

5 Pembury Road  
Westcliffe-on-Sea  
Essex

2<sup>nd</sup> May 1910

Capt Frank H Shaw  
Editor "The Sea and its Story"  
Mess Cassell Co Ltd La Belle Sauvage EC4

Dear Sir

I am taking in your new serial "The Sea and its Story" and am interested in it.

I see in N<sup>o</sup>5 you have the beginnings of navigation" I am hoping to see the beginnings of our mercantile marine which I trust you give us in due time. I can go back to 1852 when I went to sea (14½yrs old) as a midshipman in the first steamer that carried the mails to Australia around the Cape. Her name was Australian/s/ Captain Hoseason.

I still have the log book of the voyage. I have also pictures of the President/s/ one of the first steamers that carried passengers to America also of the Great Britain\$ one of the first steamers to use a screw also of the Constance 575 tons a favourite passenger ship to Australia. I shall be pleased to send them to you if you can make any use of them or show them to you if you give me a call.

I see in N<sup>o</sup>4 you will have an article on the Mutiny on the Bounty. I was 3<sup>rd</sup> Officer on the Morayshire one of Duncan Dunbars ships. She was chartered by the New South Wales Government to transfer the Pitcairn Islanders from Pitcairn to Norfolk Island, which we accomplished in 1856. I have written an account of it and will send it to you if you wish to see it. I have also a picture of the Gale at Balaklava during the Crimean war when about fifteen of our ships were wrecked and about 1500 lives lost.

It shows the Prince\$ belonging to the General Screw Steam Ship Co just breaking away from her anchors she was the first to go and only one survivor who was saved by a boat from our ship the Victoria\$. Capt Mark Jocelyn Lay which was inside the harbour. One of our Company's Steamers the 'Melbourn' Capt W Champion was outside and rode out the gale with the loss of all her masts.

I have also an account of the loss by fire of the Kent East India man and several other interesting things which should not be lost in oblivion.

Trusting I may hear from you soon

Yours faithfully

**George J Curgenven**