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Y vee shoh chaie ren mee screeu mychione yn Vaarle Vanninagh as y blass Manninagh, as dooyrt mee dy lhisagh shin cummal seose ny reddyn shen as cur arrym daue myr jeelym as eiraght ren gaase dy dooghyssagh ass y Ghaelg hene, as choud as ta shin aa-vioghey as cummal seose yn Ghaelg nagh jean mie dooin mee-rioose ny almorys y yannoo er y ghlare ta ny ‘çhengey ny mayrey’ da bunnys ooilley ny Manninee ’sy laa t’ayn jiu, as yn cummey er-lheh Manninagh jee t’ec yn shenn sleih foast. Ta paart nagh vel caa ny pooar oc dy ynsaghey yn Ghaelg, as cha lhisagh yn Manninagh Gaelgagh soiaghey beg jeh’n Vanninagh Baarlagh. Ny-yeih, yn vee shoh ta mee goll dy haggloo mychione ocsyn ta gynsaghey Gaelg, as yn kiangley ta eddyr y Vaarle Vanninagh as Gaelg y laa t’ayn jiu.

Ta coyrle dy mennick currit da sleih ta gynsagh y Ghaelg—t’ee ayns toshiaght ny *Chied Thousane dy Ocklyn* myr sampleyr—dy lhisagh yn fockley-magh t’ad cliaghtey ayns y Ghaelg ve gollrish yn blass Manninagh Baarlagh, son dy vel mac-tullagh y Ghaelg ry chlashtyn ’sy vlass shen. Coyrle vie ayns towse ta shoh, agh lhisagh shin ve er nyn dwoaie. Cha nel y blass t’ec y chooid smoo dy leih aegey ayns Mannin jiu casley rish blass y Ghaelg edyr, as eer yn shenn sleih er y çheer, foddee dy vel keead blein eddyr adsyn as yn sheeloghe va dy mennick loayrt Gaelg as mestey yn Ghaelg ayns y Vaarle oc. Cha nel mee gra dy re drogh red ta shoh, son dy vel dy chooilley ghlare caghlaa as ta shen dooghyssagh; agh cha jig lhiat gra ‘Ta mee ass Mannin, myr shen cre-erbee yn blass t’aym ’sy Vaarle, ta shen mie dy liooar son y Ghaelg’.

T’eh kiart dy liooar dy yeeaghyn son mac-tullagh yn Ghaelg ayns y Vaarle Vanninagh, agh ny share foast lhisagh yn peiagh ta gynsagh geaishtagh rish ny recortysyn t’ain jeh sleih va Gaelg oc voish y chlean, as marish shen, gynsaghey yn Ghaelg Yernagh as Albinagh (ny beggan jeu ansherbee) as geaishtagh rish yn aght ta’n sleih Gaelgagh ayns ny çheeraghyn shen loayrt. Gynsaghey ny glaraghyn Gaelgagh elley (red nagh vel doillee tra ta Gaelg Vanninagh ayd hannah), nee eh cooney lhiat dy hoiggal cre ta ‘cooyl’ yn lettyraghey Manninagh as cur couyr dhyt tra nagh vel yn fockley magh cronnal voish yn aght-screeuee. Nee’m soilshaghey magh yn chooish shoh ny sodjey ’sy traa ry heet.

Last month I wrote about Manx English and the Manx accent, and I said that we should support and value them as a legacy and an inheritance which grew out of the Manx language itself, and while we are reviving and promoting Manx Gaelic we shouldn’t neglect the language which is the mother tongue of almost all Manx people today, and the uniquely Manx variety of it which older people still possess. There are some who do not have the opportunity or the ability to learn Manx, and the Gaelic-speaking Manxman should not look down on the Manxman who only speaks English. However, this month I am going to discuss learners of Manx, and the connection between Manx English and the Manx Gaelic of the present day.

Learners are often advised—in the beginning of the *First Thousand Words* for instance—to base their pronunciation of Manx on the accent of Manx English, since the echo of Manx can be heard in that accent. This is good advice to an extent, but we should be careful. The accent of most of the young people today in the Isle of Man is not much like that of Manx Gaelic at all, and even for rural older people, a hundred years may separate them from the generation who used Manx on a regular basis and mixed Manx in their English. I am not saying that this is a bad thing, for every

language variety changes naturally; but you cannot simply say 'I am from the Isle of Man, therefore whatever accent I have in English, that is good enough for Manx'.

It is fine to look for the Gaelic echo in Manx English, but it is better still for the learner to listen to the recordings we have of cradle Manx speakers, and in addition, to learn at least a smattering of Irish and Scottish Gaelic and to listen carefully to their pronunciation. Learning the other Gaelic tongues (which is not difficult if you have Manx) will help you to understand what is 'behind' the Manx spelling and aid you when the pronunciation is not clear from the written form. I will return to this topic in the future.