

CHAPTER II.

Of the Resistance of Fluids.

“ THE theory of resistance is a subject
“ which has exercised the extraordinary
“ talents of the most distinguished mathe-
“ maticians of the last century. Neverthe-
“ less it is a subject which is as yet very
“ imperfectly known. It seems that Sir
“ Isaac Newton was the first who attempted
“ to make the motion and actions of fluids
“ the subject of mathematical discussion ;
“ yet even he, with all his genius and all his
“ science, was at length convinced that it
“ was in vain to expect an accurate investi-
“ gation of the motions and actions of fluids,
“ where millions of unseen particles com-
“ bine their influence, &c. He however
“ figured in his mind an hypothetical

“ theory; and from this hypothesis deduced
 “ a series of propositions, which formed the
 “ basis of all the theories of the impulse
 “ and resistance of fluids that have been
 “ offered to the public since his time.

“ From these theories the following prin-
 “ ciples were deduced, as the laws of the
 “ resistance of fluids: we give them here,
 “ in order to shew how far they have been
 “ found to agree with actual experiments,
 “ in what respects they differ, and to pre-
 “ vent the young artist from retaining those
 “ erroneous ideas of the subject which he
 “ perhaps may have already acquired.”

1st. “ The resistance, and (by the laws of
 “ motion) the impulsions, of fluids on simi-
 “ lar bodies are proportional to the surfaces
 “ of the solid bodies to the densities of the
 “ fluids and to the square of the velocities
 “ jointly.

2dly. “ The direct impulse of a fluid on
 “ a plain surface is to its oblique impulse,
 “ as the square of the radius is to the square
 “ of the sine of the angle of incidence.”

3dly. “ The direct impulse on any surface
 “ is to the oblique impulse on the same sur-
 “ face, as the cube of radius to the solid

“ which has for its base the square of the
 “ angle of incidence, and the sine of obli-
 “ quity for its height.

4thly. “ The direct impulse of a fluid
 “ whose breadth is given, is to its oblique
 “ effective impulse in the direction of the
 “ stream, as the square of radius to the
 “ square of the sine of the angle of inci-
 “ dence.”

“ The numerous experiments with which
 “ these propositions have been compared,
 “ have most decidedly proved that they are,
 “ with the exception of the first, exceedingly
 “ erroneous ; and even that is not in all
 “ cases correct*.”

The translator of Chapman’s celebrated
 work on Marine Architecture there states :—

“ That Chapman’s theory of resistance to
 “ ships cannot be depended on, as leading
 “ to true results, in as much as he admits
 “ into it two suppositions which have been
 “ repeatedly proved by experiments to be
 “ false.

“ In his interesting experiments printed
 “ at Stockholm in 1795, he endeavours to
 “ substitute another theory in the place of

“ the one given in his Marine Architecture.”

“ It is to experiment, and perhaps to experiment alone, that we are to look for the basis of a true theory of resistance and impulsion.”

Water being the foundation and life, as it were, of marine architecture, it is hence manifest, without a true theory of the resistance of water, the true theory of marine architecture can never be discovered.

The resistance of fluids is in proportion to their density, cohesion, adhesion, or attraction.

The opposition which any body meets in its passage through water arises,—

1st. From the cohesion or *vis inertiae* of the water.

2dly. From the adherence of the water to such body, or the friction; and,

3dly. From the retractive power of the vacuum created by a body passing quickly through the water.

The natural flow of water being taken at three to four miles per hour, at the same time bearing in mind that water flows into a vacuum from every direction, it is therefore

obvious that when bodies are moved slowly through the water, say six miles per hour, the water is enabled to keep in contact with the hindermost end of such bodies by virtue of its natural flow, in which case there is no vacuum: consequently such bodies are resisted by the “*vis inertiae*” and the friction of the water only.

Upon this principle the phenomenon is explained, which is witnessed in every large fleet, namely, that full-built ships frequently outsail our finest ships in light winds and smooth water.

Owing to the experiments of M. De Romme not being made with sufficient velocity, he “found that bodies advanced with the same celerity when drawn by the head end, as when drawn by the stern end; of course that it was indifferent which end moved foremost.”

Even the square formed sailing barges in London river will in a fresh breeze and smooth water exceed six miles an hour, whereas our finest sailing ships will rarely exceed four miles in a seaway sailing close to the wind.

It is an undisputed fact, that a loose' rickety vessel will sail much faster than when she was immoveably bound.

Hence it follows, to ascertain with precision the laws of resistance, so as to discover the comparative advantages arising from the form, either of the head end, or of the midship body, or of the stern end of all kinds of navigable vessels by means of models, the experiments must be made in agitated water, and to be drawn through the water at the rate at which fast sailing vessels can sail, namely, 10 to 15 miles per hour, or 20 to 25 feet per second. From these points being neglected by the Society for the Improvement of Marine Architecture, and other experimentalists, their experiments failed in determining the form of a vessel best adapted for velocity.

Consequently seamen are now the only experimentalists to whom we are to look for true results respecting the laws of resistance of water.

The nature of *vis inertiae*, and the power requisite to overcome it, together with that of friction, having been so elaborately explained by the Society for the Improvement

of Marine Architecture, very little remains to be said.

It may be proper, however, to remark, that the effect of friction diminishes when vessels obtain their greatest speed, which is proved by the rate at which wood bottom vessels sail in a fresh breeze.

In 1811, I commanded a Swedish built brig out of London, called the *Louisa*, not coppered, that sailed $9\frac{1}{2}$ to $10\frac{1}{2}$ miles per hour for several hours.

Every person that has walked in the water up to their waist, must be convinced of the remarkable fact, namely, that when they attempted to increase their speed through the water, then the resistance of the water increased in a double ratio.

The power of the water is incalculable.

“ Place a ship in a dock, that is made to fit
 “ the exact shape of her bottom, leaving
 “ only the smallest space between the ship
 “ and the dock; fill that space with water,
 “ and the ship will be as effectually floated
 “ as if she was in the ocean.”

The smallest vacuum between a vessel and the water will attract such vessel equally strong with the largest vacuum. Remove

the water from one side of the dock, and the vessel will be as strongly attracted as if the whole side of the dock had been removed by magic.

Water presses equally in every direction: if, therefore, the smallest vacuum were made in the water at any particular part of a vessel floating, the full force of a column of fluid would be immediately felt in a contrary direction, forcing the vessel into such vacuum.

A vacuum is seen on the opposite side of an erect post, in a stream of water against which the stream is running with great velocity: it is likewise seen behind any square body moved quickly through the water; behind a vessel's rudder, when sailing fast; by passing a spoon quickly through a cup of tea, or your hand flatways through the water.

The retractive power of a vacuum is evinced by the vibration of the rudder, and even the vibration of the after body of every vessel, when sailing at their utmost speed. It is confirmed by the practice of unloosening privateers, &c. to increase their velocity when closely pursued by an enemy;

which is effected by rendering the vessel pliable, for when pliable she yields to the retraction of the vacuum under either quarter, and consequently is less forcibly retracted by the vacuum. This fact, however, is known to every person accustomed to boat sailing. I well remember having charge of a boat in the river Plate, which when loose and rickety, and so leaky as to require a man continually to bale her, then outsailed every boat ; but after she was firmly bound, then every boat beat her.

The power of the vacuum is demonstrated by a spar or long piece of wood being plunged into the water in an oblique direction, when, notwithstanding the greater degree of upward pressure of the water on the lowest end of the spar to alter its line of direction, (which, admitting the spar to be 16 feet long, would be four times more effected by upward pressure of the water than the uppermost end,) yet the spar, or a boat-hook staff, will be seen to return in the precise direction in which it entered the water.

The power of the vacuum is again proved in the act of pumping quickly. The piston being raised faster than the water flows, or

can follow the piston, a void or vacuum is created between the piston and the water, at which time the piston is forcibly retracted by the vacuum, until the water comes again in contact with the piston, when the pump makes a hollow sound, termed striking by seamen.

The retractive power of the vacuum retards descending bodies from reaching the bottom quickly. A deep sea lead, for example, dropped from the fore-castle of a ship 120 feet long, and she sailing at the rate of eight miles per hour, would not reach the bottom in 20 fathoms water, by the time the stern of the ship arrived at the spot where the lead entered the water: on this account pilots are obliged to reduce the rate of a vessel's sailing, when correct soundings are required in 20 fathoms.

Every person that has hauled in the log-ship with its pin in, and the ship sailing fast, must be convinced that it requires much greater power than would be requisite to haul in a fish of twice the thwartship size of the log-ship.

A floating anchor derives its power to hold a vessel from the retractive power of

its vacuum. Upon the same principle, the droge of one foot square used by whalers to impede the velocity of whales, more effectually retards the whale than three boats, although the thwartship section of each boat with her crew and equipment must have two square feet immersed in the water. Again, when a dead whale is to be towed to the ship, it is towed with its head foremost; but when it is required to act as a floating anchor to a vessel, then the cable is fastened to the tail of the whale.

For the same reason, a vessel with a fine lean bow acquires much greater velocity in her stern boards than a vessel with a full bow.

The following experiments, however, will more effectually demonstrate the retractive power of the vacuum.

Have models of every kind of navigable vessels; let them be made hollow, having holes pierced through them in every part, and of the same specific gravity: place them with their stern ends in a line with each other in a stream of water, just above a waterfall, or near any vacuum in the water, and on their near approach to the waterfall

or vacuum, it will be seen that those models which have the fullest runs, or in other words, which have their centre of displacement nearest the stern end, will not only emit the greatest quantity of water through the holes in the stern, and quarters, but will be the first precipitated or attracted into the vacuum ; while those models whose centres of displacement were farthest from the vacuum, or nearest the head, will be the least attracted, and consequently the last precipitated down the waterfall.


If, then, equal weight had been fastened to the models, it is evident, that when their stern ends were at the brink of the waterfall, the weight which would be able to sustain from falling those models whose centres of displacement were farthest removed from the vacuum, would be inadequate to sustain those from falling whose centres of displacement were nearest the vacuum, and which were the first precipitated down the waterfall. And as it requires the same power to sustain any body immoveable in a stream of water, as to propel it through stagnant water at the rate at which the stream was running, it follows hence, that a vessel,

whose centre of displacement (every thing else being the same) is the farthest removed from the stern, will obtain the greatest velocity with the propelling power ; that is, the vessel with the longest run (every thing else being the same) will sail the fastest.



CHAPTER III.

Observations, &c. on the Causes which produce, or which more or less affect, the primary Properties of Navigable Vessels.



A navigable vessel, to be a safe and perfect sea boat, must have velocity, buoyancy, stability, and sufficient strength to withstand the shock of wind and waves.

These primary properties embrace steering well while scudding, lying too with safety, sailing fast by the wind, holding a good wind, staying and wearing promptly, riding easy at anchor, pitching and rolling easy, capacity, &c. &c.

Therefore, in the construction of a vessel intended to cross the sea, the first and primary consideration should be regarding her safety, and not respecting her capacity; or,

“ That a ship with a certain draught of water, should be able to contain and carry a determinate lading. ” Thus encouraged to render a vessel capacious and burthensome by the most celebrated writer on marine architecture, it would be indeed extraordinary were ship-owners or ship-builders to sacrifice their interest in the construction of a vessel for her safety, when almost every vessel can be insured ; and if lost, why, no loss to them. Not so, however, to the country to which such ship belongs. I conceive the safety of the crew to be of so much importance to a state, as to claim the attention of governments to the safety of all navigable vessels.

Overbuilt, capacious, burthensome vessels, are in the greatest repute with British ship-owners, which necessarily must influence ship-builders to build their vessels of that description and form ; and vessels of this construction require extraordinary large rudders to steer them, even in a tide’s way.

Of the many vessels lost from being unsafe at sea, few or none of the crew survive to give the melancholy account of the cause of their disaster.

In a cross turbulent sea, there is nothing more dangerous than a large rudder. I am convinced there are more vessels lost from having large rudders than from every other cause. This must appear evident to every person, when the square stern and after body of a ship is duly considered.

First, the after body is unsupported by the water.

Secondly, the after part of the after body is composed of fashion pieces and dead wood.

And thirdly, the stern frame is erected on a transom, which transom is again supported by the stern post.

Being thus constructed, it would be miraculous if the stern, the stern post and after body, should sustain the shock of the sea against the rudder in a heavy gale uninjured or unshaken, when it frequently happens that two men at the wheel are found inadequate to sustain the shock of the sea against the rudder in a calm.

In October 1822, I commanded the ship *Victory*, of 700 tons : we experienced a very heavy gale in the Bay of Bengal ; our tiller broke at the commencement of the gale.

thing else being the same ;) that is, whose centre of gravity is the nearest the head of the vessel, at the same time having her centre of lateral resistance or rotatory motion equally aft, or near the stern.

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The force of the gale kept the ship on her beam ends. The lee sea not only washed our longboat some feet forward, and the wedges out of the foremast, but the water went down the rudder case from the poop cabins. In the end, we had to cut away our main and mizen mast to prevent the ship from foundering.



Remarks, &c. on the Form of a Vessel best adapted for Velocity.

It was demonstrated in the preceding chapter, that a vessel whose centre of displacement was farthest removed from the stern (every thing else being the same) would, with the same propelling power, obtain the greatest velocity; that is, the vessel which has the longest run will sail the fastest.

Every vessel possesses a certain degree of velocity; and many of them can obtain their utmost speed in smooth water under their skysails. Many fine built ships sail equally fast under their jury masts, as when they are properly masted.

The rudder may be considered the index of velocity; for in proportion as the eddy water or vacuum increases about the stern, the power of the rudder diminishes, until it ceases to have the power to steer the vessel, save within three or four points each way: hence arises the inability and the danger to scud in a strong gale, even when it is favourable.

The motion arising from pitching, is the principal impediment to velocity.

Because, 1st. By the run and after body being suddenly raised out of the water, a vacuum is created.

2dly. By pitching, a greater quantity of water opposes the advance of the vessel; and,

3dly. By the pitch, 'scend, or lurch, the direction of the vessel's course is altered, while the effect of the wind on the sails is thereby diminished.

The principal cause of the extraordinary motion in vessels consists, —

1st. In the formation of their bottoms: witness the boats in the river Hooghly, particularly the bhur, paunceway, and dingey, which from being water borne in midships only, are set in motion by the least ripple

or agitation of the water, or by the least weight laid suddenly on either extreme. Whereas the Burmah canoes, from being water-borne forward and aft, will sustain a large gun on the bow, and not acquire one twentieth of the motion, in the same sea, which the dingey, paunceway, or bhur would have had ; and,

2dly. In the position of the centre of weight or gravity. Let two vessels, for example, of the same size and construction, be laden, one of them to have the centre of weight or gravity placed some distance abaft the midships, the other with the centre of weight the same distance before the midships ; propel them at the same rate against a head sea, and it will be seen, that the one whose centre of gravity was farthest forward opposes the greatest resistance to the upward pressure of the head sea, and therefore is less moved or lifted than the one whose centre of weight was farther aft.

Hence it follows, that vessels intended to have velocity should be formed,—

1st. With a long run.

2dly. Should be made water borne as much as possible, particularly the after body; and,

3dly. Should have the centre of weight carried well forward.



Remarks on the Formation of the Bow.

The principal points to be attended to in the formation of the bow are,—

1st. To diverge and divide the opposing water with the least difficulty.

2dly. To assist the vessel to rise buoyantly over the sea; and,

3dly. To prevent plunging into the sea.

The experiments of the Chevalier de Baut go far to shew, that the formation of the head of a vessel is of less importance in overcoming the *vis inertiae* of the water than it has been considered heretofore. He found, “ by an instrument consisting of a square
“ brass plate, pierced with a great number
“ of holes, and fixed in front of a shallow
“ box exposed to a stream of water, the
“ remarkable circumstance, that in great
“ velocities the holes at the very border,

“ and even to a small distance from it, not
 “ only sustained no pressure, but even gave
 “ out water.”

A long bow necessarily contracts the length of the floor, and length of the run, and by lengthening the overhang of the fore body, increases the disposition to pitch.

A very bluff, or upright bow, in its passage through the water, raises a mound of water or small sea before it, by which the resistance of the water is increased in the manner shewn by M. de Baut's experiments; for “ when the box with the brass plate in front of it was not wholly immersed, there was always a considerable accumulation of water against the front of the box, and a depression behind it.” Besides, a bow too full below meets with increased resistance, because the pressure of the water increases in a double ratio in proportion to the depth: on this principle, “ a leak 16 feet under water will admit sixteen times as much as a leak at the surface.” For the same reason, the lowest immersed half of the ship meets with considerably more resistance than the half near the surface.

A middling full bow, not only admits the fore body to be considerably water borne, but likewise allows the centre of weight being carried forward: then by the bow raking forward 20 to 30 degrees, at the same time to flare or flaunch out from the light water mark to the gunwale, the opposing water, by receiving the greatest divergency, would be divided with the least difficulty, while the rake of the bow would give it a tendency to rise over the sea, and the flare or flaunch out would prevent the bow from being plunged deeply into the sea. This form of a bow assimilates in a great degree to that of a grab; and the grabs (particularly the grab Nancy) are some of the fastest sailing vessels in India.

“ Captain Hutchinson, in the year 1746,
 “ was in a middling full built ship, called
 “ the Pearl, that was taken in light wind
 “ by a squadron of sharp Toulon built ships;
 “ but afterwards, when it came to blow so
 “ strong as to put us under close reefed
 “ topsails upon a wind, our vessel could
 “ be the headmost and weathermost ship of
 “ their fleet. I had afterwards,” says Capt.
 H. “ the command of a very extraordi-

“ nary sharp slight ship built at Malta,
 “ with very small scantlings of timber and
 “ plank, long, low, and narrow, being
 “ only twenty-seven feet beam to eighty-
 “ eight feet keel, with shelving, shallow,
 “ sharp, main body, low buttocks for a
 “ cruizing ship, which purpose she answered
 “ well in light winds, fine weather, and
 “ smooth water. In chasing large, with
 “ a little wind and a head swell, we have
 “ steered right up to the chase, when
 “ all their endeavours could not keep
 “ their ship’s head to the swell, but lay
 “ broadside to it. A small pressure of wind
 “ and sail would put this shell of a ship to
 “ her utmost speed ; so that we never de-
 “ sired the wind to blow with a greater
 “ velocity than about 10 miles an hour.”
 “ But in tacking, when it blowed so fresh
 “ that we could just carry whole topsails,
 “ we were obliged to haul up our courses
 “ to make her sure in staying, otherwise
 “ she would get such sternway before she
 “ brought the wind ahead, as prevented
 “ her from staying. This ship was so weak,
 “ that in bad weather, when the waves ran

‘ high, we could hardly keep her together ;
 “ and in chasing to windward at such times,
 “ she used to plunge her over sharp bow
 “ so deep into the waves, as to oblige us
 “ to shorten sail, and add bailing to pump-
 “ ing, to save her from sinking.”

By the bow being proportionably short, it admits of the floor and the run being proportionably long, qualities absolutely necessary to produce velocity. By a long floor, I mean a lengthened horizontal line of bearing about the floor heads.

The entrance of the bow should be similar to the life-boat built by Mr. Greathead, but not so fine. The stem to have about half the rake of the stem of a grab. The sweep for the bow at the load water line should be that recommended by Capt. Hutchinson, namely, half the three fourths of the main breadth. The upper sweep, or sweep of the gunwale, should be a semicircle from half the main breadth: then, by reconciling the load water sweep with the sweep of the gunwale with some concavity, it would give the necessary flare aloft. A bow formed as above, appears to me well adapted to divide the

opposing water, raise the vessel over the sea, and to prevent her from plunging deep into a head sea.

With regard to the form best adapted to go smoothly, little remains to be said, it being evident, that the vessel which possesses the greatest horizontal line of bearings, or being equally water borne forward and aft, will have the least motion, and therefore pass through the water with the greatest smoothness. Some attention, however, is necessary in the distribution of weight or cargo : care must be taken not to carry dead weight into either extreme, as neither of them are water borne. If the after body, for example, were cut off at the commencement of the run, it would swim several feet deeper than the main body. The same would happen, but in a less degree, with the fore body, were it cut off at the termination of the entrance, or by the fore channels.

Remarks, &c. on the Run.

In proportion as the after body is water borne, the tendency to 'send aft' is diminished ; therefore the after body should be ren-

dered water borne as much as possible ; this is done by the run being formed of convex, instead of hollow water lines.

If it were not notorious, that length gives velocity, I would refer to the flying proa ; but more particularly to the inhabitants of Rangoon, who on being asked how many days a canoe will reach Ava from Rangoon, inform you, that if the canoe is four cubits broad, a month will be required ; if three cubits, then three weeks ; but if with less breadth, then 10 days. I scarcely need observe, these dimensions refer to canoes of the same length. Canoes, however, require but little stability, from their not using sails, particularly on a wind.

Since, therefore, that vessel which is most water borne, and having her centre of weight at the same time most forward, will acquire the least motion in a seaway, and since the vessel with the least motion and with the longest run will obtain the greatest velocity, being propelled in a seaway by the same power,

It is hence manifest, that without detriment to velocity, additional breadth may be given at the area of flotation, at the fore

body, when additional stability or buoyancy is required.

*Remarks &c. on the requisite Strength for
a good Sea Boat.*

Without reference to the preceding remarks, it is obvious, that every additional weight in a vessel, whether it arises from large or heavy scantling, extra fastenings, sleepers in the afterhold, &c. &c. is detrimental to buoyancy, to velocity, and to the general safety of the vessel.

Owing to the extraordinary fastenings which are absolutely necessary to connect and support the disproportionate parts of overbuilt burthensome vessels, and of rendering others sufficiently strong to take the ground, from long practice, ship-builders have acquired the habit of giving unnecessary strength and weight to the finer class vessels. To be convinced of this, we need only examine the many old crazy vessels that have encountered the heaviest gales, which, on being broken up, excite our astonishment that they had held so long

together; or to examine the many slender built privateers, smugglers, &c. that navigate in the worst seas, and weather with the greatest safety.

It is notorious, the Masoola boats on the coast of Coromandel owe their safety and their velocity to their buoyancy and pliability; while it is evident, that all vessels sail worse by being immoveably bound with extra fastenings, &c. &c.

In a seaway, the water frequently leaves the after body entirely; in which case the whole weight of the after body is supported by the main body: from this cause the butts between the main and after body invariably complain first.

The round stern introduced into the navy by Sir Robert Seppings, is an invaluable improvement in ship-building. In the first place, a ship being taken aback in a heavy sea, is in no danger of going down stern foremost, which square stern ships are very liable to. 2dly, The round stern facilitates convex water lines being given to the run instead of concave. 3dly, It dispenses with a great proportion of dead wood, fashion pieces, &c. 4thly, It admits of the whole

scantling being reduced about the stern ; And 5thly, Giving additional bearings and support to the after body. These are some of the advantages of a round stern.

A well formed vessel does not require half the size of scantling as the burthen-some overbuilt vessels require.

In 1823, I was in a well-formed native brig, in the Bay of Bengal, laden with 4000 bags of rice, equal to 300 tons ; and her timbers and beams were only 5 by 4 and 3 inches, and her planks were from 2 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick. We experienced a fresh breeze for several days, when I was delighted with her liveliness and buoyancy.

Long planks well fastened in the top sides, and in the upper deck, add considerably to the strength of a ship.



Observations, &c. on Buoyancy and Stability.

An empty cask has buoyancy, but no stability : whereas a half round spar, possessing the same specific gravity as water, has stability but no buoyancy.

A ship made of fir is more buoyant than one made of oak; and, every thing else being the same, the fir vessel will strain and labour much less in a gale than a vessel built of heavier wood.

The stability of a vessel consists, 1st. In her formation; 2dly. The resistance of the water; 3dly. The upward pressure of the water; and lastly, The disposition of the weight or cargo on board the vessel.

Affix two bamboos to the keel of a boat, and their upward pressure will make the boat tender; but affix them to the boat at the surface of the water, one on each side, as practised by the Burmahs to give stability to other canoes, and they will produce stiffness or stability.

“ On a reference to the case of three
 “ French seventy-fours, we shall be con-
 “ vinced how essentially the formation of a
 “ vessel contributes to her stability. The
 “ Scipio, Pluto, and Hercules, were found
 “ so crank as to render the lower deck
 “ guns deficient and dangerous. It was
 “ thought restowage would remedy the
 “ defects: the Scipio was unloaded, and
 “ again stowed, under the direction of the

“ chief engineer. In her first stowage, she
 “ had eighty-four tons of iron, and one
 “ hundred tons of stone ballast, and was
 “ reloaded with one hundred and twenty
 “ tons of stone ballast, and one hundred
 “ and ninety-eight tons of iron ballast; and
 “ as her draught of water, or displacement,
 “ could not be altered, it was necessary to
 “ diminish one hundred and thirty tons of
 “ water, in order to preserve the same load
 “ water line; by these means one hundred
 “ and thirty-six tons were placed in the se-
 “ cond loadening eight feet lower than in
 “ the first; yet when the ship was com-
 “ pleted with the new arrangement of stow-
 “ age, she was found precisely as deficient
 “ as before, inclining twenty-four inches
 “ with the men at quarter, and guns out on
 “ one side. She was afterwards doubled
 “ with light wood, to the thickness of a foot
 “ at the extreme breadth, and ten feet un-
 “ der water, decreasing to four inches
 “ length and depthways, which corrected
 “ the defect.”

The stability arising from the resistance
 of the water is proved in boats with sliding
 keels. Let down the keel when the boat

is under sail, and the inclination or heel over is considerably diminished, as well as the sudden roll prevented.

The upward pressure of the water is manifest on a vessel that has one side broader than the other. I well remember the mortification I endured when a boy, to find the inclination of my little boat increased when I reduced the side of the boat (under water) that swam deepest; and, on the contrary, how unbounded my joy on discovering, that by reducing the side of the boat under water which swam the highest, I remedied the defect. Attach a piece of iron to a round spar in the water, and it will turn round till the weight is beneath: take away the piece of iron, and place a piece of cork or bamboo instead, and the spar will turn round until the lighter body comes to the surface of the water.

A round spar has no stability; whereas a half round spar has the greatest: it will sustain a weight nearly equal to its own, which no other piece of wood of the same diameter can do.

A vessel without stability lays over on her beam ends when hove to in a gale of

wind, in which position the water cannot reach the pumps, which leaks in by the straining of the upper works, scuttles, ports, &c. The rudder is useless, and the vessel unmanageable : in the end, the hatches get stove in by the lee sea, and she becomes water logged.

A vessel made stiff by dead weight, is in danger of a high sea breaking on board, because she does not incline or lie over quickly by the force of the wind, but remains to be struck by the body of the sea ; while the sudden weather roll, in consequence of being so struck, not only endangers her masts, but exposes the deck to the succeeding sea. One sea breaking on board accelerates another, until every thing is washed from the deck ; perhaps the hatches get stove in, and the vessel ultimately founders : whereas a vessel with natural stability, i. e. having buoyancy and stability united, is uplifted and inclined by the base of every approaching sea.

The experiments made by Charles Gorre, Esq. of Weimar, to ascertain the form best adapted for stability, most satisfactorily demonstrates the fact. This gentleman caused

four bodies or models to be made, three feet in length and two in breadth, precisely of the same specific gravity and capacity. One model was square; the second was circular, that is, " the immersed part was half a circle. The immersed part of the third a flat " bottom, with angular sides; and that of the " fourth was the form of a triangle or " wedge. The second model drew one " fourth more water than the first, or square " body. The third drew one half more " than the first, and the fourth drew as much " again as the first.

" To prove their respective stability, the " weight was fastened to a line whose end " was made fast to the top of a stick, erected by way of a mast in the centre of each " body, and passed over a pulley in an opposite " station, which worked in a groove to admit of depression, so as to be horizontal " with the head of the mast, when the figure " became heeled or inclined. The power " being thus always horizontally applied, " was similar in effect to the force of the " wind.

" The results of the experiments with a " 12lb. power applied, was as follows :—

" The circular model inclined	19°	40
" Square do. do.....	30°	10
" Partial triangle do.	35°	12
" Triangular do.	37°	„

" When the models were at their utmost
 " inclination, the line was suddenly cut that
 " suspended the weight, to prove the degree
 " of inclination they had to recoil or roll to
 " windward, when it was found that the
 " inclination to roll was nearly in an in-
 " verse ratio to the stability, as the circular
 " model hulled to windward,

" Or recoiled,	33	degrees.
" The square model, ...	29	„
" „ Partial triangular,	27	„
" „ Triangular,	23½	„

It is evident, from the above experiments, that although the circular bottom has the greatest stability, yet it has the greatest tendency to roll, while the triangular or sharp bottom possesses the least stability, but has the least tendency to roll: therefore a vessel's bottom must have the above qualities judiciously united, which may be done,

1st. By allowing the fore body under water to partake of the circular form; and,

2dly. The after body to assimilate to the triangular form.

And as a vessel of the least specific weight, or which is composed of the lightest materials, is the most buoyant; and since even a tender vessel can be made stiff without detriment to velocity, by adding a temporary planking of the requisite breadth to the fore body, a few feet below the light water mark, to a few feet above the load water mark, commencing at the bow, and terminating at midships; it follows hence, that stability, velocity, and buoyancy can be united in the same vessel.

CHAPTER IV

Observations, &c. on the Evolutions, &c. of Vessels.

On the Form best adapted to hold a good Wind, and to sail fast by the Wind.

As the pressure of the water increases in proportion to the distance from the surface, it follows, the more water a vessel draws, or the more she is depressed into the water, the greater will be the resistance.

Wherefore,—1st. The lower the centre of lateral resistance is situated, the less will be the leeway or drift. And,

2dly. The lower the centre of displacement is situated, the less will be her direct velocity.

Consequently, the vessel formed to sail by the stern, will sail faster, hold a better wind,

and work better, than a similar vessel formed to sail on an even keel, for the following reasons :—

1st. Because from her centre of displacement being higher, she meets less head resistance, and therefore obtains greater velocity.

2dly. From her centre of lateral resistance being lower, she makes less leeway or drift; and,

3dly. From her centre of rotatory motion being farthest aft, she works better, as will be explained hereafter.

The Virginia pilot boats, the Irish hookers, and similar vessels, formed to sail considerably by the stern, are capable of fetching in, even to windward of the place at which they looked when the tack was first commenced. This arises from the lesser quantity of water that opposes the weather bow and fore body, whereby the natural disposition of the vessel to luff to windward is facilitated; so that, at each 'send and pitch, the fore body is enabled to fall to windward of the place from whence it rose.

This quality is evidenced in the fine formed grabs.

A vessel being trimmed by the head, requires considerable weather helm to keep her out of the wind, when sailing with the wind a-beam, or close hauled: this is owing to the centre of lateral resistance or rotatory motion being removed forward, whereby the impulsion of the wind on the hull, sails, and masts, is so far increased as to act upon the after body of the vessel, similar to a weathercock.

A tender, crank vessel, sailing with the wind a-beam, or close hauled, equally requires considerable weather helm to keep her out of the wind. This arises,—1st. From the increased resistance of the water on the depressed or lee bow, while the resistance is diminished in an equal degree on the weather bow: and, 2dly. By the inclination or heel of the ship, the centre of *direct* impulsion of the wind on the sails is carried to leeward, by which means it has the greater effect to force the vessel up into the wind.

For these reasons, on the near approach of a squall, or as the breeze freshens, the officer of the deck instinctively orders the helm to be put a-weather, to keep the ship from flying up into the wind.

The rudder placed at a great angle, considerably retards the velocity of a vessel.

And since additional breadth at the fore body would produce additional stability, and keep the centre of displacement nearer the surface ; and as the centre of lateral resistance is lowered in proportion as the after body is allowed to descend into the water ; it follows that a vessel, to sail fast by the wind, and to hold a good wind in a sea-way, should be formed to sail considerably by the stern, and to have considerable stability.

*Observations on the Form best adapted for
Tacking in a Seaway.*

The bow sea is the principal obstacle to a vessel coming about in stays. So great is the power of the bow sea, that a vessel sailing with the sea on her lee bow, is frequently forced about against her helm.

Since a vessel sailing by the wind requires weather helm to keep her full, it is obvious, on the helm being put a-lee, at the same time trimming the sails, the ship readily comes head to wind ; and if the vessel holds her headway while in stays,

or until the sea takes the lee bow, in that case the power of the rudder will bring the ship about. But when the headway ceases, it is then the office of the head sails to bring the ship about, because the power of the rudder ceases with the headway, (and remains powerless until the vessel obtains sternway.) Therefore the farther the centre of rotatory motion is removed aft, the greater will be the power of the head sails, when aback, to bring the vessel about; or the farther the foremast is removed forward, the head sails act with greater power on the fore body to force or turn the ship's head over the sea.

I have frequently trimmed a boat when sailing, so that she sailed by the wind, and tacked, without the use of the rudder; this was done in the following manner:—When the boat was to be put about, two or more men were sent close forward, by which means the after body was raised out of the water, whereby the wind acted on the after body with increased power to bring the boat's head to wind. When the boat was head to wind, then the men instantly shifted to the stern of

the boat. Thus the centre of rotatory motion is carried aft. The fore body is at the same time raised out of the water. By which means the sails aback have increased power to box, or force the boat on the steer tack.

Hence it follows (every thing else being the same) the vessel best adapted to tack in a seaway, is that which has the centre of rotatory motion well aft.



Remarks on Steering well, &c.

A vessel that sails fast, must steer well. The rudder has power in proportion to its depth in the water, that is, according to its approximation to the centre of rotatory motion. Captain Schank justly remarks: “that vessels with sliding keels wanting
“to veer, are to heave up the fore keel,
“and heave down the after keel; and if
“it be requisite to veer very quickly, the
“main keel should be hove up also: vessels will then turn or come round as if
“upon a pivot, the rudder being used
“at the same time as in common cases.” The reason of this is plain; for by the fore and main keels being up, the centre of

rotatory motion is removed aft, which gives liberty to the fore body to yield promptly to the rudder: and as the rudder obtains power in proportion to its depth, it follows, that a vessel, to steer and veer well, should be formed to have her centre of rotatory motion well aft.

Remarks on the necessary Properties for a Vessel to have, to scud in a heavy Gale and tempestuous Sea with the greatest Safety.

A vessel, to scud with safety, must steer well, and rise promptly to the following sea.

A vessel not being sufficiently buoyant in her after body, is in danger of being pooped, or of having her dead lights stove in by every sea; and a vessel that does not steer well, is in danger of broaching to, or in being brought by the lee.

The after body obtains buoyancy, in proportion as the centre of weight is removed forward. If, for example, the centre of weight was two thirds from the stern, the after body would be more buoyant, and rise more promptly to the following sea. Be-

cause, in that case, the after body presents a lever, as it were, to be acted upon by the upward pressure of the sea.

“The worst consequence” (observes Captain Schank, in his remarks on sliding keels) “of a difficulty in steering, is what is to be feared has too frequently happened, though rarely heard of, and that is, the ship’s broaching to. This, though sometimes the consequence of a wild or careless steerage, is more frequently occasioned by strong gales and tempestuous seas. Thus, for instance, a ship scudding before the wind, or quartering, having little sail set, and that low, such as a reefed foresail, when between two seas, is almost becalmed, and therefore loses her way : the next or following sea raises her stern, her bow inclines downwards, the cutwater having a different direction from the intended course. The stern by this is lifted up so high that the rudder has little or no power, it being almost out of the water. In this situation, the ship pressed on her lee bow, by the water having got on the weather quarter, and the ship on the top of the sea, she flies with

“ such violence as to bring her head round ;
 “ and then lying on the broadside, she
 “ plunges with the greatest velocity into a
 “ high or raging sea, the water breaks into
 “ her, washing and carrying away every
 “ thing off the decks, frequently some of
 “ the crew : and it is to be feared that by
 “ such accidents, vessels themselves go to
 “ the bottom, and are no more heard of.
 “ Now there is nothing more clear and
 “ certain, than that sliding keels counter-
 “ act these dreadful effects.

“ To prevent the dreadful accident of
 “ the vessel’s broaching to, no more need
 “ be done, than to heave the main and fore
 “ keels up, and let down as much as is
 “ thought necessary of the after keel ; and
 “ if enough of it is down, it is impossible
 “ that any ship can meet with this.”

Wherefore, a vessel, to scud with safety,
 should be formed to have her centre of
 weight well forward, to give buoyancy to
 the after body ; and to have the centre of
 lateral resistance or rotatory motion well
 aft, to give additional power to the rudder,
 and to prevent the vessel from broaching
 to.

A vessel with her centre of weight or displacement nearest the stern, that is, a full-built vessel, when laden, cannot exceed eight knots; and even then, the eddy water occasioned by the vacuum so far diminishes the power of the rudder, as to oblige the vessel frequently to heave to, in order to avoid the danger of broaching to. In the ship *Triton*, I experienced a very heavy gale near the Western Islands. We made three attempts to scud; and while scudding, the foresail lifted on both sides alternately, before she would answer the helm; and but that the ship was buoyant, tender, and lofty, the sea must inevitably have broken on board: whereas a vessel whose centre of displacement is farthest forward, that is, having a long and deep run, will sail at the rate of 12 to 15 miles per hour; consequently she can make fine weather, and even make her passage, when a full-built ship is obliged to heave to.

Remarks on the Properties, and on the Form of a Vessel, best adapted to heave to in a violent Gale, with the greatest Safety.

A vessel, to be safe when hove to in a violent gale, must have buoyancy, stability, and steerage way.

Buoyancy, to rise easily over the sea ;

Stability, to enable her to carry sail ;

And steerage way, to admit the vessel to receive the shock of the sea at the best point, from which she would receive the least laboursome motion, and to prevent her from coming head to sea, or from falling off into the hollow of the sea.

Without buoyancy, the vessel is in danger of every sea breaking on board, and strains violently.

Without stability, she will lay over on her beam ends unmanageable.

And without steerage way, the vessel may come up to the sea, and thereby damage or pitch away the masts, or will fall off into the hollow of the sea, where she is in great danger of every sea rolling on board.

When a ship lays too without straining, or shipping seas, then it is proverbial among

seamen to commend the vessel for having 'bow'd the sea.

The least laboursome motion that a vessel can have, when hove to, is that which equally partakes of the pitch, or rather 'scend and roll; and this motion is given to the vessel when the sea strikes her about 45 degrees before the beam or broad on the bow.

By the extreme breadth being well forward, particularly at the area of flotation, the *base* of the approaching bow sea will then have additional power to incline the ship promptly, and thereby facilitates her rising buoyantly over the sea.

By the centre of weight being well forward, the fore body will oppose increased resistance to the shock of the bow sea, by which means a vessel hove to is less liable to be thrown off into the hollow of the sea.

The advantage in having steerage way when hove to, to allow of the vessel to receive the shock of the sea on the bow, is too obvious to need farther illustration.

The leeway or drift is prevented, in proportion to the depth at which the centre of lateral resistance is situated : and since this

centre descends in proportion as the after body is immersed in the water, it follows the form best adapted to heave to with the greatest safety, is that which has its extreme breadth well forward, and (every thing else being the same) which draws the greatest quantity of water aft.



Observations, &c. on the Position of the Mast.

Since the centre of lateral impulsion of the wind on the sails, hull, masts, &c. is opposed by the centre of lateral resistance of the water, and since the action of the rudder to preserve an equilibrium between those centres considerably impedes the vessel's velocity, it follows that the masts should be placed with reference to the centre of lateral resistance.

If a vessel could be formed to remain upright, sailing with a fresh breeze on her beam, or close hauled, or otherwise, so as to prevent the inclination of the vessel to fly up into the wind; in that case, the centre of lateral impulsion of the wind on the sails, &c. could be placed directly opposite to the

centre of lateral resistance of the water : but as this cannot be done, the centre of impulsion must be placed before the centre of resistance, to counteract that inclination.

Vessels with the least stability, have the strongest inclination to luff up into the wind : consequently the centre of impulsion should be proportionably more forward of the centre of resistance, in tender crank vessels, than in those possessing a greater degree of stability.

Motion in the masts considerably diminishes the propelling effect of the sails. This is demonstrated in a boat under sail, when the oars are also used.

The nearer the masts can be placed to the centre of perpendicular motion, (without the sails on one mast intercepting the wind from the others,) the greater will be the propelling effect of the sails, and the less the masts and vessel will labour and strain.

A vessel formed to stay well, admits of her foremast being placed proportionably more aft, or nearer the perpendicular motion : witness many of the brig privateers out of America.

Masts that rake aft, give to the sails a tendency to raise, and assist the vessel over the sea. To be convinced of this, we have only to call to mind the effect of the wind on a boy's kite, in the act of flying. Besides, by having a rake aft, the masts are less liable to being pitched away.

Long lower masts and short topmasts are far preferable to short lower and long topmasts.

1st. Because they can be rendered doubly more safe and secure from being carried away. The difficulty and anxiety to secure a long topmast, while the vessel is labouring in a high cross sea, is known to every experienced seaman.

2dly. Because long lower masts admit of lofty and large trysails being set : which sails are preferable, for heaving to with, to either the main topsail, courses, or staysails, in so far that they give the vessel steerage way, and at the same time allow her to lay within five points of the wind and sea. Whereas, when hove to under the close reefed main topsail, from not having steerage way, she comes up and falls off at pleasure. And when hove to under

the foresail, she lays nearly in the hollow of the sea, and under the staysails the vessel cannot be kept steady, from their being too low. Besides, a vessel hove to under trysails is in no danger of going down stern foremost, when taken aback. Withal they are much easier taken in, and with less risk of splitting in a gale of wind, then either the topsail or foresail.

And, 3dly. The long lower mast, by admitting a pole topmast and topgallant mast (in one spar) to reeve and fidd, the topmast caps, the heel of the topgallant mast, and in many cases even the topmast crosstrees, could be dispensed with. The relief thus given to the masts by this reduction of weight from the mast head, may be accurately estimated by those seamen who have witnessed the relief afforded to the masts by sending down the topgallant yards in a cross jerking sea.

*Remarks on Vessels intended to navigate
in shallow Water.*

It was seen, that a vessel intended to

work off a lee shore, and to sail fast by the wind, must be deep in the water to hold a good wind ; and it is manifest, that a vessel intended to navigate in shallow water, must have a flat floor, that is, a flat bottom, in order to draw the least water.

Vessels with a flat floor, similar to the bottom of the transit constructed by Capt. Gower, are admirably adapted to navigate in shallow water. Auxiliary means must be resorted to, however, to supply their want of depth, so as to increase the lateral resistance of the water, as well as to give the centre of rotatory motion its proper position. This can be done by means of two or more additional keels or bilge-pieces, sliding keels, or lee-boards.

These vessels may preserve the same form in every other respect, save their flat bottoms, as those vessels intended for velocity, and to work off a lee shore in a heavy sea.

Riding at Anchor.

A vessel that goes smoothly through the water, has sufficient buoyancy, sails

fast, and steers well, must ride easy at anchor.

Conclusion.

In the preceding observations, it has been demonstrated,—

1st. That velocity is produced, in proportion as the run is lengthened and the vessel is water borne.

2dly. That breadth, &c. gives stability and buoyancy.

3dly. That depth, that is, the after body being deep in the water, enables the vessel to hold a good wind, to work, to scud, and to steer well, and prevents the rolling motion. And,

4thly. That the nearer the centre of displacement is to the surface, the less will be the resistance of the water.

Therefore, by carrying the extreme breadth well forward,

1st. Admits of the run being made proportionally long.

2dly. Gives the least laboursome motion to a vessel hove to in a heavy gale, and facilitates her rising buoyantly over the sea.

3dly. Prevents the fore body being depressed into the water ; at the same time it admits of the after body descending to its required depth. And,

4thly. Admits of the centre of weight being carried forward.

Hence it follows, that vessels should be formed with their extreme breadth well forward.

It was likewise demonstrated,—

1st. That in proportion as the centre of displacement or gravity is removed forward, or from the stern of a vessel, (every thing else being the same,) the greater will be her velocity.

2dly. That a vessel goes smoothly through the water, that is, has the least pitching motion, in proportion as she is water borne, and as her centre of weight is carried forward.

3dly. That in the act of scudding, the after body obtains buoyancy, in proportion as the centre of weight is removed from the stern. And,

4thly. That a vessel hove to in a tempestuous sea, would be less liable to be

AN
ADDRESS
TO THE
PRIETORS OF EAST-INDIA STOCK,
AND
TO THE PUBLIC:

CONTAINING
A NARRATIVE OF THE CASES OF THE SHIPS
TARTAR AND HARTWELL,
LATE IN THE COMPANY'S SERVICE.

WITH
REMARKS on the Conduct of the COMPANY'S SHIPPING CONCERNS,
and the Partnership which the PUBLIC have in the Company's Profits.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,
Some PARTICULARS respecting the ROCKS and Shoals
near the ISLAND of BONAVISTA.

By Mr. JOHN FIOTT, of LONDON, Merchant.

*Sirs, Ye know that by this Craft we have our Wealth.—Great is Diana of
the Ephesians,—whom all Asia, and the World worshippeth.*

ACTS.

L O N D O N:
Sold by W. RICHARDSON, under the Royal-Exchange, and
J. JOHNSON, No. 72, St. Paul's Church-Yard.
M.DCC.XCI.



ADVERTISEMENT.

I Need not call upon the Court of Directors to testify my regret at being obliged to make my appeal to the Public. The case in this respect carries along with it its own internal evidence.

If I have used any expressions in the support of my cause, which are at all improper, I trust they will not be imputed to design. They have escaped me through inattention, or the warmth of my feelings upon conceiving myself injured; and I beg leave to make this apology for them. I am the more particularly bound to do so, as I have in general experienced much politeness from the Gentlemen at the India-House: not only from the Chairmen, Directors, and other persons who have command in it, but from others in every department, without exception.

As I have entered the lists of controversy, by compulsion, it can be no matter of complaint against me, that I have availed myself of every fair argument; for in this particular I should have been to blame, had I yielded any thing.

Since the printing of the following pages, I have made a motion in the Quarterly General Court of Proprietors, held yesterday, which Mr. Mendham, a gentleman of high respectable character, did me the honor to second; the consideration of which is postponed to the 31st inst.
Whether

iv ADVERTISEMENT

Whether it passes or not, is of little consequence to myself, personally; since, if it is carried, it will bring forth proofs of my assertions: and, if negatived, it will leave presumptions in favor of them not less efficacious. — The words of it are as follow:

*' That there be laid before this Court, copies
' of all proposals for receiving tenders, and
' also of all tenders for building ships for the
' East-India Company, and of letting ships for
' hire to the East-India Company, from the
' 1st of January, 1780 to this present time;
' with the answers and resolutions of Commit-
' tees and of Courts thereon; together with the
' prices agreed to be given for the hire of ships
' in each of the said years, according to their
' respective destinations.*

*' And also, of any agreements or resolu-
' tions of the Court or Committees of Directors,
' which may have been made, respecting any
' or all of the Ship-Owners, on the subject of
' shipping, during the said period.'*

I have only to add that a sense of injury and the natural warmth of my disposition had led me great lengths, but I have owed much to the moderation and the very able and kind assistance of a valuable friend, totally unconnected with India affairs.

**Fenchurch-Street,
March 24, 1790.**

NAR.

NARRATIVE.

I HAVE several motives for the following publication. I consider myself as a person aggrieved in consequence of the conduct of the Court of Directors of the East-India Company towards the owners of the ships Tartar and Hartwell, late in their service. At the same time I conceive that the public and the proprietors of East-India stock are materially interested in the proceedings of the Court of Directors upon this occasion; not only as being contrary to every principle of œconomy, but as violating the rules of justice, and consequently of policy, which require that the Court should retain a fair claim to the confidence

of individuals, whenever, as in the years 1780, 1785, and 1786, they shall find it needful to have recourse to their exertions.

In the year 1780, upon the capture of five East-Indiamen by the Spanish fleet, the Court of Directors advertised for ships. I tendered the ship *Tartar*, (of about five hundred tons,) which was accepted on the condition of her being completely repaired and fitted for their service.—This was complied with, under the direction of their own surveyors, at an expence of upwards of seventeen thousand pounds, exclusive of insurance; upon an idea that the ship would be continued in employ so long as she was fit. This expectation was held out to me by the Committee of Shipping, particularly by Sir William James, then its chairman; who, on my application for extending the engagement beyond one voyage, answered that the Court never agreed for freight for any ship for more than one voyage; but that, when the ship returned, I
must

must tender her again with the other ships of the season. With this answer I was satisfied, not doubting that she would be continued, if no accident in the mean time, should render her unserviceable; and the more so, as, in the minutes of the committee, dated September 6, 1780, wherein the ship was accepted, the owners were excluded from any claim *of building on her bottom**; a condition which naturally implied that she was to be continued in the service till she was worn out. Under this expectation the owners cheerfully submitted to the immense and very extraordinary repairs and alterations deemed necessary; which were such as no one voyage could possibly repay, and which could be useful in no other employ than that of the East-India Company.

The Tartar sailed in June, 1781, for Madrafs. and Bengal, and returned in August,

• That is, of building another vessel for the company's service when the one in question shall have gone her full course of four voyages, or be unavoidably taken or lost.

August, 1783, being the first arrival that season; having a very valuable cargo, which she delivered, at least, in as good condition as any brought by the Company's ships during the whole war; a proof of her being adequate to the service. Of this indeed none ever expressed a doubt, those Directors best acquainted with shipping deeming her a very complete ship; (of which good opinion a farther proof will be given in the course of this narrative.)

In August, 1783, I tendered the Tartar for a second voyage, on the same terms as the Club, or Society, of Old Shipping Owners had offered, viz. 34*l.* per ton; for, in consequence of having expressed a wish to tender on their terms, they had made me acquainted with them. The Court of Directors not approving the terms, I applied again to the gentleman who had informed me of the terms offered by the Old Owners; but he signified to me, that he could not acquaint

quaint me with their amended terms, and that I must offer on such terms as I pleased. I had then no idea that this Society would make a point with the Court of Directors to exclude all ships but their own.

As the ship Chapman was in the same situation with the Tartar, Mr. Chapman, the managing owner, (and, during his illness, Sir John Henniker, Bart.) and myself, agreed to amend our tender to 32l. per ton. Some days after the tender was made, Sir John Henniker and myself were called into the court, and informed, by the chairman, that now was our time farther to amend our tenders, if we wished our ships to be taken up. We accordingly withdrew and agreed to amend our tenders to 30l. per ton. In a few days the Court met and agreed with the Society of Old Owners, for their ships, at 33l. per ton, which was 3l. per ton higher than our tenders.

On

On my application to the Court to know if the Tartar was taken up, I received a verbal answer, that the Court had agreed with the Old Owners and had not taken up any of the new tenders. I returned a verbal message, that I could not accept that as an answer respecting the Tartar, which, I conceived, ought, in justice, to be taken up, as being already in their service, and not a new tender. Mr. Secretary Morton then came out to me, from the Court, to declare that neither the Tartar nor the Chapman were in the number of the ships to be taken up. I confess I felt the utmost indignation at such unjust treatment of persons, whom it was the duty of the Court of Directors as well to protect, as to encourage.

Upon application to several of my friends, (for there were then, as there are now, many who disapproved such conduct towards those who had merited the utmost favor and

and attention from the Court,) I found, that a connection; bordering on a combination, had been entered into among some of the Directors, to the exclusion of the Tartar and Chapman, and any other new tenders which might interfere with the old shipping owners. How far this sacrifice made of us was just or honourable, I leave the Court to determine; but it is to be presumed, that the compliment was repaid by the exertions of that powerful body of men to secure the re-election of their friends as Directors. I am at liberty, however, to call this sacrifice, of the owners of the Tartar and Chapman to the demands of the old shipping interest, at least *wilful*, since these owners were thus subjected to a heavy expence, which every Director in the Court knew to a certainty could not possibly be repaid by *one* voyage. These owners then were not in the situation of strangers; but, in consequence of their exertions, made under expectations founded in common sense and common justice, and as-

sented

sented to on the part of the Company, had acquired a species of claim ; and, by every principle of equity and honour, ought to have been continued in the service, while they tendered on equal terms with others.

I complained very bitterly to the Directors individually on this occasion, and was soothed with the hope that there might be need of an additional ship to carry stores, and I was encouraged to make a tender of the Tartar conditionally for that purpose. I accordingly did so in September, 1783, but none was wanted.

In June, 1784, I again tendered the Tartar to the Court of Directors to be taken up for that season ; and, in my letter, or tender, stated to them the case of its owners ; complaining of their having been refused the preceding year, when other ships were taken up at a higher freight. The Court of Directors, by their letter of the 16th of June in answer, desired the
tender

tender to be amended ; in consequence of which, on the 26th of June, I amended the tender to 28*l.* per ton, for the Coast and China voyage, and for other voyages in proportion. I doubted not but that the Court had now taken the hardships of our case into due consideration, and would therefore grant us a second voyage ; but, to my utter astonishment, we experienced the same treatment as before.

Shocked at such repeated ill usage, I wrote a letter to the Court of Directors on the 31st of August, in which, on behalf of the owners, I expressed the greatest astonishment at our treatment ; which I said we conceived to be cruel in the highest degree ; and I added, in the most direct terms, that no man of sense or honour could say that a single voyage was a compensation for the expences we had been put to. I signified, that we were conscious that the powerful interest of the old owners was exerted to exclude us ; but that

no distinction ought, in justice, to be made between ships built, or ships repaired, for their service, in the time of their necessity, and fitted at an equal expence; and that we hoped their Honours would divest themselves of those prejudices, which we honestly confessed we feared had occasioned their late determination. We compared the case of the Company, (then in agitation with the public) with our own case; and expressed our hopes, that they would behave to us with a liberality equal to that with which they themselves had claimed.— I fairly and honestly stated my complaints, but nevertheless in such terms only, as every man would be likely to use under similar ill treatment.

This representation, however, gave to some of the Court of Directors very great offence, not being accustomed to such plain language. There were, however, others, who, knowing the extent of the injury done, approved of the intention of my letter,

letter, though expressed perhaps too freely. Among others, the late Commodore Johnstone said, that if I had been treated in the manner I stated, I had a right to complain; and that he approved of the open and decided style in which I had expressed myself.—Mr. Lushington, the present worthy chairman, came out of court, in a very friendly and kind manner, and informed me, that my letter had given great offence to some; and desired that I would withdraw it, and write another, leaving out those parts which had given umbrage; and that he hoped, and doubted not, the Court would take my case into farther consideration. — Conscious of his friendly and kind intentions, I consented to withdraw the letter, and to write another to the Court, stating our case in milder terms; and requesting the Court again to take the case into consideration, and to appoint the ship to another voyage; and I farther prayed, that, when our case was taken into consideration, we might be heard in support of

our claim, and permitted to state the losses we had suffered by our exertions in the service. I also wrote a separate letter to each Director, in explanation of the letter which I had withdrawn, and which, as the sequel will prove, freed me from all censure.—My public letter was referred to a Committee of Correspondence ; but whatever consideration the Court took of our case, we never were admitted to be heard in support of our claim, nor was any farther notice taken of it.

On the 31st of May, 1785, I again tendered the Tartar at such freight as the Court should give to others that season, and referred them to my letter of September preceding ; but without more effect than in former instances. Our ship was still refused.

On the 15th of November the same year, hearing that the Court were in want of more ships for that season, we again tendered

dered our ship Tartar at 22*l.* per ton to China; but with no better success. The powerful interest of the old ship-owners prevailed forcibly, and continued apparently so firmly established, as to preclude, for the time, farther hopes of success with the Directors.

The owners, irritated at such repeated, fruitless applications to the Court, for what they deemed a matter of common justice; and conceiving the Court either to be *unwilling*, or, *from the dangerous and undue secret influence used with them* to be *afraid* to grant it; resolved to have the ship sold, in order to settle finally that unfortunate account, and to submit to a loss, to which they had thus so severely and most unjustifiably been subjected by the Court of Directors.

The Tartar was accordingly sold on the 7th of December, 1785, after having waited fruitlessly near two years and a half for employment

employment in the Company's service.— This was the more mortifying to the owners and disgraceful to the Company, as the *Locko*, another ship taken into service in the year 1780, exactly in the same situation with the *Tartar* and *Chapman*, was included in the number taken up for the season 1784, and suffered in rotation to make two subsequent voyages, and fairly to expire in the service of the Company, after completing her third voyage. — I am far from feeling sentiments of jealousy upon this occasion. The owners of the *Locko* received no more at the hands of the Company than they were intitled to, equally with the owners of the *Tartar* and *Chapman*. Those who repair and fit up ships, at a heavy expence, for the service of the East-India Company, have equal claims to justice with those who build them; and require even more attention in the view of policy, as such ships are only called for in cases of real emergency. — But the exception in favour of the *Locko* is, in some degree,

degree, explained by some of the Society of Old Ship Owners having shares in her, and by her being husbanded by one who has the management of several of the other ships in that interest. — Such flagrant and wilful partiality operated as a farther aggravation of the injustice and ill treatment towards the owners of the Tartar and Chapman, and left the Court of Directors without excuse.

Within a few weeks after the sale of the Tartar, the Court of Directors, in consequence of advices from India, and of the necessity of ships for the increasing importation of upwards of ten millions of pounds of tea under the commutation-act, as well as conscious of the great expences we had been put to, and the great losses we had sustained, immediately applied for the Tartar and the Chapman. This was a new testimony in favor of the goodness of the Tartar, as well as of approbation of the conduct of her owners. But the Tartar was

was now sold. In lieu therefore of the Tartar, I made a tender to build a new ship, for four voyages, at the rate of 22*l.* per ton for the two first voyages, and 20*l.* per ton for the two last; which the Court of Directors, as a matter of justice, and as a compensation for the loss incurred by their refusal to employ the Tartar, unanimously granted. On that occasion every Director, whom I had the honour of knowing and speaking to, expressed high satisfaction and pleasure in the opportunity that had offered to make me some *compensation* for the losses I had sustained; for, as such I accepted and deemed it.

It will appear extraordinary that, after having obtained leave to build a new ship, I should meet with any difficulty in getting it built; yet, on my application to some of the chief builders in the river, I was astonished to hear the excuses made for declining to undertake it, by those who were fully able, and who have since expressed their wishes that

that they had not refused it. I confess that I could not avoid attributing this circumstance to the same spirit of opposition to any new owners or new shipping interest, which had before operated against me.— Finding that there was not one of those who usually build Indiamen in the river likely to undertake mine at any price, though I was willing to have given the then high price of thirteen guineas per ton, I was compelled to seek out a place for building in the country; and I beg leave, for the information of such as may be inclined to build out of the river, to say, that I found that ships, from 1000 to 1200 or 1300 tons, could be built at Bucklershard, Southampton, Bursledon, Itchenor near Chichester, Harwich, and at Northfleet near Gravesend, equally good with any ship whatever in the river Thames. I am well aware that many, through self-interest, will deny this, and there will be too many who, from prejudice in favor of ships built in the river, will believe them; not considering

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dering that the very best oak, and great choice of it, is to be found in Suffex and Hampshire, on the very spot in question; whereas timber of different countries, good and indifferent, are mixed and put together in ships built in the river.—I conceive it to be no difficult matter for a builder, in a ship which he has built, to know the timber that will decay first; and, on stripping to examine for repairs, to lay his hands upon it immediately. I, therefore, do not wonder at a speech made to me by a builder, at the launch of the Nottingham, at Gravesend, “ That the London builders “ did not covet the building of new ships, “ but rather wished for the repairing of “ ships.” The charges of such repairs, in the river, are enormous; which every one, who has concerns in shipping, cannot but know.

But to return to my subject: finding I had no chance to build in the river, I at last contracted for the Hartwell, a ship of about

about 938 tons, to be built at Itchenor, near Chichester; and she was completed in about ten months. — On her arrival in the river she had many visitors and reviewers, willing to discover faults if any could be; but the Hartwell was found equal in beauty and goodness to any ship then in the Company's service.

She sailed from the Downs on the 1st of May, 1787, for China.—A mutinous spirit manifested itself among a few of the crew very early, which continued to encrease; till, at length, it broke out with violence towards some of the officers. Some of the ringleaders being seized and put in irons, it was determined to steer for the Cape de Verd islands, and put them on shore at St. Jago. On the 23d of May, at 6, P.M. the Hartwell made land, which, after diligent consultation, was conceived to be the island of St. Nicolas; and accordingly, leaving it, they shaped their course as for St. Jago. The ~~land~~ they had seen, however, proved to be

the island of Sal; and, consequently, at half past 3, A.M. they saw other land, which was the island of Bonavista, then distant two or three leagues. The chief mate, who had the watch, hauled his wind and ordered Captain Fiott to be called, who, in consequence of the mutiny, had not been in bed for three nights before. He immediately came on deck; but, in a very few minutes, the ship struck on a rock and was wrecked. — This disaster happened on her first voyage and within one month after her first sailing, in a situation where the charts expressly sanctioned by the company, pointed out no danger, and where the great Captain Cook, in his last voyage, might himself have perished. I mention these particulars for reasons which will appear hereafter. Thus was that noble ship (which had been completed after infinite trouble, difficulty, and expence, in order to be ready in time) irrecoverably lost in a moment.—Some persons, through prejudice, partiality, self-interest, or other motives, may reason differently

ferently, but I can attribute the loss to nothing but an unavoidable calamity, originally to be traced to the mutinous spirit of the crew, which induced the commander and officers to alter her course towards those islands in order to put the mutineers on shore. I am not alone, by thousands, in opinion, that any ship and any commander might, in similar circumstances, have been lost on those fatal rocks, which, at that time, were not pointed out, and, consequently, were not to be guarded against; though the disaster of the *Hartwell* has since made them sufficiently memorable to future navigators.

I must here lament the vile spirit of mutiny, which for too long a time subsisted on-board of the large ships in the merchants service, particularly the East-India and West-India men; owing to causes which, as they have since in some measure been removed, I shall not farther ~~probe~~ into. It had arrived to such a pitch

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as seemed to threaten the total subversion of all discipline and subordination on board merchant ships; but was happily checked by that spirit and indignation publicly expressed by merchants and others on the subject. The seamen, by some late decision, have been taught, that although the law will deservedly punish all who shall behave in a tyrannical and brutal manner towards them, (as no doubt too many have done;) yet that it will also protect the commanders and officers of ships, who, for the preservation of the property of their owners and shippers, and also of their own lives and those of the passengers and people under their care, shall confine and bring to punishment those miscreants; who, for the sole purposes of plunder and depredation, engage as mariners, and by their arts and wickedness too often bring a number of the crew to join in their infamous practices.—Such was the case on board the Tartar at the Island of St. Thomas in the year

year 1781, and on-board the *Hartwell* in May, 1787. — Yet the whole blame and punishment was laid on the commander and officers, instead of the villainous authors of the danger so nearly escaped by the former, and of the calamity unhappily experienced by the latter, in which the East India Company so severely suffered, as well as the officers, owners and other individuals concerned. Upon myself, it fell peculiarly heavy; as causing the disappointment of my fair hopes and prospects of success from the *Hartwell*, after the mortification I had suffered, and the difficulties I had surmounted.

It was a very great consolation to me upon this occasion to meet with sympathy, kindness, and attention from every quarter; even from those who were considerable sufferers by this calamity, which they had spirit, liberality, and honor to consider as an unavoidable misfortune; I
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mean, the Royal Exchange Assurance Company, and the private underwriters at Lloyd's Coffee-House. The whole, including the private underwriters to a man, instantly settled the loss on the policies; and, without waiting the usual time, offered, and actually sent me the amount of their several engagements, with the most kind expressions of concern at my misfortune. — I beg leave to seize this opportunity of thus publicly expressing my thanks for this very honorable and friendly behaviour, which gave me the most heart-felt pleasure, and raised my spirits when much depressed by this misfortune.

I wish I could with truth say, that I had met with similar sympathy and kind treatment from the Court of Directors of the East-India Company; from whom I had every reason to have expected it, from the well-known exertions, and, I may say, the liberal manner, in which I have ever acted in all my engagements

ments and transactions with them. — I will not, in this place, enter farther into the subject of their conduct towards the commander, chief and second mate of the Hartwell, the latter of whom they suspended, and have since restored to their service. The two former, by the wording of their minutes and of their letter to Mr. Lempriere and myself (as charter-party owners,) it was conceived they had dismissed, never to be employed again; but, by some subsequent resolutions, they have qualified their former resolution, as not importing an actual dismissal, but only a suspension; and, on the application of Mr. Christie, the chief-mate, they have restored *him* to their service. The reasons which the Court give for it will hereafter be seen to imply a confidence in Captain Fiott, the commander; who nevertheless still remains under suspension; nor has he ever applied to be restored, wishing, as I conceive, previously to know what he is

accused of, and the grounds of such complaint. For this purpose, I applied to the Court, by letter, on his behalf; but this information, extraordinary as it may be, has been most peremptorily refused; so that he, as well as myself, although his agent and the managing owner of the ship, remain most perfectly unacquainted with the matter to this day. — I shall make no farther comment here, but proceed to my own business, that of my application for leave to build another ship in lieu of the Hartwell, thus unfortunately lost.

* I was advised not to make an immediate application to the Court, but to wait a little till the ferment, which prejudice and every art that self-interest could dictate against new owners and country-built ships (as the Hartwell was called) should subside. — It is wonderful, indeed, that men of sense, in any degree acquainted with shipping, could give ear to such tales and
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alarms of danger to the Company, from employing well-built country ships; but that professional men should have joined to exclaim against it, as was the case, is still more extraordinary.—It is well known, that the best oak produced in this island is chiefly in its southern parts, and that the oak to the northward is less in esteem than that to the south of the Thames, in counties immediately adjoining. At the same time, none can doubt that shipwrights of equal merit with any others, are to be found in a place situated near several of the royal dock-yards, and in the vicinity of London. Of this southern oak, and in a place so situated, was the Hartwell built, by ingenious and experienced shipwrights; and her model and fabric was such as not only met the approbation of the Company's surveyors, who inspected the work, equally as if it had been in the river, but bade defiance to interested and malevolent critics. It was from the construction of this, and

other very respectable ships in like circumstances, that a noble lord was pleased to say, in the House of Lords, that a new discovery had been made; namely, that ship-building was not local, but that men of war might be built all along our coasts.— I confess I take some pride to myself, when I reflect, that the Hartwell (which when launched was the largest ship which had ever been built for the Company's service) furnished one of the first instances to do away a prejudice so injurious to the maritime interests of England, and to the country gentlemen who have timber near the sea, the price of which has hitherto been kept down by its distance from ship-yards. And I trust that no combination of London ship-builders will be able to stifle the Fact.*

* The price for building Indiamen, of about 800 tons, in the river, was, in 1786, thirteen guineas per ton. I contracted that year for the Hartwell at eleven pounds; and, two months after, for the Belvidere at twelve pounds. The price now, in the river, is eleven pounds five shillings per ton.

to build, and that it had been objected to by them. Some of those, who had before expressed themselves to be friendly, afterwards started doubts and difficulties; and I then began to find, that I was likely to have equal obstacles to surmount as at first. I was kept in this suspense till the month of March, 1790, when I received a letter from the Court of Directors, dated the 5th of that month, stating certain conditions which they insisted upon, and which they called "an explanation of the terms" on which they would receive new ships "for the Company's service." After having mentioned what were these particulars, they said, "it would be left for me to determine whether I would abide by my former tender." — I wrote an answer agreeing thereto, dated the 10th of March, 1790; and I now conceived that all difficulties were removed, and that I should immediately have the usual letter of form with leave to build: all my friends thought
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the same ; and I was so well assured of it, that I began to form my arrangements for the purpose of building the said ship. Expecting every week to receive the letter of leave, I waited patiently till the 2d of June, when I wrote a letter to the Court of Directors as follows :

“ Honourable Sirs,

“ HAVING received a letter from Mr. Secretary Morton by order of your Honours, dated the 5th of March, in answer to my tender and application for leave to build a new ship in lieu of the Hartwell, with the conditions on which your Honours were willing to give me leave to build, and requiring my answer thereto ; I accordingly gave in my answer dated the 10th of March last, agreeing to the terms which your Honours were pleased to stipulate.

“ I have been ever since expecting your Honours letter of permission to build the said ship. I have now to request your Honours will be pleased to grant me such
“ leave,

" leave, as early as may be agreeable to
" your Honours, that I may have full and
" sufficient time to get such ships built
" and completed to the entire satisfaction
" of your Honours. I am, with the great-
" est respect,

" Honourable Sirs,

" Yours, &c:

" J. FLOTT."

I waited in person for an answer, and in a very few minutes after my letter was read, to my utter astonishment I received the following answer, signed by Mr. Morton, Secretary to the Company.

" The Court of Directors of the East-
" India Company have taken into confide-
" ration your letter requesting to build a
" ship on the bottom of the Hartwell, and
" I am ordered by the said Court to ac-
F " quit