

ALEXANDER MACDONALD.

THE drowning catastrophe of the 8th July, 1856, was a lamentable and memorable event in the community of Tiree. On the morning of that fatal day seven fishing boats left Balephuill. There was Bata Dhomh'uill Bhain, on board of which was Domh'ull Ban Macdonald, his son James, Hugh MacArthur (Eoghan Og), John MacArthur, Malcolm MacArthur (Moss), and John Campbell. Alasdair Mor Macdonald was also on board.

There was Bata Fhearchair. Crew: Farquhar Macdonald, James Brown, Archibald Brown, Archibald Maclean (am Port), John Macphail, and Archibald Maclean (an Ciobair). There was Donald Campbell's boat in which were Clann Dhomh'uill Ghriasaiche. These latterly emigrated to Canada. There was Bata 'Mharsanta in which was am Marsant himself with his three sons. There was also Donald Maclean's boat (Domh'ull Cheann-na-Creige). Crew: Donald Maclean, Alexander Macdonald, Colin Macdonald, Neil and Hugh Kennedy (an Rudha), John Mackinnon, Sliabh. This boat's crew were all lost. The boat itself came ashore in Coll with Donald Maclean's body in it. He evidently died of exposure. The sixth boat, and the last of which we have record, was Malcolm Macdonald's. Its crew consisted of Macdonald himself and his sons, Archibald and Hector. They were picked up by Fearchair's boat. Of the crew of the first boat, Malcolm MacArthur and John Campbell were washed overboard and drowned. In the second boat, Archibald Maclean (an Ciobair) died from exposure. This boat was driven to Islay where

the rest of the crew, including those of Malcolm Macdonald's boat, landed safely. Bata Dhomh'uill Bhain also made Islay, having lost, as already mentioned, two men. She was also stripped of two oars, mast, and sail.

These notes were preserved in a book of Hugh Kennedy's (Eoghan Og).

It is regrettable that only a fragment of the poem, composed by Alasdair Mor Macdonald on the occasion, is procurable.

THE TIREE ASSOCIATION 1932

EDITED BY REV VICTOR

CAMERON

NA BARD TRISDEACH / THE TIREE BARD