NEW ORLEANS TO LONDON VIA NEW YORK

THIRD NEW ORLEANS & NEW YORK LINE John Laidlaw

Packet Ship Auburn, New Orleans to New York

GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIP CO.

S.S. Great Western, New York to Bristol, Encland
Forwarding Agent
Joseph W. Alsop & Co, N.Y.



NEW ORLEANS TO LONDON VIA NEW YORK
THIRD NEW ORLEANS & NEW YORK LINE, John Laidlaw
Packet Ship Auburn, New Orleans to New York
GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIP COMPANY
S.S. Great Western, New York to Bristol, England
Forwarding Agent
Joseph W. Alsop & Co., N.Y.



PAID



April 16, 1841. Letter datelined at New Orleans to James Morrison, Member of Parliament, concerning the ratings of various municipal bonds. The letter is addressed care of Joseph W. Alsop Jr., New York. Paid at the Act of 1825 zone rate, single letter over 400 miles at 25¢.

N.Y. Shipping & Commercial List. Sailed from New Orleans April 17, 1841, Ship Auburn, Durfey for New York. This 451 ton ship was in the Third Line from 1838, Captain Nathaniel P. Durfey.



N.Y. Shipping & Commercial List. Arrived N.Y., May 1, Ship Auburn, Durfey, from New Orleans.

The forwarding agent, Joseph W. Alsop & Co., deleted his name and struck the large oval forwarder's mark (not listed by Rowe). Letter was then endorsed: "Great Western" and handed directly to the steamer, which sailed from New York on May 1 for Bristol.

BRISTOL SHIP LETTER



4E84 MY15 1841 May 14. <u>Great Western</u> arrived at Bristol where this letter received the two line BRISTOL/SHIP LETTER handstamp.

May 15. London arrival backstamp and Chief Office postmark at 4 Evening. Letter subject to 8d. collect, the standard Ship Letter rate after 1840.

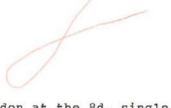
S.S. Great Western

18th Outbound Voyage









April 7, 1841. A Ship Letter paid at London at the 8d. single letter rate in effect from 1840. It was struck with both the General Post "tombstone" as well as the paid Ship Letter unframed oval. Letter is endorsed: pr Steam Ship Great Western.

April 8. The letter was forwarded to Bristol, where the $\underline{\text{Great}}$ $\underline{\text{Western}}$ departed from that port on April 8 on her 18th westbound passage to New York.



April 24. <u>Great Western</u> arrived at New York where the letter was rated at 6¢ for a single Ship Letter addressed to the port of entry. The 6¢ is shown in manuscript.

S.S. Great Western

18th Return Voyage



May 1, 1841. A letter posted at New York, endorsed: Per steamer Great Western, N.Y. Mai 1/41. It is addressed to Nancy, France. The S.S. Great Western departed from New York on May 1, 1841, on her 18th homeward passage.

BRUSTOL SHIP LETTER







May 14. <u>Great Western</u> arrived at Bristol and this letter was forwarded to London where it was processed May 15, backstamp. London marked it with the 8d. (16ϕ) Ship Letter rate in effect since 1840. The "8" was deleted by the Foreign Office and the rate to France was added, totalling 1sh.6d. (1/6 in manuscript.)





May 17. French entry mark showing mail from England (Angleterre) entering France at Calais. Same date transit backstamp at Paris

May 18. Nancy arrival backstamp. 30 decimes due (1 dec. = 1d. sterling) equivalent to 1sh.6d.

S.S. Great Western

19th Outbound Voyage









May 26, 1841. A Ship Letter paid at London at the 8d. Ship Letter rate in effect from 1840. The letter received both the paid "tombstone" of London as well as the paid Ship Letter unframed oval of London. Letter is suitably endorsed: pr Steam Ship Gt. Western.

May 27. Letter was forwarded to Bristol where the $\underline{\text{S.S.}}$ $\underline{\text{Great}}$ $\underline{\text{Western}}$ departed for New York on May 27 on her 19th westbound passage.



June 10. <u>Great Western</u> arrived at New York. This letter was there subject to the U.S. rate of 6¢ for a single Ship Letter addressed to the port of entry.

S.S. Great Western

25th Outbound Voyage

July 10, 1841. Letter dated at London. It was endorsed on the face: pr Steamer G. Western.









July 12, 1841. This letter was posted at London at the Charing Cross office, shown by the Maltese Cross mark of that office, "C+". Rate was at the 8d. Ship Letter rate in effect since 1840.

July 16. The $\underline{\text{S.S.}}$ $\underline{\text{Great}}$ $\underline{\text{Western}}$ departed from Bristol this date for New York on her 25th outbound passage.



July 29. Great Western arrived at New York. This letter was rated as a Ship Letter, Act of 1825, zone rate of $12\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ for a letter conveyed 80 to 150 miles plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = $14\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ due, shown in manuscript.

U.S. TO CALCUTTA VIA ENGLAND AND OVERLAND MAIL
GREAT WESTERN STEAMSHIP CO., S.S. Great Western, N.Y. to Bristol
P. & O. LINE. S.S. Oriental, Southampton to Alexandria
HONORABLE EAST INDIA CO., S.S. Victoria, Suez to Bombay
FORWARDING AGENT
Harnden & Co., Boston

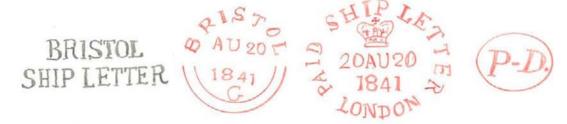


U.S. TO CALCUTTA VIA ENGLAND AND OVERLAND MAIL



August 6, 1841. Letter datelined at Boston and handed to the office of Harnden & Co., No. 8 Court St., Boston. The sender there paid a \$1.00 fee as noted in manuscript. It went by courier to the New York office of Harnden who arranged to have it handed directly to the purser of the $\underline{S.S.}$ \underline{Great} $\underline{Western}$ and paid the freight money to the steamship line.

August 7. S.S. Great Western departed from N.Y. for Bristol.



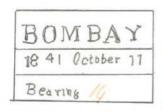
London <u>Times</u>, Sat., Aug. 21. ARRIVAL OF THE GREAT WESTERN. King-Road, Fri. Morn. The Great Western, Capt. Hosken, R.N., arrived this morning, after a splendid passage of 12 days and 2 hours from the quay of New York to Lundy Island, and 12 days $10\frac{1}{2}$ hours to King-Road.

Letter was marked at Bristol as a Ship Letter.

London <u>Times</u>. STEAM TO INDIA via Alexandria, calling at Malta from Southampton, the 1st of every month - The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's steam-frigates, under contract with Her Majesty's Government for the conveyance of mails and despatches for Malta, Greece, the Ionian Islands, Egypt and India will start as follows, viz:- ORIENTAL, J. Soy, Commander, 1672 tons, of 450 horse power, from Southampton, Wednesday Sept. 1, at 6 a.m.

Sept. 1. S.S. Oriental departed from Southampton, arrived Alexandria Sept. 15. Mails went overland across Egypt, arrived Suez Sept. 17.

Sept. 25. S.S. Victoria of the Honorable East India Co. 1eft Suez.



Bombay <u>Times</u>. Arrived Bombay Oct. 11 - H.C. steamer <u>Victoria</u>, lieut. G.B. Kempthorne, commanding, from Suez 25th Sept., and Aden 2d. instant.



Oct. 11. Letter charged bearing (due postage) of 14 annas.

Oct. 25. Arrival backstamp at Calcutta.

1841

THE GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIP COMPANY 1838 - 1846

S.S. Great Western

AN NO. (2) SETP (3) (3) 24 (4) (2) (4)

Sept. 24, 1841. Letter paid at Wilmington, Del. to New York at the Act of 1825 zone rate, 80 to 150 miles, 12½¢. It is endorsed: p Great Western via Bristol. Prepayment only included to the port of debarkation at New York. i.e., U.S. Inland postage.

Sept. 25.
Letter went directly into the letter bag of the

Great Western, which sailed from New York this date.

HALLS TALL

BRISTOL SHIP LETTER October 8. Great Western arrived at Bristol where the Ship Letter mark was struck both on the face and the reverse of the letter.

 $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ o \in 9 \\ A \end{pmatrix}$

October 9. Arrival backstamp at Liverpool. The letter was assessed at the 8d. (manuscript) rate, the British Ship Letter rate after 1840.

S.S. Great Western

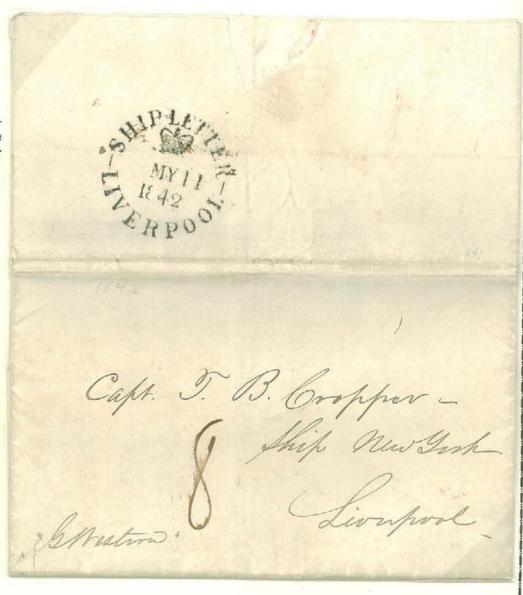
First use of Liverpool as a port

Since its inception in 1838 the <u>Great Western</u> had used Bristol as her home port in spite of the fact that her large size compelled her to moor at Kingroad, where she loaded and unloaded her cargo to and from lighters. The Bristol Dock Co. also insisted on levying heavy dues. In 1842 it was decided to sail her alternately from Bristol and Liverpool. This letter was carried into Liverpool on the <u>Great Western</u>'s first use of that port. The advantages of Liverpool soon became clear and the use of Bristol was discontinued in 1843, I her sailing from Bristol on February 11, 1843, being the last transatlantic passenger sailing from that port until 1871.

April 28, 1842. Letter headed at New York and endorsed: "Gt. Western". This vessel sailed from New York on even date on her 23rd return voyage.

May 11, Great
Western arrived
at Liverpool on
her first call
at that port,
backstamp.

Letter was rated at 8d. due, the single Ship Letter rate in effect since January 10, 1840.



S.S. Great Western

24 th Outbound Voyage







May 21, 1842. A Ship Letter posted at Liverpool and endorsed: p Gt. Western/ via New York. It was paid at the standard British Ship Letter rate of 8d., in effect since 1840, the rate paid shown by the "8" handstamp. The $\underline{\text{S.S.}}$ $\underline{\text{Great}}$ Western departed from Liverpool on this date on her 24th outbound passage.



June 4. <u>Great Western</u> arrived at New York, letter processed as a Ship Letter on June 5. Rate was Act of 1825 for a single letter 80 to 150 miles at $12\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter fee = $14\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ due, shown in manuscript.

S.S. Great Western

24th Outbound Voyage







May 21, 1842. A Ship Letter posted at Liverpool and endorsed: p Gt. Western Steamer. It was paid at the standard British Ship Letter rate of 8d., in effect since 1840, the rate paid shown by the "8" handstamp. The $\underline{\text{S.S.}}$ Great Western departed from Liverpool on this date on her 24th outbound passage.



June 4. <u>Great Western</u> arrived at New York, letter processed as a Ship Letter on June 5. Rate was Act of 1825 for a single letter 150 to 400 miles at 18-3/4¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter fee = 20-3/4¢ due, shown in manuscript.

P.&O. Line: S.S. Braganza, Cadiz to Falmouth, England Great Western S.S. Co.: S.S. Great Western, Bristol to N.Y.



July 1, 1842. Letter posted unpaid at the British Consular office at Cadiz, Spain, addressed care of the forwarding agents Messrs. Ward Brothers, London. The Peninsular Line's <u>S.S.</u>

<u>Braganza</u> picked up the mails at Cadiz this date.

1 14JY11 1842 July 9. Braganza arrived at Falmouth, London arrival backstamp July 11.

London <u>Times</u>, July 11. FALMOUTH July 9. The Braganza steamer arrived this morning with the Malta and Peninsular mails, having left Gibraltar on the 30th ult., Cadiz the 1st, Lisbon the 4th, Oporto the 5th and Vigo the 6th inst.







July 15. Ward Brothers paid the 2sh.2d. Peninsular rate, deleted the rate and their own address and paid the standard Ship Letter fee (after 1840). The letter then went back into the mails as a Paid Ship Letter at the old Lombard Street (L.S.) Post Office, London.

July 16. S.S. Great Western departed from Bristol for New York.

July 30. Great Western arrived at New York. Letter subject to the 6¢ Ship Letter rate for a letter addressed to the port of entry, shown by the partial "6" at right.

11 CL + 977

THE GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIP COMPANY S. S. Great Western

New Line, N.Y. to Liverpool

March 9, 1843. This letter was datelined at Montreal and headed: per Steamer Great Western to sail from New York 16th March.

Packet Ship Hottinguer

It was sent under cover to a forwarding agent, R.A. Maitland, at New York. He was unable to forward the letter by Great Western as a storm delayed the train from Montreal, as explained in a postscript, "New York 18th March 1843

Dear Sir. Owing to a heavy fall of snow, the annexed letter only reached me late last evening too late to forward it pr. Gr. Western which sailed on the 16th Inst. I beg to confirm its contents & remain Dear Sirs, Yours Respectfully, p. Hottinguer @ Lpool R.A. Maitland."

N.Y. Journal of Commerce, Sat., March 18, 1843. Marine Intelligence. Cleared Ship Hottinguer, Bosley, Liverpool, Woodhull & Minturn.

The N.Y. Shipping List describes the fear of danger to the Great Western. Disasters, Gales, etc. On Thursday evening and during the night, we had a very violent gale, attended with the most violent snow storm we have had this winter, and which did considerable damage to the shipping.

The Great Western left the dock at 3 o'clock on Thursday afternoon and as the gale did not commence with all of its violence until after seven, it is to be hoped that she attained a sufficient offing to place her in a state of comparative security. (N.B.: She touched the ground going out of N.Y. and had to go to drydock at Liverpool.)

(n) () 4 OP On Pounters

April 8. Hottinguer arrived at Liverpool, Ship Letter backstamp.

April 10. London arrival backstamp. The 8d. standard single Ship Letter rate shown by the handstamped "8".

N.B.: Great Western had arrived at Liverpool on Aprill.

TAS COA. TIS

S.S. Great Western

27th Outbound Passage

Penultimate outbound sailing from Bristol

Because of harbor charges at Bristol, the <u>Great Western</u> had been alternating sailing from and returning to Liverpool and Bristol. This 27th outbound passage makes the next to last departure from Bristol. Her next out voyage of February 11, 1843, was the last made from Bristol. She returned to Liverpool on April 1, 1843, and all future voyages were from and to Liverpool.



PLETY OC 21 TO 42 OC STATE RYOUTH

October 18, 1842. Letter datelined at "Culworth" and endorsed: p Great Western from Bristol.

October 21. Letter was put into the mails at Liverpool and paid at the standard Ship Letter rate of 8d. in effect since 1840, shown as "8" in the red handstamp. Letter went overland to

Bristol to meet the sailing of the $\underline{\text{Great}}$ $\underline{\text{Western}}$ from that port on October 22.



November 5. <u>Great Western</u> arrived at New York. Letter rated, Act of 1825, over 400 miles at 25¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 27¢ due, New York to New Orleans, rate shown in manuscript.

S.S. Great Western

29th Outbound Passage







June 16, 1843. A letter dated at London and paid at the old Lombard Street (L.S.) post office, London. Payment was at the standard 8d. Ship Letter rate in effect since 1840, payment shown by the red manuscript "8". The letter is endorsed: p private Ship/"Great Western" Steamer. It went by rail to Liverpool to meet the sailing of that vessel.

June 17. S.S. Great Western departed from Liverpool on her 29th outbound passage.

July 1. <u>Great Western</u> arrived at New York. Letter subject to the U.S. 6¢ rate for a single Ship Letter addressed to the port of entry.

1843

THE GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIP COMPANY 1838-1846

S.S. Great Western



June 16, 1843.
Backstamp receiving mark at New-castle-under-Lyme. Letter directionally endorsed "By the Great Western Steamship/from Liverpool June 17, 1843.

Rated as a single sheet Ship Letter at 1/- shown in red manuscript, paid in cash.



the Great Western Eteamship hum Liverpool Inne Imagle Sheer

June 17. Transit Ship Letter mark at Liverpool, from which port Great Western departed as scheduled on June 17, Capt. Hosken. In 1843 she used L'pool exclusively (since Feb. 11, 1843), previously alternating with Bristol.



July 1. Arrival of <u>Great Western</u> at New York. Letter was rated, Act of March 3, 1825, for a letter going 80 to 150 miles, N.Y. to Philadelphia, at $12\frac{1}{2}\phi + 2\phi$ Ship Letter charge = $14\frac{1}{2}\phi$ due.

S.S. Great Western

31st Outbound Passage

July 1, 1843. Docketed Liverpool. A rendering of accounts current from 30th January to 30th June 1843 of W.H. and H. Gilliat. These accounts were ready early in August so the letter was endorsed: pr. <u>Hibernia Steamer</u>, The <u>R.M.S. Hibernia</u> of the Cunard Line had departed from Liverpool August 4, so this letter missed her sailing. It was re-endorsed: p. Great Western Steamer.



August 5. Letter handled at Liverpool as a Ship Letter and 8d., the standard Ship Letter rate from 1840 was paid, shown by the red handstamp "8". The <u>S.S. Great Western</u> sailed from Liverpool for New York on this date, her 31st outbound passage.



August 21. <u>Great Western</u> arrived at New York. This letter was rated, Act of 1825, letter conveyed 150 to 400 miles at $18\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ x 2 (double letter) = 37¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 39¢ due, shown in blue manuscript.

TAT and ag

THE GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIP COMPANY S. S. Great Western 31st Outbound Passage

August 3, 1843. A prices current letter from Rathbone Bros. & Co., Liverpool quoting prices for cotton, grain, tobacco and money. It also includes a duplicate letter of August 4, original per <u>Hibernia</u>. The Cunard Line's <u>R.M.S.</u> <u>Hibernia</u> departed from Liverpool on August 4 for Boston via Halifax with the original.

August 5. A further note datelined at Liverpool. Letter is endorsed: p. Great Western. The $\underline{S.S.}$ \underline{Great} $\underline{Western}$ sailed from Liverpool on even date for New York on her 31st outbound passage. It was paid at the 8d. British Ship Letter rate in effect from 1840.





August 21. <u>Great Western</u> arrived at New York. This letter was rated, Act of 1825, as a single letter conveyed 150 to 400 miles, New York to Providence, at the zone rate of 18-3/4¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 20-3/4¢ due.



S.S. Great Western Freight Money

32 nd Return Voyage

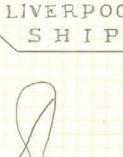


October 18, 1843. Letter posted at Wilmington, Delaware and the 25¢ Freight Money was collected and "25" noted at upper right (smudged). This money was sent on to the steamship company.

In addition, the Act of March 3, 1825 rate of 12½¢ for a letter going 80 to 150 miles, Wilmington to New York, was paid as noted in manuscript over the "25".

October 19. Steamer Great Western departed from New York for Liverpool.

I NO 43 LIVERPOOL SHIP





November 1. Great Western arrived at Liverpool. 8d., standard Ship Letter charge after 1840, was due, shown by the stylized "8" handstamp.

N.B.: Wilmington has not previously been found as processing Freight Money mail. This is the recording cover.

Cf: Chronicle, Aug. 1987, No. 135, Pg. 208.

S.S. Great Western

34 th Outbound Passage

August 16, 1844. Friday. Captain W.B. Hinckley writes to his owners from Liverpool advising that he has arrived safely and is now in a berth ready for discharge. He also advises he cannot get a freight for Boston, so will proceed to New Orleans. He will further advise by the next Boston steamer which "sails on Tuesday next." (August 20, 1844. R.M.S. Hibernian of the Cunard Line departed this date from Liverpool for Boston, arriving at Boston September 1.)





August 17. Letter handled at Liverpool as a Ship Letter and 8d., the standard Ship Letter rate from 1840 was paid, shown by the red manuscript "8". S.S. Great Western sailed from Liverpool for New York on this date.



August 31. <u>Great Western</u> arrived at New York, letter processed September 1. Letter rated, Act of 1825, 150 to 400 miles at 18-3/4¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 20-3/4¢ due.

It is interesting to note that the Cunarder Hibernia from Liverpool August 20 arrived at Boston on September 1. No doubt Appleton & Co. received the Hibernia letter before that of this Great Western letter which didn't reach New York until the same date, September 1.

S.S. Great Western

34 th Outbound Voyage

The S.S. Great Western made her last 1843 homeward voyage, leaving N.Y. October 19. She was advertised to sail from Liverpool on April 27, 1844, but she didn't sail until June 22 on her 33rd outbound voyage following a further advertisement in the New York Shipping & Commercial List, "The Steamship GREAT WESTERN returns to the Liverpool and New-York station under command of Captain Matthews, who has been her Chief officer since she was launched."

August 17, 1844. This letter, a consignee's letter, went aboard with 2 cases of merchandise shipped aboard the <u>Great Western</u>. She sailed on this date on her 34th outbound passage.



SEP 1

September 1. Great Western arrived at New York. Letter was originally rated as a single letter, Act of March 1825, 80 to 150 miles at 12½¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 14½¢. The error was noted and the 14½ was smudged out and the correct double rate of 12½¢ x 2 = 25¢ plus 2¢ Ship Letter = 27¢ was charged.

TRANSATLANTIC SHIPPING LINES

THE GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIP COMPANY 1838 - 1846

S.S. Great Western

1,340 ton steamer, maiden voyage 8th April 1838 from Bristol to New York. Home port changed to Liverpool in 1843. Sold to Royal Mail Steam Packet Company in 1847. This company had one other ship, the 3450 ton Great Britain.

MR 29 1 1845 0 ERPO

March 29,1845.
Letter posted at
L'pool as a Ship
Letter, paid 1
shilling, 4 pence
(red mms. at L.L.)
This line was not
a government packet, thus mail she
carried was treated as Ship Letters.





April 16, 1845. Received incoming at New York as a Ship Letter and charged the prevailing inland rate plus the 2¢ Ship Letter charge.

Rates by Act of Mar. 3, 1825, were 18-3/4¢ single 150-400 miles. Double letter, $18-3/4 \times 2 = 37\frac{1}{2} + 2¢ = 39\frac{1}{2}¢$ due as shown in mms.

S. S. Great Western

The Great Western Steam Ship
Company was supposed to be an extension of the Great Western Railway from London to Bristol (main
line) to New York through the medium of a steamship service. This
apocryphal route was said to have
been suggested by Isambard Kingdom
Brunel, the RR's chief engineer.
Brunel designed the first ship, the



1838 GREAT WESTERN 1,340 tons First steamer built specially for the North Atlantic.

Great Western, and the wooden paddle steamer was launched at William Patterson's shippard, Wapping, Bristol on July 19, 1837, before a crowd of 50,000. On her way for home port after trial runs a boiler became ignited off Gravesend and Brunel himself fell into the hold after stepping on a charred ladder while going below to survey the minor damage. He suffered only minor injuries.



March 25, 1845.
Letter posted paid at Havre "per Steamer 29th March via Liverpool". Manuscript "15" (decimes) on reverse states amount of postage required to get letter from Havre to England.





27 MR 27

March 27. Transit at London. Letter was passed as a paid ship letter. The Great Western, Capt. Matthews, sailed from Liverpool on March 29.

April 16, 1845. Records show the <u>Great Western</u> arrived this date at New York. Manuscript "6" shows U.S. Ship Letter rate of 6¢ due for single letter addressed to port of arrival.

S. S. Great Western

The line avoided the more hazardous winter sailings, usually making the last return to Britain in November. In 1844 the return from New York was November 9. The first spring outbound voyage left Liverpool March 29, 1845. This letter was carried on the second spring trip, which left Liverpool May 17, 1845.



MY 17 1 ERPORES

5 Mo. 15th 1845. Letter Quaker dated at Liverpool by Abraham Bell's son. It would appear this letter was rated as a quadruple Ship Letter at 8d. x 4 = 32d. or 2sh.8d. shown as paid in red, 2.8.

Endorsed: p Great Western, which sailed May 15, 1845 for New York.

June 1. Great Western arrived at New York. Letter rated $6\mathfrak{e}$ for a Ship Letter addressed to the port of arrival.

1845

THE GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIP COMPANY

S.S. Great Western

Harnden & Co., Forwarders

Liverpool

May 17, 1845. Letter, datelined at Liverpool, is advices by Harnden & Co.'s agent Henry Barnes to Thomas Prosper of New York that they are shipping him a case by the Great Western and enclose a bill of lading. This is a consignee's letter.

A fine impression of the Harnden & Co.'s Liverpool cachet was struck on the face of the cover.

May 17. Great Western departed from Liverpool for New York.

LARNDEN & CO hot Proper LARNDEN & CO hewyork bonsignes of I base adareped,

June 1, 1845. Great Western arrived at New York. Per usual New York post office practices, only the rate of 6¢ for a Ship Letter addressed to the port of entry was marked in pen on the letter face.

S. S. Great Western

U.S. to France via Britain, Pre-treaty Letter COLONIES &c. ART 12 marking

Britain and France exchanged mail under the provisions of Article LII of the Anglo-French Treaty of 3 April 1845; France paid Britain 3sh.4d. (40 decimes) per ounce of letters handled.

Letters from the U.S. forwarded to France were stamped in the British Post Office with the notation COLONIES/&c. ART 12, referring to the accounting article number from 31 March until the end of January 1846, after which it became ARTICLE 13.



June 11, 1845. Shipping & Commercial List (prices current) dated at New York and handed directly to the Great Western.

June 12. S.S. Great WEstern departed from New York for Liverpool.

27JU1854 LIVERPOOL SHIP





June 27. Great Western arrived at Liverpool. Year date error in SHIP backstamp, transposed numerals.

June 30. French entry mark at Boulogne-sur-Mer and arrival backstamp at Nantes on July 1.

Letter was noted as weighing 40 grams ("40" at upper left.) It was rated at 40 decimes for British Transit and 40 decimes French Internal (40 grams and 450 kilometers inside France.) Total was 80 decimes, expressed as 8 francs per the large manuscript note.

1845

THE GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIP COMPANY

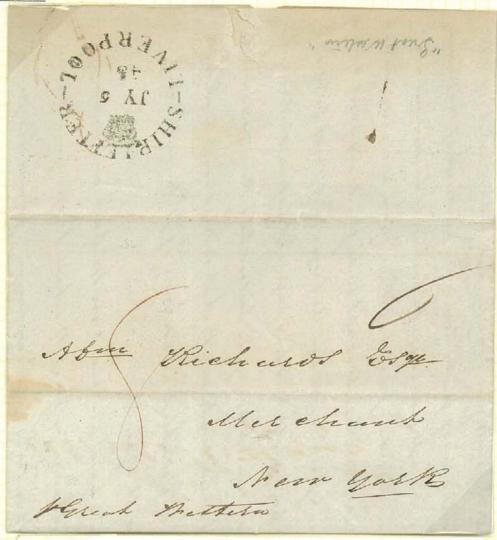
S.S. Great Western

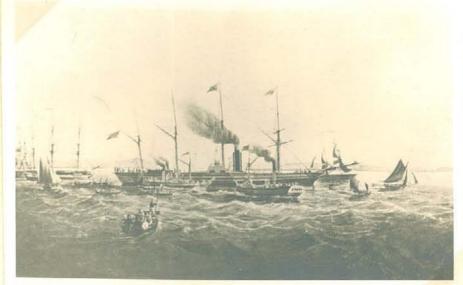
July 4, 1845. Letter datelined at Liverpool.



July 5. Sailing date of the
Great Western
from Liverpool
for New York. A
fine strike of
the LIVERPOOL
SHIP LETTER
handstamp. 8
pence (red "8")
prepaid the British Ship Letter
charge.

July 21. Great
Western arrived
at New York under
command of Capt.
Matthews. Six
cents (black "6")
due from the recipient, the charge
for a single Ship
Letter addressed
to the port of
entry.





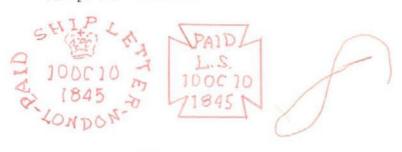
THE GREAT WESTERN

S. S. Great Western

41st Outbound Voyage



October 10, 1845. A letter at London from Baring Brothers & Co. to George Skolfield of Brunswick, Maine informing him that Messrs. Wambursie & Co. of Rotterdam have remitted £600 to his account by order of Capt. A. Skolfield of the ship "Dublin." Letter is endorsed: p. Gt. Western.



Letter was paid at London at the 8d. Ship Letter rate in effect since 1840. It was forwarded to L'pool by rail.

October 11. S.S.

Great Western sailed from Liverpool on her 41st Westbound passage.



October 28. <u>Great Western</u> arrived at New York. Letter rated, Act of 1845, $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. letter over 300 miles at 10¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 12¢ due.

S.S. Great Western

41st Outbound Passage



Paris, Aug. 8th 1845 (sic). Letter datelined in error (October 8 is correct), and the writer questions whether it will arrive at Liverpool by the 11th to meet the sailing of the Great Western. He endorsed it: per Gt. Western from Liverpool. He paid 15 decimes (mms. notation on reverse), postage paid Paris to Britain. French receiving mark is not legible except for the date, 8 OCT 45. Letter is sealed with a nice little embossed paper showing TOMBEAU DE LOUIS XVI.





October 10. Letter was received at London as an incoming Paid Ship Letter. It was forwarded on to Liverpool where it made the October 11 sailing of the Great Western.



October 18. New York arrival
Ship mark agrees with the arrival of
Great Western. Letter charged Act of
1845 rate of 5¢ for a letter going
not over 300 miles + 2¢ Ship Letter
charge = 7¢ due.

S. S. Great Western

41st Outbound Voyage





October 10, 1845. A letter posted at Lees, a suboffice of Manchester, England, where it was endorsed: Steamer Great Western/ Oct. 11, 1845. The sender paid the 1840 Ship Letter rate of 8d. per manuscript notation in red pen at lower left.

October 11. Transit backstamp at Liverpool as a Ship Letter. The S.S. Great Western sailed this date from Liverpool on her 41st out bound passage to New York.



October 28. Great Western arrived at New York. Letter rated at 6¢ for a single Ship Letter addressed to the port of arrival.

S.S. Great Western

42 and Outbound Passage



April 10, 1846. Letter datelined at Liverpool and headed "Great Western", also so endorsed on the letter face.





April 11. Letter posted paid at Liverpool at the 8d. Ship Letter rate in effect since 1840. The handstamped red "8" is seen beneath the Liverpool mark. A further manuscript "8" in pen is seen to the left, probably an office note by Maclean Ward & Co., the letter writers. S.S. Great Western sailed from Liverpool on her 42nd outbound passage.

April 28. Great Western arrived at New York. Letter was rated, Act of 1845, single letter conveyed inland not over 300 miles, New York to Boston, at 5¢ + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due.

1838-1846

S.S. Great Western

43rd Outbound Voyage

May 23, 1846. An invoice from Wm. Jessop & Sons, steel manufacturers of Sheffield, England. The letterhead features engraved views of their smoke belching manufactories of the Brightside Works and the Park Works. They are shipping grindstones to N.Y. on board the ship Madras.







May 29, 1846. Letter endorsed: pr. Gt. Western via L'pool May 30/46. It was paid at Sheffield at 8d., the standard Ship Letter rate in effect since January 10, 1840.

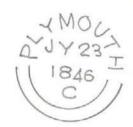
May 30. Transit SHIP LETTER backstamp at Liverpool. S.S. Great Western sailed from that port on her 43rd outbound passage.

> June 15. <u>Great Western</u> arrived at New York. 6¢ due for a Ship Letter addressed to the port of arrival.

S.S. Great Western

44th Outbound Voyage











July 23, 1846. This letter was dated and posted at Plymouth, England. It was originally erroneously rated at one shilling (1/-) which rate in red manuscript was deleted. The correct Ship Letter rate of 8d. single was paid, and the letter endorsed: p private Steamer/Great Western from Liverpool.

July 24. Letter went transit via London where the circular "PAID" mark was struck as well as the oval red "PAID SHIP LETTER/LONDON".

July 25. The $\underline{\text{S.S.}}$ Great Western departed from Liverpool on her 44th outbound passage. She made only two more round passages after this one before being laid up at Bristol.

August 10. Great Western arrived at New York. Docket notes received 8/10. Letter rated 6¢ for a Ship Letter addressed to the port of entry.

S.S. Great Western

44th Outbound Passage





JY 25 I LERPO

July 24, 1846. A letter posted at Sheffield, England and endorsed: pr. Grt. Western via Liverpool July 25/46. It was paid at 8d., the standard Ship Letter charge since 1840. This amount is shown by the manuscript "8".

July 25. Liverpool Ship Letter backstamp. The S.S. Great Western sailed from Liverpool for New York. She was to make only two more round voyages after this one for the Great Western Steam Ship Co. After December 1846, she was laid up in Bristol and on April 24, 1847, she was sold to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.

August 10. <u>Great Western</u> arrived at New York. Letter subject to the 6¢ Ship Letter rate for a letter addressed to the port of arrival, shown by the manuscript "6".

THE GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIP COMPANY [838-1846]

S.S. Great Western

44th Outbound Passage



July 24, 1846. Letter dated at "Green-field" and headed: per Great Western. It is also endorsed on the face: per steamer Great Western/from Liverpool. The letter content notes, "I addressed you on the 18th Inst. per Hiberia." (Cunard).

July 24. Letter was posted at the Upper Mill receiving office at Manchester, transit the same day at the Manchester main office. It is noted "prepaid" and "p 8" at the British Ship Letter rate in effect since 1840.

AP-LETAND STATE OF A 6 07 CERPO

July 25. Liverpool Ship Letter backstamp. The S.S. Great Western sailed from Liverpool for New York. She made only two more round voyages for the Great Western Steam Ship Co. On April 24, 1847, she was sold to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.

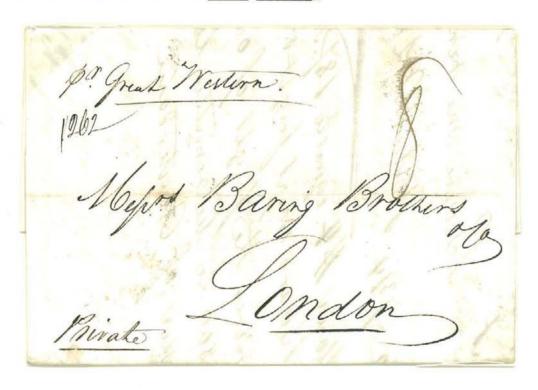
August 10. Docket notes receipt at New York, which agrees with the recorded arrival date of the <u>Great Western</u>. Letter rated 6¢ for a Ship Letter addressed to the port of arrival, charge shown in manuscript.

THE GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIP COMPANY 1838-1846

S. S. Great Western

44th Return Passage

August 18, 1846. Letter dated at Baltimore and is endorsed: pr. $\underline{\text{Great}}$ $\underline{\text{Western}}$. It went under cover to a forwarding agent in New York for direct handing to the purser of the $\underline{\text{Great}}$ $\underline{\text{Western}}$.



August 20. S.S. Great Western departed from New York on her 44th return voyage to Liberpool. She arrived at the latter port on September 3. Letter was there marked with the Liverpool backstamp"SHIP-LETTER."

SHIP-LET TER



September 4. London arrival backstamp. Letter subject to the standard 8d. charge for a single Ship Letter, e fective January 10, 1840.



THE GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIP COMPANY 1838-1846

S.S. Great Western

Penultimate voyage of the Great Western, L'pool to N.Y.

MARX SEPT B PD

> SE 10 0 1846

Sept. 9, 1846.
L. Ludin's PriceCurrent was posted at Havre by
the forwarding
agents J.B.
Greene & Co. who
paid 12 decimes
(manuscript note
on reverse), which
carried the letter
through Britain.
Letter arrived
Sept. 10 at
Southampton.

The state of the s

(846) \$ 1846

REIGN

Sept. 10-11. Transit at London letter accepted as a paid ship letter and marked with scarce are FOREIGN PAID. Forwarded to Liverpool where Great Western departed Sept. 12 on her next to the last westbound voyage, Liverpool to N.Y.

Sept. 30. Great Western, B.R. Mathews, arrived New York. Docket notes received Oct. 1.

Rated Act of 1845, 5¢ under 300 miles, N.Y. to Boston + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 7¢ due.

N.Y. Shipping List: Br. Steam ship Great

Western, Mathews, at this port from Liverpool,
20th and 21st ult. encountered a severe storm, commencing at S.W.
and veering gradually to N.N.E. with a terrific sea, which washed
away 2 quarter boats, larboard paddle box, blew her sails to pieces
and did sundry other damage to the ship.

THE GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIP COMPANY
1838 - 1846

S.S. Great Western

Penultimate voyage of the Great Western, Liverpool to N.Y.







September 11, 1846. Cotton prices current dated at Liverpool and endorsed: pr Great Western. This folded letter contained enclosures which necessitated four rates. The single Ship Letter rate was 8d., so 8d. x 4=32d.=2sh.8d., shown as 2/8 in red manuscript. This amount was paid outgoing at Liverpool.

September 12. S.S. Great Western departed on her next to last Westbound voyage, Liverpool to New York.. Liverpool SHIP LETTER backstamp.

September 30. Great Western arrived at New York, where the letter was rated at 6¢ due for a Ship Letter addressed to the port of arrival.

It is interesting to note that at New York on incoming Ship Letters addressed to that port only the single rate of 6¢ was charged regardless of the weight

of the letter or the number of sheets. Here a quadruple letter in Britain was only charged single in New York. This letter is a dramatic example of that good deal.

THE GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIP COMPANY 1838-1846

S.S. Great Western

Last voyage of the Great Western, Liverpool to N.Y.

The Great Western came off the ways in July 1837, and first sailed to New York on her maiden voyage from Bristol on April 8, 1838. In all she made 45 round voyages. This letter was carried on her last outbound voyage. She returned, leaving N.Y. November 26, arrived at Liverpool Dec. 12, 1846. She was laid up at Bristol, sold to the Pacific Mail SS Co. in April 1847, and was an 1855 Crimean War transport. In Oct. 1856, she was sold and scrapped at Vauxhall, London.







October 30, 1846.
Letter endorsed "per Great Western" was paid at 8d, the single Ship Letter rate at London.
The small red Maltese cross is the scarce type, with the B = Borough of the Borough Office

(common receiving office was at L.S. = Lombard Street). Manuscript note on reverse, "Swan Street/Dover Road/ Borough".

Nov. 1. Great Western departed this date for New York from Liverpool on her last voyage on this run.

Nov. 16. Recorded arrival date at New York.

Docket notes: Received 17 Novbr. Letter rated at the single letter charge of 6¢ for a letter addressed to the port of arrival, shown as "6" in manuscript.

THE GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIP COMPANY 1838-1846

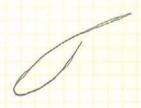
S.S. Great Western

Last Voyage of the Great Western, Liverpool to N.Y.



Oct. 31, 1846.
Letter posted at
Liverpool: p Great
Western, and paid
at the standard 8d.
Ship Letter charge.
Letter notes favorable shipment of
apples (Newton
pippins) by the Gt.
Western Great
Western sailed on
Oct. 31 on her last
voyage to New York.





November 16. (Docket notes arrival at Abr. Bell & Son 11/16).

Arrival of Great Western at New York. Letter subject to 6¢ charge for a single Ship Letter addressed to the port of arrival.

No. 1 King Street, Liverpool Oct. 29, 1846.

Messrs A. Bell & Son.

Gentlemen: The apples with accompanying Documents arrived p Gt. Western. The amt of Freight on Bill of Lading at first rather alarmed me, but the result of the sale proved your judgement correct in sending them per steamer at this time- they sold very well, the A's for 35/6, the B's 32/ thus leaving a handsome profit....In addition to your consign. of 100 Bls there were upwards of 500 Barrels to other persons - but they came in such bad condition that they were sold at from 12/ to 15/ p Bbl of course at a loss...

1854

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY PERNAMBUCO TO ITALY VIA SOUTHAMPTON

R.M.S.P. Great Western

4th Return Voyage from the Brazils

The S.S. Great Western made her last trip for the Great Western Steamship Co. when she departed from New York November 26, 1846, arriving at Liverpool December 12. She was laid up at Bristol until sold to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. on April 24, 1847. She was initially used on the West India route.

She made her first sailing to the Brazils and the River Plate, departing Southampton October 10, 1853. The letter below was carried on her 4th return voyage. In all, she made 9 round voyages to the River Plate. In 1855 she was a Crimean War transport. In October 1856 she was sold and scrapped at Vauxhall, London.





ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY PERNAMBUCO TO ITALY VIA SOUTHAMPTON R.M.S.P. Great Western 4th Return Voyage from the Brazils

May 23, 1854. This is a duplicate letter. The original was dated at Pernambuco March 23 and noted: pr. <u>Severn</u>. The <u>R.M.S.P. Severn</u> departed Buenos Ayres March 4 and touched at Pernambuco, Brazil March 26, arrived Southampton April 16.

This letter is backstamped at the British Consular office at Pernambuco May 23, and is endorsed: p. Great Western. The <u>Great Western</u> departed from Buenos Ayres May 2 and touched at Pernambuco May 23, as endorsed and backstamped.









June 15. London Times. By the Brazils. The Royal Mail Steamship Great Western, Capt. T.A. Bemis, we have received dates from Buenos Ayres, May 2; Montevedio, May 3; Rio de Janeiro, May 16; Bahia, May 20; Pernambuco, May 23; St. Vincent, Cape Verd, June 1; Teneriffe, June 6; Maderia, June 7; Lisbon, June 10.

The Great Western brought 137 passengers and landed 90 at Lisbon. The freight list comprises specie value 18,6901.; diamonds, value 4701.; 300 bags cochineal; 40 serons of ipecacuanha; 50 barrels of tapioco; 376 half chests oranges; 197 boxes potatoes; and sundry general merchandise.

The screw steamship Australian arrived at St. Vincent's a few hours before the Great Western left, from the Cape of Good hope and Australia.

June 14. London arrival backstamp. The London Foreign Office marked the letter with the Franco-British tray or accountancy mark which charged France with 3sh.4d. per 30 grams on a bulk basis for for mail from overseas handled by British Packets, those letters noted under Article 13 of the letter bill.

June 15. French entry mark, ambulant (railway) showing mail entering France from England at Calais. A 2 decime charge was made for ddelivery beyond France above the normal charge of 15 decimes, making 17 decimes due.

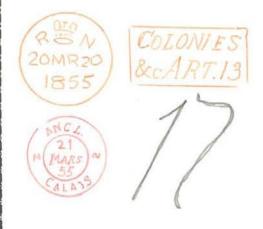
June 18. Arrival backstamp at Genoa.

ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY BAHIA TO ITALY VIA SOUTHAMPTON

R.M.S.P. Great Western 7th Return Voyage from the Brazils



February 15, 1855. Letter docket at Bahia, Brazil and endorsed: St. Great Western. The R.M.S.P. Great Western departed from Buenos Ayres on Feb. 2, left Montevideo the 5th and Rio de Janeiro Feb. 14. She touched at Bahia Feb. 15, where this letter went aboard. This was her 7th return voyage from LaPlata and the Brazils out of 9 round voyages for the Royal Mail Line.



March 19. Great Western arrived at Southampton, London transit backstamp March 20. The London Foreign Office marked the letter with the Franco-British tray or accountancy mark which charged France 3sh.4d. per 30 grams on a bulk basis for mail from overseas handled by British Packets, those letters noted under Article 13 of the letter bill.

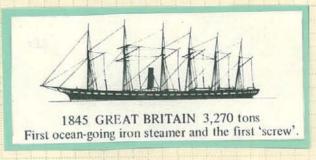
March 21. French entry mark showing mail entering France from England at Calais. A 2 decime charge was made for delivery beyond France above the normal charge of 15 dec., making 17 decimes due.

March 24. Arrival backstamp at Genoa.

TRANSATLANTIC SHIPPING LINES THE GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIP COMPANY 1838 - 1846

SS Great Britain

3,270 tons, 289 ft. x 50 ft. beam, 2 pairs of geared diagonal engines, each 2 cylinders 88 in. diameter, 6 foot stroke, driving a six-bladed propeller 15½ ft. in diameter. Accomodated 360 first class passengers.



Built in drydock; floated July 19, 1843, Maiden Voyage July 26, 1845, Liverpool-NY, arrived Aug. 10, 1845.

This letter was carried on her 2nd outbound (westward) voyage.



THE GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIP COMPANY (British) 1838 - 1846

SS Great Britain

Forwarding Agents: Slade, Lemaitre &Cº Havre

Forwarded by yours respectfully Have & Co



PD

September 23, 1845. Letter datelined at Havre and posted paid to England through the LeHavre forwarding agents Slade, Lemaitre & Co. who impressed their stamp on the back. It was directed to England aboard the ship Oceanus as noted on the reverse. On the opposite flap (not visible here) is shown "19", indicating French-British postage of 19 decimes had been paid. The French customarily showed foreign paid amounts on the reverse. The Bureau Maritime at Havre handled letter marked "PD" or Payee au Destination (Liverpool).









Sept. 25, 1845. Letter cleared port of entry into England at Southampton and accepted at London as a "Paid Ship Letter" (S.51). Marked at London with the "PAID" tombstone transit mark and at the Foreign Office with the scarce arc FOREIGN PAID (A&H 702).

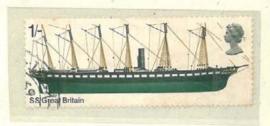
Letter sent on to Liverpool for the Sept. 27 second voyage of the <u>SS Great Britain</u>. She was 18 days outwards and 20 days homeward, mostly on sail alone, as all but one blade of the six-bladed propeller being lost or damaged in the early stages.



October 15, 1845. Great Britain arrived at New York. Letter rated Act of 1845 (effective July 1) at 10¢ over 300 miles, New York to Virginia + 2¢ Ship Letter charge = 12¢ due as shown in stamp.

THE GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIP COMPANY S. S. Great Britain

The <u>Great Britain</u> was built in 1843 by William Patterson, Bristol. 3270 tons, 189' x 50', clipper bow, iron, screw with a 6 bladed propeller. Laid down as <u>Mammoth</u>. She was built in drydock and floated July 19, 1843. July 26, 1845, maiden voyage Liverpool to New York. She had problems with the hugh, $15\frac{1}{2}$ ', propeller by the blades breaking or being damaged. To correct these problems she was fitted with a 4-blade prop, bilge keels and masts reduced from six to five. She made her 3rd and 4th voyages to New York satisfactorily, but on her 5th outbound attempt she ran aground just outside of Liverpool and returned where her mails were forwarded by sailing ship. On her next attempt she ran hard aground on Dundrum Bay near Belfast on September 22, 1845. She was not floated until August 27, 1847, nearly two years later.













After her grounding <u>Great Britain</u> was sold to the company's agents, Gibbs, Bright & Co. who refurbished the ship, now with only 2 funnels and 4 masts, also re-engined. She made one more round trip to New York (May 1852), and one last voyage to that port in 1858. She thereafter sailed to Australia, making 32 voyages.

She was later reduced to sail and ended up as a coal and wool hulk in the Falkland Islands, she was beached at Sparrow Cove in 1937. In 1970 she was carried by barge back to Bristol to be established as a museum.

*This stamp is a variety, missing the black coloring on the Queen's profile. THE GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIP COMPANY

S. S. Great Britain 2nd Outbourd Passage







September 26, 1845. A Ship Letter paid at London at the 8d. Ship Letter rate in effect since 1840. It is endorsed: p Great Britain. This was the 2nd outbound passage of Great Britain. In all, she made only 4 round voyages to New York for the Great Western Steam Ship Co. On her 5th attempt she ran aground just outside Liverpool and returned. On her 6th attempt on September 22, 1845, she ran hard aground near Belfast and could not be refloated until almost 2 years later on August 27, 1847.

September 27. <u>Great Britain</u> departed from Liverpool for New York.

October 15. Great Britain arrived at New York. The recipient's docket also notes: Rec'd Oct. 15. Letter subject to the 6¢ Ship Letter rate for a single letter addressed to the port of arrival.

THE GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIP COMPANY

S.S. Great Britain 3rd Return Voyage

June 8, 1846. Letter dated at New York and endorsed: pr. Great Britain. The <u>S.S. Great Britain</u> departed from New York this same day for Liverpool. This letter was handed directly to the ship.



22JU1846 LIVERPOOL SHIP



June 22. Great Britain arrived at Liverpool. Liverpool SHIP transit backstamp.

June 23. London arrival backstamp. Letter rated at 8d. for a single Ship Letter, e fective: rom January 10, 1840.

THE GREAT WESTERN STEAM SHIP COMPANY

S.S. Great Britain

Aground after leaving Liverpool

Red Star Line

Packet Ship Waterloo

August 22, 1846. A letter dated at Londonderry, Ireland, and endorsed: pr. "Gr. Britain". It was paid at Derry at the 8d. Ship Letter rate in effect since 1840.

August 23. Derry transit backstamp. The red "PAID AT DERRY" mark was struck twice on the



The S. Co. de but so ferred which

August 24. Transit mark at Dublin, passed as PAID.

August 26. Liverpool SHIP LETTER transit backs tomp.

The S.S. Great Britain of the Great Western Steam Ship
Co. departed from Liverpool on this date for New York,
but soon ran aground and returned. Her mails were transferred to the Red Star Line sailing packet ship Waterloo,
which departed from Liverpool on August 26 for New York.

The <u>Great Britain</u> made another attempt for N.Y. on September 22, but a few hours after leaving Liverpool ran hard aground on a sandy beach in Dundrum Bay near Belfast, and was not floated until August 27, 1847.

September 19. <u>Waterloo</u> ran into a gale at lat. 42.30, lon. 60 from N.E. to N.N.E. which broke all three topgallent masts, together with the head of topmasts, had nearly all her sails blown from the yards, and was obliged to cut away much of the rigging to save the remaining spars. (N.Y. Shipping and Commercial List; Disasters, &c.)

Shipping and Commercial List, N.Y. Arrived at New York September 26, Ship Waterloo, Allen...Liverpool.

Arrival notice agrees with the docket in the letter (9/26). Letter subject to the 6¢ Ship Letter rate for a letter addressed to the port of arrival.