

Manx Notes 306 (2017)

“THE LOCAL CHOIR WAS NOT VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE”

THE GORDON WESLEYAN CHAPEL
ANNUAL TEA MEETING AND CONCERT
(1910) *

The annual tea meeting and concert in connection with the Gordon Wesleyan Sunday-school was held on Christmas Day, in accordance with long-established custom. The night was fine, and a large number of friends from the neighbouring district as well as several from outlying districts, such as Peel and Foxdale, put in an appearance and encouraged those responsible for the carrying on of Sunday-school work. The following ladies efficiently presided at the tea tables: The Misses Quirk, Cregganashen: the Misses Clucas, Glenmaye: the Misses Mylchreest, Gordon: and Misses Crellin and Lawson, Glenmaye. At the after meeting Mr Thos. Leece, ever willing to help on an occasion of this kind, presided in his usual kindly fashion. Appropriate addresses were given by Messrs Thos. Corris and Jos. Boyde, of Peel, and Mr J.T. Kissack, of Dalby. A quartette party from Peel rendered excellent service. The party consisted of Misses Shimmin and Clucas, Messrs Quayle and Watterson. Solos were rendered in pleasant style by Misses Clucas and Shimmin and Mr L. Quane. Their services were much appreciated. Mr L. Quayle accompanied. The local choir was not very much in evidence—only taking part in the opening and closing hymns, the visitors helping in the bass, tenor, and alto. Emigration, that robber of the talent of the country places, has evidently been at work among the local choir. We can remember a choir there some ten to twenty-five years ago who could always give a good account of themselves, and there is yet no reason to doubt that if the little country causes would harmoniously unite a very good choir might be produced which would serve with credit at all the local events. It only wants some one to take the initiative, some one with time to spare and a love for the work, and a supply of compressed energy and boundless patience. Let us hope such an one will be forthcoming.

“[Gordon] Annual Sunday School Tea and Concert.” *Peel City Guardian* 1
January 1910: 6b.

“The local choir was not very much in evidence” writes the correspondent here and goes on to give the reason why, not poor weather or illness, as might first be suspected given the time of the year, but the fact of continuing emigration from the

* Originally published as Stephen Miller, “The local choir was not very much in evidence.” The Gordon Wesleyan Chapel Annual Tea Meeting and Concert (1910).” *Kiaull Manninagh Jiu* February–March (2018): [19].

Island expressed in a very telling sentence: “Emigration, that robber of the talent of the country places, has evidently been at work among the local choir.”

STEPHEN MILLER, 2018

