

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 to the westward where the
stormy winds blow,
**Bound away in the Dreadnought,
to the west'd we'll go
Derry down, down, Down derry down.**

2. Now the Dreadnought's she lies in the
River Mersey
Awaiting the tugboat to take her to sea,
All around the Rock Light where the
salt tides do flow.
**Bound away to the westward,
in the Dreadnought we'll go!
Derry down, down, Down derry down.**

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

Notes:

A **Capstan** shanty

Alternative Titles: The Dreadnaught, The Dreadnought, A Liverpool packet.

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



The Dreadnought 1853, from [wikimedia commons](#)

**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 roll along her
black side
For her sails tautly set, the Red Cross
to show.

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

7. Here's a health to the Dreadnought and
all her brave crew,
To bold Captain Samuels, his officers too.
You may talk of flash packets
Swallowtail and Blackball,
**The Dreadnought's a flier
that outsails them all!
Derry down, down, Down derry down.**

Hear Ewan McColl sing this at
https://youtu.be/M_xcCbmPqs

See also this excellent illustrated article about
[Capt Samuel Samuels and the Clipper Ship
The Dreadnought](#) from [AncestryArchives.com](#)

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 - show the flag of the Red Cross Line. Packet lines were very competitive.

Swallowtail and Blackball - other companies that run packet ship - competitors of Red Cross!

Compare these lyrics with [A Liverpool Packet](#).