

“For this reason I chuse this vehicle as a standard, in preference to a mere raft, to which, notwithstanding its imperfection, it is so greatly superior. Let us, therefore, compare this with a large majestic, floating edifice, the result of the ingenuity and united labor of many hundreds of hands, and composed of a great number of well-proportioned pieces, nicely fastened together by means of iron nails and bolts, and rendered so tight with tow and pitch that no water can penetrate it. Now, in order to give motion and direction to this enormous machine, some astonishingly lofty pieces of timber have been fixed upright in it, and so many moveable cross-pieces have been added, together with such a variety of pieces of strong linen cloth, for the purpose of catching the wind, and of receiving its impulse and propelling power, that the number of them amounts to upwards of thirty. For changing the direction of these yards and sails, according to particular circumstances, it has also been requisite to add a vast quantity of cordage and tackling, and nevertheless, even all this would not be sufficient for the direction and government of the vessel, if there were not fastened to it, by means of hinges and hooks, a moveable piece of wood, very small indeed, in proportion to the whole machine, but the least inclination of which to either side is sufficient to give immediately a different direction to this enormous large mass, and that even in a storm, so that two men may direct and govern this swimming island with the same or with greater ease than a single man can do a boat.

“But if we, besides, consider, that in a vessel like this, not a single piece is put in at random, but that every part of it has its determined measure and proportion, and is fixed precisely in that place which is the most advantageous for it, that throughout every part are distributed an astonishing number of blocks, stays, and pullies, for the purpose of diminishing the friction and accelerating the motion of these parts; that even the bellying and vaulted part of the fabric, together with