

# Manx Notes 321 (2018)

## “THE THUNDER BOOMED LOUD AND THE LIGHTNING WAS STRONG” \*

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Taken from Joseph Train, *An Historical and Statistical Account of the Isle of Man*, vol. ii, 2 vols (Douglas: Mary A. Quiggin, 1845), 314, fn. 2. Here it is credited to having appeared first in John MacTaggart, *The Scottish Gallovidian Encyclopedia* (London: Printed for the Author, 1824), 85 but the reference is mistaken. The footnote in Train reads “Huchston [*sic*], ap. Mactaggart’s Gallovidian Encyclopaedia, London, 1824, p. 85.” However, the entry for BORGUE on pp. 83–86 contains a poem written by “an old bard of the name of Hackston” titled “The Parish o’ Borgue” (84–86).

1           The thunder boomed loud and the lightning was strong  
          As the buckkar of Yawkins went screeving along  
          The mountain-like billows, that washes the shore  
          Where Raeberry’s turrets stood frowning of yore  
5           The king’s men were foiled when she left the Isle bay  
          With a cask at her maintop in vaunting array  
          The sails of the cutters spread fast in the wind  
          But the buckkar of Yawkins soon left them behind  
          Ah! what could the buckkar of Yawkins assail  
10          If there is at all any truth in the tale  
          That satan, for guarding her, claimed as his due  
          When landed his cargo, a tithe of her crew  
          But this might be said just because she could sail  
          When no other vessel could ride out the gale  
15          Because skipper Yawkins could take any bay  
          Any creek in the Solway, by night or by day  
  
          Oft at the Ross, with Yawkins and with Doal  
          And Manksmen gabbling from the manor hole  
          What noggins have I drank of smuggled rum  
20          Just from the little “Isle of three legs” come

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\* Originally published as Stephen Miller, “The thunder boomed loud and the lightning was strong,” *Kiaull Manninagh Jiu* June–July (2018), [17].

*B*

Taken from “An Old New Year’s Eve Adventure: A Baldwin Reminiscence,” *Mona’s Herald*, 13 January 1892, 2c. Sung by the writer’s father. “This song was as long as a clothes line, and being drawled out in somewhat the style of the Old Hundredth Psalm, by the time it was finished the greater part of the company were asleep.”

- 1 When the thunder boomed loud, and the storm fierce did roar,  
And the mountain-like billows assailed the Manx shore,  
Then the bold smuggler sailed, with his craft trim and strong,  
And the well-laden lugger scudded fiercely along.
- 5 The King’s men were foiled when she left Soderick Bay,  
With a cask at her main-top in vaunting array, &c, &c.

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STEPHEN MILLER, 2018

