

Manx Notes 586 (2022)

“THE PANTOMIME AT THE GRAND THEATRE” *

(1886)

“During the past week large numbers of people have flocked to the Grand Theatre, in order to witness the pantomime of ‘Dick Whittington.’” So reported the *Isle of Man Examiner* in its issue for 2 January 1886. This was, however, a panto with a novel twist:

The author of the pantomime (Mr Hemming) has taken a slight liberty with the story, and instead of the incidents happening near London, he has transported Dick and his cat to the Isle of Man. This is a most amusing feature of the whole entertainment, and permits of the introduction of a countless number of jokes connected with all manner of Insular subjects.

Not only that, it also had amongst the cast characters drawn from Manx folklore: “Imshee, Mr A. Wilson; Glashtyn, Mr Watson; Boggane, Mr Wm. Black; Mauthe Dhoo, Mr J. Creer; Phynodderree, Mr Tom Kewley; Lhannan Shee, Miss S. Atkinson.” If ever there was a panto needing to be restaged in the Island, then this is the one....

Stephen Miller, RBV

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