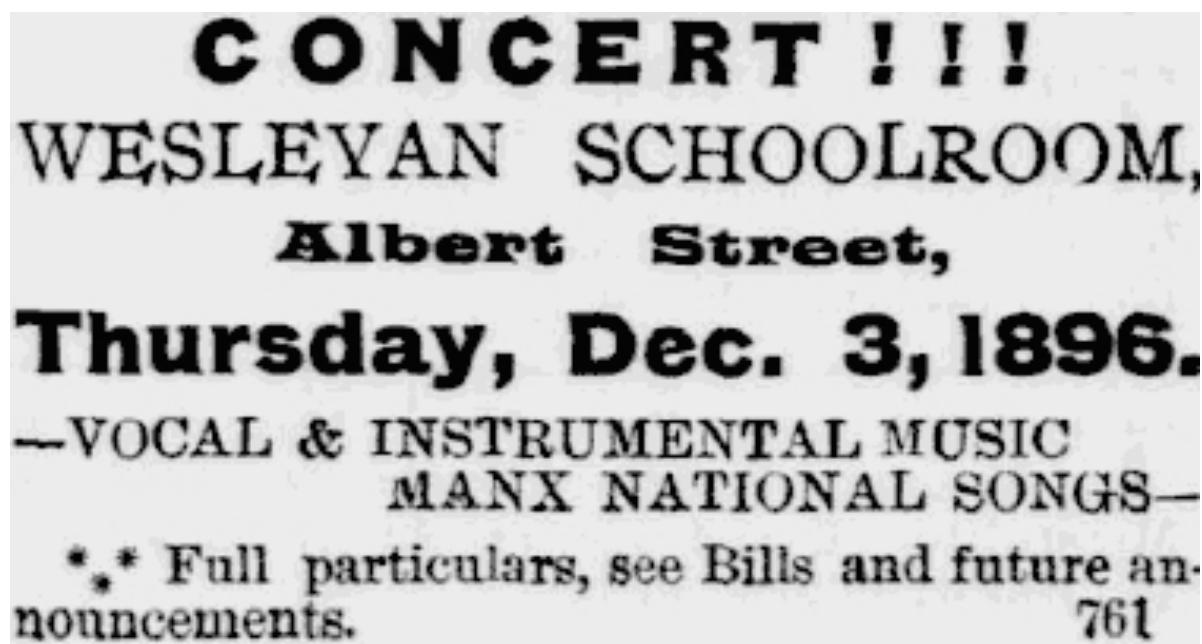


“CONCERT!!!” *



Manx National Songs, according to Cubbon’s *Bibliography*, was published 23 September 1896.¹ A somewhat dramatic advert in the *Ramsey Courier*, as seen here, announced a concert for the Thursday evening of 3 December 1896, to be held in the Wesleyan Schoolroom in Albert Street in Ramsey. A second advert gave further details with doors opened at 7.30 pm with the concert to commence at 8 pm. Front seats cost 1s., those who chose to sit at the back paid just 6d. On offer that evening was the “First performance in Ramsey of portions of ‘Manx National Songs’ recently published.” This was to be given by “Mr J. Craine” who to be “assisted by Popular Local Amateur Artistes.” He is properly John Craine, the founder of the *Ramsey Courier*, at one time a printer, bookseller, and stationer, and later on an Advocate. He also composed an oratorio, *The Manx Oratorio: The Story of the Cross* (n.d. [1895?]), amongst other pieces. He had, however, a link with *Manx National Songs* in that he was one of the helpers to the Gill brothers, two letters to Deemster J.F. Gill (25 April & 15 July 1895) being amongst the Deemster’s personal papers now in the MNHL (see *Manx Notes* 22 (2004) for further on Craine and the Gills). The reception of *Manx National Songs* in the manner as seen here calls for more research to see if any other such concerts can be found or occasions on which songs from the book were performed as part of other entertainments.

* Originally published as Reproduced here with sources.

¹ William Cubbon, *A Bibliographical Account of the Isle of Man*, vol. ii, 2 vols. (Oxford University Press [for the Manx Museum and Ancient Monument Trustees], 1939) 1062.

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