

The Loss of the "Jessie."

ON Christmas Day seventy-nine years ago a ship called the Jessie set sail from Prince Edward Island, the ultimate fate of which became a matter of great importance and concern to the inhabitants of Charlottetown. The melancholy circumstance is recalled by a clipping from the Prince Edward Island Register, sent to us for publication. As the story of the loss of the Jessie may interest many we preface the clipping by an extract from McGregor's History of Prince Edward Island, which also deals with the unfortunate affair:

"There is scarcely a more melancholy catastrophe than that of the ship Jessie which occurred in 1823. This vessel with Mr. Donald McKay, the owner and some other passengers, and the master and crew, seventy-six in number, left the harbor of Three Rivers (Georgetown), in Prince Edward Island; and as the ship was observed off the coast of Cape Breton, near Cheticamp, during a snowstorm on the 27th of December, it is probable she struck in the night on St. Paul's Island. In the month of May following (no account having before been received of the vessel) it was reported that some fishermen had discovered the wreck of a ship, and a number of bodies on St. Paul's Island. On this report a schooner was despatched thence from Charlottetown, the people on board of which found the wreck of the Jessie and the bodies of eleven men, who must have perished by the intense cold soon after landing; the remainder of the crew, it is likely, were either washed overboard by the surf, or lost in attempting to get up the cliff. The bodies of McKay and the master were carried to Charlottetown; nothing could be more melancholy than their funerals,