

*Greenock Advertiser*

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We mentioned about a fortnight ago that six boats, belonging to Tyree, had been overtaken at sea by a severe gale, and that great anxiety was felt regarding their crews. The boats have since been accounted for, and though the loss of life is far less than was feared, still nine men have perished. Thirty-nine men left Tyree in the six boats, two of which were mere skiffs, and the other four, undecked vessels. When the gale came on, the two former were sent adrift, and their crews were distributed among three of the larger vessels. The four boats attempted to put back to the island, but the force of the gale rendered all their efforts fruitless. The perilous position of the men was seen by their wives and relatives on the shore, and the cries and prayers of the poor women were most distressing. By and by the sails of the four vessels were split to ribbons, and the men were seen to take to the oars, but evidently to little purpose. The boats continued to be observed occasionally amid the high waves and the thick small rain till the night fell. In the morning nothing of them was to be seen, and for several days all in the island were in an agony of uncertainty and distress. At the earliest opportunity messengers set off in all directions to make inquiries regarding the men, and it has been ascertained that three of the vessels, on board of which there were thirty-three men, had been able to reach Islay, but three out of their number had been lost; one who was steering, and one who was working at the sail, were washed right out of the vessel and drowned, and another man had died of cold and exposure. The fate of the fourth boat was very distressing. She came ashore at the island of Coll, and was found with the dead body of one man on board. The five, his equally unfortunate companions, had all been washed out of her. The survivors were thankfully welcomed back by their friends to Tyree; where great sympathy is felt for those less fortunate persons who have lost their relatives and bread winners. One poor widow has to deplore the death of her two sons, her only supporters. The undecked vessels of these fishermen are quite unfit to struggle with the stormy waves of the Atlantic.

*Transcription by Billy Clelland.*