

'Mann' or 'Man'.

Contributors

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ISLE OF MAN

NATURAL HISTORY

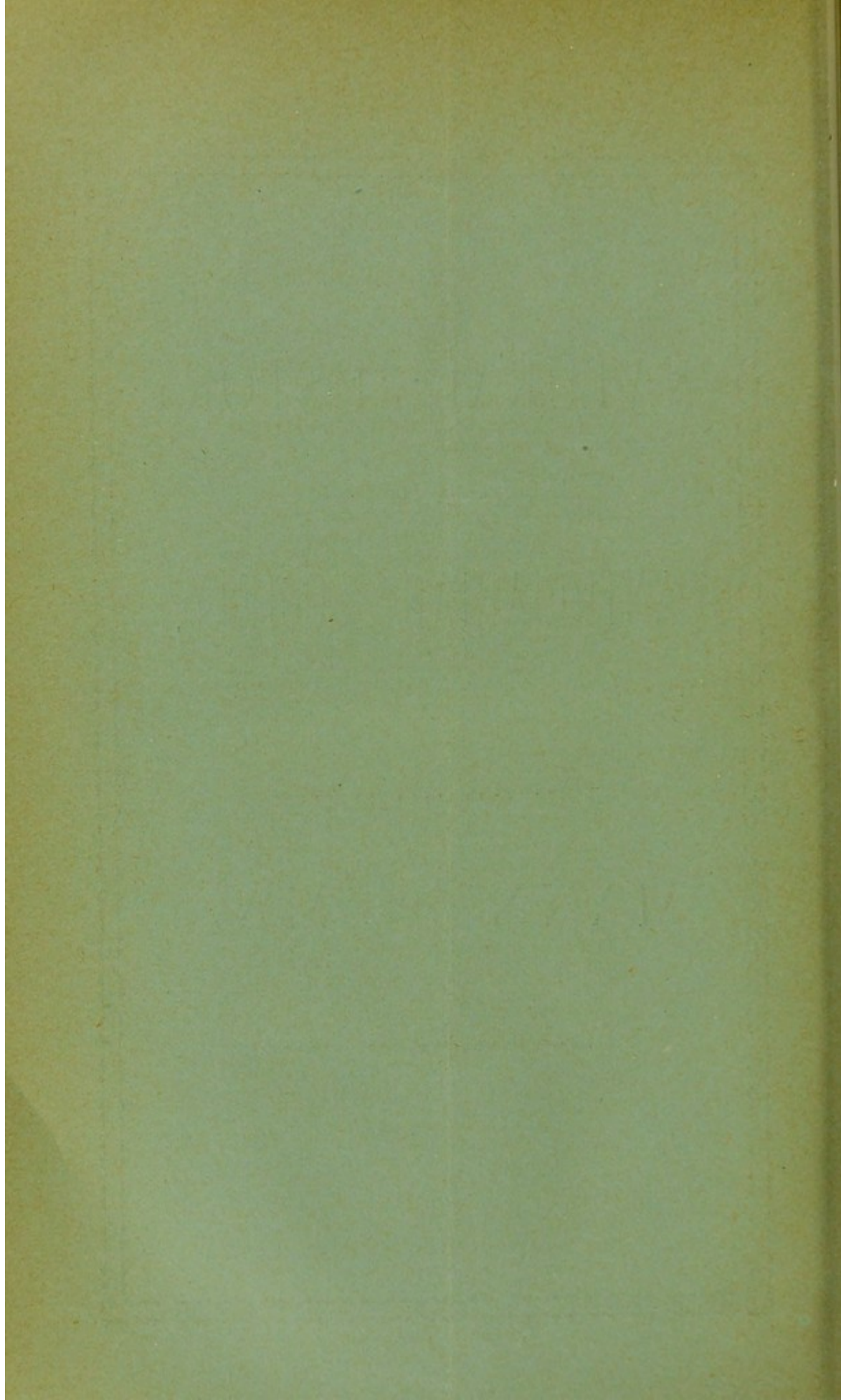
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ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

“MANN” OR “MAN.”

REPRINTED FROM “THE ISLE OF MAN TIMES.”

BROWN & SON, PRINTERS, ATHOL-STREET, DOUGLAS.



Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society,

Extract from Report of Proceedings of Annual
Meeting, held at the School of Art, Douglas,
March 29th, 1888.

Reprinted from The Isle of Man Times.

Dr HAVILAND'S notice with respect to the alteration of the spelling in the title of the Society was taken up. In support of his motion he said:—At the annual meeting of our Society held in the School of Art, Douglas, Isle of Man, on the 15th inst., his Honour Deemster Frederick Gill, President, in the chair, I publicly gave a verbal notice before the members present of my intention to propose an alteration in rule 1 of our Society, and on that occasion I was asked to formulate in writing the alteration proposed and to forward the same to our honorary secretary, Mr W. J. Cain. This I duly attended to, and the result is the following notice inserted in the circular convening this, the adjourned annual meeting:—“(10) That rule 1 of the Society be so far altered that the word ‘Mann’ be omitted, and the name of the Island ‘Man’ be substituted for it.” I now proceed to give my reasons for the above proposed alteration. All learned societies throughout the civilised world are jealous of their credit, for they have been instituted for the purpose of searching for the truth, and of propagating it among their members and the world at large. Whether the object of the Society is to collect facts in natural history or any other branch of human knowledge, and then to discuss those facts for the benefit of mankind and for their guidance in future research, the end and aim of all such collections and discussions is the truth; and thus it is that all such societies are looked up to with respect and appealed to with confidence, as authorities upon the subjects which they have taken upon themselves to investigate. A Natural History and an Antiquarian Society imposes upon itself a work of almost boundless scope. The history of creation; the evolution of life forms; the development of language from the cradles of the human race, through the first simple articulate sounds of its childhood, through the growth of simple root-sounds into the diverse elements of the languages and dialects of the adult life of early man in his migrations after food and clothing, to his ultimate

settlement at maturity in encampments, villages, and towns, where time, surroundings, and free-intercommunion of thought at last led to the elaboration of language, resulting first in unwritten laws for its formation and perpetuation, which at last culminated in written characters, and written words and sentences, for the construction of which written laws were enacted, finally were codified, and the codes known as grammars. Language, like every other human attribute, has been subject to change and progressive development; it is also subject to retrogressive deterioration, like man himself. Language in times gone by has progressed from the simplest forms of utterance, expressive only of simple wants and of the simplest objects necessary for their gratification, to the glorious utterances of the orator and the poet, containing thousands of words unknown to primeval man, although ancestrally derived from the very word-roots that he used. When, however, retrogression takes place, the result is not a return to the pure forms of elementary speech, but to a degraded gibberish, in harmony with the physical degradation that man himself undergoes when he becomes an outcast from civilization and is subject to wild and savage surroundings of climate and soil. To backslide in anything is proverbially a bad sign, but it is sometimes inevitable when might overcomes right. To backslide, however, when there is no force to compel us to do so is unjustifiable, especially in those who set themselves up as the pioneers of scientific progress. No weak sentimental fondness for obsolete forms can excuse it in a learned body, neither can an assumed reverence for exploded spellings excuse it in individuals who hold themselves up as teachers. Such obsolete forms and such ancient relics are interesting only so far as they are time-marks in history, which in our museums and old books teach us how man has progressed during his march towards improvement in search of truth. The root-forms of every language claim the protection of all lovers of literature, and their original purity should be jealously protected from being abused and disfigured by the pretentious and ignorant, and especially by a Society that has a "Place name committee." The Keltic word "maen," a rock, was evidently bestowed as a name upon the Isle of Man by those who inhabited it in the time of Cæsar, which was considered by them as *the rock, par excellence*, as Anglesey was by its early colonists, the Welsh to this day still calling it *Mon*. Outside the Isle of Man, we find instances of the original root *Maen* being converted into *Man*; for instance the "Old Man" of Coniston, in the Lake district, was once the *Alt Maen*—the high rock; "The Old Man" of Hoy, 1,500 feet high, off the west coast of this island (Orkneys), was "*Alt Maen*"—the high rock. The "Old Man and his Man," two rocks off the Cornish coast, were once "*Alt Maen*" and *Maen*—the high rock and the rock. It is curious to note that whilst the Teutonic successors to the Kelt flatten and

shorten the original root Maen into Man, the Kelt in pronouncing Man uses the original sound that probably first struck Cæsar's ear—Maun or Mon. Whilst in Scotland, I addressed a gillie in a farm yard thus:—"Kindly tell me, my *man*, how high that mountain Dumyat is." "Aye, *maun*, it's nae higher than it looks," was the reply. How the second "n" came to be added to the name of Man I will now explain. It is well known that our ancient records and statutes were written in what was called Law Latin, a mongrel language that Cæsar would not have understood. Ecclesiastics, such as monks and their clerks, usually were appointed to this office, which consisted in Latinising the Norman-French, British or English, in which the records or statutes might have been originally written, for the sake of uniformity and the use of law officers and others, who were so educated as to be able to read these documents, whereas had they been called upon to explain them in the vernacular, they would have either failed altogether or else perchance misinterpreted them. On the whole perhaps it was better at that time, for law and justice, that the lawyers should have the laws and records written in a sort of common language, so that at least those who expounded the laws should understand each other. When Cæsar first was told the name of this island in mid-sea, between the west coast of Britain and Ireland, he simply Latinised it by the addition of the letter "a," converting it into a declinable noun—Mona. In all probability the Keltic word Maen—a rock, was pronounced long, as Mōn. The Gael of to-day pronounces Man broad, as we say Maun. We do not know how Cæsar pronounced Mona, although we see how he spelt it. From Cæsar's time until the present we have documentary evidence of this Island being mentioned by historians and others. I will give a few instances in chronological order:—In the Glossary of the King-Bishop Cormac Cullionain, King of Munster and Bishop of Cashel, who was killed at the battle of Bealach Mughna (at present Balla Mune) A.D. 908, the Island is styled Manand, connecting it with Mau-annan-mac-lir—only one "n" in the first syllable. In the inscription around that most interesting Runic cross, a rubbing of which I exhibit, taken last Saturday, when I had the kind assistance of the Rev John Quine, M.A., the name of the Island occurs as "Maun," thus:—"Malbrigd, son of Athacan (the) Smith, erected the cross for his soul . . . Gaut made this (cross) and all in Maun." It will be in the recollection of many present here to-day that at a meeting, at Kirk Michael, of this Society, 13th July, 1883, our learned Runic and Ogam scholar, Mr William Kneale, of Douglas, was asked to transliterate the inscription on this unique cross, and did so most successfully. Professor Munch had previously done so from a cast which Sir Henry Dryden, Bart., had had taken many years ago, and he was the first to point out, according to Prof. Worsaae, that the name of this Island occurs in a Runic inscription at Kirk Michael,

the spelling being MAUN. The name can be easily identified on the rubbing. It is to be deplored that so interesting a monument should be allowed to remain outside, exposed to frost and all weathers. Just where "Gaut" occurs is a deep crack, and loss of stone. Professor Worsaae assigned the eleventh century as the probable date of this Runic cross. The Isle of Man is frequently referred to in the Scandinavian Sagas—it being called *Mou* or *Maun* (pronounced Moun). The name is never written *Monn* or *Maunn*. Reginald, the bastard brother of Olave Godredson surrendered, in 1219, the Island to Pope Honorius, and in the Act of Surrender the following occurs:—"Reginaldus Rex Insulæ Man (not *Maniæ*, *Manniæ*, or *Manniniæ*) constituit se vasallum sedis Romaræ, et ex insulâ suâ facit Feudam oblatum, Londini, 10 Cal. Octobr, 1219." In a letter of the community of Scotland respecting a marriage between the eldest son of Edward the I. and the Queen of Scotland, in the year 1289, the name of "Marc, Evesque de Man,"—one "n." In the *Rotuli Scotiæ*, under date 1310—1311, the Island is called "L'Isle de Man." In 1312 (see *Rotuli Parliamentorum*) the words "le Roiaume de Man" occur. In a grant of a yearly rental in 1381, by William de Montague, Earl of Salisbury, that nobleman is styled "Seigneur de Man," the Island being called by the Earl "Nostre dite terre de Man." In the *Rotuli Parliamentorum*, under date 1398, reference is made to the banishment of the Earl of Warwick to "Pisle de Man"—Oliver, vol. 2, p. 213. In the French copy of a treaty made in 1414, between England and France, Sir John Stanley is described as "Le Seigneur de Man." In 1446 King Henry VI. issued an order to Sir Thomas Stanley to carry the Duchess of Gloucester to "th' isle of Man." In the Latin Chronicle of Rushen Abbey, and in other mediæval documents, the name is generally written "Mannia." Then began the mischief of the double n, and I will now endeavour to explain how it was brought about. It was required to Latinise the simple word *Man*, and the duty devolved upon the monks of either Rushen or some other religious house to make into Latin the title of King or Lord of Man in the State documents. Now, the "Mona" of Cæsar, even if the monks had ever seen his Commentaries, would have been too humble a form. The Island was in the midst of *Britannia*, *Hibernia*, and *Scotiæ*—all these in Latin form terminated in *ia*—why should not Man be on a par with the adjacent kingdoms, and enjoy the two terminal letter *ia*? They were added, but the monks stood aghast at what they had done. "Dominus *Mania*" stood before them as the title of their Lord the King. This would never do. "The Lord of madness"—what would the Lord say to a title akin to "The Lord of misrule?" How was this difficulty to be got over?—Was the next question. The monks put their heads together begot another "n," and, rejoicing at being extricated from a difficulty which might have cost them much, they wrote upon the parchment in brave characters *Rex* or *Dominus*

Mannæ, which had a Kelto-Latin ring, quite equal in their ears to Rex Britannæ. It mattered not to them whether the name-root of their Island was thus entirely destroyed, so long as the title pleased him for whom it was coined. This ridiculous blunder has been more or less perpetuated, but it soon fell into disuse, and we only find it here and there subsequently committed, either by illiterate copyists or by those who affect an irrational reverence for old forms, whether good or bad, so long as they belong to a past age. This is not antiquarianism, and is certainly not progress. It is but just to say that when the monks of Rushen Abbey used the English language they spelled the name Man. In an indenture, the mongrel word Mannia having been formed, it had to be reduced again to English, which at all events gave it a chance of resuming its original form, but this it was not allowed to do; the added n was made to stick to it, and hence Mann. There are two n's in Britannia, but no one would think of spelling Britain with two n's. In Bishop Wilson's Short History of the Isle of Man, the name is invariably spelt Man. Some are of opinion that the spelling Mann is taken from Mannin, which occurs as the name of the Island in a Manx ballad of the sixteenth century. Had the monks had this name to deal with, they would have rejoiced in the grandeur of Manninia. Rex Manniniæ would have suited their ambitious views to perfection, and saved them from *Mania*. Camden writes the name Maning or Maninge. Buchanan says in the old language it is called "Manin": it is evidently a modification of the old Irish Manand or Manaind, not a vestige of which is to be seen in Mann. I have examined all the old maps of the Island from Durham's (1595) up to the present date, and in no instance is the word Mann used. In the *Lexicon Geographicum*, Ferrarius Baudrand, Parisiis 1870, is the following:—"Man, Anglis, et Menavo Britannics, teste Lhuydo, insula Albionis seu Britannia, inter illam et Hiberniam, media fere inter Monam (Anglesey) ad meridiem et Gallovidiam regionem Scotia ad Boream (Galloway). Monæda—The Yle of Man, Anglis, incolis Maning, et l'isle de Man, Gallis, insula est Angliæ in mare Hibernico, à septentrione in meridiem extensa 24 mill. pass. lata vero 12. In ea sunt parochiæ 17, et oppida 4, nempe Russin ad Austrum, Douglas ad ortum, Peel ad occasum, et Bala curri, ubi commoratur insulæ episcopus, qui suffragatur Archiepiscopo Eboracensi. Alias, Reges hatuut proprios; nuncque comes Derbiensis habuit insulæ Regulus dicitur, sub dominio tamen Regis Angliæ." In what have been called "The Acts of Stanley," prefixed to the Statute Book, the name of the Island is written Man, Mann, and Manne. In the more accurate and complete copy of the Acts found by the Rev Mr Mackenzie in the British Museum, the name is invariably written Man. I have before me a list of between 40 and 50 distinguished writers, all of whom spell the name as it was spelt in the most recent translated Acts of Tynwald—Man—a few of which I subjoin:—

Leland, Speed, Camden, Dugdale, Selden, Blackstone, Holinshed, Gibbon, Hume, Sir Walter Scott, Sir J. Y. Simpson, Dr Robert Gordon Latham, F.R.S., Sir Henry Dryden, Bart., Planchè, Professor E. Forbes, Prof. Munch, Prof. Worsaae, Cumming, &c. Cumming, in a note on the name Maun in the Runic inscription referred to, says "It is well to note that the name of the Isle of Man on this (Kirk Michael) cross is spelt Maun, showing that it was anciently pronounced broad, and thus bringing it into closer connection with the name Mona, the Roman appellation of the Island." It is very evident that the word Manu. never had an existence until after the conversion of Man into Mannia, which was done in defiance of all rules regulating the development of root-forms; and even with such an origin the word would never be accepted as either a Keltic or an English word, but only as an abbreviated form of a corrupt Kelto-Latin name, and should, therefore, in writing be marked as an abbreviated word. It is very certain that it is not an abbreviation of Mannin or Vannin, or Manannan, even when corruptly spelt with two n's in the first syllable, which, as I have shown, the monks had no authority nor precedent for doing. In writing, abbreviated forms are admissible sometimes when space is limited, and they are then marked as such, but to use an abbreviated word as a complete one, or as a variety of a perfect name is without precedent and contrary to all rules of orthography. Maen, Mon, Maun, and Man are varieties of a pure root form, and are perfect words and names in themselves, but Mann is an abbreviation of a mediæval word having a bastard Keltic head and a monkish-Latin tail. I have scheduled notes from many late authorities as to the correct spelling of Man, but I will now content myself with what I have already said, and move—"That Rule 1 of our Society be so far altered that the word Mann be omitted, and the name of the Island Man be substituted for it."

Mr A. W. MOORE: I must congratulate the learned doctor on the very thorough manner in which he has grappled with this, to me, terrible subject. I cannot follow him into all the references he has given, because I have not myself sufficiently looked up the subject. I propose to treat it in a more practical, and possibly more cheerful manner. It seems to me that in "Man" we have got down to the primordial atom of the name. If the process described by Dr Haviland of increasing the name was one which took place, and no doubt it did in the way he said, then it is quite the reverse process of ordinary nomenclature. The ordinary method is to start with a very long name and then chop it down. Of course in these matters we have a great deal to contend with in carelessness of writers. You find Isle of Man spelt in several very remarkable ways. The name is spelt both with one "n" and two "n's," and some remarkable variations are met with. The earliest form, Ellan Mannanan, is spelt with any amount of "n's"—four, I

believe. (Laughter). That occurs in an Irish manuscript, of the 11th century.

Dr HAVILAND : You are right, it does.

Mr MOORE : I look at the subject rather in this light. There is no doubt that the name has been spelt in intervening centuries in various ways. What Dr Haviland stated with regard to the 11th century is perfectly accurate. From the 13th or 14th centuries onwards, when we come to have written documents, two sets of people would deal with the name of "Man." One would be precisians, who wrote as they thought accurate, and the other would be the general public, in those days a small body who would not trouble themselves very much; but the particular people would spell the word "Mann" to avoid confusion with Man, "homo." Therefore, it is very desirable, apart from the antiquarian correctness, on which matter it is exceedingly difficult to come to an absolute decision, that the Isle of Man should be spelt "Man." It is not the Isle of the Man, it is Isle of Mann. Of the meaning of this Man we are not agreed. If Isle of Man is not appropriate, which I do not think it is, it would be evidently more correct to call it Isle of Woman—(laughter)—but not only are the women more numerous in this Island, but as a rule, and we have had a striking instance of it to-day, they have great ability. (Laughter.) Viewing the subject strictly in an antiquarian sense, I must bow to Dr Haviland's opinion, because I have not gone into the subject to any extent. It is useful to spell the name with two "n's" to avoid confusion with man, and to avoid the mistake of letters going to other places. There is the Isle of May. Letters addressed to the Isle of Man have gone to the Isle of May, and I have myself adopted the word Mann, on purpose to prevent such mistakes. It may seem probable that I am taking a weak part as a member of an Antiquarian Society, but I am taking it practically. I think, on the whole, the Society would be wise to stick to the word Mann.

Mr CRELLIN, on behalf of Mr Jeffcott, who was unable to attend the meeting, read the following extract from a letter received from him:—*Apropos* of the spelling of the name of the Island, it is of course optional whether it be spelled with one "n" or two "ns". I believe, however, the double "n" is the more correct form. The name is a contraction of the Manx name *Mannin*, which is doubtless derived from *Manninee*, the Erse name of the native inhabitants, originally, in prehistoric times, a tribe or clan of Gaels who occupied the island. *Mannin* and Mann merely denote the land or country of the *Manninee*. In former ages countries and territories were generally named after their inhabitants; e.g., Helvetia was named after the Helvetians; Gallia after the Galli, &c., &c. (See Camden. See also my suggestive paper, "Mann, its Names, and their Origins," read before the Anthropological Institute, and given in Vol. XXX. of the Manx Society). The double "n" is

more suggestive of the *meaning* of the name than the single "n," and, as you say, is more distinctive. Old writers spell the name both ways, a fact which I do not consider very important. The fact, however, that the double "n" was used 470 years ago in the Insular records is of some consequence. In the oldest of these, dated 1417, the name is given with the two "ns"—Mann. During the interval between this date and 1673 inclusive, it was, for the most part, so spelled. I find it so written in records of the following dates, 1417, 1422, 1430, 1532, 1561, 1582, 1586, 1610, 1636, 1637, 1655, 1661, 1665, 1667, and 1673. Towards the end of the seventeenth century it began to be disused. In the Anglo Saxon Chronicle (11th century) the Island is called *Mann-Cynn*. This is the oldest example of the spelling with two "ns" which I can recollect. On the whole, I think in the proceedings of an Antiquarian Society the use of the two "ns" ought unquestionably to be continued. I cannot see any reason for adopting the more commonplace, and, I believe, less correct single "n." I should like to be present at the meeting on the 6th proxo., but I fear I shall not be able to be in Douglas on that day.

Mr CRELLIN : I think Dr Haviland's paper is most interesting, but I would rather see the name spelt as it appears in the rules.



DOUGLAS, THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1888.

The regular monthly meeting of the Society was held in the School of Art, Douglas, on the 3rd May. Mr J. M. Jeffcott, president of the Society, occupied the chair, and there were also present—Mr P. M. C. Kermode (Secretary), Miss A. M. Crellin, Mrs W. J. Browne, Mrs Ross, Mr Tooker, Miss Bardsley, Mrs Richardson, Dr Richardson, Dr Haviland, Mr Leece, Mr Knox, Rev J. G. Williams, Mr Ralfe, Mr Wickert, Rev. E. B. Savage, F.S.A., Mr H. S. Clarke, Mr Horton, Rev. S. N. Harrison, Rev. J. Quine, and the Rev. F. Tibbits.

The PRESIDENT said: Ladies and gentlemen, I think my first duty upon this occasion is to thank the members of the Society for their having done me the honour to elect me President for this year. I am sure I deem it a very great compliment. I feel, however, that I shall be a very inefficient President. A president of a learned Society ought, I think, to be conversant with the sciences which that Society embraces. Now, when I consider the large and complicated sciences which this Society embraces, I feel that my shortcomings will be exceedingly numerous. I trust, therefore, to the good nature and kindness of my fellow-members, and must ask them to excuse and pardon all my defects.

The minutes of the last meeting were then read and confirmed.

The next business was to receive and discuss the report of the Publication Committee, but as there was no member present to represent that Committee, nothing could be done in the matter.

ONE "N" OR TWO.

The discussion upon Dr. Haviland's motion, "That rule 1 of the Society be so far altered that the word 'Mann' be omitted, and the name of the Island 'Man' be substituted for it," was resumed.

Dr HAVILAND: Will you allow me, before the discussion commences, to read several letters? The first letter I will read to you is one with reference to a point in your letter, which was read at the first discussion, by Mr Crellin. I was rather startled to find there this passage: "In the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (11th century), the Island is called Mann-cynn. This is the oldest example of the spelling with two ns which I can recollect." In consequence of that, I wrote to Mr Kneale, and the letter I have received from him is to the following effect:—

Victoria-street, April 30th, 1883.

Dear Dr Haviland,—The passage in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, which you asked me to examine, refers exclusively to the subjugation of Brytland (the land of the Britons, Wales) by William the Conqueror. The passage reads thus:—

“Brytland him waes on gewælde, and he thaerinne casteles gewrohte, and thet manncynn mid ealle gewælde,” i.e., *The land of the Britons was in his power, and he therein wrought castles, and withal ruled over that race of men.*

Dr Oliver (*Monumenta*, vol 1, p. 14), improperly renders manncynn “Isle of Man,” and “island of Mann.” Its true signification is “the race of men.” See any Anglo-Saxon Dictionary; or Skeat’s Etymological Dictionary, under “mankind.”

The Isle of Man is undoubtedly mentioned in another part of the Chronicle (in connection with king Æthelred), in the following words:—

“Tha geheregodon hi Monige,” i.e., *They then ravaged the Isle of Man.* Another manuscript [Bodl. Laud., 636] reads “Maenige.”—I am, faithfully yours,
WM. KNEALE.

Dr Haviland.

I have made some notes from Dr. Oliver, and those I shall refer to in my reply after the discussion. I thought that a most important point, as it is spoken of as the earliest instance; but it will be seen from what Mr Kneale says of the true translation that they had no reference whatever to the Isle of Man. What Dr. Oliver has written is really a copy of a copy, and that a bad copy. (Laughter.) Deemster Gill has also sent me the following:—

Mr Jeffcott states:—“The fact, however, that the double ‘N’ was used 470 years ago in the Insular Records is of some consequence.”

“In the oldest of these, dated 1417, the name is given with the two ‘N’s’—‘MANN.’”

Is it?

The spelling in this document is MANNE. In the same document the following spelling occurs:—

Playne	for Plain.	} Loyall for Loyal. Wittness „ Witness. Seall „ Seal. Stabull „ Stable. Generall „ General.
Ordeyne	„ Ordain.	
Examyne	„ Examine.	
Mynestres	„ Ministers.	
Certayne	„ Certain.	
Saudiours	„ Soldiers.	

As to the records named, between 1417-1667 (taken from the Statute Book), the fact is that only a *copy* of these are in the Rolls Office.

In 1667, Charles, 8th Earl of Derby, and the Tynwald (Statute Book, p. 131) ordered that such of the Statutes and customs as are necessary for the government of the Isle and worthy to be translated into laws should be *wrote faire* into a book, &c.

This appears to have been done. The first *original* Statute, 1673, follows in the same book, which also contains several other original subsequent Statutes.

But even in the copy 1422-1667, Man is frequently spelt with one “N.”

1577, p. 52, 53.	1610, p. 76.
1593, p. 62.	1645, p. 100.
1594, p. 65, 66.	&c., &c.

In the copy of the *same early Statutes*, 1417-1430, in the Sloane collection, British Museum (MacKenzie, p. 71-79), Man is spelt with one “n.”

I will not detain you further, except just to show you my proposition is not a new one, for in the Manx Note Book, vol. 1, p. 74, the following occurs:—“Mann and Man”:—“I shall be glad to know what authority you have for the spelling

Mann, rather than Man.—William Bell Christian." The subject is referred to again in Vol. I, p. 116.—"Mann" and "Man" (p. 74.)—"Mann has been adopted in preference to Man, because it is the more usual early form, and because we believe it to be merely the shortened form of Mannin. In the *Rotuli Scotiae*, under date 1357, 'Le yle de Manne' is mentioned. Mr J. M. Jeffcott, in his treatise on 'Mann, its names and their origins,' published in *Manx Society*, Vol. XXX, says—"The name Mannin, or Mann, was borrowed from that of the inhabitants, and denotes the land, or country, of the Manninee." The Editor replies as follows:—" 'Mann' and 'Man'—'In Hone's Year Book, Feb. 15, is a curious business letter ordering copies of 'The Mirror Newspaper' to be directed fair and well, in good writing, to Mr Kinley, of Crossack, Ballasalla, Isle of Man. Set Mr Kinley's name quite plain upon the frank, as they are bad, and very bad, readers of writing at the house where the letters and papers are left at Ballasalla.' (Laughter.) 'N.B. Set two nn's in the word Mann, else they send it to the Isle of Mar, in a mistake. The letter is dated 'St. Asaph, in Wales, Feb. 15, 1809,' and is signed 'E. T. Hadwen, Engineer.' Although the mistake here mentioned is not likely now to occur, yet I think most Manxmen would be glad to see this old spelling revived Mannin." I think I have succeeded in showing that these ancient documents which were brought to light were simply copies, and bad copies, and what has been done since is merely to copy the copies. The following extract from the *Manx Note Book*, Vol. II, p. 141, "Man" and "Mann," (Vol. I, p. 74—116) may also assist you in the discussion. "'Manks' and 'Manx.' 'While looking through some old letters, I came across the following notes of Thomas Quayle, written in 1791, concerning the spelling Mann, or Man, which has been discussed in *The Manx Note Book*, also on Manks, and Manx. I send it to you, as it may be found interesting to your readers. E. Q." "I observe you spell Isle of Mann and Manks. I confess I have always spelt Man and Manks, thinking them more proper, for which I shall now (under correction) assign my reasons.—1st, Sacheverell spells them both so, and he is the only author worth quoting on the subject. 2nd, as to Man. It is an axiom of Physics that, 'non sunt multiplicanda entia sine necessitate,' The second n is utterly useless; it neither alters the sound, nor prevents any ambiguity in writing: Why, then, encumber the word with it? 3rd, and principally: In all public documents from the Court of Great Britain it is always called Man. Particularly through the 20 volumes, in folio, of Rymer's *Fœdera*: and the space of six centuries in a period when they were fond of reduplications of letters, there is not one instance, out of very many hundreds when the word recurs of Man being spelt with two ns. And so it invariably remains to this day. This observation I take to be decisive on the question. Next to Manks. On the proper spelling of this word I feel a little

bolder than the last, because I can form a conjecture from whence it comes and how it is formed. 1st, the adjective possessive of countries in the Saxon dialect is universally formed by joining *ish*. Spanish, Irish, Scottish, British, many of these for euphony's sake have been again contracted—Welch (for Waleish), French (for Fran-cish). What then has been the possessive adjective for the Isle of Man? Mankish. What is the proper way of writing this when shortened and contracted in one syllable? No doubt, Manks. X is not a favourite Saxon letter, and I cannot see any excuse for bringing it in here. Mankish being shortened in the pronunciation, there must be an analogy kept up between the word as now written, and the word in its original state, which can only be done by dropping the letters not now pronounced, the i and h. 2nd, I have the authority of Sacheverell and others in my favour, which ought to weigh a little." The Editor replies: "Since Mr Quayle wrote, ancient documents have come to light which, for the most part, contain Mann, not Man. We must confess that Sacheverell's authority is not considered as weighty by us as by him. With regard to Manks and Manx, the former is doubtless the older form, but ks is practically represented by x, and no confusion can arise from the use of the shorter word, as might be possible in the case of Mann and Man." I thought these documents were worth quoting.

Rev E. B. SAVAGE, F.S.A. : I think the Post Office authorities would be glad to see the spelling kept up Mann. There is no doubt it was the usual form, and I look upon the spelling Man as only a result of the clipping of words which has come about since printing became common. It is evident in such words as "honor" instead of honour, and "governor," governour. Certainly the Bishops of the diocese almost universally spell it Mann. I know that from the registers at Kirk Michael. If we spell it Man we lay ourselves open to what I noticed the other day in Victoria-street in a tobacconist's shop. There was shown there a mixture of tobacco called "anthropou nesos." I suppose the majority of people would think it was some good foreign mixture whereas it only means the Island of Man. (Laughter.) For an Antiquarian Society I think it is suitable to keep to the old form.

Mr ROSS : The Society seems to have adopted the new spelling on the agenda paper. The word there is spelt "Man." (Laughter.)

Mr KERMODE : As Secretary I should take the opportunity of explaining that that is a printer's error. Speaking as one of the oldest members of the Society, I must say I should be sorry to see this alteration made unless good and sufficient reasons were given for making it. I think we must remember it is not as if it were a new society, and the name was about to be given. I suppose there was some reason for spelling the word with two n s at the time. Throughout the manuscript books you will find the two n s, and that form having been adopted by the Society, I think that very good grounds indeed should be

shown before we alter it. You must show first of all that the double n is beyond all doubt wrong, and I do not think Dr Haviland has succeeded in convincing us that that is so. He must, secondly, show that the spelling he gives us is beyond all doubt correct, because if we make any alteration at all I hope we will not go from one wrong spelling to another wrong spelling. I do not think he has satisfied us as regards the derivation of the word "Man." The real ground of his opinion seems to be that it is derived from the Keltic. I do not feel inclined to jump to that conclusion. I am not at all convinced from what appears in the paper. It is quite likely that the first inhabitants came here from the neighbourhood of Cumberland. If they had landed anywhere in the North they would not speak of this Island as a rock, and I don't think there is anything in the character of the Island that would lead them to jump to the conclusion that it should be called by a name which signifies the rock, as Dr. Haviland would have it. Now, I put the case in this way. We have adopted this spelling, right or wrong. Suppose, to take an extreme case, that it is not the correct spelling, I do not think that the mere fact of the Antiquarian Society adopting it has any ill effects. It does not mislead people, and it is not likely now that we should be able to change the popular spelling. It is convenient and short, and it is so established amongst the people that I think it would be impossible by any means whatever to alter it. Taking that view, I see no harm in keeping up the two n s ; but it has not been shown that the two n s are wrong, and that one is correct, and for that reason I shall vote against the motion.

Rev S. N. HARRISON, on being appealed to by the President, said that his feeling was against the alteration. Before they decided on the spelling of the word, they should decide on its derivation.

Rev J. QUINE: There seems to be four sources. There is Cæsar's word, Mona, and the word which is composed of the syllable Man and avia, an ancient classical word applied to peninsulas pointing south. We have the two Keltic, the Irish, the Cymbric or Welsh. We have the Gaelic, Manand, and we have the Norse, Maun. These four sources point, as definitely as possible, without telling us what the origin of the thing was, that only one n should be used, and I think that is sufficient. For want of something more, I certainly support Dr Haviland's motion.

Rev S. N. HARRISON: Why not go back to the spelling on the old cross at Kirk Michael?

Rev J. QUINE: I have quoted that. It is Maun.

Rev S. N. HARRISON: Why not use it?

Rev J. QUINE: I do know not much about runes, but I think we might accept what scholars have told us, that the spelling there is Maun, which was pronounced Mone.

Mr KERMODE: The word is there quite distinct.

Rev J. G. WILLIAMS: As the origin seems to

be lost in the mists of antiquity and obscurity, and as it has been lost so long, I shall vote that the present spelling of the word be continued.

Dr RICHARDSON said that persons with monosyllabic names often added another letter to their names, and he could not see why a country should not do the same thing.

The PRESIDENT: Although I had not the pleasure of hearing my friend, Dr Haviland, read the paper in support of his motion, I have read it attentively over in one of the Insular newspapers. I take it for granted that it was correct.

Dr. HAVILAND: In *The Times*?

The PRESIDENT: Yes. In *The Isle of Man Times*.

Dr. HAVILAND: That is correct.

The PRESIDENT continuing, said: Although I had not the pleasure of hearing Dr. Haviland read his paper in support of his resolution, I have attentively perused a report of it in one of the Insular newspapers, and have made a few notes on the subject which I beg leave to state to the meeting. When considering this question, in which the origin of the name Mann is involved, we ought not to forget that there were, probably, in early times, two distinct languages in the British Islands. One was the old Gaelic, of which three dialects still exist—the Irish, the Highland Scotch, and the Manx. The other was the old Britannic, of which three dialects are also still preserved—the Welsh, the Cornish, and the Armoric. It is to a word found in the Britannic dialects that Dr. Haviland refers the name Man. We must, however, look for its origin in the Erse language, where, I apprehend, it is only to be found. I believe the name Mann is derived from the Erse name Mannin, which itself is probably from Manninee, the Erse name of the native inhabitants. In the Manx dialect the native inhabitants are still called Manninee. A Manxman, when speaking of his fellow Manxmen in his native tongue, always calls them Manninee, and if he talks of one he calls him Manninagh. In ancient times the Manninee were, in my opinion, a tribe or clan of Hibernian Gaels who occupied the Island. It is optional whether the name Mann be spelled with a single or double n, but, supposing the name to be derived from Mannin, I prefer to spell it with the double n. The appellations Mannin, Manninagh, and Manninee are severally spelled with the double n by our Manx lexicographers Kelly, Cregeen, and Clarke. The Manx dialect is spelled as it is pronounced, and the pronunciation of these Manx words requires the double n. That the name Mann was for the most part written with double n in many of the early Manx records, commencing in A.D. 1417, and extending over a period of 250 years, is a reason, I think, why this Society should retain the double n. I may mention, however, that the word "Manninagh" in the form in which it is given in some old Irish documents is often written with a single n. I do not see, however, that this fact indicates the correct mode of spelling the word. My friend, Dr Haviland, is reported to have said in support

of his resolution, "The Keltic word Maen, a rock, was evidently bestowed as a name upon the Isle of Man by those who inhabited it in the time of Cæsar." He also states that "outside the Isle of Man we find instances of the original root, Maen, being converted into Man. For instance, the Old Man of Coniston was once the Alt Maen the high rock; the Old Man of Hoy was Alt Maen, the high rock, &c. Now, I find it impossible to concur with Dr Haviland that Maen and Man are synonymous. In the first place, Maen is not a Keltic word at all, and Alt Maen is not a Keltic appellation. Alt is an element of the Latin *altus*, high, and Maen is an element of the Latin *mœnia*—walls. Williams, in his *Lexicon Cornu-Britannicum*, gives *mœnia* as a cognate of Maen. Maen is simply a Latin word introduced into the old Britannic language by the Romans, and does not exist in the Erse dialects. It is impossible, therefore, that it could have been the origin of the name Man. It is in all the dictionaries of the Britannic dialects translated a "stone." It does not mean rock. There is another term for rock. Alt Maen doubtless meant a stone in an elevated position, and stones in elevated positions often gave names to localities. We have an example in this Island, *e.g.*, Airey Steen, "The watch stone where watch was kept, and which has given the name to the locality. The appellation is a compound of a Gaelic and a Danish word. Dr Haviland tells us that Maen, Mon, Maun, and Man are varieties of a pure root form. Now, as I have tried to show, Maen and Maun can have no affinity to each other, the first being a Latin element introduced into the old Britannic dialects, but not existing in the Erse; and the latter being a pure Erse word. Neither have Man and Maen, I believe, any affinity to each other. Mon is no more a Celtic word than Maen. In the Welsh dialect it denotes that which is isolated, and is, probably, an element of the Greek *monos*—solitary. How can it then be identical with maen—a stone? Dr Haviland suggests that when Cæsar was told the name of the Island, he Latinised it by the addition of the letter a, converting it into a declinable noun—"Mona." Now, this suggestion implies that Cæsar's Mona was Man. When a boy, I was taught and induced to believe that it was. I think, however, very differently now. It is of little consequence for the purpose of the present inquiry whether Cæsar's island was Man; and for the discussion of such a question we have no time to-day. I hope, however, at some future time, to submit to the Society a paper in which I shall endeavour to show that Man was not the Mona of Cæsar. As for the name Maun, said to exist upon a runic stone, I have not examined the inscription. I confess I do not take a very deep interest in the runic inscriptions, which, I fear, I can never hope to read with certainty; though I do take much interest in the beautiful devices and decorations which runic monuments contain

Dr. HAVILAND said that the paper delivered now by the President required very careful con-

sideration, and also as many members were absent on official business who wished to speak on the matter—especially Deemster Gill and Mr A. W. Moore—he would ask that the discussion be now adjourned.

The PRESIDENT objected to the adjournment, and said if the discussions were adjourned in that way there would never be an end of them. In other learned societies it was not the practice to adjourn the discussions.

Dr HAVILAND said that he belonged to five or six learned societies, and he knew that they were only too anxious to adjourn discussions if there was a possibility of the discussion being nipped without the full opinion of the society being taken upon it. He moved that the debate be adjourned.

This proposal was seconded by Dr. RICHARDSON, objected to by Mr KERMODE, and rejected by a large majority.

Dr. HAVILAND : The history of this discussion is a very brief one. When I first proposed the alteration there was really no discussion, and the subject was adjourned to Ramsey ; but my notice was so short—I only got it the day before the meeting—that I could not attend the meeting. I understand that other members were in the same position, and that others were even in a worse position as regards notice than I was.

Mr KERMODE : That was explained at the time.

Dr. HAVILAND : I am giving the history of my paper.

Mr KERMODE : That is not in order.

The PRESIDENT : Please keep to the point.

Dr. HAVILAND : That was the reason why the discussion was held over to the present time. Now, with regard to this word Man, I find I have authority for saying that, at the beginning of this society, in 1881, there exists a notice summoning members, and on that notice the word is spelt with a single n. That notice is dated the 5th April, 1881. And I have it from a member that when the society was formed he proposed the name it still bears. That was Mr Grindley, and his suggestion was adopted.

Mr KERMODE : The two n s were adopted.

Dr HAVILAND : Now, I have fully shown that the original word, whether it was derived from Mannin, or Maun, or Maen, was spelt Man. In all the older writings where these words are mentioned only one n was used, and in that, as I have said before, I have been supported by the authority of Mr Mackenzie, that where the double n has been used invariably it was the error of those who were employed to copy the original statutes. Then, again, I am told by your learned President that the Manninee were the inhabitants of this Island, and that the double n crept in in that way. Now, it has been shown that the Manninee, whoever they were, did not spell their name originally with a double n. Then, again, it has been disputed as to the etymology of the word. Your learned President says that when he was a school boy he was taught that this Island was the Mona of Cæsar. Now, it is well known that Cæsar described the

Island Mona as being in mid-sea between the West of Britain and the East of Ireland. There is no mistake about that. I never supposed for a moment that such a question would have arisen, or I would have brought my Cæsar with me, and have shown it to you, but all those who have read Cæsar must be convinced of the fact, that his Mona was the Isle of Man, and not the Mona which is now Anglesey, which, however, is still called by a name with very similar sound by the Welsh. Then we are told again, with regard to this word Maen, that it was really a transmogrified Latin word. We all know that the Keltic language pervades all our languages more or less. It is more probable that the Latin was formed from the Keltic than the Keltic from the Latin. I hold that there is not a single authority for the double n. So, why should a learned Society, professing to look into these matters, say that there is. One says, "I like it." Well, that is sentiment. What on earth is the use of sentiment? (Laughter.) We want facts. Another says, "We have adopted it because some of our early members adopted it, and, therefore, we should continue it, whether right or wrong." This seems to me to be utterly against everything like common sense and progress. It is absurd reasoning. Then we know very well that all the statutes that have been copied from time immemorial have had the word spelt with the single n; and that it has been transmogrified by the writers into the double n. What would the Governor of the Isle of Man say if you were to write to him and put two n's to his title. With regard to the Bishops, they, even in these incorrect copies, sometimes had the single and sometimes the double n. We are now told that this clipping of words is common because printers exist. I never heard of such a reason in all my life. One would suppose that the opposite would be the case, because printers' pay is in the direct ratio of the number of letters they use. You might as well say that they were so fond of writing in those days that they duplicated the letters, in order to give themselves a little more work (Laughter.) I heard that it was said when this was being discussed that one of the members thought that Mann looked prettier or better. (Laughter.) There is sentiment again, or taste, or æstheticism, or something of that sort. Other people besides those living in the Island come across the reports of these discussions, and the Transactions of the Society will go far and wide. On the title-page of the transactions lately published, the spelling with one n is not a printer's error, because when it was proposed to put in two ns your late President (Deemster Gill) said he would not have it, and he had the Isle of Man spelt correctly. Deemster Gill very properly would not have the double n. A Scotchman the other day said to me, "Can't you spell the name of your Society properly?" I said, "Which part of it do you mean?" Well, the Isle of Man part of it. It is spelled with two ns," he replied. I told him that I had never inquired into

it, and he said, "the sooner it is altered the better, you are only making yourselves a laughing stock." Again, when in London, and at the British Museum, one of the professors said to me: "Can't you spell in that Island of yours?" (Laughter.) I replied: "That is a matter I have not entered into." I thought I would ask some one when I got back what was the reason for this double n. I found at first that some of them thought it looked prettier, and more, more—well, more ancient-like. (Laughter.) There was really no reasons except that it was spelled that way in some old and bad copies. As I have shown you, those employed to copy these statutes had chosen to put in this double n, whether in error or not. It may have been put in as coming from Mannia. The statutes had to be reduced to Latin, and the word Man come in very often. It was awkward to put in ia after Man because that would convert it into mania, and so it would not do to call the Lords of the Isle Lords of madness—(laughter)—that would be as bad as the lords of misrule. (Renewed laughter.) But the word mania had an existence when there was no Lord to be feared. I have received the following from the Keeper of the Rolls in Edinburgh, one of the most learned decipherers of old documents in Great Britain:—

H.M. General Register House, Edinburgh
17th April, 1888.

My dear sir,—I do not think I can make any useful contribution to the settlement of the question as to the correct spelling of the name Man.

Mann seems to me, I confess, pedantic, and not supported by invariable ancient usage, like the spelling Duns, which has recently been resumed by the respectable Berwickshire town long known as Dunse. My impression is that, in French and English documents, the word is nearly always, if not always, written Man, and it is not surprising if, in Latin documents, in which the form Mannia is habitually used, we should find, not unfrequently, in alternative use in the same documents the form Mann, as if it were a vernacular word, and, therefore, not inflected, the spelling being assimilated to that of the Latin form, which was necessarily uppermost in the writer's mind. But it could hardly be proved that when the form Mann occurs in a Latin document, it is not a contracted Latin word intended to be read Mannia, just as you would read Cathan, Cathania, or Cathanesia. Moreover, in Latin writings, although Mannia and Mania are the common forms, Mania occurs, and Man is of very frequent occurrence. Giraldus Cambrensis (Rolls ed) says, "Adjacent insulæ Britannica tres . . . insulæ . . . ab austro Vecta, a Zephyro Monia, a circio Mania."

Is there any modern historian, or editor of record publications, who has followed the example of the Society, and adopted the spelling Mann? I do not know of any.—Yours very sincerely,

THOS. DICKSON.

So that the word "Mania" was used, the letters ia being added without any fear of the consequences which may attach to it. Now, I think that, so far as use is concerned, I have sufficiently shown you that double n is an error, and that if it was used it was simply a contracted form of Mannia. I hope it will not be used longer, and if the second n is retained it should be written

and printed with a stroke over it, to show that it is a contracted word. In our learned President's statement made at the beginning of the discussion by means of a letter, it will be remembered that he was led into an error by a gentleman of the name of Oliver, who wrote some years ago. Now, you must remember that in the Isle of Man, in all matters of archæology, we look almost to one man alone, and he is Mr William Kneale. Almost all that is known, if not all that we know, about the runes, is known through Mr Kneale, but I am sorry to say that too frequently he is but little acknowledged. You will remember that Giraldus Cambrensis mentions three islands. The island of the south is the Isle of Wight, the island of the west is Anglesey, and the island of the north-west is Mania or Mona; so you see that there are other authorities who agree that Cæsar distinctly mentioned this Island of Mona, and described its situation. So far as that is concerned, therefore, we must dismiss anything as to its effect upon the general argument. With regard to the passage in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, here we are told that this word Mann-Cynn was what? Why we are told that this word was the Island of Man, and Dr Oliver says it is, and so it was printed and published. Fortunately, there were others who knew exactly where to find the origin of this blunder. Instead of being the Isle of Man, the word turns out to mean Mankind. As I said before, it is not a question so much of the spelling, as what is their authority for such spelling, with the fact before you that one n is really the most ancient and most correct. We have heard it said, but it must have been intended as a joke, that it was better to adopt the two ns in consequence of postal errors which might occur. I don't think I need trouble much about that. The statement about the Manninee is pure conjecture, and I have the most complete authority for saying that. I have not heard a single word against what I said with reference to the Acts of Stanley. They are simply adopted from an imperfect copy. I must ask you in conclusion what it is to be? Are you really going to persist in this double n? If so, all I can say is this—that after all that has been said against the double n, or urged in favour of the single n, you do not adopt the latter, there will be a reaction, and that reaction will be in favour of the truth. It will do your Society no good to go against reason and common sense. One may think that this is a trivial subject for a Society to deal with; as to whether one n or two ns should exist in the word of their title. But it is not merely the one n or the two ns. It is whether, it is right or whether it is wrong. When that wrong form is shown to be wrong, it should be altered, and it should not exist any longer. Our Secretary has said that this subject has not created much interest. I think, if he had heard, and seen and known all, he would not have said so. I know very well that this discussion has created, and will still create, a great deal of interest. It is for the Society's interest that

they should take counsel, and having, committed an error, acknowledge it and rectify it. It will not add to the laurels of this Society to go on using a form after they have been told that it is wrong, and which the public will see for themselves is wrong, and out of the public, you must remember, we wish to draw fresh supplies to our constituency, It is, therefore, not simply a matter of sentiment. It is a matter of credit. You do not want to be laughed at, but if you persist in using this double n after all that has been said, you will be laughed at. I believe if this error is continued the Society will be injured. The subject will be brought on again and again, until it is rectified. We will not rest here. The better plan would be to poll the whole Society on the question. It is a question altering the fundamental rule (rule 1) of the Society, and that would be a fair way of settling the matter. Let members be polled after they have read the discussion. I am sorry, that before replying, I had not an opportunity of hearing what those who are absent had to say upon a subject in which they take a deep interest. Whatever takes place, I shall always consider that they ought to have had a voice. (Applause).

The motion that the double n be abolished and the word spelt "Man" was then put and lost by a large majority. So far as we could perceive Dr Haviland's only supporters were the Rev. J. Quine and Mr Horton.





