

# Manx Notes 673 (2024)

“SOME PEOPLE HOLD THAT SUPERSTITION IS DEAD”

(1901)

Some people hold that superstition is dead—especially of late years, since Nan Wade, the Ballawhane, and other famous charmsters, have passed away. Not so at St John’s, at any rate. Within the last few days a certain farmer was unfortunate enough to lose a valuable cow, and as the cause of her death could not be attributed to natural causes, he concluded that some evil eye had been cast upon the beast. To counteract the influence of the spell upon the others, he took his broom and pail, and having first swept the cross roads at Ballacraigne and St John’s, he then visited the door of each church, chapel, and public house in the vicinity, in the hope of gathering up the dust from off the feet of the bewitcher. Acting on the maxim that “prevention is better than cure,” the farmer sprinkled the dust so gathered upon the living cattle on his farmstead.” And this in the twentieth century! Where are our ministers and our educationists?

“[The Man on the Prom] Some people hold ....” *Peel City Guardian* 27  
April 1901: [3]a.

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