

S.S. "CORABELLA"

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This letter received from Messrs. Bushell, Nicol & Co. expresses on behalf of the Owners a grievance; they state they have some difficulty in appreciating the attitude of the Society to the Owners. They ask if it is customary for a Principal Surveyor at the port, in conjunction with a Principal Surveyor who has journeyed from London, to hold a survey, completely ignoring the Owners. They state that it would have been at least courteous to advise them in advance of this survey, and they give an extract from the Secretary's letter of the 22nd instant in reference to the action which is proposed to be taken with the solepiece of the sternframe. They ask if it is not for the Owners to arrange for this breakage of their property after discussion and/or agreement with other interested parties.

The writers knew on the 17th March that a representative from this Office had attended, as is shewn by their letter of that date, and in a further communication dated 21st March they stated that they awaited Mr. Butler's report with interest. At that time they expressed no sense of surprise or annoyance at the procedure which had been followed, and this feeling appears to have developed after they were acquainted with the actual terms of Mr. Butler's report, as conveyed to them in the Secretary's letter of the 22nd instant.

The fact is that Dr. Pickworth telephoned this Office about the damage sustained by this stern frame, and suggested that the Chief Ship Surveyor should go to Sunderland to see the damage as it was in his opinion of a special character, but Mr. Butler was subsequently sent.



It is submitted the writers be informed that there never was any intention that they, as representing the Owners, should be kept in ignorance of any facts that were material to their interests; that the visit of the representative from this Office was agreed to at the request of the Principal Surveyor in Sunderland, and it was naturally presumed that the Owners would be aware of all the facts in the case.

With regard to the "proposal" to have the sole piece of the stern frame broken through, it is again obvious that this could only be done with the entire consent of the Owners, (as the stern frame is their property) and Messrs. Bushell, Nicol & Co. should be informed to this effect. A <sup>suggestion</sup> ~~proposal~~ like this would naturally be made not only in the interests of the Society so that all the facts may be determined, but as a consequence of the remark made in the last paragraph of the writers' letter of the 17th instant.

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J.B.C.

*[Signature]*  
24.3.28.



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