

## 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](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](#).