

II.  
R E P L Y  
OF  
THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER.

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11, DOWNING STREET.\*

DEAR SIR HENRY RAWLINSON,

Mr. Goschen and I have carefully considered the documents which you have laid before us with regard to the proposed Arctic Expedition.

We do not find in them anything which shows that there is any pressing reason why the Expedition should be sent this year.

We give no opinion as to the expediency of such an Expedition at a future time; but we are clearly of opinion that it would not be right to send out a second Scientific Expedition precisely at the moment when the public revenue has to bear the main burden of the expenses of the operations entrusted to the *Challenger*.

I believe it has been erroneously stated that the *Challenger* Expedition involves very little expense. That is not so: the cost has already been considerable, and nothing has been spared to ensure success. There will further be an additional annual outlay for three years.

Under these circumstances, we regret that we cannot recommend the sending an Exploring party to the Arctic Ocean as a Government Enterprise this year.

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

(Signed)

ROBERT LOWE.

*Sir Henry C. Rawlinson, K.C.B.*

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\* Received January 1st, 1873.