

Manx Notes 560 (2021)

BLANCHE NELSON THE HOWE BOYS' ANCHOR UNION

Blanche Nelson was an evangelist living on The Howe at Glen Chass. She was the figure behind The Howe Boys' Anchor Union. In parallel there was also The Howe Girls' Bible Association. Reports in the newspapers of their activities are few and as ever one needs to be aware that not everything that went on in the Island was recorded in newsprint. What has been found to date is reproduced below.

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(1)

It will interest some of our readers to know that the Bible class conducted by Mrs Nelson on Sunday afternoons, from 1-30 to 2-25, in connection with The Howe Boys' Anchor Union, and Y.M.C.A. is open to all young men and boys who may care to attend. The subject for study during the winter quarter sounds somewhat deep to be handled by a lady: *ie*, "The glory and power of God as seen in the works of creation, and revealed in the Holy Scriptures"; but any person who has been present cannot find fault either with the subject or the way in which the class is being conducted. Mrs Nelson conducts her class very much after the style of the late Mr McColl's half-hour meetings in Paris; first a bright hymn, chosen and led by the young men, then a short prayer and five minutes' talk—and so on—and the meeting is brought to a close by the singing of the Doxology. It ought, perhaps, be added that the beginning of the "Union" was about a dozen little boys coming to the chapel about a year ago, "to be talked to about God and all things bright, and true, and beautiful," and Mr Teddie Raisbeck Collister conducting the singing. From that tiny beginning so much has the work grown that there are now 55 members names on the roll call, and 41 were present at last Sunday's Bible class, when Mr Alfred Costain, of Colby, offered up the closing prayer, previous to conducting his own appointed service in the chapel, to which all the young men remained. Any further information about this most important work can be had from Mrs Nelson, the Howe, central secretary to the Union; or from Mr Teddie Raisbeck Collister, the hon. Treasurer.

"[Rushen] Howe Boys' Anchor Union." *Isle of Man Examiner* 27
November 1897: [5]d.

(2)

Through the kindness of Mr Squires, all the Howe and Fistard boys who are members of the Howe Boys' Anchor Union, received an extra half-holiday on Thursday last to the camp tea given in connection with the Union, on a hillside field kindly lent for the purpose by Mr John Gorry. The arrangements for tea were carried

out by Mr Teddy Collister, hon. treasurer, with the help of the following young men associates: Mr Willie Cribbin, Mr Eddie Corrin, Mr Robert Corkill, and Mr Tom Gale. Miss Maud Nixon, Miss Maud Collister, and Miss Lizzie Watterson, also helping in every way they could. After “scrambles,” and races of various sorts, including the creeping and the national “three-legged,” all the party returned to their homes about 8 o’clock. The horse and cart, for the conveyance of the kettles, &c, were very kindly supplied by Mr John Watterson, of the Howe.

“[Rushen] Howe Anchor Union.” *Isle of Man Examiner* 17 September 1898: [5]d.

(3)

The first prize for “pluck” given in connection with the Howe Boys’ Anchor Union has been awarded to John James Crebbin for manfully saying “No” when tempted to “do the wrong.” Sunday though it was, when the prize was given, the young men “associates” led by Mr Frank Collister, of Castletown, could not resist giving a “clap” at the honour conferred on their boy-chum. When it is remembered the little sympathy which, as a rule, is given by big good people to boys in their conflicts and sorrows, their temptations and victories, it is not to be wondered at that small prizes given from time to time for triumphs won in every day life should so touch the hearts of both young men and boys. It may interest some of our Rushen readers to bear that in the April number of *The Ministering League Magazine* which was specially selected and got up in right royal style for presentation to H.R.H. The Princess of Wales, and which she has been pleased to accept of and most graciously to acknowledge, is a very touching little story of Manx boy-fisher life, part of the scene in which lies on the Howe.

“[Rushen] The first prize” *Isle of Man Examiner* 5 November 1898: [5]c.

