

6 COMMUNICATIONS IN REFERENCE TO VESSELS OBSERVED

for Venice on the 11th instant, with the same officers and crew as were on board her at the time of seeing the ships on the ice, their Lordships require that instructions may be sent to Her Majesty's consul-general at Venice to go on board the "Renovation," and to make the most strict and searching inquiry into all the circumstances of the case, examining Mr. Coward, the master, on oath, and such other of the officers and crew as the consul-general may deem expedient.

I am, &c.
(signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.*

H. U. Addington, Esq.,
Foreign Office.

No. 9.

Sir,

Admiralty, 29 March 1852.

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for your information, copies of papers respecting two ships having been seen in the spring of 1851, drifting with an iceberg off the coast of Newfoundland, by the brig "Renovation;" and with reference to the statement in Commander Hawkins' letter, that a Mr. Cleugh was present when the conversation on the subject of these ships took place at Quebec between Mr. Howard, the master of the "Renovation," and Mr. Storey, the master of the brig "Agnes," and that the said Mr. Cleugh is now either at Portland or Weymouth, having gone there with a cargo of Canadian timber on Government account for the breakwater, their Lordships desire that you will immediately endeavour to find out Mr. Cleugh, and ascertain from him all the particulars you possibly can respecting the conversation alluded to.

I am, &c.
(signed) *W. A. B. Hamilton.*

Commander Pasco, R. N.,
Coast Guard, Weymouth.

No. 10.

Sir,

Weymouth, 30 March 1852.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th inst., directing me to communicate with Mr. Cleugh relative to a conversation he had with a Mr. Coward (not Howard), master of the brig "Renovation," about two vessels having been seen on an iceberg in the spring of 1851.

Mr. Cleugh states, that at Quebec he had several meetings with Mr. Coward, master of the brig "Renovation," of Shields, who, with a passenger (name unknown), stated that they both saw the two vessels in position as stated in the report, distant about one mile, fixed in the ice, with no appearance of any one on board. Mr. Coward was then very ill, and called up from his bed to see them. Mr. Cleugh feels convinced Mr. Coward is a person of strict integrity, and that he fully relies upon his having made a truthful statement.

He thinks a record of the circumstance is in the log-book of the "Renovation." Mrs. Cleugh corroborates the whole statement.

It was generally spoken of at Quebec; and that when it was talked over, Mrs. Cleugh said to Mr. Coward, "If you had only boarded them and brought a vestige of the vessels, you would have made your fortune if it proved to have been part of the missing ships."

Mr. Cleugh commands the bark "Pearl," and will sail on Saturday for Quebec; and promises to make inquiries at the Custom-house (Quebec) for verification of the report.

Mr. Coward stated that the parents of the passenger were respectable people in Limerick.

I enclose Mr. Cleugh's written report.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Montague Pasco,*
Inspecting Commander, Weymouth.

The Secretary of the Admiralty,
&c. &c. &c.

Encl. in No. 10.