

Manx Notes 579 (2022)

“WITH SEVERAL INCAPABLE CORNETS”
THE DOUGLAS SALVATION ARMY BAND
(1893) *

The Salvation Army in Douglas is represented by a body of very estimable men and women, who labour under the delusion that the outward and visible sign of repentance is the making of as much noise as possible on a “musical” instrument. With several incapable cornets, half a dozen tambourines, and a drummer who bangs away as if the salvation of the world depended upon his muscular power, we get a truly horrible din, enough to scare believers and unregenerate alike from the scene of operations. What the residents in Victoria street have done to deserve this ear-splitting every Sunday evening we know not. We do not desire to interfere with the Army’s methods, but there is a limit to endurance. The drummer in especial should be taught that there is temperance in all things, even drum-beating.

“The Salvation Army” *Manx Sun* 23 December 1893: 4b.

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While the Band of the Salvation Army in Douglas was not to the liking of the *Manx Sun* in 1893, a reminder as ever of the role that music played in the work of such bodies as the Salvation Army, and how they added another layer to the musical soundscape of the Island, whether appreciated or not as the case may be....

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