

Manx Notes 381 (2019)

“THE TAY PARTY AT BALLDHON”

(1896) *

The choir was called upon—
Conducted with direction
Of baton, by the leader, who
Had chosen the selection.
Before the startin’ of the choir
Such whisperin’ preparation—
The stand placed here, the baton theer;
And beads of perspiration
Were on the threbles, squeezed so tight,
And altos few in number,
And tenors ready with their jaws,
With bass to yell like thunder.

A few more hitches to his pants,
Then the conductor’s ready,
With head and hands, and baton too—
Would get off middlin’ steady.
And when the piece was finished,
Such stampin’ and applaudin’!
The speaker next, and chairman, to
The choir would give a laudin’.

That was the time to see the face
Of the chairman all a’ beemin’,
Because the trebles took a G,
And tenors kept from screamin’;
A bass man, too, was singin’ theer,
And tearin’ like a racer,
Yet while his gel sat opposite.
Seemed shy and wouldn’ face her.

The antics here of a Manx country choir warmly and humorously depicted in the longer piece that is “The Tay Party at Balldhon” composed by “Jack the Jumper” and which appeared in the *Isle of Man Examiner* in 1896.¹

* Originally published as Stephen Miller, “The Tay Party at Balldon,” *Kiaull Manninagh Jiu* June (2019), [19]. Reproduced here with sources.

STEPHEN MILLER, 2019

REFERENCES

Pseud [signed as “Jack the Jumper”]. “The Tay Party at Balldhon.” *Isle of Man Examiner* 11 January 1896: 2e.



¹ Pseud [signed as “Jack the Jumper”], “The Tay Party at Balldhon,” *Isle of Man Examiner* 11 January 1896.