

(No. 3874.)

“ G E O R G I N A . ”

FINDING and Order of a Naval Court held at the British Consulate General at Monte Video on the 29th August 1889, to investigate the circumstances connected with the stranding of the British barque “GEORGINA,” of Swansea, 628 tons, on the English Bank, on the 21st August 1889, and the conduct of the officers and crew.

The Court, having regard to the evidence hereinbefore given, find as follows:—

That after passing the land which he supposed to be Lobos Island, the master, Henry S. Watkins, set a course which would have taken him N. of the English Bank if his standard compass had been in order, as he had reason to think it was by his land fall.

The Court, however, are of opinion that a considerable error was developed in the compass after changing the course, abreast of the land seen, consequent on the damage done to it on the gale of the 19th instant. The Court considers the ship stranded in consequence of that error.

The Court censures the master for not using the lead again after the last cast taken, which was nearly one hour before his vessel struck. That after the ship had struck the master and crew could do nothing to save her, owing to the violence of the wind and sea, and that the master did all in his power to preserve the lives of his crew.

Taking all the circumstances of the case into consideration, the Court are of opinion that the master's certificate should be returned to him.

The Court desires to place on record its sense of the valuable services of the steam tug “Plata,” and particularly of the seaman, “Cristobal de Franco,” who went alone in the boat which conveyed the crew from the wreck to the steamer.

The expenses of this Court, fixed at 8*l.* 1*l.*s., are approved.

Dated at Monte Video this 29th August 1889.

(Signed) ERNEST SATOW,
H.B.M. Consul General and
President of the Court.

ALEXANDER M^cKAY,
Master of “Janet Cowan.”

JOHN DUNCAN,
Master of “Celestial Empire.”

DANIEL S. M^cMILLAN,
Master of “Errol.”