

Manx Notes 675 (2024)

“ONE NOTED FOR HIS BELIEF IN WITCHCRAFT”

(1900)

It cannot be gainsayed that superstition at one time did not have a firm heritage in Man, a remnant of which still exists, therefore the necessity of asking “Cur bun dou er” by the more enlightened inhabitants. I one time accompanied a cattle dealer in search of a good beast to the farmstead of a Kirk Patrick rearer of stock, one noted for his belief in witchcraft. The dealer offered a price for the animal which the farmer rejected as not being adequate, whereupon the dealer resorted to the former’s susceptibilities by saying: “Well, Thom Harry, if thou won’t let me have it at the price I offer thee thou’lt be buitchit” (bewitched). The bucolic replied, “Jee gow myghin orrym!” (God have mercy on me!) “Deed, but I wish I could let thee have it.” He thereupon, after his appeal to the Almighty, set to work by gathering up the earth bearing the dealer’s footprints, with which he vigorously rubbed the animal all over to break the spell of the evil eye, pleading to the would-be purchaser: “Deed, but the nex’ time thou comes thou will not find me a hard fella to deal wis.”

Pseud [signed as “Buggane”]. “Waif and Stray Notes.” *Manx Sun* 24
February 1900: 3b–c.

Stephen Miller RBV

*