

more than ordinary ceremony, in the presence of the Governor-General (Lord Aylmer) and a large concourse of citizens, the band of the 32nd Regiment being also present. The vessel was named the "Royal William," after William IV., then on the throne. Her dimensions were : 146 feet keel, 176 feet over all ; beam 27 feet 4 inches ; width over paddle-boxes 43 feet 10 inches, between paddle-boxes 28 feet ; depth of hold 17 feet 9 inches ; draught 14 feet. She had three masts, schooner rigged ; measurement 1,370 tons, and accommodation for sixty passengers. She was towed to Montreal to receive her machinery, and made several trial voyages to Halifax and Boston. She left Quebec for London on August 5, 1833, called at Pictou, Nova Scotia, to receive coal, resumed her voyage on August 18, and arrived with her passengers and cargo safely at Gravesend on the Thames, in twenty-five days. On the banks of Newfoundland she encountered terrible gales, through which one of her engines was disabled. This steamship afterwards passed into the service of the Spanish Government, and was renamed the "Isabella Secunda."

A claim has been made on the part of the United States that the "Savannah," built at New York, and launched August 22, 1818, was the first ocean steamship. Investigation has established that the vessel in question was a sailing ship, to which was added shifting paddle-wheels capable of being driven by an engine placed on deck. The paddle-wheels were so contrived that they could be folded up on deck and lowered into the water in a few minutes in calm weather, and again folded on deck when the wind rose, or when the sea was rough. The vessel had no capacity for carrying coal ; indeed, it is doubtful whether coal was used, one authority stating that the fuel burnt was wood. The recent publication, by the Smithsonian Institute of Washington, of the log of this vessel on her trip to Europe, has completely swept away the claim that this ship was propelled by steam across the Atlantic. The record states that on the whole voyage, which extended over 29 days 11 hours, steam was used in the aggregate 3 days 8 hours only. That is to say, she was for 627 hours propelled by wind alone, on a voyage of 707 hours, the makeshift paddle-wheels being all this time folded up on deck ! The "Savannah" did not carry a single passenger. On her return voyage to America she was propelled wholly by wind. On her arrival the steam-engine and the primitive paddles were entirely removed, and the vessel resumed her character as a sailing ship.

There can be no question that the "Royal William," of Quebec, was the first ocean steamship to carry passengers ; indeed, the first