



PLEASE ADDRESS
ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO MR W. HOPCRAFT.

Skinner's Patent Vertical Steering Apparatus.

OFFICE—
12^{1/2}, Finchurch Street.

London, E.C. 5 August 1869

Gentlemen.

I have this morning received from my representative at Liverpool the copy of a letter purporting to have been addressed by you in your capacity of Lloyd's Surveyors, to Messrs Richardson Buck & Co of Stockton-on-Tees, in which you condemn the cross-head of a vertical steering apparatus supplied by me for the vessel Messrs Richardson Buck & Co are building for a firm in Liverpool, on the ground of its being cast metal! On the receipt of your said letter I immediately wrote upon the Secretary of Lloyd's Registration Society, who after hearing what I had to say referred me to Capt^s Ritchie & Martin for their opinions and advice in the matter, and at the suggestion of these Gentlemen I bring to your notice the following facts?

1st That the cross head sent by me for the vessel

vessel in question was made with more than ordinary strength, and contained much more metal - being specially made to meet the objections that were in a former case raised by Messrs Richardson Buck & Co.

2nd That we have fitted this Apparatus upon the vessels mentioned in the enclosed list, and that we have never had a single complaint either from the Owners, Shipbuilders, or Lloyd's Surveyors, of the cast iron coupling supplied, tho' in no instance have they been manufactured with so much regard to strength.

I may mention that Her Majesty's Government thoroughly tested and approved the couplings supplied to H. M. S. "Industry" & "Supply", and that no objection was made against it when submitted for examination to the Committee of Lloyd's. - Of these facts I imagine you have been kept in ignorance.

As your condemnation is of very serious import to us, and in direct opposition to the opinions of Lloyd's Surveyors in other districts where the

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Apparatus has been supplied, and also of
such eminent shipbuilders as Messrs Napier &
John Elder & Co. Arnold & Co. Laird & Co. Royden
& Sons, and others, I would beg of you to
reconsider the matter, and I would specially
enquire of you if to your knowledge any thing
has occurred in connection with this particular
part of the apparatus out of the many we have
supplied, which has induced you to form
such an opinion. -

A reply at your earliest convenience
will oblige

Yours very truly

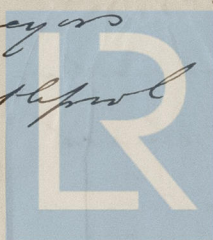
Wm Sturges

Wm Sturges

Messrs Gladstone & Bonomi

Lloyd's Surveyors

N. Hartshorn



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Foundation

W. Hopcraft
London

Steering apparatus
Ship "Savannah"

Rec^d 7/8/69



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