

Manx Notes 703 (2025)

MANX FAIRY TALES THE ACADEMY REVIEW (1911)

[668b] It was with keen anticipation that we took up a book purporting to relate tales of mystery of that delightful island set so jauntily in the Irish Sea. It should surely be no difficult matter to collect legends, or, failing that, to invent stories of the vague and interesting inhabitants of the Isle of Man. In the present book Miss Morrison claims that “most of the stories are traditional, and have been handed down by word of mouth from father to son.” If this be the case, possibly a further portion of the narrative may be [669a] known to other members of the family, as several of the stories appear to be in a very unfinished state, while “The Lhondoo” and the “Ushag-Reaisht” and “Smereree” hardly worth repeating. “The Making of Mann” and “The Coming of Saint Patrick” are fairly good legends, but there is not one in the whole book that in any way comes up to what we imagine a Manx story could be. Do the caves, the ports, such old-world places as Castletown, offer no possibilities of weird and entrancing descriptions, of mysteries hidden within the massive walls and along the rock-bound coast? Miss Morrison must search further and deeper if she wishes to produce a book worthy of the island of which, apparently, she is an inhabitant.

“*Manx Fairy Tales*. By Sophia Morrison. (David Nutt, 3s. 6d. net.).” *The Academy* 25 November 1911: 668b–69a.

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