

## The Dreadnought

### The Dreadnought

1. There is a flash packet, flash packet of  
fame,  
She hails from New York and  
The Dreadnought's her name.  
She's bound for the West'd where the  
wild waters flow,

**She's a Liverpool packet,  
Oh Lord, let her go!  
Derry down, down, Down derry down.**

2. Now the Dreadnought's awaiting in the  
River Mersey  
For the Old Independence to tow her to sea,  
All around the Rock Light where the  
Mersey do flow.

**She's a Liverpool packet,  
Oh Lord, let her go!  
Derry down, down, Down derry down.**

3. Now the Dreadnought's a-howling down  
the wild Irish Sea,  
Our passengers merry, their hearts  
full of glee;  
Our sailors like lions pace the decks  
to and fro.

**She's a Liverpool packet,  
Oh Lord, let her go!  
Derry down, down, Down derry down.**

4. Now the Dreadnought's a-sailing the  
Atlantic so wide,  
Where them high roaring seas run along her  
black side  
For her sails complete set, for the red cross  
to show.

#### Notes:

**A Capstan** shanty

**Alternative Titles:** The Dreadnought, A Liverpool packet, Bound Away!

**This version:** CD: *No Other Life*, by Hanging Johnny, 2005.

**The Dreadnought** - a clipper built at Newburyport, Massachusetts in 1853. She made extremely fast passages between New York and Liverpool for the **Red Cross Line** and went down while doubling Cape Horn in 1869.

**She's a Liverpool packet,  
Oh Lord, let her go!  
Derry down, down, Down derry down.**

5. Now the Dreadnought's becalmed on the  
Banks o' Newfoundland,  
Where the water's all green and the  
bottom's all sand;  
And the fish of the ocean they swim  
to and fro.

**She's a Liverpool packet,  
Oh Lord, let her go!  
Derry down, down, Down derry down.**

6. Now the Dreadnought's arrived back in  
New York once more,  
We'll go to old Flanagan's, we'll knock on his  
door,  
We'll call for strong liquor, be merry and free

**And we'll drink to the Dreadnought,  
where'er she may be -  
Derry down, down, Down derry down.**

7. Here's a health to the Dreadnought and  
all her brave crew,  
To old Captain Samuels and his officers too.  
You may talk of your Fliers, Swallowtail  
and Blackball,

**The Dreadnought's a bloodboat,  
She outsails them all!  
Derry down, down, Down derry down.**

Compare the lyrics for [A Liverpool Packet](#).

#### Notes on the words

**Liverpool packet** - in this case, Yankee a packet ship trading with Liverpool.

**Let her go** - packet ships were proud of their speed.

**The Rock Light** - Perch Rock Lighthouse since 1683, replaced by the New Brighton Lighthouse in 1827. Off Rock Point at the entrance to the Mersey

**Red Cross to show** - the packet lines were very competitive.

**Fliers, Swallowtail and Blackball** - other packet lines; and competitors of Red Cross!

**Bloodboat** - the crew are worked very hard.