

Manx Notes 526 (2021)

“THESE ARE THE PEOPLE FOR THE CELTIC TONGUE” CREGNEISH DESCRIBED (1852)

From thence we moved on around Pool-vash bay, and so across the mountains or mull-hill to that sequestered and very ancient village yclept [by the name of, *archaic*] Craigneesh. Here repose in undisturbed quiescence the primitive Manx. These are the people for the Celtic tongue, the carranes, the linsey-woolsey tunics, the mountain mutton, the bin jean, the turf-fire, the dried conger, and prayers without philosophy or hypocrisy. Give us the sons of Adam and the daughters of Eve, just as they were cast in nature’s mould, if we want to see displayed hospitality without ostentation, and Christian benevolence without grudging:—such are the folks of Craig-neesh.

“Excursion.” *Mona’s Herald* 25 August 1852: [2]g–[3]a.

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This piece in the *Mona’s Herald* dates as seen from 1852, and shows how early Cregneash was now seen as being Other and there to be found in the words of the writer were “the primitive Manx.” Those markers were language, clothing, foodways, and added to the list “prayers without philosophy or hypocrisy.” Cregneash was no different to anywhere else in the Manx countryside in this period—or later for that matter—but this view remains to this day.

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