

Manx Notes 248 (2017)

[“THE HERRING SONG”] *

From Thomas Crellin, in “Lively Meeting at the Church Club: ‘Peel Sixty Years Ago,’” *Peel City Guardian* 17 November 1900: Supplement [1]b–d, see [1]b.

- 1 1 Ye seamen of Mona,
 Come join heart and hand,
 To sing of the season
 That gladdens our land;
 5 We have plenty of money,
 To buy our bread and beef,
 But potatoes and herrings,
 Must rule as our chief
 The season being over.
 10 We should not complain,
 For health and all mercies,
 We’ll thankful remain,
- 2 Still praise our preserver
 For blessings bestowed.
 15 When the herrings remove
 To their southern abode;
 With an honest-got morsel,
 A cup of good beer,
 As snug as our farmers
 20 We’ll live round the year;
 We heartily drink
 To the health of our men;
 And none are more cheerful,
 Who tug at the train.

NOTES

(1) “In the winter, the men and boys would gather at the public-house, and there they would sing the herring song ” (Supplement [1]b). (2) “When the Men went down to the boats in May to get them ready, they sung a song commencing, ‘Hail,

* Originally published as Stephen Miller, “The Herring Song,” *Kiaull Manninagh Jiu* February (2017): [17].

Isle of Man, &c. (Mr Crellin here sung the song)” [not reproduced in the original but identifiable as “Mannin Veg Veen”] (Supplement [1]c).

STEPHEN MILLER, 2017

