

Manx Notes 271 (2017)

“MISS MORRISON AT THE WHEEL” (2)

SOPHIA MORRISON’S REPLY TO FRANK GALE’S
“MANX LANGUAGE IN THE SCHOOLS: A PROTEST”
(1905)

THE CORRESPONDENCE (1905)

Frank Gale. “[To the Editor] Manx Language in the Schools: A Protest.” *Isle of Man Examiner* 2 December 1905: 7c.

Sophia Morrison. “[To the Editor] The Teaching of Manx in Schools.” *Isle of Man Examiner* 9 December 1905: 3h.

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I. FRANK GALE, “MANX LANGUAGE IN THE SCHOOLS: A PROTEST,” ISLE OF MAN EXAMINER (2 DECEMBER 1905)

SIR,—In these days of educational stress, one wonders whether it is any use thrashing a dead horse. The efforts of certain persons to introduce into schools the teaching of the Manx language appears to me to be an act of that kind. We are constantly being reminded that England must “wake up” if Germany and France are not to outstrip us.

I know a young Frenchman, about five years my junior, a first-class horologist, to whom, of course, French is his mother tongue, whose English, I venture to say, is more grammatically correct than that of many Englishmen. Having spent two years in England at his trade, a residence of nearly a year in Germany gave him a thorough grounding in German, while an eight months’ residence in Spain made him acquainted with the language of that country: and his acquaintance with the Italian is better than, perhaps, some of the members of the Manx Language Society have with Manx.

I may be accused of being unpatriotic, but is it not the best patriotism that desires our youth to be so equipped that when they leave our shores—as leave they must, if they wish to prosper—to have some real acquaintance with a living tongue that will be of service to them in the wider world than that, of the Little Man Island. I for one would become a passive resistor to the payment of any rate towards the instruction of Manx in our board schools.

I am, etc.,

FRANK GALE.

27th November, 1905.

Frank Gale. “[To the Editor] Manx Language in the Schools: A Protest.” *Isle of Man Examiner* 2 December 1905: 7c.

2. SOPHIA MORRISON, "THE TEACHING OF MANX IN SCHOOLS." ISLE OF MAN EXAMINER (9 DECEMBER 1905)

SIR,—The arguments brought forward by your correspondent in protest against this teaching of Manx seem to me to disprove his case. He contends that each fresh language acquired makes easier the acquisition of another. That is one of the main contentions of the MLS. A child who speaks two languages in his early years will have some facility for language—French, German, and other languages will come easily to him. It is, indeed, a well-proved fact that the inhabitants of bi-lingual countries, Poland, for instane, are good linguists. I could instance a well-known Manxman who speaks languages, and who attributes his facility in acquiring them to the fact that he "first got his tongue round the Manx."

Yours truly,

S. MORRISON.

Peel, Dec. 6th, 1905.

Sophia Morrison. "[To the Editor] The Teaching of Manx in Schools."
Isle of Man Examiner 9 December 1905: 3h.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2017

