

THE LOSS OF THE LOCH LONG

The Banff Seamen

The sad news of the foundering of the Glasgow sailing ship Loch Long, in the South Pacific Ocean has awakened the keenest sympathy in Banff. The master, Captain Strachan; his brother, Mr A. C. Strachan, first mate; and the carpenter, Mr John Geddie, were all well known seamen associated with seafaring families resident in Banff for many years. Captain Strachan's father was a shipmaster at the port in the palmy days of shipping, the Hero, the Alexander Murray, and latterly the three-masted schooner Charlotte all coming under his charge. He sailed for some time in the China seas, and also in the Brazil trade with a Dundee ship. It was while in the South American trade that his son, James, captain of the unfortunate Loch Long, went to Falmouth to take him home ill, and he died in Banff some ten years ago. Captain Strachan served his apprenticeship in the Norseman, of Banff, and from that vessel went to the Loch Line, of Glasgow, where he steadily rose through the various grades of seamanship till he became the skilled and experienced master of one of the firm's best vessels. His wife, a sister of Mr Geddie, the carpenter, and two children reside in Victoria Place, Banff. The chief mate, Mr A. C. Strachan, who was unmarried, served an apprenticeship as a rope and sailmaker in the works of ex-Provost Munro. He afterwards went to sea, and had, with the remarkable energy and ability of his family, risen to the status, if not the position, of captain, and held a master's certificate. Mr John Geddie, who, as already stated, is a brother-in-law of the skipper, was eldest son of the late Mr William Geddie, shipbuilder, whose Banff-built schooners were in their day famed in many seas. His wife and six of a family, three of whom are grown up, reside at Braeheads, Banff, and to these the heartfelt sympathy of the whole community is extended.