

trade. They will render a service to be most gratefully acknowledged if they will always, whenever they enter the lanes, either make haste across them or run obliquely out of them, according as their course may lie or as the winds may allow; and, when they do find it necessary to enter one of these lanes, they will please note the fact in their abstract-log kept for this office, and state also the time and distance sailed in each lane, with such remarks as circumstances may suggest.

The more sailing-vessels will agree to keep out of the lanes the more will it concern the steamers to keep in them, and the greater becomes the danger at night, or in a fog, to the hapless sailing-vessel that shall needlessly thrust herself into one of them. Practically, their adoption will be attended on one hand with so little inconvenience or loss of time either to sailers or steamers, while, on the other, it will be attended with so many advantages and so much less risk to vessels, crews, and passengers, that I do not think it necessary to add another word to induce all, I hope, who follow the sea, but *certainly*, and *at least*, those who are co-operating with me, to favor the lanes and do all that is proper to establish them.

I therefore content myself with laying before them, for their information, the following correspondence, and to say that the recommendation therein contained has met with favor from the right quarter, both in Boston and New York, and with every sea-captain with whom I have had an opportunity of consulting.

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*From Messrs. John S. Sleeper, C. W. Cartwright, J. Ingersoll Bowditch, R. B. Forbes, and others, underwriters, ship-owners, and merchants of Boston.*

JANUARY 8, 1855.

SIR: In connection with the discussion respecting the dangers of crossing the Atlantic and the modes of diminishing them, we have observed a suggestion contained in your letter to Walter R. Jones, esq., of New York, proposing one route for steamers to go and another for them to come, of which idea you cite our fellow-citizen R. B. Forbes, esq., as the original author.