

# Manx Notes 601 (2022)

## “WELSHMEN AT OXFORD” (1891)

The summer term is already as a tale that is told, for with the rejoicings of Commemoration Week the Oxford year practically came to an end. We are now enabled to look back, and I, there, fore, will try and give some of the most noteworthy features which concerned Welshmen particularly in that “sweet city with her dreaming spires” since my last contribution appeared a few weeks ago. Of public lectures, as contrasted with the ordinary class or college lectures, the two of greatest interest to Welshmen were those delivered by the Professor of Celtic (Professor Rhys) and the Professor of Poetry (Mr F.T. Palgrave, Fellow of Exeter College). Professor Rhys spoke on “The Superstitions and the Folk Lore of the Isle of Man,” and described them from personal observation having spent several weeks last summer in the Isle of Man. The inhabitants of Man seem to have been singularly superstitious, and were exceptionally tenacious in their beliefs in the fairies, which was doubtless due to the isolated position of the island. The fishermen especially paid particular regard to the fairies who watched over them when tossed on the mighty deep. It was not long since the inhabitants had abandoned the practice of offering burnt sacrifices, and superstitions of this character had lingered on side by side with the Christian religion. The professor gave many humorous instances of these antique beliefs, and the lecture was attentively listened to by a very large audience, including very many fellows, lecturers, and tutors, which quite filled the hall of Jesus College.

“Welshmen at Oxford.” *Cardiff Times* 27 June 1891: 1h.

Stephen Miller, RBV

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