

“BALLAUGH HARVEST HOME
AND THANKSGIVING SERVICE”

(1871) *



BALLAUGH HARVEST HOME AND THANKSGIVING SERVICE

THE annual thanksgiving service in connection with the Ballaugh Harvest Home, was held in the parish church on Wednesday evening, Sept., 27th, when an excellent and appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev H.G. White, from the 20th verse of the 5th chapter of St Paul's epistle to the Ephesians, to a very attentive though not large congregation, owing to the state of the weather, which prevented many farmers from assembling to give thanks to a kind Providence for the many blessings they had received.

The Harvest Home took place on the following day, in a large room in the village, generously placed at the disposal of the committee by Mr J.T. Taubman, where tea was provided. The trays were supplied gratuitously, and presided over by the following ladies (who performed their arduous duty in so affable and graceful a manner as to win the approbation of all who had the pleasure of being present), viz:—Mrs White; Mrs Gell; Mrs Taubman; Miss Craine, Cronkbreck; Mrs Mylecraine, Mrs Cannell, Ballamoar; Mrs Craine, Broughjaig; Mrs Gill, Chestnut Cottage; Miss Kinread; Mrs Gawne; Mrs Cowle; and Mrs Corlett, Ballaneddin. It would be vain to describe the taste and exquisite skill displayed by the fair presidents in arranging and decorating their tables; in fact, many strangers that were present stated that they had never seen tables better laid out, or more tastefully decorated. Miss Corlett (Thie-ny-Hawin), as usual, rendered efficient service in preparing the tea, which was unanimously pronounced of the very best quality, and of course enjoyed by all. The following ladies and gentlemen gave subscriptions in lieu of trays:—Mrs Powys, Rev T. Howard, Rev H.G. White, Miss Corlett (Corvalla), Miss Shimmin, Mrs Keig (Ballamona), Mrs Freer, Mrs Craine (Kalane), Mr T. Callister, Wm. Callister, Esq., Mrs Radcliffe (Ramsey), Mr G. Quine, Miss Sayle (Alpine Cottage), Dr Thompson, Mrs Jelly, Mrs Corlett (Glengshoggle), Mr Callister (Manx Arms), Mr Twigg, Mrs Callister (grocer), Mrs Green, Mrs MacWhannell, F.E. Harrison, Esq., Mrs Craine (village), Mrs Stephen, Mrs Kelly, Mrs Teare (village), and Mrs Kneen (Ballamona). The room was also beautifully decorated with evergreens, enlivened with flowers, and when lit up it presented a very imposing appearance, reflecting great credit on the ladies who took an active part in the decorations, viz., Miss Craine, Cronkbreck; Miss E. Craine, Miss Craine, village; and

* Originally published as Stephen Miller, “Ballaugh Harvest Home and Thanksgiving Service’ (1871),” *Ballaugh Heritage Trust Newsletter* 15 (2017), 31–35.

Miss Ross. The Rev H.G. White having asked a blessing, the tea-drinking commenced in right good earnest at five o'clock, and continued until eight—the tables being thronged the whole of the time.

After tea the company adjourned to the room above, when Mr J.T. Taubman was called upon to take the chair.

The CHAIRMAN, in a very short address, explained the object of the meeting, and expressed his satisfaction that so great a number had assembled to assist the committee in their work of charity. To the many who had come from a distance he tendered the sincere thanks of the committee, and hoped that the proceedings of the evening would give them unalloyed pleasure, and that when they returned to their homes they would give a good report of their entertainment at the Ballaugh Harvest Home.

He then called upon the choir (which was ably conducted by Mr Preston) to open the musical part of the entertainment, which they did by singing "Hail to Our Harvest Home" with much taste. Mr W.H. Corlett next sang "Driven from Home," the choir joining in the chorus, and being encored repeated it. "All among the Barley" (glee) was then rendered in a very effective style by the choir; followed by Miss S.A. Craine and Mr J. Moughtin, who gave the A.B.C. duet, and were deservedly encored. The Misses Mornington then sang "The Dawn of Day," and were encored. A duet called "Very Suspicious" was then sung by Miss MacDonald and Mr Kissack, who were also encored, but they did not respond. The choir followed with "Hail Smiling Morn;" Mr Moughtin, who was encored, with "The Mac of many Names;" "Just before the Wedding," by Mr James, from Laxey; Miss MacDonald's "Katie's Letter," was received with great applause; the choir gave "Hark the Lark," in a very excellent manner; and Miss MacDonald, "Tapping at the Garden Gate," which elicited much applause.

The CHAIRMAN after proposing a vote of thanks to the ladies, who had decorated the room and officiated at the trays; and also to the ladies of the choir for their attendance, and the effective manner in which they had sung the several songs and glees; making especial mention of Miss MacDonald, who had come from Liverpool purposely to assist and preside at the pianoforte. Three hearty cheers were given in response by the audience, so highly pleased were all present with the proceedings. Three cheers more for the Chairman and Mr Preston followed, and the National Anthem having been sung, the concert terminated precisely at 10 o'clock. Many of the younger members, after the room was cleared, tripped the light fantastic toe to the strains of the pianoforte, a violin, and a concertina, until near midnight, and thus ended a very successful meeting, characterised throughout by its unquestionable propriety and perfect good humour.

"[Insular Harvest Homes] Ballaugh Harvest Home and Thanksgiving Service." *Manx Sun* 7 October 1871: 5a.

INSULAR HARVEST HOMES

It has given us great pleasure to hear of the unanimous, hearty, and devout manner in which the parishes of Rushen, Arbory, Malew, and Santon, set apart the whole of Thursday, the 28th ult, for special religious services, to express their thankfulness for the late abundant and well-saved harvest. This is as it should be; and we hope we may henceforth consider Harvest Thanksgiving Services as an acknowledged institution throughout the Island. We have heard that there were morning and evening services in the churches of all the four Southern parishes before-named, which were supplemented by services in the chapels of the several parishes in the afternoon. This is also as it should be. There is room enough and work enough for all, if all will only work together, without unhallowed rivalry, strife, or vain-glory,—“doing all to the glory of God.” These four parishes, from what we hear, seem to hit off this happy medium, and to act upon the happy maxim: “Let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works.” We hear, and we hope it is true, that all the places of worship were filled with earnest, devout, and grateful worshippers: the employers of the several parishes having set an example worthy universal imitation, of paying their men’s day’s wages upon condition that they attended the religious services of the day. This, we are sure, will do more to unite the employed to their employers than anything that has been done for a long time. At all events, “the hire of the labourers who have reaped down their fields” were not kept back, on this occasion, by the employers of these four Southern parishes, but every inducement held out to those employed by them to “enter into the Lord’s House with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise,” that “the cries of them that had reaped might enter into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth” with gratitude and acceptance. We have received warmly commendatory accounts, too, of the Bishop’s Court Harvest Thanksgiving Service, held by his Lordship in his own chapel on Friday the 29th ult., which, with the anti-chapel, was filled to overflowing: his Lordship himself preaching a most excellent, faithful, spiritual, and fervid sermon, from the words,—“The Harvest is the end of the world.” In all the accounts we have received, mention has been made of the appropriate and tasteful way in which the several places of worship were decorated. We shall be glad to receive accounts of those parishes which have not yet held their services.

“Insular Harvest Homes.” *Manx Sun* 7 October 1871: 5a–c. This is the introductory section on 5a. It is followed by “Marown Harvest Home,” 5a; “Ballaugh Harvest Home and Thanksgiving Service,” 5a; “Kirk Andreas Harvest Home Thanksgiving Service,” 5b–c.

Reproduced is not only the account of the Ballaugh Harvest Home and Thanksgiving that took place in 1871, but also the introductory piece to the accounts not just of the service at Ballaugh but also those held in Marown and Andreas. It is interesting to read that “we hope we may henceforth consider Harvest Thanksgiving

Services as an acknowledged institution throughout the Island,” which raises the issue as to how they were celebrated before that and reminder that all such events have a narrative and one rarely as straight forward as thought at first.

Returning to Ballaugh, whilst we have the formal detail of the evening’s musical performance, one would like to know what was played after 10 pm, when as recounted:

Many of the younger members, after the room was cleared, tripped the light fantastic toe to the strains of the pianoforte, a violin, and a concertina, until near midnight, and thus ended a very successful meeting, characterised throughout by its unquestionable propriety and perfect good humour.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2017

