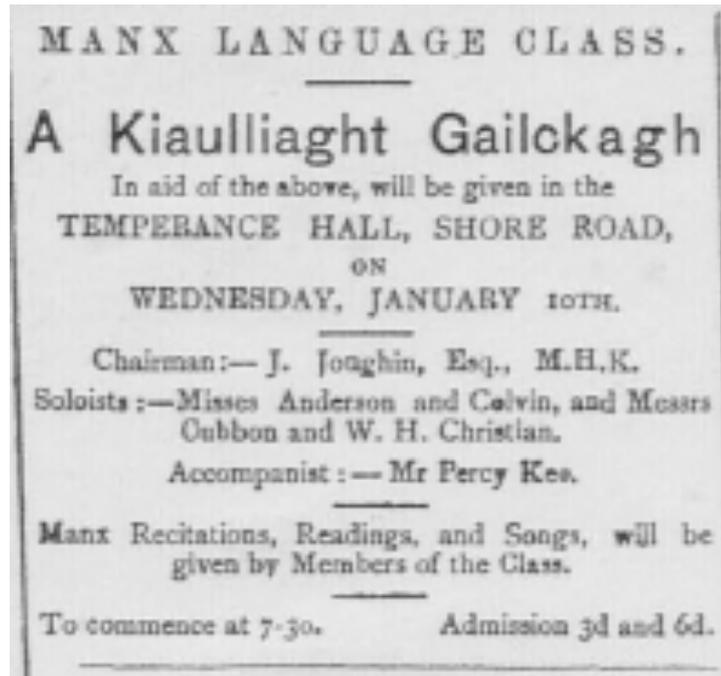


Manx Notes 296 (2017)

THE PEEL MANX LANGUAGE SOCIETY (5)
KIAULLIAGHT GAILCKAGH
(1900)

- I. “[NOTICE] MANX LANGUAGE CLASS: A KIAULLIAGHT GAILCKAGH,” PEEL CITY GUARDIAN (6 JANUARY 1900)



“[Notice] Manx Language Class: A Kiaulliaght Gailckagh.” *Peel City Guardian* 6 January 1900: [2]c.

2. “THE ‘KIAULLIAGHT GAILCKAGH’,” PEEL CITY GUARDIAN (6 JANUARY 1900)

The “Kiaulliaght Gailckagh,” or Manx concert, which, as announced in another column, will be held by the Peel Manx Language Class in the Temperance Hall, on Wednesday evening next, is to be a very interesting affair. There will be items in Manx, Gaelic, Erse, Welsh, and English, so that nearly all the antediluvian languages will be represented. The programme includes solos, recitations, readings, and addresses, so that entertainment and instruction will be provided simultaneously. It is hoped that the class will be encouraged by a good attendance.

“The ‘Kiaulliaght Gailckagh’” *Peel City Guardian* 6 January 1900: [2]d.

3. “KIAULLIAGHT GAILCKAGH’ (MANX CONCERT),” PEEL CITY GUARDIAN (13 JANUARY 1900)

[3d] Peel is now looked upon as the seat of the Manx language revival, and it well merits the distinction. A number of Manx people think fit to belittle the revival, and we would advise those people to visit the class on a Wednesday evening and see the hard working students young and old—but a preponderance of young—and the patient and enthusiastic teachers at work. Tha Peel Manx Language Class held their first concert, or to give it its proper title in the vernacular “Kiaullaght Gailckagh,” on Wednesday week in the Temperance Hall, Shore-road. There was a very nice attendance. Mr W.J.C. Joughin presided, his father, Mr J. Joughin, H.K., the appointed chairman, being absent at another engagement. In his opening address, which was brief but interesting, Mr Joughin alluded to the fact that in the room beneath them, in the early days of Methodism in the Island, many hundreds of sermons were preached and services held in the original Manx, which had doubtless saved the extinction of the language. The vocal programme was then commenced. Tom Corkan, one of the boy students of the class, reciting very creditably, “Blein vie noa” (Happy New Year). The boy students en masse next occupied the platform in a quaint chorus, “Helg yn dreain” (Hunt the wren), carefully and correctly rendered and fully appreciated by the audience. After each item, the Chairman said a few witty and appropriate remarks. A remembrance of old times was the duet, “Choud as va bochillyn syn oie,” a semi-mournful and plaintive item, but so tunefully rendered that the vocalists, Messrs W. and T. Quine, were loudly applauded. Following this were two girl-students’ recitations, “Arrane y Paitchen” (song of the children) by Fannie Palmer, and the 23rd Psalm by Elsie Kee, both very brief but interesting recitations. The chairman before calling on the next vocalist expressed his opinions on the old Manx songs, which, he said, always struck him as having a semblance of tho waves rolling on the shore or the wind coming down from the high mountains of the Island. Being an isolated people, the Manx had derived their inspiration aud music of their weird wailing, melancholy, mournful songs, from the sounds of tha wind and the waves. Ha thought authorities on music would bear him out. The old favourite, Mr T. Crellin, now came forward, anl gave a most curious and comically gutttral rendering of a Gaelic song, fresh from the Highlands. Mr Crellin got an encore, gave a Manx selection, “Cobel Collandrass,” which we understand cannot be turned into English. Miss Delany, an attractive Dublin young lady, holding the position of assistant mistress at St Mary’s School, Douglas, introduced an agreeable and lively change into the programme by giving two well-known Irish songs in excellent fashion, “Rory O’Moore” aud “Good-bye mavourneen.” Miss Joughin, one of the hardest working and enthusiastic of the teachers at the class, gave what all the judges pronounced a most correct reading of “Coayl jeh ny Baatyn Skeddan” (the loss of the herring fleet). The difficulty the chairman had in pronouncing this title called forth from him the remark that he would give nearly all his earthly estate to be

able to read Manx. Mr Jas. A. Cubbon filled the place of Miss Anderson (absent through illness) on the programme by singing in his usual hearty fashion “Illiam Dhone” (brown William). Mr Cubbon was heartily applauded, as were all the contributors to the concert. The Chairman here said that like the name of Illiam Dhone had been immortalised by song, so would that of Mr T. Crellin, who was mentioned in the “Manx Wedding,” be handed down to future generations (applause). Mr Hy. Cannon gave an interesting reading of the birth of Christ in Manx, which though long, seemed to interest a great many of the older people present. A very pleasant little song was the patriotic “Mannin veg veen,” by A. Corkan, a girl student. There was much applause when Mr Thos. Kelly (Stanley-mount) was announced by the Chairman to give a speech. Mr Joughin had known Mr Kelly all his life, and when he was a boy he was a pupil of Mr Kelly’s in the art of hunting. If there was a hare this side of the Island Mr Kelly could find it. He (Mr Joughin) was pleased to reflect that Mr Kelly’s influence over him had always been for good.

Mr Kelly, after stating that he doubted whether he deserved all the good things said about him by Mr Joughin, said they would expect him to say something Manx, or if not that, something about Manxland. Mr Joughin had mentioned a very good thought of his to the effect that the Manx songs had taken the keynote from their surroundings — from the continual lashings of the waves against the shore, &c. His (Mr Kelly’s) own opinion was that they were the result of their surroundings. Tho Manx had been a greatly oppressed people—bought and sold, and conquered and reconquered, and in the seventeenth century, the Island was even then let to a Liverpool merchant—a goodly country bought, and slaves made of all of them for £1,000 a year (laughter). After all those things the wonder was that they had any nationality whatever about them. After re-counting the different stages of the Island’s history, Mr Kelly came to the famous Manx charter of liberty, the Act of Settlement, originated by Bishop Wilson, which introduced some sort of liberty for Manxmen, but even up to forty or fifty years ago, he said, Manxmen were little better than serfs, when the editors of the *Mona’s Herald* and the *Isle of Man Times* were cast into prison because they happened to say a word about the members of the House of Keys. To-day, of course, they enjoyed the liberties of the surrounding countries. Referring to the melancholy turn of the Manx songs, Mr Kelly said there was another fact to be mentioned in connection with the Manx nation. It was this. They had no literature. Well, that was a great disadvantage —no doubt about it—but as most disadvantages it had its compensations. He was stating on the authority of one of the greatest professors living, that Manx is the purest of Gaelic languages. He (Mr Kelly) thought that was due to their want of literature—which was in many instances the cause of destroying and corrupting language. Englishmen got hold of a word, and gave it a turn which had no meaning whatever. The history of the Isle of Man is wrapped up in its place names—which as all knew were destroyed and corrupted.

Take for instance the name of Slieuwhallin, which is given as the “Hill of the whelps.” It was originally Slieuwhawlin—the hill overlooking the courts, which were held at St John’s. Then they had the name Foxdale. Nobody heard of a fox there—the real name was Forsdale, the glen of the waterfall. Many of the Manx place-names were very old. There were a number of Scandanavian names on the Island, for instance, Crosby, Colby, Sulby and, Jurby. Many of the Manx surnames were Scandanavian. In the year 1,000, there was a Dublin Scandanavian named Thormold; that, undoubtedly, to-day, was Kermode. So with Goill, now Gill, &c. Laxey meant salmon river. In the list of the members of the House of Keys one hundred years ago for instance: Clague was then known as Cloage; Radcliffe, as Raydcliffe; Hodgson, as Hutchen; Cain, as Cayne; Curphey, as Curghey; Kissask, as Kissage; Corlett, as Curleod. History was generally buried in placenames, as Brack-a-Broom near Peel meant stream of the trout, whether it is that at the present time or not is a question. The very English Rockmount was formerly Vriehny, the thorny place; Cregmallin (the old spelling) meant the town’s rock. These old names should be preserved. He (Mr Kelly) was pleased with the good audience, and delighted with the young singers.

Mr W.H. Christian now varied the programme with a spirited and pleasing Manx rendering of “Myleehraine.” He was followed by the custodian of Peel Castle, Mr W. Cashen, who gave a very correct reading of the old hymn “Wrestling Jacob” in Manx. Mr Cashen prefaced his reading by remarking with reference to the appointed chairman, Mr J. Joughin, H.K., that Patrick McJoughin was a member of the Manx House of Keys for Glanfaba 470 years ago (hear, hear). Mr Cashin [*sic*] referred to the progress of the Manx Class, of which he was one of the teachers, and said that their chief want was a grammar. Mr Goodwin, the best man on the Island for the job, had compiled a grammar for them, and the Central Committee had taken it away to have it printed. They did not know whether they would get it this spring or next year. They were quite capable, however, of getting it printed themselves. Of the four children the Class had sent to the Guild Competitions, he would say that any of them would read and recite the 23rd Psalm better than any one of the judges who judged [3e] them (laughter). He would send no more to the Guild, unless they had a judge from the West of the Island. Miss Joughin had read “The Loss of the Herring Fleet.” She knew every word of it, and could translate it into English. She had learned Manx in the short time the class had been open. The class received every encouragement from English people and from learned professors, and last summer a professor from Copenhagen was in Peel Castle seeing him, having been sent over to learn the Manx language. Professor John Rhys, Celtic professor at Oxford, could speak Manx as well as a Manxman. They must not allow their Manx tongue to die out, or their Tynwald, liberty and freedom, would go if the language would go. Miss Delany now gave the song, “No Irish need apply,” and was followed by Mr Williams, who read the 23rd Psalm in Welsh, Miss Ruth Shimmin recited very

clearly “Moylley son ymmodee myghynyn” (grace of many mercies). Miss Delany was now again in evidence with the ever-popular “Killarney.” A. Quine (girl student) recited “Usheg veg Ruy,” and Mr T. Quane gave a short scriptural leading, both items being attentively listened to. “The king of the sea,” from the Manx song book, was a solo and chorus by J. Shimmin and boys, very excellently done, as was a recitation by J. Comish. A characteristically funny speech by Mr W. Moore in which he enjoined the girls to learn Manx and be good, and they would get to heaven, was the cause of much merriment. The two concluding items were the “Rival Cockades” by the girls (in character), from the Manx National Song Book; and “Arrane oie vie” (song of good-night), by Annie Corkan. Votes of thanks all round and cheers brought the evening to a close. Before departing, the audience sang “Ellan Vannin.” Mr H. Kee ably accompanied all the items on the violin.

“Kiaulliaght Gailckagh’ (Manx Concert).” *Peel City Guardian* 13 January 1900: [3]d–e.¹

STEPHEN MILLER, 2017



¹ {Anon, 1900 #294}