

Wood Schooner "Meda" of 124 tons recently built at Barnstaple and classed H.A.1.

This little vessel since her construction has been purchased by the Admiralty for surveying duties, and when at Appledore ready for sea it was found she was making $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch of water per hour. This was deemed unsatisfactory, and as the leak ~~did~~ not "take up" the vessel was placed in dry dock, and water was pumped into her hold. When a "private leak" was discovered forward about 4 ft 8 ins out from the keel. This is fully described by Mr Fittock, and appears now to have been set right and the vessel made watertight.

It is respectfully submitted that from the nature of this private leak, as described by Mr Fittock, it is one that was very likely to escape his detection, and although the circumstance is unfortunate, and the carelessness of the workmen reprehensible, there does not appear to be grounds for attaching blame to Mr Fittock in this instance.

M.D. J.H.



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