

(No. 1028.)

“W. J. STAIRS” AND “S. FORBIN.”

FINDING of a Naval Court held at Baltimore, United States of America, into the collision between the “W. J. STAIRS” and the “S. FORBIN.”

At a Naval Court held at the British Consulate at Baltimore upon the 16th day of May 1881, to inquire into the collision between the barque “W. J. Stairs,” of Maitland, Nova Scotia, official number 72,634, Kenneth M’Kenzie, master, certificate of competency, No. 99,394, and the brigantine “S. Forbin,” of Quebec, official number 75,668, Edouard Boulanejer, master, certificate of service, No. 19, find as follows:—The “W. J. Stairs” was on a voyage from Dublin to Baltimore with a cargo of iron, and the “S. Forbin” from Quebec to Buenos Ayres with lumber, and the collision occurred in latitude 42°50’ N. and longitude 52°40’ W. on the 30th April at 7 p.m. It appears from the evidence that there was a dense fog at the time, and that both vessels were under easy sail, fog horns used continuously by both, though not heard by either vessel on account of the sea and wind. Both vessels were close hauled by the wind, the barque on port tack and the brigantine on starboard tack; both starboarded their helms on account of position of each when first seen by the other; but the vessels were so close together, and the collision occurred so quickly, that neither vessel had time to answer her helm.

We have come to the deliberative conclusion that, under the circumstances, it was an unavoidable accident, and that no blame attaches to the masters or officers of either vessel, and that the master of the “S. Forbin” was justified in abandoning his vessel.

(Signed) DENIS DONOHUE,
H.M.’s Consul, President.
JOHN DWYER,
Master barque “Stormy
Petrel.”
SAMUEL W. DICK,
Master barque “Katahelin.”