

(No. 4769.)

"ALLANSHAW."

FINDING of the Court of Inquiry held at Cape Town to investigate the circumstances attending the loss of the British ship "ALLANSHAW," of London, 1,589 tons, on the island of Tristan d'Acunha, on the 23rd March 1893.

This vessel was bound from Liverpool for Calcutta, and, according to the evidence, was well found and thoroughly fitted for the voyage. All went well till March 23rd, when Inaccessible Island was sighted; the ship's position was verified by observations, and the master it would appear then decided to pass close to Tristan d'Acunha, with which island he had communicated on a previous voyage.

From the evidence it seems that the master had complete and sole control of the navigation of the vessel, and there is nothing to show that he was otherwise than sober and fit for his duty, and the fact of his having called at this island previously probably accounts for his undue confidence in approaching too near the land, which unhappily resulted in the loss of his own life and the lives of two of his crew, as well as the total destruction of a fine ship and her cargo.

Upon the evidence adduced, the Court can only conclude that there can be no doubt that the loss of the "Allanshaw" was due to default of the master, A. C. Thomson, in that a very great error of judgment was committed by him in standing in so close to a dangerous coast, and the Court is also of opinion that the first mate, seeing the dangerous proximity of the vessel to the shore, should at all hazards have remonstrated with the master; but it considers under all the circumstances detailed in evidence that this admonition is sufficient.

(Signed) PERCY NIGHTINGALE, Acting R.M.
J. H. PENFOLD, N.A.

Cape Town, 20th July 1893.