

Manx Notes 475 (2020)

“NOW AN UNKNOWN TONGUE” (1875) *

The annual sermons on behalf of the above school were preached on Sunday last, in the afternoon by Mr H. Kelly, of Ballasalla, and in the evening by Mr J.W. Clucas, of Douglas. Large numbers of persons attended both services, especially the evening, when vast crowds of people emerging from almost all points of the compass assembled in a field adjoining the chapel, which was set apart for the services, and where the “stages” were erected for the occupation of the children. The musical part of the services was well performed by the choir, which was under the management of Mr Wood, draper, Castletown, who presided at the harmonium. The children also acquitted themselves most efficiently, reciting with marvellous ease and precision whole chapters out of the Old Testament both in Manx and English, as well as some popular Manx hymns. Evidence was not wanting of patient assiduity on the part of those who instructed them in the mysteries of what has almost become now an unknown tongue. United collections, £12.

“[Local Intelligence] [Castletown and the North] Ballabeg Wesleyan Sabbath School.” *Mona’s Herald* 15 July 1875: 5b.

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The Ballabeg Wesleyan Sabbath School Anniversary was held on 11 July 1875, and as seen here featured the Manx language, both in reading and singing, the latter as reported being “some popular Manx hymns.” The interest here is in the teaching of the children how to recite and perform in Manx, the language now not being transmitted to them.

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