THE NAUTICAL STEAM ENGINE EXPLAINED AND ITS POWERS AND CAPABILITIES DESCRIBED FOR THE USE OF OFFICERS OF THE NAVY

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R. S. ROBINSON

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Trieste

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NAUTICAL

STEAM ENGINE

EXPLAINED

AND

ITS POWERS AND CAPABILITIES DESCRIBED

FOR THE USE OF

OFFICERS OF THE NAVY

AND OTHERS INTERESTED IN THE IMPORTANT RESULTS OF

STEAM NAVIGATION

BY

COMMANDER R. S. ROBINSON, R.N.

LONDON
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TO THE

OFFICERS

OF

THE ROYAL NAVY

THIS WORK

IS

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

BY

THEIR HUMBLE SERVANT,

ROBERT ROBINSON,

COMMANDER, R.N.

LONDON,
APRIL 10, 1839.

PREFACE.

The desire of being useful, and of communicating to others the knowledge I have myself acquired, at the expense of much time and labour, have been my motives for undertaking this little work. I have dedicated it to the Officers of the Navy. It has no pretension to originality, it is a selection and compilation from what others have written before me, but my object has been to compress, in a small space, such a description of the properties of steam, and the nature of the Marine Engine,

as shall enable any officer, after having read this book, to understand the principles, names, and natures of the parts of any engine he may see, and to put him in the way of asking such questions as shall ensure his getting an answer intelligible and true.

It is hardly necessary to say a word on the importance of the subject to us all. Every officer must feel that a knowledge of the nature and properties of the steam engine, has become as essential as a knowledge of seamanship or gunnery.

It is evident, that whatever of dash, whatever of enterprize, whatever of combined prudence and skill, is to be performed in a future war, will be performed through the agency of Steam. The high road to distinction and fame will be found on the Paddle box of a Steamer, but to gain this fame, to achieve this

distinction, it is indispensable that officers should add, to a thorough knowledge of seamanship and gunnery, to nerve, to enterprize, to prudent daring, a knowledge of the steam engine, an acquaintance with the power which is to be their right arm, and their strong staff.

Formerly there was a vague idea in people's minds that a good seaman, placed behind a thirty-two pounder, without any knowledge of the weapon he was to wield, would prove an efficient and accomplished marksman; we received some practical lessons, at the close of the war, on this head; the work of Sir Howard Douglas, the establishment of the Excellent, and the orders of the Admiralty, have brought it practically home to all men's minds, that a thorough knowledge of a weapon is essential to the perfect use thereof.