

Manx Notes 272 (2017)

MANX IN BALLAUGH

(1906)

When “Phil Jemmy Phil” was viewing a gravestone in Ballaugh Old Church erected to the memory of the Rev. Thomas Stephen (died 1842):

“I have unfortunately to add, that neither of two inhabitants of the neighbourhood, from whom I made some preliminary inquiries before entering the churchyard, and whom I subsequently invited to pronounce the words of the inscription for my benefit (for I confess that though I can read a little Manx, I would find it impossible to speak it correctly), knew anything at all of the Manx language. One remarked that her father would never talk in English if he could help it, and the other that none of the young Manx people knew any Manx, which she thought was a great shame. Perhaps it is.”

Pseud [signed as “Phil Jemmy Phil”]. “[Correspondence] Manx Inscriptions in Graveyards: To the Editor.” *Manx Sun* 4 August 1906: 3f.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2017

