

The Foudroyant was launched in 1798. She was the ship of the century, and built of English and African oak, and hard pine from South Carolina, and copper of such fineness that it contained a large percentage of silver. Two hundred English oaks, a perfect forest, were used in her construction. Her dimensions were:—Length 183 feet, breadth 50 feet, and tonnage 2,061, with a crew of 600.

For nearly ninety-four years she kept the flag of Britain flying. She was put into commission June, 1798, by Sir Thomas Bayard, and was in many actions with the French fleet up to 1799, when she joined Lord Keith's squadron at Cadiz, and was despatched with three other ships to reinforce Lord Nelson at Palermo, in Sicily.

On June 7th, 1799, Nelson was made Rear Admiral of the Fleet, and, true to his admiration for the Foudroyant, on the following day transferred his flag from the Vanguard to the Foudroyant.

This man-of-war was in a number of actions under Nelson, and in many after he left her. His connection with her ceased on the 20th of June, 1800, at Leghorn, when he left for England by the overland route.

The ship, which had been out of service for many years, was wrecked in 1897 at Blackpool, and was purchased by a Manchester firm, which made interesting relics of this one of the old wooden walls of England.

The picture of the Foudroyant on the centre panel of the chair is in beaten copper, with which the ship was sheathed.

The cabin of the yacht Meteor,