

Manx Notes 444 (2020)

“THE MANX NATIONAL ANTHEM”

(1860)

*

THE MANX NATIONAL ANTHEM

DEDICATED WITHOUT PERMISSION TO THE WHOLE BUNCH

God bless the Bunch of Keys,
Send them to mend their ways,
 Rusty old Bunch.
Give us our choice at last,
Keys of a modem cast,
And not of ages past.
 Like our old Bunch.

God bless our Bunch of Keys,
Number their useless days,
 Rusty old Bunch.
Man can't remove the dust,
Pumice the outward crust,
Or file off the coat of rust,
 From the old Bunch.

God bless the Bunch of Keys,
Bid them soon end their days,
 Rusty old Bunch.
Soon may their *Hope* depart,*
Soon may they crack and start,
Soon may they snap and part,
 Rusty old Bunch.

God bless the Bunch of Keys,
Send them to end their days
 At the Marine Store.
There may they lie at peace,
There may they rust at ease,
There may our rusty Keys,
 Rust evermore.

Gob-na-Skute August, 15, 1860.

RUSTIC.

Pseud [signed as “Rustic”], “The Manx National Anthem,” *Mona’s Herald*
29 August 1860, [3]e.

* *Hope* a reference to Lieut.-Governor Charles Hope (1845–60). Announced his resignation as governor at the Tynwald that year and left the Island on 16 August 1860; incidentally, the Laxey Wheel (1854) was named in honour of his wife. The House of Keys in this period was a self-elected one hence the satirical nature of this piece.

STEPHEN MILLER, RBV

