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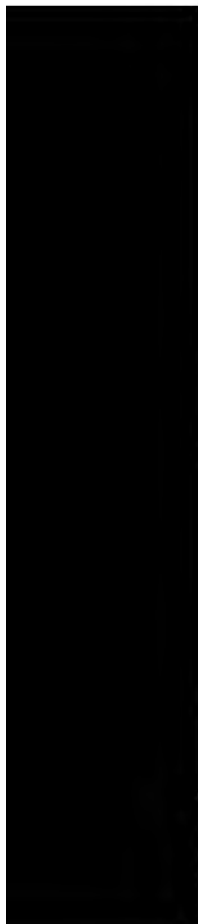
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SECOND
MIDDLE ENGLISH PRIMER

EXTRACTS FROM CHAUCER

WITH GRAMMAR AND GLOSSARY

BY

HENRY SWEET, M.A., PH.D., LL.D.
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PREFACE



THE present work is intended as a continuation of my *First Middle English Primer*; it will, I hope, be welcome, not only to those who have already worked with the earlier book, but also to the more numerous class of students who simply wish to acquire the power of reading Chaucer at sight in such a way as to do full justice to the metre, and at the same time to restore, as far as possible, the genuine Middle English pronunciation.

My grammar is based mainly on Ten Brink's *Chaucers Sprache und Verskunst*, although, as will be seen, I differ from him on many questions of pronunciation. As regards *vertu, vertew*, &c., I have adopted Henry Nicol's view (Trans. Phil. Soc. 1877-9, vi), which Ten Brink seems to have overlooked. In the treatment of the French elements and the versification I have followed him more closely, as also in the inflections.

The phonetic transcriptions added to the *Complaint to Pity* and the *Prologue* may seem too minute and conjectural. But in studying a dead language we must adopt some definite pronunciation, and it is surely better that the beginner should have the benefit of the knowledge and experience of others—however imperfect the results may be—than that he should be left to flounder about by himself. Those who find a

difficulty in realising a phonetic notation would do well to work through a few pages of my [*Primer of Spoken English*].

To avoid clashing with the volumes of Chaucer extracts already published by the Clarendon Press, I have followed the advice of that old Chaucer hand, Dr. Furnivall, and made my selections mainly from the minor poems, adding, however, the greater part of the Prologue to the Canterbury Tales, together with an abridgment of the Pardoner's Tale, so as to complete the view of the development of Chaucer's genius in its chief aspects.

The text of the last two pieces is based on the Ellesmere MS., which certainly comes nearer to Chaucer's own language than the Harleian; that of the others on the one-text editions of the Chaucer Society. I have made as little alteration as possible in the MSS. texts, although metrical considerations made an exact reproduction of any one MS. impossible, and I have not hesitated to remove distinctly un-Chaucerian spellings wherever they seemed likely to confuse the beginner. I have not attempted to forestall the inevitable German who, it is to be hoped, will some day give us a critical edition of Chaucer, but have contented myself with attempting to construct a readable, metrical text. Whenever I introduce a conjectural reading, which I have frequently had to do in the Minor poems, I give the MS. reading at the foot of the page. I need scarcely say I have utilised Ten Brink's critical editions of the Complaint to Pity and the Prologue.

RHICONICH,

23 Aug. 1886.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

IN this new edition I have been able to utilize Professor Skeat's *Minor Poems of Chaucer*, and consequently am now able to present a much more satisfactory text of those minor poems included in my selection. If, as one might almost infer from Professor Skeat's preface, it was my remark about 'the inevitable German' which induced him to undertake this most welcome piece of work, I can only say that my little book ought to feel itself very much flattered. On the other hand I have the pain of knowing that my playful epithet has given offence in some German quarters; although the majority of German scholars have taken it as it was meant—as a direct compliment to German energy, and an indirect reproach to my own countrymen.

I am glad to see that my phonetic treatment of Chaucer's language has also had a stimulating effect on Professor Skeat, the result of which is his lately published school edition of the *Prologue*, which may be cordially recommended to those who are unable to take phonetics except homœopathically.

In the present edition I have cut out most of the MS. readings, as I consider such details superfluous in a book of this character. I have, of course, carefully revised the phonetic notation. I have not added any notes, for which I must refer the reader to the editions of Professor Skeat.

HENRY SWEET.

REIGATE,
28 Nov. 1891.

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SECOND MIDDLE ENGLISH PRIMER.



GRAMMAR.

CHAUCER was a native of London, and his dialect is the London dialect of the second half of the fourteenth century, which was mainly Midland, mixed, however, with some Kentish and South-Western elements. In its grammatical forms Chaucer's English is closely allied to that of the Ormulum. In its spelling it shows the same French influence as the *Ancren Riwe*, only stronger. The two main changes that took place in the language itself during the fourteenth century were (1) the further loss of grammatical forms, and (2) the wholesale introduction of French words.

SPELLING.

The chief innovations in spelling that took place in the course of the fourteenth century (some of which began earlier in some parts of the country) were the following. The sound of (uu) was represented by the French *ou*, *u* keeping its older value of French *u*, long and short, as also that of short (u) in many cases. But as in writing *u* was liable to be confused with some other letters, especially *n* and *m*, the sound of (u) was, according to French usage, expressed by *o* in such words as *son* 'son,' *somer*, *world*, *cors*=*curs* 'curse,' &c. As *i* was an ambiguous letter, *y*—again after French usage—was substituted for it, especially when in juxtaposition with *u*, *n*, *m*, as in *wyues*=*wyves*, *fyne* 'fine,' and generally at the beginning and end of words. Initial *u* was often written *v*, as in *vnder*, and initial *i* was

often written as a capital letter. The diphthongs *ai*, *au*, &c., were often written *ay*, *aw*, especially at the end of words, or before a vowel, as in *say*, *lawe*. *w* was also written for *u* in such words as *narw*, *sorwful*, on the analogy of *narwe* (plur.) and *sorwe*, where it represented the cons. *w*. In the consonants *ð* was completely, and *þ* and *ȝ* almost completely disused, *sch* being also gradually supplanted by *sh*. *f* was no longer allowed to represent the sound of *v*. *y* was used as a consonant instead of palatal *ȝ*.

In the spelling used in this book, which is in most cases that of the Ellesmere MS. of the Canterbury Tales, the following letters and digraphs (denoting simple sounds) occur: *a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, *e*, *f*, *g*, *h*, *i*, *ie*, *j*, *k*, *l*, *m*, *n*, *o*, *p*, *ph*, *q(u)*, *r*, *s*, *t*, *th*, *u*, *v*, *w*, *x*, *y*, *z*. In the MSS. *j* hardly ever occurs, being usually written *i* or *I*, or expressed by *ȝ*, and *u* and *v* are used to express both the vowel and the consonant; in this book *i* and *j*, *u* and *v* are distinguished as in the present spelling. The long vowels are often denoted by doubling, especially in monosyllables, and when final; but *i* and *u* are never doubled, because of the graphic confusions that would arise. In this book diacritical marks have been added to some of the letters to distinguish their sounds, giving the following additional letters: *ē*, *ġ*, *ð*, *ȝ*, *ū*, *û*, long vowels being marked (˘), unless already doubled in the MSS. Silent letters we put in italics.

PRONUNCIATION.

The following table shows the probable pronunciation of the vowels and diphthongs, with approximate key-words:—

a	(a)	man	as in	aha!
ā	(aa)	nāme	„	aha!
ai, ay	(ai)	day	„	mīne.
au, aw	(au)	cause	„	haus G.

PRONUNCIATION.

e	(e)	men	as in	men.
ē, ie, ye	(ee)	hē, meschief	„	see <i>G.</i>
ē	(ɛ)	dɛl	„	there.
ei, ey	(ei)	wey	„	veil.
ēi, ēy	(eei)	grēy	„	=ē + i.
ēi, ēy	(ei)	kēye	„	=ē + i.
ēu, ù	(eeu)	nēwe, vertù	„	=ē + u.
ēu	(eu)	shēwen	„	=ē + u.
i, y	{ (i)	kyng	„	si' <i>F.</i>
	{ (i)	in	„	in.
ī, ȳ	(ii)	lif	„	siè <i>G.</i>
o	(o)	on	„	sonne <i>G.</i>
ō	(oo)	gōd	„	so <i>G.</i>
o	(ɔ)	brɔd	„	on, but long.
oi, oy	(oi)	noise	„	noise.
o(gh)	(ou)	noght	„	=o + u.
ōu, ōw	(oou)	grōwen	„	=ō + u.
ou, ow	(ou)	soule	„	=o + u.
u, w, ō	{ (u)	yōng, narw	„	sou <i>F.</i>
	{ (u)	us	„	full.
ou, ow	(uu)	hous	„	muth <i>G.</i>
ū	{ (y)	argūment	„	écu <i>F.</i>
	{ (y)	jūst	„	=wide of <i>F.</i> u.
ū, ui	(yy)	ūsen, fruit	„	=long <i>F.</i> u.

The pronunciation of the 'weak' *e* in *nāme*, &c., is uncertain, and it is safest to pronounce it like the *e* of *men*; it probably varied between the *e* of *father* and that of *fishes*. When *-es* rhymes on *ys*, &c., it must, of course, be pronounced *-is*.

The distinction between *ei*, *ēi*, *ēi* is not quite certain, and it is possible that they were all levelled under the first. So also with *ēu*, *eu*, and with *ōu*, *ou*.

The distinction of narrow and wide *i* is inferred from phonetic

transcriptions of the beginning of the sixteenth century—the Welsh hymn to the Virgin (in *Trans. Phil. Soc.* 1880-1) being apparently still older—in which wide *i* is identical with the Welsh *y*. These transcriptions show that *i* was narrow, = (i), before the back cons. *k, g, ŋ* (as in *sing*) and before *gh*, and when final, and was wide, = (ī), elsewhere. Hence we may with some confidence assume that in Chaucer's pronunciation the *i* was narrow in such words as *thikke, six, big, kyng, nyght, many*, and probably also in such a word as *pitee*, where an unaccented *i* is followed by a cons. beginning an accented syllable; and that it was wide in such words as *wille, is, sitten, snibben*. There is no direct evidence of a parallel distinction in *u* and *ū*, but these vowels no doubt followed the same law as *i*.

The distinction between *ai* and *ei*, as in *day* and *wey*, was probably still kept up in Chaucer's pronunciation, but the two diphthongs were beginning to be confused, probably through the *a* of *ai* being modified nearly to the sound of our vowel in *man*.

ē and *ō* were probably pronounced very close, approximating to *ī* and *ū* respectively.

noght, &c., is often written *nought*; the former spelling is adopted here to prevent confusion with *ou* = (u), this diphthong *ou* only occurring before *gh*.

As regards the consonants, it is necessary to pronounce the doubled ones really double, *sōnne* 'sun' as in 'penknife' not as in 'penny.' So also in *alle, sitten. ssh* between vowels, as in *fresshe*, seems to mean (ff), but the doubling of the *s* when the *sh* is final, as in *fisshe*, was unmeaning. The doubled cons. in French words were often pronounced single, especially in unaccented syllables, as in *tirannye*; also *ll* in such words as *boillen*.

Most of the consonants were pronounced as in the present English. *c* had the two sounds of (k) and (s) as at present, and was silent in the combination *sc* in such words as *science, conscience*. In all cases where *g* had the 'soft' sound (dʒ) it is marked *ġ* in this book. *g* in *ng* seems to have been always distinctly sounded; as it still is in such words as *longer*. Double *ġġ*, as in *ēġġe* 'edge,' was probably = (ddʒ), *cch* being = (tʃ), as in *cacchen* 'catch.'

h was silent in *honest*, *honour*, *humble* and some other French words, just as it is in the present English. It was further dropped in unaccented words, such as *hē*, *hath*, *how*, these words keeping the *h* when emphatic and accented.

r was always a strong trill, as in Scotch.

The vowel *i*, *y* was often pronounced as the cons. *y* when preceded by certain cons., especially *l*, *n*, *s*, and followed by a vowel, as in *many a man*, *glorie*, *familiēr*, *condicioun*, such a word as the last having in poetry sometimes four, sometimes only three syllables. *ll* in French words, such as *boillen*, *vitaille*, was perhaps sometimes pronounced *ly* (*y* cons.) but it was generally = simple *l*. French *gn*, as in *cōmpaignye*, *Boloigne*, was perhaps sometimes pronounced *ny* (*y* cons.), but in familiar pronunciation it was = simple *n*, preceded either by a diphthong, as in the two instances just cited, or by a long vowel, as in *signe* = (siine), *dignitee* = (diinitee).

gh had two distinct pronunciations. After the front vowels *e*, *i* it had the sound of German *ch* in *ich*, as in *streight*, *high*, *bryght*. This front *gh* was vocalized into consonantal *y* before a vowel, and then generally dropt, as in the plural *hye*. The other *gh* had the sound of German *ch* in *auch*, = the German *ch* in *ach* rounded. Hence it is always preceded either by (uu), as in *ynough*, *plough*, or by *u* forming the second element of a diphthong. This *u* is always written after *a*, as in *taughte*, *laughter*, while after *o* it is sometimes written, sometimes left to be inferred from the following *gh*, as in *troggh*, *trough*, *thoghte*, *thoughte*. This *gh* was often dropped before a vowel, especially after (uu), as in the plural *ynowe*.

s had the two sounds (s) and (z), as in the present English. But final *s* was always (s) not only in such words as *pens* = the present *pence*, but also in *his*, *was*, &c.

So also final *f* was always (f) in *of*, *yaf*=the present of, *gave*, as well as in *staf*=*staff*.

th always had the sound of (þ), not only in such words as *thing*, but also in *the*, *this*, *then*, &c. In foreign words, such as *apothecârie*, it probably had the sound of *t*, especially in proper names.

s and *th* were voiced (z, ð) between vowels or vowels and voiced consonants, as in *houses* (huuzes)=*house's* and *houses*, *erthe* 'earth.'

As a general rule every written consonant must be pronounced. This applies especially to the *k* in *kn-*, and the *w* in *wr-*.

Stress.

There are three main degrees of stress or accent: **strong**, **half-strong**, and **weak**. In such a word as *martyrdôm* the first syllable is strong, the second weak, the last half-strong. In the texts we mark strong stress by (·) at the beginning of the syllable when necessary. In poetry the strong and half-strong stresses were allowed to change places where this was required by the metre, so that *martyrdôm* could be pronounced with the strong stress on the last syllable. So also *crēatūre* in poetry may have the strong stress either on the first or the third syllable, the second and fourth being always weak. Other examples are *rēsoun*, *nālūre*. The popular tendency in these words was no doubt to throw the stress back as much as possible. Even weak syllables often take the strong stress away from an adjoining strong syllable in poetry. Such weak syllables are called **accentuable**. Final *e*, as in *nāme*, is never accentuable. Examples of accentuable weak syllables are afforded by the second syllables of *wörthy*, *syngynge*, *frēndshipe*. Stress-shifting on to a naturally weak syllable at the beginning of a line or a

metrical pause (cæsura) should be softened down as much as possible by giving the two syllables a nearly equal stress, as in Pity 59 *shgweth*, Prol. 125 *after*. Stress-shifting on to the rhyme-syllable must, of course, be marked by a more emphatic stress, as in Pity 32 *södeynlȳ*. These are the three places in which stress-shifting is most frequent.

PHONOLOGY.

Quantity.

The most important change that took place in the fourteenth century was the lengthening of accented short vowels before a single consonant followed by a vowel, as in *nāme*, *eten*, *byfore*. *i* and *u*, however, were not lengthened: *writen*, *sōne*. Monosyllables generally kept their short vowels, which are lengthened when a vowel is added in inflection or otherwise: *smal*, plur. *smāle*, *bath*, plur. *bāthes*, *bāthen* verb. If the cons. is doubled when a vowel is added, there is, of course, no lengthening of the preceding vowel: *al*, plur. *alle*.

r, *l*, *n* in a following syllable seem often to have kept vowels short, as in *fader*, *fāder*, *heven*, *hēven*, as also *y*: *many*, *body*.

Long vowels were probably more or less shortened when unaccented, as in *hāve* when used as an auxiliary, or otherwise made unemphatic.

Accented vowels were lengthened before *ng*, *nd*, *mb*, as in *leng*, *blynd*, *clȳmben*, except that *i* and *u* were short before *ng*: *syngen*, *sōngen* ptc.

Vowels.

The distinction between close and open \bar{e} and \bar{e} , \bar{o} and \bar{o} is most easily learnt from the present spelling, in which, as a general rule, the close vowels are represented by *ee*, *ie*, *oo*, *ss*

in *see, feel, field, too, moon* = Chaucerian *sēn, fēlen, fēld, tō, mōne*, the open by *e, ea, o, oa, oe*, as in *rede, sea, stone, broad, foe* = Chaucerian *red, se, ston, brōd, fō*. Note, too, that *ō* is pronounced (uu) in the present English, *o* being pronounced (ou).

In *whō, twō, wōmb* the *ō* has developed out of older *o* by the influence of the *w*.

Close and open *ē* and *ō* are generally separated in rhyme, except finally, where *ē* is allowed to rhyme on *e*, and *ō* on *o* because otherwise there would not be rhymes enough. Thus *sē* can rhyme on *slē* 'slay,' *twō* on *so*, &c.

Older *ōgh* regularly becomes *ough*, as in *plough, ynough*.

Old-English *y* is generally represented by the Midland *ī*, as in *bīsy, synne*, but also by the South-East-Midland and Kentish *e*, as in *besy = bisy, kessen*, and further by the West-Saxon *ū*, as in *būsy, Caunterbūry*.

The French *ū* was regularly diphthongized into *ēu* when final or followed by a vowel, which pronunciation is here written *û*, as in *vertû, crûel*. The latter word is, indeed, often written *crewel*.

Consonants.

Double consonants are written single when final, thus to the plur. *alle* corresponds *al* in the sing. Conss. that were originally single are doubled between vowels in some words: *God*, gen. *Goddēs, ship*, plur. *shippes*.

Final unaccented *n* is often dropped in inflections, such as the infinitive *bīnde(n)*, pret. pl. *herde(n)*, and in derivate syllables, as in *ofte(n)*. In the following frequent, mostly unemphatic words, it is regularly dropped before consonants (except *h*), and kept before vowels and *h*: *gn, an, mīn, thīn*. So also *frō* is generally used instead of *from* before consonants. The *n* of *on* is dropt in *o loft* 'aloft.'

Unaccented *e*.

The unaccented *e* in such words as *nāme*, *grēne lēves*, was still pronounced in Chaucer's time, but was beginning to drop out. Hence, although generally preserved strictly in rhyme, it is often dropped in the body of the verse whenever it suits the metre. It was, besides, more or less regularly dropped in accordance with certain laws. In this book the silent *es* are put in italics.

The most important of these laws is, that two 'weak' (completely unaccented) *es* were, as a general rule, not allowed in two successive syllables, one of them being consequently dropped. Thus *fether* has plur. *fetheres*, often written *fethres*, *gvere* was pronounced either *gvre* or *gver*, never as a trissyllable. Even after a half-strong syllable there was a tendency to drop a weak *e*. In this way the dropping of a final *e* often depends on the position of the accent; thus, when such words as *nālūre*, *manēre* retain their French accent on the middle syllable, the final *e* is always kept, but when the accent is thrown back to the first syllable, it is regularly dropped.

There was also a tendency to drop weak *e* in subordinate words, such as *hire*, *thise* 'these,' *were*, *before*; in these words, indeed, and in some others, it is always silent. It is kept in writing, partly because it was probably sounded in the emphatic pronunciation of these words, partly because it in some cases was a guide to the pronunciation. Thus the final *e* of *thise* shows that it was pronounced (*pɪz*), and so distinguishes it from the sing. *this*=(*pɪs*).

There is also a strong tendency to drop final *e* in such words as *sōne* 'son,' *wōne* 'habit,' and in participles such as *write*, *cōme*, which have dropped their final *n*—that is, after a single cons, preceded by short *i* or *u*. But these *es* seem to have been kept in rhyme.

This was probably the result of an unconscious desire to get rid of

short accented syllables, which, through the general lengthening of short vowels before single consonants in such words as *nâme*, had come to be in the minority.

Some words, lastly, had originally two forms, one with, the other without a final *e*; such words are *hère*, *hër*, and *there*, *thër*.

Other weak vowels besides *e* are dropt in some words. Thus the *u* in *Jerusalem* was silent, *that is* was contracted into *that's*, *this is* into *this'*.

In verse, a final weak *e* was regularly dropt before another vowel beginning the next word, and, of course, before silent *h*, whether in such French words as *humble*, or in unemphatic words such as *his*, or in unaccented syllables, as in *harneys* when the stress is on the last syllable. Hiatus was freely allowed after *the*, and *ne* = 'neither,' but not after *ne* = 'not,' nor generally in other words, except after a pause.

Other vowels were occasionally elided in verse before a vowel, especially those of *mê*, *thê*, *lô*, as in *m'awrêke*, *l'abÿden*.

INFLECTIONS.

SUBSTANTIVES.

The only regular inflections are the *-es* of the genitive singular, and of the plur., in which the gen. is the same as the 'common' case (nominative). Substantives with irregular plurals form the gen. plur. by adding *es* to the common case plural:—

<i>Sing. Com.</i> fowl 'bird'	man
<i>Gen.</i> foules	mannes
<i>Plur. Com.</i> foules	men
<i>Gen.</i> foules	mennes

When *-es* rhymes on *ys* &c., it is often written *-ys*.

The *e* is often dropped when an unaccented syllable pre-

cedes, as in *hevenes*, *fāders* (also *fādes*), *lādyes*, *lādys*, after vowels, as in *fōs*, and in French words, such as *servaunts*, often written *servauntz*. *peny* has plur. *pens*.

Originally feminine nouns, such as *lādy*, *chirche*, often keep their old genitive, which in these words is the same as the common case: *his lādy grāce*, *the chirche dore*. Names ending in *s* are often uninflected in the gen., such as *Trōilus*, *Vēnus*. So also *heritōge*, and some other French words. All native subst. ending in *s*, *f*, *th* vocalize these cons. into (z, ð, v) before *-es*: *wȳf*, gen. and plur. *wȳves*.

The following substantives are invariable in the plural: *folk*, *hors*, *kyn*, *mōnþe*, *net*, 'cattle,' *nyght*, *pound*, *shēp*, *swȳn*, *thyng*, *winter*, *ygr*. But the regular plurals *mōnþes*, *thynges*, *ygres* also occur. *fōt* as a measure is invariable in the plur. French words ending in hisses are often invariable in the plur.: *cās*, *vers(es)*.

The following show vowel-change: *man*, *men*; *wōmman*, *wōmmen*; *fōt*, *fēt*; *gōs*, *gēs*; *tōth*, *t.lh*.

The following form their plurals in *-(e)n*: *asshe*; *doghter* (*doghtren*), *fū* (*fūn*), *hōse*, *oxe*, *shō* (*shōn*), *suster* (*sustren*), *yē* 'eye.' The regular plurals *shōs*, *sustres* also occur. *brōther* has plur. *brēthren*, and *child* has plural *children*.

ADJECTIVES.

Adjectives have a **strong** and a **weak** form, which latter is formed by adding *e*, and a plur. formed also in *e*:

<i>Strong Sing.</i> gōd	<i>Weak Sing.</i> gōde
<i>Strong Plur.</i> gōde	<i>Weak Plur.</i> gōde

The weak form is used after the definite article: *the yōnge sōnne*, and other demonstratives: *this ilke mōnk* 'this same monk,' possessive pronouns: *mȳ sworne brōther*, and as a vocative: *lēve brōther!* But if an attributive adjective is put

after its subst. it keeps the strong form : *on the morwe grēy, now lādy bryght!*

Adjectives in *-e*, such as *nēwe*, are of course invariable, as also are such dissyllabic adjectives as *cursed, honest*.

The comparative ends in *-er* (invariable), and the superlative in *-est*, which is declinable. *grēt* compares *grētter, grēttest*. The following are irregular :

old	elder	eldest
gōd	better	best
ewel	werse	werst
muche(l)	mōre	mōst
lītel	lasse	lēst
lōng	lenger	lengest.

mōre has plur. *mō*.

NUMERALS.

CARDINAL.	ORDINAL.
1 ƿn, ƿ	firste
2 twō, tweye, tweyne	ōther, secounde
3 thrē	thridde
4 fōure	fērthe
5 fyf, fyve	fifte
6 six, sixe	sixte
7 sevne	
8 eighte	
9 nȳne	
10 ten	tenthe
11 elevne	
12 twelf, twelve	
13 threttēne	threttēthe
14 fōurtēne	
15 fiftēne	

16	sixtēne
17	seventēne
18	eightetēne
19	nȳnetēne
20	twenty
30	thritty
40	fōurty
100	hōndred
1000	thousand.

The fuller forms *fyve*, &c. are generally used when the numeral stands alone, or is put after its substantive.

PRONOUNS.

The **personal** pronouns have two cases, **nominative** and **objective**, and are declined thus:—

SINGULAR.			
<i>Nom.</i>	i	thou	
<i>Obj.</i>	mē	thē	
PLURAL.			
<i>Nom.</i>	wē	yē	
<i>Obj.</i>	us	you	
SINGULAR.			
	<i>Masc.</i>	<i>Neut.</i>	<i>Fem.</i>
<i>Nom.</i>	hē	(h)it	shē
<i>Obj.</i>	hym	(h)it	hire
PLURAL.			
<i>Nom.</i>	they		
<i>Obj.</i>	hem		

ī is really the unaccented form of *ich*, but this fuller form is rarely used by Chaucer.

thou is sometimes run on to a preceding verb, as in *shaltou* = *shall thou*.

The plur. *yē*, *you* is often used as a sing. in respectful address.

The **reflexive** pronoun is often the simple pronoun, but generally *self* (*selven*, *selve*) is added: *mȳ-self*, *thȳ-self*, *hym-self* (masc. and neut.), *hire-self*, *oure-self*, *youre-self*, *hem-self*.

The **possessives** are *mȳ(n)*, *thȳ(n)*, *his* masc. and neut., *hire*, *oure*, *youre*, *here*.

mȳn and *thȳn* drop their final *n* before cons. except *h*, keeping it when they follow their subst.: *Grisilde mȳn!* They have plur. *mȳne*, *thȳne*, as in *children mȳne*; when they precede their subst. the plur. in *e* only appears before a vowel, where it is, of course, elided, as in *mȳne jēn*. The plur. of *his* is often written *hise*, but the *e* is never sounded.

The **absolute** (predicative) forms of the possessive pronouns are: *mȳn*, *thȳn*, *his*, *hires*, *oures*, *youres*, *heres*.

The old indefinite *me* 'one' still survives, but *men* 'men' is generally substituted for it, as in Prol. 149.

Demonstratives. *that*, plur. *thg*. *this*, plur. *thise*. *that* is used in the sense of 'the' in *that ilke* 'the same' = *thilke* (for *the ilke*). *ilke* 'same,' *this ilke*, &c. The definite article *the* is indeclinable. *swich*, *such*, has plur. *swiche* adjectival, *swiche* substantival.

Interrogatives. Nom. *whō*, Obl. *whōm*, Possessive *whōs*. *which*, plur. *whiche*. *whether*, 'which of two?'. As a conjunction *whether* is often contracted into *wher*.

Relatives. *which* is sometimes used as a gen., as in Prol. 4: *of which vertu*, 'from whose virtue.' *the which*. *whō* and *that* are also used as relatives, as also the compounds *which-that*, *the which-that*, *that-hē*, *that-his*, *that-him*, &c.

Indefinites. *gn*, *ngn*, *any*. *sōm*, plur. *sōme*. *sōm-what*. *ōther*,

ōthres, plur. *ōthre*. *al*, plur. *alle*, *al* being generally used as a plur. before the def. article, demonstratives, and possessives : *al the wōrdes*, *al thȳ frēndes*. *al* also preserves the old strong gen. plur. in combinations such as *here aller cappe* (Prol. 586), *alder-best* 'best of all.' *eyther*, *neyther*, gen. *eytheres*, *neytheres*. *ēch*, dat. *ēche*. *ēverich-qn*. *many*, plur. *many*. *many a(n)*. *aught*, *oght*. *naught*, *noght*.

VERBS.

There are two classes of verbs, strong and weak, the former conjugated by means of vowel-change in the root, the latter by the addition of *d* (*t*).

The following paradigm of the strong verb *bȳnden* will show the general scheme of endings :

	INDICATIVE.	SUBJUNCTIVE.
<i>Pres. sing.</i>	1. bȳnd-e	bȳnd-e
	2. bȳnd-est	bȳnd-e
	3. bȳnd-eth	bȳnd-e
<i>plur.</i>	bȳnd-e(n)	bȳnd-e(n)
<i>Pret. sing.</i>	1. bȳnd	bound-e
	2. bounde; bȳnd	bound-e
	3. bȳnd	bound-e
<i>plur.</i>	bounde(n); bȳnd	bounde(n)
<i>Imper. sing.</i>	bȳnd; <i>plur.</i> bȳnde(th), bȳnd.	<i>Infin.</i> bȳnde(n).
<i>Part. pres.</i>	bȳnd-yng(e); <i>pret.</i> (y)bounde(n).	

Some verbs have a gerund in *-ne*, which often drops the *e*, and is thus confused with the infinitive : *tō dōn(e)*, *tō seyn(e)* 'say.'

It will be observed that there is a tendency to extend the singular forms to the plur., especially in the pret. indic. and imperative. The tendency to drop final *n* also helps to level the endings, especially in the whole of the subjunctive. The only fixed endings are *-e*, *-est*, *-eth*, *-yng(e)*.

STRONG VERBS.

In these the 2nd sing. pret. indic. and the whole pret. subj. originally always had the vowel of the pret. plur. indic. : *thou bounde, if hē bounde, &c.*, agreeing with *wē bounden* ; but in most verbs the 2nd sing. pret. indic. is levelled under the two other persons of the sing. : *thou drank* instead of *thou drōnke*. The *e* of the 2nd sing. pret. indic. is not sounded except in verbs of the 3rd conjugation.

The endings *-est* and *-eth* often drop their vowel : *l̄yest* and *l̄yest, cōmeth* and *cōmth*. *-(d)deth* and *-(t)teth* when contracted become *-t*, long vowels being shortened : *slideth, slit* ; *biddeth bit* ; *f̄yndeth, fynt* ; *b̄iteth, bit* ; *m̄eteth* 'dreams,' *met*. *-seth* becomes *-st*, with vowel-shortening : *r̄iseth, rist*.

The *-en* of the infin. drops its *e* in some verbs, especially those ending in a vowel : *s̄en* 'see,' *sl̄en* 'slay.'

The *-en* of the part. pret. often does the same, especially after vowels and *r, ſ* : *slayn, b̄orn, st̄oln*. It often drops its *n*, especially when *i* or *u* precedes, in which case the *e* is also dropt, though kept in writing : *cōme, dr̄ive*. The part. pret. often, though not necessarily, takes the prefix *y*.

The following are the chief strong verbs. 'Weak' forms are marked with a star.

I. 'Fall'-conjugation.

PRES.	PRET.	INFIN.
falle	fel, fil	fallen
walke	wēlk ¹ , *walkede	*walked
lēte ²	lēt	lēten
slēpe	slēp, *slepte	
wēpe	wēp, *wepte	
lēpe	lēp	

¹ P. F. 297.² Imper. *lēt, lat*.

grōwe	grēw	grōwen
blōwe	blēw	blōwen
hōlde	hēld	hōlden
hōnge	hēng	hōngen
hōte (<i>be called</i>)	hēt, *highte ¹ , *hette ²	hōten
knōwe	knēw	knōwen
thrōwe	thrēw	thrōwen

II. 'Shake'-conjugation.

bāke	—	bāken
for-sāke	-sōk	-sāken
shāke	shōk	shāken
shāpe	shōp	shāpen
tāke	tōk	tāken
wāke	wōk	wāken
swēre	swōr	swōren
stōnde	stōd	stōnden
drawe	drow	drawen
laughe	lough	laughen
slē	slough, slow	slawen
hēve	haf	—
wasshe	wessh	wasshen
waxe, wexe	wēx	woxen

III. 'Bind'-conjugation.

bȳnde	bōnd; <i>pl.</i> bounden	bounden
fȳnde	fōnd; <i>pl.</i> founden	founden
grȳnde	—	grounden
wȳnde	wōnd; <i>pl.</i> wunden	wunden
clȳmbe	clōmb; <i>pl.</i> clōmben ³	clōmben

¹ Also used as a pres., especially in the shorter form *hight*.² P. F. 436.³ Also *cloumben* (?).

rynge	rɔŋg ; <i>pl.</i> rōngen	rōngen
syngē	sɔŋg ; <i>pl.</i> sōngen	sōngen
sprynge	sprɔŋg ; <i>pl.</i> sprōngen	sprōngen
stynge	stɔŋg ; <i>pl.</i> stōngen	stōngen
thrynge	thrɔŋg ; <i>pl.</i> thrōngen	thrōngen
wrynge	wrɔŋg ; <i>pl.</i> wrōngen	wrōngen
drynke	drank ; <i>pl.</i> drōnken	drōnken
synke	sank ; <i>pl.</i> sōnken	sōnken
shrynke	shrank	—
stynke	stank ; <i>pl.</i> stōnken	stōnken
swynke (<i>labour</i>)	—	swōnken
bi-gynne	-gan ; <i>pl.</i> -gōnnen	-gōnnen
wynne	wan ; <i>pl.</i> wōnnen	wōnnen
swymme	swam ; <i>pl.</i> swōmmen	swōmmen
renne	ran ; <i>pl.</i> rōnnen	rōnnen
kerve	karf ; <i>pl.</i> korven	korven
sterve (<i>die</i>)	starf ; <i>pl.</i> storven	storven
delve		
helpe	halp ; <i>pl.</i> holpen	holpen
swelle	swal	swollen
yēlde	—	yōlden
breste (<i>burst</i>)	brast ; <i>pl.</i> brosten	brosten
fighte	faught ; <i>pl.</i> foghten	foghten

IV. 'Bear'-conjugation.

bere	bār, bēr	bōren
brēke	brak	brōken
shere	—	shōren
spēke	spak ; <i>pl.</i> spēken	spōken
stēle	stāl	stōlen
tēre	tār	tōren
trēde	trad	trōden

węve	waf	wōven
wręke	—	wrōken, wręken
cōme	cam, cōm ; <i>pl.</i> cāmen	cōmen
nęme (<i>take</i>)	nam, nōm	nōmen

V. 'Give'-conjugation.

ęte	ēt ; <i>pl.</i> ēten	ęten
gęte	gat	gęten
męte (<i>measure</i>)	mat	męten
bidde	bad	będen
sitte	sat, sēt	seten
yive	yaf	yiven
lȳe	lay ; <i>pl.</i> lēyen	leyen
sē	say, saugh	seyen, sēne
(quęthe)	quoth, quod	—

VI. 'Shine'-conjugation.

agrīse (<i>be terrified</i>)	agrōs	—
bīde	bōd	biden
bīte	bōt	biten
drȳve	drōf	dryven
glīde	glōd	gliden
gnīde (<i>rub</i>)	gnōd	gniden
rīde	rōd ; <i>pl.</i> riden	riden
rȳve (<i>tear</i>)	rōf	—
rīse	rōs	risen
shȳne	shōn	—
shrȳve	—	shryven
smȳte	smōt	smyten
strīde	strōd	—
strȳve	strōf	stryven
wrīte	wrōt ; <i>pl.</i> writen	writen

VII. 'Choose'-conjugation.

chēse (<i>choose</i>)	chēs; <i>pl.</i> chōsen	chōsen
clēve	*clefte	clōven
crēpe	crēp; *crepte; <i>pl.</i> crōpen	crōpen
lēse (<i>loose</i>)	*loste	lōr(e)n, *lost
shēte (<i>shoot</i>)	—	shoten
sēthe	—	soden
louke (<i>lock</i>)	—	loken
flȳe, flē (<i>fly</i>)	fleigh, fley; <i>pl.</i> flōwen	flōwen
flē (<i>flee</i>)	fleigh, fley, *fledde	—
drȳe (<i>suffer</i>)	<i>pl.</i> drȳen ¹	—
bēde (<i>bid</i>)	bad	—

bēde owes its pret. *bad* to confusion with *bidden* (conj. 5).

WEAK VERBS.

There are two conjugations of weak verbs: (1) those with pret. in *-de* (*-te*); (2) those with pret. in *-ede* (*-ed*).

Conjugation I.

	INDICATIVE.	SUBJUNCTIVE.
<i>Pres. sing.</i> 1.	hēr-e	hēr-e
2.	hēr-est	hēr-e
3.	hēr-eth	hēr-e
<i>plur.</i>	hēr-e(n)	hēr-e(n)
<i>Pret. sing.</i> 1.	herd-e	herd-e
2.	herd-est	herd-e(st)
3.	herd-e	herd-e
<i>plur.</i>	herd-e(n)	herd-e(n)

Imper. sing. hēr(e); *plur.* hēr-eth, hēr(e). *Infin.* hēre(n).

Part. pres. hēr-yng; *pret.* (y)herd.

¹ P. F. 251.

The endings *-est* and *-eth* are contracted as in the strong verbs: *setleth, set*, etc.

The *d* of the pret. and part. pret. becomes *t* after *t, p, s, f*: *grēten, grette*; *kēpen, kepte*; *kissen, kiste*; *lēven, lasfe*. Final *-it* in the part. pret. is written *-t*; *-rdd, -ldd, -nndd* become *-rt-, -lt-, -nt-* respectively: *girde, girt, girt*; *bilde, bille, bill*; *wende, wente, went*. *-de, -d* also become *-te, -t* after simple *l(l), n(n)*: *fēlen, felle*; *dwellen, dwelle*; *mēnen, mente*; *brennen* 'burn,' *brente*. *-thd-* becomes *dd* in *kithen* 'make known,' *kidde, kid* (part. also *kithed*).

Many verbs shorten long vowels in the pret. and part. pret.: *hēre, herde, herd*; *fēlen, felle*; *mēlen, mette*; *wēnen* 'think,' *wende*.

The following change *g* to *a* in the pret. and part. pret.: *drēden, dradde*; *lēden, ladde*; *lēven, lasfe*; *rēden* 'advise,' 'read' *radde*; *rēven, rasfe*; *sprēden, spradde*. *clōthen* has *cladde, clad*, but also *clōthed*.

The following show consonantal irregularities:

drenchen, dreynte. *quenchen, queynte*. *sprengen* 'sprinkle,' *spreynte*.

bringen, broghte. *bēnen, beyen* 'buy,' *boghte*. *cacchen, caughte*. *recchen* 'care,' *roghte*. *rēchen* 'reach,' *raughte*. *sēken, sēchen, soghte*. *shrīken, shrighle (shrīkede)*. *strecchen, straughte*. *lēchen, laughte*. *thenken, thenchen* 'think,' *thoghte*. *thynken* 'seem,' *thoghte*. *werken, wroghte*.

fecchen 'fetch,' *felle*.

Conjugation II.

	INDICATIVE.	SUBJUNCTIVE.
<i>Pres. sing.</i>	1. löv-e	löv-e
	2. löv-est	löv-e
	3. löv-eth	löv-e
<i>plur.</i>	löv-e(n)	löv-e(n)

<i>Pret. sing.</i> 1. löv-ede	löv-ede
2. löv-edest	löv-ede(st)
3. löv-ede	löv-ede
<i>plur.</i> löv-ed(en)	löv-ed(en)
<i>Imper. sing.</i> löv-e; <i>plur.</i> löv-eth.	<i>Inf.</i> löv-e(n).

Part. pres. löv-yng(e); *pret.* (y)löv-(e)d.

The full ending *-eden* of the pret. is rare.

The pret. is often contracted to *lövede*.

The shortened part. pret. is rare, except in French verbs with the stress on the first syllable: *armed, ypunished* = (-ist). Not in *caried, stüdiéd* &c.

måken has pret. *måkede, måde*, part. pret. *ymåd*.

quilen 'requite' has part. pret. *quit*.

STRONG-WEAK VERBS.

	INDICATIVE.	SUBJUNCTIVE.
<i>Pres. sing.</i> 1. can		cönne
2. canst		cönne
3. can		cönne
<i>plur.</i> cönne(n); can		cönne(n)

Pret. kouthe, koude. *Inf.* cönne(n).

So also :

dår, darst; dorste.

may, myght (mays), pl. mowe(n). *Pres. subj.* mowe. *Pret.* myghte.

mõt 'must,' *mõt, möten; möste.*

gwe gwest, gweth; oghte.

shal, shalt, shullen, shul(en); sholde.

wpt 'know,' *wpst, wite(n).* *Imper.* wite. *Pret.* wiste. *Inf.* witen. *Partt.* wityng(e), wist.

A similar verb is

wil, wöl, wilt, wöllt, wil(en), wöl(en). Subj. *wile, wölle*. Pret. *wolde*. Part. Pret. *wold*. So also *nyl* 'will not,' pret. *noide*.

IRREGULAR VERBS.

am, art, is; plur. *bē(n)*, rarely *ar(n)*. Subj. *bē*. Pret. *was, wære, was, wære(n)*. Subj. pret. *wære*. Imper. *bē; bēth*. Infin. *bē(n)*. Part. *bē-yngē; bē(n)*. So also *nam* 'am not,' pret. *nis, nas, nęre*.

hāve, have, hast, hath, plur. *hāve(n), hān, han*. 2nd pers. plur. also *hāvelth*. Pret. *hadde, hāde*. Part. pret. *had*.

dō, dōst, dōth, dōn. Subj. *dō*. Pret. *dide*. Imper. *dō; dōth*. Infin. *dō(n)*. Gerund *tō dōne*. Partt. *dōyngē; dō(n)*.

gō, gōst, gōth, gō(n). Pret. *wente, yēde*. Inf. *gō(n)*. Partt. *gōyngē; gō(n)*.



KEY TO THE PHONETIC TRANSCRIPTION.

For the vowels see p. 2.

The only consonant-symbols that require explanation are:

ç	as in	<i>ich</i>	G.
ð	„	<i>then</i>	
j	„	<i>you</i>	
ŋ	„	<i>sing</i>	
f	„	<i>fish</i>	
þ	„	<i>thin</i>	
x	„	<i>auch</i>	G.
ʒ	„	<i>measure</i> .	

The stress is marked as follows:

The first syllable of a group is *strong* (s.) when no mark is prefixed; if (-) is prefixed, it is *weak* (w.); if (;) is prefixed, it is *extra strong* (es.). Unmarked syllables which do not begin a group are weak. *Half-strong* (hs.) stress is marked (:).

The following, therefore, is the accentuation of the first line of the *Complaint to Pity*:

w.	es.	w.hs.w.	s.	hs.	s.w.	s.
-pi	;tee	-pat:iiv	souxt	:so	jora	gɔ.

TEXTS.

I.

COMPLAINT TO PITY.

1. Pitē that ī have soght sȝ yȝre agȝȝ,
with herte sȝȝre and ful of besy peyne,
that in this wȝrld was neȝer wight sȝ wȝȝ,
withoute dēth— and yf ī shal nat feyne,
mȝ purpos was tȝ Pitē tȝ cȝmpleyne 5
upon the crūeltee and tiranȝȝe
of Lȝve, that for mȝ trȝuthe dȝth mē dȝe.
2. And whan that ī, bȝ lengthe of certeyn yȝres,
hadde ēȝere-in-ȝȝn a tȝme soght tȝ speȝe,
tȝ Pitee ran ī, al bespreynt with tȝres, 10
tȝ preyen hir on crūeltē mē awreȝe;
but ēȝ ī myght with any wȝrd outbreȝe,
or tellen any of mȝ peynes smerte,
ī fȝnd hir dēd and būried in an herte.
3. Adoun ī fel, whan that ī saugh the herse, 15
dēd as stȝn, whīl thāt the swough mē laste;
but up ī rȝȝs with cȝlour ful dyverse,
and pitously on hir mȝn yȝen caste,
and neȝ the cors ī gan tȝ prȝsen faste,
and for the sȝule ī shȝp mē for tȝ preye: 20
ī nas but lȝrn— thȝȝ was nȝ mȝre tȝ seye.

1. -pi ;tee -pat:iiav souxt :sɔ jɔra ɡɔ,
 -wɪʔ herte sɔr -and fʌllof bezi peine,
 -pat:ɪnʔɪs wʌrld -was nɛvɛr:wɪçt:sɔ wɔ,
 -wɪð:uute dɛʔ— -and:ɪfii:falnat feine,
 -mii pʊrpos:was -too piteetookʊm pleine 5
 -u:ponʔe:kreeuel teeand:tɪra niie
 -of 'lʌv -pat:formii troouðe dooʔmee diie.
2. -and:whanʔat:ii, -bii leŋðof sertein jɛres,
 -had:ɛvrɪn ɔn -a tiime souxttoo spɛke,
 -too pitee ranii, albe spreintwɪʔ tɛres, 10
 -too preienhɪr -on:kreeuel teema wrɛke;
 -bʌt ɛrii:miçtwɪʔ ani woorduut brɛke,
 -or tellen:ani -ofmii peines smerte,
 -ii fondhɪr dɛd -and byrjedɪnan herte.
3. -a duunii fel, -whan:ʔatii sauxʔe herse, 15
 ;dɛɛdas stɔn, :whiil:ʔatʔe swuuxmee laste;
 -bʌt ɛpii rɔs, -wɪʔ kuluur:fʌldi verse,
 -and pɪtuusli -on hɪrmiin iien kaste,
 -and:nɛrʔe kors -ii:gantoo pɛsɛn faste,
 -and:forʔe soul -ii:foopmeefortoo preie: 20
 -ii:nasbʌt lɔrn— -ʔɛr:was:nɔ mɔrtoo seie.

4. Thus am I slayn, sith that Pitē is dēd.
 Alas that day, that ever hyt sholde falle!
 what maner man dār now hōlde up his hēd?
 tō whōm shal any sorwful herte calle? 25
 now Crüeltē hath cast tō slēen us alle,
 in ydel hōpe, folk rēdeles of peyne—
 syth shē is dēd, tō whōm shul wē cōmpleyne?
5. But yet encrēseth mē this wōnder nēwe,
 that nō wight wōpt that shē is dēd but I, 30
 sō many men as in her tyme hir knēwe;
 and yet shē d̄yed noght sō sōdeynl̄y;
 for I have soght hir ay ful besyl̄y
 sith first I hadde wit or mannes m̄ynde;
 but shē was dēd er that I koudē hir f̄ynde. 35
6. Aboutē hir hersē there stōden lustyly
 withouten any wōp, as thoghte mē,
 Bountē parfyt, wēl armēd and richely,
 and fresshe Bēzūtē, Lust, and Jolytē,
 assūred Maner, Youthe, and Honestē, 40
 Wisdōm, Estaat, and Drēd, and Gōvernaunce,
 confedred bōthē b̄y bōnd and aliaunce.
7. A cōmpleynt had I, writen, in m̄yn hōnd,
 for tō han put tō Pitee as a bille,
 but whan I al this cōmpan̄yē ther fōnd, 45
 that rāther wolden al m̄y cause spille
 than dō mē helpe, I hēld m̄y pleynte stille;
 for tō that folk, withouten any fayle,
 withoute Pitee may nō bille availe.

4. :þus:amii slain -sɪp:þatpi teeis dɛd.
 -a lasþat dai, -þat evrhɪtfolde falle!
 :what:maner man :daar nuu:hold wɪs hæd?
 -too whoomʃal:ani sor(u)ʃul herte kalle? 25
 :nuu:kreeuel tee -haþ kasttoo slɛnʊs alle,
 -ɪn iidel hɔp, :folk rɛdelesof peine—
 -sɪp ʃeeis dɛd, -too whomʃul:weekum pleine?
5. -but:jeten krɛsep:meeþɪs wʌnder neeue,
 -þat nɔwiçt wɔt -þat:ʃeeis dɛdbut ii, 30
 -sɔ mani men -as:ɪner tiimɪr kneeue;
 -and:jɛtʃee diied:noux:t:sɔ sʊdeinlii;
 -for:iiav souxtɪr ai -ʃul bezilii,
 -sɪp:ɪrstii:hadde wɪt -or mannes miinde;
 -but:ʃeewas dɛd :ɛr:þatii:kuudɪr fiinde. 35
6. -a:buutɪr hers -þɛr stoođen lʊstili
 -wɪð:uuten:ani wɔ, -as þouxte mee,
 buun tee:par ʃɪt, :weel armd -and rɪʃeli,
 -and fresse beeutee, lʊst -and:dʒoli tee,
 -a syyred maner, juuð -andones tee, 40
 wɪz doom -es taat -and drɛd -and:gʊvɛr naunse,
 -kon fedred:bɔðbii bondand:ali aunse.
7. -a kʊmpleint:hadii wɪten -ɪnmiin hɔnd,
 -for:toohan pʊttoo pitee -asa bɪlle,
 -but:whanii alpɪs:kʊmpa niifɛr fɔnd, 45
 -þat raaðerwolden almii kauze spɪlle
 -than:doomee help, -ii:heeldmii pleinte stɪlle;
 -for:toopat folk, -wɪð:uutenani faile,
 -wɪð:uute ;pitee :mai:nɔ billa vaile.

8. Than leve I al thise vertúes sáve Pitē, 50
 kēpyngē the cors, as yē have herd mē seyn,
 confedered alle bȳ bōnd of crúeltē,
 and bēn assented that ī shal bē sleyn;
 and ī have put mȳ cōmpleynt up ageyn,
 for tō mȳ fōqs mȳ bille ī dār nat shēwe, 55
 th' effect of which seith thus in wōrdes fēwe:

9. Hūm·blest of herte, hȳ·est of reverence,
 benȳgne flour, coroune of vertúes alle,
 shēweth untō yourē rial excelēnce
 yourē servaunt, yf ī dorste mē sȳ calle, 60
 hys mortal harm in which hē is yfalle,
 and noght al ȳonly for his ēvel fāre,
 but for your·renouū, as hē shal declāre.

10. Hit stōndeth thus: yourē cōntraire, Crúeltee,
 alȳed is agayn your regalȳe, 65
 un·der cōlour of wōmanlȳ bēautē—
 for men [ne] sholde nat knōwe hir tirannȳe—
 with Bountē, Gētilese, and Curteisȳe,
 and hath deprȳved ·yow now of your plāce,
 that hyght 'Bēautē apertenaunt tō Grāce.' 70

11. For kȳndely, bȳ yourē herȳtāge aryght,
 yē bēn annexed ēver untō Bountē;
 and verraylȳ yē oghte dō yourē myght,
 tō helpe Trōuthe in his adversytē;
 yē bēn alsȳ the coroune of Bēautē: 75
 and certes, yf yē wanten in thise tweyne,
 the wōrld is lȳre— ther is nȳ mȳre tō seyne.

8. -pan lɛvii alpiz verteeus saavpi tee, 50
 kee pingbe kors, -as:jeeav herdmeē sein,
 -kon fedred al -bii bōndof:kreeuel tee,
 -and:beena sented :patii:ʃalbee slein ;
 -and:iiav pʉtmii kʉmpleint ʉpa gein,
 -for:toomii ʃos -miibʉllii:daarnat ʃeue, 55
 -pe sektof:whʉʃ :seiʃ pʉs -in woordes ʃeue :

9. ʃm ʉblestof hert, :ii estof:reve rene,
 -be niine fluur, -ko ruunof verteeus alle,
 ʃeue epʉn:toojuur riialekse lense
 -juur servaunt, ʉii dorste:mee:sʉ kalle, 60
 -his mortal harm -in:whʉʃ-eeʉsi falle,
 -and nouxtal ʉnli -forʉs ʉvel faare,
 -buʉ:for:juur renuun, -asee:ʃalde klaare.

10. -hʉt stōndep pʉs : -juur kʉntrair, :kreeuel tee,
 -a liied:ʉs -a gainjuur:rega liie, 65
 :ʉn:derku luurof wʉmanliibeeu tee—
 -for.menne:ʃoldnat knʉuʉʉra niie—
 -wʉʃ buuntee, :dʒenti les -andkʉrtei ziiē
 -and:hapde priived :juunuuofjuur plaase,
 -pat hiçtbeeu teea:perte naunttoo graase. 70

11. -for kiindli, :biijuur eritaadzda riçt,
 -jee:beena neksed ʉvrʉn:too:buun tee ;
 -and verai:lii -jee ouxte:doojuur miçt,
 -too helpe -troouʉ -in:hiʉad:versi tee ;
 -jee:beenal:sʉ -pe koruunof:beeu tee ; 75
 -and sertes, :ʉʃee wantenʉpiz tweine,
 -pe wʉrldʉs lʉr— -pʉr:ʉs.no mʉrtoo seine.

12. Ek what avaieth Maner and Gentillesse,
 withoute yow, benygne creatüre?
 shal Crúeltē bē your gövernesse? 80
 alas! what herte may hyt lōnge endüre?
 wherfore, but yē the rāther tāke cūre
 tō brēke that perilous aliaunce,
 yē slēen hem that bēn in your obeisaunce.
13. And further over, yf yē suffre this, 85
 youre renoun ys fordoon than in a thrōwe;
 ther shal nō man wite wēl what Pitē is;
 alas that your renoun is falle sō lōwe!
 yē bē than frō youre heritāge ythrōwe
 bȳ Crúeltē that occūpieth youre plāce, 90
 and wē despeyred that sēken tō your grāce.
14. Have mercy on mē, thou Herynes quēne,
 that yow have soght sō tenderly and yōre;
 let sōm strēm of youre lyght on mē bē sēne,
 that löve and drede you ay len'ger the more; 95
 for, sōth tō seyne, i bere the hevȳ sōre;
 and thogh i bē nat kunnyng for tō pleyne,
 for Goddes löve, have mercy on mȳ peyne!
-
15. Mȳ peyne is this, that what sō i desire,
 that have i noght, ne nō thing lyk thertō, 100
 and ever set Desire mȳn herte on fire
 ek on that oðer sȳde, where sō i goō;
 what maner thing that may encrese woō,
 that have i redy, unsoght, everywhere:
 mē ne lakketh but mȳ detȳ, and than mȳ bere. 105

12. :ek whata vaileþ manrand:dzenti lesse,
 -wið uute ;juu, -be niine:kreea tyyre ?
 :fal:kreeuel tee -bee :juur:guverne resse ? 80
 -a las :what herte :maizt longen dyyre ?
 -wher:for -bat:jee -þe raaðer taake kyyre
 -too bræke:þatpe r/luusali aunse,
 -jee slænem:þatbeen :injuur:obei zaunse.
13. -and:surðer over, :ifjee surfe þis, 85
 -juur renuunisfor doonþan -ina þroue ;
 -þer:fal:no:man:wit weel :what ;pitee is ;
 -a lasþat:juurre nuunis fallsɔ loue l
 -jee:beeþan:frojuur:eri taadzgi þroue
 -bii:kreeuel tee -þatoky piipjuur plaase, 90
 -and:weedes peird -þat seekentoojuur graase.
14. -hav mersi:onmee, :þuue rines kweene,
 -þat:juuav souxt :sɔ tenderliand jore ;
 :let:sam stremofjuur liçton:meebee seene,
 -þat luvand dredjuu ai:leŋ gerþe more ; 95
 -for, sooptoo sein, -ii berþe hevi sore ;
 -and:þouxii:beenat kunning:fortoo pleine,
 -for goddes:luv -hav mersionmii peine l
-
15. -mii peinis þis, -þat whatsɔ:iide ziire,
 -þat:havii nouxt, -ne noþing liikþer too, 100
 -and ever setde ziirmiin herton fiire
 -ek:onþat oodder:siid, -wher soii gɔ ;
 -what maner þingþat:maien krese wɔ,
 -þat:havii redi, unsouxt, evri where :
 :meen lakkeþ:batmii dæþ, -and þanmii bere. 105

16. What nēdeth tō shēwe parcel of m̄y peyne?
 syth every wōḡ that herte may bethynke
 ī suffre, and yet ī dār nat tō yow pleyne.
 For wēl ī wōt, althogh ī wākē or wynke,
 yē rekke noght wheth'er ī flēte or synke. 110
 Yet nāthelēs m̄y trōuthē ī shal sustēne
 untō m̄y dēth, and that shal wēl bē sēne.
17. This is tō seyne: ī wōl bē youres euer;
 thogh yē mē slēḡ b̄y crūeltee your fōḡ,
 algātē m̄y spirit shal nēv'er dissev'er 115
 frō yourē servise, for any peyne or wōḡ.
 Sith yē bē dēd— al'as that hyt is sōḡ!—
 thus for your dēth ī may wēl wēpe and pleyne,
 with herte sōre and ful of besy peyne.

16. :what needeþ:too:ʃeu parselofmii peine?
 -sɪp:ɛvri wɔ -þat herternaibe þɪŋke
 -ii sʌfr -and:jetii daarnat:toojuu pleine.
 -for weelii wɔt, -al þouxii waakor winke,
 -jee rekke nouxt, :whe:ðerii fleetor sinke. 110
 :jet:naaðe lɛs -mii troouðii:falsʌs teene
 -ʌn:toomii dɛþ, -and:þatfal:weelbee seene.
17. -þɪs:istoo sein : -ii:wʌlbee juures ɛver;
 -þoux:jeemee slɛ -bii:kreeuel tee -juur fɔ,
 -al gaatmii spɪrɪt :fal:nɛ:verdi sɛver 115
 -fro:juurser viis, -for:ani peinor wɔ.
 -sɪp:jeebee dɛd— -a laspatɪtɪs sɔ !—
 :þʌs:forjuur dɛþ -ii:maiweel weepand pleine,
 -wɪþ herte sɔr -and fʌllof bezi peine.

II.

THE FORMER AGE.

1.

A blysfyl lȳf, a paysyble and a swēte
 lad·den the pēples in the former āge.
 They hēld hem payed of frūtes that they ēte,
 whiche that the fēldes yaf hem bȳ ūsāge.
 They neęere nat forpampred with owtrāge: 5
 unknōwen was the quyerne and ek the melle;
 they ēten hawes, mast, and swych pownāge,
 and drōnken wāter of the cōlde welle.

2.

Yet nas the ground nat wounded with the plough;
 but cōrn upsprōng unsoꝝe of mannes hōnd, 10
 the which they gnōd, and eet nat half inough.
 Nō man yet knēw the fōrwes of his lōnd;
 nō man the fȳr out of the flynt yet fōnd;
 unkorven and ungrōbbed lay the vȳne;
 nō man yet in the mortar spīces grōnd, 15
 tō clarre ne tō sawse of galentȳne.

3.

Nō mader, weldē, or wōd nō listestere
 ne knēw: the flēs was of his former hēwe;
 nō flessch ne wȳste offence of eęęe or spēre;
 nō coyn ne knēw man which was fals or trēwe; 20
 nō ship yet karf the wāwes grēnz and blēwe:
 nō marchant yet ne fette owtlandissh wāre;
 nō trōmpes, for the werres folk ne knēwe,
 ne towres hȳe, and walles rownde or squāre.

3. of the.

7. mast hawes.

11. gnodded.

4.

What sholdē it hān awayed tō werreye? 25
 Ther lay nō profyt, ther was nō rychesse.
 But cōrsed was the tyme, ī dār wēl seye,
 that men fyrst didē here swēty bysynesse,
 tō grōbbe up metal lurkyngē in derknesse,
 and in the ryveres after gemmes soghte: 30
 alas! than sprong up al the cursednesse
 of cōveytēse, that fyrst ourē sorwe broghte.

5.

Thyse tȳraunts puttē hem gladly nat in prēs
 nō plāces wylde ne busshes for tō wynne,
 ther povertē is, as seith Diōgenēs, 35
 ther as vitayle is ek sō skārs and thinne,
 that noght but mast or apples is therinne;
 but ther as bagges bēn and fat vitaile,
 ther wōl they gōn and spāre for nō synne
 with al herē ošt the cytē for tō asayle. 40

6.

Yet wēre nō paleis-chaumbres ne non halles:
 in kāves and in wōdes softe and swēte
 slepten this blessed folk withoute walles,
 on gras or lēves in joye and in quiēte;
 nō down of fetheres ne nō blēched shēte 45
 was kyd tō hem; but in sūrtē they slepte.
 Her hertes wēgēre al on withoute galles;
 evelyng of hem his feith tō oother kepte.

30. fyrst gemmys.

34. no places wyldnesse ne no busshes for to wynne.

44. in parfyt joye and quiete.

7.

Unforġed was the hawberke and the plāte :
 the lambyssh pēple, voyded of al v̄yce, 50
 had den n̄ fantas̄e tō debāte,
 but ęch of hem wolde oother wēl cher̄yce.
 N̄ pride, n̄ env̄ye, n̄ avar̄yce,
 n̄ lord, n̄ taylāge b̄y n̄ tyran̄ye ;
 ūmblesse and p̄s, good feith, the emperice, 55

8.

Yet was nat Juppiter the lykerous,
 that fyrst was fāder of delicasiē,
 cōme in this wōrld ; ne Nembrot, des̄yrous
 tō reignen, had nat maad his toures h̄ye. 60
 Allas ! alas ! now may men wēpe and cr̄ye ;
 for in oure dayes nis but cōvet̄yse,
 and doubl̄nesse and tresoun, and env̄ye,
 poysoun, manslaughter, and mōrth̄er in sōndry w̄yse.

III.

ADAM SCRIVENER.

Adām Scryveyn, if ęver it thē byfalle
 Boēce or Troylus for tō wr̄yten nēwe,
 un der th̄y lokkes thou mōst have the scalle,
 but after m̄y māk'ying thou wr̄yte trēwe :
 s̄o oft a daye ī mōt th̄y werk renēwe, 5
 it tō corecte and ęk tō rubbe and scrāpe ;
 and al is thurgh th̄y neglygēce and rāpe.

3. long lokkes.

IV.

TRUTH.

I.

Flē frō the prēs, and dwelle with sōthfastnesse;
 sūf/ise thīn ȝwene thing, thogh it bē smal.
 For hōrd hath hāte, and clȳmbyng tykelnesse,
 prēs hath envȳe and wēle blent ȝver al.
 Sāvoure nō mōre thanne thē byhōve shal; 5
 rēule weel thiself that ōther folk canst rēde:
 and trōuthe thē shal delyvere—it is nō drēde.

2.

Tempest thē noght al crōked tō redresse,
 in trust of hire that turneth as a bal;
 grēet reste stant in litel besynesse. 10
 Bywār therfōre tō spurne agayn an āl;
 strȳve not as dōth the crokke with the wal;
 daun'te thiself that dauntest ōtheres dēde:
 and trōuthe thē shal delyvere—it is nō drēde.

3.

That thē is sent receyve in buxumnesse; 15
 the wrastlyng for the wōrldē ax'eth a fal;
 hēr is nōn hōm: hēr nys but wyldernesse.
 Forth, pylgrym, forth! forth bēste out of thī stal!
 knōw thī cōntrē! lōke up! thank God of al!
 hōld the hȳe weye, and lat thī ȝost thē lēde, 20
 and trōuthe thē shal delyvere—it is nō drēde.

V.

THE HUNT.

(FROM THE DEATH OF BLANCHE.)

Mē thoghte thus:—that hyt was May,
 and in the dawning theȝ ī lay,
 mē mette thus in bed al nāked,
 and lōked forth, for ī was wāked
 with smāle foules, a grēt heȝ, *gaa* 5
 that had affrayed mē out of slēp
 thurgh noyse and swētenesse of her song;
 and as mē mette, they sat amōng
 upon mȳ chaumbre-roof wythoute
 upon the tȳles al aboute, 10
 and eȝerych song in hys wȳse
 the mōste solemōne servise
 bȳ nōȝte that eȝer man, ȳ trōwe,
 had herd, for sōme of hem sōnge lōwe,
 sōme hȳe, and al of .oȝon acord. 15
 Tō telle shortly at oȝ wōrd,
 was neȝer herd sȝ swēte a steven,
 but hyt had bē a thyng of heven;
 sȝ mery a soun, sȝ swēte in tūnes
 that certes for the toun of Tūnes 20
 ī nolde but ī had herd hem syngē.
 For al my chaumbre gan tō ryngē
 thurgh syngyng of her armonȳe,
 for instrūment ne melodȳe

was nowhere herd yet half so swēte, 25
 nor of acorde half so mēte;
 for ther was noon of hem that feyned
 tō synge, for ech of hem hym peyned
 to fynde out mery crafty notes:
 they ne spāred nat her throtes. 30
 And sooth tō seyn, my chaumbre was
 ful wēl depeynted, and with glas
 wēre al the wyndowes wēl yglāsed
 ful clēre, and nat an hool ycrāsed,
 that tō beholde hyt was gret joye. 35
 For holly al the stōry of Troye
 was in the glāsyng ywroght thus,
 of Ector, and kyng Priāmus,
 of Achilēs and Lamedon,
 of Mēdēā, and of Jāson, 40
 of Pāris, Eleyne, and Lavvne;
 and al the walles with cōlours fyne
 wēre peynted bothe [with] text and glōse
 of al the Romaunce of the Rose.
 Mȳ wyndowes wēre shette ech on, 45
 and thurgh the glas the sōnne shon
 upon mȳ bed with bryghte bemes,
 with many glāde gilden strēmes;
 And ek the welken was so fair:
 blēw, bryght, clēre was the ayr, 50
 and ful at/empre for sōth hyt was:
 for neyther cold nor hoot yt was,
 ne in al the welken was a clowd.
 And as i lay thus, wōnder lowd
 mē thoght i herde an hunte blōwe, 55
 t' assay hys hōrn, and for tō knōwe
 whether hyt wēre clēre or hōrs of soun.

I herde goun bothe up and down
 men, hors, houndes, and oþer thyng;
 and al men spēken of huntynge, 60
 how they wolde sleȝe the hert with strengthe,
 and how the hert had upon lengthe
 so mōche enbosed— y not now what.

Anoon-ryght whan i herde that,
 how that they wolde on huntynge goun, 65
 i was ryght glad, and up anoon;
 i took my hors, and forth i wente
 out of my chaumbre. I never stente
 till i com to the feld withoute;
 theȝe overtok y a greȝe route 70
 of huntis and of forestēres,
 with many relayes and lymēres,
 and hȝed hem to the forest faste,
 and i with hem. So at the laste
 i askedoun, ladde a lymēre, 75
 'say, felowe, whoo shal hunte hēre?'
 quod i, and hē answered ageyn,
 'sȝre, th' emperour Octovyen'
 quod hē, 'and ys hēr faste by.'
 'A Goddes half in good tyme,' quod i, 80
 'gou wē faste', and gan to ryde.
 Whan wē cam to the forest-sȝde,
 every man dide ryght anoon
 as to huntynge fil to doon;
 the mayster-hunte anoon fōt-hot 85
 with a greȝe hōrn blēw thrē mot
 at the uncouplyng of hys houndys.
 Withynne a while the hert [y]founde ys,
 ihalowed, and rechāsed faste
 longe tyme; and at the laste 90

this hert rū·sed, and staaled away
 from alle the houndes a privē wey:
 the houndes had overschote hem alle
 and were on a defaute yfalle.
 Therwyth the hunte wōnder faste 95
 blēw a forloyne at the laste.
 I was go walked fro my tree,
 and as i wente ther cam by me
 a whelp that fauned me as i stood,
 that folwed hadde, and koude no good. 100
 Hyt com and creep to me as lowe
 ryght as hyt hadde me yknowe;
 held doun hys hed, and joynd hys eres,
 and leyde al smothe doun hys heres.
 I wolde have kaught hyt, and anon 105
 hyt fledde, and was fro me gon;
 and i hym folwed. And hyt forth wente
 doun by a floury grene bente
 ful thikke of gras ful softe and swete,
 with flourys fele, faire under fet 110
 and litel used, hyt semed thus;
 for both Flora and Zephirus
 they two that make floures growe
 had mad her dwellyng ther, i trowe.
 For hit was on to beholde, 115
 as thogh the erthe envye wolde
 to be gayer than the heven;
 to have moore floures suche seven
 as in the welken sterres bee.
 Hyt had forgete the povertie 120
 that wynter thurgh hys colde morwes
 had made hyt suffre, and his sorwes—

al was forȝete ; and that was sēne.
 For al the wōde was waxen grēne ;
 swētnesse of dēw had mād hyt waxe. 125
 Hyt ys nō nēd ȝk for tō axe
 wher thēr wēre many grēne grēves,
 al thikke of trees sō fulle of lēves ;
 and ȝvery tree stood bȳ hymselfe
 frō ōther wēl ten foot or twelve ; 130
 sō grēte trees, so hūȝe of strengthe,
 of fōurty, fifty fadme lengthe,
 clēne withoute bowgh or stikke,
 with croppes brōde and ȝk as thikke ;
 they wēre nat an ynche asōnder, 135
 that hit was shadwe oʋer al under.
 And many an hert and many an hȳnde
 was bōthe befōre mē and behȳnde ;
 of faunes, sowres, bukkes, dōȝs
 was ful the wōde, and many rōȝs, 140
 and many sqwirēles that sēte
 ful hīe upon the trees, and ēte,
 and in her maner mādēn fēstes.
 Shortly, hyt was sō ful of bēstes,
 that thogh Argus, the nōble countour, 145
 sēte tō rēkene in hys countour,
 and counten with his figūres ten—
 for bȳ thȝ figūres mowe al ken,
 yf they bē crafty, rēkene and noumbre,
 and telle of ȝvery thing the noumbre— 150
 yet sholde hē fayle tō rēkene ȝven
 the wōndres mē mette in mȳ swēven.

VI.

PARLAMENT OF BIRDS.

1.

The lȳf sȝ short, the craft sȝ long tȝ lerne,
 th' assay sȝ sharp, sȝ hard the conqueryng,
 the drēdful joye that alwey slit sȝ yerne—
 al this mēne ī bī Löve, that mȳ felyng
 astōnyeth with his wōnderful werkyng, 5
 sȝ sȝre iwis that whan ī on hym thynke,
 nat wȝt ī wēl whether ī wāke or wynke.

2.

For al bē that ī knȝwe nat Löve in dēde,
 ne wȝt how that hē quiteth folk here hȳre,
 yet happeth mē ful ofte in bōkes rēde 10
 of hise myrākles and his crūel ȳre :
 thȝr rēde ī wēl, hē wōl bē lȝrd and sȳre ;
 ī dār nat seyn— his strȝkes been sȝ sȝre ;
 but God sāve swich a lȝrd—ī can na mȝpre.

3.

Of ūsāge, what for lust and what for lȝre, 15
 on bōkes rēde ī ofte, as ī yow tȝlde.
 But whȝrfȝre that ī spȝke al this? Nat yȝpre
 aȝȝn it happede mē for tȝ behȝlde
 upon a bōk was write with letteres ȝlde,
 and thȝr upon a certeyn thing tȝ lerne 20
 the lȝnge day ful faste ī radde and yerne.

4.

For out of olde fēldes, as men sey,
 cōmeth al this nēwe cōrn frō yēr tō yēre,
 and out of olde bōkes in good fey
 cōmeth al this nēwe sciēce that men lere. 25
 But now tō purpos as of this matēre—
 tō rēde forth hit gan mē sō delite
 that al the day mē thoghte but a lȳte.

5.

This bōk of which ī māke mencion
 entitlēd was al thus as ī shal telle, 30
Tullyus, of the drem of Cipioun;
 chapitres sevene it hadde of heven and helle,
 and erthe, and sōules that thērinne dwelle,
 of which, as shortly as ī can it trēte,
 of his sentēce ī wōl yow seyn the grēte: 35

6.

Fyrst telleth it, whan Cipioun was cōme
 in Affrik, how hē mette Massynisse,
 that hym for joie in armes hath inōme;
 thanne telleth hit here spēche, and al the blysse
 that was betwix hem, til that day gan mysse, 40
 and how his auncestre Affrycān sō deere
 gan in his slēp that nyght tō hym apēre.

7.

Thanne telleth it that from a sterry plāce
 how Affrycān hath hym Cartāge schēwed;
 and warnede hym byfōre of al his grāce; 45

and seyde him what man, lērned oþher lēwed,
 that lōveth comūn profyt, wēl ithēwed,
 hē shal untō a blysful plāce wende,
 thēre as joye is that last withouten ende.

8.

Thanne axede hē if folk that hēr been dēde 50
 hān lȳf and dwellyng in anōther plāce?
 and Affricān seyde 'ye, withoute drēde,'
 and that ourē present wōrldes lȳves spāce
 nys but a maner dēth what weye wē trāce,
 and rightful folk shul gōn after they dȳe 55
 tō heven; and schēwede hym the galaxie.

9.

Thanne shēwede hē hym the lītle erthe that hēr is
 at regard of the hevenes quantitē;
 and after shēwede hē hym the nȳne spēres;
 and after that the melodȳe herde hē, 60
 that cōmeth of th'ilke spēres thrȳes thrē,
 that welle is of mūs'ik and melodȳe
 in this wōrld hēr, and cause of armonȳe.

10.

Than bad hē hym, syn erthe was so lȳte,
 and full of tōrment and of harde grāce, 65
 that hē ne scholde hym in the wōrld delȳte.
 Thanne tōlde hē hym, in certeyn yeres spāce,
 that eveyr sterre sholde cōme intō his plāce,
 thēr it was fyrst, and al scholde out of mȳnde
 that in this wōrld is dōn of al mankȳnde. 70

11.

Thanne preyede hym Cypyoun tō telle hym al
 the wey tō cōme untō that hevne blisse ;
 and hē seyde : ‘ knōw thȳself fyrst immortal
 and lōke ay besyly thow werke and wysse
 tō comūn profit, and thow shalt nat mysse 75
 tō cōmen swifly tō this plāce deere,
 that ful of blysse is and of sōles cleere.

12.

But brēkers of the lawe, sōth tō seyne,
 and lykerous folk after that they bēn dēde,
 shul alwey whirle aboute th’ erthe in peyne, 80
 tyl many a wōrld bē passed out of drede
 and than, foryiven alle here wikked dēde,
 than shul they cōme intō that blysfyl plāce
 tō which tō cōmen God thē sende his grāce.’

13.

The day gan failen, and the derke nyght, 85
 That reŷeth beŷtes from here besynesse,
 berafte mē mȳ bōk for lak of lyght ;
 and tō mȳ bed ī gan mē for tō dresse,
 fulfyld of thought and büsy hevynesse ;
 for bōthe ī hadde thyng which that ī nolde, 90
 and ęk ī nadde that thyng that ī wolde.

14.

But fȳnally mȳ spirit at the laste,
 forwēry of mȳ lābour al the day,
 tōk reste that māde mē tō slēpe faste ;
 and in mȳ slēp ī mette, as ī lay, 95
 how Affricān ryght in the sāme aray
 that Cipioun hym say byŷore that tȳde
 was cōme, and stōd right at mȳ beddes sȳde.

15.

The wēry hunter slēpyngē in his bed,
 tō wōde again his m̄ynde goth an̄on; 100
 the jūge drēmeth how hisē plēgs been sped;
 the cartere drēmeth how his cartes gon;
 the riche of gōld; the knyght fyght with his s̄on;
 the sēke met hē drynketh of the tōnne;
 the lōvere met hē hath his lādy wōnne. 105

16.

Ī can nat seyn if that the cause wēre,
 that ī hadde rad of Affricān bysorn,
 that māde mē tō mēte that hē stōd theȝere.
 But thus seyde hē: 'Thow hast thē s̄o wēl b̄orn
 in lōkyngē of m̄yn olde bōk al tōsorn, 110
 of which Mac·rob̄yē roghte nat a l̄yte,
 that sōmdēl of th̄y lābour wolde ī qūyte.'

17.

Cyt̄hereā, thow blysful lādy swēte,
 that with th̄y fyrbrōnd dauntest whōm thē lest,
 and mādest mē this swevene for tō mēte, 115
 bē thow m̄yn helpē in this, for thow mayst best:
 as wissly as ī say thē north-north-west,
 whan ī began m̄y sweven for tō w̄rite,
 s̄o yif mē myght tō r̄yme and ęk t'end̄yte.

18.

This forseyd Affricān mē hente an̄on, 120
 and forth with hym untō a gāte broghte
 ryght of a parrok walled with grēne ston;
 and on the gāte with letteres largē iwroghte
 th̄er wēre vers iwriten as mē thoghte,

122. park, parke *MSS.*

123. over.

on eyther half, of ful greȝt difference, 125
 of whiche ī shal yow seyn the pleyn sentence:

19.

‘Thurgh mē men gȝon intō that blysful plāce
 of hertes hēle and dēdly woundes cūre;
 thurgh mē men gȝon untō the welle of Grāce,
 theȝer grēne and lusty May shal ȝere endūre. 130
 This is the wey to al good āventūre.
 Bē glad thow reȝere, and thȝ sorwe ofcaste;
 al ȝopen am ī: passe in, and hȝ thē faste.’

20.

‘Thurgh mē men gȝon,’ than spak that ōther sīde,
 ‘untō the mortal strōkes of the spere, 135
 of whiche Disdayn and Daunȝer is the gȝyde,
 theȝ tree shal neȝer frūt ne leȝes bere;
 this strēm yow lēdeth tō the sorwful ȝere
 theȝ as the fissh in prysoun is al drȝe;
 th’eschūing is ȝn’lȝ the remedȝe.’ 140

21.

Thisȝ vers of gōld and blak iwriten ȝere,
 the whiche ī gan a stounde tō beholde:
 for with that ȝn encrēseȝe ay mȝ fere,
 and with that ōther gan mȝn herte bȝlde;
 that ȝn mē hette, that ōther dide mē ȝolde. 145
 Nȝ wit hadde ī, for errour, for tō chēse:
 tō entre or flēn, or mē tō sȝve or lēse.

22.

Right as betwixen adamauntes twō
 of ȝeven myght a pēce of ȝren set,
 ne hath nȝ myght tō mēve too ne frȝ— 150
 for what that ȝn may hāle that ōther let—
 ferde ī that nyste whether mē was best,

tō entre or lēve, til Affrycān mȳ gīde
mē hente and shōf in at the gātes wīde ;

23.

and seyde : 'it stōndeth writen in thȳ fāce 155
thȳn errour, thogh thou telle it nat tō mē ;
but dreð thē nat tō cōme intō this plāce :
for this wriȳng nys nōthyng ment bī thē,
ne bȳ nōn but hē Lōves servaunt bē ;
for thou of lōve hast lost thȳ tāst, ī gesse, 160
as sēk man hath of swēte and bytternesse.

24.

But nātheles, althogh that thou bē dul,
yit that thou canst nat dō, thou mayst hit sē ;
for many a man that may nat stōnde a pul,
yit liketh hym at wrastlyng for tō bē, 165
and dēmen whether 'hē dō bet or 'hē :
and if thou haddest cunningyng for t'endite,
ī shal thē shēwe mater of tō wrȳte.'

25.

With that mȳn hōnd hē tōk in his anōn,
of which ī cōmfort kaughte, and wente in faste. 170
But lord ! so ī was glad and wēl begōon !
for oʋeral wher that ī mīne ȳen caste,
wēre trees [y]clad with lēves that ay shal laste,
eçh in his kȳnde of cōlour fressh and greene
as emeraude, that joye was tō seene. 175

26.

The bȳldere ok ; and eçk the hardy assh ;
the pilēr elm, the cofre untō careyne ;
the boxtrē pīpere ; holm tō whippes lassh ;
the saylyngē fyr ; the cipresse, dēth tō pleyne ;
the shētere ēw ; the asp, for shaftes pleyne ; 180

the olȳve of pēs; and ęk the drōnke vȳne;
the victor palm; the laurēr, tō devȳne.

27.

A gardȳn say ī, ful of blosmy bowys,
upon a river in a grēne mēde,
therē ʼas swētnesse ęveremōre inowgh is; 185
with floures whīte, blēwe, yelwe, and rēde,
and cōlde welle-strēmes, nōthyng dēde,
that swōmmen ful of smāle fisses lighte
with fynnes rēde and skāles sylver-bryghte.

28.

On ęvery bowgh the bryddes herde ī synge 190
with voys of aunġel in here armonȳe;
sōme besyede hem here bryddes forth tō brynge;
the lītele cōnyes tō here pleye gunne hȳe;
and ferther al aboute ī gan espȳe
the drēdful rō, the bukke, and hert, and hȳnde, 195
squyrēles, and bēstes smāle of ġentil kȳnde.

29.

Of instrūments of strenges in acord
herde ī sō pleye ravy'sshyng swētnesse
that God that mākere is of al and lōrd
ne herde neverē betere, as ī gesse; 200
therewith a wȳnd—unnēthe it myght bē lesse—
māde in the lēves grēne a noyse softe,
acordaunt tō the bryddes sōng alofte.

30.

The eyre of that plāce sō atēmpre was
that neverē was grēvaunce of hōt ne cōld; 205
ther wēx ęk ęvery hōlsum spīce and gras;
ne nō man may there waxe sēk ne ȳld;
yet was ther joye mōre a thousandfōld

than man can telle; ne nevere wolde it nyghte,
but ay clēr day tō any mannes syghte. 210

31.

Un'der a trē besyde a welle ī say
Cūpīde oure lōrd hise arwes forȝe and file;
and at his fēt his bōwe al redy lay;
and wēl his doghter temperede al the whyle
the hēdes in the welle, and with hire wile 215
shē couchede hem after as they sholde serve
sōme for tō sle, and sōme tō wounde and kerve.

32.

Thō was ī wār of Plesaunce anōn-ryght,
and of Aray, and Lust, and Curteysie,
and of the Craft that can and hath the myght 220
tō dōn bȳ force a wight tō dōn folȳe—
disfigūrāt was shē, ī nyl nat lȳe;
and bȳ himself un'der an oȝk, ī gesse,
say ī Delȳt that stōd with Ġentilesse.

33.

Ī say Bēutē withouten any atȳr; 225
and Youthe, ful of gāme and jolytē;
Foolhardynesse, Flaterȳe, and Desȳr;
Messāȝerȳe, and Meede, and oȝther thrē—
here nāmes shul nat hēre bē tōld for mē;
and upon pilēres grēȝte of jasper lōnge 230
ī say a temple of bras ifounded strōnge.

34.

Aboute that temple daunseden alwey
wōmmen inowe, of whiche sōme ther weȝre
fayre of hemsell, and sōme of hem weȝre gay;
in kirtles al dischevelē wente they there— 235
that was here offys alwey ȳer bȳ ȳeȝre;

and on the temple of dowves white and fayre
say ī syttyngē many an hundred peyre.

35.

Byfōre the temple-dōre ful sōbrelly
dāme Peș sat with a curteyn in hire hōnd; 240
and hire besyde wōnder discrētly
dāme Pācience syttyngē theȝ ī fōnd
with fāce pāle upon an hil of sōnd;
and aldernext withinne and ȝk withoute
Byheste and Art, and of here folk a route. 245

36.

Withinne the temple of sȳkes hōote as fȳr
ī herde a swowgh that gan aboute renne;
whiche sȳkes wēre engēndred with desȳr
that māden ȝvery autēr for tō brenne
of nēwe flaumē; and wēl espȳed ī thenne 250
that al the cause of sorwes that they drȳe
cam of the bitter goddesse Jelousȳe.

37.

The god Priāpus say ī, as ī wente
withinne the temple, in sōvereyn plāce stōnde,
in swich aray as whan the asse hym shente 255
with crī bȳ nyght, with scepter in his hōnd;
ful besyly men gunne asaye and fōnde
upon his hēd tō sette of sundry hēwe
gerlandes fullē of fresshe floures nēwe.

38.

And in a privē cornēr in desport 260
fōnd ī Vēnus, and hire portēr Richesse,
that was ful nōble and hautayn of hyre port;
derk was that plāce; but afterward lightnesse
ī say a lȳte—unnēthe it myghte bē lesse—

and on a bed of gōld shē lay tō reste 265
 tyl that the hōte sunne gan tō weste.

39.

Hyre gilte hēres with a gōlden thrēd
 ibounden wēre, untressed as shē lay;
 and nāked from the brēst untō the hēd
 men myghte hyre sēn; and, sōthly for tō seye, 270
 the remenaunt was wēl kēvered tō mȳ paye
 ryght with a sūbtyl kerchēf of valence:
 thēr nas nō thikker clōth of nō defense.

40.

The plāce yaf a thousand sāvoures swōte;
 and Bācus, god of wȳn, sat hire besȳde, 275
 and Cēres next, that dōth of hunger boote;
 and, as ī seyde, amyddes lay Cypriide;
 tō whōm on knees twō yōnge folk thēr crȳede
 tō bēn here helpe; but thus ī lēt hem lȳe;
 and ferther in the temple ī gan espie 280

41.

that in despit of Dȳāne the chāste
 ful many a bōwe ibroke hēng on the wal
 of maydens swiche as gunne here tȳmes wāste
 in hyre servȳse; and peynted overal
 of many a stōry of whiche ī touche shal 285
 a fēwe, as of Calyxte, and Atalante,
 and many a mayde of which the nāme ī wante;

42.

Semyramus, Candāce, and Herculeſ,
 Biblis, Didō, Thīsibē, and Piramus,
 Tristram, Īsaude, Paris, and Achilleſ 290
 Eleyne, Clēopātre and Trōylus
 Sillā, and ek the moder of Rōmulus—

al thise wære peynted on that oðer sȳde,
and al here lufe, and in what plȳt they dȳede.

43.

Whan ī was cōme agayn untō the plāce 295
that ī of spak, that was sȳ swōte and grēne,
forth wēlk ī thȳ mȳselven tō solāce;
thȳ was ī wār wher that ther sat a queene,
that, as of lyght the sōmers sunne shēne
pass'eth the sterre, right sȳ ȳver mesūre 300
shē fayrer was than any crēatūre.

44.

And in a launde upōn an hil of floures
was set this nȳble goddess Nātūre;
of braunches wære hire halles and hire boures,
iwrought after hire craft and hire mesūre; 305
ne therre nas foul that cōmeth of engendrūre,
that they ne wære al prest in hire presence,
tō tāke hire dōm, and yive hire audyence.

45.

For this was on Seynt Valentȳnes day,
whan ȳvery bryd cōmeth therre tō chēse his māke 310
of ȳvery kȳnde that men thenke may,
and that sȳ hūge a noyse gan they māke
that erthe, and eyre, and trē, and ȳvery lāke
sȳ ful was that unnēthē was therre spāce
for mē tō stōnde—sȳ ful was al the plāce. 315

46.

And right as Aleyn in the *Pleynt of Kȳnde*
devȳseth Nātūre in aray and fāce,
in swich aray men myghten hire ther fȳnde.
This nȳble emperice ful of grāce
bad ȳvery foul tō tāke his ȳwene plāce, 320

as they wære wōnt alwey fr̄o ȳer tō ȳēre,
 Seynt Valentīnes day, tō stōnden thēere.

47.

That is tō seyn, the foules of rav̄yne
 wære h̄yest set, and thanne foules sm̄ale,
 that ęten as hem n̄at̄ure wolde encl̄yne— 325
 as wōrm, or thyng of which ī telle n̄o tāle—
 but wāterfoul sat l̄quest in the d̄ale ;
 and foul that lyveth b̄y s̄ēd sat on the gr̄ēne—
 and that s̄o f̄ele that wōnder was tō s̄ēne.

48.

Ther̄e myghte men the r̄yal ęgle f̄ynde, 330
 that with his sharpe l̄ōk per̄seth the sunne,
 and ōther ęgles of a l̄ower k̄ynde,
 of whiche that clerkes w̄el dev̄yse cunne :
 ther̄ was the t̄iraunt with his fetheres dunne
 and gr̄eye, ī m̄ene the goshauk that dōth p̄yne 335
 tō bryddes for his outr̄ageous rav̄yne ;

49.

the ęerfaucoun that with his feet d̄istrayneth
 the kynges hōnd ; the hardy sparhauk ēke,
 the quayles f̄ōo ; the merlioun that payneth
 hymself ful oft̄e the larke for tō s̄ēke. 340
 Ther̄ was the douve with hire ȳen m̄ēke ;
 the jelous swan, agayn his d̄eth that syngeth ;
 the oule ęk that of d̄eth the b̄ode bryngeth ;

50.

the cr̄āne ęeaunt with his tr̄ōmpes soun ;
 the th̄ēf, the chough ; and ęk the janglynḡe p̄ye ; 345
 the skornyng jay ; the ēles f̄o heroun ;
 the false lapwynḡe, ful of trecher̄ye ;
 the st̄āre, that the cōnseyl can bewr̄ye ;

the tãme ruddök; and the coward kÿte;
the kok that orloge is of thorpes lÿte; 350

51.

the sparwe, Vēnus sōne; the nyghtyngāle,
that clepeth forth the grēne lēves nēwe;
the swalwe, mörtherere of the foules smāle
that māken hōny of floures fresshe of hēwe;
the wedded turtel with hire herte trēwe; 355
the pōkok with his aunġels fethers bryghte;
the fesaunt, skornere of the cok bÿ nyghte;

52.

the wāker goos; the cōkkow euer unkÿnde;
the popynjay, ful of delicasÿe;
the drāke, stroyere of his owene kÿnde; 360
the stork, the wrēkere of avouterÿe;
the hōte cormeraunt, ful of glōtenÿe;
the rāven wÿs; the crōwe with vois of cāre;
the throstel old; the frosty fēldefāre—

53.

what sholde i seyn? of foules every kÿnde, 365
that in this wōrld han fetheres and stātūre,
men myghten in that plāce assembled fÿnde,
byfōre the noble goddessse Nātūre;
and euerich of hem didde his besy cūre
benÿgnely tō chēse or for tō tāke 370
bÿ hire acord his formel or his māke.

54.

But, tō the poynt—Nātūre hēld on hire hond
a formel egle of shāp the ġentileste
that evere shē among hire werkes fōnd,
the most benÿgne, and the goodlieste; 375
in hire was every vertū at his reste,

so fer-forth that Nātūre hireself hadde blysse
tō lōke on hire, and ofte hire bek tō kysse.

55.

Nātūre, the vicaire of the Almyghty Lōrd,
that hot, colde, hevy, lyght, [and] moyst, and drēye, 380
hath knyht bȳ ēven number of acord,
in ēsy voys gan for tō spēke and seye :
'Foules, tāk hēd of mȳ sentence, i preyre ;
and for youre ēse in fōrtheryng of youre nēde
as faste as i may spēke i wōl mē speede. 385

56.

Yē knōwe wēl how, Seynt Valentȳnes day,
bȳ mȳ stātūte and thurgh mȳ gōvernaunce,
yē cōme for tō cheese—and flē youre wey—
youre mākes as i prike yow with plesaunce.
But nāthelēs mȳ ryghtful ordenaunce 390
may i nat lēte for al this wōrld tō wynne :
that hē that mōst is wōrthi shal begynne.

57.

The tercel ēgle, as that yē knōwen wēl,
the foul rȳāl abōve you in degrē,
the wȳse and wōrthi, secrē, trēwe as stēl, 395
the which i formed have as yē may sē
in ēvery part as it best liketh mē—
it nēdeth nat his shāp yow tō devȳse—
hē shal first chēse, and spēken in his gȳse.

58.

And after hym bȳ ordre shul yē chēse 400
after youre kȳnde, ēverich as you lȳketh ;
and as youre hap is, shul yē wynne or lēse.

But which of yow that löve most entriketh
 God sende hym hire that sorest for hym syketh.
 And therwithal the tercel gan shē calle, 405
 and seyde: 'Mȳ sōne, the choys is tō thē falle;

59.

but nātheles in this condicioun
 mōt bē the choys of ęverich that is heere :
 that shē agrē tō his eleccioun,
 whō sȳ hē bē that sholde bēn hire feere— 410
 this is oure ūsāge ay frȳ yer tō yęere ;
 and whō sȳ may at this tȳme have his grāce,
 in blisful tȳme hē cam intō this plāce.'

60.

With hęd enclȳned, and with hūmble cheere
 this rȳal tercel spak, and tariede noght : 415
 'Untō mȳ sōvereyn lādy, and nat mȳ fēre,
 ī chēse and ches with wille and herte and thoght
 the formel on youre hȳnd sȳ wēl iwroght,
 whōs ī am al, and ęvere wōl hire serve,
 dō what hire lest tō dō mē live or sterve; 420

61.

besēkyng hire of mercī and of grāce,
 as shē that is mȳ lādy sōvereyne ;
 or let mē dȳe present in this plāce ;
 for certes lȳnge ī may nat lyve in peyne,
 for in mȳn herte is korven ęvery veyne ; 425
 and havyng ȳnly 'reward tō mȳ trōuthe,
 mȳ deere herte have on mȳ wȳ sum rōuthe!

62.

And if that ī tō hyre bē founde untrēwe,
 disobeysaunt, or wilful negligent,

avauntour, or in proces löve anēwe; 430
 i preyē tō yow, this bē mȳ jūgement,
 that with thise foules ī bē al tōrent
 that ilke day that ever shē mē fynde
 tō hire untrēwe, or in mȳ gilt unkynde.

63.

And syn that non hire löveth sō wēl as ī, 435
 al bē shē nevere of löve mē [oght] behette,
 thanne oghte shē bē mȳn thurgh hire mercȳ—
 for oðther bond can ī non on hire knette—
 ne never for no wo ne shal ī lette
 tō serven hire, how fer sō that shē wende; 440
 say what yow list: mȳ tāle is at an ende.'

64.

Ryght as the fresshe rēde rose nēwe
 agayn the sōmer-sunne cōloured is,
 ryght sō for shāme al wexen gan hire hēwe
 of this formel, whan [that] shē herde al this; 445
 shē neyther answerde 'wēl' ne seyde amys,
 sō sōre abashed was shē; tyl that Nātūre
 seyde 'doghter, dreð you noght, ī yow assūre.'

65.

Anōther tercel egle spak anon,
 of lower kynde, and seyde: 'That shal nat bē: 450
 ī löve hire bet than yē dōn, bȳ Seynt Jon!
 or, at the lēstē, ī löve as wēl as yē,
 and lenger have served hire in mȳ degrē;
 and if shē sholde have löved for long lövyngē,
 tō mē alone hadde bē the gerdonyngē. 455

66.

I dār ęk seyn, if shē mē fynde fals,
 unkȳnde, jangelēr, or rebel any wȳse,
 or ęelous, dō mē hongen bȳ the hals;
 and but i bere mē in hire servȳse
 as wēl as that mȳ wit can mē süsfȳse 460
 frō poynt tō poynt hyre honour for tō sāve,
 tāk shē mȳ lif and al the good i hāve.'

67.

The thridde tercel ęgle answerde thō:
 'Now sīres, yē seen the lȳtel leyser heere:
 for ęvery fōul crȳeth out tō bēn agō 465
 forth with his māke, or with his lādy deere;
 and ęk Nātūre hireself ne wōl nat heere,
 for taryng hēr, nat half that i wolde seye:
 and but i spēke, i mōt for sorwe dēye.

68.

Of lōng servȳse avaunte i mē nōthing;
 but as possible is mē tō dȳe tō day 470
 for wō as hē that hath bēn languysshing
 thise twenty winter; and wēl happen may,
 a man may serven bet and mōre tō pay
 in half a yęr, although it wēre nō mōore, 475
 than sum man dōth that hath served ful yōore.

69.

I seye nat this bȳ mē, for i ne can
 dōn nō servȳse that may mȳ lādy plēse;
 but i dār seyn, i am hire trēwest man
 as tō mȳ dōm, and faynest wolde hire plēse: 480
 at shorte wōrdes, til that dęth mē sęse
 i wōl bēn hires, whether i wāke or wynke,
 and trēwe in al that herte may bethynke.'

70.

Of al mȳ lȳf, syn 'that day ī was bȳrn,
 so ġentil plę in lōve or ōther thyng 485
 ne herde never nȳ man mē befȳrn;
 but whō [is] that hath leysur and cunningȳ
 for tō reherse hēre chēr and hēre spēkyng?
 and frȳ the morwe gan this spēche laste
 til dounward drow the sunne wōnder faste. 490

71.

The noyse of foules for tō bēn delyvered
 sȳ loude rȳng, 'have dōn, and lat us wende!'
 that wēl wēnde ī the wōde hadde al tōshyvered.
 'Cōm of,' they crīed, 'al/as, yē wōl us shende :
 whan shal youre cursed plętyng have an ende; 495
 how sholde a jūġe eyther partīe lēve
 for yę or nay withouten any prēve?'

72.

The goos, the cōkkow, and the dōke also
 sȳ crȳeden 'kek kek! kōkkow! 'quek quek! hȳe
 that thurgh mȳne ġres the noyse wente thȳ. 500
 The goos seyde: 'al this nys nat wōrth a flȳe;
 but ī can shāpē hērof a remedie :
 and ī wōl seye mȳ verdict fayre and swȳthe
 for wāter-foul, whō sȳ bē wrȳth or blȳthe.'

73.

'And ī for wōrm-foul,' seyde the fōl kōkkow, 505
 'and ī wōl of mȳn ȳwene autoritē
 for comūn spēde tāke the chargē now,
 for tō delyvere us 'is gręt charitē.'
 'Yē may abȳde a while yet pardē,'
 seyde the turtel, 'if it bē 'yours wille, 510
 a wight may spēke, hym wēre as good bē styлле.'

74.

I am a sēd-foul, on the unwōrthieste,
 that wot ī wēl, and litel of cunnynge;
 but bet is that a wyghtes tunge reste
 than entremeten hym of such dōinge, 515
 of which hē neyther rēde can ne, synge;
 and whō sō dōth, ful foule hymself acloyeth;
 for offys uncommytted ofte anoyeth.'

75.

Nātūre, which that alwey hadde an ęre
 tō murmur of the lęwednessē behēnde, 520
 with facound voys seyde: 'Hōld youre tungen there,
 and ī shal sōne, ī hope, a cōnseyl fynde
 yow tō delyvere and frō this noyse unbēnde:
 ī jūge, of ęvery folk men shul on calle,
 tō seyn the verdit for yow foules alle.' 525

76.

Assented wēre tō this conclūsion
 the briddes alle; and foules of ravēne
 han chōsen fyrst bē playn eleccioun
 the tercelet of the faucoun to diffyne
 al here sentence, and as hem lest termēne, 530
 and to Nātūre hym gunne tō presente,
 and shē accepteth hym with glad entente.

77.

The tercelet seyde than in this manēre:
 'Ful hard wēre it tō prēve bē rēsoun,
 whō lōveth best this gentil formel heere; 535
 for ęverych hath swich replicacioun
 that non bē skilles may been broght adoun:
 ī can nat sē that argūmentes avayle;
 thanne sēmeth it there mōste bē batayle.'

78.

‘Al redy!’ quod thise egles tercels thȝ. 540
 ‘Nay sīres,’ quod hē, ‘if that ī dorste it seye,
 yē dōn mē wrȝng, mȝ tāle is nat idō;
 for, sīres, ne tāketh nat a grēf, ī preye;
 it may nat gȝn as yē wolde in this weye;
 oures is the voys that hān the chargē in hȝnde; 545
 and tō the jūges dōm yē mōten stȝnde.

79.

And therfȝre pēs! ī seye; as tō mȝ wit,
 mē wolde thynke how that the wōrthieste
 of knyghthōd, and lengrest hath ūsed it,
 mȝst of estāt, of blōd the gētileste 550
 wēre sittyngest for hire, if that hire leste;
 and of thise thrē shē wȝt hireself ī trȝwe
 which that hē bē, for hit is light tō knȝwe.’

80.

The wāter-foules hān here hȝdes leid
 tȝgiderē, and of a short avȝsement, 555
 whan ēverych hadde his largē gōlee seyde,
 they seyden sōthly al bȝ ȝn assent,
 how that ‘the goos with hire facounde gēnt,
 that sȝ desȝreth tō pronounce oure nēde,
 shal telle oure tāle,’ and preyede ‘God hire spēde.’ 560

81.

And for thise wāter-foules thȝ began
 the goos tō spēke, and in hire kakelynge
 shē seyde: ‘Pēs! now tāk kēp ēvery man,
 and herkeneth which a rēson ī shal brynge—
 mȝ wit is sharp, ī lōve nȝ tarynge— 565
 ī seye, ī rēde hym, thogh hē wēre mȝ brōther,
 but shē wōl lōve hym, lat hym lōve anōther.’

82.

'Lō hēr a parfit rēsoun of a goos!'
 quod the sparhawk, 'never mōt shē thē!
 lō! swich it is tō have a tunge loos! 570
 now pardē, fōl! yet wēre it bet for thē
 hān hōlde thȳ pēs than shēwe thȳ nȳcetē;
 it lȳth nat in his wit nor in his wille;
 but sōth is seyð, "a fōl can nat bēn stille."

83.

The laughter ārōs of gentil foules alle; 575
 and right anōn the sēdfoules chosen hadde
 the turtel trēwe, and gunne hire tō hem calle,
 and preyeden hire tō seyn the sōthe sadde
 of this matēre, and axede what shē radde:
 and shē answerde that pleyntly hire entente 580
 shē wolde shēwe, and sōthly what shē mente.

84.

'Nay, God forbēde a lōvere sholde chaunçe,
 the turtel seyde, and wēx for shāme rēd,
 'thogh that his lādy ēvere mōre bē straunçe,
 yet lat hym serve hire ay til hē bē dēd; 585
 for sōth ī preyse nat the gōses rēd:
 for thogh shē deyede ī wolde nōn ōther māke:
 ī wōl bēn hires til that the Dēth mē tāke.'

85.

'Wēl bōurded,' quod the dōke, 'bȳ mȳn hat!
 that men sholde alwey löven causeles, 590
 whō can a rēsoun fȳnde or wit in that?
 daun'seth hē müry that is myrtheles?
 whō sholde recche of that is reccheles?
 ye, kek!' yit quod the dōke ful wēl and fayre,
 'thēre been mō sterres, God wōt, than a payre.' 595

86.

‘Now fȳ, cherl!’ quod the gentil tercelet,
 ‘out of the dōnghil cam that wōrd ful right;
 thou canst nat seen what thyng is wēl beset;
 thou fārest bȳ lōve as oules dōn bȳ lyght—
 the day hem blent, ful wēl they sēn bȳ nyght: 600
 thȳ kȳnde is of sȝ lȝw a wrecchednesse
 that what lōve is thou canst nat seen ne gesse.’

87.

Thȝ gan the kōkkow putte hym forth in p̄es
 for foul that ęten wōrm, and seyde blȳve:
 ‘Sȝ ī,’ quod hē, ‘may have mȳ māke in p̄es, 605
 ī recche nat how lȝnge that yē strȳve;
 lat ęch of hem bēn sōleyn al here lȳve;
 this is mȳ rēd, syn they may nat acorde;
 this shorte lessoun nēdeth nat recorde.’

88.

‘Yę! have the glōtoun fild inough his paunche, 610
 thanne āre wē wēl!’ seyde the merlioun;
 ‘thow mōrtherere of the heysugge on the braunche
 that broghte thē forth, thow rēuthelęs glōtoun!
 live thou sōleyn, wōrmes corupcioun!
 for nȝ fors is of lak of thȳ nātūre; 615
 gȝ! lęwed bē thou whil the wōrld may dūre!’

89.

‘Now p̄es,’ quod Nātūre, ‘ī comaunde hēre;
 for ī have herd al youre opinioun,
 and in effect yet bē wē nat the nęre;
 but fȳnally this is mȳ conclūsioun, 620
 that shē hireself shal hān the eleccioun
 of whōm hire lest, whōsȝ bē wrȝth or blȳthe,
 hym that shē chēst hē shal hire hān as swithe.

90.

For syn it may nat hēr discūssed bē,
 whō lōveth hire best, as seyde the tercelet, 625
 thanne wōl ī dōn hire this fāvour: that shē
 shal have right hym on whōm hire herte is set,
 and hē hire that his herte hath on hire knyht.
 Thus jūge ī, Nātūre, for ī may nat lye;
 tō nōn estāt ī have nōn oīher ye. 630

91.

But as for cōnseyl for tō chēse a māke,
 if it wete resoun, certes thanne wolde ī
 cōnseyle yow the ryal tercel tāke,
 as seyde the tercelet ful skylfully,
 as for the gentileste and most wōrthī 635
 which ī have wroght sō wēl tō mī plesaunce
 that tō yow oghte tō been a sūf/isaunce.'

92.

With drēdful vois the formel hire answerde:
 'Mī rightful.lādy, goddesse of nātūre!
 sōth is that ī am ēver under youre yerde, 640
 lyk as is ēverych oīher crēatūre,
 and mōt bēn youre whil that mī līf may dūre;
 and therfore graunteth mē mī firste bōne,
 and mīn entent ī wōl you seyn right sōne.'

93.

'I graunte it yow,' quod shē, 'and that anōn.' 645
 This formel ēgle spak in this degrē:
 'Almyghty queen, untō this yer bē gōn,
 I axe respīt for to avise mē,
 and after that tō have mī choys al frē;
 this is al and sum that ī wōl spēke and seye— 650
 yē geȝe nō more, al thogh yē dō mē deye:

94.

I wōl nat serve Vēnus ne Cūpīde
 for sōth as yet bȳ nō manēre weye.
 'Now syn it may nōn ōther wey betȳde,
 quod thȳ Nātūre, 'heere is nō mōre tō seye; 655
 thanne wolde i that thise foules wēre aweye
 ēch with his māke for tarynge lenger heere,
 and seyde hym thus as yē shul after hēre :

95.

'Tō yow spēke i, yē tercelets,' quod Nātūre,
 'bēth of good herte, and serveth, alle thrē; 660
 a yēr nis nat sȳ lōnge tō endūre.
 And ēch of yow peine hym in his degrē
 for 'tō dō wēl, for, God wot, quit is shē
 frȳ yow this yēr, what after sȳ befalle;
 this entremēs is dressed for yow alle.' 665

96.

And whan this werk al broght was tō an ende,
 tō ēvery foul Nātūre yaf his māke
 bȳ ēven acord, and on hēre weye they wende.
 And lord! the blisse and joye that they māke!
 for ēch of hem gan ōther in wynges tāke, 670
 and with hēre nekkes ēch gan ōther wȳnde,
 thankyng alwey the nōble queen of kȳnde.

97.

But fyrst wēre chȳsen foules for tō synge,
 as yēr bȳ yēr was alwey hēr ūsaunce
 tō synge a roundel at hēre departyngē, 675
 tō dōn tō Nātūre honour and plesaunce;
 the nȳtē i trȳwe imāked was in Fraunce,
 the wōrdes wēre swiche 'as yē may hēr fȳnde,
 the nexte vers, as i now have in mȳnde:—

'Now welcōme, sōmer, with [thȳ] sōnne softe, 680
that hast this wintres wedres overschāke,
and driven away the large nyghtes blāke.

Seynt Valentȳn, that art ful hȳe on lofte,
thus syngen smāle foules for thȳ sāke :
[Now welcōme, sōmer, with thȳ sōnne softe.] 685

Wēl hān they cause for tō glāden ofte
sith ȅch of hem recōvered hath hys māke ;
ful blisful mowe they syngē, whan they wāke :
[Now welcōme, sōmer, with thȳ sōnne softe,
that hast this wintres wedres overschāke, 690
and driven away the large nyghtes blāke.]'

98.

And with the shoutyng, whan the sōng was dō,
the foules māden at here flyght away,
ī wōk, and oīther bōkes tōk mē tō,
tō rēde upon and yet ī rēde alwey, 695
in hōpe iwis tō rēde sō sum day
that ī shal mēte sum thyng for tō fāre
the bet; and thus tō rēde ī nyl nat spāre.

VII.

PROLOGUE TO THE CANTERBURY TALES.

Whan that Aprille with hisē schoures swoote
 the drōghte of March hath perced tō the roote,
 and bāthed every veyne in swich licour,
 of which vertu engendred is the flour;
 whan Zepirus eek with his swēte brēȝth 5
 inspired hath in every holt and hēȝth
 the tendre croppes, and the yōnge sōnne
 hath in the Ram his halve cours yrōnne,
 and smāle fowles māken melodȝe,
 that slēpen al the nyght with oopen ȝe— 10
 sȝ priketh hem nātūre in herē cōrāȝes—
 thanne lōngen folk tō gȝon on pilgrimāȝes,
 and palmeres for tō sēken straunȝe strōndes,
 tō ferne halwes, couthē in sōndry lōndes;
 and speciallȝ, from every shires ende 15
 of Engelōnd tō Caunterbȝry they wende,
 the hȝoly, blisful martir for tō sēke,
 that hem hath holpen, whan that they wēre secke.

:whan:þata priille :wiþis fuures swoote
 -þe druxtof martſ -haþ persedtoope roote,
 -and baaðed:evri veinin:swiſli kuur,
 -of:whiſver teeu -en dzendredisþe fluur;
 -whan zefirusek :wiþis sweete bteþ 5
 -in spiuredhapin evri holtand heþ
 -þe tendre kroppes, -andþe jünge sunne
 -haþ:inþe ;rammis halve kuursi runne,
 -and smaale fuules maaken:melo diie,
 -þat sleepen alþe niçtwiþ open iie— 10
 :so prikeþem:naa tyrynherku raadzes—
 :þan lönge:folktoö gönön:piłgri maadzes,
 -and palmers :fortoo seeken straundze ströndes,
 -too ferne halwes, kuuðin sundri löndes;
 -and spesjalii, -from evri fiires ende 15
 -of engelönd -too ;kaunterbriþei wende,
 -þe holi, blisful martirfortoo seeke,
 -þat:hemaþ holpen :whanþatþeiwer seeke.

Bifil that in that sesoun on a day
 in Southwerk at the Tabard as i lay, 20
 redy to wenden on my pilgrymage
 to Caunterbury with ful devout corage,
 at nyght were come into that hostelrye
 wel nyne and twenty in a compaignye
 of sondry folk by aventure yfalle 25
 in felawshipe, and pilgrims were they alle,
 that toward Caunterbury wolden ryde.

The chaumbres and the stables weren wyde,
 and wel we weren esed aite beste.
 And shortly, whan the sonne was to reste, 30
 so hadde i spoken with hem everichon,
 that i was of her felawshipe anon,
 and made forward erly for to ryse,
 to takeoure wey ther as i yow devise.
 But natheless, whil i have tyme and space, 35
 er that i ferther in this tale pace,
 me thynketh it acordaunt to resoun
 to telle yow al the condicioun
 of ech of hem, so as it semed me,
 and whiche they weren, and of what degree, 40
 and ech in what array that they were inne;
 and at a knyght than wol i first bigynne.

A KNIGHT ther was, and that a worthy man,
 that fro the tyme that he first bigan
 to riden out he loved chivalrie, 45
 trouthe and honour, fredom and curteisie.
 Ful worthy was he in his lordes werre,
 and ther to hadde he riden, no man ferre,
 as wel in cristendom as heithenese,
 and evere honoured for his worthynesse. 50
 At Alisaundre he was, whan it was wonne.

-bi *fɪlpat* *in* *pat* *se* *zuun* -ona dai,
 -*in* suuðwerk -atþe tabardasii lai, 20
 red iitoo:wenden:onmii:*pr**lgri* maadze
 -too kaunterbri -wiþ *fulde* vuutku raadze,
 -at niçtwer *kum**n*:toopat:ostel riie
 :weel niinand twenti -*ina*:*kum**pai* niie
 -of *sundri*:folk -biiaven tyri falle 25
 -*in* *felauf**ip*, -and ;*pr**lgri**ms*werþei alle,
 -þat:tooward ;kaunterbyri:wolden riide.
 -þe *tfaumbres*andþe staableswæren wiide,
 -and weelwee:wæren ezedatte beste.
 -and sortli -whanþe *sunn*ewastoo reste, 30
 -so:haddii spoken:wþem:*evr**l*s on,
 -þat:iiwasofer *felauf**ipa* non,
 -and:maade forward *erlif*ortoo riize,
 -too:taakuur wei þer:asii:juude viize.
 -but:naaðe *l*es, :whiil:iiav tiimand spaase, 35
 :er:patii *ferðer**in*þis taale paase,
 -mee þinþeþita kordauntoo:re zuun
 -too tellejuu alpekon *disi*:uun
 -of *et*fof:hem, :so:asit seemed mee,
 -and whiþþei wæren, -andof whatde gree, 40
 -and:ek*n* whata raiþatþeiwer *inne*;
 -and:ata ;kniçt -þan:wulii *frist*bi *g*inne.
 -a kniçtþer:was, -and þat -a *wurð*i man,
 -þat:frøþe tiimeþatee *frist*bi gan
 -too riiden uut -hee *l*ved:*ts*ival riie, 45
 troouð:ando nuur, free:doomand:*kw*rtei ziie.
 :*ful* *wurð*i:wase*n**is* lbrdes werre,
 -and:þertoo:haddee *rið*n, no:man ferre,
 -as:weel*n* *kr*istendoomas hēðenese,
 -and *evron* uured -for*is*:*wurð*i nesse. 50
 -at:ali zaundree:was, -whan:itwas *w*unne.

Ful ofte-tyme hē hadde the bōrd bigōnne
 abōven alle nāciouns in Prūce.
 In Lettow hadde hē reysed and in Rūce,
 nō cristen man sō ofte of his degree. 55
 In Gernāde at the seege eek hadde hē bē
 of Algezīr, and riden in Belmarȳe.
 At Lyeys was hē, and at Satalȳe,
 whan they wēre wōnne, and in the Grete Seȳ
 at many a noble arive hadde hē bē. 60
 At mortal batailles hadde hē been fiſtēne,
 and foghten for oure feith at Tramysse
 in lystes thries, and ay slayn his fōp.
 This ilke wōrthy knyght hadde been also
 sōmtyme with the lord of Palatȳe 65
 agayn anōther hēthen in Turkȳe;
 and everemōore hē hadde a sōvereyn prȳs.
 And thogh that hē wēre wōrthy, hē was wȳs,
 and of his port as meeke as is a mayde:
 hē nevere yet nō vileynȳe ne sayde 70
 in al his lȳf untō nō maner wight:
 hē was a verray parfit gentil knyght.
 But for tō tellen yow of his array,
 his hors was good, but hē ne was nat gay;
 of fustiān hē wēred a gypoun, 75
 al bismōtered with his habergeoun;
 for hē was lāte ycōme from his viāȳe,
 and wente for tō doon his pilgrymāȳe.
 With hym ther was his sōne, a yōng Squiēr,
 a lövyere, and a lusty Bachelēr, 80
 with lokkes crulle, as they wēre leyd in presse.
 Of twenty yēer of āȳe hē was, i gesse;
 of his stātūre hē was of evene lengthe,
 and wōnderly delyvere and grēȳet of strengthe.

- ful ofte:tiim -hee:hadþe boordbi gunne
 -a buven alle:naasi uunsin pryuse.
 -in lettou:haddee reized -andin ryyse,
 no kristen:manso ofiof:hisde gree. 55
 -in gernaadatþe seedzek:haddee bee
 -of:aldze ziir, -and ridn:n:belma riie.
 -at lieis:wasee, -andat:sata liie,
 -whan:peiwer wun, -and:inþe græte se
 -at:manja nobla riive:haddee bee. 60
 -at mortal batails:haddeeben:fif teene,
 -and fouxtenforuur feipat:trami seene
 -in listes thriies, -and ai slain's fo.
 -þis ilke wurði kniçtad:beenal so
 -sum:tiimewiþþe lordof:pala tiie 65
 -a gaina:nooder heðenintur kiie;
 -and ever:moree:hadda svrein priis.
 -and:þouxpat:heewer wurði, -heewas wiis,
 -and:ofis portas meekasisa maide:
 -hee nver:jet:no:vlei niine saide 70
 -in alis liif -un:too:no maner wiçt:
 -hee:wasa verai parfif dzentil kniçt.
 -but:fortoo tellenjuuof:hisa rai,
 -his horswas good, -but:heene:wasnat gai;
 -of:lusti aan -hee wreda:dzi puun, 75
 :albi smaterdwipis:haber dzuun;
 -for:heewas laati kumfrom:svii aadze,
 -and:wentefortoo:doonis:plgri maadzze.
 -wiþ:himpær:wasis ;sun, -a jungskwii ;eer,
 -a luvjer, -anda lusti:batse leer, 80
 -wiþ lokkes kral, -as:peiwer leidin presse.
 -of twenti:jerof aadzee:was, -ii gesse;
 -of:hisstaa tyer -heewasof even lenþe,
 -and wunderlide livrand grætof strenþe.

And hē hadde been sōmtȳme in chyvachīe, 85
 in Flaundres, in Artoys, and Pycardie,
 and bōrn hym weel, as in sō litel spāce,
 in hōpe tō stōnden in his lādy grāce.
 Embrōded was hē, as it wēre a mēçde,
 al ful of fresshe floures, whȳte and rēçde. 90
 Syngyngē hē was or floytyngē al the day:
 hē was as fressh as is the mōnth of May.
 Short was his gōwne, with slēves lōnge and wȳde.
 Wēl koude hē sitte on hors, and faire rȳde;
 hē koude sōnges mākē and wēl endite, 95
 justē and çek daunce, and weel purtreye and wȳte.
 Sō hōte hē lōvede that bȳ nyghtertāle
 hē slepte na mōore than dooth a nyghtyngāle.
 Curteis hē was, lōwely, and servysāble,
 and carf bifōrn his fāder at the tāble. 100

A YĒMAN hadde hē and servauntz na mō
 at that tȳme, for hym liste rīde sō.
 And hē was clad in çote and hood of grēne;
 a shēf of pēcok-arwes, bright and kēne,
 un'der his belt hē bār ful thriftily. 105
 Wēl koude hē dresse his tākel yēmanly:
 hise arwes drouped noght with fetheres lōwe;
 and in his hōnd hē baar a myghty bōwe.
 A nothēçd hadde hē with a broun visāge.
 Of wōdecraft wēl koude hē al the ūsāge. 110
 Upon his arm hē baar a gay brācēr;
 and b his sȳde a swērd and a bōkelēr;
 and on that oother sȳde a gay daggēre,
 harnaised wēl, and sharp as point of spēre;
 a cristofere on his brēst of silver sheene. 115
 An hōrn hē bār, the bawdryk was of grēne;
 a forster was hē soothly, as ī gesse.

- and:heeadbeensum:tiim:in:siwa tsiie, 85
 -in flaundres, -inar tois, -andpikar diie,
 -and bornim weel, -as:insō liitel spaase,
 -in hoptoo:stondeninis laadi graase.
 -em brōuded:wasee, :asitwera mēde,
 :al swlof fresse fluures, whiitand rēde. 90
 sin:gingee:was, -or floiting alpe dai:
 -hee:wasas fref -as:ispe moonþof mai.
 for:wasis guun, -wiþ sleeves longand wiide.
 :weel:kuudee siton hors, -and faire riide ;
 -hee:kuude songesmaakand weelen diite, 95
 dzustandek dauns, -and:weelpur treiand wriite.
 :sō hotee lūved :patbii niçter taale
 -hee sleptna mōþan:dooþa niçtin gaale.
 :kur teisee:was, lū:liand:serviz aable,
 -and karlbi:fornis faaderatþe taable. 100
 -a jeeman:haddee -andser vauntsna mō
 -at þattiim, :forim liste riide sō.
 -and heewas kladin kotand hoodof greene ;
 -a sef of pekok:arwes, briçtand keene,
 :un:deris belt -hee baar:swl þristilii. 105
 :weel:kuudee dressis taakel jeeman:lii:
 -his arwes druped nouxtwiþ seðres lue ;
 -and:inis hondee baara miçti boue.
 -a nothd:haddee -wiþa bruunvi zaadze.
 -of wudekraftweel kuudee alþyy zaadze. 110
 -u:ponis arm -hee baara gaibra seer ;
 -and:biiis siida sweerdanda:buk leer ;
 -and:onþat ooðer:siida gai:da geere,
 -har neized weel, -and sarpas pointof spere ;
 -a krīstofr:onis breestof silver seene. 115
 -an hoornee baar, -þe baudrikwasof greene ;
 -a forster:wasee soopli, -asii gesse.

Ther was also a nōnne, a PRIORESSE,
 that of hir smȳlyng was ful symple and coy;
 hire gretteste goth ne was but bȳ Seint Loy; 120
 and shē was cleped madāme Eglentȳne.
 Ful weel shē soȝng the service dyvȳne,
 entūned in hir nōse ful sēmely.

And Frenssh shē spak ful faire and fetisly,
 after the scōle of Stratford atte Bōwe, 125
 for Frenssh of Parȳs was tō hire unknōwe.

At mēte wēl ytaught was shē with alle:
 shē leet nō morsel from hir lippes falle,
 ne wette hir fyngrs in hir sauce dēpe;
 wēl koude shē carie a morsel, and wēl kēpe, 130
 that nō drope ne fille upon hire brēst.

In curteisie was set ful muche hir lest:
 hire owerlippe wȳped shē sō clēne
 that in hir cōppe was nō ferthyng sēne
 of grēce, whan shē drōnken hadde hir draughte; 135
 ful sēmely after hir mēte shē raughte.

And sikerly shē was of grēet desport,
 and ful plesaunt, and āmyāble of port;
 and peyned hire tō countrefete cheere
 of court, and been estātlich of manēre, 140
 and tō bēn hōlden digne of reverence.

But for tō spēken of hire conscience,
 shē was sō charitāble and sō pitous,
 shē wolde wēpe, if that shē saugh a mous
 kaught in a trappe, if it were deēd or bledde. 145

Of smāle houndes hadde shē that shē fedde
 with rosted flessch, and milk, and wastel brēd;
 but soȝre shē wepte, if oon of hem were deēd,
 or if men smoot it with a yerde smerte;

148. wepte shē.

and al was conscience and tendre herte. 150
 Ful sēmely hir wympel pynched was ;
 hire nose tretys, hir yēn grēye as glas ;
 hir mouth ful smal, and thertō softe and rēçd.
 But sikerly shē hadde a fair forhēçd :
 it was almoçost a spanne broçd, ī trōwe ; 155
 for hardily shē was nat undergrōwe.
 Ful fetys was hir cloke, as ī was wār.
 Of smal corāl aboute hire arm shē bār
 a peire of beçes, gauded al with grēne ;
 and theron hēng a broçch of göld ful sheene, 160
 on which ther was first write a crowned ā,
 and after, *Amor vincit omniā*.
 Anōther nōnne with hire hadde shē,
 that was hire chapeleyne, and preestes thrē.
 A Mōnk ther was, a fair for the maistrīe, 165
 an outrīdere, that lövede venerie ;
 a manly man, tō been an abbot āble.
 Ful many a deyntee hors hadde hē in stāble ;
 and whan hē rōçd, men myghte hīs brýdel heere
 gynglen in a whistlyng wýnd as cleere, 170
 and eçk as loude as dooth the chapel belle,
 ther as this lord was kēpere of the celle.
 The rēule of seint Maure or of seint Beneit,
 bý cause that it was old, and sōmdeçl streit,
 this ilke mōnk leet [it] forby him pāce, 175
 and heeld after the nēwe wōrld the spāce.
 Hē yaf nat of that text a pulled hen,
 that seith that hunters been nat hoçly men,
 ne that a mōnk, whan hē is reccheleçes,
 is likned til a fissh that is wāterleçes ; 180
 this is tō seyn, a mōnk out of his cloystre.
 But th'ilke text heeld hē nat wōrth an oystre ;

and ī seyde his opinioun was good.
 What sholde hē studie and māke hymselfen wood,
 upon a book in cloystre alwey tō poure, 185
 or swynken with his hōndes, and lāboure,
 as Austyn bit? How shal the wōrld bē served?
 Lat Austyn have his swynk tō him reserved!
 Therfore hē was a prikasour aright:
 grēyhoundes hē hadde as swift as fowel in flight; 190
 of prikyng and of huntyng for the hāre
 was al his lust, for nō cost wolde hē spāre.
 Ī seigh his slēves ypurfiled at the hōnd
 with grȳs, and that the fȳneste of a lōnd;
 and for tō festne his hood un-der his chyn, 195
 hē hadde of gōld ywroght a cūrious pyn:
 a lōve-knotte in the gretter ende ther was.
 His hēȝed was balled, that shōȝn as any glas,
 and eȝek his fāce, as it hadde been enoynt;
 hē was a lōrd ful fat, and in good poynt. 200
 His eȳen stēpe and rollynge in his hēȝed,
 that stēmed as a fōrneys of a leȝed.
 His bootes souple, his hors in grēȝet estaat.
 Now certainly hē was a fair prelaat:
 hē was nat pāle as a forpȳned goȝost; 205
 a fat swan lōved hē best of any roȝost.
 His palfrey was as broun as is a berye.
 A FRĒRE ther was, a wantōwn and a merye,
 a lymytour, a ful solemȝne man.
 In alle the ordres fōure is nōȝn that kan 210
 sȝe muche of daliaunce and fair langāȝe.
 Hē hadde imaad ful many a mariāȝe
 of yōnge wōmmen at his owene cost.
 Untō his ordre hē was a nōble post.
 And wēl bilōved and famūliēr was hē 215

with frankleyns oʒer al in his cōntree,
 and eek with wōrthy wōmmen of the toun;
 for hē hadde power of confessioun
 as seyde hymself, moore than a cūrāt;
 for of his ordre hē was licenciāt. 220
 Ful swētely herdē hē confessioun,
 and plesaunt was his absolūcioun;
 hē was an esy man tō yēve penaunce,
 ther as hē wiste hān a good pitaunce;
 for untō a pōure ordre for tō yive 225
 is siġne that a man is wēl yshryve;
 for if hē yaf, hē dorste mākē avaunt,
 hē wiste that a man was repentaunt;
 for many a man sō hard is of his herte,
 hē may nat wēpe, althogh hym sōore smerte; 230
 therfōre in stēde of wēpyngē and preyēres
 men moote yēve silver tō the pōure frēres.
 His typet was ay farsed ful of knyves
 and pynnes for tō yēven faire wīves.
 And certeinly hē hadde a mūrre nōte; 235
 wēl koude hē syngē, and pleyen on a rōte;
 of yeddynges hē baar outrely the prīs.
 His nekke whīt was as the flour-de-līs;
 ther tō hē strong was as a champioun.
 Hē knēw the tavernes wēl in eʒery toun, 240
 and eʒerich hostiler and tappestere
 bet than a lazar or a beggestere.
 For untō swich a wōrthy man as hē
 acorded nat, as bȳ his factiltee,
 tō have with sike lazars aqueyntaunce: 245
 it is nat honest, it may nat avaunce
 for tō deġlen with nō swich porailē,
 but al with riche, and selleres of vitailē,

and oʋer al theȝ as profit sholde arise.
 Curteis hē was, and lōwly of servȳse; 250
 theȝ nas nō man nōwheȝ sō vertuous.
 Hē was the beste beggere in his hous:
 for thogh a wydwe hadde nocht a shō,
 sō plesant was his *In principiō*,
 yet wolde hē have a ferthyng er hē wente; 255
 his purchās was wēl bettre than his rente.
 And rāge hē koude, right as it wēre a whelpe;
 in löve-dayes theȝ koude hē muchel helpe.
 for theȝ hē was nat lyk a cloysterēr,
 with thredbāre cope, as is a poure scolēr; 260
 but hē was lyk a maister, or a pope:
 of double wōrstedē was his semycpe,
 that rounded as a belle out of the presse.
 Sōmwhat hē lipsed for his wantownesse,
 tō mākē his Englissh sweetē upon his tōnge. 265
 And in his harpyng, whan that hē hadde sōnge,
 hise yēn twynkled in his heȝd aryght
 as doon the sterres in the frosty nyght.
 This wōrthy lymytour was clēped Hūberd.
 A MARCHAUNT was theȝ with a forked bērd; 270
 in motelee and hȳe on hors hē sat;
 upon his heȝd a Flaundryssh beȝer hat;
 his bootes clasped faire and fetisly.
 Hise resouns hē spak ful solemnelȳ,
 sownyngē alway th' encreēs of his wynnyng. 275
 Hē wolde the sēȝ wēre kept for any thing
 bitwixe Middelburgh and Qrewelle.
 Wēl koude hē in eschaunge sheeldes selle.
 This wōrthy man ful wēl his wit bisette:
 theȝ wiste nō wight that hē was in dette, 280
 sō estāly was hē of his gōvernaunce,

with his bargaynes and with his chevyssaunce.
 For sōth hē was a wōrthy man with alle;
 but sooth tō seyn, ī nōt how men hym calle.

A CLERK thēr was of Oxenford also, 285
 that untō loȝyk hadde lōnge ygō.

As lēgne was his hors as is a rāke;
 and hē nas nat right fat, ī undertāke,
 but looked holwe, and thertō sōbrelē.

Ful threðbāre was his oʋereste courtēpȳ; 290
 for hē hadde gete hym yet nō benefice,
 ne was sō wōrldly for tō have of fice.

For hym was lēvere have at his beddes hēȝd
 twenty bookes, clad in blak or rēȝd,
 of Aristotle and his philosophē 295

than rōbes riche, or fithle, or gay sautriē.
 But al bē that hē was a philosophre,
 yet hadde hē but lītel gōld in cofre;

but al that 'hē myghte of his freendes hente,
 on bookes and his lērnynge hē it spente, 300
 and bisily gan for the sōules preye

of hem that yaf hym wherwith tō scōleye;
 of studie took hē mōost cūre and mōost heede.
 Noght o wōrd spak hē mōore than was neede,

and that was seyde in forme and reverence, 305
 and short, and quyk, and ful of hȳ sentence;
 sownynge in moral vertu was his spēche,
 and gladly wolde hē lērne and gladly tēche.

A SERGEAUNT OF THE LAWE, wār and wȳs,
 that often hadde been at the parvȳs, 310

thēr was alsō, ful riche of excelēce;
 discreet hē was, and of grēȝt reverence;
 hē sēmed swich, hīse wōrdes wēre sō wīse.

Jūstice hē was ful often in assise,

bȳ patentē, and bȳ pleyn commissioun. 315
 For his sciēce, and for his high renoun,
 of fees and robes hadde hē many oon.
 So greēt a purchāsour was nowher noon;
 al was fee symple tō hym in effect;
 his purchāsyng myghte nat been infect. 320
 Nowher so bisy a man as hē theȝ nas,
 and yet hē sēmed bisier than hē was.
 In termes hadde hē caas and doomes alle,
 that fro the tȳme of kyng William were falle.
 Thertō hē koude endite and mākē a thyng, 325
 theȝ koude no wight pynche at his wriȝtyng.
 And eȝery stātūt koude hē pleyn bȳ rote.
 Hē rood but hoȝmly in a medlee cote,
 girt with a ceint of silk, with barres smāle;
 of his array telle ī no lenger tāle. 330

A FRANKLEYN was in his cōmpaignȳe;
 whit was his heȝed as is a dayes-ȳe;
 of his complexioun hē was san'gwȳn.
 Wel lōved hē bȳ the morwe a sop in wȳn;
 tō lyven in delit was eȝere his wōne, 335
 for hē was Epicūrus owene sōne,
 that heeld opinioun that pleyn delit
 was verrayly felicitee parfit.
 An housholdere, and that a greēt was hē;
 seint Jūliān was hē in his cōntree. 340
 His breȝed, his āle was always after oon;
 a bettre envȳned man was nowher noon;
 withoute bāke meȝe was neȝere his hous,
 of fishh and flessh, and that so plentevous,
 it snēwed in his hous of meȝe and drynke. 345
 Of alle deyntees that men koude thynke,
 after the sōndry sēsouns of the yeȝer

hē chaunged him his mēte and his sōpēr.
 Ful māny a fat partrich hadde hē in mūwe,
 and many a brēm, and many a lūce in stūwe. 350
 Wō was his cook, but if his sauce wēre
 poynaunt, and sharp, and redy al his gēgēre.
 His tāble dormaunt in his halle alway
 stood redy cōvered al the lōnge day.
 At sessiouns thēr was hē lōrd and sīre; 355
 ful ofte-tyme hē was knyght of the shīre.
 An anlaas, and a gīpser al of silk
 heeng at his girdel, whīt as morne milk.
 A shīrrēve hadde hē been and a countour;
 was nowher such a wōrthy vavasour. 360

An HABERDASSHERE, and a CARPENTĒR,
 a WEBBE, a DYERE and a TAPYCĒR
 wēre with us, clōthed alle in o lyveree,
 of a solemne and greēt fraternitee.
 Ful fressh and nēwe her gēgēre apīked was: 365
 her knyves wēre ychāped noght with bras,
 but al with silver, wroght ful clēne and weel
 here girdles and hir pouches evelydeēl.
 Wēl sēmed ech of hem a fair burgeys,
 tō sitten in a yēldhalle on a deys. 370
 Evelych for the wisdōm that hē kan
 was shāply for tō been an alderman.
 For catel hadde they ynough and rente,
 and eek her wīves wolde it wēl assente;
 and elles, certeyn, wēre they tō blāme: 375
 it is ful fair tō been ycleped *ma dāme*,
 and for tō gōōri tō vīgils al bifōre,
 and have a mantel roialliche ybōre.

A Cook they hadde with hem for the nones,
 tō boille chiknes with the marybōnes, 380

and poudre-marchaunt tart, and galyngāle.
 Wēl koude hē knōwe a draughte of Lōndon āle.
 Hē koude rōoste, and sēthe, and boille, and frīe,
 māken mortrēwes and wēl bāke a pȳe.
 But grēet harm was it, as it thoghte mē, 385
 that on his shyne a mormal hadde hē;
 for blankmangēr, that māde hē with the beste.

A SHIPMAN was thē, wōnyngē fer bȳ weste:
 for aught ī wōot, hē was of Dertemouthe.
 Hē rōod upon a rouncy, as hē kouthe, 390
 [clad] in a gowne of faldyng tō the knee.
 A daggere hangyngē on a laas hadde hē
 aboute his nekke under his arm adoun.
 The hōte sōmer hadde maad his hēwe al broun;
 and certainly hē was a good felawe. 395

Ful many a draughte of wȳn hē hadde drawe
 frō Burdeuxward, whil that the chapman sleep.
 Of nȳce conscience took hē nō keep:
 if that hē faught, and hadde the hȳer hōnd,
 bȳ wāter hē sente hem hōm tō every lōnd. 400
 But of his craft tō rēkene wēl his tȳdes,
 his strēmes and his daungers hym bisides,
 his herberwe, and his moone, his lōdemenāge,
 thē nas nōn swich from Hulle tō Cartāge.
 Hardȳ hē was, and wȳs tō undertāke. 405

With many a tempest hadde his bērd been shāke;
 hē knēw wēl alle the hāvenes, as they wēre,
 frō Gootlōnd tō the Cāpe of Fynystere,
 and every cryke in Britaigne and in Spayne.
 His barge ycleped was the Maudelayne. 410

With us thē was a DOCTOUR OF PHISIK.
 In al this wōrld ne was thē nōn hym lik
 tō spēke of phisik and of sūrgerȳe;

for hē was grounded in astronomȳe;
 hē kepte his pācient a ful grēȝt dēȝel 415
 in houres bȳ his maȝyk nātūrēȝel;
 wēl koude hē fortūnen the ascendent
 of hise ymāȝes for his pācient.
 Hē knēw the cause of ȝverich maladye,
 wēre it of hōȝt or cōld, or moyste, or drȳe, 420
 and whēre engēndred, and of what hūmour;
 hē was a verray parfit praktisour;
 the cause yknōwe and of his harm the roote,
 anōn hē yaf the sike man his boote.
 Ful redy hadde hē hise apothecāries 425
 tō sende him drōȝges and his letuāries,
 for ȝch of hem māde oother for tō wynne;
 hir frēndshipe nas nat nēwe tō bigynne.
 Wēl knēw hē thē olde Esculāpius
 and Dēyscrīdēs, and ȝek Rūfus, 430
 olde Ypocrās, Hālȳ, and Gālyȝen,
 Serāpiōn, Razīs, and Avycēn,
 Averrois, Damasciēn, and Constantȳn,
 Bernard, and Gātesden, and Gilbertȳn.
 Of his diēte mestūrāble was hē, 435
 for it was of nō sūperflūitee,
 but of grēȝt nōrissyng, and digēstible.
 His studie was but litel on the Bible.
 In sangwȳn and in pers hē clad was al,
 lȳnred with taffatā and with sendāl. 440
 And yet hē was but ȝsy of dispence;
 hē kepte that hē wan in pestilence;
 for gōld in phisik is a cordiāl,
 thērfōre hē lōvede gōld in speciāl.
 A good Wīf was thērfōr biside BĀTHE; 445
 but shē was sōm-dēȝel dēȝef, and that was scāthe.

Of clooth-māk·yng shē hadde swich an haunt,
 shē passed hem of Ypres and of Gaunt.
 In al the parisshe wif ne was ther noon
 that tō the offrynge bifore hire sholde goon; 450
 and if ther dide, certeyn sō wroȝth was shē,
 that shē was out of alle charitee.
 Hir cōverchiefs ful fīne wēre of ground;
 ī dorste swēre, they weyeden ten pound,
 that on a sōnday wēre upon hir hēd. 455
 Hir hōsen wēren of fīn scarlet rēd
 ful streite yteyd, and shoos ful moyste and nēwe.
 Boȝld was hir fāce, and fair, and rēd of hēwe.
 Shē was a wōrthy wōmman al hir līve.
 Housbōndes at chirche dore shē hadde fīve, 460
 withouten oother cōmpaignye in youthe;
 but therof nēdeth nat tō speke as nowthe.
 And thries hadde shē been at Jerusalem.
 Shē hadde passed many a straunge strēm :
 at Rōme shē hadde been, and at Boloigne, 465
 in Galice, at Seint Jāme, and at Coloigne;
 shē koude muche of wandrynge bī the weye.
 Gattōthed was shē, soothly for tō seye.
 Upon an aumblere esily shē sat,
 ywympled wēl, and on hir hēd an hat, 470
 as broȝd as is a bōkeler or a targē;
 a foot-man·tel aboute hir hipes largē,
 and on hire feet a paire of spores sharpe.
 In felaweshipe wēl koude shē laughe and carpe.
 Of remedies of lōve shē knēw per chaunce, 475
 for of that art shē koude the olde daunce.

A good man was ther of religioun,
 and was a poure PERSOUN of a toun;
 but riche hē was of hōȝly thoght and werk.

Hē was also a lērned man, a clerk, 480
 that Cristes gospel trēwely wolde prēche;
 hise parissshēns devoutly wolde hē tēche.
 Benygne hē was and wōnder diligēnt,
 and in adversitee ful pācient;
 and swich hē was yprēved ofte-sīthes. 485
 Ful looth wēre hym tō cursen for hise tithes;
 but rāther wolde he yēven out of doute
 untō his pōure parissshēns aboute,
 of his offryng, and eek of his substaunce;
 hē koude in litel thyng have sūf/isaunce. 490
 Wȳd was his parisshe, and houses fer asōnder;
 but hē ne laste nat for reyn ne thōnder,
 in siknesse nor in meschief tō visite
 the ferreste in his parisshe, muche and lite,
 upon his feet, and in his hōnd a staf. 495
 This noble ensauple tō his sheep hē yaf,
 that firste hē wroghte, and afterward hē taughte.
 Out of the gospel hē thō wōrdes caughte,
 and this figurē hē added eek thertō,
 that if gōld ruste, what shal īren doo? 500
 For if a preest bē foul, on whōm wē truste,
 nō wōnder is a lēwed man tō ruste.

 Wēl oghte a preest ensauple for tō yive 505
 bȳ his clen'nesse, how that his sheep sholde lyve.
 Hē sette nat his beneficē tō hȳre,
 and leet his sheep encōmbred in the mȳre,
 and ran tō Lōndon untō seinte Pōules
 tō sēken hym a chaunterie for sōules, 510
 or with a brētherhēd tō been withhōlde,
 but dwelte at hōm, and kepte wēl his fōlde,

so that the wölf ne mādē it nat myscarie;
 hē was a shepherde and nō mercenārie.
 And thogh hē hōoly wēre, and vertuous, 515
 hē was tō synful men nocht despitous,
 ne of his spēche daungerous ne dīgne,
 but in his tēchyng discreet and benygne;
 tō drawn folk tō hevene bȳ fairnesse,
 bȳ good ensauple, was his bisynesse. 520
 But it wēre any persone obstināt,
 what so hē wēre, of hīgh or lough estāt,
 hym wolde hē snybben sharply for the nōnys.
 A bettre preest ī trōwe that nōwher nōon ys.
 Hē ne waited after pompe ne reverence, 525
 ne mākēd him a spīced conscience;
 but Crīstes lōore and hise Apostles twelve
 hē taughte, but first hē folwed it hymselfe.

With hym ther was a PLOWMAN, was his brōther,
 that hadde ylad of dōng ful many a fōther. 530
 A trēwe swynkere and a good was hē,
 lyvyngē in pēēs and parfit charitee.
 God lōved hē best with al his hōole herte,
 at alle tȳmes, thogh him gāmed or smerte,
 and thanne his nīghēbōre right as hymselfe. 535
 He wolde thressshe and thertō dȳke and delve,
 for Crīstes sākē, for every poure wight,
 withouten hīre, if it lay in his myght.
 Hise tithes payede hē ful fairē and wēl,
 bōthe of his propre swynk and his catel. 540
 In a tabard hē rōod upon a mēre.
 Ther was also a rēve, and a millere,
 a sōmhour, and a pardonēr also,
 a maunciple, and mȳself—ther wēre na mō.

The MILLERE was a stout carl for the nōnes, 545

ful byg hē was of brawn and eek of bones;
 that prōved wēl, for oʒer al theȝ hē cam,
 at wrastlyngē hē wolde have alwey the ram.
 He was short-shōldred, broȝd, a thikke knarre;
 theȝ nas nō dore that hē nolde heʒe of harre, 550
 or breke it at a rennyng with his heȝd.

His beȝd as any sowe or fox was reȝd,
 and theȝtō broȝd, as thogh it wēre a spāde.
 Upon the cop right of his nose hē hāde
 a werte, and theȝron stood a toft of heȝrys, 555
 reȝd as the brüstles of a sowes ȝrys;
 hiȝe nosehirles blāke wēre and wȝde.

A swērd and bōkelēr bār hē bȝ his sȝde.
 His mouth as wȝd was as a greȝt fōrneys.
 He was a janglerē and a goliardeys; 560
 and that was moȝst of synne and harlotries.
 Wēl koude hē stēlen cōrn, and tollen thries;
 and yet hē hadde a thōmbe of gōld pardee.
 A whīt cote and a blēw hood wēred hē.

A baggepīpe wēl koude hē blōwe and sowne, 565
 and theȝ-with-al hē broghte us out of towne.

A ĝentil MAUNCIPE was theȝ of a temple,
 of which achātours myghte tāke exemple,
 for tō bē wise in bȝyngē of vitaille;
 for whether that hē payde, or took bȝ taille, 570
 algāte hē wayted sȝ in his achaat

that hē was ay bifōrn and in good-staat.
 Now is nat that of God a ful fair grāce,
 that swich a lēwed mannes wit shal pāce
 the wisdōm of an heȝp of lērned men? 575

Of maistres hadde hē mȝ than thries ten,
 that wēre of lawe expert and cūrious;
 of whiche theȝ wēre a duzeyne in that hous,

wörthȳ tō been stȳwardes of rente and lōrd
of any lōrd that is in Engelōnd, 580
tō mākē hym lyve bȳ his propre good
in honour dettelēȝs, but if hē wēre wood,
or lyve as scārsly as hym list desīre;
and āble for tō helpen al a shīre
in any caas that myghte falle or happe— 585
and yet this maunciple sette her aller cappe.

The RĒVE was a sclendre colerik man.
His bērd was shāve as nȳ as ȝer hē kan;
his hēȝer was bȳ his ȝres round yshōrn;
his top was dokked lȳk a preest bifōrn. 590
Ful lōnge wēre his legges and ful lēne
ylȳk a staf—thēȝer was nō calf ysēne.
Wēl koude hē kēpe a gerner and a bynne;
thēȝer was nōȝn auditour koude of him wynne.
Wēl wiste hē bȳ the drōghte and bȳ the reyn 595
the yēldyngē of his seed and of his greyn.
His lōrdes sheep, his nēȝet, his dayerȳe,
his swȳn, his hors, his stōȝr, and his pultrȳe
was hōlly in this rēves gōvernyng,
and bȳ his cōvenaunt yaf the rekenyng, 600
syn that his lōrd was twenty yēȝer of āȝe;
thēȝer koude nō man bryngē hym in arrerāȝe.
Thēȝer nas bail'if, ne hierde, ne oother hȳne,
that hē ne knēw his sleighte and his cōvȳne;
they wēre adrad of hym as of the dēȝth. 605
His wōnyng was ful faire upon an hēȝth;
with grēne trees yshadwed was his plāce.
He koude bettre than his lōrd purchāce.
Ful riche hē was astōred pryvelȳ;
his lōrd wēl koude hē plēsen sūbtillȳ, 610
tō yēve and lēne hym of his oʷene good,

and have a thank, and yet a gowne and hood.
 In youthe he lērned hadde a good mystēr:
 he was a wēl good wrighte, a carpentēr.
 This rēve sat upon a ful good stot, 615
 that was al pomely grēy, and highte Scot.
 A lōng surcote of pers upon hē hāde,
 and bȳ his sȳde hē baar a rusty blāde.
 Of Northfolk was this rēve of which ī telle,
 biside a toun men clepen Baldeswelle. 620
 Tukked hē was, as is a frēre, aboute;
 and ȳvere hē rōd the hyndreste of ourē route.
 A Sōmnour was ther with us in that plāce,
 that hadde a fȳr-rēd cherubȳnes fāce;
 for sawceflēȝem he was, with ȳen narwe; 625

 with scalled browes blāke, and piled bērd.
 Of his visāge children wēre afeȳrd.
 Ther nas quyk-silver, lytarȝe, ne brymstōȝn,
 bōrās, cerūce, ne oil/e of tartre nōȝn, 630
 ne oynement that wolde clense and bȳte,
 that hym myghte helpen of the whelkes whīte,
 nor of the knobbes sittyngē on his chēkes.
 Wēl lōved he garleek, oynouns, and ȳȝek lēkes,
 and for tō drynken strōng wȳn, rēd as blood. 635
 Thanne wolde hē spēke, and criē as hē wēre wood;
 and whan that hē wēl drōnken hadde the wȳn,
 than wolde hē spēke nō wōrd but Latȳn.
 A fēwe termes hadde hē, twō or thrē,
 that hē had lērned out of sōm decree; 640
 nō wōnder is—hē herde it al the day;
 and ȳȝek yē knōwen wēl how that a jay
 kan clepen Watte as wēl as kan the pōpe.
 But whō sȝ koude in oother thyng hym grōpe,

thanne hadde hē spent al his philosophiē ; 645
 ay *questio*, *quid jūris* wolde hē criē.

.

 650

And if hē foʒnd ʒwher a good felawe,
 hē wolde tēchen him tō have non awe
 in swich caas of the ercedekenes curs, 655

but if a mannes soule were in his purs ;
 for in his purs hē sholde ypunysshed bē ;
 ‘purs is the ercedekenes helle,’ seyde hē.
 But wēl ī woʒt, hē lȳed right in dēde :

of cursyng oghte eçh gilty man him drēde ; 660
 for curs wōl sleçç, right as assoillyng sāvith ;
 and also wār him of a *significāvil*.

In daunçer hadde hē at his ʒwene gīse
 the yōnge girles of the diocīse,
 and knēw hir cōnseil, and was al hir rēçd. 665

A gerland hadde hē set upon his hēçd,
 as grēçt as it were for an āle-stāke ;
 a bōkeleer hadde hē maad him of a cāke.

With hym theʒ was a ġentil PARDONĒR
 of Rouncival, his freend and his cōmpeer, 670
 that streight was cōmen frō the court of Rōme.

Ful loude hē soʒng cōm *hider lōve tō mē*.
 This Sōmnour bār tō hym a stif burdoun ;
 was neʒere trōmpē of half so grēçt a soun.
 This Pardonēr hadde hēçç as yelw as wex, 675
 but smōthe it heeng as dooth a strīke of flex ;
 bȳ ounces hēngē hise lokkes that hē hadde,

and therwith hē hise shuldres overspradde ;
 but thynne it lay bȳ cōlpouns oȝn and oȝn.
 But hood for jolitee ne wēred hē noȝn, 680
 for it was trussed up in his walet ;
 hym thoghte hē roȝd al of the nēwe jet ;
 dischevelee sāve his cappe hē roȝd al bāre.
 Swiche glārynge yēn hadde hē as an hāre.
 A vernycle hadde hē sōwed upon his cappe. 685
 His walet lay bifōrn hym in his lappe,
 bretful of pardoun cōme frōm Rōme al hoȝt.
 A voys hē hadde as smal as hath a goȝt.
 No bērd hadde hē, ne nevere sholde hāve ;
 as smōthe it was as it wēre lāte yshāve. 690

.
 But of his craft frō Berwyk intō Wāre,
 ne was ther swich anōther pardonēr.
 For in his mālē hē hadde a pilwe-beer,
 which that hē seyde was oure lādy veyl ; 695
 hē seyde hē hadde a gobet of the seyl
 [which] that seint Pēter hadde, whan hē wente
 upon the seȝ, til Jhēsù Crīst hym hente.
 Hē hadde a croys of latoun ful of stōnes,
 and in a glas hē hadde pigges bōnes. 700
 But with thise relikes, whanne that hē fōnd
 a pōure persoun dwellynge upon lond,
 upon a day hē gat hym moȝre mōneye
 than that the persoun gat in mōnthes twēye.
 And thus with feyned flat/erȳe and jāpes 705
 hē mādē the persoun and the pēple his āpes.
 But trēwely tō tellen atte laste,
 hē was in chirche a noȝle ecclesiaste :
 wēl koudē hē reȝe a lessoun or a stōrie ;
 but alderbest hē sōng an offertōrie ; 710

for wēl hē wiste, whan that sōng was sōnge,
 hē mōste prēche, and wēl affīle his tōng
 tō wynne silver as hē ful wēl koude ;
 therefōre hē sōng the mūrierly and loude.

VIII.

PARDONER'S TALE.

IN Flaundres whilōm was a cōmpaignȳe
 of yōnge folk, that haunteden folȳe,
 as rīot, hasard, stēwes, and tavernes,
 wher as, with harpes, lūtes, and gyternes,
 they daunce and pleye at dȳs bothe day and nyght, 5
 and ete also, and drynken oȳer her myght,
 thurgh which they doon the dēuel sacrificise
 withinne that dēvels temple in cursed wise,
 bȳ sūperflūytee abomynāble ;
 her oȳes been sō grēte and sō dampnāble 10
 that it is grisly for tō heere hem swere :
 oure blessed Lōrdes body they tōtēre ;
 hem thoghte Jēwes rentē hym noght ynough ;
 and eȳch of hem at oȳtheres synne lough.
 These riotoures thrē, of whiche ī telle, 15
 lōnge erst er pīme rōng of any belle
 were set hem in a tavernē for tō drynke ;
 and as they sat, they herde a belle clynke
 bifōrn a cors, was caried tō his grāve ;
 that oȳon of hem gan callen tō his knāve : 20
 'gō bet,' quod hē, 'and axe redily,
 what cors is this that passeth heer forbȳ ;
 and looke that thou reportē his nāme weel.'

'Sire,' quod this boy, 'it nēdeth never-a-dēel:
 it was mē toȝld ęr yē cam heer twō houres. 25
 Hē was pardee an ołd felawe of youres
 and sōdeynlȝ hē was yslayn tōnyght,
 fordrōnke as hē sat on his bench upright;
 theȝ cam a prīvee theef, men clepen Deęeth,
 that in this cōntree al the pēple slęęth, 30
 and with his spēre hē smōt his herte atwō,
 and wente his wey withouten wōrdes mō.
 Hē hath a thousand slayn this pestilence.
 And maister, ęr yē cōme in his presence,
 mē thynketh that it wēre necesārie 35
 for tō bē wār of swich an adversārie:
 bēth redy for tō meete hym ęveremōore;
 thus taughte mē mȝ dāme—ī sey na mōore.'
 'Bȝ seinte Mārie,' seyde this tavernēr,
 'the child seith sooth, for hē hath slayn this yęęr 40
 henne ower a mīle withinne a gręęt villāęe,
 bothe man and wōmman, child, and hȝne, and pāęe;
 ī trōwe, his habitācioun bē there.
 Tō been avȝsed gręęt wysdōm it wēre,
 ęr that hē dide a man a disōnour.' 45
 'Yę, Goddes armes,' quod this riotour,
 'is it swich peril with hym for tō meete?
 I shal hym sēke bȝ wey and ęęk bȝ strēte,
 ī māke avow tō Goddes digne bones!
 Herk'neth felawes, wē thrē been al ones; 50
 lat ęch of us hōłde up his hōnd til oother,
 and ęch of us bicōmen othēres brōther,
 and wē wōl slęęn this false traytour Deęeth:
 hē shal bē slayn which that sō many slęęth,
 bȝ Goddes dīgnitee, ęr it bē nyght!' 55

Tōgīdres han thise thrē hir trōuthes plight,

tō lyve and dȳen ȝch of hem for oother,
 as thogh hē wære his ȝwene ybørne brōther.
 And up they sturte, al drōnken in this rāge,
 and forth they ȝoȝn tōwardes that vil/āge 60
 of which the tavernēr hadde spōke biførn ;
 and many a grisly ȝoȝh thanne hān they swørn,
 and Crīstes blessed body they tōrente—
 ‘Deȝth shal bē deȝd, if that they may hym hente.’
 When they han ȝoȝn nat fully half a mile, 65
 right as they wolde han troden ȝver a stile,
 an ȝold man and a poure with hem mette.
 This ȝolde man ful mēkely hem grette,
 and seyde thus, ‘Now, lōrdes, God yow see!’
 The proudeste of thise rīotoures three 70
 answerde agayn, ‘What, carl with sory grāce,
 whȳ artow al forwrapped sāve thȳ fāce ?
 whȳ lystow sȝ lōnge in sȝ greȝt āge?’
 This ȝolde man gan looke in his visāge,
 and seyde thus, ‘For ī ne kan nat fȳnde 75
 a man, thogh that ī walked intō Ynde,
 neith’er in citee nor in nȝ vil/āge,
 that wolde chaunȝe his youthe for mȳn āge ;
 and therfōre moot ī hān mȳn āge stille,
 as lōnge tȳme as it is Goddes wille. 80
 Ne deȝth, al/as! ne wōl nat hān mȳ lȳf.
 Thus walke ī, lȳk a resteleȝes kaitȳf ;
 and on the ground, which is mȳ moodres gāte,
 ī knobbe with mȳ staf ȝrlȳ and lāte,
 and seye, “leeve mooder, lȝet mē in! 85
 lō, how ī vanysshē, flessh, and blood, and skyn!
 al/as!’ whan shul mȳ bōnes been at reste ?
 mooder, with yow ī wolde chaunȝe mȳ cheste,
 that in mȳ chaumbre lōnge tȳme hath bē,

yē, for an heyre clowt tō wrappe mē!" 90
 But yet tō mē shē wōl nat dō that grāce,
 for which ful pālē and welked is m̄y fāce.
 But sīres, tō yow it is nō curteisye
 tō spēken tō an ołd man vileynye,
 but hē trespasse in wōrd or elles in dēde. 95
 In hōoly writ yē may yourself wēl rēde,
 "agayns an ołd man, hōor upon his hēd,
 yē sholde arise;" whērfōre ī yēve yow rēd,
 ne dooth untō an ołd man nōon harm now,
 na mōore than yē wolde men did tō yow 100
 in āge, if that yē sō lōnge abyde;
 and God bē with yow, whēre yē gō or rīde:
 ī moot gō thider as ī have tō gō.
 'Nay, ołde cherl, b̄y God, thou shalt nat sō,
 seyde this oother hasardour anōn, 105
 'thou partest nat sō lightly, b̄y Seint Jōhn!
 Thou spak right now of th'ilke traytour Dēgth,
 that in this cōntree alle ourē freendes slēgth.
 Have heer m̄y trōuthe, as thou art his esp̄ye,
 telle whē hē is, or thou shalt it abyē, 110
 b̄y God, and b̄y the hōoly sacrement!
 For soothly thou art oon of his assent,
 tō slēgen us yōnge folk, thou false thief!
 'Now sīres,' quod hē, 'if that yow bē sō leef
 tō fynde Dēgth, turne up this crōked wey, 115
 for in that grove ī laste hym, b̄y m̄y fey,
 under a tree, and thē hē wōle abyde:
 nat for yourē boost hē wōle him nōthyng h̄yde.
 Sē yē that ook?—right thē yē shal hym fynde.
 God sāve yow that boghte agayn mank̄ynde, 120
 and yow amende!', thus seyde this ołde man.

And ēverich of thise riotoures ran,

til hē cam tō that tree, and thē they founde
 of floryns fīne of gōld ycoyned rounde
 wel-nȳ an eighte bussshels, as hem thoghte. 125
 Nō lenger thanne after Dēēth they soghte,
 but ęch of hem sō glad was of that sighte,
 for that the floryns been sō faire and brighte,
 that doun they sette hem bȳ this precious hoord.
 The wōrste of hem hē spak the firste wōrd: 130
 ‘Brētheren,’ quod hē, ‘taak kēpe what ī seye;
 mȳ wit is gręęt, thogh that ī bourde and pleye.
 This tresor hath Fortūne untō us yiven,
 in myrthe and jolitee ourē lȳf tō lyven,
 and lightly as it cōmth sō wōl wē spende. 135
 Ey, Goddes precious dignitee! whō wende
 tōday that wē sholde hān sō fair a grāce?
 but myghte this gōld bē caried frō this plāce
 hōom tō mȳn hous, or elles untō youres—
 for wēl yē woot that al this gōld is oures— 140
 thanne wēre wē in high felicitee.
 But trēwelȳ bȳ daye it may nat bee;
 men wolde seyn that wē wēre thēves strōnge,
 and for ourē ȝwēnie tresor doon us hōnge.
 This tresor mōste ycaried bē bȳ nyghte, 145
 as wīslȳ and as slȳly as it myghte.
 Whęrfōre ī rēde that cut amōng us alle
 bē drawe, and lat sē whęr the cut wōl falle.
 And hē that hath the cut with herte blithe
 shal renne tō the town, and that ful swīthe, 150
 and brynge us bręęd and wȳn ful prively.
 And twō of us shul kēpen sūbtily
 this tresor wēl; and if hē wōl nat tarie,
 whan it is nyght we wōl this tresor carie
 bȳ ȝon assent whęr as us thynketh best.’ 155

That oon of hem the cut broghte in his fest,
 and bad hem drawe, and looke wh̄ere it wōl falle;
 and it fil on the yōngeste of hem alle;
 and forth tōward the toun hē wente anon.
 And al sō soone as that hē was gōn, 160
 that oon of hem spak thus untō that oother:
 'Thou knōwest wēl thou art m̄y sworne brōther;
 th̄y profit wōl ī telle thee anon.
 Thou wōost wēl that oure felawe is agon,
 and heer is gōld, and that ful gr̄ēt plentee, 165
 that shal departed been among us thrē.
 But nāthelēes, if ī kan shāpe it sō
 that it departed w̄ere among us twō,
 hadde ī nat doon a freendes tōrn tō thee?'
 That oother answerde, 'ī nōot how that may bē: 170
 hē wōot how that the gōld is with us twēye;
 what shal wē doon? what shal wē tō hym seye?'
 'Shal it bē cōncil?' seyde the firste shrēwe,
 'and ī shal tellen thee in wōrdes fēwe,
 what wē shal doon, and brynge it wēl aboute.' 175
 'ī graunte,' quod that oother, 'out of doute
 that b̄y m̄y trōuthe ī shal thee nat biwrēye.'
 'Now,' quod the firste, 'thou wōost wēl wē bē twēye,
 and twō of us shul strenger bē than oon.
 Looke whan that hē is set, and right anon 180
 ar̄ys, as thogh thou woldest with hym pleye,
 and ī shal r̄yve hym thurgh the s̄ydes twēye,
 whil that thou strōgelest with hym as in gāme;
 and with th̄y daggere looke thou dō the sāme.
 And thanne shal al this gōld departed bē, 185
 m̄y deere freend, bitwixen mē and thee.
 Thanne may wē bōthe oure lustes al fulfille,
 and pleye at d̄ys right at oure owene wille.'

And thus acorded been thise shrēwes twēye
tō slēn the thridde, as yē han herd mē seye. 190

This yōngeste, which that wente untō the toun,
ful ofte in herte hē rolleth up and doun
the bēautee of thise floryns nēwe and brighte:
'o, lōrd,' quod hē, 'if sō wēre that ī myghte
have al this tresor tō mī self allōne, 195

thēr is nō man that lyveth un·der the trōne
of God that sholde lyve sō mūrye as ī!

And atte laste the feend, ourē enemī,
putte in his thoght that hē sholde poysoun beye,
with which hē myghte slēn hisē felawes twēye; 200
forwhī the feend fōpnd hem in swich lyvyngē
that hē hadde lēve hem tō sorwe bryngē;
for this was outrely his fullē entente,
tō slēn hem bōthe, and nevere tō repente.

And forth hē gooth—nō lenger wolde hē tarie— 205
intō the toun, untō a pot̄ecārie,

and preyde hym that hē hym wolde selle
sōm poysoun, that hē myghte hisē rattes quelle;
and eek thēr was a pōlcat in his hawe, 210
that, as hē seyde, hisē capouns hadde yslawe,
and fayn hē wolde wrēke hym, if hē myghte,
on vermyn that destroyed hym bī nyghte.

The pot̄ecārie an·swerde, 'and thou shalt hāve
a thyng that, alsō God mī sōule sāve,
in al this wōrld thēr is nō crēatūre 215

that ete or drōnke hath of this confitūre
noght but the mountaunce of a cōrn of whēte,
that hē ne shal his lif anōn forlēte:
yē, sterve hē shal, and that in lasse whīle
than thou wōlt goon a paas nat but a mīle; 220
this poysoun is sō strōng and violent.'

This cursed man hath in his hond yhent
 this poysoun in a box; and sith hē ran
 intō the nexte strēte, untō a man,
 and borwed of hym large botels thrē: 225
 and in the twō his poysoun poured hē;
 the thridde hē kepte clēne for his drynke:
 for al the nyght hē shoop hym for tō swynke
 in caryngē of the gōld out of that plāce.
 And whan this riotour, with sory grāce, 230
 hadde filled with wȳn hise grēte botels thrē,
 tō hise felawes agayn repaireth hē.

What nēdeth it tō sermone of it moore?
 for right as they hadde cast his deęth bifore,
 right sō they hān hym slayn, and that anōn. 235
 And whan that this was doon, thus spak that oon,
 'Now lat us sitte and drynke, and māke us merie,
 and afterward wē wōl his body berie.'
 And with that wōrd it happed hym *par cās*
 tō tāke the botel ther the poysoun was, 240
 and drank, and yaf his felawe drynke also,
 for which anōn they storven bothe twō.

But certes ī suppoſe that Avycen
 wrōot nevere in nō canoun ne in nō fen
 mō wōnder sięnes of empoisonyng 245
 than hadde these wrecches twō er her endyng.
 Thus ended been these homycides twō,
 and eek the false empoysonere also.

GLOSSARY.

The order is alphabetical, except that words beginning with the prefix *y-* must be sought under their root: *ythgewed* under *t*, &c. Words that cannot be found under *i* must be sought under *y*, and vice versa.

- abȳen**, atone for, suffer for.
achât, purchase.
achâtour, buyer.
acloyen, over-burden.
a-drad, afraid.
affle, file, polish.
affrayen, startle.
al, all; entirely, completely—
 ‘over al,’ everywhere; ‘al bē,’
 although; ‘with alle,’ com-
 pletely.
âl, awl.
alder-best, best of all.
alder-next, next, nearest of all.
âle-stâke, sign-post.
al-gâte, always.
Algézîr, Algeciras (in Spain).
Alisaundre, Alexandria.
also, as; also.
a-mys, amiss, unfavorably.
anlâs, dagger.
an-on, anon, at once; forthwith.
an-on-right, at once.
apiked, trimmed.
aray, array; magnificence (in
 dress and armour).
arive, landing (of troops).
arrerâge, arrears.
assent, consent, conspiracy.
assoillen, absolve.
assoilling, absolution.
atte = at the—‘a. beste,’ in the
 best style.
atempre, tempered, mild.
atȳr, ornament; dress.
Austyn, St. Augustine.
autêr, altar.
avauncen, advance, profit.
- avauntour**, boaster.
âventûre, chance, adventure.
avisement, deliberation.
avisen, contemplate, consider.
 reflex. consider.
avouterie, adultery.
avow, vow.
a-wrêken, avenge.
axen, ask; call for, provoke.
ay, always.
balled, bald.
barre, ornament.
bawdryk, belt.
beggestere, female beggar.
be-hoten, promise.
Belmarÿe, a kingdom in Africa.
Beneit, Benedict.
bente, meadow.
be-setten, beset; apply, em-
 ploy, utilise.
be-sprengen, sprinkle, bedew.
besy, büsy, bisy, busy, anxious.
besynesse, fussiness.
bet, better; quickly (?).
be-wrÿen, betray.
beyen, buy.
bisetten, *see* besetten.
bit, *pres. indic.* 3 *sg.* of *bidden*,
 ask, bid.
blenden, blind.
blent, *see* blenden.
b-lÿve, quickly.
bode, offer; announcement, mes-
 sage.
bolden, become bold.
bône, request, wish.
borâs, borax.

- bōrd**, table—'the b. biginnen,'
 sit at the head of the table ;
 take the lead.
bōte, remedy.
bourden, jest.
brācēr, arm-guard.
brawn, muscle.
brennen, burn.
bret-ful, brimful.
byrd, young bird ; bird.
bukke, he-goat ; buck, stag.
burdoun, burden, accompani-
 ment (of a song) ; bass.
burgēys, burgess, citizen.
but, but ; unless ; but if, un-
 less.
buxumnesse, obedience, cheer-
 fulness.
bylder, builder.

can, knows ; can.
careyne, **caroyne**, carrion,
 corpse.
carl, fellow.
carpen, talk.
casten, cast ; devise.
catel, property.
ceint, girdle.
celle, small monastery.
cerūce, white lead.
ychāped, inlaid.
charitāble, humane.
charitē, benevolence, kindness.
chaunterie, chantry, endow-
 ment for chanting mass.
chère, countenance, appearance ;
 state of mind, cheer ; behaviour ;
 friendliness, friendly reception.
cherl, fellow ; churl.
chēsen, choose.
chevyssaunce, loan.
chivalrie, knighthood, life of a
 knight, chivalry.
chyvachie, military expedition,
 campaign.
clarre, sweet, spiced wine.
clepen, call ; name.
clerk, student, scholar.
colde, coldness, chill.
cōlpoun, shred, bundle.

cōnseil, advice ; deliberation ;
 secret.
cōntraire, contrary ; adversary.
cōnye, rabbit.
cop, tip.
cope, a priest's cloak.
cōrāge, heart, spirit, disposi-
 tion.
coroune, crown.
corupcioun, destroyer.
cost, condition, nature—'for no
 cost,' in no way, on no account.
couchen, lay ; trim, prepare,
 finish.
coude, *pret. of can.*
countour, auditor, controller,
 arithmetician ; abacus, count-
 ing-board.
countre-feten, imitate.
courtepȳ, short cloak.
couth, known.
couthe, *pret. of can.*
cōverchēf, cap.
cōvine, deceit.
crafty, skilful.
crāsen, break.
crisofre, brooch.
crokke, pot.
crop, tree-top, shoot.
croys, cross.
crul, curly.
cryke, creek.
cunnyng, knowledge, skill.
cūre, care.
cut, lot.

daliaunce, gossip.
dāme, lady, dame—'my d.,' my
 mother.
daungēr, control, authority
 danger.
daungerous, arrogant.
daunten, subdue.
dayes-ȳe, daisy.
defaut, failure, fault.
degrē, rank ; manner.
dēl, part, portion ; quantity.
delicasȳe, luxury, daintiness.
delyvere, active, agile.
departen, divide, share.

- depeynten, cover with paint-ings; paint.
 despitous, merciless, unkind.
 desport, sport, play, liveliness.
 deþh, death—'the d.,' the plague.
 devisen, tell, describe.
 deyntē, valuable; dainty, luxury.
 deys, dais, platform.
 digne, dignified, proud, reserved.
 dischevelē, with loose hair.
 dispence, expenditure.
 distraynen, strain, pull.
 dōm, judgment, decision.
 dōn, do; cause, have.
 doute, doubt—'out of d.,' without doubt.
 drēdful, timid; terrible.
 drēsen, prepare.
 drōghte, drought, dryness.
 drēyen, suffer.
 dȳken, dig a ditch.
- eġge, edge.
 ēk, ēke, ako.
 elles, else.
 embroded, embroidered.
 emperice, empress.
 en-bōsed, foaming at the mouth.
 enġendrūre, breeding.
 enointen, anoint.
 ensauple, example.
 entente, attention; intention; state of mind, will; opinion.
 entre-mēs, entremets; interval.
 entremēten, *refl.* meddle with.
 entriken, ensnare, seize.
 envȳen, envy; emulate, strive.
 envȳned, stored, provided with wine.
 erce-deken, arch-deacon.
 errour, error, uncertainty.
 eschaunge, exchange.
 eßen, make easy, accommodate.
 espie, spy.
 espien, espy.
 estāt, rank, dignity; condition.
 estātlich, estātly, steady, reliable; stately.
esey, moderate.
- ēven, level, even; impartial; average.
 ever-in-on, continually.
 eyre, air.
- facound, eloquent.
 facounde, eloquence.
 fadme, fathom, yard.
 faldyng, coarse cloth.
 fallen, fall; happen, occur.
 fāren, travel; prosper—*fāre*, *noun* hap; 'ēvel fāre,' ill-luck.
 farsen, stuff.
 fēle, many.
 fen, chapter.
 fer, far.
 ferde, *see* fēren.
 fēre, companion; mate.
 fēren, go; fare, behave.
 fer-forth, far; 'sȳ f.,' to such a degree.
 ferne, distant.
 ferre, farther.
 ferrest, farthest, most distant.
 ferther, farther.
 ferthyng, farthing; small portion, speck.
 fest, fist, hand.
 fetis, well-made, neat, elegant.
 fette, *pret. of* fecohen, fetch.
 fithele, fiddle.
 flaume, flame.
 flēs, fleece.
 flēten, float.
 floyten, play the flute.
 folk, people; kind.
 fōnden, try.
 for, for; because; against; to avoid.
 for-bēden, forbid.
 for-bȳ, *pp.* past.
 for-drōnken, dead drunk.
 for-loyne, halt.
 formel, female of a bird of prey, mate.
 former, prior, earlier.
 fōrneys, furnace; fireplace—'f. of a led,' fire under a cauldron.
 for pampred, over-pampered.
 forpȳned, worn out with tor-

- ments, wasted away, worn out.
- fors, matter, consequence.
- fortünen, make fortunate.
- forward, agreement.
- for-wēry, overtired, very weary.
- for-whȳ, because.
- fōther, load.
- fōt-hot, 'foot-hot,' impatient to start.
- foul, fowel, bird.
- founden, found, build.
- frankeleyn, squire.
- galentȳne, kind of sauce.
- galyngāle, the root of sweet cyperus.
- gāmen, play—'him gāmed,' he was happy.
- gan, *see* ginnen.
- gat-tōthed, with teeth wide apart.
- gauden, adorn.
- Gaunt, Ghent.
- geaunt, giant.
- gēt, noble, elegant, accomplished.
- gerdonyng, rewarding, reward.
- gere, gear, instruments, apparatus.
- gerfaucoun, gerfalcon.
- Gernāde, Granada.
- gerner, garner, cornloft.
- gilden, golden.
- ginnen, begin.
- gīpser, pouch.
- girl, young man or woman.
- gise, manner, way.
- gniden, rub.
- gobet, piece.
- gōlē, talk, gabble.
- goliardeys, spunger.
- gon, go; apply oneself.
- gōvernaunce, management.
- graunten, agree.
- grēf, grievance.
- grēt, big—'the grēte,' the substance; 'the Grēte Sē,' the Mediterranean.
- grēvaunce, injury, annoyance.
- grēve, grove.
- grōpen, feel, grope; test.
- ground, ground, bottom, foundation, texture.
- grȳs, (grey) fur.
- gypoun, jacket.
- gyterne, guitar.
- habergeoun, small coat of mail.
- hālen, draw, attract.
- half, side—'a(=on) Goddes h.' for God's sake.
- halowen, halloo, drive with shouts.
- hals, neck.
- halwe, saint.
- hān = hāven, have.
- hardily, certainly.
- harlotrie, looseness, wantonness; buffoonery.
- harm, injury, grievance.
- harneisen, equip.
- harre, hinge.
- hasardour, gamester.
- haunt, practice, skill.
- haunten, follow after, practise.
- hautayn, haughty.
- hawe, enclosure, yard.
- hei-sugge, hedge-sparrow.
- hēle, healing, health.
- henne, hence.
- henten, seize, take hold of; get.
- hēp, crowd.
- herberwe, harbour.
- herde, *pret. of* hēren, 'hear.'
- hērde, keeper of cattle, shepherd.
- herse, hearse, decorated bier.
- hert, hart.
- herte, heart.
- hēthenesse, heathendom, heathen countries.
- hette, *see* hōten.
- hette, *pret. of* hēten, 'heat.'
- heyre, *adj.*, of horsehair.
- highte, *see* hōten.
- hindrest, hindermost, last.
- holm, holm-oak.
- holt, wood.
- honest, becoming, proper.

- hostelrÿe, dwelling; inn.
 hostilër, inn-keeper.
 hôte, hotly, fervently.
 hōten, be named.
 hound, dog; hound.
 hunte, hunter.
 hÿen, hasten.
 hÿne, farm-servant.

 ilke, same.
 infect, invalid.
 inne, *adv.*, in.

 jangler, talker, babbler.
 jāpe, jest, trick.
 jet, style, fashion.
 justen, joust, tilt, engage in a
 tournament.

 kan, knows; can.
 karf, *see* kerven.
 ken = kyn, race, family—'al
 ken,' mankind, everyone.
 kēpe, heed.
 kēpen, keep; keep clear (of
 pirates), guard; watch.
 kēpera, keeper, head.
 kerven, cut; carve.
 knarre, knot in wood; a thick-
 set man.
 knāve, boy, servant.
 knetten = knytten, knit, join.
 korven, *see* kerven.
 kyd, *plc. prt.* of kÿthen, make
 known.
 kÿnde, nature; kind.

 laddë, *pret. of* lēden 'lead.'
 lafte, *pret. of* lēven 'leave.'
 lambyssh, lamb-like.
 large, large, wide, long; liberal.
 lās, lace, thong.
 latoun, kind of brass.
 launde, glade, lawn.
 laurër, laurel.
 lazar, leper.
 lēd, cauldron.
 lēden, lead; convey, cart.
 lēnen, lend.
 lenger, comp. of long.
 lēren, *teach*; learn.

 lēsen, lose; destroy.
 lest (= lust), pleasure.
 lesten, *see* listen.
 lēten, let; leave.
 letten, hinder; abstain, cease.
 Lettōw, Lithuania.
 letuārie, clectuary.
 lēven, believe.
 lēven, leave; omit.
 lēwed, lay(man); ignorant,
 stupid.
 lÿpsen, lisp.
 listen, lesten, *vb. impers.*—'him
 liste,' he desired, it was his
 humour to. . .
 lite, little.
 litestēre, dyer.
 lōde-menāge, pilotage.
 loft, height; upper room—'on
 lofte, a lofte,' aloft.
 lōnge, *adv.*, for a long time.
 lough, *pret. of* laughen.
 lōve-dayes, love-days, days for
 settling disputes amicably,
 without lawsuits.
 fūce, pike.
 lust, desire; pleasure, enjoyment.
 Lyeys, in Armenia.
 lykerous, luxurious, lecherous.
 lÿmére, greyhound.
 lÿmytour, mendicant friar.

 maister, master, sir.
 maister-hunte, chief huntsman.
 maistrÿe, mastery, superiority—
 'for the m.,' preeminently.
 māke, mate.
 māken, make; compose, draw
 up.
 mākÿng, composition, writing
 poetry.
 māle, trunk, portmanteau.
 maunciple, manciple, caterer.
 may, can; may.
 mēde, reward, wages; bribery.
 mēnen, complain; mean.
 merlioun, merlin.
 meschēf, misfortune.
 messāgerie, message-carrying,
 pandering, intrigue.

- met, *pres. indic. 3 sing. of*
 mēten.
 mēte, fit, appropriate.
 mēten, dream, *pers. and impers.*
 mette, *prt. of mēten*, 'dream,'
and of mēten, 'meet.'
 mēven, move.
 mō, *adj. plur.* more.
 mormal, sore, gangrene.
 morne-milk, morning-milk.
 mortrēwes, a kind of soup.
 morwe, morning—'by the m.'
 in the morning.
 mōt, signal.
 mōt, ought to; must.
 mountaunce, amount.
 mowe, *see may*.
 muche, big; much.
 müwe, mēwe, coop for fattening
 fowls.
 myssen, miss, fail.
 mystēr, craft, profession, trade.

 na, no, not.
 nam, nas, &c., am not, was not.
 nā-the-lēes, nevertheless.
 nātüre, nature; kind, race.
 ne, not; neither—'ne . . ne,'
 neither . . nor.
 Nembrot, Nimrod.
 neȝt, cattle.
 neȝer-a-deȝel, not at all.
 nōnes—'for the n.,' for the
 nonce, on the occasion.
 Northfolk, Norfolk.
 nōse-thirles, nostrils.
 nōt = ne wōt.
 nōte, melody; note.
 not-hēd, crop-head.
 nowthe, now—'as n.,' just now.
 nȝce, foolish.
 nȝcetē, folly.
 nyl, will not.
 nyghten, be night.
 nyghter-tāle, night-time.

 offīce, office, secular appoint-
 ment.
 offrynge, offering in the church
 on Relic-Sunday.

 ofte-sithes, often.
 ōn, one—'after ōn,' of uniform
 excellence.
 ōnes, of one mind; once.
 Ōre-welle, Orwell, the port of
 Harwich.
 orlōge, clock.
 ōther, other.
 ȝther, or.
 outlandissh, foreign.
 outrāge, excess, luxury.
 outrely, utterly, entirely.
 ȝverest, uppermost, outer.
 ȝver-shāken, overcome.
 ȝver-shēten, overshoot; *reflex.*
 go too far.

 pācen, pass by, surpass.
 Palatȝe, Palathia, in Asia
 Minor.
 par cās, by chance.
 parcel, portion; detail, account.
 par-dē, by God.
 pardonēr, seller of indul-
 gences.
 parfit, perfit, perfect.
 parrok, park.
 parvȝs, portico of St. Paul's
 (where the lawyers met).
 pās, pace—'gōn a p.,' go at a
 foot-pace.
 passen, (sur)pass.
 pay(ē), satisfaction.
 payen, please, content; pay.
 paysyble, peaceful.
 pers, grey cloth.
 persoun, parish priest.
 peynen, trouble—'peyned hire,'
 took trouble, endeavoured.
 peynten, depict, paint.
 philosophre, philosopher; al-
 chemist.
 pīled, bald; thin-haired.
 pilēr, pillar, column.
 pilwe-bēr, pillow-case.
 pipere, piper.
 pitaunce, allowance of food.
 plāte, armour.
 plē, plea, argument.
 plessaunce, pleasure.

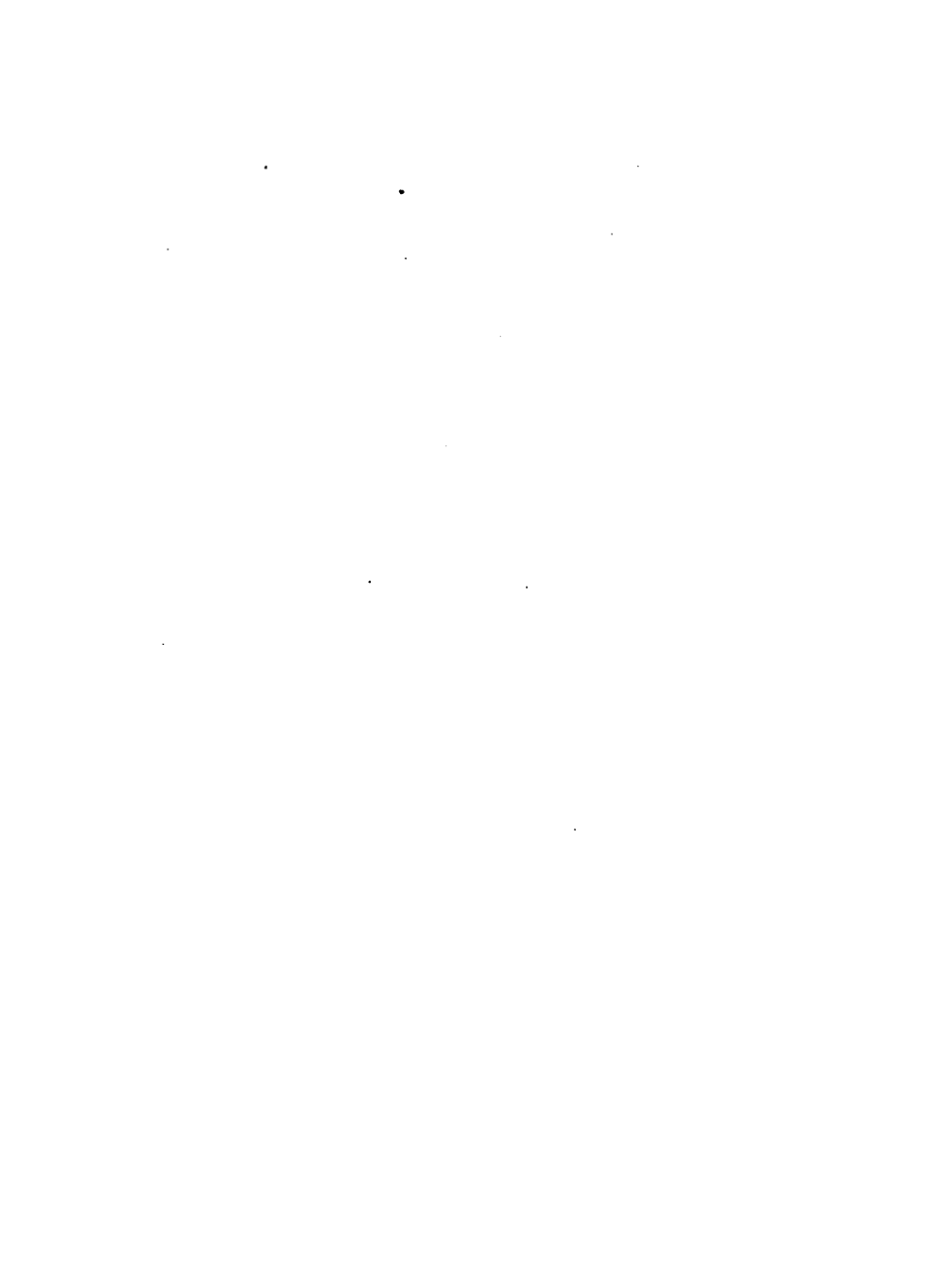
- plętyng, pleading.
 pleyn, full.
 playn, playn, flat, smooth,
 straight.
 pleynen, mourn.
 pleynly, plainly, clearly.
 pleynt, complaint.
 plowman, petty farmer.
 pō-kok, peacock.
 pomely, dappled.
 popynjay, parrot.
 poraille, poor people.
 port, deportment.
 post, post, pillar, support.
 pothecārie, apothecary.
 poudre-marchaunt, flavouring
 powder, a kind of curry
 powder.
 pounāge, swine's food.
 poynaunt, strong - flavoured,
 piquant.
 present, immediately.
 presse, preſe, press, hurry;
 crowd; mould.
 pressen, preſen, press.
 prest, ready.
 prēve, proof.
 prēven, prove.
 prikasour, (spurrer), hard rider.
 priken, prick; spur; incite.
 prikyng, (spurring), hard riding.
 prime, prime, nine o'clock.
 privé, private, secret.
 proces, course of time.
 Pruce, Prussia.
 prys, renown, value, price, prize.
 pulled, plucked.
 purchās, gains, proceeds (of
 begging).
 purchācen, gain; buy.
 purchāsour, conveyancer.
 purchāsyng, conveyancing.
 purfilen, embroider, garnish, fur.
 purtreyen, draw.
 pynchen, pinch, pleat—'p. at,'
 find fault with.
 quellen, kill.
 quérne, hand-mill.
 quiten, requite, pay.
 quod, quoth.
 radde, *pret. of rēden*.
 rāge, madness, excitement.
 rāgen, play, romp.
 rāpe, hurry, haste.
 raughte, *pret. of rēchen*.
 reccheles, careless.
 recchen, reckon, care.
 re-chāsen, drive back, head
 back.
 rēchen, reach—'r. after,' help
 oneself to.
 rēd, advice; opinion.
 rēde-les, without counsel, per-
 plexed.
 rēden, read; advise.
 regalie, authority.
 relayes, fresh supply.
 rennen, run.
 rennyng, running.
 rente, income.
 replicacioun, answer.
 rēsoun, reason; opinion; dis-
 cussion, matter of argument.
 reste, rest—'whan the sōnne
 was tō reste,' when the sun
 was at rest (had set)—'at his
 reste,' at home.
 rēve, bailiff.
 reverence, respect; dignity.
 rēule, rule.
 reward, regard, consideration.
 reysen, make an expedition, in-
 road.
 rial, royal.
 right, right, rightly; exactly.
 rightful, righteous.
 roghte, *see recchen*.
 rōte, a kind of harp.
 rouncy, nag.
 rouden, assume a round form.
 route, company, troop.
 Ruce, Russia.
 ruddōk, redbreast.
 rūsen, use tricks; escape.
 rȳven, pierce.
 sad, sober; steady, settled.
 sangwȳn, red cloth.

- Satalye**, Attalia, in Asia Minor.
sauf, säve, save, except.
sautrie, psaltery, a kind of stringed instrument.
sawce-flæg, having a red, pimpled face.
scalled, scurvy.
scärsly, sparingly, frugally.
scäthe, harm, pity.
sciënce, knowledge, learning.
soöleyen, go to the University, study.
seryveyn, scribe.
sę, sea—'the Gręte Sę,' Mediterranean.
secrę, secret; discreet.
sęk, sĭk, sick, ill.
semy-cppe, a monk's cape.
sęn, see—'God yow sę,' may God protect you.
sendäl, a kind of silk.
sentence, meaning.
servysäble, ready to be of service, helpful.
set = setteth.
sęthen, boil, stew.
shäpen, shape, create; devise—'shoop him,' intended.
shäply, of good shape, shapely; fitted, fit.
shęld, shield; (French) crown.
shenden, put to shame; injure, spoil.
shęne, bright, beautiful.
shęter, shooter.
shetten, shut.
shir-ręve, (shire-reeve), sheriff.
shof, *pret.* of shouven.
shöp, *pret.* of shäpen.
shouven, push.
shręwe, villain.
shriven, shrive, confess.
sikerly, certainly.
sith, afterwards, then, since; sith that, since.
sittynge, most suitable.
skil, discernment, sagacity, reason, reasoning.
skylfully, reasonably.
slęn, slay, kill.
- slit**, *prs.* of sliden, slide, slip.
smal, narrow; small.
smerte, pain; painful; sharply.
smerten, hurt, smart—'him smerte,' he was unhappy.
snęwen, snow; abound.
snybben, rebuke.
söley, solitary, alone.
söm-dęl, somewhat.
sömnour, summoner, apparitor.
söm-tyme, once.
söth, true; truth—'for s.' in truth, certainly.
soun, sound.
sounen, sound; conduce to.
soures, bucks of the third year.
späce, space; occasion; course of life.
spären, spare; abstain.
spar-hauk, sparrow-hawk.
spillen, destroy.
stäre, starling.
stęmen, shine.
stenten (= stinten), stop.
sterre, star.
sterry, starry.
stęp, steep, deep; bright.
sterven, die.
stęven, voice.
stirten, start.
stot, stallion.
stounde, period of time.
streit, narrow; strict; streite, tightly.
strĭke, hank.
ströng, strongly.
stroyer, destroyer.
stüwe, stęwe, fish-pond.
swich, such.
swöte, sweet.
swough, swoon.
swough, sound.
swynk, swynken, labour, toil, trouble.
swynkere, labourer.
swythe, strongly, very, much; quickly.
syk, sęken, sigh.
syn, since, because.

- tabard, sleeveless coat, smock frock.
 table dormaunt, a standing table, table always ready.
 taffatā, taffety, a kind of thin silk.
 tailāge, impost.
 taille — 'tōk by t.,' took on credit.
 tapicēr, upholsterer.
 tappestere, female tapster, barmaid.
 targē, shield.
 tempesten, *reflex.* trouble oneself.
 tercel, tercelet, male eagle or hawk.
 terme, period; expression—'in termes hān,' express, define.
 termynen, determine, settle.
 text, quotation, remark.
 than, then.
 thēn, prosper.
 thenchen, thenken, think.
 thēr, there—'th. as,' where.
 thēr-tō, besides.
 ythēwed—'wēl ith.,' of good morals, virtuous.
 thing, thing; agreement, document—'for any thing,' at all cost.
 thō, then.
 thoghte, *pret. of thenchen and thynken.*
 thorp, village.
 thridde, third.
 thries, thrice.
 throwe, moment.
 thynken, seem.
 tollen, take toll, allowance.
 top, crown of head.
 tō-reden, tear in pieces.
 Tramyssēne, kingdom in Africa.
 tretys, well-shaped.
 trōmpe, trumpet.
 trōuthe, fidelity, truth.
 tukked, tucked, coated.
 twēye, two.
 typet, hood, cowl.
 un-commyttēd, not delegated.
 ungrōbbēd, not dug round.
 un-korven, unpruned.
 un-kynde, unnatural; unkind.
 unnothe, not easily, scarcely.
 untō, unto; until.
 ūsāge, ūsaunce, habit.
 valence, a fine cloth.
 vavasour, squire, country gentleman.
 venerie, hunting.
 vernycle, an ornament; a miniature picture of Christ.
 verray, true; truly, very.
 vileynye, brutality, anything ungentlemanly.
 wāker, watchful, vigilant.
 wār, wary, cautious; aware.
 wāren, warn.
 wastel—'w. brēd,' fine bread.
 wāwe, wave.
 waxen, grow.
 wayten, watch, look out for.
 webbe, weaver.
 weder, weather; storm.
 welde, dyer's rocket (a plant).
 wōlk, *pret. of walken.*
 welked, withered.
 wēnen, think.
 wēre, weir.
 werreyen, wage war.
 westen, go west.
 what, what; why—'what . . . what,' partly . . . partly.
 whelk, pimple.
 whēr = whether.
 which, which, of what kind.
 whilōm, formerly, once upon a time.
 whȳ, why—'for whȳ,' because.
 wissly, certainly.
 wissen, direct, guide.
 with-hōlden, keep in retirement.
 wō, woe; unhappy.
 wōd, mad.
 wōd, woad.
 wōnder, wonder; wonderfully.
 wōne, custom.
 wōrthy, of high rank, distinguished, respectable.

- wōt**, knows.
wrastlyng, wrestling.
wræker, avenger ; punisher.
wympel, covering for the neck.
ywympled, with a neck-cloth.
wynken, wink, doze.
- yaf**, *pret.* of **yiven**.
ȳe, eye.
yeddyng, reciting ballads.
- yöldhalle**, guildhall.
yeman, upper servant, retainer.
yerde, rod ; sceptre ; rule.
yérne, willingly, eagerly.
yet, yet, besides.
yiven, give - 'y. of,' value.
yore, long ago, for a long time ;
 'yore ago,' for a long time,
 long ago.

THE END



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