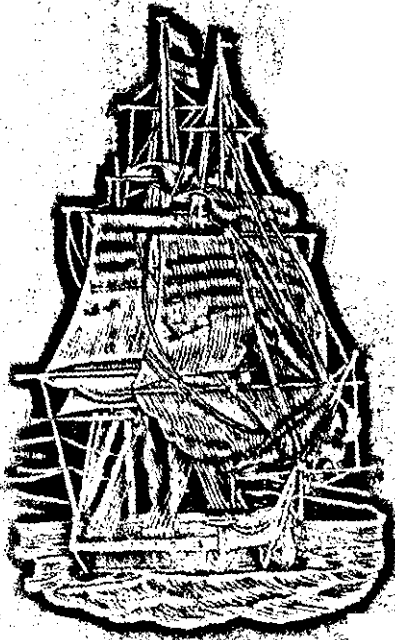


THE MERCANTILE MARINE



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H.E. INDIA COMPANY'S SHIP "WILLIAM FAIRLIE."
Commanded by Captain Thomas Blair, leaving the harbour of Prince of Wales' Island. About 1828.

[By courtesy Messrs. T. H. Parker.]

THE ERCANTILE MARINE

BY
E. KEBLE CHATTERTON



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PREFACE

THIS volume is an attempt to trace the history of the Mercantile Marine, and to show the reader how much we owe to our ancestors for the ingenuity, enterprise, courage and perseverance by which the Merchant Service has been built up for the good of nations, the increase of trade and the spread of civilisation.

In other volumes I have endeavoured to trace the history of ships. The subject here considered is the birth and growth of a sea service, without which the navies of the world become useless and indeed could never have been brought into being. It is high time that the public appreciated all that is meant by the term Mercantile Marine.

The part played by commercial ships as fighting craft during the recent war does not enter into this book. This section was largely treated of in my *Q-Ships and Their Story*, and other writers have drawn attention to the dangers and difficulties of freighters and passenger ships carrying on through the period of hostilities. Those four years form so small a chapter in the thousands of years during which the trader has been winning its way across the seas, that it is unnecessary to deal with them here. Our aim is rather to consider the progress of the Mercantile Marine as a whole, from the earliest times to the latest liner development.

The story here submitted is the result of many

PREFACE

years of research, travel and ship study. I have had access to many manuscripts and printed books too numerous to mention. I desire to return thanks to Messrs. T. H. Parker, 12A Berkeley Street, W., for permission to use some invaluable, rare prints; and to the Cunard and White Star Lines for certain other illustrations of a magnificent service.

E. KEBLE CHATTERTON.

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APPENDIX

SAILS OF THE *ESSEX* EAST INDIAMAN

THE following is a list of the sails which the *Essex* could set, and it is worth placing on record now that the sailing ship is so rapidly becoming a rarity. These details have been taken from a contemporary manuscript which has been kindly sent me by Colonel E. B. Urmston, C.B., whose great-grandfather served in East Indiamen from the time when he joined as a midshipman in 1763, and afterwards commanded several of these ships between 1783 and 1803. In 1795 he brought home, as Commodore, a fleet of thirty East Indiamen without a convoy of any of H.M. ships, and later in the same year was Commodore of the East Indiamen fleet which accompanied Sir Ralph Abercrombie's expedition to the West Indies. His eldest son, Sir James Urmston, joined the company's service as a "writer" in 1798, and became President of the company's factory and affairs in China.

This memorandum, already turning yellow with age, was made in 1816, at the time Lady Urmston came home in the *Essex*, and with the aid of existing pictures of East Indiamen it would not be impossible to reconstruct a model on fairly accurate lines. It will be seen that she was able to set twenty-seven sails on her foremast, twenty-one on her mainmast, and seventeen on her mizzen :

APPENDIX

total sixty-five. It is interesting as showing that at least one of these Indiamen was a real sail-carrier. She was commanded by Captain Nisbett.

ON THE FOREMAST 26.	ON THE MAINMAST 21.	ON THE MIZZENMAST 17.
Fore course	Main course	Square cross jackyard
" topsail	" topsail	Mizzen topsail
" t'gallant sail	" t'gallant sail	" t'gallant sail
" royal	" royal	" royal
" skysail	" skysail	" skysail
" moon-raker	" moon-raker	" moon-raker
" cloud-scraper	" cloud-scraper	
" star-gazer	" star-gazer	
" storm staysail	" staysail	Driver
" topmast staysail	" topmast staysail	Ring-tail
Jib	" middle "	Watersail
Inner jib	" t'gallant "	Gaff topsail
Flying "	" royal "	Upper "
Outer "	" upper "	Mizzen staysail
Cutter's topmast jib		" topmast staysail
Upper "		" t'gallant "
<i>On the bowsprit:</i>		
Sprit sail		Mizzen royal staysail
Sprit topsail		" topmast stuns'l
" outer topsail		" t'gallants'l
<i>Studding sails:</i>		
Common lower studding sail	Lower studding sail	
Outer lower studding sail	Common topmast studding sail	
Common topmast studding sail	Outer topmast studding sail	
Outer topmast studding sail	Common t'gallant studding sail	
Common t'gallant studding sail	Outer t'gallant studding sail	
Outer t'gallant studding sail	Royal t'gallant studding sail	
Royal t'gallant studding sail	Upper t'gallant studding sail	

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