

## IS IT MIRTHFUL YOU ARE. (‘N ann air mhire tha sibh?)

DONALD MACDONALD appears to be the only authority for this tune. He gives 16 bars in his Ground, 16 in its Doubling, 12 in the Variation and 12 in its Doubling. The tune seems clearly a two-lined one of eight bars per line, in spite of the second four bars of the first line being practically a repetition of the first four, for it will be noticed there is a change in the rhythm in the 5th bar of the second line, the third quarter of a part, just where it could be looked for. This would seem to be sufficient to justify classification of the tune as one of 8. 8. metre, and not 4: 4. 4. or 4. 4. 4. 4.

In endeavouring to find the rhythmic swing of the tune from MacDonald's version one is immediately brought up by some irregularity in his 4th, 8th, 10th, 11th, 13th and 14th Ground bars. Comparison with the corresponding bars of the Doubling is of great assistance. The Doubling is a safe guide to the correction of the Ground. It seems clear, beyond question, there is an extra E in bars 4, 8, 11 and 14, or else the E is a grace or passing note of the very shortest duration. It is also clear the last notes of his 10th and 13th bars really belong to the next. His 16th Ground bar is clearly a mutilated version of a similar bar to his 10th and 13th and the Doubling, here also, points to a simple correction. So much for the Ground and its Doubling.

The Variation, and its Doubling, of 12 bars is more difficult to deal with. The only difference between his first four and second four bars is in the last half of the last bar. It will be noticed by students of "Ceol Mor" that General Thomason repeats MacDonald's first four to make the first line, using his remaining eight bars to complete the tune. This arrangement does not seem the best. Although

MacDonald's first eight Variation Bars might be said to follow the Ground and its Doubling fairly faithfully, it seems clear, as in the case of some other MacCrimmon tunes, the others do not continue to follow the Ground, but become a play upon those of the First Part. The Compiler has completed the Variations by repeating MacDonald's 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th bars, but making the last half of the 16th the same as the last half of his 8th. Some doubt may exist regarding the last halves of the 4th, 8th, 12th and 16th bars. In themselves they may be satisfactory enough, but it is doubtful if a Taorluth built upon them would be satisfying. A Taorluth built upon the doubling of the Ground would probably be much better.

It may at least be said that retiming the Ground, etc., and supplying the missing bars leaves us with a complete tune of four parts—Ground, its Doubling, Variation and its Doubling, at least not inferior to what MacDonald has given us.

HISTORICAL NOTE.—MacDonald says—"Composed by M'Cruimen at the birth of Roderick More MacLeod in Dunvegan Castle, Isle of Skye, in 1715." As the celebrated "Rory Mor" (XIII. MacLeod) died in 1626 it cannot have been composed on his *birth!* It seems to be clearly a Patrick Mor MacCrimmon tune and perhaps was composed on the birth of Rory (the Witty) XV. MacLeod of Dunvegan, who was a minor in 1651, when his uncle, Sir Norman, commanded the MacLeods at the battle of Worcester. It might, of course, have been composed on the birth of Rory (XVII. MacLeod) son of John "Breac" (XVI.), for it is probable Patrick Mor was still active about this time, although this Rory was probably not in direct succession at the time of his birth.

### First Part—Macdonald.

### Second Part—Macdonald.

# IS IT MIRTHFUL YOU ARE?

Bar Nos.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ground.								
Doubling.								
Variation.								
Doubling.								
Bar Nos.	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Ground.								
Doubling.								
Variation.								
Doubling.								