

IMPORTANT

NATIONAL ANTARCTIC EXP.^{N.}

HOPE DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY,

UNIVERSITY MUSEUM,

OXFORD.

O. N. N. A.

1880

Decr 20 - 1899

spot which is found

have no means of

speaking. I am

We should go in case of

Wireless E.B. Powell's

Telegraph

P.S. I shall be glad to

have copies of any

papers for me

bring out in your

Department

E.B.P.

My dear Spencer,

Thank you very much for the specimens which have arrived safely & are most interesting. The Ants I am particularly pleased to see. I am sending by this post Vol I of Hope Reports. It is for your Univ. Library or the Working Library of the Zool. Department or wherever you may think it best to place it. I shall soon be sending Vol II which is nearly ready. Kindly ask the Librarian to send me a Receipt as I keep all these together & they make an interesting collection. Will you tell me what you consider to be the right place to send these Vols. to in Australia?

I can spare two perhaps three
for Antarctica. I have only 100 altogether.

I am on the Executive Comm: of the
Antarctic Expedition to start in Aug.

1901. We unanimously wish for

J. S. Prepon who has just been appointed

Prof. of Geology in Melbourne, the leader

of the Scientific Staff (of five). He has

joined himself - fine leader in

Africa - one interested in many ways

of Science - a first collector - &

He has had experience of Arctic ice in

Spitzbergen - of Alpine climbing. He

will be under 37 at the start.

He consents provided that Melbourne

gives him permission; but otherwise of course

he would have to decline.

28
I know that Melbourne takes the keen-
est interest in the South Pole & Continent
& if it could be arranged, no doubt the

Univ. would be pleased that a Prof. there
should lead the Scientific Staff. There is

another aspect also: I expect that it is

likely that a second set of specimens may be
sent to Melbourne Univ. particularly
if Melbourne can assist with funds.

We have raised £45,000 here privately -

from Societies, & Government gives an

equal sum. But the ship will

cost £45,000 when all complete -

ready to start; so that we have not

nearly a good margin to meet all the

heavy expenses of the Expedition - Again

if a much larger sum could be raised

it could buy a second ship, a whaler,

which would cost much less (payable
as usual as the other) & would practically

clarify the scientific efficiency of the
expedition.

I write to you as I know you have great
influence & I feel sure you would have
the success of such an expedition at heart
& would wish Melbourne to have an important
part in it. I should have said that ^{as} at
present arranged we propose that the ship should

decide on a place for wintering in ~~1892-3~~ ⁽¹⁹⁰²⁻³⁾ &
return ^{say to Australia} for the winter of 1901-2 leaving a landing
party at a known place. During this first
winter the ship would cruise in the Southern

Ocean & make magnetic & zoological observations
checking the etc. Mr Gregory could, if it
were desired, the Whis. get back into
touch with them for that winter, altho' of course
the more he was associated with his staff the
better. The second winter (1902-3) the
ship would pass ~~in~~ near the Southern
Coast Continent. The aim is to
spend 2 years, or 3 summers & 2
winters from Aug 1901. But if very successful
effort might be made to extend the time by raising
further funds. If we had two ships one could
winter in 1901-2, but ~~we~~ we should hardly dare
to risk our whole expedition in some unknown