

Manx Notes 481 (2020)

“BILLR UM CORKHILL”
“CHRISTMAS IN MAUGHOLD”
(1871)

[3c] SIR,—I was thinking you would like to hard how we are getting on here in the Christmas, and my wife was wanting me to write and tell ye about the row that us had down at the Church last week. Well man, us poor was down at the Church last week getting our money, and it is *worser* and *worser* the times are going, but some of us poor give the Qurat and wardeners a right jawing about the way the poor money is gone. Jack Quite only got four shillings for four monthes, and he was mortal mad about it, for he used to get a pound, and there is not so much poor on the books now as was then, well there is something terrible queer about it, for when Mr Kerruish was wardener us poor used to get twenty four pounds devided on us four times in the year, but we are [3d] only to get three pays this year, and we don't get near so much money at a pay as we were getting when there was four pays in the year, so ye see that there is a quaters money gone somewhere, besides being cut at the other pays, but us is going to look after it for Esther Monday to see how it is. I was asking them was us poor to get a supper this Christmas as I hard there was to be one that week, but they said it was not for our sort of ones, it was for grand ones the supper was. I was towl sence there was a terrible strike going and they kept it up with dancing and playing till one o'clock, that the ones about cudn't gut to sleep with the noise that they had. I said that was far worser than ever the Penny Readings was, that the Qurat was jawing about, but if times don't get better here soon, there is some of us poor talking of shifting over to Kirk Lonan, for it is a mortal good parish for the poor as there is often tea party's and consarts and things, and the Parson is a right ginnal fellow, and goes round to see the poor; but our Qurat won't do that they are saying he is good to call on grand houses. The Illvery is put off till next Sunday night, and I was right glad, for I have got a mortal bad cowl on me, but I am taking some warm ale for it, as it is a terrible grand thing for a cowl. I was towl Bill Nell had put a letter in the paper about a fallow down at the Church, who wants to get in the House of Keys, and he wants to have a public-house down at the Church. I suppose he thinks it would be a grand [thin]g to coax the people to come to church again, but the ones up at the Highbernium say they won't vote for ham.

Yours, &c.,

BILLR UM CORKHILL.

P.S.—I will let you know how I got on at the Illvery.

Pseud [signed as “Billr Um Corkhill”]. “[Letter to the Editor] Christmas in Maughold.” *Mona's Herald* 4 January 1871: 3c–d.

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This letter is one among countless others in style and language that appeared in the *Mona's Herald* over the years. Satirical in nature—as is their purpose—often the target is now lost with the context now a puzzle. That said, the humour remains present.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

