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A One-Text Print

OF

Chaucer's Minor Poems.



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A One-Text Print

OF

Chaucer's Minor Poems,

BEING THE BEST TEXT OF EACH POEM IN

THE PARALLEL-TEXT EDITION,

FOR HANDY USE BY EDITORS AND READERS.

EDITED BY

FREDERICK J. FURNIVALL.

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BUNGAY: CLAY AND TAYLOR, THE CHAUCER PRESS.

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CORRECTION.

Parallel-Text edition of Chaucer's Minor Poems, p. 423, note 1, lines 13, 14.

Whittingham's *Chaucer* 1822, and the Aldine of 1845, both have the *Bukton*, with the name in the first line : Singer, vol. iv. p. 239, "My master, Bukton," &c. ; Aldine, vol. v. p. 299, "My master Bukton," &c. But both editions leave the title of the poem out of their tables of Contents, and both print it, like the old editions do, without a heading, as a kind of tag to the *Dethe of Blaunche* or *Booke of the Duchesse*, from which only a short 'rule' separates it. Twas this want of the heading which caused my mistake as I turnd over the leaves of the two editions.—F. J. F.

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I.

The Tete of Blaunche the Duchesse,

(OTHERWISE CALLED

“The Booke of the Duchesse,” and after, “Chaucers Dreame.”)

(This is Chaucer's 2nd Poem. The *Compleynte to Pite* is his first, and should be read first. See my *Trial-Forewords*.)



[Fairfax MS 16 (vellum, Bodl. Libr.), leaf 130.]

¶ The booke of the Duchesse.

[Stowe's hand adds 'made by Geoffrey Chawcye at the request of the duke of Lancaster: pitiously complaynyng the deathe of the sayd dutchesse / blanche /']

[t̄ is for t with a curl over it. ñ is for n.]

I Haue grete wonder / be this lyghte
I How that I lyve / for day ne nyghte
I may nat slepe / wel nygh̄ noght̄ 4
I have so many / an ydel thought̄
Purely / for defaulte of slepe
That by my trouthe / I take no kepe
Of noo thinge / how hyt cometh̄ or gooth̄
Ne me nys no thynḡ / leve nor looth̄ 8
Al is ylyche goode / to me
Ioy or sorowe / wherso hyt be
ffor I haue felynḡ / in no thynḡ
But as yt were / a mased thynḡ 12
Alway in poynt / to falle a-dovuñ
ffor sorwful / ymagynaciouñ
Ys alway hooly / in my mynde
And wel ye woote / agaynes kynde 16
Hyt were to lyveñ in thys wyse
ffor nature / wolde nat suffyse
To nooñ ertherly / creature
Nat longe tyme / to endure 20
With-oute slepe / and be in sorwe
And I ne may / no nyght̄ ne morwe
Slepe / and thys Melancolye¹
And drede I haue / for to dye 24

[¹ Bodl. 638 leaves out lines 24—95.
A leaf is out of the MS.]

Defaulte of slepe / and hevynesse	
Hath [sleyne] my spirite / of quyknesse	
That I haue loste / al lusty-hede	
Suche fantasies / ben in myñ hede	28
So I not what / is best too doo	
But meñ myght axe me / why soo	
[¹ I may not sleepe, and what me is	<small>[¹ From here to line 96, the writing is quite late.] (Where from?)</small>
But nathles, whoe aske this	32
Leseth his asking trewly	
My seluen can not tell why	
The southe, but trewly as I gesse	
I hold it be a sicknes	36
That I haue suffred this eight yeere	
And yet my boote is neuer the nere	
For there is phisicien but one	[leaf 130, back]
That may me heale, but that is done	40
Passe we ouer vntill efte	
That will not be, mote nedes be lefte	
Our first mater is good to kepe	
Soe when I sawe I might not slepe	44
Til now late, this other night	
Vpon my bedde I sate vpright	
And bade one reche me a booke	
A Romaunce, and it me tok	48
To rede, and driue the night away	
For me thought it beter play	
Then play either at Chesse or tables	
And in this boke were written fables	52
That Clerkes had in olde tyme	
And other poets put in rime	
To rede, and for to be in minde	
While men loued the lawe in kinde	56
This boke ne speake, but of such thinges	
Of quenes liues, and of kings	
And many other things smalle	
Amonge all this I fonde a tale	60

That me thought a wonder thing.
 This was the tale : There was a king
 That hight Seyes, and had a wife
 The best that might beare lyfe 64
 And this queene hight Alcyone
 Soe it befill, thereafter soone
 This king woll wenden ouer see
 To tellen shortly, whan that he 68
 Was in the see, thus in this wise
 Soche a tempest gan to rise
 That brake her maste and made it fal
 And cleft ther ship, and dreint hem all 72
 That neuer was founde, as it telles
 Borde ne man, ne nothing elles
 Right thus this king Seyes loste his life
 Now for to speake of Alcyone his wife 76
 This Lady that was left at home
 Hath wonder, that the king ne come
 Home, for it was a long terme
 Anone her herte began to yerne 80
 And for that her thought euermo
 It was not wele, her thought soe
 She longed soe after the king
 That certes it were a pitous thing 84
 To tell her hartely sorowfull life
 That she had, this noble wife
 For him alas, she loued alderbeste
 Anone she sent bothe eeste and weste 88
 To seke him, but they founde nought
 Alas (quoth shee) that I was wrought
 And where my lord my loue be deed ?
 Certes I will neuer eate breede 92
 I make a uowe to my god here
 But I mowe of my Lord here.
 Soche sorowe this Lady to her toke
 That trewly I which made this booke] 96

- ¹ Had suche pittee / and suche rowthe [¹ leaf 131. *The old hand-writing begins again.*]
 To rede hir sorwe / that by my trowthe
 I ferde the worse / al the morwe
 And aftir to thenkeñ / oñ hir sorwe 100
 So whañ this lady / koude here noo worde
 That no mañ myght / fynde hir lorde
 Ful ofte she swovned / and sayed alas
 For sorwe / ful nygh woode she was 104
 Ne she koude / no rede but ooñ
 But dovne oñ knees / she sate anooñ
 And wepte / that pittee was to here
 A mercy / swete lady dere 108
 Quod she Iuno / hir goddessse
 Helpe me out / of thys distresse
 And yeve me grace / my lord to se
 Soone / or wete wher so he be 112
 Or how he fareth / or in what wise
 And I shal make / yowe sacrificise
 And hooly youres / become I shal
 With good wille / body hert and al 116
 And but thow wилte / this lady swete
 Sende me grace / to slepe and mete
 In my slepe / somme certeyñ sweveñ
 Wher thorgh that I may / knowe even 120
 Whethir my lorde / be quyke / or ded
 With that worde / she henge down the hed
 And felle A swowne / as colde as stoñ
 Hyr women kaught hir / vp anooñ 124
 And broghteñ hir / in bed al naked
 And she forweped / and for-waked
 Was very / and thus the ded slepe
 Fil oñ hir / or she tooke kepe 128
 Throgh Iuno / that had herde hir bone
 That made hir / to slepe sone
 For as she prayede / ryght so was done
 In dede / for Iuno ryght anone 132

Called thus / hir messagere	[leaf 131, back]
To doo hir erande / and he come nere	
Whān he was come / she bad hym thus	
Go bet quod Iuno / to Morpheus	136
Thou knowest hym wel / the god of slepe	
Now vnderstonde wel / and take kepe	
Sey thus oñ my halfe / that he	
Go faste / in-to the grete se	140
And byd hym / that oñ al thyng	
That he take vp / Seys body the kyng	
That lyeth ful pale / and no thyng rody	
Bud hym crepe / in-to the body	144
And doo hit gooñ / to Alchione	
The quene ther she / lyeth allone	
And shewe hir shortly / hit ys no nay	
How hit was dreynt / thys other day	148
And do the body / speke ryght' soo	
Ryght' as hyt was / woned to doo	
The whiles that hit / was a lyve	
Goo now faste / and hye the blyve	152
This messenger / toke leve and went	
Vpoñ hys wey / and never ne stent	
Til he come / to the derke valey	
That stant betwex / Roches twey	156
Ther neuer yet / grew corne ne gras	
Ne tre ne noght' / that oughte was	
Beste ne mañ / ne noght' elles	
Save ther were / a fewe welles	160
Came rennyng / fro the clyffes a-down	
That made a dedely / slepyng soun	
And Ronneñ down / ryght' by a cave	
That was vnder / a rokke y-grave	164
Amydde the valey / wonder depe	
There these goddys / lay and slepe	
Morpheus / and Eclympasteyre	
That was the god / of slepes eyre	168

That slepe and did / noon other werke	[leaf 132]
This cave was / also as derke	
As helle pitte / ouer al a-boute	
They had good leyser / for to route	172
To envye / who mygh't slepe beste	
Somme henge her chyn / vpon hir breste	
And slept vprygh't / hir hed y-hedde	
And somme lay naked / in her bedde	176
And slepe whiles / the dayes laste	
This messager / come fleyng faste	
And cried .O. how / a-wake anoon	
Hit was for noght / there herde hym noon	180
A-wake quod he / whoc ys lythe there	
And blew his horne / ryght in here heere	
And cried a-waketh / wonder hye	
This god of slepe / with hys on ye	184
Caste vp / and axed / who clepeth there	
Hyt am I / quod this messagere	
Iuno bad / thow shuldest goon	
And tolde hym / what he shulde doon	188
As I have tolde yow / here to-fore	
Hyt ys no nede / reherse hyt more	
And went hys wey / whan he had sayede	
Anoon this god / of slepe a-brayede	192
Out of hys slepe / and gan to goon	
And dyd as he / had bede hym doon	
Tooke vp the dreynt / body sone	
And bare hyt forth / to Alchione	196
Hys wife the quene / ther as she lay	
Ryght even a quarter / before day	
And stood ryght / at hys beddys fete	
And called hir / ryght as she hete	200
By name and sayede / my swete wyfe	
A-wake / let be / your sorwful lyfe	
For in your sorwe / there lyth no rede	
For certes swete / I am but dede	204

Ye shul me never / oñ lyve y-se	[leaf 132, back]
But good swete hert / that ye	
Bury my body / for suche a tyde	
Ye mowe hyt fynde / the see besyde	208
And fare-wel swete / my worldes blysse	
I pray god / youre sorwe lysse	
To lytel while / oure blysse lasteth	
With that hir eyeñ / vp she casteth	212
And sawe noght / allas quod she for sorwe	
And deyede withiñ / the thridde morwe	
But what she sayede more / in that sorowe	
I may not telle yow / as nowe	216
Hyt were to longe / for to dwelle	
My first matere / I wil yow telle	
Wherfore I have / tolde this thyng	
Of Alchione / and Seys the kyng	220
For thus moche / dar I say welle	
I had be dolveñ / euerydelle	
And ded ryght thorgh / defaulte of slepe	
Yif I ne had redde / and take kepe	224
Of this tale / next before	
And [I] wol ¹ telle yow / wherfore	[¹ I wul. <i>Bodl.</i> 668, leaf 114]
For I ne myght / for bote ne bale	
Slepe or I had / redde thys tale	228
Of this dreynthe / Seys the kyng	
And of the goddis / of slepyng	
Whañ I had redde / thys tale wel	
And ouer loked hyt / euerydel	232
Me thoght wonder / yf hit were so	
For I had neuer / herde speke or tho	
Of noo goddis / that koude make	
Meñ to slepe / ne for to wake	236
For I ne knewe / never god but oon	
And in my game / I sayede anoön	
And yet me lyst / ryght euel to pley	
Rather then that / y shulde dey	240

Thorgh̃ defaulte / of slepyngē thus	[leaf 133]
I wolde yive thilke / Morpheus	
Or hys goddesse / dame Iuno	
Or somme wight̃ ellis / I ne roght̃ who	244
To make me slepe / and have some reste	
I wil yive hym / the alder beste	
Yifte / that euer / he abode hys lyve	
And here onwarde / ryght̃ now as blyve	248
Yif he wol make / me slepe a lyte	
Of downe of pure / dowves white	
I wil yif hym / a feder bedde	
Rayed with golde / and ryght̃ wel cledde	252
In fyne blak satyñ / de owter mere	
And many a pelowe / and euery bere	
Of clothe of reynes / to slepe softe	
Hym thar not nede / to turnen ofte	256
And I wol yive hym / al that fallys	
To a chambre / and al hys hallys	
I wol do peynte / with pure golde	
And tapite hem / ful many folde	260
Of oo sute / this shal he haue	
Yf I wiste where / were hys cave	
Yf he kañ make / me slepe sone	
As did the goddesse / quene Alchione	264
And thus / this ylke god Morpheus	
May wynne of me / moo fees thus	
Thañ euer he wanne / and to Iuno	
That ys hys goddesse / I shal soo do	268
I trow that she / shal holde hir payede	
I hadde vnnet̃h / that worde y-sayede	
Ryght̃ thus I have / tolde hyt yow	
That sodeynly / I nyste how	272
Suche a luste / anooñ me tooke	
To slepe / that ryght̃ vpoñ my booke	
Y fil aslepe / and therwith̃ evene	
Me mette so ynly swete / a swevene	276

So wonderful / that neuer yitte	
Y trow no mañ / had the wytte	
To konne wel / my sweveñ rede	[leaf 133, back]
No not Ioseph / with-oute drede	280
Of Egipte / ho that red so	
The kynges / metynge pharao	
No more thañ koude / the lest of vs	
Ne nat skarsly / Macrobeus	284
He that wrote / al thavysyoñ	
That he mette / kyng Scipioñ,	
The noble mañ / the affrikañ	
'suche marvayles / fortunèd than	[¹ <i>This line is in Stowe's hand. Bodl. 638, lf 115, bk, leaves a blank too.</i>]
I trowe a-rede / my dremes eveñ	289
Loo thus hyt was / thys was my sweveñ	
M E thought thus / that hyt was May	
And in the dawyngye / I lay	292
Me mette thus / in my bed al naked	
And loked forth / for I was waked	
With smale foules / a grete hepe	
That had Affrayed me / out of my slepe	296
Thorgh noyse and swettenesse / of her songe	
And al me mette / they sate a-monge	
Vpoñ my chambre / roofe wyth-oute	
Vpoñ the tyles / ouer al a-boute	300
And songe euerych / in hys wyse	
The moste solempne / seruise	
By noote / that euer mañ y trowe	
Had herde / for somme of hem songe lowe	304
Somme high / and al of ooñ acorde	
To telle shortly / att oo worde	
Was neuer harde / so swete a steveñ	
But hyt had be / a thyngye of heveñ	308
So mery a sovne / so swete entewnes	
That certes / for the tovne of tewnes	
I nolde but I / had herde hem synge	
For al my chambre / gan to ryngye	312

Thorgh̃ syngynge / of her Armonyē	
For Instrument / nor melodye	
Was nowhere herde / yet halfe so swete	
Nor of a-corde / halfe so mete	316
For ther was noon̄ of hem̄ that feyned	[leaf 134]
To syngē / for eche of hem̄ hym peyned	
To fynde out / of mery crafty notys	
They ne spared / not her throtys	320
And soothe to seyñ / my chambre was	
Ful wel depeynted / and with glas	
Were al the wyndowes / wel y-glasyd	
Ful clere / and nat an hoole y-crasyd	324
That to be-holde / hyt was grete Loye	
For holy al / the story of Troye	
Was in the glasyngē / y-wroght thus	
Of Ector / and of kyngē Priamus	328
Of Achilles / and of kyngē lamedoñ	
And eke of Medea / and of Iasoñ	
Of Paris / Eleyne / and of lavyne	
And alle the wallys / with̄ colouris fyne	332
Were peynted / bothe text and glose	
And al the Romaunce / of the Rose	
My wyndowes were / shette echoñ	
And throg̃h the glas / the sonze shoñ	336
Vpoñ my bed / with̄ brygh̃t bemys	
With̄ many glade / gilde stremys	
And eke the welkeñ / was so faire	
Blew bryght clere / was the ayre	340
And ful attempre / for sothe hyt was	
For nother to colde / nor hote yt was	
Ne in al the welkene / was a clowde	
And as I lay thus / wonder lowde	344
Me thoght I herde / an hunte blowe	
Tassay hys horne / and for to knowe	
Whether hyt were clere / or horse of sovne	
And I herde goynge / bothe v̄p̄ and dovne	348

Meñ / hors / houndes / and other thyng
 And al meñ speke / of huntynge
 How they wolde slee / the hert with strengthe
 And how the hert / had vpon lengthe 352
 So moche embosed / y not now what [leaf 134, back]
 Anooñ ryght' / whañ I herde that
 How that they wolde / oñ huntynge gooñ
 I was ryght' glad / and vp anooñ 356
 Tooke my hors / and forthe I went
 Out of my chambre / I never stent
 Til I come / to the felde withoute
 Ther ouertoke y / a grete route 360
 Of huntens / and eke of foresterys
 With ma[n]y¹ Relayes / and lymerys [1 many. Bodl. 638]
 And hyed hem / to the forest faste
 And with hem / so at the laste 364
 I asked oon / ladde A lymere
 Say felowe whoo / shal hunte here
 Quod I / and he answered ageyñ
 Syr / themperour / Octouyē 368
 Quod he / and ys here fast by
 A goddys halfe / in goode tyme quod I
 Go we faste / and gañ to ryde
 Whañ we came to the forest syde 372
 Euery mañ / didde ryght' anoon
 As to huntynge / fille to dooñ
 The mayster hunte / anooñ fote hote
 With a grete horne / blewe thre mote 376
 At the vncoupylynge / of hys houndys
 Withynne a while / the herte founde ys
 I-halowed / and rechased faste
 Longe tyme and so / at the laste 380
 This hert Rused / and staale away
 Fro alle the houndes / a prevy way
 The houndes had / ouershette hym alle
 And were vpon / a defaute y-falle 384

Therwyth̄ the hunte / wonder faste	
Blewe a forleygne / at the laste	
I was go walked / fro my tree	
And as I went / ther came by mee	388
A whelpe that ffavned me / as I stooode	[leaf 135]
That hadde y-folowed / and koude no goode	
Hyt come and crepte / to me as lowe	
Ryght̄ as hyt had / me y-knowe	392
Hylde doun hys hede / and ioyned hys erys	
And leyde al smothe / doun hys herys	
I wolde haue kaught̄ hyt / and anooñ	
Hyt fled / and was fro me gooñ	396
And I hym folwed / and hyt forthe went	
Dovne by a floury / grene went	
Ful thikke of gras / ful softe and swete	
With flourys fele / faire vnder fete	400
And litel vsed / hyt semed thus	
For both̄ Flora / and Zephirus	
They two that make / floures growe	
Had made her dwellynge / ther I trowe	404
For hit was / oñ to be-holde	
As thogh̄ therthe / envye wolde	
To be gayer / thañ the heveñ	
To have moo floures / swche seven̄	408
As in the walkene / sterris bee	
Hyt had forgete / the pouertee	
That wynter thorgh̄ / hys colde morwes	
Had made hyt suffre / and his sorwes	412
AH was for-geteñ / and that was sene	
For al the woode / was waxeñ grene	
Swetnesse of dewe / had made hyt waxe	
Hyt ys no nede / eke for to axe	416
Where there were many / grene greves	
Or thikke of trees / so ful of leves	
And euery tree / stooode by hym selve	
Fro other wel / tene fete / fro other twelve	420

So grete trees / so huge of streng[t]he
 Or fourty fifty / fedme lengthe
 Clene withoute bowgh / or stikke
 With croppes bothe / and eke as thikke 424
 They were nat / an ynche a sonder
 That hit was shadewe / ouer al vnder
 And many an herte / and many an hynde
 Was both before me / and be-hynde 428
 Of fovnes / sowres / bukkes / does [leaf 135, back]
 Was ful the woode / and many Roes
 And many sqwirels / that sete
 Ful high / vpon the trees and ete 432
 And in hir maner / made festys
 Shortly hyt was / so ful of bestys
 That thogh Argus / the noble covnter
 Sete to rekene / in hys counter 436
 And rekene / with his figuris ten
 For by tho figuris / mowe al ken
 Yf they be crafty rekene / and novmbre
 And tel / of euery thinge the noumbre 440
 Yet shulde he fayle / to rekene evene
 The wondres me mette / in my swevene
 But forth they Romed / ryght wonder faste
 Dovne the woode / so at the laste 444
 I was war / of a man in blak [nota in margin.]
 That sete / and had turned his bak
 To an ooke / an huge tree
 lorde thogh[t]¹ I / who may that be [¹ thought. *Bodl.* 638] 448
 What ayleth hym / to sitten here
 Anoon ryght / I went nere
 Than founde I sitte / even vpryght
 A wonder wel / farynge knyght 452
 By the maner / me thought soo
 Of good mochel / and ryght yonge therto
 Of the age / of foure and twenty² yere [² foure & twenty. *Bodl.*
 638, leaf 119]
 Vpon hys berde / but lytel here 456

And he was / clothed al in blake
 I stalked even / vnto hys bake
 And there I stooode / as stille as ought^t
 That soth̄ to saye / he sawe me nought^t 460
 For why he henge / hys hede adovne
 And with a dedely / sorwful sovne
 He made of Ryme / .x. vers or twelfe
 Of a compleynt / to hym selfe 464
 The moste pitee / the moste rowthe
 That euer I herde / for by my trowthe [leaf 136]
 Hit was gret wonder that nature
 Myght^t suffre / any creature 468
 To haue suche sorwe / and be not ded
 Ful petuose pale / and no-tyngē red
 He sayed a lay / a maner songe
 With-oute noote / withoute songe 472
 And was thys / for ful wel I kañ
 Reherse hyt ryght^t / thus hyt begañ
 ¶ I have of sorwe / so grete wone [The Knight's Lay]
 That Ioy gete I / never none 476
 Now that I see / my lady bryght^t
 Which I have loved / with al my myght^t
 Is fro me ded / and ys a-gooñ
 [. no gap in the MS.¹] [¹ Bodl. 638, leaf 119, back,
 has no gap either]
 ¶ Allas dethe / what ayleth̄ the
 That thou noldest / haue taken̄ me
 Whañ thou toke / my lady swete
 That was so faire / so freshe so fre 484
 So goode that men̄ / may wel se
 Of al goodnesse / she had no mete [End of the Lay]
 ¶ Whañ he had made thus / his complaynt
 Hys sorwful hert / gañ faste faynt 488
 And his spiritis / wexeñ dede
 The bloode was fled / for pure drede
 Dovne to hys hert / to make hym warme
 For wel hyt feled / the hert had harme 492

To wete eke why / hyt was a-drad
 By kynde / and for to make hyt glad
 For hit ys membre / principal
 Of the body / and that made al 496
 Hys hewe chaunge / and wexe grene
 And pale / for ther noo bloode ys sene
 In no maner / hym of hys
 Anoon therwith / whaȝ y sawgh̃ this 500
 He ferde thus euel / there he sete
 I went and stooode / ryght̃ at his fete
 And grette hym / but he spake noght̃
 But argued / with his ovne thoght̃ 504
 And in hys wytte / disputed faste [leaf 136, back]
 Why and how / hys lyfe myght̃ laste
 Hym thought̃ hys sorwes / were so smerte
 And lay so colde / vpon hys herte 508
 So throg̃h hys sorwes / and hevȝ thoght̃
 Made hym / that he herde me noght̃
 For he had wel nygh̃ / loste hys mynde
 Thogh̃ .Pan. that meȝ / clepe the god of kynde 512
 Were for hys sorwes / neuer so wrothe
 ¶ But at the last / to sayȝ ryght̃ sothe
 He was was war of me / how y stooode
 Before hym / and did of myȝ hoode 516
 And had ygret hym / as I best koude
 Debonayrly / and no thyng lowde
 He sayde I prey the / be not wrothe
 I herde the not / to seyȝ the sothe 520
 Ne I sawgh̃ the not / syr trewly
 A good sire / no fors quod y
 I am ryght̃ sory / yif I have oughte
 Destroubled yow / out of your thoughte 524
 For-yive me / yif I have mys-take
 Yis thamendys / is lygh̃t̃ to make
 Quod he / for ther lyet̃h noon ther-to
 There ys no thyng / myssayde nor do 528

Loo / how goodely spake thys knyghte
 As hit had be / a-nother wyghte
 He made hyt nouthur / towgh̄ ne queynte
 And I sawe that / and gañ me¹ aqueynt [¹ e later] 532
 With hym / and fonde hym so tretable
 Ryght^t wonder skylful / and resonable
 As me thought^t / for al hys bale
 A-nooñ ryght^t / I gañ fynde a tale 536
 To hym / to loke wher I myght^t oughte
 Haue more knowynge / of hys thoughte
 Sir quod I / this game is dooñ
 I holde that this / hert be gooñ 540
 These huntys / konne hym nowher see
 Y do no fors / therof quod he
 My thought^t ys there-oñ / neuer a dele
 Be oure lorde quod I / y trow yow wele leaf 137]
 Ryght^t so me thenketh / by youre chere
 But sir oo thyng / wol ye here
 Me thynketh in grete sorowe / I yow see
 But certys sir / yif that yee 548
 Wolde ought^t discure me / youre woo
 I wolde as wys / god helpe me soo
 Amende hyt / yif I kañ or may
 Ye mowe preve hyt / be assay 552
 For by my trouthe / to make yow hool
 I wol do alle / my power hool
 And telleth me / of your sorves smerte
 Paraventure hyt may / ease youre herte 556
 That semeth̄ ful seke / vnder your syde
 With that he loked / oñ me asyde
 As who sayth̄ nay / that wol not be
 Graunt mercy / goode frende quod he 560
 I thanke the / that thow woldest soo
 But hyt may never / the rather be doo
 No mañ may / my sorwe glade
 That maketh̄ my hewe / to fal and fade 564

And hath myñ vnderstondynge / lorne
 That me ys woo / that I was borne
 May noght make / my sorwes slyde
 Nought al the remedies / of Ovyde 568
 Ne Orpheus / god of melodye
 Ne Dedalus / with his playes slye
 Ne hele me may / noo phisicien
 Noght ypocras / ne Galyen 572
 Me ys woo that I lyve / oures twelve
 But whoo so wol / assay hym selve
 Whether his hert / kañ haue pitee
 Of any sorwe / lat hym see me 576
 Y wrechch that deth / hath made al naked
 Of al blysse / that ever was maked
 Y worthe worste / of al wyghtys
 That hate my dayes / and my nyghtys 580
 My lyfe my lustes / be me loothe
 For al welfare / and I be wroothe [leaf 137, back]
 The pure deth / ys so ful my foo
 That I wolde deye / hyt wolde not soo 584
 For whañ I folwe hyt / hit wol flee
 I wolde haue hym / hyt nyl nat me
 This ys my peyne / wythoute rede
 Alway deynge / and be not dede 588
 That Thesiphus / that lyeth in helle
 May not of more / sorwe telle
 And who so wiste alle / be my trouthe
 My sorwe / but he had rowthe 592
 And pitee / of my sorwes smerte
 That mañ hath / a fendely herte
 For who so seeth me / firste oñ morwe
 May seyñ / he hath mette with sorwe 596
 For y añ sorwe / and sorwe ys y
 ¶ Allas / and I wol tel the why
 My sorowe ys turned / to pleynynge
 And al my lawghtre / to wepynge 600

My glade thoghtys / to hevynesse
 In travayle / ys myñ ydelnesse
 And eke my reste / my wele is woo
 My goode ys harme / and euer moo 604
 In wrathe ys turned / my pleyng
 And my delyte / in-to sorwyng
 Myñ hele ys turned / in-to sekeenesse
 In drede ys al / my sykernesse 608
 To derke ys turned / al my lyghte
 My wytte ys foly / my day ys nyghte
 My love ys hate / my slepe wakyng
 My merthe and meles / ys fastyng 612
 My countenaunce / ys nycete
 And al abawed / where so I be
 My pees / in pledyng and in werre
 Allas how myght I / fare werre 616
 My boldenesse / ys turned to shame
 For fals Fortune / hath pleyde a game
 Atte the chesse with me / allas the while [nota in margin]
 The trayteresse fals / and ful of gyle [leaf 138]
 That al behoteth / and no thyng halte
 She gethe vpryght / and yet she is halte
 That baggeth foule / and loketh faire
 The dispitouse / debonaire 624
 That skorneth many / a creature
 An ydole / of fals portrayture
 Ys she / for she wol soñe varien
 She is the Mowstres / hed y-wrien 628
 As fylthe / over y-strawed with flouris
 Hir moste worshippe / and hir flourys
 To lyen / for that ys hyr nature
 With-oute feythe / lawe or mesure 632
 She ys fals / and euer lawghyng
 With oñe yghe / and that other wepyng
 That ys broght vp / she sette al doun
 I lykne hyr / to the Scorpioun 636

That ys a fals / flateyrynge beste
 For with his hede / he maketh feste
 But al amydde / hys Flaterynge
 With hys tayle / hyt wol styngre 640
 And envenyme / and so wol she
 She ys / thenvyouse charite
 That ys ay fals / and semeth wele
 So turneth she / hyr fals whele 644
 Aboute / for hyt ys no thyngre stable
 Now by the fire / now at table
 For many oon / hath thus she yblent
 She ys pley / of enchauntement 648
 That semeth oon / and ys not soo
 The fals thefe / what hath she doo
 Trowest thou by oure lorde / I wol the sey [nota in margin]
 At the chesse with me / she gañ to pley 652
 With hir fals draughtes / dyvers
 She staale on me / and toke my fers
 And whañ I sawgh / my fers away
 Allas I kouthe / no lenger play 656
 ¶ But seyde fare-wel / swete y-wys [leaf 138, back]
 And fare-wel al / that ever ther ys
 Ther-with fortune / seyde chek here
 And mate / in the myd poynt / of the chekkere 660
 With a povne / errante allas
 Ful craftier / to pley she was
 Thañ Athalus / that made the game
 First of the chesse / so was hys name 664
 But god wolde I had / oones or twyes
 Y-konde and knowe / the Ieopardyes
 That kowde the Greke / Pictagoras
 I shulde haue pleyde / the bet at ches 668
 ¶ And kept my fers / the bet ther-by
 And thoght wherto / for trewly
 I holde that wysshe / nat worthe A stree
 Hyt had be neuer / the bet for me 672

For fortune kañ / so many a wyle
 Ther be but fewe / kañ hir begile
 And eke she ys / the lasse to blame
 My selfe I wolde / haue do the same 676
 Before god / as I be as she
 She oght' the more / excused be
 For this I say yet / more ther-to
 Had I be god / and myghte haue do 680
 My wille whañ she / my fers kaught'
 I wolde have drawe / the same draught'
 For also wys / god yive me reste
 I dar wel swere / he tooke the beste 684
 But throgh that draught' / I haue lorne
 My blysse allas / that I was borne
 For euermore / y trowe trewly
 For al my wille / my luste holly 688
 Ys turned / but yet what to doone
 Be oure lorde / hyt ys to deye soone
 For no thyng / I leve hyt noght'
 But lyve and deye / ryght' in this thoght' 692
 For there nys planete / in firmament
 Ne in ayre / ne in erthe / noon element
 That they ne yive me / a yifte echoñ [leaf 139]
 Of wepyng / whañ I am alloñ 696
 For whañ that I / avise me wel
 And be-thenke me / euery del
 How that ther lyeth / in rekenyng
 Inne my sorwe / for no thyng 700
 And how ther levyth / noe gladnesse
 May glad me / of my distresse
 And how I haue / loste suffisance
 And ther-to I haue / no plesance 704
 Thañ may I say / I haue ryght' noght'
 And whañ al this / falletĥ in my thoght'
 Allas thañ am I / ouercome
 For that ys dooñ / ys not to come 708

I haue more sorowe / thañ Tantale
 And whañ I herde / hym tel thys tale
 This pitously / as I yow telle
 Vnnethe myght' y / lenger duelle 712
 Hyt dyd myñ hert / so moche woo
 A goode sir quod I / say not soo
 Haue somme pitee / oñ your nature
 That formed yow / to creature 716
 Remembre yow / of Socrates
 For he ne counted / nat thre strees
 Of noght' that fortune / koude doo *R2R*
 No quod he / I kañ not soo 720
 Why so good syr / yis parde quod y
 Ne noght' soo / for trewly
 Thogh ye had loste / the ferses twelve
 And ye for sorwe / mordred your selve 724
 Ye sholde be dampned / in this cas
 By as goode ryght' / as Medea was
 That slowgh hir childreñ / for Iasoñ
 And Phyllis also / for Demophoñ 728
 Henge hir selfe / so weylaway.
 For he had broke / his terme day
 To come to hir / another rage
 Had Dydo the quene / eke of Cartage 732
 That slough hir selfe / for Eneas
 Was fals / which a foole she was [leaf 139, back]
 And Ecquo died / for Narcisus
 Nolde nat love hir / and ryght' thus 736
 Hath many another / foly dooñ
 And for Dalida / died Sampsoñ
 That slough hym-selfe / with a pilere
 But ther is no mañ / a lyve here 740
 Wolde for a fers / make this woo
 Why so quod he / hyt ys nat soo
 Thou woste ful lytel / what thou menyst
 I haue loste more / thañ thow wenyst 744

loo / she that may be quod y
 Good sir telle me / al hooly
 In what wyse / how / why / and wherfore
 That ye have thus / youre blysse lore 748
 Blythely quod he / come sytte adoon
 I telle hyt the / vp a condicioñ
 That thou shalt / hooly with al thy wytte
 Doo thyñ entent to herkene hitte 752
 Yis syr / swere thy trouthe ther-to
 Gladly / do thanne / holde here lo
 I shal ryght^t blythely / so god me save
 Hooly / with al the witte I have 756
 Here yow / as wel as I kañ
 A goddys halfe quod he / and begañ
 Syr quod he / sith firste I kouthe
 Haue any maner wytte / fro youthe 760
 Or kyndely / vnderstondynge
 To comprehende / in any thyng
 What love was / in myñ ovne wytte
 Dredeles / I haue ever yitte 764
 Be tributarye / and yive rente
 To love hooly / with goode entente
 And throgñ plesaunce / become his thralle
 With good wille / body hert and alle 768
 Al this I putte / in his *servage*
 As to my lorde / and did homage
 And ful devoutely / I prayed hym to
 he shulde besette / myñ hert so [leaf 140] 772
 That hyt plesance / to hym were
 And worshippe / to my lady dere
 And this was longe / and many a yere
 Or that myñ herte / was set owhere 776
 That I did thus / and nyste why
 I trowe hit came / me kyndely
 Peraventure / I was therto moste able
 as a white walle / or a table 780

For hit ys redy / to cacheche and take
 Al that meñ wil / theryñ make
 Whethir so meñ / wil portrey or peynt
 Be the werkes / never so queynt 784
 ¶ And thilke tyme / I ferde ryght^t so
 I was able / to have lerned tho
 And to haue kende / as wel or better
 Paraunter / other Arte or letre 788
 But for love came firste / in my thoght^t
 Therefore / I forgate hyt noght^t
 I ches love / to my first crafte
 Therefore hit ys / with me lafte 792
 For why I toke hyt / of so yonge age
 That malyce / had my corage
 Nat that tyme turned / to no thyng
 Thorgh to mochel / knowlachyng 796
 For that tyme / yowthe my maistresse
 Gouverned me / in ydelnesse
 For hyt was / in my first youthe
 And thoo ful lytel / goode y couthe 800
 For al my werkes / were flyttyng
 That tyme / and al my thoght^t varyng
 Al were to me / ylyche goode
 That I knewe thoo / but thus hit stoode 804
 ¶ Hit happed that I came / oñ a day
 In-to a place / ther that I say
 Trewly the fayrest / companye
 Off Ladyes / that euere mañ with ye [leaf 140, back]
 Had seen to-gedres in oo place
 Shal I clepe hyt / happe other grace
 That broght me there / nay but Fortune
 That ys to lyeñ / ful comvne 812
 The fals trayteresse / peruers [nota in margin]
 God wolde I koude / clepe hir wers
 For now she worcheth / me ful woo
 And I wol tel sone / why soo 816

¶ Amonge these ladyes / thus echoñ
 Soth̄ to seyñ / y sawgh̄ ooñ
 That was lyke / nooñ of the Route
 For I dar swere / withoute doute 820
 That as the somerys / sonne bryghte
 Ys fairer clerer / and hath̄ more lyghte
 Thañ any other / planete in hevene
 The moone / or the sterres sevne 824
 For al the worlde / so had she
 Surmountede / hem / al of beaute
 Of maner / and of comelynesse
 Of stature / and of so wel sette gladnesse 828
 Of godelyhede / and so wel be-sey
 Shortly / what shal y sey
 By god / and by halwes twelve
 Hyt was my swete / ryght̄ al hir selve 832
 She had so stedfaste / countenaunce
 So noble porte / and meyntenaunce
 And love that had wel / herd my boone
 Had espyed me / thus soone 836
 That she ful sone / in my thoght̄
 As helpe me god / so was y kaught̄
 So sodenly / that I ne toke
 No maner counseyl / but at hir loke 840
 But at myñ hest / for why hir eyeñ
 So gladly I trow / myñ hert seyeñ
 That purely tho / myñ ovne thoght̄
 Seyde hit were beter / serve hir for noght̄ 844
 Thañ with a-nother / to be wel [leaf 141]
 And hyt was sothe / for eueredel
 I wil a-nooñ / ryght̄ telle the why
 I sawgh̄ hyr daunce / so comelely 848
 Carole and synge / so swetly
 Lawghe and pley / so womanly
 And loke / so debonairly
 So goodely speke / and so frendly 852

That certes y trowe / that euer-more
 Nas seyne / so a blysful a tresore
 For euery heer / oñ hir hede
 Soth̄ to seyne / hyt was not rede 856
 Ne nouth̄er yelowē ne broune hyt nas
 Me thoght̄ most lyke / hyt was
 ¶ And which̄ eyeñ / my lady hadde
 Debonair goode / glade and sadde 860
 Symple of goode / mochel noght̄ to wyde
 Ther-to hir looke / nas not a-syde
 Ne ouertwert / but besette so wele
 Hyt drewh̄ and tooke vp / euerydele 864
 Al that oñ hir / gañ be-holde
 Hir eyeñ semed / anooñ she wolde
 Have mercy / foolys wenden soo
 But hyt was never / the rather doo 868
 Hyt nas / no countrefeted thyngē
 Hyt was hir ovne / pure lokyngē
 That the goddessē / dame nature
 Had made hem opene / by mesure 872
 And cloos / for were she neuer so glad
 Hyr lokyngē was not / foly sprad
 Ne wildely / thogh̄ that she pleyde
 But euer me thoght̄ / hir eyeñ seyde 876
 Be god my wrathe / ys al for-yive
 Therwith̄ hir lystē / so wel to lyve
 That dulnesse was / of hir a-drad
 She nas to sobre / ne to glad 880
 In alle thynges / more mesure
 Had neuer I' trow / creature
 But many oon̄ / with̄ hire loke she hert [leaf 141, back]
 And that sate hyr / ful lytel at hert 884
 For she knowe no-tyngē / of her thoght̄
¹ but whither she knew / or knew it nowght
 Algate she ne rought̄ / of hem a stree
 To gete hyr love / noo nerre was he 888

[¹ This line is in Stowe's hand. Bodl. 638 has a blank too.]

- That woned at home / that he in ynde
 The formest was / alway behynde
 But good folke ouer al other
 She loved as mañ / may do hys brother 892
 Of whiche loue / she was wounder large
 In skilful placis / that bere charge
 But which a visage / had she ther-too
 Allas myñ hert / ys wonder woo 896
 That I ne kañ / discryveñ hyt
 Me lakketh both / englyssh and wit
 For to vn-do hyt / at the fulle
 And eke my spiritis / be so dulle 900
 So grete a thyng / for to deuyse
 I haue no witte / that kañ suffise
 To comprehend / hir beaute
 But thus moche dar I sayñ / that she 904
 Was white¹ rody fressh / and lyvely hewed [¹ blanche in margin,
in Stowe's hand]
 And euery day / hir beaute newed
 And negh hir face / was alder best
 For certys nature / had swich lest 908
 To make that faire / that trewly she
 Was hir chefe patrone / of beaute
 And chefe ensample / of al hir werke
 And moüstre / for be hyt neuer so derke 912
 Me thynkyth / I se hir euer moo
 And yet more over / thogh al thoo
 That ever levede / were now a lyve
 Ne sholde ha founde / to diskryve 916
 Yn al hir face / a wikked sygne
 For hit was sad / symple and benygne
 And which a goodely / softe speche
 Had that swete / my lyves leche 920
 So frendely / and so wel y-grounded [leaf 142]
 Vp al resoꝝn / so wel y-founded
 And so trefable / to al goode
 That I dar swere wel / by the Roode 924

Of eloquence / was neuer founde
 So swete a sownynge / facounde
 Ne trewer tonged / ne skorned lasse
 Ne bet koude hele / that by the masse 928
 I durste swere / thogh̄ the Pape hit songe
 That ther was neuer yet / throḡh hir tonge
 Mañ ne womañ / gretely harmed
 As for hit was / al harme hyd 932
 Ne lasse flatteryng / in hir word
 That purely / hir symple recorde
 Was founde as trewe / as any bonde
 Or trouthe / of any mannys honde 936
 Ne chyde she koude / neuer a dele
 That knoweth̄ al the worlde / ful wele
 But swiche a fairenesse / of a nekke
 Had that swete / that boon nor brekke 940
 Nas ther noon seen̄ that mys satte
 Hyt was white ¹ smothe / streght^t and pure flatte [¹ *blanche in*
 Wyt̄h-outen̄ hole / or canel boon *margin, by*
Stowe].
 As be semyng / had she noon 944
 Hyr throte / as I haue now memoire
 Semed a rounde toure / of yvoyre
 Of goode gretenesse / and noght^t to grete
 ¶ And goode faire White² / she hete [² *blanche in margin, by Stowe*]
 That was my lady Name / ryghte
 She was bothe / faire and brygh̄te
 She had not / hir name wronge
 Ryght^t faire shuldres / and body longe 952
 She / had / and armes / eury lyth̄
 Fattyss̄h̄ fless̄hy / not grete therwith̄
 Ryght^t white handes / and nayles rede
 Rounde brestes / and of good brede 956
 Hyr hippes were / a streight^t flat bakke
 I knewe on̄ hir / noon other lakke.
 That al hir lymmes / nere pure sywyng 960
 In as fferre / as I had knowynge [*leaf 142, back*]
 960

Therto she koude / so wel pley
 Whaň that hir lyst / that I dar sey
 That she was lyke / to torche bryght
 That euery maň / may take of lyght 964
 Ynogħ / and hyt hathe / neuer the lesse
 Of maner / and of comlynesse
 Ryght so ferde / my lady dere
 For euery wight / of hir manere 968
 Myght cache ynogħ / yif that he wolde
 Yif he had Eyeň / hir to be-holde
 For I dar swere wel / yif that she
 Had amonge / ten thousande be 972
 She wolde haue be / at the lest
 A chefe meroure / of al the fest
 Thogh they had stonde / in a Rowe
 To mennys Eyen / koude haue knowe 976
 For wher so meň had / pleyed or wakyd
 Me thoght the felysshyppe / as naked
 Withouteň hir / that sawgh I oones
 As a corowne / withoute stones 980
 Trewly she was / to myň Eye
 The soleyne Fenix / of Arabye
 For ther levyth / nevir but ooň
 Ne swich as she / ne knowe I noon 984
 To speke of godenesse / trewly she
 Had as moche / debonairyete
 As euer had Hester / in the bible
 And more yif more / were possyble 988
 And sothe to seyň / therwyth-alle
 She had a wytte / so generale
 So hoole enclnyed / to alle goode
 That al hir wytte was set / by the Rode 992
 With-oute malyce / vpon gladnesse
 And ther-to I sawgh / neuer yet a lesse
 Harmeful thaň she was / in doynge
 I sey nat that she / ne had knowynge 996

What harme was / or elles she
 Had koude¹ no good / so thenketh me [¹ or konde] [leaf 143]
 And trewly / for to speke of trouthe
 But she had hadde / hyt hadde be routhe 1000
 Therof she had / so moche hyr dele
 And I dar seyñ / and swere hyt wele
 That trouthe hym-selfe / ouer al and alle
 Had chose hys maner / principalle 1004
 In hir that was / his restynge place
 Ther-to she hadde / the moste grace
 To haue stedefaste / perseueraunce
 And Esy atempry / gouernaunce 1008
 That euer I knewe / or wyste yitte
 So pure suffraunt / was hir wytte
 And reson gladly / she vnderstooode
 Hyt folowed wel / she koude goode 1012
 She vsed gladly / to do wel
 These were hir maners / euerydel
 Therwith she loved / so wel ryght
 She wronge do wolde / to no wyght 1016
 No wyght myght doo / hir noo shame
 She loved so wel / hir ovne name
 Hyr lust to holde / no wyght in honde
 Ne be thou siker / she wolde not fondē 1020
 To holde no wyght / in balaunce
 By halfe worde / ne by countenaunce
 But yif meñ wolde / vpon hir lye
 Ne sende meñ / in-to walakye 1024
 To pruyse / and in-to Tartarye
 To Alysandre / ne in-to Turkye
 And byd hym faste / anoon that he
 Goo hoodeles / in-to the drye se 1028
 And come home / by the Carrenare
 And sey sir / be now ryght ware
 That I may of yow / here seyñ
 Worshyppe / or that ye come ageyñ 1032

She ne vsed / no suche knakkes smale	
But wherfore / that y tel my tale	
Ryght ^t oñ thys same / as I haue seyde	
Was hooly al / my love leyde	1036
For certes she was / that swete wife ¹	[leaf 143, back]
My suffisaunce / my luste my lyfe ¹	[¹ ? wise, lyse, with a late cross for f.]
Myñ happe myñ hele / and al my blysse	
My worldys welfare / and my goddesse	1040
And I hooly hires / and euerydel	
¶ By oure lord ² / quod I / y trowe yow wel	[² lord later]
Hardely your love / was wel besette	
I not how ye myght ^t / haue doo bette	1044
Bette ne no wyght ^t / so wele quod he	
Y trowe hyt wel sir / quod I parde	
Nay leve hyt wel / sire so do I	
I leve yow wel / that trewly	1048
Yow thoghte that she / was the best	
And to be-holde / the alderfayrest	
Who soo had loked hir / with your Eyeñ	
With myñ nay / al that hir seyeñ	1052
Seyde and swore / hyt was soo	
And thogh ^h they ne hadde / I wolde thoo	
Haue loved best / my lady free	
Thogh ^h I had hadde / al the beaute	1056
Thatt ³ euer had / Alcipyades	[³ altered]
And al the strengthe / of Ercules	
And therto had / the worthynesse	
Of Alysaunder / and al the rychesse	1060
That euer was / in Babyloyne	
In Cartage / or in Macedoyne	
Or in Rome / or in Nynyve	
And to also / as hardy be	1064
As was Ector / so haue I ioye	
That Achilles / slough ^h at Troye	
And ther-fore was he / slayñ alsoo	
In a temple / for bothe twoo	1068

Were slayne / he and Antylegyus
 And so seyth / dares frygius
 For love / of Polixena
 Or ben as wis / as Mynerva [leaf 144] 1072
 I wolde euer / withoute drede
 Have loved hir / for I most nede
 Nede / nay trewly / I gabbe nowe
 Noght nede / and I wol telle howe 1076
 For of goode wille myñ hert hyt wolde [nota in margin]
 And eke to love hir / I was holde
 As for the fairest / and the beste
 She was as good / so haue I reste 1080
 As euer was / Penolopee of Grece
 Or as the noble wife / lucrece
 That was the best / he telleth thus
 The Romayne / Tytus lyuyus 1084
 She was as good / and no thyng lyke
 Thogh hir stories / be Autentyke
 Algate she was / as trewe as she
 But wherfore / that I telle the 1088
 Whañ I firste / my lady Say
 I was ryght yonge / sothe to say
 And ful grete nede / I hadde to lerne
 Whañ my herte / wolde yerne 1092
 To love / hyt was a grete emprise
 But as my wytte / koude beste suffise
 After my yonge / childely wytte
 Withoute drede / I be-sette hytte 1096
 To love hir / in my best wyse
 To do hir worshippe / and the seruisse
 That I koude thoo / be my trouthe
 Withoute ffeynyng / outhel slouthel 1100
 For wonder feyne / I wolde hir se
 So mochel / hyt amended me
 That whañ I sawgh hir / first a morwe
 I was warshed / of al my sorwe 1104

Of al day after / til hyt were eve
 Me thogh^t no-thing^t / myghte me greve
 Were my sorwes / neuer so smerte [leaf 144, back]
 And yet she sytte / so myⁿ herte 1108
 That by my trouthe / y nolde noght^t
 For al thys worlde / oute of my thogh^t
 Leve my lady / noo trewly
 Now by my trouthe / sir quod I 1112
 Me thynkethⁿ ye haue / suche a chaunce
 As shryfte / wythoute repentaunce
 Repentaunce / nay Fy quod he
 Shulde y now / repente me 1116
 To love / nay certis thaⁿ were I wel
 Wers thaⁿ was / Achetofel
 Or Anthenor / so haue I ioye
 The traytore that / betrayed Troye 1120
 Or the fals / Genelloⁿ
 He that purchased / the tresoⁿ
 Of Rowlande / and of Olyvere
 Nay while I am / a lyve here 1124
 I nyl foryete hir / neuer moo
 Now good syr / quod I thoo
 Ye han wel tolde me / here before
 Hyt ys no nede / to reherse more 1128
 How ye sawghⁿ hir firste / and where
 But wolde ye tel me / the manere
 To hire / whichⁿ was your first speche
 Therof I wolde / yow be-seche 1132
 And how she knewe / first your thogh^t
 Whether ye loued hir / or noght^t
 And tellethⁿ me eke / what ye haue lore
 I herde yow telle / herebefore 1136
 Yee / he seyde / thow nost what thou menyst
 I haue lost more / than thou wenyst
 What losse ys that / quod I thoo
 Nyl she not love yow / ys hyt soo 1140

Or haue ye oght / dooñ amys
 That she hathe lefte yow / ys hyt this
 For goddys love / telle me alle [leaf 145]
 Be-fore god quod he / and I shalle 1144
 I say ryght / as I haue seyde
 Oñ hir was al / my love leyde
 And yet she nyste hyt nat / neuer a del
 Noght longe tyme / leve hyt wel 1148
 For be ryght siker / I durste noght
 For al this worlde / tel hir my thoght
 Ne I wolde haue wraththed hir / trewly
 For wostow why / she was lady 1152
 Of the body / she had the hert
 And who hath that / may not astert
 But for to kepe me / so fro ydelnesse
 Trewly I did / my besynesse 1156
 To make songes / as I best koude
 And ofte tyme / I songe hem loude
 And made songes / this a grete dele
 Al thogh I koude not / make so wele 1160
 Songes the knowe / the arte alle
 As koude lamekys / sone Tuballe
 That founde out firste / the art of songe
 For as hys brothres / hamers ronge 1164
 Vpoñ hys Anuelet / vp and dooñ
 Therof he tooke / the first soon
 But Grekes seyñ / Pictagoras
 That he the first / fynder was 1168
 Of the arte / Aurora telleth soo
 But therof no fors / of hem twoo
 Algatis songes / thus I made
 Of my felynge / myñ hert to glade 1172
 And loo / thus was alther first
 I not wher hyt / were the first
 ¶ lorde hyt maketh / myñ hert lyght
 Whañ I thenke / oñ that swete wyght 1176

That is so semely / oñ to see
 And wisshe to god / hit myght^t so bee
 That she wolde holde me / for hir knyght^t
 My lady that is / so faire and bryght^t 1180
 Now have I tolde / the sothe to say [leaf 145, back?]
 My first songe / vpon a day
 I be-thoght^t me / what woo
 And sorwe that I / suffred thoo 1184
 For hir and yet / she wüst hyt noght^t
 Ne tel hir durst I / nat my thoght^t
 Allas thoght^t I / y kañ no rede
 And but I telle hir / I añ but dede 1188
 And yif I telle hyr / to sey ryght^t sothe
 I am a-dred / she wol be wrothe
 Allas what shal I / thanne doo
 In this debate / I was so woo 1192
 Me thoght^t myñ hert / brast a tweyne
 So at the last / sothe to sayne
 I be-thoght^t me / that nature
 Ne formed neuer in creature 1196
 So moche beaute / trewly
 And bounte / wyth^t-oute mercy
 In hope of that / my tale I tolde
 With^t sorwe / as that I neuer sholde 1200
 For nedys / and Mawgree my hede
 I most haue tolde hir / or be dede
 I not wel how / that I beganne
 Ful evel reherse hyt / I kañ 1204
 And eke as helpe me / god with^t-alle
 I trowe hyt was / in the dismalle
 That was the .x. woundes of Egipte
 For many a worde / I ouer skipte 1208
 In my tale / for pure Fere
 Lest my wordys / mys sette were
 With^t sorweful herte / and woundes dede
 Softe and quakyng / for pure drede 1212

And shame / and styntyng in my tale
 For ferde / and myñ hewe al pale
 Ful ofte I wexe / bothe pale and rede
 Bowyng to hir / I heng the hede 1216
 I durste nat ones / loke hir oñ
 For witte maner / and al was gooñ [leaf 146]
 I seyde mercy / and no more
 Hyt nas no game / hyt sate me sore 1220
 So at the laste / sothe to seyne
 Whañ that myñ hert / was come ageyne
 To telle shortly / at my speche
 With hool herte / I gañ hir beseche 1224
 That she wolde be / my lady swete
 And swore and gañ / hir hertely hete
 Ever' to be stedfast / and trewe
 And love hir alwey / fresshly newe 1228
 And never other / lady have
 And al hir worshippē / for to save
 As I best koude / I swore hir this
 For youres is alle / that euer ther ys 1232
 For euermore / myñ herte swete
 And neuer to false yow / but I mete
 I nyl as wysse / god helpe me soo
 And whañ I had / my tale y-doo 1236
 God wote she acounted / nat a stree
 Of al my tale / so thoght' me
 To telle shortly / ryght' as hyt ys
 Trewly hir' answe're / hyt was this 1240
 I kañ not now wel / counterfete
 Hyr wordys / but this was the grete
 Of hir answe're / she sayde nay
 Alle outerly / allas that day 1244
 The sorowe I suffred / and the woo
 That trewly Cassandra / that soo
 Bewayled / the destruccioñ
 Of Troy / and of Ilyoñ 1248

Had neuer swich sorwe / as I thoo
 I durst no more / say ther-too
 For pure fere / but stale away
 And thus I lyved / ful many a day 1252
 That trewly / I hadde no nede
 Ferther / thañ my beddes hede [leaf 146, back]
 Never a day / to seche sorwe
 I fonde hyt redy / euery morwe 1256
 For why / I loved hyr in no gere
 ¶ So hit befel / another yere
 I thoughte ones / I wolde fonde
 To do hir knowe / and v[n]derstonde 1260
 My woo / and she wel vnderstode
 That I ne wilned / no thyng but gode
 And worshippe / and to kepe hir name
 Ouer alle thynges / and dred hir shame 1264
 And was so besy / hyr to serve
 And pitee were / I shulde sterve
 Syth that I wilned / noon harme y-wys
 So whañ my lady / knewe al thys 1268
 My lady yaf me / al hooly
 The noble yifte / of hir mercy
 Savyng hir worshippe / by al weyes
 Dredles I mene / noon other weyes 1272
 And therwith / she yaf me a rynge
 I trowe hyt was / the first thyng
 But yif myñ hert / was I-waxe
 Gladde / that is no nede to axe 1276
 As helpe me god / I was as blyve
 Reysed as fro dethe / to lyve
 Of al happes / the alder' beste
 The gladdest / and the moste at reste 1280
 For trewly / that swete wyght'
 Whañ I had wrong / and she ryght'
 She wolde alway / so goodely
 For-yeve me / so debonairely 1284

In al my yowthe / in al chaunce
 She tooke me / in hir gouernaunce
 Therwyth she was / alway so trewe
 Our Ioye was euer / y-lyche newe 1288
 Oure hertys werne / so evene a payre
 That neuer nas / that ooñ contrarye [leaf 147]
 To that other / for noo woo
 For sothe y-lyche / they suffred thoo 1292
 Oo blysse and eke / oo sorwe bothe
 Y-lyche they were / bothe glad and wrothe
 Al was vs ooñ / withoute were
 And thus we lyved / ful many a yere 1296
 So wel I kañ / nat telle how
 ¶ Sir quod I / where is¹ she now [¹ is late. 'she ys dede' in Stowe's
hand, in the margin]
 Now quod he / and stynte anooñ
 Therwith he waxe / as dede as stooñ 1300
 And seyde allas / that I was bore
 That was the losse / that here before
 I tolde the that / I hadde lorne
 Bethenke how / I seyde herebeforne 1304
 Thow wost / ful lytel / what thow menyst
 I haue lost more / thañ thow wenyst
 ¶ God wote allas / ryght^t that was she
 Allas sir how / what may that be 1308
 She ys ded / nay / yis be my trouthe
 Is that youre losse / be god hyt ys routhe
 And with that worde / ryght^t anooñ
 They gañ to strake / forth al was dooñ 1312
 For that tyme / the herte huntynge
 With that me thought / that this kynge
 Gañ homewarde / for to ryde
 Vnto a place / was there besyde 1316
 Which was from vs / but a lyte
 A longe castel / with wallys white
 Be seynt Iohañ / oñ a ryche hille
 As me mette / but thus hyt fille 1320

Ryght thus me mette / as I yow telle
 That in the castell / ther was a belle
 As hyt hadde smyte / oures twelve
 Therewyth I / a-wooke my selve 1324
 And fonde me lyinge / in my bedde
 And the booke / that I hadde redde [leaf 147, back]
 Of Alchione / and Seys the kyng
 And of the goddys / of slepyng 1328
 I fond hyt / in myñ honde ful evene
 Thought I thys ys / so queynt a sweuene
 That I wol / be processe of tyme
 Foñde to put this / sweuene in ryme 1332
 As I kañ best / and that anoõñ
 This was my sweuene / now hit ys dooñ

¶ **Explicit the Boke of the Duchesse**

II.

The Complaynte to Pite.

[How Pity is dead in a cruel Lobed-One's Heart.]

(This is Chaucer's 1st Poem, and should be studied first. Its subject is alluded to in the *Dethe of Blaunche the Duchesse* and the *Parlament of Foules*. See my *Trial-Forewords*.)

[*Fairfax MS 16 (vellum, ?1440-50; Bodl. Libr.), leaf 187.*]

[*t̄ is for t with a curl over it; ñ is for n.*]

¶ Balade.

[*complainte of the deathe of pitie (in Stowe's hand)*]

(1) [*The Proem.*]

Pite that I haue sought^{t̄} / so yore agoo
 With hert soore / and ful of besy peyne
 That in this worlde / was neuer wight^{t̄} so woo
 With-oute dethe / and yf I shal not feyne 4
 My purpose was / to pite / to compleyne
 Vpon the crueltee / and tirannye
 Of loue / that for my trouthe doth me dye 7

(2) [*The Story.*]

And when that I be lengthe / of certeyne yeres
 Had euere in ooñ / soughte a tyme to speke
 To pitee rañ I / al bespreynthe with teres
 To prayeñ hir oñ cruelte / me awreke 11
 But er I myght^{t̄} / with any worde out breke
 Or tellen any / of my peynes smerte
 I fonde hir dede / and buried in an herte 14

(3)

Adovne I fel / when I saugh the herse
 Dede as stone / while that the swogh me laste
 But vp I roose / with coloure ful dyuerse
 And petously on hir / myñ eyeñ I caste 18
 And ner the corps / I gañ preseñ faste
 And for the soule / I shope me for to prey
 I was but lorne / ther was no more to sey 21

(4)

Thus am I slayne / sith that pite is dede
 Allas that day / that euer hyt shuld falle
 What maner man / dar now hold vp his hede
 To whom shal now / eny sorwful herte calle 25
 Now cruelte hath caste / to slee vs alle
 In ydel hope / folke redelesse of peyne
 Syth she is dede / to whom shul we compleyne 28

(5)

But yet enreseth me / this wonder newe
 That no wight woot / that she is dede but I
 So many men / as in her tyme hir knewe
 And yet dyed not / sodeynly 32
 For I haue sought hir euer / ful besely
 Sith I hadde firste / witte or mynde
 But she was dede / er I koude hir fynde 35

(6)

Aboute hir herse / there stodeñ lustely [leaf 187, back]
 Withoute any woo / as thoughte me
 Bounte parfyt / wel armed and richely
 And fresshe beaute / lust and iolyte 39
 Assured maner / youthe and honeste
 Wisdome estaat / drede and gouernaunce
 Confedred both by bonde / and Alliaunce 42

(7)

A compleynt had I writen / in myñ honde
 To haue put to pittee / as a bille
 But when I al this companye / ther fonde
 That rather wolde / al my cause spille 46
 Then do me helpe / I helde my pleynt stille
 For to that folke / with-oute any fayle
 Withoute pittee / ther may no bille a-vaille 49

(8)

Then leve we al vertues / saue oonly pite
 Kepyng the corps / as ye haue herde me seyñ
 Cofedered by bonde / and by cruelte
 And *ben* assented / when I shal be sleyñ 53
 And I haue put my complaynt / vp ageyñ
 For to my ffoes / my bille I dar not shewe
 Theeffect of which / seith thus in wordes fewe 56

(9) [*The Bill of Complaint.*] (*Tern I. 1*)

Humblest of herte / highest of reuerence
 Benygne flour / corovne of vertues alle
 Sheweth vn-to youre rialle / excellence
 Your *servaunt* / yf I durst me / so calle 60
 Hys mortal harme / in which he is falle
 And nocht al oonly / for his euel fare
 But for your renouñ / as he shal declare 63

(10) (I. 2)

Hit stondeþ thus / that your contrary crueltee
 Allied is / ayenst your regalye
 Vnder colour / of womanly beaute
 For meñ shulde not / knowe hir tirannye 67
 With bounte gentillesse / and curtesye
 And hath depryved yow / of your place
 That is hygh beaute / apertenent to your grace 70

(11) (I. 3)

For kyndely / by youre herytage ryght [leaf 188]
 Ye be annexed euer / vnto bounte
 And verrelly ye oughte / do youre myght
 To helpe trouthe / in his aduersyte 74
 Ye be also the corowne / of beaute
 And certes yf ye want / in these tweyñ
 The worlde is lore / ther is no more to seyñ 77

(12) (*Tern* II. 1)

Eke what avaieth maner / and gentillesse
 Withoute yow / benygne creature
 Shal cruelte / be your gouverneresse
 Allas what herte / may hyt longe endure 81
 Wherefore but ye / the rather take cure
 To breke that perillouse / alliaunce
 Ye sleeñ hem that ben / in your obeisaunce 84

(13) (II. 2)

And further ouer / yf ye suffre this
 Youre renouñ ys fordoe / in a throwe
 Ther shal no mañ wete weH / what pite is
 Allas that euer your renouñ / is falle so lowe 88
 Ye be also / fro youre heritage y-throwe
 By cruelte / that occupieth youre place
 And we despeyred / that spekeñ to your grace 91

(14) (II. 3)

Haue mercy oñ me / thow herenus quene
 That yow haue sought / so tendirly and yore
 Let somme streme of lyght / on me be sene
 That loue and drede yow / euer lenger the more 95
 For sothely for to seyne / I bere so soore
 And though I be not kunnynge / for to pleyne
 For goddis loue / haue mercy on my peyne 98

(15) (*Tern* III. 1)

My peyne is this / that what so I desire
 That haue I not ne no thing / lyke therto
 And euer setteth desire / myñ hert oñ fire
 Eke oñ that other sydes / where so I goo 102
 What maner thinge / that may encrease my woo
 That haue I redy vnsoghte / euery where
 Me lakketh but my deth / and than my bere 105

(16) (III. 2)

What nedeth̄ to shewe parcel / of my peyne [leaf 188, back]
 Syth̄ euery woo / that herte may be-thynke
 I suffre / and yet I dar not to yow pleyne
 For wel I wote / though̄ I wake or wynke 109
 Ye rekke not / where I flete or synke
 But natheles yet / my trouthe I shal sustene
 Vnto my deth̄ / and that shal wel be sene 112

(17) (III. 3)

This is to seyne / I wol be youre euer
 Though̄ ye me slee / by crueltee your soo
 Algate my spirite / shal neuer disseuer
 Fro youre *seruise* / for eny peyne or woo 116
 Sith ye be yet ded / allas that hyt is soo
 Thus for your deth̄ / I may wel wepe and pleyne
 With̄ herte sore / and ful of besy peyne 119

¶ Explicit.

III.

The Parlement of Foules.

[MS Gg. 4. 27, Cambr. Univ. Libr. (vellum, 11430-40 A.D.).]

Here begynyth the parlement of ffoulys. [on leaf 480, back]

(1) [*The Proem.*]

THe lyf so short the craft so longe to lerne [leaf 481]
 Thassay so sharp / so hard the conquerynge
 The dredful Ioye / alwey that slit so 3erne
 Al this mene I / be loue / that myn felynge 4
 A-stonyd with his wondyrful werkyng
 So sore I-wis / that whan I on hym thynke
 Nat wot I wel wher that I slete or synke 7

(2)

For al be that / I knowe nat loue In dede
 Ne wot how that he quitith folk here hyre
 3it happith me ful ofte / in bokis reede
 Of hise myraklis & his crewel yre 11
 That rede I wel / he wele be lord & syre
 I dar nat seyn / his strokis been so sore
 But god save swich a lord I sey na moore 14

(3)

Of vsage what for lust & what for lore
 On bokis rede I ofte / as I 3ow tolde
 But wherfore that I speke al this nat 3oore
 Agon. it happede me for to be-holde 18
 Vp on a bok was wrete *wit* letteris olde
 And ther vpon a certeyn thing to lerne
 The longe day ful faste I redde & 3erne 21

(4)

For ofte of olde feldys / as men sey . . .
 Comyth al this newe¹ corn from 3er to 3ere [1 in Corrector's hand]
 And out of olde bokis in good fey
 Comyth al this newe science that men lere 25
 But now to purpos as of this matere
 To rede forth so gan me to delite
 That al that day me thouzte but a lyte 28

(5)

This bok of which I make of menciou
 Entytlt was al thus as I schal telle
 Tullyus of the drem of sothion
 Chapteris seuene It hadde / of heuene & helle 32
 And erthe · and soulis that thereon¹ dwelle [*o altered from y*]
 Of whiche as shortly as I can it trete
 Of his centence I wele 3ow seyn the greete 35

(6)

Fyrst tellith it whan scipion was come [*leaf 481, back*]
 In Affrik how he metyh massynisse
 That hym for Ioie in armys hath I-nome
 Thanne tellyth he here spche / & of the blysse 39
 That was be-twixsyn hem thil that day gan mysse
 And how his Auncestre Affryan so deere
 Gan in his slep that nyzt to hym a-pere 42

(7)

Thanne tellith it / that from a sterry place
 How Affryan hath hym cartage schewid /
 And warnede hym be-forn of al his grace
 And seyde what man leryd oþer lewid 46
 That louede comoun profyt wel I-thewid
 He schulde in to a blysfyl place wende
 There as Ioye is þat last with outyn ende 49

(8)

Thanne axede he If folk that now been dede
 Han lyf & dwellynge In a nothir place
 And Affrican seyde 3a with outyn drede
 And that oure present wordis lyuys space 53
 Nys but a maner deth what weye we trace
 And rightful folk schul gon aftyr they deye
 To heuene / & schewede hym the galylye 56

(9)

Thanne shewede he *hym* the erthe that here is
 At regard of the heuenys quantite
 And *after* shewede he *hym* the nyne speris
 And *aftyr* that the melodye herde he 60
 That comyth of thilke speris thryes thre
 That welle is of musik & melodye
 In this world here & cause of armonye 63

(10)

Than bad he *hym* syn erthe was so lyte
 And was sumdel disseyuable & ful of harde grace
 That he ne schulde *hym* in the world delyte
 Thanne tolde he *hym* in certeyn 3eris space 67
 That euery sterre schulde come in to his place
 Ther it was ferst & al schulde out of mynde
 That in this world is don of al mankynde 70

(11)

Thanne preyede *hym* cypyon to telle *hym* al [leaf 482]
 The weye to come In to that heuene blis
 And he seyde know thyn self ferst inmortal
 And loke ay besyly thow werche & wysse 74
 To comoun profit & thow shat not mysse
 To comyn swiftly to this place deere
 That ful of blysse is & soulys cleere 77

(12)

But brekeis of the lawe soth to seyn
 And lykerous folk *aftyr* that they ben dede
 Schul whirle a-boute *pere* alwey in peyne
 Tyl manye a world be passid out of drede 81
 And that for-3euyⁿ is his weked dede
 Than shal *pey* comyn in to this blysfyl place
 To whiche to comyn god synde us grace 84

(13)

The day gan folwyn & the derke nyȝt
 That revith bestis from here besynesse
 Berafte me myn bok for lak of lyght
 And to myn self I gan me for to dresse 88
 Fulfyld of thouȝt & busy heuynesse
 For bothe I hadde thyng that I nolde
 And ek I ne hadde thyng that I wolde 91

(14)

But fynally myn spirit at the laste
 For-wery of myn labour al the day
 Tok reste that made me to slepe faste
 And In myn slep I mette as þat I lay 95
 How affrican ryȝt in the same a-ray
 That¹ cipion hym say by-fore that tyde [1 That corrected]
 Was come & stod riȝt at myn bedis syde 98

(15)

The very hunttere slepyng In his bed
 To wode a-ȝen his mynde goth a-non
 The Iuge dremyth how hise pleis been spæl
 The cartere dremyth how his carte is gon 102
 The riche of gold / the knyght fyȝt with his fon
 The syke met he drynkyth of the tunne
 The louere met he hath his lady wonne 105

(16)

Can I nat seyn If that the cause were [leaf 482, back]
 For I hadde red of affrican by-foren
 That made me to mete that he stod there
 But thus seyde he thow hast the so wel born 109
 In lokyng of myn olde bok by-forn
 Of whiche Macrobye roughte nat a lyte
 That sumdel of thyn labour wolde I quyte 112

(17) [*Invocation.*]

Cythera thow blysfyl lady swete
 That with thyn ferbrond dauztist whom thow lest
 And madist me this sweuene for to mete
 Be thow myn helpe in this for thow mayst best 116
 As wisely as I seye the north nor west
 Whan I be-gan myn sweuene for to write
 So 3if me myght to ryme & ek tendyte 119

(18) [*The Story.*]

This forseyde Affrican me hente a-non
 And forth with hym vnto a gate brou3te
 Ry3t of a park wallid of grene ston
 And ouyr the gatis with letteris large I-wrowth 123
 There were vers I-wrete as me thou3t
 On eythir syde of ful gret difference
 Of which I schal now seyn the pleyn sentence 126

(19)

Thorw me men gon in to that blysfyl place
 Of hertis hele & dedly woundis cure
 Thorw me men gon on-to the welle of grace
 There grene & lusty may shal euere endure 130
 This is the weye to al good auenture
 Be glad thow redere & thyn sorwe ouercaste
 Al opyn am I. passe in & sped the faste 133

(20)

Thorw me men gon than spat that othir side
 Onto the mortal strokis of the spere
 Of whiche disdayn & daunger is the gyde
 That neuere 3it shal freut ne leuys bere 137
 This strem 3ow ledith to sorweful were
 There as the fisch in prysoun is al drye
 Ther¹ shewyng is only the remedye [1 er inserted] 140

(21)

These wers of gold & blak I wety ⁿ were	[leaf 488]
Of whiche I gan a-stonyd to be-holde	
For whi that on encresede ay my ⁿ fere	
And with that othir gan my ⁿ herte bolde	144
That on me hette that othir dede me colde	
No wit hadde I for errour for to chese	
To entre . or flen . or me to saue . or lese	147

(22)

Right as be-twixsyn adamauntis two	
Of euene my ³ t a pece of yryn set	
Ne hath no my ³ t to meue too ne fro	
For what that on may hale that othir let	151
¹ Ferde I that nyste whethir me was best	[¹ so in margin]
To entre or leue til Affrycan my ⁿ gide	
Ne hente & shof in at the gatis wide	154

(23)

And seyde it stant writyn In thyn face	
Thyn errour though thow telle it not to me	
But dred the not to come in to this place	
For this writyng nys no thyng ment bi the	158
Ne by non but he louys serwaunt be	
For thow of loue hast lost thyn stat I gesse	
As sek man hat of swet & byttrynesse	161

(24)

But natheles al-thow that thow be dul	
3it that thow canst not do 3it mayst thow se	
For manye a man that may nat stonde a pul	
It likyth hym at wrastelyng for to be	165
And demyn 3it wher he do bet or he	
And there If thow haddist / cunnyng for tendite	
I shal the shewe / mater for to wryte	168

(25)

With that myn hand he tok In his a-non
 Of whiche I confort kaughte / & that as faste
 But lord so I was glad / & wel begoon
 For oueral where that I mynne eyen caste 172
 Were treis clad with leuys that ay shal laste
 Eche in his kynde of colour frosch & greene
 As emeroude that sothe was to seene 175

(26)

The byldere ok / & ek the hardy assh [leaf 483, back]
 The pilere elm / the cofere vnto carayne
 The boxtre pipere / holm to whippis lasch
 The saylynge fyr / the cipresse deth to pleyne 179
 The shetere Ew./ the Asp for shaftys pleyne
 The olyue of pes / & ek the dronke vyne
 The victor palm / the laurer to deuyne 182

(27)

A gardyn saw I ful of blospemy bowys
 Vp on a reuer in a grene mede
 There as ther swetnesse euere more I-now is
 With flouris white blewe & zelwe & rede 186
 And colde welle stremys no thyng dede
 That swemyn ful of smale fischis lite
 With fynmys rede & skalis syluyr bryzte 189

(28)

On euery bow the bryddis herde I synge
 With voys of aungel In here armonye
 So besyede hem here bryddis forth to brynge
 The litele conyes to here pley gunne hye 193
 And ferthere al aboute I gan aspye
 The dredful ro the buk & hert & hynde
 Squyrelis & bestis smale of gentil kynde 196

(29)

Of Instreumentis of strengis in a-cord
 Herde I so pleye & rauyshyng swetnesse
 That god that makere is of al & lord
 Ne herde neuere betyr as I gesse 200
 Therwith a wynd onethe it myght be lesse
 Made in the leuys grene a noyse softe
 Acordaunt to the bryddis song a lofte 203

(30)

The erthe of that place so attempre was
 That neuere was greuauance of hot ne cold
 There wex ek euery holsum spice & gres
 No man may waxe there sek ne old 207
 3it was there Ioye more a thousent fold
 Than man can telle ne neuere wolde it nyghte
 But ay cler day to ony manys syghte 210

(31)

Vndyr a tre be-syde a welle I say [leaf 484]
 Cupide oure lord hise arwis forge & file
 And at his fet his bowe al redy lay
 And wel his doughtyr temperede al this whyle 214
 The heuedis in the welle & with hire wile
 She couchede hem aftyr they shulde serve
 Some for to sle & some to wounde & kerve 217

(32)

Tho was I war of plesaunce a-non ryght
 And of aray and lust & curteysie
 And of the craft that can & hath the myght
 To don be-fore a wight to don folye 221
 Disfigurat was she I nyl nat lye
 And by hem self vndyr an ok I gesse
 Saw I delyt that stod with gentillesse 224

(33)

I saw beute with outyn ony a-tyr
 And 3outhe ful of game & Iolyte
 Fool hardynesse & flaterye & desyr
 Messagerye & meede & oþer thre 228
 Here namys shul not here be told for me
 And vp on pileris greeete of Iasper longe
 I saw a temple of bras I-founded stronge 231

(34)

Aboute that temple daunsedyn alwey
 Wemen I-nowe of whiche some ther weere
 Fayre of hem self & some of hem were gay
 In kertelis al discheuele wente they there 235
 That was here offys alwey 3er be 3eere
 And on the temple of dowis white & fayre
 Saw I syttynge manye an hunderede peyre 238

(35)

By-fore the temple dore / ful sobyrlly
 Dame pes sat *with* / a *curtyn* in hire hond
 And by hire syde / wondyr discretly
 Dame pacience / syttynge there I fond 242
 With face pale / vp on an hil of sond
 And aldirnex / with inne & ek *with* oute
 Byheste & art / & of here folk a route— 245

(36)

With Inne the temple / of sykys hooete as fuyr [*leaf 484, back*]
 I herde a swow / that gan a-boute renne
 Whiche sikis were engenderede with desyr
 That madyn euery auter for to brenne 249
 Of newe flaume & wel espyed I thenne
 That¹ alle the cause of sorwe that they drye [*1 That altered*]
 Cam of the bittere goddesse Ielosye / 252

(37)

The god *pr̄iapus* saw I as I wente
 With inne the temple / in souereyn place stonde
 In swich aray as *wan*¹ the asse hym shente [¹ s scratched out]
 With Cri be nyghte & with septure In his honde 256
 Ful besyly men gunne asaye & fonde
 Vp on his hed to sette of sundery hewe
 Garlondis ful of *fleurrys* frosche & newe 259

(38)

And In a² *pr̄iue* corner / In desport [² a altered from n]
 Fond I febz & hire porter richesse
 That was ful noble & hauntayn of hyre port
 Derk was that place but aftyrward lightnesse 263
 I saw a lyte vnnethe it myzte be lesse
 And on a bed of gold sche lay to reste
 Tyl that the hote sunne gan to weste 266

(39)

Hyre gilte heris with a goldene thred
 I-bounden were vntrussede as sche lay
 And nakyd from the brest vp to the hed
 Men myzthe hyre sen / & sothly for to say 270
 The remenaunt was wel keuerede to myn pay
 Rygh *with* a subtyl *couercheif* / of valence
 Ther nas no thikkere cloth / of no defense 273

(40)

The place 3af a thousent sauouris sote
 And Bacus god of wyn sat hire be syde
 And sereis³ next that doth of hungir boote [³ ei altered]
 And as I seyde a myddis lay Cypride 277
 To wham on kneis two 3onge folk there cryede
 To ben here helpe / but thus I let hem lye
 And ferthere in the temple I gan espie 280

(41)

That In dispit of Dyane the chaste	[leaf 485]
Ful manye a bowe I-broke hyng on the wal	
Of maydenys swiche as gunne here tymys waste	
In hyre seruyse I-peyntede were oueral	284
Ful manye a story of whiche I touche shal	
A fewe / as of Calyote. & Athalante	
And manye a mayde of whiche the name I wante	287

(42)

Semyramus Candace & Hercules	
Biblis. Dido. Thisbe. & piramus	
Tristram .Isaude. paris. & Achilles	
Elyne Cliopatre & Troylis	291
Silla & ek the modyr of Romulus	
Alle these were peyntid on that othir syde	
And al here loue & in what plyt they deyde	294

(43)

Whan I was come a-ȝen vn to the place	
That I of spak that was so sote & grene	
Forth welk I tho myn seluyn to solace	
Tho was I war / wher that ther sat a queene	298
That as of lygh the someris sunnys shene	
Passith the sterre / right so ouermesure	
She fayrere was than ony creature	301

(44)

And In a launde vp on an hil of flouris	
Was set this noble goddessse nature	
Of braunchis were here hallis & here bouris	
I-wrough after here cast & here mesuris	305
Ne there was foul that comyth of engendrure	
That they ne were al prest in here presence	
To take hire dom / & ȝeue hire audyence	308

(45)

For this was on seynt Volantynys day
 Whan euery bryd comyth there to chese his make
 Of euery kynde that men thynke may
 And that so heuge a noyse gan they make 312
 That erthe & eyr & tre & euery lake
 So ful was that onethe was there space
 For me to stonde. so ful was al the place 315

(46)

And righ as aleyn In the pleynt of kynde [leaf 485, back]
 Deuyseth natur In aray / & face
 In swich aray men myghte hire there fynde
 This nobil emperesse ful of grace 319
 Bad euery foul to take his owene place
 As they were wonyd alwey from 3er to 3eere
 Seynt Volantynys day to stondyn there 322

(47)

That is to seyn the foulis of rauyne
 Were heyest set & thanne foulis smale
 That etyn as hem nature wolde enclync
 As werm or thyng I telle myn tale 326
 And watyr foul sat loueste in the dale
 But foul that lyuyth be sed sat on the grene
 And that so fele that wondyr was to sene 329

(48)

There myghte men the ryal egle fynde
 That with his sharpe lok persith the sunne
 And othere eglis of a lowere kynde
 Of whiche that clerkis wel deuyse curne 333
 Ther was the tiraunt with his federys durne
 A grey I mene the goshauk that doth pyne
 To¹ bryddis for his outrageous rauyne ¶ Tho: h inserted] 336

class

(49)

The gentyll facoun that *with* his feet distraynyth
 The kyngis hand / the hardy sperhauk eke
 The quaylis foo / the Merilioun that paynyth
 Hym self ful ofte the larke for to seke 340
 There was the douue *with* hire eyen meke
 The Ielous swan / a-3ens hire deth that syngith
 The oule ek that of deth the bode bryngyth 343

(50)

The crane geaunt with his trompis soun
 The thef the crow / & ek the Iangelynge pye
 The skornynge Iay / the elis fo heroun
 The false lapwyngye ful of trecherye 347
 The starlyng that the conseyl can be-wreye
 The tame rodok & the coward kyte
 The kok that orloge is / of thorpis lyte 350

(51)

The sparwe venus sone / the nyhtyngale [leaf 486]
 That clepith forth the grene leuys newe
 The swalwe mortherere of the foulis smale
 That makyn hony of flouris frosche & newe 354
 The wedded turtill with hire herte trewe
 The pokok *with* his aungelis clothis bryghte
 The fesaunt skornere of the cok be nyghte 357

(52)

The wakyr goos / the cokkow ¹most onkynde [¹m altered from en]
 The popyniay ful of delicasye
 The drake stroyere of his owene kynde
 The stork the wrekere of a-vouterye 361
 The hote Cormeraunt of gloteny
 The rauen wys / the crowe wit vois of care
 The thurstil old / the frosty feldefare 364

(53)

What schulde I seyn of foulys euery kynde
 That In this world hath federis & stature
 Men myghtyn in that place assemblede fynde
 By-fore the noble goddessse / nature 368
 And eueriche of hem dede his besy cure
 Benygnely to chese or for to take
 By hire a-cord his formel or his make 371

(54)

But to the poynt nature held on hire hond
 A formele egle of shap the gentilleste
 That euere she a-mong hire werkis fond
 The moste benygne & the goodlieste 375
 In hire was eueri vertu at his reste
 So fer forth that nature hire self hadde blysse
 To loke on hire & ofte hire bek to kysse 378

(55)

Nature vicarye o the almyghty lord
 That hot . cold . heuy . lyght . moyst . & dreye
 Hath knyht *with* euene noumberis of a-cord
 In esy voys gan for to speke & seye 382
 Foulis tak hed of myn centence I preye
 And for 3ore ese In fortheryng of 3oure nede
 As faste¹ as I may speke I wele 3ow speede [¹ a altered] 385

(56)

3e knowe wel how seynt volantynys day [*leaf 486, 1 ack*]
 By myn statute / & thow myn gouernaunce
 3e come for to cheese & fle 3oure wey
 3oure makis as I prike 3ow *with* plesaunce 389
 But natheles myn ryghtful ordenaunce
 May I nat breke for al this world to wyne
 That he that most is worthi shal begynne 392

(57)

The terslet egle as that 3e knowe ful wel
 The foul ryal a-bouyn euery degre
 The wyse & worthi secre trewe as stel
 Whiche I haue formyde as 3e may wel se 396
 In euery part as it best likyth me
 It nedith not / his shap 3ow to deuysel
 He shal ferst schese / & spekyn In his gyse 399

(58)

And aftyr hym by ordere shul they chese
 Aftyr 3oure kynde eueriche as 3e lykyth
 And as 3oure hap is shul 3e wynne or lese
 But which of 3ow that loue most entrikyth 403
 God synde hym hire that soryest for hym sykyth
 And therwithal the tersel gan she calle
 And seyde myn sone the choys is to 3ow falle 406

(59)

But natheles in this condicioun
 Mot be the choys / of euerich that is heere
 That she a-gre to his eleccioun /
 What so he be that shulde be hire feere 410
 This is oure vsage alwey from 3er to 3eere
 And ho so may at this tyme haue his grace
 In blisful tyme he cam into this place 413

(60)

With hed enclyned & with humble cheere
 This ryal tersel / spak . & tariede noht
 Vn to myn souereyn lady & not myn fere
 I chese & shes with wil & herte & thought 417
 The formel on 3oure hond so wel I-wrou3t
 Whos I am al & euere wele hire serve
 Do what hire lest / to do me leve¹ or sterue [1 originally here]

(61)

Besekynge hire of merci & of grace [leaf 487]
 As she that is myn¹ lady souereyne [¹ corrected myn]
 Or let me deye present in this place
 For certis longe I may nat lyue In payne 424
 For In myn herte is korvyn euery veyne
 And hauynge only reward to myn trouthe
 Myn deere herte haue of myn wo sum routhe 427

(62)

And If that I to hyre be founde vntrewe
 Dishobeysaunt or wilful necligent
 Auauuntour or in proces loue a newe
 I preye to 3ow this be myn Iugement 431
 That with these foulis be I al torent
 That ilke day that euere she me fynde
 To hire vntrewe / or In myn gilt vnkynde 434

(63)

And syn that hire / louyth non so wel as I
 Al be It that he me neuere of loue be-heette² [² te originally ee]
 Thanne ouhte she be myn thour hire mercy
 For othir bond can I non on hire areete³ [³ te altered to ete] 438
 Ne neuere for no wo ne shal I lette
 To seruyn hire how fer so that she wende
 Say what 3ow leste myn tale is at an ende 441

(64)

Ryght as the frosche rede rose newe
 A-3en the somyr sunne coloured is
 Ryght so for shame al wexen gan hire hewe
 Of this formel whan she herde al this 445
 She neythir answerde wel ne seyde a mys
 So sore a-bashat was she tyl that nature
 Seyde ⁴dooughter drede the nought I 3ow assure [⁴ do origin-
ally dr]

(65)

A nothir tersel egle spak a-non
 Of ¹lower kynde seyde that shal nat be [1 l w e altered]
 I loue hire bet than 3e don be seynt Ion
 Or at the leste I loue as wel as 3e 452
 And longere haue seruyd hire in myn degre
 And ²If she shulde a loudid for long louynge [2 originally ff]
 To me fullonge hadde be the gerdonynge 455

(66)

I dar ek seyn If she me fynde fals [leaf 487, back]
 Vnkynde or Iangelere / or rebel ony wyse
 Or gelous do me hangyn by the hals
 And but I bere me / In hire seruyse 459
 As wel as that myn wit can me suffyse
 From poynt In poynt / hyre honour for to saue
 Tak the myn lif & al the good I haue 462

(67)

The thredde tercel Egle answerde tho
 Now serys 3e seen the lytil leyser heere
 For euery foul cryeth out to ben a-go
 Forth with his mak or with his lady deere 466
 And ek nature hire self ne wele not heere
 For tarynge here not half that I wolde seye
 And but I speke / I mot for sorwe deye 469

(68)

Of long seruyse auante I me nothing
 That possible is to me to deye to day
 For wo as he that hath ben languyssynge
 This twenty 3eer & as wel happyn may 473
 A man may seruyn bet & more to pay
 In half a 3er al thav It were no moore
 Than sum man doth that hath seruyd ful 3oore 476

(69)

I sey not this by me for I ne can
 Don non seruyse that may myn lady¹ plese [¹ altered]
 But I dar seyn / I am hire treweste man
 As to myn dom and fayneste wolde hire ese 480
 At shorte wordis til that deth me sese
 I wele ben heris were I wake or wynke
 And trewe in al that herte may bethynke 483

(70)

Of al myn lyf syn that day I was born
 So gentil ple in loue or othir thyng
 Ne herde neuere no man me be-forn
 Ho that hadde leyser & cunningyng 487
 For to reherse hyre cher & hire spekyng
 And from the morve gan this speche laste
 Tyl downward drow the sunne wondir faste 490

(71)

The noyse of foulis for to ben delyuered [leaf 488]
 So loude ronge haue don & lat vs wende
 That wel wende I the wode hadde al to-slyuered
 Cum of they criedyn allas ȝe wele vs shynde 494
 Whan shal ȝure cursede pletynge hauyn an ende
 How shulde a Iuge eythir partie leue
 For ȝe or nay / with outyn othir preue 497

(72)

The goos the cokkow / & the doke also
 So cryede kek kek . kokkow . quek quek hye
 That thourw myne erys the noyse wente tho
 The goos seyde al this nys not worth a flye 501
 But I can shappe herof a remedie
 And I wele seye myn verdit fayre & swythe
 For watyr foul ho so be wroth or blythe 504

(73)

And I for werm foul quod the fol kokkowe
 And I wele of myn owene autorite
 For comun profit tak on / no charg howe
 For to delyuere vs Is gret charite 508
 3e may onbyde a while 3it perde
 Quod the turtill If it be 3oure wille
 A whit may speke / hym were as fayr hen styлле 511

(74)

I¹ am a sed foul, on the onworthieste [1 an erasure]
 That wot I wel / & litil of cunnynge
 But bet is that a wyhtis tunge reste
 Than entirmetyn hym of suhe doinge 515
 Of which he neythir rede can ne fynde
 And who so doth ful foule hym self a-cloyith
 for offys onquit ofte a-noyeth. 518

(75)

Nature which that alwey hadde an ere
 To murmur of the lewedenesse
 with facound voys seyde hold 3oure tungis there
 And I shal sone I hope a conseyl fynde 522
 3ow to delyuere & from this noyse vnbynde
 I Iuge on euery folk men shul on calle
 To seyn the verdit for yow foulis alle 525

(76)

Assentid was to this conclusioun [leaf 488, back]
 The briddis alle & foulis of lauyne
 Han chosyn fyrst by playn eleccioun
 The terselet of the facoun to diffyne 529
 Al here centence as hem leste to term̄yne
 And to nature hym gunne to presente
 And she acceptyh hym with glad entente 532

(77)

The terslet seyde In this manere
 Ful hard were it to proue by resoun
 Who louth best this gentil formele heere
 For euerych hath swich replicacioun 536
 That non by skillis may been brought a-doun
 I can not se that Argumentis awayle
 Thanne semyth it there muste be batayle 539

(78)

Al redy quod this Eglis terslet tho
 Nay seris quod he If that I durste it seye
 3e don me wrong / myn tale is not I-do
 For seris ne takith not a gref I preye 543
 It may not gon as 3e wolde in this weye
 Oure is the voys that¹ han the charg on honde [¹ *t altered*]
 And to the Iugis dom / 3e motyn stonde 546

(79)

And therefore pes I seye / as to myn wit
 Me wolde thynke how that the worthiest
 Of knyghthod² & lengest hath vsed it [² *the t altered*]
 Most of estat of blod the gentilleste 550
 Were sittynge for hire If that he leste
 And of these thre she wot hire self I trowe
 Whiche that he be / for here³ is light to knowe [³ *originally hre*]

(80)

The watyr foulis han here hedis leid
 To gedere & of a short auyement
 Whan euerryche hadde his large gole seyde
 They seydyn sothly al be on assent 557
 How that the goos with hire facounde so gent
 That so desyrith to pronounce oure nede
 Shal telle oure tale & preyede god hym spede 560

(81)

As for these watyr foulis tho¹ be-gan [¹ goos *scratched out*] [*leaf 489*]
 The goos to speke & in his kakelynge
 He seyde pes now tak kep euery man
 And herkenyth which a resoun I shal brynge 564
 Myn wit is sharp I loue no tarynge
 I seye I rede hym thow he were myn brothir
 But she wele loue hym let hym take a nothir 567

(82)

Lo here a *perfit* resoun of a goos
 Quod the *sperhawk* / neuere mot he the
 lo sich it is to haue a tunge loos
 Now *perde* fol now were it bet for the 571
 Han holde thyn pes than shewe thyn nysete
 It lyth nat in his mygh ne in his wille
 But soth is seyde a fol can not ben stille 574

(83)

The laughtere aros of gentil foulis alle
 And righ a-non the sedful chosyn hade
 The tersel trewe / and gunne hire to hem calle
 And preyede hire for to seyn the sothe sadde 578
 Of this matere & axsedde what she rardde
 And she answerde / that pleylny hire entente
 She wolde it shewe & sothly what she mente 581

(84)

Nay god forbede a louere shulde chaunge
 The tersel seyde / & wex for shame red
 Thow that his lady euere more be straunge
 3it lat hym serue hire til that he be ded 585
 Forsothe I preyse nat the gosis red
 For thow sche deyede I wolde non othir make
 I wele ben hire til that the deth me take 588

(85)

Wel bordit quod the doke by myn hat
 That men shul louyn alwey causeles
 Who can a resoun fynde or wit in that
 Daunsith he murye that is myrtheles 592
 What shulde I rekke of hym that is recheles
 Kek kek 3it seith the doke ful wel & fayre
 There been mo sterris god wot than a payre 595

(86)

Now sey cherl quod the gentil terslet [leaf 489, back]
 out of the donghil cam that word ful ri3t
 Thow canst nat seen what thyng is wel be-set
 Thow farst by loue as oulys don by lyght 599
 The day hem blent but wel they sen be nygh
 Thyn kynde is of so low a wrechednese
 That what loue is thow canst nat seen ne gese 602

(87)

Tho gan the kokkow putte hym forth in pres
 For foul that etith werm & seyde blythe
 So I quod he may haue myn make in pes
 I reche nat how longe that 3e stryue 606
 Lat eche of hem ben soleyн al here lyue
 This is myn red syn they may nat a-corde
 This shorte lessoun nedith nat recorde 609

(88)

3e have¹ the glotoun fild I-now his paunche [¹ originally han]
 Thanne are we wel seyde thanne a Merlioun
 Thow morthere of the heysoge on the braunche
 That broughte the forth thow reufulles glotoun 613
 Leue thow soleyн werm corrupcioun
 For no fors is of lak of thyn nature
 Go lewed be thow whil that the world may dure 616

(89)

Now pes quod nature I comaunde here
 For I haue herd al 3oure opynoun
 And ¹ In effect 3it be we not the nere [1 erasure]
 But fynally this is myn conclusioun 620
 That she hire self shal han the eleccioun
 Of whom hire lest & who be wroth & blythe
 Hym that she chesith / he shal hire han a swithe 623

(90)

For syn It may not here discussid be
 Who louth hire best as seyth the terslet
 Thanne wele I don hire this fauour that she
 Shal han² hym on hom hire herte is set [2 han altered] 627
 And he hire that / his herte hath on hire knyht
 Thus Iuge I nature / for I may not lye
 To non estat / I haue non othir eye . 630

(91)

But as for conseyl for to chese a make [leaf 490]
 If .I. were resoun certis thanne wolde I
 Conseyle 3ow the ryal tersel take
 As seyde the terselet ful skylfully 634
 As for the gentilleste & most worthi
 which I haue wrought so wel to myn plesaunce
 That to 3ow oughte to been a suffisaunce 637

(92)

With dredful vois / the formel tho answerde
 Myn rightful lady goddesse of nature
 Soth ist that I am euere vndyr 3oure 3erde
 As is a nothir lyuis creature 641
 And mot ben 3oure whil that myn lyf may dure
 And therefore grauntyth me myn ferste bone
 And myn entent that wele I seyn wol sone 644

(93)

I graunte it 3ow *quod* she & that a-non
 This formel egle spak in this degre
 Almyghty queen vnto this 3er be gon
 I axe respit for to a-vise me 648
 And aftyr that to haue myn choys al fre
 This al & sum that I wele speke & seye
 3e gete no more al thow 3e do me deye 651

(94)

I wele nat serue venus ne cupide
 Forsothe as 3it be no manere weye
 Now syn it may non othirwise betyde
 Quod tho nature heere is no more to seye 655
 Thanne wolde I that these foulis were a-weye
 Eche *with* his make for tarynge lengere heere
 And seyde hym thus as 3e shul aftyr here 658

(95)

To 3ow speke I 3e tersletis *quod* nature
 Beth of good herte & seruyth alle thre
 A 3er ne is nat so longe to endure
 And eche of 3ow peignyng in his degre 662
 For to do wel for god wot what is she
 For 3ow this 3er what aftyr so be-falle
 This entyrmes is dressid for 3ow alle 665

(96)

And whan this werk al brought was to an ende [leaf 190, back]
 To euery foul nature 3af his make
 By euene a-cord & on here weye they wende
 But lord the blisse & Ioye that they make 669
 For ech gan othir in his wyngis take
 And with here nekkis eche gan othyr wynde
 Thankynge alwey the noble queen of kynde 672

(97)

But fyrst were chosyn / foulis for to synge
 As 3er be 3er was alwey the vsance
 To synge a roundele at here departyng
 To don to nature honour & plesaunce 676
 The note I trow I-makid were in fraunce
 The wordis were sweche as 3e may fynde
 The nexte vers as I now haue in mynde 679

[*Roundel: in a later 15th-century hand: no gaps between the stanzas.*]

(I.)

Nowe welcome somor' with sonne softe
 That' hast' thes wintres wedres ovire shake
 And dreuyne a-way the large nyghtes blake 682

(II.)

Saynt' volantyne that ert' ful hye o lofte
 Thus syngēn smale foules for' thy sake 684

[*Now welcome somor &c.*]

(III.)

Wele han they cause forto gladen ofte
 Sethe ech of hem recouerede hathe hys make
 Ful blisseful mowe they ben when they wake 687
 [*Now welcome somor, &c.*]

(98)

And *with* the shoutyng whan the song was do
 That the foulis madyn at here flyght a wey
 I wok & othere bokys tok me to
 To reede vp on & 3it I rede alwey 691
 In hope I-wis to rede so sum day
 That I shal mete sum thyng for to fare
 The bet & thus to rede I nele nat spare 694

Explicit parliamentum Anium In die sancti Valentini ten-
 tum secundum Galfridum Chaucer. Deo gracias.

IV.

The Compleynt of Mars.

[Fairfax MS 16, leaf 15. Leaf 14, back, is filled with a coloured illumination in 3 compartments; at the top is Iubiter, on the left is Mars, and on the right Venus, with Cupid above her on her right, and Vulcan below her on the left.]

¶ Complaynt of Mars and Venus.

[ñ is for n with a curl over it.]

(1) [The Proem.]

G Ladeth ye lovers · oñ the morowe gray
 Loo Venus rysen · amonge yow rowes rede
 And floures fressh / honouren the this day
 For when the sunne vprist · then wol they sprede
 But ye lovers · that lye in eny drede
 Fleeth lest wikked tonges · yow espye
 Loo yonde the sunne · the candel of Ialosye 7

(2)

Wyth teres blew · and with a wounded hert
 Taketh your leve · and with sent Ioñ to borowe
 Apeseth sumwhat · of your sorowes smert
 Tyme cometh ofte · that cese shal your sorowe 11
 The glad nyght · ys worthe an heuy morowe
 Seynt Valentyne a foule · thus herd I synge
 Vpon your day · er' sunne gan vp sprynge 14

(3)

Yet sange this foule · I rede yow al a-wake
 And ye that han not chosen · in humble wyse
 Yet at this fest · renoueleth your seruyse
 With-out repentyng · cheseth your make 18
 And ye that han ful choseñ · as I deuise
 Confermeth hyt · perpetuely to dure
 And paciently · taketh your Aventure 21

(4)

And for the worship · of this highe fest
 Yet wol I · in my briddes wise synge
 The sentence · of the compleynt at the lest
 That woful Mars · made atte departyng 25
 Fro fresshe Venus · in a morwning
 Whañ Phebus · with his firy torches rede
 Ransaked hath · euery louer in hys drede 28

(5) [*The Story.*]

Whilom the thrid heuenes · lord a-bove
 As wel by heuenysh · reuolucioñ
 As by desert · hath wonne Venus his love
 And she hath take him · in subieccioñ 32
 And as a maistresse · taught him his lessoñ
 Commaundyng him · that neuere in her' seruise [leaf 15, back]
 He ner' so bolde · no louer to dispise 35

(6)

For she forbad him · Ielosye at alle
 And cruelte · and bost and tyrannye
 She made at her lust · so humble and calle
 That when her deynd · to cast' oñ hym her ye 39
 He toke in pacience · to lyve or dye
 And thus she brydeleth him · in her' maner
 With no thing' · but with stering of her cher' 42

(7)

Who regneth now in blysse · but Venus
 That hath thys worthy knyght · in gouernaunce
 Who syngeth now but Mars / that serueth thus
 the fair Venus · causer of plesaunce 46
 He bynt him · to perpetuall obeisaunce
 And she bynt her · to love him for euer'
 But so be / that his trespace hyt deseuer' 49

(8)

Thus be they knyt · and regneñ as in heuen
 Be lokyng moost · til hyt fil on a tyde
 That by her bothe assent · was set a steuen
 That Mars shal entre · as fast as he may glyde 53
 In-to hir next paleys · to abyde
 Walkynge hys cours · til she had him a-take
 And he preiede her / to faste her . for his sake 56

(9)

Then seyde he thus · myñ hertis lady suete
 Ye knowe wel · my myschefe in that place
 For sikirly til that I · with yow mete
 My lyfe stant ther · in aenture and grace 60
 But when I se · the beaute of your face
 Ther ys no dred of deth · may do me smert
 For alle your lust · is ese to myñ hert 63

(10)

She hath so grete compassion · oñ her knyght
 That dwelleth in solitude · til she come
 For hyt stode so · that ylke tyme no wight
 Counseyled hym · ne seyde to hym welcome [leaf 16] 67
 that nyghe her witte · for sorowe was ouer-come
 Wherefore she sped her as fast · in her wey
 Almost in oon day · as he dyd in twey 70

(11)

The grete Ioye that was · betwex hem two
 When they be mette · ther may no tunge tel
 ther is no more · but vnto bed thei go
 And thus in Ioy and blysse · I let hem duel 74
 this worthi Mars · that is of knyghthode wel
 the flour of feyrenesse · lappeth in his armes
 And Venus kysseth Mars · the god of Armes 77

(12)

Soiourned hath this Mars · of which I rede
 In chambre · amynd the paleys priuely
 A certeyn tyme · til him fel a drede
 through Phebus · that was comen hastely 81
 Within the paleys yates · ful sturdely
 With torche in honde · of which the stremes bryght
 On Venus chambre · knobben ful lyght 84

(13)

The chambre ther as ley · this fresshe quene
 Depeynted was · with white holes grete
 And by the lyght she knew · þat shone so shene
 that Phebus cam to bren hem · with his hete 88
 this cely Venus · nygh̄ dreynt / in teres wete
 enbraceth Mars · and seyde alas I dye
 the torch̄ is come · that al this world wol wrie 91

(14)

Vp stert Mars · hym lust not to slepe
 when he his lady · herde so compleyne
 but for his nature · was not for to wepe
 In stid of teres · fro his eyen twyne 95
 the firi sparkes · brosten out for peyne
 And hent his hauberke · that ley hym besyde
 Fle wold he not · ne myght him seluen hide 98

(15)

He thrwe on his helme · of huge wyght
 And girt him with his swerde / and in his honde [leaf 16, back]
 his myghty spere / as he was wont to fyght
 he shaketh so / that almost hit to-wonde 102
 Ful hevy was he / to walken ouer londe
 he may not holde / with Venus companye
 But bad her fleen / lest phebus her espye 105

(16)

O woful Mars alas / what maist thou seyñ
 that in the paleys / of thy disturbaunce
 Art thou left by-hynde / in peril to be sleyñ
 And yet ther-to / ys double thy penaunce 109
 For she that hath thyn hert / in gouernaunce
 Is passed halfe the stremes / of thin yen
 that thou ner swift / wel maist thou wepe and crieñ 112

(17)

Now fleeth Venus / in to cilinios toure
 Wich voide cours / for fere of phebus lyght
 Alas and ther hath she / no socoure
 For she ne founde / ne saugh no maner wyght 116
 And eke as ther / she had but litil myght
 Wher-for her seluen / for to hyde and saue
 Whithin the gate / she fel in-to A. caue 119

(18)

Derke was this caue / and smokyng as the hel
 Not but two pales / within the yate hit stode
 A naturel day in derk / I let her duel
 Now wol I speke of Mars / furieuse and wode 123
 For sorow he wold / haue sene his hert blode
 Sith that he myght / haue done her no companye
 He ne thoght not a myte / for to dye 126

(19)

So feble he wex / for hete and for his wo
 that nygh he swelt / he myght vnnethe endure
 He passeth but a sterre / in dayes two
 but ner the lesse / for al his heuy armure 130
 He foloweth her / that is his lyves cure
 For whos departyng / he toke gretter Ire
 Then for al his brennyng / in the fire . 133

(20)

After he walketh / softly A paas	[leaf 17]
Compleynyng / that hyt pite was to heree	
He seyde O lady / bryght Venus Alas	
that euere so wyde / a compas ys my speree	137
Alas when shal I mete yow / hert dere	
this .xij. dayes / of apprile I endure	
Throgh Ielouse phebus / this mysaventure	140

(21)

Now god helpe / sely Venus allone	
but as god wolde / hyt happed for to be	
That while that Venus / weping made her mone	
Cilinius rydinge / in his cheuache	144
Fro Venus Valaunses / myght his paleys se	
And Venus he salueth / and maketh chere	
And her receyueh / as his frende ful dere	147

(22)

Mars dwelleth forth / in hes ¹ aduersyte	[¹ her altered]
Compleynyng euer / on her departynge	
And what his compleynt was / remembreth me	
And therefore / in this lusty morwnynge	151
As I best can / I wol hit seyñ and syng	
And after that / I wol my leve take	
And god yif euery wyght / Ioy of his make	154

(23) [*The Proem.*]

The ordre of compleynt / requireth skylfully	<small>nota ¹</small>
that yf a wight / shal pleyn petously	<small>(¹ in a later hand)</small>
Ther mot be cause / wherfore that men pleyn	¶ The copleynt of Mars.
other men may deme / he pleyneth folely	158
And causeles alas / that am not I	
Wherfor the grounde and cause / of al my peyn	
So as my troubled witte / may hit ateyn	

I wol reherse not / for to haue redresse
But to declare my grounde / of heuynesse. 163

(24) [*First Tern of Stanzas, 1*]

The first tyme / alas that I was wroght
And for certeyn effectes / hider broght
Be him that lordeth / ech̄ intelligence
I yaf my trwe seruisse / and my thought 167
For euer-more / how dere I haue hit boght [leaf 17, back]
that her that is / of so gret excelence
that what wight / that first sheweth his presence
When she is wrothe / and taketh of hym no cure
He may not longe in Loye / of love endure 172

(25) (I. 2)

This is no feyned mater / that I telle
My lady is / the verrey sours and welle ^{nota¹}
of beaute lust / fredam and gentilnesse (¹ in a later hand)
Of riche aray / how dere meñ hit selle 176
of al disport / in which̄ men frendly duelle
of love and pley / and of benigne humblesse
of sovne of Instrumentes / of al suetnesse
And therto so wel fortunēd / and thewed
that thorow the worlde / her goodnesse is yshewed 181

(26) (I. 3)

What wonder ys then / thogh̄ I beset
my seruise on such̄ oñ / that may me knet
to wele or wo / sith hit lythe in her myght
therefore my hert for euer / I to her hight 185
Ne truly for my dethe / I shal not let
to ben her truest seruaunt / and her knyght.
I flater noght / that may wete euery wyght
For this day / in her seruise shal I dye
but grace be / I se her oenes¹ wyth ye [¹ altered from neuer] 190

(27) [*Second Tern of Stanzas*, 1]

To whom shal I pleyn / of my distresse
 Who may me helpe / who may my harme redresse
 shal I compleyn / vnto my lady fre
 Nay certes / for she hath such heynesse 194
 For fere and eke for wo / that as I gesse
 In lytil tyme / hit wol her bane be
 but were she safe / hit wer no fors of me
 Alas that euer louers / mote endure
 For loue / so many a *perilouse* aenture 199

(28) (II. 2)

for tho so be / that louers be as trewe
 As eny metal / that is forged newe
 In mony a case / hem tydeth ofte sorowe
 Somme her ladies / wil not on hem rewe [leaf 18] 203
 somtyme yf that Ielosie / hyt knewe
 they myghten lyghtly / ley her hede to borowe
 somtyme envyous folke / with tunges horowe
 departen hem alas / whom may they plesse
 but he be fals / no louer hath his ese 208

(29) (II. 3)

But what avaieth / suche a longe sermoñ
 of aentures of love / vp and dovne
 I wol returne / and speken of my peyne
 the poynt is this / of my distruccioñ 212
 My right lady / my sauacyoñ
 Is in affray / and not to whom to pleyñ
 O hert suete / O lady souereyñ
 For your disese / I oght wel sowne and swelt
 thogh I none other harme / ne drede felt 217

(30) [*Third Tern of Stanzas, 1*]

To what fyne made the god / that sitte so hye
 be-nethen loue / other companye
 And streyneth folke / to love malgre her hede
 And then her Ioy / for oght I can espye 221
 Ne lasteth not / the twynkelyng of an eye
 And *somme* han neuer Ioy / til they be dede
 What meneth this / what is this mystihede
 Wherto constreyneth he / his folke so fast
 thing to desyre / but hit shuld last 226

(31) (III. 2)

And thogh̄ he made a louer / loue a thing
 And maketh hit seme / stidfast and during
 Yet putteth he in hyt / such̄ mysaventure
 that rest nys ther / in his yevinge 230
 and that is wonder / that so Iuste a kynge
 doth such̄ hardnesse / to his creature
 thus wether loue breke / or elles dure
 Algates he that hath / with loue to done
 hath offer wo / then changed ys the mone 235

(32) (III. 3)

Hit semeth he hath / to louers enemyte
 And lyke a fissher / as men alday may se
 Bateth hys angle-hoke / with summe plesaunce [leaf 18, back]
 til mony a fissch̄ ys wode / to that he be 239
 Sesed ther-with ./ and then at erst hath he
 Al his desire / and ther-with al myschaunce
 And thogh̄ the lyne breke / he hath penaunce
 For with the hoke / he wounded is so sore
 That he his wages / hathe for euer-more 244

(33) [*Fourth Tern of Stanzas, 1*]

The broche of thebes / was of such A kynde
 so ful of rubies / and of stones of ynde
 that euery wight / that set oñ hit an ye
 He wend anon / to worthe out of his mynde 248
 So sore the beaute / wold his hert bynde
 til he hit had / him thoght he must dye
 And whan hit was¹ then shuld he drye [¹ had is written over]
 such woo for drede / ay while that he hit had
 that welnygh for the fere / he shuld mad 253

(34) (IV. 2)

And whan hit was / fro his possession
 then had he double wo / and passion
 For he so feir a tresore / had forgo
 but yet this broche / as in conclusiõ 257
 Was not the cause / of this confusiõ
 but he that wroght hit / enfortune hit so
 that euery wight that had hit / shuld have wo
 And therfore in the worcher / was the vice
 And in the couetour / that was so nyce 262

(35) (IV. 3)

So fareth hyt by louers / and by me
 For thogh my lady / haue so gret beaute
 that I was mad² til I had gete her grace [² e added] 266
 she was not cause / of myñ aduersite
 but he that wroght her / as mot I the
 that put suche beaute / in her face
 that made me / coueten and purchase
 Myn ovne dethe / him wite I that I dye
 And myn ovne witte / that euer I clombe so hye 271

(36) [*Fifth Tern of Stanzas, 1*]

But to yow hardy knyghtis / of renouñ
 Syn that ye be / of my deuisiouñ [leaf 19]
 Al be I not worthy / to so grete a name
 yet seyn these clerkes / I am your patrouñ 275
 ther-fore ye oght / haue somme compassiōñ
 of my disese / and take hit not agame
 the pruddest of yow / may be made ful tame
 Wherefore I prey yow / of your gentillesse
 that ye compleyn / for myn heuynesse 280

(37) (V. 2)

And ye my ladyes / that ben true and stable
 be wey of kynde / ye oghten to be able
 to haue pite of folke / that be in peyn
 Now haue ye cause / to clothe yow in sable 284
 sith that youre emperise / the honorable
 Is desolat / wel oght ye to pleyne
 Now shuld your holy teres / falle and reyne
 Alas your honour / and your emperise
 Negh ded for drede / ne can her not cheuise 289

(38) (V. 3)

Compleyneth eke ye louers / al in fere
 For her that with vnfeyned / humble chere
 Was euere redy / to do yow socoure
 Complen her / that euere hath had yow der 293
 Compleyneth beaute / fredom and manere
 Compleyneth her / that endeth your labour
 Compleyneth thilke ensample / of al honour
 that neuer did / but gentillesse
 Kytheth therfor oñ her / summe kyndenesse 298

V.

The ABC,**a Prayer to the Virgin Mary,**

(with its French original, from *Le Pèlerinage de la Vie Humaine*, by Guillaume de Deguileville, ab. 1330 A.D.)

From Guillaume De Deguileville's *Pèlerinage de l'Ame*, Part I, *Le Pèlerinage de la Vie Humaine*. Edited from the MS 1645, Fonds Français, in the National Library, Paris (A), and collated with the MSS 1649 (B), 376 (C), and 377 (D), in the same collection, by Paul Meyer.

(1. A.)

A toy du monde le refui,	[fol. 80, c.]
Vierge glorieuse, m'en fui	
Tout confus, ne puis miex faire ;	3
A toy me tien a toy m'apuy.	
Relieve moy, abatu suy :	
<u>Vaincu m'a mon aversaire.</u>	6
Puis qu'en toy ont tous repaire	[d]
Bien me doy vers toy retraire	
Avant que j'aie plus d'annuy.	9
N'est pas luite necessaire	
A moy, se tu, <u>debonnayre</u> ,	
Ne me sequeurs comme a autrui.	12

(2. B.)

Bien voy que par toy confortés	
Sera mes cuers desconfortés,	
Quer tu es de salu porte.	15
Se je me suis mal tresportez	
Par .vij. larrons, pechiés mortez,	
Et erre par voie torte,	18
Esperance me conforte	
Qui à toy hui me raporte	
A ce que soie deportez.	21
Ma povre arme je t'aporte :	
Sauve la : ne vaut que morte ;	
En li sont tous biens avortez.	24

3. *A* quar ne.—6. *A* mon grant a.—7. *A* Et puis qu'a.—8. *A* doy dont.—10. *A* tel lite.—11. *AC* se tu com ; *B* Se tu veulx dame debonnaire.—12. *B* Donne secour comme a autrui.—15. *ACD* salut la.—16. *D* transportés ; *B* tres mal portés.—18. *A* par la.—19. *A* reconforte.—20. *A* si me.—21. *B* sache deporter.—22. *A* te raporte ; *CD* je t'aporte.—23. *A* vaut miex ; *D* vaut plus.—24. *A* bien.

[MS Ff v. 30, Cambr. Univ. Libr., vellum, ? ab. 1420 A.D.,
leaf 112, back.]

Incipit carmen secundum ordinem Litterarum alphabeti.

(1. A.)

Al mihty and al merciabile queene	cap ^m . lvii ^m .
To whom þat' al þis world fleeth for socour	[leaf 112, back]
To haue relees of sinne of sorwe and teene	
Gloriowse <u>virgine</u> of alle floures flour	4
To þee j flee confounded in errour	
Help and releue thou mihti debonayre.	
Haue mercy on my perilous langour	
<u>Venquissed me hath my cruelle aduersaire</u>	8

(2. B.)

Bountee so fix hath in þin herte his tente	
That wel j wot' thou wolt' my socour bee	
Thou canst' not' warne him þat with good entente	
Axeth þin helpe. þin herte is ay so free	12
þou art' largesse. of pleyn felicitee	
Hauene of refute of quiete and of reste.	
Loo how <u>þat theeves sevene</u> chasen mee	
Help lady briht er þat my ship to breste	16

(3. C.)

Contre moy font une accion	
Ma vergoigne et confusion,	
Que devant toy ne doy venir	[ej] 27
Pour ma très grant transgression.	
Rayson et desperacion	
Contre moy veulent maintenir ;	30
Mès pour ce que veil plait fenir,	
Devant toy les fès convenir	
En faisant replicacion.	33
C'est que je di appartenir	
A toy du tout et convenir	
Pitié et miseracion.	36

(4. D.)

Dame es de misericorde	
Par qui Diex bien se recorde	
A sa gent estre racordé.	39
Par toy vint pes et concorde,	
Et fu pour oster discorde	
L'arc de justice descordé ;	42
Et pour ce me sui acordé	[fol. 81]
Toi mercier et concordé,	
Pour ce que ostas la corde ;	45
Quar, ainsi com j'ay recordé,	
S'encore fust l'arc encordé	
Comparé l'eust ma vie orde.	48

(5. E.)

En toy ay m'esperance eü	
Quant a merci m'as receü	
Autre foys en mainte guise	51
Du bien qui ou ciel fu creü	
As ravivé et repeü	
M'ame qui estoit occise.	54
Las ! mès quant la grant assise	
Sera, se n'y es assise	
Pour moy mal y seray veü.	57
De bien n'ay nulle reprise.	
Las m'en clain quant bien m'avise,	
Souvent en doy dire heü !	60

27. *B* doie.—29. *B* Raisons de.—38. *A* si se racorde, *the second word being added between the lines* ; *B* Dieu veult bien recorde ; *D* très bien se recorde.—43, 44. *A* acordés, concordés, *which reading more conforms to the old French grammar, but spoils the rhyme*.—45. *B* que ousté as.—46. *A* com je acorde ; *B* com j'ay racordé ; *but recordé is kept by the other MSS.*—49. *A* m'esperance ay ; *B* ay mon esperance.—50. *B* Car a.—51. *B* et en.—53. *B* receü.—57. *B* y seray mal venu.

(3. C.)

Comfort is noon but in yow ladi deere
 ffor loo my sinne and my confusioun
 Which ouhten not in þi presence appeere
 Han take on me a greevous accioun 20
 Of verrey riht and desperacioun
 And as bi riht þei mihten wel susteene.
 þat j were wurþi my dampnacioun
 Nere merci of you blisful heuene queene 24

(4. D.)

Dowte is þer noon þou queen of misericorde
 þat þou nart cause of grace and merci heere
 God vouched saf thoruh þee with us to accorde
 ffor certes crystes blisful mooder deere 28
 Were now þe bowe bent in swich maneere [leaf 113]
 As it was first of justice and of jre.
 þe rihtful god nolde of no mercy heere
 But thoruh þee han we grace as we desire 32

(5. E.)

Euere hath myn hope of refuit been in þee
 ffor heer biforn ful ofte in many a wyse
 Hast þou to misericorde resceyued me
 But merci ladi at þe grete assyse 36
 Whan we shule come bifore þe hie iustyse
 So litel fruit shal þanne in me be founde.
 þat but þou er þat day me chastyse
 Of verrey riht my werk me wole confounde 40

(6. F.)

Fuiant m'en viens a ta tente	
Moy mucier pour la tormente	
Qui ou monde me tempeste.	63
Pour mon pechié ne t'absente,	
A moy garder met t'entente,	
A mon besoing soiez preste.	66
Se lonc temps j'ay esté beste	
A ce, Vierge, je m'arreste	
Que de ta grace me sente.	69
Si te fais aussi requeste	
Que ta pitié nu me veste,	
Car je n'ay nulle autre rente.	72

(7. G.)

Glorieuse vierge mere	
Qui a nul onques amere	
Ne fus en terre ne en mer,	75
Ta douceur ores m'apere	
Et ne sueffres que mon pere	
De devant li me jecte puer.	78
Se devant li tout vuit j'apper,	
Et par moy ne puis eschapper	
Que ma faute ne compere.	81
Tu devant li pour moy te per	
En li moustrant que, s'a li per	
Ne sui, si est il mon frere.	84

(8. H.)

Homme voutl par sa plaisance	
Devenir, pour aliance	
Avoir a humain lignage.	87
Avec li crut dès enfance	
Pitié dont j'ai esperance	
Avoir eu en mon usage.	90
Elle fu mise a forage	
Quant au cuer lui vint mesage	
Du cruel fer de la lance.	93
Ne puet estre, se sui sage,	
Que je n'en aie avantage,	
Se tu veus et abondance.	96

61. A m'en fui.—62. A pour sa grant.—65. ACD omit t'.—69. ABCD je me sente.—75. B N'es.—78. B per.—79. B li ne voit japer.—81. A m'anfance; the verse is omitted in D.—82. A t'apper.—85. B sa puissance.—90. A A avoir en moy; B Avoir en en mon; C Avoir eu a mon.—91. A misse a folage.—92. A me vint.—95. A n'aie a.

(6. F.)

Fleeinge j flee for socour to þi tente
 Me for to hide from tempeste ful of dreede
 Biseeching yow þat ye you not absente
 þouh j be wikke. O help yit' at' þis neede 44
 Al haue j ben a beste in wil and deede
 Yit ladi þou me cloþe with þi grace.
 þin enemy and myn ladi tak heede
 Vn to my deth in poynt' is me to chace 48

(7. G.)

Gloriows mayde and mooder which þat neuere
 Were bitter neiþer in eerþe nor in see
 But' ful of swetnesse & of merci euere
 Help þat my fader be not wroth with me 52
 Spek þou for j ne dar not him ysee
 So haue j doon in eerþe allas þer while
 þat' certes but if þou my socour bee
 To stink eterne he wole my gost exile 56

(8. H.)

He vouched saaf tel him as was his wille [leaf 113, tack]
 Bicomen a man to haue oure alliaunce
 And with his precious blood he wrot þe bille
 Vp on þe crois as general acquitaunce 60
 To euery Penitent' in ful criaunce
 And þerfore ladi briht' þou for us praye.
 þanne shalt þou boþe stinte al his greuaunce
 And make oure foo to failen of his praye 64

(9. I.)

Je ne truis par nulle voie	
Ou mon salut si bien voie	
Com, après Dieu, en toy le voy ;	99
Quar quant aucun se desvoie,	
A ce que tost se ravoie,	
De ta pitié li fais convoy.	102
Tu li fès lessier son desroy	
Et li refaiz sa pais au roy,	
Et remez en droite voie.	105
Moult est donc cil en bon arroy,	
En bon atour, en bon conroy	
Que ta grace si conroie.	108

(10. K.)

Kalendier sont enluminé	
Et autre livre enteriné	
Quant ton non les enlumine.	111
A tout meschief ont resiné	
Ceus qui se sont acheminé	
A toy pour leur medecine.	114
A moy donc, virge, t'encline,	[c]
Car a toy je m'achemine	
Pour estre bien mediciné ;	117
Ne sueffre que de gainne	
Isse justice devine	
Par quoy je soye exterminé.	120

(11. L.)

La douceur de toy pourtraire	
Je ne puis, a qui retraire	
Doit ton filz de ton sanc estrait ;	123
Pour ce a toy m'ay volu traire	
Afin que contre moy traire	
Ne le sueffres nul cruel trait.	126
Je reconnois bien mon mesfait	
Et qu'au colier j'ai souvent trait	
Dont l'en me devoit detraire ;	129
Mez se tu veus tu as l'entrait	
Par quoy tantost sera retrait	
Le mehain qui m'est contraire.	132

104. *A* Et li fais.—105. *C* droite roye.—106. *A* Moult vont cil ; *B* en bon conroy.—107. *B* et en bon aroy.—108. *C* conroye ; *the verse is omitted in D*.—112. *A* resigné ; *B* reiné, *corrected according to the other MSS*.—113. *A* omits se.—115. *B* omits t'.—117. *B* Pour moy estre m.—118. *A* que desgaygne ; *C* de sa gainne.—119. *A* justice de gainne.—121. *A* pourtraite.—123. *A* sanc pourtraire.—125. *B* que vers moy se vueillet.—126. *A* sueffre.

(9. I.)

I wot it wel þou wolt ben oure socour
 þou art so ful of bowntee in certeyn
 ffor whan a soule falleth in errour
 þi pitee goth & haleth him ayein 68
 þanne makest þou his pees with his souereyn
 And bringest him out of þe crooked strete.
 Who so þee loueth he shal not loue in veyn
 þat shal he fynde as he þe lyf shal lete 72

(10. K.)

Kalendeeres enlumyned ben þei
 þat in þis world ben lighted *with* þi name
 And who so goth to yow þe rihte wey
 Him thar not drede in soule to be lame 76
 Now queen of comfort sithe þou art þat same
 To whom j seeche for my medicyne.
 Lat not my foo no more my wounde vntame
 Myn hele in to þin hand al j resyne 80

(11. L.)

Ladi þi sorwe kan j not portreye
 Vnder þe cros. ne his grevous penaunce
 But for youre boþes peynes j yow preye
 Lat not oure alder foo make his bobauce 84
 That he hath in hise lystes of mischaunce [leaf 114]
 Conuict þat ye boþe haue bouht so deere.
 As j seide erst þou ground of oure substaunce
 Continue on us þi pitous eyen cleere 88

(12. M.)

Moyse vit en figure	
Que tu, vierge nete et pure,	
Jhesu le filz Dieu conceüs :	135
Un bysson contre nature	
Vit qui ardoit sans arsure.	
C'es tu, n'en suis point deceüs,	138
Dex est li feus qu'en toy eüs ;	
Et tu, buisson des recreüz	
Es, pour tremper leur ardure.	141
A ce veoir, vierge, veüs	
Soie par toy et receüs,	
Oste chaussement d'ordure.	144

(13. N.)

Noble princesse du monde	
Qui n'as ne per ne seconde	
En royaume n'en empire,	147
De toy vient, de toy redonde	
Tout le bien qui nous abonde,	
N'avons autre tirelire.	150
En toy tout povre homme espire	[a]
Et de toy son salu tire,	
Et en toy seule se fonde.	153
Ne puet nul penser ne dire,	
Nul pourtraire ne escrire	
Ta bonté comme est parfonde.	156

(14. O.)

O Lumiere des non voians	
Et vrai repos des recreans	
Et de tout bien tresoriere,	159
A toy sont toutez gens beans	
Qui en la foy sont bien creans	
Et en toy ont foy entiere ;	162
A nul onques ne fus fiere,	
Ains toy deüs chamberiere	
Quant en toy vint li grans geans.	165
Or es de Dieu chanceliere	
Et de graces aumosniere	
Et confort a tous recreans.	168

141. *A* Et pour.—142. *A* voir ; *B* vierge euz.—144. *C* chauce-
ment ; *D* thancement (1).—145. *B* duchesse.—148. *A* redoubte.—
149. *A* tout se.—151. *A* omits tout, *C* omits homme.—156. *A* Ta
bonde.—157. *A* O luminaire des nons.—165. *B* à toy ; *A* le grant
geant.—166. *A* chanceliere.—167. *A* grace.—168. *BC* Et du tout
a tous agreans.

(12. M.)

Moises þat sauh þe bush with flawmes rede
 Brenninge. of which þer neuer a stikke brende
 Was signe of þin vnwemmed maidenhede
 þou art þe bush on which þer gan descende 92
 þe holigost þe which þat moyses wende
 Had ben a fyir and þis was in figure.
 Now ladi from þe fyir þou us deufende
 Which þat in helle eternalli shal dure 96

(13. N.)

Noble pryncesse þat neuere haddest peere
 Certes if any comfort in us bee
 þat cometh of þee þou cristes mooder deere
 We han noon ooper melodye or glee 100
 Vs to reioyse in oure aduersitee
 Ne aduocat noon þat wole & dar so preye.
 ffor us. and þat for litel hire as yee
 þat helpen for an Aue marie or tweye 104

(14. O.)

O verrey light of eyen þat ben blynde
 O verrey lust of labour and distresse
 O tresoreere of bowntee to mankynde
 þee whom god ches to mooder for humblesse 108
 ffrom his ancille he made þe maistresse
 Of heuene & eerþe. oure bille up for to beede.
 þis world awaiteth euere on þi goodnesse
 ffor þou ne failest neuere wight at neede 112

(15. P.)

Pris m'est volenté d'enquerre	
Pour savoir que Diex vint querre	
Quant en toy se vint enserrer ;	171
En toy devint vers de terre ;	
Ne cuit pas que fust pour guerre	
Ne pour moy jus aterrer.	174
Vierge, se ne me sens errer,	
D'armes ne me faut point ferrer	
Fors sans plus de li requerre.	177
Quant pour moy se vint enterrer,	
Se il ne se veut desterrer	
Encor puis s'amour acquerre.	180

(16. Q.)

Quant pourpensé après me sui	
Qu'ay offendu et toy et lui,	
Et qu'a mal est m'ame duite,	183
Que, fors pechié, en moi n'estui,	
Et que mal hyer et pis m'est hui,	
Tost après si me ranvite,	186
Vierge douce, se pren fuite,	
Se je fui a la poursuite,	
Ou fuiray, qu'a mon refui ?	189
S'a nul bien je ne m'affruite	[fol. 82]
Et mas sui avant que luite,	
Plus grief encore en est l'anuy.	192

(17. R.)

Reprens moy, mere, et chastie	
Quar mon pere n'ose mie	
Attendre a mon chastement.	195
Son chastoy si fiert a hie ;	
Rien n'ataint que tout n'esmie	
Quant il veut prendre vengeance.	198
Mere, bien doi tel batement	
Douter, quar en empirement	
A tous jours esté ma vie.	201
A toy dont soit le jugement,	
Car de pitié as l'oingnement,	
Mès que merci l'en te prie.	204

172. *C* com ver.—174. *Sic ABCD*; the verse is one syllable too short.—175. *A* omits ne.—176. *B* fault pas.—177. *A* Fors que; *B* del r.—178. *A* s'en vint en terre.—180. *A* encore.—184. *A* en est hui; *B* en moy ne truy; *D* en moi ne sui.—186. *A* raiuue; *D* ravite; *B* Tantoust a. si me ravite.—187. *AB* se je.—191. *A* mat.—188-89. *From C*; both are left out in *A*; *B* (188) Toust je.—194. *A* je n'ose.—196. *B* lui fiert.—200. *AC* en enpirant.—202. *A* en soit.—203. *Omitted in A*; *B* Car de pieça as l'oingnement; *C* Car de pitié as l'oungement.—204. *BC* on te.

(15. P.)

Purpos I haue sum time for to enquere
 Wherfore and whi þe holi gost þee souhte
 Whan gabrielles vois cam vn to þin ere
 He not to werre us swich a wunder wrouhte 116
 But for to saue us þat he sithen bouhte
 þanne needeth us no wepene us for to saue
 But oonly þer we diden not as us ouhte
 Doo penitence and merci axe and haue 120

(16. Q.)

Queen of comfort yit whan j me bithinke
 þat j agilt haue boþe him and þee
 And þat my soule is wurthi for to sinke
 Allas j caityf whider may I flee 124
 Who shal vn to þi sone my mene bee
 Who but þi self þat art of pitee welle.
 þou hast more reuthe on oure aduersitee
 þan in þis world miht any tunge telle 128

(17. R.)

Redresse me mooder and me chastise
 ffor certeynly my faderes chastisinge
 þat dar j nouht abiden in no wise
 So hidous it is hys rihful rekenynge 132
 Mooder of whom oure merci gan to springe
 Beth ye my juge & eek my soules leche
 ffor euere in you is pitee haboundinge
 To eche þat wole of pitee you biseeche 136

(18. S.)

Sans toy nul bien ne foysonne	
Et sans toy Diex riens ne donne,	
Quar de tout t'a fet maistresse.	207
Quant tu veus trestout pardonne ;	
Et par toy est mise bonne	
A justice la mairresse ;	210
N'est royne ne princesse	
Pour qui nul ainsi se cesse	
Et de droit se dessaisonne.	213
Du monde es gouverneresse,	
Et du ciel ordeneresse ;	
Sans reson n'as pas couronne.	216

(19. T.)

Temple saint ou Dieu habite	
Dont privé sont li herite	
Et a tous jours desherité,	219
A toy vieng de toy me herite	
Reçoif moy par ta merite	
Quar de toy n'ay point hesité.	222
Et se je me sui herité	
Des espines d'iniquité	
Pour quoy terre fu maudite,	225
Las m'en clain en verité,	
Car a ce fait m'a excité	[b]
L'ame qui n'en est pas quite.	228

(20. V.)

Vierge de noble et haut atour,	
Qui au chastel et a la tour	
De paradis nous atournes,	231
Atourne moy ens et entour	
De tel atour que au retour	
De ta grace me retournes,	234
Se vil sui, si me raournes.	
A toy vieng, ne te destournes,	
Quer au besoing es mon destour.	237
Sequeur moy, point ne sejournes,	
Ou tu a la court m'ajournes,	
Ou ta pitié fait son sejour.	240

207. *A* mestraisse.—211. *A* ne royne.—212. *B* par quoy.—216. *A* n'a.—221. *A* ton merite.—222. *A* herité.—226. *A* Las me ; *the verse is too short in ABCD* ; read me en?—227. *A* omits fait.—236. *A* ne me.—237. *A* retour.

(18. S.)

Soth is þat god ne granteth no pitee
 With oute þee. for god of his goodnesse
 fforyiveth noon but it like vn to þee
 He hath þee maked vicair & maistresse 140
 Of al þe world. and eek *gouernowresse*
 [leaf 115]
 Of heuene. and he represseth his iustise.
 After þi wil. and þefore in wintesse
 He hath þee corowned in so rial wise 144

(19. T.)

Temple deuout þer god hath his woninge
 ffro which þese misbileeued deprived been
 To you my soule penitent j bringe
 Resceyue me. I can no ferþere fleen 148
 With thornes venymous O heuene queen
 ffor which þe eerþe acursed was ful yore.
 I am wounded as ye may wel seen
 þat j am lost almost it smert so sore 152

(20. V.)

Virgine þat art so noble of appaile
 And ledest us in to þe hye toure
 Of Paradys. þou me wisse and counsaile
 How j may haue þi grace & þi socour 156
 Al haue j ben in filthe and in errour
 Ladi vn to þat court þou me aiourne
 þat cleped is þi bench. O fresh flour
 þer as þat merci euere shal soiourne 160

(21. X = Ch.)

X̄pc ton filz, qui descendi	
En terre et en la crois pendi,	
Ot pour moy le costé fendu.	243
Sa grant rigour il destendi	
Quant pour moy l'esperit rendi,	
Son corps pendant et estendu ;	246
Pour moy son sanc fu espandu.	
Se ceci j'ai bien entendu	
A mon salut bien entendu,	249
Et pour ce, se l'ay offendu	
Et il ne le m'a pas rendu,	
Merci t'en rens, graces l'en di.	252

(22. Y.)

Ysaac le prefigura	
Qui de sa mort rien ne cura	
En obeisant au pere.	255
Comme .j. aignel tout endura ;	
En endurent tout espura	
Par crueuse mort amere.	258
O très douce vierge mere,	
Par ce fait fai que se pere	
Par plour l'ame qui cuer dur a ;	261
Fai que grace si m'apere ;	
Et n'en soiez pas avere	[c]
Quar largement la mesura.	264

(23. Z.)

Zacharie de mon somme	
Me exite, et si me somme	
D'en toy ma merci atendre ;	267
Fontaine patent te nomme	
Pour laver pecheür homme :	
C'est leçon bonne a aprendre.	270
Se tu donc as le cuer tendre	
Et m'offense n'est pas mendre	
De cil qui menga la pomme,	273
Moy laver veillez entendre,	
Moy garder et moy deffendre,	
Que justice ne m'asomme.	276

243. *ACD* Et pour ; *B* Eut.—244. *A* rogeur y descendi.—247. *From C* ; *A* son sanc fu despendu ; *B*, one step farther, son corps fut despendu.—248. *A* Se ci.—255. *A* obeisant o pere.—256. *A* engnel.—257. *A* Et endurent.—260. *B* scay que ; *A* se paire ; *BD* ce pere.—262. *A* mi apere.—263. *A* aveire.—267. *A* Sen toy.—268. *A* ce nomme.

(21. X = Ch.)

X̄pc¹ þi sone þat in þis world alighte
 Vp on þe cros to suffre his passioun
 And eek suffred þat longius his herte pighte
 And made his herte blood to renne adoun 164
 And al was þis for my saluacioun
 And j to him am fals and eek vnkynde
 And yit he wole not my dampnacioun
 þis thanke j yow socour of al mankynde 168

(22. Y.)

Ysaac was figure of his deth certeyn [leaf 115, back]
 þat so fer forth his fader wolde obeye
 þat him ne rouhte no thing to be slayn
 Riht^t soo þi sone lust as a lamb to deye 172
 Now ladi ful of merci j yow preye
 Sithe he his merci measured so large.
 Be ye not skant^t. for alle we singe & seye
 þat ye ben from vengeance ay oure targe 176

(23. Z.)

Zacharie yow clepeth þe opene welle
 To wasshe sinful soule out of his gilt^t
 þerfore þis lessoun ouht j wel to telle
 þat nere þi tender herte we weren spilt^t 180
 Now ladi sithe þou canst and wilt^t
 Ben to þe seed of Adam merciabile.
 Bring us to þat palais þat is bilt^t
 To penitentes þat ben to merci able Amen 184

Explicit^t carmen.

¹ The contraction for "Christ".

(24. & = et.)

Ethiques s'avoie leü,	
Tout recordé et tout sceü,	
Et après riens n'en ouvrasse	279
Du tout seroie deceü.	
Aussi con cil qui est cheü,	
En sa rois et en sa nasse.	282
Vierge, m'ame je claim lasse,	
Quar en toy priant se lasse	
Et si ne fait point son deü.	285
Pou vault chose que je amasse ;	
Ma priere n'est que quasse	
S'a bien je ne sui esmeü.	288

(25. 9 = con.)

Contre moy doubt que ne prie	
Ou que en vain merci ne crie.	
Je te promet amandement ;	291
Et pour ce que je ne nie	
Ma promesse, je t'en lie	
L'ame de moy en gaigement ;	294
Puis si te pri finalement	
Que quant sera mon finement	
Tu ne me failles mie :	297
Pour moy soies au jugement	
Afin que hereditablement	[d]
J'aie pardurable vie.	300

AMEN.

277. *A* tout veü.—285. *C* pas son.—289. *AB* que je ne.—290. *A* merci je.—292. *A* je nay mie.—297. *From C*; *A* Vierge tu ne me failles mie; *B* Tu ne me failles donc m.—299. *A* heritablement. *Here, as in other verses (220, 286, 290), the e of the preceding monosyllabic word is elided.*

VI.

Mother of God.

[For the Latin Prayer, *O Intemerata*, which is the source of the last 6 stanzas of Chaucer's poem, see the *Parallel-Text Print*.]

MOTHER OF GOD.

[*Phillipps MS. (of Hoccleve's Minor Poems) 8151, Cheltenham, leaf 34.*]

Ad beatam virginem.

(1) (I. 1)

M odir of god, and virgyne vndeffouled,	1
O blisful queene, of queenes Emperice,	
Preye for me þat am in synne mowled	
To god thy sone, punyssher of vice	4
þat of his mercy thogh þat I be nyce	
And negligent in keepyng of his lawe	
His hy mercy my soule / vn to him drawe.	7

(2) (I. 2)

Modir of mercy, wey of indulgence	8
þat of al vertu art superlatyf	
Sauer of vs by thy beneuolence	
Humble lady / mayde / modir and wyf	11
Causer of pees / stynter of wo & stryf	
My preyer' vn to thy sone presente	
Syn for my gilt I fully me repente	14

(3) (I. 3)

Benigne confort of vs wrecches aH	[leaf 34, back]	15
Be at myn endyng' whan þat I shal deye		
O Welle of pitee / vn to thee I cast		
fful of swetnesse / helpe me to weye		18
Ageyn the feend, þat with his handes tweye		
And his might plukke wole / at the balance		
To weye vs doun keepe vs from his nusance.		21

(4) (II. 1)

And for thow art ensaumple of chastitee	22
And of virgynes worsship and honour	
Among aȝ wommen blessid thow be	
Now speke and preye to our Sauueour	25
þat he me sende swich grace & fauour	
þat al the hete of brennyng Leccherie	
He qwenche in me blessid maiden Marie	28

(5) (II. 2)

O blessid lady / the cleer light of day	29
Temple of our Lord / and roote of al goodnesse	
þat by prayer' wypest cleene away	
The filthes of our synful wikkidnesse	32
thyn hand foorth putte / & helpe my distresse	
And fro temptacioun deliure me	
Of wikkid thoght, thurgh thy benignitee	35

(6) (II. 3)

So þat the wil fulfild be of thy sone	[leaf 35] 36
And þat of the holy goost he menlumyne	
Preye for vs as ay hath be thy wone	
Lady / all swiche emprises been thyne	39
Swich an aduocatrice who can dyuyne	
As thow right noon, our greeues to redresse.	
In thy refuyt is al our sikirnesse.	42

(7) (III. 1)

Thow shapen art by goddes ordenance	43
Mene for vs flour of humilitee	
fficche þat lady in thy remembrance	
Lest our fo the feend thurgh his sotiltee	46
þat in awayt lyth for to cacche me	
Me ouercome with his treccherie	
Vn to my soules helthe thow me gye	49

(8) (III. 2)

Thow art the way of our Redempcion	50
ffor cryst of thee hath deyned for to take	
fflessħ and eek' blood / for this entencion	
Vp on a crois to die for our sake	53
His precious deeth made the feendes qwake	
And cristen folk' for to reioisen euere	
ffrom his mercy / helpe / be we nat disseuere	56

(9) (III. 3)

Tendrelly remembre on the wo & peyne	57
þat thow souffridist in his passioñ	
Whan watir & blood out of thyn yen tweyne	
ffor sorwe of him ran by this cheekes doun	60
And syn thow knowest þat the enchesoun	
Of his deeth was, for to saue al man kynde	
Modir of mercy þat haue in thy mynde	63

(10) (IV. 1)

Wel oghiten we thee worsshipe & honure	64
Paleys of Cryst, flour of virginitee	
Syn vp on thee / was leid the charge & cure	
The lord to ber' of heuene & eerthe & see	67
And alle thynges þat ther ynne be	
Of heuenes kyng thow art predestinat	
To hele our soules of hir seek estat	70

(11) (IV. 2)

Thy maidens wombe in which our lord lay	71
Thy tetes / whiche him yaf to sowke also	
To our sauynge / be they blessid ay	
The birthe of Cryst our thraldom putte vs fro	74
Ioie and honour / be now & eueremo	
To him and thee, þat vn to libertee	
ffro thraldam han vs qwit / blessid be yee	77

[? Stanza 12, or IV. 3, the real lines 78-84, lost.]

(12) (V. 1)

By thee Lady y makid is the pees	[leaf 86]	78
Betwixt Angels and men / it is no doute		
Blessid be god þat swich a modir chees		
Thy gracious bountee spredith al aboute		81
Thogh þat our' hertes sterne been & stoute		
Thow to thy sone canst be swich a mene		
That aʒ our' giltes he foryeueth clene.		84

(13) (V. 2)

Paradys yates opned been by thee		85
And broken been the yates eek' of helle		
By thee / the world restored is pardee		
Of al vertu, thow art the spryng & weʒ		88
By thee al bountee / shortly for to teʒ		
In heuene & eerthe by thyn ordenance		
Parformed is / our soules sustenance.		91

(14) (V. 3)

Now syn thow art of swich auctoritee		92
Lady pitous / virgyne wemmelees		
þat our Lord god nat list to werne thee		
Of thy requeste / I wot wel / doutelees		95
Than spare nat, foorth thee to putte in prees		
To preye for vs Crystes modir deere		
Benygnely wole he thyn axyng' heere		98

(15) (VI. 1. *O intemerata!* englisht)

Apostle and freend familier of Cryst	[leaf 86, back]	99
And his y-chosen virgyne / seint Ion		
Shynyng apostle & euangelyst		
And best beloued among hem echon		102
With our Lady preye I thee to been oon		
þat vn to Cryst shal for vs aʒ preye		
Do this for vs Crystes derlyng I seye.		105

(16) (VI. 2)

Marie and Ion heuenly gemmes tweyne	106
O lightes two shynyng ^t in the presence	
Of our lord god, now do your bysy peyne	
To wasshe away our cloudeful offense	109
So þat we mowen make resistance	
Ageyn the feend, & make him to bewaiht	
þat your preyer ^r may so moche auaiht	112

(17) (VI. 3)

Yee been tho two I knowe verrailly	113
In which the fadir god gan edifie	
By his sone oonlygeten specially	
To him an hows / wherfore I to yow crye	116
Beeth leches of our synful maladie	
Preyeth to god / lord of misericorde	
Our ^r olde giltes / þat he nat recorde.	119

(18) (VII. 1)

Be yee our ^r help and our proteccioñ	[leaf 37] 120
Syn for meryt of your virginitee	
The priuilege of his dileccioñ	
In yow confermed god vp on a tree	123
Hangyng ^t / and vn to oon of yow seide he	
Righit in this wyse, as I reherce can	
Beholde heer ^r lo / thy sone womman	126

(19) (VII. 2)

And to þat othir / heer thy modir lo	127
Than preye I thee / þat for the greet swetnesse	
Of the hy loue, þat god twixt yow two	
With his mowth made / and of his noblesse	130
Conioyned hath yow / thurgh ^h his blisfulnesse	
As modir and sone helpe vs in our neede	
And for our giltes make our ^r hertes bleede	133

(20) (VII. 3)

Vn to yow tweyne, I my soule commende	134
Marie and Ioĥn for my sauuacioñ	
Helpith me þat I may my lyf amende	
Helpith now, þat the habitacioñ	137
Of the holy goost our recocatioñ	
Be in myn herte now and eueremore	
And of my soule, wasshe away the sore—Amen	140

[*Bottom of leaf 37.*]

VII.

Anelida and Arcite.

HARLEIAN MS. 7333 (FROM SHIRLEY).

[As none of Shirley's 3 copies of this poem have stanzas 39 and 45, which are evidently both genuine, they are put in here from the Tanner MS. 346 in the Bodleian.]

ANELYDA AND ARCYTE.

[Harl. MS. 7333 (from Shirley), leaf 134, col. 1.]

C lxxvij

Lo my lordis and ladyes Here folowyng may ye
see the maner of^t the lovyng bytwene Arcite of^t
Thebes and Anelida the faire Quene of Hermony
whiche with his feyned^t chere doublenesse and flateryng^t
disceiued^t her withouten^t cause / she beyng than oon
of^t þe trewest gentilwomen^t that bere lyf^t compleyneth
her I beseche you.

(1) [*Proem or Invocation: 3 stanzas*]

Yow fiers god of^t armes Mars the rede 1
That in þe frosty contrey called Trace
Within thi gresly temple ful of^t drede
Honored^t art as patron^t of^t that place 4
With thi Bellona / Pallas ful of^t grace
Be present and my song contynne and guy
At my begynnyng/ thus to the I cry 7

(2)

¶ For hit ful depe / is sonken^t in my mynd^t 8
With pitous herte. in englissh for to endite
This old^t story in latyne which I fynde
Of^t quene Anelyda and fals Arcite 11
That eeld^t which þat aþ can frete *and* bite
As hit hath froten^t many A noble story
hath negh^t devoured^t oute of^t my memory 14

(3)

¶ Be fauourable eke thow polymeia 15
On parnaso that with^t thi sustren^t glade
By Ellicon^t nogh^t fer frome Cirea
Syngest with^t voice memorial in þe shade 18
Vndir the laurier / which þat may not fade
And do that I my Ship to hauen^t wyne
First folowe I stace / and aftir þat Corynne 21

HARLEIAN 7333 (FROM SHIRLEY)

(4) [*The Story: 27 stanzas*]

W	Han Theseus with werres longe <i>and</i> grete	22
	The Aspre folke of Cithe had ouercomme	
	With laurer ^r corouneð in his chare gold ^d bete	
	home to his Cuntre / houses is ecomme	25
	For which the people blisful ^l hole <i>and</i> somme	
	So crydon / þat unto the sterres it wente	
	And him to honuren ^d . diden / aH her entente	28

(5)

¶	Beforne this duk in signe of hie Victorye	29
	The trumpes came / <i>and</i> in his baner large.	
	The ymage of mars <i>and</i> tokenyng of his glorie.	
	Men mighten ^d seen ^d / of tresoure many a Charge.	32
	Many bright helme and many spere and targe	
	many a fressh knyght / and blisful route	
	On hors and fote / In aH the felde aboute	35

(6)

¶	Ypolita his wyf / the hardy quene	36
	Of Cithea that he conquer ^d had	
	With Emelye her yong Sustir shene	
	Faire in a Chaier of gold ^d he <i>with</i> him ladde	39
	That aH the ground aboute the chare. she sprad	
	<i>With</i> the brightnesse of the beaute in her face	
	Fulfilled ^d of largesse and of Alle grace	42

(7)

¶	With his Tryumphe / of lawrier corouneð thus	43
	In aH the floure of Fortunes yevyng	
	lete I this noble prince this Theseus	
	Towardses Attenes in his wey ridyng	46
	And fonde I woH in shortly for to bryng	
	The sleght wey of that I gan ^d to write	
	Of tho quene Anelida / and fals Arcyte.	49

(8)

¶ Mars which thurgh his furious Cours of yre [leaf 134, col. 2]
 The old wrath of Juvo to fulfille
 Hath sette the peoplis hertis both on fyre
 Of Thebes and grece / yche othir for to kylle 53
 With blody speris / ne rested neuer stille
 But throng now here now pere amongis hem both
 TyH euerich othir slough so were thei wroth 56

(9)

¶ For whan Amphyorax and Tedijs 57
 ypomedon Parthonopee also
 weren dede and sleyn proude Campaneus
 And whan pe wrechid Thebans bretheren two 60
 Were slayne · and kyng Adrascus Home ego
 So desolate stode Thebes and so bare
 That no wight coude no remedy of his fare 63

(10)

¶ And whan that old Creon gan espie 64
 how that the blode riaH was brought edoun
 he heled that Cite by his Thyranne
 And did the gentils of that regyoun. 67
 To ben his frend · and wonnen in pe toune
 So what for loue of him and what for awe.
 The noble folke were to the toune edrawe 70

(11)

¶ Amonges aH thies / Anelida the quene. 71
 Of ermony was in þat toune duellyng
 That feirer was · þan is pe sonne shene
 Thurgh oute the world · so gan her name spryng 74
 That her to seen · had euey wight likyng
 For as of trouth is pere non her liche
 Of aH pe wymen in þis world riche. 77

(12)

¶ Yong was this quene · of xxⁱ yere eld. 78
 Of myddeſt stature and of ſuche faireneſſe
 That nature had grete ioy / her to beholde
 And for to ſpeken of her ſtedfaſtneſ 81
 She paſſed hath penelope and lucreſſe
 And ſhortly if ſhe ſhaſt be comprehendid
 In her ne myght no thing be amendid 84

(13)

¶ This theban knyght eke þe ſoth to ſeyn 85
 Was yong and þere with all a luſty knyght
 But he was double in loue *and* nothing pleyne
 And ſubtil in þat Crafte · ouer any wight 88
 And with his connyng what þat lady bright
 So ferforth loo · he gan her trouthe ensure
 That ſhe him truſtith aboue eche creature. 91

(14)

¶ What ſhuld I ſeyn ſhe lovid Arcyte ſo 92
 That whan þat he was abſent any throwe
 Anon her thought / hir hert braſt on two
 For in her ſight / to her he bare him lowe. 95
 So þat ſhe wende · haue all his hert eknowe
 But he was falſ / hit nas but feyned chere
 All nedith not to men / ſuche Crafte to lere. 98

(15)

¶ But natheles ful mycheſt beſyneſſe. 99
 had he or þat he myght his lady wyne
 And ſwore he wold dey. for diſtreſſe.
 Or from his witte he wold twynne. 102
 Alas þe while · for hit was routhe *and* ſynne.
 That ſhe vpon his ſorowis wolden rewe.
 But no thing thenkiſh / þe falſ as doth the trewe. 105

(16)

¶ Hir fredome fonde Arcyte in suche maner	106
That all was his / þat she hath moche or lyte	
Ne to no creature made she chere.	
Forther þan that hit liked Arcyte	109
Ther nas no lacke with wiche he myght her wite/	[If 124, bk, col. 1]
Sheo was so ferforthe gyven him to plesse	
þat all þat liked him hit did her ese /	112

(17)

¶ þere nas to hir no maner lettre sent	113
þat towchid love from anye maner wyght	
þat she ne shewid it him or it was brent	
So pleyne she was and did hir ful might	116
þat she nil hyden no thing frome hir knyght	
lest he of eny vntrouþe hir vpbroyde /	
with outen bode / his heste sheo / cleyde /	119

(18)

¶ And eke he made him Ialowse ouer hir	120
þat what þat any man had to hir seyde	
Anoon he wolde preyen her to swere /	
what was that worde / or maken him yuel apayde /	123
þanne wende sheo oute of her wyt haue brayed	
But all this nas / but flight & flaterie /	
Withouten love of Feyned Ialowsye	126

(19)

¶ And Al this toke sheo so debonayrely	127
þat al his wille hir thought hir skilful thing	
And euer the lenger sheo lovid him tendrely	
An did him honour as he were a kynge /	130
hir hart was to him / weddi with a Ringe /	
So ferforþe vpon trowþe is hir entente /	
þat where he goope his hert with him wente	133

(20)

¶ When sheo shaft ete / on him is al hir thought	134
pat wele vnnepe of mete tooke she keepe	
And whan pat sheo was to hir Reste ebrought	
On him sheo thought alwey tiH sheo slepe	137
Whan he was absent preuely sheo weepe/	
þus lyvepe fayere Anelyda þe qveene/	
For Fals Arcyte pat did hir that tene	140

(21)

¶ þis Fals Arcite of his nuwefangulnesse /	141
For sheo to him so lovely was and trewe /	
Tooke lasse deyntee of hir stedfastnesse /	
And sawe a noþere ladye proude and nuwe /	144
And Ryght a noon / he cladde him in her huwe	
Woot I nowght whethir in white rede or grene	
And falshed pat fayr Anelida þe qwene /	147

(22)

¶ But natheles gret wondre was it noone	148
þawgh he were fals for it is kynde of mane	
Sithe lanek was / pat is so longe agoone	
To been in love / als fals as euer he cane /	151
he was þe firste fadre that euer be-gane	
To loven too / and liven in byganye /	
And he founde tentis Firste / but yf men lye /	154

(23)

¶ þis fals Arcyte sumwhat moste he feyne	155
Whane he was fals to couer his thratourye	
Right as an hors pat can boope byte & pleyne	
For he bare hir on honde of Trecherye	158
And swore he Coude hir dowbilnesse espie /	
And aft was Falsnesse that sheo to him mente	
þus swore this þeoff and forþe his weye he wente /	161

(24)

¶ Ellas what hart myght endure it	162
For Roupe <i>and</i> woo hir sorow for to telt	
Or what man hath þe connyng or þe witte /	
Or what man myght <i>with</i> in the Chambre dwelle	165
Yf I to him Rehersin shoulde þe helle	
Which sufferith faire Anelyda þe Quene /	
For Fals Arcyte þat did her aH þis teene	168

(25)

¶ Sheo weopeþe wayleþe swooneþe pytously	169
To grounde sheo falleþe dede as any stoon	<small>[leaf 124, back, col. 2]</small>
Al craumpissheð hir lymmes crockedly	
Sheo spekithe as hir witte were aH agoone /	172
Oþer coloure þanne Asshen hath sheo noone	
Noon) othir worde spekithe sheo muche or luytle	
But mercy crueH harte myn) arcyte /	175

(26)

¶ And þus endureth til sheo was soo mate	176
þat sheo nathe on) whiche sheo may sustene	
But forþe langwissing' in þis estate	
On) which arcyte haþe Rowpe noon ne teene /	179
His herte was ellis where nuwe <i>and</i> grene	
þat on) hir woo noughit deynid him to thinke	
Him Reccheth nought' wheþer sheo fleete / or swynke /	182

(27)

¶ His nuwe Ladye holdithe him so narowe /	183
Vp by þe brydeH at þe staves ende	
þat euery worde he drað as an Arowe	
hir daunger' made him boope bowe <i>and</i> beende /	186
And as hir lyste made him tourne <i>and</i> wende /	
For sheo ne graunted him in hir lyvyng	
No grace whi he hathe noo luste to synge /	189

(28)

¶ But drofe him forthe / vnnethe list hir knowe / 190
 þat he was sarvant vn to hir ladshippe
 But leste that he were proude sheo held him lowe /
 þus serueþe he withouten mete or shepe 193
 Sheo sent him nowe to lande *and* nowe to shipe
 And for sheo gave him daungere al his fille
 þere-fore sheo had him at hir owne wille. 196

(29)

¶ Ensaumple of this yee thrifty women) aH 197
 Takeþe of Anelida · and Arcyte /
 And for hir list him dere herte Calle
 And was soo meke pefore he louid hir luyte 200
 þe kynde of mannes herte is to delight
 In thiing þat straunge is / als soo god me save
 For what he may not gete þat wolde he have /. 203

(30)

¶ Nowe tourne we to Anelyda A-geyne 204
 Which peynithe day by day in languisshing
 But whane sheo sawe / þat hir gate no gayne
 Vppon) A day fuH soroufuH wepynge 207
 Sheo caste hir for to make a compleyning
 And of hir Owne honde sheo gane hit wreyte /
 And sent hit to hir Theban knyght) dann Arcyte 210

The compleynte of anelida þe Quene of Hermony
 vpon arcyte borne of þe blode Riath of Thebes for his
 Doublenesse.

(31) (*Complaint 1. Proem*)

SO thirleþe with þe poynt of Remembraunce 211
 The swerde of sorowe whette *with* fals pleasaunce /
 Myn hart bare of blisse *and* blak of hues
 That turnid is in quakyng aH my daunce
 My suretee in a whapeð countenaunce 215

HARLEIAN 7333 (FROM SHIRLEY)

Sithe it A-vaylithe nowght for to be trewe
 For who soo trewest is it shaH hir rewe
 þat seruithe love And doþe hir observaunce /
 Alday tiH oon / Chaungeþe for no newe 219

(32) (*Compl.* 2; *Mov.* I. 1)

¶ I wot my selfe als welle als any wight 220
 For I loudH oon *with* aH myn herte and might
 More than my selfe an hunderipe thousand sithe /
 And callidH him myn hertes lyff my knight
 And was al his / als fer as it was Right 224
 When he was gladH þane was I euere klyþe
 For his desire was to me deþe als swythe
 And he A geyne his trought hathe me plight [*leaf 136, col. 1*]
 For euermore / his ladye me to kythe 228

(33) (*Compl.* 3; *Mov.* I. 2)

¶ Nowe is he Fals / ellas and Causelesse 229
 And of my woo he is so rewthelesse
 þat *with* oon worde / him liste not oonys deyne
 To brynge ageyne my sorowfuH hert in pese
 For he is kaute vp in a neþer lese 233
 Right as him liste he laughethe / at/ my peyne /
 And I ne can myne herte nought Restreyne
 For to love him Alweye neuer the lesse
 And of AH this I note / to whome me pleyne / 237

(34) (*Compl.* 4; *Mov.* I. 3)

¶ And shaH I pleyne / ellas þat harde stounde 238
 Vn to my foo that gave myn herte A wounde /
 And yette desirithe that myne harome be more
 Nay for certes / þer shaH I neuer be founde
 Noon othir helpeþe my soores for to sounde 242
 My destenye hathe shapen it fuH yore/
 I wolle noon oþer medecyne ne lore/
 I wolle ben ay þere I was oones bounde/
 þat I have seyde / beo syde for euermore/ 246

(35) (*Compl.* 5; *Mov.* I. 4)

¶ Ellas wher is be comen) your gentilnesse/ Youre wordes full of plesaunce <i>and</i> humblesse Youre observaunce / and so lowe manere / Youre Awaytinges and youre besynesse	247
Vppon) me þat ye callid) your mastresse / Youre soverayne ladye / of this worlde here And is þere nowe neyþer worde ne cheere/ Yee wouchensaff vpponn myn) hevynesse	251
Ellas youre / love I bie it aþ to dere /	255

(36) (*Compl.* 6; *Mov.* I. 5)

¶ Nowe Certes swete þaughe þat yee þus Causelesse þe Cause be Of my dedely Aduersitee	256
Your manly Rayson) aught it for to Respite/ To slee your frende <i>and</i> namlie me / þat neuer yitte in noo degree Offendid) yowe / als wissely he	259
þat al wot oute of woo my sowle quite But for I was so pleyne / Arcyte In aþ my werkes much) and) lyte And) so besye yowe to delyte	263
Myn honour sauf) / meke <i>and</i> kynde <i>and</i> Free þer fore ye putte on) me this wyte And) als ye Recche not A myght þaughe þat þe swerde of sorowe byte	267
My woofull harte þorowe your creweltee	271

(37) (*Compl.* 7; *Mov.* I. 6)

¶ My swete for whye doo yee soo for shame And) thenken yee þat ferþerid) be your name To love a newe / And) be vntrewe nay And) putte yowe in sclandre nowe <i>and</i> blame	272
For to do me / Aduersite / and) grame	276

þat loue yowe moste / god̄ weſt þou woste / Alwaye/
 Yitt Come A gayne / And̄ yit be playne some daye/
 And̄ þan̄ shaſt this / þat nowe is mis / be game/
 And̄ Al forgyven / while þat here live I maye 280

(38) (*Compl.* 8 ; *Mov.* II. 1)

¶ loo herte myne / Al þis is for to seyne 281
 And whethir shaſt I pray / or elles pleyne
 Which is þe wey to do yowe to be trewe
 For ouþer mote I have yow in my cheyne 284
 Or withe þe dethe yee mutte departe vs twene [*leaf 135, col. 2*]
 þer lithe noon othir / meene weyes nuwe/
 For god̄ so wissly of my soule ruwe
 As verraylye yee slee me with þe peyne
 þat may yee see vnfeynid̄ on̄ myn̄ huwe 289

(39) (*Compl.* 9 ; *Mov.* II. 2) [*From Tanner MS. 346*]
 [For thus ferforth haue .I. my deth soghte 290
 My selfe .I. morder with my pryue thoghte
 For sorou and routh of youre vnkyndenes
 I. wepe / I. wele / I. faste aſt helpeth noghte
 I. voyde ioy / that is to speke of oghte 294
 I. voyde companye .I. flee gladdenes
 who may avauñce her bet of heuynes
 Then .I. and to this plite haue ye me broghte
 with oute gilte me nedyth no witnes] 298

(40) (*Compl.* 10 ; *Mov.* II. 3 : *nine rymes in -ede*)

¶ And̄ shulde I preye and̄ venyme womanhode 299
 Nay Rapere dye þat do soo Creueſt dede
 And̄ Axse mercy causeles what nede
 And̄ yf I pleyne what life þat I lede
 þane wol yee laughie I knowe it oute of drede 303
 And̄ yf þat I / to yowe myne othes beede /
 For myn excuse / a scorne shaſt be my mede/
 Youre chere floureþe / but it it wolle not sede
 Full longe a-gon̄ / I ought to have taken hede 307

(41) (*Compl.* 11 ; *Mov.* II. 4)

¶ For þaughē / I hade yowe / nuwe agayne to morowe/ 308
 I mygh̄t als weele kepe / AueryH from) Rayne
 As holde yow trewe / and̄ make yowe hoole stedfaste /
 Almyghti god̄ of trowthe soverayne
 Where is þe trowthe of man whoo hathe it slayne 312
 Sheo that hem trustit̄he shaH̄ hem fynde als faste
 As in a tempeste is þe Roton maste
 Is þat a tame beste þat is ay fayne
 To fleen) aweye when he is lefte agaste 316

(42) (*Compl.* 12 ; *Mov.* II. 5)

But mercy swete yf I mys saye 317
 Have I ought̄ saide oughte of þe waye
 I not my wytte is halffe a waye
 I fare as doþe þe songe of Chaunte pleure 320
 For nowe I pleyne / and̄ now I playe
 I am so mased̄ þat I deye
 Arcyte hathe borne aweye þe keye
 Of aH̄ my worlde/ and̄ my goode Aventure/ 324
 For in this worlde nys Creature
 Wakyngē in moore discomfiture
 þane I ne more sorowe endure
 And̄ yf I Slepe A furlonge wey or tweye / 328
 ¶ þan thinkithe me þat youre figure
 Be-fore me stante Clooped̄ in Asure/
 To profren este and̄ nuwe ensure/
 For to be trewe / and̄ love me til I dye 332

(43) (*Compl.* 13 ; *Mov.* II. 6)

¶ þe longe Nygh̄t / þis wonder sight I drye 333
 And̄ on the day for þilke a fraye I dye
 And̄ of Al this right̄ nough̄t ewysse yee rechche
 Ne never mo / myne eyen two beo drye
 And̄ to youre rough̄t / and̄ to your trowthe I crye 337

But welawaye to fer ben thei to Fecche
 þus holdithe me my destenye a wrechche
 But me to Rede oute of this drede /or crye
 Ne may my witte / so weyke is it nought strecche 341

(44) (*Compl. 14. Conclusion.*)

¶ þanne eondid I thus sithe I may do namore 342
 And yeve it vp for now *and* evir more
 For shaH I neuer efte put in balaunse
 My sikurnesse / or leorne of love þe lore
 But as þe swane / I have harde sey full yore 346
 Ageynist his dethe / shaH synge his penavnse /
 So sey I here / my destenye or chaunce/
 How þat Arcyte / Anelyda so sore
 Hafe thrilled with þe poynte of Remembraunce/ 350

(45) [*Continuation*] [*From Tanner MS. 346*]

[when that Annelida this wofull quene 351
 Hath of her hande writen in this wise
 with face dede betwix pale and grene
 She felle a swow and sith she gan to rise 354
 And vnto Mars avoyth sacrifice
 with-Inne the temple with a sorofull chere
 That shapyn was as ye shaH aftyr here] 357

[*Imperfect* : ? never finisht. See the description of the
 Temple of Mars in The Knight's Tale.]

VIII.

The Former Age.

[From the 5th Metre of the 2nd Book of Boethius *de Consolatione Philosophiae*. Line 56 is wanting.]

THE FORMER AGE.

[*Camb. Univ. MS. Ii. 3. 21, leaf 52, back.*]

Chawcer vp-on this fyfte metur of the second book

(1)

A Blyful lyf a paysyble <i>and</i> a swete	1
Ledden the poeples in the former age	
They helde hem paied of the fructes þat þey ete	
Whiche þat the feldes yaue hem by vsage	4
They ne weere nat forpampred <i>with</i> owtrage	
Onknowyn was þ ^e quyerne <i>and</i> ek the melle	
They eten mast hawes <i>and</i> swych pownage	
And dronken water of the colde welle	8

(2)

¶ Yit nas the grownd nat wownded <i>with</i> þ ^e plowh	9
But corn vp-sprong vnsowe of mannes hond	
þe which they gnodded <i>and</i> eete nat half .I.-nowh	
No man yit knewe the forwes of his lond	12
No man the fyr owt of the flynt yit fonde	
Vn-koruen and vn-grobbed lay the vyne	
No man yit in the mortar spices grond	
To clarre ne to sawse of galentyne	16

(3)

¶ No Madyr welde or wod no litestere	17
Ne knewh / the fles was of is former hewe	
No flessch ne wyste offence of egge or spere	
No coyn ne knewh man which is fals or trewe	20
No ship yit karf the wawes grene <i>and</i> blewe	
No Marchaunt yit ne fette owt-landiss ^h ware	
No batails trompes for the werres folk ne knewe	
Ne towres heye <i>and</i> walles rownde or square	24

(4)

¶ What sholde it han avayled to werreye	25
Ther lay no profyt ther was no rychesse	
But corsed was the tyme .I. dar' wel seye	[leaf 53]
þat men fyrst dede hir' swety bysynesse	28
To grobbe vp metal lurkyng in dirkenesse	
And in þe Ryuerys fyrst gemmys sowhte	
Allas than sprong' vp al the cuisydnesse	
Of coueytise þat fyrst ovr sorwe browhte	32

(5)

¶ Thyse tyrauntz put hem gladly nat in pres	33
No places wyldnesse ne no busshes for to wynne	
Ther pouerte is as seith diogenes	
Ther as vitayle is ek so skars and thinne	36
þat nat but mast or apples is ther Inne	
But þer as bagges ben and fat vitaille	[† MS. transposes lines 39, 40.]
Ther wol they gon and spare for no synne	†39
With al hir ost the Cyte forto a-sayle	†40

(6)

¶ Yit was no paleis chaumbres ne non halles	41
In kaues and wodes softe and swete	
Sleptin this blyssed folk' with-owte walles	
Or gras or leues in parfyt Ioye reste and quiete	44
No down of fetheres ne no bleched shete	
Was kyd to hem but in surte they slepte	
Hir hertes weere al on with-owte galles	[for -ete ryme]
Euerych of hem his feith to oother kepte	48

(7)

¶ Vnforged was the hawberke and the plate	49
þ° lambyssh poeple voyded of alle vyse	
Hadden no fantesye to debate	
But eche of hem wolde oother wel cheryce	52
No pride non enuye non Auaryce	
No lord no taylage by no tyranye	
Vmblesse and pes good feith the emperice	
[. no gap in the MS.]	56

(8)

¶ Yit was nat Iuppiter the lykerous	57
þat fyrst was fadyr of delicacie	
Come in this world ne nembrot desyrus	
To regne had nat maad his towres hye	60
Allas allas now may [men] wepe And crye	
For in owre dayes nis but couetyse	
Dowblenese <i>and tresoun and enuye</i>	
Poyson <i>and manslawhtre and mordre</i> in sondry wyse	64

IX.

Adam Scribener.

ADAM SCRIVENER.

[MS. R. 3. 20 (*Shirley's*), *Trin. Coll. Library*, 4th leaf
from the end.]

¶ Chauciers wordes ·a. Geffrey vn to Adame his
owen seryveyne /

¶ Adam · seryveyne / if euer it þee byfalle	1
Boece or Troylus / for to wryten nuwe /	
Vnder þy long lokkes / þowe most haue þe scalle	
But affter my makyng þowe wryte more truwe	4
So oft a daye · I mot þy werk renuwe /	
It to. corect and eke to rubbe and scrape /	
And al is thorough . þy neglygence and rape /	7

X.

The House of Fame.

[In 3 Books, the 3rd unfinisht]

[Fairfax MS. 16, vellum (Bodl. Libr.), leaf 154, back.]

¶ The house of ffame

[All the proper Names, and some other nouns, have a light red line under them. The nota's are in a later hand. v stands for t with a curl turned over it, sometimes printed 'te'.]

[BOOK I.]

[Proem.]

GOd turne vs / euery dreme to goode
 ffor hyt is wonder^v / be the Roode
 To my wytte / what causeth swevenes
 Eyther^v on^v morwes / or on^v evenes 4
 And why theffecte / folweth of somme
 And of somme / hit shal neuer come
 Why that is / an avisioun
 And why this / a reuelacioun 8
 Why this a dreme / why that A swevene
 And noght^v to euery man^v / lyche evene
 Why this affaintome / why these oracles
 I not but who-so / of these meracles 12
 The causes knoweth^v / bet then^v I
 Devyne he / for I certainly
 Ne kan^v hem noght^v / ne neuer thinke
 To besely my Wytte / to swinke 16
 To knowe / of hir signifaunce
 The gendres / neyther the distaunce
 Of tymes of hem / ne the causis
 ffor-why this is more / then that cause is 20
 As yf folkys / complexions
 Make hem dreme / of reflexions
 Or ellis thus/ as other sayne
 ffor to grete feblenesse / of her brayne 24
 By abstinence / or by sekenesse
 Prison^v stewe / or grete distresse

Or ellis by / dysordynaunce	
Of naturell / acustumaunce	28
That somme man / is to curiouse	
In studye / or melancolyouse	
Or thus / so inly ful of drede	
That no man may / hym bote bede	32
Or ellis / that deuocion	
Of somme / and contemplacion	
Causeth / suche dremes ofte	
Or that the cruelle lyfe / Vn-softe	36
Whiche these ilke louers / leden	
That hopen ouer meche / or dreden	
That purely / her' impressions	
Causeth hem / Avisions	40
Or yf that spiritis / haue the myght	
To make folke / to dreme a-nyght	
Or yf the soule / of propre kynde	
Be so parfit / as men fynde	44
That yt forwote / that ys to come	
And that hyt warneth / al and some	
Of eueryche / of her auentures	
Be avisions / or be figures	48
But that oure flesshe / ne hath no myght	
To vnderstonde / hyt aryght	
ffor hyt is warned / to derkly	
But why the cause is / noght wot I	52
We[1] worth of this thyng / grete clerkys	
That trete of this / and other werkes	
For I of noon / oppinion	
Nyl as now / make mensyon	56
But oonly that / the holy Roode	
Turne vs / euery dreme to goode	
ffor neuer sith / that I was borne	
Ne no man elles / me beforne	60
Mette I trowe / stedfastly	
So wonderful / a dreme as I	

The tenthe day / now of Decembre
 The which as I kan / yow remembre 64
 I wol yow tel / euerydele

[Invocation.]

But at my gynnyng / trusteth wele
 I wol make / Inuocacion
 With special / deuocion 68

Vnto the god / of slepe anon
 That duelleth / in a Cave of stoon
 Vpon a streme / that cometh fro lete
 That is a floode / of helle vnswete 72
 Besyde a folke / men clepeth Cymerie

¶ Ouidius: tamen
 exit ab imo. riuus
 aque lethes. &c.
 [Met. xi. 602.]

¶ Vnde Ouidius.
 libro xj. Est
 prope Cimereos
 longo spelunca
 recessu. &c.
 [Met. xi. 592.]

There slepeth ay / this god vnmerie
 With his slepy / thousande sones
 That alwey for to slepe / hir wone is 76
 That to this god / that I of rede

Prey I that he / wolde me spede
 My sweuene / for to telle aryght
 Yf euery dreme / stonde in his myght 80

[leaf 155, back]

And he that mouer / ys of alle
 That is and was / and euer shalle
 So yive hem ioy / that hyt here
 Of alle that they / dreme to yere 84

And for to stonde / al in grace
 Of her loues or in what place
 That hem were leuest for to stonde
 And shelde hem fro pouerte / and shonde 88

And fro vnhappe / and eche disese
 And send hem alle / that may hem plesse
 That take hit wele / and skorne hyt noghte
 Ne hyt mysdeme / in her thought 92

Thorgh maliciouse / entencion
 And who-so thorgh / presumpcion
 Or hate or skorne / or thorgh envye
 Dispite or Iape / or vilanye 96

Mysdeme hyt / pray I. Ihesus god
 That dreme he barefote / dreme he shod
 That euery harme / that any man
 Hath had syth / the worlde began 100
 Befalle hym therof / or he sterue
 And graunt he mote / hit ful deserve
 Loo with suche / a conclusion
 As had / of his auision 104
 Cresus that was / kyng of lyde
 That high vpon / a gebet dide
 This prayer shal he / haue of me
 I am no bet / in charyte 108
 Now herkeneth / as I haue yow seyde
 What that I met / or I abreyde

[*Story.*]

Of Decembre / the tenthe day nota
 Whan hit was nyght / to slepe I lay 112
 Ryght ther as I was / wonte to done
 And fille on slepe / wonder sone
 As he that wery was / for-goo
 On pilgrymage / myles two [leaf 156] 116
 To the Corseynt / leonarde
 To make lythe / of that was harde
 But as I slept / me mette I was
 Withyn a temple / y-made of glas 120
 In whiche ther were / moo ymages
 Of golde stondynge / in sondry stages
 And moo ryche / tabernacles
 And with perre / moo pynacles 124
 And moo curiouse / portreytures
 And queynt maner / of figures
 Of olde werke / then I sawgh euer
 ffor certeynly / I nyste neuer 128
 Wher that I was / but wel wyste I
 Hyt was of Venus / redely

- The temple / for in portreytoure
 I sawgh anoon) / ryght' hir figure 132
 Naked fletyng / in A see
 And also on) hir hede / partee
 Hir Rose garlonde / white and rede
 And hir combe / to kembe hyr hede 136
 Hir dowves / and daun Cupido
 Hir blynde sone / and Vulcano
 That in his face / was ful broune
 But as I romed / vp and downe 140
 I fonde / that on) a walle ther was
 Thus writen) / on) a table of bras
 I wol now say / yif' I kan)
 ¶ *Arma virum que cano troie qui primus ab horia. Italia fato profugus labinaque venit litora.*
 The Armes / and also the man) 144
 That first came / thorgh' his destanee
 ffugityfe / of Troy Contree
 In Itayle / with ful moche pyne
 ¶ *filia Regis Latini.*
 Vnto the strondes / of Labyne 148
 And tho began) / the story anoon)
 As I shal telle / yow echon)
 First sawgh I / the destruction) 151
 Of troy / thorgh' the greke Synon)
 [If 156, Lk]
 With his fals / forswerynge
 And his chere / and his lesyng
 Made the hors broght' / in-to troye
 Thorgh' which' troyens / lost al her Ioye 156
 And aftir this / was grave allas
 How Ilyon) / assayled was
 And wonne / and kyng Priam y-slayne
 And Polite / his sone certayne 160
 Dispitously / and daun Pirrus
 ¶ *Vnde virgilius || Ecce an elapsus Pirri de cede polites vnus natorem priami per tela per hostes portibus longis fugit &c. [Aen. ii. 526-8.]*
 And next that / sawgh I how Venus
 Whan) that she sawgh / þe castel brende
 Dovne fro the heuene / gan) descende 164
 And bad hir sone / Eneas flee
 And how he fled / and how that he

Escaped was / from al the pres	
And tooke his fader / Anchises	168
And bare hym / on hys bakke away	
Cryinge allas and welaway	
The whiche Anchises / in hys honde	
Bare the goddesse / of the londe	172
Thilke / that vnbrende were	
And I saugh next / in al hys fere	
How Creusa / daun Eneas wife	
Which that he louede / as hys lyfe	176
And hir yonge / sone Iulo	
And eke askanius / also	
fleden eke / with drery chere	
That hyt was pitee / for to here	180
And in a fforest / as they went	
At a turnynge / of a went	
How Creusa was / y-loste allas	
That dede not I / how she was	184
How he hir soughte / and how hir goste	
Bad hym to flee / the grekes oste	
And seyde he most / vnto Itayle	
As was hys destanye / sauns faille	188
That hyt was pitee / for to here	
When hir spirite / gan appere	[leaf 157]
The wordes that she / to hym seyde	
And for to kepe hir sone / hym preyde	192
Ther sawgh I grave / eke how he	
Hys fader eke / and his meynee	
With hys shippes / gan to saylle	
Towardes the Contree / of Itaylle	196
As streight / as that they myght goo	
Ther saugh I the crwel / Iunoo	
That art / daun Iupiters wife	
That hast y-hated / al thy lyfe	200
Alle the Troianyssh / bloode	
Renne and crye / as thou were woode	

¶ Verba Creuse.
Iamque vale et
nati seruacionis
amorem.

On eolus / the god of wyndes	
To blowe oute / of al kyndes	204
So lowde / that he shulde drenche	
Lorde and lady / grome and wenche	
Of al the Troian) / nacion)	
Withoute any / savacion)	208
Ther saugh I suche / tempeste aryse	
That euery hert / myght' agryse	
To see hyt peynted / on) the walle	
Ther saugh I graven) / eke with-alle	212
Venus how ye / my lady dere	
Wepyng) / with ful woful chere	
Prayen) Iupiter / an hye	
To save and kepe / that navye	216
Of the Troian) / Eneas	<i>nota</i>
Syth that he hir some was	
Ther saugh I Ioues / Venus kysse	
And graunted / of the tempest [. . .	220
. . . . <i>no gap in the MS.</i>] stent	
And how with al / pyne he went	
And prevely / toke arryvage	
In the coptree / of Cartage	224
And on) the morwe / how that he	
And a knyghte / highte Achate	
Mette with venus / that day	
Goyng) / in A queynt array	[leaf 157, back] 228
As she had ben) / an hunteresse	
With wynde blowyng) / vpon) hir tresse	
How Eneas / gan) hym to pleyne	
When) that he knewe hir / of his peyne	232
And how his shippes / dreynte were	
Or elles lost / he nyste where	
How she gan) hym / comfort thoo	
And bad hym / to Cartage goo	236
And ther he shulde / his folke fynde	
That in the see / were left) behynde	

¶ *Namque humeris de more habitum suspenderit arcum venatrix dederatque comam* genu modo &c.

[*diffundere ventis, Nuda genu, nodoque sinus collecta fontes. Aen. i. 318-320.*]

And shortly of this thyng / to pace	240
She made Eneas / so in grace	244
Of Dido quene / of that Contree	
That shortly for to tel / she	
Be-came hys loue / and lete hym doo	
That / that weddyng longeth too	248
What shulde I speke / more queynte	
Or peyne me / my wordes peynte	
To speke of loue / hyt wol not be	
I kan not of that / faculte	252
And eke to telle / the manere	
How they aqueynteden / in fere	
Hyt were a longe / processe to telle	
And ouer longe / for yow to dwelle	256
Ther sawgh I grave / how Eneas	
Tolde Dido / euery caas	
That hym was tyd / vpon the see	
And after grave was / how shee	260
Made of hym shortly / at oo worde	
Hyr lyfe hir loue / hir luste hir lorde	
And did hym / al the reuerence	
And leyde on hym / al dispence	264
That any woman / myght do	
Wenyng hyt had / al be so	
As he hir swore / and her by demed	
That he was good / for he suche semed	268
Allas what harme / dothe Apparence	[leaf 158]
Whan hit is fals / in existence	
For he to hir / a traytour was	
Wherefore she slowe hir / selfe allas	272
Loo / how a woman dothe amys	
To loue hym / that vnknowe ys	
For be cryste / lo thus yt fareth	
Hyt is not al golde / that glareth	276
For al-so browke I / wel myn hede	
Ther may be vnder / godelyhede	

Keuered many / a shrewde vice	
Ther-fore be no wyght / so nyce	276
To take a love / oonly for chere	
Of for speche / or for frendly manere	
For this shal / euery woman fynde	
[That some man of his pure kynde	280
Wol shewen outwarde the fayrest	
Tyl he haue caught that what him lest	
And than wol he causes fynde]	[Thynne 1532]
And sweren / how that she ys vnkynde	284
Or fals / or prevy double was	
Alle this sey I / be Eneas	
And Dido / and hir nyce lest	
That loued / alto sone a gest	288
Therefore I wol seye / a proverbe	
That he that fully / knoweth therbe	
May savely ley hyt / to his ye	
Withoute drede / this ys no lye	292
But let vs speke / of Eneas	
How he betrayed / hir allas	
And lefte hir ful / vnkyndely	
So when she saw / al vtterly	296
That he wolde hir / of trouthe fayle	
And wende fro hir / to Itayle	
She gan to wringe / hir hondes two	
Allas quod she / what me ys woc	300
Allas / is euery man thus trewe	
That euery yere / wolde haue a newe	
Yf hit so longe / tyme dure	
Or elles three / peraenture	304
¹ As thus of loue / he wolde haue fame	
In magnyfyng / of hys name	[¹ leaf 158, back]
A-nother for frendshippe / seyth he	
And yett ther shal / the thrid be	308
That shal be take / for delyte	
Loo / or for synguler profite	

¶ Cauete vos
innocentes
mulieres.

In suche wordes / gan) to pleyne
 Dydo / of hir grete peyne 312
 As me mette / redely
 Non) other auttour / a-legge .I.
 Allas quod he / my swete hert
 Haue pitee / on) my sorwes smert 316
 And slee mee not / goo noght' away
 O woful Dido / wele-away
 Quod she / to hir-selfe thoo
 O Eneas / what wol ye doo 320
 O that your loue / ne your bonde
 That ye ha sworne / with your ryght' honde
 Ne my crewel deth / quod she
 May holde yow stille / here with me 324
 O haueth of my deth / pitee
 I-wys my dere hert / ye
 Knowen) ful wel / that neuer yit
 As ferforth / as I had wytte 328
 Agylte yowe / in thoght' ne dede
 O haue ye men) / suche godelyhede
 In speche / and neuer a dele of trouthe
 Allas that euer / had routhe 332
 Any woman) / on) any man)
 Now see I wel / and tel kan)
 We wrecheded wymmen) / konne noon) Arte
 For certeyne / for the more parte 336
 Thus we be served / euerychon)
 How sore that ye / men) konne groon)
 Anoon) as we / haue yow receyved
 [Certenly we beñ deceyuyd'] [From Bodley 638]
 For thogh) your loue / laste A seson)
 Wayte vpon) / the conclusyon)
 And eke how that / ye determynen
 And for the more / part diffynen 344
 O weleaway / that I was borne [leaf 150]
 For thorgh) yow is / my name lorne

- And al youre Actes / red and songe
 Ouer al thys londe / on) euery tonge 348
- ¶ Virgilius.
*Fama malum
 quo non velocius
 vltum/. Nichil
 occultum quod
 non reueletur.
 [Aen. iv. 174.
 Matth. x. 26.]*
- O wikke Fame / for ther nys
 No thinge so swifte / lo as she is
 O sothe ys / euery thinge ys wyste 351
 Though hit [be] keuered / with the myste
 Eke though I myght / dure euer
 That I haue do / rekeuer I neuer
 That I ne shal / be seyde allas
 Y-shamed be / thourgh Eneas 356
 And that I shal / thus Iuged be
 Loo ryght as she / hath now. she
 Wol doo efte-sones / hardely
 Thus seyth the peple / prevely 360
 But that is do / is not to done
 But al hir compleynt / ne al hir moone
 Certeynly awayleth hir / not a stre
 And when she wiste / sothely he 364
 Was forthe / vnto his shippes agoon
 She in-to hir chambre / wente anoon
 And called / on) hir suster Anne
 And gan) hir / to compleyne thanne 368
 And seyde that she / cause was
 That she first loued / Allas
 As thus / counseyllid hir thertoo 371
 But what / when) this was seyde and doo
 She rofe hir selfe / to the herte nota
 And dyed thorgh / the wounde smerte
 And al the maner / how she dyede
 And al the wordes / that she / seyde 376
 Who-so to knowe / hit hath purpos
 Rede Virgile / in Eneydos
 Or the epistile / of Ouyde
 What that she wrote / er that she dyde 380
 And nor hyt were / to longe tendyte
 Be god I wolde / hyt here write

- ¹ But weleaway / the harme the routhe
That hath betyd / for suche vntrouthe 384
As men may ofte / in bokes rede
And al day se hyt / yet in dede [leaf 159, back]
That for to thynke hyt / a tene is
Loo / Demophon duke of Athenys 388 ¶ *Nota of many*
How he forswore hym / ful falsly *vntrewe louers.*
And trayied Phillis / wikkidly
That kynges doghtre / of T[r]ace
And falsly / gan hys terme pace 392
And when she wiste / that he was fals
She henge hir selfe / ryght be the hals
For he had doo hir / suche vntrouthe
Loo / was not this / a woo and routhe 396
Eke lo how fals / And reccheles
Was to Breseyda / Achilles
And Paris / to Enone
And Iason / to Isiphile 400
And efte / Iason to Medea
Ercules / to Dyanira
For he left hir yole
That made hym cache his dethe parde
How fals eke was / he Theseus 404
That as the story / telleth vs
How he betrayed / Adriane
The deuel / be hys soules bane 408
For had he lawghed / had he loured
He moste haue be / deuoured
Yf Adriane / ne had y-be
And for she had / of hym pite 412
She made hym / fro the dethe escape
And he made hir / a ful fals Iape
For aftir this / withyn a while
He lefte hir slepynge / in an Ile 416
Deserte allone / ryght in the se
And stale a-way / and lete hir be

And tooke hir suster / Phedra thoo	[leaf 160]
With him and gan) / to shippe goo	420
And yet he had / y-swore to hire	
On) alle that euer / he myght' swere	
That so she saved / hym hys lyfe	
He wolde haue take hir / to hys wife	424
ffor she desired / no-thinge ellis	
In certeyne / the booke tellis	
But to excusen) / Eneas	
ffullyche / of al his trespas	428
The booke seyth / Mercur' saun3 fayle	
Bad hym goo / in-to Itayle	
And leue / Auffrikes Region)	
And Dido / and hir fair touz	432
Thoo sawgh I grave how / that to Itayle	
Daun) Eneas is goo / for to assayle	
And how the tempest / al began)	
And how he lost / hys steris-man)	436
Which that the stere / or he toke kepe	
Smote ouer' borde / loo as he slepe	
And also sawgh I / how Cybile	
And Eneas / besyde an yle	440
To helle went / for to see	
His ffader / Anchyses the free	
How he ther fonde / Palinurus	
And Dido and eke / Deiphebus	444
And euery turment / eke in helle	
Saugh he / which is longe to telle	
Which who-so willeth / for to knowe	
He most rede / many a Rowe	448
On) Virgile / or on) Claudian	
Or Daunte / that hit tel kan)	
Tho saugh I grave / al the Aryvayle	
That Eneas had / in Itayle	452
And with kynge latyne / hys trettee	[lf 160, bk]
And alle the batayles / that hee	

Was at hym selfe / and eke hys knyghtis
Or he had al ywonne / hys ryghtis 456
And how he Turnus / reft his lyfe
And wanne labina / to his wife
And alle the mervelouse / signals
Of the goddys / celestials 460
How Mawgree Iuno / Eneas
For al hir sleight / and hir compas
Acheved alle / his aventure
For Iupiter tooke / of hym cure 464
At the prayer / of Venus
The whiche I prey / alwey save vs
And vs ay / of oure sorwes lyghte
When I had seen / al this syghte 468
In this noble / temple thus
A lorde thought I / that madest vs
Yet sawgh I neuer / suche noblesse
Of ymages / ne suche Richesse 472
As I saugh grave / in this chirche
But not wote I / whoo did hem wirche
Ne where I am / ne what contree
But now wol I goo / oute and see 476
Ryght at the wiket / yf y kan
See owghwhere any / stiryng man
That may me telle / where I am
When I oute / at the dores came 480
I faste aboute / me behelde
Then sawgh I but / a large felde ||||
As fer as that / I myghte see
Withouten tovne / or house or tree 484
Or bush or grass / or eryd londe
For al the felde / nas but sonde
As smale as man / may se yet lye
In the desert / of lybye 488
Ne I no maner / creature
That ys yformed / be nature [leaf 161]

Ne sawgh me to / to rede or wisse	
O criste thought I / that art in blysse	492
Fro Fantome / and Illusion	
Me save / and with deuocion	
Myn eyen / to the heuene I caste	
Thoo was I war / at the laste	496
That faste be the sonne / as hye	
As kenne myght I / with myn ye	
Me thought I sawgh / An Egle sore	(
But that hit semed / moche more	500
Then I had any Egle / seynde	
But this as soothe / as detfi certeyne	
Hyt was of golde / and shone so bryghte	
[That neuer sawe men suche a syght	504
But if the heuen had ywonne	
Al newe of god another sonne	
So shone the Egles fethers bright]	[Thynne]
And somwhat douzwarde / gan hyt lyghte	

[BOOK II.]

[Proem.]

N Ow herkeneth / euery maner man	
That englissh / vnderstonde kan	
And listeneth / of my dreame to lere	
For now at erste / shul ye here	512
So sely / an a Visyon	
That Isaye / ne Cipion	
Ne kynge / Nabugodonosor	
Pharoo Turnus / ne Elcanor	516
Ne mette suche / a dreame as this	
Now faire blisfull / O. Cipris	
So be my fauor / at this tyme	
And ye me / to endite and ryme	520
Helpeth that on / Parnaso duelle	
Be Elicon / the clere welle	

[*Invocation.*]

O thought / that wrote al that I mette
 And in the tresorye / hyt shette 524
 Of my brayn / now shal men se
 Yf any vertu / in the be
 To tel al my dreame / aryght
 Now / kythe thyn engyne / and myght 528

[*Story.*]

This Egle of whiche / I haue yow tolde
 That shone with Fethres / as of golde
 Which that so high / gan to sore 531
 I gan beholde / more and more [leaf 161, back]
 To se the beaute / and the wonder
 But neuer was / ther dynt of thonder
 Ne that kyng / that men calle founnder 535
 That smote somme tyme / a toure of powder
 And in his swift comynge / beende
 That so swithe / gan descende
 As this foule / when hyt behelde
 That I a Rovme / was in the Felde 540
 And with hys grym / pawes stronge
 Withyn hys sharpe / nayles longe
 Me fleyng / in a swappe he hente
 And with hys sours / a-yene vp went 544
 Me cryng / in his clawes starke
 As lyghtly / as I were a larke
 How high / I can not telle yow
 For I came vp / y nyste how 548
 For so astonyed / and a-sweued
 Was euery vertu / in my heued
 What with his sours / and with my drede
 And al my felyng / gan to dede 552
 For whi hit was / to grete affray
 Thus I longe / in hys clawes lay

Til at the last / he to me spake
 In mannes vois / and seyde awake 556
 And be not agaste / for shame
 And called me / by my name
 And for I shulde / the bet abreyde
 Me mette awake / to me he seyde 560
 Ryght in the same vois / and stevene *nota*
 That vseth oon / I koude nevene
 And with that vois / soth for to seyne
 My mynde came / to me ageyne 564
 For hyt was goodely / seyde to me
 So was hyt neuer / wonte to be
 And here with alle / I gan to stere
 And he me / in his fete to bere [leaf 162] 568
 Til that he felt / that I had hete
 And felte eke / that my hert bete
 And thoo gan he / me to disporte
 And with wordes / to comforte 572
 And sayede twyes / seynt Mary
 Thou arte noyouse / for to cary
 And nothyng ne dedeth / pardee
 For also wis / god helpe me 576
 As thou noon harme / shalt haue of this
 And this caas / that betydde the is
 Is for thy lore / and for thy prowte
 let see darst thou / yet loke nowe 580
 Be ful assured / boldely
 I am thy frende / and therwith I
 Gan for to wondren / in my mynde
 O god thought I / that madeste kynde 584
 Shal I noon other / weyes dye
 Wher Ioues wol me / stellefye
 Or what thinge / may this sygnifye
 I neyther am Ennok / ne Elye 588
 Ne Romulus / ne Ganymede
 That was y-bore vp / as men rede

To heuene / with daun) Iupiter
 And made the goddys / botiller 592
 Loo / this was thoo / my fantasye
 But he that bare me / gan) espye
 That I so thoughte / and seyde this
 Thow demest / of thy selfe amys 596
 For Ioues ys not / ther aboute
 I dar wel put the / out of doute
 To make of the / as yet a sterre
 But er' I bere the / moche ferre 600
 I wol the telle / what I am
 And whider thou shalt / and why I cam
 To do thys / so that thou take 603
 Goode herte / and not for fere quake [lf 162, bk]

Gladly quod I / now wel quod he
 First I that in my fete / haue the
 Of which thou haste / a fere and wonder
 Am dwellynge / with the god of thonder 608
 Whiche that men callen) / Iupiter
 That dooth me flee / ful ofte fer
 To do al hys / comaundement
 And for this cause / he hath me sent 612
 To the / now herke be thy trouthe
 Certeyn) he hath / of the routh
 That thou so longe / trewly
 Hast served so / ententyfly 616
 Hys blynde neviwe / Cupido
 And faire Venus / also
 Withoute guerdon) / euer yitte
 And neuer the lesse / hast set thy witte 620
 Al-though that in thy hede / ful lytel is
 To make songes / dytees bookys
 In Ryme or elles / in cadence
 As thou best canst / in reuerence 624
 Of loue / and of hys servantes eke
 That haue hys seruyse soght' / and seke

And peynest the / to preyse hys arte	
Al-though thou haddest / neuer parte	628
Wherfore / also god me blesse	
Ioues halt hyt / grete humblesse	
And vertu eke / that thou wolt make	
A nyghte ful ofte / thyn hede to ake	632
In thy studye / so thou writest	
And euer mo / of loue enditest	
In honour of hym / and in preysynges	
And in his folkes / furtherynges	636
And in hir matere / al devisest	
And noght hym / nor his folke dispisest	
Al-though thou maiste / goo in the daunce	
Of hem / that hym lyst not avaunce	[leaf 163]
Wherfore / as I seyde y-wys	641
Iupiter / considereth this	
And also beau sir / other thynges	
That is that thou hast / no tydynges	644
Of loues folke / yf they be glade	
Ne of noght elles / that god made	
And noght oonly / fro frerre contree	
That ther no tydyng / cometh to thee	648
But of thy werray / neyghbors	
That duelle almoste / at thy dors	
Thou herist neyther / that ner this	
For when thy labour / doon al ys	652
And hast ymade / rekenynges	
In stid of reste / and newe thynges	
Thou goost home / to thy house anoon	
And Also dombe / as any stoon	656
Thou sittest / at another booke	
Tyl fully dasewyd / ys thy looke	
And lyvest thus / as an heremyte	
Al-though thyn / Abstynence ys lyte	660
And therefore Ioues / thorgh hys grace	
Wol that I bere the / to a place	

Which that hight / the house of Fame	nota
To do the somme / disport and game	664
In somme / recompensacion	
Of labour / and deuocion	
That thou hast had / . loo causeles	
To Cupido / the rechcheles	668
And thus this god / thorgh his merite	
Wol with somme maner thinge / the queyte	
So that thou wolt be / of goode chere	
For trust wel / that thou shalt here	672
When we be come / there I seye	
Mo wonder thynges / dar I leye	
Of loues folke / moo tydynges	
Both sothe sawes / and leysinges	676
And moo loues / newe begonne	
And longe y-served / loues wonne	[leaf 163, back]
And moo loues / casuelly	
That betyde / no man wote why	680
But as a blende man / stert an hare	
And more Iolytee / and fare	
While that they fynde / loue of stele	nota
As thinketh hem / and ouer al wele	684
Mo discordes / moo Ielousies	
Mo murmures / and moo nouelries	
And moo / dissymulacions	
And feyned / reparacions	688
And moo berdys / in two oures	
Withoute Rasour / or Sisoures	
Y-made / then greyndes be of sondes	
And eke moo holdyng / in hondes	692
And also moo / renoveilaunces	
Of olde for-leten / aqueyntaunces	
Mo loue dayes / and acordes	
Then on Instrumentes / be acordes	696
And eke of loues / moo eschaunges	
Then euer cornes / were in graunges	

Vnnethe maistow / trowen this	
Quod he / noo helpe me god so wys	700
Quod I / noo why / quod he / for hytte	
Were impossible / to my witte	
Though that Fame / had al the pies	
In al a Realme / and al the spies	704
How that yet he shulde / here al this	
Or they espie hyt / O yis yis	
Quod he to me / that kan I preve	
Be reson) worthy / for to leve	708
So that thou yeve / thyn) aduertence	
To vnderstonde / my sentence	
First shalt thou here / where she duelleth	nota
And so thyn ovne boke / hyt tellith	712
Hir' paleys stant / as I shal sey	
Ryght' even in myddes / of the wey	[leaf 164]
Be-twexen) heuene / and erthe and see	
That what so euer / in al these three	716
Is spoken) either prevy / or aperte	
The aire therto / ys so overte	
And stant eke / in so Iuste a place	
That every sovne / mot to hyt pace	720
Or what so cometh / fro any tonge	
Be hyt rovned / red or songe	
Or' spoke in suerte / or in drede	
Certeyn) hyt most / thider nede	724
Now herkene wel / for why I wille	
Tellen the / a propre skille	
And worthe / a demonstracion)	
In myn) / ymagynacion)	728
Geffrey thou wost / ryght' wel this	nota
That every kyndely / thyng that is	
Hath a kyndely stede / ther he	
May best in hyt / conserued be	732
Vnto whiche place / every thyng	
Thorgh his kyndely / enclynyng	

Moveth / for to come to	
Whan that hyt is / away therfro	736
As thus loo / thou maist alday se	
That any thinge / that hevy be	
As stoon or lede / or thyng of wight	
And bere hyt neuer / so hye on hight	740
lat goo thyn hande / hit fallet houn	
Ryght so sey I / be fire or sovne	
Or smoke / or other thynges lyght	
Alwey they seke / vpwarde on hight	744
While eche of hem / is at his large	
lyght thinge vpwarde / and dounwarde charge	
And for this cause / mayste thou see	
That euery Ryuer / to the see	[leaf 164, back]
Enclyned ys / to goo by kynde	749
And by these skilles / as I fynde	
Hath fyssh duellynge / in floode and see	
And trees eke / in erthe bee	752
Thus euery thinge / by thys reason	
Hath his propre / mansyon	
To which seketh / to repaire } but be kept	
As there hit shuld / not apaire }	756
Loo this sentence / ys knowen koutho	
Of euery Philosophres / moutho	
As Aristotile / and daun platon	
And other / clerkys many oon	760
And to confirme / my reason	
Thou wost wel this / that spech is soun	
Or elles no man / myght hyt here	
Now herke what / y wol the lere	764
Sovne ys noght / but eyre ybroken	
And euery spech / that ys yspoken	
lowde or pryuee / foule or faire	
In his substaunce / ys but aire	768
For as flaumbe ys / but lyghted smoke	
Ryght soo sovne ys / aire y-broke	

But this may be / in many wyse
 Of which I wil / the twoo deuyse 772
 Of sovne that cometh / of pipe or harpe
 For whan a pipe / is blowen sharpe
 The aire ys twyst / with violence
 And rent loo / thys ys my sentence 776
 Eke whan men / harpe strynges smyte
 Whether hyt be / moche or lyte
 Loo with the stroke / the ayre to-breketh 779
 [And right so breketh it whan men speketh] [From Thynne]
 Thus wost thou wel / what thinge is speche
 Now hennes-forthe / y wol the teche
 How euery speche / or noyse or sovne
 Thurgh hys / multiplicaciovne 784
 Thogh hyt were / piped of a Mouse
 Mote nede come / to Fames house
 I preve hyt thus / take hede now [leaf 165]
 Be experience / for yf that thow 788
 Thorwe on water / now a stoon
 Wel wost thou / hyt wol make anoon
 A litel roundeH / as a sercle
 Paraventure brode / as a couerle 792
 And ryght anoon / thow shalt see wel
 That whele sercle / wol cause another whele
 And that the thridde / and so forth brother
 Euery sercle / causynge other / 796
 Wydder / than hym self was
 And this fro roundel / compas
 Eche aboute other / goynge
 Caused of othres / sterynge 800
 And multiplynge / euer moo
 Til that hyt be / so fer y-goo
 Til hyt at bothe / brynkes bee
 Al thou mowe hyt / not y-see 804
 Above / hyt gooth yet vnder
 Al-though thou thenke / hyt a grete wounder

And who so seyth / of trouthe I varye
 Bid hym proven) / the contrarye 808
 And ryght thus / euery worde y-wys
 That lowde or pryvee / y-spoken ys
 Moveth first / an ayre a-boute
 And of thys movynge / out of doute 812
 Another ayre / anoon ys meved
 As I haue / of the watir preved
 That euery cercle / causeth other
 Ryght so of ayre / my leue brother 816
 Euerych ayre / other stereth
 More and more / and speche vpbereth
 Or voys or noyse / or worde or soun)
 Ay through / multiplicacion) 820
 Til hyt be / atte house of Fame
 Take yt in earnest / or in game
 Now haue I tolde / yf ye haue in mynde
 How speche or soun) / of pure kynde 824
 Enclyned ys / vpwarde to meve [leaf 165, back]
 This mayst thou fele / wel I-preve
 And that sum place / stide y-wys
 That euery thyng / enclyned to ys 828
 Hath his kyndelych / stede
 That sheweth hyt / withhouten drede
 That kyndely / the mansion)
 Of euery speche / of euery soun) 832
 Be hyt eyther / foule or faire
 Hath hys kynde place / in ayre
 And syn) that euery thyng / that is
 Out of hys kynde / place y-wys 836
 Moueth thidder / for to goo
 Yif hyt a-wey / be ther froo
 As I have be-fore / preved the
 Hyt seweth euery soun) / parde 840
 Moueth kyndely / to pace
 Al vp / in-to his kyndely place

And this place / of which I telle
 Ther as Fame / lyst to duelle 844
 Ys set / amyddys of these three
 Heven) / erthe / and eke the see
 As most conseruatyf / the soun)
 Than) ys this / the conclusyon) 848
 That euery speche / of euery man)
 As y the telle / first began)
 Moveth vp / on) high to pace
 kyndely / to fames place 852
 Telle me thus / feythfully
 Haue y not preved / thus symply
 With-uten) any / subtilite
 Of speche / or grete prolixite 856
 Of termes / of philosophie
 Of figures / of poetrie
 Or colours / or rethorike
 Pardee hit ought) / the to lyke 860
 For harde langage / and hard matere
 ys encombrouse / for to here [leaf 166]
 Attones / wost thou not wel this
 And y answered / and seyde yis 864
 A. ha. quod he / lo so I can)
 lewdely / *trealwed* man) [talwyd. Bodl. leaf 162]
 Speke and shewe hym / swyth skiles
 That he may shake hem / be the biles 868
 So palpable / they shulden) be
 But telle me this / now pray y the
 How thenketh the / my conclusyon)
 A goode / persuasion) 872
 Quod he hyt is / and lyke to me
 Ryght so as thou / hast preued me
 Be god quod he / and as I leve
 Thou shalt haue yet / or hit be eve 876
 Of euery word / of thys sentence
 A. preuef / by experience [preue. Bodl. 638]

And with thyn) eres / heren wel
 Toppe and taylle / and euerydel 880
 That euery word / that spoken) ys
 Cometh in to Fames house / y-wys
 As I haue seyde / what wilt thou more
 And with this word / vpper to sore 884
 He gan) / and seyde be seynt Iame
 Now wil we speke / al of game
 How fairest thou / quod he to me
 Wel quod I / now see quod he 888
 By thy trouthe / yonde adovne
 Wher that thou knowest / any tovne
 Or hous or any / other thinge 891
 And whan) thou hast / of ought) knowyng
 Looke that thou / warne me
 And y anoon) / shal telle the
 How fer that thou / art now therfro
 And y adon) / to loken) thoo 896
 And behelde felde) / and playnes
 And now hilles / and now moun)taynes [f166, bk]
 Now valeys / now forestes
 And now vnnethes / grete bestes 900
 Now ryvers / now Citees
 Now tovnes / and now grete trees
 Now shippes seylynge / in the see
 But thus sone / in A while hee 904
 Was flowen) fro the grounde / so hye
 That al the worlde / as to myn) ye
 No more semed than) / a prikke
 Or elles was the aire / so thikke 908
 That y ne myght) / not discerne
 With that he spake / to me as yerne
 [And sayd : Seest thou any token [Thynne]
 Or aught / that in this worlde is of spoken]
 Nay / no wonder) nys
 Quod he / for half so high) as this

Nas Alixandre / macedo	
Ne the kynge / Daun Cipio	916
That saw in dreme / at poynt devys	
Helle and erthe / and paradys	
Ne eke the wrechē / Didalus	
Ne his child / nyse ykarus	920
That Fleegh so high / that the hete	
Hys wynges malte / and he ful wete	
In myd the see / and ther he dreynt	
For whom was maked / moch compleynt	
Now turne vpward / quod he thy face	925
And beholde / this large place	
This eyre / but loke thou ne be	
Adrad of hem / that thou shalt se	928
For in this Region / certeyn	
Duelleth many / a Citezeyn	
Of which that seketh / Daun Plato	
These ben eyryssh / bestes lo	932
And so saw y / all that meynee	
Booth goon / and also flee	
Now quod he thoo / cast vp thyn ye	
Se yonder loo / the Galoxie	936
Whiche men clepeth / the melky weye	[r 167]
For hit ys white / and somme parfeye	
Kallen hyt / watlynge strete	
That ones was / y-brent wyth hete	940
Whan the sonnes sonne / the rede	
That hight Pheton / wolde lede	
Algate hys Fader carte / and gye	
The carte hors / gonne wel espye	944
That he kouude / no gouernaunce	
And gan / for to lepe and launce	
And beren hym / now vp now down	
Til that he sey / the Scopioun	948
Whiche that in heuen / a sygne is yit	
And he for ferde / lost hys wyt	

Of that / and lat the reynes gon)	
Of his hors / and they anoon)	952
Gonne vp to mounten / and doun descende	
Til both the eyre / and erthe brende	
Til Iubiter' / loo atte laste	
Hym slowe / and fer fro the cart cast	956
Loo ys it not / a mochil myschaunce	nota
To lat a fool / han gouernaunce	
Of thing that he / can not demeyne	
And with this word / sothe for to seyne	960
He gan) vpper alway / for to sore	
And gladded me / ay more and more	
So feythfully / to me spake he	
Tho gan y to loken) / vnder me	964
And behelde the / ayerissh bestes	
Cloudes mystes / and tempestes	
Snowes hayles / reynes wyndes	
And thengendrynge / in hir kyndes	968
AH the wey through / whiche I came	
O god quod y / that made adame	
Moche ys thy myght' / and thy noblesse	
And thoo thought y / vpon) Boesse	972
That writ of thought' / may flee so hye	
Wyth fetheres / of Philosophye	[leaf 167, back]
To passen) eueryche / element	
And whan) he hath / so fer y-went	976
Than) may be seen) / be hynde hys bake	
Cloude and erthe / and alle that y of spake	
Thoo gan) y wexen) / in a were	
And seyde y wote wel / y am here :	980
But wher in body / or' in gost	
I not y-wys / but god thou' wost	
For more clere / entendement	
Nas neuer yit / y-sent	984
And than) thought' y / on) Marcian)	
And eke on) / Antecaudian)	

That sooth was / her descripsion	
Of alle the heuens / region	988
As fer as that y / sey the preve	
Therefore y kan) / hem now beleve	
With that this Egle / began) to crye	
Lat be quod he / thy fantasye	992
Wilt thou lere / of sterres aught'	
Nay certenly quod y / ryght' naught'	
And why / for y am) now to olde	
Elles I wold the / haue tolde	996
Quod he / the sterres names lo	
And al the heuens / sygnes therto	
And which they ben) / and no fors quod y	
Yis pardee quod he / wostow why	1000
For when) thou) redest / poetrie	
How goddes gonne / stellifye	
Briddes fisse best / or him or here	
As the Ravene / or eyther bere	1004
Or Arionis / harp fyne	
Castor pollex / or delphyne	
Or Athalantes / Doughtres sevene	
How al these Arne / set in heuene	1008
For though) thou haue / hem ofte on) honde	
Yet nostow not / wher that they stonde	
No fors quod y / hyt is no nede	[leaf 168]
I leve as wel / so god me spede	1012
Hem that write / of this matere	
Alle though) I knew / her places here	
And eke thy seluen) / here so bryght'	
Hyt shulde shenden) / al my syght'	1016
To loke on) hem / that may wel be	
Quod he / and so forthe bare he me	
A while / and than he gan to crye	
That neuer herd I / thing so hye	1020
Now vp the hede / for alle ys wele	
Seynt Iulyane /loo bon) hostele	

Se her' the house / of Fame lo
 Maistow not heren / that I do 1024
 What quod I / the grete soun
 Quod he / that rumbleth vp and doun
 In fames house / ful of tydynges
 Bothe of feire speche / and chidynges 1028
 And of fals / and that soth compovned
 Herke wel / hyt is not rovned
 Herestow not / the grete swogh
 Yis *parde* quod y / wel y-nogh 1032
 And what sovne is it / lyke quod hee
 Petr' betynges / of the see
 Quod y ayen / the roches holowe
 Whan tempest doth / the shippes swalowe 1036
 And lat a man / stond out of doute
 A myle thens / and here hyt route
 Or elles lyke / the last humblynge
 After a clappe / of oo thundringe 1040
 Whan Ioues hath / the aire ybete
 But yt doth me / for fere swete
 Nay drede the not / therof quod he
 Hyt is no thinge / wiH beten the 1044
 Thow shalt non harme / haue truly
 And with this worde / both he and y.
 As nygh the place / arryved were [leaf 168, back]
 As men may casten / with a spere 1048
 Y nyst how / but in a strete
 He sette me fair' / on my fete
 And seyde walke / forth a pace
 And take thyn auenture / or case 1052
 That thou shalt fynde / in fames place
 Now quod I / while we han space
 To speke or that / I goo fro the
 For the loue of god / telle me 1056
 In sooth that wil I / of the lere
 yf thys noyse / that I here

Be as I haue herd / the tellen
 of folke that doun / in erthe duellen 1060
 And cometh her / in the same wyse
 As I the herde / or this deuys
 That there / lives body nys
 In al that hous / that yonder ys 1064
 That maketh al this / lovde fare
 Noo quod he / by seynt clare
 And also wis / god rede me
 But o thinge / y will warne the 1068
 Of the whiche / thou' wolt haue wonder'
 loo / to the hous / of Fame yonder
 Thou wost now how / cometh euery speche
 Hyt nedeth nocht / eft the to teche 1072
 But vnderstond now / ryght wel this
 Whan eny spech / y-comen ys
 Vp to the paleys / anon ryght
 Hyt wexeth lyke / the same wight 1076
 Wich that the worde / in erthe spake
 Be hyt clothed / rede or blake
 And so were / hys lyknesse
 And spake the word / that thou' wilt gesse
 That it the same / body be 1081
 Man or woman / he or she
 And ys not this / A wonder thyng
 Yis quod I tho / by heuen kyng
 And with this worde / farewell quod he
 And here I wol / abyden the
 And god of heuen / sende the grace
 Some goode to lerne / in this place 1088
 And I of him / toke leve anon
 And gan forthe / to the paleys gon

[leaf 169]

[BOOK III.]

[Invocation.]

O God of science / and of lyght^t
 Appollo / thurgh thy grete myght^t
 This lytel last boke / thou' gye
 Nat that I wilne / for maistrye 1094
 Here Art poetical / be shewed
 But for the ryme / ys lyght^t and lewed
 Yit make hyt sumwhat / agreable
 Though somme vers fayle / in A sillable 1098
 And that I do / no diligence
 To shew crafte / but o sentence
 And yif devyne / vertu nowe
 Wilt helpe / to shewe yowe 1102
 That in myn hede / y-marked ys
 loo / that is for to menen this
 The hous of Fame / for to descryve
 Thou shalt se men / go as blyve 1106
 Vn to the next / laure y see
 And kysse yt / for hyt is thy tree
 Now entreth in / my brest anoon

[Story.]

Whan I was / fro thys Egle goon 1110
 I gan beholde / vpon this place
 And certein / or I ferther pace
 I wol yow / al thys shap deuise
 Of hous and citee / and al the wyse 1114
 How I gan / to hys place aproche
 That stood vpon / so hygh a roche [leaf 169, back]
 Hier' stant ther non / in spayne
 But vp I clombe / with alle payne 1118
 And though to clymbe / greued me
 Yit I ententyf / was to see

And for to powren / wonder low
 Yf I koude / eny weyes know 1122
 What maner stoon / this roche was
 For hyt was lyke / a thyng of glas
 But that hyt shoon / ful more clere
 But of what congeled / matere 1126
 Hyt was / nyste I neuer redely
 But at the laste / aspied I
 And founde that hit / was euerydele nota
 A roche of yse / and not of stele 1130
 Thought I / by seynt Thomas of kent
 This were a feble / fundament
 To bilden / on a place hye
 He ought him / lytel glorifye 1134
 That her' on bilt / god so me saue
 Tho sawgh I / the halfe y-graue
 With famouse folkes / names fele
 That had I-ben / in mochel wele 1138
 And her fames / wide y-blowe
 But wel vnnethes / koude I knowe
 Any lettres / for to rede
 Hir names be fore / out of drede 1142
 They were almost / of thowed so
 That of the lettres / oon or two
 Was molte away / of euery name
 So vnfamouse / was wox hir fame 1146
 But men seynd / what may euer last
 Thoo gan I / in mynd hert cast
 That they were molte / away with hete
 And not away / with stormes bete 1150
 For on that other syde / I say [le. f 170]
 Of this hille / that Northwarde lay
 How hit was writen / ful of names
 Of folkes / that hadden grete fames 1154
 Of olde tymes / and yet there were
 As fressh as men / had writen hem here

The selfe day / ryght^t or that oure
 That I vpon^d hem / gan^d to poure 1158
 But wel I wiste / what yt made
 Hyt was con^lserued / with the shade
 Alle this writyng^e / that I sigh [1 con. ? MS. cai]
 Of a castel / stoo^de on^d high 1162
 And stoo^de eke / on^d so colde a place
 That hete myght^t hit / not deface
 Thoo gan^d I vp / the hille to goo^{ñe}
 And fonde vpon^d the cop / a woone 1166
 That al the men^d that ben^d on^d lyve
 Ne han the kunⁿyng^e / to describe
 The beaute / of that ylke place
 Ne coude casten^d / no compace 1170
 Swich a nother / for to make
 That myght^t of beaute / ben^d hys make
 Ne so wonderlych^h / y-wrought^t
 That hit a aston^{yeth} yit my thought^t 1174
 And maketh^h alle my wyt / to swynke
 On^d this castel / to be-thynke
 So that / the grete beaute
 To caste / the curiosite. 1178
 Ne kan^d I not / to yow deuyse
 My wit ne may / me not suffise
 But natheles / alle the substance
 I haue yit / in my remembrance 1182
 For whi me thoughte / be seynt Gyle nota
 Alle was of ston^d / of Beryle
 Both^h castel / and the toure
 And eke the halle / and euery boure 1186
 Wythouten^d peces / or ioynynges [leaf 170, back]
 But many subtile / compassinges
 Rabewyures / and pynacles
 Ymageries / and tabernacles 1190
 I say and ful / eke of wyndowes
 As flakes falle / in grete snowes

And eke in ech / of the pynacles	
Weren) sondry / habitacles	1194
In which / alle with oute	
Ful the castel / alle a bouthe	
Of al maner / mynstralles	
And gestiours / that tellen) tales	1198
Both of wepinge / and of game	
Of alle that longeth / vnto fame	
Ther' herd I pleyen) / vpon) an harpe	
That sowneth bothe / wel and sharpe	1202
Orpheus / ful craftely	
And on) the syde / fast by	
Sat the harper / Orion)	
And Eaycedis / chiron)	1206
And other harpers / many oon)	
And the gret / glascursion)	
And smale harpers / with her gleees	
Saten) vnder hym / in sees	1210
And guzne on) hym / vpwarde to iape	
And countrefet hym / as an Ape	
Or as crafte / countrefeteth kynde	
Tho saugh I stonden) / hym behynde	1214
A .fer fro hem / alle be hem selue	
Many thousand / tymes twelue	
That maden) lowde / menstraleies	
In cornemuse / and shalmyes	1218
And many other / maner pipe	
That craftely / beguzne to pipe	
Bothe in doucet / and in riede	
That ben at festes / with the bride	1222
And many flowte / and liltyng horne	
And pipes made / of grene corne	[leaf 171]
As han thise lytel / herde gromes	
That kepen) bestis / in the bromes	1226
And of Athenes / daun) Pseustis	
Ther saugh I than) / Atiteris	

And Marcia / that lost her skyn	
Bothe in face / body and chyn	1230
For that she wolde / envien loo	
To pipen bet / than Appolloo	
Ther saugh I fames / olde and yonge	
Pipers / of alle Duche tonge	1234
To lerne loue / Daunces / sprynges	
Reus and these / straunge thynges	
Tho saugh I / in an other place	
Stonden / in A large space	1238
Of hem that maken / bloody soun	
In trumpe beme / and claryoun	
For in seight / and blodeshedynges	
Ys vsed gladly / clarionynges	1242
Ther herd I trumpen / Messenius	
Of whom that speketh / virgilius	
There herd I trumpe / Ioab also	
Theodomas / and other mo	1246
And al that vsed / clarion	
In Cataloigne / and Aragon	
That in her tyme / famous were	
To lerne saugh I / trumpe there	1250
There saugh I sit / in other sees	
Pleyinge vpon / sondry glees	
Which that I kan not / nevene	
Moo than sterres / ben in heuene	1254
Of whiche I nyl not / now ryme	
For ese of yow / and losse of tyme	
For tyme y-lost / this knowen ye	
Be no way / may recouerd be	1258
Ther saugh I pley / Iugelours	
Magiciens / and tregetours	
And Phitonesses / charmeresses	[leaf 171, back]
Olde wrecches / Sorceresses	1262
That vse / exorsisacions /	
And eke thes / fumiygacions /	

- And Clerkes eke / which konne wel
 Alle this magikes / naturel 1266
 That craftely doon / her ententes
 To maken / in certeyn ascendent
 Ymages / lo / through which magike
 To make a man / ben hool or syke 1270
 Ther saugh I / the quene Medea
 And Artes eke / and calipsa
 Ther saugh [I] hermes / ballenus
 Limete and eke / Symon Magus 1274
 [Ther' saugh I and knew by name
 That be such arte doñ men han Fame] [From Bodley 638]
 Ther saugh I / Colle tregetour
 Vpon a table / of Sygamour 1278
 Pley an vncouthe / thyng to telle
 Y saugh him carien / a wyndmelle
 Vnder a walsñ note / shale
 What shuld I make / lenger tale 1282
 Of alle the pepil / y ther say
 Fro hennes / in to domes day
 Whan I had al / this folkys beholde
 And fonde me louse / and nought y-colde 1286
 And oft I mused / longe while
 Vpon these walles / of berile
 That shoone ful lyghter / than a glas
 And made welmore / than hit was 1290
 To semen / euery thinge y-wis
 As kynde thyng / of Fames is
 I gan to romen / til I fonde
 The castel yate / on my ryght honde 1294
 Which that so wel / corven was
 That neuer suche / another nas
 and yit it was / be auenture
 I-wrought / as often as be cure 1298
 Hyt nedeth noght / yow more to tellen
 To make yow / to longe duellen Cf 1721

Of these yates / florissinges	
Ne of compasses / ne of kervynges	1302
Ne how they hat / in masoneries	
As corbetz	
But lord so fare / yt was to shewe	
For hit was alle / with gold behewe	1306
But in I went / and that anoon	
Ther mette I cryinge / many oon	
A larges larges / hald vp wel	
God saue the lady / of thys pel	1310
Our ovne gentil lady / fame	
And hem that wilnen / to haue name	
Of vs / thus herd y crien alle	
And fast comen / out of halle	1314
And shoon nobles / and sterlynges	
As somme corovned / wer as kynges	
With corovnes wroght / ful of losynges	
And many ryban / and many frenges	1318
Were on her clothes / trewly	
Thoo atte last / aspyed y	
That pursevantes / and herauldes	
That crien ryche folkes / laudes	1322
Hyt weren alle / and euery man	
Of hem / as y yow tellen can	
Had on him throwen / a vesture	
Whiche that men crepen / a cote armure	1326
Enbrowded / wonderly ryche	
As though they nere / nought y-lyche	
But nought nyl I / so mote y thryve	
Ben aboute / to dyscryve	1330
Al these armes / that ther weren	
That they thus / on her cote beren	
For hyt to me / were impossibille	
Men myght make / of hem a bible	1334
XX ^{ti} . foote thykke / y trowe	[leaf 172, back]
For certeyn / who so koude I-knowe	

- Myght' ther alle / the armes seend
 Of famouse folke / that han y-beend 1338
 In auffrike Europe / and asye
 Syth first began / the cheualrie
 Loo how shulde I / now tel al thys nota
 Ne of the halle eke / what nede is 1342
 To tellen yow / that euery walle
 Of hit / and flore and roof and alle
 Was plated / half a foote thikke
 Of gold / and that nas no thyng wikke 1346
 But for to prove / in alle wyse
 As fyne as ducat / in venyse
 Of whiche to litel / al in my povche is
 And they wer set / as thik of novchis 1350
 Fyne / of the fynest/ stonys faire
 That men reden / in the lapidaire
 Of greses growen / in A mede
 But hit were alle to longe / to rede 1354
 The names / and therefore I pace
 But in this lusty / and ryche place
 That fames halle / called was
 Ful moche prees / of folke ther nas 1358
 Ne crowdyng / for to mochil prees
 But al on hye / above a dees
 Sit in a see / imperiall
 That made was / of a rubee aH 1362
 Which that a carbuncle / ys y-called
 Y saugh perpetually / y-stalled
 A femynyne / creature nota
 That neuer formed / by nature 1366
 Nas suche another / thing y-seye
 For alther first / soth for to seye
 Me thought' she was / so lyte
 That the lengthe / of a cubite 1370
 Was lenger / than she
 This was / gret marvaylle to me [lf 173]

Hir tho / so wonderly streight
 That with hir fete / she erthe reight 1374
 And with hir hed / she touched heuena
 Ther as shynen / sterres sevene
 And ther to eke / as my witte
 I saugh a gretter / wonder yitte 1378
 Vpon her eyen / to be-holde
 But certeyn / y hem neuer tolde
 For as feele yen / had she
 As fetheres / vpon foules be 1382
 Or weren / on the bestes foure
 That goddis trone / gunne honoure
 As Iohn writ / in thapocalips
 Hir heere / that ovndye was / and crips 1386
 As burned gold / hyt shoon to see
 And sothe to tellen / also she
 Had also fele / vpstondyng eres
 And tonges / as on bestes heres 1390
 And on hir fete wexen / saugh y
 Partriches wynges / redely
 But lorde the perry / and the richesse
 I saugh sittyng / on this godesse 1394
 And lord the heuenyss / melodye
 Of songes ful / of Armony
 I herd aboute / her trone y-songe
 That al the paleys / walles ronge 1398
 So songe the myghty Muse / she
 That cleped ys / caliope
 And hir eighte / sustren eke
 That in her face / semen meke 1402
 And euer mo / eternally
 They synge of Fame / as thoo herd y
 Heryed be thou / and thy name
 Goddesse of renoun / or of Fame 1406
 Tho was I war / loo / atte laste
 As I myn eyen / gan vp caste

That thys ylke / noble quene	[leaf 173, back]
On her shuldres / gan sustene	1410
Bothe armes / and the name	
Of thoo that hadde / large fame	
Alexander / and hercules	
That with a shert / hys lyfe les	1414
And thus fonde y syttyng / this goddes	
In noble honour / and ryches	
Of which I stynte / a while nowe	
Other thinge / to tellen yowe	1418
Tho saugh I stonde / on eyther syde	
Streight down / to the dores wide	
Fro the dees / many a peler	
Of metal that shoon / not ful chere	1422
But though they ner / of no rychesse	
Yet they were made / for gret noblesse	
And in hem / gret sentence	
And folkes / of digne reuerence	1426
Of whiche / I wil yow tel fonde	[telle. Bodl.]
Vpon the piler / saugh I stonde	
Alderfirste / loo / ther I sighe	
Vpon a piler / stonde on highe	1430
That was of lede / and yren fyne	
Hym of Secte / saturnyne	
The Ebrayke / Iosephus the olde	
That of Iewes / gestes tolde	1434
And he bare / on hys shuldres hye	
The fame / of the Iurye	
And by hym stonden / other seuene	
Wise and worthy / for to neuene	1438
To helpen hem / bere vp the charge	
Hyt was so hevy / and so large	
And for they writen / of batayles	
As wel as other / olde mervayles	1442
Therfor was / loo / thys pilere	
Of whiche that I yow / telle here	

Of lede and yren) / bothe y-wys	[leaf 171]
For yren) / Martes metal ys	1446
Which that god / is of bataylle	
And the lede / withouten) faille	
Ys loo the metal / of Saturne	
That hath a ful large whele / to turne	1450
Thoo stoden) forthe / on) euery rowe	
Of hem which that / I koude knowe	
Though I hem noght) / be ordre telle	
To make yow / to longe to duelle	1454
These of whiche / I gynne rede	
There saugh I stonde / out of drede	
Vpon) an yren) / piler stronge	
That peynted was / al endlonge	1458
With tigres blode / in euery place	
The tholausan / that highte stace	
That bare of Thebes / vp the fame	
Vpon) his shuldres / and the name	1462
Also of cruelle / Achilles	
And by him stood / withouten) les	
Ful wonder hye / on) a pilere	
Of yren) / he the gret Omere	1466
And with him Dares / and Tytus	
Before and eke / he lollius	
And Guydo eke / de Columpnis	
And englyssh Gaunfride / eke y-wis	1470
And eche of these / as haue I Ioye	
Was besye / for to bere vp Troye	
So hevy therof / was the Fame	
That for to bere / hyt was no game	1474
But yet I gan / ful wel espie	
Betwex hem was / a litil envye	
Oon) seyde / Omere was lyes	
Feynyng in hys / Poetries	1478
And was to Grekes / fauorable	
Ther for held he hyt / but fable	

- Tho saugh I stonde / on) a pilere [leaf 171, back]
 That was of tynned / yren) clere 1482
 That latyn) Poete / Virgile
 That bore hat) vp longe / while
 The fame / of Pius Eneas
 And next hym / on) a piler was 1486
 Of Coper / Venus clerk / ovide
 That hat) y-sowen) / wonder wide
 The grete god / of loues name
 And ther' he bare / vp wel hys fame 1490
 Vpon) this piler' / also hye
 And I hyt myght' / see [with] myn) ye
 For why this halle / of whiche I rede
 Was woxen) on) high) / the length) and brede 1494
 Wel more / be a thousande dele
 Than) hyt was erst / that saugh I wel
 Thoo saugh I / on) a piler by
 Of yren) wroght' / ful sturmely 1498
 The grete poete / Daun) Lucan)
 And on) hys shuldres / bare vp than)
 As high) as that / y myghte see
 The fame of) Iulius / and Pompe 1502
 And by him stoden / alle these clerkes
 That writen) / of Romes myghty werkes
 That yf y wolde / her names telle
 Alle to longe / most I dwelle 1506
 And next him / on) piler stooede [on A, Bodl.]
 Of soulfre lyke / as he were woode
 Daun) Claudian / the sothe to telle
 That bare vp / the fame of helle 1510
 Of Pluto / and of Proserpyne
 That quene ys / of the derke pyne
 What shulde y more / telle of this
 The halle was al / ful y-wys 1514
 Of hem that writen) al / of the olde gestes
 As ben) on) trees / rokes nestes

But hit a ful / confuse matere
 Were al the gestes / for to here [leaf 175] 1518
 That they of write / or how they highte
 But while that y / beheld thys syghte
 I herd a noyse / aprochen blyve
 That ferd as been don / in an hive 1522
 Ayen her tyme / of oute fleyng
 Ryghte suche a maner / murmuryng
 For al the world / hyt semed me
 Tho gan I loke / aboute and see 1526
 That ther come entryng / in to the halle
 A ryghte grete companye / with alle
 And that of sondry / regiouns
 Of alle skynnes / condiciouns 1530
 That duelle in erthe / vnder the mone
 Pore and ryche / and also sone
 As they were come / in to the halle
 They gonne down / on knees falle 1534
 Before this ilke / noble quene
 And seyde graunte vs / lady shene
 Eche of vs / of thy grace a bone
 And somme of hem / she graunted sone 1538
 And somme she werned / wel and faire
 And some she graunted / the contraire
 Of her axyng / outterly
 But thus I sey / yow trewly 1542
 What her cause / was y nyste
 For this folke / ful wel y wiste
 They had good fame / eche deserued 1545
 [Al thoughe they were dyuersly serued] [From Thynne's ed. 1532]
 Ryghte as her suster / Daun fortune nota
 Ys wonte to serven / in comune
 Now herke how / she gan to paye
 That gonne her / of her grace praye 1550
 And ryght lo / al this companye
 Seyden sooth / and noght a lye

Ma dame quod they / we be	
Folke that here / besechen the	[leaf 175, back] 1554
That thou graunte vs / now good fame	
And let our werkes / han that name	
In ful / recompensacion	
Of good werkes / yive vs good renoun	1558
I werne yow hit / quod she anon	
Ye gete of me / good fame non	
Be god / and ther fore goo your wey	
Allas quod they / and welaway	1562
Telle vs what may / your cause be	
For me lyst hyt noght / quod she	
No wyght shal speke / of yow y-wis	
Good ne harme / ne that ne this	1566
And with that worde / she gan to calle	
Her messangere that was in halle	
And that he shuld / fast goon	1569
[<i>Blank line in MS. For l. 1572, see Carton or Thyne.</i>]	
Vpon the peyn / to be blynde	1570
For Eolus / the god of wynde	1571
And bid him bring / his clarioun	1573
That is ful dyuers / of his soun	1574
And hyt cleped / clere laude	
With which he wonde is / to hiraude	
Hem that me list / preised be	
And also bid him / how that he	1578
Brynge his other / clarioun	
That hight sklaundre / in euery town	
With whiche he wonte is / to diffame	
hem that me liste / and do him shame	1582
This messenger / gan fast goon	
And founde where / in a cave of ston	
In a contree / highte trace	
This Eolus / with harde grace	1586
helde the wyndes / in distresse	
And gan hem vnder him / to presse	

That they gonne / as beres rore	[leaf 176]
He bonde and pressed hem / so sore	1590
This messenger / gan fast crie	
Ryse vp quod he / and fast hye	
Til thou at / my lady be	
And take thy Clarioun / eke with the	1594
And spede the forth / and hye anon	
Toke to a man / that hight Triton	
Hys clarions / to bere thoo	
And lete a certeyn / wynde to goo	1598
And blewe so hydously / and hye	
That hyt ne left / not a skye	
In alle the welkene / longe and brode	
This Eolus / nowhere abode	1602
Til he was come / to Fames fete	
And eke the man / that Triton hete	
And ther he stode / as stille as stoon	
And her withal / ther come anon	1606
Another' huge / companye	nota
Of good folke / and gurne crie	
Lady graunte vs / good fame	
And lat oure werkes / han that name	1610
Now in honour / of gentillesse	
And also god / your soule blesse	
For we han wel / deserued hyt	
Therefore is ryght / that we ben wel quyt	1614
As thryve I quod she / ye shal faylle	
Good werkes shal yow / noght' availle	
To haue of me / good fame as now	
But wete ye what / y graunte yow	1618
That ye shal haue / a shrewde fame	
And wikkyd loos / and wors name	
Though ye good loos / haue deserued	
Now goo your wey / for ye be serued	1622
haue doon Eolus / let see	
Take forth thy trumpe / anon quod she	

That is cleped / sklaundre lyghte
 And blow her loos / that euery wighte 1626
 Speke of hem harme / and shrewdenesse [leaf 176, back]
 In stede of good / and worthynesse
 For thou shalt trumpe / alle the contrarie
 Of that they han / don wel or fayre 1630
 Allas thought I / what auentures
 Han these sory / creatures
 For they amonges / al the pres
 Shul thus be shamed / giltles 1634
 But what / hyt most nedes be
 What did this Eolus / but he
 Toke out hys blake / trumpe of bras
 That fouler than / the deuel was 1638
 And gan this trumpe / for to blow
 As al the worlde / shuld ouerthrowe
 That through out / euery Regioun
 Went this foule / trumpes souz 1642
 As swifte / as pelet out of gonne
 Whan fire is in / the poudre ronne
 And suche a smoke / gan out wende
 Out of his foule / trumpes ende 1646
 Blak bloo grenyssh / swart rede
 As dothe where that / men melt lede
 Loo alle on high / fro the tuelle
 And therto oo thing / saugh I welle 1650
 That the ferther / that hit ran
 The gretter wexen / hit be-gan
 As dooth the ryver / from a welle
 And hyt stank / as the pitte of helle 1654
 Allas thus was her / shame y-ronge
 And giltles / on euery tonge
 Tho come the thirddde / companye
 And gunne vp to the dees / to hye 1658
 And douz on knes / they fille anon
 And seyde we ben / everychon

Folke that ben) / ful cruelly	nota
Deserued fame / ryghte fully	1662
And pray yow / hit mot be knowe	
Ryghte as hit is / and forth y-blowe	
I graunte quod she / for me leste	[leaf 177]
That now your good werkes / be wiste	1666
And yet ye shul han / better loos	
In dispite / of alle your foos	
Than) worthy is / and that anoon)	
Late now quod she / thy trumpe goon)	1670
Thou Eolus / that is so blake	
And out thyn other / trumpe take	
That highte Laude / and blowe yt soo	
That through the worlde / her fame goo	1674
Esely / and not to faste	
That hyt be knowen) / atte laste	
Ful gladly lady / myn) he seyde	
And oute hys trumpe / of golde he brayde	1678
Anon) and set hyt / to his mouthe	
And blew it est / and west and southe	
And northe / as lowde as any thunder	
That euery wight) / hath of hit wonder	1682
• So brode hyt ran) / or than) hit stynt	
And certes / al the breth) that went	
Out of his trumpes mouthe / smelde	
As men) a potful / of bawme helde	1686
Amonge a basket / ful of roses	
This fauour did he / til her loses	
And ryght) with this / y gan) aspye	nota
Ther come the ferthe / companye	1690
But certeyn) they were / wonder fewe	
And gunne stonde / in a rewe	
And seyden) certes / lady bryght)	
We han) don) wel / with al our myght)	1691
But we ne kepen) / haue no fame	
Hide our werkes / and our name	

For goddys loue / for certes we	
Han) certeyn) doon) hyt/ for bounte	1698
And for no maner / other thinge	
I graunte yow alle / your askyng	
Quod she / let your werkes be dede	
With that about / y clywe myn) hede	1702
And saugh) anoon) / the fite route	nota [leaf 177, back]
That to this lady / gunne loute	
And doun on) knes / anoon) to falle	
And to hir thoo / besoughten) alle	1706
And hidden / her goode werkes eke	
And seyden) they yeven) / noght) a leke	
For no Fame / for suche renoun	
For they / for contemplacioun	1710
And goddes loue / hadde y-wrought)	
Ne of Fame / wolde they nought)	
What quod she / and be ye woode	
And wene ye / for to doo goode	1714
And for to haue / of that no Fame	
Haue ye dispite / to haue my name	
Nay ye shul lyen) / euerychon)	
Blowe thy trumpes / and that anon)	1718
Quod she / Eolus y hote	
And rynges this folkes werkes / be note	
That alle the worlde / may of hyt here	
And he gan) blowe her loos / so clere	1722
In his golden) / clarioun)	
That through the worlde / went the soun)	
Also kenely / and eke so softe	
But atte last / hyt was on) lofte	1726
Thoo come the sext / companye	nota
And gunne fast / on) Fame crie	
Ryghte verryaly / in this manere	
They seyden) mercy / lady dere	1730
To tellen) certeyn) / as hyt is	
We han don) neither / that ne this	

But ydel / al oure lyfe y-be
 That natheles / yet prey we 1734
 That we mowe han / as good fame
 And gret renoun) / and knowen name
 As they that han / doon) noble gestes
 And acheued / alle her lestes 1738
 As wel of loue / as other thynges [leaf 178]
 Alle was vs neuer / broche ne rynges
 Ne elles noght / from) wymmen sent
 Ne ones / in hem yment 1742
 To make vs oonly / frendly chere
 But myghten) temen) vs / opon) bere
 Yet lat vs / to peple seme
 Suche as the worlde / may of vs deme 1746
 That wommen) louen vs / for wode
 Hyt shal doon) vs / a moche goode
 And to oure herte / a[s] moche avyalle
 The countrepese / ese and trauaylle 1750
 As we had wonne hyt / with labour
 For that is dere / boghte honour
 At regard / of oure gret ese
 And yet thou most vs / more plese 1754
 Let vs beholden) / eke therto
 Worthy wise / and goode also
 And riche and happy / vnto love
 For goddes loue / that sit a bove 1758
 Thogh) we may not / the body haue
 Of wymmen) yet / so god yow saue
 Leet men) gliwe / on) vs the name
 Sufficeth that we / han the fame 1762
 I graunte quod she / be my trouthe
 Now Eolus / with outen) slouthe
 Take out) thy trumpe of golde / now let se
 And blowe as they / han axed me 1766
 That euery man) / wene hem at ese
 Thogh) they goon) / in ful bad lese

This Eolus gan) hit / so blowe	
That thurgh the worlde / hyt was y-knowe	1770
Thoo come the seventh / route anoon)	nota
And fel on) knees / euerychoon)	
And seyde lady / graunte vs sone	
The same thing / the same bone	1774
That this next folke / han) doon)	[leaf 178, back]
Fy on) yow quod she / euerychon)	
Ye maisty Swyne / ye ydel wrechēes	
Ful of roten) / slowe techches	1778
What fals theves / or ye wolde	
Be famous good / and no thing nolde	
Deserue why / ne neuer ye roughte	
Men) rather yow / hangen) ought	1782
For ye be lyke / the swynt catte	
That wolde haue fissh / but wostow whatte	
He wold no thinge / wete his clowes	
Ywel thrifte come / to your Iowes	1786
And eke to myn) / yif I hit graunte	
Or do yow fauour / yow to avaunte	
Thou Eolus / thou kyng of Trace	
Goo blowe this folke / a sory grace	1790
Quod she anon) / and wostow how	
As I shal telle / ryghte now	
Sey these ben) / that wolden) honour	
Haue / and do no skynnes labour	1794
Ne doo no good / and yet han lawde	
And that men) wend / that bele Isawde	
Ne coude hem noght / of loue werne	
And yet she that / grynt at a querne	1798
Ys alle to good / to ese her hert	
This Eolus / anon) vp stert	
And with his blake / Clarioun	
He gan to blasen) / out a so.17	1802
As lowde as beloweth / wyade in helle	
And eke ther with / sothe to telle	

This sovne was / so ful of Iapes
 As euer mowes / were in apes 1806
 And that went / al the worlde about
 That euery wight / gan on hem shout
 And for to lawgh / as they were wode
 Suche game fonde they / in her hode 1810
 Tho come a nother / companye
 That had y-doon / the trayterye [leaf 179]
 The harme / the gret wikkednesse
 That any hert / kouthe gesse 1814
 And prayed her / to han good fame
 And that she nolde / doon hem no shame
 But yeve hem loos / and good renoun
 And do hyt blowe / in a clarioun 1818
 Nay wis quod she / hyt were a vice
 Al be ther in me / no Iustice
 Me lyst not doo / hyt nowe
 Ne this nyl I / graunte yowe 1822
 Tho come ther lepyng / in a route
 And gunne choppen / al aboute
 Euery man / vpon the crowne
 That alle the halle / gan to sowne 1826
 And seyden lady / leefe and dere
 We ben suche folkes / as ye mowe here
 To telle al the tale / a ryght
 We ben shrewes / euery wyght 1830
 And han delyte / in wikkednes
 As good folke han / in godenes
 And Ioy to be / knowen shrewes [han ioy. Bodl.]
 And ful of vices / and wikked thewes 1834
 Where fore / we pray yow a rowe
 That oure fame / suche be knowe
 In alle thing / ryght as hit ys
 Y graunte hyt yow / quod she y-wis 1838
 But what art thow / that seyst this tale
 That werest on thy hose / a pale

And on thy tipet / suche a belle Ma dame quod he / soth to telle	1842
I am that ylke / shrewe y-wis That brende the temple / of ysidis In Athenes Loo / that Citee	
And wherfor didest thou / so quod she By my thrift / quod he ma Dame I wolde fayn / han hadde a fame	1846
As other folke hadde / in the tovne	[if 179, bk]
Alle though they were / of grete renovne For her vertue / and for her thewes Thought y as gret a fame / han shrewes Though hit be noght / for shrewdenesse	1850
As good folke han / for godenesse And sith y may not / haue that oon That other nyl y / noght for-goon And for to gette / of Fames hire	
The temple set y / alle a fire	1858
Now doon our loos / be blowen swithe As wisly be thou / euer blythe Gladly quod she / thow Eolus Herestow not what / this folke prayen vs	1862
Ma dame yis / ful wel quod he And I wil trumpen / parde And toke his blake / trumpe faste And gan to puffen / and to blaste	1866
Til hyt was / at the wordes ende With that y gan / aboute wende For oon that stode / ryght at my bake Me thoughte goodely / to me spake	1870
And seyde frende / what is thy name Artow come hider / to han fame Nay for sothe / frende quod y I cam noght hyder / graunt mercy	1874
For no suche cause / by my hede Sufficeth me / as I were dede	

That no wight / haue my name in honde	
I wote my self best / how y stonde	1878
For what I drye / or what I thynke	nota
I wil my selfe / alle hyt drynke	
Certeyn / for the more parte	
As fer forthe / as I kan my arte	1882
But what doost thou / here quod he	
Quod y / that wyl y tellen the	
The cause why / y stonde here	[leaf 180]
Somme newe tydyngis / for to lere	1886
Somme newe thinge / y not what	
Tydynges other / this or that	
Of love or suche / thynges glade	
For certeynly / he that me made	1890
To come hyder / seyde me	
Y shuld both / here and se	
In this place / wonder thynges	
But these be / no suche tydynges	1894
As I mene of / noo quod he	
And answered / noo parde	
For wel y wote / euer yit	
Sith that first / y had wit	1898
That somme folke / han desired fame	
Diuersly / and loos and name	
But certeynly / y nyst howe	
Ne where that fame / duelled er nowe	1902
And eke of her / descripcioun	
Ne also / her condicioun	
Ne the ordre / of her dome	
Vn to tyme / y thidder come	1906
Why than be / Loo these tydynges	
That thou now / hider brynges	
That thou hast herde / quod he to me	
But now no fors / for wel y se	1910
What thou desirest / for to here	
Come forth and stonde / no lenger here	

And y wil the / with outen drede	
In suche another / place lede	1914
Ther thou shalt here / many oon	
Tho gan I forthe / with hym to goon	
Oute of the castel / sothe to sey	
Tho saugh y stond / in a valey	1918
Vnder the castel / fast by	
An house / that domus dedaly	
That laboryncus / cleped ys	[leaf 180, back]
Nas made so wonderlych / y-wis	1922
Ne half so queyntlych / y-wrought	
And euer mo / so swyft as thought	
This queynt hous / a bout went	
That neuer mo stil / hyt stent	1926
And ther out come / so grete a noyse	
That had hyt stonde / vpon oyse	
Men myght hyt / han herd esely	
To Rome y trowe / sikerly	1930
And the noyse / whiche I haue herde	
For alle the world / ryght so hyt ferde	
As dooth the rowtynge / of the ston	
That from thengyne / ys leten gon	1934
And al thys hous / of whiche y rede	
Was made of twigges / falwe rede	
And grene eke / and somme weren white	
Whiche as men / to these cages thwite	1938
Or maken of / these panyers	
Or elles hattes / or dossers	
That for the swough / and for the twynges	
This house was also / ful of gyges	1942
And also ful eke / of chirkynges	
As ful this lo	
And eke this hous / hath of entrees	
As fele of leues / as ben in trees	1946
In somer / whan they grene been	
And on the rove / men may yet seen	

A thousand holes / and wel moo	
To leten wel / the sovne out goo	1950
And be day / in euery tyde	
Been al the dores / opened wide	
And be nyght / echon vnshet	
Ne porter ther is / noon to let	1954
No maner tydynges / in to pace	
Ne neuer rest is / in that place	
That hit nys silde / ful of tydynges	
Other lovde / or of wisprynges	1958
And ouer alle the houses / Angles	[leaf 181]
Ys ful of rovnynges / and of Iangles	
Of werres of pes / of mariages	
Of restes and of labour / of viages	1962
Of A-bood of deeth / of lyfe	
Of love of hate / acorde of stryfe	
Of loos of lore / and of wynnynges	
Of hele of sekenesse / of bildynges	1966
Of faire wyndes / and eke of tempestes	
Of qwalme of folke / and eke of bestes	
Of dyvers / transmutacions	
Of estates / and eke of Regions	1970
Of trust of drede / of Ielousye	
Of wit of wynnynge / of folye	
Of plente / and of grete famyne	
Of chepe of derthe / and of ruyne	1974
Of good / or mys gouernement	
Of fire / and of dyvers accident	
And loo thys hous / of which I write	
Syker be ye / hit nas not lyte	1978
For hyt was sixty / myle of lengthe	
Alle was the tymber / of no strengthe	
Yet hit is founded / to endure	
While that hit lyst / to auenture	1982
That is the moder / of tydynges	
As the see of welles / and of sprynges	

And hyt was shapen) / lyke a cage	
Certys quod y / in al myn) age	1986
Ne saugh y suche / an) hous as this	
And as y wondred / me y-wys	
Vpon) this hous / tho war was y	
How that myn) Egle / fast by	1990
Was perched hye / vpon) a stoon)	
And I gan streghte / to hym gon)	
And seyde thus / y prey the	
That thou a while / a-bide me	[leaf 181, back] 1994
For goddis loue / and lete me seen)	
What wondres / in this place been)	
For yit parauenture / y may lere	
Somme good theron) / or sumwhat here	1998
That leef me were / or that y went	
Petre that is / myn) entent	
Quod he to me / therfore y duelle	
But certeyn) oon) thyng / I the telle	2002
That but I bringe the / therinne	
Ne shalt thou neuer / kunne gynne	
To come in to hyt / out of doute	
So faste hit whirleth) / lo aboute	2006
But sithe that Iouys / of his grace	
As I haue seyde / wol the solace	
Fynally / with these thinges	
Vnkouthe syght) / and tydynges	2010
To passe / with thyn heynesse	
Suche routhe hath he / of thy distresse	
That thou suffrest / debonairly	
And wost thy selfen / outtirly	2014
Disesperat / of alle blys	
Syth that fortune / hath made amys	
The frot of al / thy hertys reste	
Laugh and eke / in poynt to breste	2018
That he thugh) hys / myghty merite	
Wol do than) ese / al be hyt lyte	

And yaf in expres / commaundement	[MS. 2]
To whiche I am / obedient	2022
To further the / with al my myght	
And wisse and teche the / a ryght	
Where thou maist most / tidynges here	
Shaltow here anoon / many oon lere	2026
With this worde / he ryght anoon	[hic caret versus]
[Hent me vp bytwene his tone]	[From Thynne's ed. 1532.]
At a wyndowe / yn me broghte	[leaf 182]
That in this hous / was as me thoghte	2030
And ther with alle / me thoughte hit stent	
And no thinge / hyt aboute went	
And me set / in the flore adoun	
But which / a congregacioun	2034
Of folke as I saugh / rome a-bout	
[Some within and some without]	[From Thynne's ed. 1532.]
Nas neuer seen / ne shal ben eft	
That certys / in the worlde nys left	2038
So many formed / be nature	
Ne dede / so many a creature	
That wel vnnethe / in that place	
Hadde y A fote / brede of space	2042
And euery wight / that I saugh there	
Rovned / in others ere	
A newe / tydyngre preuely	
Or elles tolde / alle openly	2046
Ryght thus and seyde / nost not thou	
That ys betydde	
No quod he / telle me what	
And than he tolde hym / this and that	2050
And swore therto / that hit was sothe	
Thus hath he sayde / and thus he dothe	
And thus shal hit be / and thus herde y seye	
That shal be founde / that dare I leye	2054
That alle the folke / that ys a lyve	
Ne han the kunnyngre / to discryve	

The thinges / that I herde there	
What a lovde / and what in ere	2058
But al the wonder / most was this	
Whan) oon) had herde / a thinge y-wis	
He come forth ryght' / to another wight'	
And gan him tellen / anon) ryght'	2062
The same / that him was tolde	
Or hyt a forlonge way / was olde	[leaf 182, back]
But gan) somme what / for to eche	
Tho this tydyng / in this speche	2066
More / than) hit euer was	
And nat so sone / departed nas	
That he fro him / thoo he ne mette	
With the thrid / and or he lette	2070
Any stounde / he told him als	
Were the tydyng / sothe or fals	
Yit wolde he telle hyt / natheles	
And euermo / with more encres	2074
Than) yt wase erst / thus north and southe	
Went every mouthe / fro mouthe to mouthe	
And that encresing / euer moo	
As fire ys wont / to quyk and goo	2078
From a sparke / spronge amys	
Tille alle a Citee / brent vp ys	
And whan) that was / ful y-sprong	
And woxen) more / on) every tong	2082
Than) euer hit was / and went anoon)	
Vp to a wyndowe / out to goon)	
Or but hit myght' / oute there pace	
Hyt gan) out crepe / at somme crevace	2086
And flygh) forth fast / for the nones	
And som tyme / saugh) thoo at ones	
A lesyng / and a sad sothe sawe	
That gonne of auentur / thrawe	2090
Out to a wyndowe / for to pace	
And when) they metten) / in that place	

They wer a-cheked / bothe two
 And neyther of hem / most out goo 2094
 For other so they / gonne crowde
 Til eche of hem / gan crien lowde
 Lat me go first / nay but let me
 And here I wol / ensuren) the 2098
 Wyth the nones / that thou wolt do so [1f 188]
 That I shal neuer / fro the go
 But be thyn) ovne / sworn) brother
 We wil medle vs / eche with other 2102
 That no man) / be they neuer so wrothe
 Shal han) on two / but bothe
 At ones al / besyde his leve
 Come we morwe / or on) eve 2106
 Be we cried / or stille y-rovned
 Thus saugh I fals / and sothe compovned
 To-geder fle / for oo tydyng
 Thus oute at holes / gunne wringe 2110
 Euery tydyng / streght) to Fame
 And she gan yeve / eche hys name
 After / hir disposiciozn
 And yaf hem / eke duraciozn 2114
 Somme to wexe / and wynne sone
 As dothe the faire / white mone
 And lete hem goon) / ther myght) y seen)
 Wenyed wondres / fast fleen) 2118
 XX^{ti} thousand / in a route
 As Eolus / hem blew aboute
 And lord this hous / in al tymes
 Was ful of Shipmen) /and pilgrimes 2122
 With shrippes bret / ful of lesenges
 Entremedled / with tydynges
 And eke allone / be hem selue
 O many a thousand / tymes twelue 2126
 Saugh I eke / of these Pardoners
 Currours and eke / messangers

With boystes Crammed / ful of lyes	
As euer vessel / was with lyes	2130
And as I alther / fastest went	
About and did / al myn ⁿ entent	
Me for to pleyen / and for to lere	
And eke a tydyng ^e / for to here	2134
That I had herd / of somme contre	
That shal not now / be tolde for me	[1r 183, bk]
For hit no nede is / redely	
Folke kan ⁿ synge hit/ bet than ⁿ I	2138
For alle mote oute / other late or rathe	
Alle the sheves / in the lathe	
I herde a grete / noyse with alle	
In a corner / of the halle	2142
Ther men ⁿ of loue / tydynges tolde	
And I gan / thiderwarde be-holde	
For I saugh ⁿ rennyng ^e / euery wight ^t	
As fast as that / they hadden myght ^t	2146
And eueryche cried / what thing is that	
And somme sayde / I not neuer what	
And whan ⁿ they were / alle on ⁿ an hepe	
Tho behynde / begunne vp lepe	2150
And clamben vp / on ⁿ other fast	
And vp the noyse / an highen ⁿ kast	
And troden fast / on ⁿ other heles	
And stampen ⁿ as men ⁿ / doon ⁿ affir eles	2154
Atte last / y saugh ⁿ a man ⁿ	
Whiche that y / nat ne kan	
But he semed / for to be	
A man ⁿ of grete / auctorite	2158

[MS. ends, like Bodl. 368, incomplete.]

XI.

The Legend of Good Women.

[Of the first cast of the Prologue to this Poem, only one copy is known, that in MS. Gg. 4. 27, Cambridge University Library. To show the differences between the two casts of the Prologue, the two are here printed opposite to one another—as they were in my *Odd Texts*, Part I—with double line-numbers, so as to show which lines in one cast correspond to the same, or the like lines, in the other cast. Those lines which differ slightly¹ from their mates in the other cast are markt †; those which differ more are markt §; those which are only in one cast, *. The differences between the two casts are spoken of in my *Trial-Forewords*, at the end.]

¹ A few differences I've thought too slight to need a mark.

THE LEGEND OF GOOD WOMEN.

[Cambr. Univ. MS. Gg. 4. 27, leaf 445. No gaps in MS.]

[THE PROLOGUE. *First Cust.*]*Ex. lines. Gg. li.*

A	†Thousent sythis haue I herd men telle	1†	
	†That there is Ioye in heuene & peyne in helle	†	
	†And I a-corde wel that it be so	3†	3
	†But natheles this wit I ¹ wel also	4†	[¹ wit I corrected]
	†That there ne is non that dwellyth	² In this cuntre	5† [² I corr.]
	That eythir hath in helle or heuene I-be	6	
	Ne may of it non othere weyis wytyn	7	
	But as he hath herd seyde / or founde it wrytyn	8	8
	ffor by asay / there may no man it preue	9	
	†But goddis forbode / but men schulde leue	10†	
	Wel more thyng / than men han seyn with eye	11	
	Men schal nat wenyn / euery thyng alye	12	12
→	§ffor that he say it nat of 3ore a-go	13§	
	§God wot a thyng is neuere the lesse so	14§	
	Thow euery wyght ne may it nat I-se	15	
	Bernard the monk ne ³ say nat al parde	16	[³ e corr.] ¶ Bernardus non uidit omnia
	Thanne motyn we to bokys / that we fynde	17	
	Thourw whiche that olde thyngis ben	⁴ In mynde	[⁴ I corr.]
	And to the doctryne of these olde wyse	19	
	3euyn credence	⁵ In euery ⁶ skylful wyse	[⁵ I, ⁶ sky, corr.] 20
	§And trowyn on these olde aprouede storyis	21§	
	Of holynesse / of regnys of victoryis	22	
	Of loue / of hate / of othere sundery thyngis	23	
	Of whiche I may nat make rehersyngys	24	24
	And If that olde bokis weryn awaye	25	
	I-loryn were of remembrance the keye	26	

THE LEGEND OF GOOD WOMEN.

[*Fairfax MS. 16, leaf 83.*]

[ñ is printed for n. † for t with a curl = te generally.
 There are no gaps in the MS.]

¶ The prologe of .ix. goode Wymmen./ [2nd Cust.]

<i>Gg. lines.</i>		<i>Ex. lines.</i>
1†	A thousande tymes / I haue herd telle	†
2†	ther ys Ioy in heuene / and peyne in helle	†
3†	and I acord wel / that it ys so	†
4†	But netheles yet / wot I wel also	† 4
5†	that ther is noon duellyng / in this contree	†
6	That eythir hath in heuene / or in helle y-be	
7	Ne may of hit / noon other weyes witen	
8	but as he hath herd seyde / or founde it writen	8
9	for by assay / ther may no mañ it preve	
10†	But god forbede / but meñ shulde leve	†
11	Wel more thing / then meñ han seen with eye	
12	Men shal not wenen / euery thing a lye	12
13§	But yf him-selfe yt seeth / or elles dooth	§
14§	For god wot / thing is neuer the lasse sooth	§
15	Thogh euery wight / ne may it nat y-see	
16	Bernarde the monke / ne saugh nat all pardee	¶ Bernardus Monachus non vidit omnia.
17	Than mote we / to bokes that we fynde	
18	Thurgh which / that olde thinges ben in mynde	
19	And to the doctrine / of these olde wyse	
20	Yeve credence / in euery skylful wise	20
21§	That tellen of these olde appreued / stories	§
22	of holynesse / of Regnes of victories	
23	of love of hate / of other sondry thynges	
24	of whiche I may not maken / rehersynges	24
25	And yf that olde bokes / were a-wey	
26	Y-lorne were / of Remembraunce the key	

	Fr. li.	Gj. li.
§ Wel ouzte vs thanne on olde bokys leue	27§	
§ There as there is non othyr a-say be preue	28§	28
§ And as for me thow that myn wit be lite	29§	
On bokys ¹ for to rede I me delyte [¹ y corr.]	30	
And in myn herte haue hem in reuerence	32	
→ § And to hem zeue swich lust & swich credence	31§	32
§ That there is wel onethe game non	33§	
That from myne bokys make me to gon	34	
§ But it be oþer vp-on the haly day	35§	
→ § Or ellis in the Ioly tyme of may	36§	36
§ Whan that I here the smale foulis synge	37§	
And that the flouris ² gynne for to sprynge ³ [² louris, ³ prynge, corrected]		
§ ffarwel myn stodye as lastynge þat sesoun	39§	[U 445, bk] ←
§ Now haue I therto this condycoun	40§	40
That ⁴ of alle the flouris in the mede [⁴ at corr.]	41	
Thanne loue I most these flourys white & rede	42	
Swyche as men calle dayesys in oure toun	43	
To hem haue I so gret affeccoun	44	44
As I seyde erst whan comyn is the may	45	
That in myn bed there dawith me no day	46	
That I ne am vp & walkynge in the mede	47	
† To sen these flouris a-gen the sunne to sprede	48†	48
§ Whan it vp ryseth be the morwe schene	49§	
* The longe day thus walkynge in the grene	*	← 50

§ And whan the sunne be-gynnys for to weste 61§

§ Thanne closeth it & drawith it to reste 62§ 52

<i>Op. lines.</i>	<i>Fr. lines.</i>
27§ Wel ought vs thanne / honouren and beleve	§
28§ These bokes / there we han noon other preve	§ 28
29§ and as for me / though that I konne but lyte	§
30 on bokes for to rede / I me delyte	
32§ and to hem yive I feyth / and ful credence	§
31 and in myñ herte / haue hem in reuerence	32
33§ So hertly / that ther is game noon	§
34 that fro my bokes / maketh me to goon	
35§ but yt be seldom / on the holyday	§
36§ save certeynly / whañ that the monethe of May	§ 36
37§ Is comen / and that I here the foules synge	§
38 And that the floures / gynnen for to sprynge	[1f 83, bk]
39§ Faire-wel my boke / and my deuocion	§
40§ Now have I thanne / suche a condicioñ	§ 40
41 That of al the floures / in the mede	
42 Thanne love I most / thise floures white and rede	
43 Suche as meñ callen / daysyes in her tovne	
44 To hem have I / so grete affeccion	44
45 As I seyde erst / whanne comeñ is the May	
46 That in my bed / ther daweth me no day	
47 That I nam vppe / and walkyng in the mede	
48† To seen this floure / ayein the sonne sprede	† 48
49§ Whañ it vprysith / erly by the morwe	§
*That blisful sight / softneth al my sorwe	*
*So glad am I / whañ that I haue presence	*
*Of it / to doon it al / reuerence	* 52
55§ As she that is / of al floures flour	§
56† Ful-filled of al vertue / and honour	†
57 and euere ilyke faire / and fressh of hewe	
58§ and I love it / and euer ylike newe	§ 56
*And euere shal / til that myñ hert dye	*
*al swere I nat / of this I wol nat lye	*
*Ther loved no wight / hotter in his lyve	*
*And whañ that hit ys eve / I renne blyve	* 60
51§ As sone as evere the sonne / gynneth weste	§
52§ To seen this flour / how it wol go to reste	§

	<i>Fr. li.</i>	<i>Gg. li.</i>
§ So sore it is a-ferid of the nyzt	62	
*Til on the morwe that it is dayis lyzt	*	
§This dayeseye of alle flouris flour	53§	
†ffulfyld of vertu & of alle honour	54†	56
And eueere I-like fayr & frosch ¹ of hewe	55	
§As wel In wyntyre as in somyr newe ¹ [¹ corrected]	56§	
§ffayn wolde I preysyn If I coude a-ryht	67§	
*But wo is me it lyth nat in myn myght	*	60
†ffor wel I wot that folk han here be-forn	73†	
Of makynge ropyn & lad a-wey the corn	74	
I come aftyre glenyng here & ther	75	
And am ful glad if I may fynde an er	76	64
†Of ony goodly word that they han laft	77†	
†And If it happe me reherse eft [² I corrected]	78†	
†That they han ² In here frosche songis said	79†	
§I hope that they wele nat ben euele a-payel	80§	68
§Sithe it is seyde in fortheryng & honour	81§	
§Of hem that ³ eythir seruyn lef or flour [³ e corr.]	82§	
§ffor trustyth wel I ne haue nat vndyr-take	} 188§	72
§As of the lef a-gayn the flour to make		
§Ne of the flour to make a-geyn the lef	189§	
No more than of the corn a-gen the shef	190	
ffor as to me is lefere non ne lothere	191	
I am witholde zit <i>with</i> neuer nothire	192	76
I not ho seruyth lef ne who the flour	193 [<i>leaf 416</i>]	
§That nys nothyng the entent of myn labour	194§	
†ffor this werk is al of a-nothyr tunne	195†	
†Of old story er swich strif was be-gunne	196†	80

Gg. lines.

Ff. lines.

- 53§For fere of nyght / so hateth she derknesse §
- *Hire there is pleyntly sprad / in the brightnesse * 64
- *Of the sonne / for ther yt wol vnclose *
- *Allas that I ne had / englyssh ryme / or prose * [see 66 Gg.]
- 59§Suffisant this flour / to preyse a-ryght §
- *But helpeth ye / that han konnyng and myght * 68
- *Ye lovers / that kan make of Sentiment *
- *In this case / oght ye be diligent *
- *To forthren me / somewhat in my labour *
- *Whethir ye beñ with the leef / or with the flour * 72
- 61†for wel I wot / that ye han her-biforne †
- 62 of makynge ropen / and lad away the corne
- 63 and I come after / glenyng here and there
- 64 and am ful glad / yf I may fynde an ere 76
- 65†Of any goodly word / that ye han left † [leaf 84]
- 66†And thogh it happen / me rehercen eft †
- 67†That ye han / in your fressh songes sayede †
- 68§For-bereth me / and beth nat euele apayede § 80
- 69§Syn that ye see / I do yt in the honour §
- 70§of love / and eke in service of the flour §
- *Whom that I serve / as I have witte or myght *
- *She is the clerenesse / and the verray lyght * 84
- *That in this derke worlde / me wynt and ledyth *
- *The hert in with / my sorwfull brest yow dredith *
- *And loueth so sore / that ye ben verrayly *
- *The maistresse of my witte / an[d not]¹ thing I [MS altered]
- *My worde my werkes / ys knyht so in youre bond * 89
- *That as an harpe / obeiet to the hond *
- *And maketh it sovne / after his fyngerynge *
- *Ryght so mowe ye / oute of myñ hert bringe * 92
- *Swich vois / ryght as yow lyst to laughe or pleyñ *
- *Be ye my gide / and lady souereyn *
- *As to myñ erthely god / to yowe I calle *
- *Bothe in this werke / and my sorwes alle * 96

	<i>Fr. li.</i>	<i>Gg. li.</i>
But wherfore that I spak to zeue credence	97	
†To bokys olde & don hem reuerence	98†	82
§Is for men schulde autoriteis be-leue	99§	
§There as there lyth non othyr a-say be preue	100§	84
*ffor myn entent is or I fro 3ow fare	*	
*The nakede tixt in englis to declare	*	
*Of manye a story or ellis of manye ¹ a geste *	[¹ manye corr.]	
*As autourys seyn leuyth hem If 3ow leste	*	88
§Whan passed was almost the monyth of may	108§	89
§And I hadde romed al the somerys day	180§	
*The grene medewe of which that I 3ow tolde	*	
§Vp-on the frosche dayseie to be-holde	182§	92
†And that the sonne out of the souht gan weste	197†	
§And clothede was the flour & gon to reste	198§	
†ffor derknesse of the nyht of which sche dradde	199†	
Hom to myn hous ful swiftly I me spadde	200	96
And in a lytyl erber that I haue	203	
†I-benchede newe <i>with</i> turwis frorsche ² I-grawe	204†	[² I corr.]
I bad ³ men schulde me myn couche make	205	[³ d corr.]
ffor deynte of the newe somerys sake	206	100
I bad hem strowe flouris on myn bed	207	
Whan I was layd & hadde myn eyen hid	208	
†I fel a-slepe with-Inne an our or two	209†	
†Me mette how I was in the medewe tho	210†	104
*And that I romede in that same gyse ⁴ .i. daieseye *		
§To sen that flour/ ⁴ as 3e han herd deuyse	202, 212§	
*ffayr was this medewe as thou3te me oueral	*	
†With flouris sote ⁵ enbroudit was it al ⁵	119†	[⁵⁻⁵ corr.]
†As for to speke of gomme or erbe or tre	121†	109
Comparisoun may non I-makede be	122	
ffor it surmountede pleynty alle odours	123	
†And of ryche beute alle flourys	124†	112
fforgetyn hadde the erthe his pore estat	125	

Gg. lines.

Fz. lines.

- 97 But wherfore / that I spake to yive credence
- 98+To olde stories / and doon hem reuerence †
- 83§And that meñ mosteñ / more thyng beleve §
- 84§Theñ may seen at eithe / or elles preve § 100
- *That shal I seyñ / whanne that I see my tyme *
- *I may not attones / speke in ryme *
- *My besy gost / that trusteth alwey newe *
- *To seen this flour / so yong / so fressh of hewe * 104
- *Constreynd me / with so gledy desire *
- *That in myn herte / I feele yet the fire *
- *That made me to ryse / er yt wer day *
- 89§And was now / the firste morwe of May § 108
- *With dredful hert / and glad deuocion *
- *for to ben / at the resurreccion *
- *Of this flour / whañ yt shulde vnclose *
- *A-gayne the sonne / that roos as rede as rose * 112
- *That in the brest was / of the beste that day *
- *That a-genores doghtre / ladde away *
- *And dovne oñ knes / anoon rygħt I me sette *
- *And as I koude / this fressh flour I grette * [leaf 84, back]
- *knelyng alwey / til it vnclosed was * 117
- *Vpon the smal softe / swote gras *
- 108+That was with floures swote / enbrovded al †
- *Of swich suetnesse / and swich odour ouer al * 120
- 109+That for to speke / of gomme or herbe or tree †
- 110 Comparison may noon / y-maked bee
- 111 For yt surmounteth / pleynty alle odoures
- 112+And of riche beaute / of floures † 124
- 113 For-ge ten had the erthe / his pore estate

	<i>Fr. li.</i>	<i>Gt. li.</i>
Of wyntyr that hym nakede made & mat	126	
†And with his swerd of cold so sore hadde greuyd † [<i>Uf 446, bñ</i>]		
†Now hadde the tempere sonne al that ¹ releuyd ¹ 128† [¹ corr.]		
§And clothede hym in grene al newe a-geyn	129§	117
The smale foulis of the seson fayn	130	
†That from the panter & the net ben skapid ²	131†	[² a corr.]
Vp-on the foulere that hem made a-wapid	132	120
In wyntyr & distroyed hadde hire brod	133	
In his dispit hem thouzte it dede hem good	134	
To syng of hym & in here song despise	135	
The foule cherl that for his coueytise	136	124
Hadde hem be-trayed with his sophistrye	137	
This was here song the foulere we defye	138	
§Some songyn on the braunchis clere	139§	
§Of loue & that Ioye It was to here	140§	128
†In worschepe & in preysyng of hire make	141†	
†And of the newe blysfyl somerys sake	142†	
†That sungyn blyssede be seynt volentyn	145†	
†At his day I ches 3ow to be myn	146†	132
With oute repentyng myn herte swete	147	
And therwithal here bekys gunne mete	148	
§The honour & the humble obeysaunce	149§	135
And after ³ dedyn othere obseruauncys	150	[³ fter corr.]
§Ryht on to loue & to natures	151§	
*So eche of hem to cryaturys	*	
*This song to herkenyn I dede al myn entent	*	
*ffor why I mette I wiste what they ment	*	140

<i>Gr. lines.</i>	<i>Ex. lines.</i>
114 Of wyntir / that hem naked made and mate	
115†And with his swerd of colde / so sore greued	†
116†Now hath thatempre sonne / aH that releued	† 128
117§That naked was / and clad yt new agayn	§
118 The smale foules / of the seson fayn	
119†That of the panter / and the nette ben scaped	†
120 Vpon the foweler' / that hem made a-whaped	132
121 In wynter / and distroyed hadde hire broode	
122 In his dispite / hem thoghte yt did hem goode	
123 To synge of hym / and in hir songe dispise	
124 The foule cherle / that for his coveytise	136
125 Had hem betrayed / with his sophistrye	
126 This was hire songe / the foweler' we deffye	
127§And al his crafte / and somme songen clere	§
198§Layes of love / that Ioye it was to here	§ 140
129†In worshipynge / and in preysinge of hir make	†
130†And for the newe / blisful somers sake	†
*Vpon the braunches / ful of blosmes softe	*
*In hire delyt / they turned hem ful ofte	* 144
131†And songen / blessed be seynt valentyne	†
132†For on his day / I chees yow to be myne	†
133 With-outeñ repentyng / myñ hert swete	
134 and therwith-alle / hire bekes gonne meete	148
134§Yeldyng honour / and humble obeysaunces	§
136§To love and diden / hire othere obseruaunces	§
137§That longeth on-to love / and to nature	§
*Construeth that as yow lyst / I do no cure	* 152
*And thoo that hadde doon / vnkyndnesse	*
*As dooth the tydif / for new fangelnesse	* [leaf 85]
*Besoghte mercy / of hir trespassynge	*
*And humbly / songe hire repentyng	* 156
*And sworn on the blosmes / to be trewe	*
*So that hire makes / wolde vpon hem rewe	*
*And at the laste / maden hire acord	*
*Al founde they daunger / for a tyme a lord	* 160
*Yet pitee / thurgh his stronge gentil myght	*

<i>Gg. lines.</i>	<i>Fv. lines.</i>
*For-gaf / and mad mercy passeñ ryght	*
*Thurgh Innocence / and ruled curtesye	*
*But I ne clepe yt nat / Innocence folye	* 164
*Ne fals pitee / for vertue is the mene	*
*As etike seith in swich maner I mene	*
*And thus thise foweles / voide of al malice	*
*Acordeden to love / and laften vice	* 168
*Of hate / and songe alle of oon acorde	*
*Welcome somer / oure governour and lorde	*
*And Zepherus / and flora gentilly	*
*Yaf to the floures / softe and tenderly	* 172
*Hire swoote breth / and made hem for to sprede	*
*As god and goddesse / of the floury mede	*
*In whiche me thoght / I myght day by day	*
*Duellen alwey / the Ioly monyth of May	* 176
*With-outen slepe / with-outen mete or drynke	*
*A-dovne ful softly / I gañ to synke	*
*And lenynge oñ myñ elbowe / and my syde	*
90§The longe day / I shoope me for tabide	§ 180
*For nothing ellis / and I shal nat lye	*
92§but for to loke / vpoñ the daysie	§
*That men by reson / wel it calle may	*
*The daisie or elles the ye / of day	* 184
*The emperice and floure / of floures alle	*
*I pray to god / that faire mote she falle	*
*And alle that loven floures / for hire sake	*
71-2§But natheles ne wene nat / that I make	§ 188
73§In preysing of the flour / agayñ the leef	§
74 No more thañ of the corne / agayñ the sheef	
75 For as to me / nys lever noon ne lother	191
76 I nam with-holden yit / with never mother	[leaf 85, back]
77 Ne I not who serueth leef / ne who the flour	193
78§Wel browken they / her seruice or labour	§
79†For this thing is / al of another tonne	†
80†Of olde stoyre / er swiche thinge was be-gonne	† 196
93†Whañ that the sonne / out of the south gañ west	†

*Tyl at the laste a larke song a-boue	*	141
*I se quod she the myzty god of loue	*	
*Lo 3ond he comyth I se hise wyngis sprede	*	
§Tho gan I loke endelong the mede	211§	
§And saw hym come & in his hond a quene	213§	145
†Clothid in ryal abyte al of grene	214†	
A frette of goold ¹ sche hadde next hyre her	215	[¹⁰⁰ corr.]
And vp-on that a whit corone sche ber	216	148
§With mane ² flourys & I schal nat lye	217§	[² n corr.]
ffor al the world ryght as the dayseye	218	
I-corounede is with white leuys lite	219	
†Swiche were the flourys of hire corene white	220†	152
†ffor of o perle fyn & oriental	221†	[leaf 447]
Hyre white coroun was I-makyd al	222	
ffor whiche the white coroun a-boue the grene	223	
Made hire lyk a dayseye for to sene	224	156
†Considerede ek the fret of gold a-boue	225†	
I-clothede was this myhty god of loue	226	
†Of silk I-broudede ful of grene greuys	227†	
§A garlond on his hed of rose leuys	228§	160
*Stekid al with lylve flourys newe	*	
*But of his face I can not seyn the hewe	*	
§ffor sekyrly his face schon so bryhte	232	
*That with the glem ³ a-stonede was the syhte	*	164
§A furlongwey I myhte hym not be-holde	233§	

<i>Gg. lines.</i>	<i>Fz. lines.</i>
94§And that this floure gan close / and gooñ to rest	§
95†For derknesse of the nyght / the which she dred	†
96 Home to myñ house / ful swiftly I me sped	200
*To gooñ to reste / and erly for to ryse	*
106§To seen this flour / sprede as I deuyse	§
97 And in a litel herber / that I have	
98†that benched was / oñ turves fressh y-grave	† 204
99 I bad meñ sholde me / my covche make	
100 For deyntee / of the newe someres sake	
101 I bad hem straweñ floures / oñ my bed	
102 Whañ I was leyde / and had myñ eyeñ hed	208
103†I fel on slepe / in with an houre or twoo	†
104†Me mette how I lay / in the medewe thoo	†
144§And from a fer / come walkyng in the mede	§
106§To seen this flour / that I love so and drede	§ 212
145§The god of love / and in his hande a quene	§
146†And she was clad / in real habite grene	†
147 A fret of gold she had / next her heer	
148 And vpoñ that / a white corvne she beer	216
149§With flourouns smale / and I shal nat lye	§
150 for al the worlde / ryght as a daysye	
151 Y-corovned ys / with white leves lyte	
152†So were the flowrouns / of hire corovne white	† 220
153†For of O perle / fyne oriental	†
154 Hire white corovne / was I-maked al	
155 For which the white corovne / above the grene	
156 Made hire lyke / a daysie for to sene	224
157†Considered eke / hir fret of golde above	†
158 Y-clothed was / this myghty god of love	
159†In silke enbrouded / ful of grene greves	†
160§In with a fret / of rede rose leves	§ 228
*The fresshest syñ the worlde / was first bygonne	* [r see]
*His gilte here / was corowned with a sonne	*
*I-stede of golde / for heynesse and wyght	*
163§Therwith me thoght / his face shooñ so bryght	§ 232
165§That wel vnnethes / myght I him beholde	§

	<i>Fx. H.</i>	<i>Gg. H.</i>
§But at the laste in hande I saw hym holde	234§	
Tho fery dartis as the ¹ gleedys rede	235	[¹ le corr.]
†And aungellych hyse wengis gan he sprede	236†	168
And al be that men seyn that blynd is he	237	
†Algate me thouzte he myzte wel I-se	238†	
ffor sternely on me he gan beholde	239	
So that his lokynge both myn herte colde	240	172
†And be the hond he held the noble quene	241†	
Corouned with whit & clothede al in grene	242	
So womanly so benygne & so meke	243	
That in this world thow that men wolde seke	244	176
Half hire beute / schulde men nat fynde	245	
†In on ² cryature that formede is be kynde	246†	[² on corr.]
§Hire name was ³ Alceste the thebonoyre	276§	[³ A corr.]
†I preye to god that euere falle sche fayre	277†	180
ffor ne hadde confort been / of hire presense	278	
I hadde be ded / with outyn ony defence	279	-
ffor dred of louys / wordys & his chere	280	
As whan tyme is / here aftyr ze schal here	281	184
†¶ By-hynde this god / of loue vp on this grene	282†	
I saw comynge of ladyis nynetene	283	
In ryal abyte a ful esy pas	284	
And aftyr hem come of wemen swich a tras	285	188
†That syn that god adam made of erthe	286†	
§The thredde part of wemen ne the ferthe	287§	
Ne wende I not by possibilite	288	[<i>f</i> 447, <i>b</i> k]
†Haddyn euere in this world I-be	289†	192
And trewe of loue these wemen were echon	290	
Now whether was that a wondyr thyng or non	221	
That ryht anon as that they ganne espye	292	
This flour whiche that I clepe the dayseye	293	196
fful sodeynly they styntyn alle atonys	294	
And knelede a-doun as it were for the nonys	295	
*And aftyr that they wentyn in cumpas	*	
*Daunsynge aboute this flour an esy pas	*	200
*And songyn as it were in carolewyse	*	

*Gg. lines.**Fr. lines.*

- 166 And in his hande me thogh̄t / I saugh̄ him holde
 167 Two fry dartes / as the gledes rede
 168†And aungelyke / hys wynges saugh̄ I sprede † 236
 169 And al be that meñ seyñ / that blynd ys he
 170†Al-gate me thogh̄t / that he mygh̄t se †
 171 For sternely oñ me / he gañ byholde
 172 So that his loking // dooth̄ myñ hert colde 240
 173†And by the hande he helde / this noble quene †
 174 Corowned with̄ white / and clothed al in grene
 175 So womanly so benigne / and so meke
 176 That in this world / thogh̄t that meñ [wolde seke] 244
 177 [Half of hire beaute / shulde men] nat fynde
 178†In creature / that formed ys by kynde †

*This balade whiche that I schal 3ow deuyse *

(Balade. 1)

Hyd absalon thynne gilte tressis clere	259	203
Ester ley thow thyn meknesse al a-doun	250	
Hyde Ionathas al thyn frendely manere	251	205
Penolope & Marcia catoun	252	
Mak of 3oure wyfhod no <i>comparisoun</i>	253	
Hyde 3e 3oure beuteis Ysoude & Elene	254	
§Alceste is here that al that may destene	255§	209

(2)

Thyn fayre body lat it nat a-peere ¹ [1 ^{2nd e corr.}]	256	210
Laueyne / & thow Lucesse of rome toun	257	
And Pollexene that bouzte loue so dere	258	
Ek Cleopatre with al thyn passioun	259	213
Hide 3e 3oure trouthe in loue & 3oure ronoun	260	
And thow ² tysbe / that hast for loue swich peyne [2 ^{y corr.}]		
§Alceste is here that al that may desteyne	262§	216

(3)

Herro. Dido. Laodomya alle in fere	263	217
Ek Phillis hangynge for thyn demophoun	264	
And Canace espied be thyn chere	265	
Ysiphile bytrayed with Iasoun	266	220
†Mak of 3oure trouthe in loue no bost ne soun	267†	
§Nor ypermystre or Adriane ne pleyne	268§	
§Alceste is here that al that may disteyne	269§	223
§Whan that this balade al I-songyn was	270§	[leaf 448]

Gg. lines.

Ff. lines.

- *And therefore may I seyñ / as thynketh me *
 *This songe in preysyng / of this lady fre * 248

(Songe, or Balade. 1)

- 203 [Hyde / Absoloñ / thy gilte tresses clere (*see l. 539*)]
 204 ¶ Ester / ley thou thy mekenesse / al a-downe
 205 Hyde Ionathas / al thy frendly manere
 206 Penalopee / and Marcia / Catouñ 252
 207 Make of youre wifhode / no comparysouñ
 208 Hyde ye youre beautes / Ysoude and Elyene
 209§My lady comith / that al this may disteyne § 255

(2)

- 210 ¶ Thy faire body / lat yt nat appere
 211 Lavyne / and thou lucesse of Rome tovne
 212 And polixene / that boghten loue so dere
 213 And cleopatre / with al thy passyoñ 259
 214 Hyde ye your trouthe of love and your renoun
 215 And thou Tesbe / that hast of love suche peyne
 216§My lady comith that al this may disteyne § 262

(3) [In the MS, leaf 86, back, this Stanza follows l. 277]

- 217 ¶ Herro / Dido / laudomia alle y-fere 263
 218 And Phillis hangyng for thy Demophoñ
 219 And Canace / espied by thy chere
 220 Ysiphile / betrayesd with Iasoñ 266
 221†Maketh of your trouthe / neythir boost ne sovne †
 222§Nor ypermystre / or Adriane ye tweyne §
 223§My lady cometh / that al this may dysteyne § 269

- 224§This balade may ful wel y-songeñ be
 *As I have seyde / erst by my lady free
 *For certeynly al thise mowe nat suffise 272
 *To appereñ wyth my lady / in nõ wyse [leaf 86, back]
 *For as the sonne / wole the fire disteyne
 *So passeth al / my lady souereyne

*Vp-on the softe & sote grene gras	<i>Fz. li.</i> *	<i>Gg. li.</i> 225
They settyn hem ful softly adoun	301	
§By ordere alle in cumpas / alle in veroun	300§	
†ffyrst sat the god of loue & thanne this queene ¹ † [¹ ne corr.]		
With the white corone clad in grene	303	229
And sithyn al the remenant by & by	304	
†As they were of degre ful curteysly	305†	
†Ne nat a word was spokyn in that place	306†	232
†The mouttenauzce of a furlongwey of ² space	307†	[² of corr.]
§I lenynge faste by vndyr a bente	308§	
Abod to knowe what this peple mente	309	
As stille as ony ston til at the laste	310	236
†The god of loue on me his eye caste	311†	

<i>Gg. lines.</i>		<i>Fx. lines.</i>
179§	That ys so good / so faire / so debonayre	§ 276
180†	I prey to god / that euer falle hire faire	†
181	For nadde comfort/ ben of hire presence	
182	I hadde ben dede / withouteñ any defence	
183	For drede of loves wordes / and his chere	280
184	As when tyme ys / her-after ye shal here	
185†	Be-hynde this god of love / vpon the grene	†
186	I saugh comyng / of ladyes Nientene	
187	In real habite / a ful esy paas	284
188	And after hem coome of wymen / swich a traas	
189†	That syñ that god / Adam hadde made of erthe	†
190§	The thirdde part of mankynde / or the ferthe	§
191	Ne wende I not / by possibilitee	288
192†	Had euer in this wide / worlde y-bee	†
193	And trewe of love / these women were echoñ	<i>nota</i>
194	Now whether was that / a wonder thing or noñ	
195	That rygh̄t anoñ / as that they gonne espye	292
196	thys flour / which that I clepe the daysie	
197	Ful sodeynly / they styten al attones	
198	And knelede downe / as it were for the nones	
	*And songen with O vois / heel and honour	* 296
	*The trouthe of womanhede / and to this flour	*
	*that bereth̄ our alder pris / in figuryng	*
	*Hire white crowne / beryth̄ the witnessyng	*
227§	And with that word / a-compas enviroñ	§ 300
228	They setten hem / ful softly a-douñ	
228†	First sat̄ the god of love / and syth̄ his quene	† [leaf 87]
229	With the white crowne / clad in grene	
230	And sithen al the remenaunt / by and by	304
231†	As they were of estaat / ful curteysly	†
232†	Ne nat a worde was spoken / in the place	†
233†	The mountaunce / of a furlong wey of space	†
234§	I knelyng by this floure / in good entente	§ 308
235	A-boode to knowen / what this peple mente	
236	As stille as any stoñ / til at the last	
237†	This god of love oñ me / hyse eighen caste	†

	<i>Fx. li.</i>	<i>Gg. li.</i>
†And seyde ho restith there & I answerde	312†	
†Vn to his axsynge whan that I hym herde	313†	
†And seyde sere It am I & cam hym ner	314†	240
And salewede hym. <i>quod</i> he what dost thow her		
§In myn presence & that so boldely	316§	
†ffor it were bettere worthi trewely	317†	
§A werm to come in myn syht than thow	318§	224
And why sere <i>quod</i> I and it lyke 3ow	319	
ffor thow <i>quod</i> he art therto no thyng able	320	
*Myne seruauntis ben alle wyse & honourable	*	
§Thow art myn mortal fo & me warreyest	322§	248
And of mynne olde seruauntis thow mysseyest	323	
And hynderyst hem with thyn translacyoun	324	
†And lettist folk to han deuocoun	325†	
To seruyn me & haldist it folye	326	252
§To troste on me thow mayst it nat denye	327§	
†ffor in pleyn tixt it nedyth nat to glose	328†	
Thow hast translaid the romauns of the rose	329	
That is an eresye a-geyns myn lawe	330	256
And makyst wise folk fro me withdrawe	331	
*And thynkist in thyn wit that is ful cole ¹	*	[¹ e corr.]
*That he nys but a verray propre fole	*	
*That lounth paramouris to harde & hote	*	260
*Wel wot I ther by / thow begynnyst dote	*	
*As olde folis whan here spryt faylyth	*	[<i>Uf</i> 448, <i>bk</i>]
*Thanne blame they folk & wete nat what hem ealyth	*	
*Hast thow nat mad in englys ek the bok	*	264
§How that Crisseyde Troylis forsok	332§	
§In schewynge how that ² wemen han don mis ²	333§	
*Bit natheles answeere me now to this [² - ² corr.]	*	
*Why noldist thow as wel a seyde goodnes	*	268
*Of wemen as thow hast seyde wekedenes	*	
*Was there no good matyr in thyn mynde	*	
*Ne in alle thyne bokys ne coudist thow nat fynde	*	
*Sum story of wemen that were goode & trewe ³	*	[³ trewe corr.]
*3is god wot .lx. bokys olde & newe [<i>see</i> 556 <i>Fx.</i>]	*	273

<i>Gg. lines.</i>	<i>Fx. lines.</i>
238†And seyde / who kneleth there / and I answerde	† 312
239†Vnto his askynge / whañ that I it herde	†
240†And seyde it am I / and come him nere	†
241 And salved him / quod he what dostow here	
242§So nygh myñ ovne floure / so boldely	§ 316
243†Yt were better worthy / trewly	†
244§A worme / to neghen ner my flour / than thow	§
245 And why sire / quod I / and yt lyke yow	
246 For thow quod he / art ther-to no-thing able	320
*Yt is my relyke / digne and delytable	*
248§And thow my foo / and al my folke werreyest	§
249 And of myñ olde <i>servautes</i> / thow mysseyest	
250 And hynderest hem / with thy translacioñ	324
251†And lettest folke / from hire deuocioñ	
252 To serve [me / and holdest it folye	
253§To serve] love / thou maist yt nat denye	§
254†For in pleyne text / with-uten nede of glose	† 328
255 Thou hast [translated] the Romaunce / of the rose	
256 That is an heresy / ayeins my lawe	
257 And makest wise folke / fro me / with-drawe	331
265§And of Creseyde / thou hast seyde as the lyst	§ 332
266§That maketh men / to wommen lasse triste	§

	<i>Fr. li.</i>	<i>Gg. li.</i>
*Hast thow thyn self alle ful of storyis grete	*	
*That bothe romaynys & ek grekis trete		
*Of sundery wemen whiche lyf that they ledde	*	276
*And euere an hunderede goode a-geyn on badde	*	
*This knowith god & alle clerkis ek	*	
*That vsyn sweche materis for to sek	*	
*What seith Valerye Titus or Claudyan	*	280
*What seith Ierome agayns Iouynyan	*	
*How clene maydenys ¹ & how trewe wyuys	*	[¹ s corr.]
*How stedefaste wedewys durynge alle here lyuys	*	
*Tellyth ² Ierome & that nat of a fewe	[² h corr.] *	284
*But I dar seyn an hunderede on a rewe	*	
*That it is pete for to rede & routhe	*	
*The wo that they endure for here trouthe	*	
§ ³ ffor to hyre loue were they so trewe	334§	288
*That rathere than they wole take a newe ³	*	[³ -s corr.]
*They chose to be ded in sundery wyse	*	
*And deiedyn as the story wele deuyse	*	
*And some were brend & some were cut the hals	*	292
*And some dreynt for thy woldyn not be fals	*	
*ffor alle kepid ⁴ they here maydynhed	*	[⁴ pid corr.]
*Or ellis wedlek or here wedewehed	*	
*And this thing was nat kept for holynesse	*	296
*But al for verray vertu & clenness	*	
*And for men schulde sette on hem no lak	*	
*And 3it they were hethene al the pak	*	
*That were so sore a-drad of alle schame	[leaf 440] *	300
*These olde wemen kepte so here name	*	
*That in this world I trowe men schal nat fynde	*	
*A man that ⁵ coude be so trowe & kynde	[see Fr 568] *	[⁵ t corr.]
*As was the leste woman in that tyde	*	304
*What seyth also the epistelle of Ouyde	*	
*Of trewe wyuys & of here labour	*	
*What vincent in his estoryal myrour	*	
*Ek al te world of autourys mayst tow here	*	308
*Cristene & hethene trete of swich matere	*	

Go. lines.

288; that beñ as trewe / as euer was any steel

Fr. lines.

§ 334

	<i>Ex. li.</i>	<i>Gg. li.</i>
*It nedyth nat al day thus for to endite	*	
*But ȝit I seye what eylyth the to wryte	*	
*The draf of storyis & forgete ¹ the corn [¹ <i>gete corr.</i>]	*	312
§Be seynt <i>venus</i> of whom that I was born	338§	
†Al-thow thow reneyist hast myn lay	336†	
§As othere olde folys manye a day	337	315

§Thow schalt repente it so that it schal be sene	340§	
§Thanne spak Alceste the worthyere queene ²	341§	[² <i>2nd e corr.</i>]
And seyde god ryȝt of ȝoure curteysye	342	
ȝe motyn herkenyn If he can replye	343	
†A-geyns these poyntys that ȝe han to hym ³ mevid ³ †		[³⁻³ <i>corr.</i>]
A god ne schulde not thus been a-greuyd	345	321
§But of his dede / he schal be stable	346	
§And therto ryȝtful & ek mercyable	347§	
*He schal nat ryȝtfully his yre wreke	*	324
*Or he haue herd the tothyr partye speke	*	
*Al ne is nat gospel that is to ȝow pleynynd	*	
*The god of love hereth manye a tale I-feynynd	*	
ffor in ȝoure court is manye a losenger	352	328
And manye aqueynte totolour acusour	353	
§That tabourryn in ȝoure eres / manye a thyng	354§	
§ffor hate or for Ielous ymagynyng	355§	
§And for to han with ȝou <i>sum</i> dalyaunce	356§	332
§Enuye I prere to god ȝeue hire myschaunce	358§	
§Is lauender In the grete court alway	358§	
ffor che ne partyth neythir nygh ne day	359	
Out of the hous of Cesar thus seyth dante	360	336
§Who-so that goth alwey sche mote wante	361§	
†This man to ȝow may wrongly ben acused	350†	[<i>of 449, back</i>]
There as be ryȝt hym oughte ben excusid	351	
§Or ellis sere for that this man is nyce	362§	340
§He may translate a thyng in no malyce	363§	
§But for he vsyth bokis for to make	364§	
§And takyth non hed of what matere he take	365§	

<i>Gg. lines.</i>		<i>Fz. lines.</i>
*Of thyn answe're / avise the ryght weel		335
314†For thogh̄ thou reneyed / hast my lay	†	
315§As other wrecches hañ dooñ / many a day		337
313§By seynt Venus / that my moder ys		§ <i>nota.</i>
316§If that thou lyve / thou shalt repenten this		§
316§So cruelly / that it shal wele be sene		§ 340
317§Thoo spake this lady / clothed al in grene		§
318 And seyde / god ryght of youre curtesye	[leaf 87, back]	
319 Ye moten herkeñ / yf he can replye		
320†Agayns al this / that ye haue to him meved	†	344
321 A god / ne sholde nat be thus agreued		
322§But of hys deitee / he shal be stable		§
323§And therto gracious / and merciable		§
*And yf ye nere a god / that knowen alle		* 348
*Thanne myght yt be / as I yow telleñ shalle		*
337†This mane to yow / may falsly ben accused	†	
338 That as by right / him oughte ben excused		
328 For in youre courte / ys many a losengeour		352
329 And many aqueynt to telere / accusour		
330§That tabouren in youre eres / many a swoñ		§
331§Ryght aftir hire / ymagynacion		§
332§To have youre daliance / and for envie		§ 356
*Thise ben the causes / and I shal not lye		*
333-4§Envie ys lauendere / of the Court alway		§
335 For she ne parteth / neither nyght ne day		
336 Out of the house of Cesar / thus seith dante		360
337§Who so that gooth / algate she wol nat wante		§
340§And eke perauntere / for this mañ ys nyce		§
341§He myght dooñ yt / gessyng no malice		§
342§For he vseth thynges / for to make		§ 364
343§Hym rekketh noght / of what matere he take		§

	<i>Fr. li.</i>	<i>Gg. li.</i>
*Therefore he wrot the rose & ek ¹ Crisseyde [¹ i corr.] *	*	344
*Of innocence & nyste what he seyde	*	
Or hym was bodyn make thilke tweye	366	
Of sum persone & durste it not with-seye	367	
*ffor he hath wrete manye a bok er this	*	348
He ne hath not don so greuosly a-mys	369	349
To translate that olde clerkis wryte	370	
†As thow that he of maleys wolde endyte	371†	
†Despit of loue & hadde hym self I-wrouht	372†	352
This schulde a ryghtwys lord han in his thouzt	373	
And not ben lyk tyrauntis of lumbardye	374	
§That vsyn wilfulhed & tyrannye	375§	
ffor he that kyng or lord is naturel	376	356
†Hym oughte nat be tyraunt & crewel	377†	[leaf 149, back, line 20]
As is a fermour to don the harm he can	378	[leaf 150, line 19]
He must thynke it is his lige man	379	
*And that hym owith o verry duetee	*	360
*Schewyn his peple pleyn benygnete	*	
*And wel to heryn here excusacyouns	*	
*And here compleyntys ² & petycious	*	[² s corr.]
*In duewe tyme whan they schal it profre	*	364
This is the sentens of the philysophre	381	
A kyng to kepe hise lygis in iustise	382	
Which oughtyn doute that is his offise	383	
*And therto is a kyng ful depe I-sworn	*	368
*fful manye an hunderede wyntyre here be-forn	*	
†And for to kepe his lordys hir degre	384†	
As it is ryght and skylful that they be	385	
†Enhaunsede and / honoured most dere	386†	372
ffor they ben half goddys in this world here	387	
†This schal he don bothe to pore ryche	388†	
Al be that here stat be nat a-lyche	389	
And han of pore folk compassioun	390	376
ffor lo the gentyll kynde of the lyoun	391	
ffor whan a flye offendyth hym or bytith	392	[f 150, bk]
He with his tayl away the flye smythyth	393	

<i>Gg. lines.</i>	<i>Fz. lines.</i>
346 Of him was boden / maken thilke tweye	366
347 Of somme persone / and durste yt nat with-seye	
*Or him repenteth / outrelly of this	* 368
349 He ne hath nat doon / so greuously amys	
350 To translaten / that olde clerkes writen	
351†And thogh that he / of malice wolde enditen †	
352†Despite of love / and had him-selfe yt wrought †	372
353 This shoold a ryghtwis lord / haue in his thoght	
354 And nat be lyke tirauntez / of lumbardy	
355‡That han no reward / but at tyrannye	‡
356 For he that kynge / or lord ys in naturel	376
357†Hym oght nat be / tiraunt ne crewel †	
358 As is a fermour / to doon the harme he kan	
359 He moste thinke / yt is his leege man [leaf 68]	379

*And is his tresour / and his gold in cofre	* 380
365 This is the sentence of the Philosophre	
366 A kyng / to kepe hise leeges in Iustice	
367 Withouteñ doute / that is his office	

370†Al wol he kepe hise lordes / hire degree †	384
371 As it ys ryght / and skilful that they bee	
372†Enhaunced and honoured / and most dere †	
373 For they beñ half goddys / in this world here	
374†Yit mote he doon / bothe ryght to poore and ryche †	
375 Al be that hire estaat / be nat y-liche	389
376 And hañ of poore folke / compassyon	
377 For loo / the gentil kynde of the lyon	
378 For wnañ a flye / offendith him or biteth	392
379 He with his tayle / away the fle smyteth	

	<i>Fz. li.</i>	<i>Gg. li.</i>
Al esyly for of his genterye	394	380
Hym deynyth nat to wreke hym on a flye	395	
As doth a curre or ellis a-nothir beste	396	382
In noble corage oughte ben areste	397	
†And weyen eueryth by equite	398†	384
†And euere han reward to his owen degre	399†	
ffor sire it is no maystrye for a lord	400	
To dampne a man with-oute answeere or word	401	
†And for a lord that is wol foul to vse	402†	388
†And If so be he may hym nat ascuse	403†	
†Axith mercy with a sorweful herte	404†	
And proferyth hym ryght in his bare scherte	405	
To been rygh at 3oure owene Iugement	406	392
Than ought a god by schort avisement	407	[leaf 450, back, l. 16]
Considerere his owene honour & his trespace	[leaf 449, back, l. 21]	
ffor sythe no cause of deth lyth in this cace	409	
3ow oughte to ben the lyghtere merciabile	410	396
Letith 3oure yre & beth sumwhat tretable	411	
The man hath seruyd 3ow of his ¹ konnyg	412	[¹ ko corr.]
†And fortheryd 3oure lawe with his makyng	413†	
*Whil he was 3ong he kepte 3oure estat	*	400
*I not where he be now a renagat ²	*	[² last a corr.]
§But wel I wot with that he can endyte	414§	
†He hath makid lewede folk to delyte	415†	
To seruyn 3ow in preysynge of 3oure name	416	404
He made the bok that highte the hous of fame	417	
And ek the deth of Blaunche the duchesse	418	
And the parlement of foulis as I gesse	419	
And al the loue of Palamon & Arcite	420	408
Of thebes thow the storye is knowe lite	421	
And manye an ympne for thour halydayis	422	
That hightyn baladis roundelys & vyrelays	423	
†And for to speke of othyr besynesse	[leaf 450] 424†	412
He hath in prose translatid Boece	425	
*And of the wrechede engendrynge of mankynde	*	
*As man may in pope innocent I-fynde	*	

*Gg. lines.**Fz. lines.*

- 380 Al esely / for of hys gentrye
 381 Hym deyneth̄ not / to wreke hym oñ a flye
 382 As dooth a curre / or elles another best 396
 383 In noble corage / ought ben arest
 384†And weyen euery thing / by equitye †
 385†And euer haue rewarde / vnto his oweñ degree †
 386 For syr yt is no maistrye / for a lorde 400
 387 To dampne a mañ / without answeere of worde
 388†And for a lorde / that is ful foule to vse †
 389†And it so be / he may hym nat excuse †
 390†But asketh̄ mercy / with a dredeful herte † 404
 391 And profereth̄ him ryght / in his bare sherte
 392 To ben ryght / at your oweñ Iugement
 393 Than ogh̄t a god / by short avysement
 394 Consydre his owne honour / and hys trespas 408
 395 For syth̄ no cause of dethe / lyeth̄ in this caas
 396 Yow oghte to ben / the lyghter merciabile
 397 leteth̄ youre Ire / and beth̄ sumwhat trefable
 398 The mañ hath̄ served yow / of his kunnyng 412
 399†And furthred wel youre lawe / in his makinḡ †
- 402§Al be hit / that he kan nat wel endite § [leaf 88, back]
 403†Yet hath̄ he made / lewde folke delyte †
 404 To serve yow / in preysinge of your name *nota.*
 405 He made the book / that hight̄ the hous of Fame 417
 406 And eke the deeth̄ / of Blaunche the Duchesse
 407 And the parlement of foules / as I gesse
 408 And al the love / of Palamoñ and Arcite 420
 409 Of Thebes / thogh̄ the storye ys knoweñ lyte
 410 And many an ympne / for your halydayes
 411 That highteñ balades / roundels / virelayes
 412†And for to speke / of other holynesse † 424
 413 He hath̄ in proce / translated Boece

	<i>Fr. li.</i>	<i>Gg. li.</i>
And made the lyf also of seynt Cecile	426	416
He made also gon is agret while	427	
Orygenes vp-on the maudeleyne	428	418
Hym ouuzte now to haue the lesse peyne	429	
He hath mad manye a lay & manye a thyng	430	420
Now as 3e ben a god & ek a kyng	431	
I 3oure alceste whilom quene of trace	432	
I axe 3ow this man rygh of 3oure grace	433	
That 3e hym neuere hurte in al his lyue	434	424
†And he schal swere to 3ow & that as blyue	435†	
†He schal no more agiltyn in this wyse	436†	
But he schal makyn as 3e wele deuysel	437	
Of wemen trewe in louynge al here lyue	438	428
Wher so 3e wele of maydyn or of wyue	439	[leaf 450, l. 18]
And fortheryn 3ow as meche as he mysseyde	[leaf 450, bk, l. 17]	
Or in the rose or ellis in crisseyde	441	
†The god of loue answerede hire thus a-non	442†	432
Madame quod he it is so longe a-gon	443	
That I 3ow knew so charytable & trewe	444	
That neuere 3it sithe that the world was newe	445	
†To me ne fond I neuere non betere than the	446†	436
†That If that I wele saue myn degre	447†	
I may ne wel not warne 3oure requeste	448	
†Al lyth in 3ow doth with hym what 3ow leste	449†	
†And al for-3eue with oute lengere space	450†	440
ffor who so 3euynth a 3ifte or doth a grace	451	
Do it be tyme his thank is wel te more	452	
And demyth 3e what he shal ¹ don therefore	453	[shal corr.]
Go thanke now myn lady here quod he	454	444
I ros and down I sette me on myn kne	455	
And seyde thus madame the god a-boue	456	
ffor-3elde 3ow that 3e the god of loue	457	
Han makyd me his wrethe to for-3eue	458	448
And 3eue me grace so longe for to leue	459	
That I may knowe sothly what 3e be	460	
†That han me holpyn & put me in swich degre	461†	

Gj. lines.

Fz. lines.

- 416 And maade the lyfe also / of seynt Cecile
 417 He made also / gooñ ys a grete while
 418 Origenes / vpoñ the Maudeleyne 428
 419 Hym oughte now / to have the lesse peyne
 420 He hath maade many a lay / and many a thinge
 421 Now as ye be a god / and eke a kynge
 422 I your Alceste / whiloñ quene of Trace nota 432
 423 Y aske yow this mañ / ryght of your grace
 424 That ye him never hurte / in al his lyve
 425†And he shal swereñ to yow / and that blyve †
 426†He shal neuer more / agilten in this wyse † 436
 427 But [he] shal makeñ / as ye wol deuyse
 428 Of wommeñ trewe / in lovyng al hire lyfe
 429 Wher so ye wol / of mayden or of wyfe
 430 And forthreñ yow / as muche as he mysseyde 440
 431 Or in the Rose / or elles in Creseyde
 432†The god of love / answerede hire anoon †
 433 Madame quod he / it is so long agoon
 434 That I yow knewe / so charitable and trewe 444
 435 That neuer yit / syn that the worlde was newe
 436†To me / ne founde y better noon thañ yee †
 437†If that ye wolde / save my degree †
 438 I may ne wol nat / werne your requeste 448
 439†Al lyeth in yow / dooth wyth hym / as yow liste †
 440†I al foryeve / withouteñ lenger space †
 441 For who so yeveth a yifte / or dooth a grace [leaf 89]
 442 Do it by tyme / his thank ys wel the more 452
 443 And demeth ye / what he shal doo therefore
 444 Goo thanke now my lady / here quod he
 445 I roos / and dovne I sette me / oñ my knee
 446 And seyde thus / madame the god a-bove 456
 447 For-yelde yow / that [ye] thee god of love
 448 Han maked me / his wrathe to foryive
 449 And [gyve me] grace so long / for to lyve
 450 That I may knowe / socthly what ye bee 460
 451†That han me holpe / and put me in this degree †

	<i>Fx. li.</i>	<i>Gg. H.</i>
But trewely I wende as in this cas [leaf 451]	462	452
Naught haue a-gilt ne don to loue trespas	463	
ffor why a trewe man with oute drede	464	454
Hath nat to parte with a theuys dede	465	
†Ne a trewe louere may ¹ me nat blame [¹ may corr.]	466†	
Thaw that I speke a fals ² louere sum schame	467	[² fals corr.]
They aughte rathere with me for to holde	468	458
ffor that I of Criseyde wrot or tolde	469	
Or of the rose what so myn auytour mente ³	470	[³ t corr.]
Algate god wot it was myn entente	471	461
To forthere trouthe in loue & it cheryse	472	
And to be war from falsenesse & from vice	473	
By swich ensauple this was myn menyng	474	464
And sche answerde lat be thyn arguyng	475	
ffor loue ne wele nat countyrpletyd be	476	
†In ryght ne wrong & lerne this at me	477†	
Thow hast thyn grace & ⁴ holde the ryght therto ⁴ [⁴ → corr.]		
Now wole I seyn what penaunce thow schat do	479	469
ffor thyn trespas & vndyrstonde it here	480	
Thow schalt whil thow leuyst 3er be 3ere	481	
†The moste partye of thyn lyf spende	482†	472
In makynge of a gloryous legende	483	
Of goode wemen maydenys & wyues	484	
†That were trewe ⁵ in leuyng al here lyuys	485†	[⁵ we corr.]
And telle of false men that hem betrayen	486	476
That al here lyf ne don nat but asayen	487	
How manye wemen / they may don a schame	488	
ffor in 3oure world that is now holdyn game	489	
†And thow the lestyth nat a louere be	490†	480
Spek wel of loue this penaunce 3eue I the	491	
And to the god of loue I schal so preye	492	
That he schal charge hise seruauntys by ony weye	493	
To fortheryn the & wel thyn labour quite	494	484
†Go now thyn wey thyn penaunce is but lyte	495†	

*Gg. lines.**Fx. lines.*

- 452 But trewly I wende / as in this cas
 453 Naught have agilt / ne dooñ to love trespas
 454 For why a trewe mañ / withouteñ drede 464
 455 Hath nat to parten / with a theves dede
 456†Ne a trewe loue / oghit me not to blame †
 457 Thogh that I spake / a fals lovere soñ shame
 458 They oghte rather with me / for to holde 468
 459 For that I of Creseyde / wroot or tolde
 460 Or of the Rose / what so myñ Auctour mente
 461 Algate god woot / yt was myñ entente
 462 To forthreñ trouthe in love / and yt cheryce 472
 463 And to ben war fro falsnesse / and fro vice
 464 By swiche ensample / this was my menyng
 465 And she answerde / lat be thyñ Arguyng
 466 For love ne wol nat / countrepleted be 476
 467†In ryght ne wrong / and lerne that of me †
 468 Thow hast thy grace / and holde the ryght therto
 469 Now wol I seyñ / what penance thou shalt do
 470 For thy trespas / vnderstonde yt here 480
 471 Thow shalt while that thou lyvest / yere by yere
 472†The most partye / of thy tyme spende †
 473 In makyng / of A glorious legende
 474 Of good wymmeñ / maydenes and wyves 484
 475†That wereñ trew in lovyng / al hire lyves †
 476 And telle of fals meñ / that hem bytraieñ
 477 [That al hir lyfe ne do nat but assayen]
 478 How many womeñ / that may dooñ ashame [leaf 89, back]
 479 For in youre worlde / that is now holde a game 489
 480†And thogh the lyke nat / a lovere bee †
 481 Speke wel of love / this penance yive I the
 482 And to the god of love / I shal so preye 492
 483 that he shal charge / his servantez by any weye
 484 To forthreñ thee / and wel thy labour quyte
 485†Goo now thy weye / this penaunce ys but lyte †
 *And whañ this book ys maade / yive it the quene *
 *Oñ my byhalfe / at Eltham or at Sheene * 497

	<i>Fr. li.</i>	<i>Gg. li.</i>
The god of loue gan smyle & thanne he seyde	498	
Wostow <i>quod</i> he wher this be wif or mayde	499	
Or queen or cuntesse or of what degre	500	488
That hath so lytil penaunce 3eun the	501	
That hast deseruyd sorere for to smerte	502	[451, 66]
But pete rennyth sone in gentil herte	503	
That mayst thow sen sche kytheth what sche is	504	492
And I answerde nay sere so haue I blys	505	
No more but that I se wel sche is good	506	
That is a trewe tale by myn hod	507	
Qod loue & that thow knowist wel <i>parde</i>	508	496
3if it be so that thow a- <i>wise</i> the	509	
Hast thow nat in a bok lyth in thyn cheste	510	
The grete goodnesse of the queene Alceste	511	
That turnede was in to a dayesye	512	500
Sche that for hire husbonde ches to deye	513	
And ek to gon to helle rathere than he	514	
And Ercules rescued hire <i>parde</i>	515	
And broughte hyre out of helle a-geyn to blys	516	504
And I answerde a-3en & seyde 3is	517	
Now knowe I hire & is this goode alceste	518	
The dayes eye & myn owene herte is reste	519	
Now fele I wel the goodnesse of this wif	520	508
† That bothe after hire deth & ek hire lyf	521†	
Hire grete bounte doubelyth hire renoun	522	
Wel hath sche quit me myn affeccion	523	
That I haue to hire flour the dayesye	524	512
No wondyr is / thow Ioue hire stellesye	525	
As tellyth Agaton for hyre goodnesse	526	
Hire white coroun beryth of it witnessse	527	
† for al-so manye vertuys hath sche	528†	516
As smale flourys in hyre coroun be	529	
Of remembrauns of hire & in honou	530	
Cibella made the dayesye & the flour	531	
I-Coroned al with whit as men ma se	532	520
And Mars ¹ 3af to hire corone red <i>parde</i>	533	[s corr.]

*Gg. lines.**Fx. lines.*

- 486 The god of love gan smyle / and thañ he sayde
 487 Wostow quod he / wher this be wyf or mayde
 488 Or queene or Countesse / or of what degre 500
 489 That hath so lytel penance / yiveñ thee
 490 That hast deserved [sorere for to smerte
 491 But pite renneth] soone in gentil herte
 492 That maistow seen / she kytheth what she ys 504
 493 And I answered nay sire / so have I blys
 494 Na moore but that I see wel / she is good
 495 That is a trewe tale / by myñ hood
 496 Quod love / and thou knowest wel pardee 508
 497 If yt be so / that thou avise the
 498 Hastow nat in a book / lyth in thy cheste
 499 The gret goodnesse / of the quene Alceste
 500 That turned was / in-to a daysye 512
 501 She that for hire housbonde / chees to dye
 502 And eke to gooñ to helle / rather thañ he
 503 And ercules / rescowed hire parde
 504 And broght hir out of helle / agayne to blys 516
 505 And I answerd ageyñ / and sayde yis
 506 Now knowe I hire / and is this good Alceste
 507 The daysie / and myñ owene hertes reste
 508 Now fele I weel / the goodnesse of this wyf 520
 509†That both affir hir deth / and in hir lyf †
 510 Hir grete bounte / doubleth hire renoñ
 511 Wel hath she quyrt me / myñ affeccioñ
 512 That I have to hire flour / the daysye 524
 513 No wonder ys / thogh Ioue hire stellyfye
 514 As telleth agaton / for hire goodnesse [leaf 90]
 515 Hire white corowne / berith of hyt witesse
 516†For also many vertues / hadde shee † 528
 517 As smale florouns / in hire corowne bee
 518 In remembraunce of hire / and in honoure
 519 Cibella maade the daysye / and the flour ¶ Cibella mater
 520 Y-crowned al with white / as meñ may see deorum 532
 521 And Mars yaf to hire corowne / reede pardee

	<i>Fr. li.</i>	<i>Gg. li.</i>
In stede of rubeis set a-mong the white	534	
Therwith this queene wex red for schame a lyte	535	
Whan sche was preysid so in hire presence	536	524
Thanne seyde loue a ful gret neglygence	537	
§ Was it to the / to write onstedefast-nesse	538	
*Of women sithe thow knowist here goodnesse	*	
*By pref & ek by storyis here by-form <small>[leaf 452]</small>	*	528
*Let be the chaf & writ wel of the corn	*	
*Why noldist thow han writyn of alceste	*	
*And latyn Criseide ben a-slepe & rest	*	
*ffor of alceste schulde thyn wrytynge be	*	532
§ Syn that thow wist that calandier Is ¹ she	542§	
	<small>[¹ Is corr.]</small>	
§ Of goodnesse for sche taughte of fyn louynge	544§	
And namely of wifhod the lyuynge	545	
And alle the boundys that sche aughte kepe	546	536
Thyn lityl wit was thilke tyme a-slepe	547	
But now I charge the vp-on thyn lyf	548	
That in thyn ² legende thow make of this wif	549 ^[2yncorr.]	
Whan thow hast othere smale mad by-fore	550	540
And fare now wel I charge the no more	551	

At cliopatre I wele³ that thow begynne 556 [³ that th corr.]

*Gg. lines.**Fa. lines.*

- 522 In stede of Rubyes / sette among the white
 523 Therwith this queene / wex reed for shame a lyte
 524 Whan she was preysed / so in hire presence 536
 525 Thanne seyde love / a ful grete necligence
 526§ Was ys to the / that ylke tyme thou made § 538

*Hyd Absoloñ thy tresses / in balade * [See l. 249, p. 8.
 ? *Fa. not on p. 9.*]

*That thou forgate hire / in thi songe to sette * 540

*Syñ that thou art / so gretly in hire dette *

533§ And wost wel / that kalender ys shee §

*To any womañ / that wol lover bee *

534§ For she taught al the crafte / of fyne lovyng § 544

535 And namely of wyfhode / the lyvyng

536 And al the boundes / that she oght kepe

537 Thy litel witte / was thilke tyme a-slepe

538 But now I charge the / vpon thy lyfe 548

539 That in thy legende / thou make of thys wyfe

540 Whañ thou hast other smale / ymaade before

541 And fare now wel / I charge the namore

*But er I goo / thus muche I wol the telle * *nota*

*Ne shal no trewe lover / come in helle * 553

*These other ladies / sittyng here arowe *

*Ben in my balade / yf thou kanst hem knowe *

(273)*And in thy bookes / alle thou shalt hem fynde * 556

*Haue hem in thy legende / now al in mynde *

*I mene of hem / that ben in thy knowyng *

*For here ben twenty thousande moo sittyng *

*Thanne thou knowest / good wommeñ alle * 560

*And trewe of love / for oght that my byfalle * [see 289 *Gg.*]

*Make the metres of hem / as the lest [leaf 90, bk] *

*I mot gooñ home / the sonne draweth west *

*To paradys / with al thise companye * 564

*And serve alwey / the fressh daysye *

552 At Cleopatre I wole / that thou begynne

And so forth & myn loue so shalt tow w^{yn}ne 567 ^{Fr. li.} ^{Gg. li} 543

§ And with that word of slep I gan a-wake 578§ 544
 And ryght thus on myn legende gan I make 579 545

Explicit prohemium

[I.]

[THE LEGEND OF CLEOPATRA.]

Incipit legenda Cleopatrie¹ regine [1 ie corrected]
 a ffytr the deth of tholome the kyng 580
 That al Egipt hadde in his gouernyng
 Regnede his queen Cleopataras
 Tyl on a tyme be-fel there swich a cas
 That out of rome was sent a senatour 584
 ffor to conqueryn regnys & honour
 Vn to the toun of rome as was vsagee
 To han the world vn-to hyre obeysaunce
 And soth to seyne Antonius was his name 588
 So fil it as fortune hym aughte a schame
 Whan he was fallyn in prosperite
 Rebel vn-to the toun of rome is he
 And ouyral this the sustyr of Cesar 592
 He lafte hire falle or that sche was war
 And wolde algate han a-nothir wif [leaf 452, back]
 ffor which he tok with rome & Cesar stryf

*Gg. lines.**Fr. lines.*

- 543 And so forthe / and my love so shal thou wynne
- (303)*For lat see now / what mañ that lover be * 568
- *Wol dooñ so stronge a peyne / for love as she *
- *I wot wel that thou maist nat / al yt ryme *
- *That swich lovers / dide in hire tyme *
- *It were to long / to reden and to here * 572
- *Suffich me / thou make in this manere *
- *That thou reherce / of al hir lyfe the grete *
- *After thise olde Auctours / lysteñ for to trete *
- *For who so shal / so many a storye telle * 576
- *Sey shortly or he shal / to longe dwelle *
- 544§And with that worde / my bokes gañ I take §
- 545 And ryght thus oñ my legende / gañ I make./ 579

Natheles for sothe this ilke senatour 596
 Was a ful ¹ worthy / gentyl werriour¹ [1—1 corrected]
 And of his deth it was ful gret damage
 But loue hadde brought this man in swich a rage
 And hym so narwe boundyn In² his las [2 In corr.] 600
 Al for the loue of Cleopatraas³ [3 aa corrected]
 That al the world he sette at no value
 Hym thoute there nas to hym no thyng so dewe
 As Cleopatras for to loue & serve 604
 Hym roughte nat in armys for to sterue⁴ [4 sterue corr.]
 In the diffens of hyre & of hire ryght
 This noble queene ek⁵ louede so this knyght [5 ek corr.]
 Thour his desert & for his chyualrye 608
 As certeynly but If that bokys lye
 He was of persone & of gentillesse
 And of discrecioun & of hardynesse
 Worthi to ony wyght that lyuyn may 612
 And sche was fayr as is the Rose in may
 And for to make shortly is the beste
 Sche wax his wif And hadde hym⁶ as hire⁶ leste
 The weddyng & the feste to deuyse [6 m, ire, corr.] 616
 To me that haue ytake swich empryse
 Of so manye a story for to make
 It were to longe lest that I schulde slake
 Of thyng that beryth more effect & charge 620
 ffor men may ouerlade a schip or barge
 And for thy to thefeect thazne wele I skyppe
 And al the remenaunt I wele lete slippe
 Octouyan that wod was of this dede 624
 Schop hym an ost/ on antonye to lede
 Al vtyrly for his destruccioun
 With stoute romeynys crewel as lyoun
 To schepe they wente & thus I lat hem sayle 628
 Antonius was war And wele nat fayle
 To metyn with these romeynys If he may
 Tok ek his red & bothe vp on a day

Hys wif & he & al his ost forth wentyn [leaf 453] 632
 To shepe anon no lengere they ne stente
 And in the se it happede hem to mete
 Vp goth the trompe & for to schoute & schete
 And peynede hem to sette on with the sunne 636
 With grysely soun out goth the grete ¹gonnne [1 o corrected]
 And heterly they hurtelyn al atonys
 ffrom the top down comyth the grete stonys
 In goth the grapenel so ful of crokis 640
 Among the ropis rennyth the scherynge hokys
 In with the polax presith he & sche
 By-hyndyn the mast begynnyth he to fle
 And out a-geyn and dryuyth hym ouerborde 644
 He styngith hym vp on his sperys orde
 He rent the seyl with hokys lyk a sithe
 He bryngith the cuppe & biddyth hem to be blythe
 He pouryth pesyn vp on the hachis sledere 648
 With pottis ful of lym they gon to gedere
 And thus the longe day to-gedere they spende
 Tyl at the laste as euery thyng hat ende
 Antonye is schent & put hym to the flyght 652
 And al his folk to go that best go myght
 fflith ek the queen withal hire porpere sayl
 ffor strokys whiche that wente as thikke as hayl
 No wondyr was sche myghte it nat endure 656
 And whan that antonye / saw that auenture
 Allas quod he the day that I was born
 Myn worshepe in this day thus haue I lorn
 And for dispeyr out of his wit he sterte 660
 And rof hym self a-non thour out the herte
 Or that he ferthere wente out of the place
 His wif that coude of Cesar haue no grace
 To egipt is sche fled for dred & for ²destresse [2 st corrected]
 But herkenyth 3e that spekyn of kyndenesse 665
 3e men that falsely swere manye an oth
 That 3e wele deye If that 3oure loue be wroth

Here may 3e sen of wemen which a trouthe 668
 This woful Cleopatre hath mad swich routhe
 That ther is tunge non that may it telle [leaf 453, back]
 But on the morwe sche wolde no lengere dwelle
 But made hire subtyl werkemen make a schryne 672
 Of alle the rubyis & the stonys fyne
 In al egypt that sche coude espie
 And putte ful the schryne of spicerye
 And let the cors enbaumme & forth sche fette 676
 This dede cors & in the schryne it schette
 And next the schryne a pet thazne doth sche graue
 And alle the serpentys that sche myghte haue
 Sche putte hem in that graue & thus sche seyde 680
 Now love to whom myn sorweful herte obeyede
 So ferforthly that from that blisful our
 That I 3ow swor to ben al frely 3our
 I mene 3ow Antonius myn knyght 684
 That neuere wakyng in the day or nygh
 3e nere out of myn hertis remembraunce
 ffor wel or wo for carole or for daunce
 And in myn self this couenaunt made I tho 688
 ffor rygh swich as 3e feldyn wel or wo
 As fer forth as it in myn power lay
 Vnreprouable on to myn wyfhod ay
 The same wolde I fele lyf or deth 692
 And thilke comenant whil me lastith breth
 I wele fulfille & that schal ben wel sene
 Was neuere on-to hire loue a trewere quene
 And with that word nakyd with ful good herte 696
 Among the serpentis in the pit sche styrt
 And there sche ches to hauyn hire buryng
 Anon the nadderys ¹gonne hire for to styng [o corrected]
 And sche hire deth receyuyth with good cheere 700
 ffor loue of antonye that was hire so dere
 And this is storyal soth it is no fable
 Now or I fynde a man thus trewe & stable

And wele for loue his deth so frely take 704
 I preye god let oure hedys neuere ake. Amen.
 Explicit Cliopatra [*later*]

[II.]

[THE LEGEND OF THISBE.]

Incipit [*later*]

AT babilyone whylom fyl it thus [leaf 454]
 The wyche toun the quien semyramus
 Let dyche al a-boute & wallis make 708
 fful hye of harde tilis wel I-bake
 There were dwellyng in this noble toun
 Two lordys whiche that were of gret renoun
 And wonedyn so nygh vp on a grene 712
 That there was but a ston wal hem be-tweene
 As ofte in grete tounnys is the wone
 And soth to seyne that on man hadde a sone
 Of al that lond on of the lustyeste 716
 That othir hadde a doughtyr the fayreste
 That tho was in that lond Estward dwellynge
 The name of euerych gan to othyr sprynge
 By wemen that were neigheboris a-boute 720
 ffor in that cuntre 3it with-outyn doute
 Maydenys been I-kept for gelosye
 fful streyte lyst they dedyn sum folye
 This 3onge man was callyd Piramus 724
 And Tysbe ¹heit te miade² Naso seyth thus [¹ i, ² i, corrected]
 And thus by report was hire name I-shoue
 That as they wex in age / wex here loue 727
 And certeyn as by rosoun of hire age³ [³ age corrected]
 There myghte a ben by-twixe hem maryage
 But that here faderys myghte nat assente
 And bothe in loue I-lyke sore they brente
 That none of alle hyre frendis myght it lette 732
 But pryuyly sum tyme 3it they mette

- By sleyghte & spokyn summe of here desyr
 As wry the glede & hettere is the fyr
 fforbede a loue & it is ten so wod 736
 This wal which that bi-twixe hem bothe stod
 Was cloue a two ryght from the cop a-doun
 Of olde tyme of his fundacioun
 But 3it this clyfte was so narw & lyte 740
 It nas nat sene deere I-now a myte
 But wat is that that loue can nat espye
 3e louerys two If that I schal nat lye 743
 3e foundyn first this litil narwe clifte [leaf 454, back]
 And with a soun as softe as ony shryfte
 They lete here wordis thour the clift pace
 And toldyn whil that they stode in the place
 Al here compleynt of loue & al here wo 748
 At euery tyme whan they durste so
 Vp on that on syde of that wal stod he
 And on that othir side stod Thesbe
 The sote soun of othir to resseyue 752
 And thus here wardeynys wolde they disceyue
 And euery day this wal they wolde threte
 And wissche to god that it were doun I-bete
 Thus wolde they seyn alas thow welkede wal 756
 Thorw thyn enuye thow vs lettist al
 Why nylt thow cleue or fallyn al a two
 Or at the laste but If thw woldist so
 3it woldist thow but onys lat vs mete 760
 Or onys that we myghtyn kysse swete
 Thanne were we coueryd of oure carys colde
 But natheles 3it be we to the holde
 In as meche as thow sufferyst for to gon 764
 Ovre¹ wordys thour thyn lym & thour thyn ston [¹ corr.]
 3it oughte we² with the been wel a-payd [² we corr.]
 And whan these ydele wordys w^{eren} sayed
 The colde wal they wele kysse of ston 768
 And take here leue & forth they woldyn gon

And this was gladly in the eue tyde	
Or wondyr erly lest men it espiede	
And longe tyme they wroughte in this manere	772
Tyl on a day that Phebus gan to cleere.	
Aurora with the stremys of hete	
Hadde dreyed vp the dew of erbis wete	
Vn to this clyft as it was wone to be	776
Come Piramus / and after come Thysbe	
And plyghtyn trouthe / fully in ¹ here fey	[¹ h corrected]
That ilke same nyght / to stele a wey	
And to begile / here wardeynys echon	780
And forth out of the / cete for to goon	
And for the feldis ben so brode & wide	[leaf 455]
ffor to mete in on place at on tyde	
They settyn marke here metynge wolde be	784
There kyng nynus was graue out of a tre	
ffor olde ² payenys that Idolys heryed	[² p corrected]
Vsedyn tho in feldys to ben beryed	
And faste by there graue was a welle	788
And schortely of this tale for to telle	
This couenaunt was affermyd wondyr faste ³	[³ faste corrected]
And longe hym thoughte that the sunne laste	
That it nere gon vndyr the se a doun	792
This tisbe hat so gret affeccioun	
And so gret haste Piramus to se	
That whan sche say hire tyme myghte be	
At nygh sche stal a wey ful pryuyly	796
With hire face I-wymplid subtyly	
And alle hire frendis for to saue hire trouthe	
Sche hath forsake allas & that is routhe	
That euere wolde ben so trewe	800
To truste man but sche the bet hym knewe	
And to the tre sche goth a ful good pas	
ffor loue made hire so hardy in this cas	
And by the welle adoun / sche gan hyre dres	804
Allas there comyth a wilde lyones	

Out of the wode with oute more arest	
With bloody mouth of strangelynge of a best	
To drynkyn of the welle there as sche sat	808
And whan that tisbe hadde espyed that	
Sche rist hire vp with a ful dredy herte	
And in a kaue with dredful fot sche sterte	
ffor by the mone sche say it wel with-alle	812
And as sche ran hire wympil let sche falle	
And tok non hed. so sore sche was a-wapid	
And ek so glad that þat sche was escapid	
And thus sche sit & darkyth wondyr styлле	816
Whan that this lyonesse hath dronke hire ¹ fille	
A-boute the welle gan sche for to wynde	[¹ re corrected]
And ryght a-non the wympyl gan sche fynde	819
And with hire bloody mouth it al to-rente	[leaf 455, back]
Whan this was don no lengere sche ne stente	
But to the wode hire weye thanne hath sche nome	
And at the laste this Piramus is come	
But al to longe allas at hom was he	824
The mone schon & myghte wel y-se	
And in his weye as that he com ful faste	
Hise eyen to the ground a-doun he caste	
And in the sond as he by-hild a-doun	828
He sey the steppis brode of a lyoun	
And in his herte he sodeynly a-gros	
And pale he wex therwith his herte a-ros	
And ner he com & fond the wimpil torn	832
Allas quod he the day that I was born	
This on nyght wele vs loueris bothe sle	
How schulde I axe mercy of tisbe	
Whan I am he that haue 3ow slayn allas	836
Myn biddyng hath 3ow slayn as in this cas	
Allas to bidde a woman gon be nyghte	
In place there as peril falle myghte	
And I so slayn allas I ne hadde be	840
Here in this place a furlong weye or 3e	

Now what lyoun that be in this forest
Myn body mote he renten or what best
That wilde is gnawe mote he now myn herte 844
And with that word he to that wympil sterte
And kiste it ofte & wep on it ful sore
And seyde wympil allas there is no more
But thow schat feele as wel the blod of me 848
As thow hast felt the bledyng of Thisbe
And with that word he smot hym to the herte
The blod out of the wounde as brode sterte 851
As watyr whan the ¹condit brokyn is [1 o corrected]
Now Tisbe which that wiste nat of this
But sittynge in hire drede sche thoughte thus
If it so falle that myn piramus
Be comyn hidir & may me not I-fynde 856
He may me holde fals & ek onkynde
And out she comyth & aftyr hym gan espien [leaf 456]
Bothe with hire herte & with hire eyen
And thouȝte I wele hym tellyn of myn drede 860
Bothe of the lyonesse & ²al myn deede [2 a corrected]
And at the laste hire loue thanne hath sche founde
Betynge with ³hese helys on the grounde [3 t scratcht out]
Al bloody & therwith a bak sche sterte 864
And lik the wawis quappe gan hire herte
And pale as box sche was & in a throwe
A-visede hire & gan hym wel to knowe
That it was piramus hire herte deere 868
Ho coude wryte which a dedly cheere
Hath Thisbe tho / & how hire⁴ heer she rente [4 hire cut out]
And how sche gan hire selue⁵ to turnemente [5 u corr.]
And how sche lyth & swounnyth on the grounde 872
And how sche wep of terys ful hise⁶ wounde [6 s corr.]
How medeled she hise⁶ blod with hire compleynte
How with hise⁶ blod hire selue gan sche pente
How clyppith sche the deede cors allas 876
How doth this woful tisbe in this cas

How kyssith she his frosty mouth so cold
 Ho hath don this & ho hath been so bold
 To sle myn lyf o spek myn piramus / 880
 I al thyn Tisbe that the callyth thus
 And therwithal ¹he leftyth vp his hed [1 *sc scratcht out*]
 This woful man that is nat fully ded
 Whan that he herde the ²name of Tisbe cryen [2 *n corr. from m*]
 On hire he caste hise heuy dedly eyen 885
 And doun a-gayn & 3eldyth vp the gost
 Tysbe ryst vp with-outyn ony bost
 And saw hire³ wympil & hise⁴ emty schede [3, 4 *re, s, corr.*]
 And ek his swerd that hym hath don to dede 889
 Thanne⁵ spak sche⁶ thus myn⁷ woful hand *quod* she
 Is strong I-now in swich a werk to me [5 *Thanne corrected*]
 ffor loue schal 3eue me strenthe & hardynesse [6 *the scratcht out*]
 To make myn wounde large⁸ I-now I gesse [7 *myn corrected*]
 I wele the folwe ded & I wele be [8 *ge corr.*] 894
 ffelawe & cause of thyn deth *quod* sche
 And thow that nothing saue the deth only [leaf 456, back]
 Mighte the fro me depare trewely
 Thow schat no more departe now fro me
 Than from⁹ the deth for I wele go with the [9 *om corrected*]
 And now 3e wrechede gelos faderys oure 900
 We that whihom were childeryn 3oure
 We preyen 3ow with-outyn more enuye
 That in on graue that we motyn lye
 Sithe loue hath brought vs to his pitous ende 904
 And rygh-wis god to euery louere synde
 That louyth trewely more prosperite
 Than euere 3it hade Piramus & Tisbe 907
 And late no gentyl woman¹⁰ hyre assure [10 *m corrected*]
 To pottyn hire in swich an aventure¹¹ [11 *en corrected*]
 But god forbede but a woman can
 Ben as trewe & louynge as a man
 And for myn part I schal a-non it kythe 912
 And with that word his swerd sche tok a-swythe

That warm was of hire louys blod & hot
 And to the herte sche hire self smot
 And thus is Tisbe & Piramus I-go 916
 Of trewe men I fynde but fewe mo
 In alle myne bokis saue this piramus
 And therefore haue I spokyn of hym thus
 ffor it is deynthe for vs men to fynde 920
 A man that can in loue been trewe & kynde
 Here may 3e se what louere so he be
 A woman dare & can as wel as he

[III.]

[THE LEGEND OF DIDO.] [No more MS. corrections will be noted.]

G Lorye & honour Virgile Mantoan 924
 Be to thyn name & I shal as I can
 ffolwe thyn lanterne as thow gost byforn
 How Enea to Dido was forsworn
 In Naso & Eneydos wele I take 928
 The tenor & the grete effectis make
 Whan troye brought was to distruccioun
 By grekis sleyghte & namely by Synoun
 Feynynge the hors I-offerede to Mynerue [leaf 457] 932
 Thour which that many troyan muste sterue
 And ector hadde aftyr his deth apiered
 And fyr so wod it myzte nat been steerid
 In al the noble toure of ylioun 936
 That of the cete was the chif dongeoun
 And al the cuntre was so lowe brought
 And priamus the kyng fardon & nought
 And Enyas was chargit by Venus 940
 To fleen a-wey & he tok ascanius
 That was his sone in his rygh hand & fledde
 And on his bak he bar & withym ledde

His owene fadyr I-clepid Anchises 944
 And by the weye his wif Crusa he les
 And meche sorwe hadde he in his mynde
 Or that he coude his felaue schepe fynde
 But at the laste whan he hadde hem founde 948
 He made hym redy in a certeyn stounde
 And to the se wol faste he gan hem hye
 And saylyth forth / al his cumpaynye
 Toward ytayle as wolde his destene 952
 But of hise auentourys in the se
 Nis nat to purpos for to speke of heyre
 ffor it acordyth nat to myn matere
 But as I seyde of hym & of Dido 956
 Schal be myn tale til that I haue do
 So longe he saylede in the salte se
 Tyl in libie onethe aryuede he
 With schepis vij & with no more nauye 960
 And glad was he to londe for to hye
 So was he with the tempest al to-shake
 And whan that he the hauene hadde take
 He hadde a knyght was clepid achates 964
 And hym of al his felauschepe he ches
 To gon with hym the cuntre for tespie
 He tok with hym no more cumpaynye
 But forth they gon & lafte hise schepis ryde 968
 His fere & he with-outyn any gyde
 So longe he walkyth in this wildyrnesse [leaf 457, bu k]
 Til at the laste he mette an hunteresse
 A bowe in hande and arwis hadde sche 972
 Hire clothis cutte were vn-to the kne
 But sche was 3it the fayreste creature
 That euere was I-formyd by nature
 And Eneas & Achates sche grette 976
 And thus sche to hem spak whan sche hem mette
 Saw 3e quod sche as 3e han walkid wyde
 Onye of myne susteryn walke 3ow be syde

With ony wilde bor or othir beste	980
That they han huntid to in this foreste	
I-tukkid vp with arwis in hire cas	
Nay sothly lady quod this Enyas	
But by thyn beute as it thynkyt me	984
Thow myghtyst neuere erthely woman be	
But Phebus systyr art thow as I gesse	
And If so be that thow be a goddesse	
Haue mercy on oure labour & oure wo	988
I ne am no goddesse sothly quod sche tho	
ffor maydenys walkyn in this cuntre here	
With arwis & with bowe in this manere	
This is the reyne of libie there 3e ben	992
Of that Dido lady is & queen	
And schortely tolde hym al te occasyoun	
Whi Dido cam in to that regioun	
Of whiche as now me lestyth nat to ryme	996
It nedyth nat it were but los of tyme	
ffor this is al & som it was venus	
His owene modyr that spak thus	
And to cartage he bad he schulde hym dighte	1000
And vanyschid a-non out of his syghte	
I coude folwe word for word Virgile	
But it schule lastyn al the longe while	
This noble queen that clepid was dido	1004
That whilom was the wif of Sytheo	
That fayrere was than is the bryghte sunne	
This noble toun of cartage hath bygunne	
In which sche regnyth in so gret honour	[leaf 458] 1008
That sche was holdyn alle queenys flour	
Of gentillesse of fredom of beute	
That wel was hym that myghte hire onys se	
Of kyngis & of lordis so desyred	1012
That al the world hire beute hadde I-fyred	
Sche stod so wel in euery wightis grace	
Whan Enya was come on to that place	

Vn-to the maystir temple of al the toun	1016
Ther Dido was in hire deuocyoun ful pryuyly his weye thus hath he nome Whan he was in the large temple come	
I can nat seyn If that it be possible	1020
But Venus hadde hym makid inuysible Thus seyt the bok with-outyn ony les And whan this Enyas & Achates Haddyn in this temple ben oueral	1024
Thanne founde they depeyntid on the wal How troye & al the lond distroyed was Allas that I was born <i>quod</i> Enyas Thour out the worl oure shame is kid so wyde	1028
Now it is peyntid vp-on euery syde We that weryn in <i>prosperite</i> Been now disclanderyd & in swich degre	1032
No lengere lyuyn I ne kepe And with that word he brast out for to wepe So tendyrly that routhe it was to sene This frosche lady of the cete queene Stod in the temple in hire estat ryal	1036
So rychely and ek so fayr with al So 3ong so lusty with hire eyen glade That If that god that heuene & erte made Wolde han a loue for beute & goodnesse	1040
And womanhod & trouthe & semelynesse Whom schulde he louyn but this lady swete Ther nys no woman to hym half so mete ffortune that hath the world in <i>gouernaunce</i>	1044
Hath sodeynly brough in so newe a chaunce That nereve 3it was so fremde a cas	[leaf 458, back]
ffor al the cumpaynye of Enyas With that he wende a lorn in the se	1048
Aryuyd is nat fer from that Cete ffor which the gretteste of hise lordis some By auenture ben to the.cete come	

Vn to that same temple for to seke	1052
The queene & of hire socour to beyseke	
Swich renoun was there sprongyn of hire goodnesse	
And whan that they hadden told al here distresse	
And al here tempest & here harde cas	1056
Vn-to the quyen apiered Enyas [e for y]	
And opynly he knew that it was he	
Ho hadde Ioye thanne but his meyne	
That hadde founde here lord here gouernour	1060
The quyen saugh that they dede hym swych honour	
And hadde herd ofte of Eneas er tho	
And in hire herte she hadde routhe & wo	
That euere swich a noble man as he	1064
Schal ben diserityd in swich degre	
And saw the man that he was lyk a knyght	
And sufficiaunt of persone & of mygh	
And lyk to been a verray gentil man	1068
And wel hise wordis he besette can	
And hadde a noble visage for thenonys	
And formed wel of braun & of bonys	
ffor aftyr Venus hadde he swich fayrnesse	1072
That no man myghte be half so fayr I gesse	
And wel a lord he semede for to be	
And for he was a straunger sumwhat sche	
Likede hym the bet as god do bote	1076
To sum folk ofte newe thyng is sote	
Anon hire herte hath pite of his wo	
And with that pete loue come in also	
And thus for pete & for gentillesse	1080
Refreschede muste he been of his distresse	
And seyde certis that sche sory was	
That he hath had swych peryl & swich cas	
And in hire frendely speche in this manere	1084
Sche to hym spak & seyde as 3e may here	[leaf 45 ^v]
Be 3e nat venus sone & anchises	
In good fey al the worshepe & ences	

That I may goodly don 3ow 3e schal haue	1088
3oure schepis & 3oure meyne shal I save	
And manye a gentil word sche spak hym to	
And comaunded hire massangerys for to go	
The same day with outyn any fayle	1092
Hise schippis for to seke & hem vitayle	
Sche manye a beste to the shippis sente	
And with the wyn sche gan hym to presente	
And to hire real paleys she hire spedde	1096
And Enyas alwey with hire she ledde	
What nedyth 3ow the feste to describe	
He neuere// at ese was betyr in al hese lyve	
fful was the feste of deynteis & rychesse	1100
Of instrumentis of song & of gladnesse	
Of manye an amerous lokyng & deuys	
This Enyas is come to paradys	
Out of the swolw of helle & thus in Ioye	1104
Remembrith hym of his estat in troye	
To daunsynge chaumberys ful of paramentyis	
Of riche beddis & of ornamentis	
This Enyas is led aftyr the mete	1108
And with the quene / whan he hadde sete	
And spicis partid & the wyn agon	
Vn-to hise chambris was he led a non	
ffor hise ese & for to take hise reste	1112
With al his folk to don what so hem leste	
There nas courser wel I-brydelid non	
Ne stede for to iuste wel to gon	
Ne large palfrey esy for thenonys	1116
Ne Iewel frettid ful of ryche stonys	
Ne sakkis ful of gold of large weyghte	
Ne rubye non that shynede be nyghte	
Ne gentil hawtein faucoun heroner	1120
Ne hound for hert or wilde bor or der	
Ne coupe of gold with floreyneys newe I-bete	[leaf 459, back]
That in the land of libie may be gete	

That Dido hath it Enyas I-sent 1124
 And al is payed what þat he hath spent
 Thus can this honorable quene hire gestis calle
 As sche that can in fredom passyn alle
 Eneas sothly ek with oute les 1128
 Hadde sent on to his schip by Achates
 Aftyr his sone & aftyr riche thyngis
 Bothe septre clothis & ek brochis ryngis
 Some for to were & some to presente 1132
 To h̄y that alle thyngis hym sente
 And bad his sone how that he schulde make
 The presentis & to the quyen it take
 Repeyrid is this achates agayn 1136
 And Enyas ful blysfyl is & fayn
 To sen this blysfyl sone Ascanyus
 But natheles oure autour tellith vs
 That Cupido that is the god of loue 1140
 At preyere of his modyr hye a boue
 Hadde the liknesse of the child I-take
 This holy queen enamorede to make
 On Eneas but as of that scripture 1144
 Be as be may I take of it no cure
 But soth is this the queen hath mad swich chere
 Vnto this child that wondir is to here
 And of the present that his fadyr sente 1148
 Sche thankyth hym ful ofte with good entente
 Thus is this quyen in plesaunce & in Loye
 With alle these newe lusti folk of troye
 And of the dedis hath she more enquiryd 1152
 Of Enyas & al the story lerid
 Of Troye & al the longe day they tweye
 Entendedyn to spekyn & to pleye
 Of whiche ther gan to bredyn swich a fyer 1156
 That sely Dido hath now swich desyr
 With Enyas hire newe geste to dele
 That sche hath lost hire hewe & ek hire hele

Now to theeffect now comyth the freut of al [leaf 460] 1160
 Whi I haue told this story & telle schal
 Thus I begyne it fil vp on a nyght
 Whan that the mone vp reysed hadde his lyght
 This noble queene on to hire reste wente 1164
 Sche sikyth sore & gan hyre self turnemente
 Sche waylith & sche makith manye a breyde
 As don these loueris as I haue herd seyde
 And at the laste vnto hire systyr anne 1168
 Sche made hire mone & ryght thus spak sche thanne
 Now leue systyr myn what may it be
 That me agastith in myn slep *quod* she
 This newe troyan is so in myn thought 1172
 Me thynkith that he is so wel I-wrought
 And likli for to ben a man
 And ek thereto so mech good he can
 That al myn loue & lyf lyth in his cure 1176
 Haue 3e nat herd his auenture
 Now certis anne if that 3e rede it me
 I wolde fayn to hym I-weddit be
 This is theeffect what schüde I more seyde 1180
 In hym lyth al / to do me leue or deye
 Hyre systir Anne as she that coude hire good
 Seyde as hire thoughte & sumdel it with stod
 But herof was so long a sarmounnyng 1184
 It were to longe to make rehersyng
 But finaly it may nat *ben* withstande
 Loue wil loue for no thing wele it wande
 The dawennyng vp rist out of the se 1188
 This amerous quien chargithoure meyne
 The nettis dresse & speris brode & kene
 An huntyng wolde this lusti frosche queene
 So prikyth hire this newe iolye wo 1192
 To hors is al his lusty folk I-go
 In to the court the houndis been I-brought
 And vp-on courseris swift as ony thought

Hire 3onge knyghtis houyn al a-boute	1196
And of hire wemen ek an huge route	
Vp on a thikke palfrey paper whit	[leaf 460, back]
With sadyl red enbroudit with delyt	
Of gold the barris vp enbosedede hye	1200
Sit Dido al in gold & perre wrye	
And she as bright as is the bryght morwe	
That helith syke men of nyghtis sorwe	
Vp on a courser stertelynge as the fyr	1204
Men myghte turne hym with a litil wyr	
Sit Enyas lik phebus to deuysel	
So was he frosch arayed in his wyse	
The fomy brydil with the bit of gold	1208
Gouernyth he ryght as hym self hath wold	
And forth this noble queen this lady ride	
On huntynge with this troyan by hyre side	
The hirde of hertis Is I-founde a-non	1212
With hay bobet pryke thow lat gon lat gon	
Why nyl the lioun comyn or the bere	
That I myghte hym onys mete with this spere	
Thus sey these 3onge folk & vp they kylle	1216
These bestys wilde & han hem at here wille	
Among al this to rumbelyn gan the heuene	
The thundyr rorede with a gresely steuene	
Doun cam the reyn with hayl & slet so faste	1220
With heuenys fer that it so sore agaste	
This noble quien & also hire meyne	
That iche of hem was glad a-wey to fle	
And schortely from the tempest hire to saue	1224
Sche fledde hireself in to a litil caue	
And with hire wente this Enyas also	
I not with hem If there wente any mo	
The autour makyth of it no mencion	1228
And here be-gan the depe affeccion	
Be twixe hem two this was the ferste morwe	
Of hire gladnesse & gynnere of hire sorwe	

ffor there hath Enyas I-kneled so	1232
And told hire al his erte & al his wo	
And swore so depe to hire to be trewe	
ffor wel or wo & chaunge hire for no newe	
And as a fals louere so wel can pleyne	[leaf 461] 1236
That sely dido rewede on his peyne	
And tok hym for husbonde & become his wyf	
ffor eueremo whil that hym lefte lyf	
And aftyr whil that the tempest stynte	1240
With myrthe out as they comyn hom they wente	
The wikke fame a-ros & that a-non	
How Enias hath with the queen I-gon	
In to the caue & demede as hem leste	1244
And whan the kyng that yarbis highte it woste	
As he that hadde I-louyd euere his lyf	
And wowede hyre to han hire as his wyf	
Swich sorwe as he madeke & swich cheere	1248
It is a routhe & pite for to here	
But in loue alday it happith so	
That on schal layghyn of a notherys wo	
Now layhith enias & is in Ioye	1252
And more richesse than euere was in troye	
O sely wemen ful of Innocence	
fful of pite of trouthe of concience	
What makyth 3ow to men to truste so	1256
Haue 3e swych routhe vp-on hyre feynede wo	
And han swich olde ensaumples 3ow be-forn	
Se 3e nat alle how that 3e ben forsworn	
Where sen 3e on that he ne hath laft his lief	1260
Or ben onkynde or don hire sum myschief	
Or pilid hire or bostid of hise dede	
3e may as wel it sen as 3e may it rede	
Thak hede now of this grete gentil man	1264
This troyan that so wel hire plesyn can	
That feynyth hym so trewe & obeysynge	
So gentil & so trewe of his doinge	

And can so wel don alle hise obeysauncis 1268
 And waytyn hire at festis & at dauncis
 And whan sche goth to temple & hom ageyn
 And fastyn til he hath his lady seyn
 And beryn in hise deuysis for hire sake 1272
 Not I not what & songis wolde he make
 Iustyn & don of Armys manye thyngis [leaf 461, back]
 Synde hire letteres tokenys brochis ryngis
 Now herkith how he schal his lady serue 1276
 There as he was in *paril* for to sterue
 ffor hungyr & for myschif in the se
 And desolat & fled from his cuntre
 And al his folk with tempest al to-dryuyn 1280
 Sche hath hire body & ek hire reame zeuyn
 In to his hand there as she myghte haue been
 Of othere landys than of cartage quien
 And lyuyd in Ioye I-now what wele ze more 1284
 This Enyas that hath so depe Iswore
 Is wery of his craft with-inne a throwe
 The hote earnest is al ouerblowe
 And pryuyly he doth hise shepis dyghte 1288
 And shapith hym to stele a-wey be nyghte
 This dido hath suspescioun of this
 And thoughte wel that it was al a-mys
 ffor in hire bed sche lyth a nyght & sykyth 1292
 Sche axeth hym a-non what hym mys lykyth
 Myn dere herte whiche that I loue most
 Sertis *quod* he this nyght myn faderys gost
 Hath in myn slep so sore me tormentid 1296
 And ek mercurye his massage hath presentid
 That nedis to the conquest of ytayle
 Myn destene is sone for to sayle
 ffor which me thynkyth brostyn is myn herte 1300
 Therwith hise false terys out they sterte
 And takith hire with-Inne hise armys two
 Is that in earnest *quod* sche wele ze so

Haue 3e nat sworn to wyue me to take	1304
Allas what weman wele 3e of me make	
I am a gentil woman & a quien	
3e wele nat from 3oure wif thus foule fleen	
That I was born allas what schal I do	1308
To telle in schort this noble quen dydo	
Sche sekith halwis & doth sacryfise	
Sche knelyth cryeth that routhe is to deuyse	
Coniurith hym & proferyth hym to be	[leaf 462] 1312
His thral his seruant in the leste gre	
Sche fallith hym to-fore & swounnyth ther	
Discheuele with hire bryghte gilte her	
And seyth hauyth mercy & let me with 3ow ryde	1316
These lordis whiche that wonyn me be syde	
Wele me distroyen only for 3oure sake	
And so 3e wele me now to wiue take	
As 3e han sworn thanne wele I 3eue 3ow leue	1320
To slen me with 3oure swerd now sone at eue	
ffor thanne 3it schal I deye as 3oure wif	
I am with childe & 3eue myn child his lyf	
Mercy lord hauyth pete in 3oure thought	1324
But al this thing auaylith hire rygh nought	
ffor on a nyght slepynge he let hire lye	
And stal a-vey on to his cumpaynye	
And as a traytour forth he gan to sayle	1328
Toward the large cuntre of ytayle	
Thus he hath laft dido in wo & peyne	
And weddede ther a lady hy3te lauyne	
A cloth he lafte & ek his swerd stondynge	1332
Whan he from Dido stal in hire slepynge	
Ryght at hire beddys hed so gan he hie	
Whan that he stal a-vey to his nauye	
Which cloth whan sely dido gan a-wake	1336
Sche hath it kyst & ful ofte for his sake	
And seyde o swete cloth whil Iuppiter it leste	
Tak now myn soule & brynge it of this onreste	

I haue fulfilled of fortune al the cours 1340
 And thus with outyn his socours
 Twenti tyme Iswounyd hath sche thanne
 And whanne that sche vn-to hire systyr Anne
 Compleynede hadde of which I may nat wryte 1344
 So gret a reuthe I haue for tendite
 And bad hire norice & hire sistir gon
 To fechyn fyr & othyr thyng a-non
 And seyde that sche wolde sacryfye 1348
 And whan she myghte hire tyme wel espie
 Vp-on the fir of sacryfise she sterte [leaf 462, back]
 And with his swerd she rof hyre herte
 But 3it as myn autour right thus sche seyde 1352
 Or she was hurt by-forn or she deyede
 Sche wrot a lettere a-non that thus be-gan
 Ryght so quod she as that the white swan
 Azens his deth be-gynnyth for to syng 1356
 Right so to 3ow make I myn compleynyng
 Not that I trowe to getyn 3ow a-geyn
 ffor wel I wot that it is al in veyn
 Syn that the goddis been contrarye to me 1360
 But syn myn name is lost thour 3ow quod she
 I may wel lese on 3ow a word or lettere
 Al be it that I shal ben neuere the bettere
 ffor thilke wynd that blew 3oure schip a-wey 1364
 The same wynd hath blowe a-wey 3oure fey
 But ho so wele al this lettere hauyn in mynde
 Rede he ouyde & in hym he shal it fynde

[IV.]

[THE LEGEND OF HYPISYPYLE AND MEDEA.]

T How rote of falce loueris Duc Iason	1368
Thow sly deuourere & confusioun	
Of tendere wemen gentil cryaturys	
Thow madist thyn recleymyng & thyn luris	
To ladyis of thyn statly aparauce	1372
And of thyne wordis farcede with plesaunce	
And of thyne feynede trouthe & thyn manere	
With thyn obeysaunce & humble cheere	
And with thyne contrefetid peyne & wo	1376
There othere falsyn on thow falsist two	
O ofty ⁿ sworist thow that thow woldist deye	
ffor loue whan thow ne feltist maledye	
Saue foul delyt whiche that tow callist loue	1380
3if that I leue thyn name shal be shoue	
In englis that thyn sekte shal be knowe	
Haue at the Iason now thyn horn is blowe	
But sertis it is bothe routhe & wo	[leaf 463] 1384
That loue with false loueris werkyth so	
ffor they schal haue wel betere loue & chere	
Than he that hath abought his loue wol dere	
Or hadde in armys manye a blodi box	1388
ffor euere as tendere a capoun et the fox	
Thow he be fals & hath the foul be-trayed	
As shal the goode man that therefore hath payed	
Al haue he to the capoun skille & ryght	1392
The false fox wele haue his part at nyght	
On Iason this ensaumple is wel I-sene	
By Isiple & media the queene	
In Tessalie as guido tellith vs	1396
There was a kyng that highte pelleus	
That hadde a brothyr that highte Eson	
And whan for age he myghte vnnethis gon	

He 3af to Pelleus the <i>gouernyng</i>	1400
Of al his regne & made hym lord & kyng	
Of whiche Eson this Iason getyn was	
That in his tyme in al that land there nas	
Nat swich a famous knyght of gentilnes	1404
Of fredom & of strenthe & lustynes	
Aftyr his fadiris deth he bar hym so	
That there nas non that liste ben his fo	
But dide hym al honour & compaynye	1408
Of which this Pelleus hadde gret enuye	
Imagynyng that Iason myghte be	
Enhaunsede so & put in swich degre	
With loue of lordis of his regioun	1412
That from his regne he myghte ben put a doun	
In his wit a nyght compassede he	
How Iason myghte best distroyed be	
With oute sclaudere of his compassement	1416
And at the laste he tok a-vyusement	
To syndyn hym in to <i>sum</i> fer cuntre	
Here as this Iason may distroyed be	
This was his wit al made he to Iason	1420
Gret chiere of loue & of affeccioun	
ffor dred lest hise lordis it espiede	[leaf 463, back]
Tho fyl it so as fame rennyth wide	
There was swich tydyng oueral & swich loos	1424
That in an ylde that callid was colcos	
Bezonde Troye estward in the se	
That therin was a ram that men may se	
That hadde a fles of gold that shon so bryghte	1428
That nower was swich a-nothir syghte	
But it was kept alwey with a dragoun	
And manye othere merveylis vp & doun	
And with two bolys makyd al of bras	1432
That spitty ⁿ fer & meche othir thyng there was	
But this was ek the tale natheles	
That who so wolde wyzne tylke fles	

He muste bothe or he it wynnne myghte	1436
With the bole & the dragoun fyghte	
And kyng Oetes lord was of that yle	
This Pelleus be-thoute hym vp-on this wile	
That he his neuve Iason wolde enhorte	1440
To saylyn to that lond hym to disporte	
And seyde neuwe If it myghte be	
That swiche a worchepe myghte fallyn the	
That thw this famous tresore myghtist wynnne	1444
And bryngyn it myn regioun with-inne	
It were to me gret plesaunce & honour	
Thanne were I holde to quyte thyn labour	
And al the cost I wele myn seluyn make	1448
Schis what folk that thow wit with the take	
Lat sen now daryst thow take this viage	
Iason was 3ong & lusty of corage	
And vndyr tok to don this empryse	1452
A-non Argus his schepis gan deuyse	
And with Iason wente the stronge Ercules	
And manye a-nothir that he with hym ches	
But who so axeth who is with hym gon	1456
Lat hym ryde argonautycoun	
ffor he wele telle a tale long I-now	
Philoteces a-non the sayl vp drow	1459
Whan that the wynd was good & gan hym hye	[leaf 464]
Out of his cuntre callid Thessalye	
So longe he seylith in the salte se	
Til in the yle of lenoun aryuede he	
Al be this nat rehersid of Gwido	1464
3it seyth ouyde in hise epistelis so	
And of this Ile lady was & quien	
The fayre 3ynge ysiphele the shene	
That thoas doughtyr was the kyng	1468
Isiphile was gon in hire pleying	
And romynge on the clyuys by the se	
Vndyr a banke anon aspiede she	

Where that the ship of Iason gan a-ryue	1472
Of hire goodnesse a-doun she sendyth blythe	
To wety ⁿ If that any straunge wight	
With tempest were thidyr blowe a nyght	
To don hem socour as was hire vsaunce	1476
To fortheryn euery wight & to don plesaunce	
Of verry bounte & of curteysye	
This messangeer a-doun hym gan to hye	
And fond Iason & Ercules also	1480
That in a cog to londe were I-go	
Hem to refrosche & for to take the eyr	
The morwyng attemptre was & fayr	
And in his weye this massanger hym mette	1484
fful cunnyngely these lordis two he grette	
And dede his massage axinge hym a-non	
If they were brokyn or ought wo begon	
Or haddyn nede of lodman or vitayle	1488
Or of socour they schulde no thyng fayle	
ffor it was outrely the quien is wille	
Iason answerde mekely & style	
Myn lady quod he thanke I hertyly	1492
Of hire goodnesse vs nedyth trewely	
Nothyng as now but that we very be	
And come for to pleye out of the se	
Tyl that the wynd be bettyr in hire weye	1496
This lady romyth by the clyf to pleye	
Wyth hire meyne endelong the stronde	[leaf 464, back]
And fyndith Iason & these othere stonde	
In spekyng of this thyng as I 3ow tolde	1500
This Ercules & Iason gan be-holde	
How that the queen it was & fayre hire grette	
Anon ryght as they with this lady mette	
And sche tok hed & knew by hyre manyere	1504
By hire aray by wordys & by chiere	
That it were gentil men of gret degre	
And to the castel with hire ledyth she	

These straunge folk & doth hem gret honour	1508
And axeth hem of trauayle & labour	
That they han suffered in the salte se	
So that with-inne a day or two or thre	
Sche knew by folk that in his shepis be	1512
That it was Iason ful of renone	
And Ercules that hadde tho gret los	
That soughtyn the auenturys of Calcos	
And dede hem honour more than be-fore	1516
And with hem delede euere lengere the more	
ffor they ben worthy folk with-oute les	
And namely most she spak with ercules	
To hym hire herte bar / he shulde be	1520
Sad wys & trewe of wordys a-vyse	
With-outen any othir affeccoun	
Of loue or euyl ymagynacyoun	
This Ercules hath so this Iason preysid	1524
That to the sunne he hath hym vp areysid	
That so trewe a man there nas of loue	
Vndyr the cape of heue that is aboue	
And he was wis hardy secre & ryche	1528
Of these thre poyntis there nas no man hym liche	
Of fredom passede he & lustyhede	
Alle tho that lyuyn & been dede	
Therto so gret a gentilman was he	1532
And of thessalye likly kyng to be	
There nas no lak but that he was agast	
To loue & for to speke shamefast	
Hym selue to mordere & deye	[leaf 465] 1536
Than that men shude a louere hym espye	
As wolde god that þat I hadde zeue	
Myn blod & flesch so that I myghe leue	
With nonys so that he hadde a wif	1540
ffor hyse estat for whiche a lusty lyf	
Sche shulde lede with this lusty knyght	
And al this was compassid in the nyght	

By-twixe hym Iason & this Ercules 1544
 Of these two here was a shrewede lees
 To come to house vp-on an Innocent
 ffor to be-dote this queen was here assent
 And Iason is as coy as is a mayde 1548
 He lokyth pitously but nought he sayde
 But frely 3af he to hire conseylerys
 3iftys grete & to hire offiserys
 As wolde god I leyser hadde & tyme 1552
 By proces al his wowyng for to ryme
 But in this hous If ony fals louere be
 Ryth as hym self doth rygh so dede he
 With feynynge & with euery subtyl dede 1556
 3e gete na more of me but 3e wele rede
 Thorigynal that tellyth al the cas
 The somme is this that Iason weddit was
 Vn-to this queen & tok of it substaunce 1560
 What so hym leste onto his puruyauce
 And vp-on hire be-gat he childeryn two
 And drow his sayl & saw hym neuere mo
 A lettere sente she to hym serteyn 1564
 Whiche were to longe to wryte & to sen
 And hym reprevith of his ontrouthe
 And preyeth on hire to haue sum routhe
 And of hire childeryn two she seyde hym this 1568
 That they ben lyk of alle thyng I-wis
 To Iason save they coude nat be-gile
 And preyede to god or it were long while
 That she that hadde hire herte I-raft hire fro 1572
 Muste fyndyn hym ontrewre also
 And that sche muste bothe hire chylderyn spylle [leaf 465, back]
 And alle tho that sufferede hym his wille
 And trewe to Iason was she al hire lyf 1576
 And euere kepte hire chast/ as for his wif
 Ne neuere hadde she Loye at hire herte
 But devede for his loue / of sorwe smerte

To calcos comyn is this Duc Iason	1580
That is of loue deuoure & dragoun	
As matier apetitith forme alwey	
And from forme in to forme it passyn may	
Or as a welle that were botemeles	1584
Ryght so can fals Iason haue no pes	
ffor to desyryn thour his apetit	
To don with gentil wemen his delyt	
This is his lust & his felicite	1588
Iason is romyd forth to the Cyte	
That whilom clepid was Iaconitos	
That was the mayster toun I-clepid Colcos	
And hath I-told the cause of his comyng	1592
Vn-to Oetes of that cuntre kyng	
Preyinge hym that he muste don his assay	
To gete the fles of gold If that he may	
Of whiche the kyng assentede to his bone	1596
And doth hym honour as it was to done	
So fer forth that his doughter & his ayr	
Media that was so wis & fayr	
That fayrere say there neuere man with eye	1600
He made hire don to Iason cumpayne	
At mete & sitte by hym in the halle	
Now was Iason a semely man with alle	
And lyk a lord & hadde a gret renoun	1604
And of his lok as real as a leoun	
And goodly of his speche & familer	
And coude of loue al the craft & art pleyner	
With oute bok & eueryche obseruance	1608
And as fortune hire oughte a foul myschaunce	
Sche wex enamourid vp-on this man	
Iason quod sche for oughte I se or can	
As of this thyng of whiche 3e ben a-boutyn	[leaf 40c] 1612
3e han 3oure self put in meche doute	
ffor ho so wele this auenture acheue	
He may nat wel astertyn as I leue	

With-outyn deth but I his helpe be 1616
 But natheles it is myn wylle *quod* sche
 To fortheryn 3ow so that 3e schal nat die
 But turnyn sound hom / to 3oure tessalye
 Myn ryght lady *quod* this Iason tho 1620
 That 3e han of myn deth or of myn wo
 Any reward & don me this honour
 I wot wel that myn mygh ne myn labour
 May nat disserue it in myn lyuys day 1624
 God thanke 3ow there I ne can ne may
 3oure man I am & louely 3ow be-seche
 To ben myn helpe with-oute more speche
 But sertis for myn deth schal I nat spare 1628
 Tho gan this Media to hym declare
 The peril of this cas from poynt to poynt
 And of his batayle & in what disioynt
 He muste stonde of whiche no cryature 1632
 Saue only she ne myghte his lyf assure
 And shortely to the poynt ryght for to go
 They been acordit ful by twixe hem two
 That Iason shal hire wedde as trewe knyght 1636
 And terme set to come sone at nyght
 Vn-to hire chambir & make there hise oth
 Vp-on the goddys that he for lef or loth
 Ne shulde neuere hire false nyght ne day 1640
 To ben hire husbonde whil he lyue may
 As she that from his deth hym sauyth here
 And here vp a nyght they mette in feere
 And doth his oth & goth with hire to bedde 1644
 And on the morwe vpward he hym spedde
 ffor she hath taught hym how he shal nat fayle
 The fles to wynne & stynted his batayle
 And sauede hym his lyf & his honour 1648
 And gat hym a name ryth as a conquerour
 Rygh thour the sleyte of hire enchaun[ment] [leaf 466, back]
 Now hath Iason the fles & hom is went

With Media & tresor ful gret won	1652
But on-wist of hire fadyr is she gon	
To Tessaly with Duk Iason hire lef	
That aftyrward hat brought hire to myschef	
ffor as a traytour he is from hire go	1656
And with hire lafte hire 3ynge childere two	
And falsely hath be-traysede hire allas	
As euere in loue a thef & traytour he was	
And weddyth 3it the thredde wif a-non	1660
That was the doughtyr of the kyng Creon	
This is the mede of louynge & guerdoun	
That Medya receyuyth of Iason	
Rygh for hire treuthe & for hire kyndenesse	1664
That louede hym betere than hire self I gesse	
And lafte hire fadyr & hire erytage	
And of Iason this is the vassellage	
That in hise dayis nas ther non I-founde	1668
So fals a louere goinge on the grounde	
And therefore in hire lettere thus she seyde	
ffyrst of his falsenesse whan she hym vpbreyde	
Whi lykede me thyn 3elwe her to se	1672
More than the boundys of myn oneste	
Why lykede me thyn 3outhe & thyn fayrnesse	
And of thyn tunge the infynyt graciousnesse	
O haddist thou in thyn conquest ded I-be	1676
ful meche ontrouthe hadde deyed with the	
Wel can ouyde hire lettere in vers endyte	
Whiche were as now to longe for me to wryte	

[V.]

[THE LEGEND OF LUCRECE.]

Now mote I seyn the exilynge of kyngis 1680
 Of Rome for here orible doingis
 Of the laste kyng Tarquinius
 As seyth Ouyde & Titus Lyuius
 But for that cause ne telle I nat this storye [leaf 487] 1684
 But for to preyese & drawe to me memorye
 The verry wif the verry trewe lucesse
 That for hyre wifhod & hire stedefastnesse
 Nat only for these Payenys hire comende 1688
 But he that clepid is in oure legende
 The grete Austyn hath gret compassioun
 Of this lucesse that starf at rome touz
 And in what wise I wele but shortly trete 1692
 And of al this thyng / & tuche but the grete
 Whan Ardea be-seged was aboute
 With romeynys that ful sterne were & stoute
 fful longe lay the sege & lytil wroughten 1696
 So that they were half Idyl as hem thouzten
 And in his pley tarquinius the 3onge
 Gan for to Iape for he was lyght of tunge
 And seyde it was an ydil lyf 1700
 No man dide there no more than his wif
 And lat vs speke of weyuys & that is best
 Preyse euery man his owene as hym lest
 And with oure speche lat vs ese oure herte 1704
 A knyght that highte Colatyn vp sterte
 And seyde thus nay sire it is no nede
 To trowyn on the word but on the dede
 I haue a wif quod he that as I trowe 1708
 I holdyn good of alle that euere hire knowe
 Go we to nyght to rome & we shal se
 Tarquinius answerde that likyth me

- To rome be they come & faste hem dyghte 1712
 To Colatynys hous / & down they lyghte
 Tarquinius & ek this Colatyn
 The husbonde knew the estris wel & fyn
 And ful priuily in-to the hous they gon 1716
 Nor at the 3ote porter nas there non
 And at the chambre dore they gan abyde
 This noble wif sat by hire beddys side
 Discheuele for no maleyce she ne thoughte 1720
 And softe wolle seyth that she wroughte
 To kepe hire from slouthe & Idilnesse [leaf 467, back]
 And bad hire *seruauntis* don hire besynesse
 And axith hem what tydyngis heryn 3e 1724
 How seyth men of the sege how shal it be
 God wolde the wal were falle adoun
 Myn husbonde is so longe out of this toun
 ffor which the drede doth me so sore smerte 1728
 That with a swerd me thynkyth that to myn herte
 It styngith me whan I thynke on that place
 God saue myn lord I preye hym for his grace
 And ther-with-al ful tendirly sche wep 1732
 And of hire werk tok no more no kep
 And mekely hyre eyen let she falle
 And tilke semblau[n]t sat hire wel with-alle
 And hire teris ful of oneste 1736
 Emblemyschid hire wifly chastite
 And with that word hire husbonde colatyn
 Or she was war come stertynge In
 And seyde drede the nat for I am here 1740
 And she a-non vp ros with blysfyl chere
 Hyre cuntenaunce is to hire herte dygne
 ffor they acorde bothe in dede & sygne [see l. 1738-9 in
 the other texts]
 And kiste hym as of wiuys is the wone 1744
 Tarquinius this proude kyngis sone
 Conseyuede hath hire beute & hyre cheere
 Hire 3elwe her hire shap & hire manere

Hire hew hire wordis that she hath compleynyd 1748
 And by no craft hire beute nas nat feynyd
 And caughte to this lady swich desyr
 That in his herte brende as any fer
 So wodly that his wit is al forgetyn 1752
 ffor he woste wel she wolde nat ben getyn
 And ay the more that he was in dispayr
 The more coueyth hire & thoughte hire fayr
 This blynde lust was al his coueytynge 1756
 A morwe whan the brid began to syng
 Vn-to the sege he comyth ful priuily
 And by hym self he walkyth sobirly
 Thymage of hire recordynge alwey newe [leaf 468] 1760
 Thus lay hire her / & thus frosch was hyre hewe
 Thus sat thus spak thus span thus was hire chere
 Thus fayr sche was & thus was hire manere
 Al this conseit hys herte hath now I-take 1764
 And as the se with tempest al to-shake
 3it aftyr whan the storm is al a gou
 3it wele the watyr quappe a day or two
 Rygh so thow that hire forme were absent 1768
 The plesaunce of hire forme was present
 Natheles nat plesaunce but delit
 Or an onrighful talent with dispit
 ffor maugre hyre she schal myn leman be 1772
 Hap helpith hardy man alday quod he
 What ende that I make it shal be so
 And gerte hym with his swerd & gan to go
 And forth he rit til he to rome is come 1776
 And al a-lone his weye hathe he nome
 Vn-to the hous of Colatyn ful ryght
 Doun was the sonne & day hath lost hire lyght
 And in he comyth in to a priue halk 1780
 And in the nyght ful thefly gan he stalk
 Whan euery wight was to his reste braught
 Ne no wight hadde of tresoun swich a thought

Were it by wyndow or by othyr gyn	1784
With swerd drawe shortly he come In	
There as sche lay the noble wif lucesse	
And as she wok hire bed she felte presse	
What beste quod she is that weyeth thus	1788
I am the kyngis sone tarquinius	
Quod he but & thow crye or noyse make	
Or If there ony creature awake	
By thilke god that formede man a lyue	1792
This swerd thour out thyn herte shal I ryue	
And therwith al in to hire throte he sterte	
And sette the poynt al sharp vp-on hire herte	
No word she spak she hath no myght therto	1796
What shal she seyn hire wit is al ago	
Ryght as a wolf that fynt a lomb a lone	[leaf 468, back]
To whom shal she compleyne or make mone	
What shal she fyghte with an hardy knyght	1800
Wel wot men that a woman hath no myght	
What shal she crye or how shal she asterte	
That hast hire by the throte with a swerd at herte	
She axeth grace & seyth al that she can	1804
Ne wilt thow nat quod he this crewel man	
As wisely Iupiter myn soule sawe	
As I shal in the stable slen thyn knawe	
And ley hym In thyn bed & loude crye	1808
That I the fynde In auouterye	
And thus thow shalt be ded & also lese	
Thyn name for thow shalt non othir chese	
These Romeyn wyuys louede so here name	1812
At Ilke tyme & dredde so here shame	
That what for fer of sclaundere & drede of deth	
Sche loste at onys bothe wit & breth	
And in a swo ¹ she lay & wex so ded	[1? MS.] 1816
Men myghte smyte of hire arm or hed	
Sche felyth no thyng neythir foul ne fayr	
Tarquinius that art a kyngis Ayr	

And sholdist as be lynage & be ryght	1820
Don as a lord & as a worthi knyght	
Whi hast tow don dispit to chiuallrye	
Whi hast thow don this lady vilanye	
Allas of the this was a vileyn dede	1824
But now to purpos in the story I rede	
Whan this was gon & this myschaunce befallē	
This lady sente aftyr hire frendis alle	
ffodyr modyr husbonde alle In feere	1828
And al discheuele with hire herys cleere	
In abit swich as wemen vsyn tho	
Vn-to the buryinge of hire frendys go	
Sche sit In halle with a sorweful sighte	1832
Hyre fryndys axen what hire eylyn myghte	
And who was ded & she sit ay wepyngē	
A word for shame forth ne myght she bryngē ¹	
[Ne vpoñ hem / she durste nat beholde	<small>[¹ Leaf 460 has been cut out of the Camb. MS. It is here supplied from the Fairfax.]</small>
But atte last of Tarquyny / she hem tolde	
This rewful case / and al thys thing horryble	[leaf 108]
The woo to telle / hyt were impossible	
That she and al hir frendes / make attones	1840
Al had folkes hertys / beñ of stones	
Hyt myght have maked hem / vpoñ hir rewe	
Hir hert was so wyfely / and so trewe	
She sayde that for hir gylt / ne for hir blame	1844
Hir husbonde schulde nat haue / the foule name	
That nolde she suffre / by no wey	
And they vnswerde alle / vn-to hir fey	
That they for-gaf hyt hyr / for hyt was ryght ^t	1848
Hyt was no gilt / hit lay not in hir myght ^t	
And seydeñ hir ensamples / many ooñ	
But al for noght ^t / for thus she seyde anooñ	
Be as be may quod she / of forgyfyngē	1852
Y wol not haue noo forgyft / for no-thinge	
But pryvely she kaught ^t / forthe a knyfe	
And therwith-alle / she rafte hir selfe hir lyfe	

And as she felle adoun / she kaste hir loke	1856
And of hir clothes / yet hede she toke	
For in hir fallynge / yet she had care	
Lest that hir fete / or suche thyng lay bare	
So wel she loved clenness / and eke trouthe	1860
Of hir had al the tovne / of Rome routhe	
And Brutus hath / by hir chaste bloode swore	
That Tarquyny shulde / ybanysshed be ther-fore	
And al hys kynne / and let the peple calle	1864
And openly the tale / he tolde hem alle	
And openly let cary her / oñ a bere	
Thurgh al the tovne / that meñ may see and here	
The horryble dede / of hir oppresseoñ	1868
Ne never was ther kyng / in Rome tovn	
Syn thilke day / and she was holden there	
A seynt and euer hir day / y-halwed dere	
As in hir' lawe / and thus endeth lucesse	1872
The noble wyfe / Tytus beryth wittnesse	
I telle hyt for she was / of love so trewe	[leaf 108, back]
Ne in hir wille / she chaunged for no newe	
And in hir stable hert / sadde and kynde	nota 1876
That in these wymmen / meñ may alday fynde	
Ther as they kaste hir hert / there it duelleth	
For wel I wot / that criste him-self tellet	
That in Israel / as wyde as is the londe	1880
That so grete feythe / in al the londe he ne fonde	
As in a womañ / this is no lye	
And as of women loketh which tirannye	
They dooñ alday / assay hem who so lyst	1884
The trewest ys ful brotil / for to triste.	

[VI.]

[THE LEGEND OF ARIADNE.]

IVge infernal / Mynos of grece kyng
 Now cometh thy lotte / now comestow on the ryng
 Nat oonly for thy sake / writen ys this story 1888
 But for to clepe ageyn vn-to memory
 Of Theseus the grete / vntrewe of love
 For which the goddis / of heven above 1891
 Ben wrothe / and wreche han take / for thy synne
 Be rede for shame / now I thy lyfe begynne
 Mynos that was / the myghty kyng of Crete
 That whan an hundred / Citees stronge and grete
 To scole hath sent / hys sone Androgius 1896
 To Athenes / of the which hyt happeth thus
 That he was slayne / lernynge philosophie
 Ryght in that Citee / nat but for envye
 The grete Mynos / of the whiche I speke 1900
 Hys sones dethe / ys come for to wreke
 And the Citee besegeth / harde and longe
 But natheles the walles / be so stronge
 And Nysus / that was kyng of that Citee 1904
 So chevalrouse / that lytel dredeth he
 Of Mynos or hys Oste / toke he no cure
 Til on a day / befel an aventure¹] [¹ End of the *Fairfax* extract.]
 That nysus doughtyr stod vp-on the wal [leaf 470] 1908
 And of the sege saw the maner al
 So happid it that at a scarmuchyng
 She caughte hyre herte vp-on Mynos the kyng
 ffor his beute & for his chyualrye 1912
 So sore that she wende for to deye
 And shortely of this proces for to pace
 She made Mynos wynnyn tilke place
 So that the site was al at his wille 1916
 To saun hem hym leste or ellis spille

- But wikkedely he quitte hire kyndenesse
 And let hire drenche in sorwe & in distresse
 Nere that the goddis hadde of hire pite 1920
 But that tale were to longe as now for me
 [.
 *no gap in the MS.*]
 But this theeffect that Mynos hath so dreuyn 1924
 Hem of Athenys that they mot hym zeuyn
 ffrom 3er to 3er hire owene childeryn dere
 ffor to be slayn righ as 3e shal here
 This Mynos hadde a monstre a wekede best 1928
 That was so crewel that with-oute arest
 Whan that a man was brouzt in his presence
 He wolde hym ete ther helpith no defence
 And euery thredde with oute doute 1932
 They caste lot & as it fil a-boute
 On riche or pore he muste his sone take
 And of his child he muste present make
 To Theseus to save hym or to spylle 1936
 Or lete his beste deuoure hym at his wille
 And this hath Mynos don ryght In dispit
 To wreke his sone was set al his delyt
 And makyn hem of Athenys his thral 1940
 ffrom 3er to 3er whil that he leuyn shal
 And hom he saylyth whan the toun is wonne
 This wekede custome is so longe I-ronne
 Til that of Athenys kyng Eegeus 1944
 Mote syndyn his owene sone Theseus
 Sithe that the lot is fallyn hym vp-on
 To ben deuouryd for grace is there non
 And forth is gon this woful 3onge knight [leaf 470, back] 1948
 Onto the court of kyng Mynos ful ryght
 And in-to a prysoun feterid cast is he
 Tyl the ilke tyme he shulde fretyn be
 Wel maystow wepe o woful thesyus 1952
 That art a kyngis sone & dampned thus

Me thynkith thus that thow were depe I-holde
 To hym that savede the from caris colde
 And If now ony woman helpe the 1956
 Wel aughtist tow hire seruau[n]t for to be
 And ben hire trewe louere 3er be 3er
 But now to come ageyn to myn matyr
 The tour there as this thesyus is throwe 1960
 Doun in the boteme dyrk & wondyr lowe
 Was Ioynnyge in the wal to a foreyne
 And it was longynge to the doughteryn tweyne
 Of Thesius that in hire chaumberys grete 1964
 Dwelledyn abowe toward the maystyr strete
 Of Athenys in Ioye & in solas /
 Not I not how it happid par cas
 As Thesyus compleynede hym be nyghte 1968
 The kyngis doughter Adryane that highte
 And ek hire systyr ffedra herdyn al
 His compleynynge as they stodyn on the wal
 And lokedyne vp-on the bryghe mone 1972
 Hem leste nat to gone to bedde sone
 And of his wo they haddyn compassioun
 A kyngis sone to ben In swich a prysoun
 And ben deuoured thoughte hem gret pete 1976
 This Adryane spak to hire systeryn fre
 And seyde leue systyr Phedra dere
 This woful lordys sone may 3e nat here
 How pitously compleynyth he his kyn 1980
 And ek his pouere astat that he is In
 And giltles now certeyn it is routhe
 And If 3e wele assentyn by myn trouthe
 He shal ben holpyn how so euere we do 1984
 Phedra answerde I-wis me is as wo
 ffor hym as euere I was for man [leaf 471]
 And to his helpe the beste red I can
 Is that we do the gayler priuily 1988
 To come & speke with vs hastily

And don this woful man with <i>hym</i> to come ffor If he may this monstre ouercome Thanne were he quyt ther is non othir bote	1992
Lat vs wel taste <i>hym</i> at his herte rote If so be that he a wepene have Where that he dar his lyf to kepe & saue ffyghtyn with the fend & <i>hym</i> defende	1996
ffor In the prysoun ther he shal dessende 3e wete wel that the beste is in a place That nys nat derk / & hath bothe roum & space And wilde an ax or swerd or staf or kynf	2000
So that me thy ⁿ kyth he shulde save his lyf If that he be a man he shal don so And we shul make <i>hym</i> ballis ek also Of wex & tow / that whan he gapith faste	2004
In to the bestis throte he shal hem caste To slake his hungir & encombre his teth And right a-non what that Thesyus seth The beste Achokid he shal as <i>hym</i> lepe	2008
And slen <i>hym</i> as they comyn more to hepe This wepne shal the gayler or that tyde fful priuily with-inne the prysoun hyde And for the hous is krynkeled two & fro	2012
And hath so queynte weyis for to go ffor it is shapyn as the mase is wrought Therto haue I a remedye In myn thought That by a ciewe of twyn as he hath gon	2016
The same weye he may returne a-non ffolwynge alwey the thred as he hath come And whan that he this beste hathe ouercome Thanne may he fien a-vey out of this drede	2020
And ek the gayler may he with <i>hym</i> lede And <i>hym</i> auauunce at hom In his cuntre	[leaf 471, back]
Syn that so gret a lordis sone is he This is myn red If that he dare it take	2024
What sholde I lengere sarmoun of it make	

This gayler comyth & with hym Thesyus
 And whan these thyngis ben a-cordit thus
 Adoun sit Thesyus vp-on his kne 2028
 The rygh lady of myn lyf quod he
 I sorweful man dampnede to the deth
 ffro 3ow whil that me lestyth lyf or breth
 I wil nat twynne aftyr this auenture 2032
 But in 3oure servise thus I wele endure
 That as a wreche vnknowe I wele 3ow serve
 ffor euere mo til that myn herte sterue
 fforsake I wele at hom myn herytage 2036
 And as I seyde ben of 3oure court a page
 If 3e vouche saf that in this place
 3e graunte me to han so gret a grace
 That I may han nat but myn mete & drynk 2040
 And for myn sustenaunce 3it wele I swynk
 Rygh as 3ow leste that Mynos ne no wight
 Syn that he saw me neuere with eye syght
 Ne non ellis shal me cunne espye 2044
 So slyly & so wel I shal me gye
 And me so wel disfigure & so lowe
 That in this world ther shal no man me knowe
 To han myn lyf & for to han presence 2048
 Of 3ow that don me this excellence
 And to myn fadyr shal I sende hir
 This worthi man that is now 3oure gayler
 And hym to gwerdone that he shal wel be 2052
 On of the gretteste man of myn cuntre
 And If I durste seyn myn lady bryght
 I am a kyngis sone & ek a knyght
 So wolde god If that it myghte be 2056
 3e weryn In myn cuntre alle thre
 And I with 3ow to bere 3ow compaignye
 Thanne schulde 3e se If that I therof lye
 And If I profre 3ow In low manere [leaf 472] 2060
 To ben 3oure page & seruyn 3ow ryght here

But I 3ow serve as louly In that place
 I preye to Mars so 3eue 3ow swich a grace
 That shamys deth on me than mote falle 2064
 And deth & poverte to mynne frendys alle
 And that myn spirit be nyghte mote go
 Aftyr myn deth & walke two & fro
 That I mote of traytour haue a name 2068
 ffor whiche myn sprit goth to do me shame
 And If I euere cleyme othir degre
 But If 3e vouche saf to 3eue it me
 And I haue seyde of shamys deth I deye 2072
 And mercy lady I can nat ellis seye
 A semely knyght was thesius to se
 And 3ong but of a twenty 3ir & thre
 But ho so hadde seyn his cuntenaunce 2076
 Ne wolde a wept for routhe of his penaunce
 ffor which this Adryane In this manere
 Answerde hym to his profre & to his chere
 A kyngis sone & ek a knyght quod she 2080
 To ben myn seruauant in so low degre
 God shilde it for the shame of wemen alle
 And lene me neuere swich a cas be-falle
 But synde 3ow grace of slyghte & herte also 2084
 3ow to defende & knyghtly slen 3oure fo
 And leue here aftyr that I may 3ow fynde
 To me & to myn syster here so kynde
 That I repente nat to 3eue the lyf 2088
 3it were it betere that I were 3oure wyf
 Syn that 3e ben as gentil born as I
 And hauyn a reume nat but faste by
 Than that I sufferede giltles 3ow sterve 2092
 Or that I let 3ow as a page serue
 It nys no profre as on to 3oure kynrede
 But what is that men nyl don for drede
 An to myn systyr syn that it Is so 2096
 That she mot gon with me If that I go

Or ellis suffere deth as wel as I	[leaf 472, back]
That 3e vnto 3oure sone as trewely	
Don hire ben weddit at 3oure hom comyng	2100
This is the fenal ende of al this thyng	
3e swere it here vp-on al that may be sworn	
3a lady myn quod he or ellis torn	
Mote I be with the mynatour to morwe	2104
And hauyth here of myn herte blod to borwe	
If that 3e wele If I hadde knyf or spere	
I wele it latyn out & theron swere	
ffor thanne at erst I wot 3e wele me leue	2108
By Mars that is the chif of myn beleue	
So that I myghte leuyn & nat fayle	
To morwe for tacheue myn batayle	
I wolde neuere from this place fle	2112
Til that 3e shulde the verray preue se	
ffor now If that the sothe I shal 3ow say	
I haue I-louyd 3ow ful manye a day	
Thow 3e ne wiste it nat in myn cuntre	2116
And aldermost desirede 3ow to se	
Of any erthely leuyng creature	
Vp-on myn trouthe I swere & 3ow ensure	
This seuene 3er I haue 3oure seruauant be	2120
Now haue I 3ow & also haue 3e me	
Myn dere herte of Athenys duchesse	
This lady smylith at his stedefastnesse	
And at his hertely wordis & his chere	2124
And to hyre systyr seyde in this mane[re]	
Al softlyr systyr myn quod she	
Now be we duchessis bothe I & 3e	
And sekerede to the regalys of Athenys	2128
And bothe hereafter likly to ben quenys	
And sauyd from his deth a kyngis sone	
As euere of gentil wemen is the wone	
To saue a gentyl man emforth hire myght	2132
In honest cause & namely In his ryght	

Me thynkyth no wight oughte herof vs blame
 Ne beryn vs therefore an euyl name
 And shortely of this mater for to make [leaf 473] 2136
 This thesius hath of hire leue take
 And euery poynt was performed In dede
 As 3e han In this couenauzt herd me rede
 His wepne his clewe his thyng that I haue sayd 2140
 Was by the gayler in the hous I-leyd
 Ther as the Mynatour hath his dwellyng
 Rygh faste by the dore at his entryng
 And Thesyus is lad onto his deth 2144
 And forth vnto this mynatour he geth
 And by the techynge of this Adryane
 He ouercom this beste & was his ban
 And out he comyth by the clewe a-gayn 2148
 fful priuily whan he this beste hath slayn
 And by the gayler getyn hath a barge
 And of his wyuys tresor gan it charge
 And tok his wif & ek hire sistyr fre 2152
 And ek the gayler & with hym alle thre
 Is stole a-vey out of the lond be nyghte
 And to the cuntre of Ennepye hym dyghte
 There as he hadde a frend of his knowynge 2156
 There feste they there daunce they & synge
 And in hise armys hat this adryane
 That of the beste hat kept hym from his bane
 And gat hym there a newe barge a-non 2160
 And of his cuntre folk a ful gret won
 And takyth his leue & homward saylyth he
 And in an yle amyd the wilde se
 Ther as there dwellede cryatur non 2164
 Saue wilde bestis & that ful manyon
 He made his ship a londe for to sette
 And in that yle half a day he lette
 And seyde that on the lond he muste hym reste 2168
 His maryneris han don rygh as hym leste

And forth to tellyn shortly in this cas
 Whan adryane his wif a slepe was
 ffor that hire systyr fayrere was than she 2172
 He takyth hire In his hond & forth goth he
 To shepe & as a traytour stal his wey [leaf 473, back]
 Whil that this adryane a slepe lay
 And to his cuntreward he saylith swythe 2176
 A twenty deuelewey the wynd hym dryue
 And fond his fadyr drenchid in the se
 Me leste no more to speke of hym parde
 These false louerys poyssoun be here bane 2180
 But I wele turne a-geyn to Adryane
 That Is with slep with werynesse a-take
 fiul sorwefully hire herte may a-wake
 Allas for the myn herte hath now pete 2184
 Ryght in the dawymnyng awakyth she
 And graspith In the bed & fond ryght nought
 Allas quod she that euere that I was wrought
 I am betrayed & al hire her to-rent 2188
 And to the stronde barefot faste she went
 And cryede Thesius myn herte swete
 Where be 3e that I may nat with 3ow mete
 And myghte thus with bestys ben I-slayn 2192
 The holwe rokkis answerden hire a-gayn
 No man she saw & 3it shynede the mone
 And hye vp-on a rokke she wente sone
 And saw his barge saylynge in the se 2196
 Cold wex hire herte & rygh thus seyde she
 Mekere than 3e fynde I the bestis wilde
 Hadde he nat synne that hire thus be-gylid
 She cryede o turne ageyn for routhe & synne 2200
 Thyn barge hath nat al his myne Inne
 Hire couerchif vp-on a pole stekede she
 Ascaunce that he shulde it wel I-se
 And hym remembre that she was be-hynde 2204
 And turne a-geyn & on the stronde hire fynde

But al for nought his weye he is I-gon
 Adoun she fyl aswoune vp-on a ston
 And vp she rysith & kyssith in al hire care 2208
 The steppis of his fet ther he hath fare
 And to hire bed ryght thus spekyth tho
 Tow bed *quod* she that hast receyuyd two
 Thow shat answere of two & nat of on [leaf 474] 2212
 Where is *thyn* grettere part away I-gon
 Allas where shal I wreche wight become
 ffor thow so be that boot here ne cone
 Hom to myn cuntre dare I nat for drede 2216
 I can myn selue In this cas nat rede
 What schulde I more telle hire compleynyng
 It is so long it were an heuy thyng
 In hire epistil Noso tellyth al 2220
 But shortly to the ende I telle shal
 The goddys *han* hire holpyn for pite
 And in the signe of *taurus* men may se
 The stonys of hire Corone shyne clere 2224
 I wele no more speke of this mateere
 But thus this false louere can begyle
 His trewe loue the deuyl quyte *hym* his while

[VII.]

[THE LEGEND OF PHILOMENE.]

THow zeuere of the formys that hast wrought 2228
 This fayre world & bar it In *thyn* thought
 Eternaly er thow *thyn* werk beganne
 Why madist thow on to the Slaundere of man
 Or al be that it was nat *thyn* doinge 2232
 As for that fyn to make swich a thyng
 Whi sufferist thow that tereus was bore
 That is In loue so fals & so forswore

That <i>from</i> this world vp to the ferste heuene	2236
Coruptyh whan that folk his name nemene	
And as to me so gresely was his dede	
That whan that I his foule stoyre rede	
Mynne eyen waxe foule & sore also	2240
3it lestyth the venym of so longe ago	
That it enfecytyth hym that wele be-holde	
The stoyre of Therius of whiche I tolde	
Of trace was he lord & kyn to Marte	2244
The crewel god that stant with bloody darte.	
And weddid hadde he with a blysful cheere	[leaf 474, back]
Kyng pandionys fayre doughtyr dere	
That highte Progne flour of that cuntre	2248
Thow Iune lyst nat at the feste to be	
Ne Imeneus that god of wedyng is	
But at the feste redy ben I-wis	
The furies thre with al here mortal brond	2252
The oule al nyght a-boute te balkis wond	
That prophete is of wo & of myschaunce	
This reuel ful of song & ek of daunce	
Laste a fortenyght or lytil lasse	2256
But shortely of this story for to passe	
ffor I am wery of hym for to telle	
ffyue 3er his wif & he to-gedere dwelle	
Til on a day she gan so sore longe	2260
To sen hire sistyr that she say nat longe	
That for desyr she nyste what to seye	
But to hire husbonde be-gan she for to preye	
ffor godys loue that she muste onys gon	2264
Hyre systyr for to se & come a-non	
Or ellis but she must with hire wende	
She preyeth hym ho wolde after hire synde	
And this was day be day al hire preyere	2268
With humblesse of wifhod word & chere	
This Therius let make hise shepis 3are	
And In-to grece hymself is forth I-fare	

Vn-to his fadyr in lawe gan he preye	2272
To vouche saf that for a monyth or tweye	
That Philomene his wyuys systyr myghte	
On Pregne his wyf myghte onys han a syghte	
And she shal come to 3ow a-geyn a-non	2276
Myn self with hyre wele bothe come & gon	
And as myn hertis lyf I wele hire kepe	
This olde pandion this kyng gan wepe	
ffor tendirnesse of herte for to leue	2280
His doughtyr gon & for to 3eue hire leue	
Of al this world he louyth no thyng so	
But at the laste leue hath she to go	
ffor philomene with salte teris eke	[leaf 475] 2284
Gan of hire fadyr grace to beseke	
To sen hire systyr that she lovith so	
And hym embrasyth with hire armys two	
And therwithal so 3ong & fayr was she	2288
That whan that Thereus saw hire beute	
And of aray that there was non hire lyche	
And 3it of Beute was she two so ryche	
He caste his fery herte vp-on hyre so	2292
That he wil haue hir how so euere he do	
And with hise wilis he so fayre hire preyede	
Tyl at the laste pandyon thus seyde	
Now sone quod he that art to me so dere	2296
I the be-take myn 3onge doughter here	
That beryth the keye of al myn hertes lyf	
And gret me wel myn doughter & thyn wif	
And 3if hire leue sumtyme for to pleye	2300
That she may sen me onys er I deye	
And sothly he hath mad hym riche feste	
And to hise folk the moste & ek the leste	
That with hym com & 3af hym 3iftys grete	2304
And hym conueyeth thour the mayster strete	
Of Athenes & to the se hym brougte	
And turnyth hom no maleyce he ne thoughte	

The oris pullyn forth the vessel faste	2308
And in-to trace aryuyth at the laste	
And vp in-to a forest he hire ledde	
And to a kaaue ¹ pryuyly hym spedde	[<i>1st</i> , knaue]
And in this dirke caue If hir leste	2312
Or leste nat he bad hire for to reste	
ffor whiche hire herte aros & seyde thus	
Were is myn sistyr brothir Tireus	
And therwith al she wepte tendyrly	2316
And quok for fere pale & pitously	
Ryth as the lamb that of the wolf is bityn	
Or as the Culuer that of the egle is smetyu	
And is out of his clawis forth escapid	2320
3it / it is aferyd & a-whapid	
List it be hent eft sonys so that she	[leaf 475, back]
But vttyrly it may non othyr be	
By force hat he this traytour don that dede	2324
That he hath reft hire of hire maydynhede	
Maugre hire hed by strenthe & by hise myght	
Lo here a dede of men & that a ryght	
Sche cryeth systyr with ful loude a steuene	2328
And fadyr dere & help me god in heuene	
Al helpith nat & 3it this false thef	
Hath don this lady 3it a more myschef	
ffor fere lyst she shulde his shame crye	2332
And don hym opynly a vilenye	
And with his swerd hire tonge of keruyth he	
And in a castel made hire for to be	
fful pryuyly in prisoun euere more	2336
And kepte hire to his vsage & his store	2337
So that she myghte hym neuere more asterte	2338
O sely Philomene wo is thyn herte	2339
God wreke the & sende the thyn bone	2340
Now is it tyme I make an ende sone	
This tereus / Is to his wif I-come	
And in his armys hath his wif I-nome	2343

And pitously he wep & shok his hed 2344
 And swor that he say his sistyr ded
 ffor which this sely *progne* hath swich wo
 That nygh hire sorweful herte brak a two
 And thus In terys lete I *Progne* dwelle 2348
 And of hire sistyr forth I wele 3ow telle
 This woful lady lernede hadde in 3oughte
 So that she *werkyn* & *enbroude* couthe
 And *weyyn* in hire stol the *radynore* 2352
 As it of *wemyn* hath be wonid 3ore
 And sothly for to seyne she hadde hire fille
 Of mete & drynk & *clothyng* at hire wille
 She coude rede & wel I-now endyte 2356
 But with a penne coude she nat wryte
 But *letterys* coude she weue two & fro
 So that by the 3er was al a-go
 She hadde I-wouyn In a *stamyn* large [leaf 476] 2360
 How she was brough from *Athenys* in a Barge
 And In a caue how that she was browt
 And al the thyng that *Tereus* hath wrought
 She waf it wel & wrot the storye a-boue 2364
 How she was seruyd for hire *systeris* loue
 And to a knave a ryng she 3af a-non
 And preyede *hym* with signys to gon
 Vn-to the queen & *beryn* hir that cloth 2368
 And be signys swor *hym* manye an oth
 She wolde *hym* 3euyⁿ what she getyn myghte
 This knave a-non on to the qene¹ *hym* dyghte [1 caue altere] 2372
 And tok it hire & al the *maner* hire tolde
 And whan that *progne* hath this thing be-holde
 No word she spak for sorwe & ek for rage
 But feynede hire to gon on *pilgrymage*
 To *Bacus* temple & In a lital stounde 2376
 Hire *dombe* sistyr *sittyng*e hath she founde
*Wepyng*e In the castel here a-lone
 Allas the *compleynt* the wo & the mone

That Progne vp-on hire doumbe systyr makyth	2380
In armys euerych of hem othir takyth	
And thus I late hem in here sorwe dwelle	
The remenau[n]t is no charg ^e for to telle	
ffor this is al & som thus was she seruyd	2384
That neuere harm a-gilte ne deseruyd	
On to this crewel man that she of wiste	
3e may ben war of men If that 3ow leste	
ffor al be that he wil nat for his shame	2388
Don so as Tereus to lese his name	
Ne serve 3ow as a morderour or a knaue	
fful lytil while shal 3e trewe hym haue	
That wele I seyn al were he now myn brothir	2392
But it so be that he may haue non othir	

[VIII.]

[THE LEGEND OF PHILLIS.]

B Y prof as wel as bi autorite	[leaf 476, back]
That weked freut comyth o wekid tre	
That m[a]y ye wete If that like 3ow	2396
But for this ende I speke this as now	
To tellen 3ow of false demophon	
In loue a falsere herde I neuere non	
But If it were his fadyr theseus	2400
God for his grace from swich on kepe vs	
Thus may these wemen preyen that it here	
Now to the effect turne I of myn matere	
Destroyed is of troye the cete	2404
This Demophom comyth seylynge In the se	
Toward Athenys to his paleys large	
With hym come manye a ship & manye a barge	
fful of his folk of whiche ful manyon	2408
Is woundit sore & sek & wo begon	

As they han at thasege longe I-leyn
 By-hynde hym come a wynd & ek a reyn
 That shof so sore his sayl ne myghte stonde 2412
 Hym were leuere than al the world a londe
 So huntith hym the tempest to & fro
 So derk it was he coude nower go
 And with a wawe brostyn was his stere 2416
 His ship was rent so lowe in swich manere
 That Carpentir ne coude it nat a-mende
 The se by nyghte as ony torche it brende
 ffor wod & possith hym now vp now doun 2420
 Til neptune hath of hym compassioun
 And Thetis. Thorus. Triton. & they alle
 And madyn hym vp-on a lond to falle
 Wherof that Philus lady was & queen 2424
 Ligurges doughter fayrere on to sen
 Than is the flour a-geyn the bryghte sunne
 Vnnethe is Demophon to londe I-wunne
 Wayk & ek wery & his folk forpynnyd 2428
 Of werynesse & also enfamynyd
 That to the deth he almost was I-drevyn
 Hise wise folk to conseyl han hym 3euyn
 To seke helpe & socour of the quien [leaf 477] 2432
 And loke what his grace myghte bien
 And makyn In that lond sum cheuysau[n]ce
 To kepyn hym from wo & fro myschaunce
 ffor syk he was & almost at the deth 2436
 Vnnethe myghe he speke or drawe his breth
 And lyth In rodopeya hym for to reste
 Whan he may walke hym thoute it was the beste
 Vn-to the court to sekyn for socour 2440
 Men knewyn hym wel & dedyn hym honour
 ffor of Athenys deuk & lord was he
 As thesytus his fadyr hadde be
 That In his tyme was of gret renou[n] 2444
 No man so gret of al the regyoun

And lyk his fadyr of face & of stature	
And fals of loue It com hym of nature	
As doth the fox Renard the foxis sone	2448
Of kynde he coude his owene faderys wone	
With-oute lore as can a drake sweme	
Whan it is caught & caryed to the brymme	
This honourable Philes doth hym Chere	2452
Hire likith wel his port & his manere	
But for I am agrotyed here byforn	
To wryte of hem that ben In loue for-sworn	
And ek to hastyn me In myn legende	2456
Which to performe god me grace sende	
Therefore I passe shortly In this wyse	
3e han wel herd of Theseus deuyse	
In the be-traysynge of fayre adryane	2460
That of hire pite kepte him from his bane	
At shorte wordis ryth so Demophon	
The same weye the same path hath gon	
That dide his false fadyr Thesyus	2464
ffor vn-to philia hath he sworyn thus	
To weddyn hire & hire his treuthe plyte	
And pikid of hire al the good he myghte	
Whan he was hol & sound & hadde his reste	2468
And don with Philus what so that hym leste	
As wel coude I If that me leste so	[leaf 477, back]
Tellyn his doynge to & fro	
He seyde vnto his cuntre muste he sayle	2472
ffor there he wolde hire weddyngge aparayle	
As fel to hire honour & his also	
And opynli he tok his leue tho	
And hath hire sworn he wolde nat soiorne	2476
But In a monyth he wolde ageyn retorne	
And In that lond let make his ordenaunce	
As verray lord & tok the obeysaunce	
Wel & homly & let his shepis dighte	2480
And hom he goth the nexte weye he myghte	

ffor on to philis 3it ne come he nought	
And that hath she so harde & sore abough[t]	
Allas that as the storye vs recordith	2484
She was hire owene deth ryght with a-corde	
Whan that she saw that Demophon hire trayede	
But to hym ferst she wrot & faste she prayede	
He wolde come & hire delyuere of peyne	2488
As I reherce shal a word or tweyne	
Me lyste nat vouche saf on hym to swynke	
Ne spende on hym a penne ful of ynke	
ffor fals In loue was he rygh as his syre	2492
The deuyl sette here soules bothe a fere	
But of the lettere of Philis wele I wryte	
A word or two al thow it be but lyte	
Ostesse thyn quod she O demophon	2496
Thyn Philis whiche that is so wo begon	
Of rodepeyre vp-on 3ow mot compleyne	
Ouer the terme sette by-twixe vs tweyne	
That ye ne holde forward that 3e seyde	2500
3oure anker that 3e In 3oure hauene leyde	
Hyghte vs that 3e wolde ¹ comyn out of doute	[¹ late c]
Or that the mone wente onys a-boute	
But tymys foure the mone hath hid hire face	2504
Syn that thilke day 3e wente from this place	
[.	
. no gap in the MS.]	2507
3it hat ² the storm of Sytoye nat brought	[² a late h added]
ffrom Athenys the ship 3it comyth it noght	
And If that 3e the terme rekene wolde	[leaf 478]
As I or as a trewe louere shulde	
I pleyne nat god wot by-forn myn day	2512
But al hire lettere wryte I ne may	
By ordere for it were to me a charge	
Hire lettere was rygh long & therto large	
But here & ther In rym I haue it layd	2516
There as me thoughe she wel hath sayd	

She seyde thynne saylis come nat agen
 Ne to thyn word there is no fey certeyn
 But I wot why 3e come nat quod she 2520
 ffor I was of myn loue to 3ow to fre
 And of the goddis that 3e han forswore
 3if hire vengeaunce falle on 3ow therefore
 3e be nat sufficiaunt to bere the peyne 2524
 To meche truste wel may I pleyne
 Vp-on 3oure lynage & 3oure fayre tunge
 And on 3oure teris falsely out I-wronge
 How coude 3e wepe so be craf quod she 2528
 May there swich terys feynede be
 Now certis 3if 3e wele haue in memorye
 It oughte be to 3ow but lyte glorye
 To han a sely mayde thus be-trayed 2532
 To god quod she preye I & ofte haue prayed
 That it mot be the gretteste prys of alle
 And most honour that euere the shal befall
 And whan thynne olde auncestris peyntede ben 2536
 In which men may here worthynesse sen
 Thanne preye I god thow peynted be also
 That men may rede forby as they go
 Lo this is he that with his flaterye 2540
 By-trisede hath & don hire vilenye
 That was his trewe loue In thought & dede
 But sothly of on poynt 3it may they rede
 That 3e ben lyk 3oure fadyr as In this 2544
 ffor he begilede Adriane I-wis
 With swich an art & with swich subtilete
 As thow thyn selue hast begylede me
 As In that poynt al thow it be nat fayr [leaf 478, back] 2548
 Thow folwist hym certayn & art his ayr
 But syn thus synfully 3e me be-gile
 Myn body mote 3e se with Inne a while
 Ryght In the hauene of Athenys fletynge 2552
 With-oute sepulture & berynge

They 3e ben hardyere than ony ston
 And whan this lettere was forth sent anon
 And knew how brothil & how fals he was 2556
 She for dispeyr fordede hyre self allas
 Swych sorwe hath she for she besette hire so
 Be war 3e wemen of 3oure subtyl fo
 Syn 3it this day men may ensauple se 2560
 And trustyth as In loue no man but me

[IX.]

[THE LEGEND OF HYPERMNESTRA.]

IN Grece whilom weren bretheryn two
 Of whiche that on was clepid Danao
 That manye a sone hath of his body wonne 2564
 As swiche false loueris ofte cumne
 A-mong hise sonys alle there was on
 That aldyrmost he louede of euerychon
 And whan this child was born this danao 2568
 Shop hym a name & callede hym Lyno
 That othir brothir was callid Egist
I That was of loue as fals as euere hym lest
 And manye a doughter gat he In his lyf 2572
 Of whiche he gat vp-on his ryghte wyf
 A doughtyr dere & dede hire for to calle
 Ypermystra 3yngeste of hem alle
 The whiche child of hire natyuyte 2576
 To alle thewis goode I-born was she
 As likede to the goddis er she was born
 That of the shef she shal be the corn
 The werdys that we clepyn destene 2580
 Hath shapyn hire that she mot nedis be
 Pyetous. sad. wis. & trewe as stel [leaf 479]
 As to these wemen It acordyth wel

ffor thow that <i>venus</i> 3af hire gret beute	2584
With <i>Iupiter</i> compounned so was she	
That concience trouthe & dred of shame	
And of hyre wifhod for to kepe hire name	
This thoughte hire was felycite as hire	2588
The rede Mars was that tyme of the 3eere	
So feble that his maleyce is hym be-raft	
Repressid hath <i>Venus</i> his crewel craft	
That what with <i>Venus</i> & othir oppressioun	2592
Of howses that Mars venym is a-down	
That <i>ypermystra</i> dar nat handele a knyf	
In maleyce thow she shulde lese hire lyf	
But natheles as heuene gan to turne	2596
To badde aspectys hath she of saturne	
That made hire for to turne In prisoun	
As I shal aftyr make menciouñ	
To Danao & Egistes also	2600
Al thow so be that they were bretheryn two	
ffor thilke tyme was sparyd no lynage	
It lykede hem to make a maryage	
By-twixe <i>ypermystre</i> & hym lyno	2604
And castyn swich a day it shal be so	
And ful acordit was it vttyrly	
The aray is wrought the tyme is faste by	
And thus lyno hath of his faderis brothir	2608
The daughter weddit & eche of hem hath othyr	
The torchis brennyñ & the laumpis bryght	
The sacryfises ben ful redy dight	
Thensens out of the fuyr out rekyth sote	2612
The flourys the lef is rent vp by the rote	
To makyn garlondis & croumyns hye	
fful is the place of soun of menstralsye	
Of songis amerous of maryage	2616
As tylke tyme was the pleyne vsage	
This was In the paleys of Egiste	
That In his hous was lord ryght as hym lyste	

And thus the day they dryve til an ende [leaf 479, back] 2620
 The frendys takyn leue & hom they wende
 The nyght is come the bryd shal go to bedde
 Egistus to his chambere faste hym spedde
 And priuily he let his doughtyr calle 2624
 Whan that the hous was voyd of hem alle
 He lokyth on his doughtyr with glad chere
 And to hire spak as ȝe shal aftyr here
 Myn ryghte doughter tresor of myn herte 2628
 Syn fyrst that day that shapyn was myn sherte
 Or by the fatal systeryn hadde myn dom
 So nygh myn herte neuere thyng ne com
 As thow myn ypermystre doughter dere 2632
 Tak hed what I thyn fadyr seyth the here
 And werke aftyr thyn wisere euere mo
 ffor aldirferst doughtyr I loue the so
 That al the world to me is half so lef 2636
 Ne I nolde rede the to thyn myschef
 ffor al the good vndyr the colde mone
 And what I mene It shal be seyde ful sone
 With protestacioun as in this wyse 2640
 That but thow do as I shal the deuyse
 Thow shalt be ded by hym that al hath wrought
 At shorte wordis thow nescapist nought
 Out of myn paleys or that thow be ded 2644
 But thow concente & werke aftyr myn red
 Tak this to the for ful conclusioun
 This ypermystre caste hire eyen down
 And quok as doth the lef of aspis grene 2648
 Ded wex hire hew & lyk an asch to sene
 And seyde lord & fadyr al ȝoure wille
 Aftyr myn myght god wot I shal fulfille
 So it to me be non confusioun 2652
 I nele quod he haue non excepcioun
 And out he caught a knyf as rasour kene
 Hid this quod he that it be nat sene

And whan thyn husbonde is to bedde go	2656
Whil that he slepith kit his throte atwo	
ffor In myne dremys it is warnede me	[leaf 480]
How that myn Neuw shal myn bane be	
But wit I nat wherfore I wele be sekyr	2660
If thow sey nay we two shul haue a bekyr	
As I haue seyde by hym that I haue sworn	
This Ipermystere hath nygh hire wit for-lorn	
And for to passyn harmles of that place	2664
She grauntyth hym ther is non othir grace	
And therwith al a costret takyth he	
And seyde herof a draught or two or thre	
3if hym drynke whan he goth to reste	2668
And he shal slepe as longe as euere the leste	
The narcotykis & opijs ben so stronge	
And goth thyn wey lyst that he thynkyth longe	
Out comyth the Bryd & with ful sobre cheere	2672
As is of maydenys ofte the manere	
To chaumbre is brought with reuel & with song	
And shortly list this tale be to long	
This lyno & she ben brought a bedde	2676
And euery wight out at the dore hym spedde	
The nyght is wastid & he fyl a slepe	
fful tendyrly begynnyth she to wepe	
She rist hire vp & dredfully sche quakyth	2680
As doth the braunche that sepherus shakyth	
And hust were alle In argon that cete	
And cold as ony frost now waxeth she	
ffor Pite by the herte hire streynyth so	2684
And drede of deth doth hire so meche wo	
And thryis doun she fyl in this awer	
She rist 3it vp & stakerith her & ther	
And on hire hondis faste lokyth she	2688
Allas & shal mynne hondis blody be	
I am a mayde & as by myn nature	
And bi myn semblaunt & by myn vesture	

Mynne handis ben nat shape for a knyf	2692
As for to reue no man fro his lyf	
What deuyll haue I with the knyf to do	
And shal I haue myn throte kerue a two	2695
Thanne shal I blede allas & me be shynde	[leaf 480, back]
And nedis cost this thyng muste haue an ende	
Or he or I mot nedis lese oure lyf	
Now certys quod she syn I am his wif	
And hath myn feyth 3it is it bet for me	2700
ffor to be ded In wify honeste	
Than ben a traytour lyuyng In myn shame	
Be as be may for earnest or for game	
He shal awake & ryse & gon his way	2704
Out at this goter or that it be day	
And wepe ful tenderly vp-on his face	
And In hyre armys gan hym to embrace	
And hym she roggith & a-wakyth softe	2708
And at a wyndow lep he fro the lofte	
Whan she hath warnede hym & don hym bote	
This lyno swift was & lyght of fote	
And from his wif ran a ful gret pas	2712
This sely weman is so weik allas	
And helpeles so that/ or that she forth wente	
Hire crewel fadyr dede hire for to hente	
Allas lyno whi art thow so vnkynde	2716
Why ne haddist thow remembred In thyn mynde	
To takyn hire & lad hire forth with the	
ffor whan she saw that gon a-wey was he	
And that she myghte nat so faste go	2720
Ne folwyn hym she set hire don ryght tho	
Til she was caught & fetered In prysoun	
This tale is seyde for this conclusioun	

[Unfinisht.]

[Here begynyth the parlement of ffoulyys.]

XII.

Truþ

FROM THE

ADDITIONAL MS. 10,340, BRITISH MUSEUM,

THE ONLY COPY WITH THE ENVOY.

TRUTH.

[Balade: -esse, -al, -ede.]

[Additional MS. 10,340, British Mus., leaf 41, vellum.]

(1)

Fle fro þe pres & dwelle wiþ soþefastnesse.	1
Suffise þin owen þing ^t þei it be smal.	
For horde haþe hate · & Clymbyng ^t tykelnesse.	
Prees haþe envye & wele blent ^t oueral.	4
Sauoure no more þanne þe byhoue schal,	
Reule weel þi self ^t þat ^t oþer folk ^t canst ^t reede,	
And troupe schal delyuere it ^t is no drede	7

(2)

Tempest ^t þe nouz ^t al croked to redresse	8
In trust ^t of ^t hire þat ^t toumeþ as a bal	
Myche wele stant ^t in litel besynesse	
Bywar þerfore to spurne aþeyns an al.	11
Stryue not ^t as doþe þe crokke wiþ þe wal	
Daunte þi self ^t þat ^t dauntest ^t oþeres dede	
And troupe shal delyuere it ^t is no drede.	14

(3)

þat ^t þe is sent ^t receyue in buxhumnesse	15
þe wrestlyng ^t for þe worlde axeþ a fal	
Here is non home here nys but ^t wyldernesse	
Forþe pylgryme forþe forþe beste out ^t of ^t þi stal	18
Knowe þi contre loke vp þonk ^t god of ^t al	
Holde þe heye weye & lat ^t þi gost ^t þe lede,	
And troupe shal delyuere it ^t is no drede.	21

[L'Envoy.]

þer-fore þou vache leue þine olde wrechedenesse	22
Vnto þe world. leue now to be þral.	
Crie hym mercy. þat ^t of ^t hys hie godnesse	
Made þe of ^t nouz ^t & in especial	25
Drawe vnto hym & pray in general	
For þe and eke for oþer heuenelyche mede	
And troupe schal delyuere it ^t is no drede	28

XIII.

The Complaynt of Venus

FROM

SHIRLEY'S MS. R. 3. 20, TRIN. COLL., CAMBR.

The Complaynt of Venus.

[Following the *Mars*, see *Parallel-Texts*, p. 121.][*Shirley's MS. R. 3. 20, Trin. Coll., Camb., leaf 139.*]

And flowing begynneþe · a balade translated out of
frenshe in to englysshe / by Chaucier Geffrey þe
frenshe made .*sir.* Otes de Grauntsome · knight ·
Savosyen /

(1) (*Tern I. 1: -aunce, -esse, -ure = oure, l. 23*)

Per nys / so hye. counfort / to my plesaunce / 1
Whane þat .I. am / in any hevynesse /
As for to haue leyser / of Remembraunce /
Vpōn þe manhoode / and þe worþynesse / 4
vpon þe trouthe / and þe stedfastnesse /
Of him whos I · am · / always whyle I · may dure /
þer aught to blamen me / no creature /
ffor he is croppē and roote / of gentylesse [from margin] 8

(2) (I. 2)

¶ In him is bountee / wysdam and gouernaunce / 9
Weel more þanne / any mannes wilt kan gesse
ffor grace haþe wolde / so ferfoorthe him auaunce /
þat of knighthoode / he is parfyt Rychchesse / 12
Honnour / honoureþe / him for his noblesse /
þer to so wel haþe / fortunēd him nature / [page 140]
þat I am his for euer / I him ensure /
ffor every wighþ / preyseþe his gentylesse / 16

(3) (I. 3)

¶ And noughþ withstanding / al his souffisaunce 17
His gentyle hert / is of so gret humblesse /
To me in worde in werk · in countenaunce /
And me to serue / is al his besynesse / 20
þat I am sette / in verray sikurnesse /
þus aught me wele / to blesse myn aventure
Sith þat him list / me seruen and honneure /
ffor every wighþ / preyseþe his gentylesse / 24

(4) (*Tern II. 1* : -able, -ing, -aunce)

¶ Nowe certes / <u>loue</u> / hit ^t is right ^t couenable	25
þat men ful soore abyē / þy noble thing ^t /	
As waake abedde / and ^t fasting ^t at þe table	
Weping ^t to laughē / and ^t sing ^t in compleyning ^t /	28
And ^t doune to caste / vysage and ^t looking ^t /	
Offtymes to change / huwe and ^t countenaunce /	
Pleye in sleping ^t / and ^t dremen at þe daunce /	
Al þe Reuers / of ^t any glaade felyng ^t	32

(5) (II. 2)

¶ þaughē <u>.Ialousye</u> wer hanged ^t by a Kable	33
Sheo wolde al knowe / thorughe hir ^t espyng ^t /	
þer dooþe no wight ^t / no thing ^t so Raysonnable /	
þat al nys harme / in hir Ymagynyng ^t	36
þus deere abough ^t / is love / in gyving ^t /	
Whiche offt / he gyveþe / with oute ordeynaunce	
As sorowe enoughe / and ^t lytel of ^t plesaunce	
Al þe Reuers / of ^t euery glaade · feeling ^t /	40

(6) (II. 3)

¶ A lytel tyme / his gyff ^t is agreable	41
But ful encumberous / is þe vsing ^t /	
ffor soutyle <u>.Ialousye</u> / þe deceyuable /	
fful often tymes / causeþe destourbing ^t /	44
þus beon we euer ^t / In dreed ^t souffering ^t /	
In noun certaine / we langwisshe in penaunce /	
And ^t haue wel offt / many an herd ^t meschaunce /	
Al þe Reuers / of euery glaade / feelyng ^t	48

(7) (*Tern III. 1* : -yse, -ente, -ay)

¶ But certes <u>loue</u> .I. say not / in suche wyse / [page 141]	49
þat for teschape / oute of youre lace / I ment /	
ffor I so long / haue beon in youre servyce /	
þat for to leet / of ^t wol I neuer assente	52
No force / þaughē <u>.Ialousye</u> / me more tourment ^t	
Souffiseþe me / to seon him. whane I may	
And ^t þefore certes / vn to myn ending ^t day	
To love him best / ne shal I. neuer. Repent ^t	56

(8) (III. 2)

¶ And certes love / whanne I. me weel avyse 57
 On any estate / þat man may. represent'
 þane haue yee madeð me / thorughe youre fraunchyse
 Cheese þe best/ þat euer / on eorþe went' 60
 Nowe loue weele hert / and looke þou neuer stent'
 And let þe Ialouse / put it' nowe in assaye /
 þat for no peyne · ne shal I .neuer sey naye /
 To love him best' / ne neuer to Repent' 64

(9) (III. 3)

¶ Hert to þe hit aught / enoughe souffyse / 65
 þat loue so hye a grace / haþe to þee sent/
 To cheese þe woþyest' / of alle wyse /
 And mooste agreeable / vn to myn entent'/ 68
 Seeche nowe no firþer / neyþer wey ner went' /
 Sythe ·I haue souffysaunce / vn to my paye /
 þus wol I. eonde þis compleynt' or þis laye /
 And loue him best' / and neuer to Repent' 72

(10) / Lenvoye./ (-e, -aunce)

¶ Prynmesse · resceyueþe / þis complaynt in gree 73
 Vn to youre excellent' benignytee /
 Dyrect / affter/ my lytel souffysaunce /
 ffor eelde þat in my spiryt doulleþe me / 76
 Haþe of þendyting' / al þe subtylytee
 Welnyeghe byrafft' / out of my · remembraunce
 And eeke to me / it is right gret penaunce /
 Sith. ryme in englisshe / haþe suche skarsytee / 80
 To folowen word' by word' þe curyosytee /
 Of Graunsome / flou' / of hem þat make in ffrance /

[p. 142] ¶ Hit is sayde þat Graunsome made þis Last balade
 for Venus resembled to my lady of york. answering'
 þe complaynt of Mars /

[Chaucer's Fortune follows: see the Parallel-Text, p. 440.]

XIV.

Emboy to Scogan

FROM

MS. Gg. 4. 27, UNIVERSITY LIBRARY,
CAMBRIDGE.



ENVOY TO SCOGAN.

[MS. Gg. 4. 27, Univ. Libr. Cambr., leaf 7, back.]

Litera directa de Scogon per .G. C.

(1) (*Tern* I. 1)

<p>TO-brokene ben þ^{e1} statutis in heuene þat creat were eternally to dure Syn þat I se þ^e bryzte goddis seuene Mow wepe & wayle and pascioun endure As may in erþe a mortal creature Allas from whens may þis þyng procede Of whiche error I deye almost for drede</p>	<p>[¹ the <i>in corrector's</i> <i>hand</i>]</p> <p>4</p> <p>7</p>
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(2) (I. 2)

<p>Be word eterne whillhom was it schape² þat from þe fifte serkele in no manere Ne myzte a drope of teeris doun escape But now so wepyth venus in his spere þat with hire teris sche wele drenche vs here Allas skogon þis is for þyn offence þu causist þis deluuye² of pestelence</p>	<p>[leaf 8]</p> <p>[² schape <i>in corrector's</i> <i>hand</i>]</p> <p>11</p> <p>[³ uye <i>corrected</i>] 14</p>
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(3) (I. 3)

<p>¶ Hast þu not seyde in blasphemie of þe goddis þour pride or þour þyn grete recheles-nesse Swich þyng as in þe lawe of loue forbodyn is þat for þyn ladi saw not þyn distresse þefore þou zeue hire vp at mychelmesse Allas scogon of olde folk no þong Was neuere erst Scogon blamyd for his tong</p>	<p>15</p> <p>18</p> <p>21</p>
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(4) (*Tern* II. 1)

¶ þow drow in scorn cupid ek to record 22
 Of þe ilke rebel word þat þou hast spoken
 For whiche he wele no lengere be þyn lord
 And þow his bowe Scogon benot broken 25
 He wil not *wiþ* his arwis ben I-wroken
 On þ^e ne me ne none of oure figure
 We schal of *him* haue neyþer hurt ne cure 28

(5) (II. 2)

¶ Now sertys frend I drede of thyn onhap 29
 Lest for þyn gilt þe wreche of loue procede
 On alle *hem* þat ben hore & round of schap
 þat ben so likly folk in loue to spede 32
 þanne schal we for oure labour han no mede
 But wel I wit þou wilt answeere & seye
 Lo olde grisil leste to ryme & pleye 35

(6) (II. 3)

¶ Nay Scogon sey not so for I me excuse 36
 God helpe me so in no rym douteles
 Ne þynke I neuere of slep to wake myn muse
 þat rustyþ in myn schede style in pes 39
 Whil I was 3ong I putte it forþ in pres
 But al schal passyn þat men prose or ryme
 Tak *euery* man his torn as for his tyme 42

(7) (*Lenvoy*)

Scogon þat knelist at þe wellis hed [leaf 8, back]
 Of grace of alle honour and worþynesse .i. Wyndisore
 In þe ende of wich strem I am dul as ded [s. corr.]
 Forgete in solitarie wildirnes .i. a Grenewych 46
 3it Scogon þyng on tullius kyndenes
 Mynewe þyn frend þere it may fructifie
 Farewel & loke þou neuere eft loue defye 49

XV.

Marriage, or Bukton

FROM

FAIRFAX MS. 16, BODLEIAN LIBRARY.



MARRIAGE, OR BUKTON.

[*Fairfax MS. 16, leaf 193, back.*]

¶ Lenvoy de Chaucer A Bukton. /

1.

My maister Bukton / whan of Criste our kyng	1
Was axed / what ys trouthe or sothefastnesse	
He nat a worde answerde / to that axinge	
As who saith / noo man is al trew I gesse	4
And therefore though I hight / to expresse	
The sorwe and woo / that is in mariage	
I dar not writen of hyt / noo wikkednesse	
Leste y my-self falle eft / in swich dotage	8

2.

I wol nat seyn / how that hyt is the cheyne	9
Of Sathanas / on which he gnaweth euere	
But I dar seyn / were he oute of his peyne	
As by his wille / he wolde be bounde nevere	12
But thilke doted foole / that ofte hath leuere	[leaf 194]
Y-cheyned be / than out of prison crepe	
God lete him neuer / fro his woo disseuere	
Ne noo man him bewayle / though he wepe	16

3.

But yet lest thou doo worse / take a wyfe	17
Bet ys to wedde / than brenne in worse wise	
But thou shalt have sorwe / on thy flesshe thy lyfe	
And ben thy wifes thral / as seyn these wise	20
And yf that hooly writte / may nat suffice	
Experience shal the teche / so may happe	
That the were lever / to be take in ffrise	
Than eft falle of weddyng / in the trappe	24

4. (*Envoy.*)

This lytel writte / prouerbes or figure	25
I sende yow / take kepe of hyt I rede	
Vnwise is he / that kan noo wele endure	
Yf thow be siker / put the nat in drede	28
The wyfe of Bathe / I pray yow that ye rede	
Of this matere / that we haue on honde	
God graunte yow your lyfe / frely to lede	
In fredam for ful harde it is / to be bonde	32

¶ **Explicit/**[*Follows* :—

¶ Better is to suffre / and fortune abyde
 And hastely to clymbe / and sodeynly to slyde
*And then Chaucer's Balade of 'Stedfastness', printed
 in the Parallel-Text, p. 435.]*

XVI.

Gentillesse.

A BALADE, WITHOUT ENVOY,

FROM

SHIRLEY'S ASHMOLE MS. 59, BODLEIAN LIBRARY.

[This *Balade* occurs in a Moral Poem by Henry Scogan to Henry
IV.'s sons. See the *Parallel-Text*, p. 427.]

GENTILESSE.

[*Shirley's Ashmole MS. 59, leaf 27.*](Headings to leaves 26 b & 27.) "Balade by Scoggan /
// To þe Kynges sonnes."// Geoffrey Chaucier made þeos thre balades nexst þat
folowen // [*in margin*]

(1) (-esse, -e, -eme)

♡ þe first fader / and foundour¹ of gentylesse / 1
 What man þat claymeþe / gentyle for to be /
 Moste felowe heos traas / and alle heos wittes dresse /
 Vertue to suwe and vyces / for to flee / 4
 For vn-to vertue longeþe dignytee /
 And nouȝt þe reverse / sauely dar I. deeme /
 Al were he mytre crowne / or dyademe / 7

(2)

♡ þis first stocke / was grounde of rightwysnesse / 8
 Truwe of his worde / sobur pitous and fre
 Clene of his gooste / and loved besynesse
 Ageinst þe vice of slouþe / in honestee 11
 And but his heyre / love vertue as did he
 He nys not gentyle / þaugh he him ryche seeme
 Al were he mytre / crowne or dyademe / 14

(3)

♡ Vyce may wele be / an heyre til olde Richchesse 15
 But þere may noman / as þou maist wele seeme
 Beqweyþe his heyre / his vertuous noblesse / [*Nam genus
et proanos et
que non feci-
mus ipsi Vix ea
nostra voco.
in a late hand*]
 þat is appropred / vn-to no degree
 But to first fader / in magestee /
 þat maþe his heyre / him þat wol him qweme
 Al were he mytre crowne or dyademe / 21

[*No Envoy quoted, or known to exist.*]

XVII.

Proverbs

FROM

SHIRLEY'S MS. ADDITIONAL 16,165,
BRITISH MUSEUM.

PROVERBS.

[*Shirley's MS. Addit. 16,165, leaf 246, back.*]

¶ Prouerbe.

(1) [*Question*]

¶ What shal þees cloþes þus many fold^t
Loo þis hoote / somers day / 2

[*Answer*]

Affter heet/ komeþe cold^t
No man cast his pilchehe away / 4

[*Quod Chaucer*]

(2) [*Complaint*]

¶ Of þis worlde / þe wyde compas /
Hit wol not / in myn armes tweyne / 6

[*Answer*]

Who so mychel wol embrace /
Lytel þer-of he shal destreyne / 8

[*Quod Chaucer*]

XVIII.

Lack of Stedfastness.

A BALADE.

FROM

THE HARLEIAN MS. 7333,

SHIRLEY'S, OR COPIED FROM SHIRLEY.



LACK OF STEDFASTNESS.

[Harl. 7333, leaf 147, back: vellum: from Shirley.]

This balade made Geffrey Chaunciers the Laureau
 Poete Of Albion and sent it to his souerain lorde
 kynge Richarde the secoude pane being/ in his
 CasteH of/ Windesore/

(1) (-able, -oun, -esse)

Syme tyme this worlde was so stedfaste & stable/ 1
 That manis worde was holde obligacion
 And nowe it is fals & deseuyable
 þat worde and werke as in conclusion 4
 Beon noo thyng oon for tvmid vp so downe
 Is all þis worlde / thorowe mede & wylfulnesse
 þat al is loste for lac of stedfastnesse 7

(2)

What made this worlde to be so variable 8
 But louste þat folke / haue in discencion
 For nowe adayes / a man is holde vnable
 But yf he can by sume collucione 11
 Do his neyghtboure wronge or oppression
 What causithe this but wilfuH wrecchednesse /
 þat al is loste for lac off^h stedfastnesse 14

(3)

Trowthe is þus downe raisonne is holden fable 15
 Vertu hathe nowe no dominacion
 Pite Exiled^h no wight is merciable
 þorow Covetyse is blent deserescioun 18
 þe worlde hathe made permutacion
 From Right to wronge frome trowght to fekylnesse
 þat all is lost ffor lac of Stedfastnesse/ 21

Lenvoye /

O prince desire for to beo honourable	22
Cherishe thi folke and hate extorcione	
Suffre noo thing þat may beo Reprovable	[col. 2]
To thin Estate / doone in thi Regyoune	25
Shewe forþe þy swerde of castigacioune	
Drede god do lawe / love thorow aH goodnesse	
And drive thi peple ageyne to stedfastnesse	28

XIX.

Fortune.

(THREE *BALADES*, WITH AN ENVOY.)

FROM

MS. II. 3. 21, CAMBR. UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.

FORTUNE.

[*Camb. Univ. MS. II. 3. 21, vellum.*][*In this MS. of Chaucer's Boece, his Former Age and Fortune come in between the Fifth Metre and the Sixth Prose.*]

Causer/ Balades de vilage sanz peinture.

(1) (I. 1) (-oun, -our, -ye)

¶ This wrecched worlde-is transmutacioun [leaf 53] 1
 as wele / or wo / now poeere and now honour
 with-owten ordyr or wis descreyoun
 gouerned is by fortunes erroure 4
 but natheles the lakke of hyr fauowr'
 ne may nat don me syngen thowh .I. deye
 Iay tout perdu moñ temps et moñ labour [leaf 53, back]
 For fynaly fortune .I. the deffye 8

(2) (I. 2)

¶ yit is me left the lyht of my resoun 9
 to knowen frend fro foe in thi merowr'
 So mochel hath yit thy whirlynge vp and down
 I-tawht me for to knowe in an howr' 12
 but trewely no fors of thi reddowr'
 to hym þat ouer hym self hath the maystrye
 My suffysaunce shal be my socour'
 For fynaly fortune I. thee deffye 16

(3) (I. 3)

¶ O Socrates þou stidfast chaumpyoun 17
 she neuer myht be thi tormentowr'
 thow neuer dreddest hyr oppressyoun
 ne in hyr chere fownde thow no sauour' 20
 thow knewe wel the desepte of hyr colour'
 And þat hir' most worshipe is to lye
 I knew hir ek a fals dissimulour'
 For fynaly fortune .I. the deffye 24

(4) (II. 1) (-ene, -aunce, -yue)

Le responce de fortune a pleintif

¶ No man ys wrechchyd but hym self yt wene 25
And he þat hath hym self hat suffisaunce
 Whi seysthow thanne y am [to] the so kene
 þat hast thy self owt of my gouernaunce 28
 Sey thus graunt *mercy* of thyn haboundaunce
 that thou hast lent or this why wolt þou stryue
 what woost thou yit how y the wol auaunce
And ek thou hast thy beste frende a lyue 32

(5) (II. 2)

¶ I haue the tawht deuisyoun by-twene 33
 Frend of effect *and* frende of cowntenaunce
 The nedeth nat the galle of no hyene
 þat cureth eyen derkyd for penaunce 36
 Now se[ist]¹ thow cleer þat weere in ignoraunce
 yit halt thin anere *and* yit thou mayst aryue [¹ se[ist]—partly
 crast, and ist
 written on it in
 a later hand.]
 ther bownte berth the keye of my substaunce
And ek þou hast thy beste frende alyue 40

(6) (II. 3)

¶ How manye haue .I. refused to sustigne² [² igne of sustigne
 is in a later hand.]
 Syn .I. the fostred haue in thy plesaunce
 Wolthow thanne make a statute on þy quyene
 þat .I. shal ben ay at thy ordynaunce 44
 thow born art in my regne of varyaunce
 abowte the wheel *with* oother most thou dryue
 My loore is bet than wikke is thi greuaunce
And ek þou hast thy beste frende a-lyue 48

(7) (III. 1) (-e, -esse, -ayle)

Le Responce du pleintif coudre fortune

¶ Thy loore y dempne / it is aduersyte [leaf 54] 49
 My frend maysthow nat reuen blynde goddessse
 þat .I. thy frendes knowe .I. thanke to the
 Tak hem agayn / lat hem go lye on presse 52
 the negardye in keypyng hyr rychesse
 prenostik is thou wolt hir' towr' asayle
 wikke appetyt comth ay before sykenesse
 in general this rewle may nat fayle 56

(8) (III. 2) **Le responce de fortune cowntre le pleintif**

¶ Thow pynchest at my mutabylyte 57
 For .I. the lente a drope of my rychesse
 And now me lykyth to *with*-drawe me
 whi sholdysthow my realte apresse 60
 the see may ebbe *and* flowen moore or lesse
 the welkne hath myht to shyne reyne or hayle
 ryht so mot .I. kythen my brutelnesse
 in general this rewle may nat fayle 64

(9) (III. 3) **Le pleintif**

¶ Lo excussyoun of the maieste 65
pat al purueyeth of his ryhtwysnesse
 that same thinge fortune clepyn ye
 Ye blynde beestys ful of lewednesse 68
 the heuene hath *proprete* of sykyrnesse
 this world hath *euer* resteles trauayle
 thy laste day is ende of myn inter[e]sse
 in general this rewele may nat fayle 72

(10) **Lenuoy de fortune** (*-esse, -eyne*)

¶ Prynnes .I. prey yow of yowre gentileesses 73
 Lat nat this man on me thus crye *and* pleyne
 And .I. shal quyte yow yowre bysynesse
 at my requeste as thre of yow or tweyne 76
pat but yow lest releue hym of hys peyne
 preyeth hys best frend of his noblesse
 That to som betere estat he may attayne 79

XX.

Nurse,

A BALADE,

FROM

FAIRFAX MS. 16, BODLEIAN LIBRARY.

PURSE.

[Fairfax MS. 16, leaf 193.]

¶ The complaynt of Chaucer to his Purse

(1)

To yow my purse / and to noon other wight ^t	nota	1
Complayn I / for ye be my lady dere		
I am so sory now / that ye been lyght ^t		
ffor certes but yf ye make me / hevy chere		4
Me were as leef be layde / vpon my bere		
ffor whiche vnto your mercy / thus I crye		
Beeth hevy ageyne / or elles mote I dye		7

(2)

Now voucheth-sauf this day / or hyt be nyght ^t		8
That I of yow / the blisful sovne may here	[leaf 193, back]	
Or see your colour lyke / the sonne bryght ^t		
That of yelownesse / hadde neuer pere		11
Ye be my lyfe / ye be myn hertys stere		
Quene of comfort / and of good companye		
Beth hevy ayeyne / or elles moote I dye		14

(3)

Now purse that ben to me / my lyves lyght ^t		15
And saveour / as doun in this worlde here		
Oute of this tovne / helpe me thurgh your myght ^t		
Syn that ye wole nat bene / my tresorere		18
For I am shave as nye / as is a ffrere		
But yet I pray / vnto your curtesye		
Bethe hevy ayen / or elles moote I dye		21

¶ Lenvoy de Chaucer./

O conquerour / of Brutes albyon		22
Whiche that by lygne / and free eleccion		
Been verray kyng / this song to yow I sende		
And ye that mowen / alle myn harme amende		
Haue mynde / vpon my supplicacion		26

RYME-INDEX

TO THE MANUSCRIPT TEXTS

OF

Chaucer's Minor Poems.



RYME - INDEX

TO

THE MANUSCRIPT TEXTS

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Chaucer's Minor Poems.

BY

MISS ISABEL MARSHALL
& MISS LELA PORTER.

WITH

AN INTRODUCTION AND AN APPENDIX OF RYME-INDEXES
TO SOME SPURIOUS POEMS

BY

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INTRODUCTION.

As I have been asked by Dr. Furnivall to write a few words, by way of Preface to the present volume, I have much pleasure in doing so, chiefly out of gratitude to the compilers of this Index, Miss Isabel Marshall and Miss Lela Porter, who for many years gave their scanty leisure to this dull and laborious work, out of their love for Chaucer, and their desire to help earnest students of him.

The value of a Ryme-Index is not, perhaps, apparent on the surface to all lovers of Chaucer. But to the student of language, and above all, to an editor, it is a most precious boon, for many reasons. Of these perhaps the chief is, that it is only by such help that we can get back to the pronounciation of Chaucer himself, and can check the mistakes that may be made, even in his language, by the various scribes. It is not easy to realise, at first, that none of the extant MSS. do more, at best, than give us the right *words*. The right pronounciation is a matter of inference, to be gathered partly from the usage of the best scribes, and partly from the still more valuable evidence afforded us by the use of Ryme-Indexes. In attempting to edit Chaucer's *Minor Poems*, I soon found that Mr. Cromie's Ryme-Index to the *Canterbury Tales* was indispensable, especially in the absence of the present volume, which would obviously have been of the highest service. Even the scribes themselves frequently respect the rimes to the extent of spelling *final* words more carefully; it is

not at all uncommon to find that they carelessly use the spelling *eye* for 'eye' in the *middle* of a line, but at the *end* of it frequently (but not invariably) feel themselves compelled, for very shame, to use either *ye* (= *y-ë*), the true form, or some such variant of it as *iye*, *yhe*, or *ihe*, because the diphthong *ey* would not ryme.

This is not the place to enlarge upon this matter, or it would be easy to write a long essay to show what certain, what trustworthy results can be obtained by the constant use of a Ryme-Index, and in no other way. We can thus settle points of grammar and pronunciation, and even decide without hesitation upon the correct readings in many passages, where we should otherwise have no sure guide, and should have to depend upon mere guess-work. Perhaps an example may make this clearer.

In the Second Nunnes Tale, G 533, we find, in most MSS., the following passage—

But half-deed, with hir nekke y-coruen there
 He lefte hir lye, and on his wey he went.
 The cristen folk, which that aboute hir were,
 With sheetes han the blood ful faire yhent ;
 Thre dayes liued she in this torment, &c.

Now we learn, from the Ryme-Index, that we have here an *impossible* ryme. Chaucer's word for 'he went' is *he went-e*, where *went-e* is dissyllabic, and cannot possibly ryme with *yhent* and *torment* ; and therefore cannot be the right word. The solution is fortunately given by the excellent Cambridge MS., which offers us the alternative reading *is went*, which alone is correct. The past *participle* of a weak verb has no final *e*, whereas the past *tense* takes one. This may seem, at first, a small matter ; but it ceases to become so when we find that so good an editor as Tyrwhitt was unaware of this elementary grammatical fact, and has given us quite a large number, probably *several hundred*, grotesque and impossible spellings of Chaucerian words, in consequence of his neglect of this one rule. A Ryme-Index would have saved him from this.

Many absurd theories have been founded on an ignorance of Chaucer's rymes. One is, that Chaucer used rymes in his early poems different from those which he used in his Tales; and therefore we must not reject certain poems because the rymes are unlike those of the Tales. For my own part, I believe there is not a particle of truth in the assumption, and that it will be henceforth dead, killed by the facts recorded in the present volume; and a good thing too! Let us take, for example, one of his earliest poems, the Book of the Duchess, and look at his rymes in *-ent* or *-ente*, just the very point I have already illustrated. The result is full of instruction to those who have the wit to learn.

The list is *element, firmament*, 693; *enchaumentement, y-blent*, pp., 647; *stent, went*, perf., 153, 357; *went*, s., *went*, perf., 397. Also *entente, rente*, 765.

Here the scoffer naturally, in his ignorance, pounces on the rymes *stent, went*, as examples of the perfect tense in which the final *e* is wanting; but a moment's reflection will show where the fallacy lies. The final *e* is merely wanting through the scribe's ignorance; let us get back to Chaucer's *own usage*, and the matter looks very different. The rymes *element, firmament*, 693; *enchaumentement, y-blent*, pp., 647, are quite correct as they stand, and are true rymes in *-ent*. Again, *entente, rente* are correct, being true rymes in *-ente*. We now have only to look at the rest.

'Went,' as a past tense, should be *went-e*; only, if it is, it would require that we should also have *stente* as a past tense in ll. 153, 357, and *wente* as a sb. in l. 398.

And first, as to *stente* in 153, 357. It is the past tense of a weak verb, and therefore takes its final *e* as a matter of course; in other words, the ryme is right enough, in spite of the scribe. It is delicious to find that he has recorded the truth, as against himself, and quite unconsciously. *Wente, stente* are the true Chaucerian forms.

And next, as to *wente*, sb., in l. 398. Well, it is a

dative case, to begin with, and moreover we find that Chaucer frequently uses oblique case-forms even in the nominative. The true reading is—

And I him folwed, and hit forth went-e
Doun by a floury gren-e went-e.

The scribe of the Fairfax MS. convicts himself of ignorance of the rules of phonetic spelling yet once more *in the very same line*. For, having amused himself by *cutting off* the final *e* in *wente*, he makes up for it by *adding* an impossible final *e* to *forth*, thus producing the form *forth-e*, though *forth* was never a dissyllable in the whole course of its life.

Surely this shows what constant need there is for continually checking the scribal forms by reference to the usage of the author.

We may learn even another lesson here, with respect to the sb. *went-e*. It is, that Chaucer often rymes words that are pronounced alike, if their meanings be different. If we turn to the rymes in the House of Fame, we again find, in the Index, *went*, n. obl., *went*, 3 pl. perf., 181. Here we actually find the scribe trying to impose upon us the form *went* in the past tense *plural*, which is even more absurd, if possible, than in the past tense singular. He is again wrong, and again we find the sb. *went-e* in the dative case.¹

And in a forest, as they *went-e*,
At a turning of a *went-e*.

A *went* is a path, and an editor should know this fact, and should know Chaucer's use of it. Otherwise, he may be tempted to 'correct' it, even as Dr. Sweet, in an unguarded moment, has actually done in the passage from the Book of the Duchess, by discarding *wente* in favour of *bente*, to the detriment of the sense (Second Eng. Primer, p. 43, l. 108). This comes of neglecting the usage of the

¹ *Went-e*, pt. t., again rymes with *went-e*, dat. case of sb., in Troilus, iii. 788 (or iii. 736, ed. Morris).

author, who *allows* himself to use repetitions instead of rymes.

I must not weary the reader with such instances; but I cannot refrain from pointing out yet one more scribal error in the Hous of Fame, viz. the ryme of *went* with *entent* in ll. 2000, 2132. Of course it should be *went-e*, *entent-e*. Now please just to observe, that the form *entent-e* was *correctly* given in the Book of the Duchess, as already cited. This is how the scribes contradict themselves. And then the very same man correctly writes *entent-es* (and not *entent-s*) in l. 1267!

We shall now be able to perceive, at our leisure and with all security, that Chaucer's rymes in his Minor Poems are much the same as those in his Tales; which is a great comfort. I cannot conclude without again recording my deep sense of obligation to the faithfulness and perseverance of the workers—Miss Isabel Marshall and Miss Lela Porter—who have brought together for our use this valuable mass of evidence. They are not responsible for the mistakes of the scribes, which, indeed, are really of no consequence, as they are easily corrected to the true Chaucerian forms. The fact that Chaucer rymes such and such *words* is the sole material fact, and this we are here told.

I am responsible for the Ryme-Indexes, at the end of the volume, to some of the spurious poems. As these are of less consequence, I have contented myself with giving the results in a much abbreviated form, by recording only the suffixes, and not the words. This method is less useful, but I hope it may suffice.

WALTER W. SKEAT.

POSTSCRIPT ON "THE ROMAUNT OF
THE ROSE."

IN my essay entitled 'Why the Romaunt of the Rose is not Chaucer's,' published by the Chaucer Society in 1884, I had no difficulty in showing that this poem contains a large number of rymes such as Chaucer never uses.

But the essay was founded on the assumption that the whole of the poem, as now extant, is by *one* hand. This supposition requires revision.

At the outset, the Glasgow MS. is obviously made up of two distinct fragments, which I shall call A and B. Fragment A contains lines 1—5813 (in Morris's edition); and fragment B contains lines 5814—7698. Between lines 5813 and 5814 is a great gap; for, whereas line 5813 answers to l. 5169 of the French text, ed. Méon, line 5814 answers to l. 10714 of the same.¹ And when we examine the fragments A and B more closely, we find great differences. Fragment B, for example, is nearly free from the frequent Northernisms that occur in A. Hence we may fairly assume, as was shown by Lindner (*Englische Studien*, xi. 163) that the two fragments are by different hands. Lindner further says, that fragment B, at any rate, is not Chaucer's; with which I agree.

We can go yet further. In *The Academy* (July, 1890), the important announcement was made that Dr. Max Kaluza, in carefully comparing fragment A with the French text, had discovered that even *this* portion is not all by one

¹ The numbering in Michel's edition is different, and is entirely useless. The printers have numbered the lines so carelessly as to miss, in one page, some hundreds of lines at a time.

hand. It may be divided into two parts, called A 1 and A 2; A 1 ending at l. 1704 (or thereabouts).¹ A 2 abounds in Northernisms, and cannot be Chaucer's; but (with all thankfulness to Dr. Kaluza be it said) A 1 may really be his very own! This is surely a highly interesting discovery.

The result (if right) stands thus. The existing version consists of *three* fragments, all by different hands. These are:—

A 1; ll. 1—1704. Probably by Chaucer.

A 2; ll. 1705—5813. By a Northern writer.

B; ll. 5814—*end.* By an inferior hand.

It remains to test these results by the Ryme-Index. We at once see that A 2 abounds in non-Chaucerian rymes; I need not give instances, for I have already given them abundantly. Most of my examples were taken from this fragment, which is much the largest one.

In fragment B, we find, in the very third line, that the past tense plural *fil-le* is rymed with *til*. In l. 6108, we find *atte last-e* (as it would be in Chaucer) ryming with the pp. *agast*. In l. 6431, we find the dreadful ryme: *pacience, vengeance*; in ll. 6471, the false ryme: *force, croce*; and so on. I shall not go further; the reader can look about for himself.

I consider that my original proposition, that 'The Romaunt of the Rose is not Chaucer's,' is fairly justified; for it is true as regards ll. 1705—7698 (5993 lines out of 7698, or considerably *more than three-fourths* of the whole).

And now, as to A 1. The doubtful rymes are here so few, that they can soon be pointed out and discussed.

We must not go by the MS. spelling, but by Chaucerian forms; thus, at l. 29, we find the ryme *befal* : *all*. It should be *befal-le, al-le*; and it is all right. And so in other cases.

¹ At l. 1705 is a non-Chaucerian ryme, viz. *aboute, swote*.

The chief difficulties are the following.

55; *bene, wrene*. Read *been, wreen*. *Been* is the infinitive mood. *Wreen*, to cover, is the same. We should have expected the form *wryen*; cf. Six-text, A. 3283; but *wreen* is a legitimate form, for A.S. *wrēon*. At l. 759, read *seen, been*; at l. 1101, read *been, seen*.

61; *forgette, sette*. Read *forget, set*. Here *forget* is the contracted form of the third pers. sing. pres. indicative; mod. E. 'forgetteth.' It is quite right; cf. *voryet*, Ayenb. of Inwyt, p. 18, l. 18.

63; *proude, shroude*. Read *proud, shroud*. And so at l. 97, read *drough, ynough*.

113; *ryvere, nere*. Read *ryveer, neer*. In Chaucer, *ryveer* rymes with *deer*, Cant. Tales, B. 1927; and *neer* with *yeer*, G. 720; which suffices. So again, at l. 123, read *ryveer, cleer*; cf. *C. T. F.* 47.

165; *Felony, Vilany*. Read *Felony-e, Vileiny-e*; it is all right. See l. 977.

167; *fonde, honde*. Read *fond, hond*. And so in l. 729. So also, at ll. 203, 263, read *wood, good*, instead of *wode, gode*; at l. 221, *torn, biforn*, instead of *torne, biforne*; &c.

249; *favede, herede*. Read *ferde, herde*, as in *C. T. A.* 1371; a very interesting example. So again, at ll. 500, 673.

269; *enemye, hardelye*. Read *enemy, hardely*.

291; *awrie, baggingly*. Read *awry*.

335; *pytye, she*. Read *pite*, as usual; cf. l. 1225.

387; *shalle, alle*. Read *shal, al*. (For *frette*, read *fret*.) So in l. 711.

437; *faire, pl., haire* (a hair shirt). *Haire* is right; it is in the F. original.

451; *wolde, solde*. I note that *wolde* is the dative of *wold*, power.

459; *mantelle, delle*. Read *mantel, del*.

471; *fedde, cledde*. Read *fed, pp.*; *y-cled, pp.* Cf. Book Duch. 252.

481; *gardyne, therynne*; cf. ll. 699, 1279. Read *gardin, therin*; see 511.

505; *care, were*; a false ryme. For *were* read *fare*?

509; *synge, weymentyng*. Read *singe*, infin.; *weyment-inge*, dative.

511; *engyne, gardyne*. Read *engyn, gardyn*. Note that the prep. *in* rymes with *gyn* (short for *engyn*) in *C. T. G.* 1164. See 481 (above).

567; *mirrou, tresour*. Read *mirour* (*Squi. Tale*), *tresour*; see l. 1605. This is a real difficulty; *tresour* (French *tressure*) should rather have been *tressure*; cf. l. 599. However, the O.F. *armeure* was turned into E. *armour*, and there is the well-known difficulty about the ryme of *aventure* and *honoure* in the *Complaint of Venus*, 22.

591; *daungerous, thus*; see ll. 1491, 1601. Cf. *vicious, thus*; *C. T. D.* 2048.

603; *fette, sette*. Read *fet, y-set*.

673; *herd, ferde*. Read *herde, ferde*; cf. ll. 249, 500.

685; *synge, unkunnyng*. Read *singe*, infin.; *unkun-ninge*, pl.

769; *tymbester, swere*. Read *timbestere, swere*.

851; *made, hadde*. Read *made, hade*; see *C. T. A.* 554, 617.

873; *samet, delit*. Read *samyt, delyt*.

875; *werede, ferede*. Pronounced *wer'de, fer'de*.

885; *preyse, devise*. Read *pryse, devyse*.

908; *sette, chapelett*. Read *set, chapelet*.

933; *twythen, writen*. Read *thwiten, writen*.

945; *welle, stelle*. Read *weel, steel*; see *Parl. Foules*, 395.

953; *lasse, simplesse*. Read *lesse*.

1103; *fyne, satyne*. Read *fyn, satyn*; see 1557.

1125; *stone, shone*. Read *stoon, shoon*; see 1555.

1187; *fresh, sarlynysh*. Read *fresh, sarsinesh*. The latter word is due to F. *sarrezinesche* in the original.

1201; *gounfaucoun* (!), *renoun*. Read *gonfanoun*; the original has *gonfaunon*. See l. 2018 below.

1227; *bistadde, adradde*. Read *bistad, adrad*.

1259; *answere, hire*. Read *here*; cf. *C. T. A.* 2057.

1313; *loreyes, oliveris*. Read *loreres* (*F. loriers*), *oliveres*. And again read *oliveres* in l. 1381.

1341. (See this discussed below.)

1357. *lyke, sike*. Ch. has *syke*, Ho. Fame, 1270.

1375; *chesteyns, fayne is*. Read *chesteynes, fayn is*.

1387; *it, yet*. Read *yit*; as usual. See l. 871.

1397; *knytte, sytte*. Read *knet, set*; as in Parl. Foules, 627, 628.

1405; *clapers, maners*. Read *claperes, maneres*.

1413; *devyse, condyse*. Read *devys, condys*. Here *condys* is the pl. of *condyt*, a conduit; see *conduit* in Mätzner, who cites the pl. *condwys*, from the Ayenbite of Inwyt, p. 91. Similarly, Chaucer has *avocas* as the pl. of *avocat*, *C. T. C.* 291, ryming with *allas*.

1453; *dere, nere*. Read *deer, neer*; cf. l. 113.

1489; *dide, preide*. Read *deyde, preyde*; cf. *C. T. E.* 550.

1515, &c. Read *straughte, draughte, sene* (adj. visible), *shene, abayshed, betrayshed*.

1525; *beere, there*. Read *bere, there*. I take *bere* to be in the subjunctive mood, as in *C. T. A.* 2256.

1579; *cristalle, overalle*. Read *crystal, overal*.

1617; *seed, rede*. Read *seed, reed*.

1621; *panters, bachelers*. Read *panteres, bacheleres*.

1641. Read *For sithen I had sore syked*.

1652. Read *enclos is*; where *enclos* is the F. pp.

Most of the above difficulties are due to the scribe, and are positive mistakes. It is significant that, as soon as the spellings are reduced to the usual Chaucerian forms, the rymes become perfect. A careful perusal of these instances will show that the difficulties practically vanish. Of those that at last remain, the most notable are only *two*. These

are the rymes *mirour, tresour*, at l. 567, where we should have expected *tressure*, as noted above; and the rymes at l. 1341. The passage stands thus:—

If so be that he hadde me shette.
For, if I with his arowe mette,
It hadde me greved sore, iwys.

This can hardly be right. *Shette* is false spelling for *shet*, which would require that the next line should run thus:— 'For, *hadde* I with his arowe met.' But even thus, all is not right, as this requires us to give to *shet* the sense of 'shot.' But the M.E. form of the pp. of *sheten*, to shoot, is properly *shoten*, whereas *shet* means 'shut' or 'enclosed.' We must therefore either suppose that Chaucer (if it is Chaucer's) has used *shet* for *shoten* (which, I confess, does not seem to me impossible), or else the passage is corrupt. We may notice that the pt. t. *shette*, i. e. shot, occurs in ll. 1727, 1777, 1861; whereas the true form of the pt. t. is *sheet*; for it is a strong verb. I understand that Dr. Kaluza believes the ryming words to be *shete* and *mete*, infinitive forms. If so, we might read:—

If so be that he wolde me shete.
For, if I with his arwe mete,
It wolde me greven sore, i-wis.

As this difficulty arises in any case, it does not really tell either for or against the supposition that Chaucer wrote fragment A 1. Compare l. 899.

We may particularly note the absence, in A 1, of the ryming of *-y* with *-y-e*. This is the more remarkable, because such rymes occur freely in fragment A 2 (see 2179, 2209, 2493, 2521, 2985, 3387, 3909, 5600, 5614) and in fragment B (see 6114, 6304, 6342, 6376, 6877, 7319).

I conclude that the rymes in A 1 are consistent with the supposition that this portion, and this portion alone, is by Chaucer. Dr. Kaluza will give us further details, and we may look forward hopefully to his results. If such be

the truth, I must withdraw my former conclusion—'that the English Romaunt is not Chaucer's'—as regards ll. 1—1704 of the poem, or less than a fourth of it. As regards the rest, or more than three-fourths of it, I maintain my position.

W. W. S.

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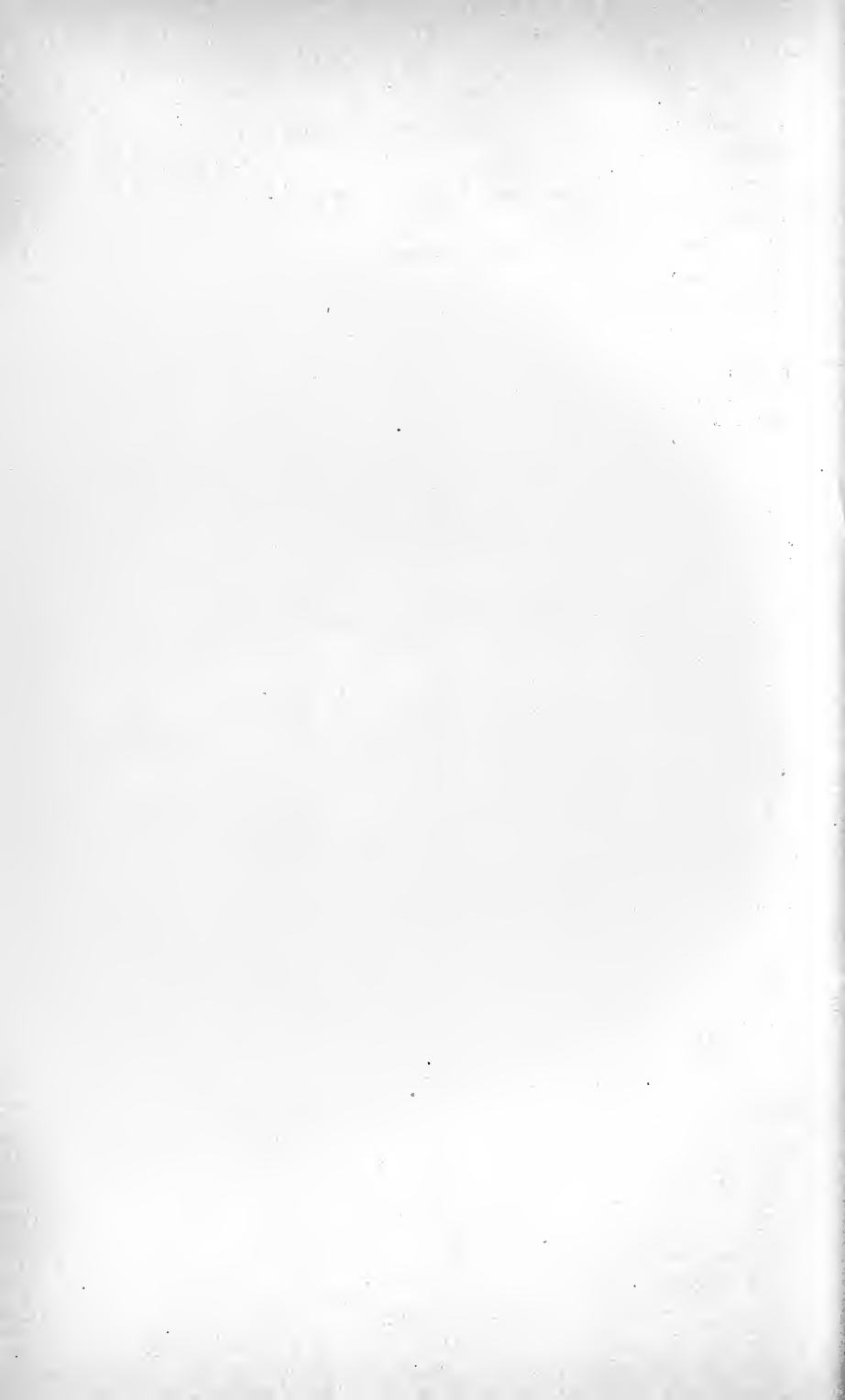
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RYME-INDEX TO

Chaucer's Minor Poems.



RYME-INDEX TO "THE DETHE OF BLAUNCHE."

FAIRFAX MS. 16.

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HARL. MS. 78. SHIRLEY.

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MS. Gg. 4. 27, CAMBRIDGE.

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SHIRLEY'S MS. TRIN. COLL. CAMB. R. 3. 20.

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CAMBR. MS. G. g. 427 (WITH FAIRFAX VARIATIONS).

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-er, -ir, -our, -yr

awer (= were F), *n. obl.*
 ther (= there F), *adv.*
 402/2687.
 ber (= beer F), 3 *s. perf.*
 her (= heer F), *n. obl.*
 256/147.
 der (= deer' F), *n. obl.*
 heroner (= heroneer' F),
adj. 312/1120.
 er (= ere F), *n. obj.*
 ther (= there F), *adv.*
 248/63.
 familer' (= famulere F), *adj.*
 pleyner (= plenere F),
inf. 340/1607.
 fer (= fire F), *n.*
 desyr (= desire F), *n. obj.*
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 gayler (= gaylere F), *n.*
 hir (= here F), *adv.* 366/
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ber (= heer, beer F), 3 *s.*
perf. 256/148.
 ther (= here, there F),
adv. 324/1314.
 her (= here F), *adv.*
 ner (= nere F), *adv.* 264/
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 heroner (= heroneer' F), *adj.*
 der (= deer' F), *n. obl.*
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 acusour, *n.* 268/329.
 ner (= nere F), *adv.*
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 pleyner (= plenere F), *inf.*
 familer (= famulere F),
adj. 340/1606.
 ther (= there F), *adv.*
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 402/2686.
 er (= ere F), *n. obj.* 248/64.
 her (= here F), *n. obl.*
 324/1315.
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obl. 362/1959.

-erde

answerde, 1 *s. perf.*
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spere, *n. obl.* 318/1215.
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 here, *inf.* 356/1867 (F).
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adj.
 lettere (= letter F), *n. obj.*
 326/1362.
 chere, *n.*
 manere, *n.* 350/1763.
 chere, *n. obj.*
 dere, *adv.* 328/1387.
 here, *inf.* 314/1147.
 manere, *n.* 390/2453.

- chere, *n. obl.*
 here, *inf.* 400/2627.
 fere, *adv.* 260/217.
 here, *adv.* 348/1740.
 here, *inf.* 258/184.
 manere, *n. obl.* 368/2078,
 370/2125.
 preyere, *n.* 378/2268.
 clere, *adj. pl.*
 manere, *n. obj.* 260/205.
 mateere, *n. obl.* 376/2225.
 clere, *adv.*
 here, *inf.* 252/128.
 dere, *adj.*
 cheere, *n. obl.* 288/700,
 378/2246.
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 apeere, *inf.* 260/210.
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 fere, *adv.*
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 chere, *adj.* 380/2296.
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1276, 368/2093.

-eruyd

deseruyd (= deserved F),
3 *s. perf.*

seruyd (= served F), *pp.*
386/2384.

-eryed

beryed (= beriede F), *pp.*

heryed (= heriode F), *pp.*
294/786.

-erys

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 Anchises, *n. pr.* 304/944.
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 wittnesse, *n. obj.* (F).
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 Alceste, *n. pr.* 280/530.
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-ose

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-oste, -este

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I-wrought (= y-wrought F),
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thought (= thoughte F), *n.*
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-ye

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"MOTHER OF GOD." *

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-ake
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* Since I printed the Parallel-Text of this Poem, I have seen Hoccleve's 3 Presentation MSS, the Phillipps, Durham and Ashburnham copies, all in the same hand, and I have read all Hoccleve's Virgin and other short Poems. The MS evidence is conclusively in favour of Hoccleve being the author of *The Mother of God*; the internal evidence of the Virgin's white paps—which are in all, or nearly all, the Virgin poems—and the rymes, &c. confirm this. See Prof. Skeat's forthcoming 'Selections from Chaucer's Minor Poems' (Clarendon Press). Dr. Koch and other German critics long ago declared *The Mother of God* spurious. My former judgment of Hoccleve's poetic power was founded on his long dreary *De Regimine*. His short devotional poems are better, and go well with *The Mother of God*.—F. J. Furnivall, 27 Nov. 1888.

-aH
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-an
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-ance
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-at
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-awe
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-ay
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ay, *adv.*
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-e, -ee
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65.
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-eede
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-eere
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-ees

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-eH, -elle

- teH, *inf.*
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-elle, -eH

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-ende

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-ene

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-ense, -ence

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-ente

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-esse

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 32.
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 distresse, *n. obj.* 140/33.
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- sikirnesse, *n.*
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-euere

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-eye

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-eyne

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-ie, -ye
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-o
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-oñ, -oon
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-one
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-oon, -on
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-orde
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-ore
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-oun, -ion
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-our
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-oute
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-ure
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-y
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-yce, -ice
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-ye, -ie

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 gye, 2 s. *imp.*
 treccherie, *n. obl.* 140/48.

-yf, -yf

- stryf, *n. obl.*
 superlatyf, *adj.*
 wyf, *n.* 139/11.

-ynde

- mankynde, *n. obj.*
 mynde, *n. obl.* 141/63.

-yne

- dyuyne, *inf.*
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-yst

- Cryst, *n. pr.*
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The Rymes in some of the Spurious Poems.

BY PROF. SKEAT, LITT.D.

THE CUCKOO AND THE NIGHTINGALE.

THE following index gives all the endings, with references to the lines in which the *first* of the pair or leash of ryme-endings occurs. The text is that printed by Morris, Aldine edition, 1866, iv. 74. The following corrections are necessary. L. 12. For *nyse* read *nyce*. L. 14. For *vis* read *vyce*. L. 51. Read *day*. L. 56. Read *espide*. L. 62. For *bene* read *been*. L. 63. Read *daysye*. L. 87. For *swowe* read *swow*. L. 90. For *cukikowe* read *cukikow*. L. 91. For *bye* read *by*. L. 93. For *croise* read *croys*. Ll. 111, 112, 115. Read *sey*, *wey*, *fey*. Ll. 118, 119. Read *pleyn*, *veyn*. L. 127. Read *iwis*. Ll. 128, 129. Read *fayn*, *yslayn*. L. 144. Read *welfare*. Ll. 166, 167. Read *fayre*, *contrayre*. Ll. 176, 177. Read *despair*, *fair* (cf. Cromie's Ryme-Index, under *-eir*); and, in l. 180, read *hair*. Ll. 181, 182. Read *ny*, *cry*. L. 188. Read *wood*. Ll. 216, 217. Read *anoon* or *anon*; *stoon* or *ston*. Ll. 276, 277, 280. Read *lord*, *re-cord*, *acord*. Ll. 286, 287, 290. Read *took*, *brook*, *awook*.

The following rymes appear to be non-Chaucerian. L. 51. Here *day*, *May* ryme with the gerund *for to assay-ë*. L. 62. Here *been* rymes with *grene*. L. 86. *man* has to be altered to *mon*; I do not think Chaucer could have rymed *man* with *upon*. L. 106 ends with *thing*; there is a difficulty about the ryme with *swownyng-ë*. There is the same difficulty at l. 238, where *lesing* has to be *lesing-ë*, to ryme with *bring-ë*.

The difficulties in the first three cases seem to me insuperable. It is necessary to correct an error in Cromie's Ryme-index, at p. 98, where *sene* is twice marked as '*inf.*', though it is really the gerund (A.S. *tó séonne*). The '*inf.*' is *seen*, which cannot ryme with *grene*.

W. W. S.

RYME-INDEX.

(Only the endings are given ; thus *age* means the ending *-age*.
Some of the spellings are corrected.)

A.

age. 168.
ake. 183.
ale. 48. 261.
an (= on). 81.
are. 143.
aste. 218.
aunce. 28.
awe. 136.
ay. 16. 38. 76. 253. 281 ;
 (= aye). 51 ;
 (= ey). 221.
ayed. 231.
ayleth. 203.
ayn. 128.
ayr. 176.
ayre. 166.

E.

e, ee. 1. 21. 43. 121. 186.
 201. 223. 226. 233. 256.
 288.
ede. 131.
een (= ene). 61.
eke. 8. 211.
ende. 251.
endeth. 191.
ene. 283 ; (= een). 61.
enne. 101.
ent. 271. 278.
ente. 108.
epe. 206.
ere. 53. 78. 113. 263. 273.
erve. 133.
eseth. 198.
esse. 31. 151. 171.
ewe. 246.
ey. 111 ; (= ay). 221.
eye. 161.
eyn. 118.
eyned. 73.

I (see Y).

I (y). 91.
ice. 11 ; *see* isc. yse.
idde. 266.
ide. 56. 96.
ie (ye). 3. 63.
ight. 68. 268.
ille. 196.
 { ing (= inge ?). 106. 238.
 { inge (= ing ?). 23. 26. 46.
 88. 98.
is (ys). 126. 158. 163. 178.
ise (yse). 13 ; *see* ice.

O.

O. 236.
ois (oys). 93.
on (= an). 81.
ood (ode). 188.
ook (oke). 286.
oon (one). 216.
ord. 276.
ore. 208. 258.
ote. 71.
ounde. 6.
oures. 66.
ou (ow). 86. 103. 116.
owe. 228.

U.

ust. 153.

Y (see I).

y (I). 36. 58. 91. 123. 181.
ye (ie). 3. 63. 83. 138. 156.
 173. 243. 248.
yke. 18.
ynde. 146.
yne. 241.
yre. 33. 193.
yse. 148. 213 ; *see* ice. ise.
yte. 41.
yve. 141.

FLOWER AND LEAF.

(See Morris's Aldine Edition, 1866 ; iv. 87.)

RYME-INDEX.

(The references are to the lines. The rymes marked with an asterisk (*) are probably non-Chaucerian. Some of the spellings are corrected.)

A.

- able. 513.
 ace. 555 ; (*see as*).
 aile. 366.
 ain. 295.
 aire. 6. 79. 499.
 al (all). 65. 139.
 alle. 177. 209..
 an. 125. 282.
 ance. 300. 309 ; (*see aunce*).
 are. 338. 401.
 as (acc. ase). 51. 342. 449.
 *as : ace : 163.
 *as : asse. 27. 104.
 ast. 489.
 aunce. 286. 540. 576 ; (*see ance*).
 ay. 22. 372. 393. 435.
 aye. 414. 421. 491. 561.

E.

- e. ee. 44. 76. 86. 107. 307.
 373. 386. 442. 470. 492.
 498. 526. 553. 580.
 *e (= y). 88.
 ede. 9. 43. 149. 238. 280.
 303. 331. 484. 590.
 *ede (eed). 506.
- edes. 538.
 eed. 370. 478.
 ees. 267.
 *eine. 62.
 eke. 232.
 elfe. 22.
 ell. 111. 246.
 embled. 197.
 ene. 34. 155. 258. 268. 289.
 379. 398. 554.
 *ene (een). 247. 387. 533.
 ent. 118. 358. 422.
 ente. 148.
 er. 519.
 ere. 37. 55. 211. 223. 351.
 384. 419. 450. 463. 477 ;
see below.
¹ere. 41. 104. 226. 261. 281.
 330 ; *see above*.
 ese. 20. 377. 391.
 esse. 524. 534.
 et. 153.
 *et (ete). 212.
 ette. 233.
 ete. 15. 90. 349. 405. 412.
 eves. 365.
 ewe. 50. 317. 407.
 *ew (ewe). 30.

¹ Probably Chaucer distinguishes between these two sets of words in *-ere*.

I (see Y).

-ide. 323. 582.
¹ide (yed). 72.
 ie (y). 1; (see y).
 ight. 13. 16. 36. 69. 135.
 239. 254. 260. 296. 310.
 321. 394. 400. 433. 436.
 587.
 ike. 132.
 ind. 272.
 ine. 29. 240.
 ing. 121. 141. 172. 183. 188.
 251. 274. 380. 408. 429.
 548. 589.
 *ing (inge). 415.
 inge. 92.
 is. 471.
 ise. 97. 566.
 *it (ite). 205.

O.

o (oo). 65. 160. 218.
 ofte. 2.
 old. 93. 120.
 *old (olde). 169.
 olde. 426. 443. 594.
 onde. 482. 512.
 one (for oon). 142. 184. 216.
 225. 293. 328. 335. 344.
 363. 456. 468.
 *onë (oon). 167.

ones. 198.
 ong. 100.
 onge. 244.
 ore. 204. 288. 447. 504.
 ote. 83. 99.
 oude. 275.
 *oughte (ought). 48.
 oun. 253. 562.
 our. 510. 545.
 *oure (our). 573; (ure). 496.
 oures. 8. 356.
 oute. 71. 147. 195. 265.
 outh. 547.
 owe. 190. 316. 359. 569.

U.

ure. 60. 559; (see our).
 us (ous). 127. 314. 531.
 pleasure: }
 desire. } 113. *Read plaisir.*

Y.

y. 57. 134. 156. 176. 302.
 345. 352. 440. 454. 461.
 527. 541. 568. 575.
 *sy (saw). 78. 85. 191.
 *y (ye). 105. 130. 162. 175.
 181. 219. 230. 324. 337.
 428. 464. 475. 503. 517.
 520. 583.
 ye. 202.

N.B.—Observe—*swete*: (F.) *Margarete*. 349. Also the astonishing ryme of *glorie* with *worthily* and *wholly* (520); whereas in Chaucer it rymes with *memorie*, *purgatorie*, *storie*, *victorie* only.

¹ Chaucer has *espide*; C. T. 567/1230.

THE ASSEMBLY OF LADIES.

(From the text in Chalmers' British Poets, 1810; i. 526. As the lines are *not numbered*, it is easier to count by stanzas; the references are to the stanzas accordingly.)

RYME-INDEX (by stanzas).

- | A. | E. |
|---|----------------------------------|
| able. 98. | e (ee). 3. 12. 14. 15. 22. 43. |
| ace. 11. 31. 38. 79; (<i>see as</i>). | 45. 50. 53. 58. 65. 66. 82. |
| *ace (as). 21. 32. 62. 87. 94. | 100. 108. |
| 96. | ed. 83. |
| ad. 68. | ede. 42. |
| age. 7. 77. | efe. 1. |
| *aid(e). 30. 55. 88. | ele (el). 97. 101. |
| aile. 6. 27. 68. 77. 81. 93. | ene. 7. 67. |
| ain. 8. 15. 25. 47. 50. 52. | ence. 26. 29. 85. |
| 56. 61. 63. 80. 86. 96. | ent. 16. 45. 76. 80. 82. 103. |
| *ain (aine). 20. 35. 60. 67. | 105. |
| 94. 100. | ente. 5. |
| aine. 85. | *ent (ente). 98. 102. |
| ale. 3. | epe. 11. |
| all. 33. 65. | ere. 4. 9. 25. 28. 30. 39. 56. |
| alle. 1. 21. 46. 51. 57. 79. | 59. 67. 73. 78. 86. 95. |
| *alle (all). 82. 92. 98. 102. | 103. |
| ame. 46. 99. | *erte (ert). 91. |
| an. 32. | ese. 64. 96. |
| ance. 9. 13. 26. 56. 58. 62. | esed. 18. |
| 106; (<i>see aunce</i>). | esse. 27. 31. 49. 64. 87. |
| *and (ande). 23. | est. 55. 88. |
| ande. 72. | est(e). 41. 54. 89; este (?). 6. |
| arge. 22. | et. 49. |
| ary. 79. | eve. 105. |
| as. 66:—*as (asse). 63. | eved. 104. |
| ast (aste?). 31. | *ew (ewe). 10. 45. 70. |
| at. 22. 25. 36. 40. 70. 78. | ewe. 17. 37. 48. |
| ate. 26. | |
| aunce. 20. 34. 39. 48. 54. | I (see Y). |
| 72. 83. 94. 95. 97. 107. | ice. 15; (<i>see ise</i>). |
| ay. 32. 34. 37. 44. 75. | *ide (yed). 28. |
| *aye (ay). 14. 16. 19. 29. 35. | ight (ighte). 68. 108. |
| 51. 52. 62. 92. | ighte. 19. |

ille. 47. 84. 99.
 *ille (el). 33.
 inde. 6. 17. 23. 47. 69.
 ing. 4. 23. 38. 49. 54. 60.
 71. 76. 90. 91. 92. 95.
 97. 104.
 *is (isse). 19. 52.
 ise. 2. 10. 13. 18. 24. 48.
 55. 57. 58. 75. 76. 84. 85.
 87. 93. 101. 105; (*see* ice.
 yes).
 ite. 44.
 ive. 74.

O.

o (oo). 2. 7. 9. 21. 27. 37.
 41. 42. 60. 64. 73. 80. 81.
 93.
 *old(e). 14.
 *on (oon). 12. 17. 34. 81. 89.
 one (*for* oon). 2. 4. 11. 16.
 28. 36. 40. 42. 43. 53. 57.
 61. 63. 66. 71. 78. 83.
 102. 106.
 *one (= oon). 1. 5. 20. 33.
 35. 108.
 ong. 43.

ood. 50. 107.
 *ook (oke). 106.
 oot. 88.
 ore. 30. 36. 59. 65. 73. 89.
 90. 99. 101.
 ort. 24.
 ōth. 10.
 ough. 40.
 ought. 24. 69.
 oughte. 3.
 oun. 8. 75.
 ounde. 69.
 *out (oute). 5.
 owe. 39.

U.

ure. 8. 12. 29. 38. 71. 74.
 100.
 used. 61.

Y (see I).

y. 13. 41. 44. 46. 51. 53.
 70. 74. 91. 103.
 *y (ye). 59. 72. 84. 86. 90.
 104.
 *yes (yse). 77.

N.B.—*Demure* occurs in Lydgate's *Minor Poems*, p. 29; and in the *Assembly of Ladies*, st. 12. I do not remember it in Chaucer.—W. W. S.

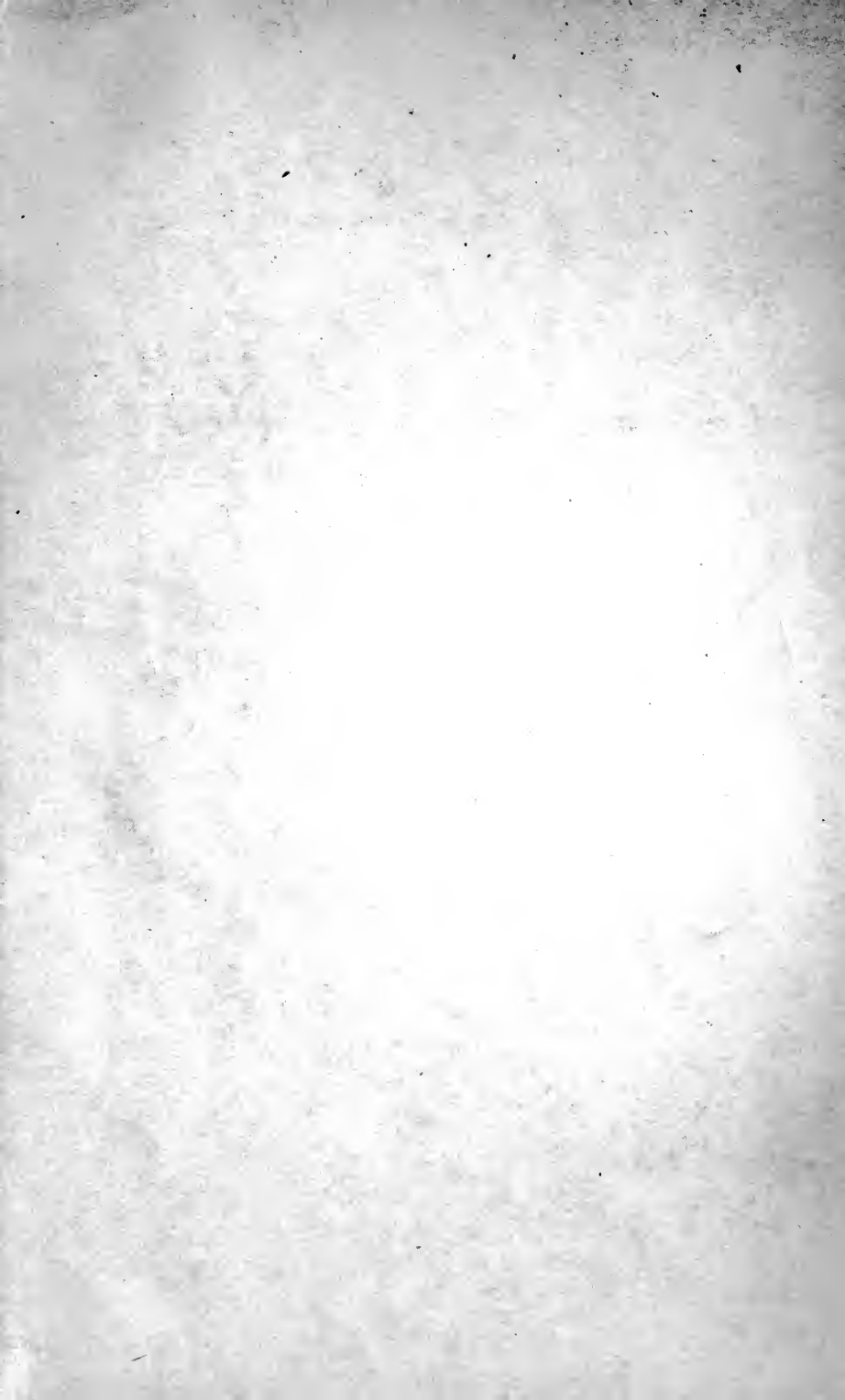
THE COURT OF LOVE.

No Ryme-index is required to shew that the rymes are non-Chaucerian. At l. 13 we have *write* ryming with *aright*, shewing that the sound of *gh* was lost; and many more instances of the same. At l. 79 we have *gren-e*, *shene* (miswritten for *shyn-e*), *been*; and many more instances to shew that the sounds of *e* and *i* were, at the time of composition, assimilated; in particular, note *eke*, *lyke*, 561; the assonance *kepe*, *flete*, 309; *fere* for *fire*, 623; *company-ë* (1170) ryming with *destinee* (!), &c. &c. A Chaucerian pronunciation of the final *-e* would upset the scansion in a hundred places; thus l. 1433 would become—‘And name-ly haw-e-thorn brought-en both-e pag’ and grome’; i. e. fourteen syllables in five feet. See my letters in *The Academy*, Aug. 3, 1878, p. 116; and June 22, 1889, p. 431.

W. W. S.









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