

# THE WRECK OF THE VICKSBURG. LOSS OF THE VICKSBURG.

The "Vicksburg" left Montreal on 25th May with seven cabin and twenty-five steerage passengers. She had a crew of fifty-nine men, and was laden with a cargo of about 60,000 bushels of grain and a quantity of timber and general merchandise. The following are the names of both cabin and steerage passengers, as far as can be ascertained:—

Cabin—Bryan McShane, Montreal; Rev. C. A. Adams, Gore's Landing; Miss C. Sutherland Toronto; Mr. H. Betts, Belleville; Mr. and Mrs. Bloom, Green Bay, Wisconsin; Mr. W. Vipond, Montreal.

Steerage—C. Perran, G. R. Armstrong, Philippe Penil, Isaac Roesor, Markham; Mrs. E. D. Gunning and infant, Sherbrooke; J. Griffith, Minnesota; John Delaney, Melbourne, P. Q.; G. Burner, Minnie Burner and George Burner, jr., Richard Corbett, Mrs. C. J. Barry, Montreal; Albert Knoph.

The "Vicksburg" was an iron vessel, built in Scotland, and was considered one of the best ships in the Dominion line; she was about 2,500 tons, well engined and fitted, and commanded by a very able and efficient officer, Captain Bennett, late of the Allan Line, who went down with his ship, and of whom we speak more particularly in another column. Her value is stated to have been \$325,000, said to be fully insured in England. Her cargo consisted of 21,100 bushels wheat, shipped by W. Gunn & Co., who state that it is insured by consignees in England; 11,000 bushels wheat shipped by R. Simms & Co., insurance not known; D. Butters & Co., 20,366 bushels wheat, 7,945 bushels peas; Mr. Butters refused to give reporters any information as to insurance; D. Torrance & Co., 3,000 bushels peas and a quantity of lumber, covered by insurance, but companies not known; James McShane, 92 head of cattle, insured for \$14,000 in Royal Canadian, part of which is understood to be re-insured.

The "Vicksburg" left Quebec on Tuesday morning, May the 27th, with a ship's crew of 60 men, all told, and eight saloon passengers—five gentlemen and three ladies—and about 20 in the steerage, of whom four were females. The weather was fine until nine o'clock on Sunday evening, May the 30th, when she fell in with field ice, and was soon surrounded by it. The ship was

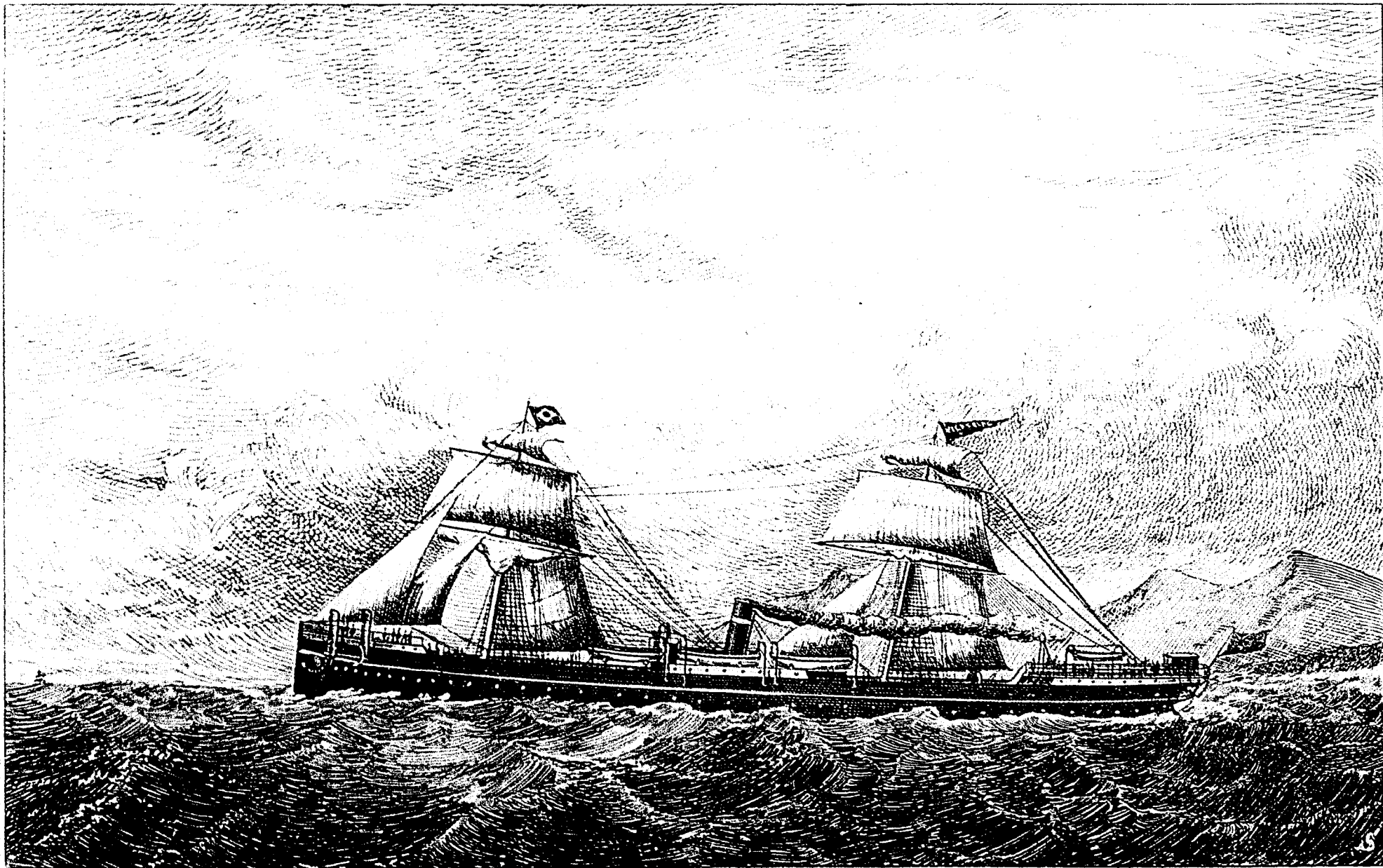


CAPTAIN W. L. BENNETT, COMMANDING THE S.S. VICKSBURG.  
FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY NOTMAN.

stopped till daylight, when she proceeded again, with but little ice in sight. At 9.30 p.m. on Monday, all hands were called to shorten sail, the ship was stopped amongst the heavy ice and headed to south, when she proceeded at full speed to get clear of the ice. At one o'clock, at half speed, she struck ice. On Tuesday morning she began to fill and at 10 a.m., she went down. Three boats were launched, one with thirty, one with ten, and one with five passengers. The latter only have been heard from. These are the latest details up to the present writing.

## THE LATE CAPTAIN BENNETT.

Any notes of our own on the career of the late lamented Captain William L. Bennett, who found a watery grave in the discharge of his duty as commander of the ill-fated steamer "Vicksburg," are forestalled by the following lines from a personal friend which appeared in the columns of our contemporary, the *Sun*, of this city:—Captain Bennett was by birth a Yorkshireman, went into the navy at an early age and rose to be navigating-lieutenant in her Majesty's service. Entering the merchant service, he engaged in the Allan Line and was successively second and first officer under Commodore Dutton, on the "Prussian." When the Dominion Line was starting, he accepted the position of master of the "Quebec," whence he was promoted to the same rank on the "Vicksburg." It was only a few days ago that we bade him farewell on his last voyage, full of life and hope. He was married, last fall, to a daughter of Col. Pope, of Quebec, and the future appeared bright with promise before him. He went down, as we have said, sticking to his ship, following the example of his predecessors on the "Northfleet," and the "Schiller," and others who have made the glory of the British navy. Captain Bennett was a thorough seaman; we once heard him described as "the smartest young officer who ever slept on salt water," and his untimely fate seems only too sadly to verify the prophetic words. The deep is his grave, and we can only pass this tribute to a memory that was worthy of honor and friendship. The last known of him on the morning of the disaster, by the survivors who escaped to tell the tale of shipwreck, was that he was seen, with another person, floating on a bale of hay among the wreckage. The men in the boat tried all they could to pick them up, but owing to the boat being half full of water and the ice about, they were unable to do so.



THE STEAMSHIP VICKSBURG, OF THE DOMINION LINE, LOST AT SEA ON THE 1st JUNE.