

## Manx Notes 594 (2022)

### “THEY WERE FAIRIES” (1850)

In the Isle of Man, superstitious notions still prevail about the existence of fairies. A woman was relating, near Douglas, that her son Thomas had seen some fairies in a field. “They were birds,” said an Englishman. “Oh! no; they danced around a bush in the middle of a field, and sometimes jumped over. *They were fairies.*” “They were very likely linnets,” said the stranger. “Oh! no; my son Thomas is not a lying lad; *they were fairies.*” A man came with a gun in his hand, and they vanished away. “I think he must have been mistaken. They were birds; and when they saw the sportsman coming they flew away.” “Oh, no! *they were fairies!* and I have heard my grandmother say that when she was a girl they were very common in the island. It’s truth. *They were fairies.*”

Anon. “‘They were Fairies.’” *Preston Chronicle* 5 October 1850: 4b.

Stephen Miller, RBV

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