

"Cleared 17th, 'Royal William,' McDougall, London, coal, natural curiosities,* and spurs by W. Mortimer.

"Passengers in the 'Royal William': Rev. Mr. Sweeney and daughter, Dr. Law, Messrs. Causyer and Clark, and several in the steerage."

The story of the "Royal William" may fittingly conclude with an account of the final act of placing in its permanent position the memorial tablet, prepared by direction of the Hon. J. A. Ouimet, the Minister of Public Works.

[See page 19, Proceedings of Colonial Conference].

At the conclusion of the ceremonies opening the Colonial Conference on the 28th June, 1894, His Excellency the Earl of Aberdeen, Governor General, announced to the delegates and others assembled in the senate chamber, that he had received the following letter from the Clerk of the House of Commons, after the reading of which His Excellency announced that he would have much pleasure in placing the brass tablet in the place selected for it, and he wanted the gentlemen specially named in the letter and others to accompany him and assist by their presence at the place designated.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL:

MY LORD,—The two Houses of the Canadian Parliament have ordered that a brass tablet should be placed in the wall of the corridor leading to the Library of the Parliament, with a suitable inscription "commemorating the departure of the 'Royal William' from the port of Quebec in 1833—the first vessel to cross the ocean wholly by means of steam."

Your Excellency is already familiar with the leading circumstances connected with this interesting historical fact. The brass plate ordered by Parliament is now ready to be put in place, and it is felt that no more fitting time could be chosen than at the close of the opening meeting of the Colonial Conference.

On behalf of the Royal Society and Associated Societies, who were the first to move in doing honour to the builders and navigators of the "Royal William" I express the hope that Your Excellency will be pleased to place the commemoration plate in its permanent position. If it is agreeable to Your Excellency I inclose the list of gentlemen who, it is thought desirable, should witness the proceedings.

1.—The Delegates to the Conference. 2.—The Speakers of the Senate and Commons. 3.—Cabinet Ministers. 4.—Mr. Gustavus Wicksteed, who saw the "Royal William" launched 63 years ago and took passage on her trial trip. 5.—Mr. Horace Wicksteed, who boarded the "Royal William" on her arrival in England and dined with the captain. 6.—Representatives of the Royal Society and Associated Societies.

I have the honour to be,
Your Excellency's most faithful servant,

J. G. BOURINOT.

His Excellency then proceeded to the corridor leading to the Library of Parliament, when in pursuance to the Order of Parliament, the memorial brass representing the steamship "Royal William" was placed in the position it now occupies. This formal act of His Excellency most fittingly associated the gathering of Delegates from the British possessions in all quarters of the Globe with the Canadian ship "Royal William" the pioneer of those vast systems of ocean steam navigation which had rendered the Conference possible. The Delegates present were the following:—

The Right Honourable the Earl of Jersey, P. C., G. C. M. G., representing the Government of Her Majesty.

*Dr. George Patterson, of New Glasgow, N. S., in a letter to Dr. Sandford Fleming, C. M. G., under date of 15th November, 1894, says that the "natural curiosities" above indicated "were a collection, particularly of birds, made by the late Dr. McCulloch and family, which was sent to London for sale." This gentleman adds that there are some particulars given of the "Royal William" in his "History of the County of Pictou," (p. 394).