

## “WHERE THEY SANG TWO OR THREE BAND OF HOPE MELODIES”

### THE SMEALE BAND OF HOPE \*

The Smeale Band of Hope—a temperance organisation—was founded in 1868, one of many such which would be set up in the Island in the cause of abstinence from the demon drink.<sup>1</sup> Their number the following year was said to be some eighty members.<sup>2</sup> Their annual meeting took the form familiar to that of Friendly Societies—in 1870, they assembled at the Wesleyan Chapel at the Smeale, together with members of the Bride Band of Hope, and then marched to the residence of Mrs Joughin, “where they sang two or three Band of Hope melodies.” Three cheers were given for her and they went off then to a nearby farm for tea, followed by a return to the chapel for a number of addresses.<sup>3</sup> Their August meeting in 1872 was on the same lines, where again “[t]he children sang several interesting melodies.”<sup>4</sup> In 1873, “[t]he children sang several temperance melodies at each place, under the able leadership of Mr B. Radcliffe, the celebrated tonic sol-faist of the North.”<sup>5</sup> That same year they joined in with the Bride Band of Hope’s annual procession, and “after the children had sung several temperance melodies under the direction of Mrs Joughin,” they went off to the shore at Cranstal to enjoy themselves before going back for tea and another round of singing.<sup>6</sup> Singing was again a feature of the 1874 Tea Festival of the Band of Hope,<sup>7</sup> in 1875,<sup>8</sup> and in 1876, “when the children sang sweetly their favourite temperance melodies.”<sup>9</sup> In 1877 the Smeale Band of Hope were at Ballakinnag for their tea and this time the *Mona’s Herald* in its account of the afternoon’s proceedings gives the titles of the songs performed by the children later in the

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<sup>1</sup> “[Local Intelligence] Smeal Band of Hope,” *Mona’s Herald* 8 July 1868.

<sup>2</sup> “[Local Intelligence] Smeal Band of Hope,” *Mona’s Herald* 11 August 1869, “Temperance,” *Mona’s Herald* 14 August 1869.

<sup>3</sup> “[Local Intelligence] Smeale Band of Hope, Andreas,” *Mona’s Herald* 30 November 1870.

<sup>4</sup> “[Local Intelligence] Smeale (Andreas) Band of Hope,” *Mona’s Herald* 14 August 1872.

<sup>5</sup> “[Local Intelligence] [Ramsey and District] Smeale Band of Hope, Andreas,” *Mona’s Herald* 19 July 1873.

<sup>6</sup> “[Local Intelligence] [Ramsey and District] Kirk Bride Band of Hope,” *Mona’s Herald* 20 August 1873.

<sup>7</sup> “Kirk Andreas (Smeal) Band of Hope,” *Mona’s Herald* 6 August 1874.

<sup>8</sup> “[Local Intelligence] [Ramsey and the North] Smeal Band of Hope,” *Mona’s Herald* 15 July 1875.

<sup>9</sup> “[Local Intelligence] [Ramsey and District] Smeal Band of Hope Demonstration,” *Mona’s Herald* 26 July 1876.

schoolroom: “I love the cause of Temperance,” “Thousands that fill a Drunkard’s Grave,” “Now don’t you know the reason why,” “The Song Birds,” and “Love at home.”<sup>10</sup> The first two by their titles alone are obvious “temperance melodies,” the first one can be found in *The Temperance Songster*, first published in the United States in 1867. The Temperance cause in the Island brought about the foundation of societies such as the Smeale Band of Hope and as with them processions, tea festivals, and gala days—and used music especially written for those occasions.

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 —. “[Ramsey and the North] The Smeale Band ....” *Mona’s Herald* 21 July 1877: 4f.  
 —. “Temperance.” *Mona’s Herald* 14 August 1869: 5b.




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<sup>10</sup> “[Ramsey and the North] The Smeale Band ....” *Mona’s Herald* 21 July 1877.