

- The only points in this letter requiring a reply are those with reference to the Pillars and Fore-and-aft Bulkheads.

The Contract provides for these in the following terms, viz:—

"Bulkheads." of iron plates $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick placed about $\frac{1}{4}$ feet as shown on drawing, to be stiffened with angle bars $2 \times 2 \times \frac{1}{4}$. Three fore-and-aft bulkheads."

"Pillars." The deck to be efficiently supported by "wrought iron pillars 3" diameter, or by "hollow tubes of equal strength secured to floors and beams."

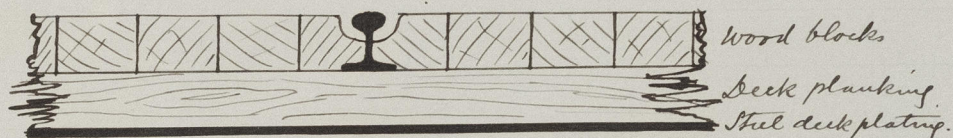
All the athwartship bulkheads have been made watertight in the usual way and are very closely spaced, but the fore-and-aft bulkheads could not be made watertight on account of large openings having to be made in them for the purpose of accommodating the Engines, Boilers and Cabins; besides which there is no provision whatever in the Specification or drawings for a system of pumping, such as would have been required had the fore-and-aft bulkheads been made watertight.

The extra expense which it is stated the Company have been put to, is on account of their having recently decided to alter some of the compartments into trimming tanks above and beyond what was originally described in the Specification and drawings, and for which extra they have agreed to pay the Builders.

The Builders have submitted for approval a

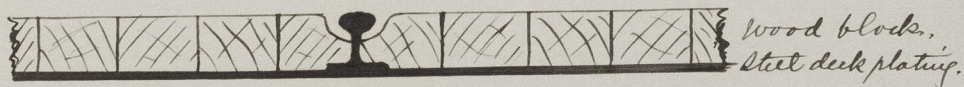
tracing showing an arrangement of Pillars, and it is believed that this arrangement will, together with the bulkheads, provide in a satisfactory manner for the efficient support of the decks, every consideration having been given to the load which the decks will be required to carry.

As to the remarks about the displacement or upheaval of the wood blocks, it is to be observed that the Specification provides for the fitting of four lines of steel rails across the deck and flush therewith, thus:—



Upon these steel rails the load of 16 tons will be distributed, and as the rails will be fixed to the deck planking, and not upon the wood blocks, the load will not come upon the wood blocks at all.

The decks as at first constructed were to consist simply of the wood blocks laid on the steel deck plating direct, thus:—



and the decks would have been so constructed, had I not called the attention of the Managing Director of the Company to the serious objections to such a plan, (in a letter I wrote him on the 18th Aug. 1871) and recommended an ordinary wood deck to be laid on the steel plating between it and the wood blocks as shown above. This recommendation was adopted and the Company entered into an arrangement with the Builders for the fitting of this extra deck.

The decks will consequently be far stronger and better able to bear the load referred to than as originally designed.

MED
C. D. J.
23/12/87



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Does Mr Martell
Concur with these
remarks?

AM (WJ)

I concur in Mr Jordan's
recommendations

AM

27/12/87 (WJ)



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