

Manx Notes 569 (2021)

“WERE YOU SINGING HYMNS?” *

“We were all singing on the road home,” deposed Robert Caley before the Magistrates Court on 2 January 1890. He was up before the bench for having stabbed Daniel Corlett during an argument that had taken place on 24 December 1889. Asked by one of the Justices of the Peace, “Were you singing hymns?” the answer came back, “No sir. Carols or ‘Carvals’ as they say in the country.” The incident had taken place on the way back from the Oiel Verrey at Christ Church Maughold. Besides Caley and Corlett, others present were John Callow of Abbey Lands, William Alfred Christian of Laxey, Robert Kinnish of Baldhoon, John James Quilleash Skillicorn of Gretch Vane, and George Shimmin of Ballaragh. They had all arrived too late to be admitted but had managed on the way there to have drinks at the Dhoon Glen Hotel and at the Glen Mona. Caley was fined £1 with fees for his role in the assault and “Mr Harris advised all in Court to go home and live in peace with each other in the parish, and to go to church instead of the public-house.” (For the court case, see “Serious Affray in Lonan,” *Manx Sun*, 4 January 1890, 5b–d.)

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