

an attentive careful builder, a circumstance of much importance.

It seems probable from the disposition of the Co'y & Mr. L that they will immediately build another boat. If so, & I am really of so much importance that she cannot be constructed without my presence & superintendence, then it will of course be my duty to remain & thus defer my intended trip to England untill [sic] the fall of the year. ... My men keep it up, by a dance, this evening, at which I heartily wish them every enjoyment.

April 23: ... The Steamer I am sorry to say leaks. Yet it is to be hoped her seams by to-morrow will have swelled and all rendered tight again. If otherwise, we shall take her on the Rail Way & there effectually put a stop to all further annoyances from a similar cause.

May 5: ... During the week, business at the dock has been proceeding satisfactorily. The new boat's boiler and the heavier parts of her engine are in their places, and ere the month terminates, I expect she will be nearly completed.

May 12: ... The Steamer Gore is now decked &c, her boiler, walking beam & cylinders & are in their places. Next week the greater part of the engine will be secured. I therefore anticipate it will be in our power to try the boat before the month terminates.

May 19: ... During last week my labours have been devoted wholly to the forwarding of my employers' interests. We are steadily advancing with Mr. Lockhart's steamer and business is proceeding to the satisfaction of all parties.

May 23: ... The engineers are proceeding rapidly with their work at the Gore and a fortnight more will enable them to have the engine in operation.

May 25: ... Capt. Dick<sup>8</sup> in relation to the Steam Gore, having stated his "opinion", that the boat was lop-sided created in my mind a strong feeling of anger at this expression, as it reflect upon my character as a Ship Builder. This circumstance induced me to speak rather warmly on the subject to "Dick", who of course persisted in his statement, thus irritating & disturbing my composure till in the heat of passion I called him a liar. In this, I was wrong, as he was partly right in the observations he made, but in error, to express them, till the vessel has completely finished. Until she is so I consider the capt. is decidedly incorrect in making any observations of such a cast as are at all likely to injure or annoy the builder.

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<sup>8</sup> Captain Thomas Dick, who over the next twenty years would own or co-own several steamboats, most of which were built at Niagara, none of them by Robert Gilkison.