

Calcutta, 24<sup>th</sup> September, 1875.

Recd 26/10/75

Messrs Finlay Muir & Co.,

Dear Sirs,

"Magnolia"

We have delayed acknowledging your letter of 22<sup>nd</sup> instant until we had an opportunity of seeing Captain Stewart on the subject to which it refers.

With reference to Captain Cator's assertions we have Captain Stewart's most positive assurance, (1) that though Captain Cator did not ask him, in so many words, to survey his ship he did most clearly express to him on the steps of your office in the presence of Mr Lawless and Rawloll his great satisfaction at hearing that he (Captain Stewart) had promised to survey and report on his ship, and gave his consent to his attending the vessel for that express purpose; and (2) that as a fact the "Magnolia" was on two occasions while in dock undergoing repairs carefully examined by him (Captain Stewart) and that he did his utmost to satisfy himself that the work was efficiently done before sending in his report. —

As regards what passed between you and Captain Stewart relative to surveying the ship Captain Stewart was, until he read your letter, under reply,



under the firm impression that your request was made officially as agents of the ship, and we may point out that as you not retain Captain Stewart as a surveyor, either for yourselves or for Insurance Offices, but avail yourselves of his services as occasions arise your official memo: of 2<sup>m</sup> inst<sup>th</sup> calling for a report would tend to confirm him in this view, supposing (as he assures us was not the case) any doubt on the point to have existed in his mind up to the time of its receipt. Under these circumstances and as Captain Stewart did actually perform the work he was specially called on to do we regret that we do not see our way to return the fee.

Captain Cater we notice has laid a statement of his case before his owners. We too by last mail wrote to Lloyd's on the subject. With the Chamber of Commerce you are probably aware we have no connection in any capacity and the fact of the matter being submitted to that body does not interest us.

In conclusion we desire to express our great regret at the misunderstanding which has taken place but we are glad to learn from Captain Stewart that you do not agree with Captain Cater in the views he has expressed or the course he has seen fit to adopt in this matter.

Yours faithfully,  
S J Gladstone & Co  
Agents to Lloyd's