

# Manx Notes 515 (2021)

## “ENGLISH SUNDAYS”

(1830)

We regret to find that the odious system of excluding indigent strangers from any participation in the money contributed for the relief of the poor, a practice which we have often had occasion to notice, is very severally prevalent throughout the Island. In the parish of Ballaugh, for instance, there lives or rather vegetates, a frail and distressed widow named Ann Smith, *perfectly destitute*, who, although she has been a parishioner 29 years, is not permitted to share in the sacrament alms at the parish church. She is also refused any portion of the collections made on what are caused “English Sundays,” that is, once a month, when divine service is performed in the English language,—and when at least three-fourths of the contributions are obtained from stranger residents;—and all this, forsooth, because the poor woman is not a native of the Isle of Man!!

“[Local Intelligence] We regret to ....” *Mona’s Herald* 9 January 1830: 2d.

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Besides the insight into the handling of poor relief in the Island in this period, that monies raised in the parish by church collections were for natives and not strangers, church services in Ballaugh were being held in Manx with one Sunday in the month when the service was in English, and these occasions were referred to as “English Sundays.”

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