

Manx Notes 47 (2005)

“HE HAD CERTAINLY ‘SET IT DOWN’ TO ME”

REV. JOHN QUINE DENIES ATTRIBUTION

OF THE *MANX SUN* REVIEW (1896)

Lonan. Vicarage. Isle of Man.

Ap. 12. 1897.

Dear Sir

Today being in Douglas I was asked by a gentleman of my acquaintance if I had seen the *Manx Sun* of a recent date, containing a letter of the Rev. T. Talbot wherein he makes reference to a “review” which appeared in the same newspaper some months ago;—of M^r W.H. Gill’s *Manx National Songs* & of M^r A.W. Moore’s *Manx Ballads*—and points to myself as the writer of the review in question.

I asked my friend if he or anyone knew anything of my feeling in Manx matters could possibly suspect me of writing that review graceless ungrateful and spiteful as I recollect it to have been?

My friend answered that he had certainly “set it down” to me.

It appears then that it is possible to be so misunderstood. Consequently I take the liberty of asking you to receive this letter as an absolute denial of my having written the “review.” I know nothing of the authorship of it. If I found out who wrote it, & it turned out to be a friend of my own, the discovery would cool our friendship.

I have done nothing but rejoice over the publication of the *Manx National Songs*; and doubly so over the success with the people.

As a Manxman I feel myself under a debt of gratitude to yourself M^r W.H. Gill & D^r Clague. For me to have written that ungrateful paper would have been indeed impossible.

I am y^{rs} very faithfully | John Quine

His Honour | The Deemster Gill

Source: Letter from Rev. John Quine to Deemster J.F. Gill, 12 April 1897, *Manx National Heritage Library*, MS 09702, Box 2 (unlisted).



“I have done nothing but rejoice over the publication of the *Manx National Songs*; and doubly so over the success with the people,” wrote Quine in his letter. Indeed, he had positively reviewed *Manx National Songs* in the *Manx Church Magazine* in

1896 upon its publication.¹ Despite this, he was suspected by at least one person of being the unsigned reviewer in the *Manx Sun* (see *Manx Notes* 46 for a reproduction of the review in full). What is unclear, however, is how the Rev. Quine could be so easily singled out, by one person at least, as the author of the review.

STEPHEN MILLER
VIENNA, 2005

BIBLIOGRAPHY

PRINTED SOURCES

Quine, Rev. John. "Manx National Songs." *Manx Church Magazine* vi (1896): clxi.



¹ Rev. John Quine, "Manx National Songs," *Manx Church Magazine* vi (1896).