

Mr. Braithwaite begins by giving a partial account of my introduction to him; I say *partial*, because he has omitted to state what I told him at the first interview, namely, that I wanted steam machinery for a particular service; and his reply was, that the boiler on his principle, which he showed me then at work, was *fully tried*, and fit for *any service*; on which I told him, that if his invention was good, the test to which it would be put must fully establish its efficiency; but if not, the reverse would be the effect. The conversation alluded to, respecting "war purposes," took place long subsequent to our first interview, and was in consequence of my having presented him with a copy of my publication on the subject, and was always mentioned as a secondary object, which it really was; nor did Mr. Braithwaite ever require to know what the Victory was intended for, or seem to care any thing about it. The secret of the expedition was kept solely at the desire of Sir Felix Booth, and there can be no doubt that if his boilers had been made of good materials in a "substantial and workmanlike manner," it would have been immaterial for what service they were wanted; and the fact that more than one-half of the boilers was actually above the water-line, when fixed on board, is sufficient to prove that they were not required to be below it.

I have now arrived at a point at which I must disclose a fact, that I am grieved to say may entail discredit on the individual, if not on the profession he belongs to. It was agreed, in the presence of Sir Felix Booth and Mr. Thom, that a contract should be drawn out for *copper boilers* and machinery to be furnished by Mr. Braithwaite to me for a stipulated sum. On the following day, when the deed was to be executed, it was discovered by me, that Mr. Braithwaite, in copying the original sketch, had left out the word *copper*, and on my mentioning this, Mr. Braithwaite said, "There is no occasion to write it out again on that account, as none but copper boilers shall ever go out of our manufactory." Witnesses to this being present I did not insist on it. In vain did I go to the manufactory to learn how the *copper boilers* came on, but the answer was, "they are a-making in the country." At last two *iron boilers* arrived from Birmingham! and when I complained of their being iron, instead of copper, the reply was, "They were not made at our manufactory, neither was copper stipulated in the contract!" I was indeed mortified at the discovery, but could only blame myself for putting confidence in the unworthy manufacturer. It was then too late, the season was too far advanced to have new ones made of copper, and hoping that the iron material