



Letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, on the History and Causes of Steamboat Explosions, and the Means of Prevention,

William C. Redfield

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This historic book may have numerous typos or missing text. Not indexed. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. 1839. Not illustrated. Excerpt: ... boats, induces me to annex a copy of the same to this communication; and which is herewith respectfully submitted. (See Appendix.) I will, however, add here, for the benefit of those who may not have opportunity to examine this report in full, a summary of the facts in evidence, and of the results to which the examiners arrived. This boat had been running but little more than a month, and was fitted with two boilers, each about 8 or 9 feet in diameter and 16 feet in length, placed on the guards behind the paddle-wheels and outside of the hull of the boat. Their construction may be understood from the annexed figure, which represents a cross section of the boiler, near where the disruption first took place. a, a, lower flues or arches; ft f, f,f,f, returning flues; w, water-line. The shell of the boiler was torn open in the lower arches, and spread outward till its parts met in an inverted position, and was thrown some distance from the boat. The flues and steam chimney were uninjured by marks of heat or otherwise, and those of one boiler were thrown forward against the paddle-wheel cover, while the other was thrown over the same into the river. The parts of the deck or guards lying beneath the boilers, including the beams, were entirely blown off. This effect, which was directly beneath the apparent origin of the fracture, when taken in connection with the direction in which the parts of the boilers were thrown, appeared to indicate that the disruption commenced in the lower flues or arches, at the places which had shown indications of straining, or leaks, on previous passages, (near the points a a) and which had already received repairs. The engine remained uninjured, but the steam pipe of the boiler which first exploded, was found broken entirely off fr&#...

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