

# 14. TRIAL OF EDWARD AND MARGARET JORDAN.

E. Jordan and Patrick Sinet, a sick man, Passengers. We arrived at Gaspé about the latter end of July, and took in part of a Cargo on Freight, consisting of Two hundred Quintals of dried Cod Fish from Theophilus Fox, about three hundred from William Driscoll, and about ninety or an hundred from Jordan, which last were for Messrs. Tremblais. With that cargo I sailed from Percé, about the 10th of September last, bound to Halifax. The crew and passengers on board were, myself, John Kelly the Mate, Thomas Heath, and Benjamin Matthews, seamen; Edward Jordan, Margaret Jordan his wife, and their four children, (three girls and one boy) passengers. On the 13th of September, the schooner being between Cape Canso and White Head, and the wind coming off the land, all the crew, except Kelly, who was at the helm, went forward to trim the sails. Between eleven and twelve o'clock, I went below for my quadrant to take the sun; I was standing in the cabin turning over the leaves of a book, and Thomas Heath beside, and rather behind me, when, happening to cast my eyes up to the skylight, I saw a pistol in the hands of Jordan. At the sight of the pistol I started back, and Jordan instantly discharged it. He was stooping, and, I think, he aimed it at me. I was almost blinded by the powder, but the ball only grazed my nose, taking some of the skin with it, and struck Heath in the breast. Heath fell on his knees, crying out, "Oh, my God! I am killed." I put my hand to my face and wiped away blood, but cannot say whether it came from Heath or myself. Heath then scrambled on deck, and, as soon as I came to myself, I ran to my trunk for my pistols, but it was broken open, and the pistols gone. I then searched for a cutlass, but could not find one. At last I determined to go on deck, and, as I was going, I met Jordan coming down—he had one foot on the ladder, a pistol in his left hand, and an axe in his right.—I seized hold of him by the arms, and said, "For God's sake save my life."—I shoved him backwards, upon which he snapped the pistol, which I instantly seized by the muzzle, wrestled it from him, and threw it overboard; at the same time I was calling out to Kelly, for God's sake to come to my assistance, but he gave me no answer.—B. Matthews came running aft, apparently wounded, and fell down. By this time I had taken the axe from Jordan, and was trying to hit him with it, but he held me so fast that I was unable to do so; I, however, threw the axe overboard.—While I was calling Kelly to my assistance, Margaret Jordan struck me several times with a boat-hook handle, saying, "Is it Kelly you want, I'll give you Kelly." Before I came out of the cabin, I heard distinctly the reports of three or four pistols, and when I got on deck I saw Heath lying dead, and bleeding very much.—After getting myself clear from Jordan, I ran forward in search of a handspike, or some other weapon of defence; he went aft and got an axe, with which he returned, and, passing by Matthews, struck him three or four strokes on the back of the head.—Finding there was no chance of my life, if I remained on board, I threw the hatch into the sea and, jumping after it, swam to it, and got upon it. While I was struggling with Jordan, Kelly appeared to me to be in the attitude of loading a pistol.—I remained on the hatch in the water, about three hours and a half, and was at last picked up, almost senseless, by an American Fishing Schooner.—After I came to my senses I went upon deck, and, with a spyglass, could perceive

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