

Glasgow Herald, Monday 26 August 1850:
Melancholy Shipwreck on the Isle of Coll.
Fearful Loss of Life

[An attentive correspondent, writing from Tobermory, under date August 21, has transmitted the following sad news. His communication unfortunately did not arrive in time for our last publication.]

“The Western Highlands was visited on Sunday and Monday last, with a complete hurricane – the wind blowing N W and W N W. Indeed it raged during these two days with a fury unequalled in severity for the last twelvemonths. Early on Monday morning a large bark was seen to the westward of Coll in apparent distress. She was running before the wind with scarcely a stitch of sail set, and being unable to get clear of the island, she struck on a rock called Ellenore; near the farm of Breacheaha, and went to pieces almost immediately. This took place at 6am yesterday (Monday).

The crew got the boats overboard; and eight or ten got into the largest which was swamped shortly after leaving the ship’s side, and the whole crew, who had thus bravely attempted to rescue themselves, were drowned.

Those who stuck to the ship fared the same fate, and not a soul was saved. The log-book and some other papers, and a large portion of the cargo have been washed ashore on the island, and from these it is learnt that the ill-fated ship was the Mandane, Hutchison, commander and had only cleared out from Greenock for the West Indies four days before the catastrophe. The ship is completely broken up. A number of people saw the vessel strike, but the surf being so high they could render no assistance.”

(Details of ship, cargo and crew [from Glasgow].)

... Coll, it will be remembered, was the island to which Dr Johnson and Boswell were steered by the young laird of that ilk, when overtaken in their frail wherry by a fearful storm. Boswell tells that had not young Coll happily hit the proper harbour, the great lexicographer and all on board would undoubtedly have been dashed to pieces on the rocks.

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[transcription by Jean Little]