

but these early efforts were of the character of experiments, and it is generally conceded that the first really successful attempt to navigate water by steam power for regular public traffic was in 1807.

In that year a vessel named the "Clermont" was launched on the Hudson. She was built by Mr. Fulton, who had visited Scotland and profited by the efforts of Miller and Symington. Fulton was assisted with money by Mr. Livingstone, then American Minister at Paris. The "Clermont" was 130 feet long with a breadth of 16½ feet. Her engine was made in England, at the celebrated works of Boulton & Watt. She attained a speed of five miles an hour, proved a practical success and carried goods and passengers between New York and Albany for some years.

If we have the best grounds for stating that to Canada is due the honour of sending to sea the pioneer ocean steamship, we must fully acknowledge that the first steamboat in the world, regularly and continuously engaged in passenger traffic, was produced in the United States.

In 1809, two years after the "Clermont" made her trial trip on the Hudson, the first steamboat appeared on the St. Lawrence. I am indebted to Dr. S. E. Dawson for the following interesting details. "On November 3rd, 1809, the steamer "Accommodation," carrying ten passengers, left Montreal on Wednesday at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and arrived at Quebec on Saturday at 8 o'clock in the morning. She anchored every night, and that practice was continued for many years on the St. Lawrence, so that of the 66 hours which intervened between her departure and arrival at Quebec, 30 hours were spent at anchor; the trip was therefore made in 36 hours. This steamer was built for John Molson, the first of the name. She was 75 feet long in the keel and 85 feet long on deck."

In addition to these details, the following which appears in the *Quebec Mercury*, after the arrival of the vessel on her trial trip, may be of some interest: "On Saturday morning at 8 o'clock, arrived here from Montreal, being her first trip, the steam-boat "Accommodation," with ten passengers. This is the first vessel of the kind that ever appeared in the harbour. She is continually crowded with visitants. She left Montreal on Wednesday at two o'clock, so that her passage was sixty-six hours, thirty of which she was at anchor. She arrived at Three-Rivers in twenty-four hours. She has at present berths for twenty passengers, which next year will be considerably augmented. No wind or tide can stop her. She is 75 feet keel and 85 feet on deck. The price for a passage up is nine dollars, and eight down—the vessel supplying provisions. The great advantage attending