

was good I put up with the *imposition*. Mr. Braithwaite is under a mistake when he asserts, that I purchased an old steam vessel, and wished him to fit engines on a novel construction, &c. The contract with him was made and executed, before I left London to look for a steam vessel to fit *his*, not *my* construction of machinery. The contract was signed on the 9th of October; and it was not until the 2d of November, 1828, that I returned to London, having purchased the *Victory* at Liverpool fourteen days before, and fitted her there with Mr. Robertson's paddles, in order to try their efficacy. The old engines being removed, Messrs. Braithwaite and Ericsson came on board on the 18th current, and inspected the *Victory*, when they highly approved of her, having found in her engine-room more space than was required for their machinery; and although the exact construction of the paddle-wheels was not told to them, because the ingenious inventor had not then secured his patent, it was fully explained that they were to be hoisted out of the water at pleasure, to which they made no objection. I must now declare, that neither the unwarrantable alterations in the boilers, engines, condensing apparatus, or any part of the machinery, were ever done at my request; and that every assertion made by Mr. Braithwaite to that effect is incorrect. With regard to the coupling keys, Mr. Braithwaite must be labouring under a want of recollection, when he says that their breakage was insignificant; for when that happened, the engine and paddle-shafts were completely unconnected, and consequently useless; but I am ready to admit, that the engine might have worked if it had no paddle-wheel to turn, which was actually the case whenever the key broke. The next ten pages are chiefly occupied by a laboured but erroneous disquisition on the paddle-wheels, by which he makes his last struggle, in an attempt to show that it was owing to those that the failure took place. It is, fortunately, quite unnecessary for me to follow Mr. Braithwaite through his tedious categories, although they could all be refuted, in order to convince the public of the consummate folly and fallacy of his assertions; for I have only to state the undeniable fact, that the paddle-wheels on Mr. Robertson's plan were immersed within one foot of the axis, on the voyage from Liverpool to London, and did actually impel the *Victory* at the rate of eight to nine miles per hour, when she had a common single engine of only thirty horse power. For the express purpose of trying whether paddles on that construction would impel the vessel when deeply immersed, she was loaded and brought down in the water by putting an extra quantity of coals on her deck, after her hold was full, when the axis of the paddle-wheels was within less than one foot of the water; that