermist. They are, nearly without exception, in an excellent state of preservation.

Mr Murray has kindly placed at my disposal his ornithological note-book, which contains the history of every individual specimen, and many other particulars which add greatly to the value of the collection. He has, besides, furnished me with further notes for the present Report. The particulars and remarks thus obtained are designated by being included in brackets.

It will be recollected that the main object of the Challenger Expedition was the exploration of the depths of the ocean, and that the collecting of birds, and especially