



CUNARD LINER "CAMPANIA." THE FASTEST BRITISH MERCHANT STEAMER.

to this day, but, alas! the "Thermopylæ," the pride of the fleet, has fallen on evil times, having been sold to Norwegians, and now, with her spars cut down and all her glory of spotless sail and good paint departed, is doing duty as a timber tramp.

Another vessel of the same line captured the record from London to Sydney, this being the "Patriarch," which entered Port Jackson, only sixty-five days out from Home. One had only to glance at those two ships to see where they got their excessive speed from, for they possessed exceptionally beautiful lines, and when loaded up ready for sea, had all the smart appearance of yachts.

Very little inferior to these two were the "Sophocles" and "Cutty Sark." The latter, a small composite ship, made a remarkable number of quick passages, and it is doubtful if the average of her runs was not better than any other.

It is recorded of the "Patriarch" that on one occasion, when coming up the Australian coast, she was passed off Jervis Bay by the P. and O. "Britannia." Soon afterwards a "southerly buster" sprung up, yet, although

the mail steamer was doing over fourteen knots, with the gale behind her, the old Aberdeen clipper showed such a rare turn off speed that she was off the Macquarie Light twenty minutes before her big antagonist—a piece of sailing which goes to prove what these old "wind-jammers" could really do when pressed.

It is somewhat doubtful as to which ship the honour of holding the record to New Zealand belongs. It is, however, claimed, and probably with justice, for the Liverpool barque, "Sam Mendel," which on one occasion reached Port Chalmers in the splendid time of sixty-three days, a trip which has not since been beaten.

Some good performances have been registered by sailing vessels across the Atlantic. In 1866 one of the sensations of the year was the yacht race from Sandy Hook to Cowes between the three schooners, "Henrietta," "Fleetwing," and "Vesta." They sailed from New York in December, and met a constant succession of gales all the way out, the "Fleetwing" losing some of her crew overboard. Curiously enough, they all arrived at Cowes on the same day,