

“A New Elegy on the Lamented Death of Sir Cloudesley Shovell” from  
*Naval Songs and Ballads* by C.H. Firth, Oxford 1908

A disaster very little less in its magnitude was the casting away of Sir Cloudisley Shovell on the rocks of the Scilly Islands upon the night of October 22, 1707. The Association, 96, which was Shovell's flagship; the Eagle, 70; the Romney, 50; and the Firebrand fireship, were totally lost; two others, the Phoenix and the St. George, struck also, but came off without breaking up (Clowes, ii. 411). The best account of the incident is to be found in a pamphlet by Mr. J. H. Cooke, entitled *The Shipwreck of Sir Cloudesley Shovell*, read at a meeting of the Society of Antiquaries, February 1, 1885, and printed at Gloucester in the same year. No contemporary ballad on Shovell's fate has survived, but the British Museum contains *A New Elegy on the Lamented Death of Sir Cloudesley Shovell*, from which the following lines are derived:

'The bulging Ship upon the Shore stuck fast,  
And scarce two Minutes but she struck her last:  
Was quite o'whelm'd with the next rolling Wave.  
Aid and Endeavours were in vain to save  
Whom Fate had destin'd to a Watery Grave.

There Shovel unamaz'd, by nature Brave,  
Spreading his Arms embrac'd a briny Wave,  
And where he had reign'd with Honour, made his grave.

A Man, till now, that e'er was fortunate  
Precisely Good and regularly Great:

The Nations Trust, and Sailor's joy he prov'd  
And still where e're [he] came he was belov'd;  
None ever fought her Cause with more success,  
None e're did more—or ever boasted less;  
His early valour did proclaim his Worth  
And help'd to set the growing Hero forth;  
At Bantree, Beachy and at Malaga  
The French too well his dauntless Conduct saw;  
There you might see the Brittish glory shine,  
And Shovel break th' Impenetrable Line.'