

and where in a few days he will probably arrive. I beg, therefore, permission to suggest that Mr. Simpson may possibly be the mate spoken of in Captain Coward's account of the ships, and he probably may be enabled to confirm, or otherwise, the statement of his late captain, or, at all events, he must have heard of the circumstance, or known what was entered in the ship's log-book on the occasion. His address I have ascertained, which I transmit, as per margin.

The brother of Captain Coward, now residing at Shields, I did not see, as he was at Newcastle when I called. He is a surgeon in respectable practice.

I have thus endeavoured to trace out connecting links, which may lead to other chains of evidence respecting ships having been seen drifting on an iceberg off the banks of Newfoundland in April last year, which I hope may prove satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(signed) *Henry C. Hawkins,*
Inspecting-commander of Coast Guard.

To the Secretary of the Admiralty,
Whitehall, London.

Capt. R. Simpson,
"British Queen,"
Mr. Crilly, Quay,
Limerick.

No. 6.

Sir,

Admiralty, 29 March 1852.

I HAVE received and laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 28th inst., reporting the result of the inquiries you have made respecting two ships having been seen in the spring of 1851 drifting with an iceberg off the banks of Newfoundland, by the brig "Renovation."

My Lords are well satisfied with the course you have so promptly pursued in this matter, and would wish you to follow it up by such further inquiry and investigation as you may be of opinion would tend to throw further light on the subject; and if convenient, you are to communicate with Messrs. Young, the owners of the "Renovation," at Shields, and ascertain from them whether Mr. Howard, the master, ever mentioned the circumstance to them.

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

Commander H. C. Hawkins, R.N.,
Coast Guard, Sunderland.

No. 7.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Admiralty, 29 March 1852.

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 Mr. Robert Simpson, the mate of the "Renovation," has proceeded to Limerick, in command of the "British Queen," to embark emigrants for America, their Lordships require that the papers may be immediately forwarded to the inspecting commander of the coast guard of the Limerick district, and that you will instruct him to proceed on board the "British Queen," and make the most minute inquiries respecting the ships in question.

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

To the Comptroller-general of Coast Guard.

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.

No. 8.

Sir,

Admiralty, 29 March 1852.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you herewith, for the information of the Earl of Malmesbury, copies of papers respecting two ships having been seen in the spring of 1851 drifting with an iceberg off the banks of Newfoundland by the brig "Renovation," and with reference to the statement of Commander Hawkins that the "Renovation" sailed

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.