

**THE LITTLE
MANX NATION**

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The Little Manx Nation by Hall Caine

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HALL CAINE

**THE LITTLE
MANX NATION**

The Little Manx Nation

By

Hall Caine

Author of *The Christian*, *The Manxman*,
The Bondman, *The Decemster*, Etc.



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1899

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Authorized Edition.

To the
Reverend T. E. Brown, M.A.

You see what I send you—my lectures at the Royal Institution in the Spring. In making a little book of them I have thought it best to leave them as they were delivered, with all the colloquialisms that are natural to spoken words frankly exposed to cold print. This does not help them to any particular distinction as literature, but perhaps it lends them an ease and familiarity which may partly atone to you and to all good souls for their plentiful lack of dignity. I have said so often that I am not an historian, that I ought to add that whatever history lies hidden here belongs to Train, our only accredited chronicler, and, even at the risk of bowing too low, I must needs protest, in our north-country hometown, that he shall have the pudding if he will also take the pudding-bag. You know what I mean. At some points our history—especially our early history—is still so vague, so dubious, so full of mystery. It is all the fault of little Mannanan, our ancient Manx magician, who embroiled our island in mist. Or should I say it is to his credit, for has he not left us through all time some shadowy figures to fight about, like “*raal, throu, roglar*” Manxmen? As for the stories, the “*yarns*” that lie like flies—like blue-bottles, like bees, I trust not like wasps—in the amber of the history, you will see that they are mainly my own. On second thought it occurs to me that maybe they are mainly yours. Let us say that they are both yours and mine, or perhaps, if the world finds anything good in them, any humour, any pathos, any racy touches of our rugged people, you will permit me to determine their ownership in the way of this paraphrase of Coleridge’s doggerel version of the two Latin hexameters—

“They’re mine and they are likewise yours,
But as if that will not do,
Let them be mine, good friend! for I
Am the poorer of the two.”

Hawthorne, Kerwick,
June 1892.

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THE LITTLE MANX NATION

THE STORY OF THE MANX KINGS

THERE are just two ideas which are associated in the popular imagination with the first thought of the Isle of Man. The one is that Manxmen have three legs, and the other that Manx cats have no tails. But whatever the popular conception, or misconception, of Man and its people, I shall assume that what you ask from me is that simple knowledge of simple things which has come to me by the accident of my parentage. I must confess to you at the outset that I am not much of a hand at grave history. Facts and figures I cannot expound with authority. But I know the history of the Isle of Man, can see it clear, can see it whole, and perhaps it will content you if I can show you the soul of it