

(No. 4482.)

"AIKSHAW."

FINDING of a Naval Court of Inquiry held at Valparaiso on the 5th and 6th days of January 1892.

Present:

ADOLPH F. HOWARD, Esquire, British Vice-Consul, Valparaiso,	} President.
MR. ALEXANDER M ^C B. ELLIOT, Master Mariner, and Surveyor to Lloyd's at Valparaiso,	
MR. WILLIAM KYDD, Master of the "British Empire," of London, official No. 63,517,	} Members.
MR. FREDERICK J. T. DAWSON, Clerk to the Court.	

The Court, pursuant to an order from Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General at Valparaiso, proceeded to investigate the cause and manner of the stranding and loss of the British barque "Aikshaw," of Maryport, official No. 72,922, and having deliberately weighed and considered the evidence and observations preferred by the master, officers, and part of the crew of that vessel—

The Court finds—

That the "Aikshaw," an iron barque of 573 tons register, belonging to the port of Maryport, sailed from Antofagasta at 6.45 a.m. on the 24th December last, laden with a part cargo of coal, bound for Tocopilla, and at about 1 p.m. the same day was stranded on a sunken rock close inshore, between Jorges Point and Roca Blanca (lat. 23° 32' S., long. 70° 34' W.), and became a total loss.

That Alfred Vincent, William Wieg, Peter Nielsen, Hazlett Irvine Lewers, and William Tarbuck, were drowned owing to the smashing of the boat, and getting entangled in the wreck.

That from the evidence adduced, the Court is of opinion that the cause of the loss of the ship was due to the strong current and heavy swell setting towards the shore, and to the prevailing light winds, and there being no anchorage.

The Court is, however, of the opinion that had the vessel been tacked before she got so close in shore, the casualty might have been avoided, and whilst recommending that Mr. William Cobb, the master, be supplied with a duplicate of his certificate, doth admonish him to be more cautious in the future.

Further, the Court doth recommend that duplicates of the certificates of Mr. James Allen, the mate, and Mr. Daniel L. Turney, the second mate, be issued to them.

The Court avails of this opportunity to express its high approbation of the humane conduct and energy displayed by Mr. Daniel L. Turney, the second mate, in saving the lives of Mr. James Allen, the mate, Julian R. Bulmer, apprentice, and Samuel Nimmo, the cook.

(Signed)

WILLIAM KYDD.
ALEX. M^CB. ELLIOT.
A. F. HOWARD,
President of the Naval Court.
FRED. J. T. DAWSON,
Clerk to the Court.