

Manx Notes 275 (2017)

THE PEEL MANX LANGUAGE SOCIETY (1)

WILLIAM KNEEN OF THE BETHEL
AND THE OIE'L VERREE (25 JANUARY 1899)

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1. "We hear that" *Peel City Guardian* 14 January 1899: [2]e.
2. "[Notice] Oie'l Verree." *Peel City Guardian* 21 January 1899: [2]c.
3. "Those interested in" *Peel City Guardian* 21 January 1899: [2]d.
4. "Manx Meeting in Peel." *Peel City Guardian* 28 January 1899: [2]g.
5. "[Notice] Manxmen to the Rescue." *Peel City Guardian* 28 January 1899: [2]c.

WESLEYAN BAZAAR TEA AND MANX CONCERT

6. "Those who would" *Peel City Guardian* 28 January 1899: [2]d.
7. "Young Men's Tea and Manx Reading Competition." *Peel City Guardian* 11 February 1899: [3]b.

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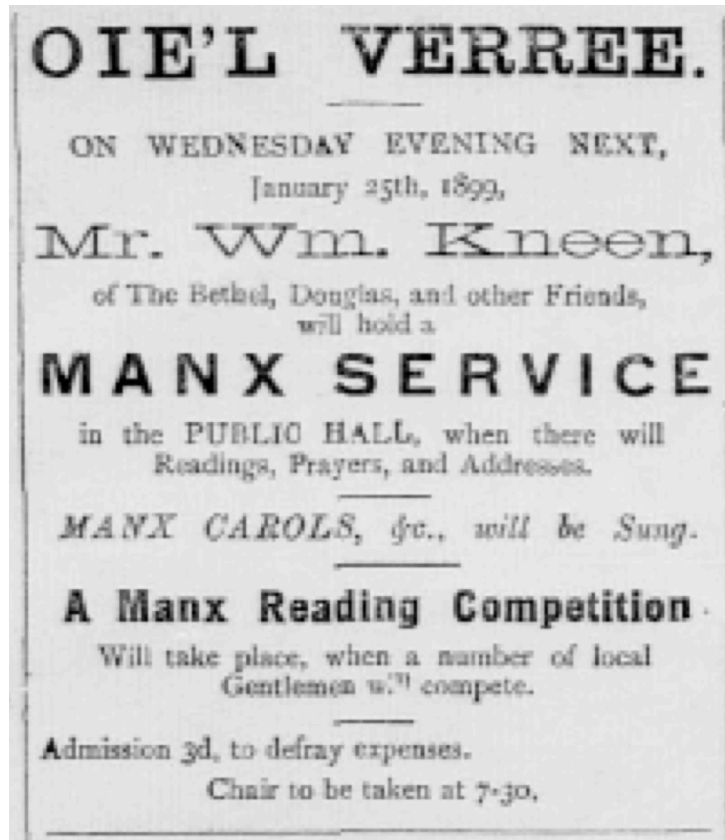
The *Oie'l Verree* held on 25 January 1899 was not as such connected with the Peel Manx Language Society as it was not in existence at this date. However, it was the holding of this event that acted as a catalyst for its formation. As it was reported, "[d]uring the evening several expressed the wish that a Manx class would shortly be started in Peel." The formation of the class itself is dealt with in the following *Manx Note*.

STEPHEN MILLER

1. PEEL CITY GUARDIAN (14 JANUARY 1899)

We hear that a Manx reading competition is being arranged for to take place at Peel at an early date.

2. PEEL CITY GUARDIAN (21 JANUARY 1899)



“[Notice] Oie’l Verree.” *Peel City Guardian* 21 January 1899: [2]c.

3. PEEL CITY GUARDIAN (21 JANUARY 1899)

Those interested in the preservation of the Manx language will be interested to know that a Manx service will be held in the Public Hall, on Wednesday evening next. It will be after the form of an Oie’l Verree service and will comprise hymns and prayers in Manx, and an address, with Manx carols, etc. A Manx reading competition will also take place, in which, several Peel gentlemen will compete.

“Those interested in” *Peel City Guardian* 21 January 1899: [2]d.

4. PEEL CITY GUARDIAN (28 JANUARY 1899)

A meeting, having for its object the revival of the Manx language, was held on Wednesday last in the Public Hall. There was a fairly good attendance, and, with the

exception of, perhaps a dozen, those present seemed to have a good idea of the language spoken at the meeting. Mr William Kneen (Douglas Town Missionary) presided, and, beside singing several hymns in the mother-tongue, read the outline of a sermon in Manx, which he had previously delivered in the Douglas. The feature of the meeting was the excellent address given by Mrs Kneen, who strongly advocated the formation of classes to teach the Manx language. During the evening, a Manx reading competition took place, in which the following took part. Mr Henry Cannon, who read the last chapter in Deuteronomy. Mr T. Crellin read some Manx poetry, and, judging by the laughter it caused, those who understood him had a good time. Mr Thomas Kelly (Stanley-mount) read the 15th chapter of St Luke. Mr John Caine took for his reading the first chapter in Genesis. Mr William Kelly (Greeba) followed with the first half of the third chapter of St John, the remainder of the chapter being read by Mr William Moore. There did not appear to be any fixed judge deciding on the merits of the different readers, but the general opinion was that Mr John Caine deserved first prize, while the second was very difficult to fix upon (the two Messrs Kelly being first favourites) Mr Kneen, however, decided that each was entitled to a prize, and very kindly gave to all the competitors a copy of the new Manx Primer. During the evening several expressed the wish that a Manx class would shortly be started in Peel.

“Manx Meeting in Peel.” *Peel City Guardian* 28 January 1899: [2]g.

5. PEEL CITY GUARDIAN (28 JANUARY 1899)

Manxmen to the Rescue.

A MEETING of those interested in RESUSCITATING the beautiful MANX LANGUAGE, are requested to meet in the PUBLIC HALL, Michael Street, Peel, on SATURDAY EVENING, February 4th, at 7 o'clock, to consider what steps can be taken to form a Manx Association for Peel and District. Country Friends invited.

W. MOORE.

“[Notice] Manxmen to the Rescue.” *Peel City Guardian* 28 January 1899: [2]c.

This announcement was carried by the *Peel City Guardian* in its issue for 28 January 1899, the same one that carried the report on the *Oie'l Verree* and Manx Reading Competition held on the previous Wednesday. It is clear that it had galvanised those at that event into taking action. This issue also carried a notice of a Manx concert to be held the following week. This was not as such an event organised by the later-known Peel Manx Language Class, but is included here as background to the uptake of Manx at this time.

WESLEYAN BAZAAR TEA AND MANX CONCERT

6. PEEL CITY GUARDIAN (28 JANUARY 1899)

Those who would spend an enjoyable evening will have ample opportunity on next Tuesday evening, when a tea meeting and Manx concert will take place in the Centenary Hall. The tea is being given by a few young men in connection with the forthcoming Wesleyan Bazaar. The concert will consist of Manx items throughout, solos, recitations, etc., and there will also be a Manx reading competition open to all under the age of 30. Messrs Wm. Cashin, T. Kelly, and W. Moore have been appointed the judges. A hearty invitation is given to all to come. Tickets, tea and concert 9d; concert only 3d.

“Those who would” *Peel City Guardian* 28 January 1899: [2]d.

7. PEEL CITY GUARDIAN (11 FEBRUARY 1899)

In connection with the forthcoming Wesleyan bazaar, the Young Men’s Committee gave a tea in the Centenary Hall on Tuesday evening week. The tea was well patronised, the tables, being presided over by Messrs W. Quayle, J. Boyde, G. Delany, H. Kee, P. Kee, and W. Looney. These were suitably attired in aprons, &c., and their get-up was in admirable taste. After tea a Manx concert was given, presided over by Mr J.H. Callister. Songs were contributed by Messrs J.W. Kelly (“The Manx Wedding”), W. Watterson (“Ramsey town”), T. Crellin (“Barbara Allen” in Manx and English); a violincello solo by Mr Percy Kee, and a melodeon solo by Mr Tom Gawne. Reading, and recitations were given by Messrs R. McEwen, W. Quayle, J. Boyde, W.Q. Leece, and J. Clinton. The “Tom Brown” quartette party gave (by special request) “The Gel of Ballasallaw.” During the evening a most interesting Manx reading competition took place. There were sixteen competitors, all under thirty years, and each in turn had to read at first sight a verse in Manx—the verse being selected by the judges. Messrs Wm. Cashin and Thos. Kelly (Stanley Mount) were the judges, and gave general satisfaction. Mr C.R. Shimmin carried off the first prize, Mr T.H. Clague the second, while the third had to be divided between Messrs J.H. Clinton, W. Quayle, and the chairman. In awarding the prizes, Messrs Cashin and Kelly gave exceedingly interesting addresses on the Manx language. The usual votes of thanks brought the meeting to a close. We must not forget to mention that the duties of accompanist were ably fulfilled by Mr Herbert Kee.

“Young Men’s Tea and Manx Reading Competition.” *Peel City Guardian* 11 February 1899: [3]b.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2017

