

## Manx Notes 298 (2017)

“MISS MORRISON AT THE WHEEL” (6)

A LETTER FROM M.H. HICKEY

(1899)

The following letter has been forwarded to a lady member of the Peel Manx Language Class by M.H. Hickey, D.D., M.R.I.A., Professor of Celtic: St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, March 29, 1899. Dear Madam,—I thank you for copy of Isle of Man Examiner sent from Gaelic League Rooms. I am delighted that such earnest efforts are being made to make the musical Gaelic speech sound again in the glens and on the slopes of Mona. Next to my hope of heaven, that which lies nearest my heart is the hope that the various Celtic peoples will safeguard their ancient speech, and with it their distinctive nationality. May I offer a word of suggestion to our Manx kindred? They ought to get away as far as possible from the phonetic orthography (English phonetic of course), and try to get back as thoroughly as may be practicable to their historic orthography. You must have some good models remaining: take them as a basis. This will put you more in touch with us, and make concerted action easier. We can easily read Scotch Gaelic.

“Dr Hickey on the Movement.” *Isle of Man Examiner* 8 April 1899: 2c.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2017

