

## 2 COMMUNICATIONS IN REFERENCE TO VESSELS OBSERVED

I inquired why all this had not been made public long since; he gave me to understand that the captain alluded to had contented himself with speaking to his friends about it, but was now afraid of the shame which would attend its publicity after so long a time having elapsed.

I earnestly requested him to seek an interview with him, for the purpose of ascertaining if I could be allowed to take down his deposition in writing.

On seeing Captain Story next day, he informed me that the captain had sailed, but I am privately of opinion that the captain hesitated to risk the exposure which he feared might await him, although I told Captain Story to inform him that I would take care to explain away his long silence on the subject.

The Honourable  
the Secretary of the Admiralty.

I have, &c.  
(signed) *James M. Shore,*  
Second Master.

*P.S.*—Supposing them to be Sir J. Franklin's ships, the fact of no human beings being seen may, I think, easily be accounted for.

The catastrophe of an iceberg breaking away from the place where it had formed, would no doubt be sufficient to cause the crews to rush on foot to the nearest safe point; the ships drifting away with the berg in the interval, would have no means of rejoining them.

*J. M. S.*

*P.P.S.*—The name of the captain and other particulars no doubt will be supplied by Captain Story, Tynemouth, Northumberland, should an official letter be written to him on the subject, provided he has not sailed.

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### No. 2.

Sir,

Admiralty, 22 March 1852.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you the enclosed letter from Mr. James M. Shore, second master of Her Majesty's ship "Sampson," respecting two three-masted ships having been seen drifting with an iceberg, and to signify their direction to you to forward the same to Captain Jones of the "Sampson," desiring that officer, first, to inform Mr. Shore that my Lords would have expected that he knew enough of the rules of the service not to address a letter to the Admiralty excepting through his commanding officer; and, secondly, Captain Jones is to be guided by his opinion and judgment as to the truth and merits of such a statement, in returning it with his report, through you, to the Secretary of the Admiralty.

*See No. 1.*

I am, &c.  
Admiral Sir Thomas Briggs, &c. &c. (signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.*  
Portsmouth.

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### No. 3.

Her Majesty's Ship "Sampson," Portsmouth,  
24 March 1852.

Sir,

I HAVE herewith the honour of returning you the letter of Mr. James M. Shore, second master of Her Majesty's ship under my command, on the subject of the ships beset with icebergs in March 1851, and, in compliance with your memorandum of the 23d instant, I have endeavoured to ascertain the degree of dependence to be placed on the report in that letter, for which purpose the queries, as follows, were put to Mr. Shore, and his answers subjoined; viz.

How long has Mr. Shore been acquainted with Mr. Storey, the merchant captain alluded to in his letter of the 20th instant?

For five or six years.

Have they been in the habit of frequently meeting?

Not often; but generally spoke when they met.

Is Mr. Shore connected with the north of England?

Belongs to North Shields and Tynemouth.

What