

Manx Notes 316 (2018)

“STANDING ON THE BORDERLINE” (4)

ADDRESS OF “THE MANKS SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING THE
EDUCATION OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE ISLE OF MAN,
THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF THEIR OWN LANGUAGE”
(1821)

ADDRESS

Of the “Manks Society for promoting the Education of the Inhabitants of the Isle of Man, through the medium of their own Language.”

That every individual should be furnished with the means of reading the Holy Scriptures, in the language which he best understands, appears to be an acknowledged principle amongst all Protestants. The command of the Saviour of the world, to “search the scriptures,” implies the necessity of communicating the ability to search them. This ability, in the present age of benevolence, has been communicated to multitudes. The Report of “The Society for the Support of Gaelic Schools,” and of “The Irish Society for promoting the Education of the Native Irish, through the medium of their own Language,” fully prove what can be done, and what has been done for the accomplishment of this important end by the establishment of circulating Schools.

The arguments which have been so ably adduced by those Societies, to evince the necessity and utility of their efforts, apply with equal force to the meridian of the Isle of Man. When it is known, that there are from fifteen to twenty thousand of the inhabitants who are incapable of receiving religious instruction in any other language than the Manks; and when it is considered that a large proportion of that number are unable to read, who does not perceive the necessity of making vigorous efforts to teach them to read their vernacular tongue?

It is, by no means, the design of the Society to perpetuate the Manks language, or in the smallest degree to impede the progress of the English tongue amongst the inhabitants of the Island, but simply to teach both children and adults to read their Bible in the only language which they fully comprehend.

The accomplishment of this design will require the contributions of the rich, and the concurrence of the poor. These contributions and this concurrence, the conductors of the Society earnestly solicit. They trust that the Divine blessing will crown their undertaking with success, and that great and extensive good will be the result.

Donations and subscriptions, in aid of the Society’s Funds, will be received by Mr ROBERT BREW, Treasurer, Athol-Street, Douglas.

“[Address] Of the ‘Manks Society for promoting the Education of the Inhabitants of the Isle of Man, through the medium of their own Language’.” *Manks Advertiser* 22 November 1821: [4]a.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2018

