LOCAL HAPPENINGS

About fifty years ago it was not an unusual sight to see large boats, called “cots,” rowing from Annagh bog to the opposite shore of Lough MacNean, carrying large quantities of turf. Sad was the fate which awaited one of those labourers, named Jack Dolan from Port, Co. Cavan, on the 12th of August 1886.

On a sultry day in Autumn he sailed up the lake, bringing with him his young family of four, who were anxious to get a sail. All day they toiled at the turf and, as evening approached, they set out for home after a hard, but pleasant, day’s work. When they were about halfway on their return journey, a sudden storm arose. They were tossed helplessly from place to place on the large waves and were not able to reach their own or turn back to the bog.

His wife, who got uneasy when she heard the storm rising, went down to the shore to look for them. Looking far out on the lake, she saw the boat and knew that it was sinking. She became terror-stricken and at once raised the alarm. People gathered on both shores but were unable to assist them owing to the lake being so rough.

At last two old men, named Jimmy and Owen Mc Grenery, appeared on the scene and, being expert boatmen, set out to rescue them. When they reached the boat, they found them in a state of collapse. They succeeded in getting them all to the shore, and all possible means of restoring them to life was of no avail except in the case of the youngest boy, Charles.

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Transcribed from the Brockagh School folklore notebook. Original spelling and wording have largely been retained.