

cheap, yet efficient preventive against dry rot, which his Majesty has graciously commanded to be taken into consideration, may I beg to know when, and in what manner, it will best suit your convenience to enter into communication with me, on this highly interesting discovery. I must beg to premise that the means are so immediately within the province of the Naval Department itself, that they may be made available without delay, and that without any expence of moment. For the same reason it will be obvious, that as the public departments can alone materially profit by the secret, so they themselves must improve upon, and carry into effect, the information I am enabled to afford them on the subject. I have already entered into considerable detail of the results of an experiment made many years since, in the high quarter whence the command to give attention to the subject matter has issued. To repeat here, therefore, will be unnecessary. I merely state at present, for your information, as a scientific officer, that it is my fullest conviction, when you shall have ascertained the several properties of the preventive in question, you will at once admit their claim to consideration.

I am, Sir,
Your very obedient servant,

Lieut. H.P. 92nd Regt.
The Surveyor of the Navy, &c. &c. &c.,
Admiralty, Somerset House.

(Copy.) No. 6.
Admiralty, Somerset House,
August 27th, 1833.

SIR,—In reply to your letter dated yesterday, upon the subject of a remedy for dry rot, I beg to express my readiness to hear whatever you may be desirous to relate, on any day, between three and four o'clock, except Saturday, when I shall probably be absent.

I am, Sir, your very obedient servt.
(Signed) W. SYMONDS.
Lieut. —, &c. &c. &c.,
Farnham Royal, Bucks.

(Copy.) No. 7.
Langton's Cottage, Farnham Royal, Bucks,
August 28th, 1833.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your note of yesterday, in which you express your readiness to hear, on any day (save Saturday) whatever I may have to relate on the subject of dry rot. Did I infer that that note impudently desired for immediate personal communication with me, I should make it a point to set out for town immediately; but as I do not arrive at such inference, it appears to me, that at this early stage it might be unnecessarily taxing your time and convenience to request an interview, before I shall have entered into the following preliminary observations.

I think, Sir, I stated in my letter of Monday the 26th, that the means of accomplishment lay so within the control of the service by which the remedy is to be made principally available, that they alone can have access to the requisite matter. It must, therefore, be obvious, that before the Government is in possession of my cure, I must with all due submission beg to be informed if any, and what compensation will be, by the authorities competent to the tender, deemed an equivalent for the transfer of the important secret,—it being clearly understood that such compensation shall be awarded, only in the event of the preventive being effectual.

Having already stated my conviction, that as one thoroughly conversant with the effects of certain properties in timber, you will be inclined to admit the virtue of my specific, it will be unnecessary to add that it is the fruit of practical experiment, and not a mere theoretical speculation. In proof whereof, I beg to state, that some deal which had been exposed to the influence of the matter in question, and was subsequently thrown away as

utterly worthless, was afterwards used as a fence in a situation particularly subject to damp; notwithstanding which, at the expiration of upwards of twenty years it was found to be perfectly healthy, having outlived two successive removals of oak, and other firms: but unprepared woods, within that period.

Other evidence, equally conclusive, of the efficacy of the preventive, I shall be enabled to afford when the conditional pledge of compensation shall have been given. But the true value of the discovery will, I repeat, be made obvious to you from the moment you are in possession of particulars; and Government may, without delay, and at little or no expence, proceed to the trial.

I am, Sir,
Your very obedient servt.
Lieut. H.P. 92nd Regt.

The Surveyor of the Navy, &c. &c. &c.,
Admiralty, Somerset House.

(Copy.) No. 8.
Admiralty, Somerset House,
August 29th, 1833.

SIR,—Having been desired by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to receive any communication which you might feel desirous of making, and being instructed to forward your views if they led to an experiment, I intended to have referred you to the officers of Woolwich Dock Yard, who would be ordered to attend to your suggestions.

Many schemes and proposals on the subject of dry rot have been before a Committee, and there are still many others waiting their reappointment, to scrutinize, and to report on the probability of success.

In reply to that part of your note dated yesterday, as to the probable compensation which awaits such a discovery as you allude to, if successful, I apprehend that the period necessary to ascertain the full effect of your secret, would be remote.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient servt.
(Signed) W. SYMONDS,
Surveyor of the Navy.
Lieut. —, &c. &c. &c.,
Langton's Cottage.

(Copy.) No. 9.
Langton's Cottage, Farnham Royal, Bucks,
August 30th, 1833.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated yesterday, wherein you state that had my views on the subject of dry rot led to an experiment, you intended to have referred me to the officers of Woolwich Dock Yard, who would be desired to attend to my suggestions. For this proof of personal attention to my plan, I beg to thank you. It would have been a source of much gratification to me, to have been enabled to enter, with as little delay as possible, on a trial of my remedy, in strong presumption of the virtues, of which I feel assured you will readily concur.

But, Sir, when it is taken into consideration that the means are wholly within the control of Government, and that the first step I should pursue in the affair would be the unavoidable committal of my secret to the lowest labourer in the works, it must be obvious that it would prove the height of indiscretion, in as far as concerns my own interests, to place that secret at the mercy of whoever might choose to benefit by the commonest powers of observation, and upon whose concealment I could have no possible claim.

In the event of disclosure to yourself, under the guarantee of compensation by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, or whatever department of the Navy in which such power is vested, the case is widely different. Of course, where no assurance of the sort is given, I can have no claim; but when it is permitted to me to repose upon a pledged faith, and to feel sensible that the guarantee for my own personal interests lies in the con-

ditional promise of an Honorable Board, my course of action is plain.

What, therefore, I propose, under the very peculiar circumstances attendant on my remedy in distinction from all others, is, that pledge of such compensation as may be deemed adequate to the possession of a secret of such vital importance to the interest of the Navy, shall be given me, with the condition that such pledge shall be binding only in the event of the preventive being found worthy. This being afforded me, I shall at once proceed to the communication of my secret, together with certain facts in evidence which cannot fail to show that, if any cure be effectual, this must.

In conclusion, that it may not for one moment be imagined my object is to throw any expences consequent on the trial off my own shoulders, upon those of Government, I beg it may be distinctly understood, that all shadow of such impression must inevitably be dissipated from the moment the properties of the preventive are duly known and appreciated.

I am, Sir,
Your very obedient servt.

Lieut. H.P. 92nd Regt.
The Surveyor of the Navy, &c. &c. &c.,
Admiralty, Somerset House.

(Copy.) No. 10.
Admiralty, Somerset House,
Sept. 2, 1833.

SIR,—In reply to your note dated the 20th of August, I can only refer you to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, with regard to the pledge therein required for remuneration, having myself no authority in such matters.

I am, Sir,
Your very obedient servt.
(Signed) W. SYMONDS,
Surveyor of the Navy.
Lieut. —, &c. &c. &c.,
Langton's Cottage.

(Copy.) No. 11.
Langton's Cottage, Farnham Royal, Bucks,
Sept. 2d, 1833.

MY LORDS,—Having been referred by your Lordships, through the Secretary to the Admiralty, to the Surveyor of the Navy, on the subject of a cheap and efficient remedy against dry rot, which had received his Majesty's gracious command to be taken into consideration; yet, being unable, from the peculiar circumstances connected with that remedy, to take any primary step without exceeding risk to my own interests, unless your Lordships should afford me the protection of a guarantee of compensation; I have been under the necessity of communicating that fact to the Surveyor of the Navy, who, in a reply to my letter, received this morning, refers me to your Lordships on the question of pledge, he himself having no authority in such matters.

As to the best mode of explaining to your Lordships the very peculiar position in which I am placed, I have judged it expedient to transmit herewith, a copy of my communication to the Surveyor of the Navy, which has elicited the reply alluded to. From that document it will be apparent to your Lordships, that while others, who have submitted their remedies to the consideration of the Honorable Board of Admiralty, have been enabled to preserve their secret intact to the close, mine labours under this peculiar disadvantage, that it must necessarily be open to observation from the moment of its adoption.

Having thus pointed out to your Lordships the very embarrassing position in which I am placed, I can only add, that it is with becoming deference I submit to your Lordships, whether the remedy I offer be not one of sufficient moment to justify my expectation, that assurance of such compensation as may be deemed adequate, will be granted me by your Lordships, before I can possibly divest myself