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Lydgate's Siege of Thebes.

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Lydgate's
Siege of Thebes.

EDITED

FROM ALL THE KNOWN MANUSCRIPTS AND THE TWO
OLDEST EDITIONS,

WITH INTRODUCTION, NOTES, AND A GLOSSARY,

BY

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PART I.—THE TEXT.

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TEMPORARY PREFACE.

§ 1. THE title of the poem. In the colophons of the MSS. and oldest editions we find "Here endeth the destruccioun of Thebes" or "Here endeth the Sege of Thebes." But in later times the poem has most often been spoken of as "The Story of Thebes." In the text Lydgate repeatedly refers to "(the) story"; but here, with a few exceptions, by "(the) story" he means his Old French original. His own poem he generally mentions as "my tale." As a matter of fact, the question of the title has been decided by Lydgate himself, who in his Falls of Princes calls our poem "The Sege of Thebes."

Al to declare / me semyth it is no nele,
 For in the Sege of Thebes ye may Rede
 The story boole / and maad ther menyoun, etc.

(Mus. Brit. Bibl. Harl. 1766, fol. 49 back.)

§ 2. The Siege of Thebes was written by Lydgate to form an additional link in the famous series of the Canterbury Tales composed by Chaucer. He represents himself as falling in with the pilgrims at their inn in Canterbury, when in mid-April he comes to the town to perform his vow to St. Thomas for recovery from an illness. He is received in the hall of the inn by the host of the Tabard and invited to join the company of pilgrims in their return journey to London. At sunrise on the following morning they all start off, and before they have ridden a bow-shot from Canterbury the host turns to Lydgate and asks him to tell some merry tale. Lydgate obeys, and "My tale I gan anon as 3e shal here" (l. 176). The prologue is, of course, addressed to the readers of the poem. In the tale itself Lydgate tries, by occasional references (ll. 182, 322 sq., 1043 sq., 1047 sq., cf. also 4522 sq.), to keep alive the impression that he is speaking to the pilgrims *en route*.

There is no doubt that the Prologue was the first portion written of the poem. And evidently Lydgate keenly enjoys his idea of composing an additional Canterbury Tale, and thus, as it were, taking up and continuing the unfinished work of his admired master. The

palpable anachronism involved in this idea did not deter him, and it would not, I suppose, much strike the general reader, nor does it, indeed, essentially diminish the quaint interest of his conceit. But it is obvious that Lydgate, who was about thirty at the time of Chaucer's death, could not at "nyȝ fyfty ȝere of age" (l. 93) have found still remaining at Canterbury the same company of pilgrims with which Chaucer had come there.

§ 3. The poem has 4716 lines. The prologue (ll. 1-176), see § 2. The first part (ll. 177-1046) tells the story of Edippus and Iocasta, the second part (ll. 1047-2552) the disputes of Ethiocles and Polymytes about the supremacy in Thebes, the third part (ll. 2553-4716) the siege and destruction of Thebes.

§ 4. The principal source of Lydgate's Thebes¹ is an Old French prose romance, derived from the Old French poem *Roman de Thebes*. No known version of this prose romance agrees in all particulars with that used by Lydgate. But the version first printed 1500 and reprinted 1858 in the "Collection Silvestre," with the title "*Sensuyt le Roman de edipus fils du roy Layus*" (RE), comes very near to Lydgate's original. They differ, however, in some details. In most of these details Lydgate's original corresponded with the somewhat later version of the prose romance represented by that "*Hystoire de Thebes*" (HT) which is found inserted into a late 15th-century Old French translation, with numerous additions, of Orosius' well-known *History of the World*. Thus the apparently lost version that formed the basis of Lydgate's Thebes must have held an intermediate position between the two versions just mentioned. But it was decidedly much more closely allied to RE than to HT.

From his Old French source Lydgate has taken about two-thirds of his poem. More than a fourth he has drawn from his own creative imagination or from his general store of knowledge. The rest of the poem, about the twentieth part of the whole, comes partly from the Bible, but principally from such authors as Seneca, Martianus de Capella, Boccaccio, Chaucer.

§ 5. Lydgate treats his original with perfect freedom as regards form, recasting the expressions, enlarging or shortening the tale, not infrequently omitting unimportant particulars. In a few cases Lydgate has left out points the poetic beauty of which would certainly

¹ See Koepfel, *Lydgate's Story of Thebes. Eine Quellenuntersuchung*. Munchen, 1884. Constans, *Légende d'Oedipe*. Paris, 1881; and *Roman de Thebes*, vol. ii. Paris, 1890.

have caught at once the attention of Chaucer. But on the whole it may be said that everything the poem possesses of poetic charm, it owes to Lydgate's work.

The hero of parts II and III is Tydeus, on whom Lydgate lavishes his highest praise. In painting Tydeus' character and extolling his exploits, the author had, no doubt, in his mind's eye England's youthful hero, King Henry V. Here and there in the poem allusions to contemporary political events may be traced (see for inst. § 6).

§ 6. Lydgate probably began his *Thebes* in the latter part of 1420. It was finished before the death of Henry V (August 31, 1422).¹ And it seems safe to assume that the poem had been completed so long before that date that copies of it had been made and circulated. For if it had still been in its author's hands when he learnt the irreparable loss his country had suffered, he would certainly have recast the end of it. In writing ll. 4690-4703, and especially the last lines of this passage: "And charitè . . . shal her bryghte bemes sprede . . . in dyuers nacions Forto reforme atwixe Regions Pees and quyet, concord and vnyte," Lydgate clearly had in view certain terms of the treaty of Troyes concluded in May 1420. The 24th paragraph of this treaty says (see Rymer's *Foedera*, Tom. ix, p. 901):

Item, ut Concordia, Pax, & Tranquillitas inter predicta Franciæ & Angliæ Regna perpetuo futuris temporibus observentur, & obvietur Occasionibus & Principiis, ex quibus inter eadem Regna, quod absit, Debata, Dissensiones seu Discordiæ futuris possent temporibus exoriri, Concordatum est, quod dictus filius noster Rex Henricus laborabit, . . . ambo Coronæ, scilicet Franciæ et Angliæ, perpetuo futuris temporibus commanebunt & erunt in unâ & eadem Personâ, viz. suâ, etc.

A comparison of the words of this paragraph with l. 4703 shows at once whence have sprung Lydgate's "Pees and quyet, concord and vnyte." See also the 25th paragraph. Cf. *Troy Book*, v, 3999-3442. The whole passage l. 4690 sq. of *Thebes* resounds with a jubilant note of hopefulness, and could not possibly have been written or issued after England's hopes of a triumphant peace had been so suddenly blighted by the King's death.

§ 7. The *Siege of Thebes* is written in heroic couplets. It has long been held up as a specimen of unusually bad metre. This censure seemed to be justified by the character—very unsatisfactory

¹ Cf. Koepfel l. c., and Schick, *Lydgate's Temple of Glas*, 1891. Also H. Bergen, *The MSS. and Prints of Lydgate's Troy Book*. Bungay, Chaucer Press, 1906.

from a metrical point of view—of the old printed texts. The present edition, the text of which is based on the best MS. collated with all the other known MSS., will prove the censure to be unmerited. The five-beat iambic lines of Thebes present the metrical traits peculiar to Lydgate's heroic verse.

§ 8. The great number of MSS. still preserved bears evidence of the popularity once enjoyed by our poem. There are, as far as is now known, 21 MSS. of Lydgate's Thebes in the public and private libraries of England. To this number are to be added the old editions of 1500 (?) and 1561, each of which represents a separate MS. The best MSS. are the Arundel 119 (Brit. Mus.), the Bodley 776, the Additional 18632 (Brit. Mus.), and the MS. belonging to Lord Mostyn, designated by Ar. Bo. Ad. M. in the *variae lectiones* given at the foot of the pages. As basis of the present edition the Arundel MS. has been taken, every deviation from it being marked by asterisks in the text, or, in the case of pause-bars, only mentioned among the vv. ll. The Arundel MS. 119 is a small folio, $10\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{3}{8}$ English inches, on vellum, bound in calf, and contains only the complete text of our poem. It has 80 leaves. The text is written in single columns, and ends on leaf 79 front.

AXEL ERDMANN.

Upsala, April 6, 1911.

LIST OF THE MANUSCRIPTS AND OLDEST EDITIONS.

1. Ad₁. = Brit. Mus. Additional 18632.
 2. Ad₂. = Brit. Mus. Additional 5140.
 3. Ap. = Brit. Mus. Cotton. Appendix XXVII.
 4. Ar. = Brit. Mus. Arundel 119.
 5. Ba. = Marquis of Bath's MS. 257 (Longleat).
 6. Bo. = Bodley MS. 776.
 7. C. = Cambridge University Library, Addit. 3137.
 8. Di. = Bodl. Library, Digby 230.
 9. Du. = Prince Frederick Duleep Singli's MS. (Old Buckenham Hall).
 10. E₁. = Wynken de Worde's edition (1500 ?), Svo.
 11. E₂. = in William Thynne's fol. edition 1561 of the works of Chaucer.
 12. G. = Mr. J. H. Gurney's MS. (Keswick Hall).
 13. I. = The late Sir H. Ingilby's MS. (Ripley Castle), now belonging to Mr. Lawrence Hodson (Compton Hall).
 14. L₁. = Bodl. Library, Laud. Misc. 557.
 15. L₂. = Bodl. Library, Laud. Misc. 416.
 16. Lb. = Lambeth Palace Library, MS. 742.
 17. M. = Lord Mostyn's MS. (Mostyn Hall).
 18. P. = Magdalene College (Cambridge) Library, Pepys 2011.
 19. Ra. = Bodl. Library, Rawlinson C. 48.
 20. Ro. = Brit. Mus. Royal 18. D. II.
 21. S. = Brit. Mus. Additional 29729 (Stow MS.).
 22. T₁. = Trinity College (Cambridge) Library, MS. R. 4. 20.
 23. T₂. = Trinity College (Cambridge) Library, MS. O. 5. 2.
24. Ch = *Christchurch. Opera MS. 152. Add. Lond. T. 10*
- In the foot-notes the manuscripts and oldest editions are given in the following order (*cf.* the genealogy in the Introduction) :
- Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. E₂.
L₂. Ro. Ap.

SYNOPSIS OF THE GAPS exceeding two lines, in the manuscripts and oldest editions ((the numbers are inclusive) :

- Ad₁. 785—788.
- Ad₂. 785—788, 4094—4158, 4504 to the end.
- Ap. 1681—1746, 3409 to the end.
- Ba. 2490—2580, 4432 to the end.
- Bo. 1—8, 13—40, 4456—4586.
- C. 1—822, 886—951, 1017—1142, 1403—1468, 1858—1922, 3668—4060, 4386—4515.
- Di. 1—153.

- Du. 111—337, 4284—4340, 4459—4572, 4630—4716.
 E₁. 107—176. 4363—4418.
 I. 785—788, 3935—4116, 4582—4676.
 L₂. 849—852.
 Lb. 65—392, 4597—4658.
 M. 147—222.
 P. 1669—1672.
 Ra. 2099—2294.
 Ro. 513—1130, 1987—2400, 3011—3210, 3407—3590, 3989—4340.
 S. 1455²—1459¹.
 T₁. 615—726. 1061—1172.
 T₂. 2485—2672, 3634—4209.

Ar. E₂. G. L₁. are complete.

The Siege of Thebes.

[MS. Mus. Brit. Bibl. Arundel 119.]

Incipit Prologus.

[leaf 1]

W	Han briȝte phebus / passēd was þe ran Myd of Aprille / <i>and</i> in-to bolē cam, And Satournd old / <i>with</i> his frosty face In virgynē / taken had his place, Maleneolik / <i>and</i> slowgh of mocionu, And was also / in thoposiciou Of lucina / the monē moyst and pale, That many Shour / fro heuene made avale ; whan Aurora / was in þe morowe red, And Iubiter / in the Crabbēs Hed Hath take his paleys / and his mansiou ; The lusty tyme / and Ioly fressh Sesoun whan that Flora / the noble myghty quene, The soyl hath clad / in newē tendre grene,	Phebus <i>in ariete.</i> In mid-April, Saturnus <i>in</i> virgine. 4 8 Iubiter <i>in capite</i> cancri. 12 the jolly fresh season
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1-6 cut away in Bo. (7, 8 incomplete, the second half being cut away).
 1-153 lost in Di. 1-822 lost in C. 1. Whan] Whan that T₂. Ba. briȝte] om.
 T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ra. Ba. T₂. P. 2. Myd] and myd L₁. and] om. Lb. in-to
 bole] into the bole T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. in the
 bole Ra. L₂. Ro. to the foule L. 3. old] olde T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
 S. P. E₂. Ap. om. L₂. Ro. 4. In] In þe Ap. virgynē] virgyn M. P. had]
 hath Ra. S. has Ba. his place] a p. L₁. 5. Malinkkolik Ad₁. Melyneolik
 P. slowe M. slow Ad₁. selough S. Ro. slouth E₁. mocionu] mocions L₁.
 6. thoposiciou] the opposiciou Ad₁. Ba. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. opposiciou Ad₂. I.
 the oposiciou L₁. 8. many] many a Du. L₁. Ba. P. Shour] shouris
 T₁. Lb. Ad₂. I. shours Ad₁. fro heuene made] made fro heuene Lb.
 10. Iubiter] Iupiter E₁. Iupiter E₂. 11. paleys] place L. 12. The] That
 Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. P. and] that P. 13. the noble] that noble P. the
 lusty Lb. myghty] om. Lb. 14. newē Ad₁. new Bo. M.

THEBES.

B

	with her flourës / craftlyly ymeynt,	
	Braunch <i>and</i> bough / wiþ red <i>and</i> whit depeynt,	16
	Fletinge þe bawme / on hillis <i>and</i> on valys :	
when the Canter- bury Tales were told,—	The tyme in soth / whan Canterbury talys	
	Compleat and tolt / at many sondry stage	
	Of estatis // in the pilgrimage,	20
	Euerich man / lik to his degre,	
some moral,	Soine of desport / soine of moralitè,	
	Soine of knyghthode / loue and gentillesse,	
	And soine also of parfit holynesse,	24
some ribald,	And soine also in soth / of Ribaudye	
	To makè laughter / in þe companye,	
like those of The Cook, the Millere, And the Reve,	(Ech admitted / for noñ wold other greve)	
	Lich as the Cook / þe millere and the Reve	28
	Aqyutte hem-silf / shortly to conclude,	
	Boystously / in her teermës Rude,	
	whan þei hadde / wel dronken of the bolle,	
also the	And ek also / with his pyllid nolle	32
¶ Pardonere, [leaf 1, back]	The pardowner / beerdlees al his Chyn.	
	Glasy-Eyed / and face of Cherubyn,	
	Tellyng ^a a tale / to angre with the frere,	

15. her] his Ba. the L₂. Ro. craftlyly] craftly Bo. Ba. Ap. ymeynt] meynt Bo. T₁. I₁. Lb. M. E₁. E₂. 16. wiþ] *om.* Ap. [red and whit] white & rede Ro. depeynt] dopeynt *miswritten* Ar. 17. *second on*] in Ap. *om.* Ad₁. I. 18. whan] whanne that L₁. Ad₁. T₂. Caunterbery Bo. Caunterbury M. Kaunterberi Ad₁. In Ad₂. l. 18 *and* l. 19 *are transposed*. 19. many] many a Lb. 20. estatis] estate S. the statis Lb. there astates P. the] their Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. T₂. P. L₂. here Lb. In Ra. a later hand has altered the *into* *ther* by adding an r. 21. Euerich] every Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ra. Ba. T₂. P. E₂. man] *om.* L₂. Ro. lik] lyke Bo. M. Ad₁. liche Lb. 22. desport some] d. and s. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. 23. gentillesse] gentilnesse T₁. L₁. Lb. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. P. L₂. Ro. Ap. 25. And] *om.* Ra. Ba. E₂. also in soth] eke i. s. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. T₂. P. in soth eke L₁. in soth] *om.* L₂. Ro. Ribaudye] ribawdrye Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. P. E₂. L₂. lewed ribaudrye Ro. 26. maken Bo. M. make Ad₁. 27. Ech] They Ad₂. I. for] *om.* L₂. Ro. other greve] ooyr eve Lb. 28. as] *om.* Lb. millere] mylnere Ro. 29. Aqyutte] Acquit Ra. L₂. Acquite Bo. Du. Lb. Ad₂. E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. Ap. Acquiten M. hemsilf] hem wel T₁. shortly] sothly Ra. to] for to P. 30. boystously] boystuously S. 31–40 *cut away on back side of the first leaf in* Bo. 38. unce. 40. Breteyne *is left at the end of the line*. 31. dronken] dronkyng Ap. 32. pyllid] piled Ad₁. peled Lb. S. pallid T₁. Du. T₂. ballyd L₁. 33. The pardowner beerdlees] The beerdles pardonor L₁. (*taken from the rubric, which in this MS. forms the preceding line of the column*). al] of Ro. 34. Glasy-Eyed] Glasyne Eyde Ro. Glasy eyes E₁. E₂. Glasy yen P. glasis eyen S. glasy · rede · Du. of] *om.* Ra. 35. a] to G.

As opynly // the storie kan 3ow here,	36	
word for word / with eury circumstaunce,		
Echon ywrite / and put ^t in remembraunce		written by
By hym þat ^t was / 3if I shal not ^t feyne,		¶ Chaucer,
Floure of Poetes / thorghout ^t al breteyne,	40	the Flower of Poets,
Which sothly haddē / most ^t of excellence		
In rethorike / and in eloquence		
(Rede his making ^t / who list ^t the trouthe* fynde)		
Which neuer shal / appallen in my mynde,	44	
But ^t alwey fressh / ben in my memorye* :		(who will be always fresh in my memory.)
To whom* be 3ouē / pris ^t honore / and glorye*		
Of wel seyinge / first ^t in oure language,		
Chief Registrer / of þis pilgrimage,	48	
Al þat ^t was tolde / for3eting ^t noght at al,		and told his Tales
Feynēd talis / nor þing ^t Historial,		
With many prouerbe / diuers and vnkouth,		
Be rehearsale / of his Sugrid mouth,	52	with his sugard mouth,
Of eche thyng ^t / keping ^t in substaunce		
The sentence hool / with-outē variance,		
Voyding ^t the Chaf / sothly for to seyn,		

36. As opynly] As o. as T₁. Du. Lb. And o. as L₁. Al o. as M. 37. for] bi L₁. 38. Echon ywrite] Echon writen T₁. Echone wreton M. 39. the
om. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. shal] shuld Ra. Ba. L₂. 40. Poetes] poietys Ro. Ap.
thorghout] thorough out L₂. throughout E₂. thorgh Du. M. Ad₁. Ra. Ap.
thorough Lb. T₂. thorgh T₁. Ba. P. Ro. through L₁. S. thorgh out of E₁.
41. sothly] shortly P. hadde Ad₁. Ra. T₂. had Bo. M. of] om. L₂. Ro. 42. In]
bothe in Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. T₂. rethorike] retryk T₂. and] and eke Ra (eke
added by later hand). second in] om. Ad₂. I. 43. Rede] Redeth Bo. T₁. Du.
Lb. M. T₂. P. who] whos Bo. T₁. Du. M. who so Lb. Ba. trouthe M. Ad₁.
trouth Ar. Bo. fynde] to finde M. Ra (to *added by later hand*). 44. Which] þat
Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. S. 45. alwey] evir L₂. fressh ben Ad₁. fresshe be Bo. M.
be fressh T₂. freyshely bene Ap. my] om. I. Ro. memorye] memoyre Ar.
in my memorye] called Geffray Chawcer by name P (*written by a later hand, partly
on erasure*). 46. whom] who Ar. be] ben Ra. Ba. 3oue] yoven Ba.
yene E₁. Ap. geven S. ioye Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ad₂. I. glorye] gloyre Ar.
Ap (: memory). *The scribe of P. wrote honoure glorie and pris, the later hand has
erased most of pris and written flame across it.* 47. seyinge Ad₁. sayng Bo.
seieng M. langage G. Bo. 48. Registrer] regestrier Bo. Registerer T₂.
Regester L₁. P. registryre Ad₁. S. Ap. regestire Ro. Registre Ba. regeste
Ad₂. I. L₂. of] in E₂. þis] his S. 49. Al] Of Ro. for3eting] forgetyn L₁. Ba. P.
at] om. L₂. Ro. 50. talis] tale I. nor þing] ne thing Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ro.
no thing L₂. nor nothyng L₁. Ba. and thing Lb. 51. prouerbe] prouerbes
L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. P. E₂. 52. Sugrid] sugir L₂. 53. in]
þe Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. T₂. P. 54. hool] of Iobe Ad₂. of Iove I.
55. Voyding] Wyndyng Ad₂. I. the] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. sothly] softely Lb.
for] om. Ra. Ba. L₂. Ro. for to seyn] fro the seyne L₁.

	Enlumynyng ^t / þe trewë pikëd greyn	56
from the Pilgrims' meeting	Be crafty writunge / of his sawës swete, Fro the tymë / that ^t thei deden* mete First the pylgrimes / sothly euerichon,	
¶ At þe tabard in Suthwerk,—	At the Tabbard / assembled on be on,	60
on to Canter- bury,—	And fro suthwerk ^t / shortly forto seye, To Canterbury / ridyng ^t on her weie, Tellynge a tale / as I rehercë ean,	
¶ The Hoste. [leaf 2]	Lich as the hoste / assignëd every man.	64
at this time, while the Pil- grims were lodg- ed there,	None so hardy / his biddyng ^t disobeye. And this whilë* / that ^t the pilgrymes leye At ^t Canterbury / wel loggëd* on and all, I not ^t in soth / what ^t I may it ^t call,	68
I chaunst to enter the town,	Hap / or fortune / in Conclusioun, That ^t me byfil / to entrën into touñ, The holy seyut ^t / pleynly to visite Aftere siknesse / my vowës to aquyte,	72
in a black cope, ¶ Discryving of the Monk. on a seraggy nag with a rusty bridle.	In a Cope of blak / and not ^t of grene, On a palfrey / slender / long ^t / and lene, wip rusty brydel / mad nat ^t for þe sale, My man to-forn / with a voidë male ; whiçh of Fortunë / took ^t myn Inne anoñ	76

56. Enlumynyng] Elewmynyng L₂. piked] pyken Bo. Du. 58. deden Ad₁. I. T₂. ded Ar. dede G. S. diden M. Ad₂. did Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. Ba. P. E₂. I₂. Ro. dide T₁. Ra. E₁. Ap. 59. sothly] om. P. 60. At the] atte Ad₁. T₂. at T₁. M. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₂. on be on] every one by one Ad₂. I. *Between 59 and 60 L₁. has the rubric: At the Tabard in Southwerk first they met; in connexion with this, l. 60 has been altered into* And ther they assembled one bi oone. 61. And fro] At G. suthwerk Ar. Southwerk T₁. Du. L₁. M. T₂. L₂. Soupwerk Ad₁. Sowthwerk Ad₂. I. soutwerk Bo. Southewerk Ro. E₁. Southwerke L₁. P. Sothwerk Ra. Sothewerk S. Sothwerke E₂. Suthwarke Lb. Sothwarke Ba. Ap. shortly] soopli Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 62. on] in Ad₂. I. her] the I. 63. tale] take *miswritten* Ar. as] liche as Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. lich Ra. 64. the hoste] thost T₁. Lb. 65-392. *gap in Lb.* 66. this] in this Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. T₂. P. while Bo. Ad₁. whil Ar. tyme M. pilgrymes] pylgrimage L₂. 67. loggëd] louged Ar. G (*cp.* 78). logid L₁. S. Ro. looged Ad₂. lodged E₂. 68. not] ne wote L₂. Ro. soth] feith Ad₂. I. 69. in] as in Ro. 70. entrën into Ar. enter into G. entre into L₂. Ro. entre into þe Bo. *and the rest (see Notes).* 72. siknesse my vowës] my sykenesse vowës E₁. E₂. to aquyte] taequite Ad₁. for to aquyte Ra. 73. Cope] Cape G. 74. slender Ar. G. T₂. E₂. I. slendre Ra. Ba. sklendre Bo. T₁. Du. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. selendre S. L₂. sclender L₁. E₁. P. selendire Ro. sklendyre Ap. slender long] longe sklendre Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. T₂. P. 75. rusty] a rusty L₁. T₂. lusti Ad₁. mad nat] nat maad Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. 76. voidë Bo. M. void Ad₁. 77. whiçh] That Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. took] took I Ad₂. I.

Wher þe pylgrymes / were loggëd euerichōn,	
The samë tyme / Her gouernour, the host,	The Host, the Pilgrims' boss,
Standing in halle : ful of wynde <i>and</i> bost,	80
Lich to a man / wonder sterne <i>and</i> fers,	¶ The wordes of the host to the Monk.
Which spak to me / and seide anoñ, "daun Pers,	
Daun Domynyk / Dan Godfrey / or Clement,	
3e be welcom / newly into kent,	84 welcomd me,
Thogh 3oure bridel / haue neiþer boos ne belle ;	
Besechinge 3ou / þat 3e wil me telle	
First 3oure name / and of what contrè	and askt me who I (so pale and seedy) was, and whence I came.
With-outë morë* · shorte-ly that 3e be,	88
That' loke so pale / al deuoyde of blood,	
Vpon 3oure hede / a wonder thred-bar hood,	
Wel araiëd / for to ridë late."	
I answerde / 'my namë was Lydgate,	92 I said I was
Monk of Bery / ny3 fyfty 3ere of age,	¶ Lydgate
Come to this toune / to do my pilgrimage,	¶ Monk of Bery, near 50,
As I haue light' / I haue* therof no shame.'	and had come on pilgrimage.
"Daun Ioñn," quod he / "wel brokë 3e 3oure name !	96 ¶ The wordes of þe host.
Thogh 3e be soul / beth right' glad <i>and</i> light !	[leaf 2, back]
Preiynge 3ou / soupë with vs to-nyght,	He askt me to sup with his pilgrims,
And 3e shal hauë* / mad at 3oure devis,	

78. Wher] Where as Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ther T₂. were logged] loged wern Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. T₂. were] *om.* L₁. euerichon] echon M. Ad₂. Ar. *has a second pause-bar after* were. 79. Her] the Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. the] here Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. their Ba. S. 80. halle] þe halle L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. 81. Lich to] Liche Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Ra. Ba. L₂. Ro. sterne] stoor Ra. Ba. 82. Which] That Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. *om.* Ra. Ba. to me] anone P. and seide anon] anon and seid L₁. 84. welcom Ad₁. Ra. welcome Bo. T₁. M. into] vnto P. 85. neiþer Ar. G. Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Ro. nyther Du. nether L₂. nouthir Ra. T₂. Ap. noþer Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. P. E₂. noþr Ba. boos ne belle] liste nor belle Ad₂. I. 86. Besechinge G. Ad₁. Ra. besekyng Bo. T₁. Ad₂. I. wil] wolde Ad₁. I. me] *om.* E₁. E₂. 87. 3oure] of youre E₁. E₂. of] *om.* Bo. T₁. Du. M. E₁. E₂. 88. more] mor Ar. G. Ra. L₂. 89. al] and G. 91. araiëd Ad₁. araiëd M. arayde Bo. ryden Bo. M. ride Ad₁. 92. Lydgate (Lidgate)] Lidgat Bo. Lydygate Ap. 93. Bery Ar. G. L₂. Bury Bo. *and all the rest (cp. 131).* ny3] nat Ad₂. I. 95. haue] ha Ar. *alone.* I haue therof] therof haue I. M. 96. broke] brouke Bo. T₁. Du. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₂. 3e] þee Bo. *om.* Ad₂. I. 3e 3oure] he her T₂. 97. be] *om.* Ad₂. I. soul Ar. G. Ra. sou] Ad₁. sou] S. sole Bo. Du. M. Ad₂. L₂. E₂. Ap. soole L₁. sool I. E₁. T₂. Ro. 3e be soul] ye be foul] Ba. ye be seke P. it be so T₁. beth] be Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Ad₂. I. S. T₂. L₂. Ro. right] *om.* Ad₂. I. 98. soupe] to soupe Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. E₁. T₂. P. E₂. to nyght] þis nyght Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. E₁. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro (cp. 143). 99. haue] han Ar. *alone.* mad] *om.* L₂. Ro. 3oure] youre owne Ro. devis] aveye P.

- A gret^t puddyng^t / or a rounde hagys, 100
 A Franchmole* / a tansej / or a froyse.
 To ben a Monk / Slender is 3oure koyse ;
 3e han be seke / I dar myñ hede assure,
 Or latë fed / in a feynt pasture. 104
 Lift^t vp 3oure hed / be glad, tak no sorowe !
 And 3e shal hom ridë with vs to-morowe !
 I seyü, whan 3e rested han 3our^t fille.
 Aftere soper / Slepe wil do noñ ille. 108
 Wrappe wel 3oure hede / with* clothës rounde aboute !
 Strong^t notty ale / wol makë* 3ou to* route.
 Tak a pylow / þat 3e lye not^t lowe !
 3if nedë be / Sparë* not^t to blowe ! 112
 To holdë wynde /, be myñ opynyoun,
 Wil engendre / Collikes* passiouu
 And makë men to greuen / on her roppys,
 whan thei han filled / her mawës *and* her croppys. 116
 But^t towan^t nyght^t / ete some fenel Rede,

and ride home
with em to-
morrow.

He bade me
drink nutty ale,

eat fennel-seed
at night,

100. rounde] *om.* P. hagys] haggis Ra. Ba. P. Agys Ro. Ap. hastyng G.
 101. Franchmole Ar. Franche mole G. frankmole Ap. franche myle Bo.
 T₁. Du. L₁. M. fraunchemul Ad₁. Ad₂. fraunchemule T₂. S. Fronchemul I.
 freunchemule Ba. fraunchmule Ro. fraunchemele L₂. fraunche-
 moyle E₁. E₂. fraunche Mayle P. 102. ben. Ad₁. be Bo. M. sklendre Bo.
 T₁. Du. M. sklendyr L₁. Ro. Ap. slendir Ra. L₂. T₂. E₂. Ba. koyse (coise)]
 choyse Ba. 103. han Ar. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. L₂. haue Bo. *and* the rest. han] *om.*
 M. be] ben L₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. seke Ar. G. I. Ra. Ba. P. Ro.
 Ap. sek T₂. seek Ad₂. seeke L₁. syke Bo. T₁. Du. M. E₁. S. L₂. sik Ad₁.
 sicke E₂. 104. late fed] late I-fedde T₂. lette fede E₁. E₂. latte fede S.
 105. take Bo. M. Ad₁. tak] and take P. *In* Bo. l. 105 *and* l. 106 *have*
been transposed. 106. shal] shul Bo. T₁. Du. M. Ra. T₂. shold E₁. should E₂.
 hom ride] ride hom Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ar. *has a pause-bar* after ride. 107.
 say Bo. M. sey Ad₁. han Ar. G. Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. Ra. haue T₁. L₁. Ad₂. I. Ba.
 S. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. restid han] haue restid Ad₂. I. ; Ar. *has a pause-bar*
after 3e. 107—176 *gap in* E₁. 108. Slepe] to slepe Ad₂. I. wil do non] woll
 do you none P. well & do noun L₂. 109. wel] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. with] *om.*
 Ar. G. Ra. Ba. E₂. Ap. 110. notty] nopypy L₂. Ap. ; *in* L₁. notti *is by a late*
hand altered to nopypy. mak Ar. make Bo. M. Ad₁. to] *om.* Ar. G. 111—337
gap in Du. 111. þat] and P. lowe] to lowe L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. 112. 3if]
 And iff T₂. Spare] Spar Ar. spaar Ad₁. to] for to L₂. Ro. *om.* Ra. 114. Wil]
 It wil Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. T. T₂. P. engendre] gendyr L₁. Collis Ar.
 G. Bo. T₁. L₁. Ad₁. Ra (collyke *written in margin by late hand*). Ba. T₂. Ap.
 colles P. E₂. collikes M. collyks L₂. collyk Ad₂. I. collica Ro. colica S.
 115. men] *om.* Bo. to] *om.* P. greuen] gronyñ L₂. on] in Ad₁. Ad₂. I. L₂. Ap.
 on her] *om.* S. 116. han Bo. Ad₁. haue M. filled] fylled wele Ro. her mawës
 and] *om.* Ro. and her croppys] and croppes Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. L₂. 117.
 fenel] febell T₂. venel L₂. Rede] I rede Ad₁. Ad₂. ; L₂. *and* Ro. *have* sede, l. *has*
 seed, *from* 115.

Annys / Comyn / or coriandre sede !	
And lik as I / pouer hane / <i>and</i> myght,	
I Chargē 3ow / rise not' at Mydnyght,	120 and not get up at midnight.
Thogh it' so be / the moonē shynē cler.	
I wol my-silf / be 3oure Orloger	He'd call me early ;
To-morow erly / whan I se my tyme,	
For we wol forþ / parcel a-forē Pryme,	124 and we'd start before Prime.
A company / pardē / Shal do 3ou good.	
What! look vp, Monk / for, by kokkis blood,	
Thow shalt' be mery / who so þat sey nay.	
For to-morowe, anoon / as it' is day,	128
And that it' gynne / in þe Est' to dawē,	[leaf 3]
Thow shalt' be boundē* / to a newē lawe,	
Att'goynge oute of Canterbury toune,	When we left Canterbury,
And leyn a-sidē / thy professioun.	132
Thow shalt' not' chesē / nor þi-silf withdrawe,	
3if eny myrth / be founden in thy mawe,	I was to tell a merry tale,
Lyk the custom / of this Compenye ;	
For non so proude / that' dar me denye,	136
Knyght nor knauē / Chanon / prest / ne nonne,	

118. omitted in I. 118. Comyn] comyng G. coriandre] colyaundre G. Ad₂. S. P. collyandir L₂. sede] rede Ro. 119. pouer hane] hane p. P. 120. rise] to rise Bo. T₁. M. T₂. ; in Ad₂. and I. l. 120 is quite altered: I shall be your herbiour for this nyht. 121. so be] be so L₁. L₂. Ro. be] be that P. 122. I wol myself] myself wil be Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Orloger Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. E₂. Ro. orligere Bo. T₁. L₁. M. T₂. P. orlegere L₂. orlagere Ap. our loggere Ba. 124. For] And for Ra. parcel afore] a parcell affore Ra. parcel bifore Bo. T₁. L₁. M. I. L₂. a parcel bi-fore Ad₁. Ad₂. parcell or Ba. percas before P. parse after Ap. 125. A company] Acompany E₂. And company Ro. Ap. shal] þat shal Bo. T₁. L₁. M. T₂. P. 3ou] no L₁. 126. by] my G. 127. þov shalt Ad₁. M. þou shal Bo. who so] who Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Ba. T₂. P. sey Ad₁. seith Bo. M. 128. anoon as] as sone as Bo. T₁. L₁. M. T₂. anoon whan Ra. Ba. In Ad₂. and I. the original l. 127 is missing and its place is taken by l. 128, which in I. agrees with Ar. Ad₁., but in Ad₂. is altered to: To-morwe anone as sone as hit is day ; a new l. 128 has been composed: Thow shalt ful wel knowe as I the say Ad₂. As thow shalte knowe as I the say I. 129. gynne] begynneth P. to] om. E₂. in þe Est to dawē] into the Est to drawe Ba. 130. Thow shalt] Ye shalt Ba. bounde Bo. M. Ad₁. bound Ar. to] vnto Ra. P. 131. Canterbury] Caterbury Ar. Cauntrebery Bo. Caunterbury M. Ad₁. 132. lay Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. a-side] a-donn G. professioun] professoun L₁. 133. nor] ne Bo. T₁. L₁. M. S. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. 134. myrth Bo. merthe M. Ad₁. founden] founde G. Bo. T₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. P. E₂. om. L₁. 135. lik Ad₁. lyke Bo. M. companye G. Bo. 136. non] noon is Bo. T₁. L₁. M. T₂. P. proude] bold T₂. hardy Ro. that dar] that day T₂. me] om. Ad₂. l. 137. nor] ne L₁. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. prest] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. ne] nor I. Ra. Ba. S. Ap.

	To telle a talë / pleynly as thei konne, Whan I assigne / and se tyme oportune.	
as every one had to, on the home journey.	And for that we / our purpoos wil contune, We wil homward ^t / the samë custome vse, And thow shalt not ^t / platly the excuse.	140
¶ How oure host spak to Daun Iohn.	Be now wel war / Stody wel to-nyght! But, for al this / be of hertë list!	144
Then we had a good supper,	Thy wit ^t shal be / þe Sharper <i>and</i> the bet. ^{er} And we anon / were to Soper set, And seruëd wel / vnto oure plesaunce ; And sone after / be good gouernaunce	148
went to bed, and in the morning	Vnto bed goth euery maner wight. And touarde morowe / anoñ as it was light, Euery Pilgryme / bothë* bet <i>and</i> wors,	
started at sun- rise,	As bad oure hostë / toke a-noñ his hors, Whan the sonnë / roos in the est ^t ful clyere,	152
meaning to dine at Ospringe.	Fully in purpoos / to come to dynere Vnto Osspryng ^t / and brekü þer our ^t faste.	.
When out of the town,	And whan we weren / from Canterbury paste Noght ^t the space / of a bowë draught, Our hoost ^t in hast / haþ my bridel rauht ^t ,	156
our Host said	And to me seide // as it ^t were in game,	
'let's have some fun.'	"Come forth, daun Ioñ / be þour Cristene name,	160
[leaf 3, back]	And lat ^t vs make / some manere myrth or play!	

138. pleynly] such Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 139. Whan] Whan that Ba. and se] *om.*
Ra. Ba. to se Ad₂. I. 139 and 140 omitted in L₂. 140. And] *om.* Ra. Ba.
that] *om.* Bo. T₁. L₁. M. T₂. P. we our purpoos wil] we will o. p. L₁. wil] forth
wil M. contune] continen S (:oportune). 141. the same] our Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
Ra. Ba. S. In Bo. H. 141—146, 150, 151 were nearly obliterated and have been
filled in again by a later hand, not always correctly (e.g. shat f. shal 142. new f.
now 143). 142. platly] plainly Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. E₂. 143. to-nyght]
this nyght L₂. Ro. 144. list] right light Bo. T₁. M. T₂. P. 146. And] Yf
Bo. M. T₂. P. to] vnto Ba. were to soper] to soper wer S. 147—222 *gap in*
M. 147. vnto] to T₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. 149. Ar. has a pause-bar after goth. 150.
anon as] as some as Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. E₂. 151. bothë T₁. hope Ad₁.
both Ar. Bo. 152. As] And L₂. Than Ro. omre] þe Bo. T₁. L₁. T₂. P.
toke] take L₂. Ro. 153. roos] aroos Ad₁. Ad₂. I. T₂. *om.* Ba. the est] thest
T₁. 154. Fully] Ful Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. T₂. P. to dynere] vnto d. Di. T₂. to
oure d. Ro. 155. Ospryng Bo. Ospring G. Ad₁. Hospreng P. 156. wern
Ad₁. were Bo. from] fro Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. *om.* Ad₁.
Ad₂. I. 158. haast Bo. hast T₁. Ad₁. haste Ra. rauht] kault Ra. laght
Ba. 160. cristen Bo. Ad₁. 161. manere] *om.* Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
Ra. Ba. S. or] and P.

Shet' 3oure portoos / a twenty deuelway!

It* is no disport / so to patere and seie.

It' wol make 3oure lippës / wonder dreye.

Tel some tale / and make ther-of a* Iape!

For be my Rouney / thow shalt' not' eskape.

But preche not / of noñ holynesse!

Gynne some tale / of myrth or of gladnesse,

And noddë not' / with thyn heuy bekke!

Telle vs soñe thyngt' / that' draweþ to effecte

Only of Ioyë /! make no lenger lette!"

And whan I saugh / it woldë be no bette,

I obeyed* / vnto his biddynge,

So as the lawë / me bonde in al thinge;

And as I couldë / with a palë cheere,

My tale I gan / anon / as 3e shal here.

164 ¶ How our host
bad Daun Iohan
telle a tale,

not a holy,

168 but a merry one.

172

So I obeyd him,

176 and began my
Tale (which is a
sad one).

Explicit Prologus.

Incipit Pars Prima. Per &c.

162. Shet] Shet vp Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. P. leve Ad₂. I. portoos] portos G. Bo. Di. Ra. P. portas L₁. portes E₂. porteis L₂. portoyes Ba. portewes S. E₂. a] on P. in a Ba. 163. It is T₁. L₁. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. T₂. L₂. Ro. Hit is Bo. P. Is (*om.* it) Ar. G. E₂. Ap. Is it S. no disport] no sporte L₁. T₂. none sporte Di. a disport S. so] *om.* P. to] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. seie] to seye Bo. P. so to seye T₂. In T₂. 163 and 164 are transposed. 164. wonder] *om.* G. dreye] drye Bo. Ap. 165. therof] herof L₂. a] no Bo. L₁. Di. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. Ap. *om.* Ar. G. 166. not] it not Bo. L₁. Ra. S. T₂. P. E₂. Ad₁. not it Di. Ba. 167. preche Bo. Ad₁. holynesse] hevynesse Di. 168. Gynne] Begynne Di. Ap. Gyf Bo. yeve T₁. Gyff vs L₁. or of] or G. and of Bo. T₁. L₁. Ro. and Di. P. 169. noddë I. nod Bo. Ad₁. nodde] *om.* Ad₂. with] so with Ro. *om.* Ap. bekke Ar. G. L₁. Ad₁. S. E₂. beck Ba. Ap. bek Bo. T₁. Ra. T₂. P. L₂. beke Di. becke Ro. necke Ad₂. I. 170. vs] *om.* L₁. some thyng] merithing Di (*written by later hand, the original reading being effaced*). draweþ] touchip Di. to] *om.* G. til Ad₂. I. effecte Ar. L₁. Ad₂. I. S. P. E₂. Ap. effect Ba. effekke G. Ad₁. effek Bo. T₁. Di. Ra. T₂. L₂. to effecte] of to speke Ro. In Ar. effecte has been altered by a later hand into effekke. 171. make] and make Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. 172—176 in Di. almost effaced and partly filled in by a later hand. 172. wolde] woll P. 173. obeyed T₁. Di. Ra. Ad₂. I. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. obeyde Ar. G. Bo. L₁. S. Ap. obeid Ad₁. Ba. T₂ (*cp.* 408). 174. So] And I₂. Ro. And so G. (*with And underdotted*). *om.* Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. lawe] haue (*by later hand*) Di. bonde] bounde L₁. S. Ro. allowid Ad₂. I. 175. And] *om.* Ro. coude] couthe Bo. T₁. Ba. a pale] a ful pale Ro. 176. I gan anon] I began anon Ap. anon I gan S. began P. anon as] so as T₂. shal] shul T₁. T₂. P. may G. *om.* Ra. here] aftir here P.

[leaf 4]

Prima Pars.

As I am now one
of your company,

S Irs / quod I : sith of *your* curtesye*
 I entred am / *in-to* *your* companye,
 And admitted / a talè for to telle
 By hym þat' hæþ pouer to compelle, 180
 I mene *our* hoste, *gouernour* and guyde
 Of *þow* echon / ridyng her be-side ;
 Thogh that' my wit' / barayn be and dul,

I will tell you
a story of the
Siege of Thebes,

I wol reherce / a story wonderful, 184
 Towehinge the siege / and* destrucciouu
 Of worthy Thebes / the myghty Royal touu,

a city built by

Bylt' and begonne / of olde antiquité,
 Vpon the tyme / of worthy Iosue, 188

King Amphion.

Be dyligence / of kyng' Amphiouu,
 Chief causè first' / of his fundacioun,
 For which his fame / which neuere shal away,
 In honure floureth / 3it' vnto this day, 192
 And in story / remembred is and preised.

How he raisd
the walls,

But how the wallys / weren on heghte reised,
 It' is wonder / and merveil forto here.

177. I] he Ad₁. curtesye T₁. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. E₁. S. T₂. Ro. E₂. curteseye Ar. curtesye I. curtasye Bo. Ba. curtesy Ra. P. L₂. cowrtassy L₁. 180. hæþ pouer] power hath Bo. T₁. Di. T₂. Ar. has a pause-bar after pouer. 181. Oste Bo. Oost Ad₁. Ost T₁. Di. host Ra. 182. echon] eueri on Di. 183. that] om. T₂. L₂. Ro. my] om. S. barayn be] be baryn S. 184. wonderful] full wonderful L₁. ri3t wonderful Di. 184-191 in Di. are partially effaced and the words filled in, sometimes very incorrectly (e.g. 186, 187, 190), by a later hand. 185. and] of Ar. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. 191. fame] name Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. T₂. P. which] þat Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. T₂. om. L₂. P. neuere shal] shal neuer T₂. P. L₂. Ro. 192. vnto] into Bo. T₁. L₁. 193. in] om. Ra. preised] preved L₁. Ar. has a second pause-bar after remembred. 194. weren on heghte] on height were Bo. T₁. Di. on high were L₁. on heghte] on heigh T₂. S. in hih Ad₂. I. reised] arcisid Di. l-reysed Ba. 195. wonder and merveil] merucile and wondre Bo. T₁. L₁ (marvell). Di.

But if 3e list / I shal 3ow platly lere	196	
The maner hool / shortly in sentence,		
Vnder support / of 3oure paciencie,		
As writ myn auctour / and bochas both two,		you will find in Boccaccio.
Rede her bookes / and 3e shal fynde it so,	200	
How this kyng / thys prudent Amphyoun,		How kyng Amphyoun was þe first þat bilt the Cyte of Thebes be þe swetnesse of his soun.
With the swetnesse / and melodious soun		
*And armony / of his swetë song		
The Cytë bylt / that whilom was so strong,	204	He built the city by the warbles of his harp.
Be vertue only / of the werbles sharpe		
That he made / in Mercuries harpe,		
Of which the strengës / were not touchëd softe,		
Wherby the wallës / reisëd weren a-lofte,	208	
With-outë craft / of eny mannys hond,		[leaf 4, back]
Ful 3oor agon / myd of Grekës lond ;		
which is a þing / of Poetës told,		
Neuere yseyn / neither of 3ong nor old.	212	
¶ But, as Bochas / list to specifie,		
Cler expownyng / this derkë poysye,		¶ The expositioun of Iohn Bochas vpon þis derk poysie.
¶ Seith* Mercurye / god of Eloquence,		
3af, be the myght / of heuently influence,	216	
Vnto this kyng / at His natiuitë		
Thorgh glade aspectës /, that he shuldë* be		
Most excellent / be craft of Rethorik,		
That in this worlð / was non to hym lik ;	220	
Which signyfiet / to hem that ben prudent,		

196. platly] playnly L₁. S. P. 197. shortly] playnly Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. platly Ad₁. E₁. T₂. E₂. sothely P. 200. 3e shal] ye shulen T₁. þou shalt Bo. it] right Ad₂. I. 202. With the] Wit his Ra. 203. In Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. U. 203 and 204 are transposed. And] Bi Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 204. The] This Di. whilom] some tyme Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. T₂. P. I₂. Ro. 205. the] his Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. om. Ra. Ba. 206. made] had made Ad₂. I. 208. wern Ad₁. were Bo. T₁. wer Ra. a-lofte Bo. on loft Ad₁. Ra. 209. honde with e underdotted Ar. 210. 3oor agon] yere agoo Ba. many a yeere ago P. myd] in mydde Di. amyd P. 212. yseyn] seyn T₁. sene T₂. neither] om. Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. T₂. nor] ne T₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ba. S. L₂. Ro. nethir P. old] of old Bo. T₁. L₁. Ad₁. E₁. S. T₂. 213. Bochas] bookes Ad₂. I. 214. Cler] Clerly Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. T₂. Clerkely P. this] þe Di. L₂. 215. Seith] Seth Ar. G. Ap. Sith Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. P. E₂. L₂. Seith þat Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. T₂. 217. this] þe Bo. T₁. L₁. Di. T₂. P. G. 218. shulde Bo. shuld Ar. 220. this] the I. P. worlde Bo. world Ad₁. was] þer was Ad₁. Ad₂. I. non] Man P. to] vnto T₂. P. om. Di. S.

¶ The signifi- cious of þe harpe of Mercure.	The Musycal / the lusty instrument ^t , ¶ I mene the harpē / most melodious, yovē to this kyngē / be Mercurius,	224
Amphion's song	And his song ^t / this auctour can 3ow teche, was no thying ^t / but the crafty speche Of this kyng ^t / ycallēd Amphion ^u ; Wher-by He made / the contrē envyroun	228
was his sweet words,	To han such lust / in his wordēs swete, That were so plesaunt / fauourable, <i>and</i> mete ¶ In her Eerys / that shortly ther was noon ^t Disobeysaunt ^t / with the kyng to goon,	232
¶ How kyng Amphion, be mediacion of his soft spech, wān þe loue & þe hertes of the puple.	Wher so euere / that hym list assigne. His cheer / his port ^t / was outward* so benygne, That thorgh his styryng / <i>and</i> exortacioun With hym they went ^t / to byldē* first ^t this tou ⁿ ,	236
whereby he got folk to build him Thebes, of	And forsook / ecch man his contrē, Be on assent ^t / to makē this Cytē Royal <i>and</i> riche / that lich was nowher noon.	240
lime and stone, [leaf 5]	And thus the wallis / made of lym <i>and</i> stoon, Were Reysēd first ^t / be syngyng of this kyng ^t , lich as Poetys / feyne in her writyng ^t , Passyng Rich / <i>and</i> Royal of entaille.	244
as poets feign.	¶ Her may 3e See / how myche may awaylle The goodlihed / <i>and</i> lownesse of a kyng ^t ,	244

222. the lusty] þat lusty Bo. T₁. Di. lusty] listi Ad₁. 224. yove Ar. G. Ad₁.
Ad₂. I. Ra. E₂. Ap. youen Bo. T₁. M. Di. Ba. T₂. P. yeve L₂. Ro. geven
L₁. S. gone E₁. this] þe Di. 225. can] gan Ro. 227. this] the P. kyng]
om. L₂. ycalled] ecallid L₂. called Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ba. S. P. Ro. 230. so]
om. L₂. Ro. plesaunt] *om.* Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. plesannt favourable] favourable
pleasunt T₂. P. 231. Eerys] hertis L₁. that] *om.* P. ther] þat þer Di. ther
was] was ther T₁. 233. so] sum L₁. Ra. that] *om.* Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. S. P.
hym] he S. list] *om.* T₂. assigne] to assigne Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra.
Ba. S. T₂. P. E₂. Ap. 234. outward] after Ar. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. evar S. efte
E₂. *om.* G. benygne *with the second n underdotted* Ar. 234. *om.* in Ad₂. I.
235. That] What T₁. L₁. thorgh] *om.* P. styryng] steringes Ad₁. strength Ad₂.
I. strenth *crossed through and sterynge written above by old hand* Ap. termes
Ra. Ba. stermes S. 236. hylde Bo. bilde M. byld Ar. Ad₁. bigge T₂. hylte P.
first] *om.* P. this] þe Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 239. and] *om.* Ad₂. I. was
nowher] nowhere was Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. nowher] nevir L₂. *om.* E₁. E₂. 241.
Reysed first] first reysid M. Di. 244. myche may] moche it may Bo. T₁. L₁. M.
moche 3e may Di. may] *om.* Ba. 245. goodlihed] goodelihood Ba. and] and
the Ba. of þe Ad₁. Ad₂. I. lownesse Ar. G. lowlynesse Bo. *and all the other*
MSS.

And specealy / in cher and in spekyng,
 To his lyeges / *and* to herū hym fayre ¶ Nota.
 In his apport^t / and shewe hym debonayre, 248 ¶ What availeþ
 And nat^t to bene / to straungē ne soleyñ ¶ prince to ben
 In cōntenaunce / outward^t / be disdeyñ ; goodly *and* be-
 Which causeþ ofte /, who that^t Can aduerte, nygne of his port
 Grete hatred / in the puples herte, 252 to his puple.
 And ther-vpon / priuely wol rowne,
 Whan a pryncē / doth vp-on hem frowne, A prince's
 Shortly deme / for al his excellence, trown
 Among^t hem-silf / out of his presence, 256
 Euerych concludē / lich his fantasye.
 And thus ful ofte / gendred is Envye begets Envy
 In folkēs hertes / of soleyntē *and* pryde, in folks' hearts.
 For swich as list^t / nat onys loke a-syde 260
 To Reward hem / whan they lowē loute.
 And ageyn kynde / it^t is · out^t of doute,
 That^t eny hed / be recorde of the wyse,
 Shuld the foot^t / of disdeyn despyse 264
 Which bereþ hym vp /, who so can takē hede, ¶ How þe poor
 And Susteneth / in his mostē* nede puple supporten
 As his Pyler / *and* his sowpowayle. *and* beren vp þe
 estat of a kyng.

246. And] An Ar. 248. apport] porte Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. and] and to Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. to Ro. hym] om. Ra. Ba. 249. And] om. Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. nat] ne Bo. T₁. L₁. nat to bene] to be not T₂. P. to straunge] or stronge Ba. to] om. L₁. ne] nor Bo. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. Ap. no L₂. or Ra. Ba. and L₁. neither T₂. 251. ofte] of G. that] so Di. om. P. 252. grete Bo. gret M. Ad₁. puples Ar. G. puplis T₁. peples Bo. M. Di. Ad₁. P. peplis T₂. peeplic Ra. pepils L₂. pepelcs S. pepilis Ro. pepyllys Ap. poeples Ad₂. poeplis I. peoples L₁. E₁. E₂. 253. priuely wol] whilom L₁. wol] wil thei M. Di. wollyn P. 254. vp-on] on Ad₁. doth vp-on] wol on Ad₂. I. 255. Shortly] And shortly Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. 256. Ar. has a second pause-bar between out and of. 258. ofte gendred] ofte engendrid L₁. Ro. 260. loke] to loke Bo. L₁. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. a-syde] on syde Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 262. Ar. has a pause-bar after kynde, a high point after is. And] om. Ro. kynde] om. Ba. out of] withoute M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. withouten Ba. S. 263. eny] the Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. 264. shulde Bo. T₁. Di. shuld M. Ad₁. Ra. foot] fete S. stock Ad₂. I. 265. bereþ] beren M. Di. bere P. who so] whos Bo. T₁. M. who L₁. Di. 266. And] And him Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. Ashuld G. susteneth] hym susteyneth Bo. T₁. L₁. T₂. hym sustenen M. Di. hym susteyne P. susteneth hym Ad₂. I. most Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. 267. As] And G. As his] As is his Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. And be his P. Pyler] pyllors P. sowpowayle Ar. G. sowpowaylle Ap. sowpowayle Ro. suppowaile Bo. M. Ad₁. Ba. suppowaille Di. suppowaile Ad₂. suppewaile I. suppowayle E₁. E₂. supporaylle S. supportaile P (rtai is written by a later hand, on erasure).

	For fynaly /, ne werē* the porayle	268
	her berer vp / <i>and</i> Supportacioun,	
	Farwel lordshyp / and domynacioun	
	Thorgh-oute the world / of euery hegh estat !	
	Wherfor me semeþ / mor is Fortunat	272
[leaf 5, back]	Of Mercurye / þe sootē sugred harpe	
	Than Mars / swerþ / whetted kene <i>and</i> sharpe,	
	Mor accepted / wiþ aspectis goode	
	Than is this god / with his lokēs woode.	276
	For humble speche / wiþ glad contenauuce	
	May a pryncē / sothly mor auauuce	
	Among [†] his puple / Hertēs forto wyne	
	Of inward [‡] louē / which that* wol not twynne,	280
	Than gold / rychessē / pride / or tyranye,	
	Outher* disdeyne / daunger / or surquedye.	
	For of lordes /, as* Clerkēs can reporte,	
	But that* loue / her crownē do supporte,	284
	The fyn ys noght* / in conclusioun.	
	I Takē record [§] / of kyng [†] Amphyoun,	
	That [¶] byltē Thebēs be his elloquence	
	Mor than of Pride / or of violence,	288
	Noble and riche / that [¶] lik was nowher noñ,	
	And thus the wallēs / mad of lym <i>and</i> stoon	
	Were reised first / be syngyng of this kyng [†] ,	
	lich as Poctēs / feyn in her wryting.	292
	¶ But sothly ȝit / Soñe expositours,	
	Groundyng hem / vpon olde auctours,	
¶ How aftere the opnyoun of some auctours		

268. For] And Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. were Bo. M. Ad₁. wer Ar. 269. berer] beryng Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. 271. Thorgh-oute] Thoruh Ad₂. I. Ra. world] londe E₁. lande E₂. hegh] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 271 and 272 transposed in Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 274. Than] Thanne is T₂. Whan Di. whetted] whet Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. gronde Ro. 277. speche Bo. M. Ad₁. spech Ra. 280. which that T₂. which *all the other MSS.* 282. Oyther Ar. G. outhere Ro. Other Bo. M. either Ad₁ Ra. disdeyne] this deyne Ra. 283. For] Or E₁. S. om. Ro. of] Of his Ro. as] om. Ar. G. E₁. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. can] konne Bo. M. Di. kun T₁. 284. But that Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. L₂. That but Ar. G. Bo. T₁. M. Di. T₂. P. Ro. Ap. That but if L₁ (*see Notes*). loue] om. Bo. crowne] coroun T₁. do] doth Ba. T₂. Ro. to G. om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 285. noght] nat Ar. G. Ap. not E₁. E₂. 287. bilt Bo. G. M. Ad₁. 290. mad] y made T₂. om. Bo. wer made Ba. 291. reised first] first reised M. Di. 293. sothly] shortly Ra. 294. Groundyng] Groundyn T₂. Grounden Bo. T₁. L₁. M. P. 294 om. in Ba.

Seyn that Cadmus / the famous olde man,		
Ful longe afor / this Citè first began	296	Cadmus bilt first þe Cite of Thebes.
And the ground / of the bieldyng sette,		
And the boundës / be compas out-mette *		
With thong out-korve / of a boolys hyde,		
Whych envyroun / strecchë myghtë * wyde	300	He cut a bull's hide into strips, and enclosed land as the site of Thebes.
To get Inne londe / a ful largë space		
Wher-vp-on to byld / a dwellyng place,		
And callèd was the Soyle / þus geten Inne,		
¶ Whylom Boece / of the bolys skynne.	304	¶ How þe contre of Boece toke first his name of a bolys skyn, After called Thebes.
The name after / into Thebës turned.	[leaf 6]	
¶ But Cadmus ther / hath longe not soiourned,		
lik in Story / as it is compyled ;		
For shortly he from thenmys was exiled,	308	¶ How kyng Cadmus was exiled out of Thebes be prow- esse of kyng Amphyon.
Neuer after to dwellen * in this toun,		
Be the knyghthode of this Amphion,		
Which vp parformeth / riche for the noonys		
The Citè Thebes / of myghty squarë * stonys,	312	
As I þow tolde / a litil here to-forñ ;		

295. Seyn] Seynge P. Cadmus] Cadicius Bo. Cadinus Ad₁. I. Tadmus Ra. Cadimius P. the] pat Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ba. T₂. famous] om. Ba. T₂. 297. And the] And Ba. of the] of Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. 298. be compas out Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. Ap. oute by compas Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. mette] he mette Ar. Ap. be mette G. In Ar. there is a second pause-bar after compas. 299. thong] a thonge L₁. a whong Ro. out-korve Ar. G. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. Ro. Ap. out-corue Bo. T₁. M. L₂. outkerue E₁. T₂. P. E₂. korve out L₁. boolys Ar. bolys M. Ad₁. bulles Bo. boles L₁. boollis Ro. hyde] side E₁. S. E₂. 299 omitted in Ba. 300. myghte Di. Ad₂. myght Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. wyde] ful wyde Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. Euyñ envyroun streight met full wyde P. 302. Wher-vp-on] There vpon Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. Ap. 303. Soyle] place Ad₁. Ad₂. I. þus] om. Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. P. geten] goten Bo. M. Di. Ad₂. T₂. P. 304. Boece] Boete Ra. Boyte Ba. Cyte L₂. 305. name] names M. Di. 306. But] And Ro. Cadmus] Cadinus Ad₁. Cadymus P. Tadmus Ad₂. Thadinus I. Tadmus Ra. ther hath longe not] hath not there longe Bo. T₁. M. Di. Ra. E₁. S. T₂. E₂. P (om. there). hath not long þere Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. L₁. L₂. hath þere not longe Ro. 308. from] om. Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. T₂. thenmys Ar. thennes Ad₁. E₁. S. Thebes G. thens Bo. and all the other MSS. he from thenmys was] thens he was Di. T₂. he was from thenys P. from Thebes he was G. In Ar. the pause-bar is between shortly and he. 309. to] for to E₁. E₂. dwellen M. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra (dwellyn). dwelle Ar. Bo. T₁. I. dwell E₁. E₂. In Ar. pause-bar after dwelle. this] the E₁. T₂. E₂. 310. the] om. L₁. this] kyng M. Di. 311. vp] vpon Ba. riche] richely M. Di. riht Ra. riht Ba. 312. square G. Bo. M. Ad₁. squar Ar. In Ro. l. 312 reads: The Cite of Thebes with many square s. 313. litil] lyte Bo. T₁. M. Di. Ad₁. E₁. T₂. E₂. a litil here] here a litil Ra. Ba. toforñ] before G. L₁. S. P. Ap. afforne Ad₂. I.

- And Cadmus þus / hath his kyngdam lorñ,
Sceptre and crowne / *and* his powere Royal.
- I've now told
you all about
the building of
Thebes,
¶ Now have I told / vnto 3ou / ground of al, 316
That 3e wel knowe / be Informacioun
Clerly the pith / and exposicioun
Of this mater / as clerküs can 3ou telle.
- and won't say
more, as my
Tale 'll last for
7 miles.
It were but veyn / lenger for to dwelle, 320
To tary 3ow / as in this matiere,
Sith my talë / which that 3e shal here,
Vpon oure waie / wil lasten a longe while,
The space* / as I suppose / of vii. myle. 324
And now 3e knowë* / first how Amphyouñ
Bylt and began / this Citè and this touñ,
Regnyng^t ther / long^t aftere, as I rede.
Of hym no morë / ; for I wil^t procede 328
- ¶ How þe lyne
of Amphiouñ be
discent was con-
ueied to kyng
layus.
To my purpoos / that I first began :
Not tellyng here / how the lynë Ran
From kyng^t to kyng / be successioun,
Conveyng douñ / þe stok of Amphyouñ 332
Cereously be lyneal* discent ;
But leue al this /, pleyñly of entent
To tellë forth /, in booküs as I rede,
¶ How layus be processe / gan succede 336
- [leaf 6, back]
¶ Kyng Layus
and Iocasta hys
wiff.
To bere the Croune / in this myghty Lond^t,
holdyng^t the Sceptre of thebës in his hond,
Manly and wys / duryng^t al his liff.

314. Cadmus] Calinus Ad₁. Thadinus I. Thadmus Ad₂. 316. vnto] to Ad₁. I. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. Ap. om. Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ba. ground] the ground L₁. M. Di. Ba. T₂. P. 318. pith] path L₁. P. pitche T₂. and] & of Ro. exposicioun] thexposicioun M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. T₂. E₂. 318 omitted in Ba. 322. Sith] Syn Ra. With L₁. which] om. Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. that] as L₁. om. Ba. shal] shul Bo. T₁. T₂. P. 323. oure] youre Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ad₂. T₂. P. wil] it wil Ad₂. it wol I. lasten Ap. last Bo. laste M. Ad₁. 324. The] Into the Ba. space] space in soth Ar. and all the other MSS. except Ba. space for sothe Ba. as] om. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. Ap. suppose] deme Ro. vii.] sex Ro. an E₁. 325. knowe Bo. M. Ad₁. know Ar. 326. began] gan L₁. this Cite] his cite Ra. Ba. the Cite P. and] furst and P. this touñ] his t. Ra. Ba. 327. Regnyng] And regned Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. aftere] om. S. 330. lyne] lyn Ad₁. kyn Ad₂. I. 332. þe] to the G. M. Di. by the E₁. E₂. 333. Cereously] Curiously P. Coryously L₂. lyneal] lyne / al Ar. lyne al G. lyne all S. P. lyne all the E₁. E₂. lyne of Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 335. To telle forth] Now wole I tele Ro. 336. gan] can G. succede] procede M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S.

And Iocasta / callèd was his wyff ^t ,	340	
Ful wommanly / the story seith certeyn,		
For a tymè / thogh she were bareyn,		She is barren.
Tyl Layus / in ful humble wise		Layus does
To haue a child / didè* Sacrifise,	344	sacrifice to get a child.
Fyrst to* apollo / in his char so briz ^t ,		
And Iubiter / that ^t hap so gret ^t a myght ^t ,		
Besechyng ^t hem / with deuout ^t reuerence,		
To graunt ^t only / thorgh her influence,	348	
That ^t his request ^t / may excecuted be :		
And specially / to Goddesses thre,		Layus prays 3 Goddesses to help him.
He besoughte / Pallas and Iuno		
And Dyanè / forto helpe also	352	
That ^t he be not ^t defrauded of His bone.		
And his preyere / accepted was ful sone,		
That ^t fynaly / thorgh his rrytys olde,		
Evene lik ^t / as his hertè wolde,	356	
The queene Iocasta / hath ^t anon conceyued ;		His wife conceives a child.
Which ^t whan the kyng / fully hath ^t perceyued *		
He made in hast ^t /, hym lyst not ^t to abide,		
Thorgh hys kyngdom / Massagerès ryde	360	
Fro Coost to Coost ^t / the story can devyse,		
For dyvynoures / and phylosophres wise,		He sends for diviners to find out the child's fate.
For such ^t as weren / famous physiciens		
And wel expert / Astronomyens,	364	
To Come* in hast / vnto his presence		
To fynden* out / shortly in sentence,		

344. did Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. he dide Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. 345. to apollo] tapollo Ar. G. E₂. Ap. so] full T₂. P. 346. Iubiter] to Iubiter Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. gret a] gret L₁. T₂. Ra. Ba. moche Ro. 350. to] vnto T₂. vnto the P. to the Di. Ra. Ba. Ro. Goddesses] goddesse Di. Ro. goddes L₁. Ba. P. goddys G. Ra. I. 352. And] And eke T₂. And to Di. helpe Bo. Ad₁. helpen M. 356. herte Bo. hert M. Ad₁. wolde] thinke wolde Ro. 358. fully] om. Ra. Ba. hath] om. Ap. perceyued] conceyued Ar. G. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ap. consitheryd S. 360. kyngdom] kyngdom his L₁. Ap. Massageris Ar. G. Messagers Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. S. Messageris Di. Messengers L₁. E₁. E₂. Ap. Messingers Ba. Messangers T₂. P. L₂. Ro. Messangeris T₁. Massangers Ra. Massangeers Ad₂. I. ryde] to ryde Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. for to ryde Ra. Ba. S. T₂. Ap. 363. weren Bo. wern M. Ad₁. 365. Come] Corve Ar. G. 366. fynden M. Di. fynde Ar. Bo. and all the other MSS.

	By Craft ^t only / Of Calculacioun,	
	The Clydlës fate* / and disposicioun ;	368
[leaf 7]	And ther-vpon / to 3eve / a Iugement,	
¶ How the astro- nomyens and the phylisophres of Thebes calked out þe fate ^h of Edyppus.	The Root ^t ytaken* / at ^t the ascendent ^t ,	
	Trewly sought ^t out ^t / be mynut ^t <i>and</i> degrè	
	The silfë* houre / of his natyvytè,	372
They are to discover it by searching the heavenly mansions, &c.	Not ^t forȝete / the heuenny mansiouns	
	Clerly Cerched / be smalë fracciouns,	
	First ^t be Secoundës / tiers <i>and</i> ekë quartes,	
	On Augrym stoonës / and on white caartes	376
	yprenëd out ^t / be diligent ^t labour,	
	In tables correcte / devoyde of al error	
	Iustly soght ^t * / and founde / out ^t * bothe* twoo,	
	The 3eerës collecte* / <i>and</i> expançe also,	380
	Consydred ek / be good inspeccioun	
	Euery hour* / and constellacioun	
	And eche aspecte / <i>and</i> lookës ek dyuers,	
	Which were good / and which also pervers,	384
	Wher they were toward / or ellys at debat,	
¶ Nota.	¶ happy, welful / or infortunat ^t .	
¶ The cursed Constellacioun <i>and</i> indisposi- cioun of þe heuene in þe natiuyte of Edyppus.	And fynaly / in conclusioun,	
	They founde satourn / in the Scoriounn,	388
	Hevy-chered / maleneolik / <i>and</i> lothi,	

368. fate] face Ar. L₁. Ra. Ap. facte S. disposicioun] his disposicyon Bo. þe disposicioun L₂. 369. And] A Ar. a] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. T₂. P. Ro. 370. Root ytake Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. rote taken Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. at the] atte T₁. M. Ra. E₁. S. T₂. 371. out] om. G. 372. silfë Di. P. selfe L₁. Ra. E₁. selfe Ap. sylve Ro. silf Ar. self Bo. T₁. Du. M. Ad₁. Ba. T₂. E₂. L₂. fwl S. first Ad₃. I. 375. tiers Ar. G. ters Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. T₂. teers Ad₁. E₁. terces E₂. Ro. tercius L₂. tercyes Ap. eke Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. eke] þe L₂. om. Ra. Ro. quartes] quaters Bo. T₂. Ra. Ba. quarterees Ro. 376. white] om. G. Ad₂. I. caartes] coartes Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. T₂. P. coarters Ra. Ba. 379. soght] focht *miswritten* Ar. sought owte P. out] out of Ar. G. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. on I. om. Ad₂. bothe T₁. M. Ad₁. Ra. both Ar. Bo. 380. In Ar. after 3eerës is written *expans*, but *crossed out*. collecte] correcte Ar. G. L₁. Ad₁. I. Ra. Ba. carect S. correcte (*crossed out*) comen Ad₂. 382. hour] tour Ar. G. L₂. Ap. and] of Bo. 384. second which] om. Bo. Du. P. also] om. L₁. 385. Wher] Wheper L₁. P. Whedir Ad₂. om. Ba. they were] Wer they Ba. toward] caward Ba. or] om. L₁. ellys] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. E₂. at debat] at þe bate L₁. 386. welful] wyllfull Ra. Ba. Ad₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. willfull S. or] other M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. 387. in] as in Ro. 388. In the Nota Egyppus for Edyppus; also Egippus in the next Nota; here also face for fate.

And woodē* Mars / furious <i>and</i> wrothē,		
holdyng his Sceptre / in þe Capricornē,		
The samē hourē* / whan this chyld was bornē,	392	
Venus deiecte / <i>and</i> Contrarious		¶ Nota.
And depressēd / in Mercuryes hous ;		¶ How the fate* of Edippus disposed that he shulde sleen his owne fadere.
That the dome / and Ingēment fynal		
Of thies Clerkes /, to speke in special,	396	
Be Fatal sort / whiche may not be wifdrawe,		
That with his swerf / his fader shal be slawe ;		
Ther may no man helpe it / nor excuse.		
On whiche thyng / the kyng gan sorē muse,	400	Thinking on this, [leaf 7, back]
And cast he wolde / on that other side		
Agayn her doom / for hym-silf provide,		
Shape a way / and remedy to-forē,		
Biddyng the queenē / whan the chyld were bornē,	404	Layus bids Jocasta kill her child as soon as it is born.
With-oute Mercy / or moderly pytē		
That he be ded / : it* may noñ other be.		
And in al hast / lik as he hatē sent,		
She obeyēd / his comaundēment.	408	
With wooful herte / and a pitous loke		
And facē pale / her zonge sone she toke,		She gives her boy to men,
Tendre and grenē / both of flesh <i>and</i> bonys,		
To certeyn men / ordeynēd for þe noonys	412	
From poynt to poynt / in al maner' þing		
To execute / the biddyng of the kyng.		

390. woode L₁. Ba. wode Bo. T₁. Du. M. wood Ar. Ad₁. Ra. and] and eke T₂. 392. heure Bo. hour Ar. M. Ad₁. whan] þat Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. this] the Ra. Ba. I. was] om. Ba. born] Iborn S. 393. deiecte] dyreete E₁. directe E₂. 395. and] and þe Bo. Ra. P. 397. sort] force L₁. swart L₂. which] þat Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Lb. E₁. T₂. P. E₂. they Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 398. second his] om. G. 399. helpe it] it helpe G. 400. whiche Bo. M. which Ad₁. sore] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Lb. T₂. P. gan sore] sore gan Ro. muse] to muse Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. T₂. P. 402. Agayn Ad₁. Ayen Bo. M. Ayenste Lb. and gayn G. provide] to provyde Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. T₂. 403. Shape] To shape L₁. Shapyng Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. remedy] a remedie Di. to-forē] aforē Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. T₂. L₂. Ro. before Ra. Ba. P. I. be to forē Lb. final Di. 405. moderlys *with s underdotted* Ar. 406. it] hit Bo. Du. Lb. P. that Ar. þere G. 407. al] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. T₂. P. all the Ad₂. I. 408. obeide Bo. obbeied M. obeied Ad₁. 409. a] om. G. 410. her] she hir Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. P. zonge] om. M. Di. sone] childe Du. M. Di. she toke] toke Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. P. 412. To] And T₁. 413. þinge Ar. *and* 414. kyng Ar (*both final e underdotted*).

- They durste not delay it / nor abide,
 But to a Forest / that stood fer besyde, 416
 They took Her wey and faste gan hem spede
 The kyngges wille / to parforme in dede,
 Havyng^t therof / passyng^t hevynesse.
- But as he is so
 beautiful,
 But whan that they / beheelden the fairnesse 420
 Of the Chyld / and excellent^t beauté,
 In her hertë / they hadde grete pytë,
 And pleynly cast^t /, among hem was no stryf,
 That the child / shuldë* han his lif. 424
 And anon ful hygh / vpon a tre,
 In a placë / that no man myght se,
 They henge hym vp / the story kan reheree.
 But first^t his feet^t / þorgh / they gan to percee, 428
 And on bowës tendre / tough, and smale,
 They knet^t hym vp / shortly þis is no tale,
 Hym to preserve / from bestys wild^t and Rage.
 And after that^t / they* token her viage 432
 Toward Thebës / in alle the hast^t they may.
- [leaf 8]
 ¶ But^t of fortunë / thilke samë day
 with her houndës / serchyng vp and douñ,
 The huntës went / of kyng^t poliboun 436
 Thorgh the forest^t / gamë forto fynde,
 Some aforn / and somë / cam behynde,
415. durst Bo. dorst M. Ad₁. 416. fer] þere Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. T₂. P. E₂. In Ra. and Ba. 416 and 417 are missing; in Ra. abide 415 is altered to a bede to rhyme with in dede 418. 417. Her] the L₂. Ro. faste] fast þei Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. P. gan] goune M. Di. T₂. 420. that] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ba. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. behelde Bo. M. Ad₁. 422. her] om. Di. herte] hertis Lb. P. they hadde] had they M. Di. 424. That] But that L₂. the] thys Ap. om. T₂. shulde Bo. T₁. shuld Ar. M. Ad₁. Ra. shulde han] haue shold M. Di. shulde playnly haue Ro. pleynly shuld haue Ap. 425. And anon] Anone thes seruantis Ro. ful] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. T₂. P. E₂. fylle L₂. fel Ro. hygh] om. L₂. Ro. 426. a] om. T₁. Du. T₂. E₂. that] ther L₂. se] it see Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. T₂. P. E₂. 427. They henge hym vp] And hunge this childe Ro. 428. þorgh] om. M. Di. Ba. gan] goune M. T₂. begonne Di. can Ba. to] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. first M (sic). þorgh they gan] þei gan þorough Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. T₂. P. E₂. 430. shortly] om. I. E₁. þis is no] in Ar. these words have been erased, but are still partly legible; on the crasure is written to make a. þis is] þis G. thys Ro. om. Lb. no] the Ad₂. P. in Lb. 432. that] om. L₂. they] om. Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. Ap. token] taken E₁. 436. went Ar. Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. wente Lb. Di. Ra. wenten T₁. 438. and some] and some ther Ra. Ba. cam] came L₁. Ad₂. Ap. camen T₁. com Lb. come Bo. Du. M. Di. Ra. Ba. E₁. E₂.

- And gan serch / and sekë wonder sore
 Among^t the hillës / and the holtës * hore. 440
- And as they Reenge / the trenchis by *and* by,
 They herde a noyse / and a pitous cry
 Of thys chyld / hangyng^t on the tre ;
 And aH at^t onys / drowë forto se, 444
 And lefte not^t til * they han hym founde ;
 And toke hym doune / *and* his fete vnbounde,
 And bare hym hom / vnto Polyboun,
 Kyng^t of Archadye / the famous Region. 448
 And whan that^t he / first^t þe chylð gan See,
 Of his woundës / he hadde grete pytë,
 To beholde / his tender fete / so blede ;
 And callëd hym / Edippus / as I rede, 452
 which is to seyn /, platly this no phage,
 Borëd the feete / as in that^t langage.
- And first^t the kyng^t in his Royal halle *
 Made his men / an norys for-to calle, 456
 This yonge chyld to foster *and* to kepe
 With her Milk / that^t he nat^t ne wepe ;
 And his leches / he chargiëd ek also,
 Til he were Hool / Her deuer forto do : 460
 Fully in purpoos * / for the child was fair,
 After his day / to maken hym his hayr ;
 For cause only /, who so taketh hede,
 Sone hadde he noon / be lynë to succede ; 464

440. the hillës] hilles P. holtës] haltes Ar. G. 441. they] the Ar. reenge
 Ad₁. rengen Bo. M. 444. drowe] drowe hem Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. T₂.
 P. E₂. Ap. drewë Ro. drow it Ad₁. E₁. S. drove thedyr Ra. Ba. Ad₃. I. 445.
 til] to Ar. *alone*. 447. bare hym hom] hym bare home Du. 449. that he
 first þe chylð] þat he þe childe first T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₂. Bo (*om.*
 that). þat þe childe he first L₁. that] *om.* Ap. gan] can Ra. Ba. E₂. 450. Of]
 On Ba. Of his woundës] Off his sore woundës forsothe P. he hadde] had he M.
 Di. 451. so] *om.* Ro. 453. this] þis is Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba.
 T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. phage] fage Lb. T₂. P. face Ro. 455. halle] alle Ar.
 456. an Ar. a Bo. T₁. M. Ra. 458. he] hyt Ad₁ (*seems to be altered from* he).
 it Ad₂. I. ne] *om.* L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. P. L₂. Ro. nat ne] ne natt
 Ap. 460. deuer G. T₁. Ad₁. Ra. devoire Bo. Du. deuoir M. deueir T₂.
 461. purpoos] propoos Ar. *alone*. the] þis Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. T₂. fair] so faire
 L₁. 462. hayr *with h above the line* Ar. 463. who so] whos Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. M.
 whos so Di.

- [leaf 8, back] And Whether* that he had / a wif or noon,
I fyndü not / and therfor lat it goon.
¶ But by processe / of dayes and of 3eeris,
- Edyppus grows
up proud and This Edyppus / among^t his pleyng^t feeris 468
was in his port^t / passyng^t ful of pride,
That noñ with hym / myght^t in pees abide.
In hert^t he was / so Inly Surquydows,
Malencolik^t / and Contrarious, 472
- disdainful. Ful of despyt^t / and of hegñ disdeyñ,
That no wight^t durstë* / shortly hym with-seyñ ;
- One day a Til on a day / he gan with oon debate
To whom he haddë / specyaly grete hate, 476
Whicñ of Rancour / and of hasty tene,
As he that myght / His pridë not sustene,
Gan vpon hym / cruelly abrayde,
- boy asks him
why he's so
proud: And vnto hym felly / thus he saide : 480
“ wherto,” quod he / “ artow so proude of port^t,
Contrarie also / euer / in oure disport^t,
Froward and felle / lastyng^t euer in oon,
As thow were lord / of vs euerichöñ, 484
And presumest^t fully in wyrehyng,
Lik as thow were sone / vnto the kyng,
And descended / of His Royal blood ?

465. Whether] Wher Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. T₂. Ap. om. E₂. that] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ra. Ba. a] om. Ra. Ba. 466. not] hit not P. and] om. L₂. Ro. Ap. lat] I late Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. Ap. it] om. T₂. 467. by] in T₁. of dayes and of 3eeris] by dayes and by yeres Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. 469. in] of P. his] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ra. Ba. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. 470. myght in pees] in pees myght M. Di. L₁. P. L₂. Ro. 471. he was] was he M. Di. so] om. S. 472. and] and eke M. Di. T₂. 474. durste Di. Ra. durst Ar. durst Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. shortly hym] him shortli Ad₁. hym] om. Ad₂. I. 476. specyaly grete] grete and odyous Ro. 478. might His pride not] might not his pryde Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. T₂. Ap. pride myht nat (his om.) Ra. Ba. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. myght not his pres P. 479. cruelly] eruly L₁. truely E₁. abrayde] to abrayde Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. T₂. P. E₂. abrayde] obreide Ad₁. chided Ad₂. ehide I. 480. vnto] to Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ba. L₂. Ro. yet to Ad₂. I. felly] fully T₂. felly thus] thus felly P. 481. artow Ar. Bo. T₁. M. Ra. ertow Ad₁. art thow Lb. arthow T₂. ar tow Du. 485. presumest fully] fully presumest Bo. alone. wyrehyng Ar. werching T₂. I. worching Ad₁. Ad₂. E₁. S. werking G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ra. Ba. P. E₂. Ro. Ap. workyng Lb. L₂. 486. vnto the] vnto oure Bo. Ra. to the I. to a Lb.

But wher so be / thow be wroth or wood,	488	
Thow art no thing /, and thow list takē hede,		He's not the king's son,
Appartenyngt / vnto his kynrede,		but was found in a forest,
But in a Forest / founden <i>and</i> vnknowe,		and should be humble.
whan thow were ȝonge /. therfor bere the lowe!	492	
And vtirely* remembre, ȝif the lyst,		
Thy byrth and blood / ar bothe two vnwist.		
This the fyne / shortly / of my tale.		
Wherwith Edippus / gan to wexē* pale,	496	
And chaunge also cheer and contenauce,		[leaf 9]
And gan a-point / in his* remembraunce		Edippus is taken aback by this,
Word be word / <i>and</i> forgat* right nouȝt,		
And felly / musēd* / in his ownē thouȝt,	500	
And cast he wold / with-oute more taryngt		
The trouthe enquere / of poliboun the kyngt.		
And whan he saugh / opportunē space,		
And the kyngt / in a* syerē place,	504	and asks King Polibon
He hym bysoghte / lowly on his kne		to tell him about his birth and whether he is the king's son.
To his request // benignely* to se,		
And that he woldē / pleynty / <i>and</i> not spare		
Of his byrth / the trewē ground* declare,	508	
And make hym sure / of this thyngt anon		
ȝif he were / his verrey sone or noñ.		

488. But] *om.* L₁. wher] whether Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. E₂. whether that L₁. T₂. so be] *om.* Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. so Ad₂. I. E₂. so euer P. thow be] thou Ba. S. L₂. 489. and] if Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. T₂. P. E₂. thow] þe Ad₁. Ba. E₂. take] to take Ra. 490. kyngrede Ar (*g underdotted*). After his, Ar. has a second pause-bar. 493. vtirely] vntrely Ar. wittirly Ra. wittrely Ba. remembre] remembre þe Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. S. T₂. P. E₂. the lyst] þou list L₁. M. Di. Ra. Ro. 494. and] or L₁. ar bothe two] bothe two arn M. Di. ar] *om.* Lb. two] *om.* P. 495. This] This is T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. L₂. Ro. 496. Edippus] Egippus Ar. wexe Di. Ad₂. I. waxe Bo. M. wex Ar. G. Ad₁. 498. gan] gan to Di. T₂. M (tapoynte). a-point] pointe T₂. apeinte E₂. his] her Ar. G. 498 *om.* Ba. 499. forgat] foryeteþ Lb. feyned Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. 500. mused] musen Ar. G. Ro. Ap. to muse Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. his ownē] this and about E₂. 503. opportune] oportune and L₂. Ro. tyme and oportune Lb. In Ra. l. 503 is perfectly legible (= Ar.), but a later hand has struck through the whole line and written in the margin: and whan yat he had found convenient space. 504. a] *om.* Ar. G. Ra. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. secree Bo. M. secreet Ad₁. secrete G. 504 *om.* Ba. 506. benignely] benignly Ar. G. Du. benyngly Ad₁. Ad₂. I. T₂. Ro. Ap. 508. trewe Bo. trew M. the trewe ground] the trewe troupe Ar. G. E₁. þe soth trouthe Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S (sothe *underdotted* by Stow). the treuthe Ro. declare] to declare L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. Ro. 510. Ar. has a second pause-bar after verrey.

- ¶ And Polyboun / only of gentilles,
whan he beheeld / the gretë hevynesse 512
Of Edippus / and the wooful peyne,
he gan dissimule / and in manere feyne,
lik as he had be / verrely his heyre,
But^t mor and mor / he falleth in dispeir, 516
And doune on kneës / eft^t a-geyn gan falle,
Hym coniuring^t / be the goddës alle
To tellë trouth / and no thyng^t to hilde;
Affermyng^t ek / he woldë* nat^t abide 520
Lenger with hym / but^t ryden *and* enquere,
Til tyme he may / the verrey sothe lere
In eny part^t of hap or of fortune.
And for that^t he / was so inportune 524
In his desire, the kyng^t with-out^t abood
Ceriously / tolde hym* how it^t stood,
In a Forest^t first / how he* was founde
Vpon a tre / be the feet ybounde, 528
And how he caste, in conclusioun.
To make hym kyng / of that^t regioun
Aftere his day / shortly forto telle.
But^t Edippus / wil no lenger dwelle, 532
But^t took lieve / and in hast^t gan ryde
To a temple / faste ther be-syde

He conjures
Polibon to hide
nothing.

So King Polibon
tells Edippus
how he was found,
but that he'll one
day be King of
the Realm.

[leaf 9, back]

Edippus goes to
a Temple of
Apollo.

512. grete Bo. gret M. Ad₁. 513—1130 *lost in* Ro. 514. in manere] a
maner Bo. T₁. T₂. in a maner Du. L₁. Di. Lb. E₂. Ap. manar S. 515. as] *om.*
Ra. Ba. verrely] *om.* Bo. verrey T₂. 517. doune on knees eft a-geyn] *donne*
ayen eft^t on his knees P. *doun* ayen oft on knees T₂. *donne* ayen on knees E₂.
doun on knees after ayen L₂. ; *doÿne* eft on knees Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. *doun*
ofte on knees Di. *doun* on k[n]ees eft^t he Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. *doun* on knees he eft
Ra. Ba. (*these last thirteen MSS. om. ageyn*). gan] gan Edippus L₁. 520. eke
Bo. T₁. M. wolde Lb. Di. Ra. wold Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. 521. riden Ra. Ad₁.
ride Bo. T₁. Lb. M. 522. soth Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. sothe Ra. 523. In] And L₁.
eny] every P. Ad₂. I. part] partye Ad₂. I. of hap] or hap Bo. or of] or Ra. Ba.
Ad₁. Ad₂. 526. Ceriously] Curteysly P. hym] *om.* Ar. G. Ra. Ba. E₁. L₂. Ap. how]
hov that Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 527. first] *om.* L₁. P. first how he] hou first he Du.
how] hou þat Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. he] it Ar. (*from l. 526*). 528. ybounde] bounde Bo.
T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. T₂. 529. And] An Ar. caste in Ar. *first written east*
with a very long tag, then e added on the tag. 531. his] this S. forto] to Bo.
T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. 532. Edippus] Egippus Ar. wil] wolde S. T₂. L₂. E₂. Ap.
dwelle] ther dwell L₁. 533. in hast gan] fast gan to Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 534. fast
Bo. faste M. Lb.

Of Appollo / in storie as is tolde,
 Whos statue / stood / in a char of golde 536 whose statue is
 On* whelës four / boornyd bright *and* shene ; in a chariot
 And with-In a spirit / ful vnelene, of gold,
 Be fraude only / and fals collusioun, but an nuclean
 Answere gaf / to euey questioun, 540 spirit is inside
 Bryngyng^t the puple in ful gret^t error,
 Such as to hym dyden fals honour
 Be Rytys vsed in the oldë dawes
 Aftere custome / of paganysmes* lawes. 544
 And Edyppus / with ful humble chere, Edippus prays
 To Appollo makëd His preiere, to be told of
 Besechyng^t hym on his kneës lowe, what kin he is.
 Be some signë / that^t he myght^e knowe, 548
 Thorg^t Evidencë Shortly comprehendyd,
 Of what kynredë / that^t he was descendyd.
 ¶ And whan Edyppus be gret^t deuocioun,
 Fynysshëd hath / fully his orysoun, 552
 The fend* anoñ / with-Innen Invisyble, The invisible
 With a vois dredful and horrible, Fiend
 Bad hym in hast^t / taken his viage
 Toward^t Thebës / wher of his lynage 556 bids him go to
 He herën shal / and be certefied. Thebes and there
 learn his lineage.

And on his way / anoñ he haþ hym hyed,
 by hasty Iournë / so his hors constreynd

535. is] it is Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra (it *crossed out by a later hand*). Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. 537. On] Of Ar. G. S. And Lb. and] as golde P. 538. with-In] ther with-yn M. Di. T₂. yn hit Ad₁. Ad₂. I. full] right Lb. 539. collusioun] conclusion S. illusion Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. T₂. P. E₂. 542. dyden Ar. E₁. diden Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. deden Lb. T₂. dydden P. did L₁. S. E₂. L₂. dyd Ap. fals] om. Bo. Ad₂. I. the false P. 544. custome] þe custume Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. T₂. E₂. the customs P. paganysme Ar. G. Ap. (*see Notes*). paganymes Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. T₂. E₂. paganyes Ra. Pagayns Ba. paganis P. paynemis L₂. 546. To] Vnto Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. T₂. maketh Ar. M. Ad₁. made Bo. Du. maade Ra. maad T₁. maketh G. 547. lowe] ful love Ra. 548. that] om. Ad₁. might Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. 549. comprehendit Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. 550. kynred Bo. M. Ad₁. kynrede Ra. descendit Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. 553. The fend] The finde T₂. He fond Ar. S. Ad₁. He founde E₁. Ad₂. I. He herde Ra. Ba. anon] a soun Ra. Ba. with-Innen Ar. Ad₁. S. Ap. withynne Ra. withyn Bo. *and the rest, except* Ed₁. *that has* wymmen. anon with-Innen] with-yn anon M. Di. 554. With a vois] That was both Ra. Ba. 555. haste Bo. M. Ad₁. taken Ad₁. take Bo. M.

	Deaf 10]	Day be day / til he haþ atteyned	560
On the road, Edippus stops at the castle Pylotes,		Vnto* a castel / Pylotës ycalled, Rich and strong ^t / and wel aboute walled, Adiacent ^t / be sytt ^t of the contrè And pertheynt* to Thebes the Cytè :	564
where his un- known father, King Layus, is holding a Tour- nament.		¶ kyng ^t Layvs / beyng ^t ther present, For-to holde a maner tornement ^t With his knyghtës / zong ^t and coraious, And other folkës / that ^t were desyrous	568
		To preue hem-silf /, shortly for-to telle, Who by force / other* myght ^t excelle, Or gete a namè / thorgh his hegh ^t prouesse. Euerich of hem / dyd his bysynesse	572
		On hors-bak / and also ek on foote, Al be that ^t somè founde ^e ful vusootè, Rather a pley of werrè / than of pees ; Wher Edyppus put hym-silf in prees,	576
		As he that ^t was / ay redy to debat ^t , Enforsyng hym / to entren at the gate, Maugrè all tho / that ^t hym woldè* lette.	580
¶ How Edippus slogh his fader of ignorance at þe castel.		¶ And in the pres / of aventure he mette Kyng ^t layvs / and cruelly hym slogh, Thow the story / writ ^t not ^t the maner howh, Ne no wight ^t can / of alle the companye	580

560. haþ] haue Lb. bath hym Ra. 561. Vnto a] Vnta Ar. ycalled] called T₁. Di. T₂. is called L₂. 562. aboute walled] aboute I-walled Ba. S. aboue iwalled E₂. 563. sytt Ar. syet Bo. T₁. M. Di. syght G. sight E₁. T₂. L₂. cytt Ad₁. rryte Ad₂. rryht I. side L₁. the] that M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. In Ra. l. 563 reads Wele I-stuffid of al thyng plentye (= Ba.) 564. pertheynt Ra. E₁. perceynent Ar. G. parteynent S. pertenant Ba. pertinent Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ap. apperteinent E₂. apperteneit T₂. P. appertynent L₂. aperteynyng L₁. appar- teynyng T₁. Lb. Di. appertenyng Bo. Du. M. 567. corageus Bo. corayus M. curious Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 568. folkes Ar. G. L₂. Ap. folke or folk the rest. 569. preue Lb. L₁. Ad₂. L₂. proue Bo. T₁. Du. Ad₁. Ra. T₂. 570. Who] Who that E₂. other] oither Ar. othermyght] might other L₁. Ra. Ba. 572. Euerich] eche Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. his] here Lb. 573. also ek] eke also M. also] om. E₂. ek] om. L₁. Lb. Di. 574. Al be that] And al be that Ra. Al be hit þat P. Albe though Lb. And by that L₂. founde] founde it L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. P. E₂. Ap. (see Notes). ful] al Bo. T₁. Du. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. sor L₁. sone L₂. om. Lb. M. Di. 575. pley] pleyer Ar. 577. he] om. T₁. ay] om. Di. Ad₂. I. P. 578. entren Bo. Ad₁. entre M. 579. all tho] all hem T₂. of tho Bo. of all thoo Ba. wolde Bo. wold Ar. M. hym wolde] wold him Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. 582. þogh Bo. though Du. 583. In Ar. a pause-bar also after wight.

Be no signē / verrelly espye	584	
By whos hond / that the kyngt was slawe ;		
For Edyppus in hast / gan hym with-drawe		Edippus with- draws in haste.
And kept hym Coy / of entencioun.		
Gret was the noyse / and the pitous souñ	588	
In the Castel / for slaughter of the kyngt,		
Dooel and compleynt / sorowe and wepyngt.		
¶ But for they segh / hevynesse and thought		[leaf 10, back]
Ageynēs deth · vayleth lit or noght,	592	
They ordeyne with Ryytys ful Royal		
For the feste / callēd / Funeral.		
And lik the custom / of the dayēs olde,		
The corps they brent / into ashes colde,	596	King Layus's corpse is burnt, and the ashes put in a vessel of gold.
And in a vessel / rounde, mad as a bal,		
They closēd hem in gold and in metal.		
And after that did her bysy Cure		
In Thebēs to make a sepulture,	600	
And richely, hem list no lenger lette,		
The assheñ didē* they enclose and shette.		King Layus's ashes are put in a shrine.
Of this matere / ther ys* no mor to seyn.		
But to Edippus / I wil retourne ageyn,	604	
Which hym enhastē / ay fro day to day		Edippus jour- neys in haste towards Thebes.
Towardēs Thebes / in al that euere he may,		
Brennyng in herte / hoot as eny fire,		
The fyn to knowe / of his fatal desire.	608	
¶ But, for that he failēd / of a Guyde,		
Out of his way / he wente fer be-side,		

584. verrelly] it verreili Ad₁. Ra. Ba. T₂. E₂. P. verily it S. even verily Ad₂.
I. 586. in hast gan hym] gan hym in hast E₂. L₂. gan in haste P. in hast]
om. Du. with-drawe] to withdrawe Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. T₂. S. drawe Ap. 589.
slaughter] the slauhter Di. 592. Ageynēs Ar. G. ageynys Ap. ageyns Bo.
T₁. ayens M. Ageinst Ad₁. E₁. Aynst Lb. vayleth] anailth Du. L₁. M. Di.
T₂. P. E₂. L₂. lit Ar. G. lite Bo. E₂. L₂. light Lb. litel T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di.
Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. Ap. 593. rightes Bo. 594. fest Bo. feste
Du. Ad₁. 596. cors Bo. M. Ad₁. In Ar. is an underdotted p between they and
brent. 599. after that] afteward Du. 601 and 602 om. in Ad₂. I. 602.
diden Ra. dide M. T₁. Du. dede Ad₁. did Ar. Bo. 603. ys] nys Ar.
604. retourne] turne G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S.
wil] om. P. 605. ay] om. Du. 606. Towardēs Ar. G. Toward Bo. T₁. Du.
Lb. M. Ad₁. in al that euere] in al þe hast Ad₁. Ad₂. I. he] om. S. euere he]
euereche G. 607. hert Bo. M. Ad₁. 609. that] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S.
T₂. 610. went Bo. M. Ad₁.

Sleen this monstre / for al his cruel tene.
 Ther may of mercy / be / non oþer graunte.
 But of al this Edyppus ignoraunte, 640
 This dredful hiß / stondyng on a roche,
 Er he was war / gan ful nygh approche,
 More perilous platly / than he wende.
 And sodeynly / the monster* gan* descende, 644
 To stoppen his way / and letten his passage,
 Thus abraydyng^t with a fel corage :
 ¶ “ I haue in herte Inly gret^t disport^t
 That fortune / haþ broght^t the to my sort^t, 648
 To make a preef* / 3if thow mayst endure,
 The fatal ende / of this auenture,
 Set^t at a fyn / sothly be daiës olde.”
 And by *and* by / al the caas hym tolde, 652
 Charging^t hym to be wel war *and* wise, [leaf 11, back]
 Gete the palme / and bere away the pryse
 Touchyng^t this thyng^t / sette a-twene vs tweyñ,
 with lyf or deth / which we shal dareyñ. 656
 ¶ And this Monstre / with a despitous chere
 his problem gan / thus as 3e shal here.
 ¶ “ Ther is a beest^t merveilous to se,
 The which in soth^t at his natiuyte 660
 Is of his myght^t / so tender and so grene,
 That he may hym-siluë* nat^t sustene
 Vpon his fete / though he hadde it sworñ,
 But 3if that^t he / be / of his moder born. 664

Edippus is
 stoppt by the
 Monster, the
 Sphinx, and
 charged to solve
 the Problem he'll
 be set.

[leaf 11, back]

¶ Of the problem
 that Spynx putte
 to Edippus.

* There's an
 animal which, at
 its birth, can't
 walk.

638. slee Bo. M. 640. of] for Du. Lb. Ra. E₁. 642. er Bo. Lb. or
 M. 644. monster] moyster Ar. gan] can Ar. 645. stoppen. letten Bo. Du.
 M. Ad₁. stoppyn. letten Lb. stoppyn. lettyn Ra. stoppe. let L₂. 646. Thus]
 This M. Di. abraydyng] obreidinge Ad₁. Ad₂. I. fel] full P. E₂. corage] rage
 T₂. 647. I haue] Seide I haue T₂. E₂. And seyde I haue P. in herte] in my
 herte P. I haue in herte] In hert I haue Bo. in herte Inly] inly in hert Ad₂. I.
 Inly] om. P. 648. haþ broght the] hath the broght M. Di. the] om. G. P.
 649. a preef] a preest Ar. G. Ad₁. E₁. S. 651. sothly] oonly Di. 653. wel]
 om. L₂. 655. a-twene vs] at Ad₂. I. 656. or] and G. Ad₂. I. which] om.
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 658. gan] bigan Lb. thus] om. Lb. T₂. like P. 3e shal] yee
 shul Bo. Lb. Di. T₂. P. E₂. 659. beest Bo. best M. Ad₁. 661. Is] As Bo.
 662. hym-silue, cf. 710. hym-selue Lb. hym-selle L₁. Ra. P. hym-silf Ar. himself
 Bo. M. Ad₁. hym-silf nat Ar. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ap. not himself Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. M.
 Di. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. not hym-selle not P. 664. 3if] om. M. Di.

- And afterwardës / he processe of age,
 Then it goes on 4 feet; On fourë fete / he makeþ his passage;
 then on 3; After on thre / if I shal not feyne,
 at last on 2. And alderlast / he goþ vpright^t on tweyne; 668
 Dyuers of port^t / and wonderful of cherys:
 Til, be length / of many sondry 3eeres,
 Then on 3 again, Naturely / he goth a3eyn on thre,
 then on 4, And sith on foure, it may non oþer be, 672
 and finally goes back to the matter it came from. And Fynaly / this the trouthe* pleyn,
 he retourneth / kyndöly ageyn
 To the matere / which that he kam fro.
 ¶ loo / her is al / . my problem is I-do. 676
 Solve this, Muse her-vpon / with-outë werre or stryff
 or die.' It to declare / or ellis lese thy lyff."
 Edippus thought over the puzzle, And whan Edyppus / gan this þing aduerte,
 Wel assurëd in his manly herte, 680
 Gan in his wytt^t cerehen vp *and* douñ,
 And of prudencë / cast^t in his resoun,
 Be grete avis / what^t thyng this may be;
 [leaf 12] Seyng also / that he may not flee, 684
and how ther was / counsel noon ne rede,
 But^t tellë trouth / or ellys to be dede.
 And be ful good / deliberacioun
 Thus le answerd / in conclusioun, 688
 'Thowe Spynx' quod he / 'fals and fraudulent'!
 Thow foulë* Monstre / thow dragon, thow serpent!
 which on this hyl / lich as I conceyve,
 lyst in a-waite / folkës to deceyue, 692

665. aftrewards Bo. afterward M. Ad₁. 668. vpright] vpright Ar. vp-rygh G. 671. Naturely Bo. M. Naturely Ad₁. namely Ad₂. I. 672. sith] om. Bo. este P. it] as P. 673. this] þis is Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. trouthe Lb. M. Ad₁. trouth Ar. Bo. 675. which] om. P. that] om. G. Lb. M. Di. Ra. Ba. S. Ap. 676. is I-do Ar. G. P. is do Di. Ap. do (om. is) Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. L₂. Lo here my probleme, is all ido E₂. In Ar. a *third pause-bar after* problem. 677. without Bo. withoute M. Ad₁. 679. gan] can E₂. 681. his] om. G. 684. also] allone Di. may] might T₂. Ap. not] om. Du. 685. and] om. G. was] nas Ad₂. counsel] om. L₂. noon] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. ne] nor M. Ra. E₁. Ap. oþer L₂. to Bo. Du. and I. 686. telle] to telle Du. 688. Thus] This Lb. answerd Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. answered Lb. answerid Di. 690. foule] vyle Ar. G. L₂. Ap. (see Notes). 691. which Ar. Ap. L₂. That Bo. *and the rest.*

- But truste wel / for al thy sleghty wit,
 Thy falsē* fraudē / shal anoñ be qwyte.
 Me list not' nowe whisper neither rowne,
 But thy problem / I shal anoñ expowne
- 696 and solvd its
 Problem.
 * How Edippus
 expounded the
 problem that
 Spynx put to
 hym.
- So opynly / thow shalt' not' go ther-fro.
 loo! this it' is /. tak good hede therto!
 ¶ Thilkē* best' thow spak of herto-forñ,
 Is euery man / in this world yborñ,
- 700 ' The Animal is
 every man, who
 can't walk as a
 babe, but is
 carried,
- Which may not' goñ / his lymēs be so softe,
 Bot' as his moder / bereth hym alofte
 In her armes / whan he doth erye or* wepe.
 And after that' / he gynnetñ forto crepe
- 704 then he crawls
 on 4 feet, his
 hands and knees,
- On fourē* feet' in his tendre 3outhñ,
 Bexperience / as it' is oftē kouthñ,
 A-forñ yrekned / his hondēs bothē* two.
 And by processe / thow mayst consider also
- 708
- With his two fete / for al thy fellē tene,
 He hath a staf / hym-seluen to sustene,
 And than he goth / shortly vpon thre.
 And alther-last / as it' most nedēs be,
- 712 then on 2 feet
 only.
- Voyding' his staf / he walkeþ vpon tweyn :
 Til it so be / thorgh agē / he atteynñ,
 That' lust' of 3outhē wasted be and spent' ;
 Than in his hond / he taketh a potent',
- 716 [leaf 12, back]
 When he gets
 older, he takes a
 staff again, or
 goes on three
 feet ;
- And on thre feet / thus he goth ageyn,

694. fals Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. 695. In Ar. the pause-bar, in Bo. the high point is put after whisper. 697 in the rubric Egippus. 698. this] thus E₁. it is] is it Ra. Ba. take Bo. M. Ad₁. tak good hede therto] make goode chere too Ba. thou shalt not goo therfro (repeated from 697) Di. 699. Thilke Bo. Lb. Ad₁. Thilk Ar. M. This Du. 699 om. Ba. thow] þat thon L₁. herto-forñ Ar. G. Lb. E₂. Ap. here before Bo. Du. M. Di. Ad₁ (er bifern). Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. T₂. P. before L₁. to-forñ L₂. 700. worlde Bo. Du. Lb. M. world Ad₁. T₂. yborn] born Bo. Du. I. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. T₂. P. 702. alofte] vp alofte Ad₁. Ad₂. I. on lofte Ra. Ba. Lb. 703. or] and Ar. G. Lb. Di. 705. On] On his Ad₁. Ad₂. I. foure Bo. M. Ad₁. four Ar. 706. Pexperience mis-written Ar. By experience Bo. M. Ad₁. oft Bo. ofte M. Ad₁. 707. bothe L₁. M. Ad₁. both Ar. Du. bothe] om. Bo. ben Lb. 709. his] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. fel Bo. Du. felle] eruel M. Di. 710. him-seluen Bo. Ad₁. him-self M. Du. 711. he goth] goth he M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 712. as] om. Ra. it] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. most (must)] mot Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Di. 714. thorgh] to Ra. that Ba. he] þat he Bo. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. 717. thre] his Ad₁. Ad₂. I. thus] om. P. he goth] goth he M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂.

- I dar afferme thow maist' it' not' withseyn,
 And sone aftere / thorgh his vnweldy myght,
 By influence / of naturys right, 720
 Bexperience / as *euery* man may knowe,
 Lich a child' / on foure he crepeth lowe.
 And for he may no whylë* here sojourne,
 To erth ageyn / he most' in hast' retourne, 724
 Which he kam fro , he may it' not' remewe*.
 For in this world / no man may eschewe,
 This verry soth shortly and no doute,
 Whan the wheel of kyndë cōmēth aboute, 728
 And naturely hath his cours y-Ronne
 Be circnete / as doth the shenë sonne,
 That' man *and* chylk' / of hegh *and* lowe estat',
 It' geyneth nat' / to makë / mor debat', 732
 His tymë sette / that' he mostë* fyne,
 Whan Antropos / of malice doth vntwyne
 His lyvës thred / by Cloto first compowned.
 Loo / her thy problem / fully is expowned, 736
 At' oure metynge / as I took on honde,
 To the lawe / that' thow most nedës stonde
 And in al hast / of myn hondës deye,
 But of reson / thow can it' ought' withseye.' 740
 And so this Spynx / awapyd and amaatt,

and at last he
 crawls on all
 fours like a child.

When he dies, he
 goes back to
 earth.

So your Problem
 is solved,

and I shall at
 once kill you.'

718. dar] dar it Bo. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. maist it] maist Bo. Lb. Ra. it not] not it G. M. Ba. ; *in* P. l. 718 *is*: I dar seyne hit may not be withseyn. withseyn] withstonde L₁. 721. By experience Bo. M. Ad₁. 722. lowe] a lowe Du. 723. while Bo. wile Ad₁. whyl Ar. no whyle here] here no while Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. 724. in hast] *om.* Ra. Ba. S. ageyn he most in hast] in hast he must ageyn L₁. in soth he must agein Ad₁. Ad₂. I. ayen he muste ayen P. 725. renewe Ar. G. Du. L₁. Lb. S. renue Ad₁. E₁. T₂. remewe Di. Ra. Ba. P. E₂. L₂. renue Bo. M. remue Ap. rewe Ad₂. I. 726. worde Bo. world M. Ad₁. 729. y-ronne Bo. Ad₁. ronne Du. M. Di. 730. circnite Bo. circnynt M. Ad₁. 732. make Bo. mak Ad₁. mor] no G. with him Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 733. sette] ysette P. is sett Ra. Ba. Ad₂. he] *om.* T₂. moste Lb. Di. most Ar. M. Ad₁. must Bo. T₁. 735. lyves] lyf is Bo. T₁. lyff ys Du. lyffe his L₁. first] *om.* Ra. Ba. 738. that] *om.* Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 740. But] For E₂. *om.* Ad₂. I. can] canst L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. T₂. E₂. *om.* P. ought] owt Lb. oute Ra. not Ad₂. I. P. E₂. *om.* Ba. 741. so] thoo T₂. P. L₂. Ap. *om.* E₂. amaatt] al mat Ad₁. Ad₂. I. awapyd and amaatt] dismayed and dissolaat Lb. (*cp.* 742).

Stood / disamayëd / and dysconsolaat',
 With Chier doune-cast' / Muët, pale, and ded.
 And Edippus anon smote of the hed 744 Edippus cuts the
 Of this fende / stynkyng' and vnswete, Sphinx's head
 And the Contrè sette holy in quyete ; off,
 Wherby he hath / such a pris ywonne [leaf 13]
 That his fame is euery cost' yronne 748
 Thorgh al the londe / that' he the monstre hath slawe.
 And lynë-right / to Thebës he gan drawe, is well receivd
 Wel receyuëd / for his worthynesse, at Thebes,
 For his manhode / and his grete* prouesse. 752
 And for they segh / he was a semly knyght',
 Wel faouurëd / in euery mammys sight',
 And sawh also Thebës the myghty toun,
 Not' only they / but al the Region, 756 and as the
 Weren destitut / of a gouernour, Thebans have
 A3eynst' her foon / hauyng' no socour only a Queen,
 Hem to defendë* / but' the queene alloñ ;
 Among' hem-self / makyng' ful gret moñ, 760
 For heire was noñ / as bookës specific,
 The Sceptre / or crownë forto occupie :
 For which the lordës aH be oñ assent
 with-Inne the touñ / set' a parlement', 764
 Shortly concludyng / if it' myghte beñ,

742. dismayed] dismaye Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. M. Di. P. L₂. Ap. all dismaide T₂. E₂ Ad₂. I. dyseconsolaat] dissolaat Lb. desolate P. 743. Muët] om. G. Muët pale and ded] hevy as any lede T₂. P. E₂. fully dysmaide L₂. 744. the] his Bo. L₂. Ba. 746. sette holy] holy sette M. Di. T₂. holy] onely Ad₂. I. 747. Wherby] Where Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 748. is euery cost] is in euery cost L₁. M. Di. is in-to e. c. Ad₂. I. euery cost is L₂. Ap. in euery cost is T₂. P. E₂. yronne] romne T₁. L₁. M. Di. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. 749. Thorgh] In T₂. That thurgh P. al] om. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. that he the monstre hath] þat he hath þe monstre Bo. T₁. þat the monstre was T₂. E₂ (this for the). the monstre was P. þat þe monstre is Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 750. And] and as Bo. gan] gan him Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. S. began Ad₂. I. drawe] to drawe Ad₂. I. Ap. he gan drawe] worthyens Ba (the end of 750 and the whole of 751, except the rhyme-word, om.). 752. grete] om. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. E₂. rízt Ar. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. high T₂. L₂. Ap. 753. sye Bo. M. Ad₁. a] om. T₂. semly] manful M. Di. manly Ba. 754. favoured] y-favored P. euery] eche M. Di. 755. sawe Bo. M. sawh also] also saugh Ad₁. Ad₂. I. se also L₁. 757. weren Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ra. E₁. were L₁. and the rest. 759. defende Bo. T₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ra. defend Ar. 761. heire] there Ad₂. I. E₁. S. 762. or] and T₂. P. E₂. crowne] the crowne Ad₂. L₂. forto] to M. Di. Ad₂. S. P. E₂. L₂. 764. with-Inne] whiche in Bo. 765. might Bo. M. Ad₁.

they resolve to ask her to wed Edippus, and make him King.	Prudently to trete with the quene, Namely they / that helde hem-silf most ^t sage, To condescende / be way of Mariage,	768
	She to be Ioyned to this manly knyght, Passing prudent ^t / <i>and</i> famous ek of myght, Most likly man /, as they can discerne, The worthy Cytè / to kepen and gouerne.	772
	And thorgh counsayl / of the lordës alle To her desyre / pleyndly / she is falle, And accorded / with-oute mor taryng, That ^t of Thebës / Edippus shal be kyng ^t ,	776
(leaf 13, back)	By ful assent ^t /, was non that ^t seid ^e * nay. And tymè set ^t / ageyn a certeyn day Among ^t hem-silf / and finaly devysed, The weddyng ^t was / in Thebës solemnyzed	780
Edippus marries his Mother, not knowing it,	Ful ryally, which nedës most ^t vnthryve, Only for he his moder / toke to wyve, Vnwist ^t of both ^e * / he was of her blode, And ignoraunt ^t /, shortly, how it ^t stode,	784
or that he'd slain his Father.	That he to-forn hadde his fadere slawe, For which this weddyng ^t was ageyn the lawe.	
God will not that blood touch blood.	And to-for god / is neiþer feire ne good, Nor acceptable / blood to touche blood :	788
	Which cause hath ben of gret ^t confusioun In many londe / and many Regyoun, Grounde <i>and</i> roote / of vnhap <i>and</i> meschaunce,	
It leads to disaster.	The fyn concludyng / alway with vengeaunee, As men han seie / by cleer experyence ;	792

766. trete Bo. M. Ad₁. 767. sage] age G. 769. manly] famous Ad₁. Ad₂.
I. om. S. 772. to] om. Ad₁. kepen Bo. Ad₁. kepe M. gouerne] to gouerne
M. I₂. 775. taryng Ar (e *underdotted*). taryng Bo. M. taryng Ad₁. 777.
seide T₁. M. Lb. Ra. seid Ar. Bo. Ad₁. 781. rially Bo. M. Roialli Ad₁. needis
Bo. nedus Ad₁. 782. he his moder toke] he tok his moder Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 783.
bothe T₁. Du. M. Ad₁. Ra. Ap. both Ar. Bo. L₁. Lb. bothyn L₂. 784. how]
hou þat Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 785. to-forn Ar. tofore Bo. M. 785—788 *are missing in*
Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 786. For which] Wherfor M. Di. For which thing Ba. this] þe
Di. om. Ba. 790. londe and many] londis and Ad₂. I. 792. concludyng
alway] alway concludyng G Ad₂. I. 793. seie Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. Ad₁. Ap.
seyu L₁. Ra. E₂. seyen T₂. seyne L₂. see Ad₂. I. seen M. Di. E₁. S. P.

And holy writ / recordeth in sentence
 How herodës / falsly in his lyff
 By violencë toke his brother wyf, 796 Herod took his
brother's wife,

For she was faire / and plesaunt to his sight,
 And kepte her stille / be forcë* / þorgh his myght,
 Al be to her* / he haddë / title noñ ;
 And for her sake / the holy man seynt Iohñ 800 thru which
John the Baptist
lost his head.

For his trouth / in prison lost his hede.
 Therfor I rede / every man take hede, Beware, then,
 Wherso he be Pryncë, lorde, or kyng,
 That he be* war teschewë such weddyng, 804
 Er that the swerde / of vengeaunce hym manace,
 lest he lesë / hap, fortune, and grace ;
 Takyng ensample / in al manere thyng
 Of Edyppus / in Thebës crownëd kyngt ; 808 [leaf 14]
by Edyppus,
who, tho' he sind
in ignorance.

Al be that he wrought of ignoraunce,
 Ful derk and blynde / of his woful chaunce.
 And 3if vnwist / he of Innocence,
 As 3e han herde, fil in such offence, 812
 For which he was punishëd* and brought lowe, was punisht.
 What ar* they worthy that her errour knowe,
 And fro the knottë / list not to abstene
 Of such spousesale / to god and man vnclene ? 816
 I can not seyn / nor mor therof devise.
 Demeth 3our-silf that prudent ben and wise,
 And Edippus / hath among in mynde, The wedding
of Edyppus

794. recordeth] recordeth it Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. 796. toke] take
 G. his] om. G. brother Ar. T₁. Di. brothere Du. brotheres Lb. brotheres Bo.
 brothes Ad₁. Ra. brotheris Ad₂. I. brothers G. L₁. T₂. brotheris L₂. 798.
 force Bo. Ra. Ad₁. fors Ar. T₁. þorgh] of M. Di. 799. Al be] All be hit L₁.
 Al though Lb. E₂. hur Ar. hire Bo. hir M. here Ad₁. hadde Du. Lb. had
 Bo. Ad₁. he hadde title] title had he M. Di. Ra. Ba. E₁. T₂. P. E₂. had he title
 L₁. 804. be] om. Ar. G. teschewe Ar. to eschewe Bo. G. and eschewe Lb.
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. 805. Ere Bo. T₁. Or Lb. M. Ad₁. Ra. hym] of E₁. 806.
 lese Bo. Ad₁. Ra. lose M. 811. 3if] yit Lb. vnwist he] he wist Ad₂. I. And
 3if vnwist he] And he vnwetyng and Ra. 812. kan Bo. Ad₁. haue M. fil] fall
 Ad₂. I. 813. punished Ar. G. Lb. punnyshed Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. Ap. 814.
 omitted in Lb. ar Bo. are T₂. er Ar. G. ere Ad₁. an M. 815. knotte Du.
 Lb. Ra. knott Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. abstene] absteyne (: vnclene) Bo. Lb. E₂. (: vnclene)
 Ra. S. 816. spousesale Ar. G. M. spousesaile Bo. spousesail Ad₁. spousesales Lb.
 817. seyn] seen E₁. nor] ne Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. T₂.
 E₂. no Lb. E₁. L₂. ner P. 819. hath Ar. G. L₂. Ap. haue Bo. T₁. Lb. M.
 Ad₁. Ra. hauith T₂. among] om. S.

- Of whom the weddyng^t, lik as 3e may fynde, 820
 was unhappy. Unhappy was / and passing^t odious,
 Infortunēd / and vngracious.
 I am wery mor therof to write.
 The hatful processe / also to enlyte 824
 I passe ouer, fully of entent^t;
 For ymenēus / was not^t ther present^t,
 Nor lueyna / list^t not^t ther to shyne,
 Ne ther was none / of the musys nyne 828
 By on accord / to makē melodye;
 For ther song^t not^t be heuenly Armonye
 Neither Clyo / nor Calyopē,
 On of the sustren / in nombre thriēs thre, 832
 as they were at Philology's marriage in Heaven to Mercury;
 As they dydē* whan philolegye
 Ascendid vp hegh aboue the skye
 To be weddid / this lady vertuous
 Vnto hir lord / þe god mercurius; 836
 see Martianus de Capella.
 As Marcian ynamēd / de Capelle,
 In his book of weddyng can 3ou telle,
 [leaf 14, back] Ther concludyng^t in this mariage
 The poete, that^t whilom was so sage, 840
 That^t this lady, callēd sapience,
 I-wedded was vnto eloquence;
 As it^t sat wel, by heuenly *parueance*,
 hem to be ioyned / be knot^t of Aliaunce. 844
 But^t bothē* two, sothly, of entent^t

822. Infortunēd] Infortunat Du. Ad₂. S. E₂. and] and eke M. Di. T₂. (*in Ra. the later hand has added eke above the line*). eke and P. 823. mor therof] therof more M. Di. and therof more E₁. 826. ymenēus] Innus or Innus Ad₂. I. 827. list Bo. M. Ad₁. 828. ther] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. musys] Musas E₂. 829. *omitted in Ba.* By on] Of oure E₁. make Bo. M. Ra. maken Ad₁. 832. On] Non C. T₂. P. E₂. sustren Ar. Bo. Du. Lb. Ad₁. T₂. sistren T₁. systryn L₂. sustern L₁. sustres M. Di. sosteres C. sistres Ra. systers P. in nombre] nombred C. 833. dide T₁. Du. M. E₁. S. dede Ad₁. T₂. diden C. dyd Ar. Bo. Ra. whan] whan þat Ad₁. Ad₂. I. philolegye Ar. Bo. T₁. Ad₁. Philologie Di. Ad₂. Philolaie E₂. Philoloy C. T₂. philolis P. (:skies). 834. vp hegh] hi vp Ad₁. Ad₂. I. vp an high Lb. aboue] abou Ar. the] in the Ad₂. I. 835. this] thus Ra. to this Ad₁. L₂. to his Ad₂. I. 837. As] And as C. P. E₂. L₂. Mar-ian] Matrician E₂. ynamed] named T₁. de] be Ap. by P. *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Capelle] Copelle E₂. 839. this] his C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. 845. bothe Bo. T₁. Ad₁. M. Ra. C. both Ar. G. T₂.

At the weddyng ^t / in Thebës were absent ^t ;		
That ^t causèd after / grete aduersitè.		
For fynal ende / of that ^t solemnytè	848	Edippus's wed- ding brought about the ruin of Thebes.
was sorowe / and woo / <i>and</i> destruceioun,		
Vtter ruyne / of this Royal touñ.		
Ther may no man helpe it ^t nor socoure,		
For a tyme / in Ioyë / thogh they floure.	852	
But ^t at ^t this weddyng ^t /, platly forto telle,		¶ The Infortunat ¶ folk þat weren at þe wed- dyng.
was Cerberus / Chief porter of helle,		¶ Cerberus
And herebus / Fader to hatrede,		¶ Herebus
was ther present ^t with his hool kynrede,	856	
His wiff also / with her browës blake,		
And her doghtren / sorow forto make,		¶ Nyght & her thre doghtren
hydous-chered / and vggely forto see,		
Megera / and Thesiphonee,	860	
Allecto ek / with labour <i>and</i> envie,		
Drede and fraude / and fals trecherie,		¶ Drede ¶ Fraude ¶ Trecherie ¶ Tresou ^r
Tresoun · pouerte / Indigence, and nede,		¶ Pouerte
And cruel deth / in his Rentë Wede,	864	¶ Indigence ¶ Nede ¶ Deth ¶ Cruel Mars
Wrechednesse / compleynt* / <i>and</i> eke Rage,		
Fer ful palë / derknesse / crokëd age,		
Cruel mars / as eny Tygre wood,		
Brennyng ^t Ire / of vnkyndë blood,	868	
Fraternal hatë / depë sett ^t the rote,		¶ Alle þise folk weren at the wedding of
Sane only deth / that ^t ther nas no bote,	[leaf 15]	

846. At the Ar. G. L₁. S. L₂. Ap. Atte Ad₁. Ra. E₁. At (the om.) Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. Ba. C. P. E₂. Att Ad₂. I. T₂. Ad Lb. 848. solemnite Ad₁. 849—852 omitted in L₂. 851. it] om. G. P. nor] ne T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. 853. at this] atte E₁. at his E₂. platly] plainly S. C. E₂. forto] to Ad₁. Ad₂. I. C. 854. was] were Ra. S. Cerberus] Cerebrus Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Chief porter] a feend Ad₂. I. 855. to] vnto Ad₁. Ra. Ba. S. of C.; Ad₂. and I. omit And herebus, and have l. 855 fladir and foundour unto hattred. 856. hool Du. hole Bo. Ad₁. In the rubric beside l. 858 Nyght] Nygh Ar. 860. Megera] Megera Ba. and] and eke M. Di. Ra. Ba. T₂. and also C. Thesiphonee] Tysiphone M. Di. Thesiphonie Ba (:see). Thesyphane P. Thesyffone Ap. 863. pouerte Ar. G. Bo. L₁. E₁. P. pouert T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. S. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ap. Indigence Ar. 864. rent Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. 865. compleynt] compleyn Ar. G. eke Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. eek Ra. 866. Fer ful pale Ar. G. Ba. fereful pale Bo. and all the rest except L₁. and Lb., that have iferdfull pale. derknesse] Dronkenesse E₂. croked] and croked Bo. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. L₂. 868. vnkynde Bo. M. vnkynd Ad₁. 869. deep Bo. depe M. Ad₁. 870. only] onelich Du. that] om. G. Ra. Ba. P. L₂. nas] was T₁. L₄. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. P. L₂. Ap. no] non oþer L₂.

Edyppus and Iocasta	Assuryd othës / at the fyn vntrewe : AH thise folk / werën / at this weddyng ^r newe, To make the towne / desolat ^r and bare, As the story / after shal declare.	872
Edyppus reigned long in Thebes,	¶ But ^r ay in Thebës / with his wallës stronge Edyppus regneth / many day and longe.	876
had 2 sons	And as myn autour writ ^r / in wordys pleyñ, By Iocasta he had sonës tweyn, Ethyocles and also Polymyte	880
and 2 daughters by Iocasta,	And, in bokes / as sondry clerkës write, Doughtres two/ ful goodly on to se, Of which* the ton hight ^r Antygouë, And that ^r other / callëd was ymeyne, Of her beautè / Inly souereyn.	884
and led at first a merry life.	Edyppus ay devoyde / of werre and strif, with Iocasta ladde a mery lyf Tyl fortune / of her iniquytè Hadde envie / of his prosperitè.	888
But when Edyppus was most famous,	For whan he shon / most ^r richè in his renoun, From her wheel / she plonged hym a-doun	892
Fortune cast him into woe.	Out ^r of his Ioye / into sodeyn wo, As she is wonte / frowardly to do, And namely hem / that setten her affiaunce Of erthly trust ^r / in her variaunce.	892
One night	¶ For whan this kyng ^r / passing ^r of gret myght ^r , Sat ^r with the quene / vpon a certeyn nyght ^r , Casuelly whan his folk echoñ Out of his* Chambre sodeynly wer goñ,	896

872. were Bo. Ad₁. this] pe Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 873. the] om. G. 878. sonnes Bo. sonnes M. Ad₁. 879. also] om. Bo. Polymyte] Polymyte Ad₂. P. 881. ful] om. G. 882. which Di. C. T₂. E₂. the which Ar. G. Bo. and the rest. the ton] oon Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra (won). Ba. E₁. S. that one Ad₂. I. C. T₂. E₂. 883. called was] was called G. 885. ay] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. devoyde] devoidid L₂. of] of al Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 886—951 lost in C. 889. his] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 890. From] Fro Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. E₁. S. T₂. she] he M. plonged] plukkyth L₁. 891. his] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. into] into a Di. and to P. 893. setten Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Ad₁. T₂. set Ra. L₂. 894. Of] On Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. erthly] hertly T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. 895. this] the E₂. passing of gret myght Ar. Bo. and all the rest. 898. his] om. Ar. G. Ad₂. I. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap.

Or he was war / Iocasta gan byholde		Jocasta sees the
The Carectys of his woundës olde,	900	marks of old
Vpon his fete / enprented wonder depe ;		wounds on his
Turnyng ^r her facë / brast ^t out ^t forto wepe		feet,
So secrely / he myght ^t it ^t not ^t espie.		[leaf 15, back]
And she anon / fille into a fantasie,	904	
Ay on thys thyng ^r / musyng ^r mor <i>and</i> more,		
And in her bed / gan to sighe sore.		and sighs deeply.
And whan the kyng ^r / conceyueth her distresse,		
He gan enquere / of her hevynesse	908	He asks why she
Fully the cause / and occasioun ;		does so.
For he wil wite / in conclusioun,		
What ^t her eileþ / and why she ferde so.		
“My lorde,” quod she / “withoute wordës mo,	912	She says she
Parcel cause / of this sodeyn rage		
Is for that ^t I in my tender age		
had a lorde / I-named Layus,		bore a son to
kyng ^r of this toune / a mau ryz ^t vertuvs,	916	King Layus,
Be whom I hadde / a sonë / wonder-fair ^r ,		
likly tabene / his successour ^r <i>and</i> hair ^r :		
But ^t by causë / his dyvynours tolde		who was told
At his birthe / sofhly that ^t he sholde,	920	that the boy
3if he haue lyf / be fatal destanyë,		
Sleen his fader / it may non oþer be ;		should slay his
For which the king ^r / his fatë to eschewe,		father.
Bad me in hast ^t / as hym thoghte dewe,	924	Layus bade
To sle the childe / and haue therof no routh :		Jocasta kill her
And I anoñ bad with-outë slouth		babe.
		But the men she

902. brast] barst T₁. breste E₂. and brast L₁. forto] to Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 905. on] in Lb. thyng] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. mor and] om. Lb. 907. the kyng] om. Du. 908. gan enquere] her enquerid L₂. enquere Ar. Bo. *and all the other MSS.* (enquire Ra. enquer S.). 910. witte Bo. wete G. Lb. Di. S. P. Ap. wite Ar. M. Ad₁. *and the rest.* 910 in Ra. *reads*: Whi she sorwid and maad lamentacioun. 911. ferde] ferd G. Bo. Ad₁. fere T₁. 912. with-oute Bo. M. with-out Ad₁. 914. that] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. 915. I-named] named T₁. 917. sonë M. Ad₁. son Bo. 918. likly] like S. tabene Ar. G. to ben L₂. P. E₂. to haue Ra. to haue ben Bo. *and all the rest.* 919. divynours Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. 920. birthe M. Ad₁. birth Bo. 921. destanye Ar. Bo. Du. destenye E₁. destane S. destine Ad₁. 922. may Ar. G. L₂. Ap. might Bo. *and all the rest.* shulde P. 924. pouht Bo. thought M. thoughte Ad₁. 926. Ar. *has a pause-bar after* bad. with-uten Bo. Ad₁. Ra. withoute M.

	*Certeyn men / vp peyne of Iugēmente,	
told to do it,	To* executē / the comaundēmente	928
	Of the king ^t / as I gaf hem in charge.	
	And forth they goñ / to a forest ^t large,	
	Adiacent ^t / vnto this contrè,	
[leaf 16] bored the child's feet, and hung him on a tree.	Pereen his fete / and honge hym on a tre,	932
	Nat ^t parfournyng ^t / thexecucioun.	
	On hym they haddē / such compassioun.	
	lefte hym ther / and hom resort ^t ageyñ,	
	Be yng ^t in doute / and in noñ certeyñ,	936
	At theyre repeire / as they tolden alle,	
	Of this childe / what ^t afterward ^t is falle ;	
There, hunters found him.	Saue they saidē / huntys han hym founde,	
	Which lad hym forth / and his feet ^t vnbounde ;	940
	But ^t to what ^t coost ^t / they couldē not ^t declare.	
	Which parcel is of myn evel fare,	
	Grounde and cause / of myn hevy chere,	
	Considred ek the woundēs that ^t appere	944
	Vpon 3oure fete /, and woot ^t not ^t what ^t they mene.	
	And on thyng / ay / is at myn herte grene,	
Of late, Layus was slain	My lord, allas ^t but ^t of newē date :	
	kyng Layus / slayēn* was but ^t late	948

927. Certeyn] To certeyn *all the MSS.* (H^o for To in L₂). men] *om.* T₂. vp] vpon Ba. E₁. S. T₂. L₂. (*in* Ra. vp *altered to vpon by the later hand.*) on L₁. Lb. 928. To execute] Execute Ar. G. Texecute Bo. T₁. To execute[n] *all the other MSS.* the] the kynges Ba. 929. Of the king] In all thing Ba. I] he Ad₁. Ad₂. I. hem] *om.* Ad₂. I. in] *om.* Di. 931. vnto] to Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. this] the G. 932. Percen] Perced L₁. M. Di. Ra. Ba. T₂. Persyng P. E₂. L₂. Ap. Pereen they E₁. honge Ar. Bo. Lb. hange T₁. hangen Ad₂. I. heng M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. E₂. hyng L₁. P. L₂. Ap. hangyng E₁. hym] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. on] vpon Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 933. parfournyng Bo. parformyng M. Ad₁. the execucioe Bo. M. Ad₁. 934. had Bo. M. Ad₁. 935. lefte hym ther] Left ther the child L₂. hom resort] home resorted Bo. L₁. Ra. Ba. resorted home T₂. E₂. hom thei resorte Ad₂. I. restored home P. 937. theyre Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. S. E₂. L₂. Ap. (M. At heir). ther Ad₂. hir Di. Ra. T₂. here Ad₁. E₁. his Ba. repeire] report Ad₂. tolden Bo. M. tolde Lb. Ad₁. Ra. 938. afterward is falle] afterward is byfall Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. after was befallē T₂. aftir shulde falle P. 939. Sauf Bo. Saf M. Ad₁. saide Bo. M. seide Ad₁. 940. lad] had Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. P. haue Lb. 941. to] *om.* G. conde Bo. M. Ad₁. 946. on thyng] a nodir Ra. Ba. ay is] is ay Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. at] in G. Ad₂. I. P. hert Bo. M. Ad₁. grene] greve L₁ (:mene). 947. newe Bo. Ad₁. new M. 948. layus Ar. slayen] slayn(e) Ar. *and all the other MSS.* (*see Notes*).

At a Castel / nygh by this contrè,
 vpon 3oure coïnyngt / into this Citè.

when Edippus
 came into the
 land.

Al this yweied / and rekned iñto oñ,
 Maketh myn hertè / hevy as a stoñ,
 So that I can counsel / non / nor Rede." 952

And with that word the kyngt lift vp his hede,
 And abraýd / with sharpè sighës smerte,

Edippus sighs.

And al this thingt be ordre / gan aduerte,
 Ceriously / be good avisement;

956

And by signës / cleer and evident
 Conceyueth wel /, and sorè gan repente,
 It was hym-silf / that Iocasta mente. 960

And whan the Queene / in manere segh hym pleyñ,
 By her goddes / she gan hym to constreyne

Jocasta asks
 Edippus why

To shewën out the cause of his affray,

[leaf 16, back]

And it expowne / and makè no delay, 964

Crop and root / shortly, why that he
 Entred first / into that contrè,

he came to
 Thebes, and
 whence.

Fro when he kam / and fro what regioun.
 But he hir put / in dilusioun, 968

As he haddè* done it for the nonys.
 Til at the* laste / he brak out atonys

Vnto the queene / and gan a processe make
 First how he was / in the forest take, 972

He says he was
 taken, with his
 pierst feet,

wounded the feet / and so forþ euery thyngt,
 Of his Chershingt / with Polyboun the kyngt,

to King Po-
 lybon:

And hool the causè / why he hym forsokè,

952. hert Bo. M. Ad₁. 953. nor] ne Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. E₁. S. P. E₂. Ap. oþer L₂. 954. that] om. G. left Bo. 955. sharþ Bo. M. sharpe Ad₁. 957. Ceriously] Curiously Du. P. E₂. L₂. good] the P. 959. Conceyueth] Conceuyd Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 961. In Ar. after the is kr, underdotted. pleyñ feyne Ad₂. I. 963. shewen Bo. Ad₁. shewe M. 964. it expowne] expowne it Bo. 965. Crop Ar. 967. Fro when] Fro whens Lb. M. Di. Ad₂. I. S. From whence P. E₂. kam] come M. Di. Ba. C. P. 968. he] om. G. 969. hadde G. Lb. Di. Ad₁. had Ar. Bo. T₁. M. Ra. 970. at the laste] at last Ar. T₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. C. P. E₂. atonys] all attonys Ra. Ba (all at oons: for the noons). S. 971. a] to G. 974. his] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Chershing Ar. G. cherisshyng Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Di. I. Ra. Ba. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. cherising Ad₁. Ad₂. chersyng M. S. C. chereyng Lb. serchyng E₁. with] þat Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. S. of M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. and of Ra. Ba. how E₁. om. G. Polibon Bo. polliboun Ra. Pollibon Ad₁.

then went to- wards Thebes by Apollo's bidding,	And in what wisē / he the weyē toke Towardȝ Thebēs / as Appollo bad, And of fortunē / how that he was lad Wher that Spynx / kepte the mounteyn,	976
and slew King Layus.	And how that he slough also in certeyn kyngȝ Layus at the castel gate, Towardēs nyght whan it was ful* late, And how to Thebēs that he gan hym spede To fynden oute / the stok of his kynrede :	980 984
He now finds that Jocasta is his mother as well as his wife.	he fonde out wel, be reknyng of his lif, That she was both / his moder and his wif.	988
Both sorrow.	So that al nyght and sving on þe morow A-twene hem* two / gan a newē sorowe : Which vnto me were tedious to telle ; For ther-vpon / ȝif I shulde dwelle,	992
[leaf 17] ¶ Tragedia Seneca de Edippo Rege thebarum.	A long space it woldē occupie. But ȝe may reden in a Tragedye Of Moral Senyk fully his endynge,	996
Seneca's Tragedy of Edippus tells how he lost his wits,	His dool, his meschief / and his compleynyng, How with sorow / and vnweldy age This Edippus / fille into dotage, lost his wit / and his worldly delit, And how his sonēs* / had hym in despit, And of disdeyn / tok of hym no kepe. And bookēs seyn / his eyēn out he wepe.	996 1000

976. waye Bo. way M. Ad₁. to ke Ar. 978. that] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. P. 979. kept Bo. Ad₁. kepte M. 980. And] An Ar. how] om. Du. 981. layus Ar. 982. towardes Bo. towardis Du. towardus Ad₁. toward M. ful] fal Ar. 983. that] þan Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. P. om. G. 984. fynden Bo. Ad₁. finde M. 985. Which] For whiche Lb. (from 986) vnto] to C. to om. in all MSS. except Ar. G. L₂. Ap. wexe] wex Ar. G. Du. L₁. L₂. Ap. wixe Lb. waxe M. Ra. C. T₂. wax Ba. couth] vnouth L₁. 986. grene] gret Ad₂. I. 988. in Ar. a pause-
bar also between was and both. 989. that al] al that G. 990. hem Bo. Ad₁. ham Ar. them Ra. newe Bo. new M. Ad₁. 992. ȝif I shulde] yff that I shall Ad₂. I. shulde Bo. sholde Ad₁. shold M. 993. wolde Bo. wold M. woold Ad₁. 994. reden Bo. M. Ad₁. 997. and] and wel Ad₂. I. 999. and his] and Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1000. how] om. Bo. sonnes Ar. Bo. Du. L₁. Ba. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. sones T₁. M. Ad₁. Ra. C. T₂. soones Lb. in] om. G. 1002. And] And as Du.

And as myn auctour liketh to devise,
 As his sones rebuke hym and dispise, 1004
 Vpon a day / in a certeyn place
 Out' of his hede / his eyën he gan race, and tore his eyes
 And Cast' at' hem /, he can noñ other bote, out;
 And of malice / they trad hem vnder fote, 1008
 Fully devoidë / both of loue and drede.

And whan Edippus / for meschief was thus dede, and how his
 with-Inne a pytte / made in the erthë* lowe, corpse was
 Of crueltè / his sonës / han hym throwe, 1012 thrown into a pit
 Wers* than serpent' / or eny tigre wood. by his sons.
 Of Cursid stok / cometh vnkynde blood, From cursed
 As in story / 3e may reled her to-forñ; stock comes un-
 Al be the Roosë* / grow / out' of a thorn. 1016 natural child.
 Thus of Edippus /, whan he was blyndt and oldt,
 The wrecched ende / I haue* 3ou pleyuly toldt.

For which shortly / to man and child I rede
 To be wel war / and to taken hede 1020
 ¶ Of kyndely ri3t' / and of conscience
 To do honour* // and duë* reuerence
 To fader and* moder / of what estat thei be,
 Or certeyn / ellis / they shul nenere the. .024 ¶ Nota. ^{every}
 ¶ How ght of
 man ce to do
 der,erence to
 retader and
 Fmodere.
 ¶ Or ellis ther
 wil folowe
 vengeance
 ¶ leaf 17 back]
 wh. found me

1004. As] and as M. (from 1003). That Di. his] om. M. sonnes Bo. soones
 Lb. hym] om. Ap. 1007. can] cowde Ad₂. I. 1009. devoidë Bo. Lb. M.
 devoid Ad₁. Ra. 1010. was thus] thus was M. Di. Ra. Ba. P. thus] om. Ad₁.
 Ad₂. I. 1011. made] om. Lb. the] om. Di. erthe T₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. erth Ar.
 Bo. Du. Within þe erthe a pitte made full lowe L₁. 1013. Wers Ad₁. Ra. L₂.
 Ap. Wors L₁. Lb. M. Di. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. Wars Du. Ba. Werre Ar. G. E₁.
 Were Bo. Wer T₁. Wer wors Ad₂. I. than] than a Lb. P. than any Ba. or
 eny] or Ba. S. 1014. vnkynde Bo M. Ad₁. 1015. her] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
 1016. rose M. Ad₁. Roos Ar. Bo. Roose G. a] the G. 1017—1142 gap in C.
 1017. of] om. L₁. blynd and] om. Di. S. whan . . . old] þat was so bolde Ad₁.
 Ad₂. I. 1018. haue Bo. T₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. ha Ar. 3ou] om. Bo. Di. pleyuly]
 om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ap. 1020. wel] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. taken Bo. M. Ad₁. In Ra.
 and Ba. U. 1017—1020 are very much altered, thus:

Thus I haue rehersed al the caas 1017
 Off Edippus whens that he was 1018
 And the wrechid end wherfore that I rede 1019
 Every (eny Ba.) man and child be war and take hede Ra. 1020

1021. and of] and Ad₂. I. 1022. honour] nur (misuritten) Ar. due M. Ad₁.
 dewe Bo. diwe Lb. dien Ar. dew G. om. Ra. Ba. 1023. and] om. Ar. G.
 Ap. of] om. Ra. Ba. estat] of state G. 1024. certeyn] certainly Lb. E₁. G.
 ellis] om. Ba. certeyn ellis] elles certein Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. shul Ar. Bo. Du.
 Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. shulen T₁. shall L₁. Ad₂. S. P. L₂. shuld G. sholde E₁.
 the] I-the Lb. Ad₁. Ba. S.

For who that is not to hem debonayr
 In spech, in port / for to trete hem fair,
 Hem to obeye / in honestè and drede,
 And to cheriss^h* / of what they han nede, 1028
 I dar afferme / exceptyng^t non^t astat,
 That he shall first be infortunat^t
 In alle his werk / both on see *and* lond^t,
 And of what^t thyng^t that^t he take on hond^t 1032
 Fortunè froward / to hym *and* contrayre*,
 Waast^t* of his good /, pleylny and appaire,
 shall end badly. Fynde plentè / of contek / werre, *and* striff,
 Vnhappy ende / and shortnesse of liff, 1036
 And gracèles / of what^t he hath to* do,
 Hatrede of god / and of man also.
 ¶ Therfor no man / be herof rekkèles.*
 Let no man be reckless;
 ¶ Let be you warnd
 Scippus's But^t make zoure myroure of Ethiocles 1940
 And his brother / callèd Polymyte,
 Which in such thyng^t / gretly* were to wite,
 As 3e shal here / of hem how it fil.
 And whan we ben / descendid doune this hil 1044
 And ypassèd / her / the lowè vale,
 ¶ al begynne the remnant^t of my tale.

¶ **Explicit Prima pars istius Codicilli.**
 ¶ **Incipit Secunda Pars Eiusdem.**
Secunda pars.

1028. And] An. Ad₁. S. of] hem of L₁. nede] drede L₁. (from 1027).
 T₂. cherssh Ar. G. on] on þe G. in Lb. 1032. of] after M. Di. thyng]
 1031. werk] werkus Lb. P. he] G. take] taketh G. E₁. P. on] in S.
 om. P. that] om. G. Ad₂. I. . . . ward E₂. to hym and] and to hym E₁.
 1033. Fortune froward] For the tyme for ward E₂. *and the rest, except S., that has*
 contrayre Lb. E₁. P. E₂. L₂. contrarye A. good] godis L₁. E₂. and] om. Bo.
 congye. 1034. Waast] Wayst Ar. G. 1035. fynde Bo. M. Ad₁. 1037.
 pleylny and appaire] plenty and appaire S. addo P. he hath to do] that he hape
 to do] at do Ar. G. a do T₂. a doo Ap. hated M. Ad₁. hated Di. 1039.
 do L₂. 1038. Hadrede Ar. Hated Bo. 1039. rekkèles Ra. rekeles T₁. Du.
 Therfor] Ther of G. rekles Ar. G. Bo. L₁. Lb. T₂. rekkèles Ra. rekeles T₁. Du.
 L₂. reccheles M. Di. 1042. thyng] thynges E₂. caas Lb. gretly] gretlich Ar.
 were] was Lb. gretly were] wer gretly Ra. Ba. P. 1043. 3e] he G. here Ar.
 Bo. T₁. Du. M. Ad₁. Ra. hire Lb. fil Bo. Ad₁. felle Lb. fel M. fell (; helle)
 Ra. 1044. And] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ba. T₂. P. descendid] con-
 descendid G. this] þe Bo. M. Di. Ad₂. I. G. of this S. 1045. ypassèd] epassid
 L₂. passed T₁. Ad₂. I. the] this M. P. lowe Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra.

Secunda Pars.

[leaf 18]

- P**Asséd the throp / of^t Bowtoun on þe ble,
 By my chilyndre / I gan anoñ to se, 1048
 Thorgh þe sonnë / þat ful eler gan shyne,
 Of þe clok that^t it drogh to nyne;
 And saughⁿ also þe siluer dropës shene
 Of þe dewe / lich peerlys* / on þe grene, 1052
 Vapouréd vp in-to the eire* alofte,
 whan zephyrus / with his blowing^t softe
 þe wedere madë lusty / smoth / and feir,
 And right^t attempèrè / was the hoolsom eir*;
 1056
 The samë hour / aH the hoolë* Route
 Of the pylgrymes / rydyng^t round^t aboute,
 In my talë / whan I gan procede,
 Rehereyng^t forth / as it was in dede, 1060
 Whan Edippus / buryed was and graue,
 How his sones / the kyngdam for to haue,
 Among^t hem-silf / be ful mortal hate
 his sons strove
 for the Crown.

1047. throp] thorpe L₁, E₁. Boughton Bo. Boughten P. Broughton E₂.
 Loughton Ba. on þe] of þe T₁. vnder þe L₁, Ad₂. I. vppon P. 1048.
 chilyndre] ehelandir Ad₂. I. ehildern E₁. childryn L₂. chalandre Ra. kalendar
 Ba. kalender E₂. anon] om. Ra. Ba. 1050. clok Ar. Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. Ra. E₁. T₂.
 P. L₂. clook Lb. klokke G. clocke Du. Di. E₂. that] om. L₂. to] toward Ra.
 1051. And] An Ar. also] all Ba. þe] of T₂. P. L₂. as E₂. shene] shyne L₁. and
 T₂ (: grene; see 1049). shyne Ra (: greene). 1052. Of] And Lb. lich] like
 the Lb. perelys Ar. perleys G. perles P. Ap. peerles Bo. perles Ad₁.
 1053. eier Bo. ayr Ad₁. heire Ar. 1055. lusty smoth] smothe lusti Ad₁. Ad₂.
 1055. om. I. 1056. attempèrè] attempèrd Du. attempred E₁. hoolsom] om.
 Lb. aire Bo. air Ad₁. heir Ar. 1057. hoole Bo. hool Ar. Ad₁. 1061—
 1172 lost in T₁. 1063. be ful Ar. G. L₁. P. by full T₂. E₂. Ap. by fell L₂. by
 full of E₁. bee ful of Bo. Du. Lb (ben). M (ben). Di (bene). Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S.

	For the crownë / gonnë to debate	1064
	which of hem / Iustly / shal succede,	
	And the Sceptre / of the toune possede ;	
	Advertying nought / neither to right ne wronge,	
Each lookt to his own interest only.	But eche of hem / to make her partie stronge,	1068
	And his querele / proudly to sustene :	
	From whoos hertës / was devoyded* clene	
	Of brotherhode / the faithful alliaunce.	
	Fals Couetise / so made hem at distaunce,	1072
	Fully worchyng into destruccioun	
	And Ruynë / of this noble touñ.	
	So hootë brente the hatred and envie	
	Of bothe two / thorgh pompous Surquedye,	1076
Neither of Edippus's sons would give way to the other, [leaf 18, back]	That nowther woldë* / pleyuly in a poynt	
	Other forbern* /, they stod in such disioynte	
	as thow* they hadde / of berthë* be foreyns.	
so the citizens of Thebes settled that the	Tyl of the toune / the noble Citezeyns,	1080
	knyghtës, Barounes / with many worþi lord,	
	Shope a way / to mak hem of accord,	
	And to set hem / in quyete / and in pees.	
elder, Eteocles,	But for his part / this Ethioeles	1084
	Aleggë gan that he was first yborn ;	

1064. For] And for Bo. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. gonne Ar. Bo. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. T₂. P. E₂. gan L₁. Ad₂. S. Ap. they gon L₂. to] for to S. P. E₂. om. Bo. Ba. debate] bate Ra. 1067. Advertying] Hautyng or Hautyng Ra. Ba. nought Bo. not M. Di. nat Ra. Ba. neither to r. ne Ar. G. Bo. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. S. P. E₂. neither to r. nor Ra. Ad₂. I. neipre to r. no Du. neither to r. ne Ba. nother to r. ne E₁. nothyr to r. nor Ap. noþer r. ne L₂. to r. neither to M. Di. to r. nor to T₂. 1069. querele Ar. G. quarel Bo. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ra. quarell Du. T₂. 1070. devoyded] devoyden Ar. 1073. worchyng Ar. Bo. Lb. M. Ad₁. werchyng E₂. werkyng L₁. Ra. T₂. 1075. hoot Bo. 1076. bothe Bo. 1077. nowther T₂. neither Bo. Lb. Ad₁. Ra. wolde Bo. Lb. wold Ar. Ad₁. Ra. a] o M. Di. Ra. T₂. noo Ba. L₂. 1078. forbern] forborn (*miswritten*) Ar. for ber G. 1079. As though Du. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. Di. how as Ar. G. Bo. Lb. M. E₁. S. Though as L₁. lik as T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. berthë Du. birthe M. Ra. berth Ar. Ad₁. birth Bo. T₂. of berthë be] be of birthe M. Di. 1080. Citezeyns Ar. Bo. Lb. Citefeyns Ad₁. S. Citezens T₂. Cetezens L₁. 1081. many Bo. M. many a Ad₁. 1082. Shope Ar. G. Bo. L₁. Lb. Ra. Ba. T₂. P. E₂. L₁. shop Ad₁. Ad₂. Shupe Du. Shopen M. Di. Shape Ap. mak hem of accord] make hem at accord Di. Ad₂. I. M (at o corde). make hem a cord Bo. P (accorde). 1085. Aleggë gan] Gan alegge L₁. Aleggë can S. L₂. first] om. Du. yborn Ar. G. Ad₂. I. L₂. Ap. born Bo. Ad₁. and all the rest.

- For which he ought of resoun go to-forñ
 In the Citè / to be crown'd kyngt,
 Sith be lawë / ther was no lettynge. 1088 should be crown'd.
¶ The contrary of the breþeren.
- For vnto hym / longeth / the heritage
 Be discent / *and* be title of age.
 But polymyte / of ful hegh disleyñ,
 Al opynly gan replie ageyñ 1092 But the younger, Polyneices,
- And for his part / seide, in special,
 Reson was non / that he shuld haue alle
 Regaly and domynacioun,
 And the lordship hooly of the toun, 1096
- And he right nought /, out of the Cytè
 But * lyve in exile / and in pouertè,
 Ful concludynge, with-oute feer and dred,
 Rather than suffre that /, he wil be ded. 1100 said he'd sooner die than let his brother have all
- And thus, allas / thorgh her envious strif,
 At the ende / enerich loste his lif,
 At gret mischief / as 3e shal after here.
 But thylkë tyme the lordës al yfere 1104
- Ful bysily did her dyligence,
 By gret avis / and ful high prudence,
 To setten hem in quyte and in Reste ;
 Conseylynge hem pleynly for the beste, 1108
- To leve her strif / of wisdam *and* resoun,
 And condescende / to some conclusioun [leaf 19]

1086. For which] Wherefore M. Di. T₂. of resoun] of rest Bo. he ought of resoun] of reason he oughte E₁. Ad₂. I. M. Di. Ad₁ (*om.* he). go] to go G. L₁. S. L₂. Ap. to-forñ] be-forñ L₁. forñ S. L₂. Off which a resoun he aughte go aforñ P. 1087. crown'd] crownynge Bo. 1090. be title] *be om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1092. gan] gan to M. Di. T₂. P. L₂. 1094. that *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. he] *om.* Bo. one Du. shuld Ar. Ad₁. Ra. shulde L₁. Lb. shol Bo. shul Du. 1095. Regaly] Bothe regalye T₂. P. E₂. Te Regayle L₁. Regalite Ad₂. and] and eke M. Di. and the T₂. 1098. But] *om.* Ar. G. E₁. L₂. Ap. lyve] life Ba. *second in om.* Ra. 1099. Ful] fully L₁. *om.* P. E₂. with-oute Bo. and] or P. drede Ar (*with final e underdotted*). 1100. *in Ar. a pause-bar also between suffre and that.* 1102. At the ende Ar. G. Du. Atte the ende Ra. atte ende Bo. Ad₁. T₂. at thende Lb. att end Ba. at ende M. Di. enerich] eche Bo. eneryche of hem L₁. lost Bo. loost Lb. 1104. thilke Bo. Ad₁. thilk M. in feere Bo. in fere G. y-fere M. I-fere Ad₁. 1105. besily Bo. T₂. bisili Ad₁. did Ar. Bo. didn M. Di. Ad₂. S. dede T₂. deden Ad₁. I. 1106. and] of E₁. high] *om.* Bo. Du. L₁. 1107. setten Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. sett L₁. Lb. T₂. hem] *om.* Bo. rest Bo (: best).

- Which to bothe* / myghte most^t availe ;
- The Theban lords get them to agree that each brother
- That fynaly / thorgh her gouernaile, 1112
- The lordes allē / beyng^t tho present^t,
- They han hem broght^t / to be of on assent^t,
- Of on hert^t / as brother vnto brother,
- shall reign for a year ;
- Euerich of hem / to regnen* after other, 1116
- 3eer be 3eer / as it^t cam aboute,
- and while one reigns, the other shall go away and do warlike deeds.
- So that the toñ / shal absent^t hym oute
- Fully that^t 3eer, and hym-siluen* guye
- Be his manhode / and his chyualrye, 1120
- * The conuencion of the breþeren.
- haunte hym-self / in Dedys marcyal ;
- whil his brother / in his See Royal
- Holdeth his sceptre / the Citē to gouerne ;
- And whan the 3eer / his cours haþ romē 3erne 1124
- And is come out^t /, he shal haue* repair
- To Regne in Thebēs / lik as lord^t and hair,
- There to receyue / fully his dignytē ;
- whil the tother voideth the Citē, 1128
- Paciently / taking^t his auenture
- Til* he ageyn / his honure may recure.
- They shall change yearly.
- Thus entrechaunge euery 3ere they shal :
- The ton ascendeth* / that^t other haþ a fal. 1132
- They most^t obeye of hert^t / and take it wel,
- lich as the tourn / resorteþ of the whel,
- For this was hool / the composicioun
- Both Eteocles
- A-twene the bretheren / and conuencioun, 1136
1111. bothe Bo. M. Ad₁. both Ar. Du. Lb. Ra. T₂. myght Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. om. G. myghte most] most myght M. Di. T₂. 1112. thorgh Ar. 1113. alle Bo. M. Ad₁. tho] ther I. 1116. regne Ar. Bo. Lb. M. Ra. ranne Ad₁. 1117. 3eer] There Lb. cam] come M. T₂. cometh Di. Ra. Ba. P. E₂. 1119. Fully] Full Lb. hym-siluen cp. 710. hym-silf Ar. Bo. Ad₁. hym-silf Ra. E₁. guye Ar. Ra. T₂. gye Bo. Ad₁. 1120. and his] and (his om.) Bo. 1121. Dedye Ar. marcyal] mercial Bo. Du. 1122. while Bo. M. Ad₁. 1124. 3eer his] yeres T₂. his cours haþ ronne] hath ronne his cours M. Di. 3erne] om. P (ronne: governe). 1125. is] om. Lb. is come out] is ended Ad₁. Ad₂. I. ha Ar. haue Bo. M. han Ad₁. 1128. whil Ar. while Bo. M. Ad₁. whyle that E₁. the tother Ar. T₂. Ap. þat other Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. the other E₁. L₂. his brother L₁. voideth] avoydith P. 1130. Til] To Ar. 1131. Thus] This Lb. entrechaunge all the MSS., except entrechaunginge Lb. Di. P. 1132. the ton Ar. G. P. L₂. Ro. Ap. þat oon Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. Ra. T₂. ascendeth] descendeth Ar. ascende P. Ro. that other Ar. Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. Ra. T₂. Ap. the other G. the tothir P. L₂. Ro. haþ] hadde Di. haue P. 1136. A-twene Ar. T₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. And twene G. Bitwene Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. and] and þe Du. Ra. L₂. Ro.

Ful knet^t vp / be gret^t avisement^t, and Polynices
swear to this.
 To-for the goddys / be oth of sacrament,
 Neuer after to grochē* ne to varye,
 But a-coṃplisshien Shortly / and not tarye, 1140 [leaf 19, back]
 lich as thaccord / enrollēd in the toune,
 From poynt^t to poynt^t / madē menciouu.
 But alderfirst^t / be reson of his age, But Eteocles is
to reign first.
 Ethyocles / haddē thauauntage 1144
 To regne afor / and to were a crowne,
 Polymytē / hym hastyng out^t of toune
 Duryng^t that 3eer /, it^t may noñ other be,
 Whil his brother /sat^t in his Royal See 1148
 Ful richely vpon fortunēs wheel ;
 And rode hym forth / armēd briȝt in stele,
 This Polymyte / sothly as I rede,
 Hym-silf allone / on a Ryal Stede, 1152
 With-oute guyde / al the longē day,
 Beyng^t aferd / to kepe the heghē* way,
 In his herte / hauyng^t suspecioun suspecting
Eteocles,
 To his brother / of malice and tresoun, 1156
 lest^t he pursued / thorgh fals vnkyndē* blood
 To haue hym ded / for couētise of good,
 That he alloñ / myght^t haue* possessioun

1137. be] with G. gret] full Ad₂. I. 1139. groch Ar. gruch Lb. grucche Bo. M. grucche Ad₁. gruche E₁. a pause-bar in Ar. before ne. 1140. a complisshen Bo. Ra. tacomplisshen M. Ad₁. to complisshen Di. in Lb. a written, complisshen omitted, with blank space left for it. Shortly] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. J. 1141. as] om. P. Ro. as thaccord] to accorde Ad₂. I. enrollēd] envolvid Ad₂. 1142. From Ar. Du. Ad₁. Ra. Fro Bo. Lb. M. made] maked M. Di. as made ys P. Ro. S (as added above the line). 1144. hadde thauauntage Ar. hadde the auauntage Di. T₂. Ro. had thauauntage Bo. M. had the auauntage C. P. had þe vauntage L₁. L₂. had tho the Avauntage Ba (in Ra. the later hand has scrawled some indistinct letters over tho). had tho thauauntage Ad₁. S. had ther to avauntage Ad₂. I. 1145. to werē] to bere Lb. Ba. to] om. E₂. a crowne] þe crowne L₁. Lb. M. Di. I. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. 1146. hym hastyng] haastyng him Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. E₁. him] om. S. 1148. second his] om. G. 1149. richely M. Ad₁. richly Bo. 1150. armed briȝt] bright armyd Ad₁. Ad₂. I. in] as G. 1151. This] Thus Ra. So M. Di. 1152. allone Du. Ad₁. alloon Bo. rial M. roial Bo. Ad₁. 1153. long Bo. M. Ad₁. 1154. hegh Ar. hve Bo. M. Ad₁. hihe Ra. 1157. pursued] pursue C. E₂. be pursued L₁. porgh] of C. fals] his fals Bo. Du. L₁. E₁. his M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. fals and E₂. vnynde Bo. M. Ra. vnkynd Ar. Ad₁. (in Ra., by the later hand, vnkynde is crossed out and vnnaturall written above the line). 1159. haue Bo. M. Ad₁. ha Ar.

- Duryng^t his lif / fully of the touñ. 1160
 For which in hast /, havyng^t no felawe,
 Polymytë a-sidë gan hym drawe
 to a forest by the sea, By a forest^t / Ioynnyng to the See,
 knowyng^t right^t nought^t the sytt of the contrè, 1164
 Ful of hillës / and of hegh mounteyns,
 Craggy Rochës / and but^t fewë playns,
 wonder dredful and lothsom of passage,
 And ther-with-al / ful of beestis rage ; 1168
 hollyng^t his way of hertë* no thyng^t light,
 Maat^t and wery / til* it^t drowe to nyght.
 [leaf 20] And al the day / behollyng^t enviroûñ,
 He neyther saugh^t castel, toure, ne touñ ; 1172
 The whiche þing^t / greuëd hym ful sore.
 A tempest rises ; And soleyuly / the se began to Rore,
 wynde and tempest^t / hidously tarise.
 the rain pours down. The Reyn doune bete / in ful grisly wise, 1176
 That^t man and beest^t / therof were adrad,
 And negh for ferë* / gan to wexë mad,
 As it semptë / by the wooful sownes
 Of Tygres / berës / boorës / and lyounes, 1180
 which for refut^t / hem-silüë* forto saue,
 Enerich in hast^t / drogh vnto his Caue.
 But^t Polymyte / in this tempest^t huge,
 Allas the whilë* / fyndeth no refuge, 1184

1161. haast Bo. hast M. haste Ad₁. 1162. drawe] to drawe M. Di. with-drawe C. T₂. E₂. 1164. sytt Ad₁. eyet Bo. Du. M. the] þat Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1165. hegh Ar. hye Bo. 1166. Craggy] Cracchy Ad₂. I. roches] roges M. Di. fewe Bo. M. Ad₁. 1169. herte Ad₁. Du. hert Ar. Bo. M. 1170. til] to Ar. G. drowe Bo. Lb. drouh Ra. drew Ad₁. T₂. 1171. al the day] alway Bo. 1173. whiche Bo. Du. M. which T₁. Ad₁. greuëd] greueth E₂. ful] om. Lb. right Ad₁. T₂. 1174. began] gan Bo. Ba. 1175. hidously] soleyuly Di (cp. 1174). tarise Ar. E₂. to arise Bo. T₁. Ad₁. Ra. to ryse P. ganne ryse Lb. 1176. grisly] grevous Ad₂. I. 1177. man and beest] many a beste E₂. were Ar. L₂. Ro. om. T₁. was *all the rest*. adrad] drad Ra. Ba. C. 1178. fer Ar. feer Bo. fere M. Ad₁. to] om. M. Di. waxe Bo. M. wex Ad₁. wax Du. 1179. semyd Bo. M. Ad₁. 1180. Of] As Di (cp. 1179). 1181. refut] resku L₁. fortune P. hem-silue Lb. hem-selë L₁. E₁. Ap. hem-silf Ar. T₁. hem-self Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. forto] to Ra. Ba. 1182. haast Bo. hast Du. haste Ad₁. 1183. P *underdotted, before* But Ar. 1184. while Bo. M. Ad₁. whil Ar.

Nor hym to schrowde / saugh nowher no socour
 Til it was passèd / almost mydnyght hour
 A largë spacë / that the sterrës clere,
 The clowdës voyde /, in heuene did appere ; 1188
 So that this knyght / out of the forest large
 Gan approchen / to the londë of arge,
 Seyng a palays myghty of beeklyngt,
 Of which Adrastus / callèd was the kyngt, 1192
 A manly man / riche and wonder sage,
 And ronnc was / somdel / into age,
 Born of the Ile / which callèd is Chysoun,
 And whylom sone / of the kyngt Chaloun ; 1196
 And for his witt /, in story as is kouth,
 he chosen was / in his tendre youth,
 Of alle Argë / to be crownèd kyngt,
 Chief of alle Grece / by record of wrytingt, 1200
 Not be dissent / nor successioun,
 But al only / of fre eleccioun [leaf 2^o, back]
 To* holde of Arge / the sceptre in his hond,
 As most worthy / of alle* grekës lond, 1204
 louèd and drad / for wisdam and Iustice.
 And as the story / pleynty can devise,
 This worthy kyngt haddë doghtres two, and has 2 fair daughters,

1185. Nor] Ne C. P. saugh] safe Ad₂. nowher] nothir Ba. om. Ad₂. no] om. Du. Ad₁. Ba. P. nor Ad₂. I. 1186. was] om. Du. mydnygh Ar. 1188. clowdes] cloude Du. voyde Bo. void Ad₁. 1190. approchen Bo. M. Ad₁. the] om. G. londë] long G. 1191. belding Ad₁. byldyng Bo. 1192. the] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1193. riche] wis Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1195. which] pat Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. E₁. S. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. C. om. P. called] I-called P. is] om. P. was I. Chysoun Ar. G. T₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. Chifon C. P. E₂. Clysoun Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. Elisoun I. 1196. whylom] som tyme C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. om. P. sone] pe son Bo. of] to T₂. P. vnto Ad₂. I. the] om. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Chaloun] Chaloun Ad₂. Thalou Ra. Caloun Ba. called Cholon P. 1197. And for his witt] And is writyn Ra. Ba. in story] om. Ad₂. I. is] it is L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. P. Ap. kouth] couthen Ad₂. I. 1200. alle] om. G. 1201. Not] Nor Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. nothir Ad₂. I. nor] ne Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. E₁. P. nother L₁. successioun] by s. Ba. Ad₂. I. P. 1203. To holde G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. A₂. I. Be holde Ar. E₁. S. He helde C. T₂ (miswritten helge). P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. Heeld Ra (he added after Heeld above the line). Ba. in his hond] and the Croune P (a different hand has added and Towne with paler ink at the end of 1204). 1204. As] And G. of alle] in all (om. the) Ad₂. I. of alle the Ar. of the (om. alle) L₂. Ro. 1207. had Bo. M. Ad₁.

- Passyng^t fair / and right^t good also. 1208
 It were to longe / her beauté to discryve.
 And the eldest^t / callēd was Argyve,
 ¶ Deyphyle^(and) Dēyfylē ynamēd the seconde.
 ¶ Adrastus And Adrastus, lich as it^t is founde, 1212
 but no son. This worthy kyng^t / haddē sonē noñ,
 To succede / after he be goñ ;
 For which he was duryng^t al his lyff
 Trist^t in hert^t / and* passyngly pensif. 1216
 But^t hool his trust^t / and his hopē stod,
 Be Aliauce / of some worthy blood
 Adrastus hopes to marry his daughters well. Brouzt Ime by mene / of his doghtres tweyñ,
 That^t he shal be relesēd / of his peyne, 1220
 Thorgh recomfort^t / of some hie mariage.
 ¶ The drem of kyng Adrastus of A bor and A lyoun. And sothly yet* ful high in his corage
 He troubled was be occasion 1224
 But he dreams Of a sweuen and a vision,
 Shewēd to hym / vpon a certeyn nyght.
 For as hym thoght / in his inward sight^t
 whyl he slept /, by cleer inspeccioun,
 that a wild Boar and a Lion shall wed them. A wyldē boor / and a fers lyoun 1228
 Possedē shal, thise bestēs in her Rage,
 His doghtres two / be bonde of mariage
 In shorte tyme / with-In a certeyn day ;
 which broght his herte / in ful grete affray. 1232
 [leaf 21] But^t þing^t in soth / that^t destinē hath shape,

1211. ynamed] ynamed was G. 1212. lich] þe kyng L₂. is] was L₁.
 1213. This worthy kyng] In all his lyf L₂. had son Bo. had sone Ad₁. sone
 had M. Di. C. T₂. sone hadde G. 1214. succede Ar. Bo. and all the rest, except
 succede and regne L₁. after] afre þat Du. be] is L₁. were Ro. 1216. trist]
 trusty Ad₂. I. and] om. Ar. G. passyngly] passyng Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di.
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. P. L₂. 1221. mariage Ar. recomfort] comfort Ad₁.
 Ad₂. I. joynyng P. hie] om. I. 1222. yet] right Ar. G. Lb. ful] om. Lb.
 high] hevy Lb. ofte C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. in] of Ad₂. I. his] om.
 I. 1225. Shewde Bo. Du. 1228. wilde Bo. M. Ad₁. 1229. Possede]
 Proceede L₂. shal] om. Bo. shul M. Di. C. P. E₂. shuld T₂. thise
 L₂. þees Bo. these Lb. M. thes Ad₁. thies Du. the E₁. her] his
 Ra. 1230. His] And his L₂. doghtren Bo. be bonde] by bounde Lb.
 Ro. be bounde T₂. by way L₁. Ap. by lawe Ad₂. by lond I. hurt
 L₂. of] and Bo. 1233. destanye Bo. Du. destene M. Ad₁. shaps
 (miswritten) Ar.

Her in this world / ful hard is to eskape ;
Eke merveylous / a man teschewe his faate.

And Polymyte / of whom I spak late, 1236 Polyncees
With the tempest / bete / and al be-reyned
Be grace only / the Citè hath atteyned, enters Argos
¶ Wher Adrastus / ful statly of degrè, city,

Thilkë* tymë / helde his Royal see. 1240

The troublly nyght / myrk, and ful obscure,
hath brought this knyght / only be auenture and goes to the
Thorgh the Citè, enclosed with a wal, palace

Vnto the paleys / chief and p'ncipal, 1244 where Adrastus
Wher as the kynge / in his chambre alofte
lay in his bed / and slepte wonder softe.

Eke alle his folk / hadde her chambres take, and all his folk
lik as Fortune / peraunter haddë shape, lie asleep. 1248

The silfë* tyme / be-cause it was so late ;

And Casuelly / no porter / at the gate, The porter is
As it haddë* be right for the nonys. at the gate. *1249*

And in a porehë* / bilt of squarë stonys, 1252

Ful myghtely enarched envyroun,

wher the domys / and ples of the touñ

weren execut / and lawës of the kyngt,

And ther this knyght / without* mor taryngt, 1256 Polyncees ties
Wery and maat / from his stede alight, his horse up in
a porch,

1234. ful] *om.* Di. hard] herd *L₂₃*. Ro. is] it is Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. (*in Ra. it is added by later hand*) E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. to eskape] teschape E₂. to scape P. S. (*the scribe of Ar. first wrote eschewe (see 1235), but underdotted this word and added eskape*). 1235. to eschewe Bo. M. teschue Ad₁. 1237. albe reyned Ar. 1240. Thilke Bo. Ad₁. Thilk Ar. M. 1241. troublly] trouble L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. troublid Ra. myrk] merke L₁. P. E₂. mark Lb. derke Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. *om.* L₂₃. ful] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₂. obscure] osure *L₂₃*. Ro. 1242. hath] That Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. be] of Ro. 1246. slepte M. slept Bo. Ad₁. 1247. had Bo. M. Ad₁. her] *om.* Bo. the Ro. all her Ad₂. I. chambres] chambre M. Di. S. Ra. caumbre Ba. 1248. had Bo. M. Ad₁. 1249. silf Ar. Bo. Lb. M. self Ad₁. 1250. no] nor G. atte gate Bo. Ad₁. 1251. hadde Di. E₁. had Ar. Bo. M. hade Ad₁. (*Ar. has a pause-bar after right*). 1252. in] *om.* G. porche Bo. M. Ad₁. porch Ar. porte Du. 1253. myghtely] myghti Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1254. wher] There P. and] and fe Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. ples] paleys P. ; *in C.* : the ples and domes. 1255. execut] executid L₁. Ra. Ba. E₂. and] and fe Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. 1256. without] with Ar. G. mor] *om.* Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 1257. fro Bo. Ad₁.

- Hangynge the rene / in al the hast he myght,
 vppon his arme / surer hym to kepe,
 and sleeps there himself. And leyde hym doune / and gan anoñ to slepe, 1260
 As hym semptē / that tyme for the beste.
 And whil that he lay thus forto reste,
 Then, in rides a manly knight, Of aventure / ther cam / a knyght rydingt,
 [leaf 21, back] The worthiest in this world lvyngt, 1264
 Curteys, lowly / and right vertuons,
 Tiderus, As seith myn autour / Callēd Tidyus,
 Eurous in Armes / and manly in werkyngt,
 Of his byrthe / sone vnto the kyngt 1268
 Of Calydonye / a londe of gret renoun.
 And he, allas / out of that Regioun
 who's been banisht from Calcedonia Exilēd was / for he his* brother slowe,
 As Stace of Thebēs / writ the manere howe, 1272
 Al be that he / to hym no malys mente.
 For on a day / as they on huntyngt wente
 In a forest / for herte / and for hynde,
 So as he stod vnder a grenē* lynde, 1276
 And Casuely / lete his Arow Slippe,
 he slough his broder / callēd Menalippe,
 Thorgh mortal sort / his hoñde was begyled :
 For which / he was / banishēd* and exiled, 1280
 As the lawē / narowe / sette his charge.

1259. surer] sure C. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. þe surer L₁. Lb. M. Di. (in Ra. the added by later hand). to] for to C. T₂. P. E₂. 1260. leyde] lenyd Ad₂. I. 1261. sempte Bo. M. Ad₁. 1262. while Bo. Ad₁. Ra. that] om. M. Di. E₁. he] he þat tyme P. (see 1261). thus] om. P. 1264. The] One the C. P. E₂. On of the T₂. in this] in þe Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. of the C. P. E₂. 1266. I-called Ad₁. Tidyus Ar. Bo. Du. Tidens G. L₁. Ad₁. Lb. Di. Ra. C. L₂. Thedens Ad₂. I. T₂. Tydyus E₁. Tydens M. S. P. Ro. Tydins T₁. 1268. birth Bo. birthe M. Ad₁. the] a Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1269. Calydonye Ar. Ad₁. Ra. E₁. S. Ap. Calidone Ro. Calidoyne Lb. Callidoyne Ad₂. I. E₂. Calcidoyne Bo. Du. M. Di. Ba. T₁ (altered into Calicidoyne). Calcidoyne C. T₂. Calcidone L₁. L₂. Caleydon P. (cp. 1405). 1271. his] is Ar. L₁. slowe Ar. (the copyist first wrote slough, but underdotted this and added slowe: cp. 1278). slow G. Bo. T₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. sloughe P. slew T₂. slenghe Ro. 1272. Stace Bo. Lb. Ra. Stas Ad₁. Stage L₂. Ro. þe Stace Di. thestage C. writ] wrote Du. 1273. that he to hym no malys] that he no malice to hym L₂. to hym that he no malyce Ro. L₁. to] on C. T₂. at P.; in M. Di. 1273 and 1274 are transposed. 1275. and for] and G. 1276. Ar. has a pause-stroke between vnder and a. grene Bo. M. Ad₁. gren Ar. 1280. banished Ar. G. banesshid Bo. banesshed M. Ad₁. 1281. As] And Di.

- And for this caas / he cam first to Arge,
 ¶ Into the porche / wher polymytë slepe,
 Of aenture / ere he toke eny kepe, 1284
 The samë nyght^t hidously beseyñ He, battered by
the storm,
 With the tempest^t / of thonder / wynde / *and* reyñ ;
 And fil^t also / anoy / and gret^t damage,
 Thorgh the Forest^t holding his passage, 1288
 As Polymytë haddë* do to-forñ,
 In peryl oftë / likly to be lorñ,
 With beestës ragë / set^t on euery side,
 Til of grace with-outen eny guyde 1292
 He rode thorgh Arge / the grete myghty touñ, rides thru
Argos,
 Streght^t to the paleys / and the chief dongoun,
 Lieh as I tolde / wher polymytë lay ; [leaf 22]
 And at^t his comyng / made a gret^t affray, 1296
 For he was blynde / þorgh derknesse of the nyght,
 And hym to gwyë* / he né fonde no lijt^t
 whan he cam Inne / of priket^t nor of torche, and into the
Porch where
Polynceices lies.
 Til he vnwarly / entred the porche, 1300
 And wold han takë ther / his herbygage.
 But^t Polymytë / stert^t vp in a rage, Polynceices
wakes,
 Sodeynly awakëd / as I rede,
 with the nyngë / of his proudë stede. 1304
 And first^t of al / whan that^t he byhelde
 A knyght^t y-armed / vpon his brest^t a shelde,

1285. hidously] hidously Lb. 1286. omitted in Ba. With] of C. of] om. Lb. C. T₂. wynde] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. E₂. and] and of E₂. 1287. fil^t Bo. T₁. felt Lb. M. Ad₁. Ra. also] om. T₂. anoy] noye M. Di. P. noo Ba. and] om. Ba. and a T₂. 1289. As] And G. hadde Di. E₁. S. had Ar. Bo. T₁. Lb. Ad₁. toform Ar. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. beforñ Bo. *and all the rest.* 1290. oft Bo. ofte M. Ad₁. 1292. withoute Bo. M. Ad₁. guyde M. gyde Bo. Ad₁. 1293. grete Bo. gret M. grete] strong Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 1297. þorgh] þorough þe Bo. Du. Ba. *and all the rest.* 1298. to] for to M. Di. gwyë T₁. guye M. Di. Ba. gwy Ar. G. gye Bo. Du. Ad₁. guyed Ra. ne] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. P. he ne fond no] fonde he no M. Di. fonde] funde L₁. Ba. 1299. cam] come Du. M. Di. C. nor Ar. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. ne Bo. *and all the rest.* 1300. entred] enterid L₁. Ap. entrid in Ra. Ro. entred into Ba. C. T₂. E₂. 1300. omitted in L₂. 1301. haue Bo. M. take M. taken Bo. Ad₁. herbygage M. Ad₁. herbergage Bo. 1302. in] on G. 1304. nyng Bo. neing M. neing Ad₁. proude Bo. M. proud Ad₁. proude] om. G. 1305. And] But G. 1306. y-armed] armed M. Di. C. vpon *in all the MSS., except in P. E₂. that have and on.* brest] hors Di.

	And gan the maner / of his aray aduerte,	
leaps on his horse, and abuses Tideus,	Of verrey Ire / vpon his hors he sterte,	1308
	And cruelly gan tydinges enquere	
	Whennys he cam / or what he dede there,	
	And bad in hast / his answer to devise.	
who answers gently,	And Tydeus, in ful humble wise,	1312
	Answeret ageyn / of verrey gentillesse,	
and says he was driven in by the tempest,	And seid in soth / that of hegh distresse,	
	Of the tempest / and the derke nyght,	
	he dryven was / lich an erraunt knyght,	1316
	Of nede only / and of* necessite	
	And high constreynt / of his adversite,	
	To take loggyng / wher so that he myght;	
	And in that courte / therfor he alight	1320
and that he means no harm.	With-oute more*, thenkyng non outrage	
	Nor to no wight / noyeng* ne damage.	
Polynices declares he shan't stay there.	Than Polymyte / of malys / and hegh pride	
	Tolde hym shortly / he shuld* not abide,	1324
	Nor logge ther / thogh he had it sworn.	
[leaf 22, back]	“For I,” quod he / “toke it vp to-forū	
	And wil it kepe during at this nyght,	
	I seie the platly / maugre al thy myght.”	1328
Tideus says Polynices	¶ Quod Tydeus / “that is no curtesie	

1309. tydinges Ar. G. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. tydyng E₁. tithendes Ra. Ba. Tediis Bo. Tydeus T₁. P. Ap. Tidyns Du. Tideus L₁. Lb. C. E₂. L₂. Thydeus Ro. Thedeus T₂. enquere] tenquere Ad₁. Ra. to enquere Ad₂. I. Ba. S. 1310. Whennys Ar. T₁. Ad₁. M. Whens G. Bo. Du. Lb. Ra. C. T₂. cam] come M. Di. Ra. C. T₂. or] and G. L₁. M. Di. S. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. dede Ar. Ra. dide T₁. Du. M. did Bo. Lb. Ba. ded G. 1311. bad] bad hym Du. 1313. gentillesse] gentilnesse Lb. L₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. P. L₂. Ro. Ap. 1314. that] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. that he Lb. begh] full highe T₂. Ro. his Ra. Ba. 1315. derke Bo. Ad₁. derk M. 1317. and of] and Ar. G. C. L₂. Ro. Ap. and great E₂. 1318. high constreynt] hih constreynng Ra. high constred B₁. him constreined C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. hi3e conuersant Di. his] gre-t C. T₂. P. E₂. 1320. in] om. Du. courte] place Ad₂. I. therfor] wherefore Bo. Du. Lb. P. be] om. Du. 1321. more Bo. M. Ad₁. mor Ar. G. thenkyng Ar. G. Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. C. pinkyng L₁. T₂. L₂. Ro. non] of any Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. name Du. non outrage] no damage Ro. ; pause-bar in Ar. after thenkyng. 1322. Nor to] Ne to Lb. P. Ner to do M. Di. no] om. G. noyeng nor Bo. L₁. noyeng ne Du. M. Di. noyeng no T₁. moving ne Ar. moyung no Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. mevyng no G. meuyng noo L₂. P. Ap. meenyng no Ra. Ba. E₁. C. T₂. E₂ (meaning). no maner Lb. to do no Ro. damage] outrage Ro. 1324. shuld Ar. shold M. Ad₁. shulde Bo. 1326. toforū Ar. G. T₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. beforū Bo. and the rest. 1327. kepe Bo. M. Ad₁. 1329. curtasye Bo. Du. curtesye M. curteisie Ad₁.

Me to deuoyde / but rather vileynye,		
3if 3e take hede / that seme a gentil knyght.		
And I suppose / 3e han / no title of right	1332	has no more right to the porch than he has,
To this loggyng ^t / be way of heritage,		
More than haue I, for alle 3oure fellë rage.		
And pardë / 3it ^t it ^t shal be no desese,		and asks leave to stop.
Til to morowe thogh 3e do me ese,	1336	
Of gentillesse / only with 3oure leue ;		
To suffre me / it ^t shal litil grene.'		
¶ But ^t ay the morë Tydeus spak faire,		But Polyneices
Polymytë was froward / and contrayre,	1340	
And shortly seide / it ^t geyneth not ^t to stryve ;		
That ^t of force he shal devoidë blyve,		
Or vtirely / a-twen hem bothe two		says they must fight.
This thyng ^t to Trië / he most haue ado.	1344	
¶ And Tydeus, seying / no better mene,		
Ful lik a knyght ^t / in steel y-armöd* clene,		
With-out ^t ahood / faste gau hym spede		
Wonder lyvely / forto take his stede,	1348	
And thus thies knyghtës / pompous <i>and</i> ellat,		
For litil causë / fillen at ^t debat.		They charge one another, break their spears,
And as they ranne to-gider on* horsbak,		
Euerich on other / first ^t his sperë brak.	1352	¶ How Tydeus and Polymyte strif for her loggyng. and attack with swords.
And after that ^t / ful surquedous of pride,		
With sharpë swerdës / they to-gyder ryde		
Ful vrously / thise myghty champiouns,		
In her fury / lik ^t Tygres or lyouns.	1356	

1330. vilonye Bo. Du. velonye Di. vilenye Ad₁. 1334. fel Bo. M. Ad₁.
 1337. with] by Bo. T₁. Du. I₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S.
 1338. shal] shal you L₂. shal but C. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. 1339. more Bo. M. Ad₁.
 1340. contrayre] contrarie Du. 1341. not] om. I. 1342. of force] of denourc
 L₁. shal] shulde P. 1343. a-twen] bitwene Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ra. Ba.
 E₁. S. both Bo. bothe M. Ad₁. om. I₁. 1343 and 1344 omitted in Ad₂. and I.
 1346. armed Ar. Bo. and all the other MSS. (cp. 1306). clene] brith L₁ (: mene).
 1347. faste Ad₁. fast Bo. M. 1348. Wonder] Wondirly Ba. lyvely] lifli L₁.
 C. T₂. lyghtly E₁. forto] to Ba. C. T₂. take] stride E₂. bestride C. T₂. P.
 1350. fillen Bo. Ad₁. fellen M. 1351. ranne] ronne L₁. Lb. M. Di. C. rydden P.
 on] or Ar. ; in Ar. a pause-bar after they and another after ranne. 1352. Euerich]
 either C. T₂. P. E₂. I₂. Ro. first] om. P. his] her Bo. T₁. M. Di. Ad₁. I.
 Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. P. sperë] speres Ba. Ad₂. P. brak] to brak M. T₂. 1354.
 sharpe Bo. Ad₁. sharp M.

- [leaf 23] And* as they hurtle / that all þe paleis shoke,
 Adrastus wakes, kyng^{gr}* Adrastus / out^t of his slep awoke,
 And made in hast^t his chamberleyn^s calle,
 and sends his men to them. And þorgh the courte / his worthy knyghtes alle, 1360
 Comaundyng^t hem to descende *and se*,
 And reporte / what it^t myghte be,
 This wonder noyse / in his courte be nyght.
 Adrastus's folk tell him two knights are fighting in his palace. And whan they saugh two straung^e knyght^s fight^t 1364
 In platys bright^t / and in thikk^e* maile,*
 with-out^e Iug^e /, they hadde grete mervaile* ;
 And disamay^ed / of this vnkouth þing^t,
 As they fond / told^e* to the kyng^{gr}. 1368
 ¶ And Adrastus / for derknesse of the nyght,
 From his Chambre / with many torch^e* light^t
 He comes down, Into the courte / is discended down,
 AH his meyn^e / stondyng en-vyroun, 1372
 Of thyes knyght^s having^t ful gret wonder.
 And of manhode / he put^t hem first^t a-sonder,
 bids them stop fighting, Hem comaundyng / lich a gentil kyng^{gr},
 takes their swords away, and tells em they're great fools. To leu^en her strif and sesen of her* fighting^t; 1376
 And entred Inne with a knyghtly loke,
 And first^t fro hem / her swerd^s both he took,

1357. And] *om. in all the MSS. (see l. 1358 and Notes).* hurtle] hurtled L₁. P. L₂. that] *om.* Ra. Ba. P. L₂. Ro. 1358. kyng] And kyng *all the MSS.* out] *om.* Ra. Ba. his] *om.* G. 1359. chamberleyns Bo. M. Ad₁. 1362. And] And to P. And make Lb. reporte Bo. M. Ad₁. what] what that M. Di. T₂. Ro. mighte Ad₁. might Bo. M. 1364. They] The Ar. two] tho G. 1365. and in] and Ad₁. Ad₂. I. thikke Bo. T₁. Di. Ad₁. Ra. T₂. thik Ar. G. Lb. M. Ba. C. maile] male Ar. 1366. mervaile] mervale Ar. T₁. 1367. And] And were E₂. disamay^ed] dismaied L₁. Lb. M. Di. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. 1368. As] And as L₁. Lb. E₂. Lyke as S. fond Ar. G. Ba. fonde Bo. Du. T₁. Lb. M. Di. Ap. fonde L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. tolde G. C. E₂. Ro. Ap. toolde Lb. told Ar. T₂. L₂. tolde þei Bo. Du. E₁. talde thei T₁. tolden thei M. Di. tolde alle Ro. þei tolde L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. to] ynto L₁. T₂. *om.* S. Ro. to the on to Ap. And as they founde hit, tolde hit to þe kyng^e P. As thei we fonde the told to the kyng Ra. 1370. with] went with L₁. many] many a Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. *om.* L₁. torch^e M. Ad₁. Ra. torch Ar. torches Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. E₁. E₂. 1373. ful] *om.* M. Di. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. 1374. he] *om.* L₁. P. first] *om.* Bo. both L₁. put hem first] first putt hem T₂. a-sonder] on sonder L₁. in sonder L₂. 1375. gentil] getil (*miswritten*) Ar. 1376. lenen Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. Ad₁. E₂. leene M. Ra. C. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. sesen Ar. Ra. P. cessen Ad₂. T₂. E₂. cese Bo. Du. Lb. (seese). L₂ (sece). cesse T₁. M. Ad₁. C. of] *om.* Ba. her] *om.* Ar. G. T₂. E₂. fighting] fight Ba. 1378. her swerdes both] both her swerdes M. Di. C. both] *om.* Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. he] *om.* P.

Affermyng ^t ek, as to his fantasie, It was a Rage / and a gret ^t folye	1380	
So wilfully / her lyvës / to Iuparte, with-outë Iuge / her querel to departe, And specialy / in the derkë* nyght ^t Whan neither myght of other han no sight ^t ,	1384	
Charging* hem vpon peyne of her lif To disseuer and styntyn of her strif.		Tideus [leaf 23, back
¶ And Tydeus in al the hast ^t he myght ^t , Ful humbly* from his stede alight ^t , And right mekely / with cheer and contenance Put ^t hym hooly in the gouernance Of Adrastus / in al maner þing ^t .	1388	submits to Adrastus, and so does Polynices.
And Polymyte / mad ek no taryng ^t * To light also / and woldë* not ^t wipsey The kyngges biddyng ^t / lowly to obey, So as hym ought ^t / with duë* reuerence. And as thei stoodë* / both in his presence,	1392	
He gan enquerë first ^t / of her estaat ^t , The cause also why they weren at ^t debat ^t , Of her cuntrees / sothly and her age, I-axed ek / touching ^t her lynage,	1396	Adrastus asks them who they are.
Be discent ^t of what ^t stok þei were born. And Tydeus his answer / gaf to-forñ ; Toldë pleynly / and madë no lesyng ^t ,	1400	Tideus says

1380. and a] and G. 1382. Iuge] a Iuge Ad₂. I. 1383. derkë Bo. Ad₁.
derk Ar. M. 1384. Whan] And whanne T₂. myght] mygh Ar. haue Bo. M. Ad₁.
no Ar. Ap. eny Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. a M. Di. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. no] om.
Du. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. C. E₂. myghte of other han] of other myght haue E₁. 1385.
Charging] Charehing Ar. C. vpon] on Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. E₁. Ra. vp
Ad₂. I. C. P. E₂. Ap. of Ad₁. Ba. in S. of] on Ra. Ba. her] om. I. C. 1388.
humbly Ar. Bo. T₁. Ad₁. humbely M. Di. T₂. humbly G. humble Lb. Ra. (cp.
1631, 3746). alight] he light Du. 1389. right] igh Ar. 1392. taryng]
taryng Ar. 1393. light] ligh Ar. alight Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. E₁. hie C. T₂. P.
highe him E₂. wolde G. Bo. Lb. Di. Ad₁. wold Ar. M. Ra. C. woll P. wolde
it E₁. 1395. due Bo. M. Ad₁. diew Ar. dew G. 1396. in Ar. a *pause-bar*
also between thei and stood. stode Bo. T₁. M. Ra. stode Lb. stood Ar. G. Ad₁.
1398. *Between also and why in Ar. qui crossel through.* weren Ar. G. were Bo. Ad₁.
1399. cuntrees] cuntree Ad₁. Ad₂. I. and] and of Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1400. I-axed
Ar. G. He asked Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. And axed C.
T₂. P. Ro. Ap. And asked Di. Ba. L₂. And asked hem E₂. ek Ar. eke Bo.
also C. 1403 to 1468 *lost in C.* 1403. made Bo. M. mad Ad₁.

he's son to Caledonia's king, and is banisht.	How that he was / sonë to the kyng ^t Of Caledoyne / <i>and</i> ríztful heir ^t therto ; And of his exile / the soth he told also, As 3e han herde / in the storrye rad.	1404
Polyneices	And Polymyte / with cheer <i>and</i> facë sad, vnto þe kyng / touchyng ^t his contrè, Seyde he was bornë / in thebës þe Citè,	1408
says Jocasta was his mother,	And Iocasta, the gretë famous quene, his moder was / with-uten* eny wene.	1412
but holds his tongue about his father.	But ^t of his fader / whilom kyng ^t <i>and</i> lord, For verray shamë he spak not ^t a word, Only for he / 3if I shal not ^t feyne, his fader was / and brother bothë* tweyne :	1416
Still, Adrastus knows all about it.	The which, in soth / he was ful loth to telle. And eke the kyng ^t / wold hym not ^t compelle Of gentillesse / but ^t bad, with-oute blame, Of his birthë* / forto haue no shame ;	1420
	For hool the caas / and maner euery deñ, Touchyng ^t his kynne / he knewe þe ground ful wel, lich as it ^t was, by ful clier report ^t ; Enforsyng ^t hym forto do comfort ^t ,	1424
	with añ his myght ^t / and his bysy peyne, This manly kyng ^t / to the knyghtes tweyne, And to hem seide / aforn hym as they stood, He wiste wel / þat ^t of ful worthy blood	1428
He has the princes	They were dyscended / touchyng ^t ther kynrede. And made in hast ^t / his officerës* lede	
	1404. that] <i>om.</i> T ₂ , E ₂ , L ₂ , Ro. sone Ar. T ₁ , Du. L ₁ , Lb. M. Ad ₁ , T ₂ some Ro. son Bo. Ap. to] vnto L ₁ , Ra. Ba. T ₂ , P. E ₂ , L ₂ , Ro. on to Ap. 1405. Caledoyne Ar. Caleoyne G. Calidoyne Lb. S. Calidoyne Ad ₁ , E ₁ , Calydone Ra. Callidoun Ad ₂ , I. Calcedoyne Bo. M. Di. T ₂ , E ₂ , L ₂ , Ap. Calcidoyne Du. Caledoyne T ₁ , Calcidoyne L ₁ , Ba. Ro. Calcidon P. ríztful] right L ₁ . 1406. his] þe L ₁ , E ₁ . <i>om.</i> Bo. T ₁ , Du. M. Ad ₁ , S. soth] cause T ₂ , P. E ₂ , L ₂ , Ro. Ap. 1410. Seyde] Seid þat L ₁ . þe] þat Bo. T ₁ , Du. L ₁ , Ra. S. 1411. grete Bo. gret M. Ad ₁ . 1412. withouten Di. E ₁ , L ₂ . withoute Ar. Bo. Du. Lb. M. Ad ₁ . Ad ₂ , I. Ra. T ₂ , P. without G. T ₁ , L ₁ , E ₂ . 1414. not] neuer M. Di. T ₂ , E ₂ . nat of Ba. a] oo Lb. con Ba. 1416. bothe Bo. M. Ad ₁ . both Ar. 1418. wolde Bo. wold M. Ad ₁ . 1420. birth Ar. G. Bo. Ra. birthe T ₁ , Lb. M. Ad ₁ . forto] to Ra. 1424. Enforsyng] In forthryng Ad ₂ , I. 1426. the] these M. Di. Ad ₂ , I. Ba. E ₁ , S. P. E ₂ , L ₂ , Ro. 1427. aforn] afon Ar. 1428. wist Bo. M. Ad ₁ . wele Bo. wil Lb. þat] <i>om.</i> Di. ful] fully Ad ₂ , <i>om.</i> Du. E ₁ , S. P. worthy] riall L ₁ . gentyle Ro. 1430. officeres Lb. officeris Di. officers Ar. G. Bo. M. Ad ₁ , Ra.	

The straungë knyghtës / beyngt at debat,
 Thorgh his paleys / to chambres of estat, 1432 led to state-rooms.
 Eche by hym-silf / forto take his ese.
 And euery þingt, in soth, that myght hem plese,
 was ofred hem / lich to her estates.
 And whan they weren / disarméd of her platis, 1436 Tideus and Polynceus disarm,
 Cusshewës / Greuës / and her sabatons,
 her harneys voyded / and her habergons,
 Tweynë* mantels / vnto hem wer broght,
 Frett with peerle / and richë stonys, wrought 1440 are clad in rich garments
 Of cloth of golde / and veluyt cremysyñ,
 Ful richëly furréd with hermyñ, and furd wraps,
 To wrap hem Inne / ageyn the colde morowe,
 After the rage / of her nyghtës sorowe, 1444
 To take her reste / til* þe sonne* arise. and then rest.
 And than þe kyngt / in ful prudent wise,
 First of alle / was nott rekkëles Adrastus makes them friends,
 þe knyghtës hertës / for* to sett in pees, 1448
 that euer after, I dar afferme it wel,
 Eche was to other trew as eny stele and each is then true to the other. [leaf 24, back]
 During her lif / both in word and dede,
 vnder a knottë / bounde of broþerhede*. 1452
 ¶ And Adrastus / þe worthy kyng famous,
 A feeste madë / riche and plenteuous, Adrastus feasts them,

1435. hem] to hem Lb. M. haue T₂. 1437. Cusshewes Ar. Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. Ra. Cusshews L₁. Cusheus Lb. Cussshwes Ba. Cussshens E₂. and her sabatons] solieres and haberions Ra. Ba. 1438. voyded] voyde L₁. habergons] lambisons Ra. Ba. 1439. Tweyne Ra. Tweyn Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Ad₁. Twey Lb. M. Two T₂. mantels Ar. T₁. M. Ad₁. mantles Ra. mantelles Bo. manteles G. Lb. mantelis T₂. vnto Bo. M. to Ad₁. were Ad₁. wern Bo. 1449. Frett M. Ad₁. E₁. E₂. Freyt Bo. T₁. S. Freight Lb. peerle (perle) in all the MSS. and] and with P. 1440. omitted in G. 1441. veluet cremesyñ Bo. velwet crimson Ad₁. 1442. Ar. has a pause-bar after furred. ernyn Bo. M. Ad₁. 1443. colde Bo. M. cold Ad₁. 1444. her] the M. Di. 1445. rest Bo. M. reste Ad₁. til] to Ar. G. Ba. Ro. sonne Bo. M. Ad₁. some Ar. 1447. was] he was E₂. not] nothyng E₁. rekkeles Ar. rekeles P. E₂. rekelesse Ro. rekles T₂. L₂. Ap. recceles L₁. reccheles T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. rechles Bo. 1448. for to] to Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. so G. set] serue Ra. Ba. 1450. was to other] to other was P. trew] as trewe Bo. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. T₂. L₂. Ro. 1451. in] their Ba. word] wordes L₁. worke Bo. T₁. Ap. werk M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. wark Ba. and] and in M. 1452. knotte G. Bo. Ad₁. knot M. brotherede Ar. brotherhed G. brothrehed Bo. bretherhed M. Ad₁. 1454. feste Bo. Ad₁. fest M. made Bo. M. Ad₁.

- To thise knyghtës /, hym-silf ther-at present.
- and sends for his daughters, And after mete / ful goodly he haþ sent, 1456
 This noble kyng^r / for his doghters dere,
 Of gentylessë / forto makë chere
 To the knyghtës / comë fro so ferre.
- who come in like the glad morning star, And lik in soth / as luyfer the sterre 1460
 Gladeth the morow / at his vprysing^r,
 So thoo ladies / at her In-comyng^r,
 With the stremës / of her eyën clere,
 Goodly apport^r / and womanly manere, 1464
 Contenaunce* / and excellent^r fayrnesse,
 To alle the court / broghten In gladnesse.
- heavenly fresh and pleasant to the strangers. For the fressshnesse* / of Her heuenly cheres 1468
 So agreable was to the straungers,
 At her Entrè / that^r in especial*
- Tideo and Polynices think the girls celestial beings, hem thoght^r it lik a thyng^r Celestial ;
 Enhastyng^r hem / in ful knyghtly wise 1472
 ageynës hem / goodly to arise.
 And as they mette / with humble contenaunce,
 Ful konyngly / did her observauce,
 Hem conveying^r / to her sitting-place.
- But^r sothly I haue* leyser non nor space 1476
 To reherce / and put^r in remembraunce,
 Hooly the maner / of her daliaunce.
 It^r were to longe / for 3ou to abide.

1455. To] And G. knyghtes Ar. S. has omitted 1455 second half to 1459 second half, so that 1455 reads: To thes knyghtes come for (sic) so fer. 1458. for to] to Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ra. Ba. P. make] make hem Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. P. make hem bothe Lb. 1459. come Ar. G. S. E₂. comen T₁. T₂. L₂. Ro. com Ap. yeome Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. pat com P. fro] from Lb. Ra. Ro. P. so] om. Ba. 1462. thoo] the L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. thilk M. Di. In-comyng] hom coming Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1464. apport] of porte Du. Lb. Ad₂. I. P. Ap. manere] chere L₁. of manere Ad₂. I. 1465. Contenaunce] Contenaunces Ar. G. T₂. E₂. 1467. fressshnesse] flocchnesse Ar. 1469. her] the R. especial] special Ar. G. Bo. T₁. M. Di. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. Ap. (cp. 2823). 1470. Ar. has a pause-bar after it. 1472. ageyns Bo. aycns M. ageinst Ad₁. to arise Bo. M. for tarise Ad₁. for til arrise Ad₂. I. 1473. humbly G. 1474. konyngly Ad₁. konnyngly Bo. did Bo. dide M. dede Ad₁. 1476. haue Bo. M. Ad₁. ha Ar. nor Ar. Ra. T₂. ne Bo. T₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. L₂. 1479. for 3ou to abide] to you tabide Ad₁. Ad₂. I.

But wel I woot / that the god Cupide,	1480	and at once
By influence / of his myghty hond		[leaf 25]
And the feruence / of his firy bond,		
Her metyng ^t first / fortunēd hath so wel,		
That his arowes* / of gold, <i>and</i> not of stiel,	1484	
Ipercēd han / the knyghtēs hertēs tweyn,		fall in love with them.
Thorgh the brest / with such a lusty peyn		
That ther abood / sharpe / as spere or launce,		
Depe yfichēd / the poynt of remembraunce,	1488	
which may not / lightly / racēd ben away.		
And thus in Ioye / they dryvē forth þe day		They have games and fun all day,
In Play and Reuel / for the knyghtēs sake.		
And towards nyght / they her chambres take	1492	
At duē* tyme / as her fader bad,		
And on her way / the knyghtēs han hem lad		and then take the ladies to
Reuerently vp be many staire ;		
Takyng ^t lievē / gan anoñ repaire	1496	
To her logging ^t / in a ful statly toure,		their tower.
Assignēd hem / be the harberioure.		
And after spicūs / pleyntly, and the wyñ		The 2 lovers drink wine,
In Coppēs gretē / wrought of gold ful fyñ,	1500	
With-oute taryng ^t / to beddē* streght they goñ.		and go to bed,
Touchyng ^t her reste /, wher thei slepte or noñ,		but of course can't sleep.
Demeth 3e louers / that in such maner thing ^t		
Bexperiēce han fully knowlecchyng ^t ;	1504	

1480. wel I woot] y woot wel Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1482. firy Bo. fuyri Ad₁. firy Du. 1483. fortunēd hath] hath fortunēd Di. 1484. arowes G. Bo. M. harowes Ar. arwes Ad₁. gold] om. G (lone added by later hand above the line). steel Bo. T₁. Ad₁. stel M. G. 1488. yfichēd] y-fixed E₁. fiechid T₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂ (fixhed). I. Ra (fechchid). Ba. C. S. the] to Ad₂. I. 1491. and] or Bo. knyghtes] kynges L₁. 1492. towards Bo. toward Ad₁. 1493. At] Ad Ar. due Bo. Ad₁. dieu Ar. dewe G. 1495. many] many a Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. Ap. 1496. Takyng] Taken Ad₂. I. lieve Ar. G. leue Bo. C. leue T₁. Ad₁. T₂. leef M. here leve Lb. P. gan] gonne M. T₂. and gan Ap. 1498. herbergeoure Bo. herbergour Ad₁. herbeioure M. 1500. cuppes Bo. Ad₁. coupes Ro. grete Bo. M. Ad₁. gold] om. G. 1501. to bed Ar. Bo. and all, except to bedde Lb. E₁. S. Ap. to bedde] om. P. to bedde streght] streght to bed L₁. Ra. Ba. Ro. 1502. wher Ar. wheper Bo. whedir Ra. whyther Ro. wer Ad₁. 1503. 3e] the P. 1504. by experience Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. han Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. fully] ful L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. fwly such S. knowlecchyng Ar. Bo. Ad₁. knowlachyng L₁. knowliching S. knowlegeyng Ro. knowyng Lb. P. Ap.

	For it ^t is nat ^t declar ^{ed} / in my boke.	
Adrastus lies awake,	But ^t as I fynd ^ē / the kyng ^t al nyght ^t woke, Thoughtful in herte / the story specifies, Musing ^t sore / and ful of fantasies ;	1508
	First aduerting ^t / þe gret ^ē worthynesse Of this knyght ^{ēs} / and the semlynesse,	
[leaf 25, back]	Her lusty youth / her force / and her manhode, And how thei weren y-come of Royal blode.	1512
	Al this he ganne / to reuolue aboute, Ay in his herte / hauyng ^t a maner doute,	
doubting whether he shall	A-twen ^ē two / hangyng ^t / in balau ^{nce} where he shuld ^ē * / maken an alia ^{unce}	1516
wed his girls to Tideus and Polynices,	A-twene his doghtren / and the knyght ^{ēs} tweyn. For on thyn ^{g^t} / ay / his hert ^ē gan constrey ⁿ ,	
because of his Dream of the	The remembrance / of his a ^{visioun} , Of which to-form / I mad ^ē mencio ^{un} ,	1520
Wild Boar and the Lion, p. 52.	Touчыng ^t / þe lyon / and the wilde boor, It ^t nedeth nat ^t / to reherce it ^t mor, Casting alway / in his Fantasie, What ^t it ^t myght ^e / cleerly signyfie,	1524
	This dirke dre ^{me} / ; this was hid <i>and</i> cloos.	
Next day he	But ^t on the morowe / Adrastus vp aroos, And to the temple / the ri ^{ghte} way he took, And gan preie / deuoutly on his book	1528
	To the goddes / his dre ^{me} to spece ^{ffe} .	
sees these Beasts painted on the knights' shields,	And they hym bad homwar ^t forto h ^{ye} , And to beholde / in the knyght ^{ēs} sheldys	

1506. alnyght Ar. 1512. weren Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. E₁. were (wer) *all the rest*. yeome Ar. Ap. comen Du. Ra. E₁. C. L₂. come *all the rest*. thei weren yeome] comen thei were C. Royal Ar. Bo. Ad₁. T₂. ryal C. E₂. full riall L₁. worthy S. Ro. hygh Ap. 1515. A-twene] Bi twene Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. P. in] in a G. L₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. C. E₂. L₂. 1516. where Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. Ad₁. were G. whether L₁. M. Di. shulde T₁. Du. L₁. Di. Ad₁. shuld Ar. G. Bo. M. maken A. makyn G. make Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. an] any G. L₁. 1517. A-twene Bo. M. Ad₁. doghtres Bo. doghtres M. Ad₁. 1520. Of] om. P. which] whome Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. to-form (to fore)] therefore E₁. I made] made I hane M. Di. made is C. P. E₂. makid is T₂. mencio^{un}] a mencio^{un} E₂. 1522. nedeth] nede L₂. it] om. Lb. Ra. Ba. mor] no more L₁. M. Di. C. T₂. E₂. 1524 *and* 1525 *are transposed in I.* 1526. aroos] rose Ra. Ba. he ros Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1527. ri^{ght} Bo. M. Ad₁. 1528. preie] to pray Lb. Ad₂. I. on] in Lb. 1530. forto] to G. 1531. beholde Bo. M. Ad₁.

The fellë beestys / peynted in the feeldys ;	1532	
Which shal to hym /, be cleer inspeccioun,		
Ful pleyndly / makë declaracioun		and they explain his dream,
Of his dreame / which he hadde in the nyght.		
And Adrastus / enhasted hym ful riȝt	1536	
In her Sheldës wisly to beholde.		
Wher that he saugh / as the goddës tolde,		
In the Sheldës / hangyng vpon hokys,		
The beestës ragë / with her mortal lokys*.	1540	as Boccaccio says.
And to purpos, lik as writ Bochas,		[leaf 26]
Polymyië / ful streght enbraced was		Polynceus's shield has a lion's hide ;
In the hyde / of a feerce lyoun.		
And Tydeus / abouen his haberioun	1544	and Tideus's gipon is of wild-boars' bristles.
A Gypon haddë / bidous / sharpe and hoor,		
wrought of the bristels / of a wyld boor.		
The whichë* beestis / as the story lerys,		
wer wrought / and bete / vpon her banerys,	1548	
Displaid broodë* / whan they shulde fight.		
wherof the kyng / whan he hadde a sight		
Att hys repeir / in herte was ful glad,		
And with a facië / ful demur and sad	1552	Adrastus
with his lordes, that he about hym hadde,		
To the temple / he thys knyghtës ladde.		takes Tideus and Polynceus to the temple,
And whan they haddë / with aH circumstaunces		
Of Rytys oldë / doñ her observaunces,	1556	

1532. beestys peynted] painted bestes Ad₁. Ad₂. I. in] of Du. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1535. which] þat Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. in] on S. C. T₂. P. L₂. Ap. 1536. enhasted] hasted M. Di. 1537. her] the M. wisly] wise L₁. auisely T₂. 1537 second half to 1539 second half is omitted in Du. Di. and E₁, so that 1537 reads: In her Sheldes hangyng vpon hokes Du. Di. E₁. 1538. that] tha Ar. as L₁. Lb. P. as] þat Bo. 1539. vpon] vppe in T₂. 1540. lokes G. Lb. Ra. L₂. Ro. Ap. hokys Ar. Ad₁. Ad₂. E₁. crokes Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. I. Ba. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. (see Notes). 1541. writ] wryteth Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. with Ra. 1544. abouen Ar. G. Bo. Du. Ad₁. Ra. T₂. aboue T₁. M. habergon Bo. Ad₁. habirgoun T₁. 1545. gipon Bo. gepon Ad₁. gryphoun Ad₂. I. had Bo. Ad₁. om. Ad₂. I. 1546. bristels Ad₁. brestis Di. wilde Bo. wild Ad₁. 1547. which Bo. which Ad₁. Ar (in Ar. followed by a pause-bar). lerys] leres (:baners) Bo. Ad₁. 1548. bete Ar. G. Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. Ra. E₁. C. T₂. P. E₂. beete Ap. bet Du. bett L₁. Lb. betyn L₂. betten Ro. vpon] on Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1549. Displayed Bo. Displayde Du. brode Bo. Ad₁. brood Ar. 1555. had Bo. M. Ad₁. 1556. Of] With M. Di. rytys M. Ad₁. rightes Bo. Lb. L₂. her] his Bo. observaunces] observaunce (: cyrcostaunce) L₁.

- Hom to the court / they resort ageyn.
 And in an hall / riche and wel beseyn,
 This worthy kyng of herte lyberal,
 Made a feeste / solempe *and* Royal, 1560
 Which in deyntees* / surly dyd excelle.
 But it were veyn / euery cours to telle,
 her straungē sewēs / and her sotyltees,
 Ne how they sat / lik to her degrees : 1564
 For lak of tyme I lat it* *ouerslyde*.
 And after mete / Adrastus toke a-syde
 The knyghtes two / and lik a prudent man
 In sykrē wisē / thus his tale he gan. 1568
 “**S**irs,” quod he / “I ne doute it nouȝt
 þat it is fressh / and grene / ay in *ȝour* thoȝt
 [leaf 26, back] How that first / by goddys ordynauce,
 And after next / thorgh fatys puruauce, 1572
 And be workyng / of fortunēs hond,
 How that ȝe werē brouȝt into this lond
 Bothē* tweyn / But now this lastē* nyght :
 Of whoos comyng / I am ful glad *and* light 1576
 First in my-self / shortly to expresse,
 whan I considre / and se the liklynesse
 Of ȝour personys / with the Circumstancys
 And hool the maner / of ȝour gouernaucys ; 1580
 Seyng ful wel / wherto shuld I feyne,
 ȝe likly be her-after to atteyn

1558. an] *om.* Bo. Di. Ra. Ba. E₂. beseyn] beseen (:ayen) M. Di. 1560. feest Bo. feste Ad₁. deyntees Bo. Lb. Ad₁. deyntys Ar. deyntes M. C. deynteis L₂. Ba. surly] shortly Ro. 1563. and her] and other C. T₂. E₂. 1565. lak] lyt lak Ap. I] they P. lat Ar. Bo. T₁. Ad₁. E₂. lette E₁. let P. L₂. lete Lb. Ro. leet Ad₂. it] *om.* Ar. G. Bo. T₁. P. E₂. Ap. ouerslyde] slide L₂. Ro. 1567. and] *om.* M. Di. 1568. In] and in Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. seere G. Bo. Lb. M. T₂. Ap (cere). secret Ad₁. Ra. E₁. Ro. secrett S. thus] and thus C. this Lb. he gan] began Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. he began Ra. Ba. 1569. ne] *om.* Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. it] *om.* P. 1570. it] *om.* Bo. Ad₂. P. is] *om.* Ra. ay] *om.* T₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₂. S. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. ȝour] my P. In M. the illuminated capital S of l. 1569 having been cut away, the first letters of 1570 and 1571 are gone, together with the words *And after in l.* 1572. 1571. goddys] the goddis Ra. 1572. thorgh] bi Ad₁. Ad₂. I. honde with a dot under e in Ar. 1574. How] Whw G. 1575. Bothe Bo. Ad₁. Both Ar. laste Ad₁. last Ar. Bo. 1578. liknesse G. 1579. with] and Di. the] alle Ra. Ba Circumstancys] Circumstaunce (:gouernaunce) P. 1582. likly] lik Ad₁. Ad₂.

To* grete estat / and* habundaunce of good, Thorgh 3oure birth / and 3our ^r Royal blood ; 3e may not ^t faylë / but ^t 3e hauë wrong ^t , For 3e are bothë* manly / and right ^t strong ^t . And forto sette 3oure hertës mor at ^t reste	1584	As Tideus and Polyneices are of Royal blood,
My purpoos is / I hopë for the beste, So that ^t in 3ou be no variance, To make a knotte / as be allyaunce, Atwixë* 3ow and my doghtres two, 3if 3oure hertes / accorde wel therto.	1588	Adrastus pro- poses that they shall wed his daughters,
¶ And for I am fully in dyspeyr To succeedë for to hau an heir ^r , Therfor 3e shal han possessioun, Duryng ^t my lyf / of half this Regioun, Forthwith* in honë / and hool after my day. Ther is no man / that ^t therto shal sey nay. And sothly after / whan that ^t I am graue, Eche of 3ow / shal his party haue	1592	
Of this kyngdam, as I haue provided ; This to seyn / it ^t shal be devyded A-twen 3ow two, euerich to be crowned, 3oure pourparties / be equytë compowned So egally / in euery mannys sight ^t , That ^t eëh of 3ow / reioysë shal his ryght ^t . And by 3our wit / 3e shul the lond amend, And of manhode / knyghtly it diffenë ^t	1596	have half his land during his life, and all after.
Ageyn oure enmyes / and oure mortal foë.	1600	
		[leaf 27]
	1604	Each shall have an equal share,
	1608	and defend the land against its foes.

1583. To] The Ar. G. Du. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. and] of Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. habundaunce Ar. G. Bo. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ra. T₂. abundance C. L₂. 1584. and 3our] and Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Ra. Ba. C. P. 1586. bothe Ad₁. both Ar. Bo. 1587. mor at reste] atte mor reste Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1591. Atwix Lb. Ra. Atwixt Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Atwixte Ad₁. Atwene M. T₂. Bitwex Ad₂. Bitwixë I. 1592. accord Bo. accorden Ad₁. wel] woll Ad₂. 1594. for to] to Bo. Ba. an] any Ra. 1596. half] haufe S. al Di. this] my C. T₂. P. E₂. 1597. Forth with G. Bo. T₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ra. C. forwith Ar. Di. Fourth with all T₂. 1599. whan] om. C. that] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. P. 1602. This] This is G. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. That is M. Di. 1603. A-twen Ar. Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. Ra. Betwene L₁. Lb. Atwix Ba. euerich Bo. euery Ra. eche M. Ad₁. 1607. shul Bo. shal Ad₁. Ra. 1609 oure enmyes] enmyes Bo. your enmyes M. Di. Ra. Ba. C. T₂. and oure] and youre L₁. M. Di. Ba. C. T₂.

- And for the daiës / passëd ben *and* goñ
 Of my desyrës / and my lusty 3outh,
 I am ful set / forto makë kouth 1612
 That' 3e shal hau / lik myn opynyoun,
 The gouernaunce / of this Regioun.
 To this entente / me semetñ for the beste,
 3e to gouerne / *and* I to lyve in reste, 1616
 Fully to folowe / the lust of my desyris,
 Hunte and hauke / in wodës *and* Ryvèrys
 whan so euer / I hauë* therto plesauce,
 And for to han / noñ other attendance 1620
 Vnto no thing^t / but' vnto myñ ese.
 For which shortly / 3if it agrè and plese
 That' I haue seid / to 3ou / that' be so wis,
 And be according^t / vnto 3oure avis, 1624
 Delaieth not' / but' in wordës pleyñ,
 What' 3ow semeth / gif answe're ageyñ."
And whan Adrastus / hadde his talë fyned,
 Tydeus / with hed / ful lowe enclyned, 1628
 As he that was / a verray gentyl knyght,
 With al his power / and his fullë* myght
 Ful humbly / thankëdë* the kyng^t
 Touchyng^t his profre of so high a thyng^t. 1632
 And for his parte / seide he wolde assente
 Fully of hertë /, neuere to repente,
 To aH that' euer the kyng^t hap sayd.

[leaf 27, back]
 accepts Adras-
 tus's offer,

1611. and my] and of my Ad₃. I. 1612. ful] *om.* T₂. forto] to Ra. Ba. P. make] make it Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₃. I. Ra. Ba. S. E₂. 1613. han Bo. haue M. Ad₁. 1614. The] The hool C. hool the T₂. this] þe Bo. this my P. al this E₂. 1616. I] me L₁. L₂. ; in Ra. a later hand has altered 3e to gouerne into that ye shold rule. 1619. I haue (ha Ar.) therto] ther-to I haue M. D₁. 1621. Vnto no] To no M. Di. vnto myn] to myn Ad₁. Ad₃. I. 1622. For which] Wherefore M. Di. T₂. it] ye P. 1624. be] it be Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ra. Ba. be it Ad₁. Ad₃. I. S. by L₂. vnto] to P. 1625. Delaieth] Delayeth it M. Di. Ba. L₂. 1626. What] That L₂. Ro. gif] yeneth M. Di. 1628. ful] *om.* Bo. Ad₁. Ad₃. I. with hed ful lowe] ful low with hed M. Di. 1630 and his] and Ad₁. Ad₂. I. ful Ar. Bo. Ad₁. 1631. humbly Ar. Ap. humbeli L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. P. humbly Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. Ra. Ba. Ad₂. E₁. S. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. thankede] thanked Ar. *and all the other MSS. except þankyng* Bo. P. (*see Notes*). 1632. his] þe G. 1633. seide he] he seide he G. Ad₃. I. In P. assent has been erased and be content written by a later hand with paler ink. 1635. that euer] that euer that S. L₂. Ro. Ap. the] *om.* S. sayde (e underdotted) Ar. (*see Notes*).

- And Polmyte / was also wel apayd, 1636 and so does
 In the story / as it is comprehendid. Polyneices,
 And so they ben / bothë* / condescendyd
 The kynggës willë / to fulfille in dede
 From poynt to poynt / and ther-vpon procede, 1640
 wherso euer / that they wynne or lese.
 And Tydeus / made / his brother chese, who, by Tideus's
 Of gentillesse and of curtesy, courtesy,
 which that was / most / to his fantasye 1644
 Of the sustren / for to han to wive.
 And he in soth / chosen hath argyve, chooses Argeia,
 which eldest was / ful wommanly to se.
 And Tydeus / tok than* Dëyphylee, 1648 while Tideus
 Of her beautë / most souereyn excellent. takes Deiphyle.
 And Adrastus / thorgh-oute his lond hath sent Adrastus sum-
 For his lordës / and his baronage, mons his lords
 To be present / at the mariage 1652 to the wedding
 Of the knyghtës / and make no lettyngt. of his daughters;
 And they echoñ · cam at his biddingt,
 In goodly wysë / meke and ful benygne,
 Ageyn the day / that he dide assigne. 1656
 And thyder cam ful many lusty knyght,
 Ful wel beseyn / and many lady brizt,
 From euery Coost / and many freessh sqwyer,
 þe Story seith / and many comunere, 1660

1636. apayde (e *underdotted*) Ar. 1638. bothe Bo. Ad₁. both Ar. 1641. wherso] wher Ad₁. Ad₂. I. that] om. Du. 1642. chese] to chese M. Di. Ba. 1643. Of] As of Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. gentillesse Ar. G. Bo. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. I. E₁. C. T₂. gentillesse T₁. L₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. S. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. 1644. that] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. was] ys P. was most] most was C. 1645. sustren Bo. Ad₁. sistren T₁. T₂. systeme P. 1646. And] An Ar. 1647. which] That Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. eldest] oldest L₂. Ro. ful] om. P. wommanly] wonderly L₂. to se] of sight Ro (see 1648). 1648. tok than] than tok Ad₁. Ad₂. I. C. tok Ar. G. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. taken hath T₂; in Ro. l. 1648 reads And Tideus choes Deiphyle ful right. Ar. has a second pause-bar after tok. 1650. thorgh-oute] thorgh M. Di. 1651. For] Of G. 1652. at her Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1653. the] þese Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. Ro. thes two S. knyghtes] knyttes Ar. 1654. cam Bo. come M. Ad₁. 1655. ful] om. G. 1657. ful] om. G. 1657 and 1658. many] many a Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. E₂. L₂. Ro. 1659. many] many a Du. L₁. Lb. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. E₂. L₂. Ro. 1660. many] many a Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. many a freshe S. many a gode P. comunere Ar. Ad₁. E₂. Ap. comoner Bo. Du. Ra. Ad₂. comounere I. comyner T₁. L₁. Lb. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. comener M. Di. C.

- (leaf 28) To byholde the gretë Ryalte
And the maner / of thys solempnyte.
- But I really
can't describe But^t to telle / all the circumstances
Of Iustës / Reuel / and the dyuers daunces, 1664
- all the feasting
and love-making
that went on. The feestës riche /, and the gyftës grete,
The pryvè sighës / and the feruent hete
of louys folk / brennyng^t as the glede,
And devyses / of many sondry wede, 1668
The touches stole / *and* the* amerous lookes,
By sotyl craft^t / leyd oute* lyne *and* hokes,
The Ialous folk / to traysshenn *and* begyle
In their awayt^t / with many sondry wile : 1672
Al this in soth / descryven I ne can.
- The news of
the marriage But^t wel wote I / the newë famë ran,
This menë while* / with ful swift^t passage
Vnto Thebës / of this mariage. 1676
And by report^t trewe and not^t yfeyned,
The sounne therof the eerës hath atteyned,
- reaches Eteocles
in Thebes, Myn auctour writ^t /, of Ethyoecles,
Touchyng^t thonour / *and* the gret^t ences 1680
Of Polymytë / heghly magnyfiel,
And how that^t he / newly was allyed
With Adrastus / in the londe of Arge.
- and troubles
him. The whiche thyng^t / he gretly gan to charge, 1684

1661. Ryalte Bo. roialte Ad₁. 1663. telle Ar. Bo. telle or tell *all the other MSS.* all] of Bo. 1667. In Ar. of stands before the column : the copyist had first written The, which is underdotted. loues Bo. M. Ad₁. T₂. louyng G. C. folk] flok Lb. 1669—1672 omitted in P. 1669. stole Ar. Bo. *and all the other MSS., except scole (sic) L₁. L₂. and sutill Ra. sotill Ba. (cp. 1670). þe amerous Bo. T₁. M. Ra. thamerous Ar. amerous Ad₁. Ad₂. aueryous I. lookes] look (: hook) Ra. Ba. 1670. doun Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S (adoun). oute Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. lyne] lines E₂. bi lyne Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1671. Ialous Ar. Ielous Bo. Ad₁. gelous M.; in Lb. is an empty space between The gelious folke and bigyle: the copyist was unable to decipher his original, or else this original presented a gap in this line. 1672. ther Bo. Ad₁. 1673. diserynen Bo. Ad₁. deseryve M. 1674. wote I] I wote M. Di. 1675. while Bo. M. Ad₁. whil Ar. 1676. this] this ilke M. thilke Di. the Ad₁. Ad₂. this hie C. Ro. this noble Ra. Ba. 1677. y-feyned Bo. feyned M. Ad₁; Ar. has a *pause-bar* after trewe. 1678. theres Ad₁. ther Ad₂. I. 1680. þe honour Bo. M. thonour Ad₁. 1681—1746 lost in Ap. 1682. how] om. Bo. C. T₂. P. E₂. 1684. the] om. C. he gretly gan] he gan gretly G. gretly he gan M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. C.*

- Dredyng^t Inly / that^t this mariage
 Shal after turne / vnto his damage,
 Sorē* musyng^t / and castyng^t vp *and* down
 The grete pouer / and the hegh renoun 1688 Eteocles thinks
 Of Adrastus / the which of grekēs land^t that, backt by
 Hadde al the power / soget^t to his hand^t: Adrastus,
 Lest^t that^t he / for Polymytēs sak [leaf 28, back]
 wold vpon hym / a newē werrē make, 1692 Polyneices will
 But^t ȝif that^t he, lik the conuencioun, attack him,
 At tymē sette / delyuerēd the toune unless he resigns
 To his broder / by bond of oth* I-sworn*, his crown at the
 Be couenauntes* / assurēd her to-forē, 1696 end of his 1st
 ȝif ȝe remembre / late as I ȝou tok^t: year.
 which he was nat / in *purpos* forto hold,
 But^t from his heste / Caste forto varye.
 And ther-vp-on list^t no lenger tarye, 1700
 Lich his desirē / to shapē remedies.
 And first^t he sente for his next^t allies
 In whom he haddē / most^t his affiaunce,
 For his lordēs / that^t hadde *gouernaunce* 1704 So he sends
 Of his kyngdom / to come to hym anoñ. and lords,
 And whan they werē present^t euerichoñ,
 he seidē pleynly /, wenyng^t for his best,
 That^t his hert^t / shal neuer lyve in rest, 1708 and tells em he
 But^t in sorowe / and in a maner drede, can never rest

1685. Dredyng Inly] Inly dredyng T₂. Inly] oonly Lb. gretly C. 1686.
 Shal] Shuld L₂. after] after tyme C. P. E₂. afterward T₂. turne Ar. Bo. *and*
all the rest. vnto] into Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. to Ra. Ba.
 C. T₂. P. E₂. 1687. Sore Bo. M. Ad₁. Sor Ar. 1690. Hadde al] All had T₂.
 had of Bo. soget] subiecte L₁. to] vnto M. Di. Ba. 1692. make] take G.
 1693. ȝif] *om.* M. Di. of L₂. lik] lyk to Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra.
 Ba. E₁. 1694. deliuert Ad₁. 1695. bond] boondis Lb. of oth Ba. Ra (of
om.). C. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. of oþer L₂. of both Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. L₁. Ad₂. S. of
 bothe M. Di. Ad₁. I. E₁. I-sworn Ra. Ba. E₁. besworn Ar. G. be sworn S. sworn
 Bo. *and the rest.* 1696. conenauntes] couauntes Ar. her] hir Bo. before
 Bo. M. Ad₁. 1699. heste Bo. Ad₁. cast Bo. caste Ad₁. 1700. tarye] to
 tarye Bo. T₁. E₁. S.; *in* Ar. a *pause-bar* after list. 1703. he] *om.* Ra. had
 Bo. Ad₁. his] *om.* Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. Ro.
 most his] his most E₂. 1704. had Bo. Ad₁. 1706. weren Bo (*with a pause-bar*
after weren). were Ad₁ (Ar. *and* Ad₁. *have no pause-bar in this line*). 1707.
 wenyng] *om.* L₁. his] the Lb. M. Di. E₁. C. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. 1708. lyve in]
 haue Du. 1709. in a maner Ar. Ad₂. I. *and the rest, except a manere* in Ad₁.

till his brother
is dead.

Tyl his brother / outrely be dede ;
That he in Thebës / in his Royal sete
Myght allonë / regnën in quiete ; 1712
he mente hym-silf / shortly, *and* noñ other,
Vnperturbed / of Polymyte his brother.
And at this counsayl / diuers of entent,

But three sorts of
men are present.

¶ I fyndë writ / thre folkës were present. 1716
Some in soth / that feithful were *and* trewe,
And some also / that can chaunge of newe,
And other ek / that be-twixë* tweyn
Couertly kowde / vnder colour feyn. 1720

[leaf 29]
¶ Comendacioun
of Trouthe.

The first tells
Eteocles that a
King mustn't
lie.

The firste seide, abouen* allë* thyng
Trouthë* shuldë* / longë to a kyngt,
Of his word / not be variable,
But pleyñ / and hool / as a Centre stable. 1724

¶ Nota.

¶ how trouth is
preferred in the
book of Esdre /
aforñ kyngges /
wymmen and
wyn.

¶ For trouthë* first / with-outen* eny wene,
Is Chief Pyler / that may a kyngt sustene,
In Ioye and honour / for to lede his lyff.
For trouth whilom / hadde a prerogatif, 1728
As of Esdre / the book can specyfie,
Recorde I take / of Prudent Neemye,
That worthy kyngges / for al her grete pride,
Wyn / and wymmen / ben ek set a-syde, 1732

1710. vtterly be Bo. M. be vtterli Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1712. alone Ad₁. alloon Bo. regne Bo. Ad₁. 1715. this] his Lb. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. E₂. at this counsayl] at her comynge P. 1716. written G. 1717. were faithful G. 1718. can Bo. come Ad₁. can chaunge] change koune M. Di. 1719. other] some other G. eke Bo. Ad₁. that] om. L₂. Ro. be-twix Ar. Ba. Ro. betwixe Ra. betwixt P. L₂. betwene Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. C. T₂. E₂. between Du. tweyn] þo tweine Ad₁. them both tweyne Ad₂. them tho tweyn I. 1720. kowde vnder colour Ar. Bo. Ad₁. vnder colour koude M. Di. 1721. aboue al Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. abouen alle Ra. 1722. Trouthe Bo. M. Ad₁. Trouth Ar. T₁. Lb. Ra. shulde Bo. T₁. Lb. Ad₁. shuld Ar. M. Ra. longe Ar. Bo. T₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. long Ra. to] vnto T₂. E₂. Ro. til Ad₂. I. 1723. be] to be L₁. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. T₂. P. variable] variable L₁. 1724. Centre] Countre L₁. 1725. trouthe Bo. M. Ad₁. trouth Ar. withoute Ar. Bo. Ad₁. M. withouten Di. 1730. Neemye Ad₂. I. Ba. 1731. That] What Ad₂. kyngges] kyng Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. her] his L₁. 1732. and] a Ar. ek] also L₂. Ro. ; in Ad₁. E₁. S. 1732 is omitted: Ad₂. and I. instead of wyn and wymmen have haue bene put down: in Ra. after 1730 the space of one line is left blank, and then follows, making three lines for the two 1731 and 1732: Allorne kyngis wemen and wyn That worthi kyng for al ther grete pride Leid hym down and put on a side. Ba. has no blank line; after 1730 follow the same three lines as in Ra., only with wyfe for wyn and on syde for on a side (see Notes).

- With aH her pouer / and domynacioun,
 havyng^t reward^t / in comparisoun Truth is above
all.
 To trouthes myght^t / and trouthes worthynesse.
 For as Esdre / pleynly / doth^t expresse, 1736
 Who taketh hede /, in the samē place,
 Be* the Influencē / sothly / and the grace By truth, Nehe-
niah got leave
to rebuild the
walls of Jeru-
salem.
 Of trouthe alloñ / this oldē Neemye 1740
 Gat^t hym licencē / to rēdifie
 The wallys newe / of Ierusalem.
 Which^t trouthe is tresour / chief of euery rewme,
 For Salamon writ^t / how that^t thynge^s tweyne, ¶ Truth and
mercy preserven
a kyng from al
aduersyte.
 Trouth / and merey / lynkēd in a cheyne, 1744
 Preserve a kyng^t / lik to his degrē,
 From al meschief / and aduersitē.
 Allas therfor / that^t eny doublenesse,
 Variaunce or vnsicrenesse, ¶ Change nor
doublenesse shal
not be in a kyng.
 1748
 Change of word^t / or mutabilitē*,
 fraude / or deceyte / or vnstabilitē*,
 Shuld in a kyng^t / han domynacioun, [leaf 29, back]
 To causen after / his destruccioun, 1752
 Of kynggēs / redeth the story doune be rowe,
 And seth / how many / han ben ouerthrowe See how many
kings have been
overthrown by
falseness!
 Thorgh her falshede / fro* fortunes whel*.
 For vnto god / it* pleseth neuer a del, 1756
 A kyng to ben / double of entent^t;
 For it^t may happē / that the world is blent^t

1734. reward] no reward Ad₂. I. comparisoun Bo. T₁. comparacion Du.
 1735. To trouthes] To trouthe his P. The trouthes E₁. and] om. E₁. and
 trouthes] and his Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1738. Be the] The in all the MSS. 1742. trouth]
 om. C. P. E₂. L₂. tresour] om. Ro. chief] om. M. Di. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. T₂. euery]
 all the T₂. rewme T₁. reme Bo. Lb. Ad₁. reem M. reame T₂. Ro. realme
 E₁ (: Jerusalem). 1743. For] om. Ro. writ] writeth Ba. how] om. Ra. Ba.
 thynge] kynges L₁. L₂. 1748. vnsikernesse Bo. 1749. mutabilite] mutablite
 Ar. 1750. or] onther M. Di. vnstabilite C. T₂. L₂. Ro. vnstablete Ar. G.
 ynstabilitee Bo. and all the other MSS. 1753. redeth Du. redith Ad₁. rede
 Bo. 1754. And] om. L₂. seth M. see Bo. Ad₁. 1755. Thorgh] For Bo. T₁. Du.
 L₁. Lb. M. Di. her] his L₂. Ro. fro] for Ar. Ra. Ba. (in S. for is underdotted and
 the usual abbreviation of and written above it). porugh Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di.
 whel] wel Ar. 1756. it] om. Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ap. it pleseth] plesith
 it M. Di.

- Ful oftē sith / be sleight^t of her werkyng^t.
- God sees all. But^t this the trouthe* / god seep^t every thyng^t 1760
 Right^t as it is / for ther may be no cloude
 To-form his sight^t / trouthe* forto shrowde.
- The' Truth may
for a time be
darkenl, ¶ It may be clipped / and derked be disceyte,
 By fals engyne / liggynge in a-weyte, 1764
 As a serpent / forto vndermyne ;
- it will shine
clear at last. But^t at the last / it^t wol clerly shyne,
 Who that^t seith nay /, shew his bryzte bemes.
 For it^t in soth / of kyngdames *and* of Reawmes 1768
- It is the pre-
server of
kingdoms. Is berer vp / and conseruatrice
 From al Meschief / sothfast^t mediatrice
 To god about / who so list^t to se,
 To kepe a kyng^t / in Prosperite 1772
 On every side / as I afferme dar.
- Kings should
keep their troth. For which 3e kyngges *and* lordes beth wel war
 3our bihestes / Iustly forto holde !
- But, by Eteo-
cles's falsness,
Thebes was
destroyd. And* thenk how Thebes / with his wallēs* olde 1776
 Distroiēd was / platly / this no les,
 For doublenesse / of Ethiocles,
 Which his puple / after sore about^t :
 Only for he nat^t by counseff wrought^t 1780
- [leaf 30] Of hem that^t wern / bothe trewe *and* wis :

1759. sith] sight L₁. sleight Bo. Du. sleight Ad₁. sleith T₁. seleght Ro. be sleight] by cause M. Di. her] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. werking Bo. Ad₁. wyrkyng P. Ro. workyng Ad₂. warking T₂. 1760. this] this is T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. I. trouthe Bo. M. Ad₁. trouth Ar. enery] al M. Di. 1762. trouth Bo. troupe Ad₁. M. 1763. clipped] eclipsid Ad₁. 1764. liggynge] liyng Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. P. 1765. trouth *is written by the same hand to the right of the line in Du (red ink). and Lb (black ink).* 1766. at] a Ar. ; *to explain it, the copyist of Ar. has written :* trouth *with black ink to the right of the line.* 1767. Who that] Whos Bo. Lb. M. Di. Who so Du. who T₁. L₁. seith] say M. Di. L₂. Ro. Ap. nay] nay M. shew] and shewe M. Di. C. T₂. P. E₂. bright Bo. M. Ad₁. 1768. rewmes Bo. remes M. Ad₁. 1769. [s] His Ra. P. And his L₁. conseruatrice] conseruatiff L₁. 1770. Fro Bo. M. Ad₁. For Ad₂. I. 1772. Prosperite] gode prosperite M. Di. long prosperite T₂. 1774. 3e] þe Bo. T₂. I. *om.* L₁. E₁. P. beth Ar. Du. T₂. be Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. Ra. C. we] *om.* L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. 1776. And] I Ar. Ra. Ba. S. thenk] pinke L₁. Lb. Ra. Ba. E₁. Ro. thenketh C. E₂. thynckyth L₂. T₂. P. walles] wal Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. E₁. S. Ap. 1777. this] þis is Du. Lb. Di. Ra. Ba. P. E₂. L₂. 1778. For] For the L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. C. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. doublenesse] doublenesses T₂. E₂. 1781. wern Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. C. Ro. weren T₁. Du. Lb. Di. Ra. were E₁. S. T₂. P. L₂. bothe M. Ad₁. both Bo.

- hym lyst' nat' worchen / after her devys ;
 But lefte trouthe / and sette his fantasye
 To be governöd / by fals flaterye *, 1784
 ¶ That' bad hym thenkē * / how he was a knyght,
 And to holde of foreē /, morē * than of * right',
 Duryng' his lyf / lordship of the touñ,
 And not' to lesē his possessioun 1788
 For no bond / nor heestēs mad toforñ ;
 But' lete his brother / blowēn * in an horn,
 Wher that hym lyst' / or pypen in a red.
 This was the counsail / platly *and* þe Reed 1792
 Of swich' as liste nat' / to seyn the soth',
 But' falsly flater / with her wordēs smoth'.
 ¶ And whan they haddē / hool her talē fyned,
 Ethyocles / fully is enclynyd, 1796 Eteocles decides
 Who so euer ther-at' / laugh or wepe,
 lik' her counsayl · possessioun to kepe,
 who that' sey nay / or gruche ther-ageyñ ;
 hym to contrarye / he thought' was but' veyñ. 1800
But' in this whylē * hath the shenē somme
 The twelue signēs / round' aboutē Ronne
 Sith Ethiole / be Iust' rekenyng'*,
 In Thebēs was crownöd / lord *and* kyng', 1804
 holdyng' the sceptre / and the dyademe ;
 That' be resoun / as it' wolde seme,
 The tymē was ful complet' / *and* the space, is ended,

1782. worchen Bo. Ad₁. worche M. werke T₂. devys] advise Ad₃. I. 1783. lefte Bo. Ad₁. 1784. flaterye Bo. Ad₁. flatrye Ar. 1785. thenke Bo. M. theuk Ar. Ad₁. 1786. And] om. T₁. to holde] tolde Di. to shelde E₁. more Bo. T₁. M. mor Ar. om. C. than of] than Ar. G. Ap. 1789. bond] bondes Bo. nor Ar. Ra. ne Bo. M. Ad₁. T₂. heestes] heste Ra. Ba. to forñ Lb. aforne M. E₁. beforñ Bo. Ad₁. Ra. T₂. 1790. his] youre L₁. blowen G. Bo. T₁. Lb. M. E₁. Ap. blowe Ar. Ad₁. Ra. C. T₂. 1793. Swich Ar. Bo. Du. siehe T₁. Soche E₂. Suche *all the rest.* as] þat Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. E₁. S. C. T₂. 1795. hool her tale] holy her tale M. Di. Ba. C. hool the tale Lb. her hole tale P. talle whole S. her tale holy T₂. fyned] lfynd S. feyned (; enelyued) Ra. Ba. 1799 *and* 1800 *omitted in* Du. 1800. hym to] Or holdeth the P. contrarye] contraire Ra. Ba. E₂. he] him Ba. E₂. L₂. they Ro. om. Lb. Di. was] it was Ra. Ba. L₂. Ro. 1801. while Bo. Ad₁. Ra. whyl Ar. hath] om. Ad₁. Ad₃. I. shene Ad₁. sheen Bo. 1802. The] Th Ar. twelve] XII Bo. Ad₁. round] hath Ad₁. Ad₃. I. 1803. Ethiole Ad₁. Ethiocles Bo. rekenyng Bo. Ad₁. reknung Ar. 1805. and the] and M. Di.

and he ought to give up the crown to Poly- neices,	Of couenaunte / he shulde voide his place, And Polymytë ek / his iournè make Toward Thebës /, pociououn to take	1808
[leaf 30, back]	Of duë* titte / But he haddë wronge : Which thought in soth / the 3eer was wonder longe Of his Exil / er it kam aboute.	1812
who, doubting his brother,	And for he hadde / in hert a manere doute Lest in his broder / ther wer falshed* found Taqyte hym-silf / lik as he was bound,	1816
asks Adrastus	¶ To Adrastus / he gan declar his herte, Beseching hym / this mater to aduerte, And ther-vpon / to 3iue a counsayl sone, Touchyng his right / what was best to done,	1820
to advise him whether he shall sit still	wher it was bet to goñ / or to abyde, Or liche a knyght manfully to Ryde hym-silf allone / and makë no message, For to Chalaunge / his rightful heritage	1824
or claim Thebes .	with-Inne Thebës / outhr* be pees or stryf, And ther-vpon / to Iuparte his lif. Thus was he set / for al his fercë brother. But Adrastus / sothly / thought a-nother Bet was to sendë / than hym-silf to goñ	1828
Adrastus says Polynices may be trapt	Lest he were trapped among his mortal foñ ; Havyng his brother / suspecte in this cas That be fraude / or be some fallas, He woldë* werk / to his destruccioun,	1832

1808. voide] leve Ad₁. I. 1809. Polymyte Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. iourney Bo. iornay M. Ad₁. 1811. due Bo. Ad₁. dieu Ar. G (*in the margin due is written by late hand*). had Bo. Ad₁. 1812. was] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. C. T₂. Ro. wonder] om. Ra. Ba. S. ouer Lb. passyng Ro. 1813. er Bo. or M. Ad₁. 1815. falshele Bo. Ad₁. falsed Ar. 1816. to acqyte Bo. Ad₁. 1819. *The copyist of Ar. has first written coun-sayl good, then underdotted good and added sone.* 1820. was] were Di. Ba. C (where). was best] best was Ra. Ba (wer). 1821. wher Ad₁. C. Wheper Bo. Lb. M. was] were Ad₁. C. abyde] byde C. 1823. message Bo. M. Ad₁. 1825. oither Ar. Ap. either Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. E₁. E₂. aythre Ba. outhr Ra. C. Ro. other Lb. Ad₁. T₂. I₂. om. P. be] with T₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 1827. feers Bo. M. Ad₁. 1831. this] be Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. 1832. or be] or M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. P. C (other for or). or ellis Ro. 1833. He] How he L₁. wolde Bo. Lb. Ad₁. wold Ar. M. T₂. wolde werk] werke wolde Ad₁. Ad₂. I.

- 3if he wer hardye to entren in-to toun. if he goes to
 For which he had hym / prudently tak hede, Thebes :
 Ful concludyng^t / how it^t was mor spede 1836
 That^t some other be / to Thebës sent, he must send
 To appareeyvë fully the entent^t some one else
 ¶ Of Ethioele / outward^t / be some signe, there.
 And wher that^t he / his crownë* wil resigne 1840
 For thilke* 3eer /, lik as he made his ootfi : [leaf 311]
 And whan he knewe / how his purpoos goþ
 Ther-vpon to werken / and procede.
 Thus Adrastus / wisely gan hym rede. 1844
 ¶ And whil they trete / vpon this matere, Tydeus at once
 Tydeus with a manly chere undertakes to
 Saide* vttrely / for his broder sake, go.
 This massagë / he wolþ vndertake ¶ Tydeus took
 with hool thempris / of thenbassyat, vpon hym to don
 wer it^t wilful / or infortunat^t: þe message of
 He wil not^t sparë / what^t so that^t betide. Polymyte.
 ¶ But Adrastus / on the toþer syde, 1852 Adrastus and
 And Polymyte / in conclusioun, Polyneices
 Weren contrarye / to that opynyoun,
 And seidë sothly / as hem thoghte right^t,
 Sith that^t he was / so wel / a preuëd knyght^t 1856
 And disceded of so worthy blood,

1834. entren Ar. G. E₁. Ro. Ap. entre Bo. and the rest. into] in G. om. Ra. Ba. toun Ar. Ro. the toun Bo. and the rest. 1836. Ful] Fully L₁. P. E₂. was] were M. Di. C. T₂. P. E₂. mor] moste Lb. was mor] more were Di. spede] nede C. 1839 and 1840 transposed in I. 1840 omitted in S. wher] whether Lb. M. Di. P. if Ra. Ba. E₂. his] the P. crownë Bo. M. Ad₁. eroun Ar. wil (wol)] wolde L₁. M. Di. L₂. Ro (walde). 1841. thilke Ad₁. Ra. pilke Bo. thilk Ar. M. C. T₂. L₂. þe ilke L₁. ylke S. 1843. worken Bo. M. 1845. trete Ar. Bo. T₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ra. vpon] of Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1846. manly] manful Di. ful manly L₁. T₂. 1847. Saide] Sade Ar. 1849. whitth Ar. thempris] emprise M. Di. þe embassyat Bo. thenbassyat M. Ad₁. 1850. wer it] whether it were M. Di. Whether hit be Lb. wilful Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ra. Ba. E₁. P. Ro. Ap. welful Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. or] other C. infortunat] fortunat Di. 1851. what so that] what so Bo. Du. Lb. M. C. T₂. P. L₂. whatsoever E₂. what so hym L₁. 1852. þat other Bo. M. Ad₁. 1853. Polymyne Ar. 1856. Sith] Syn Ra. that] om. Ro. so wel a preuëd Ar. G. T₁. L₁. Lb. C. T₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. so wel a proued Du. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. so wel approved a Ad₂. I. so well a prined E₂. so well a preferred P. so well a prowed S. a gentil Bo (so wel om.).

try to stop him
but in vain.

That^t they nolde / for non ertly good,
For aH Thebës / with the regalye,
Put his body / in such Iupartie. 1860

But^t aH this thyng^t / auaylöd hem * riz^t noz^t;
For he wol forth / how dere that^t it be boz^t,
Takyng^t lievë / first^t of aH thestatys,
And armöd hym in Mayle / and surë platys, 1864
And Shope hym forth / vpon his Iournë.

¶ The sorowe of
Deyphile whan
Tideus went
toward Thebes.

who madë sorowe / but^t Dëyphylë,
with bitter teerës / dewöd al her face,
Ful ofte sith / swownyng in the place, 1868
Trist and mournyng / in her blakë * wede,
Whan she saugh / that^t he took his stode;

[leaf 31, back]

Tideus rides

So inwardly gan eneres* her mone,
Seyng^t her lord^t / so ridë forth allone 1872
Vpon his way / this worthy Tydeus.

And in al hast^t, the story telleth vs,
He spedde hym so, makyng^t no delayes,
That^t in space / of a fewe daies 1876

to Thebes,

The heghe toures of Thebës / he gan se,
And entred is / into the Citë,
Wisly enqueryng^t / wher the Paleys stood;
And lik a knyght^t / thidere streght^t he* rood, 1880
Markyd ful wel / in many mannys sight,
lich Mars / hym-silf /, in stiel y-armöd * bright^t,
Til he atteynöd hath the chief^t dongonn,

goes to the
palace,

wher as the kyng^t / helde his maneyoun. 1884

and into the
hall

And thorgh^t the paleys / with a knyghtly look
Into the haH / the righte way he took,

1858—1922 *lost in C.* 1861. hem Bo. G. M. Ad₁. hym Ar. om. Ra. auaylöd hem] he sette by Ad₁. I. 1862. that] om. M. Di. Ra. Ba. 1864. armed] armeth G. sure] in sure M. Di. 1866. *The rubric begins with Who mad sorowe, but these three words have been crossed out with red ink.* 1869. blake Bo. blak Ar. M. Ad₁. 1871. So] She M. gan eneres(e)] eneres gan Ar. G. T₂. E₂. Ap. gan enressen Ba. gan tenersen Ra. gan to in-crease S. 1872. ride] ridyng L₁. M. Di. T₂. E₂. 1876. in space] in þe space Ad₁. Ad₂. I. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. a fewe] fewe Ad₁. Ad₂. I. T₂. P. E₂. 1877. gan] gan to G. 1878. the] om. Du. 1880. streght he] he streght Ar. G. Bo. Du. T₁. Lb. 1882. y-armed] I-armed Ap. armed Ar. Bo. and all the other MSS. (cp. 1306, 2618). 1883. Ar. has a pause-bar between atteynöd and hath. 1884. Wher as] ther as Bo.

- From his stedē / whan he lighte douñ,
 Not afered / but hardy as lyoun, 1888
- Wher as the kyngt / with lordēs a greft route
 In the hallē sittynge / rounde aboute, where Eteocles
 he entred Inne / most manful of corage, sits with his
 To* execute / the fyn of his* massage. 1892 lords,
- And as hym thougt / conuenient and due
 Ful konnyngly / he gan the kyng salue
 Requiringt hym /, of kyngly excellence,
 In goodly wise / to* 3eue hym audience, 1896
- And not disdeyne / neither in port ne cheer,
 Sith he was Come / as a massagere
 From Polymyte / his ownē brodere dere;
 Gynnyngt his talē / thus, as 3e shal here. 1900 and speaks to
 "Sir*," quod he, "vnto 3our worthynesse them.
 My purpoos is breeffly to expresse [leaf 32]
- Theffecte only, as in sentement,
 Of the massagē why that I am sent. 1904 * how wisly and
 It were in veyn / longe processe forto make, how knyghtly
 But of my mater / the verrey ground to take, Tideus did his
 In eschewyng of prolixité, massage.
- And voyde away / al superfluytē, 1908
- Sith 3oure-silf best ought to* vnderstonē
 The causē fully / that we han on hond,
 And ek conceyve / pentent of my menyngē, Tideus reminds
 Of rightwisnessē / longgyngt to a kyngē: 1912 Eteocles
- First considred /, 3if that 3e tak hede,

1887. whan] whan þat Lb. lighte M. Ad₁. light Bo. a-lyte Di. T₂. douñ] adoun
 M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. E₂. Ro. 1888. affered Bo. a ferd Ad₁. as] as a T₁. Du. L₁.
 M. Di. Ad₁. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. Ro. 1892. to execute Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. Texecute
 Ar. his] this Ar. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. 1894. Ful konnyngly] Iful konnyng G.
 1895. kyngly] knightly Bo. L₁. T₂. P. kyndely Du. 1896. to] om. Ar. Ap.
 1898. Come Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ra. T₂. Ar. has a pause-bar also between
 was and Come. messagere Ad₁. messangere Bo. T₁. M. 1900. Gynnyng]
 Begynnyng L₁. S. Ap. his] a P. thus as] as thus Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 1901.
 Sir only in P. and Ro. (re-inserted), omitted in all the other MSS. (Q in Ar. is a
 two-line capital. In Ra. the late corrector has written O king at the beginning of the
 line.) 1903. only] hooly T₂. P. E₂. Ro. Ap. 1908. And] to Di. 1909. to]
 om. Ar. Ad₁. Ap. 1911. conceyve] to knowe Di. toucheinge P. my] the L₂
 Ro. menyngē] comyng Di. 1913. that] om. G. Ad₂. I.

	whan Edippus / the oldē* kyngt was dede,	
of his agreement	how that 3our-silf / and 3oure brother blyve	
	For the croune / contagiously gan stryve	1916
	As mortal foon / by ful gret hatrede,	
	whicĥ of 3ow two / shulde* first succede :	
	Til that 3e were / be meenys reconcyled,	
	3e to regne / and he to be exiled	1920
that he should reign for one year only, and then give place to Poly- neices,	Out of this towne / for a 3eerēs space,	
	And than ageyn / resorte to his place,	
	To regne as kyngt, and 3e to voyden oute,	
	So as 3our tourne / be processē kam aboute ;	1924
	Euerich of 3ow / paciently tendure	
	Thenterchaungyngt / of his Auenture,	
	Who were putt out / or stood in his estat,	
	Ther-vpon to makē no debat,	1928
	Lich the Couenaut / and conuencioun,	
	Enrollēd vp / by lordys of this touu,	
[leaf 32, back]	Which of reson may not be denyed.	
¶ The request bat Tideus mad in þe name of Polymyt vnder the title of þe Conuencioun.	And sith 3e han / a 3eer / y-occupied,	1932
	¶ Polimytēs / requereþ 3ow of rīzt,	
	Taqwite 3ou / likt a trewē knyght,	
	In eschewyngt of mortal werre and strif ;	
who now re- quires him to keep his oath.	Sith 3e han had : a Prerogatif	1936
	As eldest brother / forto regne aforē :	
	And thenketh eke / how that 3e ar sworē	
	3our oth to kepe / and make no taryngt,	
	Holy aduerting / lich a prudent kyngt,	1940
Truth should be more	That* trouth is mor / in comparisoun,	

1914. olde Bo. M. Ad₁. old Ar. 1916. gan Bo. Ad₂. gonne Ad₁. stryve] to strine Ad₁. Ad₂. 1918. shulde Bo. shuld Ar. 1919. that] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. 1921. Out] om. L₁. this] his Lb. 3eres] yere Bo. Du. 1922. ageyn] anoon Di. resorte] resorten P. to resorte Ad₁. Ad₂. I. to] vnto M. Di. into T₂. E₂. his] þis L₂. Ro. Ap. 1923. as] as a Lb. C. P. to voyden] voiden Bo. to voide L₁. E₁. S. L₂. Ro. to be voided T₂. 1925. to endure Bo. M. Ad₁. tendur G. 1926. þe entrechaungyng Bo. Ad₁. thenterchaungyng M. 1927. Who] Whos M. Di. putt out] pacient Bo. his] om. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 1928. Ar. has a pause-bar after make. 1930. this] þe Bo. M. Di. Ad₁. Ba. T₂. P. E₂. 1932. y-occupied Bo. M. Ad₁. 1933. requireth Bo. M. Ad₁. 1934. Taqwite] to acquite Bo. M. Ad₁. and the rest. lik] as S. C. T₂. P. E₂. 1941. That] The Ar. G.

Than aH the tresour / of 3our ^r Regyoun,		to a king than treasure.
Mor acceptable / vnto god and man		
Than aH richessë / that ^r 3e rekne kan.	1944	
Wherefor in hast ^r / and lat ^r ther be no slouthe,		Eteocles should then quit Thebes,
Quyeth 3our-silf / Iustly of 3our ^r trouthe		
Vnto 3oure brother / avoyding ^r this Cytë,		
And lat ^r hym regnen / in his Ryaltë,	1948	and let Poly- neices reign his year.
¶ The eroune of Thebes / a 3eer to occupie.		
Than wol al Greë / preise <i>and</i> magnyfie		
3oure hegh renoun / and may sey noñ other		
But ^r 3e han quytt ^r 3ou / Iustly to 3our ^r brother.	1952	
This hool theffecte / of al that I wil seyñ,		
Answer expectaunt ^r / what ^r 3e list ^r sende ageyñ."		
W han Tydens / haddë tolkt ^r his tale,		
Ethiocrates, trist ^r / and wonder pale,	1956	Eteocles turns pale
his conceyt first ^r in maner* hath refreynd,		
Dyssimulyng ^r / vnder colour feyned,		and dissembles.
Shewyng ^r a cheer / in maner debonayre,		
To his entent ^r / wonderly contrayre,	1960	
Inwarl ^r in hertë / wood and furious,		[leaf 33]
Turnyng ^r his facë / towarde Tydens,		
he gan abraid ^r / and at the last ^r out-brak,		¶ The answer of Ethiocrates.
And euen thus / vnto hym he spak.	1964	
¶ "I haue* gret mervaile /" quod he, "in my thought"		He wonders
Of the massagë / which* that ^r thow hast ^r broght,		
That ^r my brother / as thow hast ^r expownyd,		that Polyneices wants Thebes,

1943. vnto] both to M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. 1944. all Ar. G. E₁. C. T₂. Ap. al þe Bo. *and the rest.* G. has omitted, of l. 1946 the words silf Iustly of your trouthe, and of l. 1947 Unto youre, and reads: Quyeth your brother, etc. 1947. avoyding] voidyng L₁. Lb. M. Di. this] the P. 1948. regne Bo. M. Ad₁. 1952. 3e] om. Bo. 3e han quytt] ye acquite C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. that ye aquyte P. ye hane (om. quytt) Ra. E₁. S. Ap. (*beginning of line is burnt*). that ye hane Ba. 1953. This] This is Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. P. L₂. Ro. hool] om. Ba. Ro. the hole P. of] and Bo. om. P. al] om. Lb. P. I] om. Du. 1955. had Bo. M. Ad₁. hadde told] told had M. Di. Ra. Ba. 1957. first] om. P. L₂. in maner] in a maner Ar. G. Bo. M. Di. in maner first hath C. 1958. dissymelyng Bo. M. disimeling Ad₁. 1959. a] om. M. Di. 1961. herte] in h. G. 1963. abraid] to braid G. 1964. vnto] to Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. he spak] he gan to spake (*sic*) Ra. 1965. I ha Ar. I haue Bo. Ad₁. In a G. 1966. woch for which Ar. which] om. S. that] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ra. Ba. E₁. C. P. broght] I-brought E₁.

	Desyreth so / in Thebës to be crownd,	1968
seeing that he has so much in Argos.	Havyng reward / to the habundancee, The grete plentè / and the suffisaunce	
	That he hath nowe / with the kyng of Arge :	
	That me semeth / he shuld lityl charge	1972
	To han lordship / or domynacioun	
	In the boundis / of this lytyl toun,	
	Sith he regneth / so fresshly in his flours,	
Eteocles	Surmountyng / aH his predecessours	1976
	Be newe ences / thorgh fortunis myght ;	
says he hoped Polyneices would have helped him,	wherof in hert / I am right glad <i>and</i> light :	
	Fully trustyng / 3if I haddè nede	
	To his helpè, that with-outè drede	1980
	lik a brother than * I shuld hym fynde	
	To meward feithful, trewe, <i>and</i> kynde :	
	Supposing pleyunly euermor	
	Of this regne / he set / but lityl stor,	1984
	Nor east hym not / for so short a while	
not wanted to banish him into poverty.	As for a 3eer, his brother to exile,	
	To lyve in pouertè / and gret distresse.	
	he wol not suffre it / of his high * noblesse.	1988
	It were no token as of brotherhede *,	
	But a signè rather of hatrede,	
[leaf 33, back]	To interruptè my possessioun	
	Of this litil porè Regioun."	1992
	Al that he spak /, who that couth aduerte,	
	Of verrey scorn, Rooted in his herte ;	

1972. That] as Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. that as M. Di. he] þat he Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. 1977. thorgh] of Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. be C. T₂. 1978. right] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 1979 *and* 1980 *are transposed in* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. 1979. 3if] if [þat L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. though Ro. 1981. than] that Ar. G. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. than I shuld] than sholde I Ad₁. shold I (than om.) Ad₂. I. 1982. To meward] To me ware Bo. feithful] feithfully Bo. T₁. Ad₁. E₁. sothefull Ba. trewe] om. Ra. Ba. S. 1986. to] forto G. his] me his Ad₂. I. 1987—2400 *lost in* Ro. 1987. pouerte Lb. M. pouertee E₂. pouert Bo. and] and in Lb. C. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. 1988. high] gret Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. (see 1987). 1989. brotherede Ar. 1991. my] of my Bo. T₁. Du. E₁. S. me of my L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ra. Ba. 1992. Of] as Bo. litil] litil and poure M. Di. litil pore] pore litil Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. Of this litil] And put from this Ra. Ba. 1993. *second* that] om. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S.

As it ^t sempte /, the story can 3ou teche, By the surplus / sothly of his speche :	1996	
¶ He myghte nat ^t no lenger hym refreyne But ^t platly seide / "as a-twene vs tweyne, I menē thus / Polymytes and me, Ther is* no bonde / nor no surētē, Nor feith y-made / that ^t may hym avaylle, As he cleymeth / to haue* the gouernaylle Of this Citē, nowther 3ere nor day. For I shal lette hym, sothly, 3if I may, That ^t he shal not ^t be title of no bondē, Reioysse in Thebēs / half a foot ^t of* londe. ¶ late hym kepe aH that ^t he hath wonue ! For I purpoos / as I haue* begonne, To regne in Thebēs / enforth al my lyve, Maugrē al* hem / that ^t ther-ageynēs stryve, And in despit ^t / of his frendēs aH, Or the counsaylle / that ^t hym list ^t to calle. lat ^t hym be sur /, and knowē* this right ^t wel, his manacyug ^t I dredē* neuer a del. And sikerly, as to my devis,	2000	And he flatly declares that
	2004	Polyneices shan't have 6 inches of land in Thebes,
	2008	as he, Eteocles, means to reign there all his life.
	2012	
		As to Tideus,

1995. sempte Ar. T₂. sempt C. L₂. semed Bo. T₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ra. semeth E₁.
1997. nat] om. C. T₂. E₂. no] om. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. P. nat no
lenger hym] not him no lenger Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. E₁. not hym longer L₁. M (lenger).
Di (lenger). him nat lenger than Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba (longer). S. refreyne]
restreyu Ba. E₂. 1999. I] In G. mene Ad₁. meen Bo. 2000. is] nys
Ar. L₂. no bond] nother bond M. Ad₂. I. Ra. neither bond Ad₁. Ba. S. noon
oper bonde Di. nor no] nor (no om.) Bo. T₁. Du (ner). L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂ and
I (nouthir). Ra. Ba. E₁ (nother). S. C. T₂. P. E₂. ne (no om.) Lb. surete L₁. Ra.
T₂. snerte Bo. M. Ad₁. E₂. surte T₁. 2001. y-made Bo. made M. om. Di.
2002. haue Bo. M. Ad₁. ha Ar. 2003. nowther nor Ar. Ad₂. Ra. nouthir nee
T₂. L₂. neither ne Bo. T₁. Ad₁. nor ne M. Di. 3ere] nyght G 2004. shal]
will T₂. lette] om. Bo. sothly] trewly T₂. om. P. 3if] and Lb. 2005 and 2006
omitted in Ad₂. I. 2005. be title of no] bi no title of Ad₁. Ra. Ba. 2006. of]
om. Ar. Ra. L₂. 2007. kepe Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ra (keep). C. T₂. P.
E₂. L₂. Ap. all] om. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. 2009. enforth Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. M.
Di. C. T₂. P. Ap. hens forth L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra (henforth). Ba. E₁. S. E₂. L₂.
forth Lb. lyve Ar. Ap. E₂. lyf Bo. T₁. M. Di. Ad₁. C. P. L₂. life Ba. E₁. S.
lif Lb. Ad₂. I. T₂. Du. liffe L₁. Ra. 2010. al] of Ar. G. pere ageyns Bo.
per ayen Ad₁. there ayenst Lb. per ageyne wil L₁. stryve Ar. C. P. E₂. Ap.
stryf Bo. M. Di. Ad₁. T₂. stryfe Ba. E₁. striff Lb. Ad₂. I. Du. striffe L₁. S.
2012. hym] he G. to] om. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. E₁. 2013 and 2014 omitted in
Ad₂. I. 2013. knowe Bo. M. know Ar. Ad₁. 2014. manassyng Bo. M. Ad₁.
drede Bo. Ad₁. dred Ar. I dred] drede I M. Di. 2015. as to] as at Bo. vnto
M. Di. C. as vnto Ba. my devis] myn avis T₁. E₁.

	It scheweth wel / that' thow were not wis,	2016
Eteocles is surprised at his presumption in bringing Polyneices's message.	But' surprisēd with a manere rage, To take on the / this surquedous message, And presume / to do so high offence, So boldely / to speke in my presence,	2020
[leaf 31]	But' al yfere / avaylē* shal right' noght! For the tydingē* / that' thou hast' ybrought', Shal vnto hym / be but' disencrees. He better werē* / to ha ben in pees,	2021
	Than of foly / and presumpciouu Ageynēs me / to seke occasioun.	
While Eteocles lives,	For whil I lyve / and thereto her myñ honē, As I seide erst' / he wynneth her no lonē, whyl the walles* / of this toune may stonē. For Fynaly I do the vnderstonē That' they shal first' / be betē doune ful lowe,	2028
Polyneices shall have nothing to do with Thebes.	And alle the tourēs / to the erth' ythrowe, Er he in Thebēs / haue eny thyngē ado. Lo! her is al / . retourne and sey him so!"	2032
Tideus is silent	W han Tydeus saugh the feruent' Ire Of the kyngē / with angre set a-fire, Ful of despit' / and malencolye ; Conceyuyngē eke / the grete felonye	2036

2017. surprisēd] supprisyng Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. suppressed C. P. E₂. supposing Ra. Ba. S. 2020. So] And G. boldely M. Ad₁. boldly Bo. 2021 and 2022 omitted in Ad₂. I. 2021. yfere] in fer Ra. availe Bo. M. avayl Ar. Ad₁. 2022. dyding Ar. tidying Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. S. G. tithyng Ra. Ba. tidyngis L₁ (þi for the). E₁. C. T₂. P. L₂. tithynges E₂. (Ap. burnt to that). ybrought Ar. T₂. Ap. brought Bo. G. and the rest. 2023. vnto hym be] be vnto hym Du. But alle shal be vnto hym disencrees Ad₂. I. (see 2021). 2024. were Bo. M. Ad₁. wer Ar. to haue ben T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. to ha be Ra. to habene M. to haunen Bo. E₁. 2025. and] and of Ad₂. I. 2026. ageynēs Bo. Ad₁. ayens M. 2027 and 2028 omitted in Ad₂. I. 2029 and 2030 are transposed in T₁. Du. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. 2029. while Bo. M. Ad₁. whyl Ar. While that C. walles Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. wallis G. waff Ar. Lb. L₂. Ap. walle Bo. L₁. M. Di. E₁. P. wal C. E₂. 2030. Fynaly] plainly C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. vnderstonē] to vndrestonde Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. 2031. betē] fylled G. 2032. alle the] alle Du. to the erth Ar. Du. L₁. M. Ad₁. T₂. to therthe T₁. Lb. to the yearth E₂. vnto the erthe Bo. to erthe Ra. Ba. ythrowe] throwe T₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. C. P. 2033. Er Bo. Or T₁. M. C. ado Ar. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. at do G. to do Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. 2037. and] and of L₁. Ra. Ba. S. C. T₂. E₂. 2038. velonye G. M. D.

In his apport, lik as he wer wood ;		
This worthy knyght ^t a lityl whilē* stood,	2040	a while,
Sad and demur / or oght ^t he wolde seyñ.		
But ^t at ^t the laste thus he spak ageyñ.		but then tells Eteocles
¶ " Certës," quod he / " I conceyve of newe		
Aboute the, thy counsel is vntrewe,	2044	
I dar it ^t seyn and vowën at ^t the best*,		he is unfaithful.
Nor thow art ^t not ^t feithful of thy behest,		The knyghtly answere ageyn of Tydeus.
Stable of thy word / that ^t thow hast seid to-forñ,		
But ^t deceyveable / and falsly ek forsworñ,	2048	
And ek periur / of thyn assurëd ooth.		
" But ^t wher so be / that ^t thow be lief or loth,		Tideus says
I seye the shortly / hold it ^t for no fage,		[leaf 34, back]
Al shal turn / vnto thy damage,	2052	
Trust ^t it ^t wel / <i>and</i> in ful cruel wyse.		
Alle Grekës londe / shal vpon the ryse,		the Greeks will rise against Eteocles,
To ben avenged / and manly to redresse		
The gret ^t vntrouth / and the hegh falsnesse	2056	
Which that ^t thow hast ^t / ageyn thy brother wrought ^t .		
It shal ful dere / after this be bought ^t .		
And verrely in dede, as thow shalt ^t lere,		
kyng ^t Adrastus / wil medle in* this matere,	2060	and King Adras- tus and his lords
And alle the lordes / about ^t hym envyrroun,		
That ^t boundë ben / to his subieccioun ;		
Prynces / Dukës / and many a noble Knight ^t ,		
In sustenyng ^t / of thy brotheres right ^t ,	2064	
Shal on a day / with sper <i>and</i> with shek ^t ,		will make war on him,
Ageynës the be gadered in a feld ^t ,		

2039. appor Ar. 2040. while Bo. M. Ad₁. whil Ar. 2041. or Bo. Ad₁. saien (: ayen) M. seyn (: ageyn) Di. 2042. thus] this Lb. he spak] spak he Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. spak] seide C. T₂. P. E₂. 2043. of] om. Di. 2045. vowe] vowe it C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ap. avowen L₁. Lb. avowe it S. wele avov Ba. at the best] at the lest Ar. G. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. Ap. at the last (: beheste) Ra. 2046. Nor] Ne Lb. E₂. om. P. not] om. E₁. Nor thow art not] nor thou nert also Ad₁. nor thou art nat also Ad₂. I. 2050. wher Ar. whe]er Bo. that] om. M. Di. 2051. the] it Ad₂. I. 2052. turn Ar. torne Bo. tourne Ad₁. turne Ra. vnto] to Ra. 2054. ryse] arise M. Di. C. T₂. E₂. 2056. vntrouthe M. Ad₁. vntrouth Bo. 2057. ageyn] vnto Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. S. thy my Ra. Ba. 2060. medle in] medle of Ar. L₂. Ap. 2062. bounde Bo. bounden M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. to] vnto Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2063. many a] many M. Di. 2066. Ageyns Bo. Ad₁. ayens M. gadert Bo. M. Ad₁.

- and prove him
false. knyghtly to preue / al be oñ assent,
That thow art fals / and double of entent, 2068
Of thy promys / atteynt *and* ek outrayed.
And leue me wel it shal not be delayed,
But in al hast / execute in dede.
lik thi desert / thow shalt haue* thy mede. 2072
- God will punish
him. For god aboue / of his rightwisnesse,
Swich open wrong / shal in hast redresse,
And of his myght / al such collusioun
Reforme ageyn / and al extorsioun. 2076
For this the fyn / falshede shal not availe*,
Ageyns* trouth / in feeld* to hold batayle*.
Wrong is croked / bothen halt *and* lame.
And here anon / in my brotheres name, 2080
As I that am next of his* alye
In his querel / I shortly the deffye,
Fully avysed / with al myn hool entent.
And 3e* lordes / that ben her* present, 2084
I 3ow requere / of 3our worthynesse,
To saye trouth / and to ber wittnesse,
whan tymē comēþ* / Iustly to recorde
How 3our kyng / falsly can discorde 2088
From his heest / of fals variaunce.
And thenk how 3e / of* feith and lygaunce
Ar bounde ehoñ / 3e may not go ther-fro,

2067. to] it to Ad₁. proue Bo. M. Ad₁. 2068 *and* 2069 *transposed in I.*
2071. a] al the E₁. P. all *with second l underdotted* Ar. execute] executid Lb.
Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 2072. haue Bo. Ad₁. ha Ar. 2073. aboue Bo. M. Ad₁.
Ra. abouen Ba. of] and C. T₂. P. E₂. 2074 *omitted in Ad₁, here, inserted at*
the bottom of the column after 2096; replaced in Ad₂ and I. by quite a new line:
This mateer off riht shall redresse. open] opon Ar. vpon Bo. 2075. conelusioun
G. 2077. this] his is Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. L₂. availe] vaile Ar.
G. E₂. L₂. Ap. 2078. Ageyn Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. in feeld] *om.* Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂.
I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. L₂. Ap. to hold] to haue Bo. to take Ra. Ba. batayle] no
batayle Ar. G. Ap. any batail Ra. Ba. 2079. bothen Ar. bothe Bo. both Ad₁.
2081. As] And P. I that] that I L₂. next of his allie Ra. Ba. his next alye Ar.
Bo. *and all the rest (see Notes)* 2082. In] On Ra. Ba. I] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
the] *om.* I. 2084. And] All L₁. ye lordes] the lordes Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁.
M. Di. Ra. E₁. S. T₂. her] ther Ar. G. E₁. S. 2086. say trouthe Bo. 2087.
cometh Bo. M. comþ Ar. 2088. falsly] iustly M. Di. (*see* 2087). can] ganue
T₂. 2090. thenk] thenkith C. T₂. P. how] on howe P. E₂. of feith] on feith
Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. P.; (*cp.* 2646).

- Forto obeye / and seruë, bothë* two, 2092 to obey Polyneices the next year,
- This nexte 3eer / now anoñ folowyngt,
- As to 3our lord / and 3our^r trewë kyngt,
- ¶ Polemytes / thogh he be now absent,
- By Iust accordt / maad in parlement, 2096 as they agreed
- At 3oure devis / which sitten her a-rowe,
- Engrosëd vp / as it is wel knowe,
- And enrollëd / only for witesse
- In 3oure registres / to voyden al falsnesse, 2100
- That non of 3ou / vary may of newe
- Fro that I sayë* / but he be vntrewe.
- For which I redë / 3our-silf to acquyte.
- Lat no tymë / lenger / 3ou respit, 2104
- But at onys / with-oute mor taryngt,
- Of manly forcë / fetteth hom 3our kyngt,
- Maugrë his foon /, lik as 3e ar bounde,
- And lat in 3ow / slouthë* noñ be founde, 2108
- To put hym lustly* in pecessioun
- This my consayl in conclusioun.”
- W**han Tydeus / hadde his massagë saide, [leaf 35, back]
- lik to the chargë / that was on hym laide : 2112
- As he that list / no lenger / ther soiourne,
- Fro the kyngt / he gan his facë tourne,
- Nat astouned / nor in his hert afferde ;
- But ful proudly / leyde hond on his swerde, 2116 ¶ How manly
2092. both Ar. Bo. Ad₁. 2093. next Bo. Ad₁. folowyng Bo. folwinge Ad₁. 2098. vp] was vp E₂. wel] right well E₁. is wel] wele be Di. knowe] I-knowe Ra. S. 2099 in T₁. is almost wholly cut away. 2099—2294. in Ra. the original four leaves are lost and new ones, with modernizing alterations of the text, supplied by the same hand that has made several alterations in other parts of the poem. Ra. is put within brackets, when quoted in this part of the poem : (2099 in Ra. reads : And eke enrolled for to bear wytnesse). 2100. voyden]avoïden Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2102. Fro Ar. T₁. Du. I. P. L₂. Ap. From L₁. Ad₂. E₂. For (see 2103) Bo. G. M. Di. Ad₁. (Ra.) Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. Of Lb. say Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. but] but yf E₁. E₂. om. L₁. (except : Ra.) he be] yee be Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. S. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. (Ra.) Ba. 2103. your-self Bo. M. Ad₁. to acquite Bo. acquite Ad₁. 2106. fetteth Bo. T₁. Ad₁. fecchith L₁. Lb. M. fetteth hom] (fet home agayn Ra.) 2108. slouthe T₁. M. C. slouth Ar. Bo. Ad₁. slouthe non] no slouth Bo. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. P. E₂. (And lett in you no slotfastnes be founde Ra.) 2109. lustly] Instyly Ar. 2110. This is Bo. M. Ad₁. 2111. Ar. has a second pause-bar after hadde. 2113. he] him Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. that] om. S. he that list] pat list he Di. ther] om. S. P. no lenger ther] here no lenger Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. soiourne] to soiourne Ad₁. Ba. 2115. astouned Bo. M. astoneid Ad₁.

Tydeus de- parte[d] from be kyng.	And in despit' / who that' was lief or loth,	
	A sternë pas / thorgh the halle he goth,	
	Thorgh-out' the courte / and manly took his stele,	
Tideus rides	And out' of Thebës / faste gan hym spede,	2120
	Enhastyng' hym / til he was at large,	
towards Argos.	And sped hym forth / touarð the londe of arge.	
	¶ Thus leue I hym / ridë forth a while,	
	whilys that' I retourne ageyn my style	2124
Eteocles is furious.	Vnto the kyng' which in the hallë stood	
	Among' his lordës / furious and wood,	
	In his hertë / wroth / <i>and</i> euel apayd	
	Of the wordes that' Tydeus had* said ;	2128
	Specialy / havynge remembraunce	
	On the proude dispitous diffiaunce	
	Whilys that' he sat' in his Royal See ;	
	Vpon which he wil auenged be	2132
	Ful cruelly, what' euere that' befallë.	
He bids his Chief Constable	And in his Irë / he gan to hym calle	
	Chief constable / of his Chyualrye,	
	Charyng'* hym / fastë* for to hye	2136
	with al the worthy Choys* of his housholde,	
	which as he knewe most' manful <i>and</i> most bolde,	
pursue Tideus	In al hast' Tydeus to swe	
	To-forñ or* he out' of his lond' remwe,	2140

2117. was] were Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2118. sterne Ad₁. stern Bo. M. 2119. Thorgh-out] Thorough Ad₁. Ad₂. I. C. P. E₂. manly] om. Ba. 2120. fast Bo. M. faste] manly Ad₁. Ad₂. I (see 2119). 2121. In G. til he was at large (2121 *and* And sped hym 2122 *are omitted, and the two remaining half lines made into one line.* 2123. ride] ridyng Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. (Ra.) Ba. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. a while Bo. M. Ad₁. awhile Ar. 2124. (*and* 2131) whilys Ar. whiles M. whils Bo. Du. While Ad₁. 2125. which Ar. þat Bo. M. Ad₁. 2127. apayed *with e underdotted* Ar. 2128. the] (those same Ra.) wordes] worde L₁. Di. Tydeus] he Ad₁. Ad₂. he he I. had] hath Ar. G. Lb. Di. Ad₂. I. P. L₂. 2129. (Ra: Inspeciall haunynge in). 2130. the proude] the proude and M. Di. (Ra. The stout and proude d. d.) dispitous Ar. 2132. which] þe which L₁. (Ra.) wil] wolde Ad₁. Ad₂. I. (Ra.) Ba. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. auenged] venged Bo. 2133. what euere that] what that euere M. C. G. what so euere Di. what euere Ad₁. Ad₂. I. euere] euel Du. 2136. Charchyng Ar. faste Lb. M. fast Ar. Bo. Ad₁. 2137. al] om. Lb. worthy] om. P. choys (chois, choyse, choise)] Chooce Ar. choose G. chose E₁. C. chosyn L₂. 2138. which] Such Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. as] þat Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. om. M. Di. manful] manly S. *second* most om. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. 2139. al] al the Bo. L₁. Ad₂. I. C. P. to] for to C. T₂. P. E₂. 2140. or Bo. M. Ad₁. ar Ar. om. T₁.

- Vp peyn of lyf / and lesyng^t of her hede, [leaf 36]
 With-oute mercy / anon that^t he be dede. and slay him.
 And of knyghtës / fyfty weren in nombre, Fifty knyghts
 Myn *amour* seith /, vnwarly hym tencombre 2144 ride to waylay
 Armed echon in mayle *and* thikkë* stiel, him.
 And ther-with-al // yhorsëd wonder wiel.
 At a Posterne / forth they gan to ryde ¶ How falsly
 By a geynpath / that^t ley oute a-side, 2148 Etyocles leyde
 Secrely / that^t no man hem espie, a bussment
 Only of tresoun / and of felonye. in the way to haue
 They haste hem forth / al the longë day, slayn Tydeus.
 Of cruel malys / forto stoppe his way, 2152
 Thorgh a forest^t / aH of oñ assent,
 Ful couartly to leyn a bussment^t
 Vnder an hiH / at^t a streite passage,
 To falle on hym at^t mur *auantage*, 2156
 The samë way / that^t Tydeus gan drawe, Tydeus rides on
 At thylike mount^t / wher that^t Spynx was slawe.
 He nothing^t war / in his opynyoun,
 Of this compassëd / conspiracioun, 2160
 But Innocent^t / *and* lich a gentyll knyght^t, innocently,
 Rood ay forth / til* that^t it drowe to nyght^t,
 Sool by hym-silf / with-outë companye,
 havyng no man / to wisse hym or to* gye. 2164
 ¶ But^t at the laste / lifyng^t vp his hede, but at last sees

2141. Vp] Vpon L₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. Oon Lb. peyn of] *om.* Ad₂. I. and] *om.*
 Ad₁. 2143. And] *om.* P. of] of thes Ba. weren Ar. Lb. (Ra.) E₁. E₂. werne
 Ap. were Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. 2144. tencombre M. Ad₁. to encombre Bo. 2145.
 thikke Lb. Di. Ad₂. I. (Ra.) Ed₂. thik Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Ad₁. Ba. E₁. S. C.
 P. L₂. theke Ap. theffk T₂. 2146. yhorsed] horsed M. Di. wonder] *om.*
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2147. At] And G. And at Ad₂. I. posterne M. Ad₁. postern
 Bo. gan] gonne M. Di. to] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2154. couertly C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂.
 Ap. (Ra.) couartly Ar. I. conarly G. cowardly Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di.
 Ad₁. Ad₂. E₁. S. vnwardlye Ba. to] for to M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. C. T₂. P. E₂.
 leyn] hym G. 2155. at a] of Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2156. falle] fallen E₂. 2157.
 way] day Di. 2158. At] And L₂. thilke Lb. Ad₁. thilk Bo. T₁. þe ilke L₁.
 þat P. the S. that] *om.* Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. C.
 T₂. was] wer Ba. 2162. (He rode styll forth Ra.) til that] tyll that I. Ap.
 (Ra.) to that Ar. G. til Bo. *and all the rest.* 2164. wisse] wyse E₁. E₂. wisshe
 S. L₂. wysche Ap. or] ne M. Di. S. nor Ad₁. Ad₂. I. T₂. G. nothir Ap. to
 gye] gye Ar. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. (hys waye for hym to gye Ra.)
 2165. at þe laste Lb. Di. atte laste Ad₁. atte last Bo. at last M. lifyng]
 heuing Ad₁. Ad₂. I. (by lifyng Ra.)

	Toward Euë / he gan taken hede ;	
	Mid of his way · riȝt ^t as eny lyne,	
	þoght ^t he saugh / ageyn þe monë shyne	2168
arund men.	Sheldës fressh / <i>and</i> platës borned bright,	
	The which environ / casten a gret ^t lyght ^t ;	
[leaf 36, back]	ymagynyng ^t / in his fantasye	
How Tydeus outrayed fifty knyghtes þat lay in a-wayt for hym.	Ther was treson / and conspiraeye	2172
	wrought ^t by the kyng ^t / his iournè forto lette.	
	And of al that ^t / he no thyng ^t ne sette,	
	But ^t wel assuréd / in his manly herte,	
	list ^t nat ^t onys / a-sydë to dyuerte,	2176
He puts his spear in rest,	But ^t kepte his way /, his sheld vpon his brest ^t ,	
	And cast ^t his sperë / manly in the rest ^t .	
	And the firste platly / that he mette,	
and kills the Theban leader.	Thorgh the body / proudly he hym smette,	2180
	That ^t he fille ded · chief mayster of hem aȝ ;	
The rest attack him.	And than at ^t onys / they vpon hym falle	
	On euery part ^t / be compas envyroun.	
	But ^t Tydeus / thorgh ^t his hegh renoun,	2184
	His bloody swerde / lete / about ^t hym glyde,	
He fights all.	Sleth ^t <i>and</i> kylleth / vpon euery side	
	In his Ire <i>and</i> his mortal tene,	
	That ^t mervaile was he myghte so sustene	2188
	Ageyn hem aȝ / in euery half besette.	
	But ^t his swerde was so sharj ë whette,	

2166. Eue] evyn Ba. heuene Ad₁. Ad₂. I. taken] to take C. T₂. P. 2167. Mid] In myd Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. Amydde P̄. In myddes Lb. In mynde E₁. his] þe Bo. way Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. eny] a Ba. L₂. 2170. The which] whiche Lb. casten Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. E₁. casted M. Ad₁. S. caste Di. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. environ casten] cast environ Lb. 2173. forto] to M. Di. 2174. he no thyng] nothing he Ba. L₂. ne Ar. Ap. ne om. G. Bo. *and all the rest.* (And for all that he nothyng thereof sett Ra.) 2178. the] his T₁. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ba. E₁. S. (ryght manly in þe r. Ra.) 2179. first Bo. Ad₁. 2180. proudly] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. myghtly L₁. smertly L₂. prudently S. 2181. fell Bo. M. Ad₁. 2182. than] with þat Ad₁. Ad₂. I. they] þei gan Bo. 2184. hegh] gret Ad₂. I. om. Lb. 2186. Sleth] Slowe Lb. kylleth] kylled E₁. styketh Ad₂. I. (That he dothe slee and kylh Ra.) 2187. and] and in Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. E₁. S. 2189. in Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. on Lb. M. *and the rest.* half] parte Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. C. T₂. P. 2190. whette Ar. G. T₁. L₁. M. Di. (Ra.) C. T₂. P. E₂. Ap. y-whette Bo. Du. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. L₂.

That his foomen fonde ful vnsote.
 But he, allas ! / was mad / a-foote*, 2192 Tideus is beaten
 Be forcè grounded in ful gret distresse ; to the ground,
 But of knyghthod *and* of gret prouesse
 Vp he roos, maugrè aH his foön, but gets up,
 And as they cam, he slogh hem oon be oñ, 2196
 likt a lyoun / rampaunt in his rage.
 And on this hille / he fond a narrow passage, seizes a narrow
 which that he took / of ful high prudence ; pass,
 And liche a boor stonyng at his* diffence, 2200 and defends
 As his foomen / proudly hym assaylle, himself.
 vpon the pleyn / he made her blode to Raylle [leaf 37]
 Al environ, that the soyl wex rede,
 Now her now ther / as they fillè dede, 2204
 That her lay on / *and* ther lay two or thre.
 So mercyles / in his crueltè
 Thilke day he was vpon hem founde.
 And attonys / his enemyes to confounde, 2208
 wher as he stood / this myghty champioun,
 Be side he saugh / with water turnèd down,
 An hugè stoñ / largè / rounde *and* squar ;
 And soleyly / er that thei wer war, 2212
 As it haddè leyn / ther for the nonys,
 Vpon his foön / he rollèd it at onys,
 That ten of hem / wenten vnto wrak, down on his
 foes,
 kills ten,

2191. foomen] foön E₁. fonde Bo. M. C. G. founde T₁. Ad₁. founden L₁. founde it E₂. Ba. (dyd fynde hyt Ra.) (it *not in* Ar. G. Bo. or the rest). ful] well Lb. vnsote] vnswoote Bo. T₁. Du. L₁ (ounswote). vnswhete Lb. vnsvette E₁. 2192. allas] napeles L₂. he allas] alas he Lb. mad] om. E₁. a-foote M. Di. light Ar. Bo. *and all the rest*. a-foote Ar. G. S. Ap. on foote Bo. *and all the rest, except* on fete Lb. E₁. 2193. ful] om Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. gret] sore L₂. (Ra.) 2194. and of] and Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2198. this] the Di. P. narrow Ad₁. narowe Bo. narwe Ad₂. streit Ba. (strayght Ra.) 2200. his] om. Ar. G. T₂. P. L₂. Ap. (ystandyng at defence Ra.) 2202. her] þe Di. 2203. environ] newe y-ronne P. wex] waxe Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. E₂. was L₁. (A. e. so that t. s. waxte r. Ra.) rede] al red Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. 2204. they] om. Ad₂. I. fille Ar. fillen Bo. Du. Lb. Di. Ad₁. E₁. filn C. fill P. Ap. fellen T₁. M. S. E₂. fallen Ba. T₂. (dyd fallen Ra.) felle one Ad₂. fel oon I. 2205. second lay om. Ba. 2206. in] than in Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. (thus in hys crueltie Ra.) his] his fers E₁. here Lb. 2207. Thilke Bo. Ad₁. Thilk M. vpon] on Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2211. An] And Ar. 2213. had Bo. M. Ad₁. leyn Ar. Bo. M. Ad₂. C. ley Ad₁. 2214. it] om. Bo. 2215. wenten Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. M. Ad₁. T₂. went L₁. Ad₂. I. L₂. vnto] to Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. C. T₂. (then wenten vnto Ra.)

	And the remnaunt amasid drogh a-bak ;	2216
	For on / by on / they wente to meschaunce.	
and then all	And fynaly / he broghte to outraunce	
	Hem euerychon / Tydeus, as blyve,	
the 50 but one.	That non but on / was* left of hem* alyue ;	2220
	hym-silf yhurt / and ywounded kene,	
	Thurgh his harneys / bledyng on the grene.	
	The theban knyghtes / in campas rounde aboute	
	In the vale / lay* slayen* aH the route,	2224
	which pitously / ageyn the monè gape ;	
	For non of hem, shortly, myght eskafe,	
	But dede echon / as thei han deserved,	
This one knight Tideus kept,	Saue on excepte / the which was reserued	2228
	By Tydeus / of intencioun,	
to tell Eteocles	To the kyng / to make relacioun	
[leaf 37, back] how his fellows had sped.	how his knyghtes / han on her iournè sped,	
	Euerich of hem / his lyf left for a wed,	2232
	And at the metyng / how they han hem born :	
	To tellen al / he surid was and sworn	
	To Tydeus / ful lowly on his kne.	
	By which ensample / 3e opynly may se	2236
	Ageynès* trouthe* / falshed hath no myght.	
¶ Hou trouth with lityl multi-	Fy on querilis / nat grounded vpon ri3t,	

2216. drowe Bo. drewe Du. drowen Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2217. *In Ar. there is a bar also before the second on, put there to distinguish the numeral on from the preposition.* 2217. wente Ad₁. went Bo. Ad₂. I. wenten M. Di. *In Ad₁. 2220 precedes 2219, but the copyist has observed his mistake, and corrected it by writing a before the latter and b before the former line: in Ad₂. I. the lines are right.* 2220. was not found in any MS. (see Notes). hem] ham Ar. 2221. yhurt] hurt M. Di. C. ywounded] wounded C. 2224. vale] valey L₁. Lb. E₂. lay] om. Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. (Ra.) Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. slayn(e) all the MSS. all the] all the hole Ba. T₂. E₂. 2227. han] had Ba. S. it han Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. E₁. it hadde Ad₁. Ad₂. I. had it M. Di. 2228. the] om. M. Di. which Ad₁. whiche Bo. M. 2229. of] of this Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. C. E₂. of his Ba. for this T₂. (of good Ra.) 2230. To] Vnto Ad₁. Ad₂. I. (Ra.) Ba. S. T₂. 2231. spedde with de underdotted Ar. 2232. Euerich] Éche M. Di. C. T₂. his lyf left] lefte his lyf L₂. (ther lif hathe left Ra.) for a] for Ap. to Ba. (Ra.) L₂. 2234. tellen] telle L₁. C. P. L₂. tell hym S. he] howe he P. sure] assured M. Di. Ba. C. T₂. P. E₂. om. T₁. and om. T₁. 2236. opynly] oonly Lb. om. S. (playnly Ra.) 3e opynly may] openly ye may M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. C. T₂. P. E₂. 2237. Ageyn Ar. Bo. Ad₁. trouthe Ad₁. trouth Ar. Bo. 2238. Fy] Figh E₂. quarels Bo. quarells Ad₁. quarellis Lb. querilis Ar. a quarell S. T₂. P. nat grounded vpon] grounded nat on Ad₁. Ad₂. I. (Ra.) Ba. S.

with-outē which* / may be no victorye*.		tude hath euere in the fyn vic- tory of falshede.
Therfor ech man / haue* this in memorye*,	2240	
That' gret' pouer / shortly to conclude,		
Plentē of good / nor mochē* multitude,		
Seleight' or engyne / fors / or felonye,		
Arn to feble / to holden Chanportye	2244	
Ageynēs* trouthē* / who that' list' take hede.		
For at' the ende falshede may not' spede		
Tendurē longe / 3e shul fynde it' thus.		
Record I take of worthy Tydeus,	2248	
which with his hand / thorgh trouthēs excellence,		The rest of the 50 Tideus slew
Fyfty knyghtēs / slogh in his dyffence,		
But' on except' / as I late* tolde,		
Sworn and assurēd with his honde vpholde,	2252	
The kyng' tenformē / how they wern atteynt.		
And Tydeus, of bledyng' wonder feynt,		Tideus, tho' bleeding and weary,
Maat' and very / and in gret' distresse,		
And ouerleyd / of verray feblenese ;	2256	
But' as he myght' / hym-silūē tho sustene,		
He took his hors / stondyng' on the grene,		mounts his horse and rides away.
Worthēd vp / and forth he gan to ryde		
An esy pas / with his woundēs wyde.	2260	
And Sothly / 3it' in his opynyoun		[leaf 38]
he was alway / afferēd of tresoun.		
But' anguysshous / and ful of bysy peyne		
He rode hym forth / til he did atteyne	2264	Tideus rides into the land of King Lyeurgus,
Into the boundēs / of lygurgus lond,		
A worthy kyng' / and manly of his hond.		

2239. which] woch Ar. whom G. victoyre (: memoire 2240) Ar. 2240. ech] enery Lb. haue Bo. M. Ad₁. ha Ar. 2242. moche Bo. M. Ad₁. moch Ar. 2243. Sleight Bo. and all, except Seleight Ar. E₁. fors or] force of Ba. (force eke or Ra.) 2245. Ageyns Ar. Bo. ageinst Ad₁. troupe Ad₁. trouth Ar. Bo. 2247. To endure Bo. M. Ad₁. longe Bo. M. Ad₁. 2250. slowe M. Ad₁. slewe Bo. 2251. late Bo. M. Ad₁. E₁. C. layt' Ar. (as I have latly tolde Ra.) 2253. tenforme Ad₁. to enfourme Bo. to enforme M. 2254. wonder] was wonder Du. 2257. hym-silue Ar. G. Ap. hymselfe E₁. S. (Ra.) him-self Bo. and the rest. tho] to G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. so L₁. Di. hym-silue tho] tho hymself C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. (he gan hym-selfe Ra.) 2258. Stondyng] (yat stode vpon Ra.). 2259. Worthēd vp] worchid vp (sic) S. (And vpp he lyght Ra.) to] om. Ad₂. I. 2262. aferde Bo. Ad₁. 2263. anguysshous Bo. M. anguisshous Ad₁.

- And he ful paal / only for lak of blood,
 Tydeus saugh / wher / a castel stood, 2268
- sees a castle,
 Strong^t and myghty / belt vpon a roche,
 Touar^t which / he faste gan approche,
 Convey^{ed} thider / be elrnesse of the ston,
 That^t be nyght^t ageyn the moon^e* shoⁿ, 2272
- ¶ How Tydeus,
 al forwounded,
 cam into ligur-
 gus lond.
- On hegh^e* toures / with crest^es marceyal.
 And Ioyneaut^t / almost^t to the wal
 was a gardyn / lityl out^t be syde,
 Into which / Tydeus gan ride, 2276
- rides into its
 garden,
- Of aventur^e / be a gat^e smal.
 And ther he fond / forto rekne al,
 A lusty herbere / vnto his devis,
 Soote and fress^h / lich a paradys, 2280
- dis mounts,
 Verray heuenly / of inspeccioun.
 And first^t of al / he alyghte doun,
 The goodly plac^e / whan that^t he byheld^t,
 And fro his nek / he voyded hath his shek^t, 2284
- lets his horse
 loose,
- Drogh the brydyl / from his horses hede,
 let^t hym goon /, and took no maner hede,
 Thorgh the gardyn / that^t enclosed was,
 Hym to pasture / on the gren^e* gras. 2288

In Ad₁, 2268 precedes 2267, but the copyist has marked the lines with b and a; Ad₂, and I. are right. 2269. bilt Po. M. Ad₁. bildid L₂. bylde P. (ybylt Ra.) Strong bilt and mighti Ad₁. Ad₂. I. vpon] in L₂. 2270. which] whome Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ba. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S (hom). (the whyche Ra.) faste Ad₁. E₁. fast Bo. M. he faste gan] fast he gan M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. he gan fast L₂. 2271. Conveyed M. Ad₁. Conveid Bo. 2272. ageyn] by M. Di. mone Bo. M. moone Ad₁. moon Ar. 2273. hegh Ar. hye Bo. M. his Lb. S. be Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2274. Ioyneaut Ar. L₂. Ap. ioynyng Bo. and all the rest, except Ioyned Ba. (adioynyng Ra.) 2275. lityl] a litil G. Di. I. 2276. which] whome Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. ye which S. (the whiche tho Ra.) gan] streight gan C. ride] to ride Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. 2278. rekene Bo. M. Ad₁. 2280. Soote Ar. Lb. Ba. S (Soote). C. T₂. P. L₂. Ap. (Full soote Ra.) Swote T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Sweet Bo. E₁. E₂. lich a] lich to a Ad₁. lyke to Ad₂. I. (much lyke Ra.) (2281 and 2282 omitted in Ra.) 2282. alyzt G. alighte M. Di. alight Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. lighte Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. P. lyghted E₁. donn] a-down Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. 2284. he] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. C. P. voyded] avoidid Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. hath] had Bo. Di. thanne T₂. 2285. drew Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. drew E₂. And drewe P. Drawe E₁. (And gote Ra.) the] his Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. horses Ar. (Ra.) horsys Ap. hors Bo. and all the rest. 2288. pasture Bo. M. Ad₁. 2288 and 2290. grene M. Ad₁. gren Ar. green Bo.

- And Tydeus / mor hevie than is led,
 Vpon the herbës / grenë,* whit, *and* red,
 As hym thoughte / that tyme for the best
 he leid hym doune / forto tak his rest, leaf 3S, back]
 Of werynessë / desirous to slepe, 2292 lies on the grass,
 And non awayt / his body forto kepe ;
 And with dremës / grocchëd euer amongt, and dreams till
the lark sings
 Ther he lay / til* the larkë songt 2296
 with notës newë / hegh vp in the ayr,*
 The gladë morowe / rody *and* right fayr,
 Phebus also, castingt vp his bemes, and the sun
rises ;
 The heghë* hyllës / gilte with his stremes, 2300
 The syluer dewe / vpon the herbës rounde ;
 Ther Tydeus lay vpon the groundt,
 At the vprist / of the shenë svnne,
 And stoundëmele* / his grenë* woundës rvnne 2304 but his wounds
bleed.
 Roundt about / that the soyl was* depeynt
 Of the grenë / with the redë meynt.
 And eury morowe / for hoolsomnesse of eyre*,
 Lygurgus doghter / makëd her repeyr, 2308 To this garden,
daily comes
Lycurgus's
daughter.
 Of custom ay / among the flourës newe
 In this gardyn / of many dyuerse hwe,
 Swich Ioyë haddë /, forto taken hede,
 On her stalkës / forto sen hem sprede, 2312
 In the Allurës / walkingt to *and* fro.
 And whan she hadde a litil whilë* goo

2293. desirous] desiringe P. to] for to Ad₂. I. P. (Ra.) 2294. forto] to Ad₁.
 Ad₂. I. 2295. grocched Ar. Du. M. Ap. grucehid Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. Di. Ba. C. T₂.
 gruchelid Ra (grutehed by later hand). grutehed E₁. gruggid L₂. gruded E₂.
 grughyng P. grucehe S. om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2295 is found twice in Ra., first
 written by the later hand as the last line on the back side of the fourth new leaf (see
 2099), then as the first line of the following original leaf. 2296. Ther] gruceching
 þere Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Til] to Ar. G. 2297. newe] om. Bo. hayr Ar. G. 2300.
 hegh Ar. hwe Bo. Ad₁. gilt Bo. gilstred Ad₂. I. 2303. shene Ad₁.
 sheen Bo. shene svnne] snne shene S. 2304. stoundemele T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di.
 Ra. C. T₂. P. stoundemell Ba. E₂. Ap. stoundmele Ar. Bo. L₁. Ad₁. E₁. L₂. in
 that while Ad₂. I. And swndell his wondes ron grene S. grene M. Ad₁. gren
 Ar. green Bo. 2305. that] om. Lb. was] om. Ar. G. E₁. C. T₂. P. L₂. Ap.
 (E₂). 2306. Of] Was of E₂. with the] with Ra. Ba. C. meynt] y-meynt Ad₁.
 Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. The rubric of Ar. has Barnrgus for Ligurgus. 2307. heyre
 Ar. G. 2308. makëd Ar. G. C. T₂. Ap. made (maad) Bo. and the other MSS.,
 except did make E₂. 2314. while Bo. Ad₁. whil Ar.

	her-self allonē* / casting ^t vp her sight,	
She sees a sleeping knight	She byheld ^t / wher an armēd knyght ^t lay to rest ^t hym / on the herbēs colde ; And hym besydē / she gan ek byholde	2316
his steed,	his myghty stedē / walkyng ^t her <i>and</i> ther.	
and his blood. [leaf 39]	And she anon / fille in a maner fer, Speceally whan she saugh ^t the blood Sprad al the grene / aboute ther she stood. ¶ But ^t at the laste / she kaught ^t hardynesse, And wommanly / gan her forto dresse	2320 2324
	Toward ^t this knyght ^t , havyng a manere drede And gret ^t doute lest ^t that ^t he were dede. And of her willē / sothly this was chief, That ^t she thoughte forto mak ^t a prief	2328
She touches him gently	how that ^t it ^t stood / of this man, ful ofte. And forth she gooth / and touchēd hym ful softe, Ther as he lay / with her hondes smale. And with a facē dedly / bleykt ^t , <i>and</i> pale,	2332
He starts up,	lich as a man adawēd / in a swogh ^t , Vp he stert ^t / and his swerd ^t he drogh ^t , Nat ^t fully out ^t / but put ^t it vp agey ⁿ	2336
	Ano ⁿ as he hath the lady sey ⁿ , Beseching hir ^t / only of her grace, To han pitē / vpon his trespace,	
and begs her to pity him.	And rewe on hym of her wommanhede. For of affray / he was falle in drede lest ^t he hadde / assaylēd ben of newe Of the thebaus / preuēd ful vntrewe ;	2340

2315. allone Bo. allon Ar. 2322. al] on Ad₁, Ad₂ I. C. T₂. P. E₂. ther] where M. Di. L₂. she] he L₁. om. P. 2324. gan] she gan Ad₁, Ad₂ I. Ra. Ba. S. her] om. Ba. forto] to S. 2328. forto] to Ad₁, Ad₂ I. Ra. Ba. S. prief Ar. E₂. prief Bo. M. Ad₁. prief L₂. prief Lb. Ba. ; Ar. has aprief. 2329. of] with G. 2331. Ther] Wher C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ap. And per Ad₁, Ad₂ I. Ra. Ba. S. 2333. as] om. Lb. Ra. Ba. E₁. adawed in] dawed in E₁. adawed of Lb. that dawed of Ad₁. that dawith of Ad₂ I. 2334. Vp he stert] He vpsterte C. T₂. E₂. second he] om. Lb. Ad₁, Ad₂ I. Ra. Ba. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. drogh] out drowe Ad₁, Ad₂ I. 2335. bit] om. Bo. 2340. of] om. Ra. Ba. fallen G. M. Di. C. T₂. Ba. falle Ar. Bo. and the rest. in a drede Ar. with a underdotted. 2341. had] om. M. Di. he hadde assayled ben] he hadde be assailed Ad₁, Ad₂ I. S. E₂. assayled he hadd be Ba. he assayled hadde be C. of] om. L₂. 2342. preued M. proued Bo. Ad₁. proude and I.

- For dred of which he was so rekköles,
 Ful humbly / hym zelding^t to the pes, 2344
 Tryst in hym-silf / he passöd hadde his boundes.
 And whan that she saugh his mortal woundes,
 She haddö routh / of verrey gentyllesse
 Of his desese / and of his distresse, 2348
 And bad he shulde / no-thing^t be dismayd,
 Nor in herte sorouful nor affrayd,
 Disconfort^t hym in no maner thing^t.
 [leaf 39, back]
 "For I," quod she / "am doghter to the kyng^t, 2352
 Callyd lygurge / which gretly me delyte
 Euery morowe / this gardyn to visyte ;
 It is to me so passingly disport^t."
 "Wherfor," quod she / "beth of good comfort^t ; 2356
 For no wight her / touchyng^t zour^t viage,
 Shal hynder zou / nor do zow no damage.
 And zif ze list^t / of al zour auenture
 The pleynö* trowth / vnto me discure, 2360
 I wil in soth / do my bysynesse
 To reforme / zoure greuous hevynesse
 with al my myght / and hool my dylygence ;
 That I hope of zoure gret offence 2364
 ze shal han helpe in zour aduersitè.
 And, as ferforth / as it lith in me,

She bids him not fear ;

[leaf 39, back]

she is the King's daughter ;

¶ How womanly the lady acquyt hir to Tydeus in his desese.

no one shall hurt him ;

she will see him righted.

2343. recheles M. Ad₁. rechles Bo. 2344. humbly Ar. Ap. humbly Ad₁. Di. T₂. humbly Bo. and the rest. hym zelding Ar. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. T₂. E₂. Ap. yeldyng him Bo. Du. G. and the rest. the] om. Ba. 2346. that] om. Du. 2348. and of] and Ad₁. Ad₂. I. C. E₂. and for L₁. distresse] grete distresse Lb. 2349. shulde Bo. Ad₁. shold M. no thing be Ar. G. Du. L₁. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. L₂. Ap. be no þing Bo. T₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₂. I. T₂. P. E₂. not be nothing C. dismayd] disamayd Ad₂. 2350. Nor . nor] Nor . ne Bo. T₁. M. Di. Ba. Nor . nother C. Ne . nor Lb. Ne . ne L₁. herte Ad₁. hert Bo. sorouful] ferful Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2353. which Ar. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. þat Bo. and the rest. 2354. morowe] mornyng Lb. Ba. morwning Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. this] the Ra. Ba. to] forto Ad₁. 2355. so] om. P. passingly] passyng L₁. Ad₂. I. P. 2356. beth] byth E₁. C. be S. be ye M. Di. 2358. hynder] nat hynder Ra. Ba. nor] ne Bo. T₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. zow no] om. Ra. Ba. no] om. G. 2360. pleyne L₁. Ra. Ad₂. I. pleyn Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. vnto Ar. G. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ap. to Bo. and the rest. 2362. reforme Bo. reforme M. Ad₁. 2363. hool my Ar. G. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. myn hool Bo. and the rest (my whole S.). 2365. shal Ar. Bo. Ra. E₁. shul M. Ad₁. C. aduersite] gret aduersite Ad₁. Ad₂. I.

Trusteth right^t wel / 3e shul no fautë fynde."[¶]

Tideus trusts her. And whan he saugh / that^t she was so* kynde, 2368
 So wommanly / so goodly, *and* benygne
 In al her poort^t / be many dyuers signe,
 He vnto hir^t / be ordre wold not^t spare

Tideus tells Lycurgus's daughter all his story. his auenturis / fully to declare, 2372
 In Thebës first^t touching^t his massage,
 And at* the hil / of the woodë* Rage,
 Of his woundës / and his hurtës sore
 (It were but^t veyn / to reherce it^t mor) 2376

¶ Hou Tydeus was refreshed in the castel of the lady. By and by he told her euery del,
 The which in soth / she likëd neuere a del,
 But^t haddë routh and compassionn
 Of his meschief / wrought^t be fals tresoun : 2380

[leaf 40] Byddyng in hast^t / that^t he shuld hir^t swe,
 And wommanly /, as her thoghte dwe,
 To a chambre / she ladde hym vp alofte,
 Ful wel beseyn /, ther-in a bed right^t softe 2384

She takes him to a soft bed, Richëly abouten apparayled
 With cloth of gold /, al the floor yrayled
 Of the samë / both in length *and* brede.
 And first this lady / of her wommanhede, 2388
 hir^t wymmen badde / as goodly as they kan,
 To be attendaunt^t on this wounded man.
 unarms him, And whan he was vnarmëd to his sherte,

2367. shul Ar. M. Ad₁. shal Bo. 2368. that] *om.* G. she] *om.* Du. so G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. *om.* Ar. Bo. *and all the rest.* that he was kyng E₁. 2369. so goodly] goodly Lb. benygne] so benigne Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. 2370. many] many a Du. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2371. wold] wol Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2374. atte the hil G. L₂. at hill Ba. E₂. al the hil Ar. Bo. *and all the rest, except* be hille L₁. all be wholl S. (*see Notes*). wode Bo. M. wood Ar. Ad₁. of the woode] of all be woode L₁. of the woodie E₂. of the worthy P. and the wood Ad₂. I. 2375. and his] and of his Bo. and E₁. 2379. hadde M. had Bo. Di. Ad₁. routh M. routh Bo. Ad₁. 2381. Shewe Lb (: dwe). 2384. Ful wel beseyn] *om.* Ad₂. I. ther-in] where inne Ad₂. I. bed] bed was Ad₂. I. right] ful Ra. S. 2385. abouten] aboute Bo. L₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. L₂. Ap. Richëly abouted aparaylid for the nones P. (*the last three words added with paler ink by later hand*). 2386. of gold] *om.* C. yrayled Ar. G. C. T₂. E₂. Ap. L₂ (eraylid). arayed Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ra. S. E₁ (I-rayed). Du (raied). Ba (auarrayhed). trayled Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2386 omitted in P; *the later hand has written in the margin: With Cürtent & hangynge Of Arras golde and stonys.* 2389. they Ar. G. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. she Bo. *and all the rest.* 2391. whan] *om.* Bo.

She madë first ^t wassh his woundës smerte,	2392	washes and dresses his wounds,
And serche hem wel / with dyuers instrumentes,		
And madë* fette / sondry oynëmentes,		
And leches ek / the beste she koude fynde,		
Ful craftëly to staunche hem / <i>and</i> to bynde.	2396	
And euery thing ^t / that ^t may do hym ease		
Taswage his peyn / or his woo tapese,		
Was in the courte / and in* the Castel sought ^t ,		
And by her byddyng / to his chambre brought.	2400	
And for his sakë / she hath after sent ^t		
For swich deyntees / as wern connenyent ^t ,		gives him dainties,
Moost nutrytyf / be phisikës lore,		
hem that ^t wern syk / or wounded / to restore,	2404	
Makyng her wymmen / ek to taken kep		and bids her women watch him.
And wayt ^t on hym / anyghtës whan he slep,		
And be wel war / that ^t no thing ^t asterte		
That was or myght ^t be / lusty to his herte.	2408	
¶ And with al this / she preiëd hym abyde		Tidesus, tho askt to stop at Lycurgus's castle,
Til he were strong ^t / <i>and</i> myghty forto ride,		[leaf 40, back]
In the castel to pley hym / <i>and</i> disporte,		
And at ^t leysere / hom ageyn resorte	2412	
whan he myght ^t bywelde hym at his large.		
But ^t al for nought ^t / : he wil hom to Arge,		will go home to Argos.
Toke his lyeve on the nexte day,		
With-out ^t abood / to hast ^t hym on his way,	2416	
lowly thankyng ^t / vnto her goodnesse		

2392. wassh Bo. wasshe M. Ad₁. In Ar. a pause-bar after wassh. 2394. made Bo. M. Ad₁. mad Ar. fette M. Ad₁. fett Bo. 2395. leches] leche T₂. she] þat she Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. 2396. Ful] And ful Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. to staunche hem] to staunchen hem Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. did hem staunch Ra. Ba. to bynde] binde Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 2396 omitted in P., but And caused theym his woundes to bynde written in the margin by later hand. 2398. Taswage Ar. To aswage Di. L₂. to swage Bo. and the rest. tapese Ar. Bo. and all, except to apese S. P. L₂. to pese Ap. L₁. To swage his wo & peyne to pease L₁. 2399. courte] contre Ad₂. I. in the Castel] in om. Ar. Ba. Ap. 2404. hem] to hem Ad₁. Ad₂. I. wern Ar. were Bo. and the rest. to restore] sore T₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2409. preiëd Ar. praid Bo. M. Ra. praid Ad₁. abyde] to abide Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. 2413. bywelde] biwilde Di. S. bewelde Lb. welde Ba. at his] to his Bo. at Lb. 2415. nexte Ad₁. nexste Di. next Bo. 2417. thankyng] towchyng T₂. vnto] to P. hir of Ad₂. I. goodnesse] greet goodnesse M. Di. goodlynesse T₂. worthynesse Ro.

- Of her fredam / and bountövous largesse,
 So wommanly that hir' list taken * hede
 Hym to refressh in his grette nede, 2420
 Beheestyng hir' / with al his fullü* myght,
 He woldë* be hir *sernaunt* / *and* hir knyght,
 Whyl he leuth, of what she wold hym charge.
- ¶ Hou Tydeus re-
 peyred hym to
 Arge al for-
 woundyd.
- And forth he rood / til he cam to Arge 2424
 In ful gret hast / and woldë nowher dwelle.
 But what shuld I rehercen owther telle
 Of his repeer / the coostës or the pleyns,
 The craggy Roches / or the hegh mounteyns, 2428
 Or al the maner / of his hoom-coömynge,
 Of the metyngt / or* the welcoömynge,
 Nor the Ioyë / that Adrastus made,
 His wife clasps Nor how his sustre / *and* his wif were glade? 2432
 Nor how that they /, wherto* shuld I write,
 him in her arms. Embracëd hym / in her Armës white,
 Nor the gadryngt / about hym / *and* the pres
 Polynices grieves to see him wounded. Nor of the sorowe / that Polymytës 2436
 Mad in hym-silf / to sen hym so forwounded,*
 his greuous hurtes / his soorys / ek vnsounded,
 His dedly look / and his facë pale?
 (Of alle this / to gynne a newë tale 2440
 [leaf 41] It were in soth / a maner ydylnesse)

2418. and] and of hir Bo. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. E₁. S. and her T₁. L₁. largesse] largenes L₁. and largenese (*sic*) T₂. 2419. tak Ar. Ad₁. take G. L₁. *and the rest, except* to take Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. (*cp.* 2311). 2420. refressh (refresshe) Ar. *and all*. 2421. Beheestyng Ar. Ra. Beheestyng Bo. Ba. Ap. By-hestyng G. Bihotyng T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. Be-hetyng L₁. I. Beseehyng L₂. Ro. ful (full) Ar. G. Bo. *and all, except* hol Ad₁. hoole Ad₂. I. 2422 *and* 2423. wolde Bo. M. Ad₁. wold Ar. wyl G. and hir] and Ra. knyght] trew knyght M. Di. Ba. C. T₂. P. E₂. 2426. what] wherto M. Di. owther Ar. Bo. other M. Ad₁. or more Ad₂. I. 2427. his] þis Bo. or] oþer Ad₁. 2430. or] nor Ar. G. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. or the] or of þe Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. L₂. 2431. Nor] For Di. Ba. Ne L₁. Lb. 2432. Nor] Ne L₁. Lb. P. and] ne Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. E₁. T₂. P. nor Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. C. L₂. or Ra. Ba. E₂. were] was T₂. P. 2433. Wherto] Wherfor Ar. write] it write Ba. *In* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. *the second halves of 2433 and 2434 are transposed, that of 2434 being tacked on to the former half of 2433 and vice versa*. 2435. Nor] Ne Lb. P. hym] *om.* Bo. and] nor Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. C. T₂. L₂. ne E₁. P. or E₂. in Ra. Ba. 2436. of] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. sorowe] gret sorwe C. 2437. so] *om.* S. P. E₂. L₂. forwounded] soor wounded Ar. G. Du. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. P. E₂. sor forwoundid L₂.

- Nor how hym-silf in ordre did expresse
 First how that he in Thebës hath hym born,
 Nor how the kyng^t / falsly was forsworū, 2444
 Nor of the awayt^t / nor tresoun that he sette,
 whan fyfty knyghtës / on the way hym mette,
 As 3e han her^t / al the manere howe,
 With-oute which / my tale is long^t ynowe. 2448
- ¶ But Adrastus / madë* men to seche Adrastus gets
doctors
 In euery Coost^t / for many diuerse leche,
 To come in hast^t / and make no taryng^t,
 Vpon a peyne / be biddyng^t of the kyng^t, 2452
 To don her craft^t / that he wer recured
 And of his force / in euery part assured.
 And they echon / so her konnyng^t shewe
 That, in space / of a daiës fewe, 2456 who soon cure
Tydeus,
 He was al hool / maad of his siknesse.
 Tho was ther Ioye : *and* tho was ther gladnesse to every one's
delight.
 Thorgh-out^t the courte / *and* thorgh-out^t al the touū.
 For euery man / hath swich opynyoun 2460
 In Tydeus / for his gentyllesse,
 For his manhood and his lowlynesse,
 That he was holde / the moste famous knyght^t
 And best^t byloued / in euery mannys sight^t 2464
 Thorgh-oute grece / in euery Regioun.
 But now most^t I / make a digressioun, But I must
now turn to
 To tellë shortly / as in Sentement^t,
 Of thilke knyght / that Tydeus hath sent^t 2468 the knight
whom Tydeus
sent to Thebes.
 Into Thebës / only to declare
 The grete meschief / *and* the euil fare

2444. Nor] And P. was] is Ad₁. om. Ad₂. I. 2445. the awayt Ar. Bo. M. thawaite C. þe waite Di. await (om. the) Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2449. made Bo. Ad₁. maad Ar. 2455. konnyng] konnynges Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. E₁. 2456. space] the space C. a daies fewe] dayes fewe T₁. L₁. Lb. Ad₁ (daies a fewe). Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. C. P. L₂. Ro. 2457. al hool] alhool Ar. hole T₁. 2458. and Ar. G. C. T₂. P. E₂. Ap. om. Bo. and the rest. ther. ther] her. her. L₂. Ro. 2459. and thorgh-out] and thorgh M. Ad₁. 2462. his manhood] manhod of him Ad₁. Ad₂. I. and his] and Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2463. moost Bo. most M. Ad₁. moste Du. Di. I. 2466. Ar. has a second pause-bar after make. digressioun] digressioun I. 2468. thilk Ad₁. thilke Bo. 2470. gret Ad₁. grete Bo. 2471 in Ar. begins with In w Vnto, the first two underdotted.

[leaf 41, back]	Vnto the kyng ^t / how it is befallē,	
	The opyn trouth / of his knyghtēs alle,	2472
Eteocles, on hearing that his 50 knights were slain,	how Tideoles hath slayn hem euerychoñ,	
	That ^t , sauf hym-silf / ther eskapēd noñ :	
	which was reserued / from sheding* of his blood,	
	The kyng ^t to tellē pleyñly how it stood.	2476
	And whan he hadde rehersed euery poynt ^t ,	
is nearly mad with rage.	Ethiocolos stood / in such disioynt ^t	
	Of hatful Irē that ^t he wex nye wood.	
Eteocles	And in his tene / and his fellē mood,	2480
	Of cruel malys / to the knyght ^t he spak,	
says his knights were cowards,	And felly seidē* / that ^t it was for lak	
	Only of manhood / thorgh her cowardys,	
¶ How Ethiocolos was asstonyed whan he herd þe deth of his knyghtes.	That thei wern slayn / in so mortal wyse.	2484
	“ And hangēd be he / highē* by the nekke	
	That ^t of 3our deth / or of 3our ^t slaughter Rekke,	
	Or 3ou compleyn / outhere* on or aH,	
	Of the meschief / that is 3owe befaH.	2488
	I do no force / that ^t non of 3ou asterte.	
	But ^t fye vpon 3our falsē* couard ^t herte,	
to let one man kill 50 of em.	That on knyght ^t hath, thorgh his hegh renoun,	
	Brought 3ow aH into* confusioun,	2492
	Ful gracēles / and ful vnhappy to.”	
The survivor answers that	“ Nay,” quod this knyght ^t , “ it ^t is no-thing* so.	

2475. which Ar. G. C. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. That Bo. and the rest. from (fro)] for Di. Ba. sheding] the sheding Ar. G. 2478. stood] stood thanne Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 2479. that] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₂. wex Ar. G. Lb. Di. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₂. Ro. waxe Bo. M. Du. Ad₁. E₁. S. C. T₂. L₂. wyxe Ap. waxte L₁. was T₁. nye] nere Ba. L₂. Ap. 2480. and] and in L₁. Lb. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. L₂. Ro. felle Ar. Bo. M. fel Ad₁. ful Ra. felle] om. S. 2482. seide Ad₁. Bo. seid Ar. 2485—2672 lost in T₂. 2485. be he] he be Ba. highe E₂. hye Bo. M. Ad₁. high Ar. highe] om. S. hanged] y-honged Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 2486. of 3our deth] your deth Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2487. outhre Bo. other M. Di. othre Du. oythe Ar. 2488. is 3owe] is on you M. Di. now is L₁. befall] fall Lb. 2489. that] though Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. though þat Ad₁. asterte] astart (:hert) S. 2490—2580 lost in Ba. 2490. fals coward Ar. M. Ad₁. fals cowarde Bo. 2491. That] Tha Ar. on] of o with of underdotted Ad₁. of oo Ad₂. I. hath] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. L₂. Ro. hegh] om. Ra. E₂. renoun] resoun Ra. 2492. Brought] hath brought Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. into T₁. Du. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. S. in Ar. G. E₁. P. E₂. Ap. to Bo. Lb. M. Di. I. L₂. Ro. vnto C. 2494. nothing] not Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S.

It is thyn vnhappe / pleynly, <i>and</i> not oures,		Eteocles him- self
That so many worthy werreoures,	2496	
Which al her lif / neuer haddē shame,		
Except this quarel / taken in thy name,		
That grounded was / and rooted on falsnesse :		
This was cause / in <i>verray</i> sikernesse,	2500	was the cause of their mishap : (leaf 42)
Of our' vnhappe / I woot wel, <i>and</i> non other,		
And the vntrouthē* / don vnto thy brother,		
And that thow were / so opynly forsworū :		
A parcel causē why that we wer lorū	2504	
was fals brekyngē / of thyn assurēd oth."		he broke his oath.
And tho the kyngē / almost mad for wroth,		
In <i>purpoos</i> was forto slee this knyght,		
Only for he seidē to hym right,	2508	
The which allas / both at eue <i>and</i> morowe,		This knight, in a fit of sorrow and despair,
Supprisēd was / with a dedly sorowe,		
Renewēd ay, in his remembraunce,		
With the pitous / and vnhappy chaunce	2512	
Of the meschief / and mysaventure,		
Touching the deth / and disconfiture		
Of his feeres / and of hym-silf also :		
That the shamfast / in-portable wo	2516	
So frat on hym / with such a mortal stryf		
That he was wery / of his ownē lif ;		
Hent a swerd / and a-sidē sterte,		drives a sword into his own heart.
And rove hym-silf euen to the herte,	2520	

2495. pleynly] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. pleynly and] and pleynly Ra. 2497. had Bo. 2499. on] in Bo. L₁. E₁. L₂. Ap. and rooted on] vpon Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2500. cause] the cause Du. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. sikernesse] sewerresse S. sothnesse C. P. E₂. 2502. vntrouth Ar. Bo. 2504. A] And Lb. C. P. E₂. Ro. Ap. parcel] percēll E₁. E₂. that] *om.* M. Di. lorn] forlorn Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. E₁. S. E₂. Ap. 2508. to Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. vnto M. *and the rest.* 2509. in Ar. *above* which is *written* i. miles in *smaller letters.* both] *om.* M. Di. 2512. pitous] poyntes G. 2513. and] and the G. I. 2514. and] and the Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. E₁. S. P. of the I. 2515. his] alle his Ad₁. Ad₂. I. feeres Ar. Bo. feers M. Ad₁. felowes S. *second* of *om.* S. Ro. silf] *om.* Du. Ad₂. 2516. importable Bo. M. Ad₁. 2517. So] *om.* Ro. frat] fret L₁. M. Di. S. Sat Ro. was E₂. that L₂. on] *om.* M. Di. Ad₂. hym] *om.* Ad₂. 2519. Hent] He hent G. L₁. Ra. C. Hent he hath E₂. Thurgh the whiche he hent P. Foke he S. a-side] a-sid Ad₁. asiden L₁. *om.* P. sterte] a-sterre Di. a-start S. 2520. roue Bo. M. rof Ad₁. And the poeple nad be ta ryven thoruh (therewith I.) his herte Ad₂. I.

	¶ The kyngt hym-silf / beyngt tho presentt ; That the rumour / and the noys is wentt Thorgh-oute Thebes / of* the woodē* rage,	
The friends of the dead knights	Be swich as werē* / Ioyned by lynage To the knyghtēs / slayē* at the hille ; That aH atonys / of oon herte <i>and</i> wille,	2524
want to take vengeance on Eteocles,	They woldē han rysē / thorgh-out the Citē, Vpon the kyngt / avenged forto be,	2528
but the lords	But the barouns / and lordēs of the touz	
[leaf 42, back]	Ful busy wern / this Rumour to dysesse,	
quiet them.	Of high prudence / to stynten and appese, In quyete / euery thyngt to sette.	2532
The corpses	And after that the bodyes hom they fette Of the knyghtēs / lik as 3e han herde, Aforn yslawē / with the bloddy swerde	2536
	Of Tydeus / ful sharpē whet and grounde. And in the felde / so as they hem founde, Only of loue / and affeccioum,	
are brought to Thebes,	Solemnpnely* they broght hem into touz. And, lik the maner / of her rytis olde,	2540
burnt,	They weren first brent / into Asshes colde,	
and buried.	Euerich buryed / lich to his degrē.	

2521. beyng Ar. beyng tho] tho being Ad₁, so beyng Ad₂, I. 2522. The] om. L₁. rumour] Iniurye I. is] om. Di. Ad₁, Ad₂, I. it L₁. Ra. 2523. Thorgh-oute] Thorgh C. P. E₂. Through-oute all E₁. of] and Ar. G. L₁, Ad₁, Ad₂, I. Ra. E₁, S. L₂, Ro. Ap. wode Bo. M. Ad₁. wood Ar. 2524. wern Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. 2525. slayen] slayn(e) *all the MSS.* 2527. ryse Ar. G. Ap. C. rysen Bo. T₁, M. Ad₁, E₁. resen Ra. arisen E₂. thorgh-out] thorough M. Di. P. through-oute all E₁. 2528. forto] to haue Ad₁, Ad₂, I. 2530. lordes] þe lordes Bo. T₁, Lb. M. I. E₁, S. C. 2531. besy Bo. M. Ad₁. diseese Bo. M. Ad₁. 2534. the bodyes hom they] home þe bodies they M. Di. 2535. herde] redde Ad₂, I. 2536. yslawe Ar. G. Bo. Du. Lb. Ad₁, Ad₂, I. Ra. Ap. eslaw L₂. slawe T₁, M. Di. slayn C. yslayne P. E₂. 2537. sharpe Ar. Du. Lb. P. sharp Bo. G. T₁, M. Ad₁, Ra. C. E₂, L₂, Ro. whet] whittid Ra. ; S has Iwhett full sharp and grounde. 2538. so] om. Lb. Ad₂, I. 2539. and] and of L₁, M. Di. Ad₁, Ad₂, I. Ra. E₁, S. C. P. E₂, L₂. 2540. Solempnely Lb. Di. Ad₁, I. Ra. E₁, E₂, L₂, Ap. solemnely Ad₂. solemnly G. Bo. Du. M. L₁ (solempnye). Solemply Ar. T₁, S. C. P. Ro. into] into þe Bo. T₁, Du. L₁, M. Di. Ad₁, Ra. S. C. L₂. to the Lb. Ad₂, I. E₁, P. E₂. 2541. lik] lik to Ad₁, Ad₂, I. her] the M. Di. C. L₂. rytes M. rightes Bo. right L₂. 2542. were Bo. M. Ad₁. 2543. Euerich] And euerich Ad₁, Ad₂, I. And eche one E₂. Euery man Lb. buryed] I-buried E₁, E₂.

Lo her kalendys / of aduersité,	2544	Ruin is to fall on king and realm,
Sorowe vpon sorowe / and destruccioun,		
First of the kyngt / and aþ the Regyoun ;		
For lak oonly / lik as I 3ow tolde,		
That biheestës / trewly wern not holde :	2548	as troth was not kept.
þe Firste grounde / and Roote of this Ruyme,		
As the story / shal clerly determyne,		
And my tale / her-after shal 3ow lere,		
3if that 3ow list / the remenaunt for to here.	2552	

¶ Explicit Secunda pars

Joh Lydgate

¶ Incipit pars Tercia

2544. kalendys] þe kalendes Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. C. P. E₂.
is þe kalendes L₁. 2546. and] and after Lb. all] om. Bo. of S. Ro. the] his
L₁. 2548. were Bo. M. Ad₁. 2549. þe] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁.
Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. ; in Ar. þe is written before the line. first Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra.
2552. that] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. C.

[leaf 43]

¶ Tercia Pars.

Why, Mars,	<p>O Cruel Mars / ful of maleneolye, 2553 And of thy kynde hoot' / combust', and drye, (As the sperkles* / shewën fro so ferre, By the stremës / of þⁱ redë sterre, 2556</p>
were you so wroth with men of Thebes,	<p>In thy spere / as it' aboute gothi what' was causë / that' thow were so wrothi with hem of Thebës? / thorgh whoos feruent' Ire</p>
whose city was burnt thru hate,	<p>The Citè brent' and was sette a-fyre, 2560 As bookës oldë / wel rehercë konne, Of Cruel hatë / rooted and begynne, And engendred /, the story maketh mynde, Only of blood / corrupt' and vnkynde, 2564</p>
from Original Sin?	<p>Bynfeccioun / callëd Orygynal, Causyng' a strif / dredful and mortal, Of which the meschief / thorgh al grecë Ran.</p>
King Adrastus resolves to con- quer Thebes.	<p>And kyng Adrastus / alderfirst' began, 2568 which hath hym cast' / a conquest' for to make vpon Thebës / for polymytës sake, In knyghtly wisë / ther to preve his myght', Of ful entent' / to recure his right'. 2572</p>
He calls a parliament	<p>And first' of al he sette a parlement',</p>

2554. thy] *om.* Bo. G. C. þe L₁. 2555. spereles Bo. T₁. Du. E₁. S. sparkles M. Ad₁. and the rest, except sperkes Ar. G. I. fro so ferre] from the fire Ra. 2556. þi Ar. G. thy L₂. Ro. Ap. the Bo. and the rest. 2557. thy] þe L₂. Ad₁. I. Ra. L₂. 2558. cause] þe cause Di. L₂. Ro. that] *om.* Ra. P. L₂. Ro. 2560. The] Te Ar. brent and was] was brent and Ad₁. Ad₂. I. brent was and Lb. E₂. a-fyre] on fyre Du. L₁. Lb. Ra. E₂. L₂. 2565. Bynfeccioun] By enfecceion Du. Bo (enfenciou). M. T₁. Ad₁. 2569. Which] That Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. hath] *om.* L₁. forto] to M. Di. 2571. his] her Ad₁. Ad₂. I. ther S. 2572. recure] rekouere Du.

And hath his <i>lettres</i> / <i>and</i> <i>massagerës</i> sent		
Thorgh-outë <i>Grece</i> / to many <i>sondry kyngges</i> ,		of kings,
hem to <i>enhast</i> / <i>and</i> makë no <i>lettyngges</i> .	2576	
And <i>rounde about</i> /, as <i>maad</i> is <i>mencioun</i> ,		
he sent also / to many <i>Regyouu</i>		
For <i>Fryncës</i> / <i>Dukës</i> / <i>lordys</i> , and <i>barouns</i> ,		dukes, lords, etc.
To taken <i>vp</i> / in <i>Citees</i> and <i>in touns</i> ,	2580	
And <i>chesen out</i> / the <i>moste liklyest</i> ,		
And <i>swich</i> as <i>werën</i> * / <i>preuël</i> for the <i>best</i> '		
As of <i>manhode</i> / and <i>sende</i> * hem <i>vp ection</i> ,		[leaf 43, back]
And in her <i>houde</i> / <i>receyve</i> her <i>pay anon</i> ,	2584	All are to go to Thebes with Adrastus.
with <i>Adrastus</i> to <i>Thebës</i> <i>forto ryde</i> .		
And tho <i>lordës</i> / <i>that</i> with <i>hym abyde</i>		¶ The grete par-ueaunce of kyng Adrastus touard Thebes.
In <i>houshold stillë</i> / <i>han</i> her <i>levë take</i> ,		
To <i>ryden hom</i> / her <i>retenue</i> to <i>make</i>	2588	The court-lords go home for
In <i>ther contrees</i> / as they <i>wern</i> of <i>degrè</i> ,		
To <i>stuffen</i> hem / and taken <i>vp meynè</i>		
And <i>make</i> hem <i>stronge</i> / with <i>kynghtës</i> <i>and</i> <i>snyers</i> ,		men and arms,
with <i>sperës</i> / <i>bowës</i> / and with <i>ablasters</i> ,	2592	
In al the <i>hast</i> possible / <i>that</i> they may,		
And to <i>retourne</i> / in <i>their</i> best' <i>aray</i> ,		
At' <i>termë sette</i> , <i>ful manly</i> to be <i>seyn</i> ,		to muster soon

2575. Thorgh-oute] Thorough Bo. M. Di. C. P. E₂. Greece] alle Greece Ad₂. I. to] vnto Ad₁. Ad₂. I. many] many a Ra. kyngges] kyng Ra. kyngges in Ar. was first written kynggs, then e put above the line between g and s, with the usual mark of insertion (two converging strokes) under the line. 2578. to] into Ad₁. Ad₂. I. many Ar. Bo. T₁. M. E₁. Ro. Ap. many a Du. L₁. Di. and the rest. 2581. chesen Ar. G. Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. chese Di. S. L₂. Ro. to chesen C. E₂. to chese P. the] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. most Ar. G. M. Ad₁. moost Bo. moste Du. Ra. Ba. liklyest] semblyeste Ro. 2582. swich] which G. weren T₁. Lb. I. wern Ar. G. Du. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. weryn Ra. were Bo. and the rest. preued] proued Bo. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. C. 2583. As] And Ad₁. Ad₂. I. sende E₁. S. C. P. E₂. send Ad₂. I. savde Ar (seems to be altered from saide). sande Bo. Du. G. sonde Di. soude T₁. M. sovde Lb. sowde L₂. Ap. sowede Ro. sanded Ad₁. sowlid Ra. Ba. wage I₁. hem] om. Ad₂. I. 2586. And] And how L₁. tho Ar. G. C. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. pe Bo. and the rest. 2589. ther Ar. Ro. þeir Bo. ther T₁. Du. Ba. E₁. L₂. Ap. the Ra. P. her M. and the rest. 2590. stuffen] sustene C. P. E₂. and] and to Ra. Ba. S. C. to L₁. M. Di. E₁. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. taken Ar. Ad₂. I. Ap. make S. take Bo. and the rest. meyne] money Ba. 2592. second with] om. L₁. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. C. P. E₂. ablasters Ar. Bo. arblasters Ad₁. Ra. Ro. ablastyrs Ap. arblastyres Lb. Ad₂. Ba. arblastres E₁. S. arwblasters M. arowblasters C. Ar. has a bar also between with and speres. 2594. to] om. Di. Ba. retourne Ar. Bo. and all. their Ar. Ba. S. L₂. Ap. Ro (ther). her Bo. and the rest. 2595. At] At the Lb.

at Argos.	To-foru Argë / mostren in a pleyn.	2596
The kings who come are Pro- tonolope,	¶ And as I rede / ful worthy of degre Thider cam first / protonolopë, The which was, be recorde of wryting, Of Archada / sonë to the kyngt.	2600
Cilmythenes,	¶ And ful prudent found in werre <i>and</i> pees Ther came also / the kyngt Cylmythenës.	
Ipomedon,	¶ And as I fynde / ful famous of renoun Thyder cam ek / the kyngt ypemedoun.	2604
Capaneus,	¶ And passing aH / of knyghthode <i>and</i> of name, And excelleng / by worthynesse of fame, The noble kyng / callyd Campaneus, kam ek to Argë / the story telleth vs, Proued ful wel / and haddë ryden ferre.	2608
Meleager, etc.	¶ And thider kam the kyngt Meleager, ¶ Kyng Genor ek / that helde his Royal sete, Myn Autour seiþ / in the lond of Crete ;	2612
[leaf 44]	¶ Kyngt Laëris <i>and</i> the kyngt Pyrrus *, And ek the kyngt / callëd Tortolanus. And renomèd in many regyouu	

¶ The kyngges
and princes
that cam with
Adrastus.

2596. mostren Ar. Du. Ad₁. moostre M. moustren E₁. mustren T₁. mustre Ra. monstren Bo. mostren] to mvster L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. P. L₂. Ro. in] on Ra. Ba. P. L₂. Ro. a] þe L₂. Ro. 2598. protonolope] Prothonolope Bo. Lb. M. Ad₁. C. Äp. Prothonolphe L₁. partonolope P. protholonope I. Protholope Du. drothonolope S. 2599. whiche Bo. M. which Ar. Ad₁. 2600. Archada Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Arehadye M. Ad₁. Archadie L₂. Archade Ra. E₂. to] vnto Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. P. E₂. 2602. Cylmythenes Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. Cylmythenes Ro. Sylmythenes L₂. Clymythines I₁. Cilmyehenes C. Ap. Gilmiethenes E₂. P. Cilmynthes Lb. Cylmythens G. Thilmythenes Ra. Thillmethenes Ba. 2604. ypemedoun Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. Ypomedoun Lb. M. C. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. Ipomodoun Di. Epymedon Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. Epimidoun L₁. Opimodon Ra. Opymodoun Ba. of Epemedoun I. 2607. Campaneus] Capaneus Ad₁. of Capaneus Ad₂. I. Camphaneus Ra. 2608. vs] þus G. C. 2609. Proued Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. Proued Ap. Probyn L₂. Provided L₁. and] om. M. had Bo. M. Ad₁. hadde] hath T₁. and hadde ryden ferre] in many a degre Ra. in many agree Ba. 2610. And] om. Ra. Ba. kam] come eke M. Di. Ra. Ba. C. Melleager] Melliager Lb. Melleagerre Du. Melliacher P. Mclergerr L₂. Melliagre Ra. Melliogree Ba. 2611. Genor] tenor Ra. Ba. Gover L₂. Ro. sete] Cite Ra. Ba. se C. E₂. 2612. seiþ] telleth Lb. Crete] grete T₁. Ra. Ba. greece P. E₂. 2613. Laeris Ar. G. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. E₁. L₂. Layeris Bo. Layeres Ro. laerus Ra. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. Laierus Ba. layers Ap. loeris C. E₂. loers P. laeris Lb. Pyrrus] of Pyrrus Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. pernonne P (*altered, on crasure*). 2614. called] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Tortolanus] Tortalanus Ad₂. Tortolonus E₂. tortolomus C. Tortolonyus Ro. Tortelows L₂. Tartalonne P. 2615. renomèd] wel renomèd M. Di. many] many a Du. L₁. Lb. P. E₂.

Ther cam the kyng / ynaméd palemonn,	2616	
Oft assayed / and found a manly knyght,		
That with hym broght / in steel y-arméd* bright,		
Ful many worthy / out of his cuntrè.		
¶ And Tideus / most knyghtly forto se,	2620	Tideus sends
That manly man / that noble werreyour,		
As he that was / of worthynessè flour,		
Maister and myrour / by prouesse of his hond,		
hath sent also into the myghty lond	2624	
Of Calcedoyne / of which he was hayr,		into Chalcedon
That is a kyngdam / bothè* riche and fayr,		
Chargyng his counsale / and officers also,		
In al the hast / that it may be do,	2628	
To seken out / the beste werreyours,		for its best warriors
Of famous knyghtes / and preuéd sawdyours,		
Thorgh al the lond / and layde on hem this charge		
With-oute aboode / forto come to arge.	2632	to come to Argos.
And they obeye / ful* lowly his biddyngt,		
Enhastyngt hem / and madè* no lettyngt,		
But spedde hem fast / vppon her iournè.		
And fro Thebès / the myghty strong Citè,	2636	From Thebes come many
kam doune knyghtes / with many another man,		
Maugrè the kyngt / to helpè* what they Can,		
Considred first / his falshed and tresoun,		
Ymeued only / of trowth and of resoun,	2640	

2616. Ther] Thider L₁. Ro. ynamed] named Lb. C. I-callid L₁. ecallid L₂. called M. Di. Ad₂. I. E₂. Ro. palemonn] Palamon Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. L₂. Polemon E₁. Palemeoun G. 2617. assayed Ar. T₁. M. Ad₁. E₁. assaid Bo. G. Du. L₁. Ra. Ap. found] I-found E₁. 2618. y-armed] armed Ar. Bo. and the rest. 2622. flour] þe flour Du. I. 2624. into] to Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2625. Calcedoyne] Caleydoyne Du. Ad₁. Ad₂. Caleydown L₂. Caleydonye I. Ro. Calydonye E₁. of which] wherof E₁. 2626. kyngdom Bo. M. Ad₁. bothe Bo. M. C. both Ar. Ra. om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2627. counseile Bo. 2628. haste Bo. hast M. Ad₁. 2629. seken] seke S. L₂. beste Lb. Ap. best Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. worthy Di. werriours Bo. werriouris T₁. warreiors Ra. 2630. preued Ar. T₁. Du. P. Ap. proude Ba. best L₂. Ro. proued Bo. and the rest. sawdyours Ar. E₁. Ap. soudeours Bo. M. Ad₁. 2631. al] om. C. this] þe Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 2633. obeye Ar. Bo. and the rest, except obeyd L₁. Ra. Ba. P. obeyed Ad₁. Ad₂. I. ful] shal Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. E₁. S. all Ra. Ba. om. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. lowly] om. M. Di. E₁. Ar. has a second pause-bar after shal. 2634. mad Ar. make M. Di. L₂. made Bo. and the rest. 2635. fast Bo. M. Ad₁. 2636. myghty strong] stronge and myty Di. 2638. helpe M. Ad₁. help Ar. Bo.

- to help Poly-
neices, ¶ Polymytēs / as they were sworn of 3ore,
To his Croune / Iustly to restore :
- [leaf 44, back] And whan they weren at' large out' of the touñ,
Vnto Argē / they be descendid douñ, 2644
And, lik her oth* / and her assurance,
As they wern bounde / only of lygeaunce,
To hym they Cam / in ful lowly wise,
Redy to doñ / what' hym list' devise. 2648
And whan he hadde / her trouthe* ful conceyued,
He hath to gracē / goodly hem receyued,
Assignyng' hem / her placē mydde the hoste,
Assembled ther / from many diuerse coste : 2652
That' fynaly / in this companye
ygadred was / the floure of Chyvalrye
Ychosen out' of al grekēs lond
The most' knyghtly / and manful of her hond : 2656
That' I trowē, sith the world began,
Ther was not' seyn / so many manly man,
So wel horsēd / with sper and with sheld,
To-gydre assembled / sothly, in a feld. 2660
Ther men may see many straungē guyses
Of Armyng' newe / and vncouth devyses,
Euery man / after his fantasye ;
To tell you all their new and
quaint arms That 3if I shuk' / in ordre specifice 2664
Euery pes / longyng' to armure,
And ther-vpon / do my bysye cure,
would be a day's
work, It' wer in soth / almost a dayēs werk ;
2641. they] *om.* Bo. 2642. crowne Bo. M. Ad₁. to] hym M. Di. E₂. hym to C.
2644. Vnto Ar. G. C. P. E₂. And to L₂. Ro. Into Bo. *and the rest.* 2645. lik]
om. Bo. oth] both Ar. and her] and T₁. 2646. bounde Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra.
boundyn L₂. 2647. Cam] cause M. Di. 2648. Redy] godely C. Lowly E₂.
what] that Ra. hym] it M. Di. list] *om.* S. hym list] he wold L₂. Ro. devise]
to devise T₁. Du. I₁. M. Di. E₁. S. 2649. hadde] hath Ad₁. Ad₂. I. tronthe
T₁. M. trouthe Ar. Bo. Ad₁. ful] wel Bo. L₂. Ro. fully Du. I₁. M. Di. C.
2650. goodly hem] hem goodly Ad₁. Ad₂. I. them godly S. 2653. fynaly]
fully M. Di. this] his L₂. Ro. 2654. ygadred] Ther gadred L₂. Ro. gaderd
C. M. 2655. Ychosen] Ichose Lb. Chosen T₁. C. Ichosen was Ra. al] the Lb.
2656. manful] manly M. Di. 2659. with sper] and with spere Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
second with *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. 2661. may] might Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S.
C. P. E₂. mowe Lb. men may] myhte men Ra. Ba. gyses Bo. M. Ad₁.
2662. of Armyng' newe] or armoure new Du.

- And the termës also ben to derk, 2668
 To reherce hem clerly *and* to Ryme :
 I passe ouer / only for lak of tyme. so I leave it
 alone.
- And telle I wil / forth of her loggyng,
 How Adrastus / the noble worthy kyng,
 Hath every lord / lik to his degrè,
 Receyuëd wel / with-Innen his Cytè : 2672 Adrastus gives
 [leaf 45]
 every one good
 lodging,
- And ther they haddë / lik to her plesaunce,
 Of what nedeth / fulsom habundaunce, 2676
 For man and hors / plentè of Vitaylle ;
 Comaundyng^t / that^t no thyng^t ne faylle
 That^t alle thise noble worthy werreoures,
 Both high and lough^t *and* poorë* soudeoures, 2680
 Iseruëd weren of that^t they haddë nede.
- For Adrastus / prudently took hede,
 Ful lik a kyng / touching^t her termë-day,
 That^t thei to-form / wer seruëd of her pay. 2684
 He was so free / hym list^t no thyng restreyñ ;
 And no man haddë causë to compleyn
 For hunger / thrust / nor for Indygence. No one could
 complain.
- And in a prince / it^t is ful gret^t offence, 2688
 As clerkës seyn / and a gret^t reproof,
 Suffre his puple / lyven at mescheef.
 It^t is ful hevly / and greuous in her thoght^t
 3if he habound^t / and they han right^t noght^t. 2692
 he may not^t both / possedë good and herte,
 He to be riche / and Seen his puple smerte. and leave his
 folk empty.

2668. also ben] ben also Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. E₁. bethe also P. to] so L₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₂. Ro. 2669. clerly] pleyntly Ro. and to] into Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2673. euery] euery worthi Ra. lik] logged lik Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2674. with-Innen Ar. G. Ap. withynne T₁. Lb. Ad₂. I. Ra. T₂. with-in Bo. M. Di. Ad₁. Ba. E₁. S. C. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. in-to L₁. his] the Ra. C. T₂. P. E₂. 2676. what] what that Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. what theim Ba. S. fulsom] fwl S. 2678. that] there that Ad₁. Ad₂. I. that ther Ra. Ba. ne] ther S. om. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. 2679. noble] om. P. worthy] om. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. 2680. poure M. pore Du. poor Ar. poer Bo. pour Ad₁. 2681. Iserued] Serued M. Di. had Bo. M. Ad₁. 2684. wer seruëd] seruëd wern M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2686. hadde cause Ar. Ad₁. had cause Bo. cause had M. 2687. thurst Bo. M. Ad₁. 2690. Suffre] To suffer L₁. S. P. E₂. Ro. lyuen] liue E₂. Ro. L₂ (lyf). to lyven L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. C. to lyue M. Di. S. P. at] in I. L₂. in a S.

- He may the body / of power wel constreyne,
 But her hertë / hath a ful long^t Reyne, 2696
 Maugrè his myght / to louen at her large.
 Ther may no kyng^t / on hertës sette a charge,
 Nor hem coarten* / from her lybertè.
- Thought is free. Men seyn ful oftë / how that thought is fre. 2700
 For which eche princë / lord / and *gouernour*,
 And specially euery Conquerour,
 [leaf 45, back] Lat^t hym be war / for al his hegh noblesse,
 Let kings be liberal, That^t bountè, Freedom / plentè, and largesse, 2704
 Be on accord / that they his brydel lede,
 or his people Lest^t of his puple / whan he hath most^t nede,
 'll fall him. He be defrauded / ; whan he is but^t allone,
 Than is to latè forto make his mone. 2708
- He must banish stinginess; But^t in his courte / lat hym first^t devise
 To exile scarshed and couetise ;
 Than is he likly / with fredam 3if he gynne,
 ¶ Hou Loue Vayleb mor a loue of his puple / enermore to wynne, 2712
 kyng than gold or gret richesse.
 then he'll win To regnè long^t in honure, and contune
 his people's love, Ay to encesse / be fauour of fortune,
 And his ennemyes manly to oppresse.
- which is more than gold. For loue is mor / than gold or gret richesse ; 2716
 Gold failèth oftë / louë* wol abyde

2695. power] pore Ad₁. poore Ad₂. I. E₁. poor Ra. poer Ba. the power L₁.
 povert S. He may wel be body of pore c. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. He may the poore body
 well c. Lb. wel] om. Ro. 2696. herte Ad₁. hert Bo. M. 2697. louen] lyven
 Ad₂. I. her] their L₂. there Ro. om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra.
 Ba. E₁. S. T₂. 2699. Nor] Ne Lb. E₂. L₂. Ro. Nere P. coarten Bo (*by*
correction; the a is quite different from the usual form). Ba. C. T₂. E₂. Ap. coarte
 P. Ro. coart L₂. coharten Ra. coherten Ar. Ad₂. coerten G. coherten T₁. Du.
 Lb. Ad₁. I. E₁. coercen M. Di. coverten L₁. to bynd S. from] for L₁.
 2701. For which] Wherefore M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. Wher Ad₂. I. eche]eche
 one S. enery Lb. lord] om. C. 2703. hegh Ar. G. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap.
 om. Bo. and the rest. 2705. on Ar. oon Bo. M. Ra. one E₁. T₂. Ap. om.
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. in Ar., between his and brydel, is written plei, but this is both
 crossed through and underdotted. 2708. is] is it Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. C. it is T₁.
 Ba. T₂. his] om. Ad₂. I. 2710. scarshed] scarste L₁. Ad₁. scarsete Ad₂. I.
 scarstye Ro. scarresse C. and] and eke M. and foule Di. one E₁. T₂. Ap. om.
 2711. is he] he is Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. is E₂. likly] like Di. gynne] begynne Ad₂. I.
 S. P. 2713. and] to P. L₂. Ro. contune] continue Bo. Du. Ra. Ba. T₂.
 contunew S. contenu Ap. 2714. Ay] As T₁. euer C. of] and Bo. Du. Ad₂.
 I. Ra. or Lb. 2714 om. in G. 2717. loue] gold Ar. and loue Du. but love
 P. E₂.

For lyf or deth / be a lordys syde ;
 And the tresour / shortly, of a kyng^t
 Stondeth in loue / abouen * allē * thyng^t. 2720
 Farwel lordshipe / bothē * morowe *and* Eve
 Specially / whan louē takēth his leve !
 And who so list / a merour forto make
 Of kyngly fredam / lat^t hym ensample take 2724
 Of Adrastus / the manly kyng famous,
 So liberal and so bountevous
 Vnto his puple / at^t al tymēs found^t ;
 Which mad hym strong^t / his foomen to confound^t ; 2728
 And loue only / his enmyes to werreye,
 Alle greēc made his bidding^t to obeye,
 Of oon accord / knyghtly be his side,
 Al attones / to Thebēs forto ryde, 2732
 For tavengē / sith they were so strong^t,
 The gre^t Iniurye / *and* the inportable wrong^t
 Don to his sone / *and* his next^t allye,
 As 3e to-forn / han herd me specifie. 2736
 But^t whilē * Grekēs / rest^t a whil in pees,
 I will resort^t / vnto * Ethioeles :
 which * in Thebēs warly hath espied,
 Be his frendes / as he was certefied, 2740
 Of the Grekys / hooly the ordinaunce,
 Her purpoos ek / and her purucaunce,
 And therof had in herte a manere drede.
 And first^t he took his counsaile *and* his rede 2744 takes counsel
 of his lords

2719. the] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2720. abouen alle] *about* al (all, alle) Ar. Bo. *and all the other MSS.* 2721. bothe M. Ra. bope T₁. both Ar. Bo. bothe at Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2733. For tavenge Ar. G. Bo. T₁. M. Di. Ad₁. E₁. S. C. E₂. For to avenge Du. L₁. Ra. Ba. Ad₂. I. P. I₂. For to venge Ap. For the avenge T₂. 2734. *second* the *om.* Di. C. E₂. Ro. Ap. 2735. Don to] Vnto C. T₂. P. E₂. sone] some Polymytes Ap. and] *and* to Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. allye] *om.* Ba. 2737. But] *om.* Ro. whil Ar. while Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. E₁. C. T₂. Ro. Ap. whiles L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. P. E₂. L₂. whils Ra. rest a whil] areste a whyle E₁. a while rest T₂. rest a time E₂. *in* P. 2737, as the bottom line of leaf 44 back, reads But whiles Grekes reste a while in pece ; it is inadvertently repeated as top line of leaf 45 front, in a slightly altered shape : But whyle that Grekes reste a whyle in pese. 2738. resort] ayen resorte T₂. me resort Ad₂. I. vnto] to Ar. E₁. L₂. Ap. 2739. which in] with Inne Ar. G. E₁. with in Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. The whiche in Lb.

- Of the lordis / and barons / of the toun,
 And of the wisest / of his Regioun,
 as to his defence. How he myghte maken resistence,
 Manfully / to stonden / at diffence, 2748
 To be so strong^t / that^t ther wer no doute.
 ¶ How Ethioeles And in the contrees / adiaçant^t aboute,
 made hy^m strong And ek also in foreyn Regiouns,
 ageyn þe comyng He hath withhold / aH the Champiouns ; 2752
 of þe Grekes.
 He sends to his And ther-vpon / he sent^t out^t his espies
 friends, And his frendës and his next^t allies
 And alle the worthy / dwellyng^t enviroun,
 3ong / fressh / and lusty / he gadred into toun ; 2756
 masks his walls, Maskowede his wallys / and his heghë* tours,
 and mans em And stuffëd hem / with manly sowdçours.
 with soldiers. Round aboute / he settë many Gonnys,
 Eteocles Grete and smale / and somë large as tonnys ; 2760
 gives great gifts He spent^t his tresour / and gaf giftës grete
 to knights Vnto knyghtes / and worthy men of name ;
 [leaf 46, back] And ouermorë* / to encres his fame, 2764
 and lordes, he 3af to lordes / Iuellis many-fold,
 Clothës of Veluet / of Damask, and of gold,
 To gete hym hertës / sothly, as I rede, 2768
 to help him. To helpe hym now in his grete nede.
 He lays in store And prudently purveieð / hym to-forñ
 of flesh and fish, Of flesh and fissh / and of wyn and corñ.

2745. the] his L₂. lordis Ar. lordes Bo. and the rest. barons] of þe barouns Bo. T₁. Du. M. E₁. þe Barons Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. 2746. hi-] þis Bo. the Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ro. 2749. so] om. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. wer] be Di. Ap. 2752. He] om. Ro. withhold Ar. withholdë Bo. M. Ad₁. 2753. sent] sende Lb. his] om. Bo. espies] spies Ra. 2756. 3ong fressh and lusty] younge lustie and fresh Ba. into] to Lb. P. E₂. toun] the toun L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. Ap. 2757. Maskowede Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. Ro. Mascawyd I. E₂. Mascawed P. Maskowes Ap. Mannyd L₂. his] om. L₁. hye Bo. M. Ad₁. hegh Ar. heghe] om. E₂. 2758. manly] many Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. Ap. (cp. 2759). 2760. some Ar. som Bo. and some] om. T₁. as] at Bo. 2764. ouermore M. Ad₁. C. T₂. G. ouermor Ar. euer more Bo. and the rest. 2765. Iuellis Ar. T₁. Lb. iewelis T₂. iowellis L₂. Ro (Iowewelles). Incls Bo. Du. Ad₁. Iewels M. Iuellis] yeftes C. 2768. his] this Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. 2769. hym] om. Bo. 2770. and of] and M. Di.

- Sette his Capteyns / erly / *and* ek^t late
 with ful gret^t stuf strong^t at euery gate. 2772
- And mad also be werkmen / that^t were trewe,
 Barbykans / *and* bulwerkës newe, and builds new
 Bulwarks.
- Barreris / cheynys / *and* dichës wonder depe ;
 Makyng his Vouñ the Citè forto kepe 2776
- Whil he lyueþ / despit of aH his foon.
 And by his goddys of metal *and* of stoñ,
 Ful ofte he swoor / both of herte *and* thought,
 That^t it shal first / ful derë* be about^t, He swears that
 2780
- And many a man with pollex, swerd, *and* knyff
 To-for this toune / shal first lese his liff, many shall die
 And ther shal ek / many sydës blede,
 Or his brother pessibly possede 2784 before his
 brother shall
 win Thebes.
- The toune in pees / lich as Grekës wene.
 But^t at the ende / the trouthë* shal be sene,
 lat hym be war *and* wel to-forn pryde !
- For Adrastus / on that other side, 2788 Adrastus
 For his party was not^t necligent^t,
 But^t on a day / helde a parlement^t, holds a parlia-
 ment.
- AH his lordës sittyng^t environn,
 To dryvë shortly / a pleyn conclusioun 2792
 And vp tapoynt^t / the fyn of ther entent. [leaf 47]
- But^t somë thoughte / ful expedient^t,
 Or they procede / to wirkë* be thavice

2771. capiteyns Bo. M. Ad₁. erly and ek] boþe erly and Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2773.
 werkmen M. werke men Bo. workmen Ad₁. 2774. bulwerkes Bo. bolewerkes
 M. bolwerkes Ad₁. 2775. Barreris S. Barrers T₁. Du. M. Ad₁. Ra. Barreyrs
 Ro. Berrers T₂. Berrours L₂. Barres Bo. E₁. Barrys Ap. 2776. vowe Bo.
 M. vov Ad₁. 2777. all] om. M. Di. 2780. dere M. Ad₁. der Ar. Bo. ful
 dere be] be full dere Ba. P. be Ra. C. ben Ba. M. Ad₁. about^t Ar. Bo. T₁.
 Du. Ad₁. I. E₁. y-bought Lb. M. Di. T₂. E₂. Ap. bought L₁. *and the rest.*
 2781. pollax Bo. M. Ad₁. 2782. lese] leue Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2784. Or] Or
 that C. T₂. P. E₂. For G. pesibly Bo. Ad₁. Ra. peisibly M. pesible G.
 possibly E₂. Ap. Ba. possede] shal possede L₁. 2785. Grekes] þe grekes G.
 2786. trouthe M. Ad₁. trouth Ar. Bo. 2789. party] parte E₁. Ba. necligent]
 negligent Bo. T₁. Du. M. Ad₂. S. C. T₂. E₂. 2790. helde] he held Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
 Ra. Ba. S. a] his E₂. parlement] parlyamente E₁. P. 2793. vp] vpon S.
 tapoynt Ar. Bo. M. to appoynte Du. Di. thapoint Ad₁. E₁. the appoynt Ad₂.
 I. the point Ra. þe poynt S. 2795. wirke Bo. wirk Ar. werke M. Ad₁.
 thavys M. Ad₁. þe avice Bo.

It is thought best to go by the advice of the wise old bishop,	Of on that ^t was ful prudent ^t <i>and</i> right ^t wyce And circumspecte / in his werkës alle, A worthy bisshop / into agi ^r falle, And Callèd was, sothly / by his name	2796
Amphiorax.	Amphiorax / of whom the grete fame	2800
* How the bys- shope Amphiorax was sent for to come to þe Grekës.	Thorgh al the londe / bothen est ^t <i>and</i> south, Amongës * Grekës / passingly was kouth ^r ; A man, in soth / of olde antiquytè And most ^t acceptid of auctoritè,	2804
He knew the secrets of the Gods,	In his werkes, and was also secrè with the goddys, knowyng ^t her pryvetè :	2808
and could tell how things should end.	By graunt ^t of whom / as bookës specifye, He hadde a spirit / of trewè <i>prophecy</i> , And cowde afor ⁿ ful opynly dyvyne Thynggës begonnè / how they shuldè * fyne,	2812
	And eke, he craft ^t / of Calculacioun, ʒiue * a dome / of euery questioun ; And hadde in magik / grete experience, And fyndè cowde / be heuenly influence	2816
He knew that if the Grekes went to war,	And by mevyng ^t / of þe heghè * sterrys, A fynal doome of Contek <i>and</i> of Werrys ; And wistè * wel, as his goddys tolde, that, ʒif Grekës / forth her iournè holde,	2820
	It ^t turnè * shuldè * platly /, this no fage,	

2796. ful] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. right S. right] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. ful Ro. wys Bo. M. Ad₁. 2801. londe] landes E₂. bothen Ar. Bo. Du. bothe T₁. M. Ad₁. both L₁. 2802. Among Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. Grekes] the Grekes E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. passingly] passyng L₁. S. P. passingly was] was passingly Ad₁. was passyng L₁. S.; in Ad₂. and I. 2802 reads Most wytty callid / in euery manny's mouth. 2806. Ar. has a pause-bar after was. 2807. and] *om.* C. P. was also] was also was C. secrè] secret L₂. Ro. P. S. 2808. pryvete] pryvet L₂. 2812. shulde Bo. sholde Ad₁. shuld Ar. shold M. 2814. yeue Bo. M. Ad₁. ʒif Ar. ʒef G. dome] iudgment S. 2816. cowde] he coude Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2817. mevyng] meanyng E₁. þe] *om.* T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. hegh Ar. hie M. Ad₁. *om.* Bo. 2819. wist Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. his] *om.* Bo. þe Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. here Di. 2820. Grekes] the Grekes G. P. Grekes forth her iournè] the iournay forth by Grekes Ad₁. the iornee forth off the Grekes Ad₂. I. 2821. turne Bo. torne M. Ad₁. turn Ar. shulde Bo. sholde Ad₁. shuld Ar. shold M. this Ar. M. þis is Bo. Di.

- To gret^t meschief / and to gret^t damage
 Of hem yehoñ / ; and in especial [leaf 47, back]
 The moste parte / of the blood Royal 2824 ¶ The proph(e)cie
of Amphiorax.
 Thorgh al Grece, it^t may not^t be withdrawe,
 In this viagē shortly shal be slawe ; most of its
Kings would
be slain,
 And ʒif hym-silf / with the Grekēs wente,
 Who that^t euer wepte hym / or bymente, 2828
 This was the fyn / and may nat^t be socoured,
 Of the erth / he shuldē* be deuoured, and he himself
devoured alive.
 Quyk as he was, he knewe it in certeyñ.
 And for he saugh ther was non oþer geyñ 2832
 To saue his lif / nor no* bet^t diffence, To save his life,
he hides himself,
 Than vttrely withdrawēn his presence ;
 ¶ Preying^t his wiff / for hym to provide, and asks his wife
to keep him
secret.
 ʒif he wer sought^t / that^t she wolð hym hide, 2836
 And wommanly / for to kepe hym cloos,
 And of trouth concelen his purpoos ;
 For al his trust^t / touchyng^t his greuance,
 was fully sette / in hir purvyance. 2840
 I hope to god / that^t he thar not^t drede
 Of no deceyt^t / in hir^t wommanhede.
 She was so trewe / as wommen ben eñon,
 And also cloos / and mwēt^t as a stoñ, 2844
 That^t she ne wold / as the matier stood, At first, she
does so,
 Discuren hym / for no workly good.

2822. To gret] In-to Ad₁. I. Vn-to the Ad₂. and to] and Ad₁. Ad₂. of I. 2824.
 moste M. moost Bo. Ad₁. parte Ar. Bo. Du. M. Ba. E₁. P. Ap. part T₁. L₁. Lb.
 Ra. S. C. T₂. L₂. Ro. partie Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. blood E₂. of] right of E₂. 2827.
 ʒif hym-silf with] of him why E₂. the] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. C. P. 2828.
 wepte] bewepete P. 2830. erth Ar. Bo. erthe M. Ad₁. shulde Bo. sholde
 Ad₁. shuld Ar. shold M. 2832. he saugh] þe soothe Lb. 2833. saue] haue
 T₁. no] to Ar. G. bet] better Ra. Ba. S. L₂. Ro. 2834. vttrely] Covertly P
 (on erasure, apparently written by the same hand as the text.)
 to withdrawen Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. Ra. E₁. to withdrawe T₁. M. Di. Ba. S. C. T₂. P. E₂.
 2838. concelen Ar. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. conseleyn G. counceelen E₁.
 S. consele L₂. counseilen Bo. conseilyn Ap. conceyle Ro. conceeling Ba. C.
 T₂. counceylng L₁. P. conceiling E₂. 2841. that] om. Bo. he] the Ra. him
 Ba. om. Du. thar] that S. there E₂. ther-of Lb. nede E₁. dar T₁. L₁. M. Di.
 I. C. L₂. dare T₂. P. Ap. 2842. no] om. Lb. 2843. echon] euerychon Bo.
 T₁. Du. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. 2844. mwet altered from muet Ar. muet
 Du. mewet Bo. muyt M. Ad₁. 2845. matier] mille E₂. 2846. Discuren]
 Diskevyr L₂. Ro. Discyven Ad₂. Dysery S. no worldly] al the wordles Ad₁.
 alle the worldis Ad₂. I.

- ¶ But fynaly / the Grekēs, of entent,
 In al his drede / han * for this bisshop sent ; 2848
 Thogh it' was long^r / er they myght' hym fynde,
 For cause his wif / was to hym so kynde,
 That' ful seurlly / hath lokkēd vp his cors.
 But' for she hadde a maner of remors 2852
 In hir-silf / grevyng^r* her conscience,
 Dreding^r to falle / in ful grete offence,
 Lest' her soulē / were in peryl lorē,
 whan she be oth* / compellēd was *and* sworē ; 2856
 They requeryng^r / 3if she coudē telle
 wher her lord the bisshop shuldē* dwelle :
 Which to disoure / hir herte was ful loth,
 Til tyme she gan / remembren on her oth*, 2860
 And coude a trowth / of Custom not' denye
 And hadde also gret' conscience to lye,
 Wonder hevly / with a sorowful face,
 Maugrē hir lust' / taught' hem* to the place 2864
 wher as he was / shet' vp in a toure,
 Al alonē / havying^r no socour.
 They falle on hym / or that' he was war,
 And sette hym vp / in a ful richē Char. 2868
 A fool he was / to Iupard' his lif
 Forto disoure his counsel to his wif ;
 And 3it she was ful sory for his sake,
 Specially / whan she saugh hym take. 2872
 Bot' I hopē / that' her hevynesse

[leaf 48]
 ¶ How the wif
 of Amphiorax of
 conscience to
 saue her hoth
 discurd her
 husband.
 but on being put
 to her oath,

she sadly tells
 them where
 Amphiorax is,
 in a tower.

Amphiorax was
 a fool to trust
 his secret to his
 wife.

2848. his] this Ad₂. I. S. Ad₁ (t *underdotted*). her I₂. han Bo. M. Ad₁. G.
 hath Ar. this Ar. Ad₂. I. C. T₂. E₂. þe Bo. G. *and the rest*. 2849. was] were
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2853. grevyng] gervyng Ar. 2854. falle Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. fal
 Du. 2856. oth] both Ar. 2857. They] there E₁. requeryng] required Bo.
 P. requyryng her L₁. conde] wolde P. 2858. shuld Ar. Bo. shold M. Ad₁.
 2860. her] the M. Di. both Ar. 2862. hadde] om. Bo. she had Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
 Ra. Ba. had sche S. gret] om. M. Di. a grete Ad₂. I. as gret S. to] for to
 Ro. 2864. hem] hym Ar. 2865. wher as] Wher þat Di. shet Ra. shitte Bo. M.
 shut Ad₁. 2866. Al] om. Ba. 2867. falle] fell L₁. E₁. E₂. They falle on hym]
 Allas Amphimorax Ro. that] om. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. P. Ro. was]
 were Ad₂. I. 2868. And sette hym vp] Is take and sett Ro. 2869. fool] grete
 fool E₁. yeoparde E₁. E₂. Iupart Bo. iupart M. T₂. iubarte P. iupartē
 Ad₁. C. iupertin S. 2871. she was] was she M. Di.

Gan asswage ful sonë, by processe,	
In short' tymë / whan that' he was goñ.	
Ther is no tempest' / may last' euere in oñ.	2876
¶ But' this bisshope / be verrey force <i>and</i> myght,	He was taken to the Greks,
Vnto Grekes / conveyëd was ful right,	
This hoorë* gray / in his char syttyng'.	
And they ful gladë* / wern of his comyng',	2880
havynge a trust' / <i>and</i> ful opynyoun	who hoped, by his advice,
That', thorgh cause and occasioun	
Of his wisdam / <i>and</i> his sapience	[leaf 48, back]
And by vertue / of his hegh presence,	2884
They shuld eschewe / al aduersitè	to avoid ad- versity.
Possible to falle / as in her Iournè.	
And, as the story / fully hath devised,	
Ful circumspect' / and riht' wel avised,	2888
he hath pronouncèd / in the Parlement',	But he told en- plainly
To-forn the lordës / and the president',	
his Cleer conceyte / in verray sikernesse,	
Nat' entrykèd with no doublenesse,	2892
her dysemol daiës / and her fâtal houres,	of their coming disasters,
Her auenturys / and her sharpë shoures,	
The froward' soort' / and the* vnhappy stoundys,	
The compleyntës / of her dedly woundys,	2896
The wooful wrath / and the* contrarioustè	
Of fellë Mars / in his crueltè,	
And howe, by mene / of his gery mood,	and how

2874. asswage] taswage M. C. E₂. to aswage Di. to swage T₂. P. 2875. that] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. he] she C. T₂. 2876. tempest] tempest that T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. P. may last] last may Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. lastith Ra. Ba. euere] ay M. 2878. Grekes] the Grekes T₁. Du. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. L₂. Ro. 2879. hoore Bo. hore Ad₁. hoor Ar. M. char] chair Ba. 2880. glad Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. 2882. That] om. C. T₂. P. E₂. cause] be cause L₁. T₂. E₂. 2884. hegh] om. Ra. Ba. P. presence] prescience C. P. E₂. prudencè Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 2885. eschewe Ar. Bo. Ad₁. eschu M. 2886. falle Ar. Bo. Ad₁. fall M. fallen C. 2888. riht wel] a wele G. 2892. entryked] entrikled Du. 2893. dysemol Ar. T₁. Du. disemoll L₁. S. dismoll Lb. dysmol M. Ad₁. dysmole E₁. C. T₂. L₂. dysmele Bo. dysemele Ro. disemale E₂. 2895. soort] sortes Ap. sette P. and] of L₁. the] om. Ar. G. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. here Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 2897. the] om. Ar. G. L₂. Ap. contrarioustè] contrariocite altered from contrarioussites L₂. contranersite Di. contranerse E₁. 2899. gery M. Ad₁. ghery Bo.

all the best blood of Greece would be shed.	Ther shal be shadde / al the worthy blood Of the Grekes / it may not ben eschewed, If her <i>purpoos</i> be execute / and swed. "Ther is no morë / this shal be the fyn :	2900
	The hegh noblesse shal drawë to declyne Of Grekes blood / in meschief, sorowe, <i>and</i> woo :	2904
Amphiorax himself	And with al this / I my-silf also, As my fatë hath a-forn disposyd, Depe in the grounde / I shal be enclosed,	2908
will be kild.	And lokked vp / in the dirkë* vale Of cruel deth." / lo ! this was the tale	
He urges Adrastus not to fight Thebes, [leaf 49]	That the bisshope / to Adrastus tolde, Hym counsayllyngt / his <i>purpos</i> to withholde, In eschuyngt of mor meschief <i>and</i> sorowe. For alle his goddis he took vnto borowe, 3if þe Thebans / and þe grekës mete, The fyn þerof shal be so vnswete	2912 2916
for all Greece shall rue it.	þat alle grece after shal it rewe ; warnyngt hem / 3if þei the meschief knewe That shal folowe / which no man may lette, Thei wold abstene / a siegë forto sette Vnto Thebës / <i>and</i> her <i>purpoos</i> leve.	2920
The Argive lords abuse Amphiorax,	with whos wordes / the lordës gan hem greve, And ther-Inne haddë* / but ful smal delit, And euerechoñ / of hertly hegh despit, They abrayde / and seide he was vntrewe, A controover / of <i>propheciës</i> newe, And ek also / for al his long ^r berle,	2924

2900. Ther] The Ar. 2901—2904 omitted in Du. 2902. execute] executed
Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. swed] shewid L₁. served P. 2909. dirk Ar. derke Bo. Ad₁.
derk M. 2914. vnto] to T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. 2916. so] ful Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di.
Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. om. L₁. Lb. Ra. Ba. E₁. P. vnswete] vnsette S (: mette).
2919. which Ar. G. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. om. Lb. þat Bo. *and the rest*.
2920. Thei] The Ar. 2922. whos] whiche Ad₁. Ad₂. I. T₂. gan] gonne M. Di.
T₂. hem] om. M. Di. 2923. hadde T₂. had Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. om. Di. but]
om. I₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P. ful] om. Lb. 2924. euerechon] eueriche Lb. P.
2926. A] And a G. P. E₂. Ro. And I. A₁. controover Ar. Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. Ra. Ba.
C. contreuer Di. T₂. P. E₂. contruyer G. T₁. I₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. L₂. Ro. contrevor
Lb. contrarye Ap. 2927 omitted in Ad₂. and I. ; 2928 in Ad₁. and Ad₂. inserted
after 2934, in I. omitted altogether (see Introduction). 2927. ek also] also eke
Ad₁. al] om. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ra. E₁. S. C. T₂. P.

An olde Dotard / a coward, <i>and</i> aferde ;	2928	call him an old dotard,
And of Rancour / gonnë* to diffye		
Both his kalkyng st / and his astronomye,		
And shortly seide / þei took therof non hede,		and say they'll not follow his
Ne wil no-thing st / gouerne hem after ^d his rede.	2932	advice,
This was the clamour / <i>and</i> noyse, in euery cost,		
Of hegh and lough / þorgh-out all the hoost,		
And specialy / of the sowdëours,		specially the
And of lordës / regnyng in her flours,	2936	
And of thestates / effectuely, I mene,		
which of agë / were but tendre <i>and</i> grene,		young folk.
That ^d han * not ^d hadde / by martys Influence,		
Of the werrë / gret ^d experience.	2940	
¶ her, 3if 3e list ^d / 3e may considre <i>and</i> Se		
Of conceytes ful grete diuersytë,		But Youth
How that 3outh / no peril cast ^d a-forñ		[leaf 49, back]
Til he by * meschief / sodeynly be lorñ*,	2944	is rash,
Wher as age / provydeth / euery thing		
Or he bygynne / to casten the endyng ^t .		
¶ 3outh is gouernyd / be a largë Reyne		¶ How age <i>and</i> youth ben of diu ^{er} se opynyons
To rennë forth, and can hym not reffreyñ.	2948	
But ^d of hede / set on al attonys,		runs its head against stones,
As he that ^d hurtleth / ageynës hardë stonys		

2929. gonne Di. Ad₁. C. P. E₂. Ro. gon M. T₂. gan Ar. Bo. *and the rest.* to] hym to Ad₃. hym I. diffye Di. T₂. defye Bo. M. Ad₁. 2930. his] for his Ad₃. of his I. kalkyng] calkeling *written on erasure with blacker ink* Ad₁. calcing E₂. calculyng Lb. talkyng Ad₃. I. 2932. no-thing] in no thyng S. after] by C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. 2933. Ar. *has coste with the final e crossed out with a vertical stroke.* 2935. sowdeours] poure soudeours C. T₂. P. E₂. 2936. lordes] yong lordes S. regnyng Bo. reynyng M. Lb. her] *om.* E₁. hygh Ap. 2939. ha Ar. Ap. haue Bo. M. han Ad₁. hathe P. by] of E₂. martys] Mertys L₁. Marces E₂. 2940. werre] warres T₂. verrey L₁. very P. gret] ful gret Ad₁. Ad₃. I. Ra. Ba. S. 2942. conceytes] coueiting C. T₂. P. E₂. ful] *om.* Lb. C. T₂. E₂. off P. diuersyte] aduersite Lb. Di. Ad₃. I. T₂. P. E₂. Ap. 2943. How] And hou C. T₂. no] in Ra. cast] castith Ra. Ba. L₂. 2944. Til] to Du. he by (G. T₁. L₁. Lb.)] he Ar. by Bo. M. Di. he in C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. hie Du. Ad₁. Ad₃. I. Ra. Ba. þe E₁. S. lorn G. Bo. L₁. lþ. M. Di. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. forlorn T₁. born Ar. Du. Ad₁. Ad₃. I. Ra. E₁. S. Ap. befora Ba. 2945. thinge *with e underdotted in Ar.* 2948. renne Ar. T₁. M. ren Bo. Du. ronne Ba. S. sterte E₂. hym not] not him Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₃. I. Ba. E₁. S. 2949. of hede] on hede Ra. Ba. P. set] settith Ra. Ba. 2950. hurtleth] hurtyllyth L₂. ageyne Bo. ayen M. ageyn Ad₁. hard^d *altered to harde in Ar.* harde] the harde T₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₃. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. Ro.

	Broseth hym-silf / vnwarly <i>and</i> parbraketh.	
	But age experthe / no thyng ^t vndertaketh	2952
	But he to-forñ / be good discreciou ⁿ ,	
	Make a due examynaciou ⁿ	
	How it wil tourne / outh ^r * to badde or good.	
and rushes into enterprises that fail,	¶ But youth, as fast ^t / as sterēd is the blood,	2956
	Taketh emprises of hasty wilfulnesse,	
	Ioye at the gynnyng ^t / the ende is wrechednesse.	
while Age looks ahead.	¶ The oldē, prudent ^t / in al his <i>gouvernaunce</i> ,	
	Ful longe a-forñ / maketh purueaunce ;	2960
	But youth allas be counsail wil not wyrke,	
	For which ful ofte / he stumbleth in the dyrke.	
	Thus selde is seyne / the trouthe* to <i>termyne</i> ,	
	That age and youthē* / drawē be o lyne.	2964
	And wher that foly hath domynaciou ⁿ ,	
	Wisdam is putte / into subiecciou ⁿ ,	
	lik as this bysshop /, with al his high prudence,	
	For cause he myghte haue* / no audience,	2968
¶ How that wis- dam wip-oute supportaciou ⁿ avayleþ lit or nojt.	Al his wisdam / and his profecye	
	Of the Grekes / was holden* but folye.	
	For thogh Plato / and wisē Socrates,	
	Moral Senek / <i>and</i> Diogenes,	2972
{leaf 50}	Albumasar / <i>and</i> prudent ^t Tholomee,	
	And Tullius / that haddē souereyntē	

2951. Brosyth Ro. Bruseth Bo. Ad₁. Brisith M. Breseth P. vnwarly and] and vnwarly C. T₂. P. E₂. 2953. he] of Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. as Lb. 2954. Make] makith Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. C. making S. due] full due T₂. dewe discrete Ro. 2955. oyther Ar. either Bo. M. other Ad₁. ouþer Di. 2957. emprises M. Ad₁. enprises Bo. 2958. at the Ar. at Bo. M. atte Ad₁. gynnyng] begenyng S. Begynnyng P. 2960. maketh] doth make Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 2961. wirke Bo. Ad₁. Ra. werke M. Ad₂. I. 2962. oft^t altered to ofte in Ar. dirke Ad₁. derke Bo. M. And that makith him / full ofte to smerte Ad₂. I. 2963. trouthe M. Ad₁. trowth Ar. Bo. termyne] determyne Lb. P. 2964. youthe Bo. M. Ad₁. youth Ar. drawe Bo. Ad₁. draw M. drawn C. 2967. this] þe L₁. I. S. P. L₂. Ro. his] this M. al his] full P. hegh] om. G. Ra. Ba. C. 2968. he] þat he Du. Ar. *has a pause-bar also between myghte and ha.* haue Bo. M. Ad₁. ha Ar. Ap. 2969. second his] om. Lb. Ra. Ba. S. 2970. Of the Grekes] om. Ra. Ba. halden Ar. holden Bo. M. Ad₁. was holden] holden was Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. C. Was rekned ther but in (into Ba.) folye Ra. Ba. 2971. wise Ar. wys Bo. M. Ad₁. 2973. Albumasar Ar. Bo. M. Albinasar Ad₁. Albemosar P. Albimaser Ro. Albumager Ap. Tholomee] theleme C. 2974. hadde Ad₁. had Bo. M.

whylom in Rome / as of elloquence :		
Thogh aH thise /, shortly in sentence,	2976	What's the good of wise men's advice
were a-lyve / most ^t konnyng ^t <i>and</i> experte,		
And no man list / her counsel to aduerte,		if folk won't follow it?
Nor of her sawës / forto taken hede,		
What myght ^t availle / <i>and</i> it ^t cam to nede ?	2980	
For wher prudence / can fyndë no socour		
And prouidencë / haueth no favour,		
Farwel wisdam / farwel discrecioun,		
For lakke only / of supportacioun.	2984	
For vnsupported / with his lökkës hore,		
Amphiorax / sighën / gan ful sore		Amphiorax grieves that his advice is not taken.
With hede enelynyd / <i>and</i> many evyl thought,		
whan that ^t he sauhe his counsayl stood for nought.	2988	
For vttrely / the grekës, as I tolde,		
han fully east ^t / her Iournë for to holde,		
Made hem redy / and gonnen to hosteye		The Argives and their allies start for Thebes
Toward Thebës / the Cytë to werreye ;	2992	
And in Grecë / wil no lenger tarye,		
And forth with hem / Amphiorax they carye,		with Amphiorax.
Sette in his Char / with a doolful herte,		
Whan he wist ^t / he myghte not ^t asterte	2996	
Of his fate / the disposicioun.		
And hosteyng ^t / into the Regioun		
Of Iyurgus / Grekës gan approche		
A sondy londe / with many Craggy roche.	3000	They go thru a sandy desert.

2979. forto] wold Ra. Ba. 2980. What] whan Ra. myght] shuld it Ra. Ba.
 availle Ar. *and all.* and] if T₁. M. Di. Ra. whan Ba. 2982. prouidence]
 previdence Ra. Ba. prudence G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. haueth Ar. G. T₂. Ap. hath Bo.
 T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. L₂. Ro. haue M. Di. Ad₂. I. C. fyndith P.
 2987. and] with P. om. Ba. many] many an Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₂. evyl] heuy M.
 Di. Ad₂. I. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. 2988. that] om. M. Di. P. L₂. Ro. he
 sauhe] om. Ra. Ba. stoo[] stonde Bo. Du. E₁. S. 2990. fully] ful Ad₁. Ad₂.
 I. for to] to Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. holde] iholde E₂. 2991. redy] ostry L₁. gonnen
 Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. E₁. C. T₂. gonne M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. gan L₁.
 gonnen hem Ap. gan hem Ad₂. I. goon Ba. to] forto P. E₂. hosteye] hostrye L₁.
 hastye Ad₂. I. hasty L₂. hastye P. 2992. to] forto T₂. P. werreye] verreye L₁.
 wery L₂. werre (: hostee) Lb. waste P. 2995. char T₁. M. Ad₁. chare Bo.
 Ra. C. T₂. chair Ba. doolful] dullful Ra. woful Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. 2997. the]
 his Bo. Du. Lb. E₁. and T₁. om. P. 3000. many a Bo. M. Ad₁.

	But al the way, sothly, þat þei goñ,	
	For hors nor man / water was þer noñ :	
[leaf 50, back]	So dryë* weren the valës <i>and</i> the pleynys.	
	For al þat 3eere / they hadden had no reynys	3004
	But ful gret drouht / as mad is mencioun ;	
and find no water.	And al the londe / Cerchyngt <i>environ</i>	
¶ þe gret mes- chief þat Grekes hadde for watere.	They nowther fondë / wellë nor* Ryver hem to refressh / nor water that was cler,	3008
	That they allas / no refut ne konne.	
	So inportable / was the shenë sonne,	
	So hoot on hem / in feldës wher they leye,	
	That for meschief / man <i>and</i> hors gan deye,	3012
	Gapyngt ful drye / vpward into south ;	
Men suck their spear heads	And somë putten / her swerdës in her mouth	
	And sperys hedes /, in story as is told,	
of cold iron.	Taswage her thirst / with the yren cold ;	3016
	And of his lif / ful many oñ dispeyred	
	In this meschief / and hom ageyn repeyred :	
Tideus and Ca- paneus	Tyl on a day / worthy Tydeus,	
	And with hym ek the kyngt Campaneus,	3020
ride out to search for water.	Of purpoos rood / þorgh-oute the contrë 3if they myght eny water See,	
	Fro Coost to cost / bothë* fer and ner ;	
They enter a garden,	Til of fortune / they entred an herber,	3024
	with treës Shadowed for the somë Shene, Ful of flourës* / and of herbës grene,	

3001. þat] as M. Di. Ad₁. I. 3002. nor] *om.* Bo. ne T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. was þer] fond þei Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3003. drye Bo. M. Ad₁. dry Ar. vales] valeyés Bo. Ro. valeis C. L₂. 3004. had] *om.* M. Di. 3007. nowther Ar. neither Bo. Ad₁. Ra. ne M. fonde Ar. Bo. M. founde Ad₁. nor Ra. no Ar. ne Bo. Ad₁. neither M. 3008. nor Ar. M. ne Bo. Ad₁. 3009. That] But Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. refut] refuge L₁. ne konne] konne L₁. they ne konne Lb. fynde konne Ra. can fynd Ba (: soñ). 3010. inportable Bo. M. Ad₁. 3010—3210 *lost in* Ro. 3011. *in* Ar., *before* leye, *is written* lay *but crossed through*. 3013. into] into þe L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ra. Ba. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. Ap. in þe Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3014. some M. Ad₁. som Bo. *om.* S. putten Bo. M. Ad₁. 3015. is] it is Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. 3016. thirst M. thurst Bo. Ad₁. ; *in* Ar. *colde with e underdotted*. 3016 *om.* in G. 3017. ful] *om.* Bo. 3018. hom] han Du. 3022. 3if] yf that C. mijte Ad₁. might Bo. M. eny] ouy where Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3023. bothe M. Ad₁. both Ar. Bo. 3024. they] he Ad₂. I. 3026. flourës Bo. M. Ad₁. flours Ar. floures and of erbes M. Di. E₂. herbes and of floures Ar. Bo. *and the rest*.

Wonder hoolsom / both of sytt <i>and</i> ayr* ;	
Ther-Inne a lady / which passingly was fayr,	3028
Sitting as tho / vnder a laurer tre ;	in which is a lady Ipsiphyle,
And in her Armes / a litil child hadd she,	
Ful gracious / of loke and of visage,	with a child,
And was also / wondre tendre of age,	3032
Sone of the kyng ^t / born forto succede,	
Callēd ligurgus / in story as I rede,	[leaf 51]
Whoos hertly Loye / and worldly ek disport ^t ,	son of King Ly- curgus.
Al his myrthē* / plesaunce, and confort	3036
Was in this chil ^l / of excellent fayrnesse.	
And this lady / Myroure of semlynesse,	
Al sodeynly as she cast vp her sight	The lady moves away.
And on his stedē / sauh an armēd knyght ^t ,	3040
Gretely abasshēd / gan anoñ remwe.	¶ how Tideus compleyned to be lady in the herber for water.
But Tideus after gan to swe	
And seyde / “ sustir / beth no-thing dismayed, ^t	
In 3oure-silf displešed nor affrayed !	3044
For we ar come / only to þis place	
3ow to biseche / of mercy <i>and</i> of grace,	
Vs to socour / in oure grete nede,	
Declaring 3ou how it stont ^t in dede :	3048
her faste by / almost ^t / at ^t the hand,	Tideus tells her what distress the Argives are in
The worthiest ^t of al Grekēs lan ^l ,	
Kyngges, Prynces / be* loggēd in the fel ^l ,	

3026. *om. in Ap.* 3027. sytt Ar. si3t Di. Ad₁. siht Ra. Ad₂. I. sight Bo. *and the rest.* ayr] hayr Ar. I. Ra. E₁. P. 3028. which Ar. þat Bo. M. Ad₁. *om.* Lb. passingly] passyng G. L₁. Ad₂. I. S. passandli Ra. Ba. was] *om.* Lb. was and L₁. passingly was] was passyng Ad₂. I. S. 3029. laurer] layry Bo. laury T₁. Du. M. laure Lb. E₁. E₂. laurell L₁. S. 3033. of] to G. L₁. vnto P. forto] to G. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. 3035. hertly] herty S. hertes E₂. worldly] worthy Ad₂. I. *om.* Ra. Ba. ek] *om.* S. P. 3036. myrth Ar. murthe Bo. merthe M. merth Ad₁. Bo. 3041. abasshed Bo. abaysshed M. baissshed C. anon remwe] renne a-weye faste Ad₂. I. 3042. swe] swe in haste Ad₂. I. 3043. sustre Bo. Ad₁. soster M. syster E₁. Ap. beth Ar. Du. Ad₁. bith Bo. M. C. be Di. 3045. ar Bo. M. arn Ad₁. come Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. 3047. socour Ar. Ad₁. socoure Bo. M. grete Bo. gret M. Ad₁. 3048. 3ou] to you Ba. S. how] *om.* T₂. stont Ar. Ad₁. stant Bo. M. stondith Ad₂. I. L₂. 3049. fast Bo. M. Ad₁. 3050. al] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Grekes] greece S. 3051. Kyngges Prynces] knyghtes and squyers Lb. be Bo. Ad₁. ben M. Beth Ra. both Ba. ly Ar. G. logged] loggyng Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S.

- And many other / with pollex / speer *and* shehþ, 3052
 which in meschief / peryl, *and* gret dreþ,
 For want^t of water / ar likly to be ded.
 For ther was noñ / of hegh nor lowgh degrè
 In aþ our host^t /, now passèd daiës thre, 3056
 That^t drank allas / excepting^t noñ estat^t;
 Our viage / is so infortunat^t :
 Preying^t 3ow / of wommanly pytè,
 Benygnely* / *and* graciously to se 3060
 how of Grece aþ þe Chyualrye
 Of her lyuës / stont^t in Iupartie ;
 That 3e wold / of wommanhedè telle
 3if 3e knowë* Ryver / spryng^t, or welle, 3064
 Specially / now in al oure Care,
 Of gentillesse vnto vs declare.
 lo^t her is alle / 3if 3e list^t to here,
 That^t I wol seyn / myn ownë suster dere." 3068
 And whan this lady / Inly vertuous,
 The compleynt^t herde / of worthy Tydeus,
 Of verrey pytè / chaungeth cher *and* hewe,
 And in her herte / vpon her woo gan rewe, 3072
 And ful goodly / seyng his distresse,
 Seyde vnto hym : in al his hevynesse,
 " Certës," quod she / " 3if I were at large
 Touching^t this child^t / of which I hauë charge, 3076
 I shuld in hast^t / of al that^t doth 3ow greve

for want of
water,

[leaf 51, back]
and begs her to
tell him where
some is.

¶ How the ladye
taught Tydeus to
the welle.

The Lady says

that if it were
not for the child

3052. pollax Bo. M. Ad₁. polax L₁. L₂. speer] *om.* C. T₂. P. E₂. and] and with C. T₂. P. E₂. with pollex speer and sheld] with spere pollax and sheld Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3054. want] faute Lb. ar] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. likly] like L₁. S. P. ar likly] likli been Ra. 3055. before hegh in Ar. so is crossed through. 3057. excepting Ar. P. L₂. Ap. I exceptè E₂. except Bo. *and* the rest. 3058. Ar. has a second pause-bar between is *and* so. 3060. Benygnely T₁. L₁. Ad₂. Ra. C. Benyngly Ar. Du. M. benyngly Bo. Benyngnely Ad₁. Benyngenely P. to] for to Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. E₁. S. 3062. stont] stonden C. stand Ad₂. I. 3064. knowe] knewe Ar. G. L₁. Ra. S. Ap. 3065. al] *om.* C. T₂. 3068. That] What Ra. *om.* Ba. I wol (wold G. L₂.)] we wol T₁. L₁. Ad₂. I. ye wol Bo. Du. Lb. Ad₁. E₁. S (wold). ye wil now M. Di. will ye Ra. Ba. owne] *om.* Bo. 3070. compleynt Bo. M. Ad₁. 3071. verrey] womanly P. chaungeth] chaungid G. L₁. cher] hide L₁. 3072. vpon] on Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. P. her] his P. E₂. 3076. of which] of whom Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. which C. P. E₂. that T₂. charge] the charge Ap. in charge C. T₂. P. E₂. 3077. al] *om.* Du.

- To my pouer / helpen to releve,
 Only of routh / and compassioun,
 And leue / al other / occupacioun, 3080
 Conveyë* 3owe / and be 3oure trewë guyde she'd guide them
 To a Ryver / but lityl her be syde. to a River near.
- But I dar not / so moche me assure
 This lityl child / to put in auenture. 3084
- I am so ferdful / from it to departe.
 But for 3oure sakë / yet* I shal iuparte
 My lif, my deth / of trewe affecciouu,
 To prouyde / for 3our sauacioun." 3088
- Took the child / and laide it in her lappe,
 And richely in clothës / gan it wrappe,
 And Couchëd it / among the herbës soote,
 And leyde aboutë / many hoolsom roote 3092
 And flourës ek / bothë* blewe and rede. [leaf 52]
- And supprisëd / with a maner drede
 with Tideus / forth / anoñ she wente,
 As she in trouthë* / that no treson mente, 3096
 And on hir way / woldë* neuere dwelle
 Til she hym brouht / to a right fairë welle and takes Tidens
 And ta Ryvere / of water ful habounde. to the River.

3378. helpe(n)] helpen you M. Di. helpe you E₂. to helpen L₁. to relene] and relene E₂. to my releve Ad₂. 3079. Only of routh] Of ronth only T₂. and] and of T₁. Lb. Ad₂. I. E₂. 3081. Conveye Bo. M. Ad₁. Convey Ar. trewe Bo. trew M. Ad₁. 3082. but] but a Ra. Ba. a L₁. Di. Ad₂. I. P. om. Ad₁. T₂. lityl] om. T₂. 3083. moche Bo. M. Ad₁. so moche me] me so moche Bo. 3085. ferdful Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Ba. L₂. ferful M. Ad₁. and the rest, except aferde P. it] him Ba. 3086. yet C. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. om. T₂. that Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. now Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. I] om. T₁. shal] om. E₁. I shal] shal I Bo. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. C. I will T₂. woll I Lb. iupart] in parte E₁. do parte E₂. 3091. herbes] leues G. 3092. leyde] om. Lb. aboute] aboute it L₁. Lb. Ra. Ba. aboute him Ad₁. Ad₂. I. many Lb. M. Ad₁. Ba. C. T₂. many an Bo. T₁. Di. Ad₂. I. Ra. P. E₂. L₂. 3093 omitted in P. 3093. eke Bo. M. Ad₁. bothe Bo. M. Ad₁. both Ar. 3094. supprised] supprised it Ra. Ba. she suppressid P. maner] maner of E₂. 3095. forth] om. S. forth anon] anoon forth Bo. Ad₂. I. Ba. wente] yede P (written on erasure, by later hand, which has also added in the right-hand margin And þt w^t a full good Entente, to rhyme with 3096). 3096. As] And Ba. tronthe Bo. M. Ad₁. trouth Ar. that] om. L₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. 3097. on] in M. Di. E₁. S. C. T₂. way Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. wolde] wold Ar. wolde she Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. dwelle] reste ne dwelle P. 3098. brouht Ar. Bo. M. brougte Ad₁. to] vnto P. right] om. L₁. P. a right faire] right a faire Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. T₂. 3099. ta Ar. to Ra. Ba. a Lb. to a Bo. and the other MSS. of water] om. Bo. ful] right Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C.

	But ^t who was glad / <i>and</i> who was tho Iocounde	3100
	But ^t Tydeus / Seyng the Ryver !	
He sends to Adrastus,	which in al hast ^t / sente his messager To Adrastus / and bad hym nat ^t abide,	
	But ^t doune deseendē / to the Ryver-syde	3104
and all the host run to the River.	with al his host ^t / recur forto haue At ^t this Ryver / her lyuēs forto saue. And þei enhas ^t hem / makyng noñ abood, Añ attonys / to the Ryver rood [*]	3108
	Forto drynkē [*] / ; þei hadde so gret ^t lust ^t Of appetit ^t / forto staunche her thrust ^t . And soñē dronk / <i>and</i> fonde it ^t did hem good ; And soñē wern / so feruent ^t and so wood	3112
Some drink sensibly ; some too violently,	Vppon the water / that ^t in sikernesse, Thorgh vndiseret ^t / and hasty gredynesse, Out ^t of mesur / the watere so þei drynke That ^t they fille ded / euene vpon the brynke ;	3116
and fall dead.	And soñē naked / into þe Ryvere ronne, Only for hete / of the somer sonne, To bathen hem / , the water was so cold ; And soñē also / as I haue [*] 3ow told,	3120
Some bathe.	I menē tho that ^t prudent ^t wern and wise, The water drank / in mesurable wyse, That ^t of þe thrust ^t / they haue [*] to-forn endured They were refresshēd / fully <i>and</i> recured.	3124
[leaf 52, back]	And Grekēs than / of hegh <i>and</i> lowe degrē,	
The Argives pitch their tents		

3100. But] And L₂. glad] tho glad S. and] *om.* Ra. was tho] was T₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3101. Seyng] seyng wel Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 3102. hast M. haste Bo. Ad₁. 3104 *omitted in* Ba. 3105 *and* 3106 *are in* Ba. *contracted into one line*: With all his oste recure their lives to save. 3105. Ost Ad₁. hoost Bo. 3107. þei] this E₁. enhas^t] enhas^t C. P. E₂. has^t T₂. in haste Ad₂. I. L₂. hem] *om.* Di. Ad₂. I. P. þer L₂. makyng] and made Ba. made P. 3108. to] vnto C. rood] bood Ar (*the copyist having written abood, crased the a but forgot to alter the b into r*). 3109. drynke Bo. M. Ad₁. drynk Ar. lust (: 3110. thrust) Ar. Du. Di. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. lust (: thirst) Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. M. C. Ap. list (: thirst) Ad₁. lyst (: thirst) Ad₂. list (: thirst) I. lust (: fyrste) G. 3110. Of] and C. forto] and forto Ra. Ba. 3112. Ar. *has a pause-bar also between some and* wern. 3114. Thorgh] That through Ba. 3116. euene] *om.* Ra. Ba. 3119. bathen hem] bathem for L₁. bathen hem ther Ad₂. I. the] þat Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. water] *om.* Ad₂. so] *om.* T₁. 3120. some] sure Ad₂. I. ha Ar. haue Bo. M. Ad₁ (*also* 3123). 3ow] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3121. mene M. Ad₁. meen Bo. 3123. thurst Bo. M. thrust Du. Di. Ad₁.

For high profit / and gret^t commoditè,
 Compas the Ryuere / cristalyn of sighte,
 Of oon accorde / they her tentys pyhte 3128 on the river-
bank.
 To rest hem ther / in relees of her peyne,
 Only the space / of a day or tweyne.
 And whylys Grekes / vpon the Ryuer' lay,
 This Tydeus / vpon the same day 3132
 Ful knyghtly / hath don his diligence,
 This 3onge lady / with gret^t reverence,
 To Adrastus / goodly to presente : Adrastus
 At whoos comyng^t / þe kyng hym-silvè wente 3136
 Ageynës * hir^o / she fallyng douñ on knees,
 Añ thestatës present^t and degrees and his lords
 Of Grekës lond /, absent^t was nat^t oñ ;
 And in his Armës / took hir^o vp anoñ, 3140
 Thanking^t hir^o / of her bysynesse,
 Of hir^o labour / and her kyndënesse, thank the lady,
Ipsiphyle,
 Behotyng^t hir^o / lik as he was holde,
 If eny thyng^t pleynly that she wolde 3144
 That^t he may don / she shuld it^t redy fynde.
 And Grekës aH /, the story maketh mynde,
 Of thestatys / beyng^t tho present,
 Thankèd hir / with al her hool entent^t, 3148
 For refresshyng / don to many Grek ;
 And for her part^t / they biheght^t her ek,
 With her body / and goodës bothë * two, and promise
that they'll do
anything for her
she tells them
to do.
 What^t her list^t / comaunde hem forto do, 3152

3128. they her] þere her Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. ther S. ther is T₂. pyhte (pight T₁. Du. Lb. M. Ad₁. T₂.) were pight Bo. have they pight S. 3131. whiles M. Ad₁. whils Bo. whan Ra. Ba. 3136. hym-silvè Ar. him-silf Bo. him-self M. Ad₁. 3137. Ageyns Ar. Bo. M. Aycyns Ad₁ 3138. thestates Bo. M. Ad₁. ; Ar. has a pause-bar before present. 3141. of] and of Du. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. her] her gret M. Di. Ra. Ba. 3142. Of hir] And of hir Du. and] and of M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. P. 3142 om. G. 3143. Behotyng] Behetyng L₁. Behytyng L₂. Beseching Ba. 3145. shuld] shal Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. 3147. jestates Bo. M. Ad₁. 3149. refresshyng Ar. G. C. T₂. P. L₂. Ap. þe refresshing Bo. and the rest (fresshing E₂). many Ar. G. T₂. L₂. Ap. many a Bo. and the rest. 3150. part M. Ad₁. Ra. parte Bo. partie Ba. S. behight Bo. M. Ad₁. hiht Ra. they biheght] behightyng P. 3151. bothe M. Ad₁. both Ar. Bo. 3152. comaunde hem] hem comande Ad₁. S. hem] om. Du. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. forto] to Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. om. Ad₁.

- [leaf 53] To be redy platly / *and* nat' faille.
 And her myn autour / makeþ rehersaille
 That þis lady so faire vpon to se,
 Ipsiphyle Of whom þe namē was Isyphile, 3156
 says she had To Adrastus told /, as 3e may rede,
 Lyncealy the stok of her kynrede,
 Whilom how she a kyngges doghter' was :
 Rehersyng hym hooly al the eas, 3160
 to leave her land because she wouldn't agree to join other women
 First' why þat' she out' of her contrè wente,
 Shortly for she woldē * not' assente
 To execute / a conspiracioun,
 Mad by the wymmen / of that' Regioun, 3164
 A thyng contrayr / *and* ageyn al right,
 That eche of hem / vpon a certeyn nyght,
 Be on accord / shal warly taken kepe,
 in killing all the men,
 Fader / brother *and* husbond in her slepe, 3168
 With knyvës sharpe *and* rasourës * kene
 Kytt her throtës in that' mortal tene ;
 Vnto this fyn /, as bochas tellē can,
 In al that' londe be not' founde a man), 3172
 But' slayn echon / to þis conclusioun
 so that women might rule.
 That' wymmen / myght' han domynacioun
 In þat kyngdam / to regne at libertè
 And on no partie / Interrupted be. 3176
 Ipsiphyle But for þis lady passing' debonayre,
 To þis mordre / was froward *and* contrayre,
 saved her father,
 Kept' her fader / þat' he was not' slawe
 But' fro þe deth / preservēd *and* wiþdrawe. 3180

3155. so faire vpon] fall faire on Ba. 3156. Isyphile] Isophilee E₂. 3160. holly to him C. T₂. E₂. to her P. hooly al the] al the hole C. T₂. P. E₂. holly þe trew S. 3161. why] how C. T₂. P. E₂. that] *om.* C. Ba. 3162. wolde Bo. wold Ar. M. Ad₁. 3164. the] *om.* Du. 3165. contrayr Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Lb. M. Di. E₂. Ap. contrarie Du. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. L₂. *and*] *om.* E₂. 3167. on] *om.* Ra. shal warly] warly shal Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. T₂. warli shuld Ra. Ba. warly] verraly Du. verlyly P. taken Ar. takyn Ap. take Bo. G. *and the rest.* 3168. husbond Ar. S. L₂. husbondes G. Bo. *and all the other MSS.* in her] while þei Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3169. rasours Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. rasoures L₁. 3170. kitte Bo. M. Ad₁. kutte C. 3172. al] *om.* M. Di. founde] lefte T₁. 3174. domynacioun] þe domynacyon Ad₁. 3175. in Ar. before In. is A crossed through. 3176. on] in Lb. C. partie] parties E₂. parte Ra. 3178. mordre] matere E₂. was froward *and*] frowarde was *and* M. Di.

For which, alas ! / she fleddē þe contrè,		fled,
And of a pyrat ^t / taken in the see,		was captured,
To kyng lygurgus / brouht ^t In al her drede.		[leaf 53, back]
And for her trouþ / and her wommanhede	3184	taken to Ly- curgus, and had charge of his boy.
To hir he took / his 3onge child to kepe, which in the herber / allonē* she left slepe whan Tydeus / she broghte to the welle.		
And by Iason / somē bookis telle	3188	* Iason.
That this lady haddē sonēs two, whan that he and hereules also Toward Colehos by hir' contrè Cam		
For tacomplyssh þe conquest of the Ram.	3192	* Hercules. * ysiphyle. If you want to see Ipsiphyle's story,
But who that lyst ^t by and by to se The story hool / of this* ysiphylè, Hir fadres name / of which also I wante* Thouh somē seyn / he namēd was Thoante,	3196	
And somē bokēs · vermes ek hym* calle : But to knowe / þe auenturēs alle Of þis lady · Isyphylè the faire, So feithful ay / and inly debonayre,	3200	
Lok on the book / that Iohn Bochas made Whilom of women / with rethorikēs glade, And directe / be ful souereyn style To fayrē* Ianē / the queen of Cecile.	3204	look in Boc- caccio's Book of Illustrious Women.
Rede ther the rubrich / of ysiphylè,		

3181. fledde Bo. fled M. Ad₁. 3184. trouthe M. Ad₁. trouþ Ar. Bo. and] and for L₁. Ad₂. her] om. Bo. wommanhede T₁. M. Ad₁. wymmanhede Bo. 3185. To] T Ar. yong Bo. M. yonge Ad₁. child] sone M. Di. 3186. Which in] That in T₂. Withynne Ra. Ba. iherber T₁. M. C. the herber Bo. Ad₁. Ra. allone Bo. M. Ad₁. allon Ar. she] om. Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. left] lete L₂. allone she left] she left allone C. T₂. P. E₂. slepe] aslepe L₁. Ad₂. I. S. Ap. to slepe G. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. T₂. P. E₂. 3187. brought Bo. Ad₁. 3188. som bokes Bo. M. Ad₁. 3192. tacomplish Bo. M. Ad₁. 3193. to] for to Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. 3194. of Ar. G. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. of þis Bo. and the rest. 3195. wante] wente Ar. F₁. S. wont T₁. Lb. write E₂. 3196. som Bo. M. Ad₁. som Men I. P. Thoante] Thorite E₂. 3197. vermes] Vermos E₂. L₂. Vermos P. Sermes Ad₂. I. hym] hem Ar. 3203. ful] om. Ra. Ba. 3204. faire Bo. M. Ad₁. fayr Ar. iane] Ihan Ba. the] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. Vnto Jane the fayr quene of Cecile T₂. 3205. Rede] Redeth P. rubrich Ar. G. S. Ap. Rubrik C. T₂. E₂. Rebrike P. rubrissh Bo. and the rest.

	Of her trouth / and her hegh bountè, Ful craftily compilèd for her sake.	
She is taken back to the	And whan that she hap her lieuë take Of Adrastus /, homward in her weye Tydeus gan hyr to conveye,	3208
garden by Tideus,	To* the gardyne / til* she is repeyred. But now, allas! my mater disespeyred Of alle Ioye / and of alle* welfulnesse, And destitut / of myrth <i>and</i> alle gladnesse, For now of woo / gyuuë þe sharpë shoures.	3212
[leaf 54]	For this lady / fond in among the floures her litil chik / turnèd vp þe face, Slayn of a serpent / in þe seluë place, hyr tailë* burlyd / with skalis siluer-shene.	3216
and finds Lycurgus's boy dead, ¶ How þe child was slayn wip the Serpent. poisoned by a serpent.	The Venym / was / so persyngt <i>and</i> so kene, So perillous ek / the mortal violence Causèd, allas! / thorgh her long absence : She was to slouh / homward forto hie. But now can she / but wepe, wayle, <i>and</i> crye ; Now can she nouht / but sighen and compleyñ And wofully wryngt her handys tweyñ, Dedly of look / pal of face and chere ;	3220
Ipsiphyle tears her hair,	And gan to rende / her giltë* tresses clere,	3224 3228

3206. trouthe Bo. and Ar. G. Ra. Ba. T₂. P. L₂. Ap. and of Bo. *and the rest.*
 hegh] *om.* Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. 3207. compilèd Bo. 3208. that]
om. S. hap her lieue] her leve hith E₂. P. 3210. gan] gan godely M. Di.
 3211. To] Til Ar. G. Lb. Ba. gardeyn Bo. M. Ad₁. til] to Ar. G. that Ba.
 3212. is despeyred G. is dispayred Ad₂. I. C. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. dispeired
 Ad₁. S. ys disapayred L₁. disespeyred Ar. Bo. *and the rest.* 3213. *secomd* alle]
om. Ar. G. L₂. Ro. Ap. welfulnesse Ar. G. T₁. Ad₁. Ra. C. L₂. Ro. Ap. wilfulnesse
 Bo. *and the rest* (*in P. wilfulnesse has been erased, and replaced by gladnesse by a
 later hand.*) 3214. of myrth] of all myrth L₁. E₂. and alle] and of all l.b.
 and of M. Di. Ra. Ba. S. C. and Ad₁. L₂. Ro.^s And restitue of all hevynesse P (*the
 last word written by later hand, on erasure.*) 3215. gynnen Bo. M. Ad₁. gynneth
 Di. beginne E₂. 3216. fond] found L₁. Lb. E₁. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. hath founde E₂.
 3217. litil] *om.* S. þe] his Ba. the fight (*sic*) T₂. 3218. þe selue Ar. Ap. the
 selfe L₁. Di. I. E₁. P. E₂. Ap. the self Bo. G. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. C. T₂.
 the same Ba. S. L₂. Ro. 3219. hyr] hy Ar. His Ro. Ap. taile Bo. M. Ad₁. tail
 Ar. burlyd] burled vp P. Curlyde Ro. 3221. now] nouht L₂. can] gane Ro.
 wepe wayle and crye] waile wepe and crye M. Di. Ra. Ba. S. C. P. wayle] *om.* L₂.
 3225. Now can she nouht] But now she can nouht Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Now can
 she L₁. Nought can she L₂. Nowe can P. but] *om.* Ap. sighen] wayle L₂.
 3227. face] hir face S. 3228. gilt Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. gylty P. clere] of here S.

And oftē sith she gan to seyn, “allas !
 O wooful wreech / vnhappy in this cas,
 What' shal I don / or whider may I tourne ?
 For þis the fyu / ʒif I her* soiourne, 3232
 I woot' right' wel / I may it' not' eskape
 The pitous fatē / þat' is for me shape.
 Socour is non / nor ther may be non red,
 lich my desert' / but' that' I mot' be ded ; 3236 says she must
die, as, by her
neglect,
 For thorhe my slouth / and my neclgyence
 I haue, allas ! don so gret' offence
 That' my gilt' /, I may it' nat' excuse,
 Shal to the kyng' / of treson me acense. 3240
 Thorgh my defaute / *and* slouthē* bothē* two,
 His sone is ded / *and* his heir also, Lyeurgus's heir
is kild,
(leaf 54, back)
 which he louēd mor than al his good :
 For tresour noñ / so nygh his hertē stood, 3244
 Nor was so depē / graue / in his corage :
 That' he is likly to fallen in a Rage
 whan it' is so, myn odyous offence
 Reported be vnto his audience ; 3248
 So inportable shal be his hevynesse.
 And wel woot' I / in verrey sothfastnesse, The Queen too
 That', whan the quenē* / hath this þing' espied,
 To myn excus / It may nat' be denyed, 3252

3229. sith] sithes Ba. sythis L₂. she] *om.* C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. she gan to] gan she Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. 3231. may Ar. L₂. Ap. shal Bo. *and the rest.* tourne] gone P' (: soierne). 3232. *om. in* Ba. 3232. þis] þis is Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. Ra. S. P. L₂. Ro. the] *om.* Ra. her] ther Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. E₁. ʒif I her] of my S. 3233. right] it M. Di. P. Ro. it] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. not] no Bo. 3235. is] is there M. Di. Ad₂. I. C. T₂. P. E₂. nor] ner Bo. Du. Ra. Ba. S. P. ne T₁. M. Di. C. T₂. E₂. nother Lb. for Ro. ther] *om.* E₂. may be] is T₁. none other E₂. red] drede T₁. ; Ar. *has rede with the final e underdotted.* 3236. that] *om.* L₂. Ro. mot] mvtt Ap. most L₁. C. Ro. must Ba. S. P. L₂. 3237. slouthē M. Ad₁. slouth Bo. neclgyence Ra. negligence Bo. M. Ad₁. 3238. so] to C. T₂. P. E₂. 3239. Ar. *has a second pause-bar after it.* 3241. slouthē M. Ad₁. slouth Ar. Bo. bothe M. Ad₁. both Ar. Bo. 3242. *in* Ar. *after is is an l. underdotted.* 3243. which] Which that P. loued] loueth E₁. 3244. hert Bo. Ad₁. 3246. he] *om.* Lb. fallen Ar. G. L₁. Ra. Ba. C. T₂. E₂. Ap. falle Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. P. L₂. Ro. likly to falle] fall lykly P. in a] in such a Ad₁. Ad₂. in such l. 3251. quenē (queen Bo.)] king Ar. G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. P. E₂. this þing] *om.* Bo. þing] *om.* T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. hath this þing] this thing hath C. T₂. this hath Lb.

- I doutē it not / ther geyueth no pytē,
 With-out' respit' / she wil avengēd be
 On me, allas ! / as I ha deserued ;
 That' fro the deth / I may not' be preserved 3256
 Nowther be bille / ne supplicacioun ;
 For the rage / of my transgressioun
 and demand
 her death. Requereth deth / and non other mede." 3260
 And thus, allas ! she, quaking in her drede,
 Non other helpe / nor remedyē* kan,
 She runs back
 to the Greeks. But' dreynt' in sorow / to þe Grekēs Ran,
 Of hertly woo / face and chere disteyned
 And her chekes with wepyng al bereynyd, 3264
 In hir' affray / distracte *and* furious.
 To-forne alle / she cam to Tydeus,
 And fille on knees / *and* gan her compleynt mak,
 Toldē pleyuly / that' for grekēs sake 3268
 She mot' be ded / and shortly in substance
 Rehersing' hym the grete of her greuance :
 that a serpent
 has kild Lycu-
 rus's boy,
 and that she is in
 peril.
 [leaf 55] First' how he traynys of a fals serpent'
 The child was slawē / whil she was absent' ; 3272
 In what disioynte / and peril that' she stood.
 And whan that' he her meschief vnderstood,
 Tideus promises
 to help her, Vnto hire ful knyghtly he behiht'
 To help and forther / al that' euere he myght, 3276
 hir pitous woo / to stynten and appese.
 And forto fynde / vnto hir' dissesse
 Hasty confort', he went' a ful gret' pas

3254. she] he Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. wil] shall T₁. 3257. Nowther] Neither Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. P. bille] wille Di. ne] ne by Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ba. nor Ra. nor bi I. C. T₂. E₂. 3260. she] *om.* Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. quaking] quakith Ad₂. P. L₂. Ro. 3261. remedy Ar. remedie Bo. M. Ad₁. 3262. dreynt] dreynt Lb. drant S. adreynt P. sorow] sorw M. C. teres Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3268. Toldē] And tolde E₂. L₂. Ro. grekes] þe grekes Lb. S. 3270. hym] *om.* Bo. the grete] the greef Ra. the chefe Ba. the gronde E₂. the grete cause P (cause of her Grevance *written by a later hand, on erasure*). of her] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3271. First how] How first Du. 3272. slawē] slayn Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. L₂. Ro (selayne). 3273. disioynte] distresse Ad₂. distreyat I. 3274. he] Tydeus Ro. Ap. And whan he herd that mischefe and vnderstoode Ba. 3278. fynde Ar. Bo. *and the rest, except fynd* S. L₂.

To Adrastus / and told hym al the cas	3280	and tells Adrastus,
Of þis vnhappy / wooful aventure,		
Beseching hym to don his bysy cure,		
As he was bound / of equytè <i>and</i> rìzt',		
And aduerten / and to han a sìzt'	3284	
How she qwit her to Grekës her to-forñ		
whan they wer likly / forto haue * be lorñ,		
The socour voide of her wommanhede :		
For which he most of knyghthod taken hede	3288	
To remedien þis vnhappy thingt.		
And Adrastus / lik a worthy kyngt		who resolves to aid Ipsiphyle.
Ta ^u qyt hym-silf /, the story makeþ myn ^l ,		
To thys lady wille nat be found vnkyn ^l ,	3292	
Neither for cost / nor for no travaylle,		
But bysy was / in al þat myght availle		
To hir socour / considered alle þingges,		
And by thavice / of alle þe worthy kyngges	3296	The Greeks agree to appeal to Lyeurgus.
Of Grekës lond / þei be accorded thus,		
Prynces, Dukës / and worthy Tydeus,		
To hold her way / and al at onys ryde		
To lygurgus / dwelling ther be-syde,	3300	
Of on entent / zif they may purchace		
In eny wisè / forto getè grace		
For this lady, Callèd ysiphilè :		[leaf 55, back]
They wold assayè * zif it myghte be.	3304	
And to his paleys ful ryal bylt of stoñ,		

3283. he] *om.* Du. 3284. And] *om.* P. aduerten] aduert L₂. Ro. to aduerten M. Di. P. T₂. eke aduertise E₂. and to] and T₂. 3286. whan] That Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. they] *om.* Lb. P. forto] to M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. elles to Lb. P. ha Ar. C. Ap. haue Bo. M. Ad₁. lorñ] forlorne Lb. M. Di. C. T₂. L₂. 3288. For] Of Bo. Du. 3292. thys] thy Ar. Ap. Ar. *has a pause-bar after* wille. 3293. Neither . nor Ar. Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. Ra. Nother . nor E₁. C. T₂. L₂. Ap. Neither . ne T₁. Ba. S. P. E₂. Nother . ne Ro. Neither . neither Ad₁. Neithir . nouthir Ad₂. I. Nor . nor M. Di. for] *om.* Ba. no] *om.* M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. T₂. P. L₂. Ro. 3295. his] þeyre Lb. considered] considreth Ad₂. I. considre S. coneydere Ro. 3298. and] and with hem Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ap. worthy] *om.* Lb. T₂. P. E₂. Ap. 3299. al] *om.* Du. al at onys] altonys Ar. 3304. assaye Bo. Ad₁. assay Ar. M. 3305. his paleys] þis place L₁. ful ryal bylt] full rially bylt Lb. E₂. ryght ryally bild S. for royallie bilt Ba. roiall bylte P. wel bilded Ad₂. I. bilte L₁. of stone] of lyme and stone L₁. P.

The Grekes
ride to Lyceur-
gus's palace.

The worthy Grekes / cam ryding^t eu^rrichoñ,
Euery lord ful fresshly on his stede.

And lyceurgus / example of manlihedē, 3308

Anon as he knewe of her coīnyng^t,
Taquyt^t hym-silf / lieh a gentil kyng^t,
Ageyn hem went^t / to mete hem on the way,

¶ How Adrastus
and all thestatist
of Grekis providen
lyceurgus for þe
lif of ysophile.

Ful wel byseyne / and in ful good array, 3312
Receyvyng^t hem with a ful kyngly chere.
And to Adrastus seid, as 3e shul here,

He welcomes
them,

¶ "Cosyn *," quod he / and gan hym to enbrace,
"3e be welcome / to 3oure ownē place, 3316

Thankyng^t hertly to 3our^t hegh noblesse
That^t so goodly / of 3our^t gentillesse
Towardēs me / 3e list^t 3ou to acquite,
3oure-silf þis day / 3our cosyn to visite, 3320
In this castel to takē 3oure loggyng^t;

and is delighted
that they've
come.

That^t neuer^t 3it^t / I was so glad of thyng^t
In * al my lif / and therto her my trouth.
And ouermorē * / ther shal be no slouth 3324

He'll put the
lords in rooms,

That^t the Chambres / and the largē tours
Shal be delyuered / to 3our herberious ;
That^t euery lord / as he is of degrē,
Vnto his loggyng^t / shal assignēd be. 3328
3oure officerēs * / lat^t hem-silf * devise

3308. example] ensaunple T₁. L₁. of] for Ra. Ba. S. manlihedē] manhede L₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. Ro. P (altered to manhode by late hand). manhode Lb. 3309. knewe] kneuh Ra. knoweth Ba. 3310. Taquyt Bo. Ad₁. Te quyte M. To acuyte Ra. 3312. Ful wel] Right wel M. Di. in] in a Bo. Lb. C. T₂. full] ryght Ap. om. Lb. P. E₂. good] riche Ro. array] ray C. ful good] a gret G. 3313. with] in C. T₂. ful] om. G. T₁. kyngly Ar. T₁. M. Ra. E₁. T₂. L₂. Ro. knightly Bo. G. and the rest. 3314. Ar. has a pause-bar after Adrastus. 3315. Cosyn] Cosy Ar. Ra. embrace Bo. Ad₁. embrace M. 3317. hegh] om. Ra. Ba. 3318. goodly] om. I. 3our] your lie Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. S. your good hih I. your gret C. 3319. Towardēs Ar. Bo. and all, except Toward Ba. C. 3ou] now you Bo. nowe Ro. not L₂. om. S. to] so Lb. Ra. Ba. to acquite] taquyte Bo. M. E₁. 3322. That] For Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. I was] was I T₁. L₁. That I was so glad neuere yet of thing Ad₁. I. Ad₂ (yit nevir). 3323. In] An Ar. And E₁. 3324. ouermore T₁. M. Di. Ad₁. I. C. Ro. ouermor Ar. more over L₁. Ad₂. euer more Bo. and the rest. 3328. shal assigned Ar. G. L₂. Ro. Ap. assigned shal Bo. and the rest. 3329. officerēs Lb. officerēs Ra. officerēs Ar. Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. hemself Bo. Lb. M. Ad₁. them-self L₂. hym-silf Ar.

- 3if the howsyng^t / may largely suffise
 To 3ow and 3ourès / strecchen *and* atteyn̄,
 That^t non̄ estaat^t / haue * causè to compleyn̄. 3332
 And alle 3our^t hoost^t / loggèd her be-syde, (leaf 56)
 which in Tentys / vpon 3ou abide, and feed their
 lat^t hem fette / be myn̄ auctoritè, men in tents.
 Vitayle ynoh̄ / her in my Citè. 3336
 And alle that^t may socour hem or saue,
 And, at^t a word /, al that^t euere I haue
 Is ful *and* hool / at^t 3our comaulèment.^t
 ¶ Quod Adrastus / “ that^t is nat^t our^t entent^t, 3340 Adrastus says
 Nor on no parte / cause of oure com̄yng^t.
 For we be come al for ano^{per} thyng^t, they want an-
 A certeyn gift^t / of 3ou to requere, other gift,
 Benygnely / 3if 3e list^t to here, 3344
 which may Grekès / passyngly availle,
 Of our^t request / 3if^t that^t 3e nat^t ne faille, but daren't
 which we dar not / opynly expresse, name it till he
 with-outè that^t 3e wold / of gentillesse, 3348 promises to
 3oure graunt^t aforⁿ / conferme *and* ratefyè. grant it.
 Than wer we bold / it^t to specifiye.”

3330. howsyng] haunsing Lb. honshold Ba. may largely] largely may Lb. T₂. P. E₂. Ro. largely] large Ra. 3331. yourès M. Ad₁. yours Bo. 3332. non]ony Lb. any P. ha Ar. Ap. haue Du. M. Ad₁. Ra. hath Bo. 3333. 3our] his Du. hooste Bo. Ra. Ost Ad₁. loggèd] om. Ba. 3334. which in] Within Ra. Ba. L₂. Ro. in Tentys] entently Lb. T₂. P. E₂. C (mentently). vpon] om. Ra. Ba. abide] to abide Ra. Ba. S. L₂. Ro. 3336. ynogh Bo. ynow M. y-nov Ad₁. 3337. socour Ar. socoure Bo. M. Ad₁ (*the final e added above the line by the same hand*). socour hem Ar. L₂. Ro. Ap. hem socoure Bo. G. and the rest. or] and Di. S. P. L₂. Ro. 3338. a Ar. o Bo. M. Ad₁. 3339. ful] fully Ba. 3341. on] in E₁. S. of Ba. om. T₁. Lb. M. Ad₂. I. C. T₂. P. E₂. no]oon Ba. parte Ar. Bo. Du. Di. Ad₁. P. E₂. L₂. part T₁. L₁. Lb. M. S. C. T₂. parti Ra. partye G. Ba. E₁. om. Ad₂. I. on no parte] percele Ro. 3344. Benygnely Bo. M. Ad₂. I. beinyngly Ad₁. 3e M. Ad₂. I. C. you Bo. Ad₁. 3345. passyngly] passyng G. L₁. Ba. 3346. our. ye T₁. Du. Ad₂. I. S (*Stowe has written your but crossed out y*). 3our. 3e Ar. G. Bo. M. Di. Ad₁. E₁. our. we Lb. Ra. Ba. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. your L₁ (*om. 3e or we*) (*see Notes*). request Bo. M. Ad₁. 3if that (*in no MS.*) that Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. E₁. S. yf Lb. Ra. Ba. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. that yf Ad₂. I. 3e nat ne] nat ye Ad₁. nat ne faille] not fayle G. Lb. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. L₂. Ro. not vs fayl S. do not fule E₂. may not fayle L₁. 3348. Ar. *has a pause-bar also after* with-outè. 3e] we T₂. wold] wil C. E₂. gentillesse] your gentillesse E₂. gretnesse Ba. 3350. specifiye] especifie Bo. Du.

Lycurgus says he'll give em anything but his life,	Quod lycurgus / " what-ener thyngt' it' be, Nouht' exceptid / but' only þinggës thre :	3352
his son and his wife.	¶ The first' is this / it' touchè * nat' my lif, My 3onge sonè, pleyuly, nor my wyf ; Take al my good / or what' 3e list' provyde Of my tresour / and sette þies thre a-syde, Al the surplus / I count' nat' at' a myte."	3356
	Than Adrastus / astounyd was a lyte whan lycurgus / in conclusioun, Of his sonè / made excepcioun.	3360
Then a man comes in,	And whilis they / entreten þus yfere, Ther cam forth on / with a wooful chere,	
[leaf 56, back]	Of face and look / pal and no-thingt' rede, A-lowdè crieth / " the kyngës * sone is dede,	3364
and says the King's son	Allas the whyl ! / that' whilom was se fayr, After lycurgus / born forto ben hayr ;	
has been stung to death by a serpent.	The which, allas ! / hath 3olden vp the breth, Of a Serpent' / stongè to the deth And with his woundè * / newè *, fressh and grene, In therber lith / that pitè is to sene, And hath so leyne / almost' al this day :	3368

3351. what-ener thyng Ar. Ap. L₂. Ro. what þing euer Bo. and the rest, except what thyng pat euer P. what þat euer thyng G. 3352. exceptid] except G. Ad₂. I. Ba. L₂. 3353. is this it] is þat L₂. touche M. Ap. touch Ar. Ra. touchith Bo. Du. Ad₁. E₁. L₂. Ro. 3354. yonge Ad₁. yong Bo. M. om. C. nor] ne Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. E₁. S. P. nother C. and Du. L₂. Ro. 3355. ye Bo. M. you Ad₁. 3357. surplus] surpluys T₂. surplice Lb. remmont P. count] compte E₂. covyte L₂. at] om. Di. I. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. 3358. astonyed M. astoneied Ad₁. astoned T₂. stunyed Bo. Lb. Ra. Ba. was] not L₂. Ro. 3361. whilis T₁. whiles Ad₁. while M. whils Bo. whil Ra. om. Du. entreten þus Ar. G. Ro (entrete). Ap (entrete). þus entreten Bo. Du. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. entretid thus L₂. thus entretiden T₁. treten thus M. Di. trete thus Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. in feer Bo. 3362. Ther] om. Ro. cam Bo. come M. Ad₁. a] om. Lb. P. wooful] ful woful Ad₁. Ad₂. I. rewful Ba. sorful C. dredful T₂. 3363. and loude] of loke Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. 3364. A-lowde] and a-loude Bo. And lowde G. Lb. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. C. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. crieth] cried Ra. Ba. C. T₂. kynges M. Ad₁. kynges Bo. kyng Ar. 3366. forto ben Ar. G. T₁. Du. L₁. Ra. E₁. S. Ap. to hane ben Bo. forto have be Ba. to ben M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. to Lb. hayr] his heir Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. E₂. 3368. stonge Ap. stong T₂. E₂. L₂. stongyng I. stongen Bo. G. and the rest. to] vnto Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. T₂. E₂. the] om. Di. 3369. wounde Bo. Ad₁. wound Ar. M. woundis Ra. Ba. newe T₁. E₁. new Ar. M. Ad₁. now Bo. newe fressh] fresh new Ra. Ba. L₂. Ro. 3370. lith] om. T₂. that] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. pite] pitous Ra. is] it is S. to] om. Du. 3371. leyne Bo. layn M. Ad₁. lien Ba.

- That whan lygurgus / herdē* this affray, 3372 Lyeurgus
 And wist his child was ded *and* hath no mo, weeps for his
 Lytil wonder / thogh that he were wo. son's death.
- For sodeynly / the inportable smerte
 Ran anon / and hent* hym by the herte 3376
- That, for constreynt / of his dedly peyne,
 Thorgh-oute he felte koruen euery veyne. ¶ The sorow þat
 The ragē gan myne in hym so depe made for the deth
 That he can not but sighē* / sobbe, *and* wepe. 3380 the lamenta-
 And with the noyse / and lamentacioun cion of the
 The qwen distraut / is descendid down. quene.
 And whan she knewe / the* ground of al this sorowe, His queen
 hit neded* her no tēerēs / forto borowe 3384
- But twenty tymē ny* vpon a rowe
 A-swoune she fille vnto þe grounde lowe; swoons.
- And stoundē-melē* / for this hegh meschaunce,
 Stille as ston / she lyggeth in a Traunce. 3388 and lies in a
 ¶ And whan the child / into the courte was brouht trance.
 To-fore lygurgus / allas! I wite hym nought, The boy's corpse
 Vpon the cors / with a mortal face, is brought in.
- he Fil atonys / and gan it to embrace, 3392

3372. That] Than Ra. Ba. And Lb. L₂. Ro. But S. F₂. herde Bo. Ad₁. herd Ar. M. harde E₁. T₂. this] al þis Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. of this Ba. affray] om. Ba. 3373. wist] wist than T₁. hath Ar. Ap. hat G. had Bo. *and all the other MSS.* 3374. that] om. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. P. he] his hert S. were] was T₂. E₂. Ap. 3376. hente Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. rent Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ap. 3379. myne] gynne L₂. gyne Ro. in hym] on hym Lb. M. Di. C. T₂. hym Ra. 3380. can] coude E₂. not] om. Ra. sighē M. Ad₁. sigh Ar. Bo. om. T₂. sobbe] om. Ad₂. I. L₂. sighē sobbe and wepe] sobbe sighē and wepe Lb. Ba. P. E₂. sorwe sighē and wepe C. 3382. distraut] distraite Ro. 3383. And] om. L₂. Ro. the] om. Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ra. Ba. E₁. C. T₂. Ap. sorowe] sorw M. (: borw). 3384. neded Du. Lb. M. Di. P. F₂. Ap. nede Ar. Bo. E₁. nedeth T₁. *and the rest.* her no] hir nat Ad₁. nat hir Ad₂. I. forto] to S. T₂. 3385. tyme] tymes L₁. Ba. S. om. Ad₃. I. ny Bo. T₁. M. nygh L₁. nyþe Di. by Ar. G. Ad₁. I. E₁. S. Ap. be Ad₂. bi and bi Ra. Ba. om. Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. a rowe] A throwe Ro. 3386. A-swoune] Aswouned E₂. vnto] to Lb. M. Di. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. vpon Ba. grounde Bo. M. ground Ad₁. erthe Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. Ap. 3387. stound-me'e Ar. Ad₁. stoundemeie Bo. stoundemel M. 3388. ston] a stoon Di. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. S. lyggeth Ar. Bo. T₁. Ap. lyeth M. *and the rest.* 3389. And] But E₂. the child] it Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. this Ba. into the] into Bo. Du. E₂. the child into the court was] into the court it was Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. (this). it into the court was I. E₁. into þe court was it S. 3391. the] þat Lb. 3392. it] om. Ba. to embrace M. to embrace Bo. Ad₁. tenbrace T₁.

- [leaf-57] Soorë * Grype / and ageyn vpsterte ;
 That whan Adrastus / gan this thyng^t aduerte,
 Of kyngly routh / and compassioun
 From his eyen / the teerës fillë douñ 3396
 Ek kynggges / Dukës, that aboutë * stood,
 Only of pitë / which is in gentyll blood,
 No power hadde / the water to restreyñ
 That on her chekës / doune bygan to reyñ. 3400
 But al a day / woldë * not^t suffice
 Alle her sorowes / in ordre to devise,
 First^t of the kyng^t / and of the quene also :
 To tellen aH / I shuldë * neuer ha do, 3404
 Not in the space / almost^t of an hour.
 But whan the stormës / and þe sharpë * shour
 Of her wepyng^t / was somewhat ouergoñ,
 The lytil cors / was grauen vnder stoñ. 3408
 ¶ And Adrastus / in þe samë tide
 Iygurgus took / a litil out aside,
 And ful wisely / with his prudent^t spech,
 The qwenë * present^t / gan hym forto tech 3412
 That so to sorowe / awayllë may right^t noght,
 To mordre hym-silf / with his ownë thouht,
3393. Soore Lb. Sore Bo. M. Ad₁. Soor Ar. to gripe Bo. and all, except Grype Ar. G. L₂. Ro. Ap. 3394. That] Thian T₁. Ad₂. I. E₂. Ro. thyng] om. Ba. E₁. gan this thyng] this thyng gan Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂ (can). aduerte] advart S (: vpstart). 3395. kyngly] kyndlyl Di. knyghtly L₂. routh Bo. M. Ad₁. ruthe L₂. 3396. the] there E₁. douñ] a-douñ Du. Lb. Di. I. C. T₂. E₂. 3397. kynggges] princees M. Di. Dukes] and dukes Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. aboute Bo. M. Ad₁. about Ar. 3398. of] for Ra. om. S. which Ar. G. L₂. Ro. Ap. þat Bo. and the rest. in] of Ra. Ba. om. Ap. 3399. water] teeres Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. restreyñ] constreyne L₂. 3400. her] om. Bo. bygan] gan Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. Ra. Ba (can). to] om. Ra. Ba. 3401. aday Ar. the day Ra. Ba. wolde Bo. wold Ar. M. Ad₁. wyll L₂. 3403. second of] om. Lb. M. Di. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. Ap. kyng. quene] quene. kynges Ro. 3404. tellen] telle Lb. P. S. Ro (tele). shulde Bo. shuld Ar. shold M. Ad₁. ha Ar. Ad₂. I. Ra. haue a Di. haue Bo. and the rest. 3406. sharpe Bo. sharp Ar. M. Ad₁. teary E₂. om. Ra. Ba. 3407 to 3590 lost in Ro. 3407. in Ar. before ouergon is written fo, underdotted. 3408. grauen] om. Ad₂. I. vnderston Ar. ston] a ston Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3409 to the end of the poem lost in Ap. 3410. a litil] a lite Bo. Du. M. Di. om. L₁. a litil out] oute a litil C. 3412. qwen Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. gan] thus gan C. forto] to C. om. S. 3413. so] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3414 in Ad₁. is omitted at its right place and stands at the bottom of col. 2 of leaf 25, front; in the original of Ad₂. and I. it has been replaced by a new line composed to rhyme with 3413, viz. But best remedie / to pat it out of thouht. 3411. hym-silf] them-self S. with] in Ra. S.

- Sith loos of deth / no man may recure
 Thogh he in woo / perpetuelly endure ; 3416
- Al helpeth nat / whan the soule is go. ¶ Ageynes deth
 " And our lif her, who taketh* hed ther-to, that our life
 Is but an exile / and a pilgrymage, is but a pil-
 grimage ;
- Ful of torment / and of bitter Rage, 3420
- Lich a See * rennyng to and fro, (leaf 57, back)
- Swyng an ebbē / whan the flood is do,
 Lytil space abidyng at the fulle :
- Of whos soiour / the popē zeueþ no bulle. 3424
- For* kyngt is non, nor* duk, nor Emperour, that no one can
 That may hym shroude / ageyn þe fatal shour avoid death :
- Of cruel deth / whan hym list maunace
 To marke a man with his mortal mace. 3428
- Than geyneþ nat to his sauacioun
 Neyther Fraunchysē / nor proteccioun,
 And lit / or noght / may helpen in this caas
- Saufcondit / or Supersedyas. 3432
- For in this world / who so look a-right, all must die :
- Is noñ so gret / of power nor of myght,
 Noon so richē / shortly / nor so bold
- But* he mot dey / outhē* 3ongt or old. 3436
- And who in 3outhē* / passeth þis passage,
 he is eskapēd / al the woodē* Rage,
 Al sorowe and trouble / of this present lyff,
- and those who
 die young
 are saved from
 sorrow.

3415. Sith] Sayth L₁. Such Ra. Sith loos of deth] Aynst dethe Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. no man may] may be no Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. recure] recover P (: endure).
 3418. who] whos C. who so P. thus E₂. taketh] take Ar. G. T₃. P. 3422.
 do] go Bo. Du. L₁. Lb. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. S. C. 3423. the copyist of Ar. first wrote
 falle, but underlotted it, and added fulle. 3424. in T₁. popē yeueþ no bulle has
 been erased; the words are, however, still legible. 3425. For Lb. Ad₂. P. E₂. Nor
 Ar. Bo. and the rest, except ne T₂. is non] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Di. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba.
 S. non] om. M. Ad₁. E₁. nor duk] duk Ar. G. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂.
 ne duk S. no Duk Ra. nor Emperour] ne Emperoure L₁. Lb. E₁. P. E₂. L₂.
 3426. That] om. Ad₂. I. hym] om. Ad₁. may hym shroude] hym may shroude
 L₂. May nat shroude Ad₂. I. þe] þat L₁. Di. his Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. om. Ra. Ba.
 shour] houre L₁. our L₂. 3429. sauacioun] saluacioun Du. E₂. 3432.
 Saufcondit Ad₁. saufconduyt Bo. Saif-condite Lb. Saue-conduyte E₁. either
 sauf-conduyt M. Di (saufcondit). 3433. whos luketh Bo. who lokith M. Ad₁.
 3436. But L₁. But that Lb. Ad₂. I. S. P. That Ar. Bo. and the rest. he] om.
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. mot] most L₁. Lb. E₁. S. P. E₂. L₂. oytter Ar. eyther Bo. M.
 other Ad₁. outhē C. 3437. 3outh Ar. Bo. 3438. wode Bo. M. wood Ar. Ad₁.

- Replenished* with contek / werre *and* stryff, 3440
 which seeld or neuere / stont^t in Suertè.
 Wher-for best^t is, as semeth vnto me,
 No man gruchè* / but, of hegh prudence,
 The sonde of goddis / tak in pacience. 3444
 And 3e that ben so wis / and manly to,
 3oure-silf to drowne in torment^t *and* in woo
 For loos of thyng^t / 3if* that 3e list to se,
 which in no wisè may recuerèd be, 3448
 Is gret^t foly and vndisereccioun.”
 And thus Adrastus : hath conveyèd douñ
 The substauce hool^t of that he wold^e seye :
 Til that he fond^t a tyme forto preye 3452
 Conuenyent^t for ysyphilee.
 Bysechyng hym forto han pitè
 Of þat^t she hath offended his highnesse,
 Not^t wilfully / but^t of reklesnesse : 3456
 First^t þat^t he wold^e / his doomès so* dyvide,
 Mercy preferre / and settè* right^t a-side,
 At the* request^t and preier of hem alle,
 Of this vnhappe / and meschief that^t is falle 3460

So Lycurgus
and his wife
should take in
patience what
the Gods send.

Adrastus then
begs mercy for
Ipsiphyle,

[leaf 58]

who has not
offende d
wilfully.

3440. Replenished] Repleveshed Ar. G. replenessed Bo. Replemisshed C. Repleysshed or Repleysshed M. Di. Ad₁. T₂. Repleshed Ad₃. I. Ra. replenshed T₁. Repleynshed Du. Lb. *and the rest.* 3441. suerte Bo. M. surte Ad₁. 3442. as] *om.* Ra. Ba. semeth] it semeth Lb. M. Di. C. T₂. P. E₂. vnto] to M. C. *om.* Lb. Di. S. T₂. P. E₂. 3443. grucche Bo. M. Ad₁. grucch Ar. gruge S. grugge L₂. to grucche T₂. hegh] his S. L₂. 3444. sonde] wyll S. goddis Ar. G. C. T₂. god Bo. *and the other MSS.* of goddis tak] or god he take E₂. tak] take yt L₂. 3446. 3our-silf Ar. Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. youre lyf Bo. *and the rest.* torment] tournament L₁. tournament E₁. your-self to turnment in anguysh and in wo L₂. 3446 *and* 3447 *om.* in Ra. *and* Ba.; in Ra. 3445 reads: And ye that ben so wis and manli to se, *and is followed by* 3448: Sith in no wise recovered it may be; in Ba., *between* 3444 *and* 3450 *are three lines*, viz.: Sith in noo wise recoverd it may bee And ye that ben so wise and so manlie to see Itt is grete perell foly and one destruccioun. 3447. 3if that (*in no MS.*)] that Ar. G. E₁. S. if Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. C. þat yf Ad₁. Ad₃. I. and I. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. *om.* L₁. to] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₃. I. 3448. which] That C. T₂. P. E₂. reured] recoverid Ad₃. I. Ra. Ba. P. L₂. may reured] reured may Ad₁. E₁. S. C. T₂. recoverid may Ad₃. I. 3449. Is] It is Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₃. I. Ra. Ba. S. 3453. for] for faire M. Di. T₂. for worthi Ra. Ba. 3455. þat] what Ba. offended] *om.* Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. E₁. S. his] *om.* Ra. this S. highnesse] hevenesse S. 3456. reklesnesse Bo. M. reklesnesse Ad₁. 3457. so] to Ar. Ad₁. Ad₃. I. E₁. S. *om.* Ra. Ba. dyvide] devoide (:aside) I. Ba. deuoid Ra. 3458. sette Ad₁. M. set Ar. Bo. 3459. At þe Du. L₁. P. L₂. Atte Bo. T₁. Ad₁. Ra. E₁. S. C. At Ar. *and the rest.* 3460. that is] so Ra. Ba. falle] befallè Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. C. T₂.

- By hasty Rigour / nat^t to do vengeance,
 But thynk afor / in his purvyau^{nce},
 who to wreechës / doth mercy / in her drede,
 Shal mercy fyndë / whan he hath most^t nede : 3464 He who does
 mercy, shall
 find mercy.
- And sith he hath power, myght, *and* space,
 Lat hym tak this lady / to his grace,
 For lak of routhë* / that^t she nat^t ne dye. Let Ipsiphyle
 be forgiven.
- ¶ But^t tho the quenë / gan agayn replye 3468 ¶ How the quen
 wil algate h in
 þe serpent dede.
- And platly seide / as in this matere,
 Avayleth not^t requeste / nor preyere,
 Pytë, Mercy / nor remyssyoun,
 But^t zif it^t be / by this condicoun 3472 But the Queen
 says,
- That^t the serpent, cause of al þis sorowe,
 Thorgh her labour lay his hed to borowe.
 This is fynal and vtter recompense
 To fyndë gracë / for her gret^t offence, 3476
 Or ellis Shortly sheedë* blood for blood.
- And whan Grekys her answer vnderstood,
 Al of accord in her beste wise,
 Took on hem / this auenturous emprise, 3480 The Grekes
 hunt for the
 Serpent.
- For loue only of Ysiphylee ;
 And gan to ryde / envyron þe contrë,
 By hillës, valës of Rochës, and ek Cauës, [leaf 58, back]

3461. nat] and nat Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. vengeance] no vengeance M.
 Di. 3465. sith] syn Ra. he hath] ye haue Ra. Ba. myght] and myght Ra.
 3466. Lat hym tak] That ye will tak L₁. Receyvethe Ra. Ba. to] vnto Bo. T₁.
 Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. T₂. into E₂. his] youre Ra. Ba. om.
 L₁. Ad₂. I. 3467. routhë Bo. M. Ad₁. routh Ar. nat] now Ad₁. now Ad₂. I. S.
 nat ne] now nat Ra. ne] om. Bo. Lb. Ra. Ba. E₁. L₂. she nat ne] ne nat thus E₂.
 3468. tho] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3470. request Bo. M. Ad₁. nor Ad₁. ne Bo. M.
 3471. nor M. ne Bo. neither Ad₁. 3473. That] But Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M.
 Di. S. But if E₁. the] this L₂. [pis] om. Lb. C. P. 3474. Thorgh] For Ad₁.
 Ad₂. I. her Ar. Ra. L₂. their Ba. his B₂. *and the rest.* lay] leyde Ad₂. I.
 3475. fynal] finally Bo. Du. Ra. the final Di. vtter] the vtter M. Di. 3476.
 her] his Bo. Du. 3477. ellis] els L₂. om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
 Ra. Ba. E₁. S. Shortly] sothly T₁. sheed Ar. shede Bo. M. Ad₁. shedde P.
 first blood Ar. 3478. And] om. Ra. Ba. Grekys] þe Grekes Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di.
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. her] this Ra. her answer] this Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3479. Al] om. Lb.
 C. T₂. P. E₂. accord (Ar. G. E₁. L₂.)] oon accorde Bo. *and the rest.* 3480.
 auenturous] auentures Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. Ad₁. E₁. S. C. T₂. P. L₂. auentours Ad₂.
 I. 3481. loue] the loue T₂. of] of this Ra. Ba. 3482. gan Bo. gon M.
 Ad₁. 3483. vales] valeys C. vayles T₂. vales Roches] roches vales Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
 ek] om. E₂.

	In dychis dirk ^t / <i>and</i> in oldē gravis,	3484
	By enery cooste / cerehyng ^t vp <i>and</i> douñ :	
	Til at the last ^t / ful famous of renoun,	
Parthonolope	The worthy knyght ^t / parthonolopè	
• How parthonolope saugh þe Serpent.	was the first ^t / that happed for * to Se	3488
finds it,	This hydous Serpent ^t / by a Ryver-side,	
	Gret ^t and horrible / stern and ful of pride,	
	Vndere a Rocchē * / by a banke lowe ;	
	And in al hast ^t / he bent ^t a sturdy bowe,	3492
	And ther-In sette an arowe * fylēd kene,	
shoots it,	And thorgh the body / spotted blew <i>and</i> grene,	
	Ful myghtily he made it ^t forto Glyde,	
	Hent * out a swerde / hongyng ^t be his syde,	3496
cuts off its head,	Smooth of his hede / and anoñ it hent	
gives it to the Queen,	And ther-with-ā gan the Quene present ^t ,	
	wherthorgh her sorowe parcel gan aswage.	
	And thus, of prowesse / and of hegh corage,	3500
	This manly man / parthonolopè	
and reconciles	hath reconciled faire Isyphilee	
Ipsiphyle to her.	Vnto gracē / fully of þe Quene,	
	Hir ^t Ire avoided * / and her oldē tene.	3504
	And by Adrastus mediacioun,	
Adrastus pardons Ipsiphyle,	Kyng Iygurgus / graunted a pardoun	
	To this lady, that from al daunger fre,	
	She was restored to her libertē,	3508

3484. dirk Ad₁. derke Bo. derk M. 3486. atte last Bo. Ad₁. at last M. 3487. knyght] king Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3488. happed] happonde Lb. happenyde P. for to Lb. C. T₂. E₂. to Ar. Bo. *and the rest.* 3491. roche Bo. M. Rocch Ar. roch Ad₁. banke Bo. bank M. Ad₁. 3492. al] al the Ad₂. I. bent] hente Di. Ba. E₁. C. T₂. L₂. 3493. a narowe Ar. 3496. *The line begins with And in all the MSS. except Ar. G. L₂. Hent out]* Rent out Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. E₁. L₂. 3499. her sorowe] *om.* Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. parcel] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. gan] she gan E₂. aswage] tasswage E₂. to aswage Lb. Ra. P. to swage C. T₂. 3500. and of] and Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. C. 3501. parthonolope] this prothonolope C. this Parthonolope T₁. E₂. 3504. avoided Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ra. Ba. S. L₂. avoiden Ar. G. Ad₁. anoyed E₁. voyded Lb. C. T₂. E₂. voyde P. olde] *om.* G. Ra. Ba. 3. 04 in Ad₁. is omitted at its right place, and stands at the bottom of the second column of the page, after l. 3522 ; in Ad₂. and I. it has been replaced by a new line, to rhyme with 3503, viz. Off the offence / of hir pardouned to bene. 3507. that] *om.* Lb. M. Di. C. T₂. P. E₂. daunger] damag S. in Ba. l. 3507, which is the bottom line of leaf 38 back, stops at To this ladie th ; after th a few letters seem to be erased, but most of the latter half of 3507 has never been written, the vellum being quite untouched here.

In his paleys / al her lif to dwelle.

Thogh Iohn Bochas / þe contrarie telle :

tho' Boccaccio
says she never

For this autour affermeþ /, out' of dred

That', whan this child / was by the serpent ded, 3512

She durst' not' / for her gret' offence

[leaf 59]
dared face Ly-
curgus,

Neuer after comen in presence

Of lycurgus /, but' of intencioun

Fledde anon / out' of that' Region ; 3516

but fled from
Argos.

Att' herte she took / the child's deth so sore.

what' fille of hir* / I fyndē* can no more

Than þe han herd' / afor me specifye.

And the kyngdam / but' zif bookys lye, 3520

Of lycurgus / was ycalled Trace.

¶ Not' de Li-
urgo Rege
tracee.

And, as I rede in an other place,

He was þe samē myghty Champioun,

To Athenes / that' kam with Palamoun 3524

Lycurgus came
to Athens with
Palamon against
Arcite.
(See Chaucer's
Knight's Tale.)

Ageyne his brother / that' callēd was areyte,

Lad in his chaar / with fourē* booly's whyte,

Vpon his hed / a wreth of goldē ful fyn.

And I fynd ek' / how bachus, god of wyñ, 3528

¶ Bachus deus
vini.

with this kyng' / was whilom at debat',

Only for he / pompous and Elat',

As he destroyd
Bacchus's vines,

Destruccioun / didē* to his vynys,

3509. his] hir Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. jis G. 3510. Iohn Bochas þe contrarie] the contrarie Iohn B-akas Ba. telle] do telle Ad₂. I. 3511. a pause-bar in Ar. also before affermed. 3512. this] the Lb. Di. Ba. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. was by the serpent] bi the serpent was Ad₁. (this serpent Ad₂. I.) Ra. (with the Ba.) S. ded] om. M. 3514. comen Ar. to come M. Di. Ad₁. S. come Bo. and the rest. in] into the Ra. Ba. to the Ad₂. I. 3515. intencioun] pitons intencioun Ra. Ba. 3517 and 3518 transposed in Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3518. hur Ar. fynde Bo. M. Ad₁. fynd Ar. fynde can] can tell Ba. 3519. Than] But that Ra. Ba. herd] hard T₂. afor me] me afor Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. P. L₂. me to-fore G. han herd afor] before haue herd Ra. Ba. specifye] espedefie T₁. Du. to specifye S. 3520. but] om. P. zif] om. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. lye] do nat lye P. 3521. ycalled Ar. G. Ad₁. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. L₂. called Bo. and the rest. was ycalled] called was Lb. T₂. E₂. that called was P. 3524. To Athenes that] þat to Attens S. kam] wente Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. 3526. Lad] I-lad Lb. T₂. P. Yled E₂. And Di. I. foure L₁. four Ar. ; Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Ad₁. C. P. E₂. have III. ; T₂. has H. 3529. was whilom] whilom was Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. at debat] at bate Lb. at þe bate L₁. 3531. dide T₁. M. dede Lb. Ad₁. did Ar. Bo. vnto M. Di. Ad₂. I. T₂. to Ar. Bo. and the rest.

and put water in wine,	And for he first / sett ^t allay on wynys, Meynt ^e water / whan they were to strong ^t .	3532
the God broke his limbs and drown ^d him.	And this Bachus / for the grete wrong ^t Brak his lymys / <i>and</i> dreynt ^t hym in þe Sec. Of lygur ^g us / 3e gete no more of me.	3536
¶ <i>Nota de xii arboribus in libro Bochacii de genealogia deorum.</i> See Boccaccio on the Genealogy of the Gods.	¶ But ^t the trowth / 3if 3e lyst ^t verryfie, Rede of godd ^e s / the Genologye, lynealy / her kynrede be degrees, I-braunch ^e d out ^t / vpon twel ^u e trees, Mad by Bochas / decertaldo called,	3540
He was next poet to Petrarch.	Among ^t Poetys / in ytail ^e stalled, Next ^t Fraunceys Petrak / swyng ^t in certeyn ^e .	
[leaf 59, back]	Now vnto Grekys / I wil retourne ageyn, To tell ^e forth shortly, 3if I konne, Of her Iourn ^e / that they haue* begon ⁿ e : how Adrastus / hath his lieve* take Of ligurgus / with his brow ^e s blake ; And departyng, with seynt ^t Iohn to borowe, Mad his ward ^e s / on the nexte morowe So wel beseyn / so myghty, <i>and</i> so strong, Wonder erly / whan þe lark ^e * song ^t , With a trompet ^t / warn ^e d euery man To be redy / in al the hast ^t they kan, Forto remwe / and no lett ^{ing} make.	3544 3548 3552
Adrastus takes leafe of Ly- curgus.		

3532. sett] *om.* C. allay] *alaises* Ad₁. Ra. Ba. Alies Ad₂. I. sett allay] *allay* sette E₁. allayes sett Ra. Ba. on] in Bo. S. L₂. of G. 3533. Meynte M. Ad₁. Meynt Bo. water] with water E₂. whan Ar. G. Lb (whon). C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂ (when). þere Bo. where T₁. *and the rest.* to] so L₁. Di. Ra. *om.* Ba. 3534. this] thus Lb. S. P. Bachus Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. Bacus T₁. bakes Lb. Bochas E₂. the grete] grete Ra. Ba. þat stronge M. Di. 3535. lymys M. lymes Bo. limes Ad₁. limes S. dreynt] drowned C. 3537. verryfie] to verifie Bo. Du. Ad₁. to specific Ad₂. I. 3538. Rede Bo. M. redith Ad₁. goddes] the goddes Ad₂. I. of goddes the] the goddess of Ba. geneologye Ad₁. genealogye Bo. Genealogie M. genelagye Di. Genealogie Ad₂. geneologie S. 3540. vpon] on Ra. of Ba. XII Bo. twelf Ad₁. 3541. decertaldo Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. Decertalde Ra. Ba. de cretaldo I. 3542. Itaille Bo. Italye M. Ad₁. 3545. forth shortly] shortly forth Ad₁. 3547. lief Ar. leue Bo. leue M. Ad₁. G. take] itake Ra. Ba. Ad₂. I. 3549. departyng] departed Ra. Ba. Iohn Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. Ion C. Iohan E₂. borowe Bo. borw M. Ad₁. 3550. *omitted in* Ba. 3551. myghty] myztely Di. 3552. larke Bo. Ad₁. lark Ar. M. 3553. warn^ed] warme Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3554. they] he Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. 3555. remue Bo. M. Ad₁.

And so they han / the righte way I-take	3556	Adrastus and his Greeks march
Touard ^t Thebës / the greek's euerychoñ,		
That ^t such a nombre / gadred into oñ,		
Of worthy knyghtës neuere afor ⁿ was seyñ,		
whan they in ferë / monstred in a pleyñ.	3560	
And they ne stynt ^t by non occasioun		
Til they be come euen a-for the touñ,		to Thebes,
And pight ^t her tentys / proudly, as I rede,		and pitch their tents.
Vnder the wallys / in a grenë* mede.	3564	
¶ And whan the* thebans / were besette aboute,		The Thebans
The manly knyghtës / wold han* yssyd oute		
And haue* scarmosshëd / in her lusty pride,		
With her foomen / on the toþer side.	3568	
But ^t be byddyng ^t / of Ethioeles		
Alle þilkë* nyght / þei kepte hem-silf in pes,		keep quiet,
Be cause only / that ^t it was so late,		
With gret ^t awayt ^t / set at ^t euery gate,	3572	but watch at the gates, [besette 60]
Men of Army's / al the nyght ^t wakyng ^t		
On the wallys / be byddyng ^t of þe kyng,		
Lest ^t þer werë / treynys or tresoun.		
And on the tours / and in the Chief Dongoun	3576	
he sette vp men / to makë mortal sowns		and blow horns
with brasyn hornys / and loudë Clarions,		
Of ful entent ^t / þe waechës forto kepe,		to keep the watchers awake.
In his wardë / that ^t no man ne slepe.	3580	
And Grekys proudly / al þe longe nyght ^t		
kyndled* fyrys / and maad ful gret lyght ^t ,		The Greeks

3556. right Bo. M. Ad₁. way Bo. M. Ad₁. weye Di. om. Lb. I-take Ar. Lb. L₂. take Bo. and the other MSS. 3560. in ferë] yfere C. T₂. to-gidre Ra. Ba. monstred Bo. mostred M. monstred] mostren L₁. Ad₁. moustren Ad₂. I. E₁. mustren Ra. were moustred E₂. to mustre S. in] on L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. E₂. L₂. 3564. a] the M. Di. grene Bo. M. Ad₁. gren Ar. grete Du. 3565. whan] whan þat Bo. om. L₁. the Thebans] Thebans Ar. L₂. besette] sett all S. 3566. han Bo. Ad₁. an Ar. haue M. 3567. haue Bo. M. Ad₁. ha Ar. scarmysshed Bo. Ad₁. scarmesshed M. scyrmysshed Ad₂. L₂. lusty] hasty Lb. C. P. E₂. L₂. 3568. þat othre Bo. M. Ad₁. 3570. þilke Bo. þilk Ar. M. Ad₁. 3571 and 3572 are transposed in Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3576. on] in M. Di. Ad₂. I. C. in] on Ba. om. Lb. Ra. S. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. P (om. the). 3577. to] ta Ar. 3578. brasen Bo. 3580. ne] om. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. ; in Ad₁. ne is written, but it has been underlotted with black ink and crossed with red ink (= the rubric ink). 3581. long Bo. M. Ad₁. 3582. kyndled] kyndle Ar. kyndly E₁. fyrys] fuyre Lb. ful] om. S.

- Sette vp loggyng^e / vpon euery Syde
lik as they shuld / euer ther abyde, 3584
- lie all round Thebes.
Compas the toune / ther was no voidē space
But al besette / her foomen to manace.
And whilys they afor þe Citē laye,
On euery cost^t / they sent^t out^t to forraye, 3588
- ¶ The Forey þat þe Grekis made in þe contre about Thebes.
Brentē townēs / thorpes and vilages,
with grete ravyñ makyng^t theyr pillages,
Spoyle / and robbe / and brougtē* hom vitaille
And al maner soortes / of bestaylle, 3592
- The Greeks plunder the Theban land,
Shep / and neet^t / and in her cruel rage
with houndēs slowe / al that^t was sauage,
kill all the game,
Hert^t and hyndē* / bothē buk *and* doo,
The blake* beer / and þe wilde Roo, 3596
The fatte swyn / and þe tusshy* boor,
Karying^t al hom / for the grekēs stoor,
whete *and* wyn / for her auantage,
and collect all the fodder.
Hay and Otys / fodder / and forage. 3600
With þis kalendis / as hem thynkē* dwe,
Grekys gan / the thebans to Salwe,

3583. loggyng] loggynges Du. 3584. shulde Bo. shuld M. Ad₁. 3585. space] place M. Di. 3587. whiles M. Ad₁. whils Bo. aforñ Bo. M. before Ad₁. tofore E₂. 3588. On] In Bo. L₁. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. And C. sent] sett Ra. Ba. S. settyn L₂. out to] out to the E₁. vn-to the P. a S. in Ar. after out is tho, *underdotted*; to is *written above the line, with the usual mark of insertion*. 3589. Brent Bo. M. Ad₁. Brynd S. thorpes Bo. M. Ad₁. thropes Du. thruhuppis Ad₂. thruhupys I. 3590. ravyñ Ar. G. Bo. Du. M. Ad₁. C. raven Lb. raveyn T₁. Di. Ra. T₃. ravyne E₁. raveyne L₁. L₂. ravenne P. raving E₂. theyr Ar. her Bo. M. Ad₁. *om.* L₁. 3591. first and] *om.* Ro. Spoyle and robbe] Spoylid and robbed P. Spoyll and robbery S. broughte Ad₁. brought Ar. Bo. M. hom] hem Bo. Du. Ad₂. I. them S. 3592. soortes Bo. T₁. Ra. sortes Du. M. Ad₁. E₂. stoore Lb. P. bestaylle] bestiall Ba. in P. 3592 reads: And all maner store, to strength þe bataylle. 3593. Ar. has a bar also *between and* and neet. her] *om.* Bo. 3594. with boundes] Woundes L₁. with woundes Lb. slowen C. slowe Ar. Bo. slow M. Ad₁. slough Du. L₁. selenghe Ro. slayne Lb. T₃. P. E₂. 3595. hynde] ynde Ar. buk Bo. M. bookke Ad₁. 3596. blake Bo. Ad₁. blak Ar. M. wilde Bo. wild M. Ad₁. 3597. fatte Ad₁. fat Bo. M. tusshy Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Ad₁. Ra. L₂. Ro. tusshy Ad₂. C. T₂. P. E₂. tuskyd Lb. trusshy Ar. G. tussy I. 3598. Karying] Bryngenge Ro. L₂. hom] hem Bo. 3601. this Bo. these M. Ad₁. þe L₁. E₂. hem] them Ba. S. Ro. þey L₁. Lb. Ad₂. P. thynke] thynk Ar. E₁. pinke L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. thenke Bo. T₁. Di. S. thenk Du. M. them G. thought Lb. *and the rest*. 3602. Grekys Ar. G. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. L₂. Ro. þe Grekes Bo. Lb. Ad₁. C. T₂. P. E₂. gan] *om.* Bo. koune M. come Di. the thebans] thebans T₁. to] *om.* G. Ad₁. I. C. E₂.

Mynstring ^r hem / occisionës* felle,		[leaf 60, back]
þe sege settë /, shortly forto telle,	3604	They mean to press the siege
Of ful entent ^r / in their hatful pryde,		
For lif or deth / ther-vpon tabide,		to the death.
who so euer / ther-with be a-greued,		
Til they fully / her purpoos haue achened ;	3608	
Ther may therof / bæ makëd no relees.		
And of al* this / ful war / Ethioeles		Ethioeles
Gan in party / gretly to* mervaille		
whan that he saugh / þe grete apparaylle	3612	
Of the Grekes / þe Citè rounde aboute ;		
And in hym-silf hadde a maner doute,		is in doubt what to do.
Now at the poynt / what was best to do.		
For thilkë* tyme / it stood with hym so	3616	
That to some abidyng ^r in þe town		
he hadde in hertë / gret ^r suspeiour		He knows some Thebans favour Polyneices.
list toward ^r hym / that they were vnstable,		
And to his brother / in party faurable ;	3620	¶ The variaunce in Thebes among hem-silf.
For in the Citè / ther was variance,		
whiçh vnto hym was a gret ^r meschaunce ;		
For in his nedë / shortly / he ne wiste		
Vpon whom / þat he myghte triste ;	3624	Ethioeles asks the advice of
For they wer not ^r / alle of oñ entent ^r :		
For which he hath / for his counsale sent,		

3603. Mynstring] Mustringe Lb. Ad₂. I. P. L₂. occisionës] occasions (occasions)
Ar. Bo. and all the other MSS. (cf. 4204 and see Notes). 3605. her Bo. M. Ad₁.
3606. to abide Bo. M. Ad₁. 3607. ther-with] herwith Lb. P. theratte
E₂. 3608. Ar. has another pause-bar after they. 3609. makëd] made L₁. Ad₁.
Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. P. E₂. Ro. om. L₂. 3610. al M. Di. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro.
om. Ar. Bo. and the rest. And of al this] Of this and Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. Of
þis L₁. And all this while Ro. ful war] ful weel war Ra. C. full wele war was
Ba. full warre was L₁. Lb. Ad₂. I. was ware P. 3611. Gan] Wheche ganne Lb.
P. to Lb. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. om. Ar. Bo. and the rest. 3612. that] om. Lb.
M. Di. C. T₂. P. E₂. grete Bo. gret M. Ad₁. grete] om. Du. 3614. in] om.
Ra. Ba. hadde] he had Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3615. atte poynt Bo. Ad₁. at poynt M.
all the poynt Lb. 3616. thilke Bo. Ad₁. thilk Ar. M. that S. 3617. Ar.
has a pause-bar after abidyng. 3619. list Ar. G. lest Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. (see
Notes). toward hym] to him ward Ad₁. to hym Ad₂. I. him] om. Lb. that]
om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ra. E₁. P. 3621. the] þis Di. ther] tho Ba. om. Ad₁.
Ad₂. I. 3622. which] that C. T₂. P. E₂. vnto] to T₂. a] om. P. Ro. 3623.
his] þis Bo. nedë] herte Ad₂. I. 3624. might Bo. M. Ad₁. sholde Ad₂. I.
wiste : triste Ar. Ad₁. wist : trist Bo. M. wiste : truste C. 3625. For which]
Wherfore M. Di. T₂. E₂. Ro. he hath] hathe he Ra.

- his lords
and his mother
Jocasta. Al his lordes / and the oldē Quene,
which as he demptē / werē* pur *and* elene, 3628
Hool of on herte / and not variable,
Of old^t expert / *and* alway founde stable ;
Requeryng^t hem / be-cause they were wys,
Al openly to tellen / ther avis 3632
- [leaf 61] Wher it^t was bet^t / pleynly, in her sight,
With his brother / to treten or to fight^t.
- Some say
'Fight'; And somē gaf / a ful blunt^t sentence,
which hadde / of werrē / non experience : 3636
Seyde it^t was best /, *and* nat^t ben afferd,
To trye his right^t / manly with þe Swerd.
- some, And somē also / that^t wer moor prudent^t,
Spak vnto hym / by good avisēment^t 3640
And list^t nat^t sparē* / but^t their conceyte tolde
how hit^t was best / his couenaunt forto holde,
And to parforn / his heeste mad to-forñ
- 'Keep your
promise to your
brother.' To his brother / lich^t as he was sworñ ; 3644
So that^t his word /, the wors to mak hym spede,
Be nat^t foundē / variant^t fro the dede,
For non hatred / rancour, neyther pryde.
- ¶ *Nota*
¶ The word of
þe quene Iocasta
to Ethocles.
Jocasta takes
Ethocles aside,
And tho / the queenē* / took hym out aside, 3648
Tolde hym pleynly / it^t was ful vnsittynge^t
Swich doublenesse / to fynden in a kyng^t,
3628. which] Suche Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. dempte] deemyd Ad₂. I. S. deputed Ra. deputith Ba. were] that were Ar. E₂. pure] true S. were pure] pure were M. Di. ; in L₂. *and* Ro. 3628 is much altered: Which that his hert most wold deme L₂. Which in effect he demyd shulde seme Ro. 3630. and] in Du. 3632. ther Ar. her Bo. M. Ad₁. 3633—4209 gap in T₂. 3633. Wher] Whedre Bo. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ra. Ba. S. P. was Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. were Lb. *and the rest*. bet] better L₁. Lb. Ba. S. P. E₂. Ro. 3635. And] *om.* Ra. ful] *om.* Bo. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3637. and nat ben] and noþing be L₁. and nat to be Ra. nat to be Ad₂. I. C. nat be Ad₁. 3638. trye] trete Ro. þe Ar. C. E₂. L₂. a G. Lb. Ba. P. his Bo. *and the rest*. 3639. wer Ar. were Bo. M. Ad₁. 3640. vnto] to M. Di. 3641. spare Bo. M. Ad₁. spar Ar. their Ar. Bo. Ad₁. her M. 3642. couenaunt] couenantes M. Di. forto] to M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. S. E₂. 3643. to] *om.* C. parforn Ar. Bo. T₁. parfourne Du. parforme G. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. C. parfourne I. Ra. Ba. L₂. Ro. performe L₁. S. P. parfourne E₁. E₂. heest M. Ad₁. heste Bo. 3644. And to eschewe in all wise to be forsworn Ra. Ba. 3645. to make hym] make hym to E₂. spede] fare Lb. P. And if he purpos trewlie to spede Ba. Ra. 3646. the dede] your dede Ra. Ba. noo dede E₁. in P. 3646 reads: Tolde hym full pleynely (so as they dare). 3648. queen Ar. Bo. quene M. Ad₁. out aside] vnside Ra. on side Ba. 3649. ful Ar. G. C. E₂. L₂. Ro. *om.* Bo. *and the rest*. 3650. fynde Bo. M. Ad₁.

And seide hym ek / al-thoñ he were strongt,
 To his brother / how he didü* wrongt, 3652 and reminds him
 "As al the toune / wil recorñ, in dede, of his wrong-
 And berü* wisse / 3if it' kam to nede. doing.
 Wherfor lat' vs shape another mene
 In this materë / whil that' it' is grene, 3656
 Or this quarel /, gonne of voluntë,
 Turne / in the fyn / to mor aduersitë.
 For 3if it' be / darreynëd be bataylle,
 who tresteth most' / may ful likly faille. 3660
 And it' is foly / be short' avisëment,
 To putte a strif / in martys Iugëment.
 For hard it' is / whan a Iuge is wood,
 To tret' aforñ hym / with-out' loos of blood. 3664 [leaf 61, back]
 And 3if we put our mater* / hool in Marte, ¶ How perilous
 which with the swerñ / his lawës doth coarte, it is to be go-
 Than may hit' happe / wher 3e be glad or loth, vernyd by (short
 Thow and thy brother / shal repente both; any querel.)
 And many a-noþer / that' is her present, Jocasta tells
 Of 3oure trespas / that' ben Innocent, Eteocles
 And many thousand / in cas shal compleyñ
 For the debat' / only of 3ow tweyñ, 3672
 And for 3our strif / shal fyndü ful vnsoote.
 "And for thow art' gynnyng, ground, and Roote that, as he's the
 wrong-doer,

3651. al-thoñ] þough Bo. L₁. 3652. how] haue Du. dide Bo. M.
 dede Ad₁. did Ar. 3654. omitted in Lb. P.; in Lb. the line is left blank;
 in P. 3655 follows immediately on 3653 in the column, while a later hand
 has written with much paler ink in the right-hand margin: Contrarye to
 þat was agreid. 3654. bere Bo. Ad₁. G. ber Ar. M. 3if] whan Ad₂. I.
 cam Bo. come M. Ad₁. 3656. that] om. Ra. Ba. S. it] om. G. 3657. Or]
 Er T₁. Ra. Ba. E₂. Of S. gonne] begone S. gynne Ra. Ba. gone P. thus gone
 E₂. goo Lb. of] to Lb. P. 3660. tristeth Bo. M. trustith Ad₁. most] om.
 Lb. P. ful] om. Lb. E₁. P. likly] lightly L₁. Lb. P. E₂. 3663. a] þe P.
 3665. 3if] om. M. Di. put our mater Lb. C. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. puter Ar. putte G.
 put it Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. hool] holy M. Di. Ra.
 Ba. in] on Ad₁. Marte] Mart Ad₂. I. Ra. L₂. Mars L₁ (: coars); in the rubric,
 after þy, the rest of the line is blank; supplied from Du. 3666. which] that Ad₁.
 Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. the] his Lb. P. Ro. his lawes] his lawe L₁. þe lawe
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 3667. loth] wroth M. S. C. E₂. L₂. Ro. 3668—4060
 gap in C. 3670. Of] That of Ro. that] om. Ro. they S. ben] bethe L₂.
 beyng S. Innocent] verry Innocent Lb. P. E₂. ful innocent Ro. 3673. shal]
 shul Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Ra. ye shall P. ful] hit P. om. Ra. Ba. 3674. gynnyng]
 begynnyng Ad₂. I. gynner M. Di. Ra. Ba. P. E₂. begynnere Lb.

	Of this Iniurie / and this gret vnrighȝ,	
he 'll have to account for all who die in the war.	To the goddys / that herof han a sight,	3676
	Thow shalt accountys / and a reknyng make	
	For alle tho / that persshyn for þi sake.	
	And now the causē / dryven is so ferre,	
Peace and war,	Sodeyn pees / outhēr* hasty werre	3680
life and death, hang in the balance.	Moot folwe anon / ; for the fatal chaunce	
	Of lif and deth / dependeth in balauce.	
	And no man may / be no craft restreyne	
	That vpon on* / platly of this tweyne	3684
	The soort mot fallē / lik as it doth tourne,	
	Who so euer lawgh / or ellys mourne.	
He's at the stake,	And thow art dryve / so narowē to þe stake	
	That thow mayst nat / moo delayēs make,	3688
and must fight or treat.	But fight or tret / this quarel forto fyne ;	
	By non engyn / thow caust / it not declyne.	
	And hasty cas /, as folk seyn that be wys,	
	Redresse / requereth by ful short avys :	3692
[leaf 62]	For trete longē / now awaylleth noght.	
	For to the poynt / sothly thou art brouht,	
	Outher* to kepē thy pecessioun	
	Or in al haste / devoyde / out of this toun,	3696
	wher thow therwith / be wroth or wel apayd."	
Jocasta tells	“ Now notē wel / al that I haue* sayd,	
	And by my counsayl / wisly condescende	
	Wrongt, wrouht of olde / newly to amende.	3700

3676. herof] therof S. theron Ba. a] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3678. pershen M. perisshen Bo. Ad₁. 3680. Sodeyn] Sodeinly E₂. outhēr Ar. outhēr Ro. other L₂. either Bo. Ad₁. or T₁. M. Lb. or ellys L₁. Di. 3681. Mote Bo. Ad₁. Most M. Di. S. fatal] final Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3682. and] or Di. in] in a T₁. Ad₂. I. S. 3684. That] *om.* I. on] *om.* P. E. G. platly] playnely P. planly S. this] hem Ad₁. Ad₂. I. you Lb. P. E₂. 3686. Who so] Who that M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. Who so þat Di. S. Whos that E₁. euer] euer therof Lb. P. euer ther-at E₂. *om.* Di. or ellys (Ar. G. Ro.) other Bo. T₁. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. either M. Di. or Du. Lb. Ra. Ba. E₁. P. E₂. L₂. 3688. nat moo] no mo L₁. nat no Ad₂. P. L₂. Ro. not no more Di. not no mo S. 3691. And] An M. Di. 3693. For Ar. G. L₂. To (*om.* For) Ro. For to Bo. *and the rest.* longē Ad₁. longē Bo. M. awaylleth] awayleth þe Lb. 3695. Outher Ar. Outher Bo. Eyther M. Ad₁. 3696. al] *om.* M. Di. 3697. wher Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. whether Lb. Ra. therwith] *om.* T₁. P. herwith Ra. Ba. wel] euele Di. P. Ro. 3698. al] *om.* Ad₂. ha Ar. haue Bo. M. Ad₁. haue the Ad₂. I. Ro. to the have Ra. Ba.

- The tyme is come / it' may be noñ other.
 wherfor in haste / trete with thi brother
 And ageyn hym / make no resistence,
 But to thy lordys / fully 3iue* credence : 3704
 By whoos counsayl / sith they be so sage,
 late Polymyte / reioyse his heritage.
 And that' shal turne / most to thyn avail.
 loo ! her is hool / the fyn of our counsail." 3708
 ¶ And shortly tho / for verrey Irē wroth,
 Though he therto / froward' was *and* loth,
 Accorded is /, heryng^t al the prees,
 3if he algate shal trete for a* pes, 3712
 It moste be / by this condiciou"
 That' he wol han / the domynaciou"
 First' in chief / to hym-silf reserued,
 As hym thought' / he haddē wel disserued, 3716
 And saue to hym / hool the souereyntē ;
 And vnder hym / in Thebēs þe Citē
 he to grauntē / with a right' good cher,
 Polymytēs / to regnē for a 3er, 3720
 Than tavoyde* / and not' resoort' ageyū :
 For mor to cleyntē / was nat' but' In veyn.
 This wold he doñ / only for her sake,
 And other-wise / he wil non endē make 3724
 with the Greky's / what' fortune euere falle.
 And fynally / among^t his lordys alle
 Ther was not' on / of hiñ nor lowgh estat',
 No Theban lord
 will propose
 this :

3702. haste . trete Bo. with] well with E₁. 3704. 3if Ar. 3yf G. Du. gyne Bo. yene M. Ad₁. 3708. hool] all Ro. hool the fyn] the fyn hol Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. our] my Ro. 3709. verrey] om. E₂. Irē] irē and S. P. L₂. Ro. wroth] wrath P. wrought Ba. E₁. S. E₂. he] om. Lb. therto] herto E₂. and] or E₁. 3712. he] 3e Di. algat Bo. he algate shal trete] algate entrete he shal Ad₂. I. he algate trete shal G. a pes Lb. M. Di. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. pes Ar. Bo. *and the rest.* 3713. most M. Ad₁. muste E₁. mot Bo. Lb. L₂. 3716. wel] it wel Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. 3717. And saue] So sone Lb. And sole P. to] vnto Ra. Ba. hool] holy L₁. M. Di. Ra. Ba. 3719. a right good] ri3t a goode Di. 3721. tavoyde Bo. T₁. M. Ad₁. Ra. E₂. to avoyde Du. L₁. Lb. Di. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. P. avoyde Ar. G. E₁. Ro. to voyde L₂. 3722. nat] om. M. Di. Ad₂. I. P. nat but] all but E₂. In veyn] Inveyn Ar. veyn Ad₁. S. 3723. This] Thus Bo. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. L₂. her] his Ra. Ba. 3725. the] om. Lb. M. Di. P. E₂.

- That^t woldë* gon / on this ambassyat^t 3728
 Out^t of the toune / nouth^r for bet^t nor wors ;
 so Jocasta will. Til Iocasta / madë sadyl her hors,
 And cast^t her-silf / to gon for this tretë,
 To make an endë / 3if it^t woldë be. 3732
- Jocasta and her daughters,
 And this was don / the morowe right^t be tyme,
 Vpon the hourë* / whan it^t drofi to pryne.
 And with hyr went^t / hyr 3onge dohtres tweyë,
 Antigone and Ismene, Antygonë / and the feyr ymeyne, 3736
 Of hyr meynë / ful many on aboute,
 At^t the gate / she was conveyëd oute,
 And of purpos / she madë first^t hir went^t
 ride to King Adrastus, On hors-bak / to kyng^t Adrastus tent^t, 3740
 He and his lordys / beyng^t al yffere.
 who welcomes her. And they receyve hyr / with a right^t glad chere,
 Shewyng^t hyr / lik to hir degre,
 On euery half / ful gret^t humanytë, 3744
- Polyneices Polymytës / rysyng^t fro his place,
 And humblely / his moder gan embrace,
 kisses her and his sisters. Kyssede hyr / and than Antigonë,
 And ek ymeyne / excellyng^t of bewtë. 3748
 And for that^t they / passyngly were faire,
 Gret^t was the pres / concours, and repaire
 Of the ladyes forto han a sight.
 Jocasta And Iocasta / procedeth anon ryght^t 3752

3728. wolde Bo. wold Ar. M. Ad₁. Ra. on] vpon Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. in T₁. L₁. this] his L₁. om. E₁. ambassyat Ar. M. Ad₁. embassiate Bo. embassate Ba. bassate E₁. 3729. for] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. L₂. nor Ar. ne Bo. M. Ad₁. ne for Ba. wors] wers (: hors) Ra. Ba. Ad₂. 3731. for] on Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. E₂. this] the Ro. 3734. heure Bo. M. hour Ar. Ad₁. 3735. yong Bo. M. Ad₁. 3737. on] her Ro. 3738. At the Ar. Atte Bo. Ad₁. At M. conveyed M. conveyde Bo. Ad₁. 3741. al] there M. Di. 3742. receyve] resseyvid L₁. Lb. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. a] om. E₁. S. right] full L₁. om. M. Di. Ad₂. I. P. a right] right a T₁. Lb. Ad₁. glad] om. Ra. goode Ba. 3743. Shewyng] Sewyng Bo. Suing E₁. 3746. humblely Ar. G. humbely L₁. Di. Ad₁. E₁. P. humbly Bo. and the rest. 3747. Antigone] Antigon Lb. 3748. ek] om. G. M. Di. E₁. thenne Lb. than P. excellyng of] excellynge in Lb. excellent of G. Ba. E₁. E₂. of excellent P. bewte] beute anon Lb. 3749. that] om. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. passyngly were] were passyngly Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. were passyng L₁. were passandli Ra. Ba. wer so passyng S. were so excellent P (so on erasure). 3751. the] þo Bo. T₁. forto] to Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba.

To Adrastus / hir ^r mater to purpose,		(leaf 63)
And gan to hym / opynly disclose		proposes Eteo- cles's terms :
Thentent ^r and wiñ of Ethioeles,		
And by what menü he desireth pes,	3756	
To hym reserued /, as she gan specifie,		
The honour hool / and the regalye,		that he shall remain King,
with Sceptre and Crounë fro hym not devyded,		
But ^r hool to hym / as he hath provided ;	3760	
¶ And Polymyte, be this condicioun,		and Polyncees reign under him.
Vnder hym to regnen / in the toune		
As a Soget, be suffraunce of his brother.		
But ^r the Grekës / thoulten al another,	3764	
And Specyaly worthy Tydeus,		Tidens rejects them.
Pleynly affermyng it ^r shuld nat ^r be thus :		¶ The answer of Tydeus.
For he wil hauë / no condiciouns,		
But ^r sette a-Syde / aH excepciouns,	3768	
Nothyng ^r reservid / as in special,		Tidens says
But ^r hool the lordship, Regalye, and al,		
Polymytës it fully to possede,		Polyncees must be crownid King in Thebes,
In Thebës Crowned / verrayly in dede,	3772	
As Rightful kyng ^r / putte in pocioun,		
lich the Couenauntys and comencioun		
Imad of olde / assuryd, and asselyd,		
“ which shall not ^r now of nwë be repelyd,	3776	
But ^r stable and hool / in his strengthë * stonde.		
And lat ^r hym so platly vnderstonde !		Eteocles and Polyncees must leave the town.
And first that ^r he devoyde hym out ^r of toune,		

3754. opynly] specially Lb. P. disclose Ar. G. M. Ba. E₁. S. P. L₂. to disclose Bo. and the rest. 3755. Ar. has a pause-bar after Thentent. 3757. reseruyd Bo. M. Ad₁. reserue E₂. she] he L₂. gan] can Du. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. 3758. The honour M. thonour Bo. Ad₁. hool] holde Du. 3759. with Sceptre] That Septor P. 3760. hool] holy M. Di. holde Du. 3763. suffraunce] sovrance Ba. 3768. in Ar. after all, is ce, underdotted. 3769. special] especiall Du. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 3771. in Ar. it is abled above the line with the usual mark. 3773. As] And T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. E₂. Rightful] rihtfulli Ra. putte] putte hym T₁. 3775. Imad] Maad T₁. asselyd] enseled Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₂. I-selid Ra. Ba. S. Ro. esseled E₁. 3776. newe Bo. new M. Ad₁. 3777. strengthe M. Ad₁. strength Ar. Bo. trouthe Ba. 3778. so platly] platly soo Lb. P. E₂. so pleynly Bo. S. 3779. first that he] hastli Ra. hastelic Ba. hym] om. I₁. P. Ro. toune Ar. G. Bo. Lb. Ad₁. E₁. L₂. the toune T₁. and the rest of the MSS.

- And delyuere the Sceptre / and the Croun 3780
 To his brother / and mak' therof no more.
 And shortly ellys It' shal be bouht' ful sore
 Or this mater brought be to an ende.
 (leaf 63, back)
 No Greek will depart till this is done.
 For Grek is non / that' shal hennys wende 3784
 Or that' our right' / which is vs denyed,
 with lif or deth / darreyned be *and* tryed :
 we wil not' arst fro this towne remewe.
 If Eteocles " And 3if hym lyst / al this thyng' eschwe 3788
 And al meschief / styntyn *and* appese,
 To either part' / he may do gret' ese :
 Thus I menü / for his auountage,
 will give up Thebes for a year,
 Delyuer vp hool / the trewü herytage 3792
 To his brother / for a 3eer tendure.
 the Greeks will guarantee him
 And Grekys shal fully hym assure,
 By what' bonde that' hym list' devise,
 The 3eer complet' /, in our beste wise 3796
 To hym delyuer / ageyn pocessioun
 possession of it again.
 with-outü strif / or contradiccioun.
 And to this fyn / Iustly hold* vs to.
 If not, he must light.
 " And 3if it' fallë / that' he wil nat so, 3800
 Lat' hym not' wayte / but' only after werre.
 The hour is come / we wil it' not' differre.
 ¶ lo! her is al / and thus 3e may reporte
 To hym ageyn / whan that 3e resorte ; 3804
 Fro which apoynt' / we cast' vs not' to varye."

3780. delyuere] deliuere vp Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 3782. shortly ellys] ellis shortly M. Di. 3784. Grek is non Ar. G. Ro. Grek is per non Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. M. Di. P. Grekis is per non L₁. E₁. Grekes be ther none E₂. Grekys non ther L₂. Grek is here non Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. that] om. L₂. shal] shull E₂. hennys Bo. hens M. Ad₁. 3785. which] that P. E₂. vs] so Ad₁. Ad₂. I. om. Du. denyed] devedd Ba (: treid). 3787. wil not Ar. ne wol Bo. M. Ad₁. erst Bo. M. Ad₁. 3788. this thyng eschwe Ar. G. Lb. P. E₂. L₂. R₉. this to eschue Bo. *and the rest*. 3790. part M. Ad₁. parte Bo. 3791. mene M. Ad₁. meen Bo. 3792. true Bo. trew M. Ad₁. 3793. a3eer Ar. to endure Bo. M. Ad₁. 3794. shal] shul Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. om. L₁. 3796. best Bo. M. Ad₁. 3797. pocessioun] in possessioun Ra. Ba. 3799. holde Bo. M. hold Ad₁. hold Ar. 3802. it] om. M. Di. wil] shal Ba. 3805. Fro] For G. Di. Ba. apoynt Ar. T₁. Lb. M. Di. E₁. Ro. a poynt Bo (*with a middle point after a*). Du. Ra. o point Ad₁ (*with the usual point on each side of o, to mark the numeral*). on poynt Ba. on poynt S. poynt L₁. Ad₂. I. P. L₂. appointment E₂. (*see Note 5*). Ar. has a pause-bar also after which.

And 3it to hym / Amphiorax contrarye		Amphiorax
Ful pleynty saide, in conclusioun,		says war 'll be
This fyn shal cause a destruceioun	3808	death to every one ;
Of hem echon / 3if it forth procede		
To be parfourned / <i>and</i> execute in dede.		
But thilke tyme for al his elloquence		but few listen to him.
He had in soth / but lytyl audience.	3812	
For wherso euer / he ment / good or ille,		[leaf 61]
kyng Adrastus / bad hym to be stille.		
¶ And tho Iocasta / as wisdom did hyr techi,		Jocasta tries
humble of her port / with ful softe spech,	3816	
Gan sekē menys / in hyr fantasye		to modify the Greeks' anger.
3if she myght the Irē modefye		
Of the Grekes / to make hem to enclyne		
In eny wise / hyr rancour forto fyne.	3820	
She dyd hyr dever / <i>and</i> hir bysy cure.		
But tho byfel a wonder aventure,		But a wondrous event happens.
Cause and ground / of gret confusioun,		
Grekys perturbyng / <i>and</i> also ek the toune,	3824	
And it to tellē / may me not asterte.		
For which a whil / my styett I mot dyuerte,		
And shertly tellē / by descripcioun,		
Of a Tigre dwellyng in the toune,	3828	A tiger was sent from Egypt to Thebes.
which fro a kyngdam / besyden adiacent,		
Out of Egipte / was to Thebēs sent :		
the* whichē* beest by recorē of scripture		

3806. Amphiorax] Amphorax Bo. 3807. Ar. has a *pause-bar* after pleynty.
 3808. cause Bo. M. Ad₁. Ar. has a *pause-bar* between fyn and shal. 3810.
 parfourned Bo. performed Ad₁. 3811 thilke Bo. Ad₁. thilk M. 3813.
 For] *om.* L₁. wherso] wheper so L₁. Lb. E₂. what so M. he] it Bo. T₁. Du. L₁.
 M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. men] mene Ad₁. Ad₂. I. or ille] evele Ro
 (: style). 3815. did hyr] *om.* Ra. can her Ba. 3816. her] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
 softe Bo. soft M. Ad₁. 3821. deuoir Bo. M. devour Ad₁. 3824. par-
 turbyng Bo. Ad₁. perturbling M. pertouring E₂. also Ar. G. S. L₂. Ro. *om.*
 Bo. *and the yrst.* 3825. it] yit Ad₂. I. to] *om.* E₁. may] it may Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
 Ra. Ba. S. Ro. I may E₂. L₂. me] *om.* Ad₂. I. E₂. L₂. may me not] may not
 me M. Di. Ad₁. Ba. E₁. S. may not be Ra. 3826. while Bo. M. Ad₁. stile
 Bo. M. Ad₁. 3829. besyden Ar. Bo. T₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. Ro. besidyn L₂.
 besident E₂. by syen G. beside L₁. M. Di. Ra. Ba. besides Lb. P. 3831.
 whiche Bo. M. which Ar. Ad₁. (*see Notes*).

The tiger is savage,	Is most swift / as of his nature, And of kynd also most sauage, And most cruel / whan he is in his rage, And, as Clerkys makë mencioun,	3832
with a lion's body, a greyhound's head, red eyes,	He of body / resembleth the lyoun, And lik a greyhound / the mosel <i>and</i> the hed, And of Eyen / as eny fyret red, Ek of his Skyn /, wryten as I fynde,	3836
and spotted skin.	lich a panter / conuersant in ynde, with al maner hwys <i>and</i> colours ; And is ful oft / deceyued with merours	3840
[leaf 64, back]	By fraude of huntys / <i>and</i> fals apparence Shewyd in glas / with-uten existence, whan his kyndles / arn be sleight ytake*, And he deceyuëd / may no rescus make.	3844
This tiger at Thebes was tame,	And lik a lombe / was this Tygre tame, Ageynys kynde /, myn autour writ the same.	3848
	¶ And this beest, mervailous to se, was sent to* ymeyne <i>and</i> antigonë : whiçh vnto hem / didë* gret confort, And Cowdë playe / <i>and</i> makë good* disport,	3852
never did any damage,	lik a whelp / that is but zongr of age ; And to no wight didë* no damage, No mor in soth / þan doth a hitil hound ; And it was worth many hundred pound	3856
and used to amuse Eteocles.	Vnto the kyng /, for ay in his greuance	

3832. of] to Ba. his] his oume Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3833. of] of his M. Di. E₁. also] *om.* M. Di. 3836. the Ar. Lb. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. a M. Di. to a Bo. *and the rest.* 3837. greyhounde Bo. grehound M. grehound Ad₁. mosel M. Ad₁. musel Bo. mozell P. 3838. of] the M. Di. cien M. Ad₁. yen Bo. as eny] lyke A Ro. fyret Ar. G. feret L₂. ferete Ro. fyre Bo. *and all the rest (see Notes).* 3841. hewes Bo. Ad₁. hues M. 3845. arn Ar. E₁. L₂. aron Lb. ar Bo. *and the rest.* sleight Bo. M. Ad₁. sleightes E₂. take] y-take Bo. Du. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₁. S. 3846. deceyued] destreined E₂. rescus Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. reskewe Ad₂. I. no rescus] no recours Lb. nat recoute Ba. 3848. ayens Bo. Ad₁. 3850. to] *om.* Ar. G. (Lb.) P. L₂. Ro. and] vnto Lb. 3851. did Ar. Bo. M. dede Ad₁. 3852. good Lb. M. Di. P. E₂. gret Ar. Bo. *and the rest (cf. 3851).* 3854. did Ar. Bo. dide M. dede Ad₁. 3856. was] *om.* Du. many] many an Du. Lb. Ra. Ba. Ad₂. I. S. E₂. L₂. many a L₁. E₁. hundred M. hundreth Bo. hondert Ad₁. 3857. *in* Ar. *before* for, an *crossed* through.

Ther was no þing^t / did hym mor plesaunce,
 That^t for no tresour / it myght^t not be bought.
 For whan that^t he was pensif or in thought^t, 3860
 It putt hym out of his hevynesse.

And thilkü* tyme /, the story doth expresse,
 That^t Iocasta treted* for a pes,
 This tamë Tygre / in party rekkëles, 3864

Now it runs out of the gates.

Out^t at the gates / in sight of many a man,
 Into the felde / wildcely* out ran,
 And Casuelly rennyng to *and* fro,
 In and oute, as doth a tamë Roo; 3868

Grekys wenyng^t that^t wer zong^t of age, The Greeks,
 That^t this Tygre / haddë be sauage, thinking it wild,

And Cruelly besettyng al the place
 Round^t aboutë / gan hym to enchace 3872
 Til he was ded / *and* slayën* in the feld.

hunt it and kill it. [leaf 65]

The slauhter of whom whan þat^t they byheld,
 The proude Thebans / which on the wallys stood,
 They ronñë doune ful furious *and* wood, 3876
 wenyng he had / be slayën* of despit.

The Thebans

Takyng^t her hors / with outë mor respit,
 Fully in purpos / with Grekys forto fighte,
 The Tigres deth / tavengen 3if they myghte. 3880

And out^t they rood / with-outë gouernaylle, sally out
 And ful proudly / Grekës gan assaylle,
 And of hatred / and ful hegh desdayne

3858. did] þat did Lb. Ra. Ba. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. 3859. it] he Bo. myght] may Ra. Ba. not] om. Ra. Ba. be] ha be M. Di. 3860. whan that] om. Ra. that] om. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. 3861. putt] putted Ad₁. 3862. thilke Bo. Ad₁. thilk Ar. M. 3863. tretid Bo. M. Ad₁. treded Ar. 3864. rekles Bo. M. Ad₁. 3865. Out at] Out of Bo. T₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. Ro. gates] gate M. Di. 3866. wildely Bo. M. Ad₁. wildly Ar. 3867. rennyng Bo. Ad₁. rynnynng Du. ronnyng S. 3870. had Bo. M. Ad₁. 3873. slayen] slayn Ar. Bo. *and all*. ded and slayen] slayn and ded M. Di. 3874. slauhter] deth E₁. þat] om. M. Di. Ra. Ba. 3875. which] that M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. Ro. 3876. ronñë] ranu Ba. E₂. renne Ad₂. I. ronñë doune] began to wexe P. ful] om. Po. Lb. P. 3877. had] om. E₂. slayen] slayn Ar. Bo. *and all*. of] in Lb. Ar. *has a second pause-bar after* be. 3879. in purpos] purposed Lb. P. E₂. Grekys] the grekes M. Di. S. forto] to M. Di. Ba. S. 3880. tavengen M. Ad₁. to avengen Du. to vengeu Bo. 3882. Grekes] the Grekes Ro. gan] gou M. Di. E₂. om. L₁. assayle] thei saile Ra.

and slay the	Eyl vpon hem / that han the tygre slayne,	3884
	And cruelly qwitten hem her mede,	
Greeks who kill the tiger.	That many Greke / in the grenë mede, By the force / and the grete myght Of her Foomen, lay slayën * in þis fight.	3888
	The Tigrës deth / so derë they aboughte, So mortally the * Thebans * on hem wroughte That al the host, in the feld liggynge, was astounyd / of this sodeyn thyng.	3892
With them are Ethiodes	And in this whil, of Rancour rekkëles, Out of Thebës rood Ethiodes,	
and King Trenor.	And with hym ek / the worthy kyng Tremour, Of his hond a noble werreour,	3896
	That madë Grekes to forsak her place, And to her tentys / gan hem to enchace. And myd the feld / as þei to-gyder mette On hors-bak / with sperës sharpë * whette	3900
Many on both sides are slain.	Of verray hate / and of * envious pryde, Ful many on was del on outhr syde.	
[leaf 65, back]	¶ The whichë * thyng / whan Tideus espieth *,	
¶ The manhod of Tydeus.	wood as lyoun / to hors-bak he hieth,	3904
	As he that was neuer a del afferd ; But ran on hem / and met hem in the berd,	
Tidens drives the Thebans back to their city.	And Maugrë hem / in his crueltë, he made hem fleen / hom to her Citë,	3908
	hem pursuyng / of ful dedly hate,	

3885. quitten Bo. Ad₁. quyt M. quyten I. Ad₂. gan quiten R₁. 3886. many Bo. M. many a Ad₁. 3887. grete Bo. Ad₁. gret M. 3888. slayen] slayn A. and all, except dede Ro. þis Ar. G. Lb. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. om. L₁. the Bo. and the rest. 3890. the Thebans] Thebanys Ar. Thebans Lb. P. E₃. L₂. Ro. 3891. Ar. has alle, with le underdotted. 3892. a-stonyed Bo. a-stoned M. Ad₁. 3893. whil] wise E₃. rekles Bo. M. Ad₁. rechelese Lb. 3895. ek] om. Lb. E₁. P. with hym ek] eke with hym L₁. kyng] om. L₁. Tremour] Treuour or Trenour Bo. 3896. honde in Ar., with e underdotted. hondis Lb. 3897. That made] To make Di. made] make Bo. 3898. to enchace] enchace Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. 3900. sharpe Bo. sharp Ar. M. Ad₁. sharpely E₂. whette] ywhette P (but ywh written by later hand, on erasure). 3901. and of] and Ar. Bo. and all. 3902. Ful] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3903. whiche Bo. M. which Ar. Ad₁. espieth] espeth Ar. 3904. lyoun] a leon L₁. Lb. Di. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. P. E₂. L₂. to] on Ro. he] om. Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. E₁. S. hieth] hyede Ro.

That many oñ / lay slayën* at the gate,
 Gapyng' vprightys / with her woundys wyde ;
 That' vtirely / they durste not' abyde 3912
 To-for the swerþ of this Tydeus,
 he was on hem so passing' furius,
 So many theban / he roof vnto the herte
 That' whan Iocasta / the slauhtre gan aduerte, 3916
 ¶ Polymytës / she gan prey ful fayre
 To makë Grekis / hom ageyn repayre,
 And that' they wolden styntyn to assaylle
 For thilkë* day / and cessen her bataylle. 3920
 At' whoos requeste / pleynly and preyere,
 And at' Reuerence / of his moder dere,
 Polymytës, her herte to conforte, He does so.
 Grekës madë / hom ageyn resorte 3924
 And Tydeus to stynten of his chas.

And they of Thebës hasting' a gret' pas,
 Ful trist' and hevy / ben entred into toun.
 And for the Tygre, in conclusioun, 3928
 As 3e han herd / first' began this stryff,
 That' many theban / that' day lost' his lyff
 And recurlees / hath 3olden vp the brethñ,
 In thavengyng' / of the tygres deth. 3932

And al this while / duëly as she ought,
 þe quene Iocasta / humbely besought' [leaf 66]
 Jocasta prays
 Adrastus

3910. slaien Ad₁. slayn Ar. *and all the rest.* at the Ar. atte Bo. Ad₁. at M.
 3911. vprightys Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. Ad₁. I. E₁. Ro. vpright L₁. *and the rest.*
 3913. To-for] Ther for E₁. S. this] om. Lb. Ad₂. I. worthy P. 3915.
 many M. Ad₁. many a Bo. theban] Thebans Lb. Ra. P. E₂. roof] rood Ad₂. I.
 vnto] to G. Lb. M. Di. E₁. P. E₂. 3917. she gan prey] she preie gan P. E₂. L₂.
 Ro. to pray she gan Lb. ful] right Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 3919. wolde G. Bo. Ad₁.
 wil M. wolden styntyn] stynten wolde Ad₂. I. 3920. þilke Bo. Ad₁. thilk Ar.
 M. that S. P. day] tyme Lb. P. E₂. cessen M. Ad₁. cessen Bo. ceassen E₂.
 cheson Lb. P. her] of M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 3921. preyeiro Ar.
 3922. at Ar. M. atte Bo. Ad₁. at þe Lb. Di. P. 3924. hom] hem G. Bo. Du.
 I. he Ad₂. made hom] made he hom Lb. P. resorte] to resorte G. M. Ad₂. I.
 3925. to] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. S. stynten] styntith Ad₂. styntyng I. 3926.
 hasting] enhasting M. Di. 3927. into toun Ar. G. L₂. Ro. þe toun Ad₁. Ad₂.
 I. vnto the toun S. in-to þe toun Bo. *and the rest.* 3929. herd] herd me
 Ad₁. Ad₂. I. began] gan Ad₁. Ad₂. I. this] the T₁. L₁. Lb. Ra. Ba. P. E₂.
 3930. That] But E₂. 3931. recurlees] reklesli Ra. Ba. S. 3olden] yeuen E₂.
 3932. In] Of E₂. thavengyng] the avengyng L₁. Lb. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. P. L₂. Ro.
 3934. humbely Ar. humbely L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. P. humbly Bo. *and the rest.*

	Kyng ^t Adrastus / only of his grace, Some menē way / wisly to purchace	3936
to make peace ;	To make a pees / atwene the bretheren tweyū, And the tretè / so prudently orleyne, On eiper party / that' no blood be shad.	
but he will	And this Adrastus / avisē <i>and</i> riz ^t sad, For Grekis party / answer gaf anon	3940
do it only on Tideus's terms.	That' other endū / shortly gete* she non, lich as the lordis / fully ben avisyd, Than Tydeus hath aforn devisyd.	3944
Jocasta goes back to Thebes.	¶ And whan she saugh it' may non o ^{per} be, She lievē tok / and hom to the Cytè She is repeired /, hauyng ^t to hyr Guyde Polymytēs Rydyng ^t be her syde.	3948
King Protho- nolope rides with Ismene.	And Tideus ladde Antigonè, And of Archadye / prothonolopè, The worthy kyng ^t , did his bysy peyne To ben attendaunt' / vpon fair ymeyne,	3952
	Whos hert' she hath / to her servisē luryd : And he ageyn hath purtraied <i>and</i> figuryd Myd of his brest' /, which lightly may not passe, Hooly the feturis / of her fresshly face.	3956
	Hym thought' she was so faire a creature ; And though that' he durst' hym not' discure, 3it in his hert / as ferforth as he kan,	
and in his heart pledges his troth to her.	He hath avowed / to ben ^d her trwē man, vnwist to hir / pleynly <i>and</i> vnknowe	3960

3935 to 4116 lost in L. 3936. wisly Ar. M. Ad₁. wisely Bo. Ra. onely Ad₂.
3938. tretē] tretye Du. tretise L₁. so] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. 3939. in Ar. between
On *and* eiper, is an underdotted A. 3940. this] thus Ra. P. E₂. avise Ar. G.
Avised Lb. P. E₂. Ro. full wyse L₂. wise Bo. *and* the rest (wis Ad₁. Ra.). 3941.
anon] he none Du. 3942. gete Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. E₁. L₂. getys Ar.
G. gate Lb. Ra. Ba. S. P. E₂. Ro. 3943. fully] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. 3944 is omitted
in Ba. 3944. Than Ar. G. Du. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. L₂. Ro. As Lb. P. pat Bo. *and*
the rest. hath aforn] aforne hath G. Ro. 3953. to] in P. servise] hert S.
3955. which Ar. G. Lb. P. E₂. L₂. Ro. pat Bo. *and* the rest. lightly may] likly
many G. 3956. of her] and the P. her] his L₁. fresshly] fressh L₁. Lb. Ad₁.
Ad₂. Ra. Ba. S. P. 3958. durst hym not Ar. G. Lb. Ra. E₂. L₂. Ro. dorst not
him Bo. *and* the rest, except P. ; in P. 3958 is erased, and on the erasure a later
hand has written with paler ink : So plesaunt and so comely of fayture. 3959.
3it] And yit Ad₂. That P. 3960. trewe Bo. trew M. Ad₁.

How he was markēd with Cupidēs bowe,
with his Arwē / soleynty werreyed.

[leaf 66, back]

And to the ȝatē / the ladyes conueyed
Ben entred In / for it^d drew* to eve,

3964 Jocasta and her daughters enter Thebes.

Grekys of hem taking^d tho her leve ;
Thogh somē of hem wer sory to departe,
ȝit^d of wisdam / they durst^d not^d inparte
Vnder a conduit^d / to entren into touⁿ,
lest^d it^d turned to her confusion.

The Greeks take leave.

3968

Thouh somē bookēs / the contrarye seyn :

But myn Autour / is platly ther-ageyn,
And affermeth / in his opynyoun,

3972 My author is clear,

That Tydeus / of hegh discrecioun,
Of wilfulnessē / nor of nō folye,

that Tideus

Ne wold as tho put in Iupartie
Nowther hym-silf / nor noñ of his ferys.

3976 would not risk lives by entering Thebes.

And the ladyes / with her heuenly cherys,

Angelik / of look / and contenance,

Lich as it^d is / put^d in remembrance,

3980

At^d her entryng^d from Grekys into touⁿ,

Polymytēs / of gret^d affleccioun,

Polyneices begs Jocasta

The quen bysouhte / thilkē* nyght not^d fyne

For tasseyē ȝif she myght^d enclyne

3984 to try and make Eteocles keep his word.

Ethioeles, of conscienece and ryght,

3965. Ben] And bethe P. drew Bo. droweth Ar. drew M. L₂. drough Ad₁. G. drewe E₁. E₂. it] to Ro. draw to eve] drewe night to eve Lb. drew nye Eve P. drewe to night Ro. 3966. taking tho] tho t kyng Ra. P. tho taken Ba. taken han L₁. taking tho her leve] ther leve toke right Ro. 3969. conduit Ar. G. Bo. M. condit Ad₁. conduct L₁. entren Bo. M. entre Lb. entere Ro. entyr L₂. into touⁿ Ar. G. Ro. in the touⁿ L₂. vnto the touⁿ S. in-to þe touⁿ Bo. and the rest. 3970. turned] turne Ra. Ba. to] vnto M. Di. 3972. platly] pleyntly Lb. S. P. playne L₁. E₂. 3973 and 3974 omitted in Du. 3975 and 3976 transposed in Du. 3975. wilfulnessē] wofullnes L₁. nor of no] or of no Ra. Ba. neither of M. Di. nere off P. nor of high Ro. more of G. 3976. as tho] as then S. 3977. nor] ner Bo. Du. ne M. Ad₁. 3978. the] tho Bo. her] om. Ad₂. E₁. heuenly] hevy S. 3981. Grekys] þe Grekes Du. Lb. P. into touⁿ Ar. G. L₂. Ro. into þe touⁿ Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. E₁. P. E₂. vnto þe touⁿ S. 3982 in Ad₁. and Ad₂. begins with fro Grekes, which is left out of 3981. 3982. Polymytes] Pollimite besouhte Di. 3983. bysouhte] besought þat E₂. om. Di. þilke Bo. Ad₁. this Ar. that M. Di. S. om. P. nyght] om. Lb. P. not fyne] ne fyne M. not to fyne S. not for to fyne P. þat she ne fyne Di. nat feine Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. 3984. tasseye Ar. to assay Bo. E₁. to assaie M. Ad₁. tassaie E₂.

- To kepë couenau^{nt} / as he hath behight
 Ful 3ore agon / with the surplusage,
 List^t the contrarie * / tournë to damage, 3988
 First of hym-silf / and many an o^per mo.
- The Greeks go
 back to their
 tents.
 And thus fro Thebës / grekys ben ago
 To her Tentys / and rest^t hem al that nyght^t.
 And Lucyna / the monë shon ful bright^t 3992
 with-Innë Thebës / on the chief dongouⁿ,
 whan Iocasta made relacioun
 Vnto the kyng^t / and told^t hym al the Guyse,
 How that^t Grekys vttrely despyse 3996
 his profre made be fals collusioun ;
 Only excepte / the conuencioun,
 Of old engrocyd by gret^t purvyance,
 which is enrollyd / and put^t in remembrance, 4000
 Vpon which they fynaly wil reste :
 hym counsaillinge /, hir thouhte for the beste,
 To conforme hym / to that^t he was bounde,
 lyst^t in the fyn / falsnesse hym confounde. 4004
- She advises him
 to keep it.
 But^t al hir counsayl / he set^t it at no prys,
 he dempt^t hym-silf / so prudent^t and so wys ;
 For he was wilful / and he was indurat^t,
 And in his hert / of malyce obstynat^t, 4008
- But he is
 resolvd not to.
 And outtrely / avisëd in his pouht^t,
 with-Innë Thebes / his brother get right^t nouht.

3988. List Ar. G. lest Bo. M. Ad₁. Ra. contrarie G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. E₁. S. P. L₂. Ro. contrayre Ar. E₂. tourne] come E₂. 3989 to 4340 gap in Ro. 3989. of] on Bo. Du. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. E₁. and] and sith of M. Di. and syth on E₁. an] om. Ba. E₁. mo] Man P (: agoo). many an o^per mo] many mo M. Di. 3990. thus] om. L₁. grekys Ar. L₁. L₂. þe grekes Bo. and the rest. ben ago] þe go Ad₁. Ad₂. gan goo Ba. 3991. rest] om. Ra. that] þe L₁. Di. Ra. Ba. E₁. 3996. Grekys] þe Grekes Du. E₁. 3997. his] A L₁. collusioun] conclusion L₁. 3999. engroced Bo. engrosed M. Ad₁. 4001. they fynaly wil Ar. Lb. P. E₂. L₂. fynaly þei wil Bo. and the rest (wold Ad₂), except þei will fynally G. 4002. counsaillinge Ar. M. counceilling Ad₁. conselyng Bo. þought Bo. M. þou3te Ad₁. 4003. conforme] confourme T₁. conferme Lb. Ra. Ba. E₁. confyrme S. hym] om. Ba. 4004. lyst Ar. lest Bo. M. Ad₁. the] om. Du. 4005. it] Ar. G. T₁. Lb. Ra. E₂. L₂. om. Bo. Du. J₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ba. E₁. S. P. at no prys] att nouht Ra. Ba. 4006. and so wys] in thoulht Ra. Ba. 4007. and he was] and Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. S. P. 4008. Ant Ar. 4009. vtterly Bo. M. Ad₁. 4010. with in Bo. M. Ad₁.

- And in his Errour / þus I lete* him* dwelle.
 And of Grekis / forth I wil 3ou telle, 4012
 which al that nyght^t kepte hem-silue cloos.
 And on the morow / whan Tytan vp aroos, Next morning
 They armyd hem / and gan hem redy make, the Greeks take
 And of assent^t / han the felde I-take, 4016 the field.
 With the Thebans / that^t day, out^t of doute,
 Forto fighten / 3if they yssen oute.
 ¶ And Adrastus / in ful thrifty wise,
 In the feld^t / his wardys / gan devise, 4020
 As he that^t was / of aH deceyt^tis war.
 And richely I-armyd* / in his char
 Amphiorax cam with his meynè,
 Ful renomyd of antiquitè, 4024 Amphiorax
 And wel expert^t / be-causè he was old. comes out in
 And whil that^t Grekys, as I haue 3ou told, [leaf 67, back]
 wer bysiest^t her wardys to ordeyne, his chariot,
 Myd of the feld / bifyl a cas sodeyne, 4028
 Ful vnhappy / lothsom, *and* odyble ; ¶ How Amphio-
 For liehe a thing^t / þat^t wer invisible, rax fil doune into
 This oldè* bisshop / with char *and* hors certeyn hell.
 Disaperyd / and no mor was seyne. 4032 but the earth
 Only of fate / which no man can repelle, opens ;
 þe erth^t opnede / *and* he fille down* to helle, he falls into
 with aH his folk / þat^t vpon hym abood. Hell ;
 And sodeynly / the grounde on which he stood 4036 and the earth
 Closyd ageyn / and to-gydre shette, closes.

4011. his] hir Bo. lete Bo. M. Ad₁. lote Ar. late Du. him] hem Ar.
 4012. Grekis] þe Grekes Du. E₂. I] om. Bo. 3ou] om. Ra. Ba. 4013. kepte
 M. kept Bo. Ad₁. hem-silue Ar. hem-self Bo. M. Ad₁. 4014. Tytan]
 tiban Lb. þey L₁. vp aroos] vp he rose Bo. vp ros L₁. Ba. L₂. 4016. of] of
 oon L₂. of assent han] han of assent Ra. Ba. I-take Ar. G. Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. Di.
 Ad₁. Ad₂. Ba. E₁. S. P. E₂. L₂. take Du. M. Ra. . 4018. yssen Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁.
 issue Ba. E₁. E₂. 4022. And] Full Ba. I-armyd] armyd Ar. Bo. *and all the*
other MSS. in his] him in Bo. char] chaire E₂. cheare S. 4024. Ful] Full
 richelie Ba. renomyd Ar. Bo. renomèd M. Ad₁. renomèd E₂. of] of old Ra.
 Ba. 4026. Grekys] þe Grekes Du. 4028. bifyl Ar. befel Bo. M. ther fel
 Ad₁. Ad₂. fill Ra. Ba. 4031. olde Bo. Ad₁. old Ar. M. 4031. opnede Ar.
 opned M. Ad₁. openyd Bo. openeth E₁. fille] went P. L₂. down] om. Ar. G.
 L₂. 4036. on which he stood Ar. L₂. that they on stode Lb. P. that he on
 rode E₂. þat he on stode Bo. *and the rest* (vpon L₁. Ad₂).

	þat neuer after Grekis with hym mette.	
The Devil paid him his wages,	And thus the devel / for his old outrages, licþ his decert, paid hym his wages.	4040
	For he ful lowe / is discendid down Into the dirk <i>and</i> blakë* Regyoun wher that Pluto* / is crownyd <i>and</i> ystallyd with his quene / proserpina I-callyd.	4044
for his idolatry,	with whom this bisshop / hap made his* mansioun Perpetuelly / as for his guerdoun. ¶ lo here the mede / of ydolatrie, Of Rytys old / and of* fals mawmetrye.	4048
[leaf 68]	lo! what auayllen Incantaciouns Of exorsismës / <i>and</i> coniuorisouns ;	
necromancy and astronomy.	what stood hym stede his Nigromaneye, Calculacioun / or astronomye ;	4052
	what vayllöd hym / the heuently manciouns, Diuerse aspectis / or constellaciouns ? The ende / is nat / bot sorowe and meschaunce, Of hem þat setten / her outre affiaunce	4056
	In swichë* werkës superstitious, Or trist on hem / : he is vngracious.	
Amphiorax's sinking into Hell	Record I takë, shortly forto telle, Of this bysshop / sonken down to helle,	4060
	whos wooful ende / about in eury cost Swich a Rumour / hath makëd in the host	

4038. Grekis] þe Grekes Du. 4040. paid Ar. Bo. Lb. paid Ad₁. quyt M. Di. 4042. dirk Ar. derke Bo. M. Ad₁. blake Bo. blak Ar. M. Ad₁. 4043. wher] whor Ar. wher that] Where as T₁. Di. Pluto T₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. P. Plyto Ar. Lb. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. Plito G. L₁. Plato Bo. Du. L₂. ystallyd] stalled T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ra. Ba. S. 4045. his] is Ar. Ad₁. 4048. and of] and Ar. Lb. P. E₂. L₂. of Ad₂. mawmetrye] mawmatrie Bo. mawmentrie Ra. Ba. 4050. and] and of Bo. T₁. L₁. M. Di. S. coniuorisouns] coniuoracions S. congruous L₂. 4051. stood hym stede Ar. G. Bo. T₁. M. Di. Ra. E₁. S. L₂. stode in stede Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. P. E₂. stode hym in stede Du. L₁. Ba. Nigromancye] nygramaneye Bo. Ba. E₁. nigrimansies Lb. 4053. vailed Bo. M. availed Ad₁. 4054. or] or the Ra. Ba. and T₁. of Di. 4055. not Bo. nat Du. nocht Ad₁. 4056. outre G. vttr Bo. vtter M. Ad₁. affiaunce] assurance S. 4057. suche Bo. M. swich Ar. such Ad₁. whieh G. 4058. trist Ar. Bo. M. trust Du. Ad₁. treste Lb. on] of L₂. 4061. about] don Lb. down C. done P (*altered to down by later hand, but done perfectly legible under it*). 4062. hath makëd] makëd hath M. Di. hath maad T₁. Lb. Ba. E₁. S. C. E₂.

That the noys / of this vnkouth thyng^t
 Is yronne / and comē to the kyng^t, 4064
 how this vengeaunee / is vnwarly falle.
 And he anoñ / made a trumpet calle
 Alle his puple / out^t of the fel^t ageyñ ;
 And euerychon / assembled on a pleyñ 4068
 To-fore the kyng^t / and also rounde aboute.
 Euery man / of his lyf in doute,
 Ful pitously / gan to frowne *and* loure, makes all the
 list^t that the grounde hem alle wil deuoure 4072 Greeks fear for
 And Swalowen hem / in his dirk^ü* kave ; their own lives.
 And they ne can / no recur hem to save.
 For nouth^r force / nor manhode may availle
 In swiche meschief / the valewe of a maylle. 4076
 For he that was wisest^t / *and* koudē most^t As their wisest
 To serche and sekē / thorgh-out^t al the host^t, man
 Amphiorax / whan that he lest^t wende,
 To helle is sonkeu / and coude hym not diffende, 4080 has gone to Hell
 (To hym the tyme vnknowen *and* vnwist^t) so suddenly,
 In whom whilom was al þe Grekis trist,
 her hoolē* confort^t / *and* her affiaunce. [leaf 68, back
 But aH attonys / for this soleyⁿ chaunce 4084
 And this meschief / they gan hem to dispeire, the others
 despair,

4063. vncouth Bo. Ad₁. vncouthe M. 4064. Is] hath Ba. yronne] ronne T₁.
 C. yronne and] om. S. come] yeome Bo. Du. Ra. Ba. E₁. to] vnto Lb. S. C. E₂;
 in Ar. thekyng, but the words separated by a vertical stroke. 4065. this] the Ba.
 veniance C. vnwarly] vnwardly E₁. sodenly C. 4068. on Ar. Bo. Du. L₁. E₁.
 in T₁. L₂. vpon Lb. and the rest. a] om. P. 4070. Euery] Eueryehe Lb. C.
 P. E₂. in] stode in Ba. tho stood in Ra. 4071. Ful] And ful Ra. Ba.
 gan] gonne M. Di. to] om. S. frowne] sorowe Lb. C. P. E₂. 4072. list Ar.
 lest Bo. M. Ad₁. that] om. Ra. alle Ar. al Bo. M. om. Ad₁. wil] wold M.
 Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. E₂. 4073. swallowen Bo. swoluen M. Ad₁.
 swelwen E₂. swolowe Lb. P. in] in-to Ad₂. C. derke Bo. Ad₁. dirk Ar.
 derk M. 4074. ne] om. Ba. can] konne M. Di. C. E₂. to] forto Ba. 4075.
 force nor manhode] manhod ne fors L₁. may Ar. G. Lb. Ba. C. P. L₂. hem may
 Bo. T₁. Du. may hem L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. E₁. S. doeth E₂. 4079. whan
 that Ar. G. L₂. whan (om. that) Bo. and the rest. he] hym Di. 4080. coude]
 can Ad₁. Ad₂. E₁. not] om. Du. 4081. vnknowen Ar. G. M. Ad₁. vnknowe
 Bo. 4082. al] om. Du. 4083. hole Bo. hool Ar. Ad₁. M. affiaunce]
 assurance S. 4084. this] his Ba. om. Du. Ad₂. chaunce] myschaunce Ba.
 4085. gan] goune M. Di. hem] om. Lb. P. to Ar. G. Lb. C. E₂. L₂. om. P.
 al Bo. and the rest. in Ra. Ba. the second half of 1085 reads: seide in wordes
 fair.

- and want to go home. Hom to Grecci / that they wil repeyre.
 This was the purpos of hem euerichoñ.
 And on the wallys / of Thebës lay her foñ, 4088
 Reioysing hem / of this vnhappy cure,
 wenyng therby / gretly to recure.
 And on her tourës* / as they loken oute,
 They on Grekys / enviously gan shoute, 4092
 And, of despit / and gret enmytè,
 Bad hem foolys / goñ hom to her contrè,
 Sith they han lost / her confort and socour*,
 her false* prophete / and her dyvynour : 4096
 wherthorgh / her partie / gretly is apeyryd.
 And in this wisè / Grekys disespeyryd,
 Demptè pleynly / be tokens evidente,
 This cas was falle / by soñ enchauntèment, 4100
 By wichcraft* / or by* fals soreerye,
 Ageynës* which may be no remedye,
 Tristy diffencü / helpè*, nor socour.
 And whan Adrastus herde* this clamour, 4104
 he bysy was ageyn this perturbaunce
 To prevyde / some maner chevysaunce.
 And to hym calleth / such counsayl as he wiste,
 For lyf or deth / that he myghte tryste, 4108
 Requeryng hem / but in wordys fewe,
 In this meschief / her mocion to shewe,

4086. wil] wold M. Di. Ra. Ba. 4089. Reioysing] Reioisshinge Di. eure] eur
 Lb. M. Ra. vre L₁. Ad₂. P. E₂. vr L₂. cure Ba. owre S. 4090. wenyng]
 Sownyng E₂. gretly] om. Ad₂. recure] to haue recure M. Di. 4091. toures
 Bo. M. Ad₁. tours Ar. 4092. Grekys] the Grekes Du. L₁. gan] gon T₁. Lb.
 M. Di. C. shoute] to shoute Ad₁. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. C. E₂. L₂. 4093. despit and
 gret] gret despit and Ad₁. Ad₂. Ba. S. gret despit and of Ra. enmyte Ar. Ad₁.
 ennemyte Bo. enemyte M. envite L₁. L₂. 4094 to 4158 lost in Ad₂. 4095.
 lost] om. Ba. socour Du. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. Ba. C. P. E₂. L₂. her socour Ar. G. Bo.
 T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ra. E₁. S. 4096. fals Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. 4098. Grekys] þe Grekes
 Du. E₂. disespeyred] dispeired Ad₁. S. E₂. 4099. tokens Bo. M. toknes Ad₁.
 4101. wichcraft M. Ad₁. wichcraft Ar. wycche-crafte Bo. or] and E₂. by]
 om. Ar. Bo. T₁. Du. Ra. Ba. S. L₂. fals] om. Lb. S. C. P. E₂. in Ar. before
 wichcraft is wh, *underdotted*. 4102. Ageyns Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. may be] may
 Ba. 4103. helpè Bo. help Ar. M. Ad₁. 4104. herde Bo. Ad₁. herd Ar. M.
 4105. this] the Ad₁. 4106. chevysaunce Ad₁. chevissaunce Bo. 4107. such
 counsayl] om. C. he] om. Lb. P. him Ad₁. wiste] list Ad₁. 4108. myght
 Bo. M. Ad₁. 4109. but in] bouten Bo.

And declare by good avisement^t
 What^t to Grekys / was most^t expedient^t, 4112 the best remedy
 To remedyen /, *and* makë* no delay, for this trouble.
 The vncouth noyse / and the gret^t affray (leaf 69)
 That^t Grekys made / with clamour inportune,
 And newe / and newe / euere in oñ contune. 4116
 ¶ And they that^t wern / most^t manly *and* most^t wise, They say it
 Shortly saide / it wer a cowardyse, would be cow-
 The hegh emprise / that^t they han vndirtake arlice to give
 For dred of deth / so sodeynly forsake. 4120 up their enter-
 It^t wer to hem / a perpetuel shame prise :
 And outre hyndryng^t / vnto grekys name ;
 And better it^t wer / to euery werreyour soldiers had
 Manly to deye / with worship and honour, 4124 better die
 Than lik a coward / with the lyf endure. than live as
 For onys shamyd / hard is to recure cowards.
 his name ageyn / of what estat^t he be.
 And sith Grekes / of old antiquytè, 4128 Adrastus's
 As of knyghthode /, who so list^t tak hed, Council say that
 Ben so famous / and so renomèd, were so famd
 3if now of newe / the shyning^t of her Fame
 Eclipsid were / with eny spotte of blame, 4132
 It^t were a thyng^t vncouth forto here,

4112. was Ar. G. L₂. were Bo. *and the rest.* most] more Ba. 4113. make Bo. M. Ad₁. mak Ar. ; Ar. *has* delaye with the *first* e underdotted. 4114. vncouth Bo. Ad₁. vncouth M. 4115. clamour] labour M. Di. inportune Bo. Ad₁. importune M. 4116. And newe and newe Ar. Lb. P. and now and now Bo. *and the rest, except* now and S. euere in on] neuer in on Ba. in euer P. contune] contynue Bo. Du. Lb. S. 4117. *first* most] more Ba. ; *before* most is an underdotted w in Ar. *second* most] om. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. I. Ba. S. C. P. E₂. 4118. wer] was Ad₁. I. a cowardyse Ar. G. Lb. C. P. E₂. L₂. a grete cowardise Bo. *and the rest.* 4119. The hegh emprise Ar. G. Lb. C. P. E₂. L₂. The emprise Bo. *and the rest.* that] om. P. 4119 *and* 4120 are transposed in I. 4120. so] om. Ra. forsake] to forsake Lb. C. P. E₂. 4122. And] An L₁. at Bo. Du. T₁. outre Ar. G. viter L₁. Lb. C. P. L₂. our Bo. Du. T₁. M. Di. Ad₁. E₁. S. after E₂. in I. grete Ra. Ba. vnto] to þe Lb. C. P. E₂. 4123. better] bet C. to] vnto Ad₁. I. Ra. Ba. S. for P. om. Lb. 4125. endure] to endure Di. I. S. tendure Ad₁. Ra. Ba. 4128. sith] sith that E₂. Grekes] þe Grekes Du. old] so old Ad₁. I. 4129. who so] whos M. C. take Bo. M. Ad₁. tak Ar. 4130. renomèd Ar. Bo. renomede M. Ad₁. (in P. a later hand has altered renomèd to renomyd, but the original spelling is perfectly legible). renomèd] worthi of deede E₂. 4132. eny spotte of blame] spot of ony shame M. Di.

- Of whoes renoun / the hem's zit ben clere
 Thorgh al the world / wher as they han passyd,
 And ben not' zit' / dyrkyd nor diffacyd, 4136
 By no report' / nouthur on se ne londe
 thynge to forsakē / that' they tok on honde.
 " And by example / of our progenitours,
 as conquerors, þat' whilom wern / so manly conquerours, 4140
 To-forn that' we into Grece wende,
 Of thynge bygon / lat' vs make an ende,
 And parte nat' / nor Seuere from this toune
 Til it' be brouht' to destruccioun, 4144
 wallys / tourres / Crestyd *and* batailled
 And for werrē strongly apparaylled,
 Be first' doune betē / that' no thynge be seyn,
 till it's laid low, But' al to-gyder / with the erthē* pleyn 4148
 Be lowē* leyde / or that' we resorte :
 so that folk may say " what they began, they achievd." That' afterward / men may of vs reporte,
 That' we bygan / we knyghtly han achieuyd
 Vpon our foon /, with worship vnrepreuyd." 4152
 This was the counsaylle / shortly, *and* thavis
 To this, all the Greeks agree. Of the Grekys that' manly wern *and* wys,
 That' neuere aforn wer markyd with no blame,
 And specialy / swich as dredē* Shame, 4156
 And fully easte / what' fortune euer tyde,
 On her purpoos / to the ende abyde,
 That' on no part' / her honure not apalle.

4136. zit] *om.* Lb. Ra. Ba. P. derked Bo. M. derket Ad₁. dirket Du. diffased Bo. defaced M. Ad₁. to faced Lb. 4137. nouthur] *om.* M. Di. on se] in see Lb. P. by see Ba. ne] ne on Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. E₁. nor L₁. Ad₁. I. Ra. S. C. E₂. 4139. example M. ensample Bo. Ad₁. 4142. begon M. begonne Bo. bygonne Ad₁. 4143. parte nat] nat departe Ad₁. I. 4144. to] vnto Bo. T₁. Du. M. Di. Ad₁. I. Ra. Ba. S. into L₁. 4145. Crestyd] crestes Lb. crestes P. and crestes E₂. and batailled] Enbatayled P. E₂. 4146 *omitted in* Ba. 4147. that] and Ad₁. I. 4148. erthe Bo. M. Ad₁. erth Ar. 4149. lowe Bo. low Ar. M. Ad₁. 4149 *omitted in* G. 4151. knyghtly] kyndely Du. 4154. the] *om.* Ra. Ba. 4155. wer markyd] marked were Lb. Ad₁. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. E₂. no] *om.* Ad₁. I. E₂. 4156. specialiche Du. M. Di. drede Ad₁. dred Ar. Bo. drad M. dredde Di. 4157. tyde] betyde Du. 4159. part M. Ad₁. parte Bo. her] *om.* Lb. not] ne L₁. doith P. apalle Ar. appalle Bo. Ad₁. enpalle Lb. P. her honure not apalle] to the e M (*here M. stops short, leaving the line unfinished; cp. the preceding line*). what so euer falle Di.

- And to this counsaile / Grekys, oñ *and* alle, 4160
 Ben condescendyd / and, for mor happy sped,
 In sted of hym / that was so latë ded,
 Amphiorax / buryed / depe in helle,
 That koudë whilom / to the Grekys telle 4164
 Of thynggës hid / how it shal falle, aforñ :
 In stede of whom / now they han hym lorñ,
 They casten hem / wisly to purchace
 Some prudent man / to occupye his place, 4168
 That in swich thyng / myght hem most availle
 Thorgh mystery of his dyvynaylle,
 By craft of sorte / or of profecye,
 3if eny swich they couden out espye. 4172
 And among al /, her purpoos to atteyñe,
 As I fyndë / they han chosyn tweyne,
 Most renomèd / of hem enerychoñ.
 And Menolippus / callyd was the toñ, 4176
 And Terdymus / ek the tother highte.
 And for he hadde most fauour in her sighte,
 This Terdymus / was chosen and preferryd.
 And in* her choys / Grekys han not erryd ; 4180
 For whilom he / lernyd / his emprise
 Of his maister / Amphiorax the wyse,
 And was disciple / vndyr his doctrine.
 And of entent / that he shal termyne 4184
 Vnto Grekys / thyngës that shal falle,
 *As a bisshop mytred in his stalle, Terdimus is made a Bishop.
- [leaf 70]
- Of the two candidates proposed, Melanippus and Terdimus, the latter, who was Amphiorax's pupil, is chosen by the Greeks in his place.

4161. for] *om.* M. Di. E₁. mor] *om.* Lb. P. happy] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. for mor happy sped] after beste redde E₂. 4164. konde whilom to the Grekys] whilom to Grekes coude Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 4165. shal falle aforñ] sholde be before Ad₂. I. 4166. In stede of whom] In whos stede C. 4169. hem] *om.* Ra. Ba. 4170. mystery M. mysterie Bo. Ad₁. 4172. espye Bo. Ad₁. aspye M. 4176. Menolippus Ar. Bo. Menalippus M. Ad₁. Menclappus P. þat oon Bo. M. Ad₁. one Du. 4177. Terdymus Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. Therdymus G. Tredimus Lb. C. P. E₂. Terdinus Ad₂. Tardynus E₁. þat othre Bo. M. Ad₁. 4179. was chosen] chose was Ad₁. Ad₂. I. chosen was Ra. Ba. 4180. in] *om.* Ar. G. E₁. choys] chose Ba. Grekys] the Grekes M. Di. S. 4181. his] this Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 4184. termyne] determyne P. 4184. *om.* in G. 4186. As Lb. C. P. E₂. And as Ar. Bo. *and all the rest.* a] *om.* E₁. S. mytred M. Ad₁. myterd Bo.

- They* don for him* / in many vncouth wyse
 In the temple / to goddys sacrificise; 4188
 And thus confermed* / *and* stallyd in his Se,
 A fewë dayës / stood / in his degrè,
 After his mayster / with ful gret' honour,
 Of Grekys chosë / to be successour. 4192
- The Thebans suffer;
 And al this tyme /, in story as is told,
 Ful gret' meschief / of hungre, thrust, *and* cold;
 And of Thebans / as they issen oute,
 some are slain. lay many oñ / slayën* in the route 4196
 On outhert part' /, of fortune as they mette :
 her mortal swerdys / wer so sharpë whette.
 ¶ And Tydeus among hem of the toune
 Tideus Fro day to day / pleyeth þe lyoun 4200
 So cruelly, wher so that' he rood,
 That Theban noñ / aforñ his face abood.
 [leaf 70, back]
 He made of hem, thorgh his high renowñ,
 slays many Thebans. So gret' slaughter / and occisioun* 4204
 That' as the deth / fro his swerd they fledde,
 And who cam nexte / leid his lyf to wedde.
 He quitte hym-sylf / so lik a manly knyght'
 That' wher he went' / he putte hem to the flight', 4208
 And maugrè hem, in his crueltè
 He droff hem hom / into her Citè,
 hem purswyng' / proudly to the gate :

4187. They doon for hym Lb. C. P. E₂. Don þei for him Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Don for him Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba (fro). E₁. S. Don for hem Ar. G. L₂. vncouth Ar. Bo. Ad₁. I. vncouthe M. sondry Ad₂. wise] guyse Ba. 4188. to] to do Ad₂. I. goddys] the goddess M. Di. C. 4189. confermed] confermed Ar. confirmed Ba. E₂. stallyd] stabled E₂. 4190. A fewë] And few L₁. by fele Bo. T₁. Du. And fele Ad₁. Ra. Ba. And fell E₁. S. And many Ad₂. I. 4192. chose Bo. M. chosen Ad₁. 4194. thrust Ar. thirst Bo. thorst M. þirst Ad₁. 4196. slayn Ar. Bo. *and all the rest.* the route] the grete route Ra. 4197. outhert Ar. either Bo. M. Ad₁. 4198. sharp Bo. M. Ad₁. 4200. pleyeth] he pleyeth Ad₂. I. 4201. wher so that] that where so Ad₁. Ad₂. I. where so euer P. where so euer þat Lb. 4204. occisioun Ba. Ad₂. I. S. E₂. occasioun Ar. Bo. *and the rest (in P. altered to occisioun by a later hand); in T₁, occasioun is underlined, and occisioun written in the right margin by a later hand; cf. 3603.* 4205. fro] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 4206. who] who þat S. nexte] nyghe S. leid] left S. lyf] hede Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. 4207. so] om. Ad₂. I. so lik a manly] lik so manly a Ad₁. 4208. the] om. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. P. 4210. droff T₂. drofe Bo. drof M. Ad₁. drone E₂. 4211. hem] Aud Bo.

- That vnto hym / they bar so dedly hate 4212
- That they hem caste / by sleight or some engyn,
- To bryngyn hym / vnwarly to hys fyn ;
- And leyde awayt / for hym day *and* nyght.
- But O. alas ! / this noble manly knyght, 4216
- Vpon a day / as he gan hem enchace,
- And mortally / made hem lese her place
- And sued hem / almost to the town,
- That causè was of his destruccion. 4220
- For on, alas ! / that on the wallys stood,
- which al that day / vpon hym abood,
- With a quarel / sharpe heded for his sake,
- Markede hym with a bowe of brake, 4224
- So cruelly, makynge non arest
- Tyl it was passyd both* bak *and* brest.
- Wherthorgh, alas ! / ther was non oþer red
- Nor lech-craft* / but* that he mot be ded, 4228
- Ther may therof be makèd non delayes.
- And ðit was he / holdyn / in his dayes
- The beste knyght / and most manly man,
- As myn Autour / wel rehercè kan. 4232
- But for al that was ther no dyffence
- Ageyn the strok / of dethys violence.
- And Bochas writ / er he was fully ded,
- he was by Grekys / presentyd with þe hed 4236
- Of hym that gaf / his laste fatal wounde :
- And he was callyd /, lik as it is founde,
- Menolippus /, I can non other telle.

But one day
¶ How pitously
Tydeus was slayn
with a quarell.

a Theban
crossbow-man

shot and kild
him.

Tho' he was
the best of the
Greeks,

[leaf 71]
he couldn't with-
stand Death.

4213. sleight] sum sleight S. crafte L₁. or some] or by some Bo. T₁. or S. of L₁. P. 4214. bryngen Bo. M. bring Ad₁. vnwarly] warly Bo. Du. to] vnto Ba. E₂. 4216. But] That Ad₂. I. ; *the low point after O is in Ar. O]* om. Lb. Ad₂. I. P. 4222. that] the M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 4226. bothe Bo. Ad₁. M. both Ar. 4228. Nor] ne Ad₁. Ad₂. I. E₂. leche-craft Bo. M. lech-craft Ar. Ad₁. but that he L₁. Lb. Ra. Ba. P. L₂. but he C. T₂. that he Ar. G. Bo. Du. M. Di. E₁. S. E₂. that he ne T₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. mot] must Ra. Ba. S. P. 4229. maked Ar. Lb. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. made Bo. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₂. Ba. E₁. S. P. maad T₁. Ad₁. I. Ra. Ther may be mad ther-of Ad₁. Therof may be maade Ad₂. I. 4230. he] om. T₂. ðit was he] yet he was Lb. P. E₂. 4231. best Bo. M. Ad₁. 4237. gaf] gaf hym L₁. was Lb. last Bo. M. laste Ad₁. 4238. callyd] y-called Ad₁. S. is] was Bo. (*in L₂ is written above was, which is crossed out*).

	¶ But thilkü * day / Thebans wex so felle	4240
¶ He that slogh Tydeus was callyd Meno- lippus. King Parthono- lope was also skain, and Ypomedon.	Vpon Grekys / that vnder her Cytè	
	The manly kyng ^t Parthanolopè	
	Islayen * was / euene afor the gatys ;	
	And ther also, Armyd bright ^t in platys,	4244
	The famous kyng / callyd ypomedoun,	
	The samè day /, as mad is mencionn,	
	On hors-bak / manly as he faught ^t ,	
	At the briggè / euene vpon the draught,	4248
	Besette with pres / casuelly was drownyd.	
Fortune frownd on the Greeks.	And thus fortunè / hath on Grekys frownyd	
	On euery sydè / thilk vnhappy day.	
	But al the maner / tellen I ne may	4252
	Of her fightyng ^t / nor her slaughter in sothi,	
	Mor to declarè / than myn Autour dothi.	
	But thilkü * day / I fynde / as 3e may sen,	
	whan Phebus / passyd was * merydyen	4256
	And fro the south / westward gan hym drawe,	
	his gylte tressys / to bathen in the wawe,	
Eteocles	¶ The Theban kyng ^t / felle Ethyocles,	
	Rote of vnreste / and causer of vnpes,	4260
	The slaughter of Grekys / whan that he beheld ^t ,	
rides forth	Armyd in steel / he kam out in-to feld ^t ,	
[leaf 71, back]	Ful desirous / in that sodeyn hete	
to fight Poly- neices,	Polymytès / at good leysen to mete,	4264

4240. thilke Bo. Ad₁. thilk Ar. M. Thebans] Thebanx Bo. Du. waxe Bo. M. Ad₁. 4241. her] the Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 4243. Islayen] Islayn Ar. G. Bo. Du. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. E₁. S. T₂. P. E₂. slayn T₁. L₁. Lb. M. Di. C. L₂. 4244. ther also] also þere Du. 4248. At the Ar. Atte Bo. Ad₁. At M. brigge Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. bregge Ad₂. brugge L₂. bridge E₂. At the brigge euene] Att briggis eend Ra. Ba. euene] om. Ra. Ba. vpon] above P. 4250. frowned] froned Bo. 4251. thilk] thik Ar. 4253. nor] ne L₁. M. her] of her Lb. M. Di. P. of S. 4255. thilke Bo. Ad₁. thilk Ar. M. 4256. whan] Whanne that T₂. passyd was] was passyd Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. Lb. C. E₂. L₂. was] om. P. merydyen] the meridiën Ra. Ba. S. 4257. gan] can E₂. hym] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 4258. gilt Bo. M. Ad₁. 4260. causer] cause Lb. P. vnpes] vnhappes E₁. In Du. *the second half of* 4260 (and causer of vnpes) and the first two words of 4261 (The slaughter) are omitted, and the remnants of the two lines joined into one line. 4261. Grekys] the Grekis Lb. P. peple Di. that] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 4262. out] om. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. in-to] in Ba. of P. feld Ar. G. þe felde Bo. and all the rest. 4263. sodeyn Bo. M. Ad₁. sodeyne Di.

Syngulerly / with hym to han ado.		
For in this world / he hatede no man so ;		
he sat' so nygh / emprented in his herte.		
whoos comyng' out' / his brother gan aduerte	4268	
Vpon his stede / in the opposit',		who is ready to meet him.
And hadde ageynward' / also gret' delyt'		
To meten hym / 3if fortune assente.		
Thenvious fyr / so her hertys brente	4272	Eteocles and Polyneices attack one an- other.
with haate Cankered / of vnkynde blood.		
And lik two Tygres / in her rage' wood,		
with speerys sharpe / grounde for the nouns,		
So as they ranne / and mette both attonys,	4276	
Polymytus / thorgh platys, mayle, and sheeld		¶ How eu'rich of the Theban breth- eren slogh other to-forne þe Cyte. Polyneices runs Eteocles thru,
Roof hym thorgh-out / and smette hym in-to feld.		
But' whan he sauñ / the stremys of his blood		
Raylle about' / in maner of a flood,	4280	
Al sodeynly / of compassioun,		
From his coursere / he alighte down,		and then dis- mounts
And brotherly, with a pitous face,		
To saue his lyf / gan hym to vnbrace*,	4284	
And from his wounde / of newe affecciou,		to pull his spear out of his brother.
Ful bysy was / to pulle out* the trunchoun,		

4265. to] forto Ra. Ba. ado] at do Ba. to do Lb. do C. 4266. worlde Bo.
 4267. emprented Bo. M. enprented Ad₁. enprintid Di. In G. the second half
 of 4267 and the first half of 4268 are omitted: He sat so nygh out his brother gan
 aduerte. 4269. stede M. Ad₁. steed Bo. 4270. hadde] om. Bo. 4271.
 Ar. has tometen, with a vertical stroke between the two words. assente] will assente
 E₂. 4272. Thenvious Bo. M. Ad₁. 4273. with] Whiche T₂. E₂. Whiche
 of P. haate Ar. hete Bo. hate M. Ad₁. and the rest. cankred Bo. M. Ad₁.
 Cankered] was canered E₂. om. P. of] and of P. 4275. sharpe Bo. sharp
 M. Ad₁. gronde Bo. ground M. Ad₁. gronden Ra. Ba. speerys sharpe]
 sharpe speerys Ba. T₂. 4276. ranne] ronne M. Di. renne T₂. rood Ad₂. I. and]
 om. Ra. Ba. and ne T₂. mette Bo. M. Ad₁. mete Lb. mette both] bope
 mette Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. 4277. thorgh] with Ra. Ba. platys] plate T₁. Lb.
 M. Di. Ad₂. I. Ba. C. T₂. P. platys mayle] mayle plate P. 4278. Roof Ar. G.
 Bo. Roof M. Ad₁. thorgh-out] thoroh Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. T₂. smette Ar. G. Di.
 smete Bo. Du. bar Ad₁. Ad₂. I. smote T₁. and the rest. hym] om. Ra. Ba. in-
 to] in T₂. feld Ar. G. C. þe feld Bo. and the rest. 4280. raile Bo. M. Ad₁. of]
 as Ad₂. I. 4281. Al] And Ba. Ra. (And written above Al, which is crossed out).
 sodeynly] sodenliche M. Di. of] meened of Ra. Ba. 4282. coursere Ar. G. M.
 Ad₁. coursour Bo. coursar L₂. alighte] light G. Du. Lb. M. Ra. Ba. S. P. L₂.
 down Ar. L₁. E₁. C. a-doun Bo. G. and the rest. 4284. unbrace T₁. M. Di. Ad₁.
 E₁. S. C. E₂. unbrace Bo. embrace Ar. embrace G. L₁. Lb. Ra. Ba. Ad₂. I. T₂.
 P. L₂. 4286. out] om. Ar. G. Ra. Ba. L₂.

	Of loue only / handlyng hym ryght softe.	
On which Eteocles	But O / allas ! whil he lay alofte,	4288
	Ful yrouslly / Ethiocles the felle,	
	Of al this sorowe / verraye sours <i>and</i> welle,	
stabs Polyneices to the heart ;	with a dagger / in al his peynys smerte,	
	his brother smoot vnwarly to the herte :	4292
[leaf 72]	which al her lyf / haddë be so wrothe.	
so both die.	And thus the Thebans / were yslawë* bothe	
	At the entrè / euene aforn the town.	
	But Grekys / tho / ben auailed down	4296
	Out of the feld / the worthy knyghtys alle.	
	And in Thebës / loud* / as eny shalle,	
The Thebans mourn their king's death.	The Cry aroos / whan her kyng was ded.	
	And to the gatys / armyd foot <i>and</i> hed,	4300
	Out of the town / cam many proud Theban.	
	And some of hem / vpon the wallys ran	
	And gan to shoute / that pitè was to here.	
	And they with-out / of her lyf in were,	4304
	with-oute confort // or consolacioun,	
	Disespeyrèd / ronne* hom to the town	
	And Grekys folowen after at the bak,	
	That many on / that day / goth to wrak.	4308

4287. handlyng] handeled M. handlid Di. holding Ba. S. ryght] ful G. Lb. M. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. 4288. O] om. Ad₂. I. one E₂. alofte] on loft Ra. Ba. P. 4289 and 4290 omitted in Ad₂. and I. ; in Ad₁. these two lines are omitted in their right place, but written in the bottom margin of the page a little bit below the column. 4291. smert Bo. M. Ad₁. smarte E₂. 4292. smoot] roff Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. vnwarly] vnwardly E₁. hert Bo. M. Ad₁. harte E₂. 4293. had Bo. M. Ad₁. 4294 omitted in Ba. 4294. Ar. has a bar also between the and Thebans. the] these P. om. Ra. Thebans] Thebanx Bo. T₁. yslawe Bo. E₂. G. yslove Ar. slawe T₁ (weren s.). Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. C. yslyayn T₂ (y. were). L₂. slayn L₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. P. 4296. tho] thus S. auailed Bo. aualed M. Ad₁. 4298. And] om. E₂. in] in-to Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Thebes] Thebans Ra. Ba. loude T₁. M. Di. C. T₂. P. lowde Ad₂. I. L₂. londe E₁. lond Ba. S. lande Bo. Lb. E₂. land Ar. G. L₁. Ad₁. om. Ra. as eny] as in eny L₁. as eure it Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. as soche thing E₂. shalle] shralle T₂. shall fall Ra. Ba. 4299. Cry] Cytee E₁. whan] þat L₁. 4303. gan] gon M. Di. C. 4304. omitted in Ra. 4304. wip-oute Bo. M. lyf in altered in P. by a later hand to lyfes. in were] in weer Ad₂. in wyre Lb. in werre L₁. E₂. in where Ad₁. E₁. T₂. in fer L₂. 4306. Disespeyrèd] Dispeired L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₂. Ra. Ba. C. P. E₂. L₂. Dessapeyryd S. Dispeired T₂. ronne Bo. T₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ra. E₁. C. T₂. E₂. runne L₁. ran Lb. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. P. L₂. room Ar. roone G. to] into Ra. Ba. C. vnto S. 4307. after] om. Bo. T₂. at the Ar. atte Bo. M. Ad₁. at E₂. L₂. atte her Ra.

And as her foomen / proudly hem assaylle
 Ful many Grek* / thorgh platys *and* thorgh maylle Many Greeks
were shot.
 was shette thorgh-out, pressing at the wallys,
 And betyn of / with grete rounde ballys, 4312
 That her lay on / and another zonder.
 And the noysë, hydouser* than thonder, The noise of
the guns was
hideous.
 Of gonnë-shot and of* Arblastys ek,
 So loude out-ronge / that many worthy grek 4316
 Ther lost his lyf / ; they wern on hem so felle.
 And at the gatys /, shortly forto telle, At the gates
 As Grekys prees / to entren þe Cytë,
 They of Thebës / in her Cruelte 4320 the Thebans
 with hem mette / ful furious *and* wood, fight the Greeks
 And mortally / as they ageyn hem* stood, [leaf 72, back]
 Men myghte sen / sperys Shyuere a-sonder,
 That to byhold / it was a verray wonder 4324
 how they foyne / with dagggers *and* with swerdys, with dagger,
sword
 Thorgh the vyser / amyng* at the berdys,
 Percyng also / thorgh the rownde Maylles,
 Rent out peeces / of ther aventaylles, 4328
 That nouht availleth / the myghty Geseran,

4309. And] Ans Ar. 4310. Grek Ra. Ba. C. T₂. Grekys Ar. Bo. *and the rest.*
 thorgh] thorgh-oute M. Di. platys] plate M. Di. Ad₂. I. Ba. C. T₂. P. E₂.
second thorgh] om. L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. E₂. 4311. was] were Lb. M. Di.
 P. shette Ar. shet G. Bo. T₁. Lb. E₁. C. T₂. E₂. shot L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
 S. P. L₂. shoten Ra. Ba. porugh-oute Bo. M. porhout Ad₁. ; in Ar. (*also in* Bo.)
there is a pause-bar dividing thorgh *and* out. thorgh-out] thornh Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba.
 at the Ar. atte Bo. Ad₁. at M. to the Ba. 4312. grete Bo. Ad₁. gret
 M. rounde Bo. round Ad₁. M. 4313. her] ther Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S.
 4314. hydowser L₂. hydousher Ar. G. more hidous Bo. *and the rest.* thonder]
 þe thonder Bo. G. T₁. Ba. 4315. Of gonne-shot] Of gret strokes S. and of L₁.
 Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. and Ar. Bo. *and the rest.* Arblastys Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁.
 Arblastres Lb. Arowblasters L₁. arowblastes C. 4319. As] Atte Ad₁. Ad₂. I.
 Ra. Ba. E₁. S. prees] pressen M. Di. presen E₁. T₂. E₂. to entren Ar. Bo.
 Ad₁. to entre M. to entryn L₂. to enter in S. in entryng to Ra. Ba. (into).
 4320. Cruelte] fel cruelte M. Di. T₂. 4322. ham Ar. hem Bo. M. Ad₁.
 4323. mihte Ad₁. might Bo. M. a-sonder] in-sovndre Ba. 4324. was]
 were L₁. a] om. G. Bo. L₁. Ad₂. I. verray] grete T₂. 4325. foyne Ar. M. Ad₁.
 fuyne Bo. foyned Lb. feyne E₁. fyn S. *second* with] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. L₂.
 4326. Torgh Ar. vyser Bo. Ad₁. vysour M. hanyng Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Ad₁.
 Ra. amyng M. aymeng C. awmyng Di. E₂. armyng T₂. aryvinge Lb.
 hauing L₁. Ad₂. Ba. E₁. S. hangyng I. L₂. at the Ar. atte Bo. M. Ad₁. at
 E₁. E₂. L₂. at] om. Lb. 4328. aventaylles] ventaylis L₂. entailes Ad₂. I.
 4329. Geseran Ar. gesseran M. Ad₁. gesseron Bo. gesserom L₂. gestran
 L₁. E₁.

and spear.	Thorgh brest / and nekkē / that the sperys Rañ. her wepuns wern / so sharpē grounde <i>and</i> whet, In ther armurē / that ther was no let.	4332
Men are trodden underfoot.	For ther laye on / troden vnder foote, And zonder * / on / pereyd to the herte roote. Her lith on ded / <i>and</i> ther another lame. This was / the play / and the mortal game	4336
The cries of the dying are loud.	Atwenē * Thebans / and the Grekys proude, That the swowys / and the cryēs loude Of hem that lay / and zolden vp the goost, was herd ful fer / aboute in many cost.	4340
How al the gentyl blood of grece <i>and</i> Thebes was destroyed on / o' / day.	¶ And at the gatys / and sayllyng of þe wal Islayē * was / al the blood Royal, Both of the toune / and of Grekys londē, And aft the worthy knyghtys of her honē.	4344
Of the Greek lords, only Adrastus and Capaneus live.	And of lordys / , 3if I shal not feyne, On Grekys syde / alyvū wer but tweyne, Kynge Adrastus / and Campaneus. That day to hem / was so vngracius.	4348
The Thebans bar their gates.	And for Titan / westryd was so lowe That no man myght vnmethys other knowe, Tho of the toune / shet her gatys faste	

4330. nek Bo. brest and nekke] nekke and brest Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. C. T₂. P (corrected from brest and nek). that] so L₁. sperys] myghty speres E₁. Ran Ar. M. Ad₁. ron Bo. 4331. wepenes Bo. wepens M. wepons L₂. sharp Bo. M. Ad₁. grounde and whet] whet and ground M. grounde and] *om.* Lb. P. grounde] y-grounde (*om.* and whet) Di. 4332. ther was no let] no let was found M. Di. they were nat lette C. T₂. 4333. vnder foote] vnder þe foote Ad₁. I. 4334. zonde Ar. G. yondre (yonder) Bo. *and the rest.* on] a-nothir S. P. pereyd] pressid Ad₂. I. peresed Ba. herte Ad₁. hert Bo. M. vnto the rote (*om.* herte) T₂. 4337. A-twene Ad₁. M. Atwen Ar. Bo. Atwix Ra. Betwix Ba. Bitwene L₂. Thebaus] Thebanx Bo. T₁. Ad₁. the Thebans S. 4338. That] *om.* Bo. swowys] swoughes Lb. P. E₂. swoes M. swomes E₁. showghtes L₁. showes L₂. sowtes S. swerdes Bo. 4340. many Ar. many a Bo. 4341. at the Ar. atte Bo. Ad₁. at M. and] *om.* Lb. of L₂. sayllyng] assailing Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. saylynges L₂. soylinge Lb. sawtyng L₁. *om.* P. of þe] atte Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. on the G. L₂. before the P. 4342. Islayē] Islayn Ar. Bo. *and all, except* Slayn L₁. M. Di. Ra. Ba. S. C. 4343. Grekys] þe Grekes L₁. Di. Ra. Ba. S. E₂. Rō. 4345. 3if] *om.* Rō. in Ra. 4345 *reads:* And of the sothe if I shall nat feyne: in Ba: If I shall nat in sothe feyn. 4348. vngracius] gracious Di. 4349. westryd] westward Bo. Ra. Ba. westryd was] was westrid Ad₂. I. 4351. Tho of the toune] Thei of the toune Bo. L₂. These of þe toune L₁. Of the toune thei Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. her] þe S. P. shet her gatys] shotte hea gonnys Ra. Ba (govnes).

with barrys rounde / makiel forto laste, 4352
 In which no wight^t kervē may nor hewe. [leaf 73]
 And Adrastus / with a grekys fewe
 Repeyrēd is hom vnto his Tent,
 And al that^t nyght^t / he wastyd hath *and* spent^t 4356
 For his vnhappe / in sorowe compleynyng^t.
 And they in Thebes / the nexte day swyng^t and next day
 her devoyre did / *and* her bysy cure, bury Eteocles.
 To orleyne and make / a sepulture 4360
 For her kyng^t / yslayē* in the feeld ;
 And offred vp his baner and his sheld,
 His helme / his swerel, and also his penoun,
 Ther-Inne of gold^t / I-betyn a dragoun, 4364
 high in the temple / that^t men myghte seē.
 And Iocasta / that^t infortuny d quene, His mother
 her sonē's deth / soorē* gan compleyne ; and sisters
 And also ek / her zonge doghtres tweyne, 4368 mourn him.
 Both ymeyne / and Antigonee,
 Cryden and wepte / that^t pytē was to se.
 But^t to her sorowes / that^t was non refut.
 And thus the Citē / bar / *and* destitut, 4372
 havyng no wight^t to govern hem ne* guye : No one is left to
 For dōd and slayn / was al the Chyualhye, rule in Thebes.
 And no wight^t left^t almost in þe toune

4352. barrys] ballis Ra. Ba. round Bo. M. Ad₁. made Bo. M. Ad₁. 4353.
 may] might M. Di. 4354. a grekys fewe] Grekes a fewe L₁. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S.
 Grekes fewe Lb. P. a knightis fewe T₂. 4356. that] þe L₁. he] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂.
 I. wastyd hath] hasted E₁. Ro. 4357. in sorowe] and sorw Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Du.
 4358. nexte Ad₁. next Bo. M. 4359. dide M. dede Bo. Ad₁. 4361.
 yslayen] yslayn Ar. G. E₁. Ro. slayn Bo. *and the other MSS.* 4362. and]
 an Ar. 4363 to 4418 gap in E₁, one leaf (l 1) being lost. 4363. His helme
 his swerd] His swerd his helme M. Di. 4364. Ther-Inne of gold] ther in
 golde Bo. I-betyn] beten Bo. Du. M. Di. S. C. P. y-bete L₂. a] *om.* Ba.
 4365. might Bo. M. Ad₁. 4366. that] the Lb. M. Di. C. T₂. P. E₂.
 infortuny d Ar. G. L₂. infortunat Bo. *and the rest.* 4367. sore Bo. M. Ad₁.
 soor Ar. 4368. also ek] eke also M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. yong Bo.
 M. Ad₁. *om.* Du. 4369. Antigonee] fair Antigone Ra. Ba. antygon Lb.
 4370. to se] to se on Lb. 4371. sorowes] sorownesse Lb. that] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂.
 I. ther L₁. Di. Ba. E₂. 4373. to govern hem] hem to gouerne Bo. T₁. Du. L₁.
 M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. Ro. ne] nor Ar. and G. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. 4374.
 and] an Ar. Ad₁. 4375. left] *om.* Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba.
 S. Ro. left almost] almost left T₂. in þe toune] in al þe toune Ad₁. Ad₂. I.

- To regne vpon * hem / by successioun. 4376
- ¶ But for they saugh / and tokyn also hed,
with-outē þis / that * they hadde an hed
In the Cytē / þei may not durē longe :
For though so be Comownerys be stronge 4380
with multitude / *and* have no *gouernaylle*
Of an hed /, ful lytyl may avaylle :
- [leaf 73, back] Therfor they han vnto her socour
ychosyn hem a newē *gouernour*, 4384
- ¶ How creaut
þe olde Tyrant
was chosen kyng
of Thebes.
Creon is elected
King by Parliam-
ent.
The Thebans
swear allegiance
to him.
- An olde Tyrant / þat callyd was Creon,
Ful acceptable / to hem *euerichōn*,
And crownd hym / with-oute mor lettynge,
To regne in Thebēs / *and* to ben her kyngt, 4388
Al-though * he hadde no title by discent
But by * fre choys * / made in *parlement*.
And ther to hym, lik as it is founde,
By her lygeance / of newē they wer bounde, 4392
For to be trewē / whyl the Citē stood,
To hym only / with body *and* with good.
Thus they wer sworn / *and* suryd *euerichōn* ;
And he ageynward / to saue hem from her foōn, 4396
And hem dyffende / with al his fullē * myght,
And meynten hem / in al manere ryght.
This was thacord / as in sentement.
Adrastus sends And in this whilē * hath Adrastus sent 4400

4376. vpon] on Ar. G. Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. vp Ro. hem] om. Ro.
4377. tokyn also] toke also M. Di. C. also toke P. takyn also Ra. also taken Ba.
4378. that] om. Ar. G. hadde] han Ra. Ba. haue Ad₂. I. C. 4379. dure]
endure Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. Ro. 4380. so be] hit so
be Lb. C. E₂. comoners Ad₁. cominers M. communes L₁. comouns Ra. Ba. Ad₂.
I. commynis S. Comownerys (Ar. G. C. P. L₂.)] þat comouns Lb. E₂ (commons).
þe comoners (etc.) Bo. *and the rest.* stronge] so strong Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Ra. Ba. S. Ro.
4382. lytyl] lite Lb. M. Ad₁. C. T₂. E₂. may] it may Lb. M. Di. Ba. S. C. T₂.
E₂. Ro. 4383. Therfor] Ther Du. L₁. han] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. (cf.
4384). 4384. ychosyn Ar. Bo. Ad₁. chosen M. hem] han Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba.
S. anewe Ar. a newe Bo. a new M. Ad₁. 4386 to 4515 *gap in C.* 4389.
Al they Ar. L₂. As þough Bo. And al though M. Di. And thowh I. Al though
Ad₁. G. *and the rest.* 4390. by] om. Ar. G. Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. Ad₁. S. Ro.
choys] loys Ar. made] emade L₂. in] a E₂. 4392. her] high Ba. 4397. al]
om. Ad₁. fulle] ful Ar. Bo. *and all.* 4398. maynten T₁. Du. L₁. mayntene
Bo. M. Ad₁. al manere] al manere of L₁. S. all their Ba. 4400. while Bo. M.
Ad₁. whil Ar.

- From the Siege of Thebes the Cytè home to Greece
the news of the
 A woundyd knyght hom to his contrè,
 Thorgh al Grece / pleynly to declare
 Al þe slaughter and the evyl fare 4404
 Of worthy Grekys, ryght as it is fülle,
 And how that he hath lost his lordys alle slaughter of
his lords.
 Att' mor meschief / þan eny man can mouth.
 And whan this thyng^a / was in grece couth, 4408
 Fyrst to Argyve / and Deyphylee, The Grecian
ladies
 And to the ladies / ek in the contrè
 And of provynces / aboute hem adiacent,
 They comè down /, al be on assent, 4412
 Worthy queenys / *and* with hem ek duchessys, [leaf 74]
 And other ek / that callyd were contessys,
 And alle the ladyes / *and* wymmen of degre
 Ben assembled / in Argè the Cytè, 4416 * How alle þe
ladyes of Grece
Arayde hem
toward Thebes
mourn.
 lik as I rede /, and alle in clothès blake ;
 That to byhold^t / the sorowe that they make,
 It were a deth / to eny man alyve.
 And ȝif I shudd^e* / by *and* by descryve 4420
 Ther tendre wepyng^t *and* ther wooful sownys,
 her complayntys / and lamentacions,
 her ofte swounyng^t / with faeys ded *and* pale,
 Ther-of I myghte make a newe tale, 4424

4401. in Siege the first e is written above the line, with the usual mark of insertion Ar. 4402. to] into L₁. Ra. Ba. 4405. worthy] þe worthi Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ba. S. T₂. Ro. whiche E₂. om. Ra. Grekys] knightes M. Di. 4407. Att] And Ra. eny] om. Ba. mouth] tell S. 4408. whan] whan that T₂. thyng] om. Ba. was in grece] in grece was Ad₁. Ad₂. I. T₂. couth] knowne well S. 4409. and] and to Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. T₂. E₂. 4410. to] om. Du. 4411. provynces in Ar. corrected from provinces. 4412. come M. Ad₁. cam Bo. al be on] by oonlie Ba. 4413. ek] om. L₁. Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. P. E₂. 4415. wymmen Bo. M. women Ad₁. 4417. in the rubric Ar. has Grece. 4419. a] om. Ad₂. I. eny] many Ba. alyve] on lyve L₁. Lb. Ra. Ba. P. Ad₂. I. 4420. ȝif] om. Du. shulde Lb. shuld Ar. Bo. sholde Ad₁. shold M. descryve] beseryue Bo. 4421. Ther . ther Ar. Their . þer Bo. Their . her Du. Ther . her M. Her . her Ad₁. sownys] swowns Bo. bale E₁. Ro. 4422. and] and her Bo. T₁. Du. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. Ba. S. T₂. and her lamentacions] om. E₁. Ro. 4423. ofte Bo. M. Ad₁. her oft] With ofte Lb. P. Of her L₁. swounyng] sownyng L₂. swounynges Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. sownes L₁. her ofte swounyng] om. E₁. Ro., which two MSS. thus make one line out of the former half of 4422 and the latter half of 4423. faeys] her faces T₁. face Lb. P. 4424. might Bo. M. Ad₁.

	Almost a day / 3ow to occupye.	
They gather	And as myn Autour / doth clerly certifie, Thurgh-oute Greece / from all þe Rigious Out' of Cities / and of Royal touns	4128
	Cam alle the ladies / and wymmen of estat, Ful hevycheryd / and disconsolat, To this assemblè /, afor as I 3ou tolde,	
to journey to Thebes,	In purpos fully / her Iournè forto holde	4432
	Toward Thebès / thys sorful creaturys, Ther to bywaylle / her wooful auenturys, Taquyte hem-silf / of trouth in wommanhede	
to bewail their dead lords,	To her lordys / which in the felk lay dede.	4436
	And as the story / liketh to declare, Al this Iournè / they went' on foote bare, lik as they haddè / gon on pylgrimage, In tokyn of mournyng' / barbyd þe visage,	4440
in dark gar- ments,	Wympled echoñ / and in burnet' weedyd. Nat' in charys / drawen forth with stedys,	
[leaf 74, back]	Nor on palfreys blakè nowther white, The Sely wymmen koude hem not' delite	4444
	To hold her way / but barfote forth they wente, So feithfully / euerichon they ment,	
and are all true.	Thorgh hevynesse* / diffacyd of her hwe. And as I fyndè, they weryn alle trwe.	4448
	¶ Now was not' þat' / a wonder forto se	

4426. doth clerly] clerly doth Ad₁, Ad₂, I. Ra. E₁, S. Ro. certifie] specifye Bo. Ad₁, Ad₂, I. Ra. Ba. S. 4427. Grece] all Greece Lb. P. from] in L₁, þe] om. Lb. Ra. Ba. T₂, P. E₂, 4428. Citees Bo. M. Ad₁, the citees Ad₂, I. T₂, second of (Ar. S. E₂, L₂.)] othre Du. om. Bo. and the rest. 4429. Came Bo. Come M. Ad₁, Comen Ba. the] om. Ro. 4431. To] In Ba. 4432 to the end lost in Ba. 4432. In] I E₁, Ro. om. Bo. T₁, M. Di. purpos] Purposed T₁, M. Di. 4433. Toward Bo. M. Towards Ad₁, 4435. of trouth in Ar. Bo. M. Ra. E₁, S. P. in troupe of Ad₁, Ad₂, I. of trouth and E₂. 4438. Iournè] meyne S. on foote Bo. T₁, Ra. T₂, L₂, on foot M. Ad₁, on fete Lb. they went on foote bare] the women went foot bare Ad₂, I (wenten). 4439. had Bo. M. Ad₁, 4440. barbyd þe visage] barfote the vyage Lb. 4441. in] with Ad₂, burnet] moornyng Ad₂, I. 4442. in] with Ad₂, I. charys] Chaires E₂, with] nor with Ad₂, I. 4443. nowther Ar. neithre Bo. Ad₁, nor M. 4445. To hold her way] Her way to hold in ese Ad₁, Ad₂, I. forth] om. Ad₁, Ad₂, I. E₁, Ro. 4447. Ar. has hevnesse. 4448. weren Ad₁, wern Bo. M. alle M. al Bo. they weryn alle] eneryehon were G. 4449. þat] þis Bo. a] om. Ad₁, Ad₂, I. a wonder] a wondyr thynge Lb. P. forto] to T₂, P.

- So many trewe / out^t of a countrè,
 Attonys gadryd / in a companye,
 And feithful allè /, bookys can not lye, 4452
 Both in her port / *and* inwar^t in menyng^t !
 Vnto my doom / it^t was an vncouth thyngt,
 Among a thowsand wymen outh^r tweyne
 To fynden noon / that^t kowde in hertè feyne. 4456
 It was a mervaylle / nat^t oft^e seyn aforū.
 For seelde / in feldys / groweth eny corū
 But^t 3if some wede / spryng^t vp *per*-among^t.
 Men allaye* wynys / whan they be to strong^t ; 4460
 But^t her trouth was meynte wi^þ non allayes,
 They were so trewe / founde at alle assayes.
 And they ne stynt^t / vpon her iournè
 Tyl that^t they cam *per* as* they wolde be,
 wher Adrastus /, wrytyn as I fynde, 4464
 lay in his Tent^t / al of colour ynde ;
 Gretly mervaylyd* / whan that^t he biheld
 The nombre of hem / sprad thorgh al *þe* feld^t, 4468
 Clad a^{ll} in blak / and barfoot^t euerychoñ.
 Out^t of his Tent^t / he dressyd^t hym anoñ,
 Vpon his hand / the kyng^t Campaneus* ;
 Ful trist^t in herte / *and* facè right^t pitous, 4472

It's a strange
thing that in
1000 or 2000
women, none
was a sham.

The Grecian
ladies reach
Adrastus's tent.

He and Cam-
paneus meet
them.

4450. trewe Bo. Ad₁. trew M. trew women Ra. ont] om. Ra. a Ar. o Bo. M. Ad₁. oon Lb. Ra. 4451. gadred Bo. gadert M. Ad₁. a Ar. Po. M. o Ad₁. 4452. alle M. Ad₁. al Bo. can Bo. koune M. 4453. her] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. S. T₂. port] thought G. menyng] her mening G. Ad₁. Ra. S. her meevyng I. her moornyng Ad₂. 4455. outh^r Bo. or M. Ad₁. 4456 to 4586 lost in Bo. 4456. To fynden Ar. T₁. Du. Lb. E₁. Not to finde E₂. To fynde L₁. *and the rest.* noon Ar. Ra. L₂. nat one Ad₁. Ad₂. I. in on S. oon T₁. *and the rest.* hert T₁. M. Ad₁. kowde in herte] coude not in herte Di. P. cowde in hert nat Ra. 4457. ofte T₁. Ad₁. oft M. seyn Ar. T₁. M. Di. T₂. L₂. sen L₁. *and the rest*; in Ar. *the y of seyn is added over the word with the usual mark of insertion.* 4459 to 4572 lost in Du. 4460. allaye (alaye)] laye Ar. G. may allaye T₂. to Ar. M. Di. om. G. T₁. *and the rest.* 4461. non] om. Ra. 4462. trewe Ra. trew M. Ad₁. 4463. stynte L₁. M. Ad₁. 4464. Tyl] Alle Ad₂. that] om. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. cam Ar. come M. Ad₁. *per as]* *per* Ar. G. Di. E₂. L₂. where Lb. P. wolde Ar. wolde Ad₁. wold M. wol Lb. Ar. *has a pause-bar between they and cam.* 4467. Gretly] And gretely Lb. P. E₂. mervaylyd] amervaylyd Ar. G. T₁. T₂. L₂. biheld] behilde (: felde) Lb. Di. 4468. sprad] ysprad L₂. thorgh] in Ad₁. Ad₂. I. om. L₁. Lb. P. al] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. 4469. all] om. Di. Ra. 4471. The] om. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. Campaneus Ar. Campaneus G. M. Ad₂. Capaneus Ad₁. 4472. trist] tristi Ra. face] of face M. Di. right] ful Lb. P. pitous] pituous Lb. pyteous E₁.

	(leaf 75)	Ageyn the women / forth they went yfere. And to byhold / the wooful hevy chere,	
They sigh and swoon		The wooful cryes / also, whan they mette, The sorful sighys / in her brestys shette,	4476
		The teerys newe / distillyng on her faecys, And the swownyng / in many sondry placys,	
when they see their dead lords,		whan they her lordys / alyve not ne founde, But in the feelde / thorgh-girt with many wounde,	4480
face upwards.		lay stark vprizt ^s * /, pleynty to endite, with dedly eyen / tournyd vp the white, who ma ^l e sorowe / or felt her herte Ryve For hir lorde / but the faire Argyve?	4484
Deiphile weeps for Tideus.		who can now wepe / But Deyphylee, Tydeus / for she ne myghte se? whoos constreyntys* were so fel and kene That Adrastus myghte not sustene	4488
¶ How creon wil not suffre the bodies nowther to be buried nor brent.		To byholde the ladyes so compleyne, wishing* his herte / parted wer on tweyne. ¶ And zit, allas! / bothen* eve and morowe, O thyng ther was / that doubled al her sorowe,	4492
Creon leaves		That Old Creon / fader of felonye, Ne wold ^e * suffre, thorgh his Tyrannye, The dede* bodies / be buried nowther brente,	

4473. forth] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. forth they went] went forth P. yfere] in feere L₁. Lb. Di. Ra. S. E₂. 4476. sorful Ar. M. sorghful Ad₁. sorowful L₁. woful Lb. P. ferful S. sighes] sightes Lb. S. brestys] brest Di. hertis L₁. shette] shent S (: mett). 4478. the] so E₂. sondry] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. placys] place (: face) Ad₂. I. 4479. her lordys alyve] on lyve her lordis L₁. not] *om.* S. ne] *om.* Lb. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. P. L₂. 4480. in] on L₂. thurgh P. thorgh-girt] thorgh-gert M. gyrte P. many] *om.* Di. many a L₁. Lb. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. E₂. L₂. 4481. stark] straught E₂. vprizt Ar. T₁. Ad₁. M. *and all.* 4483. herte] *om.* Ad₂. I. 4484. the] *om.* Ad₂. I. 4485. who] And who Ad₁. Ad₂. I. But who Ra. S. can] game M. T₂. now] *om.* Ad₁. Ad₂. I. 4486. Tydeus for] For Tideus pat L₁. ne myghte] myght nat M. Di. P. se] fele E₁. Ro (*both the copyists pronounced : Déyphylee*). 4487. constreyntys] constreyntys Ar. G. T₁. S. constreyntys L₂. compleyntis Ad₂. fel and] *om.* E₁. Ro. 4488. myghte not] ne myght nat M. Di. myght it not Ra. S. myght not hym G. 4490. whisshing Ar. his] her Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. Ro. hert T₁. M. hertes Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. S. parted] coruen Lb. T₂. P. E₂. corvid L₂. wer] *om.* L₁. Ad₂. I. S. on tweyne] atweyne Lb. S. T₂. P. in tweyne L₁. Ad₁. Ra. E₂. L₂. 4491. And] But T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. P. L₂. Ro. both Ar. Ad₁. bothe T₁. M (*cp.* 2801). eve] even L₁. Lb. Ad₂. I. S. E₂. 4492. al] *om.* Ad₂. I. 4493. Old Ar. olde M. Ad₁. 4494. wolde Ad₁. wold Ar. M. 4495. The] Tho Ra. ded Ar. M. Ad₁. dede Lb. Ra. be buried] to buried be Ad₁. to be buried Ad₂. I. brente] y-brente Lb. E₁. Ro.

But with beestis and houndys to be rente.	4496	the corpses to be torn by dogs.
he made hem aH / vpon an hepe be leyde.		
wherof the wymmen trist' <i>and</i> evyl apeyde,		
For verrey dool, as it was no wonder,		
her hertys felt' almost ryve a-sonder.	4500	
¶ And as my mayster Chaucer' list' endite,		As Chaucer says,
Al clad in blak / with her wymphes whyte,		
With gret' honour / and duë* reuerence,		[leaf 75, back]
In the temple / of the goddesse Clemence	4504	the ladies stay in the Temple
They abood the space / of fourtényght'		
Tyl Thesens / the noble worthy knyght',		till Theseus comes with
Duk of Athenys / with his Chyvalrye		
Repeyréd hom / out' of Femynye,	4508	
And with hym ladde / ful feir vpon to sene,		
Thorgh his manhod / ypolita the quene,		Hippolita and Emily.
And her suster / callyd Emelye.		
<i>and</i> whan thies wommen / gonuë first espye	4512	
This worthy Duk / as he cam rydyng,		
Kyng' Adrastus /, hem alle conveyinge,		
The wommen brouht' vnto his presence,		
which hym bysought' / to 3ive hem audience.	4516	They pray Theseus
And aH attonys swownyng <i>in</i> the place,		
Ful humbly / preiden* hym of grace		to redress their grievance.
To rewe on hem / her harmys to redresse.		
But' 3if 3e list' / to se the gentyllesse	4520	
Of Theseus / how he hath hym born,		

4498. wherof] Ther-of M. Di. Wherefore S. wymmen Adj. wommen M. trist] were trist Adj. Ad₂. I. trist and] om. Lb. P. evyl] well L₁. ben evel Lb. were evell P. 4999. as] om. T₁. L₁. M. Di. Adj. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. Ro. 4500. felt T₁. M. Adj. bei felte Di. ryve] reyne E₁. Ro. almost ryve] riue almost Adj. Ad₂. I. a-sonder] on sounder L₁. in sonder Ro.; Ar. has a *pause-bar* after almost. 4501. my mayster] myn acetour M. Di. Chaucer] om. T₁. L₁. M. Di. Adj. Ad₂. I. Ra. E₁. S. Ro. endite Ar. G. L₂. to endyte T₁. and the rest, except forto endite Ad₂. I. 4503. due] dien Ar. 4504 to the end lost in Ad₂. 4505. abood] bode E₂. fourtenyght Ar. Lb. P. fourteen night M. Di. Adj. fortynyght T₁. E₁. Ro. forty nyght S. forty nyght Ra. L₂. a forty nyzt L₁. E₂. fourtene nightes T₂. 4508. hom] hem E₂. Femynye] Femenyne P. femeny L₁. L₂. femyne T₂. femene S. 4512. these M. pise Di. Adj. wymmen M. Adj. gon M. gan Adj. gonne first] first gan E₂. 4514. alle] om. Adj. I. 4515. vnto Ar. T₂. P. E₂. into Lb. to T₁. and the rest. 4518. humbly M. Adj. humbly Di. preide Ar. and all.

- 3if 3e remembre / 3e han herde it to forñ
 wel rehersyd / at Depforth in the vale,
 In the bygymyng / of the knyghtys tale : 4524
- ¶ How the fynal destrucciou^u of
 Thebes is counteously re-
 hersyd in þe knyghtys tale.
 Theseus, as Chaucer says,
 comforts the Grecian widows.
- ¶ First^t how that he / whan he herd hem speke,
 For verray routhē * felt^t his hertē / breke ;
 And her sorowys / whan he gan aduerte,
 From his courser / down anon he sterte, 4528
 Hem confortyng^t in ful good entente,
 And in his Armys he hem aH vp hente.
 The knyghtys tale / reherseþ every del
 Fro poynt^t to poynt^t / 3if 3e lookē * wel, 4532
 And how this Duk / with-oute more abood,
 The samē day / toward Thebēs rood,
 Ful lik in soth / a worthy conquerour,
 And in his hoost^t / of Chyualrye the flour. 4536
 And fynally, to spekyn of thys thing,
 with old Creon / that^t was of Thebēs kyng^t,
 how that he faught^t / and slough hym lik a knyght^t,
 And aH his hoost^t / putte vnto the flyght. 4540
 ¶ 3it, as some auctours makē menciouⁿ,
 Or Theseus entred into touⁿ,
 The wōmē first with pikkeys *and* with mallys,
 with gret labour / betē down the wallys. 4544
 And in her writyng also as they sayn,
 Campaneus / was on the wallys slayñ,
 with cast^t of ston / he was so ouerlade ;
 For whom Adrastus / such a sorowe made 4548
 That^t no man myght^t reles hym of his peyne.
 And Iocasta /, with her doghtres tweyne,
- [leaf 76]
 He goes to Thebes,
 slays Creon,
 and puts his hoost to flight.
 (Some say the
 women beat down the walls
 of Thebes,
 and that Iocasta and her
 daughters

4522. 3e] as ye E₂. haue T₁. M. Ad₁. herde] hard Ra. T₂. Ro. 4523. Depford
 M. Ad₁. Depworth P. 4524. bygymyng] gymnyng Di. 4525. that] om.
 Ad₁. I. he] om. I. 4526. routh Ar. Ad₁. pite I. 4528. he sterte Ar.
 4530. he] he gan Ra. 4532. loke T₁. M. Ad₁. look Ar. loke hit Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂.
 4540. the] om. Ad₁. I. E₁. S. 4541. 3it] And C. make] maken T₁. Ad₁.
 4542. into] vnto S. touⁿ Ar. G. L₂. þe touⁿ T₁. *and the rest.* 4543. pykoys M.
 Ad₁. pekois E₂. pikes S. 4544. bete M. beten Ad₁. 4547. ston] stoones Lb.
 E₂. over-laddē L₁. S. overlayde Lb. T₂. over-throwe P. ouerlade Ar. T₁. M. Ad₁.
and the rest. 4548. such a] such T₁. L₁. M. Di. Ad₁. I. Ra. E₁. S. Ro. made] brayde
 Lb. made such a sorwe P. 4549. That] Tat Ar. no man] no þing Ad₁. I.
 myght] may Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. reles hym] hym reles E₁. T₂. Ro. hym of] om. S.

- Ful woofully oppressyd of her cherys,
 To Athenës wer sent^s as prysonerys. 4552 were sent to Athens.)
 What^t fil of hem more / can I not^t seyn.
 But^t Theseus /, myn *Autour* writ certeyn, Theseus levels Thebes with the ground.
 Out^t of the feld / or he fro Thebës wente,
 He bete it^t downe / and the howsys brente, 4556
 The puple slough / for al her crying^t loude,
 Maad her wallys / and her towrys proude
 Rounde aboute /, euene vpon a rowe,
 with the Soyle / to be laide* ful lowe 4560
 That^t nouzt was left^t / but the soyle al bare.
 And to the women / in reles of her care,
 The bonys of her lordys / that^t were slayn
 This worthy duk / restoryd hath agayn. 4564 [leaf 76, back] ¶ How Duk The-
seus delyuered to
the ladies the
bodies of her
lordys.
 ¶ But^t what^t shuld I / any lenger dwelle
 The oldë* Ryytys / by *and* by to telle,
 Nor thobsequies / in ordre to devise ;
 Nor to declare / the manere *and* the Guyse 4568 I shan't describe
the burning of
the bodies,
 how the bodyes / wer to Asshes brent^t,
 Nor of the gommës / in the flaumbë spent,
 To make the ayre* / swetter of relees,
 As fraunc encence / Mirre *and* Aloës ; 4572
 Nor how the women / round^t aboutë stood,
 Somë with mylk / and some also with blood,
 And some of hem with vniës made of gold,
 whan the ashes fully weren made cold, 4576 or the gold urns
that the ashes
of some were
put in,
 Tenelosyn hem of gret^t affeccioun
 And bern hem hom / into her Regioun ;

4553. of] vpon P. more Ar. G. Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. om. T₁. and the rest. can I
 I can T₁. I. P. (see Notes). 4558. second her] om. Ad₁. I. 4559. aboute M. Ad₁.
 4560. laide Ar. 4563. bonys] bodyes Lb. M. Di. C. T₂. P. E₂. (see Notes). her]
 the C. P. 4565. what] om. L₂. any lenger Ar. G. Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. [an
 lenger I₁. M. Ad₁. I. E₁. S. Ro. lenger thanne T₁. Ra. lenger now Di. 4566.
 olde M. Ad₁. old Ar. 4567. Nor] For Di. the obsequies M. Ad₁. 4568.
 Nor] Ner Lb. nethir P. to] om. G. Lb. E₂. and] nor T₂. ne Lb. gyse
 M. Ad₁. 4570. Nor] Ne Lb. Di. P. in] of Di. flaume T₁. M. Ad₁. E₂.
 flamme G. E₁. T₂. flame S. flawmes Ra. 4571. ayr M. Ad₁. hayre Ar.
 4572. frank encence M. Ad₁. and] om. Ad₁. 4574. and] om. Ad₁. I. 4576.
 were M. Ad₁. 4577. To enclosen Ad₁. To enclose M. gret] ful gret C.
 4578. bern Ar. bere Ad₁. borne M. Di.

	And how that other / ful dolly of her lōke, For loue only / of the bonys tooke,	4580
	Hem to kepē / for a remembraunce :	
	That to reherce / euery obseruaunce That was don / in the fyrës bright,	
or the games, or wrestlyng,	The wakē-playēs / duryng ^t al the nyght, Nor of the wrastlyng / to telle poynt ^t be poynt ^t ,	4584
	Of hem that werē * / nakyd <i>and</i> enoynt ^t , how eueriche other luggē gan and shake ;	
or the taking leave of Theseus.	Nor how the wommen hau her levē take Of Theseus / with ful gret ^t humblesse,	4588
	Thankyng ^t hym of his worthynesse That hym lyst ^t vpon her woo to rewe ;	
	And how that ^t he, his fredam to renewe, with the wommen, of his hegh largesse,	4592
[leaf 77]	ypartyd hath / ek of his Richesse ;	
Theseus goes to Athens.	¶ And how this Duk Thebës ek forsōke And to Athenys / the righte wayē * tooke,	4596
	with laurer crownyd / in signe of victorye, And the palme of conquest ^t <i>and</i> of glorye, Did his honour / duely to marte ;	
	And how the wymmen wepte whan they departe * with kyng ^t Adrastus / hom ageyn to Arge :	4600
Kyng Adrastus with the ladyes repeyred hom ageyn to Arge.	To tellyn al, it * wer to gret ^t a charge, ¶ And ek also, as 3e shal vnderstonde, At ^t the gynnyng I took no mor on honde	4604
	Be my promys, in conclusioun, But to rehercē the destruccioun	

4582 to 1676 *lost in I.* 4582. reherce Ar. *and all.* 4585. Nor] Ne Lb. P. of] for G. the] *om.* Ro. wrastlyng] wrestlyng Ro. wrostelyng L₂. wraxling S. to] *om.* C. to telle] telling T₂. E₂ L₂. *om.* Lb. P. 4586. wern Ar. M. weren Di. were Ad₁. 4588. han M. haue Bo. Ad₁. 4589. ful] *om.* Ad₁. Ra. P. 4592. that] *om.* Ra. to Ar. G. Lb. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. gan Bo. *and the rest.* 4594. yparted] And parted Di. Parted T₁. C. 4596. right Bo. M. Ad₁. weye T₁. Ra. E₁. E₂. way Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. righte waye] way right he Ad₁. right wey he P. 4597 to 4658 *lost in Ib.* 4598. *second of*] *om.* Ra. E₁. Ro. 4600. wepte M. wept Bo. Ad₁. they] he L₂. departe] parte Ar. G. T₂. P. E₂. 4601. Arge] Arche L₂. 4602. it] *om.* Ar. G. L₂. a] *om.* T₁. T₂. 4603. shal Ar. Ad₁. shul Bo. M. sholde E₁. Ro. 4604. At the Ar. Atte Ad₁. At Bo. M. gynnyng] Bygynnyng P. L₂. took] take Bo. Du. Ra. P.

Of myghty Thebes / shortly, *and* no more.

And thus Adrastus, with his lokkys hore, 4608 Adrastus stays
Stille abood in Argë his Cytè in Argos,

Vnto his ende / : 3e gete no more of me,

Sauf, as myn auctour / liketh to compyle,

After that he lyuëd but a while ; 4612

For he was old er the siegë gan,

And thought and sorowe so vpon hym ran ; but the trouble
The which in soth shortyd hath his dayes. of the Siege
shortens his life.

And, tymë sette, deth makeþ no delays, 4616 He dies,

And al his Loyë / passid was and goñ,

For of his lordys / alyvë was not on

But slayn at Thebes /, 3e knowën al the cas.

and whan this kyng / in Argë buryed was 4620 and is buried.

Ful Ryaly / with gret solempnyté,

It was accountyd /, in bookys 3e may Se,

¶ Four hundred 3eer /, as mad is mencionn, [leaf 77, back]
To-foor the beelding / and fundacionn 4624 CCCC 3ere to-fore
Of gret Rome / so Ryal and so large, þe fundacionn of
Rome was Thebes
destroyed.

whan the ladies / departyden* from Arge

To her contrès / ful trest *and* desolat.

lo: her the fy / of contek *and* debat. 4628

Lo: her the myght of Mars the froward sterre.

Lo: what it is: for-to gynne a werre.

¶ How it concludeth / ensample 3e may se

First of Grekys / and next of the Cytè : 4632 Thebes.

4608. his] *om.* Bo. 4609. his] the G. 4613. gan Ar. G. C. T₂. L₂.
began Bo. *and the rest.* 4614. sorowe Bo. sorw M. Ad₁. 4616. And
tyme] atte tyme Ad₁. deth] *om.* P. 4617. al] *om.* Du. passid was] is passed
Ad₁. 4619. slayn at Thebes] atte Thebes slayn Ad₁. al] *om.* Ad₁. 4620.
in Arge] *om.* Ad₁. 4621. ryally Bo. M. royally Ad₁. 4622. accountyd
Ar. Ad₁. accountyd Bo. acoptid L₁. counted M. 3e may] as ye may L₁. Ad₁.
4623. hundred Ad₁. hundreth Bo. hondred M. CCCC yere C. 4624.
belding Bo. Ad₁. bildyng M. 4625. grete Bo. gret M. Ad₁. the grete P.
ryal Bo. M. roial Ad₁. hye P. Royally E₁. Ro. *second so] om.* Ad₁. 4626.
departyden] partyd Ar. G. departyd Bo. *and all the other MSS.* (*see Notes*).
4627. tryst Bo. Ad₁. 4628. contek] contecte L₁. and] of Di. 4629. *second*
the] þat L₁. froward Ar. G. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₂. mighti Bo. *and all the rest.*
4630. forto Ar. G. M. Di. Ra. to Bo. *and the rest.* gymic] begymme L₁. S. C. T₂.
P. E₂. L₂. 4632. Grekys] þe Grekes Bo. L₁. E₂. next] sith G. Ad₁. S. C. T₂.
P. E₂. sithen Ra. the] this Ad₁. the Cytè] Thebes þe Cytè L₁. P. the Thebens
cite E₂.

- For owther parte / hath matere to compleyne.
 And in her strif / 3e may se thynggës tweyne :
- ¶ The worthy blood of Grece was destroyed at the siege *and* the Cyte fynaly brouht to nought.
- ¶ The worthy blood of al greccë spilt,
 And Thebës ek /, of Amphion first bylt, 4636
 With-oute Recur / brouht vnto Rayne
 And with the soyle made pleyne as a lyne,
 To wyldernessë turnyd / and desertt,
 And Grekys ek / falle into pouertt, 4640
 Both of her men / and also of her good ;
 For fynaly / al the gentyll blood
 was shad outt ther /, her woundlys wer so wyde,
 To los fynal vnto outhur syde. 4644
- In war,
 high and low,
 both suffer.
- For in the werre is non excepcioun
 Of hegh estat / nor lowh condicioun,
 Butt as fortune / *and* fatë, both yffere,
 List to disposë / with her double chere, 4648
 And Bellona* / the goddes in hir char
 Aforn provydeh /; wherfor eeh man be war
 Vnavysed / a werre to bygynne. 4652
 For no man woot who shal lese or wynne. 4652
 And hard it is whan eyther party leseth.
 And doutles / nowther of hem cheseth
 Thatt they mostt / in al swich mortal rage,
 Maugrè her lustt /, felyn gret damage. 4656
 Itt may nat be by manmys myghtt restreyned.
 And werre in soth / was neuer first ordeyned
- ¶ Bellona is goddesse of bataill.
- [leaf 78]
- Both sides are damaged by war.

1633. owther Ar. eyther Bo. M. Ad₁. parte] partie Di. hath] *om.* Di. hath matere] mater hath M. 4635. grece] grekes S. 4636. first] *om.* Ad₁. 4638. soyle Bo. M. soil Ad₁. a] ony C. T₂. P. E₂. 4639. wydernesse Ar. wildernesse Bo. 4640. ek] *om.* M. Di. falle Ar. Bo. M. Ad₁. fallen Ra. S. P. L₂. full L₁. bronzte Di. into] in Ad₁. to Ra. 4641. also] *om.* Ad₁. 4644. To los fynal vnto] vn-to gret los of Ad₁. outhur Ar. eyther Bo. M. Ad₁. be tother G. every S. P. 4649 *and* 4650 are transposed in M. Di. 4649. Bellona] Belliona Ar. G. 4650. wherfor Ar. G. T₂. E₂. L₂. perfore Bo. *and the rest.* ech] every C. T₂. P. E₂. 4652. woot] *om.* Ra. lese M. Ad₁. lees Bo. 4653. And hard it is] Ne wot and hard is Ra. whan] where P. eyther Ar. Bo. M. every P. party Bo. part M. eyther party leseth] bope parties leseth Ad₁. Ra. S. 4654. nowther Ar. Bo. Ad₁. neither M. nowther of hem] neþer party P. 4655. swich] sewyth G. rage] rache M. 1656. lnt M. Ad₁. list Bo. felyn Ar. C. T₂. E₂. L₂. fallyn in G. fall to P. folowe Bo. *and the rest.*

But for synne folkis to chastyse.

And as the byble / trewly kan devyse, 4660 * How that
 hegh in heuene / of Pryde *and* Surquedye, were byganne
 Lucyfer, fader of Envie, in heuene by the
 pride and sur-
 quedye of Lu-
 cyfer.

The olde Serpent /, he levyathan, 4664

Was the first / that euer werre gan :
 Whan Michael /, the heuently Champioun,
 with his Feerys / venqwisshyd the Dragonn,
 And to hellē / cast hym downe ful lowe.

The whiche serpent hath the Cokkyl sowe 4668 ¶ lollium
 Thorgh al erth / of envye *and* debat, Envy rules now.

That vnnethys / is ther noñ estat,
 with-outē stryf / can lyve in Charitē.
 For every man / of hegh *and* lough degrē, 4672
 Envyeth now / that other shulde thryve.

And ground and causē / why that men so stryve, Covetousness
 Is coveytise / and fals Ambicioun, and Ambition

That euerich wold han domynacioun 4676

Ouer other, and trede hym vndyr foote :
 which of al sorowe / gynnynge is *and* Roote. are the roots
 of all evil.

And Crist recordyth /— red luk * *and* 3e may se—
 For lak of love / what meschief þer shal be. 4680 ¶ Surget gens
 contra gentem,
 Luce xxi^e.

For .O. puple / as he doth devyse,
 Agayn anoþer / of hatē shal aryse.
 And after tellith what dyvisions (leaf 78, back)

4659. for synne Ar. G. Ra. E₁. S. L₂. Ro. for synful Bo. T₁. L₁. Lb. M. Di. (Ad₁.) C. T₂. P. E₂. folkis] folke L₁. Lb. C. T₂. P. sinful folkes for to Ad₁.
 4661. *in the rubric* Ar. has pde and sunquedye. 4662. *om. in P (a later hand has written in the margin: firste ye shall vnderstonde and se).* 4662. fader] the fader C. that fader T₂. Envie] al enuye C. cursed envie Ad₁. 4663. olde Bo. he] the Ra. 4664. the] þo Bo. euer] *om.* S. werre] syn M. Di. gan Ar. began G. Bo. *and the rest.* 4666. venquished Bo. M. Ad₁. Feerys] felowes S. 4668. whiche Bo. M. which Ad₁. Cokkyl Ar. kokkel Bo. Ad₁. koele M. cockal Ra. *in Ar. before serpent is ko, underdotted.* 4669. Torgh Ar. al erth] al the erthe Ad₁. S. E₂. 4670. vnnethys] vnnethe Lb. vnneth P. non] ony T₁. Lb. M. Di. eny Ad₁. any P. estat] stat M. Di. astate Lb. P. 4673. shold M. shal Bo. 4674. that] *om.* Ra. S. stryve] seryne E₁. Ro. 4675. Ambicioun] abusion Ad₁. 4676. haue Bo. M. Ad₁. 4677. Ouer] Of G. 4678. sorowe Bo. sorw M. Ad₁. gynnynge] gynner M. Di. 4679. Crist Bo. M. Ad₁. Christ E₂. luke G. C. P. L₂. luce T₂. loke Lb. looke E₂. bok Ar. þe boke Bo. *and the rest.* 4680. what] *om.* Ad₁. I. þer shal] shal þer Bo. T₁. Ad₁. I. S. 4681. puple Ar. G. puple Bo. M. people E₁. E₂. Ro.

	Ther shal be / atwixë* regyouns,	4684
	Eueriche bysy / other to oppresse.	
strife starts	And al swich strif /, as he berth wyttesse,	
	Kalendys ben /, I take his word to borowe,	
sorrow.	And a gynnyng ^t / of meschief and of sorowe :	4688
	Men haue it foundë / be experience.	
But War	But the venym / and the violencee	
	Of strif, of werre / of contek, <i>and</i> debat,	
	That makeþ londys bare <i>and</i> desolat,	4692
shall cease :	Shal be proscript <i>and</i> voyded out of place,	
	And Martys swerþ / shal no more manace,	
	Nor his sperë* / greuous to sustene,	
	Shal now no morë* / whettyd* be so kene,	4696
	Nor he no morë* / shal his hauberk shake.	
Love shall	But loue and pees / in hertys shal awake,	
	And charitë /, both in length <i>and</i> brede,	
spread.	Of newë shal her bryghte beemys sprede	4700
	Thorgh grace / only : in dyuers naciouns,	
	Forto reforme / a-twixë* Regyouns	
	Pees and quyet / concorþ <i>and</i> vnyttë.	
Christ, who is God	And he that is / both on / <i>and</i> two / <i>and</i> thre,	4704
	Ek thre in oñ / <i>and</i> souereyn lord of pes,	
	Which in this exil / for our sakë ches,	
	For loue only / our troubles to <i>termyne</i> ,	
and man,	For to be born / of a pur virgyne :	4708
let us pray Him,	¶ And lat vs prey / to hym that is most good,	

4684. be] *om.* L₁. atwix Ar. Ra. a twene Bo. M. Ad₁. betwyxt L₂.
betwene Lb. 4686. berth Ar. bereth Bo. berith M. Ad₁. 4687. ben]
thei ben C. borowe Bo. borw M. Ad₁. 4689. haue Bo. han M. Ad₁.
it] *om.* Bo. 4690. venym] venom M. Ad₁. 4691. of werre of contek] of
contek of werre Ad₁. I. S. contek werre Ra. (*both of om.*) and] and of E₂.
4693. be] *om.* Ra. S. proscripte Ar. (*with e underdotted*). be proscript] proscript
be Ad₁. I. voyded] voidë L₁. Lb. P. voiden Ra. 4694. Martys] mars S.
swerd] swerdes E₂. 4695. sperë Bo. M. Ad₁. sper Ar. 4696. now] *om.* T₁.
Di. Ra. C. T₂. more Bo. M. mor Ar. Ad₁. whettyd] whtyd Ar. 4700.
bright Bo. M. Ad₁. 4702. reforme M. Ad₁. reforme Bo. a-twix Ar. G.
a-twene Bo. M. Ad₁. Lb. atween Ra. bytwene L₂. 4703. *first* and] *om.* Ad₁.
I. 4704. he] *om.* Bo. S. is] *om.* I. both] *om.* Lb. L₂. both on] on both S.
second and] *om.* L₁. Lb. M. Di. Ad₁. I. Ra. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. L₃. 4706. sake] loue
C. ches] these E₁. Ro. 4707. For] *om.* I. loue] *om.* Ad₁. I. troubles] trouble-
nesse Ad₁. trouble I. to] for to do I. 4708. pur] elene G. 4709. to] *om.*
Ad₁. I.

Which for mankynde shadde his hertē blood,	
Thorgh byseching ^r / of that heuenly quene,	thru his Mother,
Wyff and moder and a Maydē elene,	4712
To sende vs pes / her in this lyf present,	[leaf 70]
And of oure synnys / parfit ^r amendement,	to send us peace here
And Ioye eternal / whan we hennēs* wende.	and joy here-after.
Of my talē / thus I make an ende. Explicit.	4716

Here endeth the destruccioun of Thebes.

4710. Which Ar. G. L₁. Rv. L₂. Ro. pat Bo. *and the rest.* mankynd^r Ar. L₂. mankend G. mankinde M. Ad₁. *and the rest, except man-kyn* Bo. T₁. shadde Ar. shad Bo. M. Ad₁. shed E₁. S. Ro. herte T₁. hert Bo. M. Ad₁. precious S. 4711. byseching] þe besechyng Bo. L₁. Lb. Di P. that] the P. 4712. first and] om. P. a] om. Lb. M. Ad₁. I. Ra. S. C. T₂. P. E₂. Mayde Ar. Bo. T₁. Ra. E₁. L₂. Ro. mayden G. L₁. *and the rest.* 4714. amedement Ar. 4715. hennes Bo. Ad₁. hennys I₂. hens Ar. M. 4716. Of] And of Lb. Ad₁. I. C. T₂. P. E₂. G (*the whole line supplied by a late hand, see Introduction*). M. and T₂. add Deo gracias.



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THE EARLY ENGLISH TEXT SOCIETY was started by the late DR. FURNIVALL in 1864 for the purpose of bringing the mass of Old English Literature within the reach of the ordinary student, and of wiping away the reproach under which England had long rested, of having felt little interest in the monuments of her early language and life.

On the starting of the Society, so many Texts of importance were at once taken in hand by its Editors, that it became necessary in 1867 to open, besides the *Original Series* with which the Society began, an *Extra Series* which should be mainly devoted to fresh editions of all that is most valuable in printed MSS. and Caxton's and other black-letter books, though first editions of MSS. will not be excluded when the convenience of issuing them demands their inclusion in the *Extra Series*.

During the forty-six years of the Society's existence, it has produced, with whatever shortcomings, and at a cost of over £30,000, an amount of good solid work for which all students of our Language, and some of our Literature, must be grateful, and which has rendered possible the beginnings (at least) of proper Histories and Dictionaries of that Language and Literature, and has illustrated the thoughts, the life, the manners and customs of our forefathers and foremothers.

But the Society's experience has shown the very small number of those inheritors of the speech of Cynewulf, Chaucer, and Shakspeare, who care two guineas a year for the records of that speech. 'Let the dead past bury its dead' is still the cry of Great Britain and her Colonies, and of America, in the matter of language. The Society has never had money enough to produce the Texts that could easily have been got ready for it : and many Editors are now anxious to send to press the work they have prepared. The necessity has therefore arisen for trying to increase the number of the Society's members, and to induce its well-wishers to help it by gifts of money, either in one sum or by instalments. The Committee trust that every Member will bring before his or her friends and acquaintances the Society's claims for liberal support. Until all Early English MSS. are printed, no proper History of our Language or Social Life is possible.

The Subscription to the Society, which constitutes membership, is £1 1s. a year for the ORIGINAL SERIES, and £1 1s. for the EXTRA SERIES, due in advance on the 1st of JANUARY, and should be paid by Cheque, Postal Order, or Money-Order, cross 'Union of London and Smith's Bank,' to the Hon. Secretary, W. A. DALZIEL, Esq., 67, Victoria Rd., Finsbury Park, London, N. Members who want their Texts posted to them must add to their prepaid Subscriptions 1s. for the Original Series, and 1s. for the Extra Series, yearly. The Society's Texts are also sold separately at the prices put after them in the Lists; but Members can get back-Texts at one-third less than the List-prices by sending the cash for them in advance to the Hon. Secretary.

The Society intends to complete, as soon as its funds will allow, the Reprints of its out-of-print Texts of the year 1866, and also of nos. 20, 26, and 33. Dr. Otto Glanving has undertaken *Seinte Marherete*; and *Hali Meidenhad* is in type. As the cost of these Reprints, if they were not needed, would have been devoted to fresh Texts, the Reprints will be sent to all Members in lieu of such Texts. Though called 'Reprints,' these books are new editions, generally with valuable additions, a fact not noticed by a few careless receivers of them, who have complained that they already had the volumes.

November 1910. A gratifying gift is to be made to the Society. The American owner of the unique MS. of the Works of John Metham—whose Romance of Amoryus and Cleopas was sketched by Dr. Furnivall in his new edition of *Political, Religious and Love Poems*, No. 15 in the Society's Original Series—has promised to give the Society an edition of his MS. prepared by Dr. Hardin Craig of Princeton, and it will be issued next year as No. 132 of the Original Series. The giver hopes that his example may be followed by other folk, as the support hitherto given to the Society is so far below that which it deserves.

The Original Series Texts for 1908 were, No. 135, Part II of the *Coventry Leet Book*, copied and edited by Miss M. Dormer Harris; No. 136, Part II of *The Brut, or The Chronicles of England*, edited by Dr. F. Brie, showing the name CHAUCER in the Roll of Battle Abbey; and No. 135b, *Étra Issue*, an off-print—by the kind leave of the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press, the Editors of the *Cambridge History of English Literature*, and the author,—of Prof. J. M. Manly's chapter on *Piers the Plowman and its Sequence* (Camb. Hist. ii. 1-42), urging the fivefold authorship of the *Vision*.

As this was contested by Dr. J. J. Jusserand, his article in *Modern Philology* for June 1909 is issued by the Society in 1910, as *Extra Issue*, No. 139b, with Prof. Manly's answer to it, and Dr. Jusserand's Rejoinder—each presented by its writer,—as well as the important *Modern Language Review* article on the subject by Mr. R. W. Chambers, No. 139, c, d, e. Dr. Hy. Bradley's answer to Mr. Chambers will be issued later.

The Original Series Texts for 1909 were No. 137, the *Twelfth-Century Homilies* in MS. Bodley 343, edited by Prof. A. O. Belfour, M.A., Part I, the Text; and No. 138, the *Coventry Leet Book*, Part III, edited by Miss M. Dormer Harris, completing the original text of the Book.

The Original Series Texts for 1910 were No. 139, *John Arderne's Treatises on Fistula in Ano*, &c., edited by D'Arcy Power, M.D., englished about 1425 from the Latin of about 1380 A.D.; No. 140, *Cupgrave's Lives of St. Augustine and St. Gilbert of Sempringham*, A.D. 1451, edited by J. J. Munro. Later Texts will be *Earth upon Earth*, all the known texts, edited by Miss Hilda Murray, M.A.; Part II of Prof. Belfour's *Twelfth-Century Homilies*; and *The Coventry Leet Book*, Part IV, containing its miscellaneous later entries, with an Introduction, Notes, Indexes, &c., by Miss M. Dormer Harris.

The Texts for future years will be chosen from Part III of *The Brut; The Wars of Alexander the Great*, edited from the Thornton MS. in the Northern dialect, by J. S. Westlake, M.A.; Part III of the *Alphabet of Tales*, edited by Mrs. M. M. Banks; Part III of the *English Register of Godstow Nunnery*, and Part II of the *English Register of Osney Abbey*, edited by the Rev. Dr. Andrew Clark. Later Texts will be Part III of Robert of Brunne's *Handlyng Synne*, with a Glossary of Wm. of Wadington's French words in his *Manuel des Pechiez*, and comments on them, by Mr. Dickson Brown; Part II of the *Exeter Book*—Anglo-Saxon Poems from the unique MS. in Exeter Cathedral—re-edited by Israel Gollanez, M.A.; Part II of Prof. Dr. Holthausen's *Vices and Virtues*; Part II of *Jacobi's Well*, edited by Dr. Brandeis; the Alliterative *Siege of Jerusalem*, edited by the late Prof. Dr. E. Kölbing and Prof. Dr. Kaluza; an Introduction and Glossary to the *Minor Poems of the Vernon MS.* by H. Hartley, M.A.; Alain Chartier's *Quadrilogue*, edited from the unique MS. Univ. Coll. Oxford No. 85, by Prof. J. W. H. Atkins; and the *Early Verse and Prose* in the Harleian MS. 2253, re-edited by Miss Hilda Murray. Canon Wordsworth of Marlborough has given the Society a copy of the *Leofric Canonical Rule*, Latin and Anglo-Saxon, Parker MS. 191, C. C. C. Cambridge, and Prof. Napier will edit it, with a fragment of the english *Capitula* of Bp. Theodulf: it is now at press.

The Extra Series Texts for 1909 were, No. CIV, *The Non-Cycle Mystery Plays*, re-edited by O. Waterhouse, M.A.; and No. CV, *The Tale of Beryn, with a Prologue of the merry Adventure of the Parloner with a Tapster at Canterbury*, printed from a cast of the Chaucer Society's plates. As the Society hadn't money enough to pay for its *Troy Book*, Part II, in 1908, it had to take that out of its income of 1909; and it was therefore obliged to borrow from the Chaucer Society the amusing *Tale of Beryn*, edited by the late Dr. Furnivall and the late W. G. Boswell-Stone.

The Extra Series Texts for 1910 were No. CVI, *Lydgate's Troy Book*, Part III, containing Books IV and V, completing the text, edited by Hy. Bergen, Ph.D.; and No. CVII, *Lydgate's Minor Poems*, Part I, *Religious Poems*, with the Lydgate Canon, edited by H. N. MacCracken, Ph.D.

Future Extra Series Texts will be *Lydgate's Minor Poems*, Part II, *Secular Poems*, ed. by Dr. H. N. MacCracken; *Lydgate's Troy Book*, Part IV, edited by Dr. Hy. Bergen; *De Medicina*, re-edited by Prof. Delcourt; *Locckich's Romance of Merlin*, re-edited by Prof. E. A. Kock, Part II; Miss Eleanor Plumer's re-edition of *Sir Gouther and Sir Percyvale*; Miss K. B. Locock's re-edition of Iylton's *Ladder of Perfection*; Miss Warren's two-text edition of *The Dance of Death* from the Ellesmere and other MSS.; *The Owl and Nightin-*

gale, two parallel Texts, edited by Mr. G. F. H. Sykes; Dr. Erbe's re-edition of *Mirk's Festial*, Part II; Dr. M. Konrath's re-edition of *William of Shoreham's Poems*, Part II; Prof. Erdmann's re-edition of Lydgate's *Siege of Thebes* (issued also by the Chaucer Society); Prof. Israel Gollancz's re-edition of two Alliterative Poems, *Winner and Waster*, &c., about 1360; Dr. Norman Moore's re-edition of *The Book of the Foundation of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London*, from the unique MS. about 1425, which gives an account of the Founder, Rahere, and the miraculous cures wrought at the Hospital; *The Craft of Nombrynge*, with other of the earliest english Treatises on Arithmetic, edited by R. Steele, B.A.; and the Second Part of the prose Romance of *Melusine*—Introduction, with ten facsimiles of the best woodblocks of the old foreign black-letter editions, Glossary, &c., by A. K. Donald, B.A. (now in India).

Later Texts for the Extra Series will include *The Three Kings' Sons*, Part II, the Introduction, &c., by Prof. Dr. Leon Kellner; Part II of *The Chester Plays*, re-edited from the MSS., with a full collation of the formerly missing Devonshire MS., by Mr. G. England and Dr. Matthews; Prof. Jespersen's editions of John Hart's *Orthographie* (MS. 1551 A.D.; black-letter 1569), and *Method to teach Reading*, 1570; Deguillerville's *Pilgrimage of the Soule*, in English prose, edited by Mr. Hans Koestner. (For the three prose versions of *The Pilgrimage of the Life of Man*—two English, one French—an Editor is wanted.) Members are asked to realise the fact that the Society has now 50 years' work on its Lists,—at its present rate of production,—and that there is from 100 to 200 more years' work to come after that. The year 2000 will not see finish all the Texts that the Society ought to print. The need of more Members and money is pressing. Offers of help from willing Editors have continually to be declined because the Society has no funds to print their Texts.

An urgent appeal is hereby made to Members to increase the list of Subscribers to the E. E. Text Society. It is nothing less than a scandal that the Hellenic Society should have over 1000 members, while the Early English Text Society has not 300!

Before his death in 1895, Mr. G. N. Currie was preparing an edition of the 15th and 16th century Prose Versions of Guillaume de Deguillerville's *Pilgrimage of the Life of Man*, with the French prose version by Jean Gallopes, from Lord Aldenham's MS., he having generously promised to pay the extra cost of printing the French text, and engraving one or two of the illuminations in his MS. But Mr. Currie, when on his deathbed, charged a friend to burn all his MSS. which lay in a corner of his room, and unluckily all the E. E. T. S.'s copies of the Deguillerville prose versions were with them, and were burnt with them, so that the Society will be put to the cost of fresh copies, Mr. Currie having died in debt.

Guillaume de Deguillerville, monk of the Cistercian abbey of Chaalis, in the diocese of Senlis, wrote his first verse *Pèlerinage de l'Homme* in 1330-1 when he was 36.¹ Twenty-five (or six) years after, in 1355, he revised his poem, and issued a second version of it,² a revision of which was printed ab. 1500. Of the prose representative of the first version, 1330-1, a prose Englishing, about 1430 A.D., was edited by Mr. Aldis Wright for the Roxburghe Club in 1869, from MS. Ff. 5. 30 in the Cambridge University Library. Other copies of this prose English are in the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow, Q. 2. 25; Sion College, London; and the Laud Collection in the Bodleian, no. 740.³ A copy in the Northern dialect is MS. G. 21, in St. John's Coll., Cambridge, and this is the MS. which will be edited for the E. E. Text Society. The Laud MS. 740 was somewhat condensed and modernised, in the 17th century, into MS. Ff. 6. 30, in the Cambridge University Library;⁴ "The Pilgrime or the Pilgrimage of Man in this World," copied by Will. Baspoole, whose copy "was verbatim written by Walter Parker, 1645, and from thence transcribed by G. G. 1649; and from thence by W. A. 1655." This last copy may have been read by, or its story reported to, Bunyan, and may have been the groundwork of his *Pilgrim's Progress*. It will be edited for the E. E. T. Soc., its text running under the earlier English, as in Mr. Herrtage's edition of the *Gesta Romanorum* for the Society. In February 1464,⁵ Jean Gallopes—a clerk of Angers, afterwards chaplain to John, Duke of Bedford, Regent of France—turned Deguillerville's first verse *Pèlerinage* into a prose *Pèlerinage de la vie humaine*.⁶ By the kindness of Lord Aldenham, as above mentioned, Gallopes's French text will be printed opposite the early prose northern Englishing in the Society's edition.

The Second Version of Deguillerville's *Pèlerinage de l'Homme*, A.D. 1355 or -6, was englished in verse by Lydgate in 1426, and, thanks to the diligence of the old Elizabethan tailor and manuscript-lover, John Stowe, a complete text of Lydgate's poem has been edited for the Society by Dr. Furnivall. The British Museum French MSS. (Harleian 4399,⁷ and Additional 22,937⁸ and 25,594⁹) are all of the First Version.

¹ He was born about 1295. See Abbé GOUJET'S *Bibliothèque française*, Vol. IX, p. 73-4.—P. M. The Roxburghe Club printed the 1st version in 1893.

² The Roxburghe Club's copy of this 2nd version was lent to Mr. Currie, and unluckily burnt too with his other MSS.

³ These 3 MSS. have not yet been collated, but are believed to be all of the same version.

⁴ Another MS. is in the Pepys Library.

⁵ According to Lord Aldenham's MS.

⁶ These were printed in France, late in the 15th or early in the 16th century.

⁷ 15th cent., containing only the *Vie humaine*.

⁸ 15th cent., containing all the 3 Pilgrimages, the 3rd being Jesus Christ's.

⁹ 14th cent., containing the *Vie humaine* and the 2nd Pilgrimage, *de l'Âme*: both incomplete.

Besides his first *Pèlerinage de l'homme* in its two versions, Deguilleville wrote a second, "de l'ame separee du corps," and a third, "de nostre seigneur Iesus." Of the second, a prose Englishing of 1413, *The Pilgrimage of the Soule* (with poems, by Hoccleve, already printed for the Society with that author's *Regement of Princes*), exists in the Egerton MS. 615,¹ at Hatfield, Cambridge (Univ. Kk. 1. 7, and Caius), Oxford (Univ. Coll. and Corpus), and in Caxton's edition of 1483. This version has 'somewhat of addeicions' as Caxton says, and some shortenings too, as the maker of both, the first translator, tells us in the MSS. Caxton leaves out the earlier englisher's interesting Epilog in the Egerton MS. This prose englishing of the *Soule* has been copied and will be edited for the Society by Mr. Hans Koestner. Of the *Pilgrimage* of Jesus, no englishing is known.

As to the MS. Anglo-Saxon Psalters, Dr. Hy. Sweet has edited the oldest MS., the Vespasian, in his *Oldest English Texts* for the Society, and Mr. Harsley has edited the latest, c. 1150, Eadwine's Canterbury Psalter. The other MSS., except the Paris one, being interlinear versions,—some of the Roman-Latin redaction, and some of the Gallican,—Prof. Logeman has prepared for press a Parallel-Text edition of the first twelve Psalms, to start the complete work. He will do his best to get the Paris Psalter—tho' it is not an interlinear one—into this collective edition; but the additional matter, especially in the Verse-Psalms, is very difficult to manage. If the Paris text cannot be parallelised, it will form a separate volume. The Early English Psalters are all independent versions, and will follow separately in due course.

Through the good offices of the Examiners, some of the books for the Early-English Examinations of the University of London will be chosen from the Society's publications, the Committee having undertaken to supply such books to students at a large reduction in price. The net profits from these sales will be applied to the Society's Reprints.

Members are reminded that *fresh Subscribers are always wanted*, and that the Committee can at any time, on short notice, send to press an additional Thousand Pounds' worth of work.

The Subscribers to the Original Series must be prepared for the issue of the whole of the Early English *Lives of Saints*, sooner or later. The Standard Collection of Saints' Lives in the Corpus and Ashmole MSS., the Harleian MS. 2277, &c. will repeat the Laud set, our No. 87, with additions, and in right order. (The foundation MS. (Laud 108) had to be printed first, to prevent quite unwieldy collations.) The Supplementary Lives from the Vernon and other MSS. will form one or two separate volumes.

Besides the Saints' Lives, Trevisa's englishing of *Bartholomæus de Proprietatibus Rerum*, the mediæval Cyclopaedia of Science, &c., will be the Society's next big undertaking. An Editor for it is wanted. Prof. Napier of Oxford, wishing to have the whole of our MS. Anglo-Saxon in type, and accessible to students, will edit for the Society all the unprinted and other Anglo-Saxon Homilies which are not included in Thorpe's edition of Ælfric's prose,² Dr. Morris's of the Blickling Homilies, and Prof. Skeat's of Ælfric's Metrical Homilies. The late Prof. Kölling left complete his text, for the Society, of the *Ancoren Ricle*, from the best MS., with collations of the other four, and this will be edited for the Society by Dr. Thümmeler. Mr. Harvey means to prepare an edition of the three MSS. of the *Earliest English Metrical Psalter*, one of which was edited by the late Mr. Stevenson for the Surtees Society.

Members of the Society will learn with pleasure that its example has been followed, not only by the Old French Text Society which has done such admirable work under its founders Profs. Paul Meyer and Gaston Paris, but also by the Early Russian Text Society, which was set on foot in 1877, and has since issued many excellent editions of old MS. Chronicles, &c.

Members will also note with pleasure the annexation of large tracts of our Early English territory by the important German contingent, the late Professors Zupitza and Kölling, the living Hausknecht, Eienkel, Haenisch, Kaluza, Hupe, Adam, Holthausen, Schick, Herzfeld, Brandeis, Sieper, Konrath, Wülfing, &c. Scandinavia has also sent us Prof. Erdmann and Dr. E. A. Kock; Holland, Prof. H. Logeman, who is now working in Belgium; France, Prof. Paul Meyer—with Gaston Paris as adviser (alas, now dead);—Italy, Prof. Lattanzi; Austria, Dr. von Fleischhacker; while America is represented by the late Prof. Child, by Dr. Mary Noyes Colvin, Miss Ricker, Profs. Mead, McKnight, Triggs, Hulme, Bryce, Craig, Drs. Bergen, MacCracken, &c. The sympathy, the ready help, which the Society's work has cald forth from the Continent and the United States, have been among the pleasantest experiences of the Society's life, a real aid and cheer amid all troubles and discouragements. All our Members are grateful for it, and recognise that the bond their work has woven between them and the lovers of language and antiquity across the seas is one of the most welcome results of the Society's efforts.

¹ Ab. 1430, 106 leaves (leaf 1 of text wanting), with illuminations of nice little devils—red, green, tawny, &c.—and damnd souls, fires, angels, &c.

² Of these, Mr. Harsley is preparing a new edition, with collations of all the MSS. Many copies of Thorpe's book, not issued by the Ælfric Society, are still in stock.

Of the Vercelli Homilies, the Society has bought the copy made by Prof. G. Lattanzi.

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Cash in hand	1	1	5				
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June 30, 1909	60	11	9				
do " " " " " " " "	11	8	3				
do " " " " " " " "	9	4	9				
do " " " " " " " "	3	3	0				
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Cash in hand				2			15
£24				10			1
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