

# Manx Notes 377 (2019)

## “NO LOSS, ‘JUS’ BOGHTYNID” \*

Sophia Morrison collected “Arrane Sooree” from Joseph Moore of Dalby and she commented that while he once knew twelve or thirteen verses of it, “now he remembers the first verse & the chorus which came after each verse.”<sup>1</sup> Moore attempted to find others who could recollect more of the song than he could but to no avail. “However, he tried to console me by saying that the missing verses were no loss, ‘jus’ [just] boghtynid,” Cregeen glosses *boghtynid* as meaning “poverty, poorness”<sup>2</sup> with Kelly the same sense, “poverty, need.”<sup>3</sup> Moore is using it here in the notion of “rubbish,” and that the missing verses were no great loss. This was not the only time that Morrison encountered this feeling. When reporting to the Manx Language Society in 1905 about the activities of the recently purchased phonograph she mentioned a major problem she had encountered in collecting material:

One difficulty in the way of obtaining the material which we want, has been, as I have found by experience, the unwillingness of our intensely earnest and religious peasantry to speak into the instrument such “boghtynid” as folk-stories and sayings and secular songs. They prefer that such a serious thing as a record which is to be handed down to posterity shall consist of Hymns, Scripture, or Carvals.<sup>4</sup>

She went to add, “[o]ne who knows them can understand the feeling, but, for the purposes of the M.L.S. more frivolity is to be desired.”

Agnes Wicksey, the schoolmistress of Baaregarroo, recorded in the school logbook for 1874: “Singing not so good; one boy, who has been converted at the ‘revival meetings’ held in this Chapel at the present time, refused to sing school songs, as he thought it wrong to do so.”<sup>5</sup> Methodist revivals were a feature of Island in the nineteenth century. For example, Croit-e-Caley Chapel had revival meetings that

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\* Originally published as Stephen Miller, “No loss, “jus” boghtynid,” *Kiaull Manninagh Jiu* May (2019), [25]. Reproduced here with sources.

<sup>1</sup> “Manx Fragments of Music,” undated, hand of Sophia Morrison, MNHL, MS 09495, Box 7.

<sup>2</sup> Archibald Cregeen, *A Dictionary of the Manks Language* (Douglas & London & Liverpool: J. Quiggin & Whittaker, Treacher, and Arnot & Evans, Chegwin, and Hall, 1835 [but 1837]) 27a.

<sup>3</sup> Rev. William Gill, ed., *The Manx Dictionary in Two Parts. First, Manx and English; and the Second, English and Manx* (Douglas: Manx Society, 1866) 26b.

<sup>4</sup> Sophia Morrison, “The Secretary’s Report,” *Annual Meeting, 1905* (n.p.: Manx Language Society, 1905) 4.

<sup>5</sup> Entry for week of 9–13 March 1874, Baaregarroo School logbook, German, MNHL, MD 10025. The entry for the following week, 16–20 March 1874, read: “Kept some of the second class boys in to do their home exercises, & made them understand that if they are attending the evening meetings at the chapel, they must not for that reason neglect their home & school duties.”

lasted nine to ten weeks in the years 1866, 1872, 1876, and 1890.<sup>6</sup> The result of this was as A.W. Moore noted in his *Manx Ballads and Music* (1896), “[t]o this day a score of Manx men will know one or more Manx sacred songs for every one that knows a Manx secular song.”<sup>7</sup>

For one fiddler, it was a meeting with the Devil as well that turned him away from playing his instrument for good, as Edward Faragher recalled:

There was a man once lived at the Sound. He was a very decent old man, and he used to play the fiddle, and the neighbours coming to dance. So he was fiddling away in the dark one evening before the candle was lit and the fire, and all was dark, but the fire blazed up suddenly and he saw the devil or some of his imps on the floor dancing; he threw the fiddle out of his hand and never played a fiddle again.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> “Records of Revivals,” 7 & 9, in Rev. J.K. E[lliott], J.R. C[orrin] and W.E. C[ollister], *Primitive Methodist Church. Croit-e-Caley. Castletown Circuit. Jubilee Souvenir 1881–1931* (n.p.: n.pub., n.d. [but 1931]).

<sup>7</sup> A.W. Moore, “Introduction,” *Manx Ballads and Music* (Douglas: G. & R. Johnson, 1896) xv.

<sup>8</sup> Charles Roeder, “Manx Notes & Queries: No. 185, The Devil Dancing to the Fiddle,” *Isle of Man Examiner* 4 October 1902.