

YN CHIED LIOAR GAILCKAGH  
(1818)



*Yn Chied Lioar gailckagh;*

NY

COONEY DY YNSAGHEY, CHENGEY NY MAYREY

ELLAN VANNIN,

*Liorish y Cheshaght son Cummal seose, as cur er  
nyn doshiaght,*

Schoillyn Dhoonee

TROOID MAGH REERIAGHT HOSTYN.

---

Lunnin :

PRENTIT LIORISH HARRY TEAPE, CHRONK TOOR.

1818.

The author of this, the first ever Manx primer, was the Rev. Hugh Stowell (1777–1835), Rector of Ballaugh. In a report on the state of education in the Island made in 1818, Stowell authored the passage on Ballaugh, and mentioned that besides the Parochial School and a private girls school in the parish, there was “[a] school taught by the minister and his family, one day in each week, for the benefit of poor children whose parents are unable to pay for their education; from 40 to 60 generally attend, and they are principally instructed in the Manks language.” Stowell went further than just teaching them, he wrote a primer to help them to become literate in Manx as well, of which the title-page is reproduced here. He held strong views on the language, as recalled in a letter to the *Manx Sun* in 1842:

The late Rector of Ballaugh, the Rev. Hugh Stowell, has been heard to affirm, that every clergyman in the Manx church ought to be well acquainted with the Manx language—to declare that no clergyman invested with the charge of a Manx Parish, could otherwise than criminally remain ignorant of it—and to express himself in such a manner, as clearly to indicate it to be his opinion that patrons of livings in this country would have much to answer for in nominating to any rural benefice, a pastor from whom the people could receive no instruction communicated to them in their native tongue.

He went on to add:

And will any one pronounce the testimony of such a man unworthy of credit, or his opinion on the subject in question unentitled to attention. He certainly was a Manxman and a Manx Clergyman, but notwithstanding these unpromising circumstances, he was a gentleman—a scholar—a divine—and a christian of the highest order.

And, we can now add, an educator as well in the Manx language.

\*

For the 1811 report, see “Digest of a Return to a Circular Letter from a Select Committee of the House of Commons on Education of the Poor, &c. [1818],” *Rising Sun* 28 September 1822: 4b; for the 1842 letter, Pseud. [signed as Civis Mannensis], “To the Editor of the Manx Sun,” *Manx Sun* 6 August 1842: 5a–b.

