A One-Text Print

of

Chaucer's Minor Poems.
A One-Text Print

OF

Chaucer's Minor Poems,

BEING THE BEST TEXT OF EACH POEM IN

THE PARALLEL-TEXT EDITION,

FOR HANDY USE BY EDITORS AND READERS.

EDITED BY

FREDERICK J. FURNIVALL.

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First Series.

BUNGAY: CLAY AND TAYLOR, THE CHAUCER PRESS.
CONTENTS.

CorRECTION.


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

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DUNGAY: CLAY AND TAYLOR, THE CHAUCER PRESS.
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I.

The Death of Blanche the Duchess,

(OTHERWISE CALLED

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

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

[Stowe's hand adds 'made by Geoffrey Chawyer at the request of the duke of lancastar; pitilously complaynynge the desthe of the sayd dutchesse f' blanche /']

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

I Haue grete wonder / be this lyghte
How that I lyve / for day ne nyghte
I may nat slepe / wel nygli noght
I have so many / an ydel thoght
Purely / for defaulte of slepe
That by my trouthe / I take no kepe
Of noo thinge / how hyt cometli or gooth
Ne me nys no thyng / leve nor looth
Al is ylyche goode / to me
Ioy or sorowe / wherso hyt be
ffor I have felynge / in no thyng
But as yt were / a mased thyng
Alway in poyn\`t / to falle a-dovun
ffor sorwful / ymagynacioun
Y\'s alway hooly / in my mynde
And wel ye woote / agaynes kynde
Hyt were to lyve\'n in thys wyse
ffor nature / wolde nat suffyse
To noon\`etherly / creature
Nat longe tyme / to endure
With-oute slepe / and be in sorwe
And I ne may / no nyght\' ne morwe
Slepe / and thys Melancolye

And drede I haue / for to dye

[1 Bodl. 638 leaves out Vius 24-95. A leaf is out of the MS.]
Defaute of slepe / and heavynesse
Hatli [sleyne] my spirite / of quyknnesse
That I haue loste / al lusty-hede
Suche fantasies / ben in myñ hede
So I not what / is best too doo
But meñ myghtÆ axe me / why soo
I may not sleepe, and what me is
But nathles, whoe aske this
Leseth his asking trewly
My seluen can not tell why
The southe, but trewly as I gesse
I hold it be a sicknes
That I haue suffred this eight yeere
And yet my boote is neuer the nere
For there is phisicien but one
That may me heale, but that is done
Passe we ouer vntill efte
That will not be, mote nedes be lefte
Our first mater is good to kepe
Soe when I sawe I might not slepe
Til now late, this other night
Vpon my bedde I sate vpright
And bade one reche me a booke
A Romaunce, and it me tok
To rede, and driue the night away
For me thought it better play
Then play either at Chessee or tables
And in this boke were written fables
That Clerkes had in olde tyme
And other poets put in rime
To rede, and for to be in minde
While men loued the lawe in kinde
This boke ne speake, but of such things
Of quenes liues, and of kings
And many other things smalle
Amonge all this I fonde a tale
That me thought a wonder thing.
This was the tale: There was a king
That hight Seyes, and had a wife
The best that might beare lyfe
And this quene hight Alcyone
Soe it befyll, thereafter soone
This king woll wenden ouer see
To tellen shortly, whan that he
Was in the see, thus in this wise
Soche a tempest gan to rise
That brake her maste and made it fal
And cleft ther ship, and dreint hem all
That neuer was founde, as it telles
Borde ne man, ne nothing elles
Right thus this king Seyes loste his life
Now for to speake of Alcyone his wife
This Lady that was left at home
Hath wonder, that the king ne come
Home, for it was a long terme
Anone her herte began to yerne
And for that her thought euermo
It was not wele, her thought soe
She longed soe after the king
That certes it were a pitous thing
To tell her hartely sorrowfull life
That she had, this noble wife
For him alas, she loued alderbeste
Anone she sent bothe este and weste
To seke him, but they founde nought
Alas (quoth shee) that I was wrought
And where my lord my loue be deed?
Certes I will neuer eate breede
I make a uowe to my god here
But I mowe of my Lord here.
Soche sorrow this Lady to her toke
That trewly I which made this booke]
Had suche pittee / and suche rowthe
To rede hir sorwe / that by my trowthe
I ferde the worse / al the morwe
And aftir to thenkeñ / oñ hir sorwe
So whañ this lady / koude here noo worde
That no mañ myght / fynde hir lorde
Ful ofte she swovned / and sayed alas
For sorwe / ful nygh woode she was
Ne she koude / no rede but oon
But dovne oñ knees / she sate anoon
And wepte / that pittee was to here
A mercy / swete lady dere
Quod she Iuno / hir goddesse
Helpe me out / of thys distresse
And yeve me grace / my lord to se
Soone / or pete wher so he be
Or how he fareññ / or in what wise
And I shal make / yowe sacrific
And hooly youres / become I shal
With good wille / body hert and al
And but thow wilte / this lady swete
Sende me grace / to slepe and mete
In my slepe / somme cerceñ sweweñ
Wer thorgññ that I may / knowe even
Whethir my lorde / be quyke / or ded
Withi that worde / she henge down the hed
And felle A swowne / as colde as stoñ
Hyr women ñkaughtñ hir / vp anoñ
And broghtññ hir / in bed al naked
And she forweped / and for-waked
Was wery / and thus the ded slepe
Fil oñ hir / or she tooke kepe
Throgññ Iuno / that had herde hir bone
That made hir / to slepe sone
For as she prayede / ryghtñ so was done
In dede / for Iuno ryghtñ anone
Called thus / hir messagerere
To doo hir erande / and he come nere
Whan he was come / she bad hym thus
Go bet quod Iuno / to Morpheus
Thou knowest hym wel / the god of slepe
Now vnderstonde wel / and take kepe
Sey thus oñ my halfe / that he
Go faste / in-to the grete se
And byd hym / that oñ al thynge
That he take vp / Seys body the kynge
That lyeth ful pale / and no thynge rody
Bud hym crepe / in-to the body
And doo hit goon / to Alchione
The quene ther she / lyeth allone
And shewe hir shortly / hit ys no nay
How hit was dreynt / thys other day
And do the body / speke ryght' soo
Ryght' as hyt was / woned to doo
The whiles that hit / was a lyve
Goo now faste / and hye the blyve
This messager / toke leve and went
Vpoñ hys wey / and never ne stent
Til he come / to the derke valey
That stant betwex / Roches twey
Ther neuer yet / grew corne ne gras
Ne tre ne noght' / that oughte was
Beste ne mañ / ne noght' elles
Save ther were / a fewe welles
Came rennynge / fro the clyffes a-doun
That made a dedely / slepynge sowm
And Ronneñ doun / ryght' by a cave
That was vnder / a rokke y-grave
Amydde the valey / wonder depe
There these goddys / lay and slepe
Morpheus / and Eclympasteyre
That was the god / of slepes eyre
That slepe and did / noon other werke
This cave was / also as derke
As helle pitte / ouer al a-boute
They had good leyser / for to route
To envye / who myght slepe beste
Somme henge her chyn / vpon hir breste
And slept vprygh / hir hed y-hedde
And somme lay naked / in her bedde
And slepe whiles / the dayes laste
This messager / come fleynge faste
And cried .O. how / a-wake anoñ
Hit was for noght / there herde hym noñ
A-wake quod he / whoo ys lythe there
And blew his horne / ryght in here heere
And cried a-waketli / wonder hye
This god of slepe / with hys on ye
Caste vp / and axed / who clepetli there
Hyt am I / quod this messagere
Iuno bad / thow shuldest goon
And tolde hym / what he shulde doon
As I have tolde yow / here to-fore
Hyt ys no nede / reherse hyt more
And went hys wey / whañ he had sayede
Anoon this god / of slepe a-brayede
Out of hys slepe / and gañ to goon
And dyd as he / had bede hym doon
Tooke vp the dreyn / body sone
And bare hyt fortli / to Alchione
Hys wife the quene / ther as she lay
Ryght even a quarter / before day
And stood ryght / at hys beddys fete
And called hir / ryght as she hete
By name and sayede / my swete wyfe
A-wake / let be / your sorwful lyfe
For in your sorwe / there lyth no rede
For certes swete / I am but dede
Ye shul me never / on lyve y-se
But good swete hert / that ye
Bury my body / for suche a tyde
Ye mowe hyt fynde / the see besyde
And fare-wel swete / my worldes blysse
I pray god / youre sorwe lysse
To lytel while / oure blysse lasteth
With that hir eyen / vp she casteth
And sawe noghtt / allas quod she for sorwe
And deyede within / the thriddle morwe
But what she sayede more / in that sorowe
I may not telle yow / as nowe
Hyt were to longe / for to dwelle
My first materes / I wil yow telle
Wherfore I have / tolde this thynge
Of Alchione / and Seys the kynge
For thus moche / dar I say welle
I had be dolven / euerydelle
And ded ryghtt thorghth / defaulte of slepe
Yif I ne had redde / and take kepe
Of this tale / next before
And [I] wol1 telle yow / wherfore
For I ne myghtt / for bote ne bale
Slepe or I had / redde thys tale
Of this dreynte / Seys the kynge
And of the goddis / of slepynge
Whañ I had redde / thys tale wel
And ouer loked hyt / euerydel
Me thoghtt wonder / yf hit were so
For I had neuer / herde speke or tho
Of noo goddis / that koude make
Meñ to slepe / ne for to wake
For I ne knewe / never god but ooñ
And in my game / I sayede anoon
And yet me lyst / ryghtt euel to pley
Rather then that / y shulde dey
DETHE OF BLAUNCHE.  FAIRFAX MS 16.

Thorgi defaulte / of slepynge thus
I wolde yive thilke / Morpheus
Or hys goddesse / dame Iuno
Or somme wight' ellis / I ne roght' who
To make me slepe / and have some reste
I wil yive hym / the alder beste
Yfte / that euer / he abode hys lyve
And here onwarde / ryght' now as blyve
Yif he wol make / me slepe a lyte
Of downe of pure / dowves white
I wil yif hym / a feder bedde
Rayed with golde / and ryght' wel cledde
In fyne blak satyyn / de owter mere
And many a pelowe / and euer bere
Of clothe of reynes / to slepe softe
Hym thar not ned / to turnen ofte
And I wol yive hym / al that fallys
To a chambre / and al hys hallys
I wol do peynte / with pure golde
And tapite hem / ful many folde
Of oo sute / this shal he haue
Yf I wiste where / were hys cave
Yf he kañ make / me slepe sone
As did the goddesse / quene Alchione
And thus / this ylke god Morpheus
May wynne of me / moo fees thus
Thañ euer he wann / and to Iuno
That ys hys goddesse / I shal soo do
I trow that she / shal holde hir payede
I hadde vnethì / that worde y-sayede
Ryght' thus I have / tolde hyt yow
That sodeynly / I nyste how
Suche a luste / anooñ me tooke
To slepe / that ryght' vpoñ my booke
Y fil aslepe / and therwith evene
Me mette so ynyly swete / a swevene
DETHE OF BLAUNCHE.  FAIRFAX MS 16.  9

So wonderful / that neuer ytte
Y trow no mañ / had the wytte
To konne wel / my sweven rede

No not Ioseph / with-oute drede
Of Egipte / ho that red so
The kynges / metynge pharao
No more than aoue / the lest of vs
Ne nat skarsly / Macrobeus
He that wrote / al thavysyoun
That he mette / kyng Scipioañ
The noble mañ / the affrikañ.

I trowe a-rede / my dremes even
Loo thus hyt was / thys was my sweven

And in the dawynyng / I lay
And loked forth / for I was waked
With smale foules / a grete hepe
That had Affrayed me / out of my slepe
Thorgfr noyse and swettenesse / of her songe
And al me mette / they sate a-monge
Vpoñ my chambre / roofe wyth-oute
Vpoñ the-tyles / ouer al a-boute
And songe euerych / in hys wyse
The moste solempne / servise
By noote / that euer mañ y trowe
Had herde / for somme of hem songe lowe
Somme high / and al of ooñ acorde
To telle shortly / att oo worde
Was neuer harde / so swete a stevenñ
But hyt had be / a thynge of hevenñ
So mery a sovne / so swete entewnes
That certes / for the tovne of tewnès
I nolde but I / had herde hem synge
For al my chambre / gan to rynge

[leaf 135, back]
Thorgh syngynge / of her Armonye
For Instrument / nor melodye
Was nowhere herde / yet halfe so swee
Nor of a-corde / halfe so mete
For ther was nooñ of hem that feyned
To syng / for eche of hem hym peyned
To fynde out / of mery crafty notys
They ne spared / not her throtys
And soothe to seyn / my chambre was
Ful wel depeyned / and with glas
Were al the wyndowes / wel y-glasyd
Ful clere / and nat an hoole y-crasyd
That to be-holde / hyt was grete Ioye
For holy al / the story of Troye
Was in the glasyng / y-wroght thus
Of Ector / and of kynge Priamus
Of Achilles / and of kynge Iamedon
And eke of Medea / and of Iason
Of Paris / Eleyne / and of lavender
And alle the wallys / with colouris fyne
Were peynted / bothe text and close
And al the Romaunce / of the Rose
My wyndowes were / shette echoñ
And throgñ the glas / the sonne shoñ
Vpon my bed / with bryght bemys
With many glade / gilde stremys
And eke the welkeñ / was so faire
Blew bryghter clere / was the ayre
And ful attempre / for sothe hyt was
For nother to colde / nor hoote yt was
Ne in al the welkene / was a clowde
And as I lay thus / wonder lowde
Me thoght I herde / an hunte blowe
Tassay hys horne / and for to knowe
Whether hyt were clere / or horse of sovne
And I herde goynge / bothe vp and dovne
Men / hors / houndes / and other thynge
And al men speke / of huntynge
How they wolde slee / the hert with strenthe
And how the hert / had vpon lengthe
So moche embosed / y not now what
Anoon ryght / whan I herde that
How that they wolde / oñ huntynge goon
I was ryght glad / and vp anoon
Tooke my hors / and forthe I went
Out of my chambre / I never stent
Til I come / to the felde withoute
Ther ouertoke y / a grete route
Of huntes / and eke of foresterys
With ma[n]y Relayes / and lymerys
And hyed hem / to the forest faste
And withi hem / so at the laste
I asked oon / ladde A lymere
Say felowe whoo / shal hunte here
Quod I / and he answered ageyñ
Syr / themperour / Octouyen
Quod he / and ys here fast by
A goddys halfe / in goode tyme quod I
Go we faste / and gañ to ryde
Whañ we came to the forest syde
Euery mañ / didde ryght anoon)
As to huntynge / fille to doon
The mayster hunte / anoon fote hote
Withi a grete horne / blewe thre mote
At the vncoupylynge / of hys houndys
Withynne a while / the herte founde ys
I-halowed / and rechased faste
Longe tyme and so / at the laste
This hert Rused / and staale away
Fro alle the houndes / a prevy way
The houndes had / ouershette hym alle
And were vpoñ / a defaulte y-falle
Therwyth the hunte / wonder faste
Blew a forleygne / at the laste
I was go walked / fro my tree
And as I went / ther came by mee
A whelpe that ffavned me / as I stooed
That hadde y-folowed / and koude no goode
Hyt come and crepte / to me as lowe
Ryght as hyt had / me y-knowe
Hylde doun hys hede / and ioyned hys erys
And leyde al smothe / doun hys herys
I wolde haue kaught hyt / and anoon
Hyt fled / and was fro me goon
And I hym folwed / and hyt forthe went
Dovne by a floury / grene went
Ful thikke of gras / ful softe and swete
With flourys fele / faire vnder fete
And litel vsed / hyt semed thus
For both Flora / and Zephirus
They two that make / floures growe
Had made her dwellynge / ther I trowe
For hit was / oñ to be-holde
As thogh therthe / envye wolde
To be gayer / thañ the heven
To have moo floures / swche seven
As in the walkene / sterris bee
Hyt had forgete / the pouertee
That wynter thorgh / hys colde morwes
Had made hyt suffre / and his sorwes
Ah was for-geteñ / and that was sene
For al the woode / was waxeñ grene
Swetnesse of dewe / had made hyt waxe
Hyt ys no nede / eke for to axe
Where there were many / grene greves
Or thikke of trees / so ful of leves
And euery tree / stooed by hym selve
Fro other wel / tene fete / fro other twelve
So grete trees / so huge of streng[t]he
Or fourty fifty / fedme lengthe
Clene withoute bowgh / or stikke
With croppes bothe / and eke as thikke
They were nat / an ynche a sonder
That hit was shadowe / ouer al vnder
And many an herte / and many an hynde
Was bothi before me / and be-hynde
Of fovnes / sowres / bukkes / does
Was ful the woode / and many Roes
And many squirels / that sete
Ful high / vpon the trees and ete
And in hir maner / made festys
Shortly hyt was / so ful of bestys
That thogh Argus / the noble cownter
Sete to rekene / in hys counter
And rekene / with his figuris ten
For by tho figuris / mowe al keñ
Yf they be crafty rekene / and novmbrë
And tel / of euery thinge the noumbrë
Yet shulde he fayle / to rekene evene
The wondres me mette / in my swevene
But forth they Romed / ryght wonder faste
Dovne the woode / so at the laste
I was war / of a mañ in blak
That sete / and had turned his bak
To an ooke / añ huge tree
Iorde thogh[t]1 I / who may that be
What ayleth hym / to sitten here
Anoon ryght2 / I went nere
That founde I sitte / even vpyght3
A wonder wel / farynge knyght4
By the maner / me thoght5 soo
Of good mochet / and ryght6 yonge therto
Of the age / of foure and twenty2 yere
Vpon hys berde / but lytel here
And he was / clothed al in blake
I stalked eveñ / vnto hys bake
And there I stooed / as stille as ough't
That sothi to saye / he sawe me nought
For why he henge / hys hede adovne
And with a dedely / sorwful sovne
He made of Ryme / .x. vers or twelfe
Of a compleynt / to hym selfe
The moste pitee / the moste rowthe
That euer I herde / for by my trowthe
Hit was gret wonder that nature
Myght' suffre / any creature
To haue suche sorwe / and be not ded
Ful petuose pale / and no-thynge red
He sayed a lay / a maner songe
With-oute noote / withoute songe
And was thys / for ful wel I kan
Reherse hyt ryght' / thus hyt began
¶ I have of sorwe / so grete wonen
That Ioy gete I / never none
Now that I see / my lady bryght'
Which I have loved / withi al my myght'
Is fro me ded / and ys a-goñ

[ ... ... no gap in the MS.] [1 Botl. 638, leaf 119, hack, has no gap either]
¶ Allas dethe / what ayleth the
That thou holdest / haue taken me
Whañ thou toke / my lady swete
That was so faire / so freshe so fre
So goode that men / may wel se
Of al goodonesse / she had no mete
¶ Whañ he had made thus / his complaynt
Hys sorwful hert / gañ faste faynt
And his spiritis / wexeñ dede
The bloode was fled / for pure drede
Dovne to hys hert / to make hym warme
For wel hyt feled / the hert had harme
To wete eke why / hyt was a-drad
By kynde / and for to make hyt glad
For hit ys membre / principal
Of the body / and that made al
Hys hewe chaunge / and wexe grene
And pale / for ther noo bloode ys sene
In no maner / hym of hys
Anoon therwith / whañ y sawgh this
He ferde thus euel / there he sete
I went and stooде / ryght at his fete
And grette hym / but he spake noght
But argued / with his ovne thoght
And in hys wytte / disputed faste
Why and how / hys lyfe myght laste
Hym thought / hys sorwes / were so smerte
And lay so colde / vpõn hys herte
So throgõ hys sorwes / and hevy thoght
Made hym / that he herde me noght
For he had wel nygh / loste hys mynde
Thogõ .Pan. that meñ / clepe the god of kynde
Were for hys sorwes / neuer so wrothe
But at the last / to sayñ ryght sothe
He was war of me / how y stooде
Before hym / and did of myñ hoode
And had ygret hym / as I best koude
Debonayrly / and no thyng lowde
He sayde I prey the / be not wrothe
I herde the not / to seyn the sothe
Ne I sawgh the not / syr trewly
A good sire / no fors quod y
I am ryght sory / yif I have oughte
Destroubled yow / out of your thoughte
For-yive me / yif I have mys-take
Yis thamendys / is lyght to make
Quod he / for ther lyeth noon ther-to
There ys no thynge / myssayde nor do
Loo / how goodely spake thys knyghte
As hit had be / a-nother wyghte
He made hyt nouther / towght ne queynte
And I sawe that / and gañ me¹ a queynt
With hym / and fonde hym so tretable
Rygth² wonder skylful / and resonable
As me thoghte / for al hys bale
A-noon ryght³ / I gañ fynde a tale
To hym / to loke wher I myght⁴ oughte
Haue more knowynge / of hys thoughte
Sir quod I / this game is doon
I holde that this / hert be goon
These huntys / konne hym nowher see
Y do no fors / therof quod he
My thoughtys there-oñ / neuer a dele
Be oure lorde quod I / y trow yow wele
Rygth⁵ so me thenketh⁶ / by youre chere
But sir oo thyng / wol ye here
Me thynketh in grete sorowe / I yow see
But certys sir / yif that yee
Wolde ought⁷ discure me / youre woo
I wolde as wys / god helpe me soo
Amende hyt / yif I kañ or may
Ye mowe preve hyt / be assay
For by my trouthe / to make yow hool
I wol do alle / my power hool
And telleth me / of your sorwes smerte
Paraventure hyt may / ease youre herte
That semeth ful seke / vnder your syde
With that he loked / oñ me asyde
As who sayth⁸ nay / that wol not be
Graunt mercy / goode frende quod he
I thanke the / that thow woldest soo
But hyt may never / the rather be doo
No mañ may / my sorwe glade
That maketh⁹ my hewe / to fal and fade
And hath myn understanding / lorne
That me ys woo / that I was borne
May nought make / my sorwe slyde
Nought al the remeyses / of Ovyde
Ne Orpheus / god of melodye
Ne Dedalus / with his playes slye
Ne hele me may / noo phisicien
Noght ypocras / ne Galyen
Me ys woo that I lyve / oures twelve
But whoo so wol / assay hym selve
Whether his hert / kañ haue pitee
Of any sorwe / lat hym see me
Y wrechch that detth / hath made al naked
Of al blysse / that ever was maked
Y worth worst / of al wyghtys
That hate my dayes / and my nyghtys
My lyfe my lustes / be me loothe
For al welfare / and I be wroothe
The pure deth / ys so ful my foo
That I wolde deye / hyt wolde not soo
For whañ I folwe hyt / hit wol flee
I wolde haue hym / hyt nyl nat me
This ys my peyne / wythoute rede
Alway deynge / and be not dede
That Thesiphus / that lyth in helle
May not of more / sorwe telle
And who so wiste alle / be my troute
My sorwe / but he had rowthe
And pitee / of my sorwes smerte
That mañ hath / a fendely herte
For who so seeth me / firste oñ morwe
May seyn / he hath mette with sorwe
For y aõ sorwe / and sorwe ys y
T Alias / and I wol tel the why
My sorowe ys turned / to pleynynge
And al my lawghtre / to wepynge
My glade thoghtys / to hevynesse
In travayle / ys myñ ydelenesse
And eke my reste / my wele is woo
My goode ys harme / and euer moo
In wrathe ys turned / my pleynge
And my delyte / in-to sorwynge
Myñ hele ys turned / in-to sekeennesse
In drede ys al / my sykernesse
To derke ys turned / al my lyghte
My wytte ys foly / my day ys nyghte
My love ys hate / my slepe wakynge
My merthe and meles / ys fastynge
My countenaunce / ys nycete
And al abawed / where so I be
My pees / in pledyne and in werre
Alas how myght I / fare werre
My boldenesse / ys turned to shame
For fals Fortune / hatli pleyde a game
Atte the chesse withi me / alas the while [nota in margina]
The trayteresse fals / and ful of gyle [leaf 138]
That al behoteth / and no thyng halte
She gethe vpyrgt / and yet she is halte
That baggeth foule / and loketh faire
The dispitouse / debonaire
That skorneth many / a creature
An ydole / of fals portrayture
Ys she / for she wol soñe varien
She is the Mowstres / hed y-wrien
As fylthe / over y-strawed withi flouris
Hir moste worshippe / and hir flourys
To lyen / for that ys hyr nature
With-oute feythe / lawe or mesure
She ys fals / and euer lawghynge
With one yghe / and that other wepynge
That ys broght vp / she sette al doun
I lykne hyr / to the Scorpioun

DETHE OF BLAUNCHE. FAIRFAX MS 16.
That ys a fals / flateyrynge beste
For with his hede / he maketh feste
But al amydde / hys Flaterynge
With hys tayle / hyt wol styngge
And envenyme / and so wol she
She ys / thenvyouse charite
That ys ay fals / and semeth wele
So turneth she / hyr fals whole
Aboute / for hyt ys no thynge stable
Now by the fire / now at table
For many oon / hath thus she yblent
She ys pley / of enchauntment
That semeth oon / and ys not soo
The fals thefe / what hath she doo
Trowest thou by oure lorde / I wol the sey
At the chesse with me / she gan to pley
With hir fals draughtes / dyvers
She staale oon me / and toke my fers
And whan I sawgh / my fers away
Alas I kouthe / no lenger play
But seyde fare-wel / swete y-wys
And fare-wel al / that ever ther ys
Ther-with fortune / seyde chek here
And mate / in the myd poynt / of the chekkere
With a povne / errante allas
Ful craftier / to pley she was
Thañ Athalus / that made the game
First of the chesse / so was hys name
But god wolde I had / oones or twyes
Y-konde and knowe / the Ieupardyes
That kowde the Greke / Pictagoras
I shulde haue pleyde / the bet at ches
And kept my fers / the bet ther-by
And thoght wherto / for trewly
I holde that wysshe / nat worth the A stree
Hyt had be neuer / the bet for me
For fortune kañ / so many a wyle
Ther be but fewe / kañ hir begile
And eke she ys / the lasse to blame
My selfe I wolde / haue do the same
Before god / as I be as she
She oght the more / excused be
For this I say yet / more ther-to
 Had I be god / and myghte haue do
My wille whañ she / my fers kaught
I wolde have drawe / the same draught
For also wys / god yive me reste
I dar wel swere / he tooke the beste
But throghl that draught / I haue lorne
My blysse allas / that I was borne
For euermore / y trowe trewly
For al my wille / my luste holly
Ys turned / but yet what to doone
Be oure lorde / hyt ys to deye soone
For no thynge / I leve hyt noght
But lyve and deye / ryght in this thoght
For there nys planete / in firmament
Ne in ayre / ne in erthe / nooñ element
That they ne yive me / a yifte echoñ
Of wepynge / whañ I am alloñ
For whañ that I / avise me wel
And be-thenke me / euery del
How that ther lyeth / in rekenynge
Inne my sorwe / for no thynge
And how ther levylñ / noe gladnesse
May glad me / of my distresse
And how I haue / loste suffisance
And ther-to I haue / no plesance
Thañ may I say / I haue ryght noght
And whañ al this / falleth in my thoght
Allas thanñ am I / ouercome
For that ys dooñ / ys not to come
I haue more sorowe / than Tantale
And whan I herde / hym tel thys tale
This pitously / as I yow telle
Vnnethe myght y / lenger duelle
Hyt dyd myñ hert / so moche woo
A goode sir quod I / say not soo
Haue somme pitee / oñ your nature
That formed yow / to creature
Remembre yow / of Socrates
For he ne counted / nat thre strees
Of noght that fortune / koude doo
No quod he / I kañ not soo
Why so good syr / yis parde quod y
Ne noght so / for trewly
Thogñí ye had loste / the ferses twelve
And ye for sorwe / mordred your selve
Ye sholde be dammned / in this cas
By as goode ryght/ as Medea was
That slowghí hir children / for Iasoñ
And Phyllis also / for Demophoñ
Henge hir selfe / so weylaway.
For he had broke / his terme day
To come to hir / another rage
Had Dydo the quene / eke of Cartage
That sloughí hir selfe / for Eneas
Was fals / which a foole she was [leaf 139, back]
And Ecquo died / for Narcisus
Nolde nat love hir / and ryght thus
Hathí many another / foly doñ
And for Dalida / died Sampsoñ
That slough hym-selfe / with a pilere
But ther is no mañ / a lyve here
Wolde for a fers / make this woo
Why so quod he / hyt ys nat soo
Thou woste ful lytel / what thou menyst
I haue loste more / than thow wenyst.
DETHE OF BLAUNCHE.  FAIRFAX MS 16.

loo / she that may be quod y
Good sir telle me / al hooly
In what wyse / how / why / and wherfore
That ye have thus / youre blyssse lore
Blythely quod he / come sytte adoon
I telle hyt the / vp a condicioñ
That thou shalt / hooly withí al thy wytte
Doo thyñ entent to herkene hitte
Yis sýr / swere thy trouthe ther-to
Gladly / do thanne / holde here ló
I shal ryght blythely / so god me save
Hooly / withí al the witte I have
Here yow / as wel as I kañ
A goddys halfe quod he / and began
Syr quod he / sitñ firste I kouthe
Haue any maner wytte / fro youthe
Or kyndely / vnderstondynge
To comprehende / in any thynge
What love was / in myñ ovne wytte
Dredeles / I haue ever yitte
Be tributarye / and yive rente
To love hooly / with goode entente
And throgñ plesaunce / become his thralle
With good wille / body hert and alle
Al this I putte / in his servage
As to my lorde / and did homage
And ful devoutely / I prayed hym to
he shulde besette / myñ hert so
That hyt plesance / to hym were
And worshippe / to my lady dere
And this was longe / and many a yere
Or that myñ herte / was set owhere
That I did thus / and nyste why
I trowe hit came / me kyndely
Peraventure / I was therto moste able
as a white walle / or a table
DETHE OF BLAUNCHE. Fairfax MS 16.

For hit ys redy / to cachche and take
Al that meñ wil / theryñ make
Whethir so meñ / wil portrey or peynt
Be the werkes / never so queynt

And thilke tyme / I ferde ryght so
I was able / to have lerned tho
And to hane kende / as wel or better
Paraunter / other Arte or lettre

But for love came firste / in my thoght
Therfore / I forgate hyt noght
I ches love / to my first crafte
Therfore hit ys / with me lafte

For why I toke hyt / of so yonge age
That malyce / had my corage
Nat that tyme turned / to no thynge
Thorgh to mochel / knowlachynge
For that tyme / yowthe my maistresse
Gouerned me / in ydelnesse
For hyt was / in my first youthe
And thoo ful lytel / goode y couthe
For al my werkes / were flyttyng
That tyme / and al my thoght varyinge
Al were to me / ylyche goode
That I knewe thoo / but thus hit stoode

Hit happed that I came / oñ a day
In-to a place / ther that I say
Trewly the fayrest / companye
Off Ladyes / that euere meñ whithi ye
Had seen to-gedres in oo place
Shal I clepe hyt / happe other grace
That broght me there / nay but Fortune
That ys to lyeñ / ful comvne

The fals trayteresse / peruers
God wolde I koude / clepe hir wers
For now she worcheth / me ful woo
And I wol tel sone / why soo
Among these ladies / thus echoñ
Sothi to seyn / y sawghi oon
That was lyke / noon of the Route
For I dar swere / withoute doute
That as the somerys / sonne bryghte
Ys fairer clerer / and hatli more lyghte
Thañ any other / planete in hevene
The moone / or the sterres sevene
For al the worlde / so had she
Surmountede / hem / al of beaute
Of maner / and of comelynesse
Of stature / and of so wel sette gladnesse
Of godelyhede / and so wel be-sey
Shortly / what shal y sey
By god / and by halwes twelve
Hyt was my swete / ryghti al hir selve
She had so stedfaste / countenaunce
So noble porte / and meyntenaunce
And love that had wel / herd my boone
Had espyed me / thus soone
That she ful soñe / in my thoghti
As helpe me god / so was y kaughti
So sodenly / that I ne toke
No maner counseyl / but at hir loke
But at myñ hest / for why hir eyeñ
So gladly I trow / myñ hert seyeñ
That purely tho / myñ ovne thoñt
Seyde hit were better / serve hir for noghi
Thañ withi a-nother / to be wel
And hyt was sothe / for eueredel
I wil a-nooñ / ryghti telle the why
I sawghi hyr daunce / so comelely
Carole and synge / so swetly
Lawghe and pley / so womanly
And loke / so debonairly
So goodely speke / and so frendly
That certes y' trowe / that ever-more
Nas seyne / so a blysful a tresore
For every heer / on hir hede
Soth to seyne / hyt was not rede
Ne nother yelowe ne broune hyt nas
Me thoght' most lyke / hyt was
¶ And which eyeñ / my lady hadde
Debonair goode / glade and sadde
Symple of goode / moclhe noght' to wyde
Ther-to hir looke / nas not a-syde
Ne ouertwert / but besette so wele
Hyt drewñ and tooke vp / euerydele
Al that onñ hir / gañ be-holde
Hir eyeñ semed / anoone she wolde
Have mercy / foolys wenden soo
But hyt was never / the rather doo
Hyt nas / no countrefeted thynge
Hyt was hir ovne / pure lokynge
That the goddesse / dame nature
Had made hem opene / by mesure
And cloos / for were she neuer so glad
Hyr lokynge was not / folly sprad
Ne wildely / thoght that she pleyde
But euer me thoght' / hir eyeñ seyde
Be god my wrathe / ys al for-yive
Therwith hir lyste / so wel to lyve
That dulnesse was / of hir a-drad
She nas to sobre / ne to glad
In alle thynge / more mesure
Had neuer I' trow / creature
But many oon / with hire loke she hert
[leaf 141, back]
And that sate hyr / ful lytel at hert
For she knowe no-thynge / of her thoght'
¶ but whither she knew / or knew it nowght
Algate she ne rought' / of hem a stree
To gete hyr love / noo nerre was he
That woned at home / that he in ynde
The formest was / alway behynde
But good folke ouer al other
She loved as mañ / may do hys brother 892
Of whiche loue / she was wounder large
In skilful placis / that bere charge
But which a visage / had she ther-too
Alias myñ hert / ys wonder woo 896
That I ne kañ / discryveñ hyt
Me lakketñ both / englyssh and wit
For to vn-do hyt / at the fulle
And eke my spiritis / be so dulle 900
So grete a thynge / for to deuyse
I haue no witte / that kañ suffise
To comprehende / hir beaute
But thus moche dar I sayñ / that she 904
Was white\(^1\) rody fressñ / and lyvely hewed
And every day / hir beaute newed [\(1\) blanche *in margin*,
And negñ hir face / was alder best
For certys nature / had swich lest 908
To make that faire / that trewly she
Was hir chefe patrone / of beaute
And chefe ensample / of al hir werke
And moñstre / for be hyt neuer so derke 912
Me thynkytñ / I se hir euer moo
And yet more over / thogññ al thoo
That ever levede / were now a lyve
Ne sholde ha founde / to diskryve 916
Yn al hir face / a wikked sygne
For hit was sad / symple and benygne
And which a goodely / softe specche
Had that swete / my lyves leche 920
So frendely / and so wel y-grounded [\(\text{leaf 142}\)]
Vp al resoun / so wel y-founded
And so tretable / to al goode
That I dar swere wel / by the Roode 924
Of eloquence / was neuer founde
So swete a sownynge / facounde
Ne trewer tonged / ne skorned lasse
Ne bet koude hele / that by the masse
I durste swere / thogfi the Pape hit songe
That ther was neuer yet / throgh hir tonge
Mañ ne womañ / gretely harmed
As for hit was / al harme hyd
Ne lasse flaterynge / in hir word
That purely / hir symple recorde
Was founde as trewe / as any bonde
Or trouthe / of any mannys honde
Ne chyde she koude / neuer a dele
That knoweth al the worlde / ful wele
But swiche a fairenesse / of a nekke
Had that swete / that boon nor brekke
Nas ther noñ seen / that mys satte
Hyt was white ^1 smothe / streghtf and pure flatte
Wyth-outen hole / or canel boon
As be semynyge / had she noon
Hyr throte / as I haue now memoyre
Semed a rounde toure / of yvoyre
Of goode gretenesse / and noghtf to grete
¶ And goode faire White^2 / she hete
That was my lady Name / ryghte
She was bothe / faire and bryghte
She had not / hir name wronge
Ryghtf faire shuldres / and body longe
She / had / and armes / euery lythf
Fattyssf flessify / not grete therwithf
Ryghtf white handes / and nayles rede
Rounde brestes / and of good brede
Hyr hipples were / a streightf flat bakke
I knewe on hir / noon other lakke.
That al hir lymmes / nere pure sywynge
In as sferre / as I had knowynge
Therto she koude / so wel pley
Whañ that hir lyst / that I dar sey
That she was lyke / to torche bryght
That euery mañ / may take of lyght
Ynogh / and hyt hathe / neuer the lesse
Of maner / and of comlynesse
Ryght so ferde / my lady dere
For euery wight / of hir manere
Myght cachche ynogfi / yif that he wolde
Yif he had Eyen / hir to be-holde
For I dar swere wel / yif that she
Had amonge / ten thousande be
She wolde haue be / at the lest
A chefe meroure / of al the fest
Thogñ they had stonde / in a Rowe
To menys Eyen / koude haue knowe
For wher so meñ had / pleyed or wakyd
Me thoght the felysshypp / as naked
Withouten hir / that sawgh I oones
As a corowne / withoute stones
Trewly she was / to myñ Eye
The soleyne Fenix / of Arabye
For ther levyth / nevir but ooni
Ne swich as she / ne knowe I noon
To speke of godenesse / trewly she
Had as moche / debonairyete
As euer had Hester / in the bible
And more yif more / were possyble
And sothe to seyn / therwyth-alle
She had a wytte / so generalle
So hoole enclyned / to alle goode
That al hir wytte was set / by the Rode
With-oute malyce / vpoñ gladnesse
And ther-to I sawgh / neuer yet a lesse
Harmeful than she was / in doyne
I sey nat that she / ne had knowynge
What harme was / or elles she
Had koude\(^1\) no good / so thenkethi me \([1\ or\ konde]\) \(\text{[leaf 143]}\)
And trewly / for to speke of trouthe
But she had hadde / hyt hadde be routhe
Therof she had / so moche hyr dele
And I dar seyn / and swere hyt wele
That trouthe hym-selfe / ouer al and alle
Had chose hys maner / principalle
In hir that was / his restynge place
Ther-to she hadde / the moste grace
To hane stedefaste / perseuernaunce
And Esy atempry / gouernaunce
That euer I knewe / or wyyte yitte
So pure suffraunt / was hir wytte
And reson\(^\) gladly / she vnderstoode
Hyt folowed wel / she koude goode
She vsed gladly / to do wel
These were hir maners / euerydel
Therwith she loved / so wel ryght:
She wronge do wolde / to no wyght\(^t\)
No wyght\(^t\) myght\(^t\) doo / hir noo shame
She loved so wel / hir ovne name
Hyr lust to holde / no wyght\(^t\) in honde
Ne be thou siker / she wolde not fonde
To holde no wyght\(^t\) / in balaunce
By halfe worde / ne by counstenaunce
But yif meñ wolde / vpon hir lye
Ne sende meñ / in-to walakye
To pruyse / and in-to Tartarye
To Alysaundre / ne in-to Turkye
And byd hym haste / anoou that he
Goo hoodeles / in-to the drye se
And come home / by the Carrenare
And sey sir / be now ryght\(^t\) ware
That I may of yow / here seyn
Worsnoppe / or that ye come ageyn

\(1\) or konde
She ne vsed / no suche knakkes smale
But wherfore / that y tel my tale
Ryght on thys same / as I haue seyde
Was hooly al / my love leyde
For certes she was / that swete wife
My suffisaunce / my luste my lyfe
Myñ happe myñ hele / and al my blysse
My wordys welfare / and my goddesse
And I hooly hires / and euerydel
Byoure lord / quod I / ytrowe yow wel
Hardely your love / was wel besette
I not how ye myght / haue doo bette
Bette ne no wyght / so wele quod he
Y trowe hyt wel sir / quod I parde
Nay leve hyt wel / sire so do I
I leve yow wel / that trewly
Yow thoghte that she / was the best
And to be-holde / the alderfayrest
Who soo had loked hir / with your Eyeñ
With myñ nay / al that hir seyñ
Seyde and swore / hyt was soo
And thogh they ne hadde / I wolde thoo
Haue loved best / my lady free
Thogh I had hadde / al the beaunte
Thatt euer had / Alcipyades
And al the strengthe / of Ercules
And therto had / the worthynesse
Of Alysaunder / and al the rychesse
That euer was / in Babyloyne
In Cartage / or in Macedoyne
Or in Rome / or in Nynyve
And to also / as hardy be
As was Ector / so haue I ioye
That Achilles / slough at Troye
And ther-fore was he / slayñ alsoo
In a temple / for bothe twoo
Were slayne / he and Antylegyus
And so seyth / dares frygius
For love / of Polixena
Or ben as wis / as Mynerva
I wolde euer / withoute drede
Have loved hir / for I most nede
Nede / nay trewly / I gabbe nowe
Noght' nede / and I wol telle howe
For of good e will myñ hert hyt wolde
And eke to love hir / I was holde
As for the fairest / and the beste
She was as good / so haue I reste
As euer was / Penolopee of Grece
Or as the noble wife / lucrece
That was the best / he telletli thus
The Romayne / Tytus lyuyus
She was as good / and no thynge lyke
Thogñ hir stories / be Autentyke
Algate she was / as trewe as she
But wherfore / that I telle the
Whañ I firste / my lady Say
I was ryght' yonge / sothe to say
And ful grete nede / I hadde to lerne
Whañ my herte / wolde yerne
To love / hyt was a grete empryse
But as my wytte / koude beste suffise
After my yonge / childely wytte
Withoute drede / I be-sette hytte
To love hir / in my best wyse
To do hir worshippe / and the servise
That I koude thoo / be my trouthe
Withoute sßeynynghe / outhere slouthe
For wonder feyne / I wolde hir se
So mochel / hyt amended me
That whañ I sawgh hir / first a morwe
I was warshed / of al my sorwe
Of al day after / til hyt were eve
Me thoght no-thyng / myghte me greve
Were my sorwes / neuer so smerte
And yet she sytte / so myñ herte
That by my trouthe / y nolke noght
For al thys worlde / oute of my thoght
Leve my lady / noo trewly
Now by my trouthe / sir quod I
Me thynkethi ye haue / suche a chaunce
As shryfte / wythoute repentaunce
Repentaunce / nay Fy quod he
Shulde y now / repente me
To love / nay certis than were I wel
Wers thanñ was / Achetofel
Or Anthenor / so haue I ioye
The traytore that / betrayed Troye
Or the fals / Genelloñ
He that purchased / the treson
Of Rowlande / and of Olyvere
Nay while I am / a lyve here
I nyl foryete hir / neuer moo
Now good syr / quod I thoo
Ye han wel tolde me / here before
Hyt ys no nede / to reherse more
How ye sawghñ hir firste / and where
But wolde ye tel me / the manere
To hire / which was your first speche
Therof I wolde / yow be-seche
And how she knewe / first your thoght
Whether ye loued hir / or noght
And telleth me eke / what ye haue lore
I herde yow telle / herebefore
Yee / he seyde / thow nost what thou menyst
I haue lost more / than thou wenyst
What losse ys that / quod I thoo
Nyl she not love yow / ys hyt soo
Or haue ye oght / doon amys  
That she hathe lefte yow / ys hyt this  
For god dys love / telle me alle  
Be-fore god quod he / and I shalle  
I say ryght / as I haue seyde  
On hir was al / my love leyde  
And yet she nyste hyt nat / neuer a del  
Noght longe tyme / leve hyt wel  
For be ryght siker / I durste noght  
For al this worlde / tel hir my thoght  
Ne I wolde haue wraththed hir / trewly  
For wostow why / she was lady  
Of the body / she had the hert  
And who hath that / may not asert  
But for to kepe me / so fro ydelenes  
Trewly I did / my besynesse  
To make songes / as I best koude  
And ofte tyme / I songe hem loude  
And made songes / this a grete dele  
Al thogh I koude not / make so wele  
Songes the knowe / the arte alle  
As koude lamekys / sone Tuballe  
That founde out firste / the art of songe  
For as hys brothres / hamers ronge  
Vpoñ hys Auenet / vp and doon  
Therof he tooke / the first soon  
But Grekes seyn / Pictagoras  
That he the first / fynder was  
Of the arte / Aurora telleth soo  
But therof no fors / of hem twoo-  
Algatis songes / thus I made  
Of my felynge / myñ hert to glade  
And loo / thus was alther first  
I not wher hyt / were the first  
If lorde hyt maketh / myñ hert lyght  
Whañ I thenke / on that swete wyght  

That is so semely / oñ to see
And wishe to god / hit myght' so bee
That she wolde holde me / for hir knyght'
My lady that is / so faire and bryght'
Now have I tolde / the sothe to say
My first songe / vpǒn a day
I be-thoghťt me / what woo
And sorwe that I / suffred thoo
For hir and yet / she wyst hyt noght'
Ne tel hir durst I / nat my thoht'
Allas thoht' I / ſy kañ no rede
And but I telle hir / I am but dede
And yf I telle hyr / to sey rytght' sothe
I am a-dred / she wol be wrothe
Allas what shal I / thanne doo
In this debate / I was so woo
Me thoht' myñ hert / brast a tweyne
So at the last / sothe to sayne
I be-thoghťt me / that nature
Ne formed neuer in creature
So moche beaute / trewly
And bounte / wyth-oute mercy
In hope of that / my tale I tolde
With sorwe / as that I neuer sholde
For nedys / and Mawgree my hede
I most haue tolde hir / or be dede
I not wel how / that I begaïne
Ful evel reherse hyt / I kañ
And eke as helpe me / god with-alle
I trowe hyt was / in the dismalle
That was the x. woundes of Egipte
For many a worde / I ouer skipte
In my tale / for pure Fere
Lest my wordys / mys setté were
With sorweful herte / and woundes dede
Softe and quakyng / for pure drede
And shame / and styntynge in my tale
For ferde / and myñe hewe al pale
Ful ofte I wexe / bothe pale and rede
Bowynge to hir / I heng the hede
I durste nat ones / loke hir oñ
For witte maner / and al was goñ
I seyde mercy / and no more
Hyt nas no game / hyt sate me sore
So at the laste / sothe to seyne
Whañ that myñe hert / was come ageyne
To telle shortly / at my speche
With hool herte / I gañ hir besche
That she wolde be / my lady swete
And swore and gañ / hir hertely hete
Ever' to be stedfast / and trewe
And love hir alwey / fresshly newe
And never other / lady have
And al hir worshippē / for to save
As I best koude / I swoere hir this
For youres is alle / that euer ther ys
For euermore / myñe herte swete
And neuer to false yow / but I mete
I nyl as wysse / god helpe me soo
And whañ I had / my tale y-doo
God wote she accounted / nat a stree
Of al my tale / so thoghts me
To telle shortly / ryghts as hyt ys
Trewly hir' answere / hyt was this
I kañ not now wel / counterfete
Hyr wordys / but this was the grete
Of hir answere / she sayde nay
Alle outerly / alas that day
The sorowe I suffred / and the woo
That trewly Cassandra / that soo
Bewayled / the destruction
Of Troy / and of Ilyon
Had neuer swicfs sorwe / as I thoo
I durst no more / say ther-too
For pure fere / but stale away
And thus I lyved / ful many a day
That trewly / I hadde no nede
Ferther / thañ my beddes hede
Never a day / to seche sorwe
I fonde hyt redy / euery morwe
For why / I loved hyr in no gere
¶ So hit befel / another yere
I thoughte ones / I wolde fonde
To do hir knowe / and v[n]derstonde
My woo / and she wel vnderstode
That I ne wilned / no thynge but gode
And worshippe / and to kepe hir name
Ouer alle thynges / and dred hir shame
And was so besy / hyr to serve
And pitee were / I shulde sterve
Syth that I wilned / noon harme y-wys
So whañ my lady / knewe al thys
My lady yaf me / al hooly
The noble yifte / of hir mercy
Savynge hir worshippe / by al weyes
Dredles I mene / noon other weyes
And therwithi / she yaf me a rynge
I trowe hyt was / the first thynge
But yif myñ hert / was I-waxe
Gladde / that is no nede to axe
As helpe me god / I was as blyve
Reysed as fro dethe / to lyve
Of al happes / the alder beste
The gladdest / and the moste at reste
For trewly / that swete wyghtt
Whañ I had wrong / and she ryght
She wolde alway / so goodely
For-yeve me / so debonairely
In al my yowthe / in al chaunce
She tooke me / in hir gouernaunce
Therwyth she was / alway so trewe
Our Ioye was euer / y-lyche newe
Oure hertys were / so evene a payre
That neuer nas / that oon contrarye
To that other / for noo woo
For sothe y-lyche / they suffred thoo
Oo blysse and eke / oo sorwe bothe
Y-lyche they were / bothe glad and wrothe
Al was vs oon / withoute were
And thus we lyved / ful many a yere
So wel I kan / nat telle how
Sir quod I / where is she now
Now quod he / and stynte anoon
Therwith he waxe / as dede as stoon
And seyde allas / that I was bore
That was the losse / that here before
I tolde the that / I hadde lorne
Bethenke how / I seyde herebeforne
Thow wost / ful lytel / what thow menyst
I haue lost more / than thow wenyst
God wote allas / ryght that was she
Allas sir how / what may that be
She ys ded / nay / yis be my trouthe
Is that youre losse / be god hyt ys routhe
And with that worde / ryght anoon
They gan to strake / forth al was doon
For that tyme / the herte huntynge
With that me thoght / that this kynge
Gañ homewarde / for to ryde
Vnto a place / was there besyde
Which was from vs / but a lyte
A longe castel / with wallys white
Be seynt Iohan / oon a ryche hille
As me mette / but thus hyt fille
Ryght thus me mette / as I yow telle
That in the castell / ther was a belle
As hyt hadde smyte / oures twelve
Therewyth I / a-wooke my selve
And fonde me lyinge / in my bedde
And the booke / that I hadde redde
Of Alchione / and Seys the kynge
And of the goddys / of slepynge
I fond hyt / in myν honde ful evene
Thoghth I thys ys / so queynt a sweuene
That I wol / be processe of tyme
Fonde to put this / sweuene in ryme
As I kaν best / and that anoon
This was my sweuene / now hit ys dooν

¶ Explicit the Boke of the Duchesse
II.

The Compleynte to Pite.

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

(This is Chaucer's 1st Poem, and should be studied first. Its subject is alluded to in the *Dethe of Blauche the Duchesse* and the *Parlament of Fvules*. See my Trial-Forewords.)
[Fairfax MS 16 (vellum, ?1440-50; Bodl. Libr.), leaf 187.]

[v is for t with a curl over it; ſ is for w.]

† Balade.

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

(1) [The Proem.]

P

Ite that I haue soughte / so yore agoo

Withi hert soore / and ful of besy peyne

That in this worlde / was neuer wighte so woo

With-oute dethe / and ye I shal not feyne

My purpose was / to pite / to compleyne

Vpon the crueltee / and tirannye

Of loue / that for my trouthe doth me dye

(2) [The Story.]

And when that I be lengthie / of certeyne yeres

Had euere in oon / soughte a tyme to speke

To pitee rañ I / al bespreynte with teres

To prayeñ hir oñ cruelte / me awreke

But er I myghte / withi any worde out breke

Or tellen any / of my peynes smerte

I fonde hir dede / and buried in an herte

(3)

Adovne I fel / when I saugñ the herse

Dede as stone / while that the swogh me laste

But vp I roose / withi coloure ful dyuerse

And petously oñ hir / myñ eyeñ I caste

And ner the corps / I gañ presen faste

And for the soule / I shope me for to prey

I was but lorne / ther was no more to seye
Thus am I slayne / siti that pite is dede
Allas that day / that euer hyt shuld falle
What maner man / dar now hold vp his hede
To whom shal now / eny sorwful herte calle
Now cruelte hatth caste / to slee vs alle
In ydel hope / folke redelesse of peyne
Syth she is dede / to whom shul we compleyne

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

Aboute hir herse / there stodeñ lustely
Withoute any woo / as thoughte me
Bounte parfyt / wel armed and richely
And freshe beaute / lust and iolyte
Assured maner / youthe and honeste
Wisdome estaat / drede and gouernaunce
Confedred both by bonde / and Alliaunce

A compleynt had I writen / in myñ honde
To haue put to pittee / as a bille
But whenñ I al this companye / ther fonde
That rather wolde / al my cause spille
Then do me helpe / I helde my pleynt stille
For to that folke / with-oute any fayle
Withoute pitee / ther may no bille a-vaile
Then leve we al vertues / saue oonly pite
Kepyng the corps / as ye haue herde me seyn
Cofedered by bonde / and by cruelte
And ben assented / wheñ I shal be sleyñ
And I haue put my complaynt / vp ageynñ
For to my foes / my bille I dar not shewe
The effect of which / seith thus in wordes fewe

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

Hit stondeth thus / that your contrary crueltee
Allyed is / ayenst your regalye
Vnderñ colour / of womanly beaute
For meñ shulde not / knowe hir tirannye
With bounte gentilesse / and curtesye
And hathñ depryved yow / of your place
That is hyghñ beaute / apertenent to your grace

For kyndely / by youre herytage ryghtñ
Ye be annexed euer / vnto bounte
And verrely ye oughte / do youre myghtñ
To helpe trouthe / in his aduersyte
Ye be also the corowne / of beaute
And certes yf ye want / in these tweyn
The worlde is lore / ther is no more to seyn
Eke what availeth maner / and gentilesse
Withoute yow / benygne creature
Shal cruelte / be your gouerneresse
Allas what herte / may hyt longe endure
Wherfore but ye / the rather take cure
To breke that perilouse / alliaunce
Ye sleeñ hem that ben / in your obeisaunce

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

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

My peye is this / that what so I desire
That haue I not ne no thing / lyke therto
And euer setteñi desire / myñ hert on fire
Eke on that other sydes / where so I goo
What maner thinge / that may encrese my woo
That haue I redy vnsoghte / euery where
Me lakketh but my detçi / and thanñ my bere
(16) (III. 2)
What nedeth to shewe parcel / of my peyne [leaf 188, back]
Syth euery woo / that herte may be-thynke
I suffre / and yet I dar not to yow pleyne
For wel I wote / though I wake or wynke
Ye rekke not / where I flete or synke
But natheles yet / my trouthe I shal sustene
Vnto my dethi / and that shal wel be sene

(17) (III. 3)
This is to seyne / I wol be your es euer
Though ye me slee / by crueltee your soo
Algate my spirite / shal neuer disseuer
Fro youre servise / for eny peyne or woo
Sith ye be yet ded / allas that hyt is soo
Thus for your dethi / I may wel wepe and pleyne
With herte sore / and ful of besy peyne

Explicit.
III.

The Parlement of Foules.
Here begynyth the parlement of ffoulys.

(1) [The Proem.]

He lyf so short the craft so longe to lerne
Thassay so sharp / so hard the conquerynge
The dredful Ioye / alwey that slit so zerne
Al this mene I / be loe / that myn felynge
A-stonyd with his wondyrful werkynge
So sore I-wis / that whan I on hym thynke
Nat wot I wel wher that I slete or synke

(2)

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

(3)

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

(4)

For ofte of olde feldys / as mensey
Comyth al this newe' corn from 3er to 3ere [1 in Corrector's hand]
And out of olde bokis in good fey
Comyth al this newe science that men lere
But now to purpos as of this materere
To rede forth so gan me to delite
That al that day me thouȝte but a lyte
This bok of which I make of mencioun
EntytI was al thus as I schal telle
Tullyus of the drem of sothion
Chapteris seuene It hadde / of heuene & helle
And erthe: and soulis that ther[en]1 dwelle [\* altered from y]
Of whiche as shortly as I can it trote
Of his centence I wele 3ow seyn the greete

(6)
Fyrst tellith it whan scipion was come
In Affrik how he metyh massynisse
That hym for Ioie in armys hath I-nome
Thanne tellyth he here spche / & of the blysse
That was be-twixsyn hem thil that day gan mysse
And how his Auncestre Affrycan so deere
Gan in his slep that ny3t to hym a-pere

(7)
Thanne tellith it / that from a sterry place
How Affrycan hath hym cartage schewid /
And warnede hym be-forn of al his grace
And seyde what man lernyd op[er lewid
That louede comoun profyt wel l-thewid
He shulde in to a blysful place wende
There as Ioye is pat last with outyn ende

(8)
Thanne axede he If folk that now been dede
Han lyf & dwellynge In a nothir place
And Affrican seyde 3a with outyn drede
And that oure present wordis lyyus space
Nys but a maner deth what weye we trace
And rightful folk schul gon aftyr they deye
To heuene / & schewede hym the galylye

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

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

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

But brekeis of the lawe soth to seyn
And lykerous folk aftyr that they ben dede
Schul whirle a-boute þere alwey in peye
Tyl manye a world be passid out of drede
And that for-þeuyn is his weked dede
Than shal þey comyn in to this blysful place
To whiche to comyn god synde us grace
(13)
The day gan folwyn & the derke nyȝt
That revith bestis from here besynesse
Berafte me myn bok for lak of lyght
And to myn self I gan me for to dresse
Fulfyld of thouȝt & busy heuynesse
For bothe I hadde thyng that I nolde
And ek I ne hadde thyng that I wolde

(14)
But fynally myn spirit at the laste
For-very of myn labour al the day
Tok reste that made me to slepe faste
And In myn slep I mette as pat I lay
How affrican ryȝt in the same a-ray
That¹ cipion hym say by-fore that tyde
Was come & stod ryȝt at myn bedis syde

(15)
The wery huntere slepynge In his bed
To wode a-zen his mynde goth a-non
The Iuge dreymyth how his pleis been sped
The cartere dreymyth how his carte is gon
The riche of gold / the knyght fyȝt with his fon
The syke met he drynkyth of the tunne
The louere met he hath his lady wonne

(16)
Can I nat seyn If that the cause were
For I hadde red of affrican by-foren
That made me to mete that he stod theer.
But thus seyde he thow hast the so wel born
In lokynge of myn olde bok by-forn
Of whiche Macrobye roughte nat a lyte
That sumdel of thyȝn labour wolde I quyte
(17) [Invocation.]
Cythera thow blysful lady swete
That with thy thyn ferbrond dauntist whom thow lest
And madist me this sweuene for to mete
Be thow myn helpe in this for thow mayst best
As wisely as I seye the north nor west
Whan I be-gan myn sweuene for to write
So 3if me myght to ryme & ek tendyte

(18) [The Story.]
This forseyde Affrican me hente a-non
And forth with hym vnto a gate brouȝte
Ryȝt of a park wallid of grene ston
And ouyr the gatis with letteris large I-wrowht
There were vers I-wrete as me thouȝt
On eythir syde of ful gret difference
Of which I schal now seyn the pleyn sentence

(19)
Thorw me men gon in to that blysful place
Of hertis hele & dedly woundis cure
Thorw me men gon on-to the welle of grace
Theere grene & lusty may shal euere endure
This is the weye to al good auenture
Be glad thow redere & thyn sorwe ouercaste
Al opyn am I. passe in & sped the faste

(20)
Thorw me men gon than spat that othir side
Onto the mortal strokis of the spere
Of whiche disdayn & daungers is the gyde
That euere ȝit shal freut ne leuys bere
This strem ȝow ledith to sorweful were
There as the fisch in prysoun is al drye
Ther1 shewyng is only the remedye
These wers of gold & blak I wetyn were
Of whiche I gan a-stonyd to be-holde
For whi that on encresede ay myn fere
And with that othir gan myn herte bolde
That on me hette that othir dede me colde
No wit hadde I for errour for to chese
To entre. or flen. or me to saue. or lese

Right as be-twixsyn adamanutis two
Of euene my3t a pece of yryn set
Ne hath no my3t to meue too ne fro
For what that on may kale that othir let
1 Ferde I that nyste whethir me was best
To entre or leuc til Affrycan myn gide
Ne hente & shof in at the gatis wide

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

But natheles al-thow that thow be dul
3it that thow canst not do 3it mayst thow se
For manye a man that may nat stonde a pul
It likyth hym at wrastelyng for to be
And demyn 3it wher he do bet or he
And there If thow haddist / cunnyng for tendite
I shal the shewe / mater for to wryte
With that myn hand he tok In his a-non
Of whiche I confort kaughte / & that as faste
But lord so I was glad / & wel begoon
For oueral where that I myne eyen caste
Were treis clad with leuys that ay shal laste
Eche in his kynde of colour frosch & greene
As emeroude that sothe was to scene

The byldere ok / & ek the hardy assh
The pilere elm / the cofere vnto carayne
The boxtre pipere / holm to whippis lasch
The saylynge fyr / the cipresse deth to pleyne
The shetere Ew./ the Asp for shaftys pleyne
The olyue of pes / & ek the droune vyne
The victor palm / the laurer to denye

A gardyn saw I ful of blospemy bowys
Vp on a reuer in a grene mede
There as ther swetnesse euere more I-now is
With flouris white blewe & 3elwe & rede
And colde welle stremys no thyng dede
That swemyte ful of smale fischis lite
With fynys rede & skalis syluys bry3te

On euery bow the bryddis herde I synge
With voys of auungel In here armoyne
So besyede hem here bryddis forth to brynge
The litle conyes to here pley gunne hye
And ferthere al aboute I gan aspye
The dredful ro the buk & hert & hynde
Squyrelis & bestis smale of gentil kynde
(29)
Of Insrumentis of strengis in a-cord
Herde I so pleye & rauyshyng swetnesse
That god that makere is of al & lord
Ne herde neuere betyr as I gesse
Therwith a wynd onethe it myght be lesse
Made in the leuys grene a noyse softe
Acordaunt to the brydddis song a lofte

(30)
The erthe of that place so attempre was
That neuere was greuauence of hot ne cold
There wex ek euery holsum spice & ges
No man may waxe there sek ne old
3it was there Ioye more a thousent fold
Than man can telle ne neuere wolde it nyghte
But ay cler day to ony manys syghte

(31)
Vndyr a tre be-syde a welle I say
Cupideoure lord his arwis forge & file
And at his fet his bowe al redy lay
And wel his doughtyr temperede al this whyle
The heuedis in the welle & with hire wile
She couchede hem aftyr they shulde serve
Some for to sle & some to wounde & kerve

(32)
Tho was I war of plesaunce a-non ryght
And of aray and lust & curteysie
And of the craft that can & hath the myght
To don be-fore a wight to don folye
Disfigurat was she I nyl nat lye
And by hem self vndyr an ok I gesse
Saw I delyt that stod with gentilesse
I saw beute with outyn ony a-tyr
And 3outhe ful of game & Iolyte
Fool hardynesse & flaterye & desyr
Messagerye & meede & opyr thre
Here namys shul not here be told for me
And vp on pileris greete of Iasper longe
I saw a temple of bras I-founded stronge

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

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

With Inne the temple / of sykys hoote as fuyr
I herde a swow / that gan a-boute renne
Whiche sikis were engenderede with desyr
That madyn euery aueter for to brenne
Of newe flaume & wel espyed I thenne
That^1 alle the cause of sorwe that they drye
Cam of the bittere goddesse Ielosye /
The god priapus saw I as I wente  
With inne the temple / in soureyn place stonde  
In swich aray as wan1 the asse hym shente [1 & scratched out]  
With Cri be nyghte & with septime In his honde  
Ful besyly men gunne asaye & fonde  
Vp on his hed to sette of sundery hewe  
Garlondis ful of flourrys frosche & newe  

(37)

(38)

And In a2 prive corner / In desport [2 a altered from v]  
Fond I feb3 & hire porter richesse  
That was ful noble & hauntayne of hyre port  
Derk was that place but aftyrward lightnesse  
I saw a lyte vnnethe it my3te be lesse  
And on a bed of gold sche lay to reste  
Tyl that the hote sunne gan to weste  

(39)

Hyre gilte heris with a goldene thred  
I-bounden were vntrussede as sche lay  
And nakyd from the brest vp to the hed  
Men my3the hyre sen / & sothly for to say  
The remenaunt was wel keuerede to myn pay  
Rygh with a subtyl couercheif / of valence  
Ther nas no thikkere cloth / of no defense  

(40)

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

(41)
That In dispit of Dyane the chaste
Ful manye a bowe I-broke hyng on the wal
Of maydenys swiche as guzne here tymys waste
In hyre seruyse I-peyntede were oueral
Ful manye a story of whiche I touche shal
A fewe / as of Calyote. & Athalante
And manye a mayde of whiche the name I wante

(42)
Semyramus Candace & Hercules
Biblis. Dido. Thisbe. & piramus
Tristram .Isaude. paris. & Achilles
Elyne Cliopatre & Troylis
Silla & ek the modyr of Romulus
Alle these were peyntid on that othir syde
And al here loue & in what plyt they deyde

(43)
Whan I was come a-zen vn to the place
That I of spak that was so sote & grene
Forth welk I tho myn seluyn to solace
Tho was I war / wher that ther sat a queene
That as of lygh the someris sunnys shene
Passith the sterre / right so ouermesure
She fayrere was than ony creature

(44)
And In a launde vp on an hil of flouris
Was set this noble goddesse nature
Of braunchis were here hallis & here bouris
I-wrough after here cast & here mesuris
Ne there was foul that comyth of engendrure
That they ne were al prest in here presence
To take hire dom / & 3ene hire audyence
For this was on seynt Volantynys day
When evry bryd comyth there to chese his make
Of evry kynde that men thyynke may
And that so heuge a noyse gan they make 312
That erthe & eyr & tre & evry lake
So ful was that onethe was there space
For me to stonde. so ful was al the place 315

And righ as aleyn In the pleynt of kynde [leaf 45b, back]
Deuyseth natur In aray / & face
In swich aray men myghte hire there fynde
This nobil emperesse ful of grace 319
Bad evry foul to take his owene place
As they were wonyd alwey from 3er to 3eere
Seynt Volantynys day to stodyn theere 322

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

There myghte men the ryal egle fynde
That with his sharpe lok persith the sunne
And othere eglis of a lowere kynde
Of whiche that clerkis wel deuyse cuynne 333
Ther was the tiraunt with his federys duynce
A grey I mene the goshauk that doth pyne
To1 bryddis for his outrageous rauyne [Thos h inserted] 336
The gentyl facoun that with his feet distraynith
The kyngis hand / the hardy sperhauk eke
The quaylis foo / the Merilioun that paynith
Hym self ful ofte the larke for to seke
There was the douue with hire eyen meke
The Ielous swan / a-zens hire,deth that syngith
The oule ek that of deth the bode bryngyth

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

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

The wakyre goos / the cokkow 1most onkynde [1'm altered from en]
The popyniay ful of delicasye
Thè drake stroyere of his owene kynde
The stork the wrekeere of a-vouterye
The hote Cormeraunt of glotenye
The rauerc wys / the crowe wit vois of care
The thurstil old / the frosty feldefare
What shulde I seyn of foulys euery kynde
That In this world hath federis & stature
Men myghtyn in that place asamblede fynde
By-fore the noble goddess / nature
And eueryche of hem dede his besy cure
Benygnely to chese or for to take
By hire a-cord his formel or his make

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

Nature vicarye o the almyghty lord
That hot, cold, heuy, lyght, moyst, & dreye
Hath knyt with euene noumberis of a-cord
In esy voys gan for to speke & seye
Foulis tak hed of myn centence I preye
And for zore ese In fortherynng of zoure nede
As faste1 as I may speke I wele 3ow speede [\text{\textit{\textsuperscript{1} a altered}}]

By myn statute / & thorw myn gounenaunce
Bye come for to cheese & fle zoure wey
Zoure makis as I prike 3ow with plesaunce
But natheles myn rytful ordenaunce
May I nat breke for al this world to wynne
That he that most is worthi shal begynne
The terslet egle as that 3e knowe ful wel
The foul ryal a-bouyn euery degre
The wyse & worthi seere trewe as stel
Whiche I haue formyd as 3e may wel se
In euery part as it best likyth me
It nedith not / his shap 3ow to deuyse
He shal ferst schese / & spekyn In his gyse

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

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

With hed enclyned & with humble cheere
This ryal tersel / spak . & tariede noht
Vn to myn souereyn lady & not myn fere
I chese & shes with wil & herte & thought
The formel on 3oure hond so wel I-wrouȝt
Whos I am al & euere wele hire serve
Do what hire lest / to do me leve\(^1\) or sterve

\(^1\) originally leve
Besekynge hire of merci & of grace
As she that is myn\(^1\) lady souereyne
Or let me deye present in this place
For certis longe I may nat lyue In payne
For In myn herte is korvyn euery veyne
And hauynge only reward to myn trouthe
Myn deere herte haue of myn wo sum routh

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

And syn that hire / louyth non so wel as I
Al be It that he me neuere of loue be-heette\(^2\)
Thanne ouhte she be myn thour hire mercy
For othir bond can I non on hire areete\(^3\)
Ne neuere for no wo ne shal I lette
To seruyn hire how fer so that she wende
Say what 3ow lest myn tale is at an ende

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

\(^1\) corrected myn
\(^2\) te originally ee
\(^3\) te altered to etc
\(^4\) do origin-ally dr
A nothir tersel egle spak a-non
Of lower kynde seyde that shal nat be [1 we altered]
I loue hire bet than 3e don be seynt Ion
Or at the leste I loue as wel as 3e
And longere haue seruyd hire in myn degre
And If she shulde a lound for long louwng
To me fullonge hadde be the gerdonynge

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

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

Of long seruyse auante I me nothing
That possible is to me to deye to day
For wo as he that hath ben languyssyng
This twenty 3eer & as wel happyn may
A man may seruyne bet & more to pay
In half a 3er al thav It were no moore
Than sum man doth that hath seruyd ful 3oore
I sey not this by me for I ne can
Don non seruyse that may myn lady\(^1\) ples
[\textit{I altered}]
But I dar seyn / I am hire treweste man
As to myn dom and faynest wolde hire ese
At shorte wordis til that deth me sese
I wele ben heris were I wake or wynke
And trewe in al that herte may bethyake

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

The noyse of foulis for to ben delyuered
So loude ronge haue don & lat vs wende
That wel wende I the wode hadde al to-slyuered
Cum of they criedyn allas 3e wele vs shynde
Whan shal 3ure cursede pletynge hauyn an ende
How shulde a luge eythir partie leue
For 3e or nay / with outyn othir preue

The goos the cokkow / & the doke also
So cryede kek kek. kokkow. quek quek hye
That thourw myne erys the noyse wente tho
The goos seyde al this nys not worth a flye
But I can shappe herof a remedie
And I wele seye myn verdit fayre & swythe
For watyr foul ho so be wroth or blythe
(73)
And I for werm foul quod the fol kokkowe
And I wele of myn owene autorite
For comun profit tak on / no charg howe
For to delyuere vs Is gret charite
3e may onbyde a while 3it perde
Quod the turtil If it be 3oure wille
A whit may speke / hym were as fayr ben stylle

(74)
I' am a sed foul, on the onworthieste
That wot I wel / & litil of cunnynge
But bet is that a wyhtis tunge reste
Than entirmetyn hym of suhe doinge
Of which he neythir rede can ne fynde
And who so doth ful foule hym self a-cloyith
for offys onquit ofte a-noyeth.

(75)
Nature which that alwey hadde an ere
To murmur of the lewedenesse
with facound voys seyde hold 3oure tungis there
And I shal sone I hope a conseyl fynde
3ow to delyuere & from this noyse vnbynde
I Inge on everu folk men shul on calle
To seyn the verdit for yow foulys alle

(76)
Assentid was to this concluison
The briddis alle & foulis of lauynye
Han chosyn fyrst by playn eleccioun
The terselet of the facoun to diffyne
Al here centence as hem leste to termynye
And to nature hym guzne to presente
And she acceptyh hym with glad entente
(77)

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

(78)

Al redy quod this Eglis terslet tho
Nay seris quod he If that I durste it saye
3e don me wrong / myn tale is not I-do
For seris ne takith not a gref I preye
It may not gon as 3e wolde in this weye
Oure is the voyes that\(^1\) han the charg on honde \([1 \text{ t altered}]\)
And to the Iugis dom / 3e motyn stonde

(79)

And therfore pes I saye / as to myn wit
Me wolde thinke how that the worthiest
Of knygthod\(^2\) & lengest hath vused it \([2 \text{ the t altered}]\)
Most of estat of blod the gentilleste
Were sittyngest for hire If that he lesthe
And of these thre she wot hire self I trowe
Whiche that he be / for here\(^3\) is light to knowe \([3 \text{ originally hre}]\)

(80)

The watyr foulis han here hedis leid
To gedere & of a short ayusement
Whan euerryche hadde his large gole sayd
They saydyn sothly al be on assent
How that the goos with hire facounde so gent
That so desyrith to pronounce oure nede
Shal telle oure tale & preyde god hym spede
As for these watyr foulis tho' be-gan [goos scratcht out] [leaf 480]
The goos to speke & in his kakelynge
He sayde pes now tak kep euery man
And herkenyth which a resoun I shal brynge
Myn wit is sharpe I loue no tarynge
I seye I rede hym thow he were myn brothir
But she wele loue hym let hym take a nothir

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

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

Nay god forbede a louere shulde chaunge
The tersel seyde / & wex for shame red
Thow that his lady euere more be straunge
3it lat hym serue hired til that he be ded
Forsothel I preyse nat the gosis red
For thow sche deyede I wolde non othir make
I wele ben hire til that the deth me take
(85)

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

(86)

Now sey cherl quod the gentil terslet
out of the donghil cam that word ful riyt
Thow canst nat seen what thyng is wel be-set
Thow farst by loue as oulys don by lyght
The day hem blent but wel they sen be nygh
Thyn kynde is of so low a wretchednese
That what loue is thow canst nat seen ne geso

(87)

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

(88)

3e have the glotoun fild I-now his pauache
Thanne are we wel seyde thanne a Merlioun
Thow mortherere of the heysoge on the brauncche
That broughte the forth thow refulles glotoun
Leue thow soleyn werm corupcioun
For no fors is of lak of thyng nature
Go lewed be thow whil that the world may dure
(89)

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

(90)

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

(91)

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

(92)

With dredful vois / the formel tho answerde
Myn rightful lady goddesse of nature
Soth ist that I am euere vndyr 3oure 3erde
As is a nothir lyuis creature 641
And mot ben 3oure whil that myn lyf may dure
And therfore granntyth me myn ferste bone
And myn entent that wele I seyn wol sone 644
(93)

I graunte it 30w quod she & that a-non
This formel egle spak in this degre
Almyghty queen vnto this 3er be gon
I axe respit for to a-vise me
And aftyr that to haue myn choys al fre
This al & sum that I wele speke & seye
3e gete no more al thow 3e do me deye

(94)

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

(95)

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

(96)

And whan this werk al brought was to an ende
To euery foul nature 3af his make
By euene a-cord & on here weye they weade
But lord the blisse & Ioye that they make
For ech gan othir in his wyngis take
And with here nekkis eche gan othyr wynde
Thankynge alwey the noble queen of kynde
(97)

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

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

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

(II.)
Saynt' volantyne that ert' ful hye o lofte
Thus syngen smale foules for thy sake

[Now welcome somor &c.]

(III.)
Wele han they cause forto gladen ofte
Sethe ech of hem recouerede hathe hys make
Ful blisseful mowe they ben when they wake

[Now welcome somor, &c.]

(98)

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

Explicit parliamentum Auium In die sancti Valentini tentum secundum Galfridum Chaucer. Deo gracias.
Complaynt of Mars and Venus.

[ñ is for n with a curl over it.]

(1) [The Proem.]

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

(2)

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

(3)

Yet sange this foule · I rede yow al a-wake
And ye that han not chosen · in humble wyse
Yet at this fest · renoueleth your seruyse
Without repentyng · cheseth your make
And ye that han ful chosen · as I devise
Confermeth hyt · perpetuely to dure
And paciently · taketh your Auenture
And for the worship of this highe fest
Yet wol I in my briddles wise synge
The sentence of the compleynt at the lest
That woful Mars made atte departnyng
Fro fresshe Venus in a morwnyng
Whan Phebus with his firy torches rede
Ransaked hatth every lover in his drede

(5) [The Story.]
Whilom the thrid heuenes lord a-bove
As wel by heuenysh reuolucion
As by desert hath wonne Venus his love
And she hatth take him in subieccion
And as a maistresse taught him his lesson
Commaundyngge him that neuere in her seruise [leaf 15, back]
He ner so bolde no lover to dispise

(6)
For she forbad him Ielosye at alle
And cruelte and bost and tyrannye
She made at her lust so humble and calle
That when her deyned to cast on hym her ye
He toke in pacience to lyve or dye
And thus she brydeleth him in her maner
With no thing but with stering of her cher

(7)
Who regneth now in blysse but Venus
That hatth thys worthy knyght in gouernaunce
Who syngeth now but Mars that serueth thus
the fair Venus causer of plesaunce
He bynt him to perpetuall obeisaunce
And she bynt her to love him for euer
But so be that his trespass hyt deseuer
(8)
Thus be they knyt · and regneñ as in heuen
Be lokyng moost · til hyt fil on a tyde
That by her bothe assent · was set a steuen
That Mars shal entre · as fast as he may glyde
In-to hir next paleys · to abyde
Walkynge hys cours · til she had him a-take
And he preiede her / to faste her . for his sake

(9)
Then seyde he thus · myñ hertiis lady suete
Ye knowe wel · my myschefe in that place
For sikirly til that I · withi yow mete
My lyfe stant ther · in auenture and grace
But wheni I se · the beaute of your face
Ther ys no dred of detñ · may do me smert
For alle your lust · is ese to myñ hert

(10)
She hathi so grete compassion · oñ her knyght.
That dwelleth in solitude · til she come
For hyt stode so · that ylke tyme no wight
Counseyled hym · ne seyde to hym welcome
[leaf 16]
that nyghe her witte · for sorowe was over-come
Wherfore she sped her as fast · in her wey
Almost in oon day · as he dyd in twey

(11)
The grete Ioye that was · betwex hem two
When they be mette · ther may no tunge tel
ther is no more · but vnto bed thei go
And thus in Ioy and blysse · I let hem duel
this worthi Mars · that is of knyghthode wel
the flour of feyrenesse · lappeth in his armes
And Venus kysseth Mars · the god of Armes
Soiourned hath this Mars of which I rede
In chambre amyd the paleys priuely
A certeyn tyme til him fel a drede
Through Phebus that was comen hastely
Within the paleys yates ful sturdely
With torche in honde of which the stremes bryght
On Venus chambre knokken ful lyght

The chambre ther as ley this fresshe quene
Depeynted was with white boles grete
And by the lyght she knew pat shone so shene
That Phebus cam to bren hem with his hete
This cely Venus nygh dreynt in teres wete
Enbraceth Mars and sedye alas I dye
The torch is come that al this world wol wrie

Up stert Mars hym lust not to slepe
When he his lady herde so compleyne
But for his nature was not for to wepe
In stid of teres fro his eyen twyne
The firi sparkes brosten out for peyne
And hent his hauberke that ley hym besyde
Fle wold he not ne myght him seluen hide

He thowe on his helme of huge wyght
And girt him with his swerde and in his honde
His myghty spere as he was wont to fyght
He shaketh so that almost hit to-wonde
Ful hevy was he to walken over londe
He may not holde with Venus companye
But bad her fleen lest phebus her espye
(16)

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

(17)

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

(18)

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

(19)

So feble he wex / for hete and for his wo
that nygh he swelt / he myght vnnethe endure
He passeth but a sterre / in dayes two
but ner the lesse / for al his heuy armure
He foloweth her / that is his lyves cure
For whos departyng / he toke gretter Ire
Then for al his brennyng / in the fire.
After he walketh / softly A paas
Compleynyng / that hyt pite was to heree
He seyde O lady / bryght Venus Alas
that euere so wyde / a compas ys my speree 137
Alas when shal I mete yow / hert dere
this .xij. dayes / of apprile I endure
Throgh Ielouse phebus / this mysaventure 140

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

Mars dwelleth forth / in hes aduersyte 150
Compleynyng euer / on her departynge
And what his compleynt was / remembreth me
And therfore / in this lusty morwnynge 151
As I best can / I wol hit seyn and synge
And after that / I wol my leve take
And god yif euery wyght / Ioy of his make 154

The ordre of compleynt / requireth skylfully
that yf a wight / shal pleyn petously 155
Ther mot be cause / wherfore that men pleyñ
other men may deme / he pleyneth solely 158
And causeles alas / that am not I
Wherfor the grounde and cause / of al my peyñ
So as my troubled witte / may hit ateyn
I wol rehearse not / for to haue redresse
But to declare my grounde / of heuynesse

(24) [First Tern of Stanzas, 1]

The first tyme / alas that I was wroght
And for certeyn effectes / hider broght
Be him that lordeth / echi intelligence
I yaf my trwe seruise / and my thoghts

For euer-more / how dere I haue hit boght
that her that is / of so gret excelence
that what wight / that first sheweth his presence
When she is wrothe / and taketh of hym no cure
He may not longe in Ioye / of love endure

(25) (I. 2)

This is no feyned mater / that I telle
My lady is / the verrey sours and welle
of beaute lust / fredam and gentilnesse
Of riche aray / how dere men hit selle
of al disport / in which men fredamly duelle
of love and pley / and of benigne humblesse
of soyne of Instrumentes / of al suetnesse
And therto so wel fortuned / and thewed
that thorow the worlde / her goodnesse is yshewed

(26) (I. 3)

What wonder ys then / thogh I beset
my seruise on such on / that may me knet
to wele or wo / sith hit lythe in her myght
therfore my hert for euer / I to her hight
Ne truly for my dethe / I shal not let
to ben her truest seruaunt / and her knyght.
I flater noght / that may wete euer wyght
For this day / in her seruise shal I dye
but grace be / I se her oenes wyth ye [1 altered from neuer]
(27) [Second Tern of Stanzas, 1]

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

(28) (II. 2)

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

(29) (II. 3)

But what availeth / suche a longe sermoñ
of auentures of love / vp and dovne
I wol returne / and spoken of my peyne
the poynt is this / of my distruccióñ 212
My right lady / my sauacyoñ
Is in affray / and not to whom to pleyñ
O hert suete / O lady souereyñ
For your disese / I oght wel sowne and swelt
thogh I none other harme / ne drede felt 217
To what fyne made the god / that sitte so hye be-nethen loue / other companye
And streyneth folke / to love malgre her hede
And then her Ioy / for oght I can espye
Ne lasteth not / the twynkelyng of an eye
And somme han neuer Ioy / til they be dede
What meneth this / what is this mystihede
Wherto constreyneth he / his folke so fast thing to desyre / but hit shuld last

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

Hit semeth he hath / to louers enemyte
And lyke a fissher / as men alday may se
Bateth hys angle-hoke / with summe plesaunce
mil mony a fisssh ys wode / to that he be
Sesed ther-with ./ and then at erst hath he
Al his desire / and ther-with al myschaunce
And thogh the lyne breke / he hath penance
For with the hoke / he wounded is so sore
That he his wages / hathe for euer-more
(33) [Fourth Tern of Stanzas, 1]

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

(34) (IV. 2)

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

(35) (IV. 3)

So fareth hyt by louers / and by me
For thoght my lady / haue so gret beaute
that I was mad² til I had gete her grace [² e added]
she was not cause / of myñ aduersite 266
but he that wroght her / as mot I the
that put suche beaute / in her face
that made me / couet and purchace
Myn ovne dethe / him wite I that I dye
And myn ovne witte / that euer I clombe so hye 271
(36)  [Fifth Tern of Stanzas, 1]

But to yow hardy knyghtis / of renoun
Syn that ye be / of my deuisiouñ
Al be I not worthy / to so grete a name
yet seyn these clerkes / I am your patrouñ
ther-fore ye oght / haue somme compassion
of my diseñ / and take hit not agame
the pruddenst of yow / may be made ful tame
 Wherfore I prey yow / of your gentilesse
that ye compleyn / for myn heynnesse

(37)  (V. 2)

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

(38)  (V. 3)

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

The ABC,

a Prayer to the Virgin Mary,

(with its French original, from Le Pélérinage de la Vie Humaine, by Guillaume de Deguileville, ab. 1330 A.D.)
From Guillaume De Deguileville's *Pélerinage de l'Ame*, Part I, *Le Pélerinage de la Vie Humaine*. Edited from the MS 1645, Fonds Français, in the National Library, Paris (A), and collated with the MSS 1649 (B), 376 (C), and 377 (D), in the same collection, by Paul Meyer.

(1. A.)

À toy du monde le refui,  
Vierge glorieuse, m'en fui  
Tout confus, ne puis miex faire ;  
À toy me tien a toy m'apuy.  
Relève moy, abatu suy :  
Vainceu m'a mon ayersaire.  
Puis qu'en toy ont tous repaire  
Bien me doy vers toy retraire  
Avant que j'aie plus d'annuy.  
N'est pas huite necessaire  
À moy, se tu, debonnayre,  
Ne me sequeurs comme a autrui.  

(2. B.)

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

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

(1. A.)
Almighty and all merciable queene
to whom pat al pis world fleeth for socour
to haue relees of sinne of sorwe and teene
Gloriowse virgine of alle floures flour
to thee j flee confounded in erroour
Help and releue thou mihti debonayre.
Haue mercy on my perilous langour
Venquisshed me hath my cruelle aduersaire

(2. B.)
Bountee so fix hath in pin herte his tente
That wel j wot thou wolt my socour bee
Thou canst not warne him pat with good entente
Axeth pin helpe. pin herte is ay so free
pat art largesse. of pleyn felicitee
Hauene of refute of quiete and of reste.
Loo how pat theeves sevne chasen mee
Help lady briht er pat my ship to breste
86 (b) G. DE DEGUILEVILLE'S ORIGINAL OF THE ABC.

(3. C.)

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

(4. D.)

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

(5. E.)

En toy ay m'esperance eu
Quant a merci ma's receü
Autre foys en mainte guise
Du bien qui ou ciel fu creü
As ravive et repeü
M'am qui estoit occise.
Las! mès quant la grant assise
Sera, se n'y es assise
Pour moy mal y seray veü.
De bien n'ay nulle reprise.
Las m'en clain quant bien m'avisé,
Souvent en doy dire heü!

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

Comfort is noon but in yow ladi deere
for loo my sinne and my confusion
Which ouhten not in thi presence appeere
Han take on me a greevous accioun
Of verrey riht and desperacioun
And as bi riht pei mihten wel susteene, 
pat j were wurfi my dampnacioun
Nere merci of you blisful heuene queene

(4. D.)

Dowte is per noon pou queen of misericorde
pat pou nart cause of grace and merci heere
God vouched saf thoruh pee with us to accorde
for certes crystes blisful mooer deere
Were now pee bowe bent in swich maneere
As it was first of justice and of jre.
pee rihtful god nolde of no mercy heere
But thoruh pee han we grace as we desire

(5. E.)

Euere hath myn hope of refuit been in pee
for heer bifore ful ofte in many a wyse
Hast pou to misericorde rescuyed me
But merci ladi at pe grete assyse
When we shule come before pe hye iustyse
So litel fruit shal pane in me be founde.
pat but pou er pat day me chastys
Of verrey riht my werk me wolde confounde
Fuiant m'en viens a ta tente
Moy mucier pour la tormente
Qui ou monde me tempeste.
Pour mon pechié ne t'absente,
A moy garder met t'entente,
A mon besoing soiez preste.
Se lono temps j'ay esté beste
A ce, Vierge, je m'arreste
Que de ta grace me sente.
Si te fais aussi requeste
Que ta pitié nu me veste,
Car je n'ay nulle autre rente.

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

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

61. A m'en fui.—62. A pour sa grant.—65. ACD omit t'.—69. ABCD je me sente.—75. B N'es.—78. B per.—79. B li ne voit japer.—81. A m'anfance; the verse is omitted in D.—82. A t'appere.—85. B sa puissance.—90. A A avoir en moy ; B Avoir en en mon ; C Avoir eu a mon.—91. A misse a folage.—92. A me vint.—95. A n'aie a.
(6. F.)
Fleeinge j flee for socour to pi tente
Me for to hide from tempeste ful of dreede
Biseeching yow pat ye you not absente
pouh j be wikke. O help yit' at' pis neede 44
Al haue j ben a beste in wil and deede
Yit ladi pou me clope with pi grace.
pin enemy and myn ladi tak heede
Vn to my deth in poyn' is me to chace 48

(7. G.)
Gloriows mayde and mooder which pat neuere
Were bitter neiper in eerpe nor in see
But ful of swetnesse & of merci euere
Help pat my fader be not wroth with me 52
Spek pou for j ne dar not him ysee
So haue j doon in eerpe allas per while
pat certes but if pou my socour bee
To stink eterne he Wolfe my gost exile 56

(8. H.)
He vouched saaf tel him as was his wil[leaf 113, back]
Bicomen a man to haue oure alliaunce
And with his precious blood he wrot pe bille
Vp on pe crois as general acquitaunce 60
To euery Penitent' in ful criaunce
And perfore ladi briht' pou for us praye.
panne shalt pou bope stinte al his greuaunce
And make oure foo to failen of his praye 64
Je ne truis par nulle voie
Ou mon salut si bien voie
Com, après Dieu, en toy le voy ;
Quar quant aucun se désvoie,
À ce que tost se ravvoie,
De ta pitié li fais convoy.
Tu li fès lessier son destroy
Et li refaiz sa pais au roy,
Et remez en droite voie.
Moult est donc cil en bon arroy,
En bon atour, en bon conroy
Que ta grace si conroie.

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

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

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

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

Ladi þi sorwe kan j not portreye
Vnder þe cros. ne his greevous penaunce
But for youre boþes peynes j yow preye
Lat not oure alder foo make his bobaunce
That he hath in hise lystes of mischaunce
Conuict þat ye boþe haue bouht so deere.
As j seide erst þou ground of oure substaunce
Continue on us þi pitous eyen cleere
Moyses vit en figure
Que tu, vierge nete et pure,
Jhesu le filz Dieu conceüis : 135
Un bysson contre nature
Vit qui ardoit sans arsure.
C'es tu, n'en suis point deceüis,
Dex est li feus qu'en toy eüis ;
Et tu, buisson des recreüz
Es, pour tremper leur ardure.
A ce veoir, vierge, veüis
Soie par toy et receüis,
Oste chaussement d'ordure. 141

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

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

Moises pat sauh pe bush with flawmes rede
Brenninge, of which per neuer a stikke brende
Was signe of pin unwemmed maidenhede
pou art pe bush on which per gan descende
pou holigost pe which pat moyses wende
Had ben a fyir and pis was in figure.
Now ladi from pe fyir pou us deufende
Which pat in helle eternalli shal dure

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

O verrey light of eyen pat ben blynde
O verrey lust of labour and distresse
O tresoreere of bountee to mankynde
pee whom god ches to mooder for humblesse
ffrom his ancille he made pe maistresse
Of heuene & eerpe. oure bille up for to beede.
pis world awaiteth euere on pi goodnesse
ffor pou ne failest neuere wight at neede
94 (b) G. DE DEGUILEVILLE'S ORIGINAL OF THE A B C.

(15. P.)
Pris m'est volenté d'enquerre
Pour savoir que Dieux vint querre
Quant en toy se vint enserrer;
171
En toy devint vers de terre;
Ne cuit pas que fust pour guerre
Ne pour moy jus aterrer.

Vierge, se ne me sens errer,
D'armes ne me faut point ferrer
174
Fors sans plus de li requerre.
Quant pour moy se vint enterrer,
Se il ne se veut desterrer
Encor puis s'amour acquerre.

(16. Q.)
Quant pourpensé après me sui
Qu'ay offendu et toy et lui,
177
Et qu'a mal est m'amé duite,
Que, fors pechié, en moi n'estui,
Et que mal hyer et pis m'est hui,
Tost après si me ranvite,
Vierge douce, se pren fuite,
Se je fui a la poursuite,
Ou fuiray, qu'a mon refui?
S'a nul bien je ne m'affruite
Et mas sui avant que luite,
Plus grief encore en est l'anuy.

(17. R.)
Reprens moy, mere, et chastie
Quar mon pere n'ose mie
Attendre a mon chastiement.
178
Son chastoy si fiert a hie;
Rien n'ataint que tout n'esmie
Quant il veut prendre vengement.
Mere, bien doî tel batement
Douter, quar en empirement
A tous jours esté ma vie.
A toy dont soit le jugement,
Car de pitié as l'oingnement,
Mès que merci l'en te prie.
179

172. C com ver.—174. Sic A B C D; the verse is one syllable too short.—175. A omits ne.—176. B fault par.—177. A Fors que;
B del r.—178. A s'en vint en terre.—180. A encore.—184. A en
est hui; B en moy ne truy; D en moi ne sui.—186. A rauie;
D ravite; B Tantoust a. si me ravite.—187. AB se je.—191. A
mat.—188-89. From C; both are left out in A; B (188) Toust je.
A en soit.—203. Omitted in A; B Car de pièça as l'oingnement;
C Car de pitié as longuement.—204. BC on te.
Purpos I haue sum time for to enquere
Wherfore and whi pe holi gosti pee souhte
Whan gabrielles vois cam vn to pin ere
He noti to werre us swich a wunder vrouhte
Buti for to saue us pat he sithen bouhte
Paxe needeth us no wepene us for to saue
But oonly peri we diden not as us ouhte
Doo penitence and merci axe and haue

Queen of comforti yit whan j me bithinke
Pati j agilti haue bope him and pee
And pati my soule is wurthi for to sinke
Allas j caityf whider may I flee
Who shal vn to pi sone my mene bee
Who buti pi self pati arti of pitee welle.
Piou hasti more reuthe onoure aduersitee
Pan in pis world mihti any tunge telle

Redresse me mooder and me chastise
ffor certeynly my faderes chastisinge
Pati dar j nouhti abiden in no wise
So hidous it is hys rhiful rekenynge
Mooder of whomoure merci gan to springe
Beth ye my juge & eek my soules leche
ffor euere in you is pitee haboundinge
To eche pati wole of pitee you biseeche
Sans toy nul bien ne foysonne
Et sans toy Diez riens ne donne,
Quar de tout t'a fet maistresse.
Quant tu veus tresout pardonne;
Et par toy est mise bonne
A justice la mairese;
N'est royne ne princesse
Pour qui nul ainsi se cesse
Et de droit se dessaisonne.
Du monde es gouverneresse,
Et du ciel ordeneresse;
Sans resoun n'as pas couronne.

Temple saint ou Dieu habite
Dont prive sont li herite
Et a tous jours desherite,
A toy vieng de toy me herite
Refois moy par ta merite
Quar de toy n'ay point hesite.
Et se je me sui herite
Des espines d'iniquite
Pour quoy terre fu maudite,
Las m'en clain en verite,
Car a ce fait m'a excite
L'ame qui n'en est pas quite.

Vierge de noble et haut atour,
Qui au chastel et a la tour
De paradis nous atournes,
Atourne moy ens et entour
De tel atour que au retour
De ta grace me retournes,
Se vil sui, si me raurnes.
A toy vieng, ne te destournes.
Quer au besoing es mon destour.
Sequeur moy, point ne sejournes,
Ou tu a la court m'ajournes,
Ou ta pitié fait son sejour.
Soth is pat god ne granteth no pitee
With outhe pee. for god of his goodnesse
fforyiveth noon but it like vn to pee
He hath pee maked vicair & maistresse
Of al pe world. and eek gouernowresse
Of heuene. and he represseth his iustise.
After pi wil. and perfore in witnesse
He hath pee corowned in so rial wise

(19. T.)

Temple deuout per god hath his woninge
ffro which pee misbileeued deprizued been
To you my soule penitent j bringe
Resceyue me. I can no ferpere fleen
With thornes venymous O heuene queen
ffor which pe eerphe acursed was ful yore.
I am wounded as ye may wel seen
pat j am lost almost it smert so sore

(20. V.)

Virgine pat art so noble of apparaile
And ledest us in to pe hye toure
Of Paradys. pou me wisse and connsaile
How j may haue pi grace & pi socour
Al haue j ben in filthe and in errour
Ladi vn to pat court pou me aiourne
pat cleped is pi bench. O fresh flour
per as pat merci enure shal soiourne
(21. X = Ch.)

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

(22. Y.)

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

(23. Z.)

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

(a) THE "ABC."

(21. X = Ch.)

Xpc\(^1\) pi sone pat in pis world alighte
Vp on pe cros to suffre his passioun
And eek suffred pat longius his herte pighete
And made his herte blood to renne adown
And al was pis for my saluacioun
And j to him am fals and eek vnkynde
And yit he wolde not my dampnacioun
pis thanke j yow socour of al mankynde

(22. Y.)

Ysaac was figure of his deth certeyn
pat\(^1\) so fer forth his fader wolde obeye
pat\(^1\) him ne rouhte no thing to be slayn
Riht\(^1\) soo pi sone lust as a lamb to deye
Now ladi ful of merci j yow preye
Sithe he his merci mesured so large.
Be ye not skant\(^1\) for alle we singe & seye
pat\(^1\) ye ben from vengeance ay oure targe

(23. Z.)

Zacharie yow clepeth pe opene welle
To washe sinful soule out\(^1\) of his gilt\(^1\)
perfore pis lessoun ouht j wel to telle
pat\(^1\) nere pi tender herte we weren spilt\(^1\)
Now ladi sithe pou canst and wilt\(^1\)
Ben to pe seed of Adam merciable.
Bring us to pat\(^1\) palais pat is bilt\(^1\)
To penitentes pat ben to merci able Amen

Explicit\(^1\) carmen.

\(^1\) The contraction for "Christ".
(24. & = et.)

Éthiques s'avoie leüi,
Tout recordé et tout scéüi,
Et après riens n'en ouvrassé
Du tout seroie deceüi.
Aussi con cil qui est cheüi,
En sa rois et en sa nasse.
Vierge, m'ame je claim lasse,
Quar en toy priant se lasse
Et si ne fait point son deüi.
Pou vault chose que je amasse ;
Ma priere n'est que quasse
S'a bien je ne sui esmeüi.

(25. 9 = con.)

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

AMEN.

277. A tout veüi.—285. C pas son.—289. A B que je ne.—290. A merci je.—292. A je nay mie.—297. From C; A Vierge tu ne me faillies mie ; B Tu ne me faillies done m.—299. A heritable-ment. Here, as in other verses (220, 286, 290), the e of the preceding monosyllabic word is elided.
VI.

Mother of God.

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

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

Ad beatam virginem.

(1) (I. 1)

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

(2) (I. 2)

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

(3) (I. 3)

Benigne confort of vs wrecches aH
Be at myn endyng whan þat I shal deye
O Welle of pitee / vn to thee I calH
fful of swetnesse / helpe me to weye
Ageyn the feend, þat with his handes tweye
And his might plukke wolc / at the balance
To weye vs doun keepe vs from his nusance.

PHILLIPPS
(4) (II. 1)

And for thow art ensaumple of chastitee
And of virgynes worship and honour
Among all wommen blessid thow be
Now speke and preye to our Sauueour

pat he me sende swich grace & fauour

pat al the hete of brennyng Leccherie
He qwenche in me blessid maiden Marie

(5) (II. 2)

O blessid lady / the cleer lighit of day
Temple of our Lord / and roote of al goodnesse

pat by prayer' wypes cleene away
The filthes of our synful wikkidnesse
thyn hand foorth putte / & helpe my distresse
And fro temptacioun deliure me
Of wikkid thoght, thurgh thy benignitee

(6) (II. 3)

So pat the wil fulfild be of thy sone
And pat of the holy goost he menlumyne
Preye for vs as ay hath be thy won
Lady / all swich emprises been thyne
S Wich an aduocatrice who can dyuyne
As thow right noon, our greeues to redresse.
In thy refuyt is al our sikirnesse.

(7) (III. 1)

Thow shapen art by goddes ordenance
Mene for vs flour of humilitee
ffiche pat lady in thy remembrance
Lest our fo the feend thurgh his sotiltee

pat in awayt lyth for to cacche me
Me overcome with his treccherie
Vn to my soules helthe thow me gye
(8) (III. 2)

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

(9) (III. 3)

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

(10) (IV. 1)

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

(11) (IV. 2)

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

[?Stanza 12, or IV. 3, the real lines 78-84, lost.]
(12) (V. 1)
By thee Lady y makid is the pees
Betwixt Angels and men / it is no doute
Blessid be god pat swich a modir chees
Thy gracious bountee spredith al aboute
Thogh pat our' hertes steerne been & stoute
Thow to thy sole canst be swich a mene
That all our' giltes he foryeueth clene.

(13) (V. 2)
Paradys yates opned been by thee
And broken been the yates eek' of helle
By thee / the world restored is pardee
Of al vertu, thow art the spryng & weff
By thee al bountee / shortly for to teach
In heuene & eerthe by thyn ordenance
Parforned is / our soules sustenance.

(14) (V. 3)
Now syn thow art of swich auctoritee
Lady pitous / virgyne wemmelees
pat our Lord god nat list to warne thee
Of thy requeste / I wot wel / doutelees
Than spare nat, foorth thee to putte in prees
To preye for us Crystes modir deere
Benygnyely wole he thyn axyng' heere

(15) (VI. 1. O interemerata! enlisht)
Apostle and freend familiere of Cryst
And his y-chosen virgyne / seint Ion
Shynynge apostle & euangelyst
And best beloued among hem echon
With our Lady preye I thee to been oon
pat vn to Cryst shal for vs all preye
Do this for vs Crystes derlyng I seye.
(16) (VI. 2)

Marie and Ion heuently gemmes tweyne
O lightes two shynyng in the presence
Of our lord god, now do your bysy peyne
To washe away our cloudeful offense
So pat we mowen make resistence
Ageyn the feend, & make him to bewaiH
pat your preyer1 may so moche auaitt

(17) (VI. 3)

Yee been tho two I knowe verraily
In which the fadir god gan edifie
By his sone oonlygeten specially
To him an hows / wherf ore I to yow crye
Beeth leches of our synful maladie
Preyeth to god / lord of misericorde
Our olde gilt{es / pat he nat recorde.

(18) (VII. 1)

Be yee our1 help and our proteccion
Syn for meryt of your virginitee
The privilege of his dileccion
In yow conformed god vp on a tree
Hangyng1 / and vn to oon of yow seide he
Right in this wyse, as I reherce can
Beholde heer1 lo / thy sone womman

(19) (VII. 2)

And to pat othir / heer thy modir lo
Than preye I thee / pat for the greet sweetnesse
Of the hy loue, pat god twixt yow two
With his mowth made / and of his noblesse
Conioyned hath yow / thurgh his blisfulnesse
As modir and sone helpe vs in our neede
And for our gilt{es make our hertes bleede
Vn to yow tweyne, I my soule commende
Marie and IoHN for my sauuacioñ
Helpith me pat I may my lyf amende
Helpith now, pat the habitacioñ
Of the holy goost our recocation
Be in myn herte now and euermore
And of my soule, washe away the sore—Amen

[Bottom of leaf 37.]
VII.

Anesida and Arcite.

HARLEIAN MS. 7333 (FROM SHIRLEY).

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

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

C lxxvij

Lo my lordis and ladyes Here folowyng may ye see the maner of the lovyng bytwene Arcite of Thebes and Anelida the faire Quene of Hermony which with his feyned chere doublenes and flateryng discerned her without cause / she beyng than oon of pe trewest gentilwomen that bere lyf compleyneth her I besche you.

(1) [Proem or Invocation: 3 stanzas]

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

(2)

For hit ful depe / is sonken in my mynd
With pitous herte, in english for to endite
This old story in latyne which I fynde
Of queene Anelyda and fals Arcite
That eeld which pat aH can frete and bite
As hit hath froten many A noble story
hath negH devoured oute of my memory

(3)

Be fauourable eke thow polymea
On parnaso that with thi sustren glade
By Ellicon nogH fer frome Cirea
Syngest with voice memorial in pe shade
Vndir the laurier / which pat may not fade
And do that I my Ship to hauen wyne
First folowe I stace / and aftir pat Corynne
(4) [The Story: 27 stanzas]

When Theseus with warres longe and grete
The Aspre folke of Cithe had ouercomme
With laurer coroune\& in his chare gold\& bete
home to his Cuntre / houses is ecomme
For which the people blisfull hole and somme
So crydon) / pat unto the sterres it wente
And him to honuren) diden) / a\& her entente

(5)

\(1\) Beforne this duk in signe of hie Victorye
The trumpes came / and in his baner large.
The ymage of mars and tokenyg of his glorie.
Men mighten) seen) / of tresoure many a Charge.
Many bright helme and many sperre and targe
many a fressh knyght / and blisful route
On hors and fote / In a\& the felde aboute

(6)

\(1\) Ypolita his wyf / the hardy quene
Of Cithea that he conquerd had
With Emelye her yong Sustir shene
Faire in a Chaier of gold\& he with him ladde
That a\& the ground aboute the chare. she sprad
With the brightnesse of the beaute in her face
Fulfilled\& of largesse and of Alle grace

(7)

\(1\) With his Tryumphe / of lawrier coroune\& thus
In a\& the floure of Fortunes yevyng
Ite I this noble prince this Theseus
Towardses Attenes in his wey ridying
And fonde I woh in shortly for to bryng
The sleight wey of that I gan) to write
Of tho quene Anelida / and fals Areyte.
(8) Mars which thurgh his furious Cours of yre
The old wrath of Juvo to fulfille
Hath sette the peoplis hertis both on fyre
Of Thebes and grece / yche othir for to kylle
With blody speris / ne rested neuer stille
But throng now here now pere amongis hem both
TyH euereich othir slough so were thei wroth

(9) For whan Amphyorax and Tedius
ypomedon Parthonopee also
were dede and sleyn proude Campaneus
And whan pere wrechid Thebans bretheren two
Were slayne / and kyng Adrascus Home ego
So desolate stode Thebes and so bare
That no wight coude no remedy oF his fare

(10) And whan that old Creon gan espie
how that the blode riaH was broughit edoun
he heled that Cite by his Thyranny
And did the gentils of that regyoune.
To ben his frend / and wonnen in pe toune
So what for loue of him and what for awe.
The noble folke were to the toune edrawe

(11) Amonges aH thies / Anelida the quene.
Of ermony was in pat toune duellyng
That feirer was / pan is pere sonne shene
Thurgh oute the world / so gan her name spryng
That her to see / had evry wight likyng
For as of trouth is pere non her liche
Of aH pere wymen in pis world riche.
Yong was this quene · of xxii yere eld.
Of mydde stature and of suche fairenesse
That nature had grete ioy / her to beholde
And for to spoken of her stedfastnes
She passed hath penelope and lucresse
And shortly if she shalbe comprehendid
In her ne myght no thing be amendid

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

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

But natheles ful myche besynesse.
had he or þat he myght his lady wynne
And swore he wold dey, for distresse.
Or from his witte he wold twynne.
Alas þe while · for hit was routh and synne.
That she vpon his sorowis wolden rewe.
But no thing thenkith · þe fals as doth the trewe.
(16)

Hir fredome fonde Arcyte in suche maner
That all was his / that she ha\'th moche or lyte
Ne to no creature made she chere.
Forther pan that hit liked? Arcyte
Ther nas no lacke with wiche he myght her wite/
Sheo was so ferforthe gyven him to plese
That all that liked hit did her ese /

(17)

pere nas to hir no maner lettre sent
That towchid? love from anye maner wyght
That she ne shewid it him or it was brent
So pleyne she was and did hir ful might
That she nil hyden no thing frome hir knygght
lest he of eny vntroupe hir wpbroyde /
with outen bode / his heste sheo / cleyde /

(18)

And eke he made him Ialowse ouer hir
That what that any man had to hir seyde
Anoon\ h he wolde preyen her to swere /
what was that worde / or maken him yuel apayde /
\panne wende sheo oute of her wyt haue brayed\ But all this nas / but flight & filaterie /
Withouten love of Feyned? Ialowsye

(19)

And? Al this toke sheo so debonayrely
That al his wille hir thought hir skilful thing:
And eu\er the lenger sheo lov\d him tendrely
An did\ him honour as he were a kynge /
hir hart was to him / weddi with a Ringe /
So ferforpe wp\n trowpe is hir entente /
That where he goo\e his hert with him wente
When sheo shall ete / on him is al hir thought
pat wele vnnepe of mete tooke she keepe
And whan pat sheo was to hir Reste ebrought
On him sheo thought alwey till sheo slepe
Whan he was absent preuely sheo weepe/
bus lyvepe fayere Anelyda pe qveene/
For Fals Arcyte pat did hir that tene

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

His fals Arcyte sumwhat moste he feyne
Whane he was fals to couer his tharatourye
Right as an hors pat can boope byte & pleyne
For he bare hir ow honde of Trecherye
And swore he Coude hir dowbilnesse espie /
And alH was Falsnesse that sheo to him mente
bus swore this peoff and forge his weye he wente /
Par.-Text


(24)

If Ellas what hart myght endure it
For Roupe and woo hir sorow for to tell
Or what man hath pe connyng or pe witte /
Or what man myght with in the Chambre dwelle
Yf I to him Rehersin shoulde pe helle
Which sufferith faire Anelyda pe Quene /
For Fals Arcyte pat did her aH pis teene

(25)

If Sheo weopepe waylepe swoonepe pytously
To grounde sheo fallepe dede as any stoone [leaf 124, back, col. 2]
Al craumpisshed hir lymmes crockedly
Sheo spekithe as hir witte were aH agoone /
Ope coloure janne Asshen hath sheo noone
Noon othir worde spekithe sheo muche or luytle
But mercy crueH harte myw arcyte /

(26)

If And pat endurith til sheo was soo mate
pat sheo nathe on whiche sheo may sustene
But forpe langwissing in pis estate
On whiche arcyte hape Rowpe noon ne teene /
His herte was ellis where nuwe and grene
pat on hir woo nought deynid him to thinke
Him Reccheth nought wheper sheo fleete / or swynke /

(27)

If His nuwe Ladye holdithe him so narowe /
Vp by pe brydeH at pe staves ende
pat every worde he drad as an Arowe
hir daunger made him boope bowe and beende /
And as hir lyste made him tourne and wende /
For sheo ne graunted him in hir lyvynge
No grace whi he hathe noo luste to synge /

Harleian 7333 (From Shirley)
(28)

But drofe him forthe / vnethe list' hir knowe / 190
But leste that he were proud she held him lowe / 193
Sheo sent him nowe to lande and nowe to shipe 196
And for sheo gave him daungere al his fille 199
bere-fore sheo had him at hir owne wille.

(29)

Ensaemple of this yee thrifty women aH 197
Takepe of Anelida · and Arcyte / 200
And for hir list him dere herte Calle 203
And was soo meke perefore he louid hir luyte
be kynde of mannnes herte is to delight
In thing pat straunge is / als soo god me save
For what he may not gete pat wolde he have /.

(30)

Nowe tourne we to Anelyda A-geyne 204
Which peynithe day by day in languisshing' 207
But whane sheo sawe / pat hir gate no gayne 210
Vppon A day fuH soroufulH wepyenge
Sheo caste hir for to make a compleyning 213
And of hir Owne honde sheo gane hit wreyte / 216
And sent hit to hir Theban knyghts dann Arcyte

The compleynte of anelida pe Quene of Hermonye
vpon arcyte borne of pe blode RiaH of Thebes for his Doublenesse.

(31) (Compleint 1. Proem)

O thirllepe with pe poyn of Rememberaunce 211
The swerde of sorowe whette with fals pleasance / 214
Myn hart bare of blisse and blak of hues
That turnid? is in quakynge aH my daunce
My suretee in a whaaped countenaunce 215
Sithe it A-vaylithe nowght for to be trewe
For who soo trewest is it shalH hir rewe
\( \hat{p} \)at seruithe love And\( \hat{d} \)ope hir observaunce /
Alday tih oon\( \) / Chaungeth for no newe 219

\( (32) \) (Compl. 2; Mov. I. 1)
\( \)¶ I wot my selfe als welle als any wight 220
For I louid oon with aH myn\( \) herte and\( \) might
More than my selfe an hunderipe thousand sithe /
And\( \) callid\( \) him myn hertes lyff my knight
And\( \) was al his / als fer as it was Right 224
When he was glad\( \) pane was I euere klyfe
For his desire was to me depe als swythe
And\( \) he A geyne his trought hathe me plight [leaf 135, col. 1]
For euermore / his ladye me to kythe 228

\( (33) \) (Compl. 3; Mov. I. 2)
\( \)¶ Nowe is he Fals / ellas and\( \) Causelesse 229
And\( \) of my woo he is so rewthelesse
\( \hat{p} \)at with oon\( \) worde / him liste not oony\( \)s deyne
To brynge agyne my sorowfuH hert in pese
For he is kaute vp in a nefer lese 233
Right as him liste he laughethe / at/ my peyne /
And I ne can myne herte nought Restreyne
For to love him Alweye neuer the lesse
And\( \) of AH this I note / to whome me pleye / 237

\( (34) \) (Compl. 4; Mov. I. 3)
\( \)¶ And\( \) shaH I pleye / ellas \( \hat{p} \)at harde stounde 238
\( \)\( \)Vn to my foo that gave myn herte A wounde /
And\( \) yette desirith\( \) that myne harome be more
Nay for certes / \( \)per shaH I neuer be founde
Noon othur helpe\( \)e my soores for to sounde 242
My desteny\( \)e hathe shapen\( \) it fuH yore/
I wolle noon \( \)per medecyne ne lore/
I wolle ben ay \( \)per I was oones bounde/
\( \hat{p} \)at I have seyde / beo syde for euermore/ 246

HARLEIAN 7333 (FROM SHIRLEY)
(35) (Compl. 5; Mov. I. 4)

Ellas wher is be comen your gentilnesse/
Youre wordes full of plesaunce and humblesse
Youre observaunce / and so lowe manere /
Youre Awaytinges and youre besynesse
Vpon me pat ye callid your mastresse /
Youre soverayne ladye / of this worlde here
And is here nowe neyther worde ne cheere/
Yee wouchensaff vpon myn hevinesse
Ellas youre / love I bie it aft to dere /

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

Nowe Certes swete paughe pat yee
Bus Causelesse pe Cause be
Of my dedely Aduersiteit
Your manly Rayson aught it for to Respite/
To sée your frende and namlie me /
Pat neuer yitte in noo degree
Offendieth yowe / als wissely he
Pat al wot oute of woo my sowle quite
But for I was so pleyne / Arcyte
In aft my werkes muchi and lyte
And so besye yowe to deleyte
Myn honour sauft / meke and kynde and Free
Per fore ye putte on me this wyte
And als ye Recche not A myght
Paughe pat pe swerde of sorowe byte
My woofuH harte porowe your creweltee

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

My swete for whye doo yee soo for shame
And thenten yee pat ferperid be your name
To love a newe / And be vntrewe nay
And putte yowe in scaundre nowe and blame
For to do me / Aduersite / and grame
166-167  PAR.-TEXT
120  ANELIDA AND ARCITE.  HARLEIAN MS. 7333.

\( \text{pat loue yowe moste} / \text{god welf pou woste} / \text{Alwaye/} \\
\text{Yitt} \text{Come A gayne} / \text{And yit be playne some daye/} \\
\text{And pat} \text{shalt this} / \text{pat nowe is mis} / \text{be game/} \\
\text{And Al forgiven} / \text{while pat here live I maye} \quad 280
\)

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

\[ \text{I loo herte myne} / \text{Al pis is for to seyne} \quad 281 \\
\text{And whethir shalt I pray} / \text{or elles pleyne} \\
\text{Which is pe wey to do yowe to be trewe} \\
\text{For outer mote I have yow in my cheyne} \quad 284 \\
\text{Or withe pe dethe yee mutte departed vs twene} \quad [\text{leaf 135, col. 2}] \\
\text{per lithe noon othir} / \text{meene weyes nuwe/} \\
\text{For god se wissly of my soule ruwe} \\
\text{As verraylye yee slee me with pe peyne} \\
\text{pat may yee see vnfeynid ow mynu huwe} \quad 289
\]

(39)  (Compl. 9; Mov. II. 2)  [From Tanner MS. 346]

\[ \text{[For thus ferforth haue} \quad \text{I my deth soghte} \quad 290 \\
\text{My selfe} \quad \text{I morder with my pryue thoghte} \\
\text{For sorou and routh of youre vnkyndenes} \\
\text{I. wepe} / \text{I. wele} / \text{I. faste aH helpeth noghte} \\
\text{I. voyde ioy} / \text{that is to speke of oghte} \quad 294 \\
\text{I. voyde companye} \quad \text{I. flee gladdenes} \\
\text{who may avaunce her bet of heuynes} \\
\text{Then I: and to this plite haue ye me broghte} \\
\text{with outhe gilte me nedyth no witnes]} \quad 298
\]

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

\[ \text{And shulde I preye and venyme womanhode} \quad 299 \\
\text{Nay Ra} \text{pere dye pat do soo CreuH dede} \\
\text{And Axse mercy causeles what nede} \\
\text{And yf I pleyne what life pat I lede} \\
\text{Jane wol yee laughe I knowe it oute of drede} \quad 303 \\
\text{And yf pat I} / \text{to yowe myne othes beede/} \\
\text{For myn excuse} / \text{a scorne shalt be my mede/} \\
\text{Youre chere flourepe} / \text{but it it wolle not sede} \\
\text{FuH longe a-gon} / \text{I ought to have taken hede} \quad 307
\]

\text{HARLEIAN 7333 (FROM SHIRLEY)}
(41) (Compl. 11; Mov. II. 4)

For þaughe / I hade yowe / nuwe agayne to morowe/ 308
I myght als weele kepe / AueryH from Rayne
As holde yow trewe / and make yowe hoole stedfaste /
Almyghti goð of trowthie soverayne
Where is þe trowthe of man whoo hathe it slayne 312
Sheo that hem trustithe shaH hem fynde als faste
As in a tempeste is þe Roton maste
Is þat a tame beste þat is ay fayne
To fleem aweye when he is lefte agaste 316

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

But mercy swete yf I mys saye 317
Have I ought saide oughte of þe waye
I not my wytte is halffæ a waye
I fare as doþ þe songe of Chaunte pleure 320
For nowe I pleyne / and now I playe
I am so masedþ þat I deye
Arcyte hathe borne aweye þe keye
Of aþ my worlde/ andþ my goode Aventure/
For in this worlde nys Creature
Wakynge in moore discomfiture
þane I ne more sorowe endure
Andþ yf I Slepe A furlonge wey or tweye /
If þan thinkithe me þat youre figure
Be-fore me stante Cloþed in Asure/
To profren ofte and nuwe ensure/
For to be trewe / and love me til I dye 332

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

If þe longe Nyght / þis wonder sight I drye 333
Andþ on the day for þilke a fraye I drye
Andþ of Al this right nought ewysse yee rechche
Ne never mo / myne eyen two beo drye
Andþ to youre rought / and to your trouthie I crye 337

HARLEIAN 7333 (FROM SHIRLEY)
But welawaye to fer ben thei to Fecche
Bus holdithe me my desteny a wrechche
But me to Rede oute of this drede /or crye
Ne may my witte / so weyke is it nought streche

(44) (CompI. 14. Conclusion.)

I þanne eondid I thus sithe I may do namore
And yeve it vp for now and evir more
For shaH I neuer este put in balaunse
My sikurnes / or leorne of love þe lore
But as þe swane / I have harde sey fuH yore
Ageynist' his dethe / shaH synge his penavnse /
So sey I here / my destenye or chaunce/
How þat Arcyte / Anelyda so sore
Hape thrilled with þe poynte of Rememberaunce/

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

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

[Imperfect: I never finish. See the description of the
Temple of Mars in The Knight's Tale.]

HARLEIAN 7333 (FROM SHIRLEY)
VIII.

The Former Age.

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

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

Chawcer vp-on this fyte metur of the second book

(1)

A

Blysful lyf a paysyble and a swete

Ledden the poeple in the former age

They helde hem paied of the fructes pat hem ete

Whiche pat the feldes yau hem by vsage

They ne weere nat forpampred with owtrage

Onknowyn was þe quyerne and ek the melle

They eten mast hawes and swych pownage

And dronken water of the colde welle

(2)

¶ Yit nas the grownd nat wounded with þe plowh

But corn vp-sprong vnsowe of mannes hond

þe which they gnodded and ete nat half Î.-nowh

No man yit knewe the forwes of his lond

No man the fyr owt of the flynt yit fonde

Vn-koruen and vn-grobbed lay the vyne

No man yit in the morter spices groude

To clarre ne to sawse of galentyne

(3)

¶ No Madyr welde or wod no listere

Ne knewh / the fles was of is former hewe

No flessh ne yste offence of egge or sperre

No coyn ne knewh man which is fals or trewe

No ship yit karf the wawes grene and blewe

No Marchauwt yit ne fette owt-landisshe ware

No batails trompes for the werres folk ne knewe

Ne towres heye and walles rownde or square
THE FORMER AGE. MS. It. 3. 21, CAMBR.

(4)

¶ What sholde it han avayled to werreye
Ther lay no profyt ther was no rychesse
But corsed was the tyme I. dar' wel seye
¶at men fyrst dede hir' swety bysynesse
To grobbe vp metal lurkyng in dirkenesse
And in pe Ryuerys fyrst gemmys sowhte
Allas than sprong' vp al the cuisyndness
Of coueytysse ¶at fyrst owr sorwe browhte

(5)

¶ Thyse tyrauntz put hem gladly nat in pres
No places wyldnesse ne no busses for to wynne
Ther pouerte is as seith diogenes
Ther as vitayle is ek so skars and thinne
¶at nat but mast or apples is ther Iyne
But per as bagges ben and fat vitaile
Ther wol they gon and spare for no synne
With al hir ost the Cyte forto a-sayle

(6)

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

(7)

¶ Unforged was the hawberke and the plate
¶e lambysh pople voyded of alle vyse
Hadden no fantesye to debate
But eche of hem wolde oother wel cheryce
No pride non enuye non Auaryce
No lord no taylage by no tyranye
Vmblesse and pes good feith the emperice
[. . . . . . . . . . no gap in the MS.]

II. 3. 21, CAMBR.
If Yit was nat Iuppiter the lykerous
pat fyrst was fadyr of delicasie
Come in this world ne nembrot desyrous
To regne had nat maad his towres hye
Allas allas now may [men] wepe And crye
For in owre dayes nis but couetyse
Dowblenesse and tresoun and enuye
Poyson and manslawhtre and mordre in sondry wyse

H. 3. 21, CAMBR.
ADAM SCRIVENER.

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

|| Chauciers wordes 'a. Geffrey vn to Adame his owen scryveyne /

|| Adam scryveyne / if euer it pee byfalle 1
Boce or Troylus / for to wryten nuwe /
Vnder py long lokkes / powe most haue pee scalle
But after my makyng powe wryte more true
So oft a daye I mot py werk renuwe /
It to. corect and eke to rubbe and scrape /
And al is thorough py necglygence and rape / 7

SHIRLEY
X.

The House of Fame.

[In 3 Books, the 3rd unfinisht]
[Fairfax MS. 16, vellum (Bodl. Libr.), leaf 154, back.]

The house of fame

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

[BOOK I.]

[Proem.]

Go
d turne vs / everdreme to goode
ffor hyt is wonderd / be the Roode
To my wytte / what causeth swevenes
Eyther on morwes / or on evenes
And why theeffecte / folweth of somme
And of somme / hit shal neuer come
Why that is / an avision
And why this / a reuelacion
Why this a dreme / why that A swevene
And noght to every man / lyche evene
Why this affaintome / why these oracles
I not but who-so / of these meracles
The causes knowethi / bet then I
Devyne he / for I certenly
Ne kan hem noght / ne neuer thinke
To besely my Wytte / to swinke
To knowe / of hir signifiaunce
The gendres / neyther the distaunce
Of tymes of hem / ne the causis
ffor-why this is more / then that cause is
As yf folkys / complexions
Make hem dreme / of reflexions
Or ellis thus/ as other sayne
ffor to grete feblenesse / of her brayne
By abstinence / or by sekenesse
Prison stewe / or grete distresse

FAIRFAX
Or ellis by / dysordynaunce
Of naturell / acustumaunce
That somme man) / is to curiouse
In studye / or melancolyouse
Or thus / so inly ful of drede
That no man) may / hym bote bede
Or ellis / that deuocioun
Of somme / and contemplacion)
Causeth / suche dremes ofte
Or that the cruelle lyfe / Vn-softe
Whiche these ilke louers / leden)
That hopen ouer meche / or dreen)
That purely / her impressions
Causethem / Avisions [leaf 155]
Or yf that spiritis / haue the myghtt
To make folke / to dreme a-nyght
Or yf the soule / of propre kynde
Be so parfit / as men) fynde
That yt forwote / that ys to come
And that hyt warneth / al and some
Of eueryche / of her auentures
Be avisions / or be figures
But thatoure flessi / ne hath no myghtt
To vnderstonde / hyt aryght
ffor hyt is warned / to derkly
But why the cause is / nought wot I
We[1] worthi of this thynge / grete clerkys
That trete of this / and other werkes
For I of noon) / oppinion
Nyl as now / make mensyon
But oonly that / the holy Roode
Turne vs / euery dreme to goode
ffor neuer sith / that I was borne
Ne no man) elles / me beforne
Mette I trowe / stedfastly
So wonderful / a dreme as I
The tenthe day / now of Decembre
The which as I kan / yow remembre
I wol yow tel / euerdele

[Invocation.]

But at my gynnynge / trusteth wele
I wol make / Inuocacion
With special / deuocion
Vnto the god / of slepe anoon
That duellethe / in a Cave of stoon
Vpon a streme / that cometh fro lete
That is a floode / of helle vnswete
Besyde a folke / men clepeth Cymerie
There slepeth ay / this god vnmerie
With his slepy / thousandde sones
That alwey for to slepe / hir wonne is
That to this god / that I of rede
Prey I that he / wolde me spede
My sweuene / for to telle aryght
Yf euery dreme / stonde in his myght
And he that mouer / ys of alle
That is and was / and euer shalle
So yive hem ioyn / that hyt here
Of alle that they / dreme to yere
And for to stonde / al in grace
Of her loues or in what place
That hem were leuest for to stonde
And shelde hem fro pouerte / and shonde
And fro vnhaunte / and eche dise
And send hem alle / that may hem plese
That take hit wele / and skorne hyt noghte
Ne hyt mysdeme / in her thoght
Thorghi malicious / entencion
And who-so thorghi / presupencion
Or hate or skorne / or thorghi envye
Dispite or Iape / or vilanye

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

[Story.]
Of Decembre / the tenthe day
Whan hit was nyght\(^t\) / to slepe I lay
Ryght\(^t\) ther as I was / won te to done
And fille on\(^t\) slepe / wonder sone
As he that wery was / for-goo
On\(^\text{b}\) pilgrymage / myles two
To the Corseynt / leonarde
To make lythe / of that was harde
But as I slept/ me mette I was
Withyn\(^\text{b}\) a temple / y-made of glas
In whiche ther were / moo ymages
Of golde stondynge / in sondry stages
And moo rych\(^e\) / tabernacles
And withi perre / moo pynacles
And moo curiouse / portreytures
And queynt maner / of figures
Of olde werke / then\(^d\) I sawgh\(^g\) euer
ffor certeynly / I nyste neuer
Wher that I was / but wel wyste I
Hyt was of Venus / redely

PAR.-TEXT 183
FAIRFAX MS. 16. 133

CHAUER MI. 10
The temple / for in portreytoure
I sawgh anoon / ryght hir figure
Naked fletynge / in A see
And also on hir hede / parte
Hir Rose garlond / white and rede
And hir comb / to kembe hir hede
Hir dowves / and daun Cupido
Hir blynde sone / and Vulcano
That in his face / was ful browne
But as I romed / vp and downe
I fonde / that on a walle ther was
Thus written / on a table of bras
I wol now say / yif I kan
The Armes / and also the man
That first came / thorgh his distance
ffugityfe / of Troy Contree
In Itayle / with ful moche pyne
Vnto the strondes / of Labyne
And tho began / the story anoon
As I shal telle / yow echon
First sawgh I / the destruction
Of troy / thorgh the greke Synon
With his fals / forswerynge
And his chere / and his lesynge
Made the hors broght / in-to troye
Thorgh which troyens / lost al her Ioye
And aftir this / was grave allas
How Iyon / assayled was
And wonne / and kynge Priam y-slayne
And Polite / his sone certayne
Dispitously / and daun Pirrus
And next that / sawgh I how Venus
Whan that she sawgh / pe castel brende
Dovne fro the heuene / gan descend
And bad hir sone / Eneas flee
And how he fled / and how that he

FAIRFAX
Escaped was from al the pres
And tooke his fader Anchises
And bare hym on hys bakke avay
Cryinge allas and welaway
The whiche Anchises in hys honde
Bare the goddesse of the londe
Thilke that vnbrende were
And I saugh next in al hys fere
How Creusa daun Eneas wife
Which that he louede as hys lyfe
And hir yonge sone Iulo
And eke askanius also
fleden eke with drery chere
That hyt was pitee for to here
And in a forest as they went
At a turnynge of a went
How Creusa was y-loste allas
That dede not I how she was
How he hir soughte and how hir goste
Bad hym to flee the grekes oste
And seyde he most vnto Itayle
As was hys destanye sauns faille
That hyt was pitee for to here
When hir spritle gan appere
The wordes that she to hym seyde
And for to kepe hir sone hym preyde
Ther sawgh I grave eke how he
Hys fader eke and his meynee
With hys shippes gan to saylle
Towards the Contree of Itayle
As streight as that they myght goo
Ther saugh I the crwel Iunoo
That art daun Jupiter's wife
That hast y-hated al thy lyfe
Alle the Troianyssh / bloode
Renne and crye as thou were woode
On eolus / the god of wyndes
To blowe oute / of al kyndes
So lowde / that he shulde drench
Lorde and lady / grome and wenche
Of al the Troian / nacion
Withinoute any / savacion
Ther saugh I suche / tempeste aryse
That euer hert / myght agryse
To see hyt peynted / on the walle
Ther saugh I graven / eke with-alle
Venus how ye / my lady dere
Wepyng / with ful woeful chere
Prayen I Jupiter / an hye
To save and kepe / that navye
Of the Troian / Eneas
Syth that he hir sone was
Ther saugh I Ioues / Venus kysse
And graunted / of the tempest [.. .. 220
... no gap in the MS.] stent
And how with al / pyne he went
And prevely / toke arryvage
In the contree / of Cartage
And on the morwe / how that he
And a knyghte / hight Achate
Mette with venus / that day
Goynge / in A queynt array [leaf 157, back] 228
As she had ben / an hunteresse
With wynde blowynge / vpon hir tresse
How Eneas / gan hym to pleyne
When that he knewe hir / of his peyne
And how his shippes / dreynte were
Or elles lost / he nyste where
How she gan hym / comfort thoo
And bad hym / to Cartage goo
And ther he shulde / his folke fynde
That in the see / were lefte behynde
And shortly of this thyng / to pace
She made Eneas / so in grace
Of Dido quene / of that Contree
That shortly for to tel / she
Be-came hys loue / and lete hym doo
That / that weddynge longeth too
What shulde I speke / more queynte
Or peyne me / my wordes peynte
To speke of loue / hyt wol not be
I kan/ not of that / faculte
And eke to telle / the manere
How they aqueynted / in fere
Hyt were a longe / processe to telle
And ouer longe / for yow to dwelle
Ther sawgh I grave / how Eneas
Tolde Dido / euery caas
That hym was tyd / ypon the see
And after grave was / how shee
Made of hym shortly / at oo worde
Hyr lyfe hir loue / hir luste hir lorde
And did hym / al the reuerence
And leyde on hym / al dispence
That any woman / myght do
Wenynge hyt had / al be so
As he hir swore / and her by demed
That he was good / for he suche semed
Allas what harme / dothe Apparence
Whan hit is fals / in existence
For he to hir / a traytour was
Wherfore she slowe hir / selfe allas
Loo / how a woman dothe the amys
To loue hym / that vnknowe ys
For be cryste / lo thus yt fareth
Hyt is not al golde / that glareth
For al-so browke I / wel myn hede
Ther may be vnder / godelyhede
Keuered many / a shrewde vice
Therfore be no wyghtt / so nyce
To take a love / oonly for chere
Of for speche / or for frendly manere
For this shal / euery woman fynde
That some man of his pure kynde
Wol shewen outwarde the fayrest
Tyl he haue caught that what him lest
And than wol he causes fynde]
And sweren / how that she ys vnkynde
Or fals / or prevy double was
Alle this sey I / be Eneas
And Dido / and hir nyce lest
That loued / alto sone a gest
Therfore I wol seye / a proverbe
That he that fully / knowetli therbe
May savely ley hyt / to his ye
Without drede / this ys no lye
But let vs spoke / of Eneas
How he betrayed / hir allas
And lefte hir ful / vnkyndely
So when she saw / al vetterly
That he wolde hir / of trouthe fayle
And wende fro hir / to Itayle
She gan to wringe / hir hondes two
Allas quod she / what me ys woc
Allas / is euery man thus trewo
That euery yere / wolde haue a newe
Yf hit so longe / tyme dure
Or elles three / perauenture
As thus of loue / he wolde haue fame
In magnyfyinge / of hys name
A-nother for frendshippe / seyth he
And yett ther shal / the thrid be
That shal be take / for delyte
Loo / or for synguler profite

FAIRFAX
In suche wordes / gan) to pleyne
Dydo / of hir grete Peyne 312
As me mette / redely
Non) other auttour / a-legge .I.
Allas quod he / my swete hert
Haue pitee / ow) my sorwes smert 316
And slee mee not / goo noght' awey
O woful Dido / wele-away
Quod she / to hir-selfe thoo
O Eneas / what wol ye doo 320
O that your loue / ne your bonde
That ye ha sworne / with your ryght' honde
Ne my crewel dethi / quod she
May holde yow stille / here with me 324
O haue thi of my dethi / pitee
I-wys my dere hert / ye
Knowen) ful wel / that neuer yit
As ferforth) / as I had wyttte 328
Agylte yowe / in thoughtes) ne dede
O haue ye men) / suche godelyhede
In speche / and neuer a dele of trouthe
Allas that eu) / had routhe 332
Any woman) / on) any man)
Now see I wel / and tel kan)
We wrechched wymmen) / konne noon) Arte
For cer) / for the more parte 336
Thus we be served / euerychon)
How sore that ye / men' konne groon)
Anoon) as we / haue yow receyved
[Certenly we ben deceuyd)]
[From Bodley 638]
For though your loue / laste A seson)
Wayte vpon) / the conclusyon)
And eke how that / ye determynen
And for the more / part diffyven
O weleawey / that I was borne
[Leaf 159]
For thorgi yow is / my name lorne
And al youre Actes / red and songe  
Ouer al thys londe / on everytonge  
O wikke Fame / for ther nys  
No thinge so swifte / lo as she is  
O sothe ys / euer thinge ys wyste  
Though hit [be] keuered / with the myste  
Eke though I myght / dure euer  
That I haue do / rekeuer I neuer  
That I ne shal / be seyde allas  
Y-shamed be / through Eneas  
And that I shal / thus Iuged be  
Loo ryght as she / hath now . she  
Wol doo eft-sones / hardly  
Thus seyth the peple / prevely  
But that is do / is not to done  
But al hir compleynt / ne al hir moone  
Certeynly avayleth hir? / not a stre  
And when she wiste / sothely he  
Was forthe / vnto his shippes agoon\  
She in-to hir chambre / wente anoon\  
And called / on hir suster Anne  
And gan hir / to compleyne thanne  
And seyde that she / cause was  
That she first loued / Allas  
As thus / counseyllled hir therto  
But what / when this was seyde and doo  
She rofe hir selfe / to the herte  
And dyed thorghi / the wounde smerte  
And al the maner / how she dyede  
And al the wordes / that she / seyde  
Who-so to knowe / hit hath purpos  
Rede Virgile / in Eneyd  
Or the epistile / of Ouyde  
What that she wrote / er that she dyde  
And nor hyt were / to longe tendyte  
Be god I wolde / hyt here write
1 But wele away / the harming the rought
That hath betyd / for suche vntrouthe
As men may ofte / in bokes rede
And al day se hyt / yet in dede
That for to thynke hyt / a tene is
Loo / Demophon / duke of Athenys
How he forswore hym / ful falsly
And trayed Phillis / wikkidy
That kynges doghtre / of T[r]ace
And falsly / gan / hys terme pace
And when sh she wiste / that he was fals
She henge hir selfe / ryght be the hals
For he had doo hir / suche vntrouthe
Loo / was not this / a way and roughte
Eke lo how fals / And reccheles
Was to Breseyda / Achilles
And Paris / to Enone
And Iason / to Isiphile
And efte / Iason / to Medea
Ercules / to Dyanira
For he left hir yole
That made hym cache his dethe parde
How fals eke was / he Theseus
That as the story / telleth vs
How he betrayed / Adriane
The deuel / be hys soules bane
For had he lawghed / had he loured
He moste haue be / devoured
Yf Adriane / ne had y-be
And for she had / of hym pite
She made hym / fro the dethe escape
And he made hir / a ful fals Iape
For aftir this / withyn a while
He left hir slepynge / in an Ile
Deserte alone / ryght be the se
And stale a-way / and lete hir be
And tooke hir suster / Phedra thoo
With him and gan / to shippe goo
And yet he had / y-swore to hire
Ona alle that euer / he myght swere
That so she saved / hym hys lyfe
He wolde haue take hir / to hys wife
For she desired / no-thinge ells
In certyne / the booke tellis
But to excusen / Eneas
fiullyche / of all his trespass
The booke seyth / Mercur saun3 fayle
Bad hym goo / in-to Itayle
And leue / Auffrikes Region
And Dido / and hir fair tour
Thoo sawgh I grave how / that to Itayle
Daun3 Eneas is goo / for to assayle
And how the tempest / al began3
And how he lost / hys steris-man3
Which that the stere / or he toke kepe
Smote ouer borde / loo as he slepe
And also sawgh I / how Cybile
And Eneas / besyde an yle
To helle went / for to see
His ffader / Anchyses the free
How he ther fonde / Palinurus
And Dido and eke / Deiphebus
And euery turment / eke in helle
Saugh he / which is longe to telle
Which who-so willetli / for to knowe
He most rede / many a Rowe
On Virgile / or on3 Claudian
Or Daunte / that hit tel kaw3
Tho saugh I grave / al the Aryvayle
That Eneas had / in Itayle
And with kynge latyne / hys treteee
And alle the batayles / that hee
Was at hym selfe / and eke hys knyghtis
Or he had al ywonne / hys ryghtis
And how he Turnus / reft his lyfe
And wanne labina / to his wife
And alle the mervelouse / signals
Of the goddys / celestials
How Mawgree Iuno / Enegas
For al hir sleight / and hir compas
Acheved alle / his aventure
For Iupiter tooke / of hym cure
At the prayer / of Venus
The whiche I pray / alwey save vs
And vs ay / of oure sorwes lyghte
When I had seen / al this syghte
In this noble / temple thus
A lorde thought I / that madest vs
Yet sawgh I neuer / suche noblesse
Of ymages / ne suche Richesse
As I sawgh grave / in this chirche.
But not wote I / whoo did hem wirche
Ne where I am / ne what contree
But now wol I goo / outhe and see
Ryght at the wiket / yf y kan
See owghwhere any / stirying man)
That may me telle / where I am
When I outhe / at the dores came
I faste aboute / me behelde
Then sawgh I but / a large felde
As fer as that / I myghte see
Withouten tovne / or house or tree
Or bush or grass / or eryd londe
For al the felde / nas but sonde
As smale as man / may se yet lye
In the desert / of lybye
Ne I no maner / creature
That ys yformed / be nature

FAIRFAX

[leaf 161]
Ne sawgh me to / to rede or wisse
O criste thought I / that art in blysse
Fro Fantome / and Illusion)
Me save / and with deuociōn)
Myn eyen / to the heuene I caste
Thoo was I war / at the laste
That faste be the sonne / as hye
As kenne myght I / with myν ye
Me thought I sawgh / An Egle sore
But that hit semed / moche more
Then I had any Egle / seyne
But this as soothe / as deth certeyne
Hyt was of golde / and shone so bryghte
[That neuer sawe men suche a syght
But if the heuen had ywonne
Al newe of god another sonne
So shone the Egles fethers bright]
And somwhat dowwarde / gan hyt lyghte

[BOOK II.]

[Proem.]

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

FAIRFAX
[Invocation.]

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

[Story.]

This Egle of whiche / I haue yow tolde
That shone withi Fethres / as of golde
Which that so high / gan to sore
I gan beholde / more and more [leaf 161, back]
To se the beaute / and the wonder
But neuer was / ther dynt of thonder
Ne that kynge / that men calle founder
That smote somme tyme / a toure of powder
And in his swift comynge / beende
That so swithe / gan descende
As this foule / when hyt behelde
That I a Rovme / was in the Felde
And with hys grym / pawes stronge
Withyn hys sharpe / nayles longe
Me fleynge / in a swappe he hente
And with hys sous / a-yene vp went
Me cryinge / in his claws starke
As lyghtly / as I were a larke
How high / I can not telle yow
For I came vp / y nyste how
For so astonyed / and a-sweued
Was euery vertu / in my heued
What withi his sous / and withi my drede
And al my felynge / gan to dede
For whi hit was / to grete affray
Thus I longe / in hys claws lay
Til at the last / he to me spake
In mannes vois / and seyde awake 556
And be not agaste / for shame
And called me / by my name
And for I shulde / the bet abreyde
Me mette awake / to me he seyde 560
Ryght in the same vois / and stevene
That vseth oon / I koude nevene
And with that vois / soth for to seyne
My mynde came / to me ageyne 564
For hyt was goodely / seyde to me
So was hyt neuer / wonte to be
And here with alle / I gan to stere
And he me / in his fete to bere [leaf 102] 568
Til that he felt / that I had hete
And felte eke / that my hert bete
And thoo gan / he / me to disporte
And with wordes / to conforte 572
And sayede twyes / seynt Mary
Thou arte noyouse / for to cary
And nothynge nedeth / pardee
For also wis / god helpe me 576
As thou noon / harme / shalt haue of this
And this caas / that betydde the is
Is for thy lore / and for thy prowe
let see darst thou / yet loke nowe 580
Be ful assured / boldely
I am thy frende / and therwith I
Gan for to wondren / in my mynde
O god thought I / that madeste kynde 584
Shal I noon / other / weyes dye
Wher Ioues wol me / stellefye
Or what thinge / may this sygnifye
I neyther am Ennok / ne Elye 588
Ne Romulus / ne Ganymede
That was y-bore vp / as men rede
To heuene / with daun) Jupiter
And made the goldys / botiller
Loo / this was theo / my fantasye
But he that bare me / gan spye
That I so thoughte / and seyde this
Thow demest / of thy selfe amys
For loues ys not / ther aboute
I dar wel put the / out of doute
To make of the / as yet a sterre
But er I bere the / moche ferre
I wol the telle / what I am
And whider thou shalt / and why I cam
To do thy / so that thou take
Goode herte / and not for ferre quake
Gladly quod I / now wel quod he
First I that in my fete / haue the
Of which thou haste / a ferre and wonder
Am dwellynge / with the god of thonder
Whiche that men callen) / Jupiter
That dooth me flee / ful ofte fer
To do al hys / comandement
And for this cause / he hath me sent
To the / now herke be thy trouthe
Ceretyn he hatli / of the routhe
That thou so longe / trewly
Hast served so / ententyffly
Hys blynde neviwe / Cupido
And faire Venus / also
Withoute guerdon) / euer yitte
And neuer the lesse / hast set thy witte
Altho(u)gh that in thy hede / ful lytel is
To make songes / dytees bookys
In Ryme or elles / in cadence
As thou best canst / in reuerence
Of loue / and of hys servantes eke
That haue hys seruyse soght) / and seke
And peynest the / to preyse hys arte
Al-though thou haddest / neuer parte
Werfore / also god me blesse
Ioues halt hyt / grete humblesse
And vertu eke / that thou wolt make
A nyghte ful ofte / thyn hede to ake
In thy studye / so thou writest
And euer mo / of loue enditest
In honour of hym / and in preysynges
And in his folkes / furtherynges
And in hir matere / al devisest
And noght hym / nor his folke dispisest
Al-though thou maiste / goo in the daunce
Of hem / that hym lyst not avaunce
Werfore / as I seyde y-wys
Iupiter / considereth this
And also beau sir/ other thynges
That is that thou hast/ no tydynge
Of loues folke / yf they be glade
Ne of noght elles / that god made
And noght oonly / fro frerre contree
That ther no tydynge / cometh to thee
But of thy werray / neygibors
That duelle almooste / at thy dors
Thou herist neyther / that ner this
For when thy labour / doon al ys
And hast ymade / rekenynges
In stid of reste / and newe thynges
Thou goost home / to thy house anoon
And Also dombe / as any stoon
Thou sittest / at another booke
Tyl fully dasewyd / ys thy looke
And lyvest thus / as an heremyte
Al-though thyn / Abstynence ys lyte
And therfore Ioues / thorghi hys grace
Wel that I bere the / to a place
Which that highe / the house of Fame
To do the somme / disport and game
In somme / recompensacion
Of labour / and deuotion
That thou hast had /. loo causeles
To Cupido / the rechcheles
And thus this god / thorgh his merite
Wol with somme maner thinge / the queyte
So that thou wolt be / of goode chere
For trust wel / that thou shalt here
When we be come / there I seye
Mo wonder thynges / dar I leye
Of loues folke / moo tydynges
Both sothe sawes / and leysinges
And moo loues / newe begonne
And longe y-served / loues wonne
And moo loues / casuilly
That betyde / no man wote why
But as a blende man / stert an hare
And more Iolytee / and fare
While that they fynde / loue of stele
As thinkethem / and ouer al wele
Mo discordes / moo Ielousies
Mo murmures / and moo nouelries
And moo / dissymulacions
And feyned / reparacions
And moo berdys / in two oures
Without Rasour / or Sisoures
Y-made / then greyndes be of sondes
And eke moo holdynge / in hondes
And also moo / renoveilaunces
Of olde for-leten / aqueyntaunces
Mo lone dayes / and acordes
Then on Instrumentes / be acordes
And eke of loues / moo eschaunges
Then) euer cornes / were in graunges
Vnneneth the maistow / trowen this
Quod he / noo helpe me god so wys
Quod I / noo why / quod he / for hytte
Were impossible / to my witte
Though that Fame / had al the pies
In al a Realme / and al the pies
How that yet he shulde / here al this
Or they espie hyt / O yis yis
Quod he to me / that kan I preve
Be reson worthy / for to leve
So that thou yeve / thyn aduertence
To vnderstonde / my sentence
First shalt thou here / where she duelleth
And so thyn ovne boke / hyt tellitth
Hir paleys stant / as I shal sey
Rygght even in myddes / of the wey
Be-twexen heuene / and erthe and see
That what so euer / in al these three
Is spoken either prevy / or aperte
The aire therto / ys so overtte
And stant eke / in so Iust a place
That euery sovne / mot to hyt pace
Or what so cometh / fro any tonge
Be hyt rovned / red or songe
Or spoke in suerte / or in drede
Certeyn hyt most / thider nede
Now herkene wel / for why I wille
Tellen the / a propre skille
And worth a demonstracion
In myn / ymagynacion
Geffrey thou wost / ryght wel this
That euery kyndely / thynge that is
Hath a kyndely stede / ther he
May best in hyt / conserved be
Vnto whiche place / euery thynge
Thorgh his kyndely / enclynynge
Moveth / for to come to
Whan that hyst is / awey therfro
As thus loo / thou maist alday se
That any thinge / that hevy be
As stoono or lede / or thynge of wight
And bere hyst neuer / so hye on hight'
latt goo thyn hande / hit falleth doun
Ryghtt so sey I / be fire or sovne
Or smoke / or other thynge lyght'
Alwey they seke / vpwarde on hight'
While ech of hem / is at his large
lyghtt thinge vpwarde / and douwarde charge
And for this cause / mayste thou see
That euery Ryuer to the see
Enclyned ys / to goo by kynde
And by these skilles / as I fynde
Hatli fyssh duellynge / in floode and see
And trees eke / in erthe bee
Thus euery thinge / by thys reason
Hatli his propre / mansyon
To which seketh / to repaire } but be kept
As there hit shuld / not apaire }
Loo this sentence / ys knowno kouthe
Of euery Philosphres / moutho
As Aristotile / and daun platon)
And other / clerkys many oon)
And to confirme / my reasoun
Thou wost wel this / that speci is soun
Or elles no man) / myghtt hyst here
Now herke what / y wol the lere
Sovne ys noght / but eyre ybroken)
And euery speci / that ys yspoken)
lowde or pryuee / foule or faire
In his subsaunce / ys but aire
For as flambe ys / but lyghted smoke
Ryghtt so sovne ys / aire y-broke
FAIRFAX
But this may be / in many wyse
Of which I wil / the twoo deuyse
Of sovne that cometh / of pipe or harpe
For whan a pipe / is blowen sharpe
The aire ys twyst / withi violence
And rent loo / thys ys my sentence
Eke whan men / harpe strynges smyte
Whether hyt be / moche or lyte
Loo withi the stroke / the ayre to-breke\thi
[And right so breketh it whan men spoketh] [From Thynne]
Thus wost thou wel / what thinge is speche
Now hennes-forthe / y wol the teche
How euery speche / or noyse or sovne
Thurgh hyt hys / multiplicacione
Thoght hyt were / piped of a Mouse
Mote nede come / to Fames house
I preve hyt thus / take hede now
Be experience / for yf that thow
Thorwe on water / now a stoon\nWel wost thou / hyt wol make anoow\nA litel roundel / as a sercle
Parauenture brode / as a couercle
And ryght anoow\ / thow shalt see wel
That whele sercle / wol cause another whele
And that the thridde / and so forthi brother
Euer sercle / causynge other /
Wydder / than hym self was
And this fro roundel / compas
Eche aboute other / goynge
Caused of othres / sterynge
And multiplyinge / eu er moo
Til that hyt be / so fer y-goo
Til hyt at bothe / brynkes bee
Al thou mowe hyt / not y-see
Above / hyt gooth yet vnder
Al-thoughi thou thenke / hyt a grete wounder
And who so seyth / of trouthe I vayre
Bid hym proven] / the contrarye
And ryght thus / euery worde y-wys
That lowde or pryvee / y-spoken ys
Moveth first / an ayre a-boute
And of thys movynge / out of doute
Another ayre / anoow ys meved
As I haue / of the watir preved
That euery cercele / causeth other
Ryght so of ayre / my leue brother
Euerych ayre / other stereth
More and more / and speche vpbereth
Or voys or noyse / or worde or sound
Ay through / multiplicacion]
Til hyt be / atte house of Fame
Take yt in ernest / or in game
Now haue I tolde / yf ye haue in mynde
How speche or sound / of pure kynde
Enclyned ys / vpwarde to meve
This mayst thou fele / wel I-preve
And that sum place / stide y-wys
That euery thynge / enclyned to ys
Hath his kyndelych / stede
That sheweth hyt / withouten drede
That kyndely / the mansion
Of euery speche / of euery sound
Be hyt eyther / foule or faire
Hath hys kynde place / in ayre
And syn] that euery thynge / that is
Out of hys kynde / place y-wys
Moueth thidder / for to goo
Yif hyt a-vey / be ther froo
As I have be-fore / preved the
Hyt seweth euery sound / parde
Moueth kyndely / to pace
Al vp / in-to his kyndely place
And this place / of which I telle
Ther as Fame / lyst to duelle 844
Ys set / amyddys of these three
Heven / erthe / and eke the see
As most conservatyf / the sound
Than y ys this / the conclusyon 848
That every speche / of every man
As y the telle / first began
Moveth vp / on high to pace
kyndely / to fames place 852
Telle me thus / feythfully
Haue y not preved / thus symply
With-outen any / subtilite
Of speche / or grete prolixite
Of termes / of philosophie
Of figures / of poetrie
Or colours / or rethorike
Pardee hit ought / the to lyke
For harde langage / and hard matero
ys enombroused / for to here [leaf 166]
Atttones / wost thou not wel this
And y answered / and seyde yis 864
A. ha. quod he / lo so I can
lewdely / treawled man 868
[lewyd. Bodl. leaf 162]
Speke and shewe hym / swyth skiles
That he may shake hem / be the biles
So palpable / they shulden be
But telle me this / now pray y the
How thenketh the / my conclusyon
A goode / persuasion 872
Quod he hyt is / and lyke to me
Ryght so as thou / hast preued me
Be god quod he / and as I leve
Thou shalt haue yet / or hit be eve 876
Of every word / of thys sentence
A. prevef / by experience [preue. Bodl. 638]
And with thyn eres / heren wel
Toppe and tayle / and euerydel
That euery word / that spoken ys
Cometh in to Fames house / y-wys
As I haue seyde / what wilt thou more
And with this word / vpper to sore
He gan / and seyde be seynt Iame
Now wil we speke / al of game
How fairest thou / quod he to me
Wel quod I / now see quod he
By thy trouthe / yonde adovne
Wher that thou knowest / any tovnne
Or hous or any / other thinge
And whan thou hast / of ought knowynge
Looke that thou / warne me
And y anoon / shal telle the
How fer that thou / art now therfro
And y adon / to lokem thoo
And behelde feldes / and playnes
And now hilles / and now mountaynes
Now valeys / now forestes
And now vnnethes / grete bestes
Now ryvers / now Citees
Now tovnes / and now grete trees
Now shippes seylynge / in the see
But thus sone / in A while hee
Was flowen fro the grounde / so hye
That al the worlde / as to mynd ye
No more semed than / a prikke
Or elles was the aire / so thikke
That y ne myght / not diserne
With that he spake / to me as yerne
[And sayd : Seest thou any token
Or aught / that in this worlde is of spoken]
Nay / no wonder nys
Quod he / for half so hight as this

FAIRFAX
Nas Alixandre / macedo
Ne the kynge / Daun Cipio
That saw in dreme / at poynt devys
Helle and erthe / and paradys
Ne eke the wrechch / Didalus
Ne his child / nyse ykarus
That Fleegh so high / that the hete
Hys wynges malte / and he ful wete
In myd the see / and ther he dreynyt
For whom was maked / moch compleynt
Now turne vpward / quod he thy face
And beholde / this large place
This eyre / but loke thou ne be
Adrad of hem / that thou shalt se
For in this Region / certeyn
Duelletli many / a Citezeyn
Of which that seketh / Daun Plato
These ben eyryssfi / bestes lo
And so saw y / all that meynee
Booth goon / and also flee
Now quod he tho / cast vp thyn ye
Se yonder loo / the Galoxie
Whiche men clepeth / the melky weye
For hit ys white / and somme parfeye
Kallen hyt / watlynge strete
That ones was / y-brent wyth hete
Whan the sonnes sonne / the rede
That hight Pheton / wolde lede
Algate hys Fader' carte / and gye
The carte hors / gonne wel espye
That he kouude / no gouernaunce
And gan / for to lepe and launce
And beren hym / now vp now doun
Til that he sey / the Scorpioon
Whiche that in heuen / a sygne is yit
And he for ferde / lost hys wyt
Of that / and lat the reynes gon
Of his hors / and they anoon
Gonne vp to mounten / and dawn descend
Til both the eyre / and erthe brende
Til Iubiter / loo atte laste
Hym slowe / and fer fro the cart cast
Loo ys it not / a mochil myschaunce
To lat a fool / han gouernaunce
Of thing that he / can not demeyne
And with this word / sothe for to seyne
He gan vpper alway / for to sore
And gladded me / ay more and more
So feythfully / to me spake he
Tho gan y to loken / vnder me
And behelde the / ayerissli bestes
Cloudes mystes / and tempestes
Snowes hayles / reynes wyndes
And thengendrynge / in hir kyndes
AH the wey through / whiche I came
O god quod y / that made adame
Moche ys thy myght / and thy noblesse
And thoo thought y / vpon Boesse
That writ of thought / may flee so hye
Wyth fetheres / of Philosophye
To passen eueryche / element
And whan he hatli / so fer y-went
Than may be seen / be hynde hys bake
Cloude and erthe / and alle that y of spake
Tho gan y wexen / in a were
And seyde y wote wel / y am here :
But wher in body / or in gost
I not y-wys / but god thou wost
For more clere / entendement
Nas neuer yit / y-sent
And tham thought y / on Marcian
And eke on / Anteclaudiand}

FAIRFAX
That sooth was / her descrip lion
Of alle the heuens / region
As fer as that y / sey the preve
Therfore y kan / hem now beleve
With that this Egle / began to crye
Lat be quod he / thy fantasye
Wilt thou lere / of sterres aught
Nay certenly quod y / ryght naught
And why / for y am now to olde
Elles I wold the / haue tolde
Quod he / the sterres names lo
And al the heuens / sygnes therto
And which they ben / and no fors quod y
Yis pardee quod he / wostow why
For when thou redest / poetr e
How goddes gonne / stellifye
Briddes fisshe best / or him or here
As the Ravene / or eyther bere
Or Arionis / harp fyne
Castor pollex / or delphyne
Or Athalantes / Doughtres sevene
How al these Arne / set in heuene
For though thou haue / hem ofte on honde
Yet nostow not / wher that they stonde
No fors quod y / hyt is no nede
I leve as wel / so god me spede
Hem that write / of this matere
Alle though I knew / her places here
And eke thy seluen / here so bryght
Hyt shulde shenden / al my syght
To loke on hem / that may wel be
Quod he / and so forthe bare he me
A while / and than he gan to crye
That neuer herd I / thing so hye
Now vp the hede / for alle ys wele
Seynt Iulyane / loo bon hostele
Se her' the house / of Fame lo
Maistow not heren / that I do
What quod I / the grete sound
Quod he / that rumbleth vp and doun
In fame's house / ful of tydynges
Bothe of feire speche / and chidynges
And of fals / and that soth compovned
Herke wel / hyt is not rovned
Herestow not / the grete swogh
Yis parde quod y / wel y-nogh
And what sovne is it / lyke quod hee
Petr' betynge / of the see
Quod y ayen' / the roches holowe
Whan' tempest dotli / the shippes swalowe
And lat a man' / stond out of doute
A myle thens / and here hyt route
Or elles lyke / the last humblynge
After a clappe / of oo thundringe
Whan' Ioues hath / the aire ybete
But yt doth me / for fere swete
Nay drede the not / therof quod he
Hyt is no thinge / wil beten' the
Thow shalt non' harme / haue truly
And withi this worde / botli he and y.
As nygh the place / arryved were
As men' may casten' / withi a spere
Y nyst how / but in a strete
He sette me fair' / oni my fete
And seyde walke / forthi a pace
And take thynd aventure / or case
That thou shalt fynde / in fame's place
Now quod I / while we han space
To speke or that / I goo fro the
For' the loue of god / telle me
In sooth that wil I / of the lere
yf thys noyse / that I here
Be as I haue herd / the tellen
of folke that doon / in erthe duellen
And cometh her' / in the same wyse
As I the herde / or this deuyse
That there / lives body nys
In al that hous / that yonder ys
That maketh al this / lovde fare
Noo quod he / by seynt clare
And also wis / god rede me
But o thinge / y will warne the
Of the whiche / thou' wolt haue wonder'
loo / to the hous / of Fame yonder
Thou wost now how / cometh every speche
Hyt nedeth noght' / eft the to teche
But understond now / ryght wel this
Whan eny spech / y-comenys
Vp to the paleys / anon' ryght'
Hyt wexeth lyke / the same wight'
Wich that the worde / in erthe spake
Be hyt clothed / rede or blake
And so were / hys lyknesse
And spake the word / that thou' wilt gesse
That it the same / body be
Man' or woman' / he or she
And ys not this / A wonder thynge
Yis quod I tho / by heuen' kyng
And withi this worde / farewel quod he
And here I wol / abyden the
And god of heuen' / sende the grace
Some goode to lerne / in this place
And I of him / toke leve anon'
And gan forthe / to the paleys gon')
[BOOK III.]

[Invocation.]

O God of science / and of lyght
Appollo / thurgh thy grete myght
This lytel last boke / thou' gye
Nat that I wilne / for maistrye

Here Art poetical / be shewed
But for the ryme / ys lyght and lewed
Yit make hyt sumwhat / agreable
Though somme vers fayle / in A sillable
And that I do / no diligence
To shew crafte / but o sentence
And yif devyne / vertu nowe
Wilt helpe / to shewe yowe
That in myn hede / y-marked ys
lo0 / that is for to menen this
The hous of Fame / for to descryve
Thou shalt se men) / go as blyve
Vn to the next / laure y see
And kysse yt / for hyt is thy tree
Now entreti in / my brest anoon

[Story.]

Whan) I was / fro thyss Egle goon)
I gan) beholde / vpon) this place
And certein / or I ferther pace
I wol yow / al thyss shap deuyse
Of hous and citee / and al the wyse
How I gan) / to hys place aproche
That stood vpon) / so hyghi a roche
Hier) stant ther non) / in spayne
But vp I clymbe / with alle payne
And though to clymbe / greued me
Yit I ententyf / was to see
And for to powren / wonder low
Yf I koude / eny weyes know
What maner stoon / this roche was
For hyt was lyke / a thynge of glas
But' that hyt shoon / ful more clere
But of what congeled / matere
Hyt was / nyste I neuer redely
But at the laste / aspied I
And founde that hit/ was euerydele
A roche of yse / and not of stele
Thought I / by seynt Thomas of kent
This were a feble / fundament
To bilden / on\ a place hye
He ought\ him / lytel glorifye
That her' ow\ bilt / god so me sau\ Tho sawgh\ I / the halfe y-graue
With famouse folkes / names fele
That had I-ben\ / in mochel wele
And her fames / wide y-blowe
But wel vnnethes / koude I knowe
Any lettres / for to rede
Hir names be fore / out of drede
They were almost / of thowed so
That of the lettres / oow\ or two
Was molte away / of euery name
So vnfamouse / was wox hir fame
But men\ seyn\ / what may euer last
Thoo gan\ I / in myn\ hert cast
That they were molte / awey with het\ And not awey / withi stormes bete
For on\ that other syde / I say
Of this hille / that Northewarde lay
How hit was written\ / ful of names
Of folkes / that hadden\ grete fames
Of olde tymes / and yet there were
As fressh\ as men\ / had written hem here

FAIRFAX
The selfe day / ryght' or that oure
That I vpon hem / gan to poure 1158
But wel I wiste / what yt made
Hyt was con'served / with the shade
Alle this writynge / that I sigh
Of a castel / stoode on' high [1 con. ? MS. col]
And stoode eke / on' so colde a place
That hete myght' hit / not deface
Thoo gan I vp / the hille to goone
And fonde vpon the cop / a woone 1166
That al the men' that ben' on' lyve
Ne han the kunzynge / to descrive
The beaute / of that ylke place
Ne coude casten' / no compace 1170
Swichi a nother / for to make
That myght' of beaute / ben' hys make
Ne so wonderlychi / y-wrought'
That hit a astonythe yt my thought'
And maketh' alle my wyt / to swynke
On' this castel / to be-thynke
So that / the grete beaute
To caste / the curiosite.
Ne kan' I not / to yow deuyse
My wit ne may / me not suffise
But natheles / alle the substance
I haue yit / in my remembrance 1182
For whi me thoughte / be seynt Gyle
Alle was of ston' / of Beryle
Both castel / and the toure
And eke the halle / and euery bour
Wythouten' peces / or ioynynges 1186
But many subtile / compassinges
Rabewyures / and pynacles
Ymageries / and tabernacles
I say and ful / eke of wyndowes
As flakes falls / in grete snowes

FAIRFAX
And eke in ech / of the pynacles
Weren\\n sondry / habitacles
In which / alle whith oute
Ful the castel / alle a boute
Of al maner / mynstralles
And gestiours / that tellen\) tales
Both\) of wepinge / and of game
Of alle that longeth / vnto fame
Ther\) herd I pleyen\) / vpon\) an harpe
That sowneth bothe / wel and sharpe
Orpheus / ful craftely
And on\) the syde / fast by
Sat the harper / Orion\)
And Eaycedis / chiron\)
And other harpers / many oon\)
And the gret / glascurion\)
And smale harpers / whith her glee\s
Saten\) vnder hym / in sees
And gunne on\) hym / vpwarde to iape
And countrefet hym / as an Ape
Or as crafte / countrefeteth kynde
Tho saug\th I stonden\) / hym behynde
A .fer fro hem / alle be hem selue
Many thousand / tymes twelue
That maden\) lowde / menstralcies
In cornemuse / and shalmyes
And many other / maner pipe
That craftely / begunne to pipe
Bothe in doucet / and in riede
That ben at festes / with the bride
And many flowte / and liltyng horne
And pipes made / of grene corne
As han thise lytel / herde gromes
That kepeth bestis / in the bromes
And of Athenes / daun\) Pseustis
Ther saug\th I than\) / Atiteris

FAIRFAX
And Marcia / that lost her skyn
do
Bothe in face / body and chyn
do
For that she wolde / envien loo
do
To pipen bet / than Appoloo
do
Ther saugh I fames / olde and yonge
do
Pipers / of alle Duche tonge

To lerne loute / Daunces / sprynges
Reus and these / straunge thynges
Tho saugh I / in an other place
Stonden / in A large space
Of hem that maken / blody sou
In trumpen / and claryoun
For in seight / and blodeshedynges
Ys vsed gladly / clarionynges
Ther herd I trumpen / Messenius
Of whom that speketh / virgilius
There herd I trumpe / Ioab also
Theodomas / and other mo
And al that vsed / clarion
In Cataloigne / and Aragon
That in her tyme / famous were
To lerne saugh I / trumpe there
There saugh I sit / in other sees
Pleyinge vpon / sondry glees
Which that I kan not / nevene
Moo than sterres / ben in heuene
Of whiche I nylnot / now ryme
For ese of yow / and losse of tyme
For tyme y-lost / this knownen ye
Be no way / may recouerd be
Ther saugh I pley / Ingelours
Magicians / and tregetours
And Phitoneseses / charmeresses
Olde wrecches / Sorceresses
That vs / exorsisacions /
And eke thes / fumiyygacions/
And Clerkes eke / which konne wel
Alle this magikes / naturel
That craftely doon / her ententes
To maken / in certeyn ascendentes
Ymages / lo / througlix which magike
To make a man / ben hool or syke
Ther saugh I / the quene Medea
And Artes eke / and calipsa
Ther saugh [I] hermes / ballenus
Limete and eke / Symon[ ] Magus
[Ther saugh I and ] knew by name
That be such arte don men han Fame] [From Bodley 638]
Ther saugh I / Colle tregetour
Vpon a table / of Sygamour
Pley an vncothe / thynge to telle
Y saugh him carien / a wyndmelle
Vnder a walsli note / shale
What shuld I make / lenger tale
Of alle the pepil / y ther say
Fro hennes / in to domes day
Whan I had al / this folkys beholde
And fonde me louse / and nought[ ] y-colde
And oft I mused / longe while
Vpon these walles / of berile
That shoone ful lyghter / than[ ] a glas
And made welmore / than[ ] hit was
To semen / euery thinge y-wis
As kynde thynge / of Fames is
I gan to roman / til I fonde
The castel yate / on my ryght[ ] honde
Which that so wel / conven was
That neuer suche / another nas
and yit it was / be aventure
I-wrought[ ] / as often[ ] as be cure
Hyt nedeth noght[ ] / yow more to tellen
To make yow / to longe duellen

FAIRFAX
Of these yates / florisshinges
Ne of compasses / ne of kervynges
Ne how they hat / in masoneries
As corbetz
But lord so fare / yt was to shewe
For hit was alle / with gold behewe
But in I went / and that anoon)
Ther mette I cryinge / many oon)
A larges larges / hald vp wel
God saue the lady / of thys pel
Our ovne gentil lady / fame
And hem that wilnen / to hane name
Of vs / thus herd y crien) alle
And fast comen) / out of halle
And shoon) nobles / and sterlynges
As somme corovned / wer as kynges
With corovnes wroght) / ful of losynges
And many ryban) / and many frenges
Were on) her clothes / trewly
Thoo atte last / aspyed y
That pursevantes / and herauldes
That crien) ryche folkes / laudes
Hyt weren) alle / and euery man)
Of hem / as y yow tellen) can)
Had on him throwen) / a vesture
Whiche that men) crepen) / a cote armure
Enbrowded / wonderly ryche
As though they nere / nought) y-lyche
But noght) nyl I / so mote y thryve
Ben) aboute / to dyscryve
Al these armes / that ther weren)
That they thus / on) her cote beren)
For hyt to me / were impossibile
Men) myght) make / of hem a bible
XX". foote thykke / y trowe [leaf 172, back]
For certeyn) / who so koude I-knowe
Myght ther alle / the armes seen
Of famouse folke / that han y-been
In aufrike Europe / and asye
Syth first began / the cheualrie
Loo how shulde I / now tel al thys
Ne of the halle eke / what nede is
To tellen yow / that euery walle
Of hit / and flore and roof and alle
Was plated / half a foote thikke
Of gold / and that nas no thynge wikke
But for to prove / in alle wyse
As fyne as ducat / in venyse
Of whiche to litel / al in my povche is
And they wer set / as thik of novchis
Fyne / of the fynest/ stones faire
That men reden / in the lapidaire
Of greses growen / in A mede
But hit were alle to longe / to rede
The names / and therfore I pace
But in this lusty / and ryche place
That fames halle / called was
Ful moche prees / of folke ther nas
Ne crowdyng / for to mochil prees
But al on hye / above a dees
Sit in a see / imperial
That made was / of a rubee aH
Which that a carbuncle / ys y-called
Y saugh perpetually / y-stalled
A femynyne / creature
That neuer formed / by nature
Nas suche another / thing y-seye
For alther first / soth for to seye
Me thought she was / so lyte
That the lengthe / of a cubite
Was lengere / than she
This was / gret marvaylle to me

FAIRFAX
Hir tho / so wonderly stright
That with hir fete / she erthe reight
And with hir hed / she touched heuene
Ther as shynem / sterres sevne
And ther to eke / as my witte
I saugh a gretter / wonder ytte
Vpon her eyen / to be-holde
But certeynn / y hem neuer tolde
For as feelc yen / had she
As fetheres / vpon foules be
Or weren / on the bestes foure
That goddis trone / gunne honoure
As John writ / in thapocalips
Hir heere / that ovndye was / and crips
As burned gold / hyt shoon to see
And sothe to tellen / also she
Had also fele / vpstondyng eres
And tonges / as on bestes heres
And on hir fete wexen / saugh y
Partriches wynges / redely
But lorde the perry / and the richesse
I saugh sittyng / on this godesse
And lord the heuemyssh / melodye
Of songes ful / of Armonye
I herd aboute / her trone y-songe
That al the paleys / walles ronge
So songe the myghty Muse / she
That cleped ys / caliope
And hir eighete / sustren eke
That in her face / semen meke
And euer mo / eternally
They synge of Fame / as theo herd y
Heryed be thou / and thy name
Goddesse of renoun / or of Fame
Tho was I war / loo / atte laste
As I myn eyen / gan vp caste
That thys ylke / noble quene
Onw her shuldres / gan sustene
Bothe armes / and the name
Of thoo that hadde / large fame
Alexander / and hercules
That withi a short / hys lyfe les
And thus fonde y syttynge / this goddes
In noble honour / and ryches
Of which I stynte / a while nowe
Other thinge / to tellew yowe
Tho saugh I stonde / onw eyther syde
Stright' douu / to the dores wide
Fro the dees / many a peler
Of metal that shoonw / not ful chere
But thoughi they ner / of no rychesse
Yet they were made / for gret noblesse
And in hem / gret sentence
And folkes / of digne renuerence
Of whiche / I wil yow tel fonde
Vpon the piler / saughi I stonde
Alderfirste / loo / ther I sighe
Vpon a piler / stonde onw highe
That was of lede / and yrenw fyne
Hym of Secte / saturnyne
The Ebrayke / Iosephus the olde
That ofI Iewes / gestes tolde
And he bare / onw hys shuldres hye
The fame / of the Iurye
And by hym stondenw / other seuene
Wise and worthy / for to neuene
To helpenw hem / bere vp the charge
Hyt was so hevy / and so large
And for they writtenw / of batayles
As wel as other / olde mervayles
Therfor was / loo / thys pilere
Of whiche that I yow / telle here
Of lede and yren / bothe y-wys
For yren / Martes metal ys
Which that god / is of bataylle
And the lede / withouten faille
Ys loo the metal / of Saturne
That hath a ful large whele / to turne
Thoo stoden forthe / on euery rowe
Of hem which that / I koude knowe
Though I hem noght / be ordre telle
To make yow / to longe to duelle
These of whiche / I gynne rede
There saugh I stonde / out of drede
Vpon an yren / piler stronge
That peynted was / al endlonge
With tigres blode / in euery place
The tholausan / that highte stace
That bare of Thebes / vp the fame
Vpon his shuldres / and the name
Also of cruelle / Achilles
And by him stood / withouten les
Ful wonder hye / on a pilere
Of yren / he the gret Omere
And with him Dares / and Tytus
Before and eke / he lollius
And Guydo eke / de Columnpis
And englyssh Gaunfride / eke y-wis
And eche of these / as haue I Ioye
Was besye / for to bere vp Troye
So hevy therof / was the Fame
That for to bere / hyt was no game
But yet I gan / ful wel espie
Betwex hem was / a litil envye
Oon seyde / Omere was Iyes
Feynynge in hys / Poetries
And was to Grekes / fauorable
Ther for held he hyt / but fable
Tho saugh I stonde on a pilere
That was of tynned yren clere
That latyn Poete Virgile
That bore hati vp longe while
The fame of Pius Eneas
And next hym on a pilere was
Of Coper Venus clerk ovide
That hati y-sowen wonder wide
The grete god of loues name
And ther he bare vp wel hys fame
Vpon this pilere also hye
And I hyt myght see [with] myn ye
For why this halle of whiche I rede
Was woxen on hight the length and brede
Wel more be a thousande dele
Than hyt was erst that saugh I wel
Thoo saugh I on a pilere by
Of yren wroght ful sturmely
The grete poete Daun Lucan
And on hys shuldres bare vp than
As high as that y myghte see
The fame of Iulius and Pompe
And by him stoden alle these clerkes
That written of Romes myghty werkes
That yf y wolde her names telle
Alle to longe most I dwelle
And next him on pilere stooed
Of soulfre lyke as he were woode
Daun Claudian the sothe to telle
That bare vp the fame of helle
Of Pluto and of Proserpyne
That quene ys of the derke pyne
What shulde y more telle of this
The halle was al ful y-wys
Of hem that written al of the olde gestes
As ben on trees rokes nestes

FAIRFAX
But hit a ful / confuse matere  
Were al the gestes / for to here  
That they of write / or how they bighte  
But while that y / beheld thys syghte  
I herd a noyse / aprochen blyve  
That ferd as been dow / in aw hive  
Ayen her tyme / of oute flyenge  
Ryghte suche a maner / murmuryng  
For al the world / hyt semed me  
Tho gan I loke / aboute and see  
That ther come entryng / in to the halle  
A ryghte grete companye / with alle  
And that of sondry / regiouws  
Of alle skynnes / condiciouws  
That duelle in erthe / vnder the mone  
Pore and ryche / and also sone  
As they were come / in to the halle  
They gonne down / on aw knees falle  
Before this ilke / noble quene  
And seyde graunte vs / lady shene  
Eche of vs / of thy grace a bone  
And somme of hem / she graunted sone  
And somme she werned / wel and faire  
And some she graunted / the contraire  
Of her axyng / utterly  
But thus I sey / yow trewly  
What her cause / was y nyste  
For this folke / ful wel y wiste  
They had good fame / eche deserued  
[Al though they were dyuersly serued]  
Ryghte as her suster / Daunw fortune  
Ys wonte to serven / in comune  
Now herke how / she gan to paye  
That gonñe her / of her grace praye  
And ryght lo / al this companye  
Seyden soothi / and noght a lye
Ma dame quod they / we be
Folke that here / besuchen the
That thou graunte vs / now good fame
And let our werkes / han that name
In ful / recompensacion
Of good werkes / yive vs good renoun
I werne yow hit / quod she anon
Ye gete of me / good fame non
Be god / and ther fore goo your wey
Allas quod they / and welaway
Telle vs what may / your cause be
For me lyst hyt noght / quod she
No wyght shal speke / of yow y-wis
Good ne harme / ne that ne this
And with that worde / she gan to calle
Her messangere that was in halle
And that he shuld / fast goo
[Blank line in MS. For l. 1572, see Caxton or Thynne.]
Upow the peyn / to be blynde
For Eolus / the god of wynde
And bid him bring / his clarioun
That is ful dyuers / of his soun
And hyt cleped / clere laude
With which he wonde is / to hiraude
Hem that me list / preised be
And also bid him / how that he
Brynge his other / clarioun
That hight sklaundre / in euery town
With whiche he wonde is / to diffame
hem that me list / and do him shame
This messanger / gan fast goo
And founde where / in a cave of ston
In a contree / highte trace
This Eolus / with harde grace
helde the wyndes / in distresse
And gan hem vnder him / to presse
FAIRFAX
That they gonnes / as beres rore
He bonde and pressed hem / so sore
This messanger / gan fast crie
Ryse vp quod he / and fast hye
Til thou at / my lady be
And take thy Clarioun / eke with the
And spede the forth / and hye anon
Toke to a man / that hight Triton
Hys clarions / to bere thoo
And lete a certeyn / wynde to goo
And blewe so hydously / and hye
That hyt ne left / not a skye
In alle the welkene / longe and brode
This Eolus / nowhere abode
Til he was come / to Fames fete
And eke the man / that Triton hete
And ther he stode / as stille as stoon
And her withal / ther come anoon
Another huge / companye
Of good folke / and guene crie
Lady graunte vs / good fame
And lat oure werkes / han that name
Now in honour / of gentilesse
And also god / your soule besse
For we han wel / deserued hyt
Therfore is ryghtt / that we ben wel quyt
As thryve I quod she / ye shal faylle
Good werkes shal yow / noght availle
To haue of me / good fame as now
But wete ye what / y graunte yow
That ye shal haue / a shrewde fame
And wikkyd loos / and wors name
Though ye good loos / haue deserued
Now goo your wey / for ye be serued
haue doon Eolus / let see
Take forthi thy trumpe / anon quod she
That is cleped / sklaundre lyghte
And blow her loos / that euery wighte 1626
Speke of hem harme / and shrewdenesse [leaf 176, back]
In stede of good / and worthynesse
For thou shalt trumpe / alle the contrarie
Of that they han / don wel or fayre 1630
Allas thought I / what auentures
Han these sory / creatures
For they amonges / al the pres
Shul thus be shamed / giltles 1634
But what / hyt most nedes be
What did this Eolus / but he
Toke out hys blake / trumpe of bras
That fouler than / the deuel was 1638
And gan this trumpe / for to blow
As al the worlde / shuld ouerthrowe
That throug out / euery Regioun
Went this foule / trumpe soun 1642
As swifte / as pelet out of gonne
Whan fire is in / the poudre Ronne
And suche a smoke / gan out wende
Out of his foule / trumpe ende 1646
Blak bloo greunnyssh / swart rede
As dothe where that / men melt lede
Loo alle on high / fro the tuelle
And therto oo thing / saugh I welle 1650
That the ferther / that hit ran
The gretter wexen / hit be-gan
As dooth the ryver / from a welle
And hyt stank / as the pitte of helle 1654
Allas thus was her / shame y-ronge
And gittles / on euery tonge
Tho come the thirde / companye
And guane vp to the dees / to hye 1658
And down on knes / they fille anon
And seyde we ben / everychon
Folke that ben ful cruelly
Deserued fame ryghte fully
And pray yow hit mot be knowe
Ryghte as hit is / and forth y-blowe
I graunte quod she for me lest
That now your good werkes be wiste
And yet ye shul han better loos
In dispite of alle your foos
Than worthy is / and that anon
Late now quod she thy trumpe goon
Thou Eolus / that is so Blake
And out thy other / trumpe take
That highte Laude / and blowe yt soo
That thurgh the worlde her fame goo
Esely / and not to faste
That hyt be knowen atte laste
Ful gladly lady myn he seyde
And oute hys trumpe of golde he brayde
Anon and set hyt to his mouthe
And blew it est / and west and southe
And northe / as lowde as any thunder
That euery wight hath of hit wonder
So brode hyt ran / or than hit stynt
And certes al the breth that went
Out of his trumpes mouthe smelde
As men a potful of bawme helde
Amonge a basket ful of roses
This fauour did he til her loses
And ryght with this y gan aspye
Ther come the ferthe companye
But certeyn they were wonder fewe
And gunne stonde in a rewe
And seyden certes lady bryght
We haue done wel with al our myght
But we ne kepen haue no fame
Hide our werkes and our name

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

FAIRFAX
But ydel / alourelyfe y-be
That natheles / yet prey we
That we movewan / asgoodfame
And gret renoun\[a\]/ and knowen name
As they that han / doon\[a\] noble gestes
Andacheued / alleher lestes
As wel of loue / as other thynges
Allewas\[a\] vs neuer / broche ne rynge
Ne elles noght\[a\] / from\[a\] wymmen sent
Ne ones / in hem yment
To make vs oonly / frendly chere
But myghten\[a\] temen\[a\] vs / opon\[a\] bere
Yet lat\[a\] / to peple seme
Suche as the worlde / may of vs deme
That wommen\[a\] louen vs / for wode
Hytshaldoon\[a\] / a moche goode
And tooure herte / a[s] moche avyalle
The countre pesec / ese and trauaylle
As we had wonne hyt / with labour
For that is dere / bughte honour
At regard / of oure gret ese
And yet thou most\[a\] vs / more pleso
Let\[a\] vs beholden\[a\] / eke therto
Worthy wise / and goode also
And riche and happy / vnto love
For goddes loue / that sit a bove
Thogh\[a\] we may not / the body haue
Of wymmen\[a\] yet / so god yow saue
Leet men\[a\] gliwe / on\[a\] vs the name
Sufficeth that\[a\] we / han the fame
I graunte quod she\[a\] / be my trouthe
Now Eolus / withi outen\[a\] slouthe
Take out\[a\] thy trumpe of golde / now let se
And blowe as they / han axed me
That euery man\[a\] / wene hem at ese
Though they goon\[a\] / in ful bad lese

FAIRFAX
This Eolus gan) hit / so blowe
That throug this world / hyt was y-knowe
Thoo come the sev’nth / route anoon
And fel on knees / euerychoon
And seyde lady / graunte vs sone
The same thing / the same bone
That this next folke / han) doon
Fy on) yow quod she / euerychoon
Ye maisty Swyne / ye ydel wrechhes
Ful of roten) / slowe techches
What fals theves / or ye wolde
Be famous good / and no thing nolde
Deserue why / ne neuer ye roughte
Men) rather yow / hangen) ought
For ye be lyke / the swynt catte
That wolde haue fission / but wostow whatte
He wold no thinge / wete his clowes
Ywel thrifte come / to your Lowes
And eke to myn) / yif I hit graunte
Or do yow fauour / yow to avaunte
Thou Eolus / thou kynge of Trace
Goo blowe this folke / a sory grace
Quod she anon) / and wostow how
As I shal telle / ryghte now
Sey these ben) / that wolden) honour
Haue / and do no skynnes labour
Ne doo no good / and yet han lawde
And that men) wend / that bele Isawde
Ne coude hem noght) / of loue werne
And yet she that / grynt at a querne
Ys alle to good / to ese her hert
This Eolus / anon) vp stert
And with his Blake / Clarioun
He gan to blasen) / out a so in
As lowde as beloweth / wynde in helle
And eke ther with / sothe to telle
This sovne was / so ful of Iapes
As euere mowe / were in apes
And that went / al the worlde about
That euery wyght / gan wond hem shoute
And for to lawghe / as they were wode
Suche game fonde they / in her hode
Tho come a nother / companye
That had y-doon / the trayterye
The harme / the gret wikkednesse
That any hert / kouthe gesse
And prayed her / to han good fame
And that she nolde / doon hem no shame
But yeve hem loos / and good renoun
And do hyt blowe / in a clarioun
Nay wis quod she / hyt were a vice
Al be ther in me / no Iustice
Me lyst not doo / hyt nowe
Ne this nyl I / graunte yowe
Tho come ther lepynge / in a route
And gunne choppen / al aboute
Euery man / vpon the crowne
That alle the halle / gan to sowe
And seyden lady / leefe and dere
We ben suche folkes / as ye mowe here
To telle al the tale / a ryghtly
We ben suche shrewes / euery wyght
And han delyte / in wikkednes
As good folke han / in godenes
And Ioy to be / knowne shrewes
And ful of vices / and wikked thewes
Where fore / we pray yow a rowe
That oure fame / suche be knowe
In alle thing / ryghtly as hit ys
Y graunte hyt yow / quod she y-wis
But what art thow / that seyest this tale
That werest ond thy hose / a pale
And on thy tipet / suche a belle
Ma dame quod he / sotli to telle 1842
I am that ylke / shrewe y-wis
That brende the temple / of ysidis
In Athenes Loo / that Citee
And wherfor didest thou / so quod she 1846
By my thrift / quod he ma Dame
I wolde fayn / han hadde a fame
As other folke hadde / in the tovne [if 179, bk]
Alle though they were / of grete renovne 1850
For her vertue / and for her thewes
Thought y as gret a fame / han shrewes
Though hit be noghtv / for shrewdenesse
As good folke han / for godenesse 1854
And sith y may not / haue that oonv
That other nyl y / noghtv for-goonv
And for to gette / of Fames hire
The temple set y / alle a fire 1858
Now doon our loos / be blowen) swithe
As wisly be thou / euer blythe
Gladly quod she / thow Eolus
Herestow not what / this folke prayen vs 1862
Ma dame yis / ful wel quod he
And I wil trumpen / parde
And toke his blake / trumpe faste
And gan) to puffen) / and to blaste 1866
Til hyt was / at the wordes ende
With that y gan) / aboute wende
For oonv that stoode / ryght) at my bake
Me thoughte goodely / to me spake 1870
And seyde frende / what is thy name
Artow come hider / to han fame
Nay for sothe / frende quod y
I cam) noghtv hyder / graunt mercy 1874
For no suche cause / by my hede
Sufficeth me / as I were dede
That no wight / haue my name in honde
I wote my self best / how y stonde
For what I drye / or what I thynke
I wil my selfe / alle hyt drynke
Certeyn / for the more parte
As fer forthe / as I kan / my arte
But what doost thou / here quod he
Quod y / that wyl y tellen / the
The cause why / y stonde here
Somme newe tydyngis / for to lere
Somme newe thinges / y not what
Tydynges other / this or that
Of love or suche / thynges glade
For certeynly / he that me made
To come hyder / seyde me
Y shuld bothi / here and se
In this place / wonder thynges
But these be / no suche tydynges
As I mene of / noo quod he
And answered / noo parde
For wel y wote / euer yit
Sith that first / y had wit
That somme folke / han desired fame
Diversly / and loos and name
But certeynly / y nyst howe
Ne where that fame / duelled er nowe
And eke of her / descripcioun
Ne also / her condicioun
Ne the ordre / of her dome
Vn to tyme / y thidder come
Why than / be / Loo these tydynges
That thou now / hider brynges
That thou hast herde / quod he to me
But now no fors / for wel y se
What thou desierest / for to here
Come forthi and stonde / no lenger here
And y wil the / withi outen drede
In suche another / place lede
Ther thou shalt here / many oon
Tho gan I forthe / with hym to goon
Oute of the castel / sothe to sey
Tho saugh y stond / in a valey
Vnder the castel / fast by
An house / that domus dedaly
That laboryncus / cleped ys
Nas made so wonderlych / y-wis
Ne half so queyntlych / y-wrought
And euer mo / so swyft as thought
This queynt hous / a bout went
That neuer mo stil / hyt stent
And ther out come / so grete a noyse
That had hyt stonde / vpon oyse
Men myght hyt / han herd esely
To Rome y trowe / sikerly
And the noyse / whiche I haue herde
For alle the world / ryght so hyt ferde
As dooth the rowtynge / of the stow
That from thengyne / ys leten gon
And al thys hous / of whiche y rede
Was made of twigges / falwe rede
And grene eke / and somme weren white
Whiche as men / to these cages thwite
Or maken of / these panyers
Or elles hattes / or dossers
That for the swough / and for the twynges
This house was also / ful of gyges
And also ful eke / of chirkynges
As ful this lo
And eke this hous / hath of entrees
As fele of leues / as ben in trees
In somer / whan they grene been
And on the rove / men may yet see

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

FAIRFAX
And hyt was shapen / lyke a cage
certys quod y / in al myn age
ne saugh y suche / and hous as this
And as y wondred / me y-wys
vpon this hous / tho war was y
How that myn Egle / fast by
was perched hye / vpon a stoon
And I gan streghthe / to hym gon
And seyde thus / y prey the
That thou a while / a-bide me
for goddis loue / and let me seen
What wondres / in this place been
For yit parauenture / y may lere
somme good theron / or sumwhat here
That leef me were / or that y went
Petre that is / myn entent
quod he to me / therfore y duelle
But certeyn ow thyngh / I the telle
That but I bringe the / therinne
Ne shalt thou neuer / kunne gynne
to come in to hyt / out of doute
so faste hit whirlethi / lo aboute
But sithe that Iouys / of his grace
As I haue seyde / wol the solace
fynally / withi these things
vnkouthe syghti / and tydynges
to passe / with thyn heunynesse
Suche routhe hathe he / of thy distresse
That thou suffrest / debonairly
And wost thy selfen / ouuttirly
Disesperat / of alle blys
Syth that fortune / hath made amys
The frot of al / thy hertys reste
Laughi and eke / in poynt to breste
That he thurgh hys / myghty merite
Wol do thane ese / al be hyt lyte

FAIRFAX
And yaf in expres / commaundement
To whiche I am / obedient
To further the / with all my myght:
And wisse and teche the / a ryght:
Where thou maist most / tidynges here
Shaltow here anoorn / many oon lere
Withi this worde / he ryght anoorn
[Hent me vp bytwene his tone]
At a wyndowe / yn me broghte
That in this hous / was as me thoghte
And ther with alle / me thoughte hit stent
And no thinge / hyt aboute went
And me set / in the flore adoun
But which / a congregacioun
Of folke as I saugh / rome a-bout
[Some within and some without]
Nas neuer seen / ne shal ben eft
That certys / in the worlde nys left
So many formed / be nature
Ne dede / so many a creature
That wel vnethe / in that place
Hadde y A fote / brede of space
And euery wight / that I saugh there
Rovned / in others eee
A newe / tydynge preuely
Or elles tolde / alle oppenly
Ryght thus and seyde / nost not thou
That ys betydde
No quod he / telle me what
And than he tolde hym / this and that
And swore therto / that hit was sothe
Thus hath he sayde / and thus he dothe
And thus shal hit be / and thus herde y seye
That shal be founde / that dare I ley
That alle the folke / that ys a lyve
Ne han the kunnynge / to discryve
The thinges / that I herde there
What a loyde / and what in ere 2058
But al the wonder / most was this
Whan oon had herde / a thinge y-wis
He come forthi ryght / to another wight
And gan him tellen / anon ryght
The same / that him was tolde
Or hyt a forlonge way / was olde [leaf 182, back]
But gan somme what / for to eche
Tho this tydynge / in this specho 2066
More / than hit euer was
And nat so sone / departed nas
That he fro him / tho he ne mette
With the thrid / and or he lette 2070
Any stounde / he told him als
Were the tydynge / sothe or fals
Yit wolde he telle hyt / natheles
And euermo / withi more encres 2074
Than yt wase erst / thus north and southe
Went euery mouthe / fro mouthe to mouthe
And that encresing / euer moo
As fire ys wont / to quyk and goo 2078
From a sparke / spronge amys
Tille alle a Citee / brent vp ys
And whan that was / ful y-sprong
And woxen more / on euery tong 2082
Than euer hit was / and went anoond
Vp to a wyndowe / out to goon
Or but hit myght / oute there pace
Hyt gan out crepe / at somme crevace 2086
And flyght forth fast / for the nones
And som tyme / saugh tho at ones
A lesyng / and a sad sothe sawe
That gonne of auentur / thrawe 2090
Out to a wyndowe / for to pace
And when they metten / in that place
They wer a-cheked / bothe two
And neyther of hem / most out goo
For other so they / gonne crowde
Til eche of hem / gan crien lowde
Lat me go first / nay but let me
And here I wol / ensure\9 the
Wyth the nones / that thou wolt do so
That I shal neuer / fro the go
But be thy\9 ovne / sworn\9 brother\9
We wil medle vs / eche with other
That no man\9 be they neuer so wrothe
Shal han\9 on two / but bothe
At ones al / besyde his leve
Come we morwe / or on\9 eve
Be we cried / or stille y-rovened
Thus saugh I fals / and sothe compovned
To-geder fle / for oo tydynge
Thus outhe at holes / gunne wringe
Euery tydynge / streght\9 to Fame
And she gan yeve / eche hys name
After / hir disposiciowm
And yaf hem / eke duracioowm
Somme to wexe / and wynne sone
As dothe the faire / white mone
And lete hem goon\9 ther myght\9 y seen\9
Wenyed wondres / fast fleen\9
XX\9 thousand / in a route
As Eolus / hem blew aboute
And lord this hous / in al tymes
Was ful of Shipmen\9 and pilgrimes
With\9 shrippes bret / ful of lesenges
Entremedled / with tydynges
And eke allone / be hem selue
O many a thousand / tymes twelue
Saugh I eke / of these Pardoners
Currous and eke / messangers

FAIRFAX
With boystes Crammed ful of lyes
As euer vessel was with lyes
And as I alther fastest went
About and did al myn entent
Me for to pleyen and for to lere
And eke a tydynge for to here
That I had herd of somme contre
That shal not now be tolde for me [Ir. 183, II]
For hit no nede is redely
Folke kan synge hit bet than I
For alle mote oute other late or rathe
Alle the sheves in the lathe
I herde a grete noyse with alle
In a corner of the halle
Ther men of loue tydynges tolde
And I gan thiderwarde be-holde
For I saugh rennynge every wight
As fast as that they hadden myght
And everyche cried what thing is that
And somme sayde I not neuer what
And whan they were alle on an hepe
Tho behynde beguine vp lepe
And clamen vp on other fast
And vp the noyse an highen kast
And troden fast on other heles
And stampen as men doon aftir eles
Atte last y saugh a man
Whiche that y nat ne kan
But he semed for to be
A man of grete auctorite

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

The Legend of Good Women.

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

¹ A few differences I’ve thought too slight to need a mark.
THE LEGEND OF GOOD WOMEN.

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

[THE PROLOGUE. First Cast.]

†Thousent sythis haue I herd men telle 1†
†That there is Ioye in heuene & peyne in helle †
†And I a-corde wel that it be so 3† 3
†But natheles this wit I† wel also 4† [1 wit I corrected]
†That there ne is non that dwellyth 2 In this cuentre 5† [2 I corr.]
That eythir hath in helle or heuene I-be
Ne may of it non other weyis wytyn
But as he hath herd seyd / or founde it wrytyn
ffor by asay / there may no man it preue
†But goddis forbode / but men schulde leue 10†
Wel more thyng / than men han seyn with eye
Men schal nat wenyn / euery thyng alye
§ffor that he say it nat of 3ore a-go 13§
§God wot a thyng is neuere the lesse so 14§
Thow euery wyghte ne may it nat I-se
Bernard the monk ne3 say nat al parde 16 [3 e corr.]
Thanne motyn we to bokys / that we fynde
Thourw whiche that olde thyngis ben 4 In mynde [4 I corr.]
And to the doctryne of these olde wyse
3euyn credence 5 In euery 6 skylful wyse [5 I, 6 sky, corr.] 20
§And trowyn on these olde aprouede storyis 21§
Of holynesse / of regnys of victorys
Of lone / of hate / of other sundery thyngis
Of whiche I may nat make rehersyngys
And If that olde bokis weryn aweye
I-loryn were of remembrance the keye

Gg. 4. 27
THE LEGEND OF GOOD WOMEN.

[Fairfax MS. 16, leaf 83.]

[\(n\) is printed for \(w\). \(v\) for \(t\) with a curl = te generally. There are no gaps in the MS.]

1 The prologue of .ix. goode Wymmen.  [2nd Cast.]

1+ thousande tymes / I haue herd telle  
2+ ther ys Ioy in heuene / and peye in helle  
3+ and I acord wel / that it ys so  
4+But netheles yet / wot I wel also  
5+that ther is noon duellyng / in this contree  
6 That eythir hathi in heuene / or in helle y-be  
7 Ne may of hit / noon other weyes witen  
8 but as he hath herd seyde / or founde it writen  
9 for by assay / ther may no man it preve  
10+But god forbede / but men shulde leve  
11 Wel more thing / then men han seen with eye  
12 Men shal not wenen / euery thing a lye  
13§But yf him-selfe yt seeth / or elles doothi  
14§For god wot / thing is neuer the lasse soothi  
15 Thogh euery wight / ne may it nat y-see  
16 Bernard the monke / ne saugh nat all pardec  
17 Than mote we / to bokes that we fynde  
18 Thurgi whicli / that olde thinges ben in mynde  
19 And to the doctrine / of these olde wyse  
20 Yeve credence / in euery skyllful wise  
21§That tellen of these olde appreued / stories  
22 of holynes / of Regnes of victories  
23 of love of hate / of other sondry thynges  
24 of whiche I may not maken / rehersynges  
25 And yf that olde bokes / were a-wey  
26 Y-lorne were / of Remembraunce the key
$Wel ouȝte vs thanne on olde bokys leue 27§
$There as there is non othyrr a-say be preue 28§ 28
$And as for me thow that myn wit be lite 29§
On bokys¹ for to rede I me delyte *y corr.* 30
And in myn herte haue hem in reuerence 32
$And to hem zeue swich lust & swich credence 31§ 32
$That there is wel onethe game non 33§
That from myne bokys make me to gon 34
$But it be oper vp-on the haly day 35§
$Or ellis in the Ioly tyme of may 36§ 36
$Whan that I here the smale foulys syng 37§
And that the flouris² gynne for to sprynge³ ³louris, sprynge, corrected 39§ [r. 445, 64] 40
$Farwel myn stodye as lastynge pat sesoun 39§ 41
$Now haue I therto this condycyoun
That⁴ of alle the flouris in the mede *at corr.* 41
Thanne loue I most these flourys white & rede 42
Swyhe as men calle dayesyis in oure toun 43
To hem haue I so gret affeccioun 44 44
As I seyde erst whan comyn is the may 45
That in myn bed there dawith me no day 46
That I ne am vp & walkynge in the mede 47
†To sen these flouris a-gen the sunne to sprede 48† 48
$Whan it vp ryseth be the morwe schene 49§
*The longe day thus walkynge in the grene ⁵ 50

$And whan the suane be-gynnys for to weste 61§
$Thanne closeth it & drawith it to reste 62§ 52
"LEGEND OF GOOD WOMEN. FAIRFAX MS. 16."

27 Wel ought vs thanne / honoure and beleve $  
28 These bokes / there we han noon other preve $ 28  
29 and as for me / though that I konne but lyte $  
30 on bokes for to rede / I me delyte  
32 and to hem yive I feyth / and ful credence $  
31 and in myn herte / haue hem in reuerence 32  
33 So hertly / that ther is game noon $  
34 that fro my bokes / maketi me to goon  
35 but yt be seldom / on the holyday $  
36 save certeynly / whan that the monethe of May $ 36  
37 Is comen / and that I here the foules synge  
38 And that the florues / gynnen for to spryng  
39 Faire-wel my boke / and my deuocion $  
40 Now have I thanne / suche a condicion $ 40  
41 That of al the florues / in the mede  
42 Thanne love I most / thise florues white and rede  
43 Suche as men callen / daysyes in her tovne  
44 To hem have I / so grete affeccion 44  
45 As I seyde erst / whanne comeñ is the May  
46 That in my bed / ther daweth me no day  
47 That I nam vppe / and walkyng in the mede  
48 To seen this flour / ayein the sonne sprede $ 48  
49 Whan it vprysit / erly by the morwe §  
*That blissful sight / softneti al my sorwe *  
*So glad am I / whani that I haue presence *  
(Of it / to dooñ it al / reuerence * 52  
55 As she that is / of al florues flour $  
56 Ful-filled of al vertue / and honour $  
57 and euere ilyke faire / and fresshi of hewe  
58 and I love it / and euere ylike newe $ 56  
*And euere shal / til that myn hert dye *  
*al swere I nat / of this I wol nat lye *  
*Ther loved no wight / hotter in his lyve *  
*And whani that hit ys eve / I renne blyve * 60  
51 As sone as evere the sonne / gynneti weste $  
52 To seen this flour / how it wol go to reste $  

FAIRFAX
§ So sore it is a-ferid of the ny3t
*Til on the morwe that it is dayis ly3t
§This dayeseye of alle flouris flour
†fulfyld of vertu & of alle honour
  And euere I-like fayr & frosch 1of hewe
§As wel In wyntyre as in somyr newe1 [1 corrected] 56$§ffayn wolde I presyn If I coude a-ryht
*But wo is me it lyth nat in myn myght

†ffor wel I wot that folk han here be-forn
  Of makynge ropyn & lad a-wey the corn
  I come aftyr glenyng here & ther
  And am ful glad if I may fynde an er
†Of ony goodly word that they han laft
†And If it happe me reherse eft [2 I corrected] 78‡
†That they han 2In here frosche songis said
§I hope that they wele nat ben euele a-payel 80$ 68
§Sithe it is seyd in fortherapyng & honour 81$§Of hem that 3eythir seruyn lef or flour [3e corr.] 82$§ffor trustyth wel I ne haue nat vndyr-take
§As of the lef a-gayn the flour to make } 188$ 72
§Ne of the flour to make a-geyn the lef 189$§No more than of the corn a-gen the shef 190
ffor as to me is lefere non ne lothere 191
I am withdolde 3it with neuer nothere 192 76
I not ho seruuth lef ne who the flour 193 [leaf 416]
§That nys nothyng the entent of myn labour 194$†ffor this werk is al of a-nothyr tunne 195‡†Of old story er swich strif was be-gunne 196‡ 80
*Hire chere is pleynly sprad / in the brightnesse * 64
*Of the sonne / for ther yt wol vnclose * 
*Allas that I ne had / englysshi ryme / or prose * [see 6666g.]
59§Suffisant this flour / to preyse a-ryght §
*But helpeth ye / that han konnyng and myght* 68
*Ye lovers / that kañ make of Sentment *
*In this case / oght ye be diligent *
*To forthren me / somewhat in my labour *
*Whethir ye be ñ with the leef / or with the flour * 72
61†for wel I wol / that ye hañ her-biforne †
62 of makynge ropen / and lad awey the corne
63 and I come after / glenyng here and there
64 and am ful glad / yf I may fynde an ere 76
65†Of any goodly word / that ye han left* † [leaf 84]
66†And thogh it happenè / me rehercen eft †
67†That ye han / in your freshi songes sayede †
68§For-bereth me / and bethi nat euele apayede § 80
69§Syn that ye see / I do yt in the honour §
70§of love / and eke in service of the flour §
*Whom that I serve / as I have witte or myght *
*She is the clerenesse / and the verray lyght* 84
*That in this derke worlde / me wynt and ledyth* *
*The hert in withi / my sorwfull brest yow dreditå *
*And loueth so sore / that ye ben verrayly *
*The maistresse of my witte / an[º d not]1 thing I [* MS altered] *
*My worde my werkes / ys knyt so in youre bond * 89
*That as an harpe / obeietå to the hond *
*And maketh it sovne / after his fyngerynge *
*Ryght so mowe ye / oute of myñ hert bringe * 92
*Swicå vois / ryght as yow lyst to laughe or pleynå *
*Be ye my gide / and lady souereynå *
*As to myñ erthely god / to yowe I calle *
*Bothe in this werke / and my sorwes alle * 96

PAR.-TEXT 248

FAIRFAX MS. 16. 197

Gp. lines.
53§For fere of nyght / so hatetå she derknesse §
But wherfore that I spak to 3eue credence
†To bokys olde & don hem reverence
§Is for men schulde autoriteis be-luue
§There as there lyth non othyr a-say be preue
*ffor mynt entent is or I fro 3ow fare
*The nakede tixt in englis to declare
*Of manye a story or ellis of manye a geste [* manye corr.]
*As autourys seyn leuyth hem If 3ow leste [*]

§When passed was almost the monyth of may
§And I hadde romed al the somerys day
*The grene medewe of which that I 3ow tolde
§Vpon the frosche dayseie to be-holde
†And that the sonne out of the souht gan weste
§And clothede was the flour & gon to reste
†ffor derknese of the nyht of which sche dradde
Hom to myn hous ful swiftly I me spadde
And in a lytyl erber that I haue
†I-benchede newe with turwis frorsche II-grawe
I bad men schulde me myn couche make
ffor deynte of the newe somerys sake
I bad hem strowe flouris on myn bed
When I was layd & hadde myn eyen hid
†I fel a-slepe with-Inne an our or two
†Me mette how I was in the medewe tho
*And that I romede in that same gyse 4 I daleseye
§To sen that flour/4 as 3e han herd deuyse
*ffayr was this medewe as thou;te me oueral
†With flouris sote 5 enbroudit it al
†As for to speke of gome or erbe or tre
Comparisoun may non I-makede be
ffor it surmountede pleyln alle odours
†And of ryche beute alle flourys
fforgetyn hadde the erthe his pore estat
97 But wherfore / that I spake to yive credence

98†To olde stories / and doon hem reuerence †

83§And that men mosten / more thyng beleve §
84§Then may seen at eighe / or elles preve § 100

*That shal I seyn / whanne that I see my tyme *
*I may not attones / speke in ryme *
*My besy gost / that trustetli alwey newe *
*To seen this flour / so yong / so fressh of hewe 104
*Constreynd me / with so gledy desire *
*That in myn herte / I feele yet the fire *
*That made me to ryse / er yt wer day *

89§And was now / the firste morwe of May § 108

*Withi dredful hert / and glad deuocioîn *
*for to ben / at the resureccion *
*Of this flour / whaî yt shulde vnclose *
*A-gayne the sonne / that roos as rede as rose 112
*That in the brest was / of the beste that day *
*That a-genores doghtre / ladde away *

*And dovne oñ knes / anoûn ryght I me sette *
*And as I koude / this fressh flour I grette *[leaf 84, back]
*Knelyng alwey / til it vnclosed was 117
*Vpon the smal softe / swote gras *

108†That was withi flores swote / embrovded al †
*Of swich suetnesse / and swich odour ouer al 120

109†That for to speke / of gomme or herbe or tree †
110 Comparison may nooî / y-maked bee
111 For yt surmountetli / pleynly alle odoures
112†And of riche beaute / of flores 124
113 For-geten had the erthe / his pore estate
Of wyntyr that hym nake.de made & mat
‡And with his swerd of cold so sore hadde greuyd † 
‡Now hadde the tempre soanne al that 1 releuyd
§And clothed hym in grene al newe a-geyn
The smale foulis of the seson fayn
‡That from the panter & the net ben skapid
Vp-on the foulere that hem made a-wapid
In wyntyr & destroyed hadde hire brod
In his dispit hem thou3te it dede hem good
To synge of hym & in here song despise
The foule cherl that for his coweytysye
Hadde hem be-trayed with his sophistrye
This was here song the foulere we defye
§Some songyn on the braunchis clere
§Of loue & that Ioye It was to here
†In worschepe & in preysyng of hire make
†And of the newe blysful somerys sake

†That sungyn blyssede be seynt volentyn
†At his day I ches 3ow to be myn
With oute repentyngye myn herte swete
And therwthal here bekys gume mete
§The honour & the humble obeysaunce
And after 3 dedyn othere obseruauncys
§Ryht on to loue & to natures
*So eche of hem to cryaturys
*This song to herkenyn I dede al myn ente..t
*ffor why I mette I wiste what they ment
114 Of wyntir / that hem naked made and mate
115 And with his swerd of colde / so sore greued ♦
116 Now hath thatempre sonne / all that releued ♦ 128
117 That naked was / and clad yt new agayn §
118 The smale foules / of the seson fayn
119 That of the panter / and the nette ben scaped ♦
120 Vpoñ the foweler / that hem made a-whaped 132
121 In wynter / and distroyed hadde hire broode
122 In his dispite / hem thoughte yt did hem goode
123 To synge of hym / and in hir songe dispise
124 The foule cherle / that for his covëytise 136
125 Had hem betrayed / with his sophistrye
126 This was hire songe / the foweler we defyye
127 And al his crafte / and somme songen clere §
128 Layes of love / that Ioye it was to here § 140
129 In worshipynge / and in preysinge of hir make ♦
130 And for the newe / blisful somers sake ♦
   *Vpoñ the braunches / ful of blosmes softe *
   *In hire delyt / they turned hem ful ofte *
131 And songen / blessed be seynt valentyne ♦
132 For on his day / I chees yow to be myne ♦
133 With-outen repentyng / myñ hert swete
134 and therwith-alle / hire bekes gonnen meete 148
135 Yeldying honour / and humble obeysaunces §
136 To love and diden / hire othere observaunces §
137 That longeth oñ-to love / and to nature §
   *Construeth that as yow lyst / I do no cure *
   *And thoo that hadde dooñ / vnkyndnesse *
   *As dooth the tydif / for new fangelnesse *
   *[leaf 85] Besogfite mercy / of hir trespasynge *
   *And humbely / songe hire repentynge *
   *And sworn oñ the blosmes / to be trewe *
   *So that hire makes / wolde vpoñ hem rewe *
   *And at the laste / maden hire acord *
   *Al founde they daunger / for a tyme a lord *
   *Yet pitee / thurgh his stronge gentil myght ♦

FAIRFAX
**PAR.-TEXT 254**

**FAIRFAX NS. 16. 203**

**LEGEND OF GOOD WOMEN.**

- *For-gaf / and mad mercy passæn ryght*
- *Thurgh Innocence / and ruled curtesye*
- *But I ne clepe yt nat / Innocence folye*
- *Ne fals pitee / for vertue is the mene*
- *As etike seith in swichi maner I mene*
- *And thus thise foweles / voide of al malice*
- *Acordeden to love / and lafteñ vice*
- *Of hate / and songe alle of oon acorde*
- *Welcome somer / oure gouernour and lorde*
- *And Zepherus / and flora gentilly*
- *Yaf to the floures / softe and tenderly*
- *Hire swoote breth / and made hem for to sprede*
- *As god and goddesse / of the floury mede*
- *In whiche me thoght / I myght day by day*
- *Duellen alwey / the Ioly monyth of May*
- *With-outeñ slepe / with-outeñ mete or drynke*
- *A-dovne ful softly / I gañ to synke*
- *And lenynge on myñ elbowe / and my syde*

90 § The longe day / I shoope me for tabide § 180
- *For nothing ellis / and I shal nat lye*

92 § but for to loke / vpoñ the daysie §
- *That meñ by resoñ / wel it calle may*
- *The daisie or elles the ye / of day*
- *The emperice and floure / of flores alle*
- *I pray to god / that faire mote she falle*
- *And alle that loven floures / for hire sake*

71-2 § But natheles ne wene nat / that I make § 188

73 § In preysing of the flour / agayñ the leef §

74 No more than of the corne / agayñ the sheef

75 For as to me / nys lever noon ne tother 191

76 I nam with-holdeñ yit / withi never mother [leaf 85, back]

77 Ne I not who serneth leef / ne who the flour 193

78 § Wel browkeñ they / her service or labour §

79 § For this thing is / al of another tonne ♦

80 ♦ Of olde storye / er swiche thinge was be-gonne ♦ 196

93 ♦ Whañ that the sonne / out of the southi gañ west ♦

**FAIRFAX**
*Tyl at the laste a larke song a-boue  * 141
*I se quod she the myzty god of loue  *
*Lo 3ond he comyth I se his wyngis spredede  *
§Tho gan I loke endelong the mede  211§
§And saw hym come & in his hond a quene  213§  145
†Clothid in ryal abyte al of grene  214†
   A frette of goold² sche hadde next hyre her  215†[oo corr.]
   And vp-on that a whit corone sche ber  216  148
§With mane² flourys & I schal nat lyce  217§ [³ n corr.]
   ff or al the world ryght as the dayseye  218
   I-coronnede is with white leuys lite  219
†Swiche were the flourys of hire corene white  220†  152
†ff or of o perle fyn & oryental  221† [leaf 447]
  Hyre white coroun was I-makyd al  222
  ff or whiche the white coroun a-boue the grene  223
   Made hire lyk a dayseye for to sene  224  156
†Considerede ek the fret of gold a-boue  225†
  I-clothede was this myhty god of lone  226
†Of silk I-broudede ful of grene greuys  227†
§A garlond on his hed of rose leuys  228§  160
*Stekid al with lylye flourys newe  *
*But of his face I can not seyn the hewe  *
§ff or sekyrly his face schon so bryhte  232
*That with the glemb a-stonede was the syhte  * 164
§A furlongwey I myhte hym not be-holde  233§

GG. 4. 27
And that this floure gan close / and goon to rest

For derknesse of the nyght / the whiche she dred

Home to myn house / ful swiftly I me sped

*To goon to reste / and erly for to ryse *

To seen this flour / sprede as I deuyse

And in a litel herber / that I have

tthat benched was / on turves fressh "y-grave

I bad men sholde me / my covche make

For deynte / of the newe someres sake

I bad hem strawen floures / on my bed

Whan I was leyde / and had myn even hed

t fel on slepe / in with an houre or twoo

Me mette how I lay / in the medewe thoo

And from a fer / come walkynge in the mede

To seen this flour / that I love so and drede

The god of love / and in his hande a quene

And she was clad / in real habite grene

A fret of gold she had / next her heer

And vpoft that / a white corwne she beer

With flourouns smale / and I shal nat lye

for al the worlde / ryght as a daysye

Y-corovned ys / with white leves lyte

So were the flowrouns / of hire corovne white

For of O perle / fyne oriental

Hire white corovne / was I-maked al

For which the white corovne / above the grene

Made hire lyke / a daysie for to sene

Considered eke / hir fret of golde above

Y-cloathed was / this myghty god of love

In silke enbrouded / ful of grene greves

In with a fret / of rede rose leves

*The fresshest syn the worlde / was first bygonne *

*His gilte here / was corowned with a sonne *

*I-stede of golde / for heuynesse and wyght *

Therwith me thoght / his face shooñ so bryght

That wel vnnethes / myght I him beholde
§ But at the laste in hande I saw hym holde
Tho fery dartis as the gleedys rede 234$
†And aungellych hyse wengis gan he sprede 236† 168
And al be that men seyn that blynd is he 237
†Algate me thouzte he myzte wel I-se 238†
ffor sternely on me he gan beholde 239
So that his lokynge both myn herte colde 240 172
†And be the hond he held the noble quene 241†
Corouned with whit & clothede al in grene 242
So womanly so benygne & so meke 243
That in this world thow that men wolde seke 244 176
Half hire beute / schulde men nat fynde 245
†In on² cryature that formede is be kynde 246† [² on corr.]
§Hire name was ³Alceste the thebonoyre 276§ [³ A corr.]
†I preye to god that euere falle sche fayre 277† 180
ffor ne hadde confort been / of hire presense 278
I hadde be ded / with outyn ony defence 279
ffor dred of louys / wordys & his chere 280
As whan tyme is / here aftyr 3e schal here 281 184
†¶ By-hynde this god / of loue vp on this grene 282†
I saw comyng of ladyis nyenetene 283
In ryal abyte a ful esy pas 284
And aftyr hem come of wemen swich a tras 285 188
†That syn that god adam made of erthe 286†
§The thredde part of wemen ne the ferthe 287§
Ne wende I not by possibilite 288 (ff147,bl.)
†Haddyn euere in this world I-be 289† 192
And trewe of loue these wemen were echon 290
Now whether was that a wondyr thyng or non 221
That ryht anon as that they guene espye 292
This flour whiche that I clepe the dayseye 293 196
fful sodeynly they styntyn alle atonys 294
And kneleda a-doun as it were for the nonys 295
*And aftyr that they wentyn in cumpas *
*Daunsynge aboute this flour an esy pas 200*
*And songyn as it were in carolewyse *

gg. 4. 27
166 And in his hande me thoght / I saugh him holde
167 Twoo frye dartes / as the gledes rede
168†And aungelyke / hys wynges saugh I sprede † 236
169 And al be that meñ seyn / that blynd ys he
170†Al-gate me thoght / that he myght se †
171 For sternely on me / he gañ byholde
172 So that his loking // dootõ myñ hert colde 240
173†And by the hande he helde / this noble quene †
174 Corowned with white / and clothed al in grene
175 So womanly so benigne / and so meke
176 That in this world / thogñ that meñ [wolde seke] 244
177 [Half of hire beaute / shulde men] nat fynde
178†In creature / that formed ys by kynde †
*This balade whiche that I schal 3ow deuyse

(Balade. 1)

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

(2)

Thyn fayre body lat it nat a-peere1 [i 2nd e corr.] 256 210
Laueyne / & thow Luressse of rome toun 257
And Pollexene that bouhte loue so dere 258
Ek Cleopatre with al thyn passioun 259 213
Hide 3e 3oure trouthe in loue & 3oure ronoun 260
And thow 2tysbe / that hast for loue swich peyne [2y corr.] 262§ 216
§Alceste is here that al that may desteyne

(3)

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

§Whan that this balade al I-songyn was 270§ [leaf 448]
*And therefore may I seyn / as thynketh me *
*This songe in preysyng / of this lady fre * 248

(Songe, or Balade. 1)

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

(2)

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

(3) [In the MS, leaf 86, back, this Stanza follows l. 277]
217 ¶ Herro / Dido / laudomia alle y-fere 263
218 And Phillis hangyng for thy Demophoñ
219 And Canace / espied by thy chere
220 Ysiphile / betrayesd with Iasoñ 266
221† Maketh of your trouthe / neythir boost ne sovne †
222§ Nor ypermystre / or Adriane ye tweyne §
223§ My lady cometh / that al this may dysteyne § 269

224§ This balade may ful wel y-songeñ be
*As I have seyde / erst by my lady free *
*For certeynly al thise movë nat suffise * 272
*To appereñ wyth my lady / in no wyse [leaf 86, back]
*For as the somne / wole the fire disteyne
*So passeth al / my lady souereyne

FAIRFAX
*Vp-on the softe & sote grenge gras
They settyn hem ful softely adoun
§By ordere alle in cumpas / alle in veroun
†Fyrst sat the god of loue & thanne this queene† [1 ne corr.]
With the white corone clad in grene
And sithyn al the remenant by & by
†As they were of degre ful curteysly
†Ne nat a word was spokyn in that place
†The mountenaunce of a furlongwey of² space
§I lenynge faste by vndyr a bente
Abod to knowe what this peple mente
As stille as ony ston til at the laste
†The god of loue on me his eye caste

\[\textit{Gg. 4. 27}\]
That ys so good / so faire / so debonayre
I prey to god / that euer falle hire faire
For nadde comfort / ben of hire presence
I hadde ben dede / withoute any defence
For drede of loves wordes / and his chere
As when ys / her-after ye shal here
That syn that god / Adam hadde made of erthe
Ne wende I not / by possibilitee
Had euer in this wide / worlde y-bee
That ryght anoon / as that they gonne espye
And trewe of love / thise women were echoñ
Now wheither was that / a wonder thing or noñ
That rycht anoon / as that they gonne espye
And trewe of love / thise women were echoñ
Now wheither was that / a wonder thing or noñ
That ryght anoon / as that they gonne espye
They setten hem / ful softly a-douñ
First sat the god of love / and sythi his quene
With the white corowne / clad in grene
And sithen al the remenaunt / by and by
As they were of estaat / ful curteysly
Ne nat a worde was spoken / in the place
The mountaunce / of a furlong wey of space
Knelyng by this floure / in good entente
A-boode to knowen / what this peple mente
As stille as any stoñ / til at the last
This god of love oñ me / hyse eighen caste
And sayde ho restith there & I answorde 312+
Vn to his axsynge whan that I hym herde 313+
And sayde sere It am I & cam hym ner 314+ 240
And sawedwe hym. quod he what dost thow her

§In myn presence & that so boldly 316§
ffor it were bettere worthi trewely 317+
§A werw to come in myn syht than thow 318§ 224
And why sere quod I and it lyke 30w 319
ffor thow quod he art therto no thyng able 320
*Myne servauhtis ben alle wyse & honourable *
§Thow art myn mortal fo & me warreyest 322§ 248
And of myyne olde servauhtis thow mysseyst 323
And hynderyst hem with thy translates 324
§To troste on me thow mayst it nat denye 327§
ffor in pleyn tixt it nedyth nat to glyce 328+
Thow hast translated the roamauns of the rose 329
That is an eresye a-geyns myn lawe 330 256
And makyst wise folk fro me withdrawe 331
*And thykist in thynt wit that is ful cole1 *  [1 e corr.]
*That he nys but a verray propre foile *
*That louyth paramouris to harde & hote * 260
*Wel wot I ther by / thow begynyster dote *
*As olde folis whan here spryt faylyth * [U445, bb]
*Thanne blame they folk & wete nat what hem ealyth *
*Hast thow nat mad in englys ek the bok *
§How that Crisseyde Troylis forsok 332§
§In schewynghe how that wemen han don mis2 333§
*Bit nathes answere me now to this [L-2 corr.] *
*Why noldist thow as wel a seyd goodnes *
*Of wemen as thow hast seyd wekedenes *
*Was there no good matyr in thynt mynde *
*Ne in alle thyne bokys ne coudist thow nat fynde *
*Sum story of wemen that were goode & trewe3 * [T trewe corr.]
*jis god wot .lx. bokys olde & newe [see 566 Fr.] * 273

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Fe. li. Gg. h.

264 PAR.-TEXT
238†And seyde / who kneleth there / and I answerde † 312
239†Vnto his askynge / whan that I it herde †
240†And seyde / it am I / and come him nere †
241 And salwed him / quod he what dostow here
242§So nygh / myn ovne floure / so boldely § 316
243†Yt were better worthy / trewly †
244§A worme / to neghen ner my flour / than thow §
245 And why sire / quod I / and yt lyke yow
246 For thow quod he / art ther-to no-thing able 320
*Yt is my relyke / digne and deltyable *
248§And thow my foo / and al my folke werreyest §
249 And of myn olde servauntes / thow mysseyest
250 And hynderest hem / with thy translacion 324
251†And lettest folke / from hire deuocion
252 To serve [me / and holdest it folye
253§To serve] love / thou maist yt nat denye §
254†For in pleyne text / with-outen nede of glose † 328
255 Thou hast [translated] the Romaunce / of the rose
256 That is an heresy / ayeins my lawe
257 And makest wise folke / fro me / with-drawe 331

265§And of Creseyde / thou hast seyde as the lyste § 332
266§That makethi men / to wommen lasse triste §
*Hast thou thyself all full of storyis grete
*That bothe romaynys & ek grekis trete
*Of sundery wemen whiche lyf that they ledde
*And euere an hunderede goode a-geyn on badde
*This knowith god & alle clerkis ek
*That vsyn sweche materis for to sek
*What seith Valerye Titus or Claudyan
*What seith Jerome agayns louynyan
*What seith lerome agayns louynyan
*What seith lerome & that nat of a fewe
*That it is pete for to rede & roughte
*That is raynys & ek grekis trete
*That vsyn sweche materis for to sek
*What seith Valerye Titus or Claudyan
*What seith Jerome agayns louynyan
*What seith lerome agayns louynyan
*What eulre timaynys & how trewe wyuys
*How stedefaste wedewys durynge alle here lyuys
*Tellyth2 Jerome & that nat of a fewe
*But I dar seyn an hunderede on a rewe
*That it is pete for to rede & roughte
*The wo that they endure for here trouthe
§3ffor to hyre loue were they so trewe
*That rathere than they wole take a newe
*They chose to be ded in sundery wyse
*And deiedyn as the story wele deuyse
*And some were brened & some were cut the hals
*And some dreynkt for thy woldyn not be fals
*ffor alle kepid\(^4\) they here maydnyshed
*Or ell/s wedlek or here wedewehed
*And this thing was nat kept for holynesse
*But al for verray vertu & clewnesse
*And for men schulde sette on hem no lak
*And hit they were hethene al the pak
*That were so sore a-drad of alle schame
*These olde wemen kepte so here name
*That in this world I trowe men schal nat fynde
*A man that\(^5\) coude be so trewe & kynde
*As was the beste woman in that tyde
*What seyth also the epistelle of Ouyde
*Of trewe wyuys & of here labour
*What vincent in his estoryal myrouer
*Ek al te world of autourys mayst tow here
*Cristene & hethene trete of swich materre
Go. 54-55.
288. that ben as trewe / as euer was any steel

Ex. lxxvi.
§ 334
268 PAR.-TEXT
216 LEGEND OF GOOD WOMEN. MS. Gg. 4, 27, CAMB.

FX. ii, Gg. ii.

*It nedyth nat al day thus for to endite
*But 3it I seye what eylyth the to wryte
*The draf of storyis & forgete the corn [1 gete corr.] * 312
§Be seynt venus of whom that I was born 338$ §
†Al-thow thow reneyist hast myn lay 336†
§As othere olde folys manye a day 337 315

§Thow schalt repente it so that it schal be sene 340$
§Thanne spak Alceste the worthyere queene 341§ [2nd e corr.]
And seyde god ry3t of 3oure curteysye 342
3e motyn herkenyn If he can replye 343
†A-geyns these poynysthat 3e han to hym 3mevid 3†[3-5 corr.]
A god ne schuld not thus been a-greuyd 345 321
§But of his dede / he schal be stable 346
§And therto ry3tful & ek mercyable 347$
*He schal nat ryghtfully his yre wreke * 324
*Or he hane herd the tothyre partye speke *
*Al ne is nat gospel that is to 3ow pleynyd *
*The god of love hereth manye a tale I-feynyd *
ffor in 3oure court is manye a losenger 352 328
And manye aqueynte totuulor acousur 353
§That tabourrryn in 3oure 3eres / manye a thyung 354$
§ffor hate or for Ielous ymagynyng 355$
§And for to han with 3ou sum dalyaunce 356$ 332
§Enuye I prere to god 3eue hire myschaunce 358$
§Is lauender In the grete court alway 358$
ffor che ne partyth neythur nygh ne day 359
Out of the hous of Cesar thus seyth dante 360 336
§Who-so that goth alwey sche mote wante 361$
†This man to 3ow may wrongly ben acused 350† [If 449, back]
There as be ryght hym oughte ben excusid 351
§Or ellis sere for that this man is nyce 362$ 340
§He may translate a thyung in no malyce 363$
§But for he vsyth bokis for to make 364$
§And takyth non hed of what materere he take 365$

GG. 4, 27
*Of thyn answere / avise the ryght wee
314†For thoghes thou renayed / hast my lay
315§As other wrecches hañ dooñ / many a day
313§By seynt Venus / that my moder ys
316§If that thou lyve / thou shalt repenten this
316§So cruelly / that it shall wele be sene
317§Thoo spake this lady / clothed al in grene
318 And seyde / god ryght of youre curtesye
319 Ye moteñ herkeñ / yf he can replye
320†Agayns al this / that ye haue to him meved
321 A god / ne sholde nat be thus agreed
322§But of hys deitee / he shal be stable
323§And therto gracious / and merciable
*And yf ye nere a god / that knoweñ alle
*Thanne myght be / as I yow telleñ shalle
337†This mane to yow / may falsly ben accused
338 That as by right / him oughte ben excused
328 For in youre courte / ys many a losengeour
329 And many aqueynt to telere / accusour
330§That tabouren in youre eres / many a swoñ
331§Ryghts aftir hire / ymagynacion
332§To have youre daliance / and for envie
*Thise ben the causes / and I shal not lye
333-4§Envie ys lauendere / of the Court alway
335 For she ne partethi / neither nyght ne day
336 Out of the house of Cesar / thus seithi dante
337§Who so that goothi / algate she wol nat wante
340§And eke perauntere / for this mañ ys nyce
341§He myght dooñ yt / gessyng no malice
342§For he vseth thynges / for to make
343§Hym rekketh noght / of what matere he take
*Therfore he wrot the rose & ek Crisseyde [1 corr.] * 344

*Of innocence & nyste what he seyde *
Or hym was bodyn make thilke tweye 366
Of sum persone & durste it not with-sye 367
*fior he hath wrete manye a bok er this * 348
He ne hath not don so greusly a-mys 369 349
To translate that olde clerkis wryte 370
†As thow that he of maleys wolde endyte 371†
†Despit of lone & hadde hym self I-wrouht 372† 352
This schulde a ryghtwys lord han in his thougt 373
And not ben lyk tyrauntis of lumbardye 374
§That vsyn wilfulhed & tyrannde 375§
fior he that kyng or lord is naturel 376 356
†Hym oughte nat be tyraunt & crewel 377† [leaf 149, back, line 20]
As is a fermour to don the harm he can 378 [leaf 150, line 19]
He must thynke it is his lige man 379
*And that hym owith o verry duetee * 360
*Schewyn his peple pleyn benygnete * 361
*And wel to heryn here excusacyouns * 362
*And here compleyntys & petyciouns * [2 s corr.]
*In duewe tyme whan they schal it profre * 364
This is the sentens of the philyosophre 381
A kyng to kepe hisse lygis in iustise 382
Which oughtyn doute that is his officse 383
*And therto is a kyng ful depe I-sworn * 368
*fful manye an hunderede wyntyr here be-forn *
†And for to kepe his lordys hir degre 384†
As it is ryght and skylful that they be 385
†Enhaunsede and / honoured most dere 386† 372
fior they ben half goddys in this world here 387
†This schal he don bothe to pore ryche 388‡
Al be that here stat be nat a-lyche 389
And han of pore folk compassioun 390 376
fior lo the gentyl kynde of the lyoun 391
fior whan a flye offendyth hym or bytith 392 [fr 150, bk]
He with his tayl awey the flye smyttyth 393

Gg. 4. 27
346 Of him was boden / maken thilke tweye 366
347 Of somme persone / and durste yt nat with-seye
   *Or him repenteth / outrely of this  * 368
349 He ne hath nat doon / so grevously amys
350 To translaten / that olde clerkes write
351†And thogh that he / of malice wolde endite†
352†Despite of love / and had him-selfe yt wroght†† 372
353 This shoolde a ryghtwis lord / haue in his thoghts
354 And nat be lyke tirauntez / of lumbardy
355¶That han no reward / but at tyrannye ‡
356 For he that kynge / or lord ys in naturel 376
357†Hym oght nat be / tiraunt ne crewel †
358 As is a fermour / to doon the harme he kañ
359 He moste thinke / yt is his leege mañ [leaf 88] 379

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

370†Al wol he kepe his lordes / hire degree † 384
371 As it ys ryght / and skilful that they bee
372†Enhauounced and honoured / and most dere †
373 For they ben half goddys / in this world here
374†Yit mote he doon / bothe ryghts to poore and ryche †
375 Al be that hire estaat / be nat y-liche 389
376 And hañ of poore folke / compassyoñ
377 For loo / the gentil kynde of the lyon
378 For whañ a flye / offendith him or biteth 392
379 He with his tayle / awey the fle smyteth
Al esyly for of his genterye
Hym deynyth nat to wreke hym on a flye
As doth a curre or eLLis a-nothir beste
In noble corage oughte ben areste
†And weyen euerth by equite
†And euere han reward to his owen degre
ffor sire it is no maystrye for a lord
To dampe a man with-oute answere or word
†And for a lord that is wol foul to vse
†And If so be he may hym nat ascuse
†Axith mercy with a sorweful herte
And proberyth hym ryght in his bare scherte
To been rygh at 3oure owene Iugement
Than ought a god by schort avisement
Considere his owene honour & his trespace
ffor sythe no cause of deth lyth in this case
3ow oughte to ben the lyghtere merciable
Letith yore yre & beth sumwhat tretable
The man hath seruyd 3ow of his konnyg
†And fortheryd 3oure lawe with his makyng
*Whil he was song he kepte 3oure estat
*I not where he be now a renagat
§But wel I wot with that he can endyte
†He hath makid lewed folk to delyte
To seruyn 3ow in preysynege of 3oure name
He made the bok that highte the hous of fame
And ek the deth of Blauwche the duchesse
And the parlement of foulis as I gesse
And al the loue of Palamon & Arcite
Of thebes thow the storie is knowe lite
And manye an ympne for thour halydayis
That hightyn baladis roundelys & vyrelayes
†And for to speke of othyr besynesse
He hath in prose translatid Boece
*And of the wrechede engendrynge of mankynde
*As man may in pope innocent I-fynde
Al esely / for of hys gentrye
Hym deynetli not / to wreke hym on a flye
As dooth a curre / or elles another best
In noble corage / ought ben arest
And weyen ever thing / by equytee
And euer haue rewarde / vnto his owen degree
For syr yt is no maistrye / for a lorde
To dampte a man / without answere of worde
And for a lorde / that is ful foule to vse
And it so be / he may hym nat excuse
But asketh mercy / with a dredeful herte
And profereth hym ryght / in his bare sherte
To ben ryght / at your owen Iugement
Than oght a god / by short avysement
Consydre his owne honour / and hys trespas
For syth no cause of dethe / lyeth in this caas
Yow oghte to ben / the lyghter merciable
Leteth youre Ire / and beth sumwhat tetable
The man hati served yow / of his kumnyng
And furthred wel youre lawe / in his makyng
Al be hit / that he kan nat wel endite
Yet hathi he made / lewde folke delyte
To serve yow / in preysinge of your name
He made the book / that highti the hous of Fame
And eke the deethi / of Blaunche the Duchesse
And the parlement of foules / as I gesse
And al the love / of Palamoñ and Arcite
Of Thebes / thogh the storye ys knowen lyte
And many an ympne / for your halydayes
That highteñ balades / roundels / virelayes
And for to speke / of other holynesse
He hathi in proce / translated Boece

FAIRFAX
And made the lyf also of seynt Cecile 426 416
He made also gon is agret while 427
Orygenes vp-on the maudeleyne 428 418
Hym ouyte now to haue the lesse peyne 429
He hath mad manye a lay & manye a thyng 430 420
Now as se ben a god & ek a kyng 431
I 3oue alceste whilom quene of trace 432
I axe 3ow this man rygh of 3oue grace 433
That 3e hym neuere hurte in al his lyue 434 424
†And he schal swere to 3ow & that as blyue 435†
†He schal no more agiltyn in this wyse 436†
But he schal makyn as 3e wele deuyse 437
Of wemen trewe in lounyng al here lyue 438 428
Wher so 3e wele of maydyn or of wyue 439 [leaf 450, l. 18]
And fortheryn 3ow as meche as he mysseyde [leaf 450,bb,l.17]
Or in the rose or ellis in crisseyde 441
†The god of loue anweredhe hire thus a-non 442† 432
Madame quod he it is so longe a-gon 443
That I 3ow knew so charytable & trewe 444
That neuere 3it sithe that the world was newe 445
†To me ne fond I neuere non betere than the 446† 436
†That If that I wele saue myn degre 447†
I may ne wel not warne 3oue requeste 448
†Al lyth in 3ow doth with hym what 3ow leste 449†
†And al for-3eue with outhe lengere space 450† 440
flor who so 3euyth a jifte or doth a grace 451
Do it be tyme his thank is wel te more 452
And demyth 3e what he shal1 don theryfore 453 [1 shal corr.]
Go thanke now myn lady here quod he 454 444
I ros and donz I sette me on myn kne 455
And seyde thus madame the god a-boue 456
flor-zelde 3ow that 3e the god of loun 457
Han makyd me his wrethe to forzeue 458 448
And 3eue me grace so longe for to leue 459
That I may knowe softly what 3e be 460
†That han me holpyn & put me in swich degre 461†

gg. 4. 27
416 And maade the lyfe also / of seynt Cecile
417 He made also / goon ys a grete while
418 Origenes / vpon the Maudeleyne
419 Hym oughte now / to have the lesse peyne
420 He hath maade many a lay / and many a thinge
421 Now as ye be a god / and eke a kynge
422 I your Alceste / whilom quene of Trace
423 Y aske yow this man / ryght of your grace
424 That ye him never hurte / in al his lyve
425†And he shal swere to yow / and that blyve
426†He shal neuer more / agilten in this wyse
427 But [he] shal maken / as ye wol deuyse
428 Of wommen trewe / in lyvyng al hire lyfe
429 Wher so ye wol / of mayden or of wyfe
430 And forthreñ yow / as muche as he mysseyde
431 Or in the Rose / or elles in Creseyde
432†The god of love / answerede hire anoñ
433 Madame quod he / it is so long agoon
434 That I yow knewe / so charitable and trewe
435 That neuer yit / syn that the worlde was newe
436†To me / ne founde y better noon than yee
437†If that ye wolde / save my degree
438 I may ne wol nat / wene your requeste
439†Al lyetli in yow / dooth wyth hym / as yow liste
440†I al foryeve / withouten lenger space
441 For who so yeveth a yifte / or dooth a grace
442 Do it by tyme / his thank ys wel the more
443 And demeth ye / what he shal doo therfore
444 Goo thanke now my lady / here quod he
445 I roos / and dovne I sette me / oñ my knee
446 And seyde thus / madame the god a-bove
447 For-yelde yow / that [ye] thee god of love
448 Han maked me / his wrathe to foryive
449 And [gyve me] grace so long / for to lyve
450 That I may knowe / soothly what ye bee
451†That han me holpe / and put me in this degree
But trevely I wende as in this cas

Naught haue a-gilt ne don to loue trespas

ffor why a trewe man with oute drede

Hath nat to parte with a theyuys dede

†Ne a trewe louere may1 me nat blame

Thaw that I speke a fals2 louere sum schame

They aughte rathere with me for to holde

ffor that I of Criseyde wrot or tolde

Or of the rose what so myn aȝtoure mente3

Algate god wot it was myn entente

To forthere trouthe in loue & it cheryse

And to be war from falsenesse & from vice

By swich ensaemple this was myn menynge

And sche answerde lat be thyn arguynge

ffor loue ne wele nat countyrpletyd be

†In ryght ne wrong & lerne this at me

Thow hast thyn grace & holde the ryght therto4

Now wole I seyn what penaunce thow schat do

ffor thyn trespace & vndyrstonde it here

Thow schalt whil thow leuyst 3er be 3ere

†The moste partye of thyn lyf spende

In makyng of a gloryous legende

Of goode wemen maydenys & wyues

†That were trewe5 in leuynge al here lyuys

And telle of false men that hem betrayen

That al here lyf ne don nat but asayen

How manye wemen / they may don a schame

ffor in ȝoure world that is now holdyn game

†And thow the lestyth nat a louere be

Spek wel of loue this penaunce ȝeue I the

And to the god of loue I schal so preye

That he schal charge his seruautys by ony weye

To fortheryn the & wel thyn labour quite

†Go now thyn wey thyn penaunce is but lyte
452 But trewly wende / as in this cas
453 Naught have agilt / ne doon to love trespas
454 For why a trewe mañ / withouten drede 464
455 Hath nat to parten / with a theves dede
456†Ne a trewe louer / ought me not to blame  †
457 Thogh that I spake / a fals fownde soñ shame
458 They oghte rather with me / for to holde 468
459 For that I of Creseyde / wroot or tolde
460 Or of the Rose / what so myñ Auctour mente
461 Algate god woot / yt was myñ entente
462 To forthreñ trouthe in' love / and yt cheryce 472
463 And to ben war fro falsnesse / and fro vice
464 By swiche ensample / this was my menynge
465 And she answerde / lat be thyñ Arguynge
466 For love ne wol nat / countrepleted be 476
467†In ryght' ne wrong / and lerne that of me  †
468 Thow hast thy grace / and holde the ryght' therto
469 Now wol I seyñ / what penance thou shalt do
470 For thy trespas / vnderstonde yt here 480
471 Thow shalt while that thou lyvest / yere by yere
472†The most part ye / of thy tyme spende  †
473 In makyng / of A glorious legende
474 Of good wymmen / maydnes and wyves 484
475†That wereñ trew in lovyng / al hire lyves  †
476 And telle of fals meni / that hem bytraieñ
477 [That al hir lyfe ne do nat but assayen]
478 How many womeñ / that may doon ashameth [leaf 88, back]
479 For in youre worlde / that is now holde a game 489
480†And thogh the lyke nat / a lover bee  †
481 Speke wel of love / this penance yive I the
482 And to the god of love / I shal so preyse 492
483 that he shal charge / his servantez by any weye
484 To forthreñ thee / and wel thy labour quyte
485†Goo now thy weye / this penaunçe ys but lyte  †
  *And what this book ys maade / yive it the quene *
  *On my byhalfe / at Eltham or at Sheene  * 497
The god of lone gan smyle & thanne he seyde 498
Wostow quod he wher this be wif or mayde 499
Or queen or cuntesse or of what degr 500 488
That hath so lytil penaunce 3euyn the 501
That hast deseruyd sorere for to smerte 502[541,1,66]
But pete reynyth sone in gentil herte 503
That mayst thow sen sche kytheth what sche is 504 492
And I answerde nay sere so haue I blys 505
No more but that I se wel sche is good 506
That is a trewe tale by myn hod 507
Qod lone & that thow knowist wel parde 508 496
3if it be so that thow a-vise the 509
Hast thow nat in a bok lyth in thyne cheste 510
The grete goodnesse of the queene Alceste 511
That turnede was in to a dayesye 512 500
Sche that for hire husbonde ches to deye 513
And ek to gon to helle rathere than he 514
And Ercules rescued hire parde 515
And broughte hyre out of helle a-geyn to blys 516 504
And I answerde a-zen & seyde 3is 517
Now knowe I hire & is this goode alceste 518
The dayes eye & myn owene herte is reste 519
Now fele I wel the goodnesse of this wif 520 508
†That bothe aftyr hire deth & ek hire lyf 521†
Hire grete bounte doubelyth hire renoun 522
Wel hath sche quit me myn afeccioiw 523
That I haue to hire flour the dayesye 524 512
No wondyr is / thow Ione hire stellesye 525
As tellyth Agaton for hyre goodnesse 526
Hire white corouz beryth of it witnesse 527
†ffor al-so manye vertuys hath sche 528† 516
As smale flourys in hyre coroun be 529
Of remembrans of hire & in honour 530
Cibella made the dayesye & the flour 531
I-Coroned al with whit as men ma se 532 520
And Mars1 3af to hire corone red parde 533[s corr.}
The god of love gan smile / and than he sayde
Wostow quod he / wher this be wyf or mayde
Or queene or Countesse / or of what degre
That hath so lytel penance / yiven thee
That hast deserved [sorere for to smerte
But pite renneth] soone in gentil herte
That maistow seen / she kytheth what she ys
And I answered nay sire / so have I blys
Na moore but that I see wel / she is good
That is a trewe tale / by myñ hood
Quod love / and thou knowest wel pardee
If yt be so / that thou avise the
Hastow nat in a book / lytk in thy cheste
The gret goodnesse / of the quene Alceste
That turned was / in-to a daysye
She that for hire housbonde / chees to dye
And eke to gooñ to helle / rather than he
And ercules / rescowed hire parde
And broght hir out of helle / agayne to blys
And I answerd ageyn / and sayde yis
Now knowe I hire / and is this good Alceste
The daysie / and myñ owene hertes reste
Now fele I weel / the goodnesse of this wyf
That both aftir hir detfh / and in hir lyf
Hir grete bounte / doubleth hire renon
Wel hath she quyt me / myñ affeccioñ
That I have to hire flour / the daysye
No wonder ys / thogh Ioue hire stellyfye
As telleth agaton / for hire goodenesse
Hire white corowne / berith of hyt witnesse
For also many vertues / hadde shee
As smale florouns / in hire corowne bee
In remembraunce of hire / and in honoure
Cibella maade the daysye / and the floure
Y-crowned al with white / as menñ may see
And Mars yaf to hire corowne / reede pardee
In stede of rubeis set a-mong the white 534
Therwith this queene wax red for schame a lyte 535
Whan sche was preysid so in hire presence 536 524
Thaunce sayde loue a ful grete neglygence 537
§Was it to the / to write onstedefast-nesse 538
*Of women sithe thow knowist here goodnesse *
*By pref & ek by storyis here by-form [leaf 452] * 528
*Let be the chaf & writ wel of the corn *
*Why noldist thow han writyn of alceste *
*And latyn Criseide ben a-slepe & rest *
*ffor of alceste schulde thyn wrytynge be *
§Syn that thow wist that calandier Is¹ she 542§

§Of goodnesse for sche taughte of fyn louynge 544§
And namely of wifhod the lyuynge 545
And alle the boundys that sche aughte kepe 546 536
Thyn lityl wit was thilke tyme a-slepe 547
But now I charge the vp-on thyn lyf 548
That in thyn² legende thow make of this wif 549[²yncorr.]
Whan thow hast othere smale mad by-fore 550 540
And fare now wel I charge the moe moore 551

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

Gg. 4. 27.
522 In stede of Rubyes / sette among the white
523 Therwith this queene / wex reed for shame a lyte
524 Whan she was preysed / so in hire presence
525 Thanne seyde love / a ful grete negligence
526 Was ys to the / that ylke tyme thou made

*Hyd Absolon thy tresses / in balade *

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

*Syν that thou art / so grely in hire dette *
533§ And wost wel / that kalender ys shee
*To any woman / that wol lover bee *
534§ For she taught al the crafte / of fyne lovyng
535 And namely of wyfhode / the lyvyng
536 And al the boundes / that she oght kepe
537 Thy litel witte / was thilke tyme a-slepe
538 But now I charge the / vpoν thy lyfe
539 That in thy legende / thou make of thys wyfe
540 Whan thou hast other smale / ymaade before
541 And fare now wel / I charge the namore

*But er I goo / thus muche I wol the telle *
*Ne shal no trewe lover / come in helle *
*Thise other ladies / sittynge here arowe *
*Ben in my balade / yf thou kanst hem knowe *

(273)* And in thi bookes / alle thou shalt hem fynde *
556 *Haue hem in thy legende / now al in mynde *
*I mene of hem / that ben in thy knowyng *
*For here ben twenty thousande moo sittynge *
*Thanne thou knowest / good wommen alle *
*And trewe of love / for oght that my bysalle *
*Make the metres of hem / as the lest *
*I mot goon home / the sonne draweth west *
*To paradys / with al thise companye *
*And serve alwey / the fressh daysye *

552 At Cleopatre I wole / that thou begynne
And so forth & myn loun so shalt tow wynne 567 543

§And with that word of slep I gan a-wake 578§ 544
And ryght thus on myn legende gan I make 579 515

Explicit prohemium

[1.]

[THE LEGEND OF CLEOPATRA.]

Incipit legenda Cleopatrie ¹ regine ¹ le corrected] a ffigyr the deth of tholome the kyng 580
That al Egipt hadde in his gouernyng
Reguned his queen Cleopataras
Tyl on a tyme be-fel there swich a cas
That out of rome was sent a senator 584
ffor to conqueryn regnys & honour
Vn to the toun of rome as was vsagee
To han the world vn-to hyre obeysauce
And soth to seyne Antonius was his name 588
So fil it as fortune hym aughte a schame
Whan he was fallyn in prosperite
Rebel vn-to the toun of rome is he
And ouyral this the sustyr of Cesar 592
He lafte hire falle or that sche was war
And wolde algate han a-nothir wif [leaf 458, back]
ffor which he tok with rome & Cesar stryf

gg. 4. 27
543  And so forthe / and my love so shal thou wynne

(303)*For lat see now / what mañ that lover be   * 568

*Wol dooñ so stronge a peyne / for love as she *
*I wot wel that thou maist nat / al yt ryme *
*That swich lovers / dide in hire tyme *
*It were to long / to reden and to here   * 572
*Suffich me / thou make in this manere *
*That thou reherce / of al hir lyfe the grete *
*After thise olde Auctours / lysteñ for to trete *
*For who so shal / so many a storye telle   * 576
*Sey shortly or he shal / to longe dwelle *

544§And with that worde / my bokes gañ I take $

545  And ryght thus oñ my legende / gañ I make./   579
Natheles for sothe this ilke senatour
Was a ful 1 worthy / gentyl werriour 1
And of his deth it was ful gret damage
But loue hadde brought this man in swich a rage
And hym so narwe boundyn In 2 his las [2 In corr.]
Al for the loue of Cleopatraas 3
That al the world he sette at no value
Hym thoute there nas to hym no thyng so dewe
As Cleopatras for to loue & serve
Hym roughte nat in armys for to sterve 4 [4 sterve corr.]
In the diffens of hyre & of hire ryght
This noble queene ek 5 louede so this knyght [5 ek corr.]
Thour his desert & for his chyualrye
As cerceynly but If that bokys lye
He was of persone & of gentillesse
And of discreciou & of hardynesse
Worthi to ony wyght that lyuyn may
And sche was fayr as is the Rose in may
And for to make shortly is the beste
Sche wax his wif And hadde hym 6 as hire 6 lestc
The weddynge & the feste to denyse [5 m, ire, corr.]
To me that haue ytake swich empryse
Of so manye a story for to make
It were to longe lest that I schulde slake
Of thyng that beryth more effect & charge
ffor men may ouerlade a schip or barge
And for thy to thefeect thanzme wele I skyppe
And al the remenaut I wele lete slippe
Octouyan that wod was of this dede
Schop hym an ost/ on antonye to lede
Al vtyrly for his destruccioun
With stoute romeynys crewel as lyoun
To schepe they wente & thus I lat hem sayle
Antonius was war And wele nat fayle
To metyn with these romeynys If he may
Tok ek his red & bothe vp on a day

eg. 4. 27
Hys wif & he & al his ost forth wentyn [leaf 458] 632
To shepe anon no lengere they ne stente
And in the se it happede hem to mete
Vp goth the trompe & for to schoute & schete
And peynede hem to sette on with the swyne 636
With grisely soun out goth the grete 1 gounne 3o corrected
And heterly they hurtelyn al atonys
ffrom the top doun comyth the grete stonyes
In goth the grapenel so ful of crokis 640
Among the ropis rennyth the scherynge hokys
In with the polax presith he & sche
By-hyndyn the mast begynnynth he to fle
And out a-geyn and dryuyth hym overborde 644
He styngith hym vp on his sperys orde
He rent the seyl with hokys lyk a sithe
He bryngith the cuppe & biddyth hem to be blythe
He pouryth pesyn vp on the hachis sledere 648
With pottis ful of lym they gon to gedere
And thus the longe day to-gedere they spende
Tyl at the laste as euery thyng hat ende
Antonye is schent & put hym to the flyght 652
And al his folk to go that best go myght
fleth ek the queen withal hire porpere sayl
ffor strokys whiche that wente as thikke as hayl
No wondyr was sche myghte it nat endure 656
And whan that antonye / saw that aventure
Allas quod he the day that I was born
Myn worshepe in this day thus haue I lorn
And for dispeyr out of his wit he sterte 660
And rof hym self a-non thour out the herte
Or that he ferthere wente out of the place
His wif that coude of Cesar haue no grace
To egipt is sche fled for dred & for 2 destresse 3 2st corrected
But herkenyth je that spekyn of kyndenesse 665
3e men that falsely swere manye an oth
That 3e wele deye If that 3oure loue be wroth

GG. 4. 27
Here may 3e sen of wemen which a trouthe 668
This woful Cleopatre hath mad swich routhe
That thor is tunge non that may it telle [leaf 433, back]
But on the morwe sche wolde no lengere dwelle
But made hire subtyl werkemen make a schryyne 672
Of alle the rubyis & the stonyis fyne
In al egypt that sche coude espie
And putte ful the schryyne of spicerye
And let the cors enbaumme & forth sche fette 676
This dede cors & in the schryyne it schette
And next the schryyne a pet thanme doth sche graue
And alle the serpentys that sche myghte haue
Sche putte hem in that graue & thus sche seyde 680
Now love to whom myn sorweful herte obeyede
So ferforthly that from that blisful our
That I 3ow swor to ben al frely 30ur
I mene 3ow Antonius myn knyght 684
That neuere wakyng in the day or nygh
3e nere out of myn hertis remembrance
ffor wel or wo for carole or for daunce
And in myn self this couenaunt made I tho 688
ffor rygh swich as 3e feldyn wel or wo
As fer forth as it in myn power lay
Vnreprouable on to myn wyfhod ay
The same wolde I fele lyf or deth 692
And thilke comenant whil me lastith breth
I wele fulfille & that schal ben wel sene
Was neuere on-to hire loue a trewere quene
And with that word nakyd with ful good herte 696
Among the serpentis in the pit sche styrte
And there sche ches to hanyn hire buryinge
Anon the nadderys Igonne hire for to styngge [1 o corrected]
And sche hire deth receyuyth with good cheere 700
ffor loun of antonye that was hire so dere
And this is storyal soth it is no fable
Now or I fynde a man thus trewe & stable
And wele for lour his deth so frely take
I preye god let oure hedys neuere ake. Amen.

Explicit Cliopatra [later]

[II.]
[THE LEGEND OF THISBE.]

Incipit [later]

A babiloyne whylom fyl it thus
The wyche toun the quien semyramus
fful hye of harde tilis wel I-bake
There were dwellyng in this noble toun
Two lordys whiche that were of gret renoun
And wonedyn so nygh vp on a grene
That there was but a ston wal hem be-tweene
As ofte in grete tounmys is the won
And soth to seyne that on man hadde a sone
Of al that lond on of the lustyeaste
That othir hadde a doughtyr the fayreste
That tho was in that lond Estward dwellynge
The name of euerych gan to othyr sprynge
By wemen that were neighheboris a-boute
flor in that cuyteit with-outyn doute
Maydenys been I-kept for gelosye
fful streyte lyst they dedyn sum follye
This 3onge man was callyd Piramus
And Tysbe 1heit te mida2 Naso seyth thus
And thus by report was hire name I-shoue
That as they wex in age / wex here loun
And certeyn as by rosoun of hire age3
There myghte a ben by-twixe hem maryage
But that here faderys myghte nat assente
And bothe in loun I-lyke sore they brente
That none of alle hyre frendis myght it lette
But pryuyly sum tyme 3it they mette
By sleughte & spokyn summe of here desyr
As wry the glede & hettore is the fyr
Sforbede a loue & it is ten so wod
This wal which that bi-twixe hem bothe stod
Was cloue a two ryght from the cop a-doun
Of olde tyme of his fundacioun
But 3it this clyfte was so narw & lyte
It nas nat sene deere I-now a myte
But wat is that that loue can nat espye
3e louerys two If that I schal nat lye
3e foundyn first this litil narwe clifte
And with a soun as softe as ony shryfte
They lethe here wordis thou the clift pace
And toldyn whil that they stode in the place
Al here compleynt of loue & al here wo
At euery tyme whan they durste so
Vp on that on syde of that wal stod he
And on that othir side stod Thesbe
The sote soun of othir to resseyue
And thus here wardeynys wolde they disc eyue
And euery day this wal they wolde threte
And wisse to god that it were doua I-bete
Thus wolde they seyn alas thow welkedede wal
Thorw thyn enuye thow vs lettist al
Why nylt thow cleue or fallyn al a two
Or at the laste but If thw woldist so
3it woldist thow but onys lat vs mete
Or onys that we myghtyn kysse swete
Thanne were we coneryd of oure carys colde
But natheles 3it be we to the holde
In as meche as thow sufferyst for to gon
Ovre\(^1\) wordys thour thyn lym & thour thyn ston\[\text{[corr.]}\]
\(^2\)it oughte we\[\text{[we corr.]}\]
With the been wel a-payed
And whan these ydele wordys weren sayed
The colde wal they wele kysse of ston
And take here leue & forth they woldyn gon

\[\text{[leaf 454, back]}\]

\[\text{gg. 4. 27}\]
And this was gladly in the eue tyde
Or wondyr erly lest men it espiede
And longe tyme they wrughte in this manere
Tyl on a day that Phebus gan to cleere.
Aurora with the strems of hete
Hadde dreyed vp the dew of erbis wete
Vn to this clyft as it was won to be
Come Piramus / and after come Thysbe
And plyghtyn trouthe / fully in 1here fey
That ilke same nyght / to stelo a wey
And to begile / here wardeynys echon
And forth out of the / cete for to goon
And for the feldis ben so brode & wide
ffor to mete in on place at on tyde
They settyn marke here metynge wolde be
There kyng nynys was graue out of a tre
ffor olde 2payenys that Idolys heryed
Vsedyn tho in feldys to ben beryed
And faste by there graue was a welle
And schortely of this tale for to telle
This couenaunt was affermyd wondyr faste4
And longe hym thoughte that the suane laspe
That it nere gon vndyr the se a down
This tisbe hat so gret affeccioun
And so gret haste Piramus to se
That whan sche say hire tyme myghte be
At nygh sche stal a wey ful pruyly
With hire face I-wymplid subtyly
And alle hire frendis for to sauc hire trouthe
Sche hath forsake allas & that is routhe
That euere wolde ben so trewe
To truste man but sche the bet hym knewe
And to the tre sche goth a ful good pas
ffor loue made hire so hardy in this cas
And by the welle adoun / sche gan hyre dres
Allas there comyth a wilde lyones
Out of the wode with oute more aarest
With blody mouth of strangelenge of a best
To drynkyn of the welle there as sche sat 808
And whan that tisbe hadde espyed that
Sche rist hire vp with a ful dredy herte
And in a kaue with dredful fot sche sterte
før by the mone sche say it wel with-alle 812
And as sche ran hire wympil let sche falle
And tok non hed. so sore sche was a-wapid
And ek so glad that pat sche was escapid
And thus sche sit & darkyth wondyr stytte 816
Whan that this lyonesse hath dronke hire¹ fille
A-boute the welle gan sche for to wynde [¹ re corrected]
And ryght a-non the wympyl gan sche fynde 819
And with hire blody mouth it al to-rente [leaf 455, back]
Whan this was don no lengere sche ne stente
But to the wode hire weye thau ne hath sche nome
And at the laste this Piramus is come
But al to longe allass at hom was he 824
The mone schon & myghte wel y-se
And in his weye as that he com ful faste
Hise eyen to the ground a-doun he caste
And in the sond as he by-hild a-doun 828
He sey the steppis brode of a lyoun
And in his herte he sodeynly a-gros
And pale he wex therwith his herte a-ros
And ner he com & fond the wimpil torn 832
Alias quod he the day that I was born
This on nyght wele vs loueris bothe sle
How schulde I axe mercy of tisbe
Whan I am he that haue 3ow slayn allass 836
Myn biddyngh hath 3ow slayn as in this cas
Alias to bidde a woman gon be nyghte
In place there as peril falle myghte
And I so slayn allass I ne hadde be 840
Here in this place a furlong weye or 3e

GG. 4. 27
Now what lyoun that be in this forest
Myn body mote he renten or what best
That wilde is gnae mote he now myn herte
And with that word he to that wympil sterte
And kiste it ofte & wep on it ful sore
And seyde wympil allas there is no more
But thow schat feele as wel the blod of me
As thow hast felt the bledyng of Thisbe
And with that word he smot hym to the herte
The blod out of the wounde as brode sterte
As watyr whan the 1 condit brokyn is [1 o corrected]
Now Tisbe which that wiste nat of this
But sittynge in hire drede sche thoughte thus
If it so falle that myn piramus
Be comyn hidir & may me not I-syne
He may me holde fals & ek onkynde
And out she comyth & aftyr hym gan espien [leaf 456]
Bothe with hire herte & with hire eyen
And thouȝte I wele hym telly of myn drede
Bothe of the lyonesse & 2 al myn deede [2 a corrected]
And at the laste hire loue thanne hath sche founde
Detynge with ³ hese helys on the grounde [³ t scratch out]
Al blody & therwith a bak sche sterte
And lik the wawis quappe gan hire herte
And pale as box sche was & in a throwe
A-visede hire & gan hym wel to knowe
That it was piramus hire herte deere
Ho coude wryte which a dedly cheere
Hath Thisbe tho / & how hire⁴ heer she rente [⁴ hire cut out]
And how sche gan hire selue⁵ to turnemente [⁵ u corr.]
And how sche lyth & sowvnith on the grounde
And how sche wep of terys ful hise⁶ wounde [⁶ s corr.]
How medeled she hise⁶ blod with hire compleynyte
How with hise⁶ blod hire selue gan sche pente
How clyppith sche the deede cors allas
How doth this woful tisbe in this cas
How kyssith she his frosty mouth so cold
Ho hath don this & ho hath been so bold
To sle myn lyf o spek myn piramus /
I al thy n Tisbe that the callyth thus
And therwithal he lefty th vp his hed
[1 so scratched out]
This woful man that is nat fully ded
Whan that he herde the name of Tisbe cryen [² n corr. from m]
On hire he caste his e ne dedly eyen
And doun a-gayn & 3eldyth vp the gost
Tysbe ryst vp with-owntyn ony bost
And saw hire wympil & his eny schede [³, ⁴ re, s, corr.]
And ek his swerd that hym hath don to dont 889
Thanne spak sche thus myn woful hand quod she
Is strong I-now in swich a werk to me [³ Thanne corrected]
For loue schal seue me strenthe & hardynes 890
To make myn wounde large I-now I gesse [³ ge corr.]
I wele the folwe de & I wele be
Silawe & cause of thy n deth quod sche
And show that nothing saue the deth only [leaf 456, back]
Mighte the fro me depare trewely
Thow schat no more departe now fro me
Than from th the deth for I wele go with the [³ om corrected]
And now ³e wrecchede gelos faderysoure
We that whihom were childeryn 3oure
We preyen ³ow with-outyn more enuye
That in on graue that we motyn lye
Sithe loue hath brought vs to his pitous ende
And rygh-wis god to euer yonoure synde
That louyth trewely more prosperite
Than euere ³it hade P iramus & Tisbe
And lute no gentyl woman hyre assure [¹⁰ m corrected]
To potty hire in swich an aventure [¹¹ en corrected]
But god forbede but a woman can
Ben as trewe & louyng as a man
And for myn part I schal a-non it kythe
And with that word his swerd sche tok a-swythe

Gg. 4. 27
That warm was of hire louys blod & hot
And to the herte sche hire self smot
And thus is Tisbe & Piramus I-go
Of trewe men I fynde but fewe mo
In alle myne bokis saue this piramus
And therfore haue I spokyn of hym thus
ffor it is deynte for vs men to fynde
A man that can in loue been trewe & kynde
Here may 3e se what louere so he be
A woman dare & can as wel as he

[III.]

[THE LEGEND OF DIDO.]

Glorye & honour Virgile Mantoan
Be to thy name & I shal as I can
ffolwe thy lanterne as thow gost byforn

How Enea to Dido was forsworn
In Naso & Eneydos wele I take
The tenor & the grete effectis make
Whan troye brought was to distrucciou
By grekis sleyghte & namely by Synoun
Feynyenge the hors I-offerede to Mynerue

Thour which that many troyan muste sterue
And ector hadde aftyr his deth apiered
And fyr so wod it my3e nat been steerid
In al the noble toure of ylioun
That of the cete was the chif dongeoun
And al the cuntre was so lowe brought
And priamus the kyng fordon & nought
And Enyas was chargit by Venus
To fleaen a-wey & he tok ascaniuse
That was his sone in his rygh hand & fledde
And on his bak he bar & withym ledde
His owene fadyr I-clepid Anchises
And by the weye his wif Crusa he les
And meche sorwe hadde he in his mynde
Or that he coude his felaue schepe fynde
But at the laste whan he hadde hem founde
He made hym redy in a certeyn stounde
And to the se wol faste he gan hem hye
And saylyth forth / al his cumpaynye
Toward yatayle as wolde his destene
But of hisse auentourys in the se
Nis nat to purpos for to speke of heyre
flor it acordyth nat to myn matere
But as I seyde of hym & of Dido
Schal be myn tale til that I haue do
So longe he saylede in the salte se
Tyl in libie onethe aryuede he
With schepis vij & with no more nauye
And glad was he to londe for to hye
So was he with the tempest al to-shake
And whan that he the hauene hadde take
He hadde a knyght was clepid achates
And hym of al his felauschepe he ches
To gon with hym the cunte for tespie
He tok with hym no more cumpaynye
But forth they gon & lafte his schepis ryde
His fere & he with-outyn any gyde
So longe he walkyth in this wildyrnesse
Til at the laste he mette an hunteresse
A bowe in hande and arwis hadde sche
Hire clouthis cutte were vn-to the kne
But sche was 3it the fayreste creature
That euere was I-formyd by nature
And Eneas & Achates sche grette
And thus sche to hem spak whan sche hem mette
Saw 3e quod sche as 3e han walkid wyde
Onye of myne susteryn walke 3ow be syde
With ony wilde bor or ethir beste 980
That they han huintid to in this forest 984
I-tukkid vp with arwis in hire cas
Nay sothly lady quod this Enyas
But by thyn beute as it thynkyt me
Thow myghtyst neuere ethely woman be
But Phebus systyr art thow as I gesse
And If so be that thow be a goddesse
Haue mercy on oure labour & oure wo 988
I ne am no goddesse sothly quod sche tho
ffor maydenys walkyn in this cuentre here
With arwis & with bowe in this manere
This is the reyne of libie there 3e ben 992
Of that Dido lady is & queen
And schortely tolde hym al te occasyoun
Whi Dido cam in to that regioun
Of whiche as now me lestyth nat to ryme 996
It nedyth nat it were but los of tyme
ffor this is al & som it was venus
His owene modyr that spak thus
And to cartage he bad he schulde hym dighte 1000
And vanyschid a-non out of his syghte
I coude folwe word for word Virgile
But it schule lastyn al the longe while
This noble queen that clepid was dido 1004
That whilom was the wif of Sytheo
That fayrere was than is the bryghte sunne
This noble toun of cartage hath bygunne
In which sche regnyth in so gret honour [leaf 428] 1008
That sche was holdyn alle queenys flour
Of gentillesse of fredom of beute
That wel was hym that myghte hire onys se
Of kyngis & of lordis so desyred 1012
That al the world hire beute hadde I-fyred
Sche stod so wel in euery wightis grace
Whan Enya was come on to that place

GG. 4. 27
308 PAR.-TEXT

244 LEGEND OF GOOD WOMEN. MS. Gg. 4. 27, CAMB.

Vn-to the maystir temple of al the toun

Ther Dido was in hire deuocyon

ful pryuyly his weye thus hath he nome

When he was in the large temple come

I can nat seyn If that it be possible

But Venus hadde hym makid inuysible

Thus seyt the bok with-outyn ony les

And whan this Enyas & Achates

Haddyn in this temple ben oueral

Thanne founde they depeyntid on the wal

How troye & al the lond distroyed was

Allas that I was born quod Enyas

Thour out the worl oure shame is kid so wyde

Now it is peyntid vp-on euery syde

We that weryn in prosperite

 Been now disclanderyd & in swich degræ

No lengere lyuyn I ne kepe

And with that word he brast out for to wepe

So tendyrly that routhe it was to sene

This frosche lady of the cete queene

Stod in the temple in hire estat ryal

So rychely and ek so fayr with al

So song so lusty with hire eyen glade

That If that god that heuene & erte made

Wolde han a loue for beute & goodnesse

And womanhod & trouthe & semelynesse

Whom schulde he louyn but this lady swete

Ther nys no woman to hym half so mete

ffortune that hath the world in gouernaunce

Hath sodeynly brough in so newe a chaunce

That nevere jet was so fremde a cas

ffor al the cumpaynye of Enyas

With that he wende a lorn in the se

Aryuyd is nat fer from that Cete

ffor which the gretteste of hise lordis some

By auenture ben to the cete come

gg. 4. 27
Vn to that same temple for to seke
The queene & of hire socour to beyseke
Swich renoun was there sprongyn of hire goodnesse
And whan that they hadden told al here distresse
And al here tempest & here harde cas
Vn-to the quyen apiered Enyas [e for y]
And opynly he knew that it was he
Ho hadde Ioye thane but his meyne
That hadde founde here lord here gouernour
The quyen saugh that they dede hym swych honour
And hadde herd ofte of Eneas er tho
And in hire herte she hadde routhe & wo
That euere swich a noble man as he
Schal ben diserityd in swich degre
And saw the man that he was lyk a knyght
And sufficiaunt of persone & of mygh
And lyk to been a verray gentil man
And wel hise wordis he besette can
And hadde a noble visage for thenonys
And formed wel of braun & of bonys
ffor aftyr Venus hadde he swich fayrnesse
That no man myghte be half so fayr I gesse
And wel a lord he semede for to be
And for he was a strauenger sumwhat sche
Likede hym the bet as god do bote
To sum folk ofte newe thyng is sote
Anon hire herte hath pite of his wo
And with that pete loue come in also
And thus for pete & for gentillesse
Refreschede muste he been of his distresse
And seyde certis that sche sory was
That he hath had swych peryl & swich cas
And in hire fendely speche in this manere
Sche to hym spak & seyde as 3e may here
Be 3e nat venus sone & anchises
In good fey al the worshepe & encres

CHAUERER MI.
That I may goodly don 30w 3e schal haue
3oure schepis & 3oure meyne shal I save
And manye a gentil word sche spak hym to
And comaunderd hire massangerys for to go
The same day with outyn any fayle
Hise schippis for to seke & hem vitayle
Sche manye a beste to the shippis sente
And with the wyn sche gan hym to presente
And to hire real paleys she hire spedde
And Enyas alwey with hire she ledde
What nedyth 30w the feste to descre
He neuere // at ese was betyr in al hese lyve
fful was the feste of deynteis & rychesse
Of instrumentis of song & of gladnesse
Of manye an amerous lokyng & deuys
This Enyas is come to paradys
Out of the swolw of helle & thus in Ioye
Remembrith hym of his estat in troye
To daunysynge chaumberys ful of paramentys
Of riche beddis & of ornemontis
This Enyas is led affyr the mete
And with the quene / whan he hadde sete
And spicis partid & the wyn agon
Vn-to his chambris was he led a non
ffor his ese & for to take his ese reste
With al his folk to don what so hem leste
There nas courser wel I-brydelid non
Ne stede for to iuste wel to gon
Ne large palfrey esy for thenonys
Ne Iewel frettid ful of rychen stony
Ne sakkis ful of gold of large weyghte
Ne rubye non that shynede be nyghte
Ne gentil hawtein faucouz heroner
Ne hound for hert or wilde bor or der
Ne coupe of gold with floreynys newe I-bete
That in the land of libie may be gete
That Dido hath it Enyas I-sent
And al is payed what pat he hath spent
Thus can this honorable quene hire gestis calle
As sche that can in fredom passyn alle
Eneas sothly ek with oute les
Hadde sent on to his schip by Achates
Aftyr his sone & aftar riche thyngis
Bothe septre clothis & ek brochis ryngis
Some for to were & some to presente
To hþ that alle thyngis hym sente
And bad his sone how that he schulde make
The presente & to the quyen it take
Repeyrid is this achates agayn
And Enyas ful blysful is & fayn
To sen this blysful sone Ascanys
But nathelesoure autour tellith vs
That Cupido that is the god of loue
At preyere of his modyr hye a boue
Hadde the liknesse of the child I-take
This holy queen enamorede to make
On Eneas but as of that scripture
Be as be may I take of it no cure
But soth is this the queen hath mad swich chere
Vnto this child that wondir is to here
And of the present that his fadyr sente
Sche thankyth hym ful ofte with good entente
Thus is this quyen in plesaunce & in Ioye
With alle these newe lusti folk of troye
And of the dedis hath she more enquyrid
Of Enyas & al the story lerid
Of TROYE & al the longe day they tweye
Entendedyn to spekyn & to pleye
Of whiche ther gan to bredyn swich a fyer
That sely Dido hath now swich desyr
With Enyas hire newe geste to dele
That sche hath lost hire hewe & ek hire hele
Now to the effect now comyth the freut of al
Whi I haue told this story & telle schal
Thus I begyne it fil vp on a nyght
Whan that the mone vp reysed hadde his lyght
This noble queene on to hire reste wente
Sche sikyth sore & gan hyre self turnemente
Sche waylith & sche makith manye a breyde
As don these loueris as I haue herd seyde
And at the laste vnto hire systyr anne
Sche made hire mone & ryght thus spak sche thanne
Now leue sistyr myn what may it be
That me agastith in myn slep quod she
This newe troyan is so in myn thought
Me thynkith that he is so wel I-wrought
And likli for to ben a man
And ek thereto so mech good he can
That al myn loue & lyf lyth in his cure
Haue 3e nat herd his auenture
Now certis anne if that 3e rede it me
I wolde fayn to hym I-weddit be
This is the effect what schüde I more seye
In hym lyth al / to do me leue or deye
Hyre systir Anne as she that coude hire good
Seyde as hire thoughte & sumdel it with stod
But herof was so long a sarmouznyng
It were to longe to make rehersyng
But finaly it may nat ben withstande
Loue wil loue for no thing wele it wande
The dawenyng vp rist out of the se
This amerous quien chargithoure meyne
The nettis dresse & speris brode & kene
An huntyng wolde this lusti fresche queene
So prikyth hire this newe iolye wo
To hors is al his lusty folk I-go
In to the court the houndis been I-brought
And vp-on courseris swift as ony thought
Hire ʒonge knyghtis houyn al a-boute 1196
And of hire wemen ek an huge route
Vp on a thikke palfrey paper whit [leaf 460, back]
With sadyl red enbroudidit with delyt
Of gold the barris vp enbosede hye 1200
Sit Dido al in gold & perre wrye
And she as bright as is the bryght morwe
That helith syke men of nyghtis sorwe
Vp on a courser stertelynge as the fyr 1204
Men myghte turne hym with a litil wyr
Sit Enyas lik phebus to deuyse
So was he frosch arayed in his wyse
The fomy brydil with the bit of gold 1208
Gouernyth he ryght as hym self hath wold
And forth this noble queen this lady ride
On huntynge with this troyan by hyre side
The hirde of hertis Is I-founde a-non 1212
With hay bobet pryke thow lat gon lat gon
Why nyl the liouw comy or the bere
That I myghte hym onys mete with this spere
Thus sey these ʒonge folk & vp they kylle 1216
These bestys wilde & han hem at here wille
Among al this to rumbelyn gan the heuene
The thundyr rorede with a gresey steuene
Down cam the reyn with hayl & slet so faste 1220
With heuenys fer that it so sore agaste
This noble quien & also hire meyne
That iche of hem was glad a-wey to fle
And schortely from the tempest hire to saue 1224
Sche fledde hireself in to a litil caue
And with hire wente this Enyas also
I not with hem If there wente any mo
The autour makyth of it no menciouw 1228
And here be-gan the depe affeccioun
Be twixe hem two this was the første morwe
Of hire gladnesse & gynmere of hire sorwe

gg. 4. 27
ffor there hath Enyas I-kneled so
And told hire al his erte & al his wo
And swore so depe to hire to be trewe
ffor wel or wo & chaunge hire for no newe
And as a fals louere so wel can pleyne
That sely dido rewede on his peyne
And tok hym for husbonde & become his wyf
ffor eueremo whil that hym lefte lyf
And aftyr whil that the tempest stynte
With myrthe out as they comyn hom they wente
The wikke fame a-ros & that a-non
How Enias hath with the queen I-gon
In to the caue & demede as hem leste
And whan the kyng that yarbis highte it woste
As he that hadde I-louyd euere his lyf
And wowede hyre to han hire as his wyf
Swich sorwe as he makede & swich cheere
It is a routhe & pite for to here
But in loue alday it happith so
That on schal layghyn of a notherys wo
Now layhith enias & is in Ioye
And more richesse than euere was in troye
O sely wemen ful of Innocence
flul of pite of trouthe of concience
What makyth 3ow to men to truste so
Haue 3e swych routhe vp-on hyre feynede wo
And han swich olde ensaumples 3ow be-forn
Se 3e nat alle how that 3e ben forsworn
Where sen 3e on that he ne hath laft his lief
Or ben onkynde or don hire sum myschief
Or pilid hire or bostid of his dede
3e may as wel it sen as 3e may it rede
Thak hede now of this grete gentil man
This troyan that so wel hire plesyn can
That feynyth hym so trewe & obeysynge
So gentil & so trewe of his doinge

ag. 4. 27
And can so wel don alle hise obeysauncis 1268
And waytyn hire at festis & at dauncis
And whan sche goth to temple & hom ageyn 1272
And fastyn til he hath his lady seyn
And beryn in hise deuysis for hire sake
Not I not what & songis wolde he make
Iustyn & don of Armys manye thyngis [leaf 461, back]
Synde hire letteres tokenys brochis ryngis
Now herkith how he schal his lady serue 1276
There as he was in paril for to sterue
ffor hungry & for myschif in the se
And desolat & fled from his cuntre
And al his folk with tempest al to-dryuy
Sche hath hire body & ek hire reame 3ouyn
In to his hand there as she myghte haue been
Of othere landys than of cartage quien
And lyuyd in Ioye I-now what wele 3e more 1284
This Enyas that hath so depe Iswore
Is wery of his craft with-inne a throwe
The hote earnest is al ouerblowe
And pruyuyl he doth hise shepis dyghte 1288
And shapith hym to stel a-wey be nyghte
This dido hath suspescioum of this
And thoughte wel that it was al a-mys
ffor in hire bed sche lyth a nyght & sykyth 1292
Sche axeth hym a-non what hym mys lykyth
Myn dere herte whiche that I loue most
Sertis quod he this nyght myn faderys gost
Hath in myn slep so sore me tormentid 1296
And ek mercurye his massage hath presentid
That nedis to the conquest of ytayle
Myn destene is sone for to sayle
ffor which me thynkyth brostyn is myn herte
Therwith hise false terys out they sterte
And takith hire with-Inne hise armys two
Is that in earnest quod sche wele 3e so

cc. 4. 27
Haue 3e nat sworn to wyue me to take
Allas what weman wele 3e of me make
I am a gentil woman & a quien
3e wele nat from 3oure wif thus foule fleen
That I was born allas what schal I do
To telle in schort this noble quen dydo
Sche sekith halwis & doth sacryfise
Sche knelyth cryeth that routhe is to deuyse
Coniurith hym & proferyth hym to be
[leaf 162]
His thral his servaunt in the lestgre
Sche fallith hym to-fore & sowunnyth ther
Discheuele with hire bryghte gilte her
And seyth hauyth mercy & let me with 3ow ryde
These lordis whiche that wonyn me be syde
Wele me destroyen only for 3oure sake
And so 3e wele me now to wine take
As 3e han sworn thanne wele I 3eue 3ow leue
To slen me with 3oure swerd now sone at eue
flor thanne 3it schal I deye as 3oure wif
I am with childe & 3eue myn child his lyf
Mercy lord hauyth pete in 3oure thought
But al this thing auaylith hire rygh nought
flor on a nyght slepynge he let hire lye
And stal a-wey on to his cumpaynye
And as a traytoure forth he gan to sayle
Toward the large cuntre of ytayle
Thus he hath laft dido in wo & peyne
And weddede ther a lady hyt3te lauyne
A cloth he lafte & ek his swerd stoundynge
Whaz he from Dido stal in hire slepyng
Ryght at hire beddys hed so gan he hie
Whan that he stal a-wey to his nauye
Which cloth whan selly dido gan a-wake
Sche hath it kyst & ful ofte for his sake
And seyde o swete cloth whil Iuppiter it leste
Tak now myn soule & brynge it of this onreste

\textit{gg. 4. 27}
I haue fulfild of fortune al the cours 1340
And thus with outyn his socours
Twenti tyme Iswounyd hath sche thanne
And whanne that sche vn-to hire systyr Anne
Compleynede hadde of which I may nat wryte 1344
So gret a reuthe I haue for tendite
And bad hire norice & hire sistir gon
To fechyn fyr & othyr thyng a-non
And seyde that sche wolde sacryfye 1348
And whan she myghte hire tyme wel espie
Vp-on the fir of sacryfise she sterte [leaf 462, back]
And with his swerd she rof hyre herte
But 3it as myn autour right thus sche seyde 1352
Or she was hurt by-forn or she deyede
Sche wrot a lettere a-non that thus be-gan
Ryght so quod she as that the white swan
A$ens his deth be-gynnyth for to synge 1356
Right so to 3ow make I myn compleynynge
Not that I trowe to getyn 3ow a-geyn
ffor wel I wot that it is al in veyn
Syn that the goddis been contrarye to me 1360
But syn myn name is lost thour 3ow quod she
I may wel lese on 3ow a word or lettere
Al be it that I shal ben neuere the bettere
ffor thilke wynd that blew 3oure schip a-vey 1364
The same wynd hath blowe a-vey 3oure fey
But ho so wele al this lettere hauyn in mynde
Rede he ouyde & in hym he shal it fynde
[THE LEGEND OF HYPsipyle AND MEDEA.]

How rote of falce loueris Duc Iason
Thow sly deuourere & confusioun
Of tendere wemen gentil cryaturys
Thow madist thyn recleymyng & thyn luris
To ladyis of thyn statly aparauence
And of thyne wordis farced with plesaunce
And of thyne feynede trouthe & thyn manere
With thyn obeysaunce & humble cheere
And with thyne contrefetid Peyne & wo

There othere falsyn on thow falsist two
O oftyyn sworist thow that thow woldist deye
flor loue whan thow ne feltist malesde
Saune foul delyt whiche that tow callist loue
3if that I leue thy name shal be shoue
In englis that thyn sekte shal be knewe
Haue at the Iason now thyn horn is blowe
But serta it is both routhe & wo
That loue with false loueris werkyth so
flor they schal haue wel betere loue & chere
Than he that hath abought his loue wol dere
Or hadde in armys manye a blodi box
flor euere as tendere a capoun et the fox
Thow he be fals & hath the foul be-trayed
As shal the goode man that therfore hath payed
Al haue he to the capoun skille & ryght
The false fox wele haue his part at nyght
On Iason this ensaunple is wel I-sene
By Isiple & media the queene
In Tessalie as guidou tellith vs
There was a kynge that highte pelleus
That hadde a brothyr that highte Eson
And wha as age he myghte vnnethis gon

Gg. 4. 27
He saf to Pelleus the gouernyng
Of al his regne & made hym lord & kyng
Of whiche Eson this Iason getyn was
That in his tyme in al that land there nas
Nat swich a famous knyght of gentilnes
Of fredom & of strenthe & lustynes
Aftyr his fadiris deth he bar hym so
That there nas non that liste ben his fo
But dide hym al honour & compaynye
Of which this Pelleus hadde gret enuye
Imagynyng that Iason myghte be
Enhaunsede so & put in swich degre
With loue of lordis of his region
That from his regne he myghte ben put a down
In his wit a nyght compassede he
How Iason myghte best distroyed be
With oute sclaudere of his compassement
And at the laste he tok a-vysement
To syndyn hym in to sum fer cuntre
Here as this Iason may distroyed be
This was his wit al made he to Iason
Gret chiere of loue & of affeccioun
ffor dred lest his lordis it espiede
Tho fyl it so as fame rennyth wide
Theere was swich tydyng oueral & swich loos
That in an ylde that callid was colcos
Bejonde Troye estward in the se
That therin was a ram that men may se
That hadde a fles of gold that shon so bryghte
That nower was swich a-nothir syghte
But it was kept alwey with adragoun
And manye othere merveylis vp & doun
And with two bolys makyd al of bras
That spittyyn fer & meche othir thyng there was
But this was ek the tale natheles
That who so wolde wynne tylke fles

gg. 4. 27
He muste bothe or he it wyzne myghte
With the bole & the dragoun fyghte
And kyng Oetes lord was of that yle
This Pelleus be-thoute hym vp-on this wile
That he his neveu Iason wolde enhorte
To saylyn to that lond hym to disporte
And seyde neuew If it myghte be
That swiche a worchepe myghte fallyn the
That thw this famous tresore myghtist wyzne
And bryngyn it myyn region with-inne
It were to me gret plesaunce & honour
Thanne were I holde to quyte thyn labour
And al the cost I wele myyn seluyn make
Schis what folk that thow wit with the take
Lat sen now daryst thow take this viage
Iason was song & lusty of corage
And vndyr tok to don this empryse
A-non Argus his schepis gan deuyse
And with Iason wente the stronge Ercules
And manye a-nothir that he with hym ches
But who so axeth who is with hym gon
Lat hym ryde argonautycoun
sfor he wele telle a tale long I-now
Philoteces a-non the sayl vp drow
Whan that the wynd was good & gan hym hye
Out of his cuntre callid Thessalye
So longe he seylieth in the salte se
Til in the yle of lenouz aryuede he
Al be this nat rehersid of Gwido
3it seyth ouyde in his estelis so
And of this Ile lady was & quien
The fayre 3ynge ysiphele the shene
That thosas doughtyr was the kyng
Isiphile was gon in hire pleying
And romynge on the clyuys by the se
Vndyr a banke anon aspiede she

1436 1440 1444 1448 1452 1456 1459 1464 1468
Where that the ship of Iason gan a-ryue 1472
Of hire goodnesse a-douz she sendyth blythe
To wetyn If that any straunge wight
With tempest were thidy r blew a nyght
To don hem socour as was hire vsaunce 1476
To fortheryn euery wight & to don plesaunce
Of verry bounte & of curteysye
This messangeer a-douz hym gan to hye
And fond Iason & Ercules also 1480
That in a cog to londe were I-go
Hem to refrosche & for to take the eyr
The morwynge attempre was & fayr
And in his weye this massanger hym mette 1484
fful cuanyngely these lordis two he grette
And deo his massage axinge hym a-non
If they were brokyn or ought wo begun
Or haddy a node of lodman or vitayle 1488
Or of socour they schulde no thyng fayle
ffor it was outrely the quien is wille
Iason answerde mekely & style
Myn lady quod he thanke I hertyly 1492
Of hire goodnesse vs nedyth trewely
Nothyng as now but that we wery be
And come for to pleye out of the se
Tyl that the wynd be bettyr in hire weye 1496
This lady romyth by the clfy to pleye
Wyth hire meyne endelong the stronde
[leaf 464, back]
And fyndith Iason & these othere stonde
In spekyng of this thyng as I 3ow tolde 1500
This Ercules & Iason gan be-holde
How that the queen it was & fayre hire grette
Anon ryght as they with this lady mette
And sche tok hed & knew by hyre manyere 1504
By hire aray by wordys & by chiere
That it were gentil men of gret degre
And to the castel with hire ledyth she
These straunge folk & doth hem gret honour
And axeth hem of trauayle & labour
That they han suffered in the salte se
So that with-inne a day or two or thre
Sche knew by folk that in his shepis be
That it was Iason ful of renone
And Ercules that hadde tho gret los
That soughtyn the auenturys of Calcos
And dede hem honour more than be-fore
And with hem delede euere lengere the more
ffor they ben worthy folk with-oute les
And namely most she spak with ercules
To hym hire herte bar / he shulde be
Sad wys & trewe of wordys a-vyse
With-outen any othir affeccioun
Of loue or enyl ymagynacyoun
This Ercules hath so this Iason preysid
That to the suwne he hath hym vp areysid
That so trewe a man there nas of loue
Vndyr the cape of heue that is aboue
And he was wis hardy secre & ryche
Of these thre poynitis there nas no man hym liche
Of fredom passede he & lustyhede
Alle tho that lyuyn & been dede
Therto so gret a gentilman was he
And of thessalye likly kyng to be
There nas no lak but that he was agast
To loue & for to speke shamefast
Hym selue to mordere & deye
Than that men shude a louere hym espye
As wolde god that pat I hadde 3eue
Myn blod & flesch so that I myghe leue
With nonys so that he hadde a wif
ffor hyse estat for whiche a lusty lyf
Sche shulde lede with this lusty knygght
And al this was compassid in the nyght

Gg. 4. 27
By-twixe hym Iason & this Ercules
Of these two here was a shrewede lees
To come to house vp-on an Innocent
ffor to be-dote this queen was here assent
And Iason is as coy as is a mayde
He lokyth pitously but nought he sayde
But frely 3af he to hire conseylerys
3iftys grete & to hire offiserys
As wolde god I leyser hadde & tyme
By proces al his wowyng for to ryme
But in this hous If ony fals louere be
Ryth as hym self doth rygh so dede he
With feynynge & with euery subtyl dede
3e gete na more of me but 3e wele rede
Thorignyal that tellyth al the cas
The somme is this that Iason weddit was
Vn-to this queen & tok of it substauonce
What so hym leste onto his puruyauonce
And vp-on hire be-gat he childeryn two
And drow his sayl & saw hym neuere mo
A lettere sente she to hym serteyn
Whiche were to longe to wryte & to sen
And hym reprevith of his ontrouthe
And preyeth on hire to haue sum routhe
And of hire childeryn two she seyde hym this
That they ben lyk of alle thynge I-wis
To Iason save they coude nat be-gile
And preyede to god or it were long while
That she that hadde hire herte I-raft hire fro
Muste fyndyn hym ontrewe also
And that sche muste bothe hire chylderyn spylle
And alle tho that sufferede hym his wille
And trewe to Iason was she al hire lyf
And euere kepte hire chast/ as for his wif
Ne nevere hadde she Ioye at hire herte
But devede for his loun / of sorwe smerte
To calcos comyn is this Duc Iason 1580
That is of loue deoure & dragoun
As matier apetitith forme alwey
And from forme in to forme it passyn may 1584
Or as a well that were botemeles
Ryght so can fals Iason haue no pes
for to desyryn thour his apetit
To don with gentil wemen his delyt
This is his lust & his felicite 1588
Iason is romyd forth to the Cyte
That whilom clepid was Iaconitos
That was the mayster toun I-clepid Colcos
And hath I-told the cause of his comyng 1592
Vn-to Oetes of that cuntre kyng
Preyinge hym that he muste don his assay
To gete the fles of gold If that he may
Of whiche the kyng assentede to his bone 1596
And doth hym honour as it was to done
So fer forth that his doughter & his ayr
Media that was so wis & fayr
That fayrre say there neuere man with eye 1600
He made hire don to Iason cumpaynye
At mete & sitte by hym in the halle
Now was Iason a semely man with alle
And lyk a lord & hadde a gret renoun 1604
And of his lok as real as a leoun
And goodly of his speche & familer
And coude of loue al the craft & art pleyner
With outhe bok & euerche obseruance 1608
And as fortune hire oughte a foul myschaunce
Sche wex enamourrid vp-on this man
Iason quod sche for oughte I se or can
As of this thyng of whiche 3e ben a-boutyn [leaf 466] 1612
3e han 3oure self put in meche doute
ffor ho so wele this auenture acheue
He may nat wel astertyn as I leue

eg. 4. 27
With-outyn deth but I his helpe be 1616
But natheles it is myn wyle quod sche
To fortheryn 3ow so that 3e schal nat die
But turnyn sound hom / to 3oure tessalye
Myn ryght lady quod this Iason tho 1620
That 3e han of myn deth or of myn wo
Any reward & don me this honour
I wot wel that myn mygh ne myn labour
May nat disserue it in myn lyuys day 1624
God thanke 3ow there I ne can ne may
3oure man I am & lonely 3ow be-seche
To ben myn helpe with-oute more speche
But sertis for myn deth schal I nat spare
Tho gan this Media to hym declare
The peril of this cas from poyn to poyn
And of his batayle & in what disioynt
He muste stonde of whiche no cryature 1632
Saue only she ne myghte his lyf assure
And shortly to the poyn to ryght for to go
They been acordit ful by twixe hem two
That Iason shal hire wedde as trewe knyght
And terme set to come sone at nyght
Vn-to hire chambr & make there his oth
Vp-on the goddys that he for lef or loth
Ne shulde neuere hire false nyght ne day 1640
To ben hire husbonde whil he lyue may
As she that from his deth hym sauyth here
And here vp a nyghtthey mette in feere
And doth his oth & goth with hire to bedde 1644
And on the morwe vpward he hym spedde
flor she hath taught hym how he shal nat fayle
The flies to wynne & stynted his batayle
And sauede hym his lyf & his honour 1648
And gat hym a name ryth as a conquerour
Rygh thowr the sleyte of hire enchau[n]tement [leaf 466, back]
Now hath Iason the flies & hom is went

CHAUCER MI. 18
With Media & tresor ful gret won
But on-wist of hire fadyr is she gon
To Tessaly with Duk Iason hire lef
That aftyrward hat brought hire to myschef
for as a traytour he is from hire go
And with hire lafte hire 3ynge childere two
And falsely hath be-traysede hire alas
As euere in loue a thef & traytour he was
And weddyth 3it the thredde wif a-non
That was the doughtyr of the kyng Creon
This is the mede of louynge & guerdoun
That Medya receyuyth of Iason
Rygh for hire treuthe & for hire kyndenesse
That louede hym betere than hire self I gesse
And lafte hire fadyr & hire erytage
And of Iason this is the vassellage
That in his dayis nas ther non I-founde
So fals a louere goinge on the grounde
And therfore in hire lettere thus she seyde
fyrst of his falsenesse whan she hym vpbreyde
Whi lyked me thyn 3elwe her to se
More than the boundys of myn oneste
Why lyked me thyn 3outhe & thyn fayrnesse
And of thyn tunge the infynyt graciousnesse
O haddist thow in thyn conquest ded I-be
fiul meche ontrouthe hadde deyed with the
Wel can ouyde hire lettere in vers endyte
Whiche were as now to longe for me to wryte

1652
1656
1660
1664
1668
1672
1676
[V.]

[THE LEGEND OF LUCRECE.]

Now mote I seyn the exilynge of kyngis 1680
Of Rome for here orible doingis
Of the laste kyng Tarquinius
As seyth Ouyde & Titus Lyuius

But for that cause ne telle I nat this storye [leaf 407] 1684

But for to preyse & drawe to me memorye
The very wif the very trewe lucresse
That for hyre wifhod & hire stedefastnesse
Nat only for these Payenys hire comende 1688
But he that clepid is in oure legende
The grete Austyn hath gret compassiou
Of this lucresse that starf at rome toun
And in what wise I wele but shortly trete 1692
And of al this thyng / & tuche but the grete
Whan Ardea be-seged was aboute
With romeynys that ful sterne were & stoute
fful longe lay the sege & lytil wroughten 1696
So that they were half Idyl as hem thou3ten
And in his pley tarquinius the 3onge
Gan for to Iape for he was lyght of tunge
And seyde it was an ydil lyf 1700
No man dide there no more than his wif
And lat vs speke of weyuys & that is best
Preyse euery man his owene as hym lest
And with oure speche lat vs ese oure herte 1704
A knyght that highte Colatyn vp sterte
And seyde thus nay sire it is no nede
To trowyn on the word but on the dede
I haue a wif quod he that as I trowe 1708
I holdyn good of alle that euere hire knowe
Go we to nyght to rome & we shal se
Tarquinius answerd that likyth me

gg. 4. 27
To rome be they come & faste hem dyghte 1712
To Colatynys hous / & doun they lyghte
Tarquinius & ek this Colatyn
The husbonde knew the estris wel & fyn 1716
And ful priuylie in-to the hous they gon
Nor at the 3ote porter nas there non
And at the chambre dore they gan abyde
This noble wif sat by hire beddis side
Discheule for no maleyce she ne thoughte 1720
And softe wolle seyth that she wroughte
To kepe hire from sloute & Idilnesse
And bad hire servauntings don hire besynesse
And axith hem what tydyngis heryn 3e 1724
How seyth men of the sege how shal it be
God wolde the wal were falle adoun
Myn husbonde is so longe out of this toun
for which the drede doth me so sore smerte
That with a swerd me thynkyth that to myn herte
It styngith me when I thynke on that place
God saue myn lord I preye hym for his grace
And ther-with-al ful tendirly sche wep 1728
And of hire werk tok no more no kep
And mekely hyre eyen let she falle
And tilke semblau[n]t sat hire wel with-alle
And hire teris ful of oneste
Emblemyschid hire wifly chastite
And with that word hire husbonde colatyn
Or she was war come stertynge In
And seyde drede the nat for I am here 1732
And she a-non vp ros with blysful chere
Hyre cuenenaunce is to hire herte dygne
for they acorde bothe in dede & sygne
And kiste hym as of wiuys is the won 1736
Tarquinius this proude kyngis sone
Conseyuede hath hire beute & hyre cheere
Hire 3elwe her hire shap & hire manere

[leaf 467, back]

[see l. 1738-9 in the other texts]
Hire hew hire wordis that she hath compleynyd 1748
And by no craft hire beute nas nat feynyd 1752
And caughte to this lady swich desyr
That in his herte brende as any fer
So wodly that his wit is al forgetyn 1752
ffor he woste wel she wolde nat ben getyn
And ay the more that he was in dispayr
The more coueyth hire & thoughte hire fayr
This blynde lust was al his coueytyng 1756
A morwe whan the brid be-gan to synde
Vn-to the sege he comyth ful pr'uluiy
And by hym self he walkyth sobirly
Thymage of hire recordynge alwey newe 1760
Thus lay hire her / & thus frosch was hyre hewe
Thus sat thus spak thus span thus was hire chere
Thus fayr sche was & thus was hire manere
Al this conseit hys herte hath now I-take 1764
And as the se with tempest al to-shake
3it aftyr whan the storm is al a gou
3it wele the watyr quappe a day or two
Rygh so thow that hire forme were absent 1768
The plesaunce of hire forme was present
Natheles nat plesaunce but delit
Or an onrightful talent with dispit
ffor maugre hyre she schal myn leman be 1772
Hap helpith hardy man alday quod he
What ende that I make it shal be so
And gerte hym with his swerd & gan to go
And forth he rit til he to rome is come 1776
And al a-lone his weye hathe he nome
Vn-to the hous of Colatyn ful ryght
Doun was the sonne & day hath lost hire lyght
And in he comyth in to a prine halk 1780
And in the nyght ful thesly gan he stalk
Whan euery wight was to his reste braught
Ne no wight hadde of tresoun swich a thought
Were it by wyadow or by othyr gyn
With swerd drawe shortly he come In
There as sche lay the noble wif lucresse
And as she wok hire bed she felte presse
What beste quod she is that weyeth thus
I am the kyngis sone tarquinius
Quod he but & thou crye or noyse make
Or If there ony creature awake
By thilke god that formede man a lyue
This swerd thour out thyn herte shal I ryue
And therwith al in to hire throte he sterte
And sette the poynct al sharp vp-on hire herte
No word she spak she hath no myght therto
What shal she seyn hire wit is al ago
Rytht as a wolf that fynt a lomb a lone
To whom shal she compleyne or make mone
What shal she fyghte with an hardy knyght
Wel wot men that a woman hath no myght
What shal she crye or how shal she asterte
That hast hire by the throte with a swerd at herte
She axeth grace & seyth al that she can
Ne wilt thou nat quod he this crewel man
As wisely Jupiter myn soule sawe
As I shal in the stable slen thyn knawe
And ley hym In thyn bed & loude crye
That I the fynde In anoutercye
And thus thou shalt be ded & also lese
Thyn name for thou shalt non othir chese
These Romeyn wyuys louede so here name
At Ilike tyme & drede so here shame
That what for fer of sclaunder & drede of deth
Sche loste at onys bothe wit & breth
And in a swo¹ she lay & wex so ded
Men myghte smyte of hire arm or hed
Sche felyth no thyng neythur foul ne fayr
Tarquinius that art a kyngis Ayr

[leaf 408, back]
And sholdist as be lynage & be ryght
Don as a lord & as a worthy knyght
Whi hast tow don disput to chialrye
Whi hast tow this lady vilanye
Alas of the this was a vileyn dede
But now to purpos in the story I rede
Whan this was gon & this myschaunce befalle
This lady sente after hire frendis alle
ffodyr modyr husbonde alle In feere
And al discheuele with hire herys cleere
In abit swich as wemen vsyn tho
Vn-to the buryinge of hire frendys go
Sche sit In halle with a sorweful sighte
Hyre fryndys axen what hire eylyn myghte
And who was ded & she sit ay wepyng
A word for shame forth ne myght she brynge

[Ne vpon hem / she durste nat beholde
But atte last of Tarquyny / she hem tolde
This rewful case / and al thys thing horryble
The woo to telle / hyt were impossible
That she and al hir frendes / make attones
Al had folkes hertys / ben of stones
Hyt myght have maked hem / vpon hir rewe
Hir hert was so wyfely / and so trewe
She sayde that for hir gylt / ne for hir blame
Hir husbonde shulde nat haue / the foule name
That nolde she suffre / by no wey
And they vnswerde alle / vn-to hir fey
That they for-gaf hyt hyr / for hyt was ryght
Hyt was no gilt / hit lay not in hir myght
And seyden hir ensamples / many oon
But al for noght / for thus she seyde anoont
Be as be may quod she / of forgyfynge
X wol not haue noo forgyft / for no-things
But pryvely she kaught / forthe a knyfe
And therwith-alle / she rafte hir selfe hir lyfe

Leg. of Good Women. 354
PAR.-TEXT 354
LEGEND OF GOOD WOMEN. MS. Gg. 4. 27, CAMB. 267

[1 Leaf 169 has been cut out of the Camb. MS. It is here supplied from the Fairfax.]
And as she felle adoun / she kaste hir loke
And of hir clothes / yet hede she toke
For in hir fallynge / yet she had care
Lest that hir fete / or suche thynge lay bare
So wel she loved clennesse / and eke trouthe
Of hir had al the tovne / of Rome routhé
And Brutus hatî / by hir chaste bloode swore
That Tarquyny shulde / ybanynshed be ther-fore
And al hys kynne / and let the peple calle
And openly the tale / he tolde hem alle
And openly let cary her / ou a bere
Thurgî al the tovne / that meñ may see and here
The horryble dede / of hir oppresseoñ
Ne never was ther kyng / in Rome tovñ
Syñ thilke day / and she was holdeñ there
A seynt and euer hir day / y-halved dere
As in hir lawe / and thus endeth lucresse
The noble wyfe / Tytus berythi witnesse
I telle hyt for she was / of love so trewe
Ne in hir wille / she chaunged for no newe
And in hir stable hert / sadde and kynde
That in these wymmen / meñ may alday fynde
Ther as they kaste hir hert / there it duelletli
For wel I wot / that criste him-self telletli
That in Israel / as wyde as is the londe
That so grete feythe / in al the londe he ne fonde
As in a womaN / this is no lye
And as of women loketli which tirannye
They dooñ alday / assay hem who so lyste
The trewest ys ful brotil / for to triste.
[VI.]

[THE LEGEND OF ARIADNE.]

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

gg. 4. 27
But wikkedely he quitte hire kyndenesse
And let hire drence in sorwe & in distresse
Nere that the goddis hadde of hire pite
But that tale were to longe as now for me
[... no gap in the MS.]
But this theeffect that Mynos hath so dreuyn
Hem of Athenys that they mot hym 3euyn
ffrom 3er to 3er hire owene childeryn dere
ffor to be slayn righ as 3e shal here
This Mynos hadde a monstre a wekede best
That was so crewel that with-oute arest
Whan that a man was brou^t in his presence
He wolde hym ete ther helpith no defence
And euery thredde with oute doute
They caste lot & as it fil a-boute
On riche or pore he muste his sone take
And of his child he muste present make
To Theseus to save hym or to spylle
Or lete his beste denoure hym at his wille
And this hath Mynos don ryght In dispit
To wreke his sone was set al his delyt
And makyn hem of Athenys his thral
ffrom 3er to 3er whil that he leuyn shal
And hom he saylyth whan the toun is wonne
This wekede custome is so longe I-ronne
Til that of Athenys kyng Eegeus
Mote syndyn his owene sone Theseus
Sithe that the lot is fallyn hym vp-on
To ben deouoryd for grace is there non
And forth is gon this woful 3onge knght
Onto the court of kyng Mynos ful ryght
And in-to a prysoun feterid cast is he
Tyl the ilke tymhe he shulde fretyn be
Wel maystow wepe o woful thesyus
That art a kyngis sone & dampned thus

gg. 4. 27
Me thynkith thus that thow were depe I-holde
To hym that savede the from caris colde
And If now ony woman helpe the 1956
Wel aughtist tow hire serau[n]t for to be
And ben hire trewe louere 3er be 3er
But now to come ageyn to myn matyr
The tour there as this thesyyus is throwe 1960
Doun in the boteme dyrk & wondyr lowe
Was Ioynyngge in the wal to a foreyne
And it was longynge to the doughteryn tweyne
Of Thesius that in hire chaumberys grete 1964
Dwelledyn abowe toward the maystyr strete
Of Athenys in Ioye & in solas /
Not I not how it happid par cas
As Thesyyus compleynede hym be nyghte 1968
The kyngis doughter Adryane that highte
And ek hire systyr ffedra herdyn al
His compleynyngge as they stodyn on the wal
And lokedyng vp-on the bryghe mone 1972
Hem leste nat to gone to bedde sone
And of his wo they haddyng compassioun
A kyngis sone to ben In swich a prysouz
And ben deoured thoughte hem gret pete 1976
This Adryane spak to hire systeryn fre
And seyde leue systyr Phedra dere
This woful lordys sone may 3e nat here
How pitously compleynyth he his kyn 1980
And ek his pouere astat that he is In
And giltles now certeyn it is routhe
And If 3e wele assentyn by myn trouthe
He shal ben holpyng how so euere we do 1984
Phedra answerde I-wis me is as wo
for hym as euere I was for man
[leaf 171]
And to his helpe the beste red I can
Is that we do the gayler priuyly
To come & speke with vs hastily 1988
And don this woful man with hym to come
for If he may this monstre ouercome
Thanne were he quyt ther is non othir bote
Lat vs wel taste hym at his herte rote
If so be that he a wepene have
Where that he dar his lyf to kepe & saue
flyghtyn with the fend & hym defende
for In the prysoun ther he shal dessende
3e wete wel that the beste is in a place
That nys nat derk / & hath bothe roum & space
And wilde an ax or swerd or staf or kynf
So that me thyngyth he shulde save his lyf
If that he be a man he shal don so
And we shul make hym ballis ek also
Of wex & tow / that whan he gapithaste
In to the bestis throte he shal hem caste
to slake his hungir & encombre his teth
And right a-non what that Thesysus seth
The beste Achokid he shal as hym lepe
And slen hym as they comyn more to hepe
This wepne shal the gayler or that tyde
full priuyly with-inne the prysoun hyde
And for the hous is krynkeled two & fro
And hath so queynte weyis for to go
for it is shapyn as the mase is wrought
Therto haue I a remedye In my thought
That by a ciewe of twyn as he hath gon
The same weye he may returne a-non
sfolwyme alwey the thred as he hath come
And whan that he this beste hathe ouercome
Thanne may he flen a-vey out of this drede
And ek the gayler may he with hym lede
And hym anuance at hom In his cuntre
Syn that so gret a lordis sone is he
This is myn red If that he dare it take
What sholde I lengere sarmoun of it make

gg. 4. 27
This gayler comyth & with hym Thesyus
And whan these thyngis ben a-cordit thus
Adoun sit Thesyus vp-on his kne
The rygh lady of myn lyf quod he
I sorweful man dampnede to the deth
ffro 3ow whil that me lestyth lyf or breth
I wil nat twynne aftyr this auenture
But in 3oure servise thus I wele endure
That as a wreche vnknowe I wele 3ow serve
for euere mo til that myn herte sterue
fforsake I wele at hom myn herytage
And as I seyde ben of 3oure court a page
If 3e vouche saf that in this place
3e graunte me to han so gret a grace
That I may han nat but myn mete & drynk
And for myn sustenaunce 3it wele I swynk
Rygh as 3ow leste that Mynos ne no wight
Syn that he saw me neuere with eye syght
Ne non ellis shal me cuzne espye
So slyly & so wel I shal me gye
And me so wel disfigure & so lowe
That in this world ther shal no man me knowe
To han myn lyf & for to han presence
Of 3ow that don me this excellence
And to myn fadyr shal I sende hir
This worthi man that is now 3oure gayler
And hym to gwerdone that he shal wel be
On of the gretteste man of myn cuntre
And If I durste seyn myn lady bryght
I am a kyngis sone & ek a knyght
So wolde god If that it myghte be
3e weryn In myn cuntre alle thre
And I with 3ow to bere 3ow compaignye
Thaonne shulde 3e se If that I therof lye
And If I profre 3ow In low manere
To ben 3oure page & seruyn 3ow ryght here
But I now serve as lowly In that place
I praye to Mars so 3ow swich a grace
That shamys deth on me than mote falle
And deth & poverte to myrne frendys alle
And that myn spirit be nyghte mote go
Aftyr myn deth & walke two & fro
That I mote of traytour have a name
for which myn sprit goth to do me shame
And If I euere cleyme othir degre
But If 3e vouche saf to 3eue it me
And I haue seyd of shamys deth I deye
And mercy lady I can nat ellis seye
A semely knyght was thesius to se
And 3ong but of a twenty 3ir & thre
But ho so hadde seyn his cantenaunce
Ne wolde a wept for routhe of his penaunce
for which this Adryane In this manere
Answerde hym to his profre & to his chere
A kyngis sone & ek a knyght quod she
To ben myn seruaunt in so low degre
God shilde it for the shame of wemen alle
And lene me neuere swich a cas be-falle
But synde 3ow grace of slyghte & herte also
3ow to defende & knyghtly slen 3oure fo
And leue here aftyr that I may 3ow fynde
To me & to myn syster here so kynde
That I repente nat to 3eue the lyf
3it were it betere that I were 3oure wyf
Syn that 3e ben as gentil born as I
And hauyn a reume nat butaste by
Thaz that I suffered giltes 3ow sterve
Or that I let 3ow as a page serue
It nys no profre as on to 3oure kynrede
But what is that men nyl don for drede
An to myn systyr syn that it Is so
That she mot gon with me If that I go
Or ellis suffere deth as wel as I
That 3e vnfo 3oure sone as trewely
Don hire ben weddit at 3oure hom comynyn
This is the fenal ende of al this thyng
3e swere it here vp-on al that may be sworen
3a lady myn quod he or ellis torn
Mote I be with the mynatour to morwe
And hauyth here of myn herte blod to borwe
If that 3e wele If I hadde knyf or spere
I wele it latyn out & thron swere
ffor thanme at erst I wot 3e wele me leue
By Mars that is the chif of myn beleue
So that I myghte luyyn & nat fayle
To morwe for tacheue myn batayle
I wolde neuere from this place fle
Til that 3e shulde the verray preue se
ffor now If that the sothe I shal 3ow say
I haue I-louyd 3ow ful manye a day
Thow 3e ne wiste it nat in myn cuntre
And aldermost desirede 3ow to se
Of any erithely lenyynge creature
Vp-on myn trouthe I swere & 3ow ensure
This seuene 3er I haue 3oure seruaunt be
Now haue I 3ow & also haue 3e me
Myn dere herte of Athenys duchesse
This lady smylieth at his stedefastnesse
And at his hertely wordis & his chere
And to hyre sistyr seyde in this mane[re]
Al softely systyr myn quod she
Now be we duchessis bothe I & 3e
And sekerede to the regalys of Athenys
And bothe hereafter likly to ben quenys
And sayyd from his deth a kyngis sone
As euere of gentil wemen is the wone
To saue a gentyl man emforth hire myght
In honest cause & namely In his ryght
Me thynkyth no wight oughte herof vs blame
Ne beryn vs thercrforc an euyl name
And shortly of this mater for to make
This thesins hath of hire leue take
And euery poynt was performed In dede
As 3e han In this coudenaut herd me rede
His wepne his clewe his thyng that I haue sayd
Was by the gayler in the hous l-leyd
Ther as the Mynatour hath his dwellyng
Rygh faste by the dore at his entryng
And Thesyus is lad onto his deth
And forth vnto this mynatour he geth
And by the techynge of this Adryane
He ouercom this beste & was his ban
And out he comyth by the clewe a-gayn
fful priuuly whan he this beste hath slayn
And by the gayler getyn hath a barge
And of his wyuys tresor gan it charge
And tok his wif & ek hire sistyr fre
And ek the gayler & with hym alle thre
Is stole a-wey out of the lond be nyghte
And to the cuntre of Ennepye hym dyghte
There as he hadde a frend of his knowynge
There feste they there daunces they & syage
And in his armys hat this adryane
That of the beste hat kept hym from his bane
And gat hym there a newe barge a-non
And of his cuntre folk a ful gret won
And takyth his leue & homemward saylyth he
And in an yle amyd the wilde se
Ther as there dwellede cryatur non
Saue wilde bestis & that ful manyon
He made his ship a londe for to sette
And in that yle half a day he lette
And sayde that on the lond he muste hym reste
His maryneris han don rygh as hym leste
And forth to tellyn shortly in this cas
Whan adryane his wif a slepe was
ffor that hire systyr fayrere was than she
He takyth hire In his hond & forth goth he
To shepe & as a traytour stal his wey
Whil that this adryane a slepe lay
And to his cunctreward he saylith swythe
A twenty deuelewey the wynd hym dryue
And fond his fadyr drenchid in the se
Me leste no more to speke of hym parde
These false louerys poysoun be here bane
But I wele turne a-geyn to Adryane
That Is with slep with werynesse a-take
fiul sorwefully hire herte may a-wake
Allas for the myn herte hath now pete
Ryght in the dawywnyng awakyth she
And graspith In the bed & fond ryght nought
Allas quod she that euere that I was wrought
I am betrayed & al hire her to-rent
And to the stronde barefot faste she went
And cryede Thesius myn herte swete
Where be 3e that I may nat with 30w mete
And myghte thus with bestys ben I-slayn
The holwe rokkis answerden hire a-gayn
No man she saw & 3it shynede the mone
And hye vp-on a rokke she wente some
And saw his barge saylynge in the se
Cold wex hire herte & rygh thus seyde she
Mekere than 3e fynde I the bestis wilde
Hadde he nat synne that hire thus be-gylid
She cryede o turne ageyn for routhe & synne
Thyn barge hath nat al his myne Inne
Hire couerchif vp-on a pole stekede she
Ascaunce that he shulde it wel I-se
And hym remembre that she was be-hynde
And turne a-geyn & on the stronde hire fynde

CHAUCEIR MI.

GG. 4. 27
But al for nought his weye he is I-gon
Adoun she fyl aswoune vp-on a ston
And vp she rysith & kyssith in al hire care
The steppis of his fet ther he hath fare
And to hire bed ryght thus spekyth tho
Tow bed quod she that hast receuyyd two
Thow shat answere of two & nat of on
Where is thyn grettete part awaye I-gon
Allas where shal I wreche wight become
ffor thow so be that boot here ne cone
Hom to myn cuntre dare I nat for drede
I can myn selue In this cas nat rede
What shulde I more telle hire compleynynge
It is so long it were an heuy thynge
In hire epistil Noso tellyth al
But shortly to the ende I telle shal
The god dys han hire holpyn for pite
And in the signe of taurus men may se
The stonys of hire Corone shyne clere
I wele no more speke of this mateere
But thus this false louere can begyle
His trewe loue the deyyl quyte hym his while

[ VII. ]

[ THE LEGEND OF PHILOMENE. ]

This fayre world & bar it In thyn thought
Eternaly er thow thyn werk beganne
Why madist thow on to the Slaundere of man
Or al be that it was nat thyn doinge
As for that fyn to make swich a thynge
Whi sufferist thow that tereus was bore
That is In loue so fals & so forswore
That from this world vp to the ferste heuene
Coruptyh whan that folk his name nemene
And as to me so grosely was his dede
That whan that I his foule storye rede
Mynne eyen wexe foule & sore also
3it lestyth the venym of so longe ago
That it enfectyth hym that wele be-holde
The storye of Therius of whiche I tolde
Of trace was he lord & kyn to Marte
The crewel god that stant with blody darte.
And weddid hadde he with a blysful cheere

Kyng pandionys fayre doughtyr dere
That highte Progne flour of that cuntre
Thow Iune lyst nat at the feste to be
Ne Imenuus that god of wedying is
But at the feste redy ben I-wis
The furies thre with al here mortal brond
The oule al nyght a-boute te balkis wond
That prophete is of wo & of myschaunce
This reuel ful of song & ek of daunce
Laste a fortenyght or lytil lasse
But shortly of this story for to passe
ffor I am wery of hym for to telle
ffyue 3er his wif & he to-gedere dwelle
Til on a day she gan so sore longe
To sen hire sistyr that she say nat longe
That for desyr she nyste what to seye
But to hire husbonde be-gan she for to preye
ffor godys lone that she muste onys gon

Hyre systyr for to se & come a-non
Or ellis but she must with hire wende
She preyeth hym ho wolde after hire synde
And this was day be day al hire preyere
With humblesse of wifthod word & chere
This Therius let make hishe shepis 3are
And In-to grece hymself is forth I-fare
Vn-to his fadyr in lawe gan he preye
To vouche saf that for a monythe or tweye
That Philomene his wyuys systyr myghte
On Pregne his wyf myghte onys han a syghte
And she shal come to 3ow a-geyn a-non
Myn self with hyre wele bothe come & gon
And as myn hertis lyf I wele hire kepe
This olde pandion this kyng gan wepe
ffor tendirnesse of herte for to leue
His doughtyr gon & for to leue hire leue
Of al this world he louyth no thyng so
But at the laste leue hath she to go
ffor philomene with salte teris eke
Gan of hire fadyr grace to beseke
To sen hire systyr that she lovith so
And hym embrasyth with hire armys two
And therwithal so long & fayr was she
That whan that Thereus saw hire beute
And of aray that there was non hire lyche
And 3it of Beute was she two so ryche
He caste his fery herte vp-on hyre so
That he wil haue hir how so euere he do
And with his wilis he so fayre hire preyede
Tyl at the laste pandyon thus seyde
Now sone quod he that art to me so dere
I the be-take myn 3onge doughter here
That beryth the keye of al myn hertes lyf
And gret me wel myn doughter & thyyn wif
And 3if hire leue sumtyme for to pleye
That she may sen me onys er I deye
And sothly he hath mad hym riche feste
And to his folk the moste & ek the lest
That with hym com & 3af hym 3iftys grete
And hym conueyeth thour the mayster strete
Of Athenes & to the se hym brou^te
And turnyth hom no maleyce he ne thoughte
The oris pullyn forth the vessel faste 2308
And in-to trace aryuyth at the laste 2308
And vp in-to a forest he hire ledde
And to a kaaue\(^1\) pryuyly hym spedde [\textit{First, kaaue}]
And in this dirke caue If hir leste 2312
Or leste nat he bad hire for to reste
ffor whiche hire herte aros & seyde thus
Were is myn sistyr brothir Tireus 2316
And therwith al she wepte tendyrly
And quok for fere pale & pitously
Ryth as the lamb that of the wolf is bityn
Or as the Culuer that of the egle is smetyn
And is out of his clawis forth escapid 2320
\(3it / it\) is aferyd & a-whapid
List it be hent eft sonys so that she
But vttyrly it may non othyr be
By force hat he this traytour don that dede 2324
That he hath rest hire of hire maydyanhede
Maugre hire hed by strenthe & by hire myght
Lo here a dede of men & that a ryght
Sche cryeth systyr with ful loude a steuene 2328
And fadyr dere & help me god in heuene
Al helpith nat & \(3it\) this false thef
Hath don this lady \(3it\) a more myschef
ffor fere lyst she shulde his shame crye 2332
And don hym opynly a vilenye
And with his swerd hire honge of keruyth he
And in a castel made hire for to be
fful pryuyly in prisoun euere more 2336
And kepthe hire to his vsage & his store 2337
So that she myghte hym neuere more asterte 2338
O sely Philomene wo is thyn herte 2339
God wreke the & sende the thyn bone 2340
Now is it tyme I make an ende sone
This tereus / Is to his wif I-come
And in his armys hath his wif I-name 2343

\textit{GG. 4. 27}
And pitously he wep & shok his hed
And swor that he say his sistyr ded
for which this sely progne hath swich wo
That nygh hire sorweful herte brak a two
And thus In terys lete I Progne dwelle
And of hire sistyr forth I wele 3ow telle
This woful lady lernede hadde in ȝoughte
So that she werkyn & enbroude couthe
And wenyn in hire stil the radynore
As it of wemyn hath be wonid ȝore
And sothly for to seyne she hadde hire fille
Of mete & drynk & clothyn at hire wille
She coude rede & wel I-now endyte
But with a penne coude she nat wryte
But letterys coude she weue two & fro
So that by the ȝer was al a-go
She hadde ȝoun In a stamyn large
How she was brough from Athenys in a Barge
And In a caue how that she was browt
And al the thyng that Tereus hath wrought
She waf it wel & wrot the storye a-boue
How she was seruyd for hire systers loue
And to a knave a ryng she ȝaf a-non
And prayede hym with signys to gon
Vn-to the queen & beryn hir that cloth
And be signys swor hym manye an oth
She wolde hym ȝeuyn what she getyn myghte
This knave a-non on to the qene hym dyghte
And tok it hire & al the maner hire tolde
And whan that progne hath this thing be-holde
No word she spak for sorwe & ek for rage
But feynede hire to gon on pilgrymeage
To Bacus temple & In a litil stounde
Hire dombe sistyr sittyng with she founde
Wepyng In the castel here a-lone
Allas the compleynt the wo & the mone
That Progne vp-on hire doumbe systyr makyth
In armys euerych of hem othir takyth
And thus I late hem in here sorwe dwelle
The remenau[n]t is no charge for to telle
ffor this is al & som thus was she seruyd
That neuere harm a-gilte ne deseruyd
On to this crewel man that she of wiste
3e may ben war of men If that 3ow lest
ffor al be that he wil nat for his shame
Don so as Tereus to lese his name
Ne serve 3ow as a morderour or a knaue
fful lytil while shal 3e trewe hym haue
That wele I seyn al were he now myn brothir
But it so be that he may haue non othir

[VIII.]

[THE LEGEND OF PHILLIS.]

But for this ende I speke this as now
To tellen 3ow of false demophon
In loue a falsere herde I neuere non
But If it were his fadyr theseus
God for his grace from swich on kepe vs
Thus may these wemen preyen that it here
Now to the effect turne I of myn materer
Destroyed is of troye the cete
This Demophom comyth seylynge In the se
Toward Athenys to his paleys large
With hym come manye a ship & manye a barge
fful of his folk of whiche ful manyon
Is woundit sore & sek & wo begon

GG. 4. 27
As they han at thasege longe I-ley
By-hyne hym come a wynd & ek a reyn
That shof so sore his sayl ne myghte stonde 2412
Hym were leuere than al the world a londe
So huntith hym the tempest to & fro
So derk it was he coude nower go
And with a wawe brostyn was his stere 2416
His ship was rent so lowe in swich manere
That Carpentir ne coude it nat a-mende
The se by nyghte as ony torche it brende
for wod & possith hym now vp now doun 2420
Til neptune hath of hym compassioun
And Thetis. Thorus. Triton. & they alle
And madyn hym vp-on a londe to falle
Wheroft that Philus lady was & queen 2424
Ligurges dochter fayre on to sen
Than is the flour a-geyn the bryghte sunne
Vnethe is Demophon to londe I-wunne
Wayk & ek wery & his folk forpynnyd 2428
Of werynesse & also enfamynd
That to the deth he almost was I-drevyn
Hise wise folk to conseyl han hym 3euyn
To seke helpe & socour of the quien [leaf 477] 2432
And loke what his grace myghte bien
And makyn In that lond sum cheuysau[n]ce
To kepyn hym from wo & fro myschaunce
for syk he was & almost at the deth 2436
Vnnethe myghe he speke or drawe his breth
And lyth In rodopeya hym for to reste
Whan he may walke hym thoute it was the beste
Vn-to the court to sekyn for socour 2440
Men knewyn hym wel & dedyn hym honour
for of Athenys deuk & lord was he
As thesyus his fadyr hadde be
That In his tym was of gret renoun 2444
No man so gret of al the regyoun

gg. 4. 27
And lyk his fadyr of face & of stature
And fals of loue It com hym of nature
As doth the fox Renard the foxis sone
Of kynde he coude his owene faderys woned
With-oute lore as can a drake sweme
Whan it is caught & caryed to the bryyme
This honorable Philes doth hym Chere
Hire likith wel his port & his manere
But for I am agrotyed here byforn
To wryte of hem that ben In loue for-sworn
And ek to hastyn me In myn legende
Which to performe god me grace sende
Therfore I passe shortly In this wyse
3e han wel herd of Theseus deuyse
In the be-traysyme of fayre adryane
That of hire pite kepte him from his bane
At shorte wordis ryth so Demophon
The same weye the same path hath gon
That dide his false fadyr Thesyus
ffor vn-to philia hath he sworayn thus
To weddyn hire' & hire his treuthe plyte
And pikid of hire al the good he myghte
Whan he was hol & sound & hadde his reste
And don with Philus what so that hym leste
As wel coude I ff that me leste so
{Tellyn his doynge to & fro
He seyde vnto his cuntre muste he sayle
ffor there he wolde hire weddymge aparayle
As fel to hire honour & his also
And opynli he tok his leue tho
And hath hire sworn he wolde nat soiorne
But In a monyth he wolde ageyn retourne
And In that lond let make his ordenaunce
As verry lord & tok the obeysaunce
Wel & homly & let his shepis dighte
And hom he goth the nexte weye he myghte

gg. 4. 27
ffor on to philis 3it ne come he nought
And that hath she so harde & sore abough[t]
Allas that as the storye vs recordith 2484
She was hire owene deth ryght with a-corde
Whan that she saw that Demophon hire trayede
But to hym first she wrot & faste she prayede
He wolde come & hire deliyere of peyne 2488
As I reheare shal a word or tweyne
Me lyste nat vouche saf on hym to swynke
Ne spende on hym a penne ful of ynke
ffor fals In loue was he rygh as his syre 2492
The deuyl sette here soules bothe a fere
But of the lettere of Philis wele I wryte
A word or two al thow it be but lyte
Ostesse thyn quod she O demophon 2496
Thyn Philis whiche that is so wo begun
Of rodepeyre vp-on 3ow mot compleyne
Ouer the terme sette by-twixe vs tweyne
That ye ne holde forward that 3e seyde 2500
3oure anker that 3e In 3oure hauene leyde
Hyghte vs that 3e wolde 'comyn out of doute {1 late e}
Or that the mone wente onys a-boute
But tymys foure the mone hath hid hire face 2504
Syn that thilke day 3e wente from this place
[ ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 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She sayde thyne saylis come nat agen
Ne to thy word there is no fay certeyn
But I wot why 3e come nat quod she
flor I was of myn lone to 30w to fre
And of the goddis that 3e han forswore
3if hire vengeauce falle on 3ow therfore
3e be nat sufficiawnt to bere the peyne
To meche truste wel may I pleyne
Vp-on 3oure lynage & 3oure fayre tunge
And on 3oure teris falsely out I-wronge
How coude 3e wepe so be craf quod she
May there swich terys feynede be
Now certis 3if 3e wele haue in memorye
It oughte be to 3ow but lyte glorye
To han a sely mayde thus be-trayed
To god quod she preye I & ofte haue prayed
That it mot be the gretteste prys of alle
And most honour that enere the shal befalle
And whan thynne olde ancestris peyntede ben
In which men may here worthynesse sen
Thanne preye I god thow peynted be also
That men may rede forby as they go
Lo this is he that with his flaterye
By-trisede hath & don hire vilenye
That was his trewe loue In thought & dede
But sothly of on poynt 3it may they rede
That 3e ben lyk 3oure fadyr as In this
flor he begylede Adriane I-wis
With swich an art & with swich subtilete
As thow thyuen selue hast begyled me
As In that poynt al thow it be nat fayr [leaf 478, back]
Thow folwist hym certayn & art his ayr
But syn thus synfully 3e me be-gile
Myn body mote 3e se with Inne a while
Ryght In the hauene of Athenys fleyngne
With-outse sepulture & beryinge
They 3e ben hardyere than ony ston
And whan this lettere was forth sent anon
And knew how brothil & how fals he was
2556
She for dispeyr fordede hyre self allas
Swych sorwe hath she for she besette hire so
Be war 3e wemen of 3oure subtyl fo
Syn 3it this day men may ensaumple se
And trustyth as In loue no man but me

[IX.]

[THE LEGEND OF HYPERMNESTRA.]

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

gg. 4. 27
ffor thow that venus 3af hire gret beute 2584
With Jupiter compounned so was she
That conscience trouthe & dret of shame
And of hyre wifthod for to kepe hire name
This thoughte hire was felicitie as hire 2588
The rede Mars was that tyme of the 3eere
So feble that his maleyce is hym be-raft
Repressid hath Venus his crewel craft
That what with Venus & othir oppressioun 2592
Of howses that Mars venym is a-doun
That ypermystra dar nat handele a knyf
In maleyce thow she shulde lese hire lyf
But natheles as heuene gan to turne 2596
To badde aspectys hath she of saturne
That made hire for to turne In prisoun
As I shal aftyr make menciou
To Danao & Egistes also 2600
Al thow so be that they were bretheryn two
ffor thilke tyme was sparyd no lynage
It lykede hem to make a maryage
By-twixe ypermystre & hym lyno 2604
And castyn swich a day it shal be so
And ful acordit was it vttyrly
The aray is wrought the tyme is faste by
And thus lyno hath of his faderis brothir 2608
The doughter weddit & eche of hem hath othyr
The torchis brenyn & the laumpis bryght
The sacryfises ben ful redy dight
Thensens out of the fuyr out rekyth sote 2612
The flourys the lef is rent vp by the rote
To makyn garlandis & crounnys hye
ful is the place of soun of menstralsys
Of songis amerous of maryage 2616
As tylke tyme was the pleyne vsage
This was In the paleys of Egiste
That In his hous was lord ryght as hym lyste

gg. 4. 27
AND THUS THE DAY THEY DRYVE TIL AN ENDE 2620

And thus the day they dryve til an ende [leaf 479, back] 2620

The frendys takyn lene & hom they wende
The nyght is come the bryd shal go to bedde
Egistus to his chambeare faste hym spedde 2624

And priuyly he let his doughtyr calle
Whan that the hous was voyd of hem alle
He lokyth on his doughtyr with glad chere
And to hire spak as 3e shal aftyr here
Myn ryghte doughter tresor of myn herte 2628

Syn fyrest that day that shapyw was myn sherte
Or by the fatal syster a hadde myn dom
So nygh myn herte neure thyng ne com
As thow myn ypermystre doughter dere 2632
Tak hed what I thyn fadyr seyth the here
And werke aftyr thyn wisere euere mo
flor aldirferst doughtyr I loue the so
That al the world to me is half so lef 2636
Ne I nolde rede the to thyn myschef
flor al the good vndyr the colde mone
And what I mene It shal be sayd ful sone
With protestaciouw as in this wyse
That but thow do as I shal the deuyse
Thow shal be ded by hym that al hath wrought
At shorte wordis thow nescapest nought
Out of myn paleys or that thow be ded 2644
But thow concente & werke aftyr myn red
Tak this to the for ful concluisiouw
This ypermystre caste hire eyen doun
And quok as doth the lef of aspis grene 2648
Ded wex hire hew & lyk an asch to sene
And seyde lord & fadyr al 3oure willes
Aftyr myn myght god wot I shal fulfillle
So it to me be non confusionu
I nele quod he haue non excepciouw
And out he caught a knyf as rasour kene
Hid this quod he that it be nat sene

2652
And whan thyn husbonde is to bedde go 2656
Whil that he slepith kit his throte atwo
ffor In myne dremys it is warnede me [leaf 480]
How that myn Neuew shal myn bane be
But wit I nat wherfore I wele be sekyr
If thow sey nay we two shul haue a bekyr
As I haue seyd by hym that I haue sworn
This Ipermystere hath nygh hire wit for-lorn
And for to passyn harmles of that place 2664
She grauntyth hym ther is non othir grace
And therewith al a costret takyth he
And seyde herof a draught or two or thre
3if hym drynke whan he goth to reste 2668
And he shal slepe as longe as euere the lest
The narcotydis & opijs ben so stronge
And goth thyn wey lyst that he thynkyth longe
Out comyth the Bryd & with ful sobre cheere 2672
As is of maydenys ofte the manere
To chaumbre is brought with reuel & with song
And shortly list this tale be to long
This lyno & she ben brought a bedde 2676
And euery wight out at the dore hym spedde
The nyght is wastid & he fyl a slepe
fful tendyrly begynnith she to wepe
She rist hire vp & drendfully sche quakyth 2680
As doth the braunches that sepherus shakyth
And hust were alle In argon that cete
And colde as ony frost now waxeth she
ffor Pite by the herte hire streynyth so 2684
And drede of deth doth hire so meche wo
And thryis doun she fyl in this awer
She rist 3it vp & stakerith her & ther
And on hire hondis faste lokyth she 2688
Allas & shal myyne hondis blody be
I am a mayde & as by myn nature
And bi myn semblaunt & by myn vesture
Myane handis ben nat shape for a knyf
As for to reue no man fro his lyf
What deuyl haue I with the knyf to do
And shal I haue myn throte kerue a two
Thanne shal I blede alas & me be shynde
And nedis cost this thyng muste haue an ende
Or he or I mot nedis lese oure lyf
Now certys quod she syn I am his wif
And hath myn feyth 3it is it bet for me
flor to be ded In wifly honeste
Than ben a traytour lyuynge In myn shame
Be as be may for ernest or for game
He shal awake & ryse & gon his way
Out at this goter or that it be day
And wepe ful tenderely vp-on his face
And In hyre armys gan hym to embrace
And hym she roggith & a-wakyth softe
And at a wyndow lep he fro the lofte
Whan she hath warnede hym & don hym bote
This lyno swift was & lyght of fote
And from his wif ran a ful gret pas
This sely weman is so weik allas
And helpeles so that/ or that she forth wente
Hire crewel fadyr dede hire for to hente
Allas lyno whi art thow so vnkynde
Why ne haddist thow remembred In thyn mynde
To takyn hire & lad hire forth with the
flor whan she saw that gon a-wey was he
And that she myghte nat so faste go
Ne folwyn hym she set hire don ryght tho
Til she was caught & fetered In prysoun
This tale is seyd for this conclusioun

[Unfinisht.]

[Here begynyth the parlement of ffoulys.]
XII.

Truth

FROM THE

ADDITIONAL MS. 10,340, BRITISH MUSEUM,

THE ONLY COPY WITH THE ENVOY.
TRUTH.

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

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

(1)
Fie fro pe pres & dwelle wiþ soþefastnesse. 1
Suffise þin owen þing þei it be smal.
For horde haþe hate · & Clymbynþ tykelnesse.
Prees haþe envye & wele blentþ oueral.
Sauoure no more þanne þe byhove schal,
Reule weil þi selþ þatþ oþer folkþ canstþ reede,
And trouþe schal delyuere itþ is no drede 7

(2)
Tempestþ þe nouþtþ al croked to redresse 8
In trustþ of hire þatþ tourneþþ as a bal
Myche wele stantþ in litel besynesse
Bywar þerfore to spurne aþcyns an al,
Stryue notþ as doþe þe crokke wiþ þe wal
Daunte þi selþ þatþ daunteþþ oþeres dede
And trouþe shal delyuere itþ is no drede. 14

(3)
Þatþ þe is sentþ receyue in buxhumnesse 15
þe wrestlyngþ for þe worlde axeþ a fal
Here is non home here nys butþ wyldernesse
Forþe pylgryme forþe forþe beste outþ ofþ þi stal
Knowe þi contre loke vp þonþþ god ofþ al
Holde þe heye weye & latþ þi gostþ þe lede,
And trouþe shal delyuere itþ is no drede. 21

[L’Envoy.]
Þer-fore þou vache leue þine olde wretchedenesse 22
Vnto þe world. leue now to be þral.
Crie hym mercy. þatþ ofþ hie godnesse
Made þe ofþ nouþþ & in especial 25
Drawe vnto hym & pray in general
For þe and eke for oþer heuenelyche mede
And trouþe schal delyuere itþ is no drede 28
XIII.

The Compleynt of Venus

FROM

SHIRLEY'S MS. R. 3. 20, TRIN. COLL., CAMBR.
The Compleynt of Venus.

[Following the Mars, see Parallel-Texts, p. 121.]

[Shirley's MS. R. 3. 20, Trin. Coll., Camb., leaf 139.]

And filowing begynnep a balade translated out of frenshe in to englisshe / by Chaucier Geffrey pe frenshe made .sir. Otos de Grauntsome knight Savosyen/

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

Whane þat I. am / in any hevynesse / 1
As for to haue leyser / of Remembraunce / 4
Vpon þe manhoode / and þe worþynesse /
Vpon þe trouthe / and þe stedfastnesse /
Of him whos I. am· / always whyle I· may dure /
þer aught to blamen me / no creature /
flor he is croppe and roote / of gentylesse [from margin] 8

(2) (I. 2)

[page 140]

[fl In him is bountee / wysdam and gouernaunce / 9
Weel more þan / any mannes wilt kan gesse
flor grace hape wolde / so ferfoorthe him avaunce /
þat of knighthooode / he is parfyt Rychchesse /
Honnoir / honoureþe / him for his noblesse /
þer to so wel hape / fortunedþ him nature /
þat I. am his for euer / I him ensure /
flor every wight· / preyseþe his gentylesse / 16

(3) (I. 3)

[fl And nought· withstanding· / al his souffisaunce 17
His gentyle hert/ is of so gret humblesse /
To me in worde in werk· · in countenaunce /
And me to serue / is al his besynesse /
þat I. am sette / in verray sikurnesse /
þus aught· me wele / to blesse myn aventure
Sith þat him list / me serven andþ honneure /
flor every wight· / preyseþe his gentylesse / 24

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

¶ Nowe certes / loue / hit is right couenable
bat men ful soore abye / py noble thing /
As waake abedde / and fasting at the table
Weping to laughe / and sing in compleyning /
And doune to caste / vysage and looking /
Offtymes to chaunge / huwe and countenaunce /
Pleye in sleping / and dremen at the daunce /
Al the Reuers / of any glaade felyng

(5) (II. 2)

¶ Jaughe Ialousye wer hanged by a Kable
She wolde al knowe / thorughie hir espying /
ber doope no wight / no thing so Raysonnable /
bat al nys harme / in hir Ymagynynge
bus deere abought / is love / in gyving /
Whiche offt / he gyvepe / with oute ordeynaunce
As sorowe enoughie / and lytel of plesaunce
Al the Reuers / of every glaade feeling

(6) (II. 3)

¶ A lytel tyme / his gyff is agreable
But ful encoumberous / is the vsing /
for soutyle Ialousye / the deceuyable /
ful offten tymes / causepe destourbing /
bus beon we euer / In dred souffering /
In noun certaine / we langwishe in penaunce /
And haue wel oft / many an herc meschaunce /
Al the Reuers / of every glaade / feelyng

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

¶ But certes loue I. say not / in suche wyse /
bat for teschape / oute of youre lace / I ment /
for I so long/ haue been in youre servyce/
bat for to leet / oft wol I neuer assente
No force / Jaughe Ialousye / me more tourment
Souffisephe me / to seon him. whane I may
And perfore certes / vn to myn eending /
To love him best/ ne shal I. neuer. Repent

R. 3. 20
And certes love / whanne I. me wee avyse
On any estate / pat man may. represent
pane haue yee made me / thorugh ye youre fraunchysse
Cheese pe best/ pat euer / on eorpe went
Nowe loue weele hert / and looke pou neuer stent
And let pe falouse / put it nowe in assaye /
pat for no peyne / ne shal I. neuer sey naye /
To love him best / ne neuer to Repent

Hert to pe hit aught / enoughie souffyse /
pat loue so hye a grace / haphe to pee sent/
To cheese pe wopyst / of alle wyse /
And mooste agreable / vn to myn entent/
Seeche nowe no firper / neyper wey ner went /
Sythe I haue souffysaunce / vn to my paye /
bus wol I. ende pis compleynt or pis laye /
And loue him best / and neuer to Repent

Pryncesse resceynpe / pis compleynt in gree
Vn to youre excellent benignytee /
Dyrect / afster/ my lytel souffysaunce /
for elde pat in my spiryt doulepe me /
Haphe of pendyting / al pe subtylytee
Welnyeghe byraff / out of my remembraunce
And eeko to me / it is righght gret penaunce /
Sitli. ryme in englisshhe / haphe suche skarsytee /
To folowen word by word pe curyosytee /
Of Graunsome / flour / of hem pat make in sferaunce /

Hit is sayde pat Graunsome made pis Last balade for Venus resembled to my lady of york answering pe compleynt of Mars /
XIV.

Enboy to Scogan

FROM

MS. Gg. 4. 27, UNIVERSITY LIBRARY,
CAMBRIDGE.
ENVOY TO SCOGAN.

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

LITERA DIRECTA DE SCOGON PER G. C.

(1) (TE RN I. 1)

O-broke ben þe1 statutis in heuene [1 the in corrector's hand]
þat creat were eternally to dure
Syn þat I se þe bryȝte goddis seuene
Mow wepe & wayle and pascioun endure 4
As may in erþe a mortal creature
Allas from whens may þis þyng procede
Of whiche errour I deye almost for drede 7

(2) (I. 2)

Be word eterne whillhom was it schape2 [leaf 8]
þat from þe fifte serkele in no manere [2 schape in corrector's hand]
Ne myȝte a drope of teeris doun escape
But now so wepyth venus in his spere 11
þat with hire teris sche wele drenche vs here
Allas skogon þis is for þyn offence
þu causist þis deluuy2 of pestelence [3 uye corrected] 14

(3) (I. 3)

Hast þu not seyd in blaspheme of þe goddis 15
þour pride or þour þyn grete recheles-nesse
Swich þyng as in þe lawe of loue forbodyn is
þat for þyn ladi saw not þyn distresse 18
þerefore þou þeue hire vp at mychelmesse
Allas scogon of olde folk no þong
Was neuere erst Scogon blamyd for his tong 21

GG. 4. 27
(4) (Tern II. 1)

If pow drow in scorn cupid ek to record 22
Of pe ilke rebel word pat pou hast spoken
For whiche he wele no lengere be pyn lord
And pow his bowe Scogan benot broken 25
He wil not with his arwis ben I-wroken
On pe ne me ne none of oure figure
We schal of him haue neyper hurt ne cure 28

(5) (II. 2)

Nay servys frend I drede of thyn onhap 29
Lest for pyn gilt pe wrecche of loue procede
On alle hem pat ben hore & round of schap
pat ben so likly folk in loue to spede 32
Janne schal we for oure labour han no mede
But wel I wit pou wilt answere & seye
Lo olde grisil leste to ryme & pleye 35

(6) (II. 3)

Nay Scogan sey not so for I me excuse 36
God helpe me so in no rym douteles
Ne pynke I nuere of slep to wake myn muse
pat rustyp in myn schede stylene in pes 39
Whil I was zong I putte it forp in pres
But al schal passyn pat men prose or ryme
Tak euery man his torn as for his tyme 42

(7) (Lenvoy)

Scogan pat knelis at pe wellis hed [leaf 8, back]
Of grace of alle honour and worpynesse .i. Wyndisore
In pe ende of wich strem I am dul as ded [s. corr.]
Forrete in solitarie wildirnes .i. a Grenewych 46
3it Scogan pyng on tullius kyndenes
Mynewe pyn frend pere it may fructifie
Farewel & loke pou neuere est loue defye 49

gg. 4. 24
XV.

Marriage, or Bukton

FROM

FAIRFAX MS. 16, BODLEIAN LIBRARY.
MARRIAGE, OR BUKTON.

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

\[ Lenvoy de Chaucer A Bukton. / \]

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

2.
I wol nat seyn / how that hyt is the cheyne 9
Of Sathanas / on which he gnaweth euere
But I dar seyn / were he out of his peyne
As by his wille / he wolde be bounde nevere 12
But thilke doted foole / that ofte hath leuere
Y-cheyned be / than out of prison crepe
God lete him neuer / fro his woo disseuere
Ne noo man him bewayle / though he wepe 16

3.
But yet lest thou doo worse / take a wyfe 17
Bet ys to wedde / than brenne in worse wise
But thou shalt have sorwe / on thy fleshi thy lyfe
And bew thy wifes thral / as seyn these wise 20
And yf that hooly writte / may nat suffyse
Experience shal the teche / so may happe
That the were lever / to be take in sfrise
Than eft falle of weddynge / in the trappe 24

FAIRFAX
4. (Envoy.)

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

¶ Explicit/

[Follows:—

¶ Better is to suffre / and fortune abyde
  And hastely to clymbe / and sodeynly to slyde

And then Chaucer's Balade of 'Stedfastness', printed in the Parallel-Text, p. 435.]
XVI.

Gentilesse.

A BALADE, WITHOUT ENVOY,

FROM

SHIRLEY'S ASHMOLE MS. 59, BODLEIAN LIBRARY.

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

[Shirley's Ashmole MS. 59, leaf 27.]

(Headings to leaves 26 b & 27.) "Balade by Scoggan /
// To pe Kynges sonnes."

// Geoffrey Chaucier made peos thre balades nexst pat
folowen // [in margin]

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

 yö be first fader / and foundour' of gentylesse / 1
What man pat claymèpe / gentyle for to be /
Moste felowe heos traas / and alle heos wittes dresse /
Vertue to suwe and vyces / for to flee /
For vn-to vertue longepe dignytee /
And nouzt pe reverse / sauely dar I. deeme /
Al were he mytre crowne / or dyademe /

(2)

 yö his first stocke / was grounde of rightwysnesse / 8
Truwe of his worde / sobur pitous and fre
Clene of his gooaste / and loved besynesse
Ageinst pe vice of sloupe / in honestee
And but his heyre / love vertue as did he
He nys not gentyle / paughe him ryche seeme
Al were he mytre / crowne or dyademe /

(3)

 yö Vyce may wele be / an heyre til olde Richchesse 15
But þere may noman / as þou maist wele seeme
Beqwey þe his heyre / his vertuous noblesse /
þat is appropred / vn-to no degree
But to first fader / in magestee /
þat maþe his heyre / him þat wol him qweme
Al were he mytre crowne or dyademe /

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

Proverbs

From

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

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

† Proverbe.

(1) [Question]

† What shal þees clotes þus many fold?
  Loo þis hoote / somers day / 2

[Answer]
  Afster heet / kompe cold?
  No man cast hit pilche away / 4

[Quod Chaucer]

(2) [Complaint]

† Of þis worlde / þe wyde compas /
  Hit wol not / in myn armes twyne / 6

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

[Quod Chaucer]
XVIII.

Lack of Stedfastness.

A BALADE.

FROM

THE HARLEIAN MS. 7333,

SHIRLEY'S, OR Kopied FROM SHIRLEY.
LACK OF STEMFASTNESS.

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

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

(1) (-able, -onn, -esse)

Some tyme this worlde was so stedfaste & stable/ 1
That manis worde was holde obligacion
And nowe it is fals & deseyvable
bat worde and werke as in conclusion 4
Deon noo thyng oon for tvrnid vp so downe
Is all his worlde / thorowe mede & wyllfulnesse
bat al is loste for lac of stedfastnesse 7

(2)
What made this worlde to be so variable 8
But louste bat folke / haue in discencion
For nove adayes / a man is holde vnable
But yf he can by some collucione 11
Do his neyghtboure wronge or oppression
What causithe this but wilfuH wrecchednesse /
bat al is loste for lac off stemfastnesse 14

(3)
Trowthe is pus downe raisonne is holden fable 15
Vertu hathie nowe no dominacion
Pite Exiled no wight is merciable
Porow Covetyse is blent descrescioun 18
Be worlde hathie made permutacion
From Right to wronge frome trowght to fekylunesse
bat all is lost doe lac of Stedfastnesse/ 21

Harl. 7333
Lenvoye /

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

Fortune.

(THREE BALADES, WITH AN ENVOY.)

FROM

MS. ii. 3. 21, CAMBR. UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.
FORTUNE.

[Cambr. Univ. MS. ii. 3. 21, vellum.]

[In this MS. of Chaucer's Boece, his Former Age and Fortune come in between the Fifth Metre and the Sixth Prose.]

Causer/ Balades de vilage sanz peinture.

(1) (I. 1) (-oun, -our, -ye)
¶ This wrecched worlde-is transmutacioun

as wele / or wo / now poece and now honour

with-owten ordyr or wis deseberyoun

governed is by fortunes errour

but natheles the lakke of hyr fauor

ne may nat don me syngen thowh .I. deye

Iay tout perdu moñ temps et moñ labour

For fynaly fortun e .I. the deffye

(2) (I. 2)
¶ yit is me left the lyht of my resoun

to knoen frend fro foo in thi merowr

So mochel hath yit thy whirlyng vp and down

I-tawht me for to knowe in an howr

but trewey no fors of thi reddowr

to hym put ouer hym self hath the maystre

My suffysaunce shal be my socour

For fynaly fortun e I. thee deffye

(3) (I. 3)
¶ O Socrates pou stildfast chaumpyoun

she neuer myht be thi tormentowr

thow neuer dreddest hyr oppressyoun

ne in hyr chere fownd thow no sauour

thow knewe wel the deseyte of hyr colour

And þat hir most worshepe is to lye

I knew hir ek a fals dissimulour

For fynaly fortun e .I. the deffye

II. 3. 21
Le respounece de fortune a pleintif

† No man ys wrechchyd but hym self yt wene
And he hat hath hym self hat suffisaunce
Whi seysthow thanne y am [to] the so kene
hat hast thy self owt of my gonernaunce
Sey thus graunt mercy of thyn haboundaunce
that thou hast lent or this why wolt thou sryue
what woost thow yit how y the wol anaunce
And ek thow hast thy beste frende a lyue

(5) (II. 2)
† I haue the tawht deuisyon by-twene
Frend of effect and frende of cowntenauce
The nedeth nat the galle of no hyene
hat cureth eyen derkyd for penaunce
Now se[ist] thow cleer hat weere in ignoraunce
yit halt thin ancre and yit thow mayst aryue
ther bownte berth the keye of my substauence
And ek thou hast thy beste frende alyue

(6) (II. 3)
† How manye haue .I. refused to sustigne
Syn .I. the fostred hane in thy plesaunce
Wolthow thanne make a statute on by quyene
hat .I. shal ben ay at thy ordynaunce
thow born art in my regne of varyaunce
abowte the wheel with oother most thow dryue
My loore is bet than wikke is thi greuaunce
And ek thou hast thy beste frende a-lyue

(7) (III. 1) (-e, -esse, -ayle)
Le Respounce du pleintif countre fortune
† Thy loore y demyne / it is aduersyte
My frend maysthow nat reuen blynde goddesse
hat .I. thy frendes knowe .I. thanke to the
Tak hem agayn / lat hem go lye on presse
the negardy in kepynge hyr rychesse
prenostik is thow wolt hir towr alyue
wikke appetyt comth ay before sykenesse
in general this rewle may nat fayle
(8) (III. 2)  Le respounce de fortune contre le pleintif

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

(9) (III. 3)  Le pleintif

¶ Lo excussyoun of the maieste
pat al puruemeth of his ryhtwysnesse
that same thinge fortune clepun ye
Ye blynde beestys ful of lewednesse
the heuene hath propret of sykynnesse
this world hath euer restes tranayle
thy laste day is ende of myn inter[es]se
in general this rewle may nat fayle

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

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

Purse,

A BALADE,

FROM

FAIRFAX MS. 16, BODLEIAN LIBRARY.
Purse.

[Fairfax MS. 16, leaf 193.]

The complaint of Chaucer to his Purse

(1)
To yow my purse / and to noon other wight
Complayn I / for ye be my lady dere
I am so sory now / that ye been lyght
flor certes but yf ye make me / hevy chere
Me were as leef be layde / vpon my bere
flor whiche vnto your mercy / thus I crye
Beeli hevy akeyne / or elles mote I dye

(2)
Now voucheth-sauf this day / or hyt be nyght
That I of yow / the blisful sovne may here
Or see your colour lyke / the sonne bryght
That of yelownesse / hadde neuer pere
Ye be my lyfe / ye be myn hertys stere
Quene of comfort / and of good companye
Beth heuy aeyne / or elles moote I dye

(3)
Now purse that ben to me / my lyves lyght
And saveour / as doun in this worlde here
Oute of this tovne / helpe me thurgh your myght
Syn that ye wolde nat bene / my tresorere
For I am shave as nye / as is a ffrrere
But yet I pray / vnto your curtesye
Bethe hevy aumen / or elles moote I dye

Levoy de Chaucer./

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

FAIRFAX
RYME-INDEX

TO THE MANUSCRIPT TEXTS

OF

Chaucer's Minor Poems.
RYME-INDEX

TO

THE MANUSCRIPT TEXTS

OF

Chaucer's Minor Poems.

BY

MISS ISABEL MARSHALL
& MISS LELA PORTER.

WITH

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

BY

THE REV. W. W. SKEAT, Litt.D., LL.D., &c.,
ELRINGTON AND BOSWORTH PROFESSOR OF ANGLO-SAXON
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

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INTRODUCTION.

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

The value of a Ryme-Index is not, perhaps, apparent on the surface to all lovers of Chaucer. But to the student of language, and above all, to an editor, it is a most precious boon, for many reasons. Of these perhaps the chief is, that it is only by such help that we can get back to the pronunciation of Chaucer himself, and can check the mistakes that may be made, even in his language, by the various scribes. It is not easy to realise, at first, that none of the extant MSS. do more, at best, than give us the right words. The right pronunciation is a matter of inference, to be gathered partly from the usage of the best scribes, and partly from the still more valuable evidence afforded us by the use of Ryme-Indexes. In attempting to edit Chaucer's Minor Poems, I soon found that Mr. Cromie's Ryme-Index to the Canterbury Tales was indispensable, especially in the absence of the present volume, which would obviously have been of the highest service. Even the scribes themselves frequently respect the rimes to the extent of spelling final words more carefully; it is
not at all uncommon to find that they carelessly use the spelling *eye* for 'eye' in the *middle* of a line, but at the *end* of it frequently (but not invariably) feel themselves compelled, for very shame, to use either *ye* (≡ y-e), the true form, or some such variant of it as *iye, yhe,* or *ike,* because the diphthong *ey* would not ryme.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And next, as to wente, sb., in l. 398. Well, it is a
dative case, to begin with, and moreover we find that Chaucer frequently uses oblique case-forms even in the nominative. The true reading is—

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹ Went-e, pt. t., again rymes with went-e, dat. case of sb., in Troilus, iii. 788 (or iii. 736, ed. Morris).
author, who allows himself to use repetitions instead of rymes.

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

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

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

WALTER W. SKEAT.
POSTSCRIPT ON "THE ROMAUNT OF THE ROSE."

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

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

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

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

1 The numbering in Michel's edition is different, and is entirely useless. The printers have numbered the lines so carelessly as to miss, in one page, some hundreds of lines at a time.
hand. It may be divided into two parts, called A 1 and A 2; A 1 ending at l. 1704 (or thereabouts). A 2 abounds in Northernisms, and cannot be Chaucer's; but (with all thankfulness to Dr. Kaluza be it said) A 1 may really be his very own! This is surely a highly interesting discovery.

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

A 1; ll. 1—1704. Probably by Chaucer.
A 2; ll. 1705—5813. By a Northern writer.
B; ll. 5814—end. By an inferior hand.

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

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

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

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

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

1 At l. 1705 is a non-Chaucerian ryme, viz. *aboute, snote*. 
The chief difficulties are the following.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

269; enemye, hardelye. Read enemy, hardly.

291; avrie, baggingly. Read avry.

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

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

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

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

459; mantelle, delle. Read mantel, del.

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

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

509; syng, weymentynge. Read singe, infin.; weymentinge, dative.

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

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

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

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

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

685; syng, unkunnyng. Read singe, infin.; unkunninge, pl.

769; tymbester, swere. Read timbestere, swere.

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

873; samet, delit. Read samyt, delyt.

875; werede, ferede. Pronounced wer’de, fer’de.

885; preyse, devise. Read pryse, devyse.

908; sette, chapelett. Read set, chapelet.

933; treythen, writen. Read tryiten, writen.

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

953; lasse, simplesse. Read lesse.

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

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

1187; fresh, sarlymysh. Read fresh, sarsinesh. The latter word is due to F. sarresinesche in the original.
1201; gounfanoun (!), renown. Read gonfanoun; the original has gonfanon. See l. 2018 below.

1227; bistadde, adradde. Read bistad, adrad.

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

1313; loryes, oliveris. Read loriere (F. loriers), oliveres. And again read oliveres in l. 1381.

1341. (See this discussed below.)

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

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

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

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

1405; clapers, maners. Read claperes, maneres.

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

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


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

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

1579; cristalle, overalle. Read cristal, overal.

1617; seed, rede. Read seed, reed.

1621; panters, bachelers. Read panteres, bachereres.

1641. Read For sithen I had sore syked.

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

Most of the above difficulties are due to the scribe, and are positive mistakes. It is significant that, as soon as the spellings are reduced to the usual Chaucerian forms, the rymes become perfect. A careful perusal of these instances will show that the difficulties practically vanish. Of those that at last remain, the most notable are only two. These
are the rymes *mirour, tresour*, at l. 567, where we should have expected *tressure*, as noted above; and the rymes at l. 1341. The passage stands thus:—

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

This can hardly be right. *Shette* is false spelling for *shet*, which would require that the next line should run thus:—

'For, hadde I with his arowe met.' But even thus, all is not right, as this requires us to give to *shet* the sense of 'shot.' But the M.E. form of the pp. of *shoten*, to shoot, is properly *shoten*, whereas *shet* means 'shut' or 'enclosed.'

We must therefore either suppose that Chaucer (if it is Chaucer's) has used *shet* for *shoten* (which, I confess, does not seem to me impossible), or else the passage is corrupt. We may notice that the pt. t. *shette*, i.e. shot, occurs in ll. 1727, 1777, 1861; whereas the true form of the pt. t. is *sheet*; for it is a strong verb. I understand that Dr. Kaluza believes the ryming words to be *shete* and *mete*, infinitive forms. If so, we might read:—

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

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

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

I conclude that the rymes in A 1 are consistent with the supposition that this portion, and this portion alone, is by Chaucer. Dr. Kaluza will give us further details, and we may look forward hopefully to his results. If such be
the truth, I must withdraw my former conclusion—'that
the English Romaunt is not Chaucer's'—as regards ll. 1—
1704 of the poem, or less than a fourth of it. As regards
the rest, or more than three-fourths of it, I maintain my
position.

W. W. S.
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agon (y-agoon), adv. 334/1487.
I-gon (= y-goon), pp. 320/243.
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* Since I printed the Parallel-Text of this Poem, I have seen Hoccleve's 3 Presentation MSS, the Phillipps, the Durham and Ashburnham copies, all in the same hand, and I have read all Hoccleve's Virgin and other short Poems. The MS evidence is conclusively in favour of Hoccleve being the author of The Mother of God: the internal evidence of the Virgin's white paps—which are in all, or nearly all, the Virgin poems—and the rymes, &c. confirm this. See Prof. Skeat's forthcoming 'Selections from Chaucer's Minor Poems' (Clarendon Press). Dr. Koch and other German critics long ago declared The Mother of God spurious. My former judgment of Hoccleve's poetic power was founded on his long dreary De Regimine. His short devotional poems are better, and go well with The Mother of God.—F. J. Furnivall, 27 Nov. 1888.
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vice, n. obl. 139/4.

-ie, -ye
edifie, inf.
crye, 1 s. pres. 143/116.
maladie, n. obl. 143/117.
Lecherie, n. obl.
Marie, n. pr. 140/28.
maladie, n. obl.
crye, 1 s. pres. 143/116.
edifie, inf. 143/114.
Marie, n. pr.
Lecherie, n. obl. 140/27.
treccherie, n. obl.
gye, 2 s. imp. 140/49.

-ion, -ion
dileccion, n. obl.
proteccion, n. 143/120.
entencion, n. obl.
Redempcion, n. obl. 141/50.
habitacion, n.
recocation, n. 144/138.
sauuacion, n. obl. 144/135.
passion, n. obl.
doun, adv. 141/60.
enchesoun, n. 141/61.

-o
also, adv.
eueremo, adv. 141/75.
fro, prep. 141/74.
lo, interj.
two, adj. 143/129.

-oñ, -oon
echon, adj.
Ion, n. pr. 142/100.
oon, adv. 142/103.
Ion, n. pr.
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oon, adj. 142/103.

-one
sone, n. obl.
wone, n. 140/38.

-oon, -on
oon, adj.
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-orde
misericorde, n. obl.
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-ore
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-ouled, -owled
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-oun, -ion
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-our
fauur, n. obl.
honour, n. 140/23.
Saueeour, n. obl. 140/25.

-oute
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doute, n. 142/79.
stoute, adj. pl. 142/82.

-ure
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-y
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verraily, adv.
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Ryme-Index to "Mother of God."

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-ye, -ie

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-ye, -ie

crye, 1 s. pres.
edifie, inf. 143/114.
maladie, n. obl. 143/117.
gye, 2 s. imp.
The Rymes in some of the Spurious Poems.

By Prof. Skeat, Litt.D.

The Cuckoo and the Nightingale.


The following rymes appear to be non-Chaucerian. L. 51. Here day, May ryme with the gerund for to assay-é. L. 62. Here been rymes with grene. L. 86. man has to be altered to mon; I do not think Chaucer could have rymed man with upon. L. 106 ends with thing; there is a difficulty about the ryme with swoonyng-é. There is the same difficulty at l. 238, where lesing has to be lesing-é, to ryme with bring-é.

The difficulties in the first three cases seem to me insuperable. It is necessary to correct an error in Cromie's Ryme-index, at p. 98, where sene is twice marked as 'inf.', though it is really the gerund (A.S. to sêonne). The 'inf.' is seen, which cannot ryme with grene.

W. W. S.
### Ryme-Index

(Only the endings are given; thus *age* means the ending -*age*. Some of the spellings are corrected.)

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FLOWER AND LEAF.

(See Morris's Aldine Edition, 1866; iv. 87.)

RYME-INDEX.

(The references are to the lines. The rymes marked with an asterisk (*) are probably non-Chaucerian. Some of the spellings are corrected.)

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1 Probably Chaucer distinguishes between these two sets of words in -ere.
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N.B.—Observe—sweet: (F.) Margarete. 349. Also the astonishing ryme of glorie with worthily and wholly (520); whereas in Chaucer it rymes with memorie, purgatorie, storie, victorie only.

1 Chaucer has espide; C. T. 567/1230.
THE ASSEMBLY OF LADIES.

(From the text in Chalmers' British Poets, 1810; i. 526. As the lines are not numbered, it is easier to count by stanzas; the references are to the stanzas accordingly.)

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N.B.—*Demure occurs in Lydgate’s Minor Poems, p. 29; and in the Assembly of Ladies, st. 12. I do not remember it in Chaucer.—W. W. S.
THE COURT OF LOVE.

No Ryme-index is required to shew that the rymes are non-Chaucerian. At l. 13 we have write ryming with aright, shewing that the sound of gh was lost; and many more instances of the same. At l. 79 we have gren-e, shene (miswritten for shyn-e), been; and many more instances to shew that the sounds of e and i were, at the time of composition, assimilated; in particular, note eke, lyke, 561; the assonance kepe, flete, 309; fere for fire, 623; company-e (1170) ryming with destinee (!), &c. &c. A Chaucerian pronunciation of the final -e would upset the scansion in a hundred places; thus l. 1433 would become—'And name-ly haw-e-thorn brought-en both-e pag' and grome'; i.e. fourteen syllables in five feet. See my letters in The Academy, Aug. 3, 1878, p. 116; and June 22, 1889, p. 431.

W. W. S.