

# Sinking of the Steamer Pacific

## An Awful Marine Disaster Recalled

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"God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform. He plants His footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm."—Cowper.

A strong nor-wester's blow, Bill! Hark! don't you hear it roar now. Lord help 'em, little ones, Unhappy folks on shore now!

The unhappy tale that I have undertaken to lay before the readers of the Colonist today revives recollections which were to me a most painful and distressing experience. It is a story of a task however distasteful or painful it may be to him or to those whose recollections may suggest the narration. Sentiment should not be allowed to interfere with the duty of a journalist to call back to life, and old wounds opened, and to tell the story of the loss of the steamer Pacific, which occurred some four or five years ago. I think I can fairly claim that, with the exception of the two men who survived the wreck, there is no person now living

three others, managed to secure a life-raft, and floated away with the tide. The bodies of the poor men were "solitary and the bobbing cry of some strong swimmer in his agony" died away, and they and their companions were found, and so far as they knew, the bodies of the poor men were found. The night was intensely dark and the waves frequently broke over the wreckage which the poor men were before daylight two had been washed away, and when the sun came up the bodies of the poor men were found. Before daylight two had been washed away, and when the sun came up the bodies of the poor men were found. Before daylight two had been washed away, and when the sun came up the bodies of the poor men were found.

On the corner of Government and Fort streets as I passed along a few minutes later with a few passengers standing. She was gazing with glistening eyes towards the cutter that stands there tall forest trees. Above a grove of tall forest trees.

who afterwards married Capt. Tompkinson of the Royal Navy, will be remembered by many Victorians. He was only about three years ago in Los Angeles, and being a most excellent workman and a model wife and mother, his death was greatly mourned by a large circle of friends here and in California. Having said goodbye to Parsons and his family, I reached with difficulty a spot where Miss Emma Palmer, youngest daughter of Professor Digby Palmer, stood. This young lady was a bright and lovely maiden, and she was besieged when I advanced to say farewell. Her fond mother was in the group, and she was a most beautiful girl, whose sweet face was more than usually animated in anticipation of my departure. She was the only one who remained when I arrived at San Francisco.

From Victoria a steamer was despatched to the vicinity of Cape Henry. She returned in a few days with the bodies of three men and a woman. The men were identified. One was a young man named John, who was a member of the Pacific's crew. The other two were identified as the bodies of the two men who were found on the wreck. The woman was identified as the body of the young lady who was found on the wreck.

Then the wires again went down, and no further information could be obtained through that medium. An hour or two later a steamer from Puget Sound came in from Puget Sound. On board of her was Henry P. Kelly, the man who was found on the wreck. He had been in the water for several days, and he was in a very weak condition. He was taken to the hospital, and he died there a few days later.

It was Thursday when the steamer sailed. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday heavy storms prevailed, and the telegraph lines went down. Until Monday afternoon there was no communication. On Tuesday, the steamer returned with the bodies of the two men who were found on the wreck. The bodies were in a very poor condition, and they were buried in the ground.

Home again, home again from a foreign shore. And oh! it fills my heart with joy To greet my friends once more.

The food eyes that watched for his coming to the old home grew dim and dim, and the heart that longed for his return was broken. He was found on the wreck, and he was in a very weak condition. He was taken to the hospital, and he died there a few days later.

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On the morning of the 4th of November, 1870, having business with a gentleman named Cowper, one of the passengers, I was on the wharf before the hour at which the steamer was advertised to sail. I found the wharf crowded with people, and the air was filled with the sound of the whistles of the steamships.

As the vessel swung off the multitude on the wharf gave three rousing cheers to speed the departing friends on their way. The air was filled with the sound of the whistles of the steamships. The air was filled with the sound of the whistles of the steamships. The air was filled with the sound of the whistles of the steamships.

"Dreadful and tumultuous home. Wide opening and loud roaring still for more."

Captain and Mrs. O'S. Parsons and child, with Mrs. Thorne, a sister of Mrs. Parsons, were amongst those to whom the steamer was to take passengers. The captain had sold his interest in Fraser river steamers for a sum exceeding \$200,000 in gold, and he had always been a mystery what became of the money. After the ship had gone down, and it was known that the money was lost, the most diligent inquiries by relatives had failed to disclose the whereabouts of the treasure. The banks could furnish no information, and some ventured the opinion that the gold was in the steamer and was lost with it. It was a mystery what became of the money.

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### More Stories

## WAR TALKS

of the

VOL. XLV.

### Mainland Happenings

Pitt Lake May Be the Great Fields.

George Moody Quit Vegetable Can Work.

Arrivals From the Tell of Flour Condition

From Our Own Correspondent

Vancouver, Nov. 5.—A Milwaukee capitalist, who had been in the city for some time, has been accused of being the author of a series of articles in the Victoria Times, which were published under the name of "Guthrie, the Great," and which were intended to cause a panic in the city.

Today ladies with red their arms stood on the street, and the Chinese ladies, who are so numerous in the city, were seen in the streets. The Chinese ladies, who are so numerous in the city, were seen in the streets. The Chinese ladies, who are so numerous in the city, were seen in the streets.

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### CAPT. JEFFERSON D. HOWELL

ing who is in a position to give as correct a narrative of that awful tragedy and the circumstances that led to it as myself. There has never been a more preventable—that had the greatest precautions been adopted and the most perfect agencies of life observed, the disaster would never have taken place. With this mind introduced I shall plunge at once into the task and drawing aside the veil shall proceed to tell the story of the Pacific, having secured tickets, competition being with all its tragic and heartrending details.

The steamer Pacific was built in New York in 1851. She was less than 300 tons burden, and fifty years ago was considered a "crack" vessel, fitted with all the (then) modern improvements. Today it is safe to say that no vessel of her class would receive a permit to put to sea with passengers. She might be tolerated as a freighter, but it is doubtful if a crew would be found to man her. It was her condition when she was wrecked that I am about to describe. She was a fine vessel, and she was in a very good condition when she was wrecked. She was a fine vessel, and she was in a very good condition when she was wrecked.

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### NEIL HENLEY

Puget Sound in ballast. She was commended by Mr. A. Sawyer, who was in the city at that time, and who was in a very good condition when she was wrecked. She was a fine vessel, and she was in a very good condition when she was wrecked.

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### STEAMSHIP PACIFIC.

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consequence of the disaster will never be known. Such unfortunate usually suffer in silence. I knew of the case when a young and industrious mechanic, whose sweetheart went down in the wreck, was never known to do a day's work afterwards. When the first paroxysm of grief had passed he was accustomed to walk listlessly along the water front and accost the master of every vessel that came in from the

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