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Twenty-Six Political and othen Poems

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FROM THE OXFORD MSS. DIGBY 102 AND DOUCE 322.

PART I.

Early English Text Society. Original Series, No. 124.

1904

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Twenty-Six Political and othen Poems

(Encluding 'Petty Job')

FROM THE OXFORD MSS. DIGBY 102 AND DOUCE 322.

EDITED,

WITH INTRODUCTION AND GLOSSARIAL INDEX,

By DR. J. KAIL.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE first twenty-four poems of the present volume are preserved in the Digby MS. 102, of the Bodleian. This MS., a parchment codex of the 15th century, contains: 1. W. Langland's Vision concerning Piers the Ploughman and concerning Dowel, Dobet, and Dobest, leaves 1-97, imperfect at the beginning, commencing in the middle of passus III. The text agrees with the C-text printed by the Rev. W. Skeat. 2. The present poems, composed in the first quarter of the 15th century, leaves 98-127. 3. A metrical paraphrase of the seven Penitential Psalms by Richard of Maydestone, leaves 128-135. 4. The debate of the Body and the Soul, leaves 136-139. The present pieces are written across the page like prose, the divisions of the lines being only marked by little strokes. The titles in red were added at a later time, but probably by the same copyist; the same is the case with the paragraph-marks, alternately red and blue, at the beginning of every stanza, and with the Latin marginal notes which occur on some pages. Leaf 119 was turned over together with leaf 120, and so the titles and the coloured paragraph-marks are missing in the 19th and 20th poems, which stand on leaf 119, back, and on leaf 120.

All twenty-four poems are most probably by the same author. Almost all of them have one and the same religious character. They warn against worldly folly, and praise virtue, always setting a great value on the works of a man, but none on his words. They frequently recommend righteousness for practical reasons. During the turbulent reign of Henry IV., and in the beginning of the French war under Henry V., the poems promise the virtuous, besides the bliss of heaven, success in worldly affairs, riches, power, and good advice. In time of war, the pious may rely on God, for He fights for them, He gives them courage and victory, and beats their enemies with illness, fear, and woe. (II 75; III 76, 85, 95, 109 et sqq.; IX 141 et sqq.; X 180 et sqq.; XI 53 et sqq., 81 et sqq., 91 et sqq.; XVII 127.) The wicked are threatened with cowardice, dread, strife, and defeat (II 73 et sqq.; III 75, 77; IV 195 et sqq.; XI 84; XIII 86).

Further, the pieces show one and the same democratic tendency. They declare the Commons to be the most important of all estates: the Commons make a kingdom (III 99 et sqq.), they support the honour of the lords and of the church, they are the ornament of the king's crown (XII 141 et sqq.); to stand with them, is the highest charity, which God alone can reward (XIII 33 et sqq.). The poems strive also to protect the lower ranks against the encroachments of the lords and officers, especially against the injustice of the judges. The laws had already been very badly executed in the last years of Edward III.; under Richard II, they lost the rest of their power; and it was long before Henry IV, succeeded in restoring them to their former authority. In his reign, too, the judges, instead of binding themselves to the old laws and statutes, took bribes, and were led by favour and self-interest; and the nobility often used oppression against the inferior classes, and took their property with wrong. The present pieces call upon the judges to be just, and not to sell their judgments for money (I 153 et sqq.; III 12; IX 57 et sqq.; XVIII 180). Officers are warned that the people belong to God, and that He has ordered them to govern it after right and reason, and without selfishness (I 17 et sqq.; III 129 et sqq.; XIII 51 et sq.). The nobility are reminded that they will have to account for everything they possess, and for the means by which they got it; therefore, they are exhorted to let everybody have his due, and to restore to the poor the goods of which they have robbed them surreptitiously (I 25 et sqg., 33, 117; VII 81 et sqq.; VIII 3 et sqq.; X 197 et sqq.; XI 42; XIV 59, 66; XVII 83 et sqq.; XIX 37, 58 et sqq.; 149 et sq.).

The poems aim also at such persons as injure the people indirectly by defacing truth, by flattering the king and the lords, and by misleading them, by their counsel, to bad actions. They contain many a line in defence of truth, and to the suppression of falsehood. They like to represent Truth and Falsehood as persons always persecuting and fighting each other (IV 12, 113; XII 67 et sq. 73; XIII 30, 100, 103 et sq.). Truth never retires cowardly (III 5; IV 157; XII 74), for God sends His champion Vengeance to his help (IV 115, 117 et sqq.; XII 77 et sqq.; XIII 85 et sqq.). Truth cannot be entirely subdued; he always appears again, and speaks before the whole people (IV 97-104; XII 76; XIII 59). Many of these pieces caution against those who, practising sycophancy, sow discord between the

The Author rebukes the Clergy. He was an Abbot or Prior. ix

sovereign and the people. Men of the highest ranks should not listen to the wicked counsels of such vicious folk, which may destroy a whole kingdom, but rather follow the wholesome advice of true men (I 60; III 81 et sq.; IV 73 et sqq., 145 et sqq.; V 1 et sqq.; XVI 7 et sq. 51; XXIV 405 et sq.). Nobles ought to support the poor and virtuous, instead of promoting unworthy and needless people (IV 169 et sq.; V 41 et sq.; VII 65 et sqq.; XIV 85; XXI 38, 122).

Likewise, the present pieces are not blind to the abuses of the clergy, both parish-priests and monks, but frequently inveigh against them in sharp words. They resent the covetousness of the priests (VIII 25 et sqq.; XIV 25 et sqq. 81), their neglectfulness of duty (VIII 28; IX 161-176; XIII 147-172), and other trespasses (XVIII). But though the poems are not quite free from the ideas of the Reformation, they are by no means by a Lollard, for they never touch the doctrines of the Church; on the contrary, they even defend them, especially such as had been attacked by Wiclif.

Moreover, nearly all the pieces are occasional poems, for which church-ceremonies or festivals, parliamentary transactions, and events of public interest offered the subjects.

Lastly, the style and language show no such difference as would compel us to ascribe the several poems to more than one author.

In some passages the writer addresses the faithful like a clergyman; in others, he speaks like a master of a monastery to his fellow-monks. From this circumstance, as well as from his acquaintance with, and his frequent reference to the Bible, we may infer that the author was a priest, most probably an abbot or a prior. As such he occupied a seat in parliament, and voted with the Commons. This makes us understand his rather detailed knowledge of the proceedings in parliament, and his lively interest in the cause of the Commons. Some of the occurrences he hints at he might know from hearsay; but as he refers to pretty insignificant incidents which took place on the remotest frontiers, and as he sometimes directly mentions parliament, there is no doubt that he was present at its sessions.

By his political persuasion, the author belongs to the south or the south-midland. Whereas in the north, at that time, the influence of the nobility prevails, the south is distinguished by that loyalty to the sovereign, and by that enthusiasm for the rights of the Commons, which are also characteristic of our poet. The few dialectical relics which occur in the poems, render it probable that the writer lived in the western or in the south-western midland. A.S. & generally appears in o: twice it is preserved as a: hame (: shame, name, fame) II 23, sare (: bare, spare) X 39. French u rhymes with y, the i-umlaut of A.S. u, and with i of A.S. or of French origin : dure : hire, sire, fire IX 71; ruyde : byde, chyde hyde XXI 25; refuyse : wyse mysse I 100; nyze : bodylye VI 70; askuse : avyse IV 81; use : despise V 33; refysed, used : devysed, despysed XV 149; use : service, auyse, wyse V 42; used, refused : auysed, is it XX 123; use : auyse, despise, wise XXII 66; refuse : syse, unwyse, despise, XXIV 283; destruyd; aspyed, tryed, aved XII 68; struyze; dryze, maustry. dedely XXIV 144. In the present tense, the verbal ending of the 2nd pers. is s in has (: gras, chas, plas) XVII 146, saues (: craues, knaues) XXI 152 wendys (: frendys, fendys, schendys) XXIV 97; st in gost (; ost, cost, most) XXIII 81. The 3rd pers. ends in s: ges, sles (: pes) III 14, 22, etc., twice in th: geb, sleb (: debe, brebe) XXIV 335, 337. As a rule, the plur. has no ending; five times it has n: bene (: wene, inf.) IV 145; gon (: bon, fon, on) XV 37 (: bon, ston, won), XV 51; sayn (: agayn, playn, sayn) XX 1; don (: shon, bone, wone) XX 142; three times s: preues (: theues, myscheues, greues) I 125; releves (: preues, myscheues, greues) III 103; countes (: amountes) IV 235. The n of the inf. is only preserved in the following monosyllables: tan (: man) VIII 81; sayn (agayn, pleyn) XX 5; gon (: bon mon, non) XXIII 116. The strong p. pa. appears with or without n: tan (man, bygan, ran) XXIV 227 sworn, born, lorn (: morn) VIII 12, 13, 15; go (: mo, so slo) III 119; forlore (: restore, store) XVII 88, etc. The plur. of the pers. pron. of the 3rd p. is he (the, me, fle) XVII 54, and bay (: may, assay, clay) XV 59. Most of the poems are in 8-line stanzas, abab, abab or bcbc, Nos, X and XVI are in 14-line stanzas, abab, abab, cc ddd c. Assonances are allowed, and rhymes of singulars and plurals or infinitives, final n and s being disregarded.

The poems contain allusions to parliamentary transactions and to other affairs, by means of which we are able to fix their dates.

In the parliament of the first year of Henry IV., the Commons requested that everywhere the ablest and most esteemed men should be made justices of the peace, as it had been ordered in the time of Edward III. They complained that many judges got their offices by bribes, and instead of making peace, nourished discord, and used oppression (*Rolls of Parliament*, p. 444, 151). They required the judges to be sworn not to accept presents or gifts of any kind from

Allusions and Dates of the Poems. 1 & 11 are 1400, 111 is 1401. xi

anybody, but to content themselves with their fees (R. P., p. 433, 99). Everybody accused of, or imprisoned for, treachery or other offences, should be allowed to apologize, as it was prescribed by the old laws (R. P., p. 442, 144).

The same wrongs as the Commons wished to be redressed are hinted at in the first of the present pieces. The poet warns his hearers against tyranny, secret hate, and self-interest (1. 3). The admonition to make unity where discord prevailed (1. 13), and to make peace between quarrelling parties (l. 161), is no doubt aimed at the justices of the peace, who were accused of stirring hostilities among the people. Moreover, the author inveighs against such judges as take bribes and sell the laws (II, 68, 156), and he blames those who condemn a man without hearing his apology (l. 153 sq.). L. 81 is, I think, an allusion to the pestilence which haunted the western and the northern parts of the country in 1399. In the same parliament, the Commons asked the king to provide against that evil, which still prevailed in the northern districts (R. P., p. 434). The ll. 73 et sqq. seem to refer to a conspiracy against Henry IV. About Christmas 1399, six noblemen formed a plot against the life of the King; but their treacherous project being discovered, the conjurors and their followers were put to death, and their quarters carried about in the streets of London, as an example to rebels.

The parliament in the first year of Henry IV. closed on November 19; but since the plot against the King was not detected before Christmas, and as the execution of the conspirators took place in the beginning of January, the first poem is not to be dated before January 1400.

The second piece belongs to the same year, for the third is fixed to the beginning of 1401 by the allusions which it contains to the parliamentary transactions of that year. On January 25 the Commons declared that, as they were deliberating on certain subjects, it might happen that some of them, in order to please the King and to gain his favour, would make him reports of their negotiations before they had come to a determination, and so they might fall under the displeasure of the sovereign; therefore, they asked him not to trust such tale-bearers (R. P., p. 456). At the same time, they warned Henry of the intrigues of the French, who calumniated some loyal lords, in order to bring them into disfavour with the monarch. They explained what great mischief might befall the whole realm if he listened to those slanderers (*ibid.*). On another occasion, they related

that some people had been imprisoned without trial, and dispossessed of their estates by chicanery. They requested that from that time forward nobody should be imprisoned without being put to the question, as was ordered in Magna Charta; and that, if anybody happened to be in prison, he should be tried immediately (R. P., p. 470). On February 21 the Commons reported to the sovereign that the inhabitants of Wales had risen in arms; in England too, especially on the frontier of Wales, tumults were excited against customs and Those uproars, they said, had been raised because other officials. the King had appointed some of his followers to be officers of the natives, which was against the old statutes. Therefore, they asked Henry to examine those old laws, and to order remedies for the suppression of that rebellion, which might hurt the prince and the whole kingdom (R. P., p. 457, 15, 16). On January 25 the Commons declared three things to be indispensable for the good administration of every kingdom, namely, sense, humanity, and riches; the King himself, as well as his counsellors, was well endowed with sense, as everybody knew; to the lords spiritual and temporal and to the chivalry God had granted humanity, a firm will, and great courage ; as to riches, the monarch possessed the hearts of his subjects, which were the most precious treasure of a sovereign (R. P., p. 456). On March 15 they compared the states of a kingdom to a trinity, formed by the prince, the lords, and the Commons ; as they had learned that some lords entertained quarrels against one another, they asked the monarch to reconcile them, to the benefit of the whole nation (R, P). p. 459, 32).

The three things which, as our poet says, may do great harm in a kingdom, remind us of three grievances of which the Commons complained. By the tale-bearers (l. 17 *et sqq.*) we are to understand those slanderers against whom the Commons warned the King. The reproach of corruptibility (l. 25 *et sq.*) falls upon such judges as cause guiltless persons to be imprisoned. The mention of frequent changes of governance, at last (l. 41 *et sqq.*) is an allusion to the appointment of new officers in Wales. The author, like the Commons, advises the settlement of those differences by fair means, and says the King should beware of lawless innovations (ll. 55–64). L. 155 puts one in mind of the request of the Commons to make unity between the quarrelling lords. Likewise, lines 113 *et sqq.* may be regarded as an allusion to the discension among the noblemen, and to the frequent rebellions against the King. It was, indeed, the discord among the

Poem III: Troubles in England in 1401. IV, probably 1400. xiii

English that brought much mischief on their own country. The Welsh profited by the civil commotions to make insurrections; the Scots renewed their incursions into England, and wasted the northern counties (cf. l. 117 et sq.); the French intrigued at the English court. and began to trouble the garrison of Calais : so that, about that time. England was in fact everywhere threatened by enemies (cf. 1, 115 et sq.). Lines 137-144 were written in favour of a statute which was made against the Lollards in 1401. Since King Henry IV. regarded the benevolence of the Church as an excellent means to secure his throne. he engaged the parliament to make a law that everybody convicted of heresy was to be delivered over, by the bishop, to the secular court, and to suffer death by fire. In the enumeration of what makes the treasury of a kingdom, the writer is again influenced by the above-quoted declaration of the Commons. We find here again the wise clergy (1. 68), the courageous chivalry (1. 69 sq.), and the advised and valiant king (1. 71 sq.).

The 4th poem, 'Lerne say wele, say litel or say no;t,' I think originated in 1404. In the *Rolls of Parliament* of that year we read that on February 7 the Commons asked the King to remove from the court four persons who displeased them (R. P., p. 525, 16). The next day they requested the monarch to choose honourable, virtuous, and well-principled men for his courtiers, and to make such arrangements as would please God, and promote the welfare of his subjects (*ibid.*). About the same time, they desired the prince to clear his household of the great number of strangers who used to live there; and they wished that good management should prevail, the costs of which might easily be covered (R. P., p. 527, 26).

In several passages of the fourth piece, the poet inveighs against those people who flatter lords and kings, and persuade them to oppress the poor, and to commit other acts of injustice (ll. 73-96, 145-152, 201-208, 219-224). We don't know exactly why the Commons desired those four persons to be dismissed; but it is most probable that they misdoubted them to be flatterers and bad counsellors to the sovereign. The favouritism which had flourished under Richard II. was apparently still fresh in memory, and excited suspicion against the confessor of the King, who was also among the persons to be expelled from the court, and whom they perhaps suspected of taking bribes or passing over the faults of the prince from cowardice. The author agrees with the Commons in laying stress on the good influence which virtuous men may have on lords $(1.209 \ sg.)$. In the exhortation to show liberality only to worthy people, and not to support the importunate (ll. 169–176), we may see a hint at the sustenance of the numerous strangers at the court of the monarch.

The next three pieces may be supposed to fall between 1404 and 1408.

No. VIII aims at the worldly and dissolute life of the elergy. The same subject was discussed in the parliament of the seventh and eighth of Henry IV. In one session, the Commons reported that many curates were not resident in their dioceses, but sojourned elsewhere, spoiling and squandering away the property of the Church, neglecting the divine service, and disregarding their own and their parishioners' eternal welfare; they left their cures, in order that they should not be obliged to support their poor and indigent parishioners, setting an ignominious example to every Christian man (R. P., p. 594, 114). Another time, they complained that vicars wrongly exacted tithes, and prosecuted poor labourers who could not pay (R. P., p. 591, 105).

All those trespasses are resented by our author. He rebukes those clergymen who take tithes, but will not teach the people (l. 20); who resign themselves to worldly pleasures (l. 25), and deprive their own souls and those of others of the heavenly bliss (ll. 39, 47). He thinks it better to help poor people with small means, than wrongly to extort large sums from them, and to neglect the care of the souls (ll. 65-72).

IX. The piece 'With God of loue and pes 3e trete ' is to be dated 1410, because it contains allusions to the parliament of that year. On March 15 the Commons asked the King to adjourn the sessions till after Easter, since it was desirable that every Christian man should spend that holy time at home, attending the divine service, and doing penance for his sins. In the same parliament, they complained of several cheats which were committed in certain parts of the country. They reported that "Gali-halfpens" were circulating, a bad coin, which they wished to be declared forfeit because it only served to derogate from the King's crown, and to practise gross deceptions on the common people (R. P., p. 644, 68). Further, they reminded the monarch of a law passed in the seventh of Henry IV., according to which the cloth that was made in the western districts of England was to have a certain length and width. There were

Poem IX. Evils in State and Church in England in 1410. xv

however, people who made it much smaller, and who, to conceal the deceit, folded it so skilfully, that it seemed to have the due size, and that the controlling officers put the seal to the bales without unpacking them (R. P., p. 644, 69). Moreover, the Commons requested that no officer or judge or minister of the King should be allowed to accept presents or bribes from anybody. If any persons happened to be in prison without having been tried, they should be permitted to apologize (R. P., p. 626, 28, 29). An oath should be administered to the judges, openly to do full justice to everybody, without delay, and without regard to contrary orders or charges of anybody (R. P., p. 623, 14). The common laws, statutes, and good institutions made in former times and not repealed, should be kept, and executed according to right and reason, by the judges, officers, and ministers, without encroachments or impediments of any kind (R. P., p. 624, 18). The Commons also repeated their former complaint of the non-residence and other abuses of the clergy. They said that many ministers of the Church, who ought to be resident and to keep hospitality in their dioceses, aiding and supporting all their poor parishioners, were in offices at the court of the King, and in the houses of certain lords; others lived in London, Oxford, Canterbury, or in abbeys and priories, spending little or nothing for good purposes, never caring about their cures nor paying the least attention to their clerical duties (R. P., p. 645, 70). At last, they asked the sovereign to procure remedies against the frequent rebellions and troubles in the kingdom (R. P., p. 624, 17).

The connection of the ninth poem with the above-quoted parliamentary transactions is evident. The piece must have been composed about Easter 1410. From the exhortation to do penance (1.9), it follows that the holy time mentioned in the first line is Easter, the time of shrift and penance. The author opposes to the parliamentary affairs the negotiations of peace with God, and invites the faithful to clear themselves of their sins. He teaches them himself how to prepare for the sacrament, and how to behave after they have received it. At the same time, he cannot help resenting several disorders identical with, or similar to, those which were talked of in parliament. He reproves people who debase and adulterate the current coin (1. 49), and those who measure with a false ell (1.52); he warns judges of passing unjust sentences, either for meed or from fear of lords, and he calls on them to let law have its course (11. 57-72); at last, he charges the clergy with the same

xvi Poems x, XI in 1411, 1412. Poem XII: Henry V. in 1413.

abuses of which the Commons accused them : non-residence, shortcomings, and regardlessness of the poor (ll. 153-176). The admonition of the soldiers to beware of covetousness and cruelty (l. 140) in quenching rebellions, may have been occasioned by the petition of the Commons to remedy the frequent tumults in the kingdom. The soldiers seem to have used violent measures in suppressing uproars. In the same parliament, the Commons even complained of the severity and oppression which the King's officers, when gathering contributions, used against peaceful subjects (R. P., p. 624, 16); still less indulgence and more covetousness was of course to be expected of soldiers fighting rebels.

The next two poems X, XI must have been written, respectively, in 1411 and at Easter 1412.

With No. XII we enter the reign of King Henry V. Henry IV. died on March 20, 1413, and his son was crowned three weeks afterwards, a fortnight before Easter. By the holy time of bliss and joy (1, 4) we are then to understand Easter 1413, for this piece seems to have been written under the impression of the coronation ceremonies, and besides, the poet refers to some incidents which took place about that time. Soon after Henry V.'s accession to the throne, a conspiracy was detected, which threatened to endanger the crown recently placed on the head of the young prince. The leader of the conjurors was one John Wightlock, an ancient groom and yeoman of Richard II., who, with several accomplices, already in the reign of Henry IV., excited tumults in England by spreading rumours that the deposed King Richard was still alive, and would come before long to drive away the usurper. The conspirators entertained a secret correspondence with the King of Scotland, and with the Duke of Albany, who kept in his house one Thomas Ward of Trumpington, a fellow who bore some resemblance to King Richard, and who was, therefore, declared to be the dethroned prince. Wightlock was imprisoned in the Tower and sentenced to death, but he made his escape by the help of a warden. (Goodwin, History of the Reign of Henry V. London, 1704, p. 3.)

The conspirators who spread the rumours about Richard II., and who made an attempt on the life of Henry V., are the fools whose wicked plans are to be disconcerted (l. 7). As the poet says (l. 51), no harm had yet been done, the offence having been restricted to those malicious reports, therefore the conspirators were not prosecuted, except Wightlock, whose condemnation may be alluded to in

Poem XII. Henry V: English & French Fights. Poem XIII. 1414. xvii

11. 90-95. Lines 97 et sog. are most probably aimed at the Duke of Albany, who had harboured the individual bearing a resemblance to Richard II. The enemies who would rush in from all sides in case of civil wars (ll. 33-40) are the Scots,-whose King had taken a lively interest in nourishing a tumult in England,-and the French, against whom at that time a little prelude was made to the great war, which afterwards broke out between the two nations. Soon after the death of Henry IV., several hostilities took place by sea and by land, between the French and the English garrison of Calais and other towns. This circumstance induces the author to mention the English territories beyond the sea, on the possession of which he sets such great value (l. 25) .- Lines 113-120 apparently refer to the frequent insurrections under the preceding kings .- The allusion to Flanders (1.85) is founded upon the following historical event. In the reign of Charles VI. of France, Lewis Duke of Orleans, and John Duke of Burgundy and Flanders, the brother and the cousingerman of the King, quarrelled about the leading part in the administration of the kingdom. After long contentions, they resolved at last upon making peace, and swore a solemn oath to keep an eternal friendship. But soon after the faithless Duke of Burgundy caused his rival to be murdered in the streets of Paris (1407). The consequence of that bloody deed was that his enemies desolated his country; and as he openly boasted of his crime, he brought general contempt upon himself.

XIII. In the poem 'Dede is worchyng' two parts are to be discerned, the first of which, ending at l. 104, contains references to several domestic affairs which were talked of in the parliament of Leicester, 1414. The Archbishop of Winchester, the King's uncle and Chancellor of England, choosing for his theme the words "Posuit cor suum ad leges investigandas," declared that three reasons had induced the King to summon the parliament: (1) Because he wished the laws of God and of the Church to be strictly observed. (2) As recently many persons had been robbed, even in violation of their safeconduct, arrangements should be made for a better observation of peace. (3) If it proved necessary, new laws should be enacted to the benefit and profit of the whole nation, especially against rebels, murderers, and other malefactors.-About the assassins mentioned by the Chancellor we learn particulars from the reports of the Commons in the same parliament. They complained of a great many murders, treasons, and robberies, committed by sea and land, and they even POEMS (OXF.). Ь

xviii Poem XIII. The Commons' Complaints. Robbers & Waylayers.

accused subjects of the King of assisting and sheltering the thieves (R. P., p. 22, 23). Further, they said that lately many people had been waylaid by the inhabitants of the franchises of Tyndale. Riddesdale, and Eschamshire bordering on Scotland, and that some fellows of those regions housed Scots, and incited them to surprise people, to take their money, and to drive away their cattle. Moreover, they reported that the Viscount of Riddesdale, either from want of energy or from want of good-will, refused to apply the laws against those offenders (R. P., p. 21, 19).-Lastly they presented a petition, "that fro this tyme foreward, by compleynte of the commons of env myschief axkynge remedie by mouthe of their Speaker for the Commons other ellys by Petition writen, that ther never be no Lawe made theruppon, and engrosed as Statut and Lawe, nother by addicions nother by diminucions by no manere of terme ne termes, the whiche that sholde chaunge the sentence and the entente axked by the Speker mouthe or the Petition biforesaid yeven up yn writyng by the maner forsaid, withoute assent of the aforesaid Commons" (R. P., 22, 22).—The tenants of Darleton and Ragenell related that Lord Stanhope had surrounded all their fields, meadows, and pasture-grounds with armed bands, so that they had no fructure of them (R. P., p. 29).

The first four lines of the thirteenth piece remind us of the speech of the Chancellor, who also declared the principal object of that parliament to be to amend what was amiss. Our poet does not seem to approve of all the intentions of the government. Above all, he does not expect much good of making new laws (ll. 29-32). In one thing, however, he is of the same opinion as the Chancellor, viz. that great arbitrariness in the interpretation of the laws prevails, and that the existing institutions ought to be observed much better. Especially he declaims against robbers and waylayers, whom he requires to be severely punished (ll. 17-24). From the express call to protect people against those who seize their cattle, and injure their own persons (ll. 53-56) we are to conclude that the writer has in view the wrongs done to the inhabitants of Tyndale and Riddesdale. Lines 57-64, particularly the warning against taking meed (1. 62), refer to the Viscount of Riddesdale, who refused to try the guilty .- The passage promising a great blessing of God to those who stand with the "uncunning" Commons, and who don't encroach upon their rights, seems to include a reproof of the "cunning" lords who used to cheat the Commons by changing the text of their

Poem XIII. Foreign Affairs in 1414. War to come with France. xix

petitions. By the complaints of the tenants (l. 43), the author evidently means the grievances of the tenants of Darleton and Ragenell.

The second part of this poem, beginning at line 105, treats of the foreign affairs of England. In the Parliament of Leicester, the Archbishop of Canterbury had already declared that the King ought to wear the crown of France by a title descending to him from Edward III., who had openly challenged his right by ambassadors, and bravely attempted to conquer by arms what he could not obtain by treaties: he asserted that Henry had the same title to that crown, and the same reasons to make war upon a refusal (Goodwin, p. 43). Moved by that speech of the Archbishop, Henry determined upon profiting by the disorders which prevailed in France during the reign of King Charles VI., in order to renew the claims of his predecessors to the throne of that country. At first, he entered into negotiations with the French court : but he made such conditions of peace as could not be supposed to gain acceptance. Therefore, he began at the same time to make preparations for war. The English ambassadors went over to Paris on Aug. 8, 1414; but they soon returned without having effected their object. In November 1414, the matter was proposed to the parliament which had been prorogued from Leicester to Westminster. The Chancellor, taking for his theme the words "Dum tempus habemus, operemur," protested that the King's endeavours not only aimed at a just and wise government in his own realm, but that he also intended to recover the lawful heritage of the English crown, which for a long time had been withheld from his predecessors; and that, considering the peace prevailing in the kingdom, he thought it his duty to carry through his purpose immediately. But to succeed in so great an enterprise, the Chancellor pretended three things to be indispensable for the King, namely, the loyal advice of his counsellors, true assistance of the gentry, and copious supplies from all his subjects.

Our poet warmly seconds the designs of the King. Several times he closely follows the declaration of the Chancellor. He derives the title of King Henry to the Freuch throne from the conquests of Edward III., as the Archbishop had done in the parliament of Leicester (ll, 113 et sqq.). Since the treaties with the French court proved useless, he, like the Chancellor, advises that the affair shall be settled by the sword. In lines 104 and 105 he refers to the words of the Archbishop, that the peace prevailing at home induced the

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xx Poem XIV. The Lollards and Church Affairs in 1418.

King to pursue his purpose in France. To render the undertaking successful, he recommends the same things as the Chancellor had done (ll. 121 *et sqg.*, 129–132).

Perhaps even the burden "dede" was suggested by the word "operemur" in the theme of the Archbishop.

XIV. The next piece was composed, to my thinking, in the beginning of 1418. It seems to contain some vague allusions to the fate of Sir John Oldcastle, Lord Cobham, This lord, who had enjoyed the full favour and confidence of Henry IV., and who was esteemed as a valiant warrior by Henry V., was, for some time, the head of the Lollards. Therefore, the Archbishop of Canterbury persuaded the King to give his permission to indict Sir John. The monarch endeavoured to make Cobham withdraw his erroneous opinions, but the nobleman, who felt too secure in the favour of the sovereign, offered an obstinate resistance. At last Henry allowed him to be cited before a council in London, by which he was condemned to be burnt. But Cobham made his escape, and then two attempts upon the life of the prince. Being outlawed, he succeeded in hiding himself for three years in the western parts of the country. In 1417 he was taken and delivered over to the court of justice. King Henry being then occupied in France, the Commons required his brother, who meanwhile managed affairs in England, to order the execution of Cobham (Dec. 14). The duke complied, and accordingly Sir John was hanged some days afterwards.

Some advices of the 14th poem seem to involve a censure of the folly of a nobleman, who must have been a confidant and counsellor of the King (cf. ll. 9–12). He must have lost the favour of the prince by the tricks of his enemies (l. 10). From line 14 we may conclude that he underrated the intrigues of his adversaries, and that he trusted too much to the protection and to the benevolence of the sovereign. If the last stanza but one may be thought to refer to the attempt on the King's life, we have several circumstances which apply to Sir John Oldcastle. Even the kind of his death may be linted at in line 45 et sq.

Besides, the reference to Church affairs (ll. 81–88) gives us another hold for fixing the date of this piece. Simony and nepotism must have luxuriated about 1418, for the University of Oxford then made a petition to the King, in which they asked, "that simony should be punished effectually; that care should be taken to prevent unworthy

Poem XVI. The 52 Follies of John, Duke of Flanders. xxi

persons from intruding into the episcopal or sacerdotal office; that the bishops should not appoint wicked men to be ministers to the people; that they should not hold any benefices in commendam; that they should not advance young men, their nephews and otherwise related, to have the care of souls" (Goodwin, p. 230). The same abuses are criticised by our poet: Simony (Il. 81, 92), nepotism (1. 85), and had administration of diocesses (I. 25 et sqq.).

On usury, and on false measure and weight, the Commons complained somewhat later; but we may well imagine that the poet mentions those evils when they first began to appear, and before remedies were required. Besides, after 1414 he alludes no more to parliamentary transactions; the good government of Henry V. evidently gave him less occasion for censure. Now and then he hints to an event of public interest, but in general, the cure of souls stands in the foreground.

XVI. The 'Remembraunce of LII folyes' must have originated in 1419, because it contains references to the folly and to the assassination of John, Duke of Burgundy and Flanders. While Henry V. was successfully advancing in France, the Dauphin and the Duke of Flanders made war upon each other. At last John, moved by the representations of some friends, agreed to an interview with the Dauphin in order to form an alliance against the King of England. On that occasion, the duke was assassinated by the followers of the Dauphin (1419) .- The Duke of Flanders was indeed guilty of some of the follies which, as our poet pretends, caused his fall (l. 62). He did not scruple at killing the Duke of Orleans (1. 37, cf. XII. 1. 85); he even defended that deed, and openly boasted of it, and nobody durst call it a crime; even the clergy. overawed by his authority, did not venture to proceed against him (11. 2, 65). He strove for the greatest power in France (1. 3); and instead of assisting his cousin against the King of England, he made war upon him, and so promoted the cause of a stranger (1, 33 et sq.). When he had made the French his enemies, he did not mind their arms (l. 46); he trusted the Dauphin (l. 17), and entered into negotiations with him, though some of his counsellors warned him against his falsehood (1. 19). By the glozers (1. 51) the writer means those persons who advised the prince to ally himself with the Dauphin. John of Burgundy lost not only his lordship (l. 62), but also his life; which was regarded as a punishment for the assassination of the Duke of Orleans (1. 63 et sqq.).

xxii Poem XVIII. Monkish Abuses in 1421. Petty Job, etc.

No. XVIII. Among the rest of the poems, there is only one the date of which can be fixed with some certainty, namely, 'The declaryng of religion.' From Goodwin (p. 303) we learn that in 1421 complaints were made to King Henry V. that the Benedictine monks had deviated from the rules of their first institution, and that, to reform those monks, the next year a Provincial Capitulary was made, where among other things the following articles were passed: The extravagance of the monks' equipage should be moderated, and none have the attendance of above twenty horse, under a great temporal penalty. All the monks should be uniform in the colour and fashion of their habits. Their necessities should be supplied, not in money, which none of the order ought to possess. but in provisions of things needful. No monks should have a distinct private cell to entertain any other women than their own mothers or sisters, and they should not bring even them into any other place than the room appointed for the entertainment of guests. Since the way to preserve chastity was to avoid the conversation of women, none of the monks should be at liberty to go into the cities and towns to compotations or on visits.

Some passages of the 18th poem betray the writer's acquaintance with the above decrees. Monks are warned against entertaining too intimate an intercourse with women (l. 84 *et sqq.*); they are to beware of drunkenness (l. 103); they are not to pick up news (l. 107); their habit is not to follow the fashion (l. 155), but the rule of order (l. 144); no monk is allowed to buy or sell anything for money (l. 138 *et sqq.*), nor to possess jewels or horses (l. 155).

Goodwin says that many other articles were passed, "which it would be too tedious to record." If we knew all of them, we could, perhaps, find more allusions in the present piece. Besides, it is not impossible that the author mentions certain abuses which prevailed in his own monastery, and which he thought it necessary to reform.

The poetical treatise on the sacrament of the altar was apparently intended to be an Easter poem; its exact date, however, cannot be made out.

The Petty Job, contained in the Douce MS. 322 of the Bodleian, is, like the Lessons of the Dirige, a paraphrase of the Lamentations of Job. At the head we find the remark that the Petty Job was composed by Richard of Hampole, which of course cannot mean

The Douce MS. Poems, 'Petty Job' and 'Parce michi, Domine.' xxiii

that our poem is by that monk, for it belongs neither to his time nor to his dialect. A.S. â is partly preserved, partly it has become o: mare (: are, care) 338, sare (: care, spare, fare, ware) 569, (: are, whare, fare) 472; cloth, goth, loth, wroth (: doth) 227, one (: bone, troone) 566. The verbal ending of the 3rd p. sing. is s: affrayes (: dayes, wayes) 564, and th : doth (: cloth, loth) 284. The plur. shows the same endings: payes (: dayes, wayes) 653, goth (: cloth, wroth) 279; once it has n : han (: man, can, tan) 111; the plur. of to be is are (: spare, bare) 3, (: mare, care) 340, and be (: we, se, the) 108, (: domine) 225. The inf. and the strong p. pa. appear without n, except gone (inf., : ston, John) 315, and layne (p. pa., : fayne, mayne) 28 tan (p. pa., man, can, han) 115.

Miss A. F. Parker has read the proofs with the MSS. Dr. Furnivall has added the head-lines, and a few side-notes, stops and hyphens, and has seen the sheets through the press for me.

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I. Loue god, and drede. [Digby 102, leaf 98.]

[21 stanzas of 8, abab bebc.]

(1)

Tche man be war, that bereth a state, Of counseil of double entendement, Of tyrauntrye, and preuey hate, And synguler profit by fals assent, And gong to ayue Iugement. In Euchhede, Lawe 3e lede. Worche be good auisement. Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.

¶ Drede god, and knowe thy selue, That ouer puple hast gouernaunce. Noght for the loue of ten or twelue, Brynge not a Comone in greuaunce. Make vnyte ther was distaunce. Weve o lawe in euchede. Bytwen ffauour and vengeaunce. Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.

(3)

¶ Eche mannys gouernours Of hous or lordshipe or cite, The puple is godes, and not zoures, Thow they be soget to soure degre. Gouerne the puple in vnyte, In the comaundements that god bede, And ze wole lyue in charite. Knowe thy self, loue god, and drede, POEMS (OXF.).

Every man who holds an office, should beware of bad counsel, oppression and injustice.

8

Don't harm a commoner 12 to please a few people. Compose quarrels.

Keep from favour and 16 vengeance,

The people is God's, not 20 yours;

> govern it according to his commandments.

24

в

[A.D. 1400]

(4)

¶ Eche man wot, that hath wyt,	
These worldes goodes beth not his.	
Alle is godes; he oweth hit,	
And land and see, and pyne and blis.	28
God wole haue rekenyng, ywys,	
Of men and eloth, the leste shrede,	
Thy getyng, thy holding, thy spendyng mys.	
Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.	32

(5)

¶ Man of his owen hath no thyng;	
Man is goddis, and al god sent.	
God wole haue rekenyng	
Of ryht and wrong, how it is went.	36
Man, not nys thyn, alle god lent,	
And borwed thyng mot home ful nede;	
And 3ut thy soule is goddis rent :	
Quyte that wele in love and drede.	40

(6)

	¶	Serue god for helle drede,	
		ffle fro synne and al vys.	
ly	A	and 3e loue god for heuen mede,	
		3yue hym thyn hert fro flesehly delys.	44
		ffor worldly wys is gostly nys,	
		And fooles erande may not spede.	
		In begynnyng to be wys	
		Knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.	48

(7)

	¶ And 3e wole wyte, thus mowe 3e lere:	
>	What man pursueth his soule to saue,	
	3if hym be lef of god to here,	
	He ableth hym self merey to have.	52
	Richesse ¹ and hele maketh wylde men raue,	
1	That to vertues take non hede.	
	Er thy soule be fendes knaue,	
	Knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.	56

Every man knows that God will call him to account for

the least thing he possessed;

for everything has only been lent to man by God, and will be reclaimed.

Turn away your heart from worldly pleasures, and give it to God.

Who likes to hear of God,

enables himself to get mercy. [1 leaf 98 b]

I. Love and dread God.

(8)

That man that wole be gouerned by wyt. ffle fro foly, and worldis delys; Loke his charge how it is knyt. And take counseil that is wys ; 60 folwe mesure in euene syse : Lete no falshed blome ne sede. And lawe be kept, no folk nyl ryse. 64 people will Than seruest god in loue and drede.

¶ Whanne a fool stereth a barge, Hym self and al the folke is shent. There as conscience is large, By wrath or mede the doom is went. The bowe of goddis wrath is bent On hem that deth not that god bede. War wordes of dowble entendement. Knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.

(10)

¶ Gif a kyngdom falle a chaunce		
That al the rewme myght greue,		
Agen that make an ordinaunce,		Order reme-
To kepe 30w euere fro suche myscheue;	76	dies against mischiefs,
And chastise hem that matere meue :		and punish-
Make othere take ensaumple treuth to hede.		ments for rebels.
Who so is wys, his werkys preue.		
Loue god, and 3e thar not drede.	80	
Who so is wys, his werkys preue.	80	rebels,

(11)

I Goddis bowe of wratthe on vs was bent : God's bow was bent on There we thenke al to lyte. ue; His zerde of loue on summe is lent, some he punishes With swerd of vengeaunce he summe doth smyte. 84 severely, others in-The brydelf with teeth thay byte dulgently. That of god taken non hede. Or fendys alle zoure werkys wryte, Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede. 88

Flee from worldly folly,

follow good advice.

If the laws

not rebel.

Fools ruin themselves

and others.

72

(12)

people	¶ Why pore men don riche reuerence,	
s out of	Two skylles y fynde therfore :	
	To tyrauntes don hem greuaunce,	
	To rewe and agen restore.	92
olent	Goode men for loue they worshipe more,	
- Offi	That don hem good, and help at nede;	
	ffor god seeth thurgh euery bore.	
	Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.	96

(13)

Teche man wot, that bereth estate, Why they hit resceyne, and to what wyse.
Worship for drede is preue hate;
Suche worship of frendes men schold refuyse. 100 In loue and drede worshipe the wyse. Be suget to resoun in lengthe ¹and brede, ffor god seeth thurgh eche mysse.

Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede. 104

(14)

¶ As long as man doth wrong,	
He maketh god his ful foo ;	
The more he dwelleth theryn long,	
To his soule he encreseth woo.	108
Er he fele het, y rede say hoo,	
Er his soule glowe as glede.	
Haue heuene, or helle : chese of two.	
Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.	112

(15)

¶ The man withoute charitee	
May neuere wynne heuen blisse.	
As thou wolde men dede for the,	
Do thou so liche eche man hauc hisse;	116
ffor all that euere is goten mysse,	
Mot be rekened, a drope 3e shede.	
Thes worldis good and thou mon kysse.	
Man knowe thy self, love god, and drede.	120

tyrants out of fear,

Poor p revere

benevolent men from love.

Worship from dread is secret hatred.

[1 leaf 99]

Who sins, makes God his enemy; by persevering in-sin he increases his guilt.

Stop before you go to Hell.

Do as you would be done by.

You will have to answer for everything ill-gotten.

I. Love and dread God.

(16)

I ffalse men bye helle ful dere. That taken with wrong, are goddis theues ; They han here heuene in this world here : After in helle, huge myscheues. What they byleue, here werkys preues Arn heretikes, and out of the Crede. Why god doth loue, why god doth greues, Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.

(17)

" Man, synne not in ouerhope ; Thou wynnest not goddis mercie with fight; Hit wolde brynge the in wanhope, To wene no mercy thou haven myght. Alle thyng is nombred in goddis sight, The leste tryp that enere ze trede. His mercy is medled with his right. Man, knowe thy self, love god, and drede,

(18)

¶ Mannes conscience wil hym telle, Riche and pore, fool and wyse, Whether he be worthi heuene or helle To resceyue, after his seruyce. 140 Eche man auyse hym, that is wys, Pore, and prvnce styf on stede. Or vyces ouer vertues rys. Man, knowe thy self, love god, and drede,

(19)

Who that takep fro pore to eke with his, ffor that wrong is worthy wo; A-nother, richer than he is, Of the same shal serve hym so. That zeueth to that lize or go, Mete or drynke, herborwe or wede, God sendes y-now to tho That louen god, and hym wolen drede. Who takes wrongfully,

124 will suffer pains in Hell.

128

Dou't trust too much nor too little to the mercy of God.

132

Your conscience will tell you whether you are to be saved, or condemned.

144

Ill-gotten goods don't prosper.

148

Benefits done to poor men will be rewarded.

152

(20)

	¶ He is a fool, that doth answere	
5	To a man er tale be told ;	
	But after the dede deme there;	
	Lete not lawe be fauoured ne sold.	156
	Suche maken fals men be bold,	
	And false men myghte stroye a thede.	
	Er charitee in hert wexe cold,	
	Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede.	160

(21)

¶ 3if a man do a-nother mys, Men should Neighbores shuld hem auvse. their quarrel-The trespasour amende and kys. Do bothe parties eucne assise. 164Old horded hate maketh wratthe to rise. hatred often And ofte gilteles blod to blede. ffle fro fooles, and folwe wise. Man, knowe thy self, loue god, and drede. 168

II. Mede and muche thank.

[Digby 102, leaf 99, back.]

[11 stanzas of 8, abab bcbc.]

(1)

N blossemed buske I bode boote, In ryche array, with ryches rank, ffaire floures vnder foote, Sauour to myn herte sank. I sawe two buyrnes on a bank. To here talkyng I tok hede. That on prevsede moche thank. That other held al with mede.

(2)

¶ That on, a trauaylyng man had ben, He was but in mene array ; That other clothed in gawdy gren, Blasande brizt, embrowdid gay.

In a forest,

I heard two men

disputing about meed and thanks.

12

4

One of them was poorly elad,

the other richly.

Judges should hear both parties, and take no [leaf 99 b]

reconcile

ling neighbours.

Inveterate

does great mischief.

"Loo, felow, chese y may	
To ryde on palfray or on stede.	
Shewe forth moche thonk, y the pray; Loo, here y shewe sumwhat of mede."	"Show forth thanks, 1'll show meed."

(3)

\$ Syre, y see thou hast richesse;
How thou hit get, whiche is thy fame,
In corage and prowesse,
After thy dede resceyue thy name,
Other in worshipe, or in shame.
Men wol the deme after thy dede,
Thy fer trauayle, or cochour at hame.
How serued thou to haue that mede?

(4)

¶ "I plese my lord at bed and bord, poug y do but strype a stre, And florische fayre my lordis word, And fede hem forth with nay and zee. Whan trauaylyng men fare eucle on see, In fight, in preson, in storme and drede, With moche thonk than mery ze be, And y wole make me mery with mede."

(5)

f fflateryng is the fendis scoles.
3oure awen werkys preueth 30w nys.
3e skorne lordes, and make hem 30ure foles, To playe and lawhe at 30ure delys. Do for a lord; and he be wys, Trewe trauayle shal not lese his dede. To vertuous lord al worship lys. The trewe seruant is worthy hys mede.'

(6)

¶ "Say, felowe, what doth the greue My glosyng, flateryng, play, and daunce? Shulde my souerayn aske the leue, Whom hym list to auaunce? "I please my lord at home, though with trifles only."

"Men will

honour or blame you according as

you have got

by valour or by cowardice.

How do you get meed ?'

your riches

28

20

24

32

' By your flattery, you make your lords your fools.

36

Wise men reward faithful servants.'

40

44

Thou getest the thonke with spere and launce, Ther-with ¹thou might the clothe and fede; I gloser wil stonde to my chaunce, And mayntene my men al with mede.

48

(7)

I gete loue, and moche richesse,
When wel-faryng men of armes
In fight, in presoun, and distresse. 52
When thou art old and feble, y gesse,
Who wole the fynde fode or wede ?
Lete moche thonk than thy mete dresse,
And y wole make me mery with mede." 56

(8)

¶ 'I likne a gloser, in eche weder	
To folwe the wynd, as doth the fane.	
3e begeten hony togedere;	
To stroyze that cometh the drane.	60
Me thenkep pere wit is wane	
To stroize the hony, and foule hit shede;	
Gloser hath brought faytour lane	
To halle and chambre, to lordes, for mede.	64

(9)

an•	¶ 'Thy wikked speche come fro ferre.	
rse	Eucl thou spekest, worse dost mene.	
war	Thou woldest euere more were werre,	
	(ffor profyt and pilage thou myght glene,)	68
	Cristen blod destroyed clene,	
	And townes brent on a glede.	
	Thy conscience is ful lene;	
own ake.	Thou noldest not come ther but for mede.	72

(10)

I 'In wikked lyuer no good counsayle, Is coward of kynde nyst and day.
Good lyuere dar fende and assayle, And hardy in dede broust to bay.
7

"You get your living with spear and lance, I'll get mine by flattery. [¹ leaf 100]

By my flattering I get riches, while warriors suffer distress.

In your old age you may live on thanks,

I'll make merry with meed."

"A glozer is like a weather-cock.

He and the lean faitour waste, like drones, what others have gathered.

Your meaning is worse than your words. You like war

for your own profit's sake,

Wicked men always are cowards;

good ones, valiant warriors. I wolle thou were brougt to assay At nede a wys counseil to rede. Were thou as hardy as thou art gay, 3e were wel worthy to have good mede.

(11)

I 'Thenketh the not it doth the good, Whan thou out of thy bed dost swerue ?
3e clothe 30w, and do on 30ure hod, At tyme of day thy mete dost kerue.
Why dost thou thy seluen serue ?
I trowe thou do it for gret nede ; flor hunger and cold elles myghtest thou sterue. This preueth thou seruest al for mede.'

88 You do everything for meed.'

III. Treuth, reste, and pes. [Early in 1401]

[Digby 102, leaf 100.]

[21 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

(1)

For drede ofte my lippes y steke, for false reportours, that trouhte mys-famed. 3ut Charitee chargeth me to speke. poug troupe be dred, he nys not ashamed. Troupe sechep non hernes ther los is lamied; Troupe is worschiped at euery des. In that kyngdom ther troupe is blamed, God sendes vengeaunce to make troupe haue pes. 8

(2)

¶ Troupe is messager to ry3t,		Do everybody justice;
And ry3t is counseille to Iustice ;		Justice;
Iustice in goddis stede is dy3t.		
Do euene lawe 1 to foolf and wyse.	12	[1 leaf 100 b]
Set mesure in euene assise,		
The riste weye as lawe ges.		
• And lawe be kept, folk nyl not ryse.		keep the laws.
That kyngdom shal haue reste and pes.	16	

Truth is often concealed by false reports,

but it always appears again.

84

(3)

¶ 3if suche a tale-tellere were,	
To a kyng apayre a mannys name,	
The kyng shulde bope partyes here,	
And punysche pe fals for defame.	20
pan fals men wolde ases for blame;	
ffor falshed, body and soule it sles.	
ffalshed endes ay in shame;	
And troupe, in worschipe and in pes.	24

(4)

¶ Whanne lawe is put fro ri3t assise,	
And domes man made by mede,	
ffor fawte of lawe 3if comouns rise,	
þan is a kyngdom most in drede.	28
ffor whanne vengeaunce a comouns lede,	
þei do gret harm er þey asses.	
There no man oper dop mysbede,	
That kyngdom shal haue reste and pes.	32

(5)

¶ Whan craft riseþ azens craft,	
In burgh, toun, or citee,	
bey go to lordes whan lawe is laft,	
Whoche party may strengere be.	36
But wyse men þe sonere se	
By witles wille bey gedre pres,	
Or lordis medle in foly degre,	
Let lawe have cours in reste and pes.	40

(6)

¶ 3it þere is þe þridde distaunce	
Bryngep a kyngdom in moche noy3e :	
Ofte chaunge of gouernaunce	
Of all degre, lowe and hyze.	44
A kyng may not al aspie.	
Summe telle hym sop, summe telle hym les.	
pe whete fro pe chaf 3c try3c,	
So mowe ze leve in reste and pes.	48

A king should not believe talebearers, but hear both parties, and punish calumniators.

If the laws are violated, the commoners rise

and waste the realm.

They go to fight the lords.

But wise men provide against such revolts.

Frequent change of government is also a damage for a kingdom.

(7)

I speke not in specyale
Of oo kyngdom the lawe to telle;
I speke hool in generale
In eche kyngdom the lawe to telle.
Also is writen in be gospelle
A word bat god hym-seluen ches:
Rabere pan fizte, a man go selle
On of his clobes, and bize hym pes.

(8)

A worpi kny3t wol worchip wynne; He wil not 3elde hym pou3 me pret, But rapere as Malice dob begynne, Quenche hit at pe firste het. ffor, and 3e lete it growe gret, Hit brennep breme as fyre in gres. Laweles nouellerye loke 3e lete, So mowe 3e lyue in reste and pes.

(9)

I Old speche is spoken 30re: What is a kyngdom tresory? Bestayle, corn stuffed in store, Riche comouns, and wyse clergy; Marchaundes, squyers, chiualry That wol be redy at a res, And cheualrous kyng in wittes hy3e, To lede in were, and gouerne in pes.

(10)

Among philosofres wyse, In here bokes, men writen fynde þat synne is cause of cowardyse; Wel lyuyng man, hardy of kynde; Wikked lyuere, graceles blynde; He dredeþ deþ, þe laste mes. þe good lyuere haþ god in mynde; þat mannys counseil makeþ pes. 52

God says, "Rather than fight sell your clothes to buy peace."

56

A worthy man will stifle malice in its birth.

64

60

There is an old saying :

 68 Rich commoners, a wise clergy, valiant knights, and a wise and chivalrous king 72 form the treasury of a state.

According to philosophers, good men are brave, [leaf 101] Wicked ones cowards.

(11)

 What kyng that wol haue good name, He wol be lad by wys counsayle
 pat loue worschip, and dreden shame, And boldely dar fende and assayle.
 pere wit is, corage may not fayle, ffor wysdom neuere worschip les.
 Corage in querelt dop batayle, And ende of batayle bygynnep pes.

84

88

(12)

I Defaute of wit makeþ long counsayle; ffor witteles wordes in ydel spoken,
pe more cost, þe lesse auayle; ffor fawte of wyt, purpos broken.
92 In euyl soule no grace is stoken, ffor wikked soule is graceles.
In good lyuere goddis wille is loken, bat mannys counselt makeb pes.
96

(13)

	¶ To wete 3if parlement be wys,	
r	be comoun profit wel it preues.	
	A kyngdom in comouns lys,	
	Alle profytes, and alle myscheues.	100
	Lordis wet neuere what comouns greues	
	Til here rentis bigynne to ses.	
	pere lordis ere, pore comons releues,	
	And mayntene hem in werre and pes.	104

(14)

	¶ Make god 30ure ful frend ;	
l,	Do pe comaundement pat he bede.	
	pouz all pe world azen zow wend,	
eed	Be god 30ure frend, 3e thar not drede :	108
ur	ffor pere as god his frendis lede,	
	He sauep hem bope on lond and sees.	
	Who so figtep, god dop pe dede,	
\$	ffor god is victorie and pes.	112

A good king will be led by wise counsellors.

Want of wit makes long counsel,

[nota]

Good men's counsel makes peace.

The public welfare will show whether a parliament is wise. The commons make the kingdom.

Make God your friend,

then you need not fear your enemies,

for he gives victory.

(15)

What kyngdom werreb hym-self wib-ynne, Distroyeb hym-self, and no mo.
Wib-oute here enemys bygynne
On eche a syde assayle hem so.
De comouns, bey wil robbe and slo,
Make fyere, and kyndel stres.
Whan ryches and manhode is wastede and go,
ban drede dryueb to trete pes.

(16)

I The world is like a fals lemman, ffayre semblaunt, and moche gyle. Wipouten heire dyep no man : God is chief lord of toun and pyle. God makep mony heire in a whyle, ffor god ressayuep eche reles; God kan breke hegge and style, And make an hey wey to pes.

(17)

God made lordis gouernoures To gouerne puple in vnyte.
pe puple, ne ryches, nys not 30ures : Al is goddis, and so be 3e.
Eche day 3e may 30ure myrrour se.
Eche man after oper deses ; 30ure auncetres arn gon, after shal 3e, To endeles werre, or endeless pes.

(18)

Feche kyng is sworn to gouernaunce To gouerne goddis puple in rist.
Eche kyng berep swerd ¹ of goddis vengeaunce To felle goddis foon in fist.
And so dop euerons honest knyst That berep be ordre as it wes;
The plough, be chirche, to mayntene ryst, Are goddis champyons, to kepe be pes. Civil wars destroy a kingdom.

116 The enemies will waste it and kill the commons.

120

124 God is the chief lord of everything.

128

Lords are only to govern the people.

132 God is the liege-lord of all,

136

Every king is sworn to govern the people justly, [¹ leaf 101 b] and to fight the enemies of God; and so is every honest knight.

13

(19)

orld is cherry	¶ The world is like a chery fayre,	
cherry	Ofte chaungeþ all his þynges.	
	Riche, pore, foul, and fayre,	
	Popes, prelates and lordynges,	148
en are 1.	Alle are dedly, and so ben kynges;	
your before	Or dep lede 30w in his les,	
sur-	Arraye by tyme goure rekenynges,	
you.	And trete wip god to gete 30w pes.	152
	(20)	
	¶ What bryngeþ a kyngdom al aboue ?	
counsel	Wys counseil, and good gouernaunce;	
ood nment	Eche lord wil other loue,	
a king- hrive.	And rule wel labourrers sustynaunce.	156
		100
	God makep for his frendis no destaunce,	
	ffor god kan skatre þe grete pres.	
elps his s.	God for his frendis map ordynaunce,	
	And gouernep hem in werre and pes.	160
	(21)	
	¶ Good lyf is cause of good name;	
	Good name is worthi to have reueraunce.	
	Synne is cause of greuaunce.	164
	Synno is cause of gibliaunce.	104

Every king-dom is in God's hand.

IV. Verne say wele, say litel, or say nost.

[Digby 102, leaf 101, back.]

[31 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

(1)

s be see dob ebbe and flowe, So farep be world hyder and pedere. Agen be wynd they sayle and rowe To gadre worldys gooddis to-gedere.

Who strives only for worldly goods,

The w like a fair.

All m morts Settle affairs death prise

Wise and g gover make dom t

God 1 friend

Synne is cause of greuaunce.
Eche kyngdom hongep in goddis balaunce ;
Wip hym pat holdep, wip hym pat fles.
3e haue fre wille; chese 30ure chaunce,
To have wip god, werre or pes.

4

IV. Learn to say Well, Little, or Nothing.

At be last it gob, y wot not whyder, As ende of web out of slav. And hem-self stoden so slydere, stands on a 8 slippery How it is wib hym. y kan not say. (2)¶ Sum man dar not be bef for drede; Some people dare not show their His troube is vice, and no vertue. wickedness In heuene he nvs not worbi mede. openly from fear; pat clopes troupe in falsed hewe. 12 Maugre his teep he is trewe; Stoken in presoun as best fro stray, Here wikked wille groweb newe : but their ill-will always bey thenke more ban bey say. 16 betrays them. (3)I Men may not staunche a comoun novs, Everybody is indged by the Nober for loue ne for awe. After men lyue is comoun voys, common voice accord-In wrongwys dede, or ryst lawe. 20 ing to his conduct. Who dob hem pyne, who dob hem pawe, Eche on telle oper, child and may. Tho that to vertues drawe. Hem thar not recche what [men] say. 24 (4)I Tak fro bi foo, and zeue bi frende; Don't assist your enemies, but help your Tak not fro thy frend, to zeue pi foo : friends. by frend wole holde be vnhende ; pow haddest on enemy, pan hast poul two. 28Man, be war er bou do so ; To greue the he wol assay : [leaf 102] When byn enemys wexen mo, Litil worchipe of be say. 32 (5)¶ Oo prouerbe loke 3e preue, 3e pat wole to resoun bende : Look what neyzebore most may greue; Make your neighbours By al way make hym bi frende. 36 your friend,

¹ MS. pⁿ. As the MS. has "thou," 4/116, 8/46, above, I print bⁿ 'poit.' In my first-edited text of some Saints' Lives (Philolog, Soc. 1862) I printed i^c as the Northern 'ic' instead of the Southern 'ich' as I ought to have done. Dr. R. Morris told me of the mistake.--F. J. F.

40

68

and your enemies will flee from you. pan wole pyn enemys fro pe wende, Here owen pougt wol hem afflay.Be out of daunger of the fende, And recche neuere what men say.

¶ To synge or preche generale,

(6)

Many people betray their own faults by finding themselves hit by a general blame of vices,

Werkys of vices for to blame,Summe tak to hem speciale,And say, "felow, pou dost vs blame."pere he accuse his owen name;AH pat hym se, knowe it may,He can not hele his owen shame;And so, aH folk wole say.48

(7)

wille,	
ue,	
n stille,	
re knewe, 5	52
ne hewe;	
em betray.	
trewe,	
wole say. 5	56
em betray. trewe,	5

(8)

¶ Thou; a man holynes preche,	
He shetep nost, but bent his bowe;	
But he lyue as he teche,	
He nys not trusty for to trowe;	60
ffor suche seed he dop sowe	
In stones, in thornes, and in clay,	
The same he schal repe and mowe;	
So he is worthy, folk wole say.	64

(9)

 A lord of hym-self hap no wyt, He knowep wele, but no wo;
 Of pore men he mot haue hit, Knowelechyng of frend and fo.

Vainglorious people are belied by their own works,

Everybody will reap as he sows. He is wys, that can do so, And wel twynnen hem o tway. In sykernes may he go, And recche neuere what men say.

(10)

 Gloseres maken mony lesynges— Al to sone men hem leue¹—
 Bobe to lordys and to kynges, bat bobe partye ofte greue.²
 Wolde lordis seche repreue, Glosers shuld not go so gay, Ne not so hardy for to meue Suche wordes as they say.

(11)

Thou; prestes prechyng hem avyse, Or mynstrallis synge in song now,
A glosere wole a lord askuse:
Sire, þey synge or preche of gow.
þe lord vnderstondes not how
þe fals[e] glosere hym bitray;
Wolde he make þo wordis avowe, He wolde auyse hym eft to say.

(12)

Many can stomble at a stre;
pey nyl not snapere at a style,
And graunte purpos nay and see,
pouz his pouzt be pens a myle.
Whan falsed lawhep, he forgep gyle;
Half in malice is his play.
Wip wysdom who so voydep that wyle,
He is ¹ wys, all folk wole say.

(13)

 Thou; men in erbe troube hyde, On halle roof he wole be sayn.
 In botme of see he nyl not byde, But shewe in market, on the playn.
 ¹ MS. leues ² MS. greues

POEMS (OXF.).

He is wise, who knows his friends from his enemies.

72

Glozers tell lies to lords and kings.

76

80

Lords ought to listen to the warnings of minstrels and priests, and make. 84 glozers answer for their words.

88

92

96 Mind the tricks of flatterers. [1 leaf 102 b1

> Truth can never be hid,

100

C

IV. Learn to say Well, Little, or Nothing.

And bous troube a while be slavn. And doluen depe vnder clav. 3ut he wole ryse to lyue agayn, And al the sothe he wole say.

it always

104

(14)

¶ Many callen conscience fleschly willis,	
And nelen non opere counseil craue.	
But soule of reson is gostly skillis,	
pat conscience shal hem deme, or saue.	108
ffleschely wille is fendes knaue,	
Out of reson, out of stray.	
As they disserve, bey shal have,	
ffor so dop pe gospel say.	112

(15)

¶ ffalshed wolde troupes tunge teyze ffor trewe word is bat he hab spoken ; God biddep vengeaunce hize, And helpe troube be wel wroken. 116 ffor troube lippes ar faste stoken, And false mede hab be kay. Whan vengeaunce hap look broken, 120 pan troupe shal al pe sop say.

(16)

¶ Sumtyme men halwed the holyday; Now holiday is turned to glotonye. Sumtyme men vsed honest play; 124 And now it is turned to vilonve ; And paramour is turned to lecherye,-Sumtyme was loue of good fay,-And shameles haunted so comounly, Vnnepe pey recche what men say. 128

(17)

¶ Summe men sowe here seed in skornes,	
Ofte on opere mennys londes;	
Summe on stones, summe on thornes,	
Summe on hize way, summe on sondes.	132

appears again.

Many men don't follow reason, but their fleshly will.

Falsehood would bind

the tongue of Truth. But God

sends Vengeance to her

help,

Now-a-days

holidays are gluttony;

honesty, to villany; love, to lechery.

Some men sow their seed on stones; others, among thorns.

IV. Learn to say Well, Little, or Nothing.

He bat wel vnderstondes. Amende while he mende may, Make hym clene, and wasche his hondes, And recche neuere what men say. 136

(18)

I Thou; holy chirche shulde fawtes mende, Summe put hem of for mede ; And summe wib maystrize hem defende. That holy chirche stant of hem drede. bo bat recchelesly sowe here sede. Here lond of vertues ligge ful lay. be holy chirche be corn shuld wede ; ffor cowardis, pey dar not say.

I Gloseres that wip lordis bene, bey thryue faste bou; bey come late, ffor bey wole a lord to wene bat he is byloued ther men hym hate. And wip his frendis make debate, Of pore puple pyke here pray. Of all degre, of eche astate, After bey lyue, all folk wole say.

I ffro goddis syzt, who may stele Word or werk, be lest pougt? be comoun voys nyl not hele, But loue, or hate, as werk is wrougt ; ffor sopnes neuere hernes souzt. Who sechep wel, he may assay. The good[e] lyuere neuere roust Of his werkis what men say.

(21)

¶ Of all degre, of eche astate, After desert be name hab prys. bat lord his owen worship dob hate, bat zeueb anober his offys-

Amend while you may.

140

Some people get rid of their sins for meed. others even defend them.

and the church, from 144 cowardice, does not intervene.

> Glozers make a lord believe that be is liked by his enemies.

148 and disliked by his friends.

and persuade him to deprive poor people of their 152 property.

> Nobody can conceal his intentions :

the public voice will 156 [leaf 103]

> praise, or condemu him, according to his works.

160

A lord spoils his own good name if he gets his work 164 done by another.

ffor in astate grace lys—	
And wilfully wast it a-way.	
Who is fool, who is wys,	
After bey lyue, alle folk wole say.	168

(22)

5	¶ A glosere is gredy ay to craue.	
	3eue hym no thyng, þou3 he bede.	
	A lord pat wole his worschip saue,	
	Lerne not at a glosere to don his dede.	172
r	3eue to vertuous men pat haue nede,	
•	pat to god wole for be pray :	
	þe pore mannys erande, god doþ spede.	
	God wil not here what glosere wole say.	176

(23)

a.	¶ Alle þe þou3tes ben but wast	
	Wiboute contemplacioun.	
	ffro heritage of heuene is born o hast	
	Shrifte wipoute contricioun.	180
vith-	And werkys wipoute discrecioun,	
retion ease	pat sifte plesep not god to pay,	
ray-	Ne preyer wipoute deuocioun :	
out 1.	God nyl not here what pey say.	184

(24)

if ed	¶ Sum-tyme, and a worschip felle To a lord, in batayle, by goddis grace,	
se s	3if a glosere wolde telle	
	Among folk, byfore his face,	188
	þe lord wolde bidde hym voyde þe place.	
	pou corayest flauel, and stelest his hay.	
	Of alle degre, of eche astate,	
	After pey lyue, alle folk wole say.	192

(25)

ral in to-	¶ A cheuenteyn may fy3te o day, be victorye wib hym stande;	
e row sin18.	ffor synne god mon tak it away, And put his swerd in enemys hande.	196

Give nothing to glozers though they crave,

hut help poor men who pray for you.

Works w out discr don't ple God, nor do p ers with doubtion

Not

devotion

Formerly, if a lord gained military glory, he would refuse the flatteries of glozers.

A genera may winday,

and lose to-morr for his s IV. Learn to say Well, Little, or Nothing.

Vertues make free, vices make bonde. To-day is quyk, to-morwe is fay. bat knew hym-self, he wolde wonde Any good of him self wolde say.

(26)

¶ What a glosere here or see, bous it shulde to shame falle, He knoweb in chambre preuvtee, Tellep his felow in be halle ; And felow to felow, tyl bey knowe alle, ffro town to toun, in all contrav. The glosere be comoun voyce hit calle, ffor non shulde knowe who first dede say.

(27)

¶ A good man dop a lord gret ese,	A tru does i	
pat is a trewe officere,	beyon	10
pat wel can serue a lord to plese,	his po	
Passe not be boundes of his powere.	212	
In preuyte vnwetand he may come nere.		
Be handles, and stele no byng away ;		
Be blynd of ey3e, and deef of here;		
Be dombe of mouth, and no byng say.	216	

(28)

¶ I wolde suche a statute were. And per-vpon set a payne, What soget 1 wolde make his souereyn swere pat he tolde in counseil layne. Oft glosere makeb lordis fayne, Passe be boundes of here play. Al pat troupe hap herd and sayne, All tymes nys not sob to say.

(29)

" When al be world is burgh soust, In his best tyme is worst to trest. bis world is a fayre noust,

A fals lemman, pat chaunge lest;

e officer not pass ad the ls of ower.

There should be a statute against such people as make their lord fail of 220 his word. [1 leaf 103 b]

224

The world is fickle and not to be trusted.

21

Glozers

divulge their lords' secrets all over the country.

204

200

208

Your end is vain regret.

His last ende is had-y-wist,
When dep hap py lyues kay.
"Litel while he mon be myst,"
So pe executours wol say.

(30)

While your executors reckon your riches and make merry, the devils count your sins, and lead you to eternal pains.

¶ They rekene his richesse what it amountes,	
Ete and drynke, synge 'hay 30l hayl,'	
pe while pe fendis his synnes countes,	
And bryng to hym be countertayl;	236
Wip hard paynes hym assaile.	
Wip berkande fendis brougt to bay,	
What helpep his riches or wys counsaile?	
Hym self his owen tale shal say.	240

(31)

¶ God made oo lawe for eche astate,		
Riche and pore in al degre :		
Do no wrong ne [no] debate,		
But as pou wolde men dede by pe.	2	244
ffor god hym self, pis wrot he,		
Betok to Moyses in his lay.		
Be goddis childre in charyte,		
As god dop in the gospell say.	2	248

V. What & Wille.

[Digby 102, leaf 103, back.] [9 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

(1)

Beware of bad counsel,

need.

an, be war of wikkid counsaile, He wol the lede in wayes slidre; it fails you at In day of batayle he wol be faile, And make bi goode men to shidre. Rigt as hay, bey mon widre; As blades of gres, his seed dop spille. Gostly blynd gob, and not neuere whidre, pat leuep wit, and worchip by wille.

Do as you would be done by.

4

8

(2)

Who so wist, what tresoure He hap pat worchep by wit;
pe fader of heuene is gouernoure,
pe holigost, pe sone wip hit.
In oo godhede alle pre are knyt,
Non departe fro oper nylle;
In eche mannys herte, alle pre pey syt,
pat makep wit lord aboue his wille.

(3)

Who so wyste what wille harmes, pat willefully fro wyt wendes; ffro pe fader of heuene his soule he charmes, ffro grace of pe holygost hym blendes, ffro angels pere, soget to fendes, pat nyl not mende, but ay don ylle. Gostely and bodily hym self he shendes, pat leuep wyt, and worchep by wille.

(4)

In kyngdom, what makeb debate, Riche and pore both anoyzed ?
30ng counseil, and preuey hate, And syngulere profit ys aspized, Hize and lowe men abyzed; Echon wayte oper for to kille.
bat kyngdom mot nede be strized, That leueb wit, and worcheb by wille.

(5)

That leuep troupe, and falshed vse, And ¹Jue not after goddis sawe,
Suche folk god dob despuse, Rebell and ryse agen his lawe.
po puple that stondes of god non awe, But robbe and reue, coffres to fylle : pe swerd of vengeaunce on hem is drawe, pat leuep wit, and worchep by wille. Who works with wisdom, harbours God within him.

16

-

24 Who follows bis will, spoils himself.

28 Bad counsel, secret hate, and private interest

destroy a kingdom.

Who uses falsehood, [1 leaf 104] brings the anger of God upon him.

(6)

¶ That ouer puple han gouernaunce,	
Loke how goddis lawe 3e vse;	
Whom 3e refuse, and whiche auaunce,	
ffor goddis loue, or 30ure owen seruyce,	44
Whiche is pe charge 30w auyse.	
Let eche man serue his charge in skylle,	
And 30ure werkis preue 30w wyse.	
Let wit be lord aboue thy wylle.	48

(7)

¶ Be not to crowele in þy wele,	
pou nost how sone pou my3t haue lesse.	
Be not to sykere of pyne hele,	
bou not how sone falle in sykenesse.	52
Dep claymep eche man for hesse,	
And sodeyn, dep no dayes selle.	
Siþ no man is in sykernesse,	
Be redy euere at goddis wille.	56

(8)

¶ And on by strengpe be not to bold,	
Ne skorne no pore, ne feble of elde.	
ffor lyue longe 3e mon be old,	
In feblenes to hoke and helde,	60
In cowardys 30ure corage kelde.	
But 3e had help, 3e shuld spille.	
3e pat heuene blisse wole welde,	
Let wit be lord above soure wille.	64

(9)

¶ God hap lent 30w discrecioun	
Bope of wele and of woo,	
Werkis of deuocioun,	
Vyces, vertues, frend, and foo.	68
Sip 3e 'can part hem wel o two,	
Let vyces on 30w brynge no bille.	
be weye of grace, and 3e wol go,	
r Let wyt be lord aboue 30ure wille.	72

Look whom you advance, and whom you refuse.

Be not too proud in your happiness;

death may suddenly surprise you.

Don't seorn poor and old people : you may yourself grow old and feeble.

God has given you discretion of good and evil; practise virtue,

and let wisdom rule over your will. VI. To lyf¹ bodyly, is perylous. [Digby 102, leaf 104.] [9 stanzas of 8, abab, bebe.]

(1)

L erne bodyly to lyue. py seruaunt, non hyre bou pay. Pore ne riche, no 3iftes 3eue, But take and gedre al pat bou may; poug it come wib wrong, say not nay,

But falsely loke pou swere and lize. pe pore man is the riches pray. Lerne pus to lyue bodilye.

(2)

There market beteres gadere in prong, Loke pat company pou lede.
Stalworply mayntene wrong;
So may pou wynne moche mede.
To reue fro pore take non hede.
Do as pou pouzt neuere to dye.
Say noper pater noster ne crede.
Lyue pou in ese bodyly.

(3)

Rechelesly pe gouerne, Day and ny3t; walke late
At cokes hostry and tauerne. pous pat no man opere hate, Go not er pou make debate. To lewed, lettred, and clergye, Do no reuerence to non astate : pan men wole drede pe bodylye.

(4)

Thé pat pe good wolde teche, Rebuke hem, and foule despise; Byd hem go to pe chirche and preche. ffolwe ²fooles, and fle fro wyse.

1 read 'lyue,' vb.

Give nobody his due,

4 but take from everybody.

8

12 maintain wrong, rob the poor,

never say a prayer.

> Stroll about, day and night, in the taverns,

20 and set people against one another.

24

Despise those who teach you good,

28 follow fools' counsels; [² leaf 104 b]

VI. To live for the Body only, is Perilous.

never pass a just sentence

3eue no doom in rist assyse. ffle fro troube and bou hym spye. Loke bou be proudest in alle gyse : ban men wole prevse be bodylve.

(5)

Be sorry at the happiness of others. and pleased at their misfortune.

Do nobody a benefit.

Calumniat your faith servant.

and cause him to be i prisoned.

Get a maid with a child,

don't marry her,

¶ Loke bou have sorwe sad Whan bou seest folk have welfare ; Loke bou be mery and glad Whan bou wost folk have sorwe and care. ffede non hungry, ne clope no bare; Lete herberweles berout ly ; Visite no syke, and prisoners spare. Loue by seluen bus bodyly. 40

(6)

te ful	¶ 3 if py man be a good seru <i>au</i> nt	
IUI	pat pe were lop to for-go,	
	Stele byn owen good fro his hand,	
	Bere on hym he stal it so.	44
im-	Bryng hym in presoun tho,	
	Longe there for to lye,	
	Til he be fayn, for sorwe and wo,	
	To swere to serue be bodylye.	48

(7)

¶ And aif bou haue a damysele bat serueb be wel, of trewe lynage, ffonde to make here wombe to swelle, 52Make no fors of no maryage. And sif she grucche wib be to rage, And alway fro the wole wrye, Bete here, and seue here non ober wage, And lyue in lustes bodylye.

(8)

Thus you will get shame.

but beat her.

> ¶ Thus make be byknowe. After by dede, resceyue thy name. So shal byn horn oft[e] blowe, And hunte after his owen shame.

32

56

VII. Man, know Thyself, & Learn how to Die.

3e, pouz pou be of feble fame, Bere good visage, þy nouzt aspye, Make þerof but iape and game In fleschly lustis bodylye.

(9)

At masse, at matyns, rule 30w so : Leue dewe deuocioun 30w byhynde. Speke no good of frend ne foo, Lete non skorneles fro 30w wende; Loke no man be thy frende; Lete no man thryue, but do hem nye; Kepe hem pore, and to pe bende : pen wole pey drede pe bodylye. 64

Speak good of nobody, 68

> do harm to every man;

72 then all will dread you.

VII. Man, know thy self, and lerne to dye. [Digby 102, leaf 104, back.] [15 stanzas of 8, abad, bebc.]

(1)

Mannys soule is sotyl and queynt, Shal neuere ende þou; hé dede gynne. The flesch is fals[e], frele, and feynt, þe world alone wolde wynne; Is wormes mete, and sek of synne; He nys neuere filt of glotonye; His cloþyng is a dedly skynne. Man, knowe þy self, and lerne to dye!

(2)

Lerne to dye, and go to skole, Sip pou fro dep may not fle.
Lete not py werkys preue pe fool.
Whan dep wole assaile pe, Sende warnestor to py soule to be; py vices fro py vertues trige.
Be sette goure soule in kynges gre, pat lernep wisely for to dige. Man's soul is noble and immortal;

his body, mean and mortal.

8

Learn to die wisely,

nor let your works prove 12 you a fool.

(3)

All men must die :

[1 leaf 105] neither meed nor wise counsel nor flattery can buy your life. I Eche man in certayn is to dye, At domesday stonde in drede. pere al pe worldis tresorye May not bye 1 thy lyf for mede. No wys counseil pat dede pe lede, Ne glosere wib his flaterve ; Non may helpe oper at nede: ffor thy, man, wyselv lerne to dye. 24

(4)

[nota] Don't hoard up treasures, for they are useless after death

Practise virtue.

¶ What may thy richesse be auayle Whan bou art to debe dryue ? Thy wynd is layd, bou mayst not sayle, bous bou lete out bonet and rvue. 28 Loke to vertues bou be ayue Er tombe be held to be lize; ffor he pat gostly wel dop lyue, He lerneb wyselv for to dize. 32

(5)

¶ Two skilles y wole telle Why eche man shuld repreue operes synne : And he wyst hym self shuld go to helle, Counseyle no mo to come per-ynne : pe mo brondes, pe hattere brynne, Incresvng of his maladye ; Here nys no charite, gut shal he wynne To lasse his pyne after he dye.

(6)

¶ And 3if he wiste to heuene to go, His soule be saued in sikirnes. He shulde counseile all folk do so. Saue here soules, and do not mys; 44 Nou;t for here profyt, but al for his, His owen ioye for to hyze; be mo soules, be more blis. penk here-on, and lerne to dyze. 48

Detain others from sin; for if wicked people go with you to hell, they increase the heat;

if holy men go with you to heaven, they increase your joy.

(7)

Thy wikked werkis in þy 30wthe, Seke hem wel tyll pou hem fynde, And al þy tyme rist til nowþe; Loke þat fardel pou vnbynde, And shewe it wel wip shrift wynde; No fende spot vppon the spy3e; And haue repentaunce in mynde. On þis manere lerne to dy3e.

(8)

While man dop synne in werkis wylde, Al pat tyme he nys but ded;
He nys not counted as fool ne childe, But as a man can good and qued.
ffor his soule he telyep no bred;
Here landis of vertue laye don lyze.
Do comaundementis pat god bed, pan lernest pou wysely to dyze.

(9)

Pore, nedy, and gredy, pat not ne haue, In goddis name 3eue pat asken ou3t.
Pore, nedy, and not gredy, pat no3t ne craue, 3eue hem pou3 pey ne aske nou3t.
And nedeles gredy pyn almes sou3t, 3eue hem no pyng pou3 pey crye:
pere nys no nede, sifte hap no mede. Suche almesdede mon neuere dye.

(10)

What argument may beter preue Why men ben bent to don o mys? Not but defaute of byleue. I trowe þey wene no god þer nys, Ne helle pyne ne heuene blys, Paradis ne purgatorie, Or elles, a-noþer heresy þere is, As a best wiþoute soule to die. 52 Confess

and repent al your sins.

> As long as a man is in sin, his soul is dead.

60

64

Give alms to the poor though they don't crave;

68

but bestow nothing on undeserving people.

72

Disbeliet is the cause of sin.

80

84

88

(11)

¶ Man, of his owen, nou;ten haue ; Al is goddis, and he it lent. perof god wole rekenyng craue, How bou it wan, held, and spent; by leste bougt, and what it ment; Troube, ¹ and lesyng bou dede lize; And get by soule is goddis rent : So guyte pat wel, lerne to dize.

(12)

¶ Whanne pou dest pyn almesdede, Crie god mercie it is so lite. To counte by richesse bou myst haue drede, son with your In partye of payment so litel quyte. 92 bous bou do mys, god nyl not flyte Ne prete pe ones ne twyge ; Body and soule he can smyte. 96 Man, drede god, so lerne to dyze.

(13)

¶ Man, synne not in ouerhope,	
pou wynnest not goddis mercy wip fi3t ;	
Hit wolde brynge þe in-to wanhope,	
To wene no mercy pou haue ne my3t.	100
Goddis mercy is medled wip his ry3t,	
And fro ry3t, god nyl not ply3e ;	•
After pe dede, pe doom is dy3t.	
Man, knowe þis wile er þou dy3e.	104

(14)

¶ Eche dedly synne is a dedly knyf.	
Why loue men panne so ofte to synne?	
Eche vertue is a plastre of lyf.	
He hab fre wille ; lese, or wynne.	108
To salue 30ure sores now begynne ;	
pe holigost zoure grace gyze.	
Sip body and soule mon parte o twynne,	
To saue by soule, lerne to dyze.	112

Man has nothing of his own ;

God will call him to account for everything.

[1 leaf 105 b]

Cry mercy that your almsdeeds

are so little

in compari-

sins.

Don't hope

too much nor too little ;

God is just and merciful.

Deadly sins are mortal knives : virtues are plasters to heal the wounds.

VIII. A Day's Delay: against the Clergy.

(15)

Truste not al to opere men, In almes dede ne preyere; ffor state of soule can no man kenne, ffor pey ben alle in goddis daungere, In helle pyne, or blisse clere.

Repentaunce mot mercy by3e. While by dede is in by powere, Be byn awen frend er bou dy3e. Don't rely on other people,

116 all are in the hand of God:

work while you may.

VIII. A good makynge of iour delaye.

[Against the Clergy. A.D. 1408-9] [Digby 102, leaf 105, back.] [13 stanzas of 8, abab, bebc.]

(1)
M an, haue hit in py pougt
Of what matere pou maked is.
God made the of nougt;
Al pat pou hast, pou wost, is his.
Wheper hast pouserued pyne or blisse,
Seche py werkis, and assaye;
py getyng, py holdyng, py spendyng mysse,
ftro blisse wolde make Iour delare.

(2)

To py bed whan pou shalt go, penk what pou hast don sen morn; Wheper serued blisse or wo, Or goddis name in ydel sworn, Or ellys fals[e] witnesse born, Letted pore men of here pray, In py defaut here goodis lorn: pou shalt answere here iour delay.

(3)

¶ Who takep cure, he berep charge By goddis lawe, pe folk to preche pey make conscience large, Take type, and nyl not teche. 4 Consider

whether you deserve heaven, or hell.

8

Think every day what sins you have committed.

12

16

20

nota

Curates should not only take their tithes, but also teach their parishioners. 32 VIII. A Day's Delay: against the Clergy. A.D. 1408-9.

[nota]

Crist his postles tau3t in speche ffro worldis worschip to wende a-way, Gostly and bodyly be soules to leche, And bad hem make no iour delay.

24

52

(4)

Don't strive for riches and worldly honours; work for the people's happiness; don't hire others to do your office. Worldis good nes not holichirche; Richesse and worschep y 30w forbede.
pe folkis cherche, in hem 3e worche; Here noo oper to don py dede. 28
pat dop pe dede, is worpy mede.
pou mayst not serue two lordis to pay;
pat on he seruep in loue and drede,
pat opere he seruep wip iour delay. 32

(5)

-	¶ Who ressayueb benefys for richesse and ese To haue his lyuyng in sykernes	
	Rapere pan serue god to plese,	
	He ressayuep hit o mys.	36
	ffor rigt ¹ as Iudas dede kys	
	Ihesus, and after, hym betray,	
	So þey gyle þe soules fro blisse,	
	Of goddis seruyce make iour delay.	40

(6)

¶ Many seyn, "god is so wys,	
Endeles ful of all mercy;	
God nyl not, þou3 y be nys,	
Lese me purgh myn owen foly;	44
So dere god mankynde dede bye ;	
What greueb god, bous y go gay?"	
pat synnen in ouerhope, in helle mon lyze;	
pere-of mon be non iour delay.	48

(7)

Many wole say, pat leue vneuene,
 "And it were sob pat clerkis telle,
 ffewe folkes shulde come in heuene,
 So fele as shulde renne hedlyng to helle,

Those who receive benefices only for revenues' sake, displease God,

[1 leaf 106]

and betray the souls of their parishioners.

Whoever sins in excess of hope, shall be damned.

Some men say, 'If all sinners were punished, ncarly all mankind would go to hell.' Hit were hard pere to dwelle, Wip helle houndis stonde to bay." Synne mon be punsched, as saip pe gospelle; perof mon be no iour delay.

(8)

That ouere puple haue astate, Colege or eny oper degre, Mayntene no debate ffor synguler profyt of temperalte. 30ure rule is groundid in charyte, As ligt of lanterne to lede be way. To gouerne be puple in vnyte, God bad hem make no jour delay.

(9)

Beter is litel ry3twys wonne, pere-of among þe pore to dele,
pan ouer moche geten wiþ synne,
Wiþouten desert take pore mennys wele,
And helpe not þe soule to hele,
But crye in pyne wey-laway.
þe soules þe curatours wole apele
To answere of here iour delay.

(10)

Why ressayue 3e worschipe bat 3e haue? ffor 3oure vertues, or for 3oure vys ? And 3e ful worschip sane, In word and werk 3e mot be wys. bis worldly wysdom is gostly nys, Whan werk acordep not wip wordis 3e say. Heuene blys, and bis worldis delys, bat on wil make iour delay.

(11)

 Thow may not knowe a cristen man pous pou here hym say his crede.
 pe ten comaundementis tan,
 And speke, and do not pe dede,
 POEMS (OXF.). Those who rule over the people, should not strive for their own profit,

but to promote the public weal.

64

60

It is better to get little with right, than much with wrong.

68

Folk's souls will accuse bad curates.

> Are you respected for virtues or forvices ?

76

80

D

Your wicked works will prove you tobe fools.

Whoever says his creed and the 10 commandments,

84 but does not observe them,

is a heretic.

Ne serue god in loue and drede, Is heretyk out of fay. After 30ure werkis, ressayue þy mede ; þerof mon be no iour delay.

(12)

l)on't suffer your soul to be a thrall of riches;

God bought it to make it free.

Thouz worldis richesse on be falle,	
And wolde gon bytwen god and pe,	
Suffre not þy soule be þralle;	
penk, god boujt it to make pe fre.	92
bou3 by mayster a tyraunt be,	
ffro goddis lawe wolde say nay,	
Do as [thapostle] Poule bad pe :	
Abyde, and suffre wip iour delay.	96

(13)

¶ Man, þou wost wel þou shalt dyge; What deþ, ne where, þou nost whenne.
And synnes wolde þy soule nyge,
Ay more and more rerage we renne,
And sodeyn deþ nyl no man kenne.
I rede we drede domesday;
Be euene wiþ world er 3e gon henne,
ffor þere schal be no iour delay.

You don't know when and where you will die;

therefore, you should always be prepared for death.

> IX. With god of loue & pes, 3e trete. [Easter, 1410.]

> > [Digby 102, leaf 106, back.]

[24 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

(1)

This holy tyme make 30w clene, Burnysche bry3t 30ure soules blake. ffro 30w to god, let þe prest be mene. To do penaunce, *and* synnes forsake, Wiþ almes dede amendes make, And repentaunce may grace gete. In goode werkis wysely wake, And wiþ god of pes, y rede 3e trete.

Clean your souls by shrift,

repentance, and almsdeeds.

34

4

(2)

Wiþ soulis brijt in god 3e glade As shynyng angels out of synne,
In worschip of hym þat 30w made,
To knowe 30ure seluen now bygynne.
To stryue wiþ god we may not wynne;
Boþe body and soule he can bete.
Ihesus is broher of oure kynne;
ffor-þy wiþ god of [pes] 3e trete.

(3)

¶ Ofte han we treted wij god o trewe, And sayde no more synne we wolde; And euery 3eere we breke it newe, Thre dayes no trewes wij hym nele holde; Synne to bay many a folde On soules helle houndes slete. Er 3e come pere, 3onge and olde, Wij god of pes y rede 2e trete.

(4)

Trete while 3e haue 30ure hele, ffor sodeyn dep stomblen as blynde. pe grettere lordschipe of worldis wele, pe more in praldom hit dop hem bynde. Man, penke py lyf is but a wynde; When pat is blowen, pou art for3ete; Holde couenaunt to god, and be kynde. ffor-by, wip god of pes 3e trete.

(5)

ge mot hit shewe, wij herte sorwe, To a prest, and weel 30w shryne;
No3t turne a3en perto to-morwe, But penke be good al thy lyue.
Wip goddis sonde looke 3e not stryue, Ne derne mornyng counterfete.
Rekne wysely all py wittes fyue, Wip god of pes when 3e do trete. You will not win if you strive with God.

16

12

You always break your promise to sin no more.

20

Amend while you have 24 time.

28 The greater the lordship, the greater the slavery in sin,

32

Confess your sins, repeut, and give them up for ever.

36

35

(6)

	¶ The synnes pat wolde py soule apayre,	
	To a prest shewe be cas.	
Don't palliate your sins from false shame.	Loke þat þou not paynte hit fayre,	
	But shewe it forp rigt ful as it was.	44
	pat shame is mede for by trespas;	
	ffor synne pat wolde by soule prete,	
	Aske mercy, and seche gras,	
	Wip god of pes when 3e trete.	48

(7)

Whoever clips money or uses false welghts and measures.	¶ That clippen money, bey have be curs ffoure tymes in be zere;	
scorns God.	Here waztes, þat þey waye þe wors, 3erde or elne, fer or nere;	52
	Wheper pey selle good chep or dere :	
	But pey pe full mesure mete,	
	Hit semeb in skornyng bat it were,	
	Wip god of pes whan 3e trete.	56

(8)

Carriers-out of the laws, do poor	¶ Auyse 30w þat leden lawe, ffor drede of lordschipe or for mede	
people jus- tice !	Holde no pore men in awe	
	To storble here ry3t or lette here nede.	60
	Hit bryngeb be soule in gret drede,	
	Agens goddis lawe to plete.	
	pe rolles arist y red 3e rede,	
[leaf 107]	Wip god of pes when 3e trete.	64

Those who receive or pay fees and taxes, should not pervert the laws. (9)

¶ That haldeþ questes or assise,	
pat takep or zeuep fee or hire,	
Lette not lawe fro ri3t gyse,	
Ne mayntene wrong is as master and sire.	68
pey may be ferd for helle fire,	
To ete here ney3ebores at here mete.	
pat lyf shal not euere more dure;	
ffor-by, wib god of pes 3e trete.	72

(10)

\$\$ 2e pat comep to goddis bord, Resceyuep hym in clene lyf;
Holde non old synnes in hord, ffor panne begynnep a newe stryf;
ffor he to god hap drawen his knyf, pat penkep in skorne pere wolde hym ete.
Here be war, man and wyf, Horde no synne when at trete !

(11)

¶ Man, 3if pou haue tan a fal, Ryse vp, and no more slyde;

O prest, þy shrifte schewe it al, But hyde no synne in hord by syde. In venyale synne longe to byde, Makeþ dedly synnes to growe grete. Wiþ 30ure werkis 3e mot ehyde, Wiþ god of pes when 3e trete.

(12)

Seuene sypes on pe day, Men seyn, the rigtwis man dop falle. panne he pat fallep in synnes alway, How shulde he rekene po synnes alle? But he wrot hem, grette and smalle, Summe at shrifte he schulde forgete, He shulde pe prest pe oftere calle, Wip god of pes when at prete.

(13)

I floure acountes pou shalt 3elde: God made pe lyk to his ymage; How pou it wan, how pou it helde, How pou it spendid in wast outrage. florfete not heuene, pyn heritage; Among seyntes py soule sete. Rekene ere pou renne in rerage, And wip god of pes 3e trete. 76 confess all your sins before the communion; otherwise you commit a sacrilege.

84 sins :

- 88

80

92

don't forget any.

96

nota

100

Don't forfeit your heritage in heaven.

104

(14)

God sends mischief to a kingdom where his law	¶ Holy writ biddep god sende vengeaunce To kyngdom pat nele not holde his lawe,	
is not kept.	Wrappe and stryf and alle greuaunce	
	Among prynces and pore men prawe,	108
	pat nele not leue goddis sawe	
	Ne counte his gynnyng at o clete.	
	To werkis of wysdom, by tyme 3e drawe,	
	And wip god of pes 3e trete.	112

(15)

¶ Who so leved pat god were trewe,	
þan wolde þey do þat god hem bede.	
pat mende no mysse, but synne ay newe,	
Hem lakkep all pe poyntes of pe crede.	116
Serue god for helle drede	
Lest by soule falle in chete;	
And loue god for heuene mede;	
Wip loue and drede wip god 3e trete.	120

(16)

ı	¶ þou3 þou take ordre or religeoun,	
	Wip-oute charite pou seruest no mede.	[leaf 107, back]
	3eue drynke to pursty, pat han and mown,	
	Clope be naked, and hungry fede,	124
	Vysite pe pore and syk pat nede,	
	And giltles presoneres, loos 3e lete,	
	And burye þe dede, is charite dede ;	
	Wip pes werkis, wip god 3e trete.	128

(17)

¶ pere pou hast borwed, quyte py dette,	
And to by seruaunt pat reson is.	
Loke what degre god hap be sette ;	
Quyte hym by dette, by soule is his,	132
And resceyue by dette, heuene blis;	
pere thar be noper swynke ne swete;	
And ordeyne be wele, and amende by mys.	
bus wip god of pes 3e trete.	136

Those who don't make amends for their sins are wanting in faith.

Though you take orders, you get no reward with out charity.

Pay what you owe to your neigh-bour and to God, and receive heaven as your due.

(18)

¶ Caste be not to couetys, 3e bat ryatwys werryours be, But loke where rist querel lys; Chastise be rebell in charite. pere god is frend, his foomen fle; 3e thar not counte hem at o pete. God dob batavle, and not ze; fforthy, with god of pes 3e trete.

(19)

¶ And 3e in batayle haue maystrie,		
And fortune serue, and god 30w spede,		
Thank god þe victorie,		Thank God
And holde it not 30ure owen dede.	148	for victory, don't think it your own
Serue god in loue and drede,		work.
And be not proud of 30ure by3ete.		
After 30ure werkis, wayte aftur 30ure mede,		
And so wip god of pes 3e trete.	152	

(20)

¶ 3if a clerk haue burgh hap Cure of soules or bischopriche, He hat not bischop, he hat a byshap; Make opere after his werkis like. To kepe his shep fro helle tike. In folde go, amonge hem blete; Saf and sounde brynge hem y-lyk, Bytwen god and hem to trete.

(21)

¶ Benefice of holychirche first was graunted, For prestis, holy lyf to lede; Dryue out synne, suffre non be haunted ; Here non oper to do his dede. be werkman is worby his mede In felde, in toun, and in strete. Teche vnwys, helpe hem bat nede, Byfore god for hem to trete.

Warriors should not be covetons.

but chastise 140 rebels in charity. God helps his friends.

144

Bishops, like good shepherds,

should keep 156 their flocks from hell's tikes.

160

Priests ought to be models to the people ;

164 they shouldn't hire others to do their work.

168

	(22)	
ey promise do their	¶ In wordis þey sayn þey wil do wel,	
ty,	Take cure of soules as worthi clerkis,	
d wash sin-	And resceyue pe charge euery del	
souls'	To wasche synful soules serkis.	172
t they are oved fools	pey preue hemself fooles in werkis;	
their rks.	Wip holy water nele no parischen wete.	
	Caste away Antecrist merkis,	
	Gop wip god of pes to trete.	176
	(23)	
	¶ Now sumwhat y haue 30w sayd	
	What is salue to 30ure sore. [MS. store]	
	To sauzten wip god, holde zow payed,	
epare to elve God	And arraye 30w wel perfore	180
the sacra-	To resceyue god, 30ure soules store,	
	His body in forme of bred o whete,	
	And kepe hym : so 3e nede no more	
	Eft of pes wip hym to trete.	184
	(24)	
pent, and penance	¶ Whan pou hast told al py greuaunce,	
your sins.	þan do as þe prest þe tauzte;	
	Holde wel by penaunce;	
leaf 108]	Repentaunce, ¹ forzete pat nouzt.	188
	Whan 3e wip loue god han lau3t,	
	Neuere fro 30w hym 3e lete.	
	God brynge 30w to his angels sau3t,	
	pere neuere nys nede o pes to trete.	192

X. A good steryng to henenward.

[Digby 102, leaf 108.]

[15 stanzas of 14, abab, abab, cc, ddd, c.]

4

(1)

any man is lop to here Repref of vices and werkis ylle; For pride hem penkep goddis pere, pat welde pis worldis wele at wylle; At a sarmon wil bid a frere Make it short, or ellys be stylle.

Many people don't like to hear vices reproved,

and will tell a friar to cut his sermon short, or be still.

an ful sh

Tł to

bu pro by we

Pr rec me

Re do for [1 Hym þæt is loþ, good to lere,
He shal, wheþer he wole or nylle.
We fareþ as knaue þæt takeþ his hyre byfore,
Serue his mayster wel þe worse þerfore.
Richesse and hele makeþ men vnkynde,
þæt goddis seruyce is out of mynde ;
For graceles and gostly blynde
þe flesch distroyeþ soules store.

(2)

God seip, "Man, y made þe of nou;t, And put the into paradys,
Of erþely þynges þat y wrou;t, To neme þat neded to þyn eys.
I lent þe fre wil and þou;t, Warnyng of foly to be wys;
At þe tre of wysdom, foly þou sou;t, And jaf for an appyl þe most of prys. þe same mouþ þat þe appyl gnewe, In þat mouþ þe holy croys grewe, Wheron y dyed for 30ure gylt; þurgh þe herte and þurgh þe mylt I hadde þe poynt, and 3e þe hylt; 30ure heritage y bou;t 30w newe.

(3)

¶ 3e poujte 3e had not ynow Euere lastyng lyf and euere more rest;
3e braken my byddyng, 3e benden a bow, 3e boten an appyl pat pirled my brest.
Wip water, for synne pe world y slow, Saue seuene, and noe pat was my gest.
My loue to man it was so tow,
Hit lasted forp and nolde not brest.
For mannys loue I come fro blisse to pyne. Man was so pore, he had not to fyne. 3oure gyltes greued god so sare, 3oure gyltes on my bak y bare, pat god my fader nolde me not spare Tyl he had acuen my lyf for pyne. 8

Wealth makes men 12 forget religion.

God says to man, "I placed thee in Paradise,

which thou

lost by sin.

28

20

24

32

I drownd all men save 7 and Noah.

36

Since thou couldst pay no fine.

40 I redeemed thee with my own life.

(4)

	¶ My puple, where greued y 30w or pyne?	
	But ladde 30w purgh be see so rede	44
	With Aaron and moyses, myn owen hyne,	
đ	And alle 30ure enemys y drowned to dede,	
	For 3e shuld kepe lawe myne.	
	In wildernes y made 30ure stede,	48
	To 30w y planted myn owen vyne,	
	And fourty 3eer fed 30w wip angels brede.	
	Wip loue I dede 30w my lawe to teche,	
	Bycom a man to be 30ure soule leche.	52
	Wip a spere 3e shed myn herte blood.	
	be pore 3e harme, and do no good.	
	3eue I chastyse, 3e calle me wood ;	
	And but 3e mende, y wol take wreche.	56

(5)

¶ Man, hast þou ou3t in mynde,	
be pyne y suffred wib be iewes felle ?	
3oure soules of derkenes to vnbynde,	
¹ I suffred de p , and heryed helle.	60
Answere me, man ! was y kynde ?	
Mi3t y do more, canst pou me telle?	
A beter frend, and pou can fynde,	
Leue me, and go wip hym dwelle.	64
I do pe wele, why dost me woo?	
I am þy frend, þou art my foo.	
pere y zeue pes, pou makest debate.	
pere y loue, pou dost hate,	68
And stekest me wipoute pe zate.	
My worldys goodis pou holdest me fro.	
	 be pyne y suffred wiþ þe iewes felle ? 30ure soules of derkenes to vnbynde, ¹I suffred deþ, and heryed helle. Answere me, man ! was y kynde ? Migt y do more, canst þou me telle ? A beter frend, and þou can fynde, Leue me, ánd go wiþ hym dwelle. I do þe wele, why dost me woo ? I am þy frend, þou art my foo. þere y 3eue pes, þou makest debate. þere y loue, þou dost hate, And stekest me wiþoute þe 3ate.

(6)

¶ Man, bou dost as a thef	
pat hat holycherche gre,	72
Whan men wold take hem wip repref,	
pat to chirche he wole fle.	
So dop man pat is in gref	
Or in syknes; pan callep he me.	76

I led thee through the Red Sea,

and destroyed thy enemice,

and fed thee with angels' bread.

[¹ lf. 108. bk.] I suffered death for thee.

I am thy friend, thou art my foe.

Thou callst me at need, like a thief who takes his refuge in a church.

X. A good Stirring Heavenwards.

And zut, man, bou art me so lef, Wib mercy and rube y bowe to be. 3if y byd be my lawe to fulfille, bou hauntest by synne, and wonest beryn stille. 80 and sinnest bou hatest all pat loue my name. bou wost bou servest so gret blame : How darst bou byd me, for shame, To bowe to be or worche by wille?

(7)

¶ Man, bou to my lawe art knyt; Why hollddest bou werre agaynes me, My worldis goodis in hord to pyt Fro pore pat by breperen be? Art bou not warned by holy writ? I made, and bouzte hem as dere as be. Hit is wanhope gob byfore goure wit. pat ze hyde, ful bryzt y se. ffor be pyne y dede for 30w dry3e, 3eue byn herte, wib teres of byn eyze. Repente sore for by trespas ! So lystly myst bou come to gras, To heuene, to bat worby plas, To byze to be, on rode gan dyze.

(8)

¶ Man, how darst bou my lawe preche. And telle be articles of be fay ? My wit word, wip by moup teche, And in by werkis bou seyst hit nay ? Wip theues and wip spouse breche bou delest and rennest nyat and day. In pyne bou sechest byn owen wreche. Thow temptest me to be wrappeful ay. I mad be wys and fayre, angels pere, bou makest be fool, and foul fendis fere. by lystnes bou spendest in harlotrye; by strengpe, in wrappe and tyrauntrye; by fayrenesse, in pryde and lecherye. bou settest at noust, y boust so dere.

Though I have mercy on thee,

thon forsakest me. again.

84

Thou heapest up riches. 88 and oppressest the poor, whom I bought as dearly as you.

96

How darest thou say thy 100 creed, since thy works belie thee.

in theft and adultery ? 104

I made thee like an angel, 108 thou makest thyself like a devil, and

settest at 112 nought what I bought so dear.

(9)

t	¶ To greue me, men þenke it game	
ne,	To breke pe lawe pat y pe bed;	
n-	In despyt, forswere name,	
	By woundis y had in handis and hed.	116
	I do pe worschipe, pou dost me shame ;	
	I 3af þe lyf, þou 3af me ded,	
	Mirre and galle to drynke wip grame.	
	I seue be my body in fourme of bred.	120
	3e fare wip me, as gest his yn dop borwe,	
	Resceyue to-day, and put me out to ¹ morwe.	
	Agayn to synne whan 3e go,	
•	Shamely 3e put me 30w fro.	124
	And 3e desyre I be 30ure foo,	
	3e gete but wreche and dowble sorwe.	

(10)

ise	¶ And 3e defoule my holy place,	
nich	pat turnep pe chirche out of his gyse.	128
	Holy chirche is spirytual grace ;	
	þe duwe dette, deuyne seruyse.	
am	pey calle me as he pat no god was.	
	pat cure of soules don despise,	132
	ffro hem y wole turne my face,	
	And calle hem as fooles out-casten fro wyse.	
o for	pat sellen soules for temp <i>er</i> al getyng,	
	pey maken skourges to here owe betyng;	136
ke or s.	Here good dayes ben wastyng,	
	And pey, to helle hastyng	
	To be wip fendis chastyng,	
	fulfille on hem my thretyng.	140

(11)

¶ My swerd is fyre þat brynneþ bry3t,	¥	
Shal shede þe rigt fro þe wrong.		
I brenne sheldis and swerdis in fy3t;		
As whirlewynd y skatre þe fals þrong.		144
No kyng shal be saued by his my3t,		
Ne be geaunt, be he neuere so strong.		

Thou takest delight in offending me, and in recompensing evil for good.

[1 leaf 109]

Some despise the divine service which I ordered,

and say I am not God.

Those who sell souls for worldly riches, make scourges for themselves.

My sword shall sever right from wrong.

X. A good Stirring Heavenwards.

pat y am god, 3e shal knowe ry3t;	
Nes non bot I, endeles long.	14
3e may not serue two lordis to plese,	
ffede fatte shep in greceles lese.	
pat plesen me, 3e holde hem nys;	
pat gylep pe world, 3e holde hem wys.	15
3e may not wynne, wiþ 30ure delys,	
Here and in heuene bobe, soure ese.	

(12)

¶ In this world, to folk ful fele	
Goddis wordis þis my3t be:	156 Thomas I
Man, pou serued me not in pi wele;	in th
Why shulde y knowe pi pouerte?	shou
bou loued me not in pi hele;	distr
In syknes why shulde y rewe be?	160
Fro my comaundement pou dede stele :	
Of hem pou serued, fong py fee !	
3et, o god, pe fader of blysse,	
be holy gost saluep soule syknesse.	164
pouz we agylte pe godhed,	
Mercy moueb be manhed,	
ffor loue of his brepered,	
3eue mercy to mekenesse !	168

(13)

¶ 3if man ligge long in synne, And wilfully fleep fro grace, To sharpe my wreche y wole bygynne, Take vengeaunce for his trespas. His enemys, I wole leten hem ynne. As bestes in forestes, 20w to chas. For drede 3e shal nowhere wynne, But fynde my wrappe byfore here face. I saued moyses in be rede see. Ionas in whales wombe daves bre : pre children in pe fyre so rede. Dauyd slow golyas to dede. Do 3e pe lawe pat y hem bede, And 3e shal haue be same degre.

Thou shalt

know that I 8 am God.

Thou scornest my friends, and thinkest 2 those wise who deceive the world.

> n didst love me hy happiald I help in thy ress P

The longer man lives in sin.

	the more	
	vengeance	I
172	shall take	
	on him.	

176

If thou keep my law, I shall save thee, as I 180 saved, Moses, Jonah, the \$ Children, and David.

46 X. A Stirring Heavenwards. XI. God & Man at One.

(14)

[if. 109, bk.]	¶ Man, I can do pe erpe to shake,	
I can destroy	Wip flood and drowtes distroye youre wele.	184
everything.	I chastise erbe; 3e sample take:	
	I may sle, zeue lyf and hele,	
	ffyre and thonder fro heuene make;	
	Nes non fro my strokes may stele.	188
On doomsday	At domesday do 30w alle quake	
all men shall be judged	Whan 30ure owen werkis wole 30w apele;	
according to their works.	panne knaue, beggere, pore bropelyng,	
	May apere wip pape and wip kyng.	192
	pere shal non reuerence haue,	
	Ne mercy, pouz pey wolde craue.	
	Here dedis shal hem deme, or saue.	
	pan alle to me shal zelde rekenyng.	196
	(15)	
All worldly	¶ Man, þe worldis good is myn;	
treasures are mine ;	How pou it spende, tak good hede.	
	Hit is myn, and not byn,	
	No more pan pou hast of nede;	200
thou shouldst	Not to fostre be as a swyn,	
not revel	by foule flesche in fylpe to fede,	
while the	And leue be pore in hunger and pyn,	
poor die of hunger,	And fynde hem noper foode ne wede.	204
	And pore folk on by defaute dyze,	
	Wip diues in pyne pou shalt lyze;	
but let them	ffor pou shuld zeue, god dede pe sende.	
partake of what I sent	Tak kep how bou it spende;	208
thee."	ffor pat leuep pe byhende,	
	pow mon rekene, or be abyze.	
	XI. God & man ben made atte on.	[Easter,
	[Diqby 102, leaf 109, back.]	1412]
	(15 stanzas of 8, <i>abab</i> , <i>bcbc</i> .)	
	(1)	
Durley Code		
Praise God ! he has	Glade in god, þis solempne fest, Now Alleluya is vnloken.	
avenged us on our		
enemies,	penkep how god, lest and mest,	4
	On oure enemys hab vs wroken,	4

pat hadde vs in cheynes stoken,
Wrappid in synnes many on.
pe fendis are flowen, je cheynes are broken,
And god and man are wel at on.

(2)

first whan god wip man was wrop, pat Adam forfeted for his vys,
Man to angels was so lop, pey dreuen hym out of paradys. To amende here foly, god so wys, Wip fals iewes let hym slon; Here raunsom was his blod o prys; So was god and man at on.

(3)

And 3it a ferly more byfelle, pat god dede purgh his grete my3t:
pe soules he loued, he fet fro helle To paradys among his angels bry3t. Hem pou3te pat was a wonder sy3t, Among here frendes, brynge here foon. Al on wrong, god made ri3t: So made god angels and man at on.

(4)

The pridde saw;tenyng mowe 3e proue. When posteles stryuen for hize degre, God spak to hem a word of loue, And seyde, "pes wip 30w be! Elles 3e may not folwe me, But 3e will in my gates gon." So god bond man in charite, Byddis man and man be wel at on.

(5)

 The ferbe sawytenyng, god vs taugte, pat best may kepe eche in state.
 Let body and soule to-gydre be saugte, Kepe god ¹wip-yn goure ynnere gate. 8 and God and man are at one.

> When Adam had sinned,

12

God ransomed him with bis blood, and so were God and man at one.

20 When Christ took the holy souls from Heil to Heaven,

24 angels and man were at one.

Jesus tanght his apostles to be humble and practise charity,

32 and so were man and man at one.

[1 leaf 110]

Let body and soul be at one.

For who so loueb bere god dob hate, Is berself to his owen flon. We ben vnkynde, wib god debate, ffor euere he profrep to ben at on.

(6)

The fyfte saw3tnyng, synne refuse.	
Let eche man haue pat shulde ben his.	
On mannys syde, repentaunce dop rise,	
And on goddis syde, mercy is;	44
bay tretep of pynes and of blis.	
Repentaunce makeþ wepyng mon.	
When repentaunce and mercy kys,	
pan is god and man at on.	48

(7)

¶ Thow made not by self; god dede be make,	
Put soule of resoun in flesche so frele.	
God can leue, god can take,	
Richesse, strengp, fayrnesse, and hele.	52
He is victorye in batayles fele,	
Can sle soule, blod, and bon.	
Nes non fro his strokes may stele.	
Glade in god, 3e ben at on.	56

(8)

¶ God 3af erþe to mankynde,	
And heuene to hem pat wole be wys,	
pat holden his lawe, haue hym in mynde;	
And helle to hem pat wole be nys.	60
In oure fre wille, þe choys it lys,	
Heuene, or helle, to have that on.	
In heuene, and 3e wole haue delys,	
Let body and soule be wel at on.	64

(9)

¶ God may say, fern zere, folk were fayn To resceyue me ymydde here brest; On morwe bey put me out agayn ; In my palays bey made be fendis nest. 68

If you repent (your sins, God will have mercy on you,

God can destroy everything ;

nobody can escape his blows.

God promised Heaven to the wise, and

Hell to fools.

God may say, "Men expelled me from my palace, and gave it to my enemies."

To lityl whyle y was here gest. My loue y loste, y make my mon. Let god now lengere wip 30w rest, Now god and man is wel at on.

(10)

Folk þat were fendis fere, Sulpid in synne derk as ny3t, Now are þey fayre angels pere, As shynyng sune in goddis sy3t.
3e haue resceyued 30ure god of my3t, Ayþer in oþer, 30ure wille is on.
30ure hertys were heuy, þey may be li3t; Glade in god, 3e ben at on.

(11)

¶ Man, and 3e holde my lawe, AH pyn enemys shal be drede; And bou stonde of me non awe, byn enemys outeray be in dede. For pere as I my frendis lede, bey shul not sporne at stok ne ston. In aH here werkis bey shal wel spede, 3if god and man be wel at on.

(12)

¶ Myn enemys, y shal reue here sy3t, 3eue syknes and drede, ponert and wo; My frendis, y 3eue sy3t and my3t, Richesse, strengpe ouer here foo; Hem thar not drede, where bey go, Here wele and worschip, in euery won. Sip 3e be syker, kepe 30w so. Now god and 3e are ¹ wel at on.

(13)

Man, y aske no byng of byn.
For loue, my loued in helle y souzt.
Beue me by loue, by soule is myn;
Or zeue it hym bat it² derrere bouzt.
POEMS (OXF.).

You were as black as devils, God has made you as fairas angels,

76

80

Man, if thou keepest my law, I shail destroy thy enemies.

84

88

I shall ruin my foes, and reward my friends.

92

96 [1 If. 110, bk.]

Give me thy love,

100 [² MS. haþ it]; E

50 XI. God & Man at One. XII. God keep our King & Crown!

Suffre pyne for þe, me nedid nou3t, In hed, in hand, in foot, ne ton. 30ure gyltis y bare in herte and þou3t, I made my fadir and 30w at on.

(14)

¶ Sum of my kyndenes, 3e my3te me quyte. Do pre wordis of my comandement : My name, my pyle take not in despite ; Rule wel þy selue in good atent.
108 Thow nost how sone be after sent, To 3elde rekenyng of goddis lon.
The rolles of rerage þe fendis han brent, for god and man is wel at on.

(15)

¶ And pou me loued, pou wolde me leue, And do my lawe, and holde it trewe.
How my3test pou me more repreue
pan leue my lawe, and tak[e] newe ? 116
py vyces wole make py soule to rewe : In derkenes neuere sonne shon;
Vertues shyne bry3t of hewe. Holde goddis lawe, 3e ben at on. 120

XII. God saue the kyng, and kepe the croun.

[Easter, 1413.]

[Digby 102, leaf 110, back.]

[19 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

(1)

G lade in god, call hom goure herte, In ioye and blisse goure merpe encres, And kepe goddis lawe in querte; pes holy tyme, lete sorwe ases. Among oure self, god sende vs pes ! perto eche man be boun : To letten fooles of here res, Stonde wip pe kyng, mayntene pe croun.

Lord, send us peace ! Let everyhody counteract tools' designs, and stand up for the king.

Thou canst not affront me more than by leaving my law and taking a new one.

I died for

Don't dis-

grace my

Control thy-

thee

4

104

XII. God save the King, & keep the Crown ! Easter 1413. 51

(2)

(3)

¶ What signyfyeb be stones aboute ? Richesse, strenge, and gret bounte; Oure townes and castels, be reme wib-oute, bey are oure stones of gret pouste. In pes bey kepe all bis contre. Holynes, contemplacioun. God, let hem neuer skaterid be. And saue be kyng, and kepe be crowne !

(4)

I By-zonde be see, and we had nouzt. But all oure enemys so nevze vs were. bouz all here gold were hider brougt, I wolde set hit at lytel store. Oure enemys wolde coke berfore Wip ordynaunce and habergeoun, Wynne bat, and wel more : Oure landes, oure lyues, be reme, be crowne. 32

(5)

¶ 3if we among oure self debate. pan endep floure of chyualrie. Alle opere londis pat dop vs hate, Oure feblenes wole aspye; On euery syde bey 2 wole in hye. be stalworpe cast be feble adoun. 3if bey wib myst haue maystrye, ffro pe rist heire wolde take pe crowne. 1 at is added by another hand.

The stones and flowers set round a king's 12 crown signify that all classes should join in defending it.

16

The stones signify riches and strength,

our towns and castles 20 abroad.

24

All the treasures of our enemies could not outweigh our possessions beyond 28 the sea.

If we quarrel,

our enemies 36 us, will overcome

[* leaf 111]

and take the crown from 40 the lawful heir.

If the crown were broken, and the stones and flowers scattered, it would be difficult to unite them again.

Don't suffer the crown to be broken. No harm is done though evil words be spoken.

3 if sercle, and floures, and riche stones,	
Were eche a pece fro oper flet ;	
Were pe crowne broken ones,	
Hit were ful hard agen to knet.	44
Auyse 30w er 3e suffre þat fit ;	
Amende, 3e hat mende mown !	
3e pat ben wysest, cast 30ure wyt;	
Stonde wip be kyng to kepe be crowne.	48

(7)

¶ To kepe pe crowne, god graunte 30w grace,		
And let it neuere be to-broken;	•	
For word of wynd lityl trespase;		
Non harm nys don, pouz word be spoken.		52
Let wysdom be vnloken,		
Apert and preugly to rowne.		
For non euyl wille no man be wroken,		
But stonde wip rizt, mayntene pe crowne.		56

(8)

¶ A man my3te be forborn	
Fer fro a kynges place,	
Wolde make a kyng to be forsworn	
To lette pe lawe, it most not passe,	60
And make hym wene pat he grace,	
And holy in condicioun,	
And mayntene hym in his trespace,	
While he pykeb be stones out of be crowne.	64

¶ A kyngdom must be gouerned by ri3t,	
To chastyse false pat ar aspyed.	
Falsed and troupe to-gydre wole figt,	
Til oon pat oper hap distroyd;	68
Til troupe be fro treson tryed,	
Shal neuere be pes in regyoñ.	
In all kyngdomes þat man haþ gyed,	
To pe place of vertues, god geuep pe crowne.	72

(9)

Whoever persuades the king to impede the law,

picks stones from his crown.

A kingdom must be governed with justice.

God gives the crown to virtue.

XII. God save the King, & keep the Crown ! Easter 1413. 53

(10)

¶ Thou3 falsed troupe defame, verite	IS	Truth always
Troupe sechep non hernes to shewe his speche ;		Truth always fights against Falsehood,
Troupe, of his craft benkep no shame ;		
He is bold, alle folk his craft to teche;	76	
And euere by troupe stondes wreche,		
For wreche is goddis champioun.		and Revenge
Or wreche smyte, god be leche,		helps to ruin him.
And saue be kyng, and kepe be crowne.	80	

(11)

I Loke of pyng pat 3e bygynne, Caste before how it wole ende,
Gostly, bodyly, what mowe 3e wynne.
Eche man destroy3e his best frend :
So dede Flaundres; how dede it wende?
Of noblay pey han lore pe sown;
Pray we god his bowe of wrappe vnbende, And saue pe kyng, and kepe pe crowne.

(12)

God 3euep his doom to alle kynges pat be; As a god, in erþe a kyng haþ my3t.
Holy writ byd, blissed be he In alle tymes pat demeþ ry3t.
Men do in derk, god seeþ in ly3t. Synne, morþere, derne tresoun, Not may be hyd fro goddis sy3t. To ry3twys Iuge, god 3euep þe crowne.

(13)

That 1 lord louep lityl hym selue,
pat zeuep his blisse for sorwe and woo,
For pe loue of ten or twelue,
Make alle folk his foo,
And lese be loue of god also,
For fawte of perfeccyone.
pous he had no vauntage but of po,
He my3te were a symple crowne.

84 Lord, guard us from such treachery as has been committed in Flanders !

88

God gives the king the power of punishing all crimes.

92

96

A lord is not wise if he loses the love of all the people,

100 [11£ 111, bk.]

and of God, to please a few persons.

(14)

ery king s in the ce of God ;	¶ Eche a kyng haþ goddis power, Of lyf and leme to saue and spille.	
must not	He muste make god his partener,	
by his n will.	And do not his owen wille.	108
	For god resceyuep eche pore mannys bille,	
	And of here playnt, god hereb be sowne.	
	Sette 30ure in euene skille,	
	Counseile þe kyng to kepe þe crowne.	112

(15)

¶ The fadir, be wanton child wole kenne, Chastyse wip zerde, and bete hit sore. So after, þe fadyr þe 3erde wole brenne, When child is wys, and takeb to lore. 116 We han ben goddis zerde zore, Chastysed kyngdom, castell, and towne. Twyggis of oure zerde we have forlore. God saue be kyng, and kepe be crowne ! 120

(16)

	¶ Englische men dede maystry3es make;	
	burgh all be world, here word it sprong.	
	Cristen and hepen pey mad to quake,	
	Tok and slowen kynges strong.	124
	God let neuere werre be vs among,	
,	To lese pat blo of gret renowne,	
	Ne neuere oure rist be turned to wrong.	
	God saue be kyng, and kepe be crowne !	- 128

(17)

By civil wars we ruin ourselves.	 Among oure self, 3if fi3t be raysed, pan stroye we oure awen nest. 	
	pat hap victor, wole be eucl payed,	
	So many good men ben lest.	132
[1 MS. berst]	3it is beter bowe pan brest. ¹	
	Eche man is bounden to resoun.	
	3e þat ben wysest, take þe best;	
	Conseile þe kyng, mayntene þe crowne !	136

A father beats his wanton child :

Eve acts plac he act OWI

if it im-proves, he burns the rod. We have been God's rod, of which many a twig lost in chastising the kingdom.

The renown of the English has spread all over the world;

may we never lose lt XII. God save the King! XIII. Deed is working. A.D. 1414. 55

(18)

A comons my3t sone be shent, Wip-outen kyng or gouernour,
And a kyng wipoute rent My3t li3tly trussen his tresour, For comons mayntene lordis honour, Holy chirche, and religyoun,
For comouns is pe fayrest flour pat euere god sette on erpely crown.

(19)

God, lete þis kyngdom neuere be lorn Among oure self, in no distance !
Oper kyngdomes lau3he vs not to skorn, And sey, for synne god send vengeance.
God, 3eue vs space of repe[n]tance, Good lyf, and deuocioun;
And god, kepe in þy gouernance Oure comely kyng, and saue þe crowne !

> XIII. Dede is worchyng. [A.D. 1414. In 2 Parts.] [Digby 102, leaf 111, back.] [21 stanzas of 8, abab, bebe.]

(Part I. 1) Whanne alle a kyngdom gadrid ysse In goddis lawe, by on assent, For to amende pat was mysse, perfore is ordayned a parlement. Troupe wip glad chere peder went, And falsed stondis ay in drede For ferd of ryztwis iugement, ffor to be demed after his dede.

(2)

In doom of parlement ofte is fauour, pat afterward it harmep grete; Make opere bold take perof sauour To mayntene falsed for bezete. The king and the commons depend on each other.

140

	The Com-
	mons are the
144	fairest flower
	of the Crown.

Lord, let this kingdom never be spoiled by our own fault,

148

152 but keep our king, Henry V, and save the crown,

4 [leaf 112]

In a parliament, only truth should be heard.

8

But often falsehood is maintained for profit's sake.

PART I. XIII. Deed is working. A.D. 1414.

Sloupe vn-tyme eft mon swete

When it is hot, and gloweb as glede. Stonde wib troube, and smyte an hete. bat god bonke 20w for 20ure dede.

16

(3)

The laws require capital punishment for murder and treason.

Law is in-violable in

in England only is it

bought and

sold like a beast.

I Lawe zeueb kyng lyf and leme ; To hasty slaugt, and sodeyn fed, Lawe seuep no grace to heme; Morbere, ne treson, ne forcast ded, 20To seue pere mercy, god forbed; bat fauour myst destroye a bede. God in his lawe 3af moyses red, Wib-oute he dampneb be dede. 24

(4)

¶ In alle kyngdomes, here lawe is wryten; For mede ne drede, bey chaunge it nougt. all countries: In Engeland, as all men wyten, 28 Lawe, as best, is solde and bouzt. Eche zeer newe lawe is wrougt, And clope falsed in troupe wede. Fern zer was lawe ; now nes it nouzt. We ben newe fangyl, vnstable in dede. 32

(5)

¶ To stonde wiþ comons in here ry3t,	
Is hyzest poynt of charite.	
To quyte pat dede, no man my3t,	
Saue onely god in trynyte.	36
þouz þe comons vnkonnyng be,	
God zeuep zow neuere pe lasse mede.	
pat mede askep so hey; degre,	
Nes non bot god may quyte pat dede.	40

(6)

¶ 3et o wysdom mot 3e lere, Most profyt, and heyest honour; 3oure tenauntes playntes 3e mot here, ffor bey kepen all soure tresour.

To stand up for the commons is the greatest charity, alone can reward.

Hear the complaints of your ten-ants, for they keep your possessions.

3e are holden to ben here socour.

Non wiþ wrong oþer mysbede : For-þy god made 30w gouernour, In goddis ryat to deme þe dede.

(7)

I Lordis pat han castels and toures, Alle folk stonden of 30w awe.
pe puple is goddis, and nost 30ures.
pey paye 30ure rente, to gouerne lawe.
Let no man here ry3t wipdrawe,
Body, ne catelt hem mysbede.
Who dop so, god sayp in sawe,
He shal haue herene for pat dede.

(8)

pe lord pat wole haue good loos, Stonde fast in troupe, waxe not faynt.
Let troupe gon out of cloos, pat alle folk may here his playnt.
Let treson be shamely ataynt, Graunte hem no mercy, ne take no mede;
For mede wip poyson sotyly is maynt; Mercy myat cherische hem in here dede.

(9)

¶ 3if a man wolde þe ouertylt, Caste þy deþ for to kille, Let not anoper byze his gylt, þat ¹neuere in dede dede þe ylle. Dampne no man for non euyl wille To do þe gylteles blod to blede. Sette zoure domes in euene skille ; In drede of god, ze deme zoure dede.

(10)

Who skornep hem pat tellep hem wit, Is rebell to god, pat repreuep reson; pat louep hym most, pat hatep hit, Azenst goddis counseill cast a cheson; Lords, the commons hold you in esteem,

52 and pay you rent; therefore, you ought to protect them.

56

48

60 Oppress treason.

64

68 [1] If. 112, bk.]

72

Who scorns the wise, and cherishes fools, rebels against God.

To worschipe hym bere wit is geson ; For fawte of grace, vertue ben gyde. To chastyse fooles is ay in seson, To worschip or shame, after pe dede.

(11)

T	Syngulerte is sotyle þefte.	
	pey calle hit custom, troupe to blende.	
W	Than troupe wole reherce pat efte,	
	pan god wil vengeance wip troupe sende,	84
	Shamely falsed to shende,	
	Drede and stryf among hem shede.	
	To preue who is goddis frend,	
	Comons be witnesse of here dede.	88
	-	

(12)

¶ Putte fro court, þat chericheþ vys,

Banish wicked people from the court.

Prove by your works that you

know your

creed.

God will send Vengeance with Truth to ruin Falsehood.

> pat place of vertues wolde shende. Nedeles delys, and nedeles gys, be wastours out of worschip spende. Wib wit and vysement all amende. Lete werk be witnes 3e can 3oure Crede. Wip corage and hardynes 30ure reme defende,

96 In goddis querelt 3e do 30ure dede.

(13)

ul	¶ A trewe man recchep neuere a dell	
ul er	bous all be world his werkis aspyzed;	
con-	And falsed, for he dop not well,	
ainst	He wolde troupes tonge were tyzed,	100
	For he shulde not telle who hym ny3ed.	
	perfore pe fals pe false fede,	
	Til troupe in preson be faste alyzede,	
	And dampne troupe for falsed dede.	104

(Part II. 14)

¶ Whanne 3e han made pes wip-ynne,	
AH 30ure reme in vnyte,	
Vttere-more 3e mot bygynne;	100
Strenghe zoure marche, and kepe he see.	108

A truthfu man neve hides his works; spire aga truth.

have made peace at home, strengthen your marches to keep the 563.

When you

80

Ofte haue 3e made 3oure fomen fle, Here hatest blod o brod to sprede. God dop batayle, and not 3e; pour 3e faust, god dop be dede.

(Part II. 15)

To ffraunce, kyng Edward had queryle, Hit was his kynde heritage;
And 3e han be same style,
Wib armes of be selue parage;
And 3it 30ure querelt dede neuere aswage;
pat god hab shewed in 30ure manhede:
On see, on land, in eche vyage,
In dent of swerd, god demed 30ure dede.

(Part II. 16)

Stuffe 30ure castels in eche coost, Warnestor and folk þeder sende;
So mow 3e abate 30ure enemys bost, But not in trete, in wast to spende. Wheber 3e assayle or defende, On see or land, god 30w spede !
Wiþ word of wynd, mad neuere ¹ werre ende, But dent of swerd endid þe dede.

(Part II. 17)

And 3e penke werre to holde, Do after hem [bat] is most wys.
Corage of 30ng, and wit of olde, Can telle where be vauntage lys, In dede of armes wonnen prys. Whan gloser and flaterer on tapetis trede, For wynnyng bey counseled to cowardys. Man wan neuere worschip by here dede.

(Part II. 18)

Als ofte as 3e trete,
3oure enemys, ordynaunce þey digt.
While 3e trete, ay þey gete.
3e trete 3oure self out of 3oure rigt;
bere lakkep conscience of knygt.
Lete falsed growe tyl he sede.

Remember your former valour.

112

King Edward made war on France to reclaim hls lawful heritage, to which you have the same title.

120

Fortify your castles;

124 don't waste your time by treating;

128 no war is ended by words, but by the sword.

[1 leaf 113]

132 The courage of the young, and the experience of the old, will help to gain the victory.

136

By treaties your enemies get profit, whereas you lose your right.

nota	Ordre of kny3t was mad to fy3t,	
Milicia	In goddis rizt, to ende pe dede.	144
kc.	(Part II. 19)	
he order of	¶ Ordre of kny3t hardest is	
nights sur- asses those f monks,	On see, on lond, on sholde, and depe;	
, monno,	He passeb relegous ywis,	
apite of	bou3 bey preye and faste wepe.	148
ieir prayers ;	Ofte wip ful wombe relegous slepe,	
	Whan kny3tes han hunger, and moche in dre	de.
ney ought to rove them-	þe beter in clene lyf þey au3t hem kepe,	
elves God's nights by a	As goddis kny3t to don here dede.	152
lean life.	(Part II. 20)	
	¶ On of two, 3e mot chese :	
	On lond or see or shippes bord,	
	Wiþ fi3t 3e wynne, wiþ trete 3e lese.	
our enemies	30ure enemys han pat eure in hord,	156
	pat þey wynne wiþ word	
	30ure townes and castels in lengte and brede	;
ou can win y your	And pat 3e wynne, 3e wynne wip sword.	1 00
words only.	perfore wip swerd do 30ure dede.	160
	(Part II. 21)	
	¶ God 3eue 30w grace pis reme to 3eme,	
	To cherische pe goode, and chastyse pe nys.	
	And also serue god to queme,	1.0.4
orks prove	pat 30ure werkis preue 30w wys.	164
ou wise.	And in 30w je helpe it lys,	
	be puple in goddis lawe to hede.	
	Do so now, 3e wynne 30w prys And heuene blisse for 30ure dede. Amen ! ¹	168
	And neuene phase for 300re dede. Anten 1-	100

XIV. Man, be warre er the be woo. [Early in 1418.]

[Digby 102, leaf 113.]

[14 stanzas of 8, abab, bcbc.]

(1)

The herrere degre, be more wys; be gretter worschip, be noblere fame;

¹ Amen is struck through in red ink; but whether it is meant to be erased or not, is doubtful.

1 ł

1 k P o

i:

t Fak e

3 υ

y b

I v y

The higher the rank of a man, the greater is his be herrere degre, be more nys; be gretter foly, be more blame. After foly, folweb be shame; Repreued of frendis, and scorned of fo, After by dede, ressayue by name. Eche man be war, er hym be wo.

(2)

I jif pou be kyngis chaunceller, Kepe pe crowne hool in stat;
Jif pou be kyngis counselere, Loke no stones perof abate.
Jif oper wolde make pe kyng pe hate, Or falsed ouer troupe go, Tak py leue, and kisse pe 3ate. Eche man be war, er hym be wo.

(3)

I On a mowntayne, a sete may not be hyd, Ne lordis werkis in no degre.
A lordis werkis, wiþ comouns is kyd, þat he doþ most in preuete.
Gouernour of kyngdom or Cyte, After þey lyue, men deme so.
For eche a werk, god ¹3eueþ a fe.
Eche man be war, er hym be wo.

(4)

A symple prest wole synge his masse While his lyuyng is but smal.
As summe encrese, serue god þe lasse,
Wip benefices, ten myste lyue wip-al,
And fynde þere noþer houshold ne halle,
Ne serue þe parische, but take hem fro.
Er god suche rekenyng calle,
Be tyme be war, er þey be wo.
(5)

¶ Man, do resoun pouz pou be riche,
Ouer cite or town hast gouernaunce.
Loue al crafty folk yliche,
Mayntene no party in distaunce.

8

A

Do your duty at court conscientiously.

12

lf others calumniate you, ask your discharge.

16

A lord's works cannot be concealed; the commons will soon know them.

20

24

[¹ lf. 113, bk.]

Poor priests serve God; as soon as they get benefices, they become careless.

32

Be impartial.

honour or his disgrace.

40

60

64

68

Sette mendis for trespas in euene balaunce ; For a penyworth of harm, tak not two. Rule wel mesure and sustenaunce. Eche man be war, er hym be wo.

(6)

nota

The wise man forbade his son to be a king's counsellor, as he

might get hanged.

king. Poor people

your profit.

¶ be wyseman his sone forbed Masouncraft and all clymbyng, And shipman craft, for perile of dede. And preuey in counseil be nev; no kyng. 44 For his mys-rulyng bou myst hyng, bat shep myate grese vnder by to. To flize to hyze, treste not by wyng. Eche man be war, er bym be wo. 48

(7)

Don't ask too ¶ pous by kyng be fre to syue, much of your Be bou not gredy to craue, Make opere folk be worse to lyue, must pay for For synguler profyt bou wolde haue. 52Er drede and répref by berd shaue. Asese of Couetys, and say hoo. The man bat wole his worship saue. Be tyme be war, er him be woo.

(8)

¶ For to amende pat was mys, berfore is ordevned eche Iustice. Lat eche man haue bat shulde ben his, And turne not lawe for couetyse. Ne contryue tresons bere troub lys, In tyrauntrie to robbe and slo. Er zoure werkis preue zow nys, Eche man be war, er hym be wo.

(9)

I 3if 3e wole have pes of 30ng and old, Let eche man haue pat is ryat. Let comon lawe his cours hold, Euene mesure, mett, and wyat.

Do every man instice.

Give every-body his due.

Man, þou3 þou be moche of my3t, Mende fawtes er þou make mo. For þat 3e hid, god seeþ in sy3t. Eche man be war, er hym be wo.

(10)

 Eche lord knowep his astate, Lyue on pat god hym lent.
 pat borwep moche, he getep hate.
 Spende waste, passyng his rent, For suche a kyngdom hap ben shent.
 Stryf wip comons, threp, and thro, To brynge pat in amendement, Eche man be war, er hym be wo.

(11)

 Whanne holichirche suffreß symonye, And is ¹wiß hym enchaunted,
 And lawe of land suffreß vsurye,
 Vnkyndely synne, and shameles haunted,
 And vicious folk auaunsed and dawnted,
 And vertues flemed fro eche a wro:
 In ßat kyngdom, god haß vengeaunce graunted.
 Eche man be war, er hym be wo.

(12)

In a kyngdom, what makep stryf, No man standes of oper awe? Vnkyndely synne, and tyrauntes lyf; Vsurye, symonye, and letter of lawe, And holy chirche rebelt to goddis sawe. To kepe his comaundement, bey say no. Fro pat kyngdom, god his loue wil drawe. Eche man be war, er hym be wo.

(13)

 I 3if eny folk forgeb gyles, Wib falsed by deb to cast,
 Pulle vp be stakes, and breke be styles; Lete hem no more styke so faste. 72

76 Don't let your expenses exceed your income.

80

[1 leaf 114]]

84 If vice is advanced in church and law, and virtue oppressed,

88

92

100

God will withdraw his 96 love from our land,

> If anybody attempt upon your life, try to escape and stand upon your guard.

XV. The Description of Man's Limbs.

And whan ze be be perile paste. Kepe 30w wel fro debes flo, Fro costage, and be no more agaste. Eche man be war, er hym be wo.

104

4

8

(14)

¶ be flesch hab many frele frendis, Richesse, strengpe, fayrenesse, and hele ; Whan it is mysysed, be soule it schendis. 108 Richesse, rauenere of worldis wele, Take fro be nedy, to be nedeles dele, And wylde recheles as a roo. Er zoure synnes zoure soules apele, 112 Eche man be war, er hym be woo.

XV. The descryuying of mannes membres.

[Digby 102, leaf 114.] [19 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.]

(1)

here-of is mad al mankynde? Of sevene bynges, and it be sougt : Erbe and water. fyre and wynde, perof is be body wrougt; be soule of pre, pat hap be mynde, Of lyf, felyng, and of pougt. pe soule fro be body vnbende. Whan on of bese lakkeb ougt.

(2)

¶ The heued, y likne to a kyng,	
For he is lord souereyn of al,	
Hap foure to his gouernyng :	
Moup and nose, and eyen wip-al,	12
Eryn fayre to his heryng,	
To serue þe brayn is pryncypal	
Chef of counseil ymagenyng,	
To caste before, er after fal.	16

Keep clear of Death's dart.

The friends of the flesh. misused, ruin the soul

Watch, that your sins your soul.

The body of man is composed of the four elements: his soul, of life, feeling, and thought.

I compare man's head with a king : (3)

I lykne þe nekke, moche of myjt, þat body and heued to-gydre knyt,
To a Iustice þat demeþ rygt;
For, þurgh it, comeþ aH wordis of wyt.
gif a man take ordre of knygt,
þe coler in þe nekke het;
And feloun forfete in þefte or fygt,
þe iugement in þe nekke set.

(4)

 Now I lykne mannys brest, To presthod in good degre, Most in perile, lest in rest For besynesse in spiritualte;
 In penaunce and in preyer prest; Meke of spirit in pouerte
 Holde hospytal to goddis gest, And fede pe pore in charyte.

(5)

¶ pe shuldres and pe bakebon, I likne to lordis of pe lond; pe armes, to kny3tes, to fende fro fon; pe squyers, I likne to pe hondes; pe fyngres, to 3emen pat byfore gon Wib bent bowes and bry3t brondes. While all pys lymes arn wel at on, pe body, in good plyt it stondes.

(6)

Mannys rybbes, y likne now— Flesch and skyn in body hydes,— To men of lawe is to alow, pat kepes in loue bope sydes.
Rybbes, to resoun poug pey bow, So lawe dop: ofte in fauour bydes,
Tyl ground be sougt pere lawe dop grow, Ende in charite, pat no man chydes. POEMS (OXF.). to a just judge; 20

his neck.

24

his breast, to a good priest

28

[leaf 114, bk.]

his shoulders and backbone, to lords; his arms, to knights;

his fingers, to yeomen;

40

36

his ribs, to men of law;

44

48

F

(7)

his thighs, to merchants; I likne þe thies, flesch and bon, þat beren þe body quantite,
To marchaundes, in perile ride and gon, Bryngen wynnyng, gold, and fee,
Make hize houses of lym and ston, Mayntene burgh, toun, and cyte,
Welþe and worschip in here won, And good houshold of gret plente.

¶ Mannys leggis, likne y may

(8)

his legs, to handicraftsmen:

his feet, to ploughmen; To all craftes bat worche wib handes, For al be body beren bay, As a tre bat bereb wandes. be feet, to lykne, y wole assay, To alle trewe tylyers of landes, be plough, and all bat dygge in clay; Alle be world on hem standes.

(9)

his toes, to faithful servants.

 ¶ The toes of \$\u03c9\$ mennys feet,

 \$\u03c9\$ y likne to trewe hyne

 \$\u03c9\$ trauayle bope in drye and weet,

 In purst, in hungere, and in pyne,
 68

 In het, in cold, in snow and slet,

 Many hize none, er \$\u03c9\$ y dyne,

 And wip good mete selde met;

 But after howsel \$\u03c9\$ y drynke no wyn.

(10)

A man without toes cannot rise or stand;

master and servant depend on each other. ¶ Toes helpep man fro fal to ryse. He may not stonde, pat hap no toon,
Lepe ne renne, ne ryde in syse,
Wrastle ne fyzte, ne put pe ston.
3if seruant pe maystere refuse,
pe seruant lyuyng sone were gon.
And maystres, pouz pey ben wyse,
Wib-out seruant lyue not alon.

10

80

52

56

60

XV. The Description of Man's Limbs.

(11)

¶ I likne be wombe, and bat wip-ynne, To botemeles purs, bat moche dob take; To couetous, no wyket pynne;		I liken the womb to a bottomless purse.
To glotoun, pe garner wyd open make.	84	
be wombe preyed be moub to blynne: "pou etest and drynkest, bat y ake." "To slepe," quod be eyae, "we may not wynne		The womb asked the mouth to leave off eating.
be wrecched wombe so dob vs wake."	88	current,
(12)		
¶ "We dulle of heryng," quod pe ere. "We dase for dronken," quod pe ey3e :		and so did the limbs.
"I wende but o mone pere were,		
And me pouzte two y seyze."	92	
Quod be handis, "fro moub may we not vs were."		
Quod ¹ pe moup, "y drank while y my3te drye."		[1 leaf 115]

(13)

"Allas," quod þe feet, "all we bere, And 30ure bargayn dere abye."

¶ The handes and feet, be moup gan preye,		They begged
"Let vs thre dayes reste,		him to rest three days,
Wiþ alle þyn oþere lymes pleye,		
Wip felaschip, frend, and geste."	100	
be moub, in anger he dede saye,		with which the mouth
" pes pre dayes do 30ur best.		complied.
Al pat tyme, nyşt ne daye,		
No mete ne drynk come in my brest."	104	

(14)

¶ Thre dayes the moup dede faste,	After that
Tyl wombe calde pe moup vnkynde.	time, they called him
"Vnkynde ² thyn handes, are bey faste ? [* ? for Vnbynde]	unkind, and asked him to eat again.
Stere, and lete be mylle grynde." 108	Cono adartes
Quod be eren, "oure heryng is at be laste."	
Quod eyen, "we dase, and waxe blynd."	
Quod handes and feet, "oure strengpe is paste,"	
Quod brayn and herte, "vs wantes mynde." 112	

(15)

The mouth said, "You complain	¶ Quod þe mouþe, "3e playne whyle y ete; And while y faste, 3e make gret doel."	
both of my eating and my fasting." They an- swered, "We are well as	Quod hondes and feet, "also we gete pat pou spendest eche a deel.	116
long as you observe moderation."	We may play, swynke, <i>and</i> swete, While moupe in mesure makep his mele. For mesure kepep kynde hete,	
	And al pat tyme we fare wele."	120
	(16)	
Nota bene I liken a	¶ I likne a kyngdom in good astate, To stalworpe man, my3ty in hele.	
kingdom lu	While non of his lymes oper hate,	

124

128

I liken a kingdom lu a good condition to a healthy man; while his limbs are of one accord, he is brave; if they quarrel, he falls ill.

All limbs stand in need of one another.

(17)

He is mysty, wib a-nober to dele.

3if eche of his lymes wip oper debate,

He waxeb syk, for flesch is frele.

In his feblenesse, on hym to stele.

His enemys wayte erly and late,

¶ And hed were fro pe body stad,	
Noper partye were set at nou3t,	
And body wipoute armes sprad.	
Were armes wip-oute handis ougt ?	132
Ne handis, but bey fyngres had ?	
Wipoute fingere, what were wrougt?	
pes lymes makep hed ful glad,	
And al pe body, and it be sougt.	136

(18)

low	¶ 3if a man hurte þy fynger or too,	
r	But pou make deffens o ferre,	
1;	Leg or arm may take be fro ;	
1,	To body or hed, auntre hym herre	140
iends	Ensample to kyngdom, y set this so :	
yed, take ur	And oure frendis be distroyed by werre,	
ur	pan kepe pe wisely fro py foo;	
	For wip all his my3t he wole come nerre.	144

If you all a man to hurt you finger, he will take your arm

° if our fri be destro we must heed of o enemies.

(19)

¶ God saue bis man is so deuysed, Hed and body, all lymes in kynde. But bere as vertues ben despysed. To preve to god, bey waste here wynde, God leue pat synne may be refused, And of dedly synnes vs vnbynde. And eche stat in his kynde be vsed. God, of his mercy, haue vs in mynde! Amen! 152

God saves a man whose limbs are in full harmony.

148

XVI. A remembraunce of LIJ folves.1 [A.D. 1419] [Digby 102, leaf 115.]

[9 stanzas of 14, abab, abab, cc ddd c.]

(1)

Oke how Flaundres dob fare wib his folyhede ! Durste no man dygge after troube wib no manere toles. To wynne ² wrongly wele, wod bey gan wede, But werkis of wys men were cast ynder stoles. Glosers counseled lordis for to take mede.

To maken hem riche, and here lordis pore foles.

Whan be souereyns were set, here sogettis to drede.

be glosers skulked away, for shame of here sooles. 8 Falsed shal neuere ben atevnt

Til Iuge here eche mannys pleynt.

Redresse, and make an ende.

Or ellys to mercy bende ;

Make hem kyssen and be frende,

bat were fon feynt.

(2)

¶ Fyfty folyes ben, and two ; Alle bo y wole mynne among. To triste in trete to his fo bat hap begyled hem ofte and long. And hate hem bat telle hym so. And wilfully wolle suffre wrong :

¹ I printed this, from my copy of the MS., in Englisch Studien 1897, in forgetfulness of Dr. Kail .- F. J. F.

Look how Flanders fares with her foolishness!

[2 1f. 115, bk.] They followed the fools, and despised the wise.

12

16

20

There are 52 follies.

He is a fool who trusts his enemies, and hates good counsellors :

It is worthy he smerte and be wo,	
pat of his owen skyn wole kerue a thong.	
bat chepen moche, and not han to paye,	
And wip his lord to homly wole playe,	24
Swere moche, and not be trowed;	
Boste moche, and not allowed;	
Threte alle men, and neuere on bowed :	
All are folyes, bat y say.	28

(3)

32
36
40

(4)

	¶ He is a fool, þat no good can,	
ot	Ne non wole lere, but slow in dede.	44
bod	A gret fool, y holde pat man	
ot	pat of his enemys hap no drede.	
	purgh suche foly, Flaundres be-gan;	
	Of after perile pey tok non hede.	48
	Hit is worthy, he etc bred of bran,	
	pat wip floure his foo wil fede.	
	And truste al in gloser charmes,	
	In hyndryng in worschip of armes,	52
	And lette lawe it mot not syt,	
	And conscience away flyt,	
	May brynge a lord, er þat he wyt,	
	Emyddis grete harmes.	56

who buys more than he can pay;

who swears and boasts beyond measure;

who threatens all, but conquers none.

He is a fool, who begins war without money;

who makes his neighbour his enemy for a stranger's sake;

who recklessly kills a man;

who will not listen to good advice;

who does not fear his enemies. With such follies Flanders began.

.

151

(5)	
I Flaundres was be richest land, and meriest to mynne;	She w
Now is it wrappid in wo, and moche welpe raft.	riches now w
For defaute of Iustice, and singulere to wynne,	befalle
	They greedy
bey were rebell, to ryse craft agen craft. 60	profit
Here lord had part of he foly hey were wounden ynne;	their phad pa
For-thy he les his lordshipe, and here fraunchise raft.	in the
Here enemys lawhen hem to skorne, and seyn, 'for synne,	folly, a
Of here banere of grace, god broken hab be shaft.' 64	author
When prelat is forbode to preche,	[leal
	Where
No trewe man troupe dar teche,	to pres
Encresyng of temperalte	and tr men, t
Suspende spiritualte : 68	the tru there (
What land is gouerned in pat degre,	will se
May wayte after wreche.	venge
(6) ·	
¶ I holde hym a fool, pouz he be wys,	He is ;
pat spekep among men of name 72	who gi advice
pat at his wysdom set no prys,	he is n
	listene
But skorne hym, and don blame;	
And he pat tellep where peryle lys,	
And gete no ponk, but harm and shame; 76	
And he pat pleynep, y holde hym nys,	
pat get no mendys, but dowble grame.	
By bese poyntes filaundres was lest;	7
	By suc things
Now is it out of rule and of rest. 80	Flande been ru
Drede is here chef gayte.	

So eche man on hem bayte.

pat 3et bey honge in awayte

Of a newe conquest.

(7)

I He pat myst thryue, and nel not thee, Ne his owen harmes knawe, Apert ne in preuytee Serue god for loue ne awe, Ne gouerne wel his owen degre, Ne rule hymself in ry3twys lawe : Whan wyse men fro hym fle, ben god his grace wole fro hem drawe. vas the st land : woe has en her. were y of ;

prince art and so at his rity.

f 116] e priests ach, ruthful to speak uth, God end ance.

a fool where not ed to.

ers has uined.

84

Whoever docs not thrive, by his own fault,

88

will be forsaken by 92 God,

bat moche wynneb, and no thyng wole haue, But zeue it awey, to nedeles bat craue. Agens conscience despit Borwe moche, and neuere quyt : 96 When god for pat gylt smyt, What glosere can bat wounde saue ?

(8)

I bat freek may wel be holden a fool. bat wayueb wit, and worcheb by wille, And skippe into sclaundre scol, And scorne hym pat tellep hym skylle; And lyue in Lenton as in 2001. His flesch in foly to fulfille. 104 pous be dotard deve in dool, be ryatwys nel not rewe his ylle. Who so wil not knowe his awen astat. 108 Ne deliuere chekkys, er pat he be mat, He shal haue worldis wondryng, And his soule hyndryng. And ay in paynes pondryng; To mende panne, is to late. 112

(9)

¶ Of all folk vppon fold, v fynde but foure trewe, bat don here deuere dewely, and take no mede: Syknes is oon, and sorw dop sewe, be thridde hat 'dep,' and be fierbe 'drede.' bey clayme vs by custom, for bey oure kyn knewe, And endid wip oure aunsetres tyl pey to erpe zede. bey spare prynce ne pore, old ne newe, For bey crepe in-to his cors, and clope hem in his wede. Drede bryngeb man to buxomnes; Sorwe of herte makeb synnes les; Syknes, brebe stekenyng, 124 And bowe to a bekenyng, And bryngeb hem to rekenyng, Tyl deb all redresse.

Can a man who gives his fortune to glozers, be saved by them?

He is to be thought a fool, who is led by his own will, and does not hear reason.

Of all people, there are but four that take no meed : Illness, Sorrow Death, and Dread. Nota

XVII. Love what God loves, and hate what He hates. 73

XVII. Loue that god loueth.

[Diyby 102, leaf 116.] [25 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.]

(1)

That ilke man wole lerne wel To loue god wip al his my3t, pat loue in his herte fele.

pere god dop loue, loue pou ry3t ; There god dop hate euerydele,

Hate it boke day and ny3t, 3cue hym ¹noper mete ne mele, But flyt hym fere out of 3cure sy3t.

(2)

¶ Many gret[e] causes is, To lone god, why men ou;te.
He shop vs lyk ymage his, And wiþ his deþ, fro pyne vs bou;t,
And gut, þou; we don ofte amys, For eche a gylt he beteþ vs nou;t;
And we þenke to amende, he profreþ to kys. Man, of loue he haþ besou;t.

(3)

§ 3if a lord 3eue fee or rent For to do a gret office,
To serue hym wel is pyn atent, For thy profyt, but not for his,
For he fyndep þe þy vaunsement; þy loue vppon þe profyt lys.
Suche worldly louers are gostly blent;
Suche loue to god is cold as yse.

(4)

¶ 3if pou serue god for helle drede,		Nor is your
Or loue god for his blisse,		love perfect if you serve God from
pat loue is worth no parfyt mede :		fear of hell or from hope of
bou [sechest] thy profyt, and not hisse.	28	heaven.

4 Love what God loves,

and hate what he hates. [¹ If. 116, bk.]

> Man ought to love God from many reasons.

12

16

You love a lord only for your own profit's sake.

20

Such love does not please God.

To pyne ne blis, take non hede, But loue god, for good he is.

Nota de Suche loue to god, his erande dop spede,

amore dei And pleseb best to god y-wys.

&c.

(5)

Worldly men even do the 7 works of charity from such love.

You must love God because he loves you.

a rieschry man may do were	
be seuene werkes of mercy bat god bed :	
3eue pore folk mete and mele,	
Herberwe, drynk, clope, and fed,	36
For syngulere profyt, eche a dele,	
For drede of pyne, and couetys of mede.	
Loue god ouer all, for good he is;	
To pyne ne blisse, take non hede.	40

(6)

¶ 3if þou sette loue in þat degre,	
To loue god, for he pe wrouzt,	
þan make þou hym as he dede þe,	
pan loue for loue, euene is brougt.	44
3if pou loue god, for he made pe fre,	
pat dyzed for the, to blisse be bouzt,	
pan dyze pou for hym, as he dyzed for be;	
But heuene blisse, bou guytest hym nouzt.	48

(7)

¶ 3it o thyng pere is byhende,	
Man, þat god askeþ of the :	
" Alle worldys delys, fro þyn herte wende,	
Wip alle pyn herte, loue pou me.	52
by swete bougtes [bou] me sende;	
For worldis goodis, myn are he.	
Loue me gostly, pat am by frende,	
panne al euyl shal fro þe fle.	56
· · · · · ·	

(8)

f pat loue me gostly, y can assay, For gostly loue in herte y sougt.
Do worldly thyng fro byn herte away, And haue me principal in by bougt.

God says, "Love me with all thy heart, and turn thy thoughts away from worldly riches.

-

60

XVII. Love what God loves, and hate what He hates. 75

Be lord, and haue richesse, bou may ;		Thon mayst
Worldis richesse, for man was wrouzt.		be a lord and have estates,
Gostly loue, pat is my pray;		nota
But worldly goodis, in heuene comep nou3t.	64	but give me thy love.
(9)		
¶ For gold and syluer, and precyous stones,		All the trea-
Swetnes of floures, erpely bewte,		sures of the world would
be shrynes wip all seyntes bones,		
In heuene were foul felpe to se.	68	he head
Tyl body and soule agen arn ones	00	be loathsome in Heaven.
Mad parfyt in claryte,		
Saue god hym self, in heuene wones,		Mankind shall possess
pe principal, mankynde shal be."	72	them till doomsday."
		doomoday :
(10)		
¶ 'God ! how may y, man, bygynne		'Lord, how
Wip myn herte to loue pe?'		may I begin to love thee?
"Repente, and wylne no more synne,		"Repent thy
So mowe we ^{1 2} frendis be,	76	1 MS. 2e
Good soule, sybbe to my kynne;		[² leaf 117]
For y made it lik to me.		
Mankynde y tok, a mayden wib-ynne,		
So, gostly and bodyly, breberen be we.3	80	³ MS. wet

(11)

¶ Who louep god, he wil bygynne
For to folwe goddis lore;
Loke where he dede wrongly wynne,
Make amendis, agen restore.
3oure loue, fro me 3e parten o twynne
For worldis worship, ryches in store,
Heuene 3ates 3e steken and pynne ;
pat ye shulde saue, 3e haue forlore.

(12)

To gete loue pus bygynne:
 Wip clene herte, and swete pouzt,
 Wip trewe tong, not falsely wynne,
 Ne stele, ne flatre, ne lyze nouzt.

84 Thou withdrawest thy love from m

drawest thy love from me by striving for worldly honour and riches.

> Don't depart from truth;

92 don't lie, or steal, or flatter." Do ry3twys dede, out and ynne,

Loke by werkys be euene wrougt;

Do alms and penance, and stop sinuing. Do almes and penaunce, and leue by synne : Wib bese bre loue is bougt."

(13)

¶ God spekep to man, and lernep lore,	
pe comaundementis and pe Crede.	
"3eue me þy loue, y aske no more,	
Wip al py herte, in loue and drede.	100
And pou nylt zeue it me, warne me byforé;	
Sette pris to selle it; loue and bede,	
I wole seue the myself perfore.	
Where my3test pou haue a beter mede?	104

(14)

t ne.	¶ And pou nelt 3eue ne selle it me,	
пс,	Azens me pou wilt debate,	
	þan wil y gon away fro þe,	
or	And 3elde to be hate for hate.	108
01	My face wip loue shalt pou not se,	
	But steke pe wipoute heuene 3ate,	
	Fro alle vertues and charyte,	
	Wip helle houndes, in endeles date.	112

(15)

ee	¶ Haue y þy loue, so may þou quyte	
•,	I mad be lik ymage to me;	
	And 3if þe þenke þat was to lyte,	
	panne penk, y dyed on rode tre.	116
	pouz pou trespas, y do not smyte,	
,	But byd 3if pou wilt mendid be.	
,	And pou be lost, whom wiltow wyte?	
	Is it long on me or be?	120
	- /	

(16)

I Discrecioun of 30ng and old
 Of alle pynge noust ouste.
 Of alle pat may be boust and sold,
 Loue for loue is euenest bouste.

If thou wilt not give me thy love, set a price on it; I'll offer myself for it.

If thou winot sell it

I shall pay thee hate i hate, and damn thee.

I formed thee in my image;

I died for thee; I don't punish thee for thy sins, but I give thee time to repent.

124

96

Love can be bought with love only,

Whan worldis loue dop fayle and folde,		Though all worldly love
Goddis loue faylep nouzt.		fail, the love of God will
Trewe loue makep men be bolde;		ever last.
Wib loue, felawship to-gydre is brouzt.	128	

(17)

¶ ffor loue, god com fro heuene toure,	From love to man, I,
In mayden Mary tok mankynde.	God, took manhood.
ffor oure swete, he drank ful soure.	
Where my3t we trewere loue fynde 1 132	
His loue passep worldis tresoure,	
3af syst in helle to gostly blynde.	
And we wole knytte his loue to oure,	
ffor sope, pat knot shal neuere vnbynde. 136	

(18)

¶ "Haue y by loue, so may bou gete bat loue wole by soule saue,	With love thou wilt gain Heaven.
Among myn angels haue a sete,	
In ioye of heuene, as seyntes haue. 140	
3if pou nelt 1y wol pe prete,	[¹ lf. 117, bk.]
In helle pyne be fendis knaue.	
Wip by conscience bou trete,	
Wheper is be leuere for to haue. 144	

(19)

¶ And pou madde in py mood, To werne me pe loue pou has,		If thou re- fusest to love me, I shall torment thee
I wole caste on pe myn herte blod,		in Hell,
To bere witnesse pou forfetest gras,	148	
And my vengeance, pat is so wood,		
Wip helle houndis in fyre be chas.		
bou hast fre wille, knowest euyH and good :		
Chese where wyltow take by plas.	152	

(20)

¶ And pou of py loue daungere make, What may thy loue profyte me?	I have no profit of thy love.
And pouz pou woldest me forsake,	
Out of my lordschipe bou myst not fle.	156

Angels bry3t, and deueles blake,

In helle and heuene, my lordschipes be.

pere be no mo wayes to take;

Is loue or hate more profyt to be?

(21)

¶ 3if by loue to by flesch dob bende,	
To greue me pou dost bygynne.	
3if pou loue pe world pat wole make ende,	
Of hym pou shalt more lese pan wynne.	164
3if pou be suget, and loue pe fende,	
He wole be hate, and zeue pyne for synne.	
Loue me! y am god, þy frende,	
And oure loues shal neuere twynne.	168

(22)

Wheper trewe loue go or sende, Hym thar not tary in his dede.
When mede hap leue to stande byhynde, panne trewe loue, his erande may spede.
172
pouz trewe loue haue lityl to spende, Euere he fyndep a frend at nede,
pat fro his foon wole hym fende. Who so is loued, hym thar not drede."

(23)

¶ God sayþ, ''y haue mercyes to dele,	
pat wole amende, no more do mys.	
My mercyes, pousandes mo ken fele	
þan þousandis worldis wikkidnes."	180
His herte blod wrot oure hele,	
And Ihesus body, pe parchemyn is;	
Wip trewe loue he prented oure sele,	
pat is heritage of oure blis.	184

(24)

pere is an herbe pat hattep 'trewe loue,' And by name it hap no pere,
Is lykned to Ihesus, y may proue : His handes and feet, be leves were;
188

Whoever loves the world, shall lose more than he wins.

True love need not fear enemies."

Our salvation was written with Christ's heart-blood on his body, and sealed with truelove.

There is a herb called true-love, which is likened to Jesus. His herte was wip a spere purgh-shoue,

Mannys loue was hym so dere.

What soule is syk, lay pat herbe aboue, Hit makep hool al y-fere.

(25)

God biddip vs do no pynges but two: In loue and drede to hym bende; Lede py soule, lustes fro, World and flesch, and fro pe fende. Ihesus herte was cleued so, To lete out trewe loue to his frende.

In that blisse, god, graunte vs go, pere trewe loue wonep wipouten ende ! Apply truelove to sick 192 souls.

196

God grant us to go where true-love dwells.

XVIII. The declaryng of religioun. [A.D. 1421]

[Digby 102, leaf 117, back.]

[24 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.]

(1)

Who pat wole knowe condicion Of parfyt lyf in alle degre : God is foundour of religion, Obedyent to charyte. Swete pouzt in deuocion, Is weddid ¹to chastite, In brennyng contemplacion, pe higest lyf of spiritualte.

(2)

The goode lyueres in spiritualte, be worldly lyueres hem dob hate, Wib occupacioun of temperalte Dryueb relegeon out at be sate For besynesse of vanyte, Vaynglory, and hyse astate.

pat pus chaungen here degre,

bey come to heuene, neuere or late.

God is the founder of religion.

[1 leaf 118]

Contemplation is the highest degree of religiousness.

Worldly men neglect religion, and turn to 12 temporality.

(3)

on is a soul	¶ What is religion in mynde?	
ean	In clene herte is soule o prys;	
,	Out of praldom dop vnbynde;	
	A louer of vertues, a hatere of vys.	20
ul is	Eche soule is parfyt clerk of kynde	
	In hyze discrecion, and wys.	
it be	Of soules, men may no fooles fynde	
sh.	But assente to be flesch, and make hym nys.	24

(4)

Religion is a champion in the battle against temp- tation,	 Religeon is champion in batayle, Discomfites hys enemy; 3if temptacions hym assayle, 	
and a true	bere he hath be victory. Religeon is trewe trauayle,	28
workman in the service of God.	In goddis seruyce neuere werye. Haue mede wip martyres, he may not fayle, pat euere is redy for to dyae.	32

(5)

1•	¶ Werkys wip-oute discrecion,	
	Vaynglory in staat is brougt;	
nıt	And shrift wip-oute contricion,	
	In skorne þe sacrament þey souzt;	36
3	And preyere wip-oute deuocion,	
is-	bou; pey preye, god hereb hem nou;t:	
	be lippes turne preyers vp so doun,	
	þat spekeþ oþ <i>er</i> þan herte þou3t.	40

(6)

¶ Cherische no vices in 30ure warde	
To serue god in good atent,	
And non wip other be to harde,	
pat ben professed in 30ure couent;	44
bey my3te for-penke it afterward	
bey tok be abyte, and wolde repente;	
bey lese of god a gret reward	
Whan wille fro religeon is wente.	48

in a cl

Religi

the so wise

• unless gover:

Works with out discretion,

shrift witho contrition,

and prayers without devotion, di please God.

Be not too hard with your fellowmonks ; they might regret to have taken orders. XVIII. The Declaring of Religion : what it is. A.D. 1421. 81

(7)

A questyon of 30w y craue,— Resoun assoyleb it by skille,—
Who may here soules saue, To were an abyte, wole or nelle ?
benk on by berbe, benk on by graue, by fleschely lustes not fulfille;
For, helle ne heuene shal no man haue, Mawgre his teeb, azeyns his wille.

(8)

 Thou3 bou be of gentyl blod, penk all com of Adam and Eue.
 Gadre not in propre, worldis good; pat nes no religeous, but worldis reue.
 pe herre degre, pe mekere of mood.

Tak no vengeance, pou; folk pe a-reue. Lat comon lawe stonde as hit stood,

Loke no proude herte by charyte meue.

(9)

I Haue non enuye, ¹day ne ny3t, To goode lyuers bet pan 3e,
But auy3e faste wip all py my3t To lyue beter pan dop he:
pan countrefetest pou goddis kny3t;
pat is enuye in charite.
Alle pou3tes in goddis doom are di3t, And dedes, after pat pey be.

(10)

Tho pat lyuen in fleschly delys, Fro pat companye remewe;
Loue here bodyes, but not here vys, And cherische hem to good vertue;
And po pat wil al-gate be nys, Loke pou nogt here maneres sewe.
Go to company pat is wys, Lete fooles drynke pat pey dede brewe. POEMS (OXF.). 52

56

Whoever will save his soul, should think of his birth and of his grave.

Noblemen, remember that all men come from Adam and Eve.

64

60

Don't envy others their better life, hut emulate them. [¹ If. 118, bk.]

72

Avoid wicked company,

76

80

keep with the wise.

G

(11)

84

88

96

Men of Religion,

when taking leave, you may kiss men, but not

women.

Religeous, be war, wip whom 3e stonde, Wip gentyles or folk pat worldly is,
pat 3e grype not hand in honde. When 3e take leue, loke not 3e kys. Man to man hem thar not wonde.

Ne woman to woman no peryle ne is ; But man to woman my3te breke þe bonde ;

In towche is susspescioun of mys.

(12)

¶ Suche towches not 3e byde,	
Wolde buffete pe soule, and wounde wip-ynne,	
3eue opere cause, pat stonde bysyde,	×.
To wene it were a bargayn of synne.	92
Towches, in custom, pouztis hide;	
pan sclaundre and shame nyH not twynne.	

With conscience, sclaundre and shame dop chide;

To shewe opert he wol be-gynne.

Nota de religione, &c.

(13)

¶ With mekenesse 3e may heuene gete.	
Dispyse non in low degre.	
Resceyue no worschip, ne hyze setc,	
pat pryde go bytwen god and pe,	100
Wolde make to hem self forzete,	
For worldis ryches and vanyte.	
War for dronkenesse of drynkes grete,	
Fro glotry of metes of gret daynte.	104

(14)

¶ To religeon mekely bende,	
To serve god in love and drede.	
To herkene tydynges, not 3e wende,	
Ne bokes of vanyte, not 3e rede.	108
Resceyue no lettere, ne non out sende,	
But hit be for zoure hous nede,	
Oper to kyn or certeyn frende,	
In goodnes youre erande for to spede.	112

Refuse honours and dignities.

Beware of drunkenness and gluttony.

Don't care about news;

write letters to friends only.

Such touch-

wound your own soul, and give others cause of suspicion. (15)

¶ Kepe 30ure wacche and seruyce dewe, And rule of habyte clenely 3eme; And fille 30ure hertes wiß good vertue, And wikked vyces fro 30w 3e fleme; But loke deuocion growe ay newe. Be suche wiß-ynne, as 3e outward seme. Good aungel and wikked boße 30w sewe,

And wryten 30ure dedes, pat shal 30w deme.

(16)

Wacche not outrage in wast despence, Fro hard to nyce, by fflesch to fede.
Wib bischop or shryfte 3e mowe despence, Fro hard to hardere 30ure lyf to lede.
Withstonde temptacions, make defence;
be moo 3e withstonde, be more mede.
And 3e wib seyntes will haue reuerence, ban moste 3e countrefete here dede.

(17)

¶ Kepe ¹sylence, whyder 3e byde or go, Fro wordis of vanyte, 30ure lippes steke. Speke faire to frend and fo,

For fayre speche dop wrappe breke. pat dop wrong, deme so.

Lete not vengeance, by wrappe wreke. Vengeance is goddis, he demep po

In werk and word, all pat men speke.

(18)

In rule of religeon is ordeyned 30re: By3e no thyng to selle and wynne.
Marchaunt and religeous, on mot be forbore; pey may not wone, on herte wipynne.
Ne kepe no iewels ne propre in store; pat nes no religeous, but dedly synne
In fleschly delices, and loue it more

To parte by loue and god atwynne.

Do all your duties.

116

Be within, as holy as you look outside. Angels, good and bad, note all your acts.

You may grow perfect yrithout a bishop's or a confessor's special orders. The more you withstand temptations, the more yon will be rewarded.

[1 leaf 119]

Refrain from vain words.

132

Blame sins indulgently.

136

Don't buy and sell for profit's sake.

140

(19)

¶ That penkep good pouzt in sylence,	
bey speken to god in specyale.	
How mow 3e lette hem, for conscience,	
Calle hem to werkis generall?	148
Summe bidden, in vertue of obedience,	
Contemplatyf in spirituale;	
To religeon they don a gret defence,	
pat bryngen hem to werkis temperale.	152

(20)

	¶ Hy3e astate, ne gentyl blod,	
dy	Bryngep no man to heuene blisse.	
,	Gret hors ne iewel, ne browded hood,	
	Nes no cause of holynesse,	156
ty	But pore of spirit and meke of mood.	
ay	3eue god by soule, and eche man hisse.	
	Gret lordschipe, ne myche good,	
	Nes no cause of sykernesse.	160

(21)

s ting,	¶ Tonsure, abyte, ne no wede, Nes no cause of religeon,	
- i't igi-	Ne wakyng, ne fastyng, ne almesdede, Ne preyere ne oreson,	164
	But þe herte þ <i>er</i> to take hede, Wiþ werkys of discrecion.	
cion em- o so.	Deuccion makep soules to spede Wip werkis of contemplacion.	168

(22)

¶ Religeon is most meke	
In abyte, of alle vertues floures.	
Richesse, ne worldis worschipe, seke,	
But offre to god alle honoures.	172
Richesse and worschipe make soules syke	
In vaynglory and sharp[e] shoures.	
Make vertues pe wax, deuocioun pe wyke,	
To brenne brist in heuene boures.	176

Don't set those who lead a contemplative life,

to worldly work.

Nobleness and riches bring nobody to Heaven,

but humility and righteousness may do so.

A monk's habit, fasting, prayers,

and almsdeeds don't prove religiousness,

but devotion and contemplation do so.

Let your virtues be the wax, and devotion the wick, to shine in Heaven. (23)

¶ Iustice is religeon in sete, pat deme¢ rizt in all degre.		Justice is religion in the tribunal.
And queste is religeon, troupe to trete;		
3euep eche man, pat his shulde be.	180	
A child may wip his fader plete,		
And 3ut kepe his charyte,		
And of his kyng blameles gete		
Lawe is so gentyl and so fre.	184	
(24)		
¶ pouz summe of thy breperen don a trespas,		If one of your brethren
He wole amende and do no moo.		trespass,
Parauenture pou art in pe same cas,		

Or after, my3t ben in suche two. Loke not pat pou hym chace, Ne sclaundre hym not to haue shame and wo. Pray god forzeue hym of his grace, Ard hore he wel hen de net ee

And kepe pe wel pou do not so.

188 be not harsh to him,

but pray God to forgive him, and beware of the same slip.

XIX. [God's Ippeal to Man.]

[Digby 102, leaf 119, back.] [14 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.]

(1)

In my conscience I fynde, And in my soule I here and see, To repreue man þat is vnkynde, Goddis wordis þis may be: "Man of resoun, haue in mynde, I made þe lyk ymage to me; For loue y hadde to mankynde, I toke manhed, lyk to þe.

(2)

¶ Mannys loue y 3erned 3ore; pat loue was in myn herte sou3t. Mannys loue sat me so sore, Nas neuere bargayn derrere bou3t. 4 God may say, "Man, remember that I took manhood from love of thee.

8

XIX. God's Appeal to Man.

Man ! is be laft no loue in store ? What is be cause bou louest me nougt ? Telle me zif y myzte don more. What is byhynd, bat lakkep be ougt?

(3)

16

I For by loue y meked me lowe, And dyzed on be rode tre. Answere, man, and be aknowe : Shewe what bou suffred for me; 20 For suche seed as bou dost sowe, perof shal byn heruest be, In heuene or helle to repe and mowe. As bou deserved, fong by fee. 24

(4)

¶ Man, to be y make my mone :	
I boujt be fro pyne to blisse;	
Melte byn herte, as hard as stone;	
pouz it be late, amende py mysse.	28
In wrappe, pous pou be fro me gon,	
Turne azayn, y wol þe kysse.	
To make me frendis of my fon,	
perfore y 3af my lyf for hysse.	32

(5)

t strive	¶ Be war, and loue not worldis good	
t worldly ures.	To gete wip wrong, and calle it thyn.	
	Man, haue it in by mood,	
	pou shalt rekene; for alle is myn.	36
ght thee, shouldst	Why bougte y pe on the rood?	
me.	For you shulde serue, and be myn hyne.	
	Make not myn argumentis wood,	
	To caste je fro blisse to pyne.	40

(6)

Thy sins pain me.	¶ Man, why turmentest bou me so? Euere by synnes don encresce,	
Thy vices grow; thy virtues wane	And by vices waxen moo, And by vertues wanen lesse.	44

Why dost thou not love me?

I died for thee. What didst thou suffer for me?

Do penance for thy sins.

Turn, and I will kiss thee.

Don' to ge treas

I bou thop serve Thenke good y be, thy foo. Whanne wylt bou of by synne ses, Haue mercy on by soule woo, Or haue mynde on me, and zeue me pes ?

(7)

¶ To suffre deb. v meked me. myself to die Fro pyne to blisse, by soule to wynne. for thee, To me so shuldest bou meke be, therefore thou shouldst 52 give up thy sins. Leue and forbere by synne. Fro my lordschipe myst bou not fle, Thou canst not flee from my power. Heuene ne helle, ne see wib-ynne, But where and whenne my wille be, 56by body and soule to parte o twynne.

(8)

¶ Thou; y have graunted be grace To knowe bobe good and ylle. Wyte by self in eche a place, Wheper bou wylt by self spille. bour flesch and world and fend [be] chas, Temptacion profre be tille, bou myst forbere and noust trespas; I lente be knoweleche and fre wille.

(9)

¶ In syknesse and pouerte, Glade pervnne, and banke me alt. be more bou hast berof plente. be nerre be, be y shall. ban say, 'Lord, kepe me ney; be! At nede, here me when y call ! Take fro me hele and prosperite Rapere pan lete me fro be falt !'

(10)

¶ Man, rewe on my paynes sore, Repente by synne, and mercy craue. By my woundes, swere no more. Dysmembre no lymes bat y haue.

Remember thy God, and have mercy on thy soul.

48

I humbled

60

Resist temptations.

64

Thank me for sickness and poverty.

68

fleaf 1107

72

Repent, and swear no more.

re ill- goods.	by wrong wynnyng, azen restore.	
i goods.	3if pou wilt by soule saue,	
y soul	Lete soule be lord, and go byfore,	
ver thy	And make by body by soule knaue.	80

(11)

¶ Man, and bou wist how,	
So ligtly my gre to make,	
pou noldest, for alle pe worldis prow,	
For fleschly lustes me forsake.	84
In þy lyue, besye þe now ;	
In goode werkis wysely wake;	
In loue, drede, to me bow,	
And fle to me fro synnes blake.	88

(12)

pe comaundementis and pe Crede,	
AH þy lyue, as y þe telle ;	
3eue me pyn herte in loue and drede.	92
Whyle body and soule togydre dwelle,	
bou my3t serue pyne and mede.	
When soule is out of flesch and felle,	
Shal neuere do synne ne almesdede.	96

(13)

¶ Mayntene not wrong, to calle it ry3t.	
Vengeaunce and mercy, neyzebores ben po.	
As messageres þey ben dy3t,	
Mercy to frend, vengeaunce to foo.	100
3oure dede in derk, y se in sy3t;	
pere nys nó þouzt hid me fro.	
After by dede, be doom is dy3t.	
Vengeaunce and mercy departeb hem so.	104

(14)

1	¶ For my doom is rigtwisnesse;	
	Riztwys longep to be godhede;	
	And my sones dom is wys,	
	For mercy longep to be manhede.	108

Let th

rule or body.

Thou mayst easily win my grace.

Do the seven works of charity, keep my com-mandments,

and give me thy heart.

Vengeance and mercy are neigh-bours,

thou wilt get one of them according to thy works.

My doom is righteous;

my son's doom, merciful ;

be holy gost grace lys, He zeuep lyf, he zeuep no dede. Ouercome my wrappe, and fle fro vys, And do be comaundementis bat y bede." the Holy Ghost gives grace."

112

XX. Mow Man's flesh complained to God against Christ.]

[Digby 102, leaf 120.] [27 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.]

(1)

The tixt of holy writ, men sayn, Hit sleep, but glose be among. The spirit of vnderstandyng quykenep agayn, And makeb the lyue endeles long.

A fantasie v herde sayn,

There-of me lust to make a song,

' How mannys flesch to god dede playn On Ihesu Crist, had don hym wrong.'

(2)

¶ The flesch, his playnt bus dob bygynne To god fader, in heuene on hyst: "Ihesu, brother of oure kynne, Hap bygyled me wib his sleyat. He hap parted my soule and me o twynne,

And raft [it] fro me by his myst.

Now, rystwys god, let mercy blynne ! On lhesu, by sone, do me ryst !

(3)

I Body and soule, bou dede me make, In vnyte to-gydre so. Now hap Ihesu my soule take, And pus parted oure loue o two. My soule hap me [now] forsake ; Sumtyme was frend, now is fo; Byd me go wolward, faste, and wake,

Alle here ioye is of my woo.

I will tell how the flesh complained of Christ,

It said. "God.

Jesus has alienated my 12 soul from me.

8

20

Formerly she was my friend, now she is my 24 enemy.

(4)

" My soul has taken refuge with thy son,

[leaf 120, bk.] and does not

care about

Fro me, to by sone, my soule is flet; Ful ofte by sone in me here sougte; Now here loue to hym so fast is knete, Away fro hym wol sche nougt.
She semes dronken, or out of wit; Of myn euelfare she has no bougt.

bat sorwe is so in myn herte hit, I trowe to debe v mon be brougt

(5)

Formerly she was mild,

now she seems to be mad. ¶ Sum-tyme my soule was mylde To my biddyng, in hoot and colde,
Synge, or playe, or chambres bylde,
Chef seruaunt of myn housholde.
Now Ihesu hap made here made and wylde;
ffro hym, departe neuere she nolde.
She settep on hym rigt as a childe;
Agens me she berep here bolde.

(6)

Whan I of here counseil craue, Of fleschly lustes to haue my wille,
She callep me wod, and seyp y raue;
She will neuere graunte pertille.
44
She biddep me haue mynde of my graue, Rule me in resoun and skille.
I was mayster, now am y knaue;
In that stat, brynge me she wille.
48

(7)

Wolde y be proud, she biddeb be meke;
Wolde y be gloton, she biddeb me faste;
pere y wolde take, she biddes me eke;
Wolde y be lyther, she biddis be chaste;
3if y fy3te, she biddes ley forb my cheke;
pere y am slow, she biddis be haste;
Here answere is not to seke;
To speke to here, my wynde y waste.

She will not allow me to have worldly pleasures.

She always bids me act in opposition to my will to do wrong.

56

52

28

32

36

(8)

¶ Ihesu com fro heuene blisse. And tok flesch in a mayden fre, Lowely, and most [of] mekenesse, Hyd vnder flesch¹ oure fraternite ; [1 MS. flesch fleschly] 60 Now wold [he] take my soule to his, "I should not taking my ffor he suffred pyne and pouerte. soul away. Bit sumwhat y myste acorde to bis : But why shulde my soule hate me? 64 unless she

(9)

¶ Whan Ihesu and my soule be met, Sone my werkis bey aspize; Here wit on me fast bey whet : 'In shame, and skorne, and vylenye, To folwe by fleschly lustes let, Or ellis bope ze shal dyze.' bus am y vnder and ouer set. She spettes on me, and dob me fyze.

(10)

¶ Wiþ me, my soule he doþ þrete,
And makep my soule me to hate.
Wip plesande wordis, he hotep here gete
In heuene blisse, a quenes astate.
pan comep she hom in wrappe-ful hete,
Bedep here lette, bope erly and late,
Castep me doun, and dop me bete,
And tredeb on me, and makeb debate.

(11)

¶ Thanne renneb she agen as she were wood ; To Ihesu, by sone, she dob flyze. He fedep here wip his flesch and blood, But panne here pouztes mownten hyze. She biddip me water and bred to food ; As mortkyn forsaken, she let me lize. She holdep me euyH, and no byng good, But a stynkyng carayne in here eyze.

mind Christ's

hated me.

He and my soul blame my works,

68 and warn me against sensuality.

72

He makes her hate and illtreat me.

76

80

He feeds her with hls flesh 84 and blood,

> and then she despises me.

(12)

¶ bus my soule, my body slees	
Wip gret anguysche and turment.	
She telles, Ihesu dyzed for pes;	
But fro his skole she is went;	92
Bytwen vs werre dop encres.	
Here swerd is drawen, here bow is bent.	
She sayb but, 'fleschly lustes, sees !	
We mon be dede, and bobe be shent.'	96

"My soul requires me to give up sensuality, lest we both be disgraced.

(13)

	¶ She acordid wip Ihesu, and me dede flyte,	
leaf 121]	And sayde y shulde be ¹ maked tame,	
	And sayde my werkys me adyte,	
	And bryngen me in wikked fame.	100
loves my nies,	3if worldly men me don smyte,	
111009	And don me bope wrong and grame,	
	She louep that don me despyte,	
prays for vho ne me.	And preyep for all pat don me shame.	104

(14)

¶ Hy3e fader, god of ri3twisnes,	
Haue mynde of my sorwe sore !	
And it be founden Ihesu loued mysse,	
To me my soule agen restore—	108
A litil playnt nes no3t þisse,	
And alle pat y haue sayd 30re-	
pat y and my soule be frendis and kisse,	
And loue, as we dede here byfore.	112

(15)

¶ For my soule, Ihesu suffred wo,	
Bounden and beten wip skourges ynowe,	
Crowned wip thorn, nayled also	
On croos, tyl deþ dede hym bowe.	116
Wip a spere, his herte let cleue a two,	
Wyde open his loue my3te out flowe,	
So lop hym was his loue forgo;	
He is worpy be loued, pat so dede wowe.	120

.

enem

[1]

She I

and p all wi sham

God, restore me my soul,

and make her love me again;

Jesus died from love of her.

(16)

¶ My soule, y holde, holy es it, ¹ [¹ Ms. it es]		
For she louep Ihesu, pat louep here wel.		"My soul loves Jesus,
But loue were tendere to loue vsed,		torio occasi,
Were harder pan ston, and styffere pan stel.	124	
On Ihesu she is amerous and ful auysed.		
What worldly byng she seep or fele,		
Al worldly ioye she hab refused,		and hates the
And me she louep neuere a dele.	128	world,

(17)

¶ I wante my wille, and euel fare y,		
Fro worldly merpe put o syde.		
Fro worldis worschip she dop me tary.		and turns
I may no pougt fro here hyde.	132	me away from worldly pleasures.
pere y blisse, she dop wary ;		pieasures.
pere y speke fayre, she dop chyde.		
She is newe waxen al contrary.		
pere y dwelle, she nyl not byde.	136	
	Fro worldly merpe put o syde. Fro worldis worschip she dop me tary. I may no pou3t fro here hyde. pere y blisse, she dop wary ; pere y speke fayre, she dop chyde. She is newe waxen al contrary.	Fro worldly merpe put o syde.Fro worldis worschip she dop me tary.I may no pougt fro here hyde.132pere y blisse, she dop wary ;pere y speke fayre, she dop chyde.She is newe waxen al contrary.

(18)

¶ She repreuep my dagged clopes,
And longe pyked crakowed shon;
Vpbreyde[b] me my grete opes,
And sayp y breke goddis bone.
pat me is lef, all she lopes.
I seye 'opere men so don.'
She seyp, pey go to helle wopes,
Wole to wende, wip hem to wone.

(19)

Wiþ Ihesu, alway is she, And now she lyþ wiþ hym in cracche, Now into Egipt wiþ hym doþ fle Fro Herowdes, lest he hem cacche.
In his moder armes, born wol she be, And sowke wiþ hym, as chylde in tacche.
She folweþ hym in al degre, And countrefeteþ to ben his macche. She scorns my fashionable dress,

and hates all that I like.

144

140

She accompanies Jesus through all his life,

148

(20)

"My soul eats and drinks with Jesus.

and is with him in his passion

and ascen-slon."

¶ Wib hym dob drynke and ete, To lerne of his discressioun ; Wib hym sche is skourged and bete, 156 And crucyfyed in his passioun ; She is wib hym in helle hete, Wip hym in his resurexioun, And stye in-to heuene in his fadres se[t]e; pens nolde she neuere come doun." 160

(21)

I Man to allow the state last

God answered, "Fiesh, by this complaint thou accusest thyself.

i now pe playint is at pe last.	
God answerd wip mylde soun :	
'fflesch,' he sayde, ' pou iangelest fast	
Moche dene, and no resoun.	164
Alle þy wordes þou dost waste.	
Wille wipoute discressioun,	
pyn awen pleynt þe doþ caste ;	
pou turnest by self vp so doun.	168

(22)

leaf 121, bk.]	¶ Thou makest maystershepe in al vys,	
	And here [turnest] fro my way,	
	And makest here pral to fleschely delys,	
	In vanyte to al worldly play.	172
Thy soul is	She is ashamed, now she is wys;	
shamed of hy vices.	Sche lyued in vowtrye so many a day.	
	She hab chosen be loue most o prys,	
	And cast be fals[e] loue away.'	176

(23)

¶ God seip : 'man, y made be of nou3t,	
And kyd þat y loued þe dere,	
And soule of resoun in be wrougt,	
ffayre and wys, angels pere.	180
bou hast defouled be ymage bat y wrougt,	
In seruage to fendis and fendis fere.	
She folwed by wille in dede and boust,	
In alle place, fer and nere.	184

Thou hast disgraced m image, and art the devil slave.

(24)

¶ On Ihesu pou pleynt dost make, Sayde he bigyled þe wiþ sley3te,	"Now thou complainest of Christ,
And biddest me lete mercy slake,	
And on Ihesu do þe ryzt.	188
My sone, for pe, dede deth take,	who died for thee.
And kydde pe loue most of my3t.	cuee.
pouz he loue dede forsake,	
How woldest pou pis doom were dy3t?	192

(25)

¶ Flesch, þy synnes mochil is ;		
bou art cast in byn awen caas.		
Knowleche, repente, and mende by mys,		
And be in wille no more trespas.	196	
I nel deme þe in ry3twisnes,		I shall not
But medle perwip mercy and grace,		judge thee after justice, but after
And brynge by soule to heuene blys,		mercy, and
Wip loue to se my fayre face.	200	bring thy soul to Heaven.

(26)

¶ In ouerhope, be not to bold	Do not sin in
In synne, for to haue mercy.	excess or in want of hope
Let not wanhope in pe be old,	
For my grace is euere redy.	204
Fro helle pynes hoot and cold	
I assoyle be, and out of purgatory.	
At by deth, or body be cold,	
To Ihesu in heuene by soule shal fleve.	208

(27)

¶ In good werkis wysely wake,		
Playne not on Ihesu, what he sende.		
Sykenes, pouerte, mekely take ;		Suffer sick-
Richesse and hele wysely spende,	212	ness and poverty, and help the poor."
And helpe all pore for goddis sake.		and help the poor."
pan god wole lede 30w, as his frend,		
To ioye of heuene pat shal neuere slake.'		
In-to pat blisse, god graunte vs wende ! Amen !	216	

n

XXI. A lernyng to good lenynge.

[Digby 102, leaf 121, back.]

[20 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.]

(1)

Blessed be he who is poor in spirit;

he shall be a lord in the kingdom of Heaven, Pore of spirit, blessed be: pouz he be lord of richesse fele, He berep penaunce and pouerte. That of his good to pore folk dele, Of pe kyngdom of heuene a lord is he. Jat counseylep wel to soule hele, And lyuep in werkis of charyte, Suche folk to heuene preuyly stele.

(2)

I Sip god dop blisse, and grauntep blis pat don his word, and holde it trewe, pan pat man cursed is, pat lyuep contrarious pat vertue. pat fillep his herte wip ryches, Nedeles aueryce gadryng newe, For wikkid counseil, helle is his, pere neuere nes reste, but euere remewe.

(3)

I Blessid be man pat in herte is mylde, Buxom to lerne, and lef to teche, Shal owe pe ¹erpe, and peron bylde, In helpe of mony his rychesse reche, Of shrewes, make goddis childe, Of gostly woundes, be soule leche; Make tame to god, po pat were wylde. Of eche good lyuere, his werkis preche.

Cursed be the hard-hearted man;

(4)

 panne cursed be man in herte ruyde, pat neuere nel lere ne vnderstond.
 pouz he owe erpe, he shal not byde, Til it be, out of his hond.

Cursed is he who avariciously strives for riches;

he shall never find rest in Hell.

Blessed be he who is meek in spirit;

he shall possess the earth, and lead others to Heaven. [1 leaf 122]

 $\mathbf{24}$

20

16

12

4

When conscience his werkis chyde, pat man shal neuere reioyse lond. Fro alle vertues pat dop hym hyde, To alle myscheues he makep hym bond.

(5)

I Blessed be he pat mornep sore His brepere synnes, his awen mysdede, Repente, and wille to do no more, But holde pe hestes pat god bede; His wrong wynnyng agen restore, And helpe pore pat han nede. He shal be counforted perfore, In heuene blisse haue his mede.

(6)

I Than cursed be he hap ioye of synne, And euere encresep mo and mo, Boste perof, delyte perynne, Beue men ensample to do so. Heuene gates fro hem they pynne, Of goddis frendis make goddis foo; In helle pey purchas here ynne; His felaschipe, with hym thay go.

(7)

I Blessed euere mote he be, pat hungren and thursten rystwisnes; He wolde were wel in al degre, pat god and man echon had his. Gostly hunger and thurstes he pat fayn wolde mende pat is mys. Ful filled he shal wip grete deynte At goddis feste in heuene blisse.

(8)

Than cursed is he pat ful is fylde, Wip wrong take pore mennys thrift, pat makep pore men be spilde,¹ For synguler profyt is sotylt theft;

> ¹ MS. : spi3ed. POEMS (OXF.).

he shall never rejoice in his fortune.

32

Blessed be he. who repents his sins ;

36

restores illgotten goods, and helps the poor; he shall be comforted in 4.0 Heaven.

> Cursed be he who increases his sins,

44 and misleads others.

48

Blessed be he who hungers and thirsts for righteousness;

52

he shall be filled full in 56 Heaven.

> Cursed is he who harms the poor

60 for his own profit's sake.

Ħ

Make gulteles folk presoned and kylde. Of hous and land make wrongwys gyft : Wib hunger and birst his hous is bylde. In helle is shewed eueH-sponnen wyft.

(9)

Blessed be he who helps the poor and needy.

¶ Blessid be be mercyable ; Mercy and mede, of god he fonges. In goddis doom he stondes stable. bat wrekeb not all his owen wronges. 68 To pore folk he is profytable, bat leueb his good hem amonges. Sorefull and hungry, he fyndeb hem table, 72

64

76

80

The sorwefull he gladeb to synge songes.

(10)

The rich who don't help the poor

¶ Thanne, how of hem han hertis stoute bat reweb non pore bat han penaunce, Han nedeles gold nost to lene it oute, But to be borwere gret greuaunce ; But he may guyte, is zerne aboute To presone hym or make destaunce : But he be cursed, it is in dowte;

shall be cursed. [1 If. 122, bk.]

Blessed be the peaceful man, he shall be called a child of God.

bat hab no mercy, ¹ mote haue vengeaunce. (11)

¶ Blessed be he pat louep pes, Mekely to goddis byddyng bende. He shal be cleped, at goddis dees, Goddis sone, good and hende. 84 He wolde all werre shulde asses, Of goddis foon, make goddis frende; Make soule wip ioye to heuene pres, 88 And sorwe and werre to helle wip fende.

(12)

Than, how of hem bat pes dob hate, Wolde ouerall were werre and woo, Eche man wip oper debate, 92 bat shulde be frend, make hem foo;

Whoever

sake,

hates peace, and excites troubles for his profit's

For synguler wynnyng to his a	istate,	
Lede his men, opere to sloo	:	
He shal be blessed neuere or la	ate;	shall be con- demned by
His werkis curseb hym, who	ere he go. 96	his own works.
(13)		
The clene of herte, blissed by bat lyneb after goddis lore	ie, ~	Blessed be he who has a clean heart :

party dep atter goudant tote.		
God hym self he shal see,		he shall see
pere as blisse is euere more ;	100	
And gouernep wel his owen degre,		
And dop pe dede pat he come fore ;		
Fulfyllep pe werkis of charyte :		
His vertue gadereth mede in store.	104	

(14)

¶ The herte þat is fyled in synne, And sulpeþ his soule wiþ spottes of blame, Goddis curs he doþ wynne,	Whoever lets his heart rot in sin, falls under the curse of God.
pat spysep hym-self and goddis name. 10	08
His astate, he nele not dwelle perynne ;	
To serue god hym penkep shame.	
3if god and he departe o twynne,	
In helle he may be meked tame.	12

(15)

That is pursued ¹ for rigitwisnes [¹ MS. presued] Is blessid, where he go or ryde; pe kyngdom of heuene is his,		Blessed is he who is perse- cuted for righteons- ness' sake;
<pre>pat quereH to ende, in charite byde. God wole brynge hym to heuene blis, And fro his enemys pere wole hym hyde;</pre>	116	for he shall go to the kingdom of Heaven. Nota
And po pat pursue hym with mys, To helle pey ben here awen gyde.	120	

(16)

¶ Thanne are they cursed in here lyf, pat auauncep be fals, and stroyep be trewe,		Cursed are those who maintain
Mayntene fals querell and stryf,		falsehood against right ;
Riztwis men wrongly pursue,	124	

Defowle bobe mayden and wvf. bat shulde be clene in alle vertue. Eche dedly synne is a dedly knyf; For he shal repe bat he sewe.

they shall reap as they 80W.

'You she blessed

Be cheerful, for your reward in Heaven shall be great; and be not afraid of tyrants, who may slav your body ; but fear God. who may save or spoil [leaf 123] both your

body and soul.

You ar salt of earth. Do you well, you wil to acco for it.

(17)

128

'You shall be blessed	¶ 3e shal be blessid, erly and late,	
	By vertue of gospelt pat 3e preche.	
	3e shul be blessid, whan folk 30w hate,	
	And cursen 30w for 30ure speche.	132
	3oure tonge is kaye of heuene 3ate,	
though	3oure word, be way to heuene hem teche.	
people hate you for my sake.'	Folk wip 30w schal debate,	
sane.	ffor me wib lesynges 20w apeche.	136

(18)

	¶ Glade 3e wip-ynne, and ioye wip-oute;	
1	3oure mede in heuene moche is.	
d	Drede no tyrauntes sterne and stoute	
y	May sle by body, and take as his.	140
3	God, be fader of heuene, 3e dowte	
, l	May brynge be soule to pyne or blis;	
-	He schal deme all be world aboute,	
	To heuene for goode, to hell for mys.	144

(19)

e the the	¶ Of crþe 3e ben cleped 'salt,' ffor salt of wisdom soule saues ;	
ır work	Go vp-rizt and be not halt,	
•	for mayster of servaunt his service craues.	148
ill have	þyn astate rekene þou shalt,	
June	How þou it gat, how þou it saues.	
	Fewe ben chosen, pou; mony ben calt,	
	Fro goddis seruyce are worldly knaues.	152
	(22)	

(20)

Nota You are a lautern to the world; don't hlde your light,

¶ To lanterne ze ben likned rizt, In all be world ze shal be kyd. 3oure prechyng shal be candel list, Nouzt vnder worldly buschel hyd, 156

XXII. Know thyself and thy God.

But on a candel-styke on higt; Noust vnder a chiste, vnder a lyd ; In good werkis shyne ze bryzt, And lyue ze so, rist as ze byd.

but let it 160 works.

XXII. Knowe thy self and thy god. [Digby 102, leaf 123.]

[9 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.]

(1)

Thenke hertely in by pouzt Of what matere pou dede bygynne.	Remember of what stuff thou art made.
Of fylthy seed pou were wrouzt,	
And wan in at pe wyket of synne.	4
Foulere fylje knowe y nou3t	
pan pou were fed py moder wip-ynne;	
In a sake ful of filpe pou was out brougt,	
In wrecchednes horyble, and stynkyng skynne.	8

(2)

What bou art, knowe by self wel. bou were conceyued in synne, and born wib woo. by moder and bou, on fortune whel, In perile of dep, parted a-twoo. 12 Of pynes of helle, what soules fele, And bou in mynde keped boo, Hit wolde make by corage kele, Whan bou hadde wil, to synne goo.

(3)

I God made be of noust, haue in mynde, Wip soule of resoun, lyk his ymage. In heuene, wip angels, aboue be wynde, He ordeyned be endeles heritage. Wip more loue he dede be bynde : Bycome by brother in mannys lynage. He, ielous louer and trewest to fynde. by soule is spouse to his marvage.

Thou wast conceived and born in sin.

God made thee in his image.

He became thy brother;

24 thy soul is his spouse.

(4)

Keep thy wedlock truly, and don't make him a cuckold.

I To god, thy wedlok wip loue holde, In brennyng contemplacion, And make noust hym cokewolde, To loue in fornycacion. On goddis mercy be not to bolde, To falle in temptacion. Kepe charite hot, let it not colde For quenchyng of deuocion.

Love thy neighbour.

(5)

¶ Loue all folk in charyte, Body and soule in good atent, As bou wolde bey dede be; pat is goddis comaundement. Who breke bo hestes, cursed is he Til pey come to mendement. bou prevest euere-more in all degre Til pat pou to synue assent.

Think of thy

sins and of thy virtues. That bou hast don sip bou were bore, AH by lyuyng bybenk be newe. Wheper hast pou more in store, Or of vices or of vertue; And wheper hast pou folwed more Good aungel or wykked, for bobe be sewe; by countretayle bey wil shewe, be skore, In helle or in heuene, ¹ wreten trewe.

(6)

(7)

¶ Haue mynde, god sente his sone adoun, Tok mankynde in flesch and felle, And suffred hard passioun, 52Dved on crovs, and herved helle. Haue mynde of his resurexioun ; Byleue all bis trewe gospelle. Haue mynde on his Assencioun ; On god his fader rist hond, dop dwelle. 56

Remember the passion

[1 lf. 123, bk.]

and the ascension of the Lord.

28

32

40

44

(8)

¶ penke pou shalt dye, and nost whenne;		Thou must die, and shalt
pou art incertayn, perfore drede.		go either to Heaven or to
Fro heueue to erpe, god shal come penne,		Hell.
Deme euel and good, after here dede;	60	
pe good, to heuene blisse renne,		
In endeles lyf to have here mede;		
pe wikked, in helle for to brenne,		
In endeles pyne, dep shal hem fede.	64	
(9)		
, (0)		
¶ The ten comaundementis, bou hem kepe;		Keep the
be seuen werkis of mercy, wel hem vse;		ments, flee from sin,
þe seuene synnes þou he-wepe,		
þy fyne wittes þe anyse.	68	
T 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		

Do penaunce, and preye whyle bou schuld slepe; be fend and fals[e] world despise;

No fleschly lustes be vndercrepe ;

Fle all foly, and folwe be wise !

do penance.

72

XXIII. Of the sucrament of the Iltere. [Digby 102, leaf 123, back.] (16 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.)

(1)

I wole be mendid 3if y say mys. Holychirche nes noper tre ne stones. pe hous of preyers, god nempned þys, Bope goode men and wikked ressayuep at ones. pere as gadryng of goode men ys, Is holychyrche of flesch and bones. Prestes are lanterne, hem to wysse

be wise weyes to heuene wones.

(2)

Holychirche, heryze by saueour, bynk by hurd, god on hizt,
Wib song and ympnes, tyde and houre, Reioys in hym day and nyzt; 4 The Church is a congregation of good men;

priests are to lead the way to Heaven.

> Church, glorify thy Saviour.

For he is more pan any honour, For his honour passep oure myst, For we ben his, and he is oure; AH pouztes ben to hym dyzt.

(3)

¶ A specyall tyme of heryeng here.	
Lyueliche quyk bred is put forp pis day,	
Whyche in be table of be holy sopere,	
Wip-outen doute was 30uen oure fay	20
To be company of twelfe breberen bere were.	
By here ful heryenge, ioyed pay;	
Wel sowned in here ere,	
Wip ioly herte, fayre song to say.	24

16

44

(4)

¶ A day is mad of solempnyte,	
Of pis table first ordynaunce is worschipful tolde.	
In þis newe kynges table, now knowe we	
Newe Estren endep the olde.	28
Newe thyng dryuep old pyng fro his degre;	
Out of mynde, pe lasse of tolde.	
So soþfast sunne, by hys pouste,	
Dryuep awey shadewe, and strizep colde.	32
	Of pis table first ordynaunce is worschipful tolde. In pis newe kynges table, now knowe we Newe Estren endep the olde. Newe thyng dryuep old pyng fro his degre; Out of mynde, pe lasse of tolde. So sopfast sunne, by hys pouste,

(5)

	¶ As ly3t li3tene) ny3t, fro derkenes of kynde,	
	So dede crist at pe holy sopere,	
	Bad pertely do so of hym mynde,	
	By holy ordynaunce tau ₃ t vs to lere,	36
	Halwe bred and wyn, by hys word and wynd,	
	To an ost of helpe to cristen men here,	
7	ffro shadwe of dep, to gostly blynd,	
	To list of lyf, to shynen clere.	40

(6)

I Lore is 30uen to cristen men, In-to flesch passeþ þe bred ;
As holychirche doþ vs kenne, þe wyn, to blod, þat is so red.

This day is most fit for glorifying, the bread of the holy supper being exhibited.

By this we know

that Easter has come round again.

As the light removes the night, so did Christ at the holy supper;

he bade us consecrate bread and wine

to drive away the shadow of death.

The bread is turned into [leaf 124] flesh; the wine into blood.

XXIII. Of the Sacrament of the Altar.

pou seest not fleschly pou takest penne;
py byleue of herte, makep pe fast fro ded,
Wipouten ordre of pynges, to renne, .
By tokene and word pat he bede.

(7)

Wip-outen help of ordre of pyngis, pe bok of oure byleue is lent, Vnder dyuerce spices only tokenynges, pouz pe spices fro hym be went, Not durked ne hyd, but rizt shynynges, pouz fleschly syzt fro hym be blent, pe soule hap ioye, and mery synges, When good byleue seep pe sacrament.

(8)

f þe blod is drynk, þe flesch is mete, Ys gostly fode, þe soules delys;
Neuere-þe-lattere, of crist to trete, He dwelleþ vnder ayþer spys.
þe ressayuour counteþ not þat þey ete, Ne brekeþ it not, but hool it lys.
þou3 a thowsand take at o sete, Alone on takeþ as moche o prys.

(9)

While obley in yrnes, or boyst ys stoken, Hit nys but bred, and sengyl bake;
Whanne je prest, to hit, goddis wordis hath spoken, Crystys quyk body, vndir bred o cake.
pou3 it a pousand peces seme broken, Nes parted ne wasted, but al holt take.
In byleue of holychirche, who wyl hym 30ken, A3en pis, non argument may make.

(10)

 That ressayue), children, man, and wyf, Not al yliche deuocioun.
 Summe taken it in synne and stryf, As bestes wip-outen discrecioun. 48

52

You cannot see the transubstantiation with your fleshly eyes, but only in your belief.

60 Christ is present in either species, even in the smallest part of it,

64

68 as soon as the priest has spoken the words of God.

be wikkid resceueb a dedly knyf,	
And his endeles dampnacioun;	
pe good resceyuep endeles lyf,	
To body and soule saluacioun.	80

1

(11)

¶ When bou to chirche gost	
To resceyue god, wisely go.	
I suppose be prest haue but on ost,	
Breke it, and parte to twenty and mo:	84
As moche is pe leste cost	
As in be grettest pece of bo;	
Deme all yliche, lest and most;	
Quaue not, ne drede not, to sen hit so.	88

(12)

¶ pouz pe prest pe sacrament clyue	
In a powsand peces and pre,	
be state, ne stature, ne my3t dob myue,	
Ne lesep ne lassep of his pouste.	92
by fleschly sy3t pou shalt not lyue;	
But tokene of brekyng makep he;	
For fleschly skyn, no sacrement kan preue,	
In gostly bylyue shal saued be.	96

(13)

¶ In old[e] lawe, 3e wyten how	
At estren þey eten a lamb al ded,	
Is ouer put in newe lawe now;	
At estre, we eten quyk bred.	100
In old[e] lawe, for mannys prow,	
God pe comaundementis bed ;	
And oure newe lawe we don allow,	
And kepen bope by goddis red.	104

(14)

Jesus, forgive us our tres- passes,	¶ Lete þy mercy passe ry3t, And for3eue vs oure mysdede!	
	by face, wip loue to seen in sy3t,	
lead us to Heaven	In lond of lyf, pou vs lede.	108

Though you receive only a small part of the host,

the sacra-ment does not lose its virtue.

The Jews ate a lamb at Easter; we eat living bread.

Heaven,

Among by seyntes in heuene on hy3t, At bat feste of lif, god, vs fede !		and feed ns among the [lf. 124, bk.]
Sopfast bred, god of my3t,		saints.
Ihesus herde, bou vs hede!	112	

(15)

 In syst and in felyng, bou semest bred, In byleue, flesch, blod, and bon; In syst and felyng, bou semest ded, In byleue, lyf, to speke and gon; In syst and felyng, noper hond ne hed, In byleue, bobe god and man; In syst and felyng, in litil sted, 	116	To our senses thou seemest common bread; but in our belief, thon art the living and almighty God.
In bylcue, grettere þyng nes nan.	120	

(16)

¶ Whan Abraham of Ysaac his offryng made,		Isaac,
ffor a ffygure he lykned is		
To angels bred, oure fadres hadde,		the manna,
bat god fed hem in wyldernes.	124	
Afterward, god hem bade,		
"A paske lomb rosted, and eteb bes."		and the pas- chal lamb,
In stede of pat, oure soules to glade,		were types
We resceyue oure houselt, god o blisse.	128	of Christ, whom we receive in the

XXIV. The Lessouns of the Dirige.

[Digby 102, leaf 124, back.] [52 stanzas of 8, abab, abab.]

(1)

Lectio prima : Parce mihi, domine. lmy3ty god, lord, me spare, ffor sope, my dayes werkys ben nost. My wittes on nystes wrong y ware, perof longe zeres mon be wrozt. benke, man, pou ware born ful bare. In-to pis world what hastou bro;t ? Out of bis world whanne bon schalt fare, bou schalt bere with pe ryst nost.

Spare me, O Lord, for my works are vain.

receive in the housel.

8

(2)

What is man?

Why doest thou suddenly punish him? What is man of gret renoun, That of hym self makep aldre mest?
Why settyst pou py herte agen resoun, And sodeynly repreuest hem mest?
12
In pe dawenynge pou soujtest hem vpsodoun. Contrary to godis hest
pou purchasest py saule helle prisoun ; For fleschely lust, wormes fest.

(3)

How long will thy punishment last? I How longe sparest pou me noşt, To swolwe my spotel, bote it me gryue?
pou keper of men, alle pyng hast wroşt;
What shal y do to pyn byhyue?
20
What hastou set me contrarie py poşt, py holy lawe to repryue?
Lord, whenne my werkis mon be soşt, Dyspyce ne noşt in my myschyue!
24

Don't despise me in my mlsery.

I am disgusted with myself.

(4)

¶ Ful heuy to my self y am maad withynne ;	
My werkes, on me heuye isse.	
Why takest pou nost away my synne,	
And bere from me my wykednesse ?	28
I slepe in dust, for we ben kynne,	
For erthe clayme; me for hisse.	
To seche me eerly, 3if pon begynne,	
I ne may withstonde pe y-wisse.	32

(5)

Lectio secunda : Tedet animam meam. ¶ My soul, of my self anoyed isse. I shal leue my speche agens me. To my soul y wole speke in bitternesse, And y shal saye to god so fre : Wyl no3t dampne me fro blisse, Shew me þe cause, þat wolde I se, Why demestou me þo3 y dede mysse, Lord, whether þe þynke good to þe.

My soul disdains me.

I shall say, "Don't condemn me, O Lord; show me the cause of thy anger.

(6)

" 3if bou chalenge my werk, and bere me down, Me that am werk of by hande, And bou in consayl helpe 3e moun To wykked men here synnes withstande, Wip repentaunce and sorwful 1 soun May launce hem from be deuelys bande : To zerde of loue y moste me boun ; Lord, me chastice wip pat wande.

(7)

¶ Wheper þyn ey3en ben fleschlye, Or þou seest as man shal see ?		Are thy eyes as man's eyes,
Or þy dayes so sone sy3e,		and thy days as men's
As other mennys dayes be? Or þy zerys rizt so hye,	52	days,
As mennys tymes in here degre ?		
For pou art god shal neuere dy3e, For sorwe and dep shal from the fle—	56	

(8)

¶ That pou seche my wykkednesse, And ransake my synne,		that thou searchest for my wicked-
		ness
And wyte I haue no3t doun mysse,		
Bote hert and soule clene withynne.	60	though my soul is clean?
Sopes per no man nesse		soul is clean ?
May skape byn hond, and from the twynne, -		
Bote repentaunce and mercy kesse.		
bat now ben frendis, lord, make hem kynne	64	

(9)

Lectio tertia : Manus tue fecerunt me.		Thy hand	
Thy hand made me man of resoun,1 [1 MS. be soun]		made me,	
And shope me al in compas,		and now it	
And sodeynly pou cast me down,		suddenly casts me	
ffor knew y nost what bou was.	68	down.	
Of me men sample take mowen,		Let others	
Be ware lest pay folwe my tras.		take sn ex- ample by me.	
I hadde lordship in feld and toun,		I was rich,	
Now on a donghille is my pas.	72	now I lie on a dunghill.	

44 Thou helpest wicked men [1 leaf 125] to repent their sins; I bow to thy

wand of love : 48 chastise me with it.

(10)

¶ Haue mynde on me. lord, and take hede Of fen of erthe pou dede me make. In-to dust agen bou shalt me lede. My soule from be body take. 76 My flesch is ful sleper atte nede. And solpep my soule wip synnes blake. Lord god, by dome v drede. Whanne bou comest, y mon awake. 80

(11)

¶ My hert shulde be stedefast,

bou hast lopred as mylk, and slep in boust,

84

88

Rist as chese bou croddest me fast. I wyte my synnes pat y wrougt.

Lord, alle my synnes away bou cast, Bote wib my synnes cast me nozt. bou knowest how longe my lyf shulde last;

bou sette my terme, y passe it nozt.

(12)

I bou clopedest me with flesch and skyn, With bones and synewes made me to-gyder ; Lyf and mercy 3af me withyn ; As brotel vessel y stonde slyder. 92 by sechyng hab kepyd my gost with wyn. A, lord, whenne bou comest hyder To deme al erbe, by domes to twyn bous I wolde fle, I not nost whyder.

(13)

¶ To deme be erthe whanne bou wendys, Fro face of by wrappe whyder shal I go? To hyde me wip angels aren goddis frendys ? 100 And god me hate, pay ben my fo. And I hyde me in helle among fendys, In pyne bay wolen tormente me so. [1 1f. 125, bk.] I have synned ¹ rist moche, my synne me schendys. Me thynke bay waxen mo and mo. 104

Thou madest me of dust, and wilt reduce me to dust.

Thou formedst me like cheese.

Thou clothedst me with flesh and bone, and gavest me life.

Whither shall I flee from thee on doomsday ?

XXIV. The Ten Lessons of the Dirige, 3, 4.

(14)

¶ My trespas moche arn blamed. Bote repentaunce be mendement, Byfore be, y drede, y am aschamed. I fear I shall 108 by thy judg-Whenne bou comest to jugement. ment. pat weren wylde, mon be tamed, Al wopen of wrappe mon be brent ; In bok of lyf po pat be named, To joye of heuene mon be sent. 112

(15)

¶ Almy3ty god, lord, me 3eme,
In thy mercy pou me lede.
Whenne my soule is boden out fleme,
Helpe me, lord, atte al my nede.
Whenne pou al pe world shal deme,
Dampne me nogt after my dede.
Whenne pat angels blowen here beme,
penne alle folk may haue gret drede.
pointe and tork may have gree dreue.

(16)

¶ From worldis worschipe y am shoue,	
And brogt abas from al astat.	
My skyn is cloped al on roue,	
In pouerte and peyne my wyt is ma	t.
Lord, chastice me wip 3erd of loue,	
bous y haue seruyd be swerd of hat.	
Wherto wyltou by maystry proue,	
Wip suchon as I to make debat?	

(17)

Lectio quarta : Quantas habeo. ¶ Als many wykkednesse and trespas And synnes withoute noumbre mo Shew me; why hydest by fas fro me, and demest me by fo ? Lord, benkes be solace This turment, and do me wo? A drope of thy mercie of oyle of grace, Lord, graunte me er y go.

Have mercy on me:

116

120

124

chastise me with the wand of love, though I deserve the sword of 128 revenge.

132

Grant me a drop of thy 136 mercy.

(18)

¶ I am slyme of erthe, haue in mynde, Pore of matere and dedely,

As a lef styrede with wynde.

On me bou prouest by maystry.

bou prouest by myst, and pat I fynde,

O pe stubble, pat is so drye,

bou pursuest me, and wylt me bynde,

Wip synnes in my 30upe pou wylt me stroye. 144

140

152

(19)

I Lord, pou pursuest me fast, for sope, agens me pou doest wryte
Bitternesse, bote swete is past. I may nogt blenche whenne pou wylt smyte.
148
I trowe pat pou wolt me wast, With synnes in my goupe do me endite.
Lard, or me he wille her hest

Lord, on me by wille bou hast.

My grete synne myself y wyte.

(20)

¶ In synne bou settest my fot and hede,	
And alle my werkes hastou so3t,	
And alle steppys y euere 3ede;	
3e haue nombred alle my wordes and post.	156
And als bou hast taken hede,	
Roten y schal be, wasted to nost;	
As clothes pat moppes on hem fede,	
So shal my flesch with wormes so3t.	160

(21)

¶ Wo [to] me, so mon y be,	
For y haue don moche synne.	
I, wreche, whyder shal y fle	
ffor wrechyd lyf y lyued ynne ?	164
My lord, my god, no3t bote to the !	
God of mercie, on me mynne!	
Lord, haue mercie on me,	
Let nost thy loue ¹ fro me twynne !	168

I am but a withered,leaf, and against that thou provest thy power.

Thou visitest me for the sins of my youth.

Thou hast counted all my words and thoughts.

Whither shall I flee but to thee,

God of mercy ?

[1 leaf 126]

XXIV. The Ten Lessons of the Dirige, 5.

(22)

Lectio quinta : Homo natus.

I Man, that is of woman born, Lyuynge short tyme he is. Er his nauel be knytte and shorn, fulfilde with many wrechidnes. 172 Er he fro moder be forborn, In pervl of deth, bothe partie es. 3if flesch be lord, the soule is lorn ; Bote soule be lord, he leseth his blys.

(23)

¶ Man geth out as don floures, Corage and strengthe, and fayre of hewe; Makeb moche of hymself, saybe al is oures, And repeth bat he neuere ne sewe. He is defouled be dayes and houres, And fleep as shadow, bat neuere grewe ; Dwellep neuere in pe self stat of ouris. Encrescep mo vyces pan vertew.

(24)

¶ And pou holdest worthy to open thyn ey, And come to me, and clayme for rent, To loke on such a wrecche as v. And lede hym with the to iugement, per al mankynde in company, Atte thy general parlement ; Vertues to henen ther schul ze try, The vyces in helle fyre be brent.

(25)

¶ What man may make hym clene, pat is conceyued in vnclene sed ? Ywhether bou art alone, withoute mene? To felowschipe bou hast non nede. Short ar mannys dayes sene, And the nombre of hys monthes in thy dede. bou hast sette his terme of fat and lene, He passeb it nost for no mede. POEMS (OXF.).

The life of man is short.

Before his navel is knotted and cut, he is full of wretched-2000

176

He withers like flowers,

180

and vanishes like shadows ;

184

and thou vouchsafest to look at me.

188 and to lead me to thy judgment.

192

196

200

τ

The life of man is short : his term of fat and lean is set; he cannot prolong it

(26)

	(26)	
Go a little	¶ A, go away a lytel hym fro,	
away from me, that I	In mendement that he mow rest	
may rest in amendment	Tyl the day he zerned so,	
till I die.	A, of harde man, come pat is best.	204
	Lord, haue no mynde to do me wo,	
	fforber my synnes wolde make me lest.	
	Lord, whenne bou comest to deme so	
	Al be world be fyre, bobe est and west,	208
	God, in by syst by way y go	
	Ry3t ham; in by fayb me fest!	
	(27)	
On doomsday	¶ Lord, whenne bou demest alle byng in rist,	
	Wher mercie shal nost knawen be;	212
	Ryat leseb noat his myat,	
let mercy be	pour mercie be in companye.	
joined with right.	Mercy is euere in by syst,	
	For mercie euere byn eyzen se.	216
	Wher-euere by dome is dyst,	
	Rizt claymep mercie for his fee.	
	(28)	
	Lectio sexta : Quis mihi hoc tribuat.	
Who can	¶ Who zeuep to me, pat y me hyde	
grant me protection from thy	Tylle by wrappe in helle be past?	220
wrath in Hell P	Withouten pyne, by dome to byde,	
neur 4	Tyl body and soule agen be fast?	
	With arguments nost me chyde !	
	pou knowest how longe my lyf shal last.	224
	Lord, lat mercie be my gyde,	
	And neuere fro by face me cast!	
	(29)	
Fix a time	¶ pou set me a tyme; couenant is tan.	
when thou wilt remem-	Haue mynde on me, what dome is dist.	228
ber me.	Trowest pou ougt pat y, dede man,	
	Shal haue ageyn man of mygt,	
	And 3elde rekenyng sen y bygan	
	With alle dayes pat y now fygt?	232
[lf. 126, bk.]	Now I abyde pat I fro ran,	
	Tyl my folwyng come to myn insigt.	

(30)

¶ Lord, bou shalt clepe me, Thou shalt And I shal answere to be, werk of byn hande. 236 Ishall answer. Werk of by rist hand, take to be; bou shalt not bynde it in helle bande. bou hast noumbred my steppes, how mony bay be, How monye y ran, how monye I stande. 240 Bot spare bou, lord, to be synne of me. Ne wilne nost deme my werkes ze fande.

(31)

¶ Deme me no3t after my dede,		
Lord, I byseche pe !	244	
I have don in by sizt, and tok non hede;		
perfore I praye by mageste,		
God, my wikkednesse away pou lede,		
Myn vnry3t away wasche 3e !	248	Take my sins from me,
Non more; lord, at my nede,		from me,
Of alle my synnes clense 3e me !		and make me

(32)

Lectio septima : Spiritus¹ meus. [1 MS. spē]

¶ My gost, shalt pou be made newe,		My soul shall
My dayes shulle yshorted be;	252	escape from my body; only the
My soule fro þe body mon remewe,		grave shall be left to me.
Alone a graue byleueth to me.		De lete so me.
I haue non synne, no vices me sewe,		
Myn eyen in bitternesse dwelle y se.	256	
Deliuere me, lord, and on me rewe,		

And sette me bysydes the !

(33)

¶ Whos hande bou wolt azeyn me fyzt,		
And pou proue by stronge hande?	260	
My dayes ben passed to withstonde by my3t,		
I may nost bere by litel wande.		Ic
My thoustes ben wasted, turned in ryst,		you wa
Turmentynge my herte inwith and ande;	264	tor her
And turnyd day to pe nyst.		ties
After derkenesse I haue bedded my bed, I fande		

115

call me, and

clean.

annot bear and; y thoughts ment my art.

(34)

I said to rot- tenness and to the worms, 'You are my parents	¶ I sayde to stynke and rotenesse, 'My fader and moder arn 3e;' And to wormes y sayde pysse:	268
and my brothers.' Earth claims me as her	'My systren and my brethern both be 3e.' And erthe claymeb me for hysse,	۰
own.	Where pen now my bydynge to me.	272
	My felynge pou art, and my god of blisse.	
	Drede of deth droueth me.	

(35)

TEche a day synnyng

Sin is always increasing, virtue decreasing.

" mono a day synnyng,	
And euere news encres;	276
Neuere a day blynnyng,	
Bote euere vertue wane les. ¹	[¹ MS. waneles]
To repente no bygynnyng,	
No ₃ t bote gadre synne ay in pres.	280
In helle is no wynnyng,	
Ne non azeynbyynge to pes.	

(36)

Lectio octava : Pelli mee. ¶ My flesches ben wasted, don me refuse, My bones cleuvn vnto þe skyn; 284 My lippes arn shronken out of syse, Aboute my teth arn left atwyn. Haue mercye on myn werk vnwyse, Haue mercie on me, let mercie wyn ! 288 Namly my frendes, me nost despyse ; Lordis hande hath towched me more and myn,

My body decays.

Have mercy, especially you, my friends.

Who will grant my words to be written, with an iron pencil, on a leaden plate ?

(37)

¶ Why pursue 3e me, and on me syte,	
And arn filled of my flesch and fel?	292
Who zeuep to me, pat wolde y wyte,	
Wordes in boke be ered wel,	
Or in a plate of led wryten	
With an yren poyntel,	296
Or in a flynt grauen and spyten	
By craft of werk withoute chysel ?	

(38)

 I byleue ¹ pat soth y say, Myn azeynbyere lyuynge isse. I shal rysen of pe erthe my laste day, Bylapped in my flesch and skyn ywisse; Byholde with myn eyzen twey, 		[1 leaf 127] My Savionr is alive. I shall rise and behold him with these eyes of mine.
Se god, my sauyour, in blisse;	304	
Non other eyzen bote pes, withouten nay;		
pe hope in my bosom yput vp isse.		

(39)

¶ The soule is in derkenesse from gostly syst. Lord, 3yue here rest and pees ! 308 O Lord, give Withouten ende, 3yue here lyst, Euerlastynge lygt, pat neuere shal sees ! pou pat rered Lazar on hyst Out of be graue, stynkynge fro wormes pres, 312 by pauylon of mercy be on hem pyst, To reste fro pyne, make hem reles.

(40)

[2 MS. nulla]

Lectio nona : Quare de uulua ² eduxisti me qui,	, &c.	
¶ Out of pe wombe, why hastou me brogt,		Why didst
pat wolde y hadde be fordon ?	316	thon allow me to be
panne hadde I be as nost,		born ?
Noon eyze hadde sene me after son ;		
pan hadde I be as vnwro3t,		
Nost born from wombe to berelis down,	320	
Where my short dayes arn in my post,		
Where pay shal nost be ended moun.		

(41)

¶ A, perfore, lord, graunte me pes		Grant me
To wepe and wayle, repente my synne,	324	repentance of
pat y torne nost aseyn to erthe of derkenes,		let me not go to Hell,
To stryues of dep, be curyd perynne,		to Hell,
Lond of wrethes and pesternesse		
per is shadew of dep, noon oper wynne;	328	
per wonep euerlastynge for hem lyued mysse,	010	
Euere gryslyhede, bat neuere schal blynne.		

everlasting life to the

soul in darkness.

(42)

Libera me. domine.

¶ Delyuere me, lord, from endeles debe 332 In bat grete dredful day, Where heuenvs schullen be styred from erbe brebe, Whenne bou shalt come to deme for ay. To heuen, or helle, pat on he gep ; 336 be word be fyre, and grete afray. banne, woo to the synful, his soule slep, And fendys claymen hym for here pray.

(43)

¶ That day shal be a day of drede, On doomsday Of wrappe and myschyf, and wrechidnesse. 340 nobody shall be able to pere may no man opere rede. Ne make amendis for his mysse. change his sentence, ffor worldly witnesse of synful ded, 344 Gostly payne in bitternesse. pere helpep neper counseil ne med; Ech man for hymself, to payne, or blysse.

(44)

¶ What shal y say for shame and drede,	
Or what to do, fool and nys,	348
Whanne y shal schewe forp no good dede	
Byfore so gret iuge and wys?	
Al folk on me woln take hede,	
Wayte after vertue, and fynde vys.	352
Say, "God, mercy, by dome y drede,	
ffor in pe, al mercy lys."	

(45)

esus, have ercy on us,	¶ Now, crist, of þy mercie we craue, Haue mercie on vs, and leue no3t,	356
lf. 127, bk.]	We byseche pe, pat come ¹ mankynde to saue.	
	To bye vs, pou from heuene vs so3t,	
	Oure herytage for vs to haue.	
	þat wern lorn, þou hast bogt.	360
nd destroy ot the work	Wyl no3t dampne in helle kaue,	
f thy hand.	Thy honde warke bou hast wrozt.	
i thy hand.	Iny nonde warke pou nast wrozt.	

but deliver me from eter-nal death.

118

either by counsel or by meed.

What shall I say then, having no virtues to produce ?

a r

0

34 m (46)

pe brennynge soule in helle hete, Withouten ende wepe thoo.
Allas, oure synnes don vs bete, pay say, 'wo, wo, wo !
Here is no remedie to gete.'
pay walke in derkenesse to and fro, pe stynk and derkenesse is so grete, Allas, in pysternesse we go.

(47)

 God, that art shapere of al, Of slyme of erthe pou me wrost.
 Wip py blod principal, Wonderly bou haste vs host.

pous my body now rote smal, My soule to my body shal be brost. Out of my graue, reyse me bou schal

To lyues man, and fayle nost,

(48)

I Blod and boon, flesche and felle.
Here my prayer : in parfitnesse
At domesday comaunde my soule to dwelle
In Abrahamys bosum, in thy blisse,
Whenne pou shalt delyuere me fram sygt of helle.
pou breke þe gates of helle, ywisse,
pou sougtest helle in peynes felle,
3af lygt to hem in grete bryatnesse,

(49)

Alas, y may be schamed sore, At domesday stonde in drede;
I, to come so gret a luge byfore, And shewe forp no good dede,
Bote fardel of synnes gadred in store;
be fendes redy my rolle to rede,
be countretayle to shewe, be score, be leste steppe bat euere y acde. 364 The souls in Hell suffer endless pains,

368

372

Thou madest me of earthslime.

76 my soul with my body.

380

Let my soul dwell in Abraham's bosom.

384

388 I am afraid of appearing before the great judge.

392 The devils will read man's sins,

(50)

	(00)	
is good will	¶ The good aungel on his ry3t syde,	
e him.	Whenne he hem ladde with merye songe,	396
	And whenne he wolde nost folwe hy[m], glyde	
	Out of the waye, he wente wronge;	
	In vertues he nolde abyde;	
	be good aungel mourned amonge.	400
	"With be soule nel y chyde;	
	Y seue pe vp for endeles longe."	
	(51)	
	¶ At domesday no man shal be excusyd,	
	Lord ne lady, mayde ne knaue;	404
	ffor wykked counsel scholde be refusyd,	
	And after good counsayle craue.	
body	After warke pat pay vsed,	
e judged his	I shal hem deme, or saue.	408
	pe sauyd excusyd, pe dampnyd accusyd,	
	As thay deseruyd echon haue.	
	(52)	
will to	¶ Ech touche and mouynge with hys honde,	
nt for s works.	þe leste twynkelynge wyþ his ey3e,	412
	His wronge worke sitte or stonde,	
	Ryde or go, sitte or lyze.	
	bou3 he spede no3t bere he dede fonde,	
	Hys consciènce wole hym bewrye;	416
	Benefice, auauncement, hous or londe,	
	The leste bargayn pat he dede bye.	

XXV. (Pety Job, or Parce mihi, Jomine !) [Douce MS. 322,¹ leaf 10.]

[57 stanzas of 12, abab, abab, and baba or bebc, with Latin subjects.]

Here begynneth the nyne lessons of the Dirige whych Job made in hys tribulacion, lying on the Donghyll, and ben declared more opynly to lewde

¹ At the beginning, a coat of arms painted: gules, a chevron azure, between three garbs or, 2 and 1.

III

and h angel accus

Every will b after work

Man have accou all hi

XXV. Pety Job, or ' Parce mihi, Domine !'

mennes vnderstanding by a solempne, worthy, and discrete clerke, Ruchard Hampole, and ys cleped pety Job, and vs full profitable to stere synners to compunccion.

Parce michi, domine, nichil enim sunt dies mei.

vef lord, my soule thow spare, A The sothe I sey now sykerly. That my dayes nought they are ; ffor though I be bryght of ble, The favrest man that ys oughware, Yet shall my fayrenesse fade and fle. And I shalbe wormes ware. . no gap in the MS.] ٢. . . And when my body ys all bare, And on a bere brought shal be, I nat what I may synge thare But Parce michi, domine.

(2)

Quid est homo, quia magnificas eum ? What ys a mañ, wete I wolde, That magnifyeth hymself alway, But a marke, made in molde. Of a clyngyng clot of clay ? Thow shopest vs for that we shulde Haue ben in blysse for euer and ay ; But nowe, allas, bothe yong and olde fforyetyñ hit bothe nyght and day. A, good lord, what shall I say, I that stande in thys degre ? I wote nothyng that helpe may But Parce michi, domine. Aut quid opponis erga eum cor tuum, visitas eum diliculo, et subito probas illum ? Or why puttist thow thyn hert avenst man

That thow hast so dere bought? Thow vysyteste hym, and art full fayne Sodenly to preue yef he be ought.

Spare me, O Lord.

VI

for my life is vain.

4 Though I be the handsomest man.

> yet I shall be the food of WOTTE

8

12

Man is only a mark made in sand.

16 Thou madest ns to gain Heaven,

but we don't think of it.

20

24

25

Why doest thou visit and try man?

32

36

To longe in synne we have lavne :

But Parce michi, domine.

Wyth Parce michi. domine.

ffor synne hath so oure soule thorow sought. Nothing can To helpe oureself haue we no mayne. deliver us from our sins So moche woo hit hath vs wrought. But to the pyt when we be brought.

except thy mercy.

How long

(4)

Then men woll wepe for the and me. But certes all that helpeth nought

Vsquequo non parcis michi nec dimittas me vt gluciam saliuam meam? peccaui. Or why so longe or thow wolt spare 37 will thy pun-Me in synne that depe dyue ? Thow woldest suffer neuer more Me to swolowe my salvue? 40 I have the gylt, and greuyd sore, ffor synne with me hathe ben to ryue. But, lord, now lere me with thy lore That dedly synne fro me may dryue. 44 And Ihesu, for thy woundes fyue, As thow becammest man for me, When I shall passe-oute of lyue, Than Parce michi, domine. 48 (5)Quid faciam tibi, o custos hominum? quare posuisti me contrarium tibi, et factus sum michimet ipsi grauis ? What shall I do vn-to the. 49 O thow kepar of all mankynde ? Of suche a matiere why madest thow me, To the contrarious me for to fynde ? 52O fader of heuen, fayre and fre, As thow art bothe good and hende, Yet be kynde as thow hast be, And spare me, lorde, that am vnkynde. Thy frenshyp, fader, late me fynde, As thow art god in trinite. Of thy mercy make me haue mynde 60

Why didst thou make me thy adversary ?

Spáre me, and let me be thy friend.

(6)	
¹ Cur non tollis peccatum meum, et quare non aufers	[1 lf. 10, bk.]
iniquitatem meam ?	
Why takest thow nat my syn away, 61	Why doest thou not take
A, thow god of all goodnesse ?	my wicked- ness from
And why also, as I the say,	me ?
Dost nat awey my wykednesse ? 64	
Thow madest me of a clot of clay,	
That breketh ofte thorough brotylnesse.	
ffull brotyll I am, hit ys no nay ;	My weakness is the cause
That maketh me ofte to do amysse. 68	
But good Ihesu, I pray thys	
ffor thy grete benygnyte :	
Thy mercy, lorde, late me nat mys,	
But Parce michi, domine. 72	
(7)	
Ecce, nunc in puluere dormio; et si mane me	
quesieris, non subsistam.	
Loo, in pouder I shall slepe, 73	I sleep in
ffor owte of poudere furst I cam,	dust, of which thou madest
And into pondere must I crepe,	me.
ffor of that same kynde I am. 76	
That I ne am pouder I may not threpe,	
ffor erthe I am, as was Adam ;	
And nowe my pytte ys dolueñ depe.	
Though men me seke, ryght nought I am. 80	
O thow, fader Abraham,	
ffor Mary loue, that mayde so fre,	
In whos blode thy son swamme,	
So Parce michi, domine. 84	
(8)	
Edet animam meam vite mee; dimittam aduer-	
sum me eloquium meum; loquar in amari-	
tudine amime mee; dicam deo, "noli me	
condomnara: indica michi any ma ita indica?"	

condempnare; indica michi cur me ita iudices."

yt forthynketh my soule y-wys, The lyfe that I haue lad alway; ffor now my speche ayenst me ys, Sothly my lyfe I shall dysplay. 88

85 My soul is disgusted at the life I led.

In my grief

Ιs	hall	crave	
th	v m	ercy.	

To survey and in lotters and	
In sorow and in bytternesse	
Of myn oune soule, thus shaH I say :	
Now, good Ihesu, kynge of blysse,	
Dampne me nat at domesday.	92
And, good Ihesu, to the I pray,	
Telle how thus thow demest me.	
Nowe yeue me mercy, and say nat nay,	
Wyth Parce michi, domine.	96

(9)

	(*)	
	Nunquid tibi bonum videtur si calu	mpnieris et
	oprimas me, opus manuum tuarum, e	$et \ consilium$
	impiorum adiuues ?	
	Semeth hit good, lorde, vnto the,	97
	To thryste me doune, and me accuse ?	
	I am thy werke, thow madest me:	
Don't spoll	Thyne oune handwerk thow nat refuse.	100
me, the work of thy own	Wythyn the close of cheryte,	
hands.	Good god, thow me recluse,	
	And yef I gylte the in any degre,	
	With thy mercy thow me excuse,	104
	Ne late me neuer of maters muse	
	That fallen vnto dyshoneste.	
	Thys prayer thow nat recuse,	
	But Parce michi, domine.	108
	(10)	
	Nunquid oculi carnei tibi sunt aut	sicut videt
	homo et tu vides?	
Are thy eyes	Whether thyne eyen flesshly be,	109
fleshly, and doest thou	Or yef thow seest as seeth a man?	
see like a man ?	Nay, forsooth, but oonly we	
	Of outeward thynges beholdyng han;	112
	But inward thynges dost thow se,	
	That non other may se ne can;	
	Therfore, lorde, I pray to the,	
	Warne me when I am mystañ,	116
	That I may flee fro foule sathan,	
	That ys aboute to perysshe me.	
	Lese nat thow ones wan,	
	But Parce michi, domine.	120

XXV. Pety Job, or 'Parce mihi, Domine!'

(11)

Nunquid sicut dies hominis dies tui et anni tui sicut humana sunt tempora? Whether thy dayes, lord, be syke 121 Are thy days and thy years As mennys dayes, that dwellen here, [leaf 11] as men's. Or thy yeres be ought lyke 124 To the tymes of mannes yere? That day a man ys fresshe and fryke, And sheweth forth a gladsom chere; But to-morow he wexeth syke, And haply borne forthe on a bere. 128 Thus mannes tyme vs in a were : But thy tyme stondeth in oo degre. Therfore, I pray in thys manere : Lorde, Parce michi, domine. (12)Vt queras iniquitatem meam, et peccatum meum scruteris, et scias quia nichil impium fecerim, cum sit nemo qui de manu tua possit eruere. ffor to seche my wyckednesse, 133 that thou searchest ont my sins ? And for suche thus all my synne. Me thynketh hit commeth of grete hardnes, With me, lorde, so to begynne. 136 Shewe thow forth thy grete goodnes, And thyne hardshyp vp thow pynne. Think of my Thynke opon the brytylnesse weakness, That alwey worcheth me withynne. 140 and forgive me my tres-And sythen I may nat fro the twyn, passes. Ne from thyne hande warysshed be, Though I offende more or mynne, Euer Parce michi, domine. 144 (13)

anus tue fecerunt me, et plasmauerunt me totum in circuitu, et sic repente precipitas Thyne handes, lorde, haue made me.

And formed me in shape of man, And me thow settest in degre Of grete nobley after than. 148

145 Thou madest me, thou gavest me bliss ;

But whan I, thorough the sotylte,	
Deceyued was of foule sathan,	
Thow puttedyst me fro that dignite,	
Heldyng doune oñ my brayñ pañ.	-152
Noon other cause alege I can,	
But that synne hathe depryued me.	
Now, for the blood that from the ranne,	
So Parce michi, domine.	156

(14)

Memento, queso, quod sicut lutum feceri	s me, et in
puluerem reduces me.	
Haue mynde, therfore, I the pray,	157
O thow god, almygħty kynge.	
Thynke thow madest me of clay,	
And in-to clay thow shalt me brynge.	160
Suche ys thy myght, and hath be ay.	
And sythen thow madest furst all thynge,	
Who dare sey ayene the nay,	
To lette thy wyll or thy lykyng?	164
There ys man olde ne yonge	
That stryue dar ayenst the.	
Therfore, nede maketh me synge,	
Lorde, Parce michi, domine.	168

(15)

Nonne sicut lac mulsisti me, et sicut caseum me coagulasti?

Mylkedest nat me, lorde, as mylke,	169
With nesshe blood whan thow me made?	
And sythen, lord, that ylke,	
Ryght as the hardnesse of chese ys hade ?	172
My bloode ys nessher than ys sylke,	
In reyny weder that sone woll fade,	
And thus me made do dedys swylke	
With whyche my goste ys ofte vnglade.	176
And thus in sinne full depe I wade,	
That nygh I droune thorow freelte.	
Although I can of synne nat sade,	
Yet Parce michi, domine.	180

thou tookst it again away from me when the devil decelved me.

Thou madest me of clay, and wilt reduce me to clay.

Thou madest me as soft as cheese. (16)

(10)		
Pelle et carnibus vestisti me, ossibus et	neruis	Thou cloth- est me with flesh and
compegisti me. With flesshe and felle thow hast me cladde,	181	bones,
With bones and synewes togeder knyt.		
Lyfe and mercy of the I hadde.		
To gouerne me thow yaue me wyt.	184	
To kepe thyne hestes thow me bade,		and badest me keep thy
And seydest that I shuld, for hit,		command- ments, and gain Heaven.
In heuen blysse be euer gladde;		[leaf 11, bk.]
And yet I woll nat fro syn flytte,	188	
But freelte, lord, so me smytte,		
Vnnethe kepte ys oone for me.		
Nat for than I pray the yet		
ffor Parce michi, domine.	192	
(17)		
Vitam et misericordiam tribuisti michi.		
Lyfe and mercy thow yaue me ay.	193	
When I wold thy mercy craue,		
Thow seydest to me nat ones nay,		
But glad was when I wold hit haue.	196	
Thow were redy nyght and day		I refused thy
With mercy, lord, me to saue;		mercy, which thou wast always ready
But I denyed hit alwey,		to grant,
So woodly syn made me to raue.	200	
I seruyd syn, and was hys knaue.		and became a thrall of
I dyd that was ayenst me.		ein.
Now, lord, when I am leyde in graue,		
Than Parce michi, domine.	204	
(18)		
Et visitacio tua custodivit spiritum meum.		
Thy vysitacion, lorde, hath kepte	205	Thy visita-
My spyryte, that ys me withyñ.		tion has pre- served me from sin.
ffor when I wolde to syn haue lepte,		from sin.
Thañ holy grace made me to blyñ.	208	
And ofte tyme I haue sore wept,		
The more grace of the to wyn.		
And thus with wepyng haue I wypt		
My soule, lord, from dedly synne.	212	

216

Lord, late me neuer werke begynne That in any wyse may displese the; And, som tyme though I fro the twyn, Yet, lord, Parce michi, domine.

(19)

Quantas habeo iniquitates et peccata,	scelera
Quantas habeo iniquitates et peccata, mea atque delicta ostende michi.	
hat wykednes all that I haue,	217
VV With my synnes all on an hepe,	
Shewe me hem, or I go to graue,	
That I for hem may sore wepe;	220
My soule, lord, that I may saue	
ffrom the pyt of hell so depe,	
Where synful soules tumble and raue,	
In endeles woo ataketh good kepe.	224
Toodes of hem doth crowde and crepe,	
In suche peynes the soules be.	
ffrom that place I may nat kepe	
Withouten Parce michi, domine.	228

(20)

	Cur faciem tuam abscondis, et arbitraris me in	nimi-
	cum tuum?	
Why doest	Why hydest thow fro me thy face	229
thou hide thy face from me,	That ys so full of all fayrenesse?	
	I mene thys somtyme thy grace,	
	That thow withdrawest and yeuest me lace.	232
and persecute me as thy	As thyne enemy thow dost me chace,	
enemy ? .	Demyng me in grete hardnesse.	
	Thy loue fayne wold I purchase	
	Yef thow wolt me hit graunte of thy goodnes.	236
	Now graunte me, lord, suche stedfastnes,	
	That I may stande in oo degre,	
	And though I fall thorow brotylnes,	
	Lorde, Parce michi, domine.	240

(21).

Contra folium quod vento rapitur, ostendis potenciam tuam, et stipulam siccam persequeris.

Show me all my sins, that my sins, that I may keep my soul from the pains of Hell.

11111. 1 00g 000, 01 1 10100 mmill, 1 1000		
Ayenst a leefe, that lyght ys to blowe, To me that am freel of kynde, Thy myght and power dost thow showe,	241	Thou provest thy power against a leaf.
As though I myght beres bynde.	244	
With wyndes ofte I ouerthrowe,		
Suche fondyng of the I fynde.		
I renne forthe fro rowe to rowe,		
Som-tyme before, somtyme behynde.	248	
I grope as a mañ that ys full blynde ;		
But though I stomble, thow followest me.		
A, lord, though I to the be vnkynde,		
Yet Parce michi, domine !	252	
(22)		
Scribis enim contra me amaritudines, et consu	mere	
me vis peccatis adolescencie mee.		
Thow wrytest, lord, ayenst me	253	[leaf 12] Thou writest
Bytternesse, that I shall rede,		bitternes« against me,
At domesday, in syght of the,		which I shall read on
And all the worlde in length and brede.	256	Doomsday.
That I dyd in pryuyte,		
There opynly hit owte shall sprede;		
And thys thow wylt full well y-se,		
And distroy me for my wyked dede.	260	
But, lorde, to the I clepe and grede,		
As thow art lorde of all pyte,		
That day when I shall drope and drede,		
Than Parce michi, domine !	264	
(23)		
Posuisti in neruo pedem meum, et obseruasti o	mnes	
semitas meas, et vestigia pedum meorum		
siderasti.		

In a synew thow hast my feet sette,	265	Thou watch-
With the whyche that I go shall,		est all my steps.
And all the pathes thow hast mette		
That euer I yede in wey or walle.	268	
There ys nothyng that the may lette		
To knowe my steppes grete and smalle,		
Wycked and worse, good and bette,		
I wote well thow considerest alle.	272	
POEMS (OXF.).	ĸ	

XXV. Pety Job, or 'Parce mihi, Domine !'

276

Keep me from sliding, and pardou my falling. But, lorde, to the I clepe and calle; Wheñ I slyde, supporte thow me; And though somtyme I take a falle, Yet *Parce michi, domine* !

(24)

	(24)	
	Qui quasi putredo consumendus sum,	et quasi
	vestimentum, quod commeditur a tinea.	
	The whyche as rotyng shall consume,	277
nd	And fare as mowthe eten cloth;	
n	And as from the fyre departeth fume,	
	So body and soule asundre gotħ.	280
	I am made of a lothly hume;	
	Hit ys a thyng to man most loth.	
	Wherof than shulde I presume	
	To be hygh-herted or lyghtly wroth ?	284
	Though I be he that ofte mys doth,	
	Of mercy art thow large and fre.	
	As I leue that thys ys soth,	
	So Parce michi, domine !	288
	(25)	
	TTOmo natus de muliere, breui viuens	tempore.
	repletur multis miserijs,	
	A man that ys of a woman bore,	289
ort is	A But lytel whyle he lyueth here,	
	And every day more and more	
	Replenysshed ys with synnes sere ;	292
	With hote and colde, and hungor sore,	
	Turmented ys from yere to yere,	
	And ofte hym wanteth goddys lore,	
	That gostly wey, he shuld lere.	296
	And thus he wandreth in a were,	
	As a man blynde, and may nat se.	
	Therfore I pray the, with louely chere,	
	ffor Parce michi, domine !	300
	(26)	
	Qui quasi flos egreditur et conteritur, et fu	git velud

I shall be consumed like filth and moth-eaten cloth.

Man lives only a shor time, and i always in misery.

> Vul quasi nos egrenitur et conteritur, et lugit venu vmbra, et nunquam in eodem statu permanet. The whyche spryngeth oute as a floure, ° 301 That groweth fresshe, all men to glade ;

He springs up like a flower, XXV. Pety Job, or 'Parce mihi, Domine!' 131

But when he with a sharpe shoure		
Ys smyten, begynneth sone to fade.	304	
So lese I the fayre coloure		
That god almyghty furst in me made,		
And thus I chaunge in euery shoure,		
And fle away ryght as a shade.	3 08	and vanishes away like a
And herewith I am full lade		shadow.
With synnes of diuerse degre.		
Of heuen blysse me nought degrade,		
But Parce michi, domine !	312	
(27)		
Et dignum ducis super huiuscemodi aperire o	culos	
tuos, et adducere eum tecum in iudicium.		
And, lord, thow lettest that hit be dygne	313	And such a one thou
Thyne eyen to opene vppon suche on,		thinkest worthy to be
And hym thow shewest, by that sygne,		called before thy tribunal.
That he, with the, to dome shall gone.	316	
Haue mercy on me, Ihesu benygne !		
Me thynketh myn hert ys harder than a ston,		[leaf 12, bk.]
And besyed with a spiryte maligne.		
My flesshe, the worlde, then ben my fone.	320	
These ben myn enemyes, lord, echone,		
Euer aboute to perysshe me.		
Lorde, for the loue of Mary and Iohn		
Euer Parce michi, domine !	324	
(28)		
Quis potest mundum de immundo concep	otum	
semine ? nonne tu, qui solus es ?		
But, lord, who may clene make	325	Nobody can
Conceyued thyng of seede vnclene ?		make clean a man con-
Nat thow? A, yes, I vnderstande,		ceived in sin.
Yef the lyste to make hit clene.	328	
Allas, I walke in a lake		
Of dedly synne that doth me tene.		
But, lorde, for the loue of Maryes sake,		
Amende the harme that I of mene.	332	
Y-wys I am nat worthe a bene,		
Of my sylfe, to commendyd be.		
Yet helpe me, lorde, with thy grace shene,		
And euer Parce michi, domine !	336	

(29)

	(20)	
	Breues dies hominis sunt, numerus men	sium eius
	apud te est.	
The days of man are	Mennes dayes beñ shorte, beware,	337
short,	And therto take good entente;	
	ffor in respyte of tyme euermare	
	They beth nothyng equipolent.	340
and the	The nombre of hys monthes are	
number of his months	Alwey at the, lorde, verament.	
is fixed by the Lord.	Oure lyfe ys nought but sorow and care	
	TyH we be passed iugement.	344
	My wyttes, lorde, I haue myspent,	
	That thow me yaue to rewle with me.	
	But that I may ryse vp, and here repent,	
	Lorde, Parce michi, domine !	348
	(30)	
	Constituisti terminos eius, qui preteriri i	non note-
	runt.	ion pous
That term	Hys termes, lord, thow hast ordeyned,	349
cannot be passed unless	How longe he shall now lyue here;	
by the will of God.	That may he nat passe, ne be refreyned,	
	But by thyne absolute power.	352
	Thys sentence may be well susteyned	
	By a story, as we may here,	
	Howe Ezechye to deth-ward peyned,	
	And yet god addyd ouer xv yere.	356
	Hys kyndly tyme was comen full nere,	000
	But for hys synnes tho wepte he.	
	Lorde, yeue me grace, that I may here	
	Haue Parce michi, domine !	- 360
	(31)	000
		t dones
	Recede ergo paululum ab eo, vt quiesce	
	optata veniat, et sieut mercenarij dies e	361
Step a little away from him, and let	Therfore, lord, a lytell go awey.	201
him rest till	Withdrawe thyn hande, that man may rest	
the hour of his deliver-	Tyll he desyre hys dethe day,	364
ance come.	And wylne to be shut vp in hys cheste,	304
	And late hym lyue, yef hym lust ay.	
	Thys holde I, lorde, for the beste.	

AH disease from hym delay		
TyH the careyn in erthe be keste.	368	
Allas, all thys world now ys myswrest,		
To carpe thys, lorde, ayenst the.		
Make me to thy mercy trest,		
for Parce michi, domine !	372	
(32)		
uis michi hoc tribuat, vt in inferno p	rotegas	
me, donec pertranseat furor tuus?		
Tho to me may yeue or graunte,	373	Who may grant me pro-
for loue or any affeccioun,		grant me pro- tection from thy wrath?
ffro thy wrathe that ys duraunte,		
I may have my proteccioun?	376	
In helle yef I be concurraunte,		
There am I in subjectioun.		
In heuen though thow woldest me haunte,		
Yet there am I at thy correccioun.	380	
I may nat from thy respeccioun		I cannot hide myself
By no way, lorde, hyde now me.		from thy eyes.
Therfore seye I thys lessoun		cycs.
Of Parce michi, domine.	384	
(33)		
Et constituas michi in quo recorderis mei.		
And thow woldest a tyme ordeyne	385	[leaf 13]
. In whyche thow woldest of me haue mynde,		
With som solace me to susteyne,		
That of thy blysse am so fere behynde.	388	
My woo from the can I nat leyne,		
But telle hit the, for thow art kynde.		
I am fast bounde here with a cheyne		I am fettered
Of dedly synne, full wele I fynde.	392	with a chain of sins;
But woldest thow, lorde, me vnbynde		unbind me, O Lord!
Thorough the vertew of thy pyte,		O LOFU:
Than were I glad, and lyght as lynde,		
To have Parce michi, domine.	396	
(34)		
Putasne mortuus homo rursum viuat?		
Trowest thow nat that man shal ryse	397	Man shall
Ayene to lyfe, that dyed onys?		rise after death.
Yes, and that in a wonderful wyse,		

	With flesshe and felle, bloode and bones.	400
God shall	Than shal god hys dome deuyse,	
take the good with him;	And to hym take the good att ones;	
the damned souls shall	But dampned soules shullen sore gryse,	
suffer eternal pains.	And yeue a shoute with hydous grones.	404
pams.	Thys make they shull wofull mones,	
	AH that shullen dampned be,	
	That I may dwelle withyn the wones	
	Of Parce michi, domine !	408
	(35)	
	Cunctis diebus quibus nunc milito, expecto	donee
	veniat immutacio mea.	aonoo
I expect my death every	All the dayes that I lyue here	409
death every day.	In thys wofull wepyng dale,	100
	I byde alwey, from yere to yere,	
	TyH I chaunge, as men do faH.	412
	Change I shall withouten were,	
	Nat ay be dwellyng in thys vale;	
	But, lorde, whañ I am leyde oñ bere,	
	Hye vp to heuen my soule hale,-	416
	ffor there commyn neyther grete ne smale	
	But thow drawe hem, lorde, to the,-	
	That my soule be not in bale,	
	But Parce michi, domine !	420
	(36)	
	Vocabis me, et ego respondebo tibi; operi	manu-
	um tuarum porriges dexteram.	
On Dooms-	Thow shalt me call at domesday,	421
day thou shalt call me,	When thow art set on iugement,	
and I shall answer.	And I to the, wythouten delay,	
allower.	Shall yeue my answere verament.	424
	But, good Ihesu, to the I pray,	
	Thynke alwey with full entent	
	Thow madest me of a clot of clay;	
	Thyne handwerke helpe, as thow furst ment;	428
	And with my thought I have myspent,	
	Thorough malyce, here, of frealte :	
	Here, leof lorde, late me repente,	

But Parce michi, domine !

432

(37)

Tu quidem gressus meos dinumerasti, sed parce peccatis meis. fforsothe, my steppys euerychone 433 Thou hast

Thow nombred hast, and tolde hem all.	my steps.
But, lorde, to the I make my mone,	Show me thy
As thow art lord of heueñ and hell. 436	mercy,
Vertues, lorde, though I have none,	
Late thy grace in me now welle;	
ffor woo ys hym that stante alone,	for without
And hathe noon helpe yef that he fall. 440	thy help, no- body can rise from his fall.
My syn ys bytter than eyself or gall,	from his tall.
And stynketh, lorde, in syght of the.	
But nought for than to the I call	
for Parce michi, domine ! 444	

(38)

· · ·			
C piritus meus attenuabitur, dies	mei bre	uiabun-	
tur, et solum michi superest s	sepulcru	n.	
Y spyryt shal be feble and feynt		445	My spirit will
When I am fallen in any age,			be feeble,
My dayes, make I neuer so queynt,			and my days shortened.
Shullen abrege and somwhat swage,		448	suortened.
And I ful sone shal be atteynt			
Whan I haue loste myn hote corage;			
And though I dyed than as doth a seyn	t,		
A pyt shal be myne herytage;		452	Nothing but
In erthe gete I non other wage			[leaf 13, bk.]
Off all rychesse that man may se.			will be left
Whan I am closed in that cage,			
Than Parce michi, domine !		456	
(39)			
Non peccaui, et in amaritudinibus	moratur	oculus	
meus.		oourub	
I have nat synned wylfully		457	I have not
Thorow my feynt, feble nature,			sinned wil- fully,
Ne greued the so greuosly,			
Wherfore I shulde thys wo endure.		460	
Thow punysshest me, and I not why,			and yet thou
Passing resoun and good mesure.			punishest me.

XXV. Pety Job, or ' Parce mihi, Domine !'

It is my flesh, and not I, that grumbles against Thee.	Hit ys my flessħ, lorde, and nat I, That grochetħ ayenst thyñ hard reddure.	464
against Thee.	But, lorde, as I am thy creature,	
	And that ylke god that boughtest me,	
	So my care recouere and cure	
	With Parce michi, domine !	468
	(40)	
	Dies mei transierunt, cogitaciones mee	dissipate
	sunt, torquentes cor meum.	-
My days are	My dayes, lorde, passed are,	469
past,	And olde I am, I am no faunt.	
and my	My thoughtes wandre wyde whare,	1
thoughts torment my	ffor they ben, lorde, full variaunte.	472
heart.	Myne herte they greuyn wonder sare,	
	ffor euer aboute hy m they haunte.	
	Thys maketh me to drowpe and dare	
	That I am lyke a pore penaunte.	476
	Though I be, lorde, vnsuffisaunte,	
	Any helpe to gete of the,	
	Yet, for I am thy creaunte,	
	Lorde, Parce michi, domine !	480
	(41)	
	Noctem verterunt in diem, et rursum post spero lucem.	tenebras
They keep	The nyght they turned in-to the day,	481
They keep me awake at night,	for they maden me to wake all nyght.	
	I myght nat slepe by no way,	
	Suche thoughtes were in myn hert plyght.	484
	In derkenesse dymme as I so lay,	
and make me	Yet hoped I after the clere day lyght ;	
long for the daylight.	But thoughtys me so trobled ay,	
	That I was than a wofull wyght.	488
	But, lorde, as thow art mekyl of myght,	
	All euylt thoughtes put fro me,	
	And that I of the may have a syght,	
	Lorde, Parce michi, domine !	492

(42)

Si sustinuero, infernus domus mea est ; in tenebris straui lectulum meum.

.

XXV. Pety Job, or 'Parce mihi, Domine!'

Hit wolf me brynge wnto my graue.	493	This disease of mine will bring me into my grave,
And yet ywys I may nat chese,		
Whether I be kyng, knyght or knaue.	496	
In derkenesse dymme, all oute of ese,		
My lyteH bed spred I haue;		
That bed shall I neuer lese,		
Though I wolde for angor raue,	50 0	
Tyll the day of dome, that of my graue		where I shall rest till
I shall aryse, and mo with me.		Doomsday.
My soule, lorde, I pray, thow saue		
With Parce michi, domine !	504	

(43)

Putredini dixi, pater meus es; mater mea et soror	
mea, vermibus.	
To roten erthe, ryght thus sayde I, 505	I said to filth, "Thou art
"Thow art my fader of whom I cam,"	my father,"
And vnto wormes sekurly,	and to the
"Thow art my moder, thy son I am; I [1 MS. am I] 508	"You are my mother and
My systreñ all ye bene, for why,	my sisters."
None other then ye, forsoth I am."	
I shall call hem sustres, lo, for thy,	
ffor I shall roote amonge hem. 512	
Of the lowest erthe god made Adam,	
Of whyche my kynde I had, as he.	
Now, lorde, that art lykened to a lambe,	
So Parce michi, domine ! 516	

(44)

Vbi est ergo nunc prestolacio ¹ mea et paciencia	[1 leaf 14]
mea ? tu es, domine, deus meus.	
Where ys myn abydyng nowe, 517	My patience
And all my pacience therto?	is gone.
They ben away, I wote neuer howe,	
ffor sothe me wanteth bothe two. 520	
Yef myn hert be styf and towe,	
To thanke the in wele and woo,	
Hit ys nat I, but only thow,	
Thow art my lord and god also. 524	

	O thow grete lord, alpha and oo,	
	Helpe me, for thy grete pyte !	
	I haue y-nowgh, I pray the, hoo,	
	And Parce michi, domine !	528
	(45)	
	DElli mee consumptis carnibus adhe	sit os
	meum, et derelicta sunt tantummodo	alabia
	circa dentes meos.	
My skin is	O my skyñ my mouth ys, lo,	529
wrinkled,	And cleued fast, as ye se may ;	
	And wasted ys my flesshe also,	
my lips are	And bothe my lyppes beñ away.	532
shrunk, and my white	My whyte tethe, they ben full bloo.	
teetii black.	Ye wolde be agaste, yef ye me say.	
	Myne heryng ys full clene ago,	
	Myne eyen ben dymme, þat weren ful gray ;	536
	And I that was full stoute and gay,	
	ffull horyble am now opoñ to se.	
	Tyme ys that men now for me pray,	
	ffor Parce michi, domine !	540
,	(46)	
	Miseremini, miseremini mei, saltem vos, amio	ei mei,
	quia manus domini tetigit me.	
Have pity on me, at least	Reweth on me, reweth on me!	541
friends,	My frendes namly, now helpep at nede!	
menus,	ffor I am there I may nat fle.	
	The hande of god ful sore I drede.	544
	And frendes, seeth that I am he,	
	Thys other day that on the erth yede.	
and help me	Now helpe, yef that youre wyH be,	
with prayer, fasting, and almsdeeds.	With prayer, fastyng, and almes-dede.	548
amouccus.	ffor these mowen best gete me mede	
	With Placebo And Dirige.	
	Herewith my soule I pray yow fede,	
	With Parce michi, domine !	552
	(47)	
	Quare persequimini me sicut deus, et carnibus saturamini ?	s meis
	Why, as god, do ye pursewe	553
	Me that suffre these sharpe shoures ?	

XXV. Pety Job. or ' Parce mihi, Domine !' 139

Ye lat me pevne here in a pevnfull pewe. That ys a place of grete doloures. 556 Yow I chese for frendes trewe. And made yow myne executoures. I made you But tyme shall come that ye shall rewe 560 That euer ve were to me so false treytoures. My good ye spent, as hit were youres, and yon will But nat a peny yeuvn ye me. pains. Nowe for all suche favtoures. Lorde, Parce michi, domine ! 564 (48)

Quis michi tribuat, vt scribantur sermones mei? Who may graunte me thys boone, 565 That my wordes wreten were my words In ensample of euervchon be written down for That hap may to ben in care ? 568 others to take an exffor vef they wolden make moone, Eyther groche with hert sare Avenst god, that sytteth in troone, Because, yef they wolden spare, 572And make nat so ferly fare, But take ensample wolden of me. Now, lorde, as I am but wormes ware, So Parce michi, domine !

(49)

Quis michi det vt exarentur in libro stilo ferreo, aut plumbi lamina vel celte sculpantur in silice ? Who shall graunt me, or I be dede, 577 To wryte hem by oon and oone, My booke with ynke blak or rede, Made with gumme and vermylone ? 580 Or ellys yet in plate of lede, Or who will have them Or grauen in harde flynte of stone, [leaf 14, bk.] graven in flintstone? That all men, where ever they yede, Myght otherwhyle loke theropon ? 584I wolde my frendys and my foon Ensample take myght by me. As thow art thre, and god aloon, 588

Now Parce michi, domine !

my executors.

not spend a penny to

Who will let ample by me in misery ?

(50)

iit, et in nouis-
and an and an and a second
im, et rursum
ne mea videbo
589
592
596
000
600
600
i mei conspec-
601
604
608
612
612
eo .
eo .
eo. 613
eo .

I know that my Saviour liveth,

and that I shall arise from my grave,

and behold him.

I shall see him myself with these eyes of mine.

I hope to recover from my disease,

XXV. Pety Job, or 'Parce mihi, Domine!'

Of all diseases yet rekeuere, and to see And se my lorde in hys turete. the Lord on 690 his throne. With whom I hope to dwelle euer. Though I be synfull, lorde, take me neuer In any thyng that may displese the. Thy blysse, late me haue for euer, 624 Thorough Parce michi, domine ! uare de vulua eduxisti me, qui vtinam consumptus essem, ne oculus me videret? lord, why leddest thow so me 625 I wish I had been con-. Oute of the wombe that I was in? sumed in my mother's Wold god I had consumed be womb: With-in myn oune moders skynne, 628 That the eye, with whyche I se, Had nat seyn nomore ne mynne, That I myght in that degre Neuer haue wyste what had be synne, 632 then I should never have ffor syn maketh me from the to twynne, sinned. That of nought madest thow me. Thy mercy, lord, make me to wynne With Parce michi, domine ! 636 (54)ffuissem quasi non essem, de vtero translatus ad tumulum. And, wold god, that I be hadde 637 As a thyng that neuer was ; ffor all with synne I am be-stadde, And every day I do trespas. 640 But now 1 trespass every day. No wonder though I be vngladde, And though I synge often allas; ffor pure woo I wexed madde. Nere goddys mercy my solas. 644 Lo, lorde, lo, I am ryght as A wytles man withouten the ; But as thow of plente mercy has, Fleaf 15] So Parce michi, domine ! 648 Nunquid non paucitas dierum meorum finietur breui?

XXV. Pety Job, or 'Parce mihi, Domine!'

Will not my life soon end ?

I hate the vileness of the world.

Grant me, Lord, a short time to reper.t my sins.

Whether the fewnes of my dayes	649
Shull nat hastyly haue an ende?	
Sytheñ I can se by no worldly wayes,	
But oute of the world sone shal I wende,	652
The worldes wyles ryght nat me payes,	
ffor they ben false and full vn-thende.	
My flesshly lust my soule affrayes,	
And I am tempted with the fende.	656
Thys maketh me to bowe and bende	
Alwey to syn, that woo ys me.	
Lord, that art curteys and hende,	
So Parce michi, domine !	660

(56)

Dimitte ergo me, domine, vt plangam	paululum
dolorem meum, antequam vadam, et no	on reuertar
ad terram tenebrosam et opertam morti	is caligine,
Therfore, lord, suffer thow me	661
A lyteH what, that, whyl I may,	
The tyme that euer I greved the	
In ded or thought, by nyght or day,	664
And graunt me, yef thy wyl be,	
That here in erthe wepe I may,	
The derke lande that I neuer se,	
That keuered ys with black alway.	668
Now, good Ihesu, to the I pray,	
As thow art god in trinite,	
ffrom that londe thow kepe me ay,	
Thorow Parce michi, domine !	672

(57)

Terram miserie et tenebrarum, vbi vmbra mortis et nullus ordo, sed sempiternus horror inhabitans. The londe of myschyef and of derknes, 673 Where as dampned soules dweH, The londe of woo and of wrechednesse, Where beñ mo peynes thañ tonge may telle, 676 The londe of dethe and of duresse, In whyche nooñ order may dwelle, The londe of wepyng and of dreynesse, And stynkyng sorow oñ to smelle : 680

Keep me, O Lord, from Hell, the land of darkness and misery. Now from that londe that cleped ys helle,

Worthy lord, rescue now thow me,

So that I maye euer with the dwelle

Thorough Parce michi, domine !

Here endeth the ix lessons of the Dirige, which Yob made in his tribulacion.

XXVI.

[Donce 322, leaf 15.]

[19 stanzas of 8, 12 or 16, in alternates.]

[A picture comes here of a man lying in a field under a tree. A dejected-looking bird stands near, with a scroll coming from its month, on which are the words "Parce michi."—A. F. P.]

(1)

Here begynneth a tretyse of Parce michi, domine.

By a forest syde, walkyng as I went,

Disporte to take, in o mornyng,

A place I fonde shadyd with bowes I-bent,

Y-set aboute with floures so swete smellyng.

I leyde me doune apoñ that grene,

And caste myñ eyeñ me aboute;

I fonde there byrdys with feders shene, Many oon sittyng apon a rowte.

Oon byrde there-by sate on a brere :

Here federes were pulled, she myght nat fle.

She sate and sange with mornyng chere,

" Parce michi, domine !

(2)

Spare me, lorde, kyng of pyte," Thus seyng thys byrde in pore aray; "My myrthe ys go, and my iolyte, I may nat fle as other may. My federes shene bene pulled me fro, My youth, my streyngthe, and my beawte. Wher-thorough I take thys songe me to:

Parce michi, domine !"

(3)

When I herde thys mornyng song, I drewe to thys byrde nere and nere, On my walk by a forest.

I found a nice shadowy place, where I stopped.

Birds were merrily flying 8 to and fro.

> Only one sat still and sang :

12

Spare me, O Lord!

16 I cannot fly like other birds, for I have lost my feathers.

[leaf 15, bk.]

20

Rescue me now, to dwell

ever with Thee !

XXVI. A Tretyse of ' Parce michi, Domine !'

And asked who had don thys wrong, I asked that And brought her in so drowpyng chere, 24 And who had pulled her feders awey, who had That shuld her bere from tre to tre. And why she sange in her lay Parce michi, domine ! 28(4)The byrde answered, and seyde me tyH, She answered "I'll tell you, "Man, be in pese, for crystes sake. Yef I shewe the myn hertys wyH, Pevnes nie sore woll awake. 32 though it will renew Yef thow wolt take my worde in mynde, my grief. There shall no sorow be my lettyng, That I nyl holy myne herte vnbynde, And sothely telle the thyne askyng, 36 Whyche were my feders that were so clere, And who hath pulled hem all fro me, And why I syt singyng on brere 40 Parce michi. domine ! (5)ffeders iiij I had y-wys, I had four feathers, [The two were set on euery wynge. They bare me breme to my blys, Where me lust be at my lykyng. 44 The furst was 'youth,' the ijde 'beawte,' Youth. Beauty, Strength, and 'Streyngth' and 'ryches' the other two. Riches. And now they been, as thow mayst se, 48 All iiij federes fallen me fro. My principal federe, youthe hit was. Youth, my principal He bare me ofte to nysete; feather, Wherefore my songe ys now, allas, 52Parce michi, domine ! (6)In youthe I wrought folyes fele, often brought me to folly, My hert was set so hygh in pryde, and made me waste my To synne I yaue me euerydele, time in sinful pleasures. 56 Spared I neyther tyme ne tyde.

I was redy to make debate.

My lyfe stode ofte in mechylł drede;

pulled out

XXVI. A Tretyse of 'Parce michi, Domine!'

 And my lykyng, to walke late,
 60

 And haue my luste of sinfull dede.
 60

 I was now here, I was now there,
 7

 Vnstable I was in all degre.
 7

 To hym I crye, that Mary bare,
 7

 Parce michi, domine !
 64

(7)

flor Salamon seyth in his poyse, Thre weyes there beth full harde to knowe : Ooū ys a shyp that sayleth in the see, An egle an hygh, a worme in lowe. And of the fourth, telle he ne cañ : Hit ys so wonderfull in hys heryng, The weyes of a yonge man, Whyche that ben here at theyre lykyng. And now hathe age y-smete me fro My pryncipall feder of Iolyte. flor all that euer I haue mys-do, Parce michi, domine !

(8)

My ijde feder hyght ' bewte.' I helde my selfe so clere of shappe, That all the peple shuld loke on me. And worshyp me with hood and cappe. My rudde was rede, my colour clere, Me thought neuer none so fayre as I, In all a contre, ferre ne nerre. In fetewres and shap so comly. My forhede large, my browes bent : My eyen clere, and corage bolde. My shappe ne myght no man amende. Me thought my self so fayre to beholde. And yet I was begyled in syght. The myrrour, lorde, disceued me. Wherfore I aske, lorde, of thy myght, Parce michi, domine !

(9)

Thys feder me bare full ofte to synne, And pryncipally to lechery. POEMS (OXF.). says three ways are difficult to be found: those of a sale, and a worm. The fourth he cannot explain, the way of a yong man with a girl. 72 Old age has

Solomon

deprived me of Yonth, my principal feather of Jollity. 76

My second feather was Beauty. I fancied myself the handsomest 80 man in the world;

84

88

but my mirror deceived me.

92

This feather brought me to lechery,

XXVI. A Tretyse of ' Parce michi, Domine !'

	Clyppyng and kyssyng cowde I nat blynne,	Cu	3
	Me thought hit crafte of curtesy.		96
kiss is vil's	A cusse, hit ys the deuylles gynne;		
)	Ofte of hit aryseth woo and wrake.		
	The deuyH with cusse many doth wynne.		
	I counseyle the, thow syn forsake.		100
f 16] ieh	Sampson loste hys streyngth therfore,		
n,	Dauid hys grace, for bersabee,		
,	TyH he cryed with wordes sore		
	Parce michi, domine !		104
	(10)		
on,	Salamon, that worthy kyng,		
	ffull fayre he was from top to toe,		
	Wherfore in hys age yong		
	He was amabilis domino ;		108
	That after he felle foule and sore		
	ffor luste of wemen that was hym nygh.		
	They fonned hym in hys age hore,		
	That he forsoke hys god on hygh.		112
any , lost	Nat oonly these, but many mo		
ace of	Bewte hath begyled, ywys.		
	I wote well I am oon of tho;		
	I can the better telle thys.		116
e has	Nowe hathe age y-smyte me fro		
ed me feather	My secund feder, that hyght beawte.		
	ffor all that euer I have mysdo,		
	Parce michi, domine !		120
	(11)		
	My thryd feder, 'streynght' hyght.		
th, my	My name was knowe on euery syde,		
eather,	ffor I was man of mochell myght,		
	And meny oon spake of me full wyde.		124
	To pryke and praunce I was full prest,		
	My streyngthe to kepe in euery place;		
	And euermore I had the best :		
	Suche was my hap, suche was my grace.		128
	My streyngth full ofte me drowe amys,		
	And torned me, lorde, clene fro the.		
	Now, kyng crouned in heuen blys,		
	Parce michi, domine !		132

(for a kiss is the Devil's snare,)

[leaf 16] by which Samson, David,

Solomon,

and many others, lost the grace of God.

Old age has deprived me of this feather too.

Strength, my

(12)

Thys feder bare me beyonde the see,		often bore me beyond the
To gete me name in vncouth lande.		sea, to get renown and
To robbe and slee, had I deynte,		riches.
Ne spared I neyther for no bande.	136	
Of holy churche toke I no yeme,		
Bokes to take, ne vestement.		
There myght nothyng so moche me queme		
As robbe, or se an abbey brente.	140	
With streyngth I gate me grete aray,		
Precious clothes, golde, and fee.		
I thought full lytell on that day,		
Parce michi, domine !	144	
(13)		
When Nabugodonozor, ferse in fyght,		Nobushed
Ierusalem had thought to wynne,		Nebuchad- nezzar plun-
And so he dyd with mayne and myght,		dered Jeru- salem, and carried away
And brent the temples that were theryn,	1.19	with him all the gold of
And all the golde that he there founde,	140	the temple.
He toke with hym, and home gan ryde,		
Hym thought there shuld nothyng withstonde;	150	He thought nothing could
Hys hert was sette so hygħ in pryde,	152	resist him.
Tyll the kyng of myghtes moste		But God drove him
Brought hym there that lowest was,		into a wilder- ness,
And caught hym from hys ryall hoste,		
And drofe hym to a wyldernesse.	156	
And there he lyuyd with herbe and rote,		where he lived on
Walkyng euer on foot and on honde,		roots
Tyll cryste of mercy dede hym bote,		till Christ had mercy
And hys pryson oute of bonde.	160	upon him.
Than sayde thys kyng these wordys y-wys :		
'All thyng be, lorde, at thy pouste ;		
Mercy I crye, I haue do mys;		
Parce michi, domine !'	164	
(14)		
Whyle I had my streyngth at wyH		While Thud

Whyle I had my streyngth at wyH, ffuH many a mañ I dyd vnreste. They that wold nat myne heste fulfyH, My knyfe was redy to hys breste.

While I had strength, I otten harmed and threatened others.

168

Old age has plucked this my wing.

А

ff

M

I

в In W

Ił

W I Τ

11 In

To

W

Τ

My fourth feather was Wealth; to get which I travelled much about, [leaf 16, bk.]

and frequently did wrong.

5

and turned wholly from God.

When I was on the summit of my fortune, I lost all my

property,

I had splen-did castles and towers built,

Thys feder of streyngth ys fro me fall.	. 172
	112
nd now hathe age smetyn me fro My thryd feder of iolyte.	
or all that ever I have mysdo,	170
Parce michi, domine !	176
(15)	
y fourth feder, 'Ryches' was.	
To make hit shyne, I trauayled sore.	
wente in many a perylous place,	
Well ofte my lyfe was nygh for-lore.	180
y dale, by doune, by wodes syde,	
I boode many a bytter shoure;	
salt see I sayled well wyde	
ffor to multiply my tresoure.	184
ith false slevghtes I gate my good,	
In Couetyse I grounded me.	
lesu, for thy precious blood,	
Parce michi, domine !	188
(16)	
hen I was seker of golde y-nowgh,	
I gan to ryde abowte well faste.	
purchased moche, and god wote howgh.	
I wende thys lyfe wolde euer haue laste.	192
lete me bylde castelles and toures,	
Withoute y-warded with stronge dyches,	
ithyn y-bylde halles and bowres;	
There was no toure my castell lyche.	196
thys was set all my lykyng,	
And torned me, lorde, holy from the.	
the I crye now, heuen kyng,	
Parce michi, domine !	200
(17)	
hen I was most in all my flowres,	
And had aboute me wyfe and chylde,	
lost my catelf and my toures.	

Then wexed myn hert in party mylde.

204

148

lame,

XXVI. A Tretyse of 'Parce michi, Domine !'

CateH felle fro me sodevnly : as quickly as I had got it. Ryght as hit came, hit went awey. Men seyen 'good geten vntrewly, No 3rd heir 208 ill-gotten The iiide evre browke hit ne may.' I was full wylde. I am now tame. ffortune hath pulled ryches fro me. 24 + The change Your wreche, lorde, I cannat blame. Parce michi, domine ! 212(18)Iob was rycher then euer was I, Job was richer than I. Of golde, syluer, and oper good ; and he lost all his fortune. Hit felle hym fro, and that sharply, As dvd the water out of the flood. 216 Hym was nat lefte so mekyH a clothe Hys naked body for to hele. Hym lacked crostys of a lofe, When hym lyste ete in tyme of mele. 220 And yet he helde vp then hys hande, Yet he thanked God for his send-And seyde, 'hygh god in mageste,1 ing. I thanke the of thy swete sande. Parce michi, domine !' 224 (19)Now Parce michi. domine ! Spare me, O Lord. My ioy, my myrthe, ys all agone. Youthe, streyngth, and my beawte, My federes fayre, be fall me fro. 228 my feathers are gone. Wherto vs a man more lyke. Then to a floure that spryngeth in may ? Man withers like a flower. All that lyuen, bothe pore and ryche. Shall dve, vnknowvng of her day." 232 I set me doune apoñ my kne. I knelt down and thanked And thanked thys byrde of here good lore. the bird for her lesson. I bethought me well, of thys worde parce, Was bale and bote of gostly sore. 236 Now parce, lorde, and spare thow me, 'Spare me, O Lord,' is a Thys ys a worde that sone geteth grace. word to get mercy. And parce geteth goddys pyte. And sheweth to vs hvs blessed face. 240 Amen.

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¹ Line 222 is repeated after line 223.



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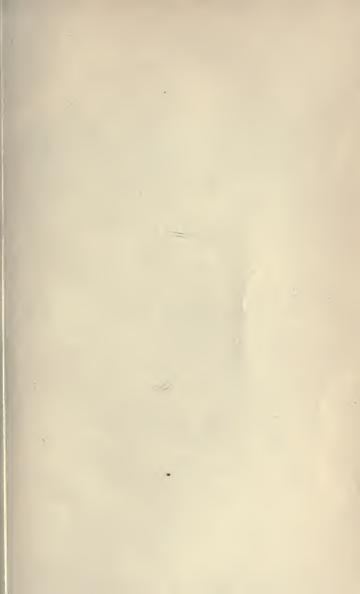
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