

Psalm 104 - Hanover

P 67A

Robert Grant (1779-1838)

William Croft (1678-1727)

Treble

1 O wor - ship the King, all glor - ious a - bove,
 2 O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
 3 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,

Alto

4 Thy boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite,
 5 Frail child - ren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,
 6 O mea - sure - less might, in - eff - a - ble love,

Tenor

8 1 O wor - ship the King, all glor - ious a - bove,
 2 O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
 3 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,

Bass

4 Thy boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite,
 5 Frail child - ren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,
 6 O mea - sure - less might, in - eff - a - ble love,

Tr.

O grate - ful - ly sing his power and his love,
 Whose robe in the light, whose can - o - py space,
 Al - migh - ty Thy power has found - ed of old,

A.

It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
 In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail,
 While ang - els de - light to hymn Thee a - bove,

T.

8 O grate - ful - ly sing his power and his love,
 Whose robe in the light, whose can - o - py space,
 Al - migh - ty Thy power has found - ed of old,

B.

It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
 In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail,
 While ang - els de - light to hymn Thee a - bove,

Robert Grant was born in India in 1779, the son of the East India Company's director, Charles Grant, a man associated with the Clapham Sect (a group of evangelical social reformers from Clapham, England). He read law at Magdalen College, Oxford and was admitted to the bar in 1807. The following year, he won a seat in Parliament, and remained there for many years. Like his father, he was deeply concerned with social issues. Through his persistent efforts a bill was eventually passed which emancipated England's Jews. He fought for other minority groups, too. In the meantime, he was a strong supporter of world missions and influential among evangelicals in the Church of England. He sketched a history of the East India Company and also found time to write hymns.

Grant accepted a high position in the East India company, and subsequently became governor of Bombay in 1834. As governor, he had opportunity to put his social concerns into practice, for the poverty and spiritual conditions of the common people were appalling. Among his accomplishments were the opening of several new roads, an inducement to commerce. He held the governorship only four years, dying on 9 July, 1838 at the young age of 59. In that time, the people came to love him. When Sir Jamshedji a well-known Parsi (a person of the Zoroastrian faith), built a medical college, he gave it Robert Grant's name. It is the second oldest medical college in India. His famous hymn was published posthumously.

Tr.
Our shield and de - fend - er, the anc - ient of days,
His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der clouds form,
Hath stab - lished it fast by a change-less de - cree,

A.
It streams from the hills, it des - cends to the plain,
Thy mer - cies how ten - der, how firm to the end,
Thy hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,

T.
8 Our shield and de - fend - er, the anc - ient of days,
His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der clouds form,
Hath stab - lished it fast by a change-less de - cree,

B.
It streams from the hills, it des - cends to the plain,
Thy mer - cies how ten - der, how firm to the end,
Thy hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,

Tr.
Pav - ill - ion'd in splen-dour, and gird - ed with praise
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.
And round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.

A.
And sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
Our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er and friend.
In true a - dor - a - tion shall sing to Thy praise.

T.
8 Pav - ill - ion'd in splen-dour, and gird - ed with praise
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.
And round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.

B.
And sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
Our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er and friend.
In true a - dor - a - tion shall sing to Thy praise.

This setting of the much loved tune Hanover, composed by Dr William Croft of Nether Ettington, Warks., is taken from a ms. book now in our possession. The book probably dates from the 1780s, and is likely to be of Northumbrian origin.

© This setting for Immanuel's Ground Quire's Leamington Parish Church workshop, February 2010, Sheila and Edwin Macadam. Shelwin Music, Oxford, January 2010.