

## Manx Notes 680 (2024)

“HE WAS BEWITCHED ...”

(1874)

[...] Owing to the painful circumstances which had preceded the death of poor Kermode, and the great excitement which had followed their publication throughout the country, an inquest was held on his body on the afternoon of Thursday, the 5th inst., in the village of Port St Mary, by the High-Bailiff of Castletown. The jury having viewed the body, and the room in which he had spent the last fortnight of his life, adjourned to Miller’s hotel, where the evidence was taken.—Richard Clugstone, of Port St Mary, mariner, deposed to having known the deceased for many years, and to having, in company with his wife, and Messrs Thomas Qualtrough, harbour master, Thomas H. Qualtrough, the harbour master’s son, and Henry Hudson, nursed him throughout the whole of his illness, with the exception of a few days while he was away at Whitehaven. The deceased was 68 to 70 years of age, and had been failing for the last eight or nine months. About five weeks ago he became worse, becoming partially paralyzed and almost speechless, and possessed with a fixed idea that he was bewitched. [...]

“[Port St Mary] Sequel to the Case of Being Eaten by Rats. Death of Kermode.” *Isle of Man Times* 7 February 1874: 5d–e.

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