## LOSS OF THE FAIRY QUEEN.

Brief abstract of the Proceedings of the Public Meeting at the Court House in Charlottetown on Wednesday the 19th inst. in pursuance of a requisition numerously signed and presented to John Binns, Esq. High Sheriff of the Court of Queen's County.

The Sheriff read the Requisition and the notice signed by him in compliance therewith. He then laid before the meeting, and read, a copy of a letter which he had felt it his duty to address to His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, on the subject of the Commissioners report on the capability of the Steamer Fairy Queen, and the Governor's answer thereto, which are as follow.—

Charlottetown, Oct. 17th

Sir,—It is the request of several of the inhabitants of this Town and County, that a Public Meeting be held one half an hour ago, it will be held before the Executive Council which will meet to-morrow at eleven o'clock, and answer sent to you before the public meeting to which you allude takes place.

I have the honor to be

Your obedient servant,

A. BANNERMAN.

Lieut. Gov

John C. Binns, Esq., &c. &c.

*[Extract from Minutes of Executive Council.]*

Council Chamber 19th October, 1853.

A Letter addressed to His Excellency from the High Sheriff of Queen's County, was laid before the Board, which is to the following effect.

"That, at the request of several of the Inhabitants of this Town and County, who have presented to him a requisition to convene a Public Meeting on the subject of the late unfortunate loss of the Fairy Queen, Steam Packet. He begs leave to request that His Excellency will be pleased to furnish him for the information of the meeting, with a Copy of the Report of those Gentlemen, who on behalf of the Government inspected and reported on the efficiency of that vessel, before the contract was entered into between her Owner and the Government of this Colony."

His Excellency informed the Board, that Mr. Binns's letter, dated the 17th instant, he only received yesterday afternoon, and immediately apprized that Gentleman that a meeting of the Council would be held this morning and an answer sent to the Sheriff. The Council observes that the meeting to be held to day is called for the purpose of taking into consideration the circumstances attending the loss of the steamer Fairy Queen, and the causes that led to the catastrophe, and of adopting such measure thereon, as may be deemed necessary. No judicial investigation has taken place in the adjoining Province for the same object which to day's meeting has in view, and as the result of that investigation may involve several individuals in penal consequences the Council resolve to acquaint the meeting that the Government most respectfully decline taking any part in the day's proceedings, and that the report such as the Sheriff alludes to in regard to the Fairy Queen, is in existence, but that Mr. Whitney's contract and all the proceedings of the Government relative to that ill-fated vessel, will in due time be laid before the Public.

Ordered accordingly,

A true Extract extracted, I certify,

CHARLES DESBRISAY, Clerk Ex. Council.

When this had been done and a motion made and agreed to that the Sheriff should take the chair of the meeting and John Longworth Esq. had at the general wish of the meeting consented to act as Secretary, Theophilus Stewart Esq. rose and addressed the meeting as follows, and for a few moments previous to their entering on the discussion of the topics mentioned in the requisition. He observed that when the requisition was in the morning carried round for signature to him to whom it had been entrusted was asked whether it was intended to be a meeting for the discussion of political matters or not, to which the gentleman had replied in the negative, and he (Stewart) thought there was no such intention, now it was evident to him Mr. Stewart that this was not correct, and that several persons had been deluded into putting their names to—[Name them, name them, in several places.] So he would. It was his opinion that it was entirely improper to mix up politics with the melancholy circumstances under which the Fairy Queen had met her unfortunate end, and so many valuable lives had been sacrificed.—Mr. Lawson—What motion do you intend to make. That would be seen presently, and as the learned gentleman was proceeding to unfold his views a general exclamation was made to the effect that no political discussion was intended, and Mr. Stewart was informed through the chair, that he had better wait until something of that kind was introduced, as there was no intention to make it himself heard Mr. Stewart sat down, observing that he would keep a watchful eye over the proceedings and claim the right of interfering if politics were introduced.

The Hon. T. H. Haviland, then rose and said, that he held in his hand a resolution to which it was impossible there could be a dissentient voice. A great public calamity had occurred, the circumstances of which had filled the country as it had led thereto, they were now met to investigate. Nine individuals, some of those well known and highly respected in this community, had met an early and untimely end, there were others one of whom was now present, mercifully saved. The resolution he was about to move comprehended both those who were lost and those who were saved. He would, therefore, without further comment, move that it be

*Resolved*, That this meeting deeply deplores the serious sacrifice of human life, caused by the wreck of the Steamer "Fairy Queen," on the night of Friday, the 7th October instant, during her passage from Charlottetown to Pictou, and unfeignedly sympathizes with the relatives and friends of the sufferers (nine in number) who have perished upon that melancholy occasion; and desires to express thankfulness to Almighty God for the wonderful preservation of those personally rescued from the same danger, which being seconded by James Douglas Haszard, Esq., was carried unanimously.

James Duncan Esq., after briefly stating that he had no desire to occupy the time, moved in amendment to propose would be assented to as unanimously as the last, submitted the resolution, which being seconded by Thomas Pethick, Esq., passed without a dissentient voice.

*Resolved*, That this meeting acknowledges, with sentiments of gratitude, the energy and promptitude exhibited by the Community of Pictou in adopting measures with a view to afford relief to the survivors of the wreck of the *Fairy Queen*, and in instituting a judicial enquiry into the cause of the disastrous occurrence.

It was then suggested that the minutes of evidence as taken before the Magistrates at Pictou should be read, which was accordingly done by the Secretary from a copy of the Pictou Eastern Chronicle; after which, James Walkinshaw, Esq., observed, that after what they had just heard read, he conceived that there would be as little difficulty in passing the resolution now offered as there had been about those previously. It was impossible, taking the Captain and Crew's evidence on that matter, to avoid coming to the conclusion that their conduct had been of the most cruel, barbarous, and cold blooded description. After some other remarks, which we were unable to gather the import of, he moved the following, which had been seconded by the Hon. Donald McDonald,

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this meeting, from the published reports of the examination of W. R. Bulyea, the Master, Patrick Treanor, the Mate, James Turner, the Clerk, and James Webster, Second Engineer of the late Steamer *Fairy Queen*, as also of Edward Lydiard, Esq. one of the unfortunate passengers, taken before the legal authorities in Pictou, that the lamentable loss of life which attended the wreck of the said Steamer, was owing to the base and inhuman conduct of the said W. R. Bulyea, Patrick Treuner, James Webster, and others of the Crew who treacherously took away the two boats capable of containing the whole Passengers and Crew, when the Steamer was in a sinking state.

The Hon. E. Palmer then informed the meeting, that there were several persons present who had crossed in the late Steamer, and that it would be for the meeting some additional information; when, after a pause, E. L. Lydiard, Esq., rose, and addressed to read the Resolution, he said Mr. Chairman, I am but the circumstances of the recent severe struggle for life he had undergone, and the harrowing scenes that he had been compelled to witness, came, most probably, to the assembled meeting in a more lively form of vividness, and affected him so much, that he was compelled to sit down; but the Resolution having been read by one more capable to be rallied, and spoke somewhat to the following purport:—

The evidence given by me before the Magistrates, at Pictou, contains the principal part of what occurred, and is correct, as far as it goes; there are, however, not there. I am perfectly convinced now, in my own mind, that the Captain was drunk. I would not swear that he was so, but I will state it as my opinion, for he had been drinking, and was treated by them with open contempt. In the scene of confusion which followed the breaking of the tiller rope, nothing could be done. The Captain was not to be rallied, I succeeded in getting a lantern. I had, then, to look for a candle. I, fortunately, was enabled to get some, and for fear of losing them, I put them in my pocket—one of them broke. Shortly after the accident when the jib was hoisted, after she had broached to. There was no order kept up—no subordination on the part of the crew. The Capt. had no control over the men, and when the Mate tried to assert it he