

TRAPPED IN TORNADO

Irish Captain Who Saved Naval Vessel.

Mr. Michael Finnie of 176 Lower Road, Cork, visited the "Cork Examiner" Offices yesterday morning, to contradict a report which appeared from Winchester that Capt. Harry Pearson, who died in that town yesterday, was responsible for bringing H.M.S. Caliope out of the harbour at Apia, Samoa, when she was trapped with six other naval vessels—three German and three American—in a tornado in March, 1889. "I do not wish to take away from the part played by the late Capt Pearson," said Mr. Finnie, "but honour where honour is due is my motto, and the captain of the Caliope was Captain Kane, a native of Dublin, and son of Sir Robert Kane, who was for many years President of Queen's College, Cork. Captain Kane it was who brought the man-o'-war out of the harbour when the six other vessels were trapped and four were piled up on the reef on top of each other, whilst the other two were driven ashore on a sandy patch.

"It was the greatest feat of seamanship which ever took place, I think. When the tornado struck us, Captain Kane came on the bridge in his pyjamas, and stayed there for 48 hours without coming off it. We all thought our last hour had come, but the captain took her out of the harbour, just missing the American ship, Trenton, by about four feet. In fact as we passed the Trenton our mainyard touched her quarter boat."

Mr. Finnie, who was only 17 years old at the time, believes that himself and a Mr. David Mahony, at present living in Cardiff, are the only living survivors of the event.