

Manx Notes 492 (2020)

FAIRY LEGENDS FROM THE ISLE OF MAN (6)

EDWARD FARAGHER'S LETTERS TO KARL ROEDER

MEETING THE LHIANNAN-SHEE AT KENTRAUGH BRIDGE (1896)

I remember going to sea with a man of the name of Maddrell when I was a young man and he told me he was once a long time from home and at last he got a fright for Castletown they arrived in castletown at eleven oclock at night and it was very windy but moonlight so he made up his mind to walk home in the night he lived in fistard so he started at 12 oclock soon as he was ready and when he came to Kentraugh bridge there was a young girl walked up alongside and he wondering what would she be there for at that hour thought she must have strayed so he asked her if she had strayed but she only looked up in his face and gave him no answer and he asked her many questions but no word from her when they got to Ballacreggan he turned down the road toward Port st mary and she came that way too so he thought she must be a Llananshee and he spoke to her again saying if you don't tell me what you are I,ll make a sacrifice of you by God and she grinned in his face and was gone like a flash of lightning ¹

EDWARD FARAGHER MEETS A LHIANNAN-SHEE (1896)

I was once myself coming home from Prt Erin chapel and came across the hill from the old gate leading to the mountain it was a very fine night and as I was on the top of the hill I met a young lady in a yellow silk dress rustling as she past me by she had a white parasol in her left hand hanging down by her side but neither of us spoke so the people were telling me it was a llananshee and I would have spoken to her she would have followed me so the next sunday night I went across the hill at the same hour intending to speak to her but she was not there.²

FAIRIES NAME THE FIELDS AT CREGNEASH (1896)

Their are some more field names but I know not what the mean in manx or english I sopose the were christened by the fairies ³

FAIRIES HOLD AN EXHIBITION AT THE MEAYLL (1896)

I have heard that the fairies had an exhibition at chubbyr ny gaffle once which is a well on Mull hill I have heard my Father telling about it he was coming home from Port erin one night at a late hour and met with the fairies and they took him to the

¹ Letter from Edward Faragher to Karl Roeder, 25 June 1896, MNHL, MD 269.

² Letter from Edward Faragher to Karl Roeder, 20 July 1896, MNHL, MS 1246/1 A.

³ Letter from Edward Faragher to Karl Roeder, 14 August 1896, MNHL, MS 2146/3 A.

exhibition and shewed him all the wonders and he said he never saw such wonderful things in all his life he had been at the Dublin exhibition once but it was nothing in comparison to the fairies he could not describe anything for every thing was too wonderful he was there until the morning dawned and the exhibition got closed and he found himself at chubbyr ny gaffle or horse well where the people lead their cattle and horses to waterin when the other wells run dry there is plenty of water there allways but I sopose my Father slept on the road home and dreamed those things but he would not have it that he was asleep at all ⁴

FAIRIES EATING UP AND REPLENISHING THE COWREY DISH (1897)

I went to see a man last night at glenchass to get some fairy tales, but his stories was but very short and many of them you have heard already he was telling me about the two young men that came to the window and saw the fairies eating the *cowrey* and spitting in the dish to fill it again. and the one that would not eat it died very soon afterward I once was acquainted with the man that was telling him the story and he said that he knew the house and the young man as well and that the house was haunted by the fairies I was a farm house in kirk onchan and he said that soon after the young man died ⁵

NO WATER FOR THE FAIRY CHRISTENING LEADS TO HARM (1897)

There was one night and there was no water in the house and one of the servant girls refused to go and get water as the hour was late and there was an old beggar woman lodging in the house that night so she kept awake and the rest of the family were asleep. And the fairies had a christening but had no water to baptise the baby and they made much noise they came at last to the bed and took the foot of the girl that refused to get water and bled it under the nail of the big toe and put the cup with the blood in under a flag near the hearth so the girl began to pine away and when this old woman came again on her rounds the girl was very poorly and she told them about the cup and they lifted the flag and took it out and the young woman got well again and if she is not dead she is alive yet.⁶

FAIRIES LIGHT FIRES AT GLENCHASS (1897)

one of our crew was telling me about hearing the fairies often the night before we left home he was looking at a great bonfire on glenchas hill but there was no sign of fire

⁴ Letter from Edward Faragher to Karl Roeder, 14 August 1896, MNHL, MS 2146/3 A.

⁵ Letter from Edward Faragher to Karl Roeder, 19 January 1897, MNHL, MS 11064, J.J. Kneen Papers, Box 2.

⁶ Letter from Edward Faragher to Karl Roeder, 19 January 1897, MNHL, MS 11064, J.J. Kneen Papers, Box 2.

in the morning and he had seen many times perwick brows on fire in the night but there was no sign of fire when he was going there next morning⁷

FAIRIES SPEAKING OTHER THAN MANX (1897)

he is living in a cotage by the side of perwick river and he was coming home from the ailverry at christmas and it was late after twelve o clock and he heard great talking at the house when he came near but could not understand one word of them so it must have been some foreigh fairies that could not speak manx he expected to find his mother and sister sitting up for him and that the house was full of his compannions but when he got into the house his mother and sister was in bed fast asleep⁸

CAPTAIN DREG—CAPTAIN OF AN IRISH FAIRY GANG ([1900])

Captain dreg is not manx he was the captain of a gang of fairies in Ireland.⁹

*

STEPHEN MILLER RBV



⁷ Letter from Edward Faragher to Karl Roeder, 18 April 1897, MNHL, MS 09447, Karl Roeder Papers.

⁸ Letter from Edward Faragher to Karl Roeder, 18 April 1897, MNHL, MS 09447, Karl Roeder Papers.

⁹ Letter from Edward Faragher to Karl Roeder, [25 December 1900], MNHL, MS 2146/6 A.