

HOPE GONE.

The Moth Flight.

MACDONALD'S FATE.

Statement by Wife.

LONDON, Oct. 19. •

A message which may explain the fate of Commander Macdonald, who attempted to fly from Newfoundland to England in a Moth 'plane, has been picked up at Portishead Wireless Station from the steamer Firach.

The message states: "The Firach sighted, on October 17, at 11.30 o'clock, at a big distance, lights most probably resembling an explosion." It is significant that the bearings given very closely correspond to the position where Commander Macdonald was sighted by the Hardenburg. The time is also similar.

The passengers and crew of the Canadian liner, Mont Clare, which has arrived at Liverpool, report having seen a strange light in the sky astern at 6.30 on Thursday night, when the Mont Clare was 150 miles west of Tory Island. The light was later seen to drop from the sky with a streaming tail.

"Why did you let him go?" This, writes Mrs. Macdonald in a poignant article published by the "Sunday Express," is frequently asked her by women since her husband started on his Atlantic flight. "My answer," she adds, is: "When has the wife of an English-

adds, is: "When has the wife of an Englishman or the wife of a patriot in any country tried to dissuade her husband from an act of courage or credit to his nation? Did Englishwomen try to prevent their men from fighting in the war?"

Mrs. Macdonald says that the affair had its beginning in a crowded restaurant after Lindbergh's flight to Paris. Two Americans were talking. "Yes," said one, "we've put it across England." Commander Macdonald, who was sitting nearby, overheard this and at once formed a decision and planned a world flight. He crashed in the desert in Iraq, but failure seemed only to stimulate him. He bought a new machine and told his wife that he was going away for the week-end. She only learned that he had gone to America from friends who accidentally saw him setting off from Paddington station. The next news was in a few brief cables before starting from Harbour Grace—then silence until a friend handed Mrs. Macdonald a letter which her husband had left to be given her two days after the start of the flight.

"Some of that letter is sacred, being meant for me only, but some must be given to the world for his sake," she writes. "He says, 'I know you were against it. I know people will say that I was a suicidal fool, but I do not think it. After all they called Lindbergh a flying fool. If an American could do it an Englishman can. If I have made a mistake, darling, I am sorry. It will be terrible for you.'"

Mrs. Macdonald adds that she will carry on her husband's business as a yachting agent.