

Manx Notes 343 (2018)

THE REVIVAL OF THE MANX LANGUAGE (19) THE AGNEASH MANX CONCERTS (1899 & 1900)

1899

I. “MANX CONCERT,” *MONA’S HERALD* (15 NOVEMBER 1899)

An entertainment of a somewhat unique and popular character will take place in a large barn at Ballacregga, Agneash, on Thursday next. The programme, which will be a varied one, will comprise Manx and English songs, solos, and readings, and will be executed by a number of competent performers. It is to be hoped that the concert will prove a success, and will be the first of a series of similar events during the winter months.

“Manx Concert.” *Mona’s Herald* 15 November 1899: 8f.

2. “[LAXEY] MANX CONCERT,” *ISLE OF MAN EXAMINER* (18 NOVEMBER 1899)

On Thursday evening an entertainment of an exceptionally novel and interesting character took place, under the auspices of the Manx class, at Agneash, Lonan, in a large barn kindly lent for the occasion by Mr Clague, Ballacregga. The affair proved an unqualified success. The audience, which numbered about 200, and included both young and old, grave and gay, was drawn from every part of the parish. A “flock of *mob-beg*” from the Glen also graced the proceedings with their presence, but their behaviour did not, on the whole, cause serious annoyance. Mr Wm. Kermeen presided, while Mr H. Jane acted as musical conductor, and Miss A. Clague (Agneash) as accompanist.

The programme, which comprised some twenty items, opened with a hymn by the choir. This was succeeded by a short but pointed address in Manx by the Chairman, who by the way also used the vernacular in introducing to the meeting the subsequent performances in the programme. Then followed the glee. “O gently breathe,” by the choir. Mr K. Kissack next recited in good style the Manx version of the “Prodigal son,” Mr R. Corkill following with a creditable rendering of the song, “When you and I were young, Maggie.” Mr James Kewley read with effect the 20th chapter of Romans in the native dialect, after which the choir rendered “The village blacksmith.” The style in which Mr R. Kissack sang the “Manx wedding” evoked the highest appreciation, the building and its internal surroundings combining to impart to the words of the song a reality and effect that would have been quite impossible under other circumstances. Miss M. Moore, a girl of tender years, recited in charming style an original Manx composition entitled “Bainney-gear,” after which came Mr James H. Kelly with a fine Manx rendering of the ballad “Ny Kirree fo Niahghey.” The choir gave the glee, “Let the hills resound,” after which Mr R.

Kissack amused the audience by reading Will Carleton's humorous poem, "Betsy and I are out," and also its sequel at a later stage of the meeting. Mr H. Jane's excellent rendering of "The white squall" afforded another proof of his capabilities as a singer. Mr James Kewley sang with great effect the Manx version of the hymn, "God of all majesty." Mr Kelly read in a creditable manner the 1st and 35th Psalms, and Mr H. Quayle sang in pleasing style "The Vicar of Bray." Mr J.R. Moore followed with a first-rate reading of "Pingyn yn Ommidan," and after a glee by the choir, also read amid much merriment another Manx poem. The choir then gave "Hail Smiling morn," after which a vote of thanks to the performers, the chairman, and Mr Clague for the use of the room, brought a most enjoyable meeting to a close. The proceeds amounted to £2 os. 3½d., and it is contemplated to hold another meeting at an early date.

"[Laxey] Manx Concert." *Isle of Man Examiner* 18 November 1899: 4e.

1900

3. "[LAXEY] MANX CONCERT," ISLE OF MAN EXAMINER (21 APRIL 1900)

It is announced that a Manx and English entertainment, similar to the last, will be held in the large barn at Ballacregga, Agneash, on Thursday next, and that several local celebrities are expected to take part in the proceedings. The object is a charitable and deserving one, and it is to be hoped that a liberal and generous patronage will be extended to it. The last entertainment held in this neighbourhood was highly appreciated, and there is every reason to believe that the approaching one will prove equally satisfactory and successful.

"[Laxey] Manx Concert." *Isle of Man Examiner* 21 April 1900: 5d.

4. "[LAXEY AND DISTRICT] CONCERT AT AGNEASH," MONA'S HERALD (2 MAY 1900)

A very successful concert of Manx and English Music was given in the Reading-room, Agneash, on Thursday evening, the proceeds, which amounted to over £5, going in support of a charitable object.

"[Laxey and District] Concert at Agneash." *Mona's Herald* 2 May 1900: 5g.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2018

