## "ARE YOU QUITE SURE ABOUT YOUR 'HOP-TU-NAA?' HAVE YOU GOT THE GENUINE 'HOP-TU-NAA?'" *
### (1893)

In January 1893, T.E. Brown delivered a talk to an audience in Castletown, the title of which was "Manx Celebrities in the South of the Island" if you read the *Ramsey Courier*, or "Manx Characters," in the case of the *Isle of Man Times*. Both papers reproduced the text in two parts, though only the second half can now be found for each paper. The text of the lecture as reproduced in the *Ramsey Courier* and the *Isle of Man Times* differs, with the former being in the style of Brown familiar from his letters, while the latter is a plainer account of what was said on the evening. Brown had given a similar (if not the same) lecture earlier that month in Peel, "Manx Character and Characteristics," on 12 January at the Centenary Hall, held in aid of the Church Repair Fund, and a *précis* of which had appeared in the *Isle of Man Times*. Brown spoke two years later on 19 November 1895, again at Castletown in the Town Hall, a fundraiser to support the costs of an action concerning the right of access to the Racecourse at Langness. His talk, "Castletown Fifty Years Ago," covered the same ground as the lectures from 1893, again being reproduced in the newpapers, this time it being the turn of the *Isle of Man Examiner* to report it.

In the course of the 1893 lecture Brown referred to "Hop-tu-Naa," the *Ramsey Courier* reporting his words so: "Then about "Hop-tu-Naa." Are you quite sure about your "Hop-tu-Naa?" Have you got the genuine "Hop-tu-Naa?" The account by the *Isle of Man Times* was more succinct: "They had a peculiar version of "Hoptunaa" at Castletown." This is what is discussed further in the fuller version of this piece which is available for download with this issue of *Kiaull Manninagh Jiu*.

Stephen Miller rbv

❀

---