

# CAPTAIN PROWSE'S TESTIMONIALS

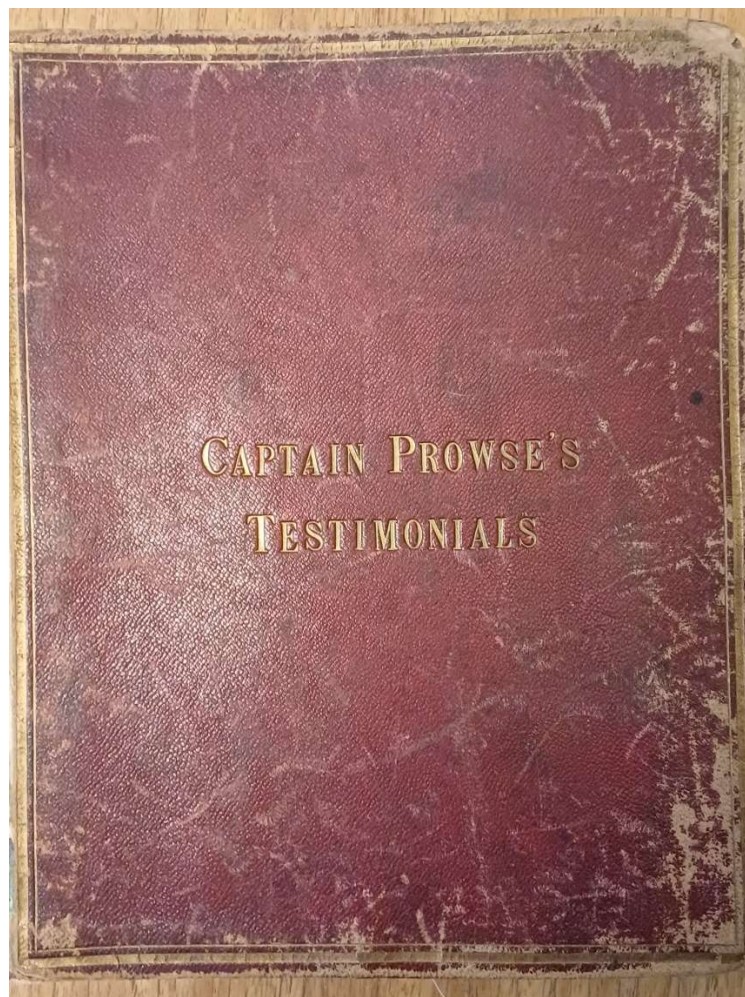
NICHOLAS PROWSE 1825-1884

Nicholas Prowse was born in May 1825 at Torquay, Devon, He was baptised in June, the second of ten known children of Nicholas Prowse and Susanna, née Bedlake. His father was a mariner, as was his grandfather Samuel, who was involved with fishing off Newfoundland, and whose son Robert (Nicholas's uncle) was the founding father of the notable Newfoundland line of Prowses.

Nicholas' married Elizabeth Grace Stevens in July 1855. The couple had three daughters and two sons, one of whom died in infancy. The other son was also named Nicholas. Elizabeth died in 1864 while the family was at Greenwich. Following her death the family relocated to the Liverpool area.

Nicholas remarried in January 1871 to Elizabeth Ann Fairfield, spinster, who was a portrait artist. They had four children, two sons and two daughters.

Nicholas had a prominent career as a Master Mariner with, arguably his most notable achievement being the captaincy of Brunel's S.S. Great Eastern on her maiden voyage. Nicholas died at Liverpool in May 1884. What follows are letters written as testimony to Nicholas's skills as a Mariner.



# CAPTAIN PROWSE'S TESTIMONIALS

NICHOLAS PROWSE 1825-1884

Mr. Nicholas Prowse commanded  
the Barque "Chorister" belonging to us  
from December 1852 to August 1854 in  
the River Plate Trade, we think highly  
of his qualifications as a Seaman & Ship  
Master. He is a man of great energy  
& business habits, has proved himself  
worthy of our confidence & would secure  
the approbation of any Ship Owner.

Jaycroft & Petrick

London Nov 9. 1859

# CAPTAIN PROWSE'S TESTIMONIALS

NICHOLAS PROWSE 1825-1884

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British & North American  
Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.  
Office, 8, Water Street, Liverpool.  
1<sup>st</sup> September 1859.

+

The Officer Mr. Nicholas Prowse joined this  
Company on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1854 with the Rank of  
Chief Officer and served in that Capacity until 12<sup>th</sup> May  
1857, when he resigned to become Chief Officer of the Great Eastern.  
During the above period Mr. Prowse acted to our  
entire satisfaction

*[Signature]*

# CAPTAIN PROWSE'S TESTIMONIALS

NICHOLAS PROWSE 1825-1884

This is to certify that Mr. N. Prowse has been on board the 'Great Eastern' in the capacity of Chief Officer, since the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 1857, and that during the whole time he has conducted himself to my entire satisfaction, and has proved to be a most careful and zealous officer; he still remains attached to the ship. Given on board the 'Great Eastern' Deptford, 1<sup>st</sup> September 1859

W. Mison

# CAPTAIN PROWSE'S TESTIMONIALS

NICHOLAS PROWSE 1825-1884



11, King William Street.  
London, E.C. Nov. 18 1859

This is to certify that Mr Nicholas Prowse  
served this Company as Chief Officer of the  
"Great Eastern" from the 1<sup>st</sup> of Feb<sup>r</sup> last  
to the 7<sup>th</sup> instant during which time he  
proved himself to be an active and  
efficient officer, zealous in the discharge  
of his duties, and well worthy the confidence  
of his employers.

Mr Prowse joined the "Great Eastern"  
chief officer on the 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. 1857 and on  
the ship becoming the property of this  
company in Jan<sup>r</sup> last, he was highly  
recommended by the Eastern Steam  
Navigation Company the original owner  
of the vessel.

By order of the Board of Directors

A. J. [Signature]

# CAPTAIN PROWSE'S TESTIMONIALS

NICHOLAS PROWSE 1825-1884



Nov 26 1859

Capt. Nicholas Prowse,

Dear Sir,

I am happy to inform you that I have appointed you to the Command of the screw steamer "Prince Albert" belonging to this Company.

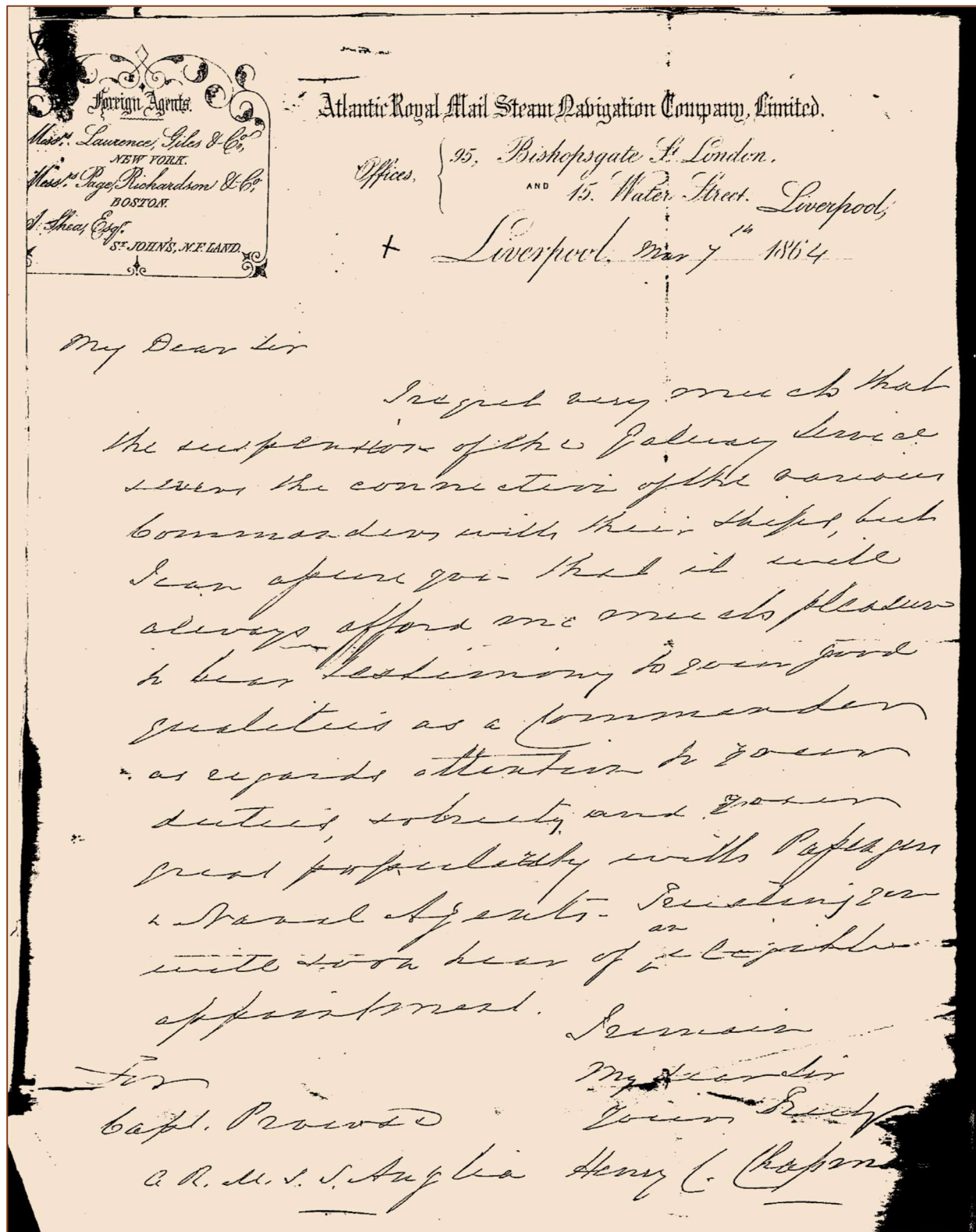
The salary at present in the service is £35 per month and 2s. a day shore money.

There are no burses allowed to the Officers in this screw except such as they may pay for out of their own moneys. - An exception is made in favor of the Commanders, you will sign a Card for the Purser for all moneys ordered by you but ~~you will not be~~ debited with the amount.

The "Prince Albert" will undock today and as there is to be a trial trip at Liverpool on Thursday next, I shall be glad if you will join your ship at once. - You will report yourself

# CAPTAIN PROWSE'S TESTIMONIALS

NICHOLAS PROWSE 1825-1884



# CAPTAIN PROWSE'S TESTIMONIALS

NICHOLAS PROWSE 1825-1884

National Steam Ship Company,  
(LIMITED.)

Drury Buildings, 21, Water Street, Liverpool, 16<sup>th</sup> May 1868

Captain Prowse,

Dear Sir,

I have great pleasure in stating that during the whole period of your service in the employ of this Company as Commander viz: from April 1864 until April 1868 your conduct at all times gave me much satisfaction and your popularity amongst Passengers was most undoubted.

With every wish for your future success

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

W. H. Macalister  
Genl Manager

# CAPTAIN PROWSE'S TESTIMONIALS

NICHOLAS PROWSE 1825-1884

Liverpool 28 April  
1871

Captain Prowse  
36 Tennyson St

Dear Sir

On your leaving the  
"Sheldrake" we have much  
pleasure in testifying to your  
steadiness & care of our interests  
during the 2½ years you com-  
manded that steamer for us,  
and we hope that in your new  
appointment to a larger steamer  
you may be equally fortunate.

We remain, Dear Sir,  
Yours faithfully

# CAPTAIN PROWSE'S TESTIMONIALS

NICHOLAS PROWSE 1825-1884

THOMPSON, WATSON & CO  
AGLIVIAN CONSULATE,  
FOURWELL CHAMBERS,  
UNION STREET.

Liverpool. 1st April 1874

Captain N. Prowse.  
Liverpool

Dear Sir

We have much pleasure  
in bearing testimony to your care  
attention, and ability as shown  
during your residence in Hull  
during the construction of our Steamers  
lasting over a period of 18 months  
from March 1873.

We feel convinced  
that our interests were most ably  
cared for, and are much indebted

for many practical suggestions  
improvements in the disposition  
of rigging, in general arrangement,  
& in rigging.

We are Dear Sir  
Yours faithfully  
Thompson Watson Co

# CAPTAIN PROWSE'S TESTIMONIALS

NICHOLAS PROWSE 1825-1884

Liverpool Steam Ship Company Limited.  
18, The Albany.  
Liverpool, 11 March 1873

Captain Prowse

Hull

Dear Sirs,

In consequence of the vote come to today at the meeting of our Shareholders to wind up the Company it becomes our duty to give you notice that this Company will not require your services after the 1st May.

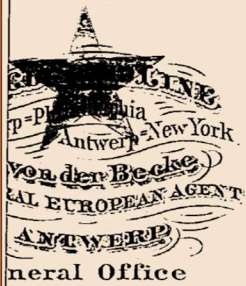

We much regret to have to do so, & shall be glad to give you any testimonials in our power as to the zeal & ability with which you have attended to our interests in Hull. Yours faithfully

F.P.O.

Thompson Watson & Co Managers

# CAPTAIN PROWSE'S TESTIMONIALS

NICHOLAS PROWSE 1825-1884



Antwerp 3 March 1877

We herewith testify that Captain Prowse has been in command of the ss. 'Hemilworth' for more than three years, and that he has proved to be a cautious and very experienced mariner, showing great ability and unremitting attention in the command of steamships in the North Atlantic trade.

The said steamer having run for the last year between Antwerp and New York in the Red Star Line service, we have been able to appreciate his qualification and see him leave the service with much regret, the said steamer having been sold to a Belgian Company.

In acknowledgement of his good services, the Company has granted him a gratification of One Hundred Pounds sterling.

J. Von der Beek  
General European Agent

# CAPTAIN PROWSE'S TESTIMONIALS

NICHOLAS PROWSE 1825-1884

Harvey Buildings. (13)  
24, James Street.  
Liverpool, 29 Sept 1879

Captain A Prowse

Dear Sir,

In reply to  
your application for  
a testimonial we  
have much pleasure  
in stating that you  
have been employed  
by us as master of  
the "Clive" from Nov  
1877 to May 1879 during  
which time you gave

us every satisfaction  
- yours truly  
H R Hughes & Co