

# Manx Notes 625 (2023)

“I AM DETERMINED TO TRAVEL UPON THE OLD LINES”  
(1892)

(1)

Of late years I have observed a tendency on the part of strangers coming amongst us to sneer at and seek to make little of our old Manx customs and traditions, and to cast discredit upon them. For my own part, I have always endeavoured to uphold them. To surrender one (however unimportant it may seem) without any sufficient reason is to weaken the others, and one by one we might gradually lose them all; and, therefore, it is that, so far as in me lies, I am determined to travel upon the old lines.

Alfred N. Laughton, “[Letter to the Editor] Public Meetings.” *Isle of Man Times* 23 January 1892: 4g.

(2.1)

[5d] Gradually our old Manx customs are dying out, and there is a noticeable tendency on the part of many of our people nowadays to try and disassociate themselves from anything which would reveal the fact that they were Manx. To put the matter plainly, they are ashamed of their nationality, and endeavour to appear as something else. Rather a strong statement to make; but, alas! only too true!

(2.2)

[5d] Those people who could not hide the fact that they were Manx if they wished—the farmers—are very busy each day in the harvest. Already the threshing mill has been at work on some of this year’s crop, and a very busy time is anticipated from now forward. The change in the country this week as compared with a few weeks ago is nothing short of marvellous. Up to the middle of this week, although there was a good wind, it was not so dry as that which prevailed during the remainder, and the consequence is that the corn is dry enough now for gathering in.

“[Gleanings from the West] Those people who ....” *Isle of Man Times* 17 September 1910: 5c–d.

Stephen Miller RBV

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