

I would by no means assert that our new ships are perfect, or that farther modifications of their shape may not correct some defects complained of; yet when I observe their great superiority in almost every important quality, the ease with which they carry their heavy armament, their stability, fast sailing, roominess, and stowage, I am much inclined to suspect that the future alterations will be few and trifling; and I am more strongly led to this opinion by observing how closely they are copied by all later competitors, and that no one ventures to reject the great advantage of their bold increase of breadth.

The result of the change of system which has taken place since 1830, may be thus recapitulated. We have entirely abandoned the construction (and I hope the repair) of all those classes of ships which, from their great inferiority in size and force to those of other maritime nations, were no longer calculated to maintain our Naval superiority. Our new ships of the line, of all classes, are such fast sailers, that decisive actions will be brought on with much more facility than formerly, when the slowness of a great proportion of our fleet (and of the three deckers more especially), so frequently perplexed and retarded our manœuvres; our large frigates are most powerful and effective ships, and only require to be increased in number without delay, while our corvettes of twenty-eight guns (carrying, as all the new ones will do, two long guns on the upper deck, to enable them to reach steamers) will be equal to anything