

From the Twelfth Report of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Customs on the Customs

For the year ending 31 December 1867

The small screw steamer that, under your Lordships authority, was substituted for the cutter 'Vigilant' for duty on the river, has proved of great use in protecting the revenue. A great number of foreign-going steamers have been guarded by her from the entrance of the river until boarded by officers at Gravesend, and as many as 1,677 vessels, of various descriptions, have, in the course of the year, been boarded and rummaged by her crew. By these means not only has the not unfrequent practice of throwing contraband goods overboard, to be afterwards picked up, received a check, but the very liability of all vessels to search, in any part of the river, without reference to wind or tide, has had a decided tendency to check smuggling attempts.