

**Comparisons between *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne (1869) and
the
Memoirs of a Service Afloat (1869) by Captain Raphael Semmes of the CSS *Alabama*.**

Both Raphael Semmes's CSS *Alabama* and Captain Nemo's submarine *Nautilus* are largely (over 80% by tonnage) constructed at Lairds shipyard in Birkenhead and then completed on a desert island.

Both Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo are denounced as pirates and pursued by Abraham Lincoln and officer Farragut.

Both the CSS *Alabama* and the submarine *Nautilus* are compared to sea monsters and described as a singular threat to world shipping.

Both the CSS *Alabama* and the submarine *Nautilus* are described as being illuminated by an eery glow at night.

Both the CSS *Alabama* and the submarine *Nautilus* have a secret recess in the hull together with a revolutionary water condenser on board.

Both the CSS *Alabama* and the submarine *Nautilus* have their final battle off the coast of Cherbourg, with an armour-plated vessel after going around in circles.

Both the CSS *Alabama* and the submarine *Nautilus* have large amounts of gold on board.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo can trace their origins back to Mobile.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo eat food that a 'Malay' would be proud of.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo are offered a Havana cigar which is not actually a Havana Cigar.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo have a museum of 'curiosities' gathered on dinghy / gig trips.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo compare their ship to one of the family.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo pride themselves in both manners and hospitality.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo lament the passing of sail to be replaced by steam.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo pay tribute to the oceanographer Matthew Fontaine Maury and claim he was persecuted after the American Civil.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo state that it is dangerous for Right whales to cross the equator.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo hide their ship near / within the crater of an extinct volcanic island.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo do not like the coast of Brazil.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo capitulate to exhaustion.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo lament the loss of their family.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo have their detailed manuscripts - 'the story of their life' falling into the sea.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo talk about sleeping sperm whales and whether a swordfish or narwhal respectively can pierce a ship's wooden hull.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo talk in detail about coral and whether it is 'animal, mineral or vegetable'.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo encounter an imaginary island, sail through a patch of white water and cross the mouth of the Amazon.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo kill a single albatross.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo lose two crew members, one of whose funerals is described in emotive detail.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo lament the sinking of the '*Florida*'.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo are threatened by 'serpents' coming on deck whether they be sea snakes or the tentacles of the giant squid.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo describe the journey across the Indian Ocean as tedious to everyone but the natural historian.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo come across ships from the P and O Line.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo encounter a coral mausoleum.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo sail through swarms of argonauts / nautilus.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes and Captain Nemo describe coral reefs and the gulf stream in detail and explain why right whales cannot cross the equator.

Both Captain Raphael Semmes end with both ships sinking on June 19th or within a few days of June 19th.

Detailed Analysis of the evidence (see below)

The page numbers and quotes from *Memoirs of Service Afloat During the War Between the States' (1869)* by Admiral Raphael Semmes are from the Project Gutenberg online version and can be verified using the link at the end of this document.

The page numbers and quotes from *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea (1869)* by Jules Verne use the definitive William Butcher translation (1998) and can be verified on Google Books – again the link is given at the end of this document. The page numbers are from the book (Oxford University Press).

No	Link	<i>Raphael Semmes 'Memoirs of Service Afloat' (1869)</i>	Page / line	Jules Verne <i>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea.</i> (1869) (Butcher Translation).	Page / line	Notes
1.	Both books' opening paragraphs mentions world shipping being 'alarmed' by a destructive vessel.	<i>Alabama was the first steamship in the history of the world—the defective little Sumter excepted—that was let loose against the commerce of a great commercial people. The destruction which she caused was enormous. She not only alarmed the enemy, but she alarmed all the other nations of the earth which had commerce afloat, as they could not be sure that a similar scourge, at some future time, might not be let loose against themselves.</i>	Preface	<i>The merchants, shipowners, sea captains, skippers, and master mariners of Europe and America, the naval officers of every country, and eventually the various national governments on both continents – all became extremely worried about this matter.</i>	Ch 1 P5 Line 4	The similarities of the first paragraph in each book basically tells the reader 'in the knowledge' that there are many more similarities to come – they are not hidden – indeed they are in 'plain view'.
2.	Both books, on the first page compare this single threat to world shipping as a 'living creature'.	<i>The ship becomes a personification, she not only 'walks the waters like a thing of life,' but she speaks in moving accents to those capable of interpreting her.</i>	Preface	<i>The facts concerning this apparition, as noted in the various logbooks, agreed quite closely as to the structure of the said object or creature, its extraordinary speed of movement, its surprising ability to get from place to place, and the peculiar vitality with which it seemed endowed.</i>	Ch 1 P 5 Line 14	This will be a recurring theme, the Alabama is Semmes's 'bride' and the crew, his 'family'.
3.	Both books have direct references to adverse newspaper headlines about the respective threat.	<i>The vilification and abuse of the northern press. As a consequence, the little Sumter was denounced, without stint, by the Yankee press. She was called a "pirate" and other hard names, and the most summary vengeance was denounced against her commander, and all who served under him.</i>	Ch XIX P232 line 6	<i>It was sung about in the cafes:jeered at in the newspapers,.</i>	Ch 1 P 7 line 8.	<i>The song 'Daar Kom Die Alibama' will give the origin of Nemo's name as Prince Dakkar, move the 'k' two places to the left gives ... 'Dakar om die Alibama' - the genius of Jules Verne.</i>
4.	Both books have vessels which are compared to sea monsters.	<i>It was as though a great sea-monster had crawled in under cover of the night, and was eying its prey, and licking its chops, in anticipation of a delicious repast.</i>	Ch XX P254 line 8	<i>The Abraham Lincoln's crew were under the impression that they were pursuing some powerful marine monster.</i>	Ch 1 P7 line 8	
5	Both books talk about an animal piercing a ship's wooden bottom.	<i>The full-grown sword-fish has been known to pierce a ship's bottom, floor timbers and all, with its most formidable weapon.</i>	Ch XVI P225 line 2	<i>The narwhal is armed with a kind of ivory sword, a halberd in the terminology of certain naturalists. This is the principle tooth with the hardness of steel. Some of these teeth have been found embedded in the bodies of whales, which the narwhal always attacks with success. Others have been removed, not without difficulty, from the hulls of vessels that have been pierced through and through, like a drill through a barrel.</i>	Ch 2 P 14 Line 1	
6	Both books have their respective captains denounced as pirates and chased by both 'Abraham Lincoln' and naval officer 'Farragut'.	<i>"And I hereby proclaim, and declare, that, if any person, under the pretended authority of said States, or under any other pretence, shall molest a vessel of the United States, or the persons, or cargo on board of her, such persons will be held amenable to the laws of the United States, for the prevention, and punishment of piracy."Abraham Lincoln... The reader will see how many faithful auxiliaries, Admiral Farragut later found.</i>	Ch XVI P 178 Line 10 Ch XI p110 line 5	<i>A vast frigate, the Abraham Lincoln, made ready to sail at almost no notice.... As a result, although the frigate was armed for a distant campaign and equipped with formidable hunting tackle, nobody knew where to send it to. Who were we dealing with? Doubtless pirates of a new sort. Captain Farragut had in fact mentioned a sum of \$2,000 dollars for the first person to spot the animal.</i>	Ch 2 P15 Line 24 Ch 4 P22 line 18	Rear Admiral David Farragut was the highest-ranking officer in the U.S. Navy during the American Civil War. He thus had delegated responsibility to find Raphael Semmes. He stated of Semmes 'Our small blockaders will be all gobbled up before we catch the fellow' (Stephen Fox Wolf of the Deep 1994).

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7.	Both books describe their respective ships being illuminated by an eerie light.	<i>Around the horizon there was a subdued glare, or flush, as though there were a distant illumination going on, whilst overhead there was a lurid, dark sky, in which the stars paled. The whole face of nature seemed changed, and with but little stretch of the imagination, the Alabama might have been conceived to be a phantom ship, lighted up by the sickly and unearthly glare of a phantom sea, and gliding on under the pale stars one knew not whither.</i>	Ch LI P733 Line 5	<i>Not far away from the Abraham Lincoln, on the starboard quarter, the sea looked as if it was illuminated from below. There could be no mistake, for this was no ordinary phosphorescence. Several fathoms below the surface, the monster gave forth a very strong, inexplicable light, as described in the reports of several captains.</i>	Ch 6 P 33 Line 20	
8.	Both books talk about sleeping sperm whales.	<i>See how beautiful this oil arrangement is, too, in another aspect. It enables the monster, when it requires rest, to lay its head on the softest kind of a pillow, an ocean wave, and sleep as unconcernedly as the child does upon the bosom of its mother.</i>	Ch XXXII P425 Line 8	<i>It is not rare to meet whales fast asleep in mid-ocean, and they are sometimes successfully attacked: Ned Land had frequently harpooned them in this way</i>	Ch 6 P 40 Line 14	
9.	Both books have respective captains with a strong personal link to 'Mobile'.	<i>I had been for many years, been a resident citizen of Alabama, having removed to this state in 1841, and settled with my family, on the west bank of the Perdido; removing thence in a few years to Mobile.</i>	Ch VII P75 line 5	<i>Every knife, fork, spoon, plate, and utensil was inscribed with a letter surrounded by a motto, of which the following is an exact facsimile: MOBILIS IN MOBILE N Mobile in the mobile element! The device fitted the submarine perfectly...</i>	Ch P54 line 6.	The Nautilus and the Alabama, both largely built at Lairds of Birkenhead, both completed on a 'desert island' by a captain of high intelligence with overwhelmingly personal links to 'Mobile'
10.	Both books have food that a Malay cook would be proud of.	<i>I was surprised to find a very tempting-looking dish of fried fish set out before me, and upon inquiring of my faithful steward, John, (a Malayan, who had taken the place of Ned...</i>	Ch XVIII P 224 Line 33	<i>My chef is skilful and is very good at preserving the various products of the ocean. Here is sea slug jam that a Malay would declare without equal anywhere in the world.</i>	Ch 8 P 68 line 1	Ned was Semmes's first slave on the CSS Sumter, he will be referred to in Jules Verne's <i>Mysterious Island</i> . This will provide further evidence that Semmes is playing the role of Pencroft.
11.	Both books talk about coral and how difficult it is to tell the difference between the animal, mineral and vegetable.	<i>The waving ferns, fans, and palms are all instinct with animal life. The patient little toiler of the sea, the coralline insect, is busy with them, as he is with his limestone trees. He is helping on their formation by his secretions, and it is difficult to say what portion of them is vegetable, what, mineral, and what, animal.</i>	Ch XVI P171 Line 21	<i>'You love the sea.' Captain. 'Yes I do love it! The sea is everything. It covers seven-tenths of the terrestrial globe. Its breadth is healthy and pure. It is a spacious wilderness where man is never alone, for he can feel life throbbing all around him. The sea is the environment for a prodigious, supernatural existence, it is nothing but movement and love; it is a living infinity, as one of your poets has said. And indeed, sir, nature is present there in its three kingdoms, animal, vegetable and mineral.</i>	Ch 10 P 68 line 20.	
12.	Both books have the captain being offered a Havana cigar which is not actually a Havana Cigar.	<i>The engineer coming on board, one day, from one of his excursions, pulled out his cigar case, and offered me a very tempting Havana cigar. Imagine my surprise when I found it a piece of wood! It had been plucked fresh from the tree. The size, shape, and color—a rich brown—were all perfect. It was not a capsule or a seed-pod, but a solid piece of wood, with the ordinary woody fibre, and full of sap.</i>	Ch XLIX P703 line 1	<i>I took the cigar offered. The shape reminded me of a Havana cigar, but the leaves seemed to be golden. I lit it using a small lighter on an elegant bronze stand, and I breathed the first mouthfuls in with all the delight of a smoker who has not indulged for two days. 'It is excellent, but it is not tobacco.' 'Correct; this tobacco does not come from Havana or the east. It is a sort of seaweed rich in nicotine that the sea provides me, rather sparingly in fact.</i>	Ch 11 P 71 Line 16	Cigars and tobacco will be a running theme to lampoon Semmes in the novel <i>Mysterious Island</i> (1873).

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13.	Both books have a captain who goes on excursions to collect marine curiosities.	<i>At other times I would coast the island along for miles, now putting into one little cove, and now into another, sometimes fishing, and at others hunting sea-shells, and exploring the wonders of the coral banks... ...I put it away carefully among my curiosities, but after a few days it shrivelled, and lost its beauty.</i>	Ch XXXVIII P 518 Line 6	<i>You are examining my shells, sir. They may indeed interest a scientist; but for me they have an additional charm, as I collected them all myself. There is not a sea on the surface of the globe that I have not searched.</i>	Ch 11 P 75 line 10	The love of children and nature is a recurring theme for Verne, Nemo and Semmes. Confederate spy, the reverend Francis Tremlett (keeper of Semmes's / Nemo's papers) was a prominent anti-vivisectionist.
14.	Both books have captains who uses a pleasure boat for sailing.	<i>My gig was a fine boat, fitted with a lug sail, and I used frequently to stretch off long distances from the land in her, enjoying her fine sailing qualities, in the fresh sea-breeze that would be blowing, the greater part of the day.</i>	Ch XXXVIII P518 Line 11	<i>'What you have a dinghy!' I replied in astonishment. But of course, an excellent craft, light and unsinkable, which we use for excursions and for fishing.</i>	Ch 12 P 80 line 7	Semmes purchased a pleasure boat for his retirement ... it was called the 'Alabama'.
15.	Both books have a vessel with a concealed recess.	<i>The Alabama was so constructed, that in fifteen minutes, her propeller could be detached from the shaft, and lifted in a well contrived for the purpose, sufficiently high out of the water, not to be an impediment to her speed. When this was done, and her sails spread, she was, to all intents and purposes, a sailing-ship.</i>	Ch XXXI P 403 Line 11	<i>The dinghy is fixed to the upper part of the Nautilus's hull, in a recess designed for it.</i>	Ch 12 P 80 Line 12	Admiral David Farragut conceded that at a time when many U.S. Navy ships (including the USS Haterras - the only warship sunk by Semmes) were slow paddle steamers, Lairds of Birkenhead were building the finest propeller driven ships in the world.
16.	Both books feature water condensers on board.	<i>all the water that was drank on board the Alabama was condensed by the engine from the vapor of sea-water. The consequence of all this care was highly gratifying to me, as, in the three years I was afloat, I did not lose a man by disease, in either of my ships!</i>	Ch XXXIV P452 Line 32	<i>The electricity also heated distillation devices which used evaporation to provide excellent drinking water.</i>	Ch 12 P 80 Line 37	By the 1860's water condensers on warships were not uncommon.
17.	Both books have captains who compare their ship to members of their family	<i>I had surveyed my new ship, as we approached, with no little interest, as she was to be not only my home, but my bride.</i>	Ch XXXI P404 Line 31	<i>'Ah captain, I explained with conviction, 'your Nautilus is truly a magnificent ship!?' 'Yes sir,' responded Captain Nemo with genuine emotion, 'and I love it like the flesh of my flesh!'</i>	Ch 13 P 86 line 31	Nemo's loss of his bride (the Alabama) and children (officers and crew) is a recurring theme in both <i>Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea</i> and its sequel <i>'Mysterious Island'</i> .
18	Both ships are mainly built at Laird's shipyard of Birkenhead.... CSS Alabama (95%) Nautilus Hull (c70. %) (Nautilus tonnage figures quoted by Captain Nemo)	<i>The fact is, as the reader has seen, that the Alabama was built by the Messrs. Laird of Birkenhead, under a contract with the Confederate States, and was paid for out of the Confederate Treasury. She happened to be the 290th ship built by those gentlemen, and hence the name.</i>	Ch XXXI P401 Line 4	<i>Each of its components, Dr Arronax, was sent to me from a different point on the globe via a forwarding address. Its keel was forged by Le Creusot, its propellor shaft by Penn and Co. of London, the iron plates for its hull by Lairds of Liverpool,</i>	Ch 13 P 87 line 24	The external hull is given as 30.4 % of the total tonnage, the weight of the internal hull, however is not given by Nemo but it may take the total Laird's component to over 50%. Birkenhead or Lairds shipbuilders are mentioned in a further seven of Jules Verne's novels. The Alabama Claims are mentioned twice in Verne's <i>'Around the World in Eighty Days'</i> . Phileas Fogg is based partly on George Francis Train – the first man to travel around the world in eighty days and the entrepreneur behind Europe's first street railway – in Birkenhead.

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19.	Both books have ships which are completed on a desert island.	<i>I was charmed with the appearance of Terceira. Every square foot of the island seemed to be under the most elaborate cultivation...we arrived at Angra at four o'clock, on the same afternoon. Here the transshipment of the guns and stores was renewed, and here, for the first time, I visited the Alabama.</i>	Ch XXXII P 407 line 35	<i>I set up my workshops on a small desert island in the middle of the ocean. There with my workmen, that is my good companions whom I instructed and trained, I completed our Nautilus.</i>	Ch 13 P 87 line 36	After setting sail from Birkenhead the CSS <i>Alabama</i> sailed for the island of Terceira in the Azores to be fitted with armaments – a small desert island in the middle of the ocean.
20.	Both books feature imaginary islands.	<i>You would no doubt swear that that is land." "Why should I not, sir?" said he. "Simply," rejoined I, "because it is Cape Fly-away.</i>	Ch XXII P 286 Line 1	<i>I found a tiny island chartered by Captain Crespo in 1801, that the old Spanish maps called Roca de la Plata, meaning Silver Rock.</i>	Ch 15 P 101 line 22	Cape Fly-away does not exist – it is a convincing mirage. The modern island of Crespo does not exist, but was recorded as such in the early 19 th century.
21.	Both books have a crew that kills an albatross.	<i>On the occasion of one of the short calms described, we caught an albatross, with a hook and line, which measured ten feet across the wings. The monster bird was very fat, and it was quite a lift to get it inboard.</i>	Ch XLVIII P683 Line 10	<i>A big bird with a large wingspan, very clearly visible, was gliding towards us. Captain Nemo's companion aimed and shot at it when it was only a few metres above the waves. The animal fell down dead, and dropped down within reach of the skilfull hunter, who seized hold of it. It was an albatross of the highest sort, an admirable specimen of those pelagic birds.</i>	Ch 17 P 116 Line 17	In Mysterious Island, an albatross is used to carry a message to Gordon Bennett of the New York Herald. Bennett was an honorary member of the Royal Mersey Yacht Club at Tranmere, Birkenhead and had his yacht 'Namouna' designed by fellow member St Clare John Byrne.
22.	Both books talk about the sinking of a ship called 'The Florida'.	<i>The Florida coming into Bahia, a few months afterward, as related in a former page, a Federal ship of war violated the neutrality of the port, by seizing her, and carrying her off; and the Yankee nation, rather than make the amends which all the world decided it was bound to make, by delivering back the captured ship to Brazil, ordered her to be sunk by accident in Hampton Roads!</i>	Ch XLIV P619 Line 11	<i>It was a ship with cut shrouds still hanging from their plates. Its hull seemed in good condition, and it could not have been wrecked for more than a few hours..... But sadder still, the sight of the deck where a few bodies still lay, made fast by ropes.... Then a young woman half emerging through the deadlight in the poop, holding a child with both arms. The Nautilus had been manoeuvring around the submerged ship. For a brief moment I could read the bord on the stern: the Florida, Sunderland.</i>	Ch 18 P125 Line 13	The CSS 'Florida' and the CSS 'Alabama' were Confederate commerce raiders built simultaneously on opposite sides of the River Mersey in 1862. Both ships were commissioned by James Dunwoody Bulloch, the Uncle of the future 26 th President of the United States Theodore Roosevelt.

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23.	Both books have captains who lose two crew members on the voyage.	<i>The second loss occurred at Saldana Bay Capetown on August 3rd, when a hunting party comprising of Fifth Lieutenant Arthur Sinclair, Irvine Bulloch and Engineer Cummings prepared for their return to the ship. Cummings accidentally shot himself through the heart in an effort to pull his gun towards himself by the muzzle.</i>	Ch XLV P 640 Line 11	<i>'What difference does it make! The captain replied evasively. Then: 'A shock from the Nautilus broke one of the levers of the engine, which struck this man.</i>	Ch 24 P 172 line 1	<i>Semmes lost one crew member on his first ship the CSS Sumter and one other crew member Simeon Cummings on the Alabama. Cummings accidentally shot himself after a hunting trip in Saldhana Bay, South Africa.</i>
24.	Both books have captains who are extremely upset at the death of a crew member.	<i>A young life had been suddenly cut short in a far distant land. A subscription was taken up to place a proper tomb over his remains, and the curious visitor to Saldanha Bay may read on a simple, but enduring marble slab, this mournful little episode in the history of the cruise of the Alabama.</i>	Ch XLV P 640 Line 28	<i>'This man will be dead within two hours.' 'Can nothing save him?' 'Nothing' Captain Nemo's hand tightened, and a few tears slipped from his eyes, which I did not believe capable of weeping.... 'You can retire now, Dr Arronax,' Captain Nemo said.</i>	Ch 24 P 172 line 10	<i>Semmes was deeply moved, trembling with emotion, and brushing away a tear creeping slowly down his weather-beaten cheek, he said 'that will do sir, good night.' Arthur Sinclair – Two Years on the Alabama – the death of Cummings. This is unique in that Verne is repeating what Semmes said, but not from Raphael Semmes's book.</i>
25.	Both books have captains who preside over a complex and emotive funeral service.	<i>Arrangements were made for interring him in the grave-yard of a neighboring farmer, and the next morning, the colors of the ship were half-masted, and all the boats—each with its colors also at half-mast—formed in line, and as many of the officers and crew as could be spared from duty, followed the deceased to his last resting-place. There were six boats in the procession, and as they pulled in for the shore, with the well-known funeral stroke and drooping flags, the spectacle was one to sadden the heart.</i>	Ch XLV P641 line 3	<i>Meanwhile Captain Nemo had stopped. My companions and I interrupted our step, and when I turned round, I saw that his men had formed a semi-circle around their leader. Looking closer, I noticed that four of them were carrying a long object on their shoulders. Suddenly everything became clear! The clearing was a cemetery, the hole a grave, the long object the body of the man who had died during the night! Captain Nemo and his men had come to bury their companion in this shared resting place at the bottom of the ocean.</i>	Ch 24 P175 Line 13	<i>Simeon Cummings was the only Confederate soldier killed during the American Civil War and buried outside the United States. On, May 30, 1994, Cummings was reinterred at Todd Cemetery in Glendale, Maury County, Tennessee, over 5,000 people attended the ceremony.</i>
26.	Both books have captains who pride themselves in their manners and hospitality.	<i>I bestowed the ladies, with their husbands, upon the ward-room mess, consigning them to the care of my gallant friend, Kell.[Pg 497] Some of the lieutenants were turned out of their state-rooms, for their accommodation, but being carpet knights, as well as knights of the lance, they submitted to the discomfort with becoming grace.</i>	Ch XXXVI P496 Line 39	<i>He took me forward ant there I found not a cabin but an elegant bedroom complete with a bed, dressing table and several other pieces of furniture. I could only thank my host. 'your bedroom is next to mine he said.</i>	Ch 11 P 75 Line 39	
27.	Both books talk about a grave / mausoleum sealed up by coral over time.	<i>When its tiny blocks of lime-stone, which it has secreted from the salts of the sea, have been piled so high, that the tides now cover the structure, and now leave it dry, the little toiler of the sea, having performed the functions prescribed to it by its Creator, dies, and is entombed in a mausoleum more proud than any that could be reared by human hands.</i>	Ch XVI P 171 Line 26	<i>'And he is now resting beside his companions in that coral cemetery?' 'Yes, forgotten by all, but not us! We have dug the grave and now the polyps have the task of sealing the dead in it for eternity!' And in a sudden movement, hiding his face in clenched hands the captain tried in vain to supress a sob. Then he added: 'It's our cemetery there, peaceful, hundreds of feet below the waves.'</i>	Ch 24 P 176 Line 31	

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28.	Both books describe a journey across the Indian ocean as tedious but interesting to someone likes natural history.	<i>...the Alabama was well launched on the Indian Ocean, she had run the Cape of Good Hope out of sight, and was still hieing off before the gale, although this had moderated considerably as she had run off the coast. We were now about to make a long voyage, tedious to the unphilosophical mariner, but full of interest to one who has an eye open to the wonders and beauties of nature.</i>	Ch XLVIII P674 Line 8	We were ploughing the waves of the Indian Ocean , a vast liquid plain covering 550 million hectares, with waters so transparent that anyone looking down from the surface feels dizzy. This carried on for a few days. To anyone else but me, with an immense love for the sea, the hours would have seemed long and monotonous....	Ch 1 P 180 Line 13	Verne is not a plagiarist – these are all clues to be followed up in Mysterious Island and other novels.
29.	Both books mention the P and O shipping line.	<i>Our coaling had occupied us but ten hours, - so admirable are the arrangements of the P and O Steamship company, at whose wharf we had coaled.</i>	Ch LI P 715 Line 7	<i>I decided that the steamer had to belong to the Peninsula and Oriental Line.</i>	Ch 1 P 184 line 12	
30.	Both books talk about their captain's politeness and treating prisoners well.	<i>I never permit myself to be outdone in politeness, and treated them with all consideration</i>	Ch XIX P 249 Line 31	<i>Captain Nemo bowed slightly. This was to take leave of me, and so I went back to my room.</i>	Ch 22 P 159 Line 15	
31.	Both books mention coming across swarms of Nautilus / argonauts.	<i>The sea was alive with the nautilus, and the curious sea-nettle, with its warps and hawsers thrown out, and its semi-transparent, gelatinous disc contracting and expanding, as the little animal extracted its food from the water.</i>	Ch XVII P 194 Line 8	<i>For another hour the Nautilus floated in the midst of this school of molluscs. Then some mysterious fright suddenly took hold of them. As if on signal, All the sails were abruptly brought down, the arms retracted the bodies contracted; the shells changed their centre of gravity and turned over, and the whole fleet disappeared under the waves.</i>	Ch 1 P185 line 15	
32.	Both books mention sailing for miles through a patch of white water.	<i>At about eight P. M., there being no moon, but the sky being clear, and the stars shining brightly, we suddenly passed from the deep blue water in which we had been sailing, into a patch of water so white that it startled me; so much did it appear like a shoal.</i>	Ch LI p732 Line 12	<i>At seven in the evening, the half-submerged Nautilus was sailing through a sea of milk As for me, I continued to observe the phenomenon. For several hours, the Nautilus's prow cut through the whitish waves, and I noticed that it floated soundlessly over the silky water....</i>	Ch 11 P 186 line 11	
33.	Both books mention the captain smoking a cigar on the bridge.	<i>and smoke my single cigar, and listen to whatever might be going on, almost as much amused as the sailors themselves.</i>	Ch XXXIV P454 Line 13	<i>He came up as soon as he spotted me, graciously offered me a cigar...</i>	Ch 4 P 212 line 2	
34.	Both books captains say sail has been 'killed' by steam.	<i>The sailing-ship has a romance, and a poetry about her, which is thoroughly killed by steam.</i>	Ch XIV P149 Line 2	<i>"I agree with you," said I; "and steam seems to have killed all gratitude in the hearts of sailors.</i>	Ch 4 P 213 line 17	

No	Link	<i>Raphael Semmes 'Memoirs of Service Afloat' (1869)</i>	Page / line	Jules Verne 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea. (Butcher Translation).	Page / line	Notes
35.	Both books deal with the Gulf Stream and explain its importance.	<i>The furnace is the torrid zone; the Mexican Gulf and Caribbean Sea are the caldrons; the Gulf Stream is the conducting-pipe. From the Grand Banks of New Foundland to the shores of Europe is the basement—the hot-air chambers—in which this pipe is flared out so as to present a large cooling surface. Here the circulation of the atmosphere is arranged by nature, and it is such that the warmth conveyed into this warm-air chamber of mid-ocean is taken up by the genial west winds, and dispensed in the most benign manner, throughout Great Britain and the west of Europe.</i>	Ch XXXIV P 454 line 32	<i>That day, the Nautilus crossed a remarkable region of the Atlantic Ocean. Everyone is aware of the existence of that great current of warm water known as the Gulf Stream. After leaving the Florida Strait, it heads towards Spitsbergen. But before reaching the Gulf of Mexico at about 44 degrees north, this current divides into two. The larger branch heads for the coasts of Ireland and Norway, whilst the second heads south starting from a point opposite the Azores.....</i>	Ch 11 P 272 line 24.	Both writers are taking information from Mathew Fontaine Maury's 'Physical Geography of the Sea' (1855). Maury was the 'Father of modern Oceanography' and became a Confederate Officer in the Civil War. He was a friend of Birkenhead M.P. John Laird just after the Civil War, Maury's wife lived in Birkenhead. Maury later went to live in London with the Reverend Francis Tremlett. Tremlett and Laird were both members of the Royal Mersey Yacht Club of Tranmere, Birkenhead.
36.	Both books pay tribute to Mathew Fontaine Maury	<i>I refer my readers, curious in this matter, to the work of Captain Maury, entitled the "Physical Geography of the Sea." It is full of profound philosophy, on the subjects of which it treats, and is written in so pleasing a style, and is so strewn with flowers, as to make the reader forget that he is travelling the thorny paths of science.</i>	Ch XL P552 line 9	<i>And time will one day justify Maury's other opinion, that these substances thus accumulated for ages will become petrified by the action of the water, and will then form inexhaustible coal-mines—a precious reserve prepared by far-seeing nature for the moment when men shall have exhausted the mines of continents. ...I fully support the scientist Maury, who discovered a circulation in it just as real as that of the blood in animals.</i>	Ch 18 P119 line 26	
37.	Both books have ships with large amounts of gold on board.	<i>As I spoke of good pay, and payment in gold.</i>	Ch XXXI P 412 line 11	<i>Without worrying about my presence, the captain opened the cabinet, a kind of safe containing a large number of bars. They were gold bars.</i>	Ch 6 P232 Line 7	Abraham Lincoln's Secretary of State, William Seward, alleged the Birkenhead Yacht 'Deerhound' removed gold from the CSS Alabama at Cherbourg.
38.	Both books lament what happened to Mathew Fontaine Maury after the Civil War.	<i>Scarcely any man who withdrew from the old service has been so vindictively, and furiously assailed as Maury.</i>	Ch XXII P 292 Line 22	<i>Or was one of those scientists like the American Maury, whose career was ruined by a political revolution?</i>	Ch 14 P91 Line 3	
39.	Both books claim that it is dangerous for Right Whales to cross the equator.	<i>The equatorial belt of waters surrounding the earth, between the tropics, whose temperature is generally 80° of Fahrenheit, is as a sea of fire to the "right" whale. It would be as certain death for this species of whale to attempt to cross these waters,</i>	Ch XXXII P 422 Line 3	<i>'Then you still haven't seen an Antarctic whale. It is the right whale that you have hunted until now, which never ventures into the warm waters of the equator.'</i>	Ch 12 P 284 line 8	
40.	Both books have Captains who find sanctuary within an extinct volcano.	<i>The island of Fernando de Noronha is evidently of volcanic origin. Its whole appearance indicates that it was thrown from the depths of the sea, by nature, when in one of her most fearful paroxysms... We lay nearly two weeks at Fernando de Noronha, and I was never tired of gazing upon this wonderful evidence of the power of volcanic forces.</i>	Ch XLIII P597 line 8	<i>'Where are we? In the centre of an extinct volcano, a volcano invaded by the sea following some convulsion of the earth. While you were sleeping the Nautilus entered this lagoon via a natural channel ten metres below the surface of the ocean. This is its home port, its safe haven: convenient, secret, and sheltered from the wind in every direction!</i>	Ch 10 P 266 Line 21	

No	Link	<i>Raphael Semmes 'Memoirs of Service Afloat' (1869)</i>	Page / line	Jules Verne 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea. (Butcher Translation).	Page / line	Notes
41.	Both books have captains who dislike the waters around Brazil.	<p><i>After charging me with sundry violations of the neutrality of Brazil, it ordered me to depart the island, within twenty-four hours.</i></p> <p><i>Hence it behooves the prudent mariner, to give the banks that fringe the coasts of Brazil, a pretty wide berth.</i></p>	<p>Ch XLIV P 617 line 6</p> <p>P625 Line 15</p>	<p><i>To Ned's great displeasure, Captain Nemo obviously disliked the neighbourhood of those populated coasts of Brazil, for he moved with dizzying speed. Not even the quickest of fish or birds could keep up with us and observing the natural curiosities of these seas was no longer possible.</i></p>	<p>Ch 17 P333 line 16</p>	<p>This again alludes to the illegal seizure of the CSS <i>Florida</i> inside Brazilian territorial waters by the United States Navy on October 7th 1864.</p>
42.	Both books describe the fresh waters of the mouth of the Amazon.	<p><i>We passed the mouths of the great Amazon, to-day, bearing on its bosom the waters of a continent. We were running along in the deepest and bluest of sea-water, whilst at no great distance from us, we could plainly perceive, through our telescopes, the turbid waters of the great stream, mixing and mingling, by slow degrees, with the ocean.</i></p>	<p>Ch XVII P 206 line 18</p>	<p><i>But, on the 11th of April, it rose suddenly, and land appeared at the mouth of the Amazon River, a vast estuary, the embouchure of which is so considerable that it freshens and purifies the sea-water for the distance of several leagues.</i></p>	<p>Ch17 p333 Line 39</p>	
43.	Both books describe the eventual physical and mental decline of their captain.	<p><i>The poor old Alabama was not now what she had been then. She was like the wearied fox-hound, limping back after a long chase, foot-sore, and longing for quiet and repose. Her commander, like herself, was well-nigh worn down. Vigils by night and by day, the storm and the drenching rain, the frequent and rapid change of climate, now freezing, now melting or broiling, and the constant excitement of the chase and capture, had laid, in the three years of war he had been afloat, a load of a dozen years on his shoulders. The shadows of a sorrowful future, too, began to rest upon his spirit.</i></p>	<p>Ch LIII P750 line 3</p>	<p><i>Also, for some time, the captain had become more sombre, withdrawn, and antisocial. He seemed to be avoiding me, as I only met him at rare intervals. Formerly he had enjoyed explaining the underwater marvels to me; but now he left me to my studies and no longer came into the salon.</i></p> <p><i>Captain Nemo's isolation, his taciturnity, and especially his changed mood since the battle with the squid – all made things appear in a different light to me.</i></p>	<p>Ch 18 P 339 line 3</p> <p>Ch 19 P 352 line 13</p>	
44.	Both books describe the eventual physical decline of their vessel.	<p><i>My ship was getting very much out of repair. The hard usage to which she had been subjected since she had been commissioned had very much impaired her strength, and so constantly had she been under way, that the attrition of the water had worn the copper on her bottom so thin that it was daily loosening and dropping off in sheets. Her speed had, in consequence, been much diminished.</i></p>	<p>Ch L p709 line 10</p>	<p><i>The drops had become a fiery rain. The tiny points of water had changed into exploding crests. It was exactly as if Captain Nemo, desiring a death worthy of him, was endeavouring to be struck by lightning. In a terrible movement of pitching, the Nautilus erected its steel ram into the air like the point of a lightning conductor, and I could see long sparks spurting from it.</i></p>	<p>Ch 19 P 357 line 13.</p>	

No	Link	<i>Raphael Semmes 'Memoirs of Service Afloat' (1869)</i>	Page / line	Jules Verne 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea. (Butcher Translation).	Page / line	Notes
45.	Both books describe 'serpents' entering the vessel, firstly as sea snakes secondly as tentacles of the giant squid.	<i>We began now to fall in with some of the curiosities of the China Sea. Salt-water serpents made their appearance, playing around the ship, and cutting up their antics. These snakes are from three to five feet long, and when ships anchor at night, have been known to crawl up the cables, and make their way on deck through the hawse-holes, greatly to the annoyance of the sailors who chance to be sleeping on deck.</i>	Ch XLIX P695 line 11	<i>No, I said, 'giant squid. But friend Land is undoubtedly mistaken for I can't see anything.'</i> <i>'Was its head not crowned with eight tentacles, which waved in the water like a nest of serpents?'</i> <i>Immediately one of those long arms slid like a snake into the opening as twenty others waved above. With a single axe blow, Captain Nemo severed the formidable tentacle, which then slid down the stairs, twisting.</i>	Ch 18 P 341 line 16 Ch 18 P 343 line 37 Ch 18 P 346 line 21	The inspiration for the giant squid has been revealed.
46.	Both books describe the Gulf Stream as flowing between two and three miles per hour.	<i>Still, the European-bound ships defy all the bad weather, so prevalent in this stream, on account of the easterly current which accelerates their passage, at the rate of from two, to three miles, per hour. The stream, therefore, has been literally bearded by commerce, and has become one of its principal highways. It is because it is a highway of commerce that the Alabama now finds herself in it.</i>	Ch XXXIV P 457 line 29	<i>It is indeed a river, flowing freely through the middle of the Atlantic, but without mixing with the surrounding ocean's water. It is a salt river, saltier than the surrounding sea. Its average depth is 3,000 feet, and width 60 miles. At places it moves at a speed of 4 kilometres an hour. The unchanging volume of its water is larger than all the rivers of the globe put together.</i>	Ch 19 P 349 Line 6.	
47.	Both books have captains who lament the destruction of their family.	<i>My officers and crew formed a great military family, every face of which was familiar to me; and when I looked upon my gory deck, toward the close of the action, and saw so many manly forms stretched upon it, with the glazed eye of death, or agonizing with terrible wounds, I felt as a father feels who has lost his children—his children who had followed him to the uttermost ends of the earth, in sunshine and storm, and been always true to him. No one who is not a seaman can realize the blow which falls upon the heart of a commander, upon the sinking of his ship. It is not merely the loss of a battle—it is the overwhelming of his household, as it were, in a great catastrophe. The Alabama had not only been my battle-field, but my home, in which I had lived two long years, and in which I had experienced many vicissitudes of pain and pleasure, sickness and health..... how my children played as well as worked, how I governed them, and with what toys I amused them.</i>	Ch LIV P 763 Line 4 Ch XXXIV P450 Line 10	<i>'I am the law, I am the justice! He said. 'I am the oppressed, and they are the oppressor! It is because of them that everything I loved, cherished, venerated – country, wife, children, parents – perished as I watched.</i>	Ch 21 P 369 Line 31	According to William Butcher (1998); Verne wrote to Hetzel, 'His nationality needs to be kept vague, together with the causes which cast him onto his strange existence. In addition, the incident of the Alabama or a false Alabama is unacceptable and inexplicable, if Nemo wanted to take revenge on the slavers, he only had to serve in Grant's army, and everything was settled.' (Jules Verne p.149; 'Monday' (March 1869). William Butcher also states 'The Alabama, which claimed to have sunk 75 merchantmen, was destroyed by the Unionist Kearsarge off Cherbourg on 11 th June 1864.... This battle has clear connections with Nemo's final attack, also in the English Channel.'
48.	Both books describe how the captain's and their vessels end up off the coast of Cherbourg.	<i>... and thence to the British Channel, making the Lizard on the 10th of June, ... at ten the next morning, we made Cape La Hague, on the coast of France. We were now boarded by a French pilot, and at thirty minutes past noon, we let go our anchor in the port of Cherbourg.</i>	Ch LIII P757 line 5	<i>The Nautilus was still heading south. On 30 May it came within sight of Land's End, and passed between the extreme point of England and the Scilly Isles, on the starboard side. If he wanted to go into the Channel, it would have cut sharply to the east. It did not do this.</i>	Ch 20 P 363 line 4	If Nemo did not go east then he could only go south towards Cherbourg and the final resting place of the CSS Alabama.

No	Link	<i>Raphael Semmes 'Memoirs of Service Afloat' (1869)</i>	Page / line	Jules Verne 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea. (Butcher Translation).	Page / line	Notes
49.	Both books describe the final resting place of an 'avenging' ship.	<i>A noble Roman once stabbed his daughter, rather than she should be polluted by the foul embrace of a tyrant. It was with a similar feeling that Kell and I saw the Alabama go down. We had buried her as we had christened her, and she was safe from the polluting touch of the hated Yankee!</i>	Ch LIV P 763 Line 4	<i>During the whole of the 31st of May, the Nautilus described a series of circles on the water, which greatly interested me. It seemed to be seeking a spot it had some trouble in finding.</i> <i>What was this ship? Why was the Nautilus coming to visit its tomb? Was it not some shipwreck that had sunk the vessel?</i>	Ch 13 P 363 line 9 Ch 13 P364 line 16	Nemo has found the CSS 'Alabama' – his 'avenger', the ship of Captain Raphael Semmes, who upon being challenged by the USS Kearsarge in Cherbourg Harbour in June 1864, preferred, in Semmes's own words to 'give battle' and sink rather than surrender.
50.	Both books tell the story of the Captain's manuscripts falling into the sea.	<i>Two of the members of my boat's crew being around me, when the papers were brought, insisted that I should give them to them to take care of. They were good swimmers, they said, and would be sure to preserve them for me. I gave each a package—put up tightly between small slats—and they thrust them in the bosoms of their shirts...One swam to a French pilot-boat, and the other to the Deerhound. I got both packages of papers. The seaman who landed on the French coast sought out Captain Sinclair, who was still at Cherbourg, and delivered them to him.</i>	Ch LIV P764 line 6	<i>This, Dr Arronax, is written in several languages. It contains a summary of my studies of the sea, and God willing, it will not perish with me. This manuscript, signed with my name and containing the story of my life, will be enclosed in a small floating container. The last survivor from among us on the Nautilus will cast the container in the sea, and it will go wherever the waves carry it'</i> <i>The name of this man! His own true story written by himself! Would his mystery be unveiled one day?</i> <i>'Captain,' I replied, 'I can only approve your intentions. The results of your studies must not be lost. But the means you employ seem slightly crude to me. Who knows where the wind will send the container, into whose hand it will fall.</i>	Ch 19 P 353 Line 25.	Semmes's and his memoirs were rescued from the cold waters of the English Channel by the Yacht 'Deerhound' after the CSS Alabama was sunk by the USS Kearsarge. The 'Deerhound' belonged to John Lancaster of the Royal Mersey Yacht Club of Tranmere, Birkenhead. The 'container' finally washed up on 24 th July 2018 at Lairds shipyard at Tranmere, Birkenhead - birthplace of Captain Nemo's Nautilus. It fell into the hands of a geography teacher from Birkenhead, who took three years to unravel the true past of Captain Nemo.
51.	Both books tell of a final battle with a ship with a metal covering to protect it.	<i>At the end of the engagement, it was discovered by those of our officers who went alongside of the enemy's ship, with the wounded, that her mid-ship section, on both sides, was thoroughly iron-coated; this having been done with chains, constructed for the purpose, placed perpendicularly, from the rail to the water's edge, the whole covered over by a thin outer planking, which gave no indication of the armor beneath.</i>	Ch LIII P 758 Line 21	<i>The Nautilus was not planning to strike the impenetrable armour of the double decker, but the section below its flotation line, where a metal cover no longer protected the planking.</i> <i>I could feel the strength of penetration of the steel cutwater. I could hear scraping noises. The Nautilus, carried on by its propulsive force, was passing clean through the vessel, like a sailmaker's needle through canvas.</i>	Ch 21 P 372 Line 6 Ch 21 P 372 Line 20.	Semmes always maintained that he would not have engaged the USS Kearsarge at Cherbourg if he had been aware of the hidden protective anchor chains draped down the sides of the vessel. Semmes will have his 'revenge', at least in fiction, and the Nautilus will sink the Kearsarge.
52.	Both ships sink after going round in circles.	<i>The enemy now pressed his ship under a full head of steam, and to prevent our passing each other too speedily, and to keep our respective broadsides bearing, it became necessary to fight in a circle; the two ships steaming around a common centre, and preserving a distance from each other of from three quarters to half a mile.</i>	Ch LIII P 757 line 17	<i>Were we in its dangerous waters off the Norwegian coast? Was the Nautilus being sucked down into the vortex at the very moment our boat had been about to cast off.</i> <i>I felt that sickly giddiness which arises from long-continued whirling round.</i>	Ch 22 p379 line 7.	The final circular battle with the Kearsarge is replicated in the Norwegian Maelstrom – both the CSS Alabama and the Nautilus will disappear beneath the waves – but not forever.

Conclusion

Nemo is Semmes and we shall meet Semmes again in ‘Mysterious Island’ (1873).

It is impossible that this is plagiarism by Jules Verne as both books were released within a few weeks of each other, however the links are undeniable – a secret, not hidden, but in plain view and one that could have been discovered at any time. The clues are consciously placed right beneath the readers’ eyes, not just in *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* (1869) but also the novel’s sequel *Mysterious Island* (1873).

In my opinion the only logical conclusion is that Raphael Semmes and Jules Verne colluded, probably after the final sinking of the CSS *Alabama* on June 19th, 1864, when Raphael Semmes having obtained a fake passport from the Reverend Francis Tremlett, disappeared with his memoirs to Paris for two weeks. The name of Arne Saknussemm (Semmes sunk Arna – Semmes sunk the ‘Powerful Eagle’) in Jules Verne’s *Journey to the Centre of the Earth* (1864) is evidence to suggest an early relationship between the two authors.

It seems, in fiction at least, that the pro-slavery Confederate Raphael Semmes will become an anti-slaver and abolitionist in his first reincarnation as Captain Nemo.

In *Mysterious Island* (1873) Semmes will assume the character of the Unionist Pencroft and become a hater of pirates and lover of the Union flag. Semmes will also play the character of the remorseful pirate Ayrton. Raphael Semmes in fiction at least, will show true remorse and repentance for his piracy and be forgiven by his new fictional friends. Those friends include one black man, Neb, who is treated as an equal as *all men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among them “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*

Nemo (Semmes) and the *Nautilus* will also return to *Mysterious Island* to help the six Unionists, ‘pursue happiness’ and build a ‘New America’ on ‘Lincoln Island’ – a New America that Abraham Lincoln himself envisaged before cruelly being cut down by an assassins bullet in April 1865. That *Mysterious Island* will be set in the town that on two separate occasions in the nineteenth century almost brought the United States and Great Britain to a state of war – the town of Birkenhead.

Two major developments will come from this, the first is that another world-famous author will get involved, join the fray and set a novel in Birkenhead.

The second major development is that Jules Verne's most incredible prophesy of all would take another thirty years to come true and involve the young character of 'Herbert in *Mysterious Island*.

I have thoroughly dissected *Mysterious Island* as being set in my hometown of Birkenhead and the wider Wirral Peninsula, this will be the next submission as Jules Verne uses over 50 places in Birkenhead, together with the town's history and geography to tell his story of *Mysterious Island* 'in metaphor'

John Lamb 17 / 11 /2020.

Website Links

All page numbers and quotes from '*Memoirs of Service Afloat During the War Between the States*' (1869) by Admiral Raphael can be verified on 'Project Gutenberg' by following the link below;

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/34827/34827-h/34827-h.htm>

All quotes from *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* (1869) by Jules Verne (Butcher translation) can be verified on 'Google Books' by following the link below – the page references are from the paperback copy (Oxford University Press).

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