

WRECK OF THE AMERICAN STEAMER
CHICAGO.

THE screw steam-ship Chicago, belonging to the line established by Messrs. Guion and Co. between Liverpool and New York, was wrecked by running upon a reef of rocks near the entrance to Cork Harbour, on Sunday week. She had left New York on the 2nd inst., and had made a very good passage. A thick fog coming on when the ship neared the Irish coast, her commander, Captain M'Nay, used great precautions, moving at an extremely low speed and continually sounding the depth. He had passed the Old Head of Kinsale, and thought himself south of Roche's Point, when he was really going into the coast between Roche's Point and Power Head. The lead, when last thrown, at six o'clock in the evening, showed a depth of fifteen fathoms; but, immediately after this, the captain observed the surf, indicating the presence of hidden rocks, and ordered the engines to be reversed at full speed. The order was at once obeyed; but, before it had any effect on the way of the ship, she struck; and again, when the backward motion of the engines did take place, she struck very heavily, shaking every part of her and causing terrible alarm to those on board. The engine-room was quickly filled with water, which forced its way through a large hole made by the rock. The furnaces were extinguished; and Captain M'Nay, finding no chance of getting the ship off the rock, on which she had got firmly fixed, set to work to save the passengers and crew. A life-boat was launched, and into it went four men, under the second officer, Mr. Clifford. The female cabin passengers, to the number of eight, were placed in this boat and landed safely on shore; other boats, with the female steerage passengers, about thirty in number, soon followed; and last came the male passengers, with the firemen and crew. The persons on board numbered about 130, and in about an hour they were all landed, without injury to life or limb. The specie on board, to the amount of £60,000, was also saved. For five or six hours after the vessel struck it blew rather freshly, and she laboured a little; but as the morning dawned the sea became calmer, and the wind changed to a point off the land. The rock on which the Chicago ran, as she was veering round, runs directly south of the mainland. It is a reef of about 30 ft. in width and runs something like 100 ft. into the sea. At low water it is quite dry, but at each side there are fifteen fathoms of water. When she first ran on this reef her stem was directed about north-west, but the ebbing tide, as well as the wind, drove her round till she lay parallel with the shore, distant not more than 200 yards. She afterwards went to pieces. The Chicago was a new ship, having only been launched in the month of October, 1856. She was built by Messrs. Palmer Brothers, of Jarrow, on the Tyne. Her cargo consisted principally of grain and cotton, which, together with the ship herself, were valued at £200,000.

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