



## *“The Custom & Harbour House”*

— IVAN GREEN

This fine old Victorian print entitled “The Custom and Harbour House” is of great interest, not only because of its depiction of the building, but also because it includes the ship.

It has a large open hull without cabins or any weather protection. Amidships, the best section of the hull, is taken up by the paddle wheels, the boiler, the engine, and the very tall funnel needed to provide sufficient draught for the simple boiler.

The ship is still a fully-rigged sailing ship, carrying an emergency set of sails, since the old salts would never completely trust the new-fangled power plants.

These little ships completely changed the whole aspect of the Channel crossing, not only as regards speed, but also reliability, being no longer dependent upon wind strength and direction, and limited only by unfavourable weather conditions.