

BRITISH SEAMEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ENGLISHMAN.

W 357610 - 0015

SIR,—Amid all the fuss that is now being made to protect your British seamen, does it ever occur to you that a British ship-master is also a "man and a brother" entitled to some share of human sympathy? Let me tell you a short story of the wrongs I have suffered lately. I chartered my ship to what appeared to be a respectable German trading-house in Cape Town, and arrived here in ballast. When ready to receive cargo, the firm to whom I was consigned declined to load my vessel, alleging some irregularity in the Charter Party. Here I am without friends or funds, and, consequently, without redress. A man presents himself on board, demands to survey my vessel, declares himself Lloyd's surveyor, and says that unless he surveys my vessel, he won't give me insurance. I told him my vessel was a first-class one, that I was not afraid of not getting insurance, and that he was at liberty to examine my ship if he wished to do so. In a few days he sends me a survey report, signed *W. Stewart, R. N. R.*, and a bill for Rs. 49-8, which I refused to pay for services that I had not employed. He then calls alongside of my small vessel, 178 tons, and informs me that if I don't pay him, he will telegraph to England, and have my vessel's certificate cancelled. My poor small ship is only four years old, built in 1871, and classed for seven years No. 1 in Lloyds. Can you or any of your nautical correspondents inform me if it is necessary for me to mortgage my ship to pay this man, borrowing money at something like twenty-five per cent.?

H. PENGELLY,
Master, *Bertha*.

Calcutta, September 10, 1875.

CAPTAIN WEBB