

London Gallery Quire 577

Paraphrased by Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

*Renshent anon.,
from the IOM Edward Taggart MS (1855)
Edited by Francis Roads*

O Britain, praise thy mighty God Psalm 147 part II; A song for Great Britain

[♩]=160

Soprano [Air]

1. O Bri - tain, praise thy migh - ty God, And make his ho - nours
 2. *Thy chil - dren are se - cure and blessed; Thy shores have peace, thy*
 3. Thy chang - ing sea - sons he or - dains, Thine ear - ly and thy
 4. *With ho - ry frost he strews the ground; His hail des - cends with*
 5. He bids the sou - thern bree - zes blow; The ice dis - solves, the

Alto

Tenor

8

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Bass

4

S
 known a - broad; He bids the o - cean round thee flow; Not bars of brass could
ci - ties rest; He feeds thy sons with fin - est wheat, And adds his bles - sing
 lat - ter rains; His flakes of snow like wool he sends, And thus the spring - ing
clat - t'ring sound: Where is the man so vain - ly bold That dares de - fy his
 wa - ters flow: But he hath no - bler works and ways To call the Bri - tons

A

T
 8
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B

The original has no indication of text, and the present one may well not have been that chosen by Manx singers. Its choice does however to some extent overcome the problem of the accent on the first syllable of some lines. The sentiment of verse 6 was true in Watts' time, but might be considered inappropriate nowadays.

The Taggart MS includes frequent evident copying errors, and the following emendations have been made:

Alto bars 1 and 2; original has e' a' a' a' e' d' c#;

Tenor bar 2; original has c# b a;

Two evident rhythmic errors are also corrected;

Pause on bar 4 last note deleted;

Transposed down a tone.

