

“ARE YOU QUITE SURE ABOUT YOUR ‘HOP-TU-NAA?’
HAVE YOU GOT THE GENUINE ‘HOP-TU-NAA?’” *



THE T. E. BROWN LECTURES OF 1893 & 1895

In January 1893, T.E. Brown delivered a talk to an audience in Castletown, the title of which was “Manx Celebrities in the South of the Island” if you read the *Ramsey Courier*,¹ or “Manx Characters,” in the case of the *Isle of Man Times*.² Both papers reproduced the text in two parts, though only the second half can now be found for each paper.³ The text of the lecture as reproduced in the *Ramsey Courier* and the *Isle of Man Times* differs, with the former being in the style of Brown familiar from his letters, while the latter is a plainer account of what was said on the evening. Brown had given a similar (if not the same) lecture earlier that month in Peel, “Manx Character and Characteristics,” on 12 January at the Centenary Hall,⁴ held in aid of the Church Repair Fund,⁵ and a *précis* of which had appeared in the *Isle of Man Times*.⁶ Brown spoke two years later on 19 November 1895, again at Castletown in the Town Hall, a fundraiser to support the costs of an action concerning the right of access to the Racecourse at Langness. His talk, “Castletown Fifty Years Ago,” covered the same ground as the lectures from 1893, again being reproduced in the newspapers, this time it being the turn of the *Isle of Man Examiner* to report it.⁷

In the course of the 1893 lecture Brown referred to “Hop-tu-Naa,” the *Ramsey Courier* reporting his words so: “Then about ‘Hop-tu-Naa.’ Are you quite sure about your ‘Hop-tu-Naa?’ Have you got the genuine ‘Hop-tu-Naa?’”⁸ The account by the *Isle of Man Times* was more succinct: “They had a peculiar version of ‘Hoptunaa’ at

* Published separately with *Kiaull Manninagh Jiu* October 2020.

¹ Anon, “The Rev. T.E. Brown on Manx Celebrities in the South of the Island,” *Ramsey Courier* 28 January 1893.

² Anon, “‘Manx Characters.’ Lecture by the Rev. T.E. Brown,” *Isle of Man Times* 31 January 1893.

³ As regards the *Ramsey Courier*, the issue for 28 January 1893 is all that exists overall now for 1893. With the *Isle of Man Times*, no first part appears for 24 January, the issue previous to that of the 28th; the copy for the 21 January is incomplete and may well contain the missing text.

⁴ Anon, “[Local News] [Peel and the West] On Thursday night ...,” *Isle of Man Times* 14 January 1893.

⁵ Anon, “[Peel and District] Lecture,” *Mona’s Herald* 18 January 1893.

⁶ Anon, “Manxland and the Manx,” *Isle of Man Times* 17 January 1893.

⁷ Anon, “Castletown Fifty Years Ago: Lecture by Rev. T.E. Brown,” *Isle of Man Examiner* 23 November 1895.

⁸ Anon, “The Rev. T.E. Brown on Manx Celebrities in the South of the Island,” 2d.

Castletown.”⁹ To better understand his comments consideration must first of all be given to the Hop-tu-Naa “Nineteenth Century Song,” the song text that was first recorded.

I. THE NINETEENTH CENTURY SONG (SHORT TEXT) (1)

I. JOSEPH TRAIN (1845)

Train: “On Hollantide Eve, boys go round the towns bawling lines, of which the following is an extract;—[...].”

- 1 This is old Hollantide night
The moon shines fair and bright
I went to the well
And drank my fill
5 On the way coming back
I met a pole cat
The cat began to grin
And I began to run
Where did you run to?
10 I ran to Scotland
What were they doing there?
Baking bannocks and roasting collops
Hop-tu-naa, If you are going to give us anything, give us it soon
Or we'll be away by the light of the moon, Hop-tu-naa.

Joseph Train, “Manners and Customs,” *An Historical and Statistical Account of the Isle of Man*. Vol. ii. 2 vols. (Douglas: Mary A. Quiggin, 1845) 102–39, see 123.¹⁰

2. REPRODUCTIONS OF TRAIN (1845)

Text simply copied from Train found in the following:

Col[onel] [Charles] Johnson, “Popular Customs and Superstitions of the Isle of Man,” *Mona's Herald* (27 August 1851), 4a–c, see 4b.¹¹

Rev. J.G. Cumming, *A Guide to the Isle of Man* (London: Edward Stanford, 1861) 20.¹²

[Frederick] Leech, *Leech's New Illustrated Tourist's Guide to the Isle of Man* (Ramsey & Douglas: F. Leech & J. Mylrea), n.d. [but 1861?] 133.¹³

⁹ Anon, “‘Manx Characters.’ Lecture by the Rev. T.E. Brown,” 8e.

¹⁰ Joseph Train, *An Historical and Statistical Account of the Isle of Man*, vol. ii, 2 vols. (Douglas: Mary A. Quiggin, 1845) 123.

¹¹ Col[onel] [Charles] Johnson, “Popular Customs and Superstitions of the Isle of Man,” *Mona's Herald* 27 August 1851.

¹² Rev. J.G. Cumming, *A Guide to the Isle of Man* (London: Edward Stanford, 1861) 20.

Glover’s Illustrated Guide and Visitors’ Companion through the Isle of Man (Douglas: Matthew Glover, 1868) 197–78.¹⁴

F[rank], Q[uayle], ed., *Celtic Customs by E. Kermode 1885* (Peel: Privately, by the Editor, 1985) 102.¹⁵

3. WILLIAM HARRISON (1869)

- 1 This is old Hollantide night
The moon shines fair and bright
I went to the well
And drank my fill
- 5 On the way coming back
I met a witch cat
The cat began to grin
And I began to run
Where did you run to?
- 10 I ran to Scotland
What were they doing there?
Baking bannocks and roasting collops
If you are going to give us anything, give us it soon
Or we’ll be away by the light of the moon

William Harrison, *Mona Miscellany: A Selection of Proverbs, Sayings, Ballads, Customs, Superstitions, and Legends Peculiar to the Isle of Man*, Manx Society, vol. xvi (Douglas: Manx Society, 1869) 148.¹⁶ This text has just a one-line variant (on line 6) and simply amends Train (1845).

4. PSEUD [“CUT-AND-COME-AGAIN”] (1872)

During the next day, in strolling round, I could not make out Douglas; my mind reverted to the Douglas of about 30 years ago, when Hollantide Fair used to be held in Gick’s field, and when, as a youth, on the evening of the 11th November it was customary to chime the following meaningless incantation:

¹³ *Leech’s New Illustrated Tourist’s Guide to the Isle of Man* (Ramsey & Douglas: F. Leech & J. Mylrea, n.d. [but 1861?]) 133.

¹⁴ *Glover’s Illustrated Guide and Visitors’ Companion through the Isle of Man* (Douglas: Matthew Glover, 1868) 197–78.

¹⁵ E— Kermode, *Celtic Customs by E. Kermode 1885: Superstitions, Customs, and Observances connected with the Manx Calendar* (n.p. [Peel]: Privately, by Frank Quayle, 1985) 102.

¹⁶ William Harrison, *Mona Miscellany: A Selection of Proverbs, Sayings, Ballads, Customs, Superstitions, and Legends Peculiar to the Isle of Man*, Manx Society, vol. xvi (Douglas: Manx Society, 1869) 148.

- 1 To-night's a new Hollantide night
The moon shines clear and bright
I went up the lake
I met a wild cat
5 The cat began to grin
Then I begun to run

Pseud [signed as “Cut-and-Come-Again”], “[Letter to the Editor] A Visitor's Impressions.—(No. 2),” *Isle of Man Times* (19 October 1872), 3e.¹⁷

5. T.E. BROWN (1895)

- 1 To-night is Hollantide night
The moon shines fair and bright
I went to the well
I drank my fill
5 Upon the way back
I met a bull cat
The cat began to grin
And I began to run

T.E. Brown, “Castletown Fifty Years Ago: Lecture by Rev. T.E. Brown,” *Isle of Man Examiner*, 23 November 1895, 2a–d, see 2c.¹⁸

6. KARL ROEDER (1897)

- 1 This is old Hollantide night
The moon shines fair and bright
I went to the well
I drank my fill
5 On my way back
I met a witch cat
The cat began to grin
I began to run
Where did you run to?
10 I ran to Scotland
What were you doing there?
Baking bannocks and roasting collops
If you're going to give us anything, give us it soon
Or we'll be away by the light of the moon

¹⁷ Pseud [signed as “Cut-and-Come-Again”], “[Letter to the Editor] A Visitor's Impressions.—(No. 2),” *Isle of Man Times* 19 October 1872.

¹⁸ Anon, “Castletown Fifty Years Ago: Lecture by Rev. T.E. Brown,” 2c.

Karl Roeder, “Contributions to the Folk Lore of the Isle of Man,” *Yn Lioar Manninagh* iii.iv (1897), 129–91, see 184–85.¹⁹ Roeder gives a variant to line 6, “I met a pole cat.”

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TRAIN (1845) WITH VARIANTS

- 1 This is old Hollantide night
The moon shines fair and bright
I went to the well
And drank my fill
- 5 On the way coming back
I met a pole-cat
The cat began to grin
And I began to run
Where did you run to?
- 10 I ran to Scotland
What were they doing there?
Baking bannocks and roasting collops
If you are going to give us anything, give us it soon
Or we'll be away by the light of the moon

VARIANTS

1 This is old Hollantide night] To-night's a new Hollantide night (Pseud, 1872); To-night is Hollantide night (Brown 1895); This is old Hollantide night (Roeder, 1897).

2 The moon shines fair and bright] The moon shines clear and bright (Pseud, 1872).

3 I went to the well] I went up the lake (Pseud, 1872).

4 And drank my fill] I drank my fill (Brown, 1895), Roeder (1897).

5 On the way coming back] Upon the way back (Brown, 1895); On my way back (Roeder (1897).

6 I met a pole-cat] I met a witch-cat (Harrison, 1869); I met a wild cat (Pseud, 1872); I met a bull-cat (Brown, 1895); I met a witch cat (Roeder (1897).

Whilst in Train (1845) this twelve line text is referred to as being “an extract” and taken from a longer version of the song, it circulated in this reduced form as shown by its recording by Harrison (1869), Brown (1895), and Roeder (1897), and its recollection by Pseud (1872). It is with A.W. Moore, *Manx Ballads and Music* (1896)

¹⁹ Karl Roeder, “Contributions to the Folk Lore of the Isle of Man,” *Yn Lioar Manninagh* iii.iv (1897): 184–85.

and Dr John Clague, *Cooïnaghtyn Manninagh* (n.d. [but 1911]) that fuller versions of the Train text are first known.

2. THE NINETEENTH CENTURY SONG (LONG TEXT) (2)

7. A.W. MOORE, MANX BALLADS AND MUSIC (1896)

- 1 This is Old Hollantide night
The moon shines bright
Cock of the hens
Supper of the heifer
Which heifer shall we kill?
- 5 The little speckled heifer
The fore-quarter
We'll put in the pot for you
The little hind quarter
Give to us give to us
- 10 I tasted the broth
I scalded my tongue
I ran to the well
And drank my fill
On my way back
- 15 I met a witch cat
The cat began to grin
And I ran away
Where did you run to?
I ran to Scotland
- 20 What were they doing there?
Baking bannocks and roasting collops
If you are going to give us anything, give us it soon
Or we'll be away by the light of the moon

A.W. Moore, *Manx Ballads and Music* (Douglas: G. & R. Johnson, 1896) 68–69.²⁰ As regards its source, it falls in with a number of other texts grouped under Moore's heading of “From Various People,” with a footnote reading, “Fragments have been picked up from too many different people to specify, and then pieced together.”²¹

²⁰ A.W. Moore, *Manx Ballads and Music* (Douglas: G. & R. Johnson, 1896) 68–69.

²¹ A.W. Moore, “Introduction,” *Manx Ballads and Music* (Douglas: G. & R. Johnson, 1896) xxx.

7. DR JOHN CLAGUE, COOINAGHTYN MANNINAGH (N.D. [BUT 1911])

- 1 Tonight is Hollantide Night
Cock and hen
Supper of the heifer
What heifer shall we take?
- 5 The little spotted heifer
Quarter in the pot
I tasted the broth
I scalded my throat
I ran to the well
- 10 I drank my fill
Then coming back
I met a pole cat
He grinned
I ran
- 15 I ran to Scotland
What news there?
The plough was ploughing
The harrows were harrowing
A young woman was cutting cheese
- 20 The knife was sharp
She cut her finger
She wrapped it in a cloth
She locked it in a chest
It made stock and store
- 25 Three brown sheep
Had William the grandson
If you give me anything give it me soon
For I want to go home with the light of the moon

Dr John Clague (1841–1908), *Cooinaghtyn Manninagh: Manx Reminiscences By the Late Dr John Clague* (Castletown: M.J. Backwell, n.d. [but 1911]) 27 & 29.²²

²² Dr John Clague, *Cooinaghtyn Manninagh: Manx Reminiscences By the Late Dr John Clague* (Castletown: M.J. Backwell, n.d. [but 1911]) 27 & 29.

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TRAIN (1845) & MOORE (1896)

TRAIN

MOORE

1	This is old Hollantide night The moon shines fair and bright	This is Old Hollantide night The moon shines bright Cock of the hens Supper of the heifer
5		Which heifer shall we kill? The little speckled heifer The fore-quarter We'll put in the pot for you The little hind quarter
10		Give to us give to us I tasted the broth I scalded my tongue
	I went to the well And drank my fill	I ran to the well And drank my fill
15	On the way coming back I met a pole-cat The cat began to grin And I began to run Where did you run to?	On my way back I met a witch-cat The cat began to grin And I ran away Where did you run to?
20	I ran to Scotland What were they doing there? Baking bannocks and roasting collops	I ran to Scotland What were they doing there? Baking bannocks and roasting collops

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MOORE (1896) & CLAGUE (1911)

MOORE

CLAGUE

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1 | This is Old Hollantide night
The moon shines bright
Cock of the hens
Supper of the heifer | Tonight is Hollantide Night

Cock and hen
Supper of the heifer |
| 5 | Which heifer shall we kill?
The little speckled heifer
The fore-quarter
We'll put in the pot for you
The little hind quarter | What heifer shall we take?
The little spotted heifer

Quarter in the pot |
| 10 | Give to us give to us
I tasted the broth
I scalded my tongue
I ran to the well
And drank my fill | I tasted the broth
I scalded my throat
I ran to the well
I drank my fill |
| 15 | On my way back
I met a witch-cat
The cat began to grin
And I ran away
Where did you run to? | Then coming back
I met a pole cat
He grinned
I ran |
| 20 | I ran to Scotland
What were they doing there?
Baking bannocks and roasting
collops | I ran to Scotland
What news there?
The plough was ploughing

The harrows were harrowing
A young woman was cutting
cheese |
| 25 | | The knife was sharp
She cut her finger
She wrapped it in a cloth
She locked it in a chest
It made stock and store |
| 30 | | Three brown sheep
Had William the grandson |

COMPOSITE LONG TEXT

Clague (1911) used here as the base text with lines filtered in from Moore (1896) to create this composite version of the Long Form of the Nineteenth Century Song.

- 1 Tonight is Hollantide Night
The moon shines bright
Cock and hen
Supper of the heifer
5 What heifer shall we take?
The little spotted heifer
The fore-quarter
Quarter in the pot
The little hind quarter
10 Give to us give to us
I tasted the broth
I scalded my throat
I ran to the well
I drank my fill
15 Then coming back
I met a pole cat
He grinned
I ran
Where did you run to?
20 I ran to Scotland
What were they doing there?
Baking bannocks and roasting collops

“THE ADVENTURE IN SCOTLAND” (CLAGUE)

- 21 What news there?
The plough was ploughing
The harrows were harrowing
A young woman was cutting cheese
25 The knife was sharp
She cut her finger
She wrapped it in a cloth
She locked it in a chest
It made stock and store
30 Three brown sheep
Had William the grandson

Whilst the thematic and narrative elements of the Nineteenth Century Song text deserve (and need) further study all that is needed here for the sake of understanding Brown’s comments in his lectures is to be acquainted with the text(s) circulating in the nineteenth century.

3. THE T.E. BROWN LECTURE OF 1893

As seen, Brown’s lecture was reported in both the *Ramsey Courier* and the *Isle of Man Times*. The passages relevant to this piece are reproduced below.

3.1 RAMSEY COURIER (28 JANUARY 1893)

Then about “Hop-tu-Naa.” Are you quite sure about your “Hop-tu-Naa?” Have you got the genuine “Hop-tu-Naa?” This is what they have in Castletown, and a part of it I am sure you have not. Of course, part of it was the “Hop-tu-Naa” familiar in any part of the Island, and then comes a part peculiar to Castletown:

Hop-tu-Naa upon the gool ringers
Trall-la-laa upon the gool fingers
Hop-tu-Naa, a goose and a cock
Trall-la-laa, I scalt my thrut. (Laughter.)

Do you detect that? Well, then, so far you may go, because Ramsey goes so far, but now, I entrench myself upon the ramparts of Castletown:

Jenny Squinney went over the wall
To get a rod to beat the foal.
Hop-tu-Naa.

Jenny Squinney went over the house
To get a rod to beat the mouse.
Hop-tu-Naa. (Laughter.)

I believe I could take you still further, as Castletown still deals in these aristocratic methods:

Jenny Squinney went up the claddagh
To get an apron full of barragh
Hop-tu-Naa. (Loud laughter.)
What is “barragh?” Barragh means tow.

“The Rev. T.E. Brown on Manx Celebrities in the South of the Island,” *Ramsey Courier* 28 January 1893, 2a–f, see 2d.²³

3.2 ISLE OF MAN TIMES (31 JANUARY 1893)

They had a peculiar version of “Hoptunaa” at Castletown. At first it went the same as in other parts of the Island, but then came:

Hop-tu-naa upon the gool ringers,

²³ Anon, “The Rev. T.E. Brown on Manx Celebrities in the South of the Island,” 2d.

Troll-la-laa upon the gool fingers,
Hop-tu-naa, a goose and a cock;
Troll-la-laa, I scalt my thrut.

Even the above might be found elsewhere, but here was the inner portion of the Castletown version:

Jinny Squinny went over the wall
To get a rod to beat the foal.
Hop-tu-naa.

Jinny Squinny went over the house
To get a rod to beat the mouse.

Troll-la-laa
Jinny Squinny went over the claddagh
To get an apron full of barragh (tow)
Hop-tu-naa.

“Manx Characters.’ Lecture by the Rev. T.E. Brown.” *Isle of Man Times* 31 January 1893: 8d–f, see 8e.²⁴

4. THE T.E. BROWN LECTURE OF 1895

On this occasion the lecture appears only in the *Isle of Man Examiner*.

4.1 ISLE OF MAN EXAMINER (23 NOVEMBER 1895)

And this was the peculiarly Castletown version of “Hop-tu-naa”—

Hop-tu-naa! To-night is Hollantide night,
Trollollaa! The moon shones fair and bright;
Hop-tu-naa! I went to the well,
Trollollaa! I drank my fill.
Hop-tu-naa! Upon the way back,
Trollollaa! I met a bull-cat;
Hop-tu-naa! The cat began to girn,
Trollollaa! And I began to run.

Now so far, this agreed with other versions. But then the song went:

*Jinny Squinny went over the wall,
To get a rod to beat the foal—
Hop-tu-naa!*
*Jinny Squinny went over the house
To get a rod to beat the mouse—
Troll-la-laa!*
*Jinny Squinny went over the claddagh
To get an apron full of barragh—*

²⁴ Anon, “Manx Characters.’ Lecture by the Rev. T.E. Brown,” 8e.

Hop-tu-naa!
Hop-tu-naa! Upon the gool ringers;
Troll-la-laa! Upon the gool fingers;
Hop-tu-naa! A goose and a cock;
Troll-la-laa! I scalt my thro't—
Hop-tu-naa!

(Roars of laughter.) And (concluded Mr Brown), I will only add to that—
If you're goin' to give us anythin',
Give us it soon;
For we must be away
Without the light of the moon—
Trolllala.
(laughter and loud applause).

“Castletown Fifty Years Ago: Lecture by Rev. T.E. Brown.” *Isle of Man Examiner*
23 November 1895: 2a–d, see 2c.²⁵

5. THE T.E. BROWN SONG TEXTS (1893 & 1895)

5.1 RAMSEY COURIER (28 JANUARY 1893)

- 1 Hop-tu-Naa upon the gool ringers
Trall-la-laa upon the gool fingers
Hop-tu-Naa, a goose and a cock
Trall-la-laa, I scalt my thrut
5 Jenny Squinney went over the wall
To get a rod to beat the foal
Jenny Squinney went over the house
To get a rod to beat the mouse
Jenny Squinney went up the claddagh
10 To get an apron full of barragh

“The Rev. T.E. Brown on Manx Celebrities in the South of the Island,” *Ramsey Courier* 28 January 1893, 2a–f, see 2d.²⁶

5.2 ISLE OF MAN TIMES (31 JANUARY 1893)

- 1 Hop-tu-naa upon the gool ringers
Troll-la-laa upon the gool fingers
Hop-tu-naa, a goose and a cock
Troll-la-laa, I scalt my thrut

²⁵ Anon, “Castletown Fifty Years Ago: Lecture by Rev. T.E. Brown,” 2c.

²⁶ Anon, “The Rev. T.E. Brown on Manx Celebrities in the South of the Island,” 2d.

- 5 Jinny Squinny went over the wall
To get a rod to beat the foal.
Jinny Squinny went over the house
To get a rod to beat the mouse.
Jinny Squinny went over the claddagh
10 To get an apron full of barragh

“Manx Characters.’ Lecture by the Rev. T.E. Brown.” *Isle of Man Times* 31
January 1893: 8d–f, see 8e.²⁷

5.3 ISLE OF MAN EXAMINER (1895)

- 1 To-night is Hollantide night
The moon shones fair and bright
I went to the well
I drank my fill
5 Upon the way back
I met a bull-cat
The cat began to girn
And I began to run
Jinny Squinny went over the wall
10 To get a rod to beat the foal
Jinny Squinny went over the house
To get a rod to beat the mouse
Jinny Squinny went over the claddagh
To get an apron full of barragh
15 Hop-tu-naa Upon the gool ringers
Troll-la-laa Upon the gool fingers
Hop-tu-naa A goose and a cock
Troll-la-laa I scalt my thro’t

“Castletown Fifty Years Ago: Lecture by Rev. T.E. Brown.” *Isle of Man Examiner*
23 November 1895: 2a–d, see 2c.²⁸

6. “THEN COMES A PART PECULIAR TO CASTLETOWN”

T.E. Brown was struck in his lectures by Castletown having a version of the Hop-tu-Naa song which was unfamiliar to him. Turning first to the fuller song text appearing in the report of the 1895 lecture [5.3], lines 1–8 are familiar ones from Train (1845), and match the order of the lines there. As Brown himself wrote, “[n]ow so far, this agreed with other versions. But then the song went [...],” and the rest of the text

²⁷ Anon, “Manx Characters.’ Lecture by the Rev. T.E. Brown,” 8e.

²⁸ Anon, “Castletown Fifty Years Ago: Lecture by Rev. T.E. Brown,” 2c.

new to Brown continues to the end as lines 9–18. The texts from the 1893 lecture, [5.1] & [5.2], reproduce just these lines but in a different order (lines 9–14 become 1–6, and 15–18, lines 1–4). The 1893 texts have further comments by Brown on the song.

In the report of the lecture by the *Ramsey Courier*, [5.1] is introduced by Brown:

Then about “Hop-tu-Naa.” Are you quite sure about your “Hop-tu-Naa?” Have you got the genuine “Hop-tu-Naa?” This is what they have in Castletown, and a part of it I am sure you have not. Of course, part of it was the “Hop-tu-Naa” familiar in any part of the Island, and then comes a part peculiar to Castletown:

Coming next then are the lines:

Hop-tu-Naa upon the gool ringers
Trall-la-laa upon the gool fingers
Hop-tu-Naa, a goose and a cock
Trall-la-laa, I scalt my thrut.

Brown continues: “Do you detect that? Well, then, so far you may go, because Ramsey goes so far, but now, I entrench myself upon the ramparts of Castletown[.]” Whilst the above lines were known in Ramsey, what follows is known only in Castletown:

Jenny Squinney went over the wall
To get a rod to beat the foal
Jenny Squinney went over the house
To get a rod to beat the mouse
Jenny Squinney went up the claddagh
To get an apron full of barragh

In the *Isle of Man Times* account of the talk, Brown is reported somewhat plainer in his approach to the text of [5.2], namely “[t]hey had a peculiar version of “Hoptunaa” at Castletown. At first it went the same as in other parts of the Island, but then came: [...]” and the set of lines beginning with “Hop-tu-Naa upon the gool ringers” are reproduced as in [5.1]. Again, “[e]ven the above might be found elsewhere, but here was the inner portion of the Castletown version: [...],” and the lines starting with “Jenny Squinney went over the wall” follow on.

The text in Moore (1896) has the lines “I tasted the broth / I scalded my tongue” while “I scalt my thrut” is the last line in the “Hop-tu-Naa upon the gool ringers” episode here and so these lines possibly belong to an unrecorded version of the Nineteenth Century Song. They were certainly familiar to Brown and known in Ramsey and elsewhere he suggests in the Island. The Jenny Squinney episode is what stood out for Brown (given as Jinny Squinny in [5.2] & [5.3]) and what for him marked out the Hop-tu-Naa song with these lines as one localised to Castletown.

7. THE CASTLETOWN SONG

As seen, Brown identified a version of the Nineteenth Century Song localised to Castletown, and there is a second text known to support his supposition:

- 1 Tonight is old Hollantide night
The moon shines clear and bright
Ginny-the-Swinney went up the claddagh
To get an apron full of barragh
- 5 Ginny-the-Swinney went over the house
To get a rod to beat the mouse
Ginney-the-Swinney went through the hole
To get a rod to beat the foal
I stole a goose and made some broth
- 10 I scalded my throat and ran to the well
I drank my fill, on my way back met a pole cat
The cat began to grin and I began to run
And where did you run to?
I ran to Scotland
- 15 And what did you see there?
The ploughs were ploughing
The harrows were harrowing
- If you're going to give us anything give it us soon
For we're going away with the light of the moon
- 20 If you're going to give us anything give it us quick
Or we'll give a you a *codather* [blow] from this big stick

Misc. papers of Charles E. Watterson, former Town Clerk of Castletown, compiled c. 1948–50, MNHL, MD 118–7.²⁹

Again, the Nineteenth Century Song remains present as seen when the Jenny Squinney episode is removed:

- 1 Tonight is old Hollantide night
The moon shines clear and bright
I stole a goose and made some broth
I scalded my throat and ran to the well
- 5 I drank my fill, on my way back met a pole cat
The cat began to grin and I began to run
And where did you run to?
I ran to Scotland

²⁹ Misc. papers of Charles E. Watterson, former Town Clerk of Castletown, compiled c.1948–50, MNHL, MD 118–7.

- And what did you see there?
10 The ploughs were ploughing
The harrows were harrowing

8. JENNY SQUINNEY (1) [FROM THE CASTLETOWN SONG]

8.1 BROWN (1893) [5.1] & (1895)

- 1 Jenny Squinney * went over the wall
To get a rod to beat the foal
Jenny Squinney went over the house
To get a rod to beat the mouse
5 Jenny Squinney went up the claddagh
To get an apron full of barragh
* Jinny Squinny in [5.2] & [5.3]

8.2 WATTERSON [C. 1948–50]

- 1 Ginny the Swinney went up the claddagh
To get an apron full of barragh
Ginny the Swinney went over the house
To get a rod to beat the mouse
5 Ginny the Swinney went through the hole
To get a rod to beat the foal

This set of lines in their content bear no relation to any of the thematic elements of the Nineteenth Century Song and are a free floating episode inserted into that text. There are variations here in the order of the lines, on one of the lines (see 5 in [8.2]), and the name of the character—Jenny Squinney, Jinny Squinny, Ginny the Swinney—and other variations are known as will be seen.

9. JENNY SQUINNEY: OTHER TEXTS (2)

9.1 DR JOHN CLAGUE ([1892] OR AFTER)

- 1 Jenny Swinny went through the hole
To get a rod to hunt the foal
Jenny Swinny went over the house
To get a rod to beat the mouse
5 Jenny Swinny went up the claddagh
To get an apronful of barragh

“Manx Folk Lore.” Notebook compiled by Dr John Clague (1841–1908), undated [but 1892 or after], MNHL, MS 952 A.³⁰

9.2 J.J. KNEEN ([1935])

Jinny the Winny went over the house
To get a stick to leather the mouse

Cyril I. Paton, “Manx Calendar Customs. The Calendar: The Third Quarter. The Fourth Quarter (Part 1),” *Folk-Lore*, lii.1 (1941), 35–69, see 57.³¹ Paton gives as his source “MS., J.J. Kneen, 1935.”

9.3 CYRIL I. PATON (1941)

Jinny Squinny went up to the Claddagh
To get her apron-full of barragh
Jinny Squinny went through a hole
To get a rod to beat the foal

Cyril I. Paton, “Manx Calendar Customs. The Calendar: The Third Quarter. The Fourth Quarter (Part 1),” *Folk-Lore*, lii.1 (1941), 35–69, see 57–58.³²

9.4 JOHN COMISH (1950–55)

Jinny the Spinney went through the hole
To get a rod to beat the foal

Notes made by John Comish, Ontario, 1950–55. MNHL, FLS, CJ J/4.³³

9.5 GEORGE FREESTONE (2009)

Jinny the Spinney went over the strand
To gather an apron full of sand
Jinny the Spinney went round the house
To catch a stick to catch the mouse

Interview with George Freestone (6 January 2009) by SM.³⁴

³⁰ “Manx Folk Lore.” Notebook compiled by Dr John Clague (1841–1908), undated [but 1892 or after], MNHL, MS 952 A.

³¹ Cyril I. Paton, “Manx Calendar Customs. The Calendar: The Third Quarter. The Fourth Quarter (Part 1),” *Folk-Lore* lii.1 (1941): 57.

³² Paton, “Manx Calendar Customs. The Calendar: The Third Quarter. The Fourth Quarter (Part 1),” 57D58.

³³ Notes made by John Comish, Ontario, 1950–55, MNHL, FLS, CJ J/4.

³⁴ Interview with George Freestone (6 January 2009) by SM.

Of these five texts, three [9.1], [9.4], [9.5] come from individuals connected with Castletown. Clague spent his professional life residing and working there, Comish was born in the town before emigrating to Canada, and Freestone was also born and lived there. The exact location of the informants for the remaining two texts, [9.2] & [9.3] is unknown.

10. JENNY SWINNY

The Clague text in MNHL, MS 952 A taken here as the base text.

- 1 Jenny Swinny went through the hole
To get a rod to hunt the foal
Jenny Swinny went over the house
To get a rod to beat the mouse
- 5 Jenny Swinny went up the claddagh
To get an apronful of barragh

Brown (1893) [8.1] agrees with Clague; Kneen [1935] [9.2] partial text as lines 3–4 of [10] (with *stick* for rod); Paton (1941) [9.3] partial text with lines 1–2 and 5–6 as lines 5–6 & 1–2 of [10]; Watterson [c. 1948–50] [8.2] full text but as [10] in reverse order, *ie*, lines 5–6, 4–3, 2–1 as lines 1–2, 3–4, 5–6; Comish (1950–55) [9.4] partial text with lines 1–2 matching those of [10].

Freestone (2009) [9.5] a four line text but with lines 1–2 a variant opening, Jinny the Spinney went over the strand / To gather an apron full of sand, and lines 3–4 agreeing with [10] (with *round the house* for “over the house”).

10.1 THE NAMES OF JENNY SWINNY

As regards the name of the character (date order):

Jenny Swinny	Dr John Clague ([1892] or after)
Jinny Squinney	Rev. T.E. Brown (1893) & (1895)
Jinny Winny	J.J. Kneen (1935)
Jinny Squinny	Cyril I. Paton (1941)
Ginny Swinney	Charles E. Watterson [c. 1948–50]
Jinny Spinney	John Comish (1950–55)
Jinny Spinney	George Freestone (2009)

And in order: Jinny Spinney, Jinny Squinny, Ginny Swinney, Jenny Swinny, Jinny Winny, *or* Ginny/Jenny/Jinny | Spinney, Squinny, Swinney, Winny.

11. JINNY THE WITCH

The middle pairs of lines, Jenny Swinny went over the house / To get a rod to beat the mouse, are a link to the song that has in the main supplanted the Nineteenth

Century Song and where the protagonist is now solely and squarely Jinny the Witch. The first mention to date of this character’s name is from 1900:

Jinny the Witch went over the house
To get a stick to lather the mouse
Jinny the Witch went up to the claddagh
To get her apron full of faggots

Pseud [signed as “Oie-Hauiney”], “Hollantide: A Reminder for our own People and Unique Information for Strangers,” *Manx Sun* (3 November 1900), 6a–b.³⁵

The six-line Jenny Swinny structure is recognisably there and as Jenny the Witch there are two references in newspaper accounts from 1902 and the following year, 1903 to the song:

1902

The 12th passed very quietly. “Hiring” at the fair is little thought of now, arrangements being made privately, particularly in the case of married men. The fearful rain completely quenched the ardour of the few—if any—who thought of going on the Hop-tu-naa. Still, many a grey head was shaken reflectively, and many a smile accompanied the memory of the day when, armed with a creel to receive the potatoes and herrings doled out by the kind hearted, boys sang from door to door of “Jenny the Witch,” and kindred subjects.

“[Arbory] The 12th passed,” *Isle of Man Examiner* (15 November 1902), 8c.³⁶

1903

Hollantide passed here almost unnoticed, and movements among cottagers have been few. In the villages an odd attempt or two was made to revive the ancient harmony regarding “Jenny the Witch,” but the hurried flight of the choristers from the doors they visited indicated that their efforts were not appreciated.

“[Arbory] Hollantide passed here,” *Isle of Man Examiner* (14 November 1903), 7b.³⁷

Accounts such as these of folk and calendar customs by this date always cast folk and calendar customs as vestiges of a disappearing past, whereas what becomes the familiar refrain of Jinny the Witch and describing her adventures is now developing at this date and will (except in the case of song texts associated with Peel) replace the

³⁵ Pseud [signed as “Oie-Hauiney”], “Hollantide: A Reminder for our own People and Unique Information for Strangers,” *Manx Sun* 3 November 1900.

³⁶ Anon, “[Arbory] The 12th passed,” *Isle of Man Examiner* 15 November 1902.

³⁷ Anon, “[Arbory] Hollantide passed here,” *Isle of Man Examiner* 14 November 1903.

Nineteenth Century Song. Incidentally, note in the above two accounts that Hop-tu-Naa is taking place on Old Hollantide Day. Both are reported from Arbory and that may just not be happenstance but reflecting a localised and further development of the Jenny Swinny song.

Jinny the Quitch [*ie*, Witch] appears in fictional form in a story serialised in the *Manx Sun* in 1889, “Juan Beg: Or, The Laxey Miner,”³⁸ published under the pseudonym of Harropdale:

Scarcely had he left the cottage than another, and less welcome, stranger entered, in the person of a rather diminutive old woman, of an unpleasant countenance, but scrupulously clean and tidy in her dress. This was “Jinny the Quitch,” as one of the men had called her, but she seemed to possess few of the attributes generally supposed to belong to that much maligned sisterhood.³⁹

Jinny is not an uncommon nickname in this period, such as Jinney Skip-the-gutter (1891),⁴⁰ Jinnie (1894),⁴¹ Jingling Jinny (1897),⁴² Jinny-jump-over-the-Gutter (1897),⁴³ and Gentle Jinny (*aka* Jane Quayle) (1899).⁴⁴ A name then as Jinny the Witch is not referring to a figure circulating in Manx folklore—if so then one not picked up by any of the the names above—but one easily formed from a familiar nickname and the commonplace typing of old, isoated women in the community as witches so in the case of “Juan Beg,” Jinny the Witch then is a fictional creation. Regardless of this, the name does come to be associated with the rhyme and then supplant the Jenny Swinny cluster of variant name forms.

II. THE PEEL TEXT

In an undated note Sophia Morrison wrote:

There are various versions of the doggerel rhyme of “Hop! ta’n oie” found in Manx and in English in the different districts of the Island. The following is one that has been commonly used in Peel. It is repeated antiphonally, one speaker saying “Hop-the-nei” and the other speaker responding with “Put in the pot,” and so on throughout.⁴⁵

This text of the Peel Hop-tu-Naa reads so:

³⁸ Pseud [signed as “Harropdale”], “Juan Beg: Or, The Laxey Miner,” *Manx Sun* 27 July 1889. See, Chapter iv, “Jinny the Quitch,” 3b–c.

³⁹ Pseud [signed as “Harropdale”], “Juan Beg: Or, The Laxey Miner,” 3b.

⁴⁰ Anon, “[Local Gossip] His Worship the ...,” *Manx Sun* 7 November 1891.

⁴¹ Pseud [initialled as “C”], “Hollantide Night: A Sketch,” *Isle of Man Examiner* 22 December 1894.

⁴² Anon, “St George’s Bazaar: A Brilliant Function,” *Isle of Man Times* 2 October 1897: 5c.

⁴³ Anon, “St George’s Bazaar: A Brilliant Function,” 5c.

⁴⁴ Anon, “[Local News] Jane Quayle,” *Mona’s Herald* 19 July 1899.

⁴⁵ Undated and untitled notes on Manx calendar customs by Sophia Morrison, MNHL, MS 09495, Sophia Morrison Papers, Box 6.

- 1 Put in the pot
Put in the pan
I scawl't (scalded) me throat
I feel it yit
- 5 I went to the well
I dhrunk me fill
On me way back
I met a foul-cat
The cat begun to grin
- 10 I begun to run
Where did you run to?
I ron to Scotlan'
What were they doin theer?
Bakin bonnags and roastin sconnags
- 15 Jinnie the Winnie went over the lake
The griddle in her han' ready to bake
I asked her for a bit
She gave me a bit as big as me big toe
I dipped it in milk
- 20 I wrapped it in silk

If you're goin to give us anything, give us it soon
Befoor we run away be the light o' the moon

Undated and untitled notes on Manx calendar customs by Sophia Morrison, MNHL, MS 09495, Sophia Morrison Papers, Box 6.⁴⁶ This same text was to appear in A.W. Moore,† Sophia Morrison,† and Edmund Goodwin, eds. *A Vocabulary of the Anglo-Manx Dialect* (London: Oxford University Press, 1924) 84.⁴⁷ The extant manuscript of the *Vocabulary* contains nothing extra.⁴⁸

W.W. Gill collected a second version of this text, “[a] slightly different one, for the most part written down for me by Mr J.G. Callister, late of that city and S.S. Tyyconnell, as he used to sing it in his boyhood,” and reproduced in *A Second Manx Scrapbook* (1932):

⁴⁶ Undated and untitled notes on Manx calendar customs by Sophia Morrison, MNHL, MS 09495, Sophia Morrison Papers, Box 6.

⁴⁷ A.W. Moore, Sophia Morrison and Edmund Goodwin, eds., *A Vocabulary of the Anglo-Manx Dialect* (London: Oxford University Press, 1924) 84.

⁴⁸ MNHL, MS 2267/8 A covering the letter H contains nothing extra; see entry HOP-CHU-NAA, HOP-TU-NAA on 55 and HOP-THE-NEI on 56–58.

- 1 Put in the pot,
Put in the pan,
I scalded my throat,
I feel it yet.
- 5 I ran to the well,
I drank my fill.
What did you see there?
I saw a pole-cat.
The cat began to grin
- 10 And I began to run.
I saw Jinny the Whinney
Go over the lake
A griddle in her hand
All ready to bake;
- 15 Her teeth were green
And her eyes were red,
And a thickness of hair at her
Upon her head;
Baking bonnags,
- 20 Toasting sconnags;
I asked her for a bit,
Guess, the bit she gave me!
A bit as big as my big toe!
I dipped it in milk,
- 25 Then happed it in silk,
And went home by the light of the moon.

VARIANTS

11–12] Jinny the Whinney / Came out of the lake.

W.W. Gill, *A Second Manx Scrapbook* (London & Bristol: Arrowsmith, 1932) 340.⁴⁹

⁴⁹ W.W. Gill, *A Second Manx Scrapbook* (London & Bristol: Arrowsmith, 1932) 340.

*

MORRISON (UNDATED) & GILL (1932)

	MORRISON	GILL	
1	Put in the pot	Put in the pot	1
	Put in the pan	Put in the pan	
	I scawl't (scalded) me throat	I scalded my throat	
	I feel it yit.	I feel it yet.	
5	I went to the well	I ran to the well	5
	I dhrunk me fill	I drank my fill	
	On me way back	What did you see there?	
	I met a foul-cat	I saw a pole-cat	
	The cat begun to grin,	The cat began to grin	
10	I begun to run	And I began to run	10
	Where did you run to?		
	I ron to Scotlan'		
	What were they doin theer?		
	Bakin bonnags and roastin sconnags		
15	Jinnie the Winnie went over the lake	I saw Jinny the Whinney	
		Go over the lake	
	The griddle in her han' ready to	A griddle in her hand	
	bake		
		All ready to bake	
		Her teeth were green	15
		And her eyes were red	
		And a thickness of hair at	
		her	
		Upon her head	
		Baking bonnags	
		Toasting sconnags	20
	I asked her for a bit	I asked her for a bit	
		Guess, the bit she gave me!	
	She gave me a bit as big as me big	A bit as big as my big toe!	
	toe		
	I dipped it in milk	I dipped it in milk	
20	I wrapped it in silk	Then happed it in silk	25

THE PEEL SONG

COMPOSITE LONG TEXT

Morrison (undated) used here as the base text with lines filtered in from Gill (1932) to create this composite version of the Peel version of the Nineteenth Century Song.

- 1 Put in the pot
Put in the pan
I scawl't (scalded) me throat
I feel it yit.
- 5 I went to the well
I dhrunk me fill
On me way back
I met a foul-cat
The cat begun to grin,
- 10 I begun to run
Where did you run to?
I ron to Scotlan'
What were they doin theer?
Bakin bonnags and roastin sconnags
- 15 Jinnie the Winnie went over the lake
The griddle in her han' ready to bake
Her teeth were green
And her eyes were red
And a thickness of hair at her
- 20 Upon her head
I asked her for a bit
Guess, the bit she gave me!
She gave me a bit as big as me big toe
- 25 I dipped it in milk
I wrapped it in silk

12. JINNIE THE WINNIE

In 1895, T.E. Brown wrote to Karl Roeder enclosing two Hop-tu-Naa song texts.⁵⁰ One was the block of four lines beginning “Hop-tu-Naa upon the gool ringers” (which has not been commented on here) and the other, the six-line Jinny Squinney

⁵⁰ Letter from T.E. Brown to Karl Roeder, 4 November 1895, Manchester Central Library, M277/12/1. This letter Morrison found after his death in 1911 pasted into his Scrapbook deposited in the Manchester Central Library and reproduced later in Sophia Morrison, “New Letters from T.E. Brown,” *Mannin* 9 (1917): 520. Morrison must have made a transcript of the letter in order for it to be seen by Goodwin in 1912.

episode. This letter was later seen by Edmund Goodwin in 1912, who mentioned to Morrison that “some of his ‘Hop-tohu-naa’ lines are quite different from our Peel version. He has Jenny Squinny where we say Jinny the Winnie.”⁵¹ As with the Castletown song, the Nineteenth Century Song is there in part, and with a similar inserted episode.

12.1 JINNE THE WINNIE

Jinnie the Winnie went over the lake
The griddle in her han’ ready to bake

Undated and untitled notes on Manx calendar customs by Sophia Morrison, MNHL, MS 09495, Sophia Morrison Papers, Box 6.⁵²

12.2 JINNY THE WHINNEY

I saw Jinny the Whinney go over the lake
A griddle in her hand all ready to bake
Her teeth were green and her eyes were red
And a thickness of hair at her upon her head

W.W. Gill, *A Second Manx Scrapbook* (London & Bristol: Arrowsmith, 1932) 340.⁵³ (Lines here rearranged from the printed version.)

Jinnie the Winnie does not develop into a free standing text as is conjectured for the Jinny Squinney episode but remains a part of the Peel text. But here, as with Castletown, there is no Jinny the Witch to be seen.

ENDNOTE

“We cannot pretend to give the meaning of this wonderful and awe-inspiring doggerel, and the identity of Jinny the Witch must ever remain a mystery.”⁵⁴ This was written by someone using the pseudonym of Oie-Hauiney and it is due to them that the first text making mention of Jinny the Witch is known. One could write that if it was a mystery in 1900, now at a remove of over a century it remains equally, if not more so, a mystery. “Then about ‘Hop-tu-Naa.’ Are you quite sure about your ‘Hop-tu-Naa?’ Have you got the genuine ‘Hop-tu-Naa?’” T.E. Brown did not find

⁵¹ Letter from Edmund Goodwin to Sophia Morrison, August 1912, MNHL, MS 09495, Sophia Morrison Papers, Box 3

⁵² Undated and untitled notes on Manx calendar customs by Sophia Morrison, MNHL, MS 09495, Sophia Morrison Papers, Box 6.

⁵³ Gill, *A Second Manx Scrapbook* 340.

⁵⁴ Pseud [signed as “Oie-Hauiney”], “Hollantide: A Reminder for our own People and Unique Information for Strangers,” 6b.

an answer to his own question, puzzled as he was by the Castletown Song, but without his surprise over the song this piece would not have been written. An answer (of sorts) is in a letter from A.W. Moore to Roeder in 1897: “As to Hop-tu-naa there are scraps of it all over the Island which vary indefinitely.”⁵⁵ There is not any one Hop-tu-Naa song as such as Moore recognised, and those recorded each in their turn raise puzzles.

The Nineteenth Century Song in its long form is a composite one (and varies) but of such length that one wonders when it ever sung in that form when the purpose of Hop-tu-Naa is house visiting in order to receive largesse. The Train version—the first text known—is in itself a shortened version and done so to accommodate the need to be able to make as many calls as possible and collect as much as one can. Then the starting point for the piece here, Brown recognising that there is a localised version of this song in Castletown, its distinctive feature being an inserted episode featuring the adventures of Jinny Swinney which does not sit with the overall narrative of the song (short or long). This episode then becomes a six-line song in its own right. Sophia Morrison in this period collects a version of the song similar to the one from Castletown and with an inserted text but a different character is involved, Jinnie the Winnie, and a very different action involved in its narrative. Unlike the Castletown text, this episode does not become a separate song text. Then in 1900 comes the first mention of Jinny the Witch in a song text and other mentions of the name close after in 1902 and 1903, and both from Arbory. And there begins another mystery and another group of song texts to be worked on.

STEPHEN MILLER RBV

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