

(No. 5757.)

"CORAL."

*REPORT and Decision of the Marine Board of New South Wales in the matter of the wreck of the "Coral," Official No. 57,566.*

AN inquiry was held by the Board into the circumstances attending the loss of this vessel, and they elicited that she was a ketch of 60 tons, registered in Sydney, owned conjointly by the master and Andrew Moller, and insured for £600, being valued at £800.

The "Coral," timber laden, was on a voyage from Cape Hawke to Sydney. She put into Port Stephens on the evening of Thursday, the 5th instant, through stress of weather, and anchored in Shoal Bay for the night.

The next morning the wind shifted more to the eastward, blowing very hard, and the master, deciding to shift berth to Nelson's Bay, slipped the cable and made sail. When off Nelson Head the vessel was struck by a heavy squall, which blew the head sails away; the remaining anchor was then let go, with 45 fathoms of chain, but she dragged across Pelican Flat, and went ashore on the north side, becoming a total wreck. All hands were saved.

The Board reported that the "Coral" was cast on the beach in Port Stephens during a fierce S.E. gale.

The master, Michael Driscoll, is exonerated from all blame.

GEO. S. LINDEMAN, R.N.,  
Secretary.

Sydney, 23rd May, 1898.

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