

Manx Notes 567 (2021)

THE MAUTHE DHOO SPOTTED IN PEEL

(1897 & 1899)

1897

The keeper of Peel Castle is a good Manxman, none better, and must be credited with the average Manxman's belief in the supernatural. He at least tells the "Mauthe Dhoo" story and other tales in a manner that can bring a conviction of their reality to the minds of his audiences. The other day he thought the "Mauthe Dhoo" had him. He was in the quiet of the Castle doing some duty, when, suddenly, he was violently charged in the rear. It takes some force, however, to upset the equilibrium—either physically or mentally—of the brawny custodian. On looking round he found he had been the butt of a ram, who had resented his intrusion. Had it only been dark the "Mauthe Dhoo" story would have been amply verified.

Anon. "The keeper of" *Peel City Guardian* 20 November 1897: [2]e.

1899

A gentleman passing along the Shore-road, about midnight on Thursday, had a considerable fright. He was nearing Stanley-road when he heard unearthly shrieks proceeding from the direction of Jib-lane. By the light of the corner lamp he saw a moving object, as big as & moderately sized dog, rushing from the lane towards him, uttering frightful shrieks, such as he never heard from any animal. The gentleman confessed to fright, and was considerably relieved when the shrieking object rushed past him and disappeared into the darkness still shrieking. It passed not more than a yard from him. He is not one of the superstitious order, and is a teetotaler, but he soberly avers that the sounds issuing from the unshapely object were such as he never heard from human or animal. It has been suggested that the Mauthe Dhoo, sadly missing the entrancing tales and genial presence of the Castle custodian, was seeking him at his residence.

Anon. "Supposed Re-Appearance of the Mauthe Dhoo." *Peel City Guardian* 20 November 1899: [3]a.

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The Castle Custodian mentioned here is William Cashen.

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