

Manx Notes 278 (2017)

“THERE IS AN OLD MANKS BALLAD OR LAMENT”

(1873) *

SIR,—Please insert this letter in your Manks Notes and Queries. Charles I was beheaded January 30, 1649. James VII, Earl of Derby, was beheaded October 15, 1651. The battle of Worcester was fought September 3rd, 1651. In the early part of 1651, Charles II required the Earl of Derby, then resident in the Isle of Man, to join him; he accordingly set up his standard, and required the several captains of parishes to find him in men. There is an old Manks ballad or lament, in which the writer, a Kirk Lonan man, deplores the loss of his two sons, who were taken to fight under the Moor-dhoo. This ballad the late Parson Harrison, of Jurby, repeated to me in Manks from beginning to end. Can anybody furnish you with a copy of it? Are there any records to say how many men were mustered, and under what officers? After the battle at Wigan, the Earl of Derby managed to join the King at Worcester. Tradition says that the Captain of Onchan was killed there, but that the Captain of Lonan survived, and was pensioned at the restoration of Charles II—I remain, your obedient servant,

WM. HENRY CUBBIN.

Tremissary Lodge, Sept. 6, 1873.

History says that in August, 1651, the Earl of Derby left the Isle of Man with a company of three hundred volunteers to join King Charles, then in Lancashire, but the above Manks lament seems to infer they were balloted for as conscripts. (See Train, vol. 1, page 20.)—W.H.C.

William Henry Cubbin, “[Manks Notes and Queries] [Letter to the Editor].” *Mona’s Herald* 10 September 1873: 2e.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2017



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