

SCHOOLING IN BALLAUGH

(1818) *



Digest of a Return to a Circular Letter from a Select Committee of the House of Commons on Education of the Poor, &c. [1818]

ISLAND OF MANN:

BALLAUGH, (*Popl.* 1,136) *Hugh Stowell, Rector.*

Particulars relating to Endowments for Education of Youth.

The parochial school, containing from 80 to 90 children, who vary according to the seasons of the year; the master has a salary of 5*l.* 12*s.* with a dwelling-house and a small glebe, besides school-fees at 2*s.* 6*d.* per quarter.—The school is in a great measure conducted on the new system of education.

Other Institutions for the purpose of Education.

A school, in which from 40 to 50 girls are taught by a mistress who has a dwelling-house rent free, with 2*s.* quarterage from each scholar.

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.

A Sunday school, in which from 100 to 150 children attend during the summer season, and about half that number in winter.

OBSERVATIONS

By the Rector of Ballaugh.—The poorer classes have not the means of educating their children within themselves, but the schools afford the necessary accommodation at present.—The minister states, that education has been for the last ten years rapidly on the advance in the Isle of Mann, principally through the medium of Sunday

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schools; and it appears, from authentic documents, that the state of Sunday schools in June 1819, was as follows—44 schools, 341 teachers, and 3,447 scholars.

“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.

Here we can see set out the educational provision in Ballaugh in 1818, the Parochial School with its eight to ninety pupils, their numbers, however, “vary according to the seasons of the year,” the winter months with its unseasonable weather keeping them at home, besides the demands of the agricultural year for labour from all ages. Then there is a private school for girls, with up to fifty attending it, but notice that fees are payable for both schools. And that leaves the poor unable to send their children to school, except here in Ballaugh, where there was a school for them, though just for one day in the week, and taught by the Reverend Hugh Stowell and his family. Notice too, that they are “principally instructed in the Manks language.” One can see that the language, even at this early date, is now associated with those at the economic margins of Manx life.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2017

