



### Melancholy Accidents - Three Lives Lost in the Bay

On Monday, the citizens were thrown into a sad state of excitement by the announcement that during the morning two accidents had happened, and that in each there had been lives lost. At first the story was hardly believed, but it proved too true; and St Andrew's Day will for a long time to come be remembered with sorrow by many. The day opened so beautiful and

bright that it created a wish for pleasure, even among those who had not before thought of it, and there was an almost entire cessation from business. But when the news of the death of three young men by drowning was told and realised, there was no heart for enjoyment. The following are the particulars of the accident.

At about half-past seven o'clock in the morning two young men, **Mr John Taylor** and Mr William McIntosh, went out for a row in a boat which they hired. She was leaky, and when they neared Pelichet Bay jetty they found she was filling fast. They exerted every effort to reach the jetty, but there being a very heavy sea on they could not reach the place of safety. They were also unable to bale out the boat, and as she filled she sank, and then turned over. For some time both the unfortunate young men clung to the boat, but Mr Taylor – who was a good swimmer, struck out for shore, and was drowned before assistance could be rendered. Dr Burns and a Mr Wood were on the jetty at the time, and they rescued Mr McIntosh, who wisely continued to cling to the boat. Mr McIntosh is in the employment of Mr Johnston, George Street, and Mr Taylor is a brother-in-law of Mr Clapperton, Princess Street, being engaged as assistant to Mr Brown, draper, Princess Street. His body has not yet been recovered.

At about half-past ten o'clock a party of six young men started from the jetty on a pleasure excursion to Portobello. Their names were Mr Corrigan, of the Bank of Otago, Messrs Cottrell and Buisson, of the Bank of New Zealand, Mr R J Macdonnell, of the Customs, Mr **Joseph Kempthorne**, of the Bank of New South Wales, and a Mr **Pidwell**. They were in Mr Kempthorne's boat, the *Stranger*, and Mr Pidwell was coxswain, the rest pulling. It was blowing a gale from the SW, and this, with the tide running up, caused a very heavy sea. The boat proceeded safely to Black Jack's Point; but there she shipped water. Mr Pidwell thought that she was too heavy forward, and went right aft himself, fastening the tiller line to his foot. He had hardly done so, when a heavy sea came over the starboard side, and then another struck her, and she immediately sunk, and on rising to the surface, she turned bottom upwards. Mr Macdonnell upon all to stick to the boat, and all did so but Mr Pidwell and Mr Kempthorne. They struck out for the shore, each having an oar. Those who remained on the boat saw the two swimmers for, as they thought, about 15 minutes, and then one of the oars was observed to go suddenly up, and the swimmers were lost from sight. In the meantime, the four on the boat were in extreme danger. The boat turned over and over with them, the heavy seas washed over them and caused them to lose their hold, and it was with the utmost difficulty that they managed to regain it when lost. They were fast becoming exhausted when they were observed by Mr Winton, a resident on this side of the Bay. He summoned some fishermen to the aid of the men struggling in the water, and they, with the help of some men engaged in cutting a road, launched a big boat and proceeded to the rescue. They arrived in time, and all four were saved. In taking them ashore the crew kept a good lookout, but nothing could be seen of Mr Pidwell or Mr Kempthorne. The rescued men were taken to Mr Winton's house, and there they received every attention and kindness. Refreshments and clothes were provided for them. While they were changing their clothes, and oar, with something clinging to it was observed, and the boat again launched, the body of Mr Pidwell was recovered. Every attempt was made to restore life, but without avail. Mr Pidwell was a native of Cornwall, was about 27 years of age, and had been about seven months in the colony. He was very much esteemed, as also was Mr Kempthorne, whose body has not yet been found. Some search was made for it, and for the body of Mr Taylor, who was lost in the former accident, but their being such a heavy sea on, the search was only partial and proved unsuccessful. This morning it will be renewed, when drags are to be used.

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