

Manx Notes 321 (2018)

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

A

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

* 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.

*

STEPHEN MILLER, 2018

