

December 31st, 1946

Dear Miss Oman,

Our mutual publishers in the United States, the Doubleday people, sent me a copy of your "Nelson", knowing my interest in naval history, particularly that of the eighteenth century. I have just finished it, and am so enthusiastic that I am taking the liberty of telling you how much I like the splendid job you have done. Having done some research myself I can appreciate the care and thought you have put into your own; and with all its solid virtues your book has an intense and gripping "readability" that is little short of miraculous when one considers the many attempts that have been made in that direction with lives of Nelson.

One local note may be of interest, regarding the Carver incident on pages 44 and 45. The framed certificate signed by Nelson very early passed into the hands of another Plymouth sea captain, Gideon White. Like a good many of the New Englanders, White was amphibious; and when because of his loyalty to the king his ship was seized by the rebels White joined the army of Lord Cornwallis as a captain of loyalist volunteers. He served throughout the southern campaign as a captain in the Duke of Cumberland's (Carolina) Regiment, and when the war came to a close he was compelled to leave the country with the rest of the loyalists. He was one of the founders of the loyalist city, Shelburne, Nova Scotia, and the family he established there has long been prominent in church and law in this province. The Nelson certificate is still a prized possession of the family. It reads:

"These are to certify that I took the schooner Harmony, Nathaniel Carver master, belonging to Plymouth, but on account of his good services have given him up his vessel again.
Dated on board His Majesty's Ship Albemarle,
17 August, 1782, in Boston Bay.

Horatio Nelson "

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

*Lady Oman
(wife of British historian
Charles Oman) who
writes books under the name
Carola Oman.*