

Dundee 12th Sept 1860

G B Leyburn Esq

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Your letter of 11th Inst has duly
come to hand enclosing Letter & Sketch from the
Aberdeen Ship^{rs} & Co stating the elm planking
being carried too high in the bottom of the ~~new~~ ^{new} ship now building by them - Referring to
their communication I beg to observe that the
Sketch appears to be correct. The error has
arisen from their not having built a ship of
this class hitherto and in taking for granted
without consulting the rules that the elm
was admitted to be carried up to some height
as in the Eight years grade - Two planks
aft which had been carried higher than those
now shown in the sketch I recommended to be
removed and with reference to the latter I pointed
out the propriety of submitting the matter to
the Committee for their sanction otherwise they
would require to be remedied also. In so
doing however the strength of the vessel will
certainly not be improved by shortening the
elm planks & putting in longer. Aft

I am Sir
Your Obed^t Servant
Thomas Alexander