BULLETIN

of The North American Manx Association

NORTH AMERICAN MANX ASSOCIATION FOURTH CONVENTION



BUFFALO, N. Y.

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Vol. 3, No. 5

"To preserve whate'er is left to us of ancient heritage"

March, 1931

THOMAS EDWARD BROWN

Reviewed By Llewellyn Jones

Under the title, "Thomas Edward Brown: A Memorial Volume 1830-1930." The Isle of Man Centenary Committee, through the Cambridge University Press, has published a memorial volume of the Island's great poet, which is itself a notable work of literature. The names of some of the best known English writers of today appear over articles in which Brown's great personality and his many-sided literary and scholastic endeavors are described. The "Memoir" by Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch and the impressions of a number of his surviving friends, among them Sir Herbert Warren, Sir Henry Newbolt, Sir Hall Caine, Professor F. S. Boas, Canon J. M. Wilson, together give us even a more vivid picture of Brown than would the ordinary biography written by one man.

The Introduction to the book is by Ramsey B. Moore, His Majesty's Attorney General of the Isle of Man, and I shall quote one paragraph which ought to be pondered by every Manx reader—and having pondered it every Manx reader ought to see that the Collected Poems and—if the volume is still in print—the "Letters" of Tom Brown are on his bookshelves and not only that but often in his hands. Here is the paragraph:

"I would like to add one word as to the deeper purpose underlying this book. Little is required from us to establish the name of Brown with the lovers of English literature. The leaven is working there, and nothing can stop it. But we do most earnestly wish the Manx people to realize the man God gave them in Tom Brown. It is the tragedy of popularity that it takes such strange perverted forms. The Manx people have never really studied Brown—they have been content to pick out the humorous portions suitable for popular recitation, and to a large extent they only know Brown as a comedian. Brown was a humorist—a rollicking humorist—a subtle humorist; he could wallow in it, and he could be withal refined as a French satirist. To know him as a humorist and nothing but a humorist

is to know only the smallest fraction of Brown."

For any Manx reader who knows only a fraction of Brown this book will assemble the whole man. Here we meet the Manx patriot who took his holidays, while a master at Clifton, by those mountains from whose heights he could see his native island. Here too we meet the poet of Manx dialect and of classical English speech. And even his fellow countrymen who knew him in those capacities may not know that besides being a classical scholar he made some beautiful translations of German songs, and wrote and adapted from the German a number of the hymns in the Clifton School Hymnal.

Besides the Memoir and the personal recollection, this volume contains extracts from letters by Brown to his sister Margaret and to others -which form an invaluable addition to those already published in the two volume selection from his correspondence. Brown was a man of independent judgment, and although a clergyman of the Church of England never accepted any doctrine on authority but only in so far as it fitted in with his own experience. An exceptional interest, therefore, attaches to the parts of the letters given here in which he speaks to his sister and to others immediately after the death of his wife. The same note is struck in a letter to a friend similarly bereaved. But gay as he was on occasion—there are stories here of Brown's leading gatherings of Manx fishermen in native comic songs, from the vantage point once of a temporary platform laid on herring barrels-Brown was a man acquainted with grief. Going to Oxford as a "servitor" in the days when English snobbery was at its most undiluted, he had to steel himself against treatment which in these days we cannot imagine decent people meting out to tramps. And as more than one witness testifies, in these pages, it seared his soul. Then, when a house-master at Clifton, his son Braddan was stricken with scarlet fever, and, to avoid the possibility of infecting the boys of his house, he had to be moved to a hospital after the disease had progressed enough to be unmistakably diagnosed. And Brown took his son away, feeling that the removal was equivalent to a death warrant—and the next day the seven-year-old boy was dead.

To Manxmen who are also American citizens and possibly admirers of America's great poet of democracy, Walt Whitman, it will be of interest to learn that T. E. Brown admired Whitman—indeed to Henry Hanby Hay, who first met Brown when he was vice-principal of King Williams and then met him again after Hay had lived in America many years, Brown confided that he thought Whitman a better poet than Matthew Arnold. And in 1896 it took a man of great independence of judgment to dare to make such a confession as that.

This book is a rich harvest, and to many it will be a revelation—for as the Attorney General says in his introduction the Manx have rather taken Brown for granted. There is evidence in this book that he could have had any career he desired—Gladstone himself had invited Brown to enter the public service. But he would never, for long, turn his eyes away from the island of his birth. And when he grew old and tired of active work, it was to that island that he returned, and it was the inspiration of that island that caused his years of retirement to be years that did not cease to be active.

Editor's Note: Llewellyn Jones, born in Castletown, educated in the Isle of Man, former reporter on the Isle of Man Examiner, is now Literary Editor of the Chicago Evening Post, is a lecturer on Literature at the Unicersity of Chicago and is now in great demand as an after dinner speaker. He is the author of several books, the best known being, "How to Criticize Books" and a compilation of stories entitled "One Hundred Thirty One Best Stories or Gems of the World's Best Classics."

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Cooperation!

This Bulletin is sent you through the courtesy of our friends, the Chicago Manx Society. We know you will appreciate their effort.

May we at this time cordially invite our other societies to take up a monthly issue of our Bulletin. want to make this a national issue and we know our readers would appreciate news from our different districts. We all have friends scattered all over this great continent and the purpose of the N. A. M. A. is to bring all into closer unity. We hope our Los Angeles friends will take an early issue. They seem so far away but when we hear from them it seems a little closer. So come along, you secretaries, just write and tell us you want to furnish the copy for a Bulletin and we will gladly make our arrangements. We want to make our Bulletin so interesting that you will look forward to each monthly issue.

May I say we are fulfilling a part of the purpose for which its publication was intended. We take credit for the formation of the North Eastern Ohio Manx Society which has now nearly 200 members; also the Colorado Manx Society; the Mona Club of Detroit; and the Saskatchewan Provincial Manx Society. Now we are working with members for the formation of the Salt Lake City Manx Society, the Arizona Manx Society and hope in the near future to report progress with the Manx of Rochester and Albany, N. Y., towards organization of societies there. It gives us great pleasure to report this progress and we who have our Manx societies in our cities and appreciate meeting our kinsfolk, know the enjoyment our Manx friends will derive socially when banded together as a Society.

Again we ask for your support. It costs money to issue our Bulletin. It's your little monthly news to your own friends scattered all over this country. Over 200 have sent their subscriptions and appreciation. We know it is worth a dollar to send a little Manx news to someone who is not so fortunate as yourself to have Manx companionship through Manx Societies. Won't you mail yours today?

ART. B. KELLY, Secy. 2711 Dover Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

A Personal Message From Our Vice-President

March 11, 1931.
Greetings to the North American
Manx Association:

The Chicago Manx Society has been given the assignment of collecting and submitting material for this number of the bulletin of the N. A. M. A. and in the usual order of things it becomes my pleasing privilege to extend sincere greetings of the Chicago Manx Society to the members of the Association and all others of Manx origin whether within the confines of this continent, on the green hills of THE ISLAND or on the high roads or the bye paths of those other countries and places where Manx people have carried on.

We have a small group of some forty or fifty regulars which expands to one hundred or more on special occasions at annual meetings. However, the entire society revolves about our ubiquitous secretary, Fred Boyde. It is he who visits the sick, prepares for meetings, collects the material for bulletins, aids in getting jobs for the unemployed Manx, meets the visitors and devotes all his spare time to the Manx. I am sure that, notwithstanding all the other good and sincere workers in the organization that Fred is the motor that keeps the machinery going. Those who attended the Cleveland and Toronto conventions can see him running from group to group, meeting new cousins and introducing forgotten friends and relatives, and the homecomers will all recall his care of them at Montreal and his cheerful au revoir at Quebec. He can easily be termed the best known and most related Manx Man in America.

At our last meeting this society committed the unique act of joining the N. A. M. A. as a society. All regular members of the Chicago Manx Society will have their dues paid to the N. A. M. A. from the Treasurer. We like to read the bulletins and attend the conventions of the N. A. M. A. It is contact through the bulletins and conventions that forms the soul and body of the association.

Soon again we will have an opportunity of meeting old friends and childhood playmates at Buffalo, and the Chicago Manx Society is planning to be there with a large delegation. So until we meet you there we wish all peace and happiness.

Sincerely and fratenally yours, JOSIAH J. MOORE,

President Chicago Manx Society.

From Our Treasurer

Securing the material for this Bulletin which duty was assigned to the Chicago Manx Society, we found was no easy task.

The Bulletins have been so well prepared and having so much of Manx interest. We are so prone to taking everything for granted that we forget the labor and thought given to each edition.

We have had several of our members contribute and trust that you will enjoy reading it.

We are asking that every one receiving this number who have not paid their dues for 1931 will act at once and forward same to our Secretary A. B. Kelly or to your own Secretary of your local society. To continue we must have your financial support. It may not be known to our readers that up to the present time the N. A. M. A. could not have existed only for the gifts from the Cleveland and Toronto Societies, we feel that you knowing these facts that you will do your part and make our association self supporting.

FRED BOYDE.

Chicago Manx Society

On Saturday evening, Jan. 31st, the young ladies entertained at the Briar Gate Hotel. There was a large attendance, over 70 being present. Meeting was called to order by our President Dr. J. J. Moore and opened by singing "Ellan Vannin."

After a short business session, the president called on Miss E. Shimmin and Miss A. Comish to take charge of the social part of the program.

the program.

Community singing, led by W. J. Stevenson; vocal solo, "Sergeant Major," W. J. Stevenson, encore "Ramsey Town;" Manx reading, "Dan Mylrea," Mrs. R. C. Kelly; piano solo, "Rippling Waters," Mrs. W. J. Stevenson, encore "Manx Airs;" vocal solo, "Rose in the Bud," Miss Winifred Comish, encore "Smiling Through;" tap dance, Dorothy Hurry; vocal solo, "Thurlow Lieuaner," Miss Edith Corrin, encore "Deemster's Daughter;" Reading, "Child's Prayer" (Tom Brown), Mrs. C. R. Kelly. After the program a collection was taken for the Tom Brown Memorial Fund and the sum of \$26 was collected.

Our society is indebted to Mr. T. Kewley, who

Our society is indebted to Mr. T. Kewley, who arranged to have this meeting at his hotel and the help he gave to the young ladies in making the arrangements. Refreshments were served by the committee after which a hearty vote of thanks was given to all who helped towards the success of the evening.

Saturday, Feb. 28th, the regular meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Huggett, 5911 Parnell Ave. A very enjoyable evening was spent. After the business session Dr. J. J. Moore, called on Mrs. Huggett for a few remarks, and it was very interesting her account of the first reunion held by our society. Mr. Huggett then spoke on his experiences in the British navy and referred to the time when the Irish, Scotch and Manx fishermen were having trouble over the fishing ground. He was on the warship City of London and patrolled the fishing grounds the summers of 1876-1877.

He told how the sailors loved to get shore

He told how the sailors loved to get shore leave in Douglas and the good times they had, often forgetting to get back to the ship until morning.

He had made a trip around the world, but of all the places he had visited there was not any to compare with our Island home.

Refreshments were served by our hostess assisted by her daughter, Mrs. Haines and sister Mrs. Upton.

After the usual vote of thanks meeting closed with the singing of "God Be With You."

Suggestions From A Lady Member!

It is an honour in being asked to furnish an article for the Chicago Manx Society for the March issue of the North American Manx Association Bulletin, as hitherto all the articles, with the exception of one, have been furnished by the men folk.

The present and former officers of the North American Manx Association are to be commended for the splendid work they have done in the past in trying to bring into closer bond those who call Ellan Vannin "home." The Association has prospered under their leadership in the few years in which it has been organized, but thus far, even in this modernistic age, the women members have not as yet had a very prominent part. Of course, someone might ask the question "How could the women folk of the Association serve and help further the influences of the North American Manx Association?" There are many ways in which their assistance and help would prove valuable in the progress and purpose of the Association, especially in the way of entertaining and visiting. Several of the women members hold positions as Regional Directors but perhaps have not given any definite work in building up the N. A. M. A.

The success of the local societies, both in Canada and the United States, has been largely due to the work of the women, and I feel sure that this same success could be attained by the North American Manx Association if the women were given a more active part on the program. So why not use this same force in building up the N. A. M. A.?

Having had the privilege of attending the Convention in Toronto, I noticed that in the forming of the Constitution and in the arranging of the different committees the women members had no part, and would suggest that at the coming Convention to be held in Buffalo, the women be given more responsibility, and that they also be represented on the Executive Committee. These women would be responsible for getting in touch with the women members of the local Societies and plan ways and means for interesting their members in the N. A. M. A.

A great deal of the success of a Convention depends upon the form of entertainment provided for those who attend, and if the women folk were given an office they would be able to communicate with the women members of the local Society in whatever city the following Convention was to be held. If this was carried out, I am sure that a program would be prepared that would be enjoyed by everyone who attends, their love for our Island Home would be deepened, and their enthusiasm aroused that they would go away determining to interest others in upholding the motto of our Association.

MISS E. A. COMISH, Chicago, Ill.

Manx Pioneers In Illinois!

In the very large immigration of people from Great Britain to the United States prior to, and immediately following the Civil War of 1861-65, are found the names of sturdy Manx people. The larger part of these Manx pioneers naturally came to the port of New York City and tempted by the stories of rich farm lands in the middle-west, proceeded from there, westward to Cleveland and Chicago.

Among the number who came to Chicago were many who, very shortly, dispersed out into the farming sections of Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota. The writer has had the pleasure of visiting many of these families—some in remote parts of these several states and in most instances, they and their families have become prosperous and influential in their home communities.

Still another more adventuresome lot of Manx settlers pushed on through to the then New West to be found in Kansas, Colorado, Montana, Utah, and California.

It is more particularly the early Manx settlers of Illinois, with whom we are familiar. Possibly, entitled to first mention, would be those sturdy Manxmen who settled and named the little village of Monaville, some fifty miles northwest of Chicago. Three families do we particularly recall; James Caine, William Nelson, and William Moore, the first two becoming influential farmers and the latter, both farmer and wagon maker. Possibly, the greatest event in the later life of Mr. William Nelson, was his return visit to the Isle of Man some twenty years ago. The home farm of Mr. William Moore, bordering on Fox Lake, has since been converted to the purpose of a Golf Club and summer homes.

Another contingent of Manxmen located in an early day, some preceding the Civil War of 1861 and others soon thereafter, in the beautiful lake country in the northern part of Lake County, Illinois, in and near the village of Antioch. Among the very first of these settlers, was Daniel Kinrade, some of whose descendants still live in that community. The advance members of a later and much larger Manx settlement were, John Kelly and Richard Kaye, who came to Antioch in 1868. They were followed in subsequent years by a large number of Manxmen, a few of them being Robert Cubbon, James Kaye, Thomas Coole, Joseph Kelly, Charles Kelly, William Kelly, and others. These men and others became builders, farmers and merchants, and members of their families still live in this part of the state. Richard Kaye, after having resided on one farm for upwards of fifty years, retired recently to live in the village. Thomas Coole, who came to this part of the country in 1873, has resided on the same lovely farm near Antioch for over a half century and was, possibly, the oldest Homecomer visiting the Isle of Man during the Homecoming in the year 1927. He returned again for another delightful visit to the Island in the summer of 1930.

Yet another small group of Manxmen settled in McHenry County on what is known as the English Prairie some fifteen miles west of Antioch. Other important settlements of Manx peopde have been made in Illinois, notably at Galva, Monmouth and Fairbury, all of these communities being more nearly in the central part of the state in that great section known as the Corn Beft of the World. The Corkill family came to the latter vicinity as early as 1840, or thereabout. Also, other Manx settlers located in the Des Plaines and Fox River valley, among the better known are Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Keig, long time residents of Lockport.

Were it possible to write a history of the lives and activities of the Manx settlers in North America, it would record notable instances of accomplishment and worth while service to the country and to their respective communities and reflect much credit upon the land of their birth, the dear little Isle of Man.

The North American Manx Association is the beginning of a splendid attempt to unite the interests of all Manx people and their descendants in North America in a common bond of fellowship and is deserving of the enthusiastic support of every loyal Manxman.

THOMAS C. KELLY,

Hinsdale, Ill.

Greetings From Wisconsin

I am deeply appreciative of the courtesy of the Chicago Manx Society, of which I am a member, that permits me to greet, through the medium of this month's Bulletin, my kinsfolk and countrymen.

Separated as many of us are by vast distances, living in various States and Provinces of the great North American Continent we can meet together as one family around the open Chiollagh of this little paper that comes to remind us of our choice ancestry and racial heritage.

A very interesting experience was mine some time ago, and I feel sure that it will be of interest to you. While broadcasting a New Year's message over our local station, W. E. B. C., wishing my listeners a "Happy New Year," I mentioned the Qualthagh custom that has persisted through the centuries in my native Isle of Man, by which the first person entering the home on the New Year was expected to make a good wish and bring luck and good fortune to those who were living there.

A few days later I received among other letters, one from a Manx lady who was born in Douglas but who on account of her residence in Northern Minnesota lives isolated from her native people. She was very much touched with the reference that I made to this old Manx custom which brought back to her dreams of girlhood days and she wrote to say how much she appreciated hearing the voice of a speaker who was from her native isle.

I was sent to the city of Superior by my bishop last fall to build a new church—not too easy a task in these days of financial disturbance and depression. This is my second church-building undertaking and I am particularly anxious that this one when it is completed shall have something intrinsically and particularly Manx about it. Something that will arouse interest in our Little Island Nation, and which will remind folks of the contribution it has always made to religious progress.

Also I want this tangible something to be there so that if, in the years to come, some one from my native isle should stop here to worship, there would be the reminder of home.

I mention this by way of asking for suggestions as to what this distinctively Manx thing or touch ought to be.

T. HARRY KELLY, D. D. Central Methodist Episcopal Church, Hughitt Ave. and 16th Street, Superior, Wisconsin.

If any of our readers have any suggestions to offer on the above we are sure that Dr. Kelly will appreciate their cooperation in mailing them to him.

Saskatchewan Provincial Manx Society

No doubt you will be surprised at receiving this letter from me, but being of Manx birth and personally in touch with approximately twenty others from the same part of the country, also knowing of quite a number of Manx people, all residents of the Province of Saskatchewan. Mrs. Agnew, myself and a number of others decided to hold a meeting for the purpose of organizing a Provincial Manx Society. Every person present at the meeting was unanimously in favor of same. We also received letters of favor from others who found it impossible to be present at our first meeting.

It is our intention to hold a regular monthly meeting, also a convention yearly at the various cities in the province in order that we might become better acquainted with our kinsfolk this side of the herring pond and to do everything possible to better our Society.

At the meeting last evening the following officers were elected: Honorable President, W. F. Quine, Conquest; President, W. J. Teare, Marquis; 1st Vice President, W. R. Collister, Broadview; 2nd Vice President, C. Quilliam, Swift Current; Treasurer, Mrs. J. Agnew, Moose Jaw; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. W. E. Kelso, Moose Jaw.

Yours very truly,
MRS. W. E. KELSO, Secy.
1218 Grafton Avenue,
Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

Arizona Manx

We have received a very interesting letter from Arnold L. E. Corrin of Lowell, Arizona. Mr. Corrin was born in Peel and has several relatives in Cleveland to which he wishes to be kindly remembered. Mr. Corrin is very anxious to get the Manx people of Arizona united a little closer and is working to get the names of all Manx in his vicinity and expects to call a meeting very soon, to get them interested in the formation of a Manx Society in this district. He would be pleased to have any who have friends in Arizona write him, Box 3332, Lowell, Arizona.

If we can help you in any way in the promotion of your Society, Mr. Corrin, please write us and we will be pleased to send you any information.

In Memoriam

We regret to report the death of Arnold Edward Corrin, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold L. E. Corrin, of Lowell, Arizona. He died February 8th of pneumonia. To Mr. and Mrs. Corrin may we extend our deepest sympathy in their sad bereavement.

From Here and There!

Leonard Dawson, Secy., Montreal Manx Society—"Enclosed find our 1931 dues. Mr. Gawne and several members of our Society and myself hope to be present at Buffalo."

William D. Wolf (Justice of the Peace), Maple Heights Township, Ohio—"Enclosed find our 1931 memberships toward the 1000th goal which in my opinion should not be hard if every Manxman did his share. Count on me at any time to do my part with hopes of again being present at the reunion at Buffalo."

William Kelly, 1028 Main St., Antioch, Illinois.—"Enclosed 1931 membership. Was at the I. O. M. four years ago, Cleveland three years ago, and Toronto two years ago. Will not miss the crowd at Buffalo this year."

John A. Tupper, Fargo College, Fargo, N. D.—"Enclosed find membership. Wish to congratulate the N. A. M. A. on their wonderful Bulletins. Would like to say hello to all my old shipmates who were aboard the 'Doric.'"

Lt. Colonel W. S. Quirk, Salvation Army, Albany, N. Y.—"Enclosed find memberships. I am looking forward to being present at the fourth N. A. M. A. Convention. There will be five in our party. You may expect a large delegation from Albany."

Maggie Kinvig Costain, East Helena, Montana.—"Just to let you know we appreciate your valuable little Bulletin. It has been a source of pleasure to us. My husband and I were born at Colby. We were school chums there. If our ship comes in we hope to meet all our old Manx friends at Buffalo."

Miss B. M. Kewley, 1524 Pine Avenue, Montreal.—"Enclosed find membership. I enjoy Bulletin very much. My father is James Kewley, late of Ramsey. Hope to be at Buffalo Convention."

John E. Sayle, 411 W. Pueblo St., Santa Barbara, California.—"Enclosed find my membership.. I have only been out here 12 months and your Bulletin I enjoy very much. Glad to know all about what Manxmen are doing in North America."

A. W. Gleaves, 656 Seymour St., Vancouver, B. C.—"You can count on me as a member of the N. A. M. A. You are doing a big job with the Bulletin. Send some on to my brother Harry in Dawson City, Yuko, who also appreciates same."

Robt. S. Killey (County Treasurer), Pitkin County, Aspen, Colorado.—"Enclosed membership to the Association. We appreciate the Bulletin. It is worth many times more than the dues we pay."

Alex. Nivison, Trenton, R. R. 7, Ontario, Canada.—"Enclosed find 1931 dues. I hope to meet many of my old friends at Buffalo."

Art Skelly, Box 307, Timmins, Ontario, Canada..."Enclosed find 1931 membership. Enjoy your Bulletin very much. Hope to take in Buffalo Conventon to meet all my friends again."

Akron, Ohio, Manx Society!

The attached check is for our 1931 dues. They are a little "Traa-deluoor" but you know we are Manx. Receive Bulletins O. K. and enjoy them a lot, even send them to Peel and Australia. Keep up the good work. Hope to have a big representation at Buffalo. Best wishes.

Anne Crellin, Secy.

Cleveland Manx Juniors

At their last meeting this group decided to join the N. A. M. A. That's the spirit Juniors! This builds for our future growth.

On April 24th, they are presenting a play followed by a dance in the Cleveland News Auditorium and ask your support. Tickets are 35 cents and can be procured from any member.

"Believe It Or Not"

By Bill

Manx Rumpy Bantam chickens grow the size of Plymouth Rocks in Illinois.

A famous Road House near Chicago called Isle of Man which serves Manx chicken dinners, is owned by an Irish man.

One of Chicago's colored families is named Kinley. What's in a name?

A yarn company in Chicago by the name of Legge has the Manx three legs for a trade mark.

London, Ontario, Manx Society

I thought perhaps you all would be anxious to know what the London, Ontario Manx Society intend doing towards the Convention at Buffalo. As far as I can see now, London will be represented by about 35 members.

Yours fraternally,

Robt. J. Quayle, Secy.

That's the spirit London, let's hear from all the other Societies.

Buffalo Convention

In our April issue we will give you all information regarding this meeting. We have already 172 members who have signified their intention of being present. If you intend to be at this big gathering again just send us word.

We regret to report that Mrs. Coole, President of the Buffalo Society, has been indisposed since the first of the year but from recent reports we are pleased to hear she has been steadily improving in health.

Isle Of Man Trip

We have been asked regarding the matter of an unofficial trip to the Isle of Man this summer by several parties who are making the trip if it were possible to make arrangements for them. There may be others who anticipate joining this party. We will gladly get all the information required and make any arrangement for a sailing date so that a party could go as a unit if a suitable date could be arranged for all.