

of Spruce Beer. I can with great truth say, that my people were exceeding fond of the Beer made from it, and that it was very easy to make it; the ship's steward had the management of it, and with two 60 gallon casks made on purpose, he kept a constant succession of it; but whether it was particularly beneficial to the healths of the Seamen, I must refer you to my surgeon Mr. Michael Reiley, who may be heard of at Mr. Plunkett's, Chapple-street, May-fair. The Seamen were very healthy all the voyage, and I think it very reasonable to suppose, that the Spruce Beer greatly contributed in keeping them so. I had the pleasure of giving Sir Edward Hughes at St. Helena as much Essence and Molosses as served to make Beer for his own and his officers table from thence to England, and have often heard him speak of it in very high terms, and say that he hoped it would soon be introduced into the Navy. I am, &c.

CHARLES MEARS, Commander of the Egmont.

Copy of a Letter from Mr MICHAEL REILEY, Surgeon of the Egmont, Captain CHARLES MEARS.

SIR,

In compliance with your request and my duty to the public, I think your Spruce Beer a happy invention, it being a good liquor and powerful antiscorbutic; and by giving the men a pint a day, of which they were very fond, it preserved them from all Scorbutic complaints during the voyage. It was brewed by the ship's steward, and is attended with no manner of inconvenience, will keep for any length of time needful in any climate whatever. I do not only recommend, but look upon it as a very valuable acquisition to ships on long voyages. I am, &c.

Signed MICHAEL REILEY.
Surgeon of the Egmont.

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