

Manx Notes 677 (2024)

“A RELIC OF MANX SUPERSTITION” (1893)

Wm. Skillicorn and Lydia, his Wife *v.* Thos. Cain and Jane, his Wife,—Mr C. Hughes-Games appeared for the plaintiffs. The case was one in which there appeared a good deal of interest as judging from the attendance of people from the vicinity of Post Office Place, where the parties to the suit reside. For the complainants, a considerable amount of evidence was given, in which it was alleged that Mrs Cain used abominably filthy language, aspersing the chastity of Lydia Skillicorn in a disgusting manner. For the defence, Mrs Cain, who spoke in an excited manner, said she merely took up the child of the complainants and kissed it, whereupon the defendant Skillicorn came out and asked for the child, saying that she (Mrs Cain) was a witch and would “witch” the child. This aggravated Mrs Cain, who then said “I am not a witch, but if I could buy a book and learn I would witch the child so that it would be dead by six o’clock this evening.” The altercation took place at noon. After hearing the evidence, the Bench fined defendant 10s. and fees, or 21 days.

[Douglas Petty Sessions Court] A Relic of Manx Superstition.
“Witching” a Child.” *Mona’s Herald* 30 August 1893: 3d.

Stephen Miller RBV

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