

IV - OPERATIONS OF 1810

Having landed at seven, and found everything in an orderly state, the landing-master's crew again commenced the work of getting the cast iron rails of the stair into the house, several of which, being upwards of 400 pounds weight, required considerable tackle for lifting them out of the hold of the ship and into their places, which was done by fixing a pair of shears or a triangle of spar upon the solid rock.

This piece of work, the rails being all of different figures and numbers, was found to be more intricate, and to require more labour and management than had been anticipated, as the different pieces could not be distinguished without being measured and accurately fitted to their respective places.

On a subsequent visit on the 5th of December, a storm caused significant damage. The beacon-house, although shaken by the tempest and its lower parts filled with water and rubble, stood firmly. The powerful seas had, however, swept away several of the temporary fixtures of the lighthouse, including a small temporary wooden rail around the balcony, storm shutters, and even one of the principal beams supporting the temporary rail or fence. This event highlighted the absolute necessity of the permanent iron railings planned for the balcony.

Captain Wilson, the landing master, laid up with a severe cold, left the rock after landing the essential provisions. The rest of the crew, including Mr. John Reid, the principal lightkeeper, worked diligently to secure the lighthouse and beacon against future storms. The ongoing efforts included the installation of the light room's remaining fixtures and the permanent railings around the balcony. These preparations were crucial for the upcoming winter, when working conditions would become even more challenging.

Throughout these efforts, the resilience and ingenuity of the construction crew, as well as the meticulous planning and supervision of the engineering and leadership teams, were evident. Their dedication ensured the lighthouse would not only serve as a vital navigational aid but also stand as a testament to human perseverance in the face of nature's magnificent fury.