O Vannin nyn gree,
O Chliejeen y Chiarn Jee,
O Ellan cha stoamey ’s cha feeu;
Myr Barrool soit dy mie,
Dt’ard-stoyl dy reill thie,
Nee shin seyr myr aer millish y clieau.

As son yn ronney s’jerree:

Lhig dooin boggey ’ghoaill,
Lesh creeahyn gerjoil,
Cur barrant er gialdyn y Chiarn;
Dy vodmayd dagh oor,
Treishteil er e phooar,
Dagh olk ass nyn annym dy hayrn.

Ta ny ronnaghyn elley jeant aym nish, my ta peiagh erbee laccal fakin ad. Foddee dy bee
smooinaghtyn ec feallagh elley neesht kys dy lihasaghey focklyn Gaelgagh yn arrane
ashoonagh.
A petition was presented recently to the Scottish parliament asking that ‘Flower of Scotland’ be made an official national anthem. Up to now, a number of songs have been in competition for the honour. Perhaps it is time for us in the Isle of Man to have a fresh look at our national anthem. Though the song by William Gill, based on the tune of Mylecharaine, was made our official national anthem a few years ago, it is clear to Manx speakers that the existing Manx translation by J. J. Kneen is not entirely suitable. Parts of it are simply ungrammatical. For example, in the first verse, (literal translation back to English) ‘O gem more fair to be found on God’s beautiful earth’ – more fair than what? And in the last verse, ‘let us joyful will be’ makes no sense. It cannot be right that this should stand as a symbol of our nation, and I sang the anthem in English at the Illiam Dhone commemoration this year, as I could not bring myself to utter this distortion of our language.

A couple of changes would make the lyrics work. Here is a translation which stays close quite to the English original:

(literal translation:)
O Man of our heart,
O gem of the Lord God,
O Island so fair and so worthy;
As Barrule set well,
Thy high seat of home rule,
Will make us free as the sweet air of the mountain.

I am not sure I like ‘gem’ and ‘sweet mountain air’, though. This sort of imagery reflects the drawing-room sentimentalism of the era when the song was written. Here is a version that is perhaps simpler and a bit more Manx (and also follows Kneen to some extent):

O Man of our love,
In the sea lying,
O little beautiful island of our heart;
As strong as Barrule,
You were set ever,
Keeping us in freedom and peace.

As for the last verse:

Let us rejoice,
With joyful hearts,
Relying on the Lord’s promise;
That we may each hour
Trust in his power,
To draw every evil out of our soul.

I have done the rest of the verses as well, if anyone is interested. Perhaps others will have their own suggestions as to how the Manx words of our national anthem might be revised?