

# Manx Notes 494 (2020)

## “CLAPPING AND STAMPING” THE OIE’L VERRY (1880) \*

There is one thing I would like to say a few words about, which your correspondent K. C. mentioned to-day fortnight. It is the disgraceful applaudings in the house of God. We never see such unworthy acts committed in our churches, but in Dissenters’ places of worship we find that such is generally the case at Oiel Verry services. Clapping and stamping (whilst tobacco chewing and spitting go on at the same time) seem to be the fashionable way of applauding the carols, &c., sung at such services. Does it not look as if God were sleeping, pursuing, talking, or journeying, and they wish to attract his attention like Elijah advised the followers of Baal to do? As these services are near at hand again, let us hope that such disgraceful conduct may be put down this year once and for all.

Pseud [signed as “Spectator”], “[Northside Jottings] There is one ....,”  
*Mona’s Herald* 15 December 1880, 5d.

\*

As ever, an item found by chance in the Manx newspapers and one which could only ever be come across so as there would be no reason to search for such an incident as reported here. This comment is a follow on from a letter sent in to the *Mona’s Herald* a fortnight ago where the writer complained of the behaviour at Wellington Street Chapel where the congregation’s reactions to the music was of the profane rather than of the sacred, akin to that found at a “free and easy,” in other words a no-holds barred drinking session in a public house. It was precisely that freedom at the Oie’l Verry that was its attraction, licensed excess as described here ever a feature of such calendar customs, and condemnation of such behaviour now in equal measure in the columns of the Island’s newspapers.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV



---

\* Originally published as Stephen Miller, “Clapping and Stamping.’ The Oie’l Verry (1880),” *Kiaull Manninagh Jiu* September (2020), [14].





STEPHEN MILLER RBV

REFERENCES