

Manx Notes 92 (2007)

“THERE ARE MANY PERSONS WHO COMPREHEND
NO OTHER LANGUAGE THAN MANKS’”
THE MEMORIAL OF THE MANX CLERGY (1842)

[We publish the following memorial, which appears to have been signed by a respectable number of the insular clergy, without expressing any opinion upon the subject presented in it.]

To His Excellency the Hon. John Ready, Lieutenant-Governor of the Isle of Mann, and by the Right Reverend Father in God, Thomas Vowler, by Divine permission Lord Bishop of Sodor and Mann,—the respectful memorial of the undersigned clergymen of this diocese,

Sheweth,

That your memorialists have understood it to be the determination of her Majesty's Ministers to present to Crown Livings in the Isle of Mann only such clergymen as shall be approved of and recommended by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of the Island and the Lord Bishop of the diocese.

That your memorialists having always resided in the Isle of Mann, and having long had much intercourse with the peasantry of this country, humbly conceive themselves competent to form a correct opini[o]n respecting the prevalence of the Manks language amongst that class of its inhabitants, and the necessity of a knowledge of this language to an individual holding the important office of their spiritual instructor, counsellor, and comforter.

That your memorialists would shrink from acting on any occasion in a manner incompatible with the profound respect which is due from them to the exalted personages who have been entrusted with the Civil and Religious Government of this portion of Her Majesty's realms; but are persuaded that they will not be chargeable with conduct of this nature in humbly presuming to solicit permission to express to you their sentiments with regard to a subject of so momentous a character.

That your memorialists, therefore, with the utmost deference beg leave to state it to be their conviction that in all the parishes of the Island there are many persons who comprehend no other language than Manks' [sic] and consequently that an acquaintance with this language is a qualification indispensably [sic] requisite in those who minister either as incumbents or as curates in any of these parishes.

That your memorialists, prompted by no sinister motives venturing to submit this statement to your notice, earnestly entreat that you will graciously be pleased to give to it your serious consideration, and your memorialists shall ever pray, &c., &c.

Thos. Howard, Rector of Ballaugh.

John Nelson, Rector of Bride.

Joseph Qualtrough, Vicar of Lonon [sic].

Wm. Duggan, Vicar of Marown.

R. Brown, Vicar of Braddan.

S. Gelling, Vicar of St. Ann.

John Cannell, Chaplain of St. Matthew's, and formerly Curate of Bride.

Edward Craine, Vicar of Onchan

Bowyer Harrison, Vicar of Maughold

John La Motte Stowell, Vicar of German

Source: Anon. “[The respectful memorial of the undersigned clergymen of this diocese...].” *Manx Sun* 1 October 1842: 5a.

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STEPHEN MILLER

VIENNA, 2007

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