

THE WRECK OF THE BRIG LILY

“Wreck of the Brig ‘Lily,’” *Isle of Man Examiner*, 22 January 1926, 10b. Written by Thomas Shimmin (“Tom the Dipper”). The Brig Lily disaster occurred on 28 December 1852.

1 You tender parents and neighbours dear,
 Now pay attention and you shall hear,
 An awful story I here relate,
 And sure to bear a lasting date.

2 A brig, the Lily, of Liverpool,
 With general cargo, as we are told
 With thirteen sailors put to sea
 Bound for the coast of Africa.

3 And as she passed the Calf, we hear,
 The storm did beat, they could not steer,
 She was driven where we understand,
 Upon a rock near Kitterland.

4 The cargo was insured, we hear.
 And thirty men employed there were,
 The cargo and the ship to save,
 Five sailors met with a watery grave.

5 Full thirty natives, with courage bold,
 Off Port St Mary, as we are told,
 Stood on the deck that awful day,
 And in a moment were called away.

6 And by some carelessness, we hear,
 Some fire got to the powder there,
 The ship was rent, in pieces torn,
 High in the elements were thrown.

7 And some were found that fatal day,
 Some on land, some in the sea,
 And some they did not find at all,
 Of thirty souls who perished at all.

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8 And two policemen from Castletown,
 Among the rest they, too, were drowned,
 Two widows left, and children dear,
 Bereaved of their kind father's care.

9 And worst of all it is to hear,
 Twenty-two widows bereaved there,
 And children, full seventy-two,
 All fatherless you may them view.

10 There never were such cries before
 Upon the land of Mona's shore,
 The Lord in pity hear their cries,
 And send His blessings from the skies.

11 And you that are with riches blest,
 Have pity on the fatherless,
 For God has promised to repay,
 And bless you in your dying day.

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