



Inventory

Acc.12184

**Leith shipping papers of James Gentleman, 1838-57;
and miscellaneous papers, 1838-93**

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This collection relates principally to some of the business affairs of James Gentleman (d.1854), an Edinburgh merchant, and manager and owner, or part-owner, of various ships trading out of the Port of Leith. The collection provides a record from 1838 to 1856 of the trading operations of various Leith vessels which he owned or in which he had an interest. Ports to which the ships traded included San Francisco, Cronstaldt (Russia) and Melbourne, Australia. Some miscellaneous legal and other papers to 1893, some of a Macleod family, in Edinburgh, and not necessarily part of the Gentleman papers, were received with this collection.

Bought, 2003

The papers have been arranged as described below:

1. Personal and shipping ledger of James Gentleman, 1838-49.
2. Ledger (in continuation of no.1), 1849-54.
3. Shipping ledger of the Gentleman ships, kept by William Thomson and Co., Leith as agents for their administration, 1854-6.
- 4-5. Two account books kept by Charles MacMillan, as Master of the brig, 'Highland Chief', of Leith.
 4. General, 1853-4.
 5. Crews' wages and expenses, 1853-5.
6. Letter, 1838, of John MacLeod, on HMS 'Actaeon', to his brother William MacLeod, Edinburgh. Extensive but incomplete journals, possibly of John MacLeod, ca. 1851-2, relating to events in South Africa (hostilities in Kaffraria) and Burma.
7. Miscellaneous financial correspondence & papers of James Gentleman, 1849-54.
8. Papers of or to William Thomson and Co., as agents for the shipping interests held by the trustees of the late James Gentleman, 1854-7.
- 9-13. Accounts, invoices, port documents etc., of ships of the Gentleman fleet.
 9. 3 bills of lading of the ship 'Albion', Master, John Robertson, for voyage from the Clyde to Melbourne, Australia, 1853.
 10. A few accounts of the schooner, 'Ann Mitchell', of Leith, 1853-4.
 11. Accounts, etc., of the schooner, 'Earn', 1851-4.
 12. Accounts, etc., of the barque, 'Emily', 1850-4.
 13. Accounts, etc., of the brig, 'Highland Chief', 1851-4.

14. Part of a voyage journal, probably of a clergyman, sailing from Sydney, Australia, and south about New Zealand, Jan.-Feb. 1854.
15. Precognitions in a damages case, Sutherland against the North British Railway Company, 1892.
16. Petition to the Sheriff of Forfarshire by the Procurator Fiscal, July 1893, seeking to commit David M. Hobbs and Joseph Severn to trial for the crimes of ship-sinking (the ship 'Da Capo' of Dundee) and uttering forged documents.
17. Sederunt-book of the Trustees of the late James Gentleman, Oct. – Dec., 1854.
18.
 - (i) Testament-dative, 16 Nov. 1854, listing sums owed to James Gentleman at the time of his decease.
 - (ii) Inventory of household and counting-house furniture, Nov. 1854.
 - (iii) Miscellaneous accounts of the estate, 1854.
19. Bank-book, 1854-7, in the name of William Thomson as Factor for the Gentleman estate, with the Edinburgh & Glasgow Bank, Leith.
20. Bank-book, 1857, James Ford, on behalf of Mrs. Gentleman, with the Edinburgh & Glasgow Bank, Leith.