

THE UTOPIA DISASTER.

**A Fearful Scene in the Seething Waters
and on the Doomed Ship's
Deck.**

**Men and Women Fighting For Life
Like Demons—Most of the Officers
and Saloon Passengers Saved.**

LONDON, March 18.—One account of the sinking of the Utopia attributes the disaster to the fact that the British war vessel Anson was drifting before a gale, and in so doing rammed the Utopia's shaft tunnel. The Anson then reversed her engines and backed

the ram of the warship was withdrawn, the water rushed through the gap, and the Utopia almost immediately went to the bottom. The officers and seamen of the Rodney and Anson made every possible effort to save the lives of the unfortunate passengers. A steam launch from one of

passengers. A steam launch from one of the men-of-war lost five of her crew, who were swept overboard by the terrible sea. The search lights of the war-ships were put into position as quickly as possible, and the scene revealed was terrible. Tossed about was a writhing mass of humanity, whose shrieks could be heard above the roar of the

A survivor of the disaster declares that the male portion of the Italian emigrants on board behaved like brutes towards the

few of whom were saved. The women, left to themselves, engaged in the fight for life with frenzied desperation, but the men seized them by the throat, choked them into semi-unconsciousness and flung them back that they might gain a place in the crush nearer to the deck. As the Utopia settled into the water her rivings was filled with

tragic Italians, repeating fragments of prayers and imploring succor. But the ship sank so quickly that they could not be reached. No boats were launched from the Utopia, and the suspicion is growing that if she was provided with such they were not in order.

As further reports are received the figures

that the vessel was greatly overcrowded with steerage passengers there is no doubt. Upwards of 700 persons, men women and children, were huddled together as closely as the space to allotted them would permit, and this fact is undeniably the chief cause of the large loss of life. Though other circumstances contributed to the fatalities, in

great degree it is a fact worthy of notice, and which has caused much comment, that the greater part of the officers and crew and nearly all the saloon passengers were saved, while fully two-thirds of the steerage passengers were drowned. The vessel was engulfed so soon after the collision that the wretched emigrants, virtually imprisoned in between decks, had no chance of escape.

the struggles of the wretched beings to reach the deck after the crash is described as being horrible in the extreme. All rushed for the narrow passage way screaming, shouting, cursing and fighting, and many were trampled to death in the mad effort of each to save his or her life.

condition, having recently been overhauled and put in order at an expense of £3,000. Her crew were totally inadequate to her requirements, numbering only fifty, and this fact was doubtless, greatly contributory to the enormous loss of life, for had there been a sufficient number of men on board some of the boats, if the vessel had any, could have been launched, and would have been.

intervening between the collision and the sinking of the ship. Inquiry as to whether the vessel was not short-handed will constitute one of the principal features of the investigation which will follow. At 4 o'clock this afternoon the divers and boats' crew engaged on the wreck of the *Topia*, at Gibraltar had recovered 90

Among the number saved from the sinking vessel were 25 of the Utopia's crew. The officers and crew of the British war ship Anson declare that the Utopia fouled the ram of the Anson, and thus caused the catastrophe. The Anson's officers assert that the blame can be attached to their ship. The Rodney and Anson rendered what aid they could to the survivors who

struggling in the water by the sunken ship, but the fierce gale and blinding rain which prevailed at the time made their attempts to rescue them of little avail.

NEW YORK, March 18.—The agent of the anchor line steamship company, of this city, received, to-day, the following statement about the disaster to their ship *Utonia*:

The list of saved embraced two cabin passengers, two hundred and ninety steerage passengers, and twenty-five of the crew. Fifteen of the crew and four hundred and twenty-five passengers were lost. The ship was not insured. The cargo was valued at \$3,000, and the steamship *Assyria*, the Anchor line, which was at Genoa at the time of the wreck, and

dered to Gibraltar." By this delay the Utopia passengers will not arrive here until after the new law, "That no immigrant without personal effects shall be permitted to land," goes into effect. Col. Jebber said to-day that the survivors of the Utopia would probably be examined in Gibraltar and the destitute and sick and

ST. PATRICK'S DAY.

St. Patrick's Day remained cold and bright and the national saint received such a demonstration as has not been seen here in years. The procession was over a mile long and in line march were most of prominent Irishmen in the city. In morning, religious services were held in St. Patrick's church, and after that worshippers formed into line. In

CHICAGO, March 17.—St. Patrick's day was observed by the usual marching of uniformed societies. The day being pleasant the parade was the largest that has been marched for many years. To-night there will be numerous celebrations, banquets and socials.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., March 17.—St. Patrick's was warm and pleasant, and was celebrated by the Irish and Catholic societies of the city on a larger scale than for many years. This afternoon 5,000 members of the different Irish societies formed in procession and paraded the principal streets. The

ning the Knights of St. Patrick celebrated their silver jubilee by an elaborate banquet at the Lindell Hotel.