

*Caledonian Mercury*

05 March 1842

Skerryvore Lighthouse.-By the last post from the Skerryvore Lighthouse works, it appears that the repeated gales during the last three or four weeks have been productive of unhappy consequences. On the 13th ultimo, a vessel's head board, with the name Margaret painted on it, came ashore on the N.W. side of Tyree. From its size and appearance it is considered to be part of a schooner. Again, on the 18th ult, the bodies of two seamen came ashore at the same place. They appear to have been but a short time in the water. One was dressed in a blue jacket and trousers, and the other had no jacket; but both bodies had small shawls wrapped around their necks. The keels of two boats also came ashore at the same place. It farther appears that various pieces of wreck have been stranded around the shores of Tyree; and two corpses, recognised as part of the crew of a smack from Barra, which had visited Tyree with oil, were found. Both the bodies were much mutilated, and one of them wanted the head. It is also reported that a skiff has come ashore on the west coast of Coll, with a sail standing, and a number of fishing lines on board, but no crew. The report from the works describes the sea as tremendous, but at Hynish, in Tyree, where it went over the temporary pier light, and also at the rock, where the fog and the surf has hid the tower and the wooden barrack from view for six days. This circumstance has occasioned some anxiety, as part of the wooden timbers of the tramway for the stone waggons, and also a part of the gallery of the barrack, which is thirty-five feet above the highest tides, have come ashore on Tyree. The barrack was seen for a few seconds on the 14th ult. so that it is hoped no material damage has been sustained ; but the fate of the former barrack, which disappeared during a gale from the S.W. on the night of the 3rd November 1838, still leaves room for painful uncertainty. So continued have been the gales of this winter, that there has not been a day in January, except the 27th, on which there was the least prospect of being able to land on the rock-and on that day the continuance of favourable weather was too short to afford the means of making a passage with daylight from Tyree to the rock and back again. No fears, however, are entertained for the safety of the tower of masonry, which is now sixty feet above high water.

*Transcription by Billy Clelland.*