

Manx Notes 79 (2007)

“A MAN WAS SINGING THEM BALLAD-FASHION”
A SONG IN MANX ABOUT THE “MANX FAIRY” (1853)

MANX LINES ON MANX FAIRY STEAMER.—On August 31, 1853, the Manx Fairy steam-packet of the port of Ramsey made her first trip from the port of Liverpool to Ramsey, beating the Mona’s Queen to Douglas by eleven minutes; and on the following morning, September 1, 1853, the Manx Fairy departed from Ramsey harbour for Liverpool port.

On the occasion of the Fairy’s first trip, some Manx lines were printed with an English translation, and a man was singing them ballad-fashion, when feeling a little curiosity, I gratified it by obtaining a copy, a transcript of which I annex, Manx and English; and should your pages not be better occupied, perhaps you will accord space for insertion thereof.

There were also some squib “portraits” in verse in consequence of the Fairy’s victory; and possibly some of your correspondents can add other incidents connected therewith.

J. BEALE.

Manx.

“Oh, Mannin veg veen, ta my chree sthills lhiat hene,
As bwooishal dhyt mie son dy braa;
As tra hed ym, my annym goit voym,
Bee’m bwooishal sthills mie da Rumsaa.
Ta’n ‘Ferish’ er roshtyn dy bieu voish shenn hostyn.
Ny queelyn eek tappee chyndaa;
As laadit dy slich va shin fakin dy v’ee,
Ooillee bwooishal cree mie da Rumsaa.”

English.

“Oh, Mona, my darling, my heart is still thine,
My blessing upon thee I pray;
And when I am dead, and my spirit is fled,
Success unto Ramsey I say.
The ‘Fairy’ has come, and swiftly has run,
Her paddles go quickly around;
Well loaded she were with passengers rare,
All wishing success to the town.”

Source: J. Beale, “Manx Lines on Manx Fairy Steamer,” *Notes & Queries* (4th ser.) ii (1868): 368a.



An addition to Stephen Miller, “*There is dances used on sonday afternoone*”: *Historical References to Manx Folk Song and Dance before 1896*, Preprint ed. (Onchan: Chiollagh Books, 2005).¹

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¹ Available <www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/~stephen>