

Manx Notes 325 (2018)

THE REVIVAL OF THE MANX LANGUAGE (18) THE BETHEL MANX LANGUAGE CLASS (1898)

If there is one event that can stand as the start of the Manx Revival it is the establishment by William Kneen, the missionary of the Seamen's Bethel, of the Bethel Manx Language Class, first held on 13 October 1898 in Douglas. Correspondence in the newspapers about the language had now turned to conversation in Manx.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2018

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1. "A SERVICE IN THE MANX LANGUAGE ...," ISLE OF MAN EXAMINER (8 OCTOBER)

A service in the Manx language will be held in the Bethel, Circular-road, on Sunday afternoon at 3-30. Mr Kneen will read the short Manx sermon which he has just published, also a Bible lesson and the Lord's Prayer in Manx. On Thursday at 6-30 there will be a conversational class in Manx and further arrangements are being projected.

"[Douglas] [A service in ...]." *Isle of Man Examiner* 8 October 1898: [5]c.

2. "MANNINAGH BEG," "THE MANX LANGUAGE," ISLE OF MAN EXAMINER (8 OCTOBER 1898)

By the way, I believe Mr Kneen, of the Seamen's Bethel, is starting evening classes for teaching Manx. I wish him every success in his undertaking, and I hope that he will be warmly supported.

Pseud [signed as "Manninagh Beg"]. "[To the Editor] The Manx Language." *Isle of Man Examiner* 8 October 1898: [8]e.

3. "THE STUDY OF THE MANX LANGUAGE," ISLE OF MAN EXAMINER (15 OCTOBER 1898)

There was a very successful class formed on Thursday evening in the Bethel, Circular-road, for the study of the Manx language. Several old Manx patriots were present, including Mr W.J. Cain and Mr James Kewley (Agneash). Mr Kewley treated those present to some beautiful renderings of several old Manx hymns, the music of these hymns (all in the minor key) being very plaintive and touching, and well worthy of preservation. Mr Kewley, in the course of his remarks, stated that his presence there was owing chiefly to the correspondence upon the Manx Language

which he had read in *The Examiner*, Mr Cain repeated, sentence after sentence, the Lord's Prayer in Manx, the rest following, and he seemed to have some very apt pupils. Most of the young people were drawn away by a tea-meeting which was being held in another part of the building. Mr Kneen was unable to be present, being called away to the funeral of a relative. It is to be hoped that every person who takes an interest in their "Chengey-ny-Mayrey" will attend these classes and try and make them a success.

"[Douglas] The Study of the Manx Language." *Isle of Man Examiner* 15 October 1898: [3]a.

4. "THE MANX LANGUAGE," ISLE OF MAN EXAMINER (29 OCTOBER 1898)

There were about 60 persons present at the Manx Language class at the Bethel, Circular road, on Thursday night. Mr A.W. Moore, H.K. has been appointed president; Mr R. Brew, secretary; and Mr W. Joughin, junior, treasurer. There is also a meeting on Sunday afternoons.

"[Douglas] The Manx Language." *Isle of Man Examiner* 29 October 1898: [5]b.

