

A MANX FOLKSONG.

In the summer of 1883 I spent a few days at Port Erin in the Isle of Man along with Father Henebry, from County Waterford, Ireland, who speaks Irish as his native tongue. During that time we went about among the surrounding villages to see if we could discover any of the old folksongs or folktales of Man. For the most part our search was unsuccessful. The people have ceased to care for these things, and so they have fallen into oblivion. But as a compensation for many disappointments we were lucky enough to obtain the following sweet little song from a genuine Manxman, Thomas Kermode of Bradda, near Port Erin, who, though he lost his eyesight in his boyhood, pursued till about three years ago the calling of fisherman. He recited the song to us, and explained it, and we took it down as well as we could. In September of the present year I again visited Man, and I had the song recited to me again. Unfortunately Mr. Kermode was ill during part of my visit, and I was unable to see as much of him as I could have wished. Above anyone whom I met he is interested in and acquainted with the old lore of Man, though he told me that he had not heard a Manx song sung for the last forty years.

I wrote down the song phonetically as well as I could, but, as I have unfortunately had no special training in phonetics, my attempt is at the best only an approximation. However I read the song as I had written it down to two other Manxmen and it was intelligible to them. As to symbols, *ə*, *æ*, *û*, *y*, and *ȳ* have been used as in Prof. Rhŷs's *Outlines of Manx Phonology*, though I am not quite sure that *ȳ* is exactly the long sound of *y*. *χ*, *γ*, *δ* represent spirants. I found occasionally difficulty in