

The Triumph of the Country:

The Rural Community in 19th Century Jersey

John Kelleher

In the wake of the Napoleonic Wars and after centuries of relative isolation as an outpost loyal to the English Crown, the island of Jersey suddenly found itself exposed to significant challenges to its way of life from both within and without. A population of 28,600 in 1821 became 57,020 in 1851. A large immigrant population, particularly from Britain and the colonies, combined with the already commercially-minded local population to fuel massive economic growth. The Jersey economy found success in the Atlantic cod trade, the overseas carrying trade, the shipbuilding industry and a booming agriculture based on the Jersey cow and the potato industry.

However, immigration and economic growth brought problems for the previously isolated Jersey population. The immigrants were largely English speakers in a land where French and *Jérriais* prevailed. They came from a country with its empire very much in the ascendancy. Confident in the superiority of their language and their political and judicial institutions, many immigrants viewed the Island as much in need of change and modernisation. In the countryside, other changes were already afoot in the wake of the advance of Nonconformism. To this would be added the challenge brought by an increasing number of French migrant workers, brought over to work in agriculture, who decided to stay. Jersey folk found much of their way of life under challenge.

The Triumph of the Country charts the challenges made to the rural Jersey community's way of life and the means it adopted to combat

them. This work is essential reading for anyone who wishes to understand the forces which shaped modern Jersey.

The Triumph of the Country is published in hardback, is 608 pages long and includes photographs. It will be priced at £40.00 per copy. However, a special pre-publication price of £32.00 is available to subscribers keen to purchase a copy of this authoritative and accomplished work. This offer is open until 8th December 2017. The book will be available for collection at the offices of Carey Olsen, 47 Esplanade, St. Helier, Jersey, during normal office hours. For those overseas, it will be posted. Please complete the following section and send it to the address stipulated. If your preferred method of payment is BACS transfer, please forward your payment reference (preferably your surname) to the address below.

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