

Manx Notes 676 (2024)

“SUPERSTITION IN ANDREAS” (1890)

Our correspondent writes: One of the heaviest losses that a farmer can sustain, is the death of any of his stock. I look upon it as a double loss. The carcase is of but little value, and it (if one only) has to be replaced, by the expenditure of hard earned capital. If a large farmer loses one of his milch cows, it is bad enough, but when a small crofter with two or perhaps only one milch cow sustains such a loss, the loss is proportionately greater. Such a loss occurred to two young women named Fargher, who work a small place in the north of the parish, and as they kept but two milking cows, the loss to them is most serious. I don't think I would have troubled you with this as an item of news of any consequence, had it not been that witchcraft, (or “butching,” if this is the correct way of spelling it) has cropped up in connection with the event, which shews how hard it is to stamp out this superstition, notwithstanding the spread of education.

“[Local and Insular Events] Superstition in Andreas.” *Ramsey Courier* 1
November 1890: [7]d.

Stephen Miller RBV

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