

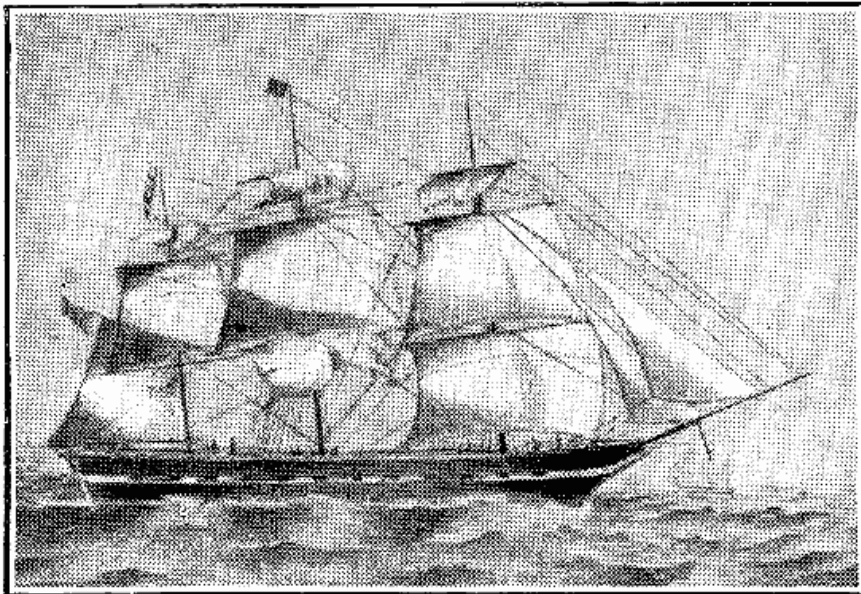
THE HYDASPES.

Captain Babot's Command.

CAPTAIN BABOT.

Captain Edwin S. Babot went to sea as an apprentice in 1846, and eventually was known as one of the most skilful and popular commanders of sailing ships under the Shaw, Savill, and Albion Co.'s flag. He first came to New Zealand in 1859 as chief officer of the *Wild Duck*, and made two voyages in that ship under Captain Bishop. He then came out to Auckland as master of the ship *Maori*, and to Lyttelton in 1864 as commander of the *William Miles*. When he returned to London in 1865 he purchased an interest in the ship *Lovebird*, a Spanish clipper, and sailed from London

ashore during a gale, and became a total wreck. On his return to London Captain Babot took over the command of the *Hydaspes*, one of the largest vessels that had visited New Zealand at that date. He traded for several years in this ship to New Zealand. In 1878 the vessel was sunk by a steamer in the English Channel. Captain Babot then made one voyage to Wellington in the *Northumberland*, and upon his return to London was appointed marine superintendent for the Shaw, Savill, and Albion Co. In 1884 he arrived at Wellington, and occupied a similar position in New Zealand. This he held for a long period, until his death there a few years ago.



A FINE OLD SHIP, THE HYDASPES.

with a cargo of contraband goods, consisting of arms and ammunition. This was during the American War. He ran the blockade successfully for some time, but was eventually taken prisoner by the French, who seized the *Lovebird* and her cargo. As the seizure of the vessel was later held to be illegal he was liberated after serving some months in gaol, and his ship was returned to him. In 1867 Captain Babot accepted the position of master of the *Water Nymph*, and arrived at Auckland in 1867, making the run out in 87 days from the *Lizard*. From this port he sailed for Oamaru to load for London. The ship was driven

The *Hydaspes* was a powerful ship of 2092 tons, built at the same time and in the same yards as the *Lady Jocelyn*.

The *Hydaspes* made her first appearance at Auckland in 1873. She left London with 208 immigrants and a number of saloon passengers, and arrived in port on October 19, 1873, after a smart passage of 85 days from Gravesend, whence she sailed on July 27. The voyage from land to land was completed in 75 days. The *Hydaspes* took her final departure from Ushant on August 2, having taken six days beating down channel. The equator was crossed on August 26, and the meridian of the