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Miscellaneous.

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ROBERT PROWSE, Esq, Merchant,—

I concur in the evidence of Mr. Tasker and Mr. Stabb, and have further to state that in the continued employment of the *Merlin* during the past season, there was manifested a great disregard of life—the vessel having been notoriously inefficient in the condition of her boilers and machinery, and would be unable to get off a lee-shore in an ordinary gale. From the well-known defective condition of this vessel it is a matter of great surprise that the authorities whose province it is to see to the efficiency of the vessel on the line, should have allowed her to be continued in the service.

ROBERT PROWSE.

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WM. BARNES, Esq., Merchant,—

I concur in the testimony of Messrs. Tasker, Stabb and Prowse. If the mail service be not carried out better than of late it has been, I think it would be better to abolish it, as then the mercantile community would not be led astray by relying on a systematic communication which has so often failed. If the grant of £4150 sterling, now given by the British Government for this service were handed over to the colony, I have no doubt that an arrangement could be made for the satisfactory transmission of the mails by steam. From the experience of the past, I think the control of the service, as far as regards this colony should be with the local government, and not with the admiral, who appears to have no interest beyond the regular transmission of the Bermuda mails. The *Merlin* was employed long after she was unfit, owing to her defective machinery, and such cases have before occurred, though these vessels are subject to the admiral's approval. The mail before the last was twelve days in reaching this place from the time of its arrival at Halifax, and this mail contained many orders for insurance on cargoes from the States, which cargoes might have been lost before the arrival of the said orders,—the run from the United States having been repeatedly made here in six days by sailing vessels. The trade with the States is very large, and the regular transmission of correspondence is therefore matter of much importance.

WILLIAM BARNES.