

News Item at the time of *The Wreck of the Spindrift 1869* off Dungeness



The Spindrift wrecked off Dungeness 21 November 1869

The loss of the *Spindrift*, represented in the above picture, is remarkable from the circumstance that the vessel was wrecked within twenty-four hours after leaving the East India Docks, upon a well-known sand-bank on the English coast.

There were only two passengers on board, and no lives were lost; but the *Spindrift* was a famous clipper in the China tea trade, and had on board, when she left the Thames on the 21st ult., a general cargo valued at 200,000l. Whether the wreck was the result of mismanagement and neglect of those in charge, a Trinity House pilot, or whether the catastrophe was unavoidable, is a question which is now the subject of judicial inquiry, under the direction of the Board of Trade.

It would be improper, therefore, to offer any opinion on the points here ; but, waiting the decision of the Court of Inquiry, it may be observed that the word “unaccountable,” so frequently used in such cases, often covers the term “culpable.” To the inexperienced landsman it is, at least, surprising that so fine a vessel, with a cargo so valuable, should be run on so dangerous and well-known a shoal as Dungeness Point.

The *Spindrift* was the property of Mr. James Findlay, of Greenock, and the cargo had been consigned by Messrs. Robertson and Co. of London, to Messrs. Adamson and Son of Shanghai. A considerable part of the cargo has been recovered.