

Manx Notes 85 (2007)

“IN THE MATTER OF THAT MANX PRIZE”
THE MANX PRIZE AT DALBY SCHOOL (1903)

(1)

Ballacallin | Dalby | Aug. 18th 03

Dear Miss Morrison,

We are breaking up for the Harvest Holidays on Friday Afternoon. I have only been able to get Four to Compete as it is not easy for them to get good teachers. If you can, and Miss Joughin come up we shall be pleased to see you at 2 p.m or soon after[.]

Y[ou]rs faithfully | W . Popplewell | Head Teacher
Miss Morrison.

(2)

Patrick | 21 Aug 1903.

Dear Morrison.

It has been arranged by the School board that Patrick and Dalby School close for the Midsummer Vacation this afternoon.

In the matter of that Manx prize : if you took Dalby school first I could keep open here till you returned.

If you came here first and went to Dalby the school might be closed when you got there.

Yours faithfully | Jno. E. Cashin

(3)

Ballacallin | Board School | Dalby | Dec[embe]r.15.03

Dear Madam,

My Assistant Miss Kennaugh informs me, I regret to say, that she has been unable to induce the children to learn the Prayers & Hymns in Manx. I thought it better let you know. Our attendance, that is the number attending is less than it has been for many years.

This may account to some extent for our failure. We break up on the 18th next Friday[.]

If you and Miss Joughin are able to come up we shall be pleased to see you[.]

I Remain, | Y[ou]rs faithfully | W.Popplewell

Source: (1) Letter from W. Popplewell (of Dalby School) to Sophia Morrison, 18 August 1903, in bound volume of correspondence to Sophia Morrison, Manx National Heritage Library, MS 5495 A. (2) Letter from John E. Cashin (of Patrick School) to Sophia Morrison, 21 August 1903, ——. (3) Letter from W. Popplewell (of Dalby School) to Sophia Morrison, 15 December 1903, ——.



This offering of a prize for recitation in Manx at both Patrick and Dalby schools appears to have been a personal initiative of Sophia Morrison rather than one sponsored by the Manx Language Society. The reports from Dalby school was not encouraging; just four pupils putting themselves forward in 1903, and with the difficulty of finding individuals with sufficient Manx to instruct them. Later that year, there was to be no one interested in the Manx Prize.

STEPHEN MILLER
VIENNA, 2007

