A One-Text Print

of

Chaucer's Minor Poems.
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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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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 Blaunche or Booke of the Duchess, 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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I.

The Dehpe of Blaunche the Duchesse,

(Otherwise Called

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

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

The booke of the Duchesse, Stowe's hand adds 'made by Geoffrey Chawyer at the request of the duke of lancastor: pitiously complaynyng the desche of the sayd dutchesse / blanche /

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

Haue grete wonder / be this lyghte
How that I lyve / for day ne nyghte
I may nat slepe / wel nyght 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 cometh or gooth
Ne me nys no thynge / leve nor looth
Al is ylyche goode / to me
Ioy or sorowe / wherso hyt be
ffor I haue felyngs / in no thynge
But as yt were / a mased thynge
Alway in poynt / to falle a-dovun
ffor sorwful / ymagynacioun
Ys alway hooly / in my mynde
And wel ye woote / agaynes kynde
Hyt were to lyven in thyse wyse
ffor nature / wolde nat suffysse
To nooñ etherly / creature
Nat longe tyme / to endure
With-oute slepe / and be in sorwe
And I ne may / no nyght ne morwe
Slepe / and thyse Melancolye
And drede I haue / for to dye
Defaulte of slepe / and hevynesse
Hatth [sleyne] my spirite / of quyknesse
That I haue loste / al lusty-hede
Suche fantasies / ben in myñ hede
So I not what / is best too doo
But meñ myghte axe me / why soo
[1 I may not sleepe, and what me is [1 From here to line 95, the writing is quite late.] (Where from ?)
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 beter play
Then play either at Chesse or tables
And in this boke were written fables
That Clerkes had in olde tyme
And other poëts 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 thinges
Of quenes lines, 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 64

And this quene hight Alcyone

Soe it befell, thereafter soone

This king woll wenden ouer see

To tellen shortly, whan that he 68

Was in the see, thus in this wise

Soche a tempest gan to rise

That brake her maste and made it fal

And cleft ther ship, and dreint hem all 72

That neuer was founde, as it telles

Borde ne man, ne nothing elles

Right thus this king Seyes loste his life

Now for to speake of Alcyone his wife

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 sorowfull life

That she had, this noble wife

For him alas, she loued alderbeste

Anone she sent bothe eeste 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 sorowe 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 oñ
But downe oñ knees / she sate anoñ
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 wete wher so he be
Or how he fareth / or in what wise
And I shal make / yowe sacrificise
And hooly youres / become I shal
With good wille / body hert and al
And but thow wilte / this lady swete
Sende me grace / to slepe and mete
In my slepe / somme certeyñ sweveñ
Wher thorgñ that I may / knowe even
Whethir my lorde / be quyke / or ded
With that worde / she henge dow the hed
And felle A swowne / as colde as stoñ
Hyr womeñ kaughtñ hir / vp anoñ
And broghten 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
Throgñ 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 anoñ
Called thus / hir messagere
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 vnderstone 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 lyetli ful pale / and no thynge rody
Bud hym crepe / in-to the body
And doo hit gooñ / to Alchione
The quene ther she / lyetli allone
And shewe hir shortly / hit ys no nay
How hit was dreynt / thys other day
And do the body / speke ryghts soo
Ryghts 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
Vpon 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 noghts / that oughte was
Beste ne man / ne noghts elles
Save ther were / a fewe welles
Came rennynge / fro the clyffes a-doun
That made a dedely / slepynge sooun
And Ronnenn downd / ryghts 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 cyre
That slepe and did / noon other werke  [leaf 183]
This cave was / also as derke
As helle pitte / ouer al a-boute
They had good leyser / for to route 172
To envye / who myght slepe beste
Somme henge her chyn / vpñ hir breste
And slept vpryan / hir hed y-hedde
And somme lay naked / in her bedde 176
And slepe whiles / the dayes laste
This messager / come fleynge faste
And cried .O. how / a-wake anoon
Hit was for noght / there herde hym noñ 180
A-wake quod he / whoo ys lythe there
And blew his horne / ryght in here heere
And cried a-waketh / wonder hye
This god of slepe / with yñ on ye 184
Caste vp / and axed / who clepeth there
Hyt am I / quod this messagere
Iuno bad / thow shuldest goon
And tolde hym / what he shulde doon 188
As I have tolde yow / here to-fore
Hyt ys no nede / reherse hyt more
And went hys wey / whan he had sayede
Anoon this god / of slepe a-brayede 192
Out of hys slepe / and gañ to goon
And dyd as he / had bede hym doon
Tooke vp the dreyn / body sone
And bare hyt fortñ / to Alchione 196
Hys wife the quene / ther as she lay
Ryghtñ even a quarter / before day
And stood ryghtñ / at hys beddys fete
And called hir / ryghtñ as she hete 200
By name and sayede / my swete wyfe
A-wake / let be / your sorwful lyfe
For in your sorwe / there lyñ no rede
For certes swete / I am but dede 204
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 lyse
To lytel while / oure blysse lasteth
With that hir eyen / vp she casteth
And sawe noght / allass quod she for sorwe
And deyede within / the thridde 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 matere / 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 ryght thorgh / 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 myght / 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 thoght wonder / yf hit were so
For I had neuer / herde speke or tho
Of noo goddis / that koude make
Meñ to slepe / ne for to wake
For I ne knewe / never god but oon
And in my game / I sayede anoñ
And yet me lyst / ryght euel to pley
Rather then that / y shulde dey
Thorgi defaulete / 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
Yifte / that euer / he abode hys lyve
And here onwarde / ryght now as blyve
Yf 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 satyn / de owter mere
And many a pelowe / and euer bere
Of clothe of reynes / to slepe softe
Hym thar not nede / to turnen ofte
And I wol yive hym / al that fallys
To a chambre / and al hys hallys
I wol do peynete / 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 / queene Alchione
And thus / this ylke god Morpheus
May wynne of me / moo fees thus
Thañ euer he wanne / and to Iuno
That ys hys goddesse / I shal soo do
I trow that she / shal holde hir payede
I hadde vnnenthi / 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 yñly swete / a swene
DETHE OF BLAUNCHE. FAIRFAX MS 16.

So wonderful / that neuer yitte
Y trow no mañ / had the wytte
To konne wel / my sweveñ rede
No not Ioseph / with-oute drede
Of Egipte / ho that red so
The kynges / métynge pharao
No more than ñoude / the lest of vs
Ne nat skarsly / Macrobeus
He that wrote / al thavysyon
That he mette / kyngé Scipioñ,
The noble mañ / the affrikañ.
Isuche marvayles / fortuned than
I trowe a-rede / my dremes eveñi
Loo thus hyt was / thys was my sweveñ

M E thocht thus / that hyt was May
And in the dawynyng / I lay
Me mette thus / in my bed al naked
And loked forthi / for I was waked
With smale foules / a grete hepe
That had Aifrayed me / out of my slepe
Thorghi noyse and swettenesse / of her songe
And al me mette / they sate a-monge
Vpôñ my chambre / roofe wyth-oute
Vpôñ the tyles / ouer al a-boute
And songe euerych / in hys wyse
The moste solempe / seruise
By noote / that euer mañ y trowe
Had herde / for somme of hem songe lowe
Somme highñ / and al of ooñ acorde
To telle shortly / att oo worde
Was neuer herde / so swete a stevenñ
But hyt had be / a thynge of heveñ
So mery a sovne / so swete entewnnes
That certes / for the tovne of tewnnes
I nolde but I / had herde hem synge
For al my chambre / gan to rynge
DETHE OF BLAUNCHE.  

For Instrument / nor melodye  
Was nowhere herde / yet halfe so swete  
Nor of a-corde / halfe so mete  
For ther was noon of hem that feyned  
To synge / 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 depeynted / 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 glasynge / y-wroght thus  
Of Ector / and of kynge Priamus  
Of Achilles / and of kynge lamedon  
And eke of Medea / and of Iasoñ  
Of Paris / Eleyne / and of lavyne  
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 sonze shoñ  
Vpoñ my bed / with bryght bemys  
With many glade / gilde stremys  
And eke the welkeñ / was so faire  
Blew bryghtñ 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 thougñtñ 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
Meñ / hors / houndes / and other thynge
And al meñ speke / of huntynge
How they wolde slee / the hert with strengthe
And how the hert / had vpoñ lengthe
So moche embosed / y not now what [leaf 134, back]
Anoon ryght/ / whañ I herde that
How that they wolde / oñ huntynge gooñ
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 [1 many. Bodl. 638]
And hyed hem / to the forest faste
And with hem / so at the laste
I asked ooñ / ladde A lymere
Say felowe whoo / shal hunte here
Quod I / and he answered ageyn
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 dooñ
The mayster hunte / anoon fote hote
With a grete horne / blewe thre mote
At the vncoypyllynge / 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 siavened me / as I stoode
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 anooh
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 vused / hyt semed thus
For both Flora / and Zephiro
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 / than the heven
To have moo floures / swche seven
As in the walkene / sterris bee
Hyt had forgete / the pouertee
That wynter thorgi / hys colde morwes
Had made hyt suffre / and his sorwes
AH was for-geten / and that was sene
For al the woode / was waxen 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 euer tree / stoode by hym selve
Fro other wel / tene fete / fro other twelve
So grete trees / so huge of streng[t]ie
Or fourty fifty / fedme lengthe
Clene withoute bowghi / or stikke
With cromes 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 highi / vpon the trees and ete
And in hir maner / made festys
Shortly hyt was / so ful of bestys
That thoghi Argus / the noble covnter
Sete to rekene / in hys counter
And rekene / withi his figuris ten
For by tho figuris / mowe al keñ
Yf they be crafty rekene / and novmbr
And tel / of euery thinge the noumbr
Yet shulde he fayle / to rekene evene
The wondres me mette / in my swevene
But forti they Romed / ryghti 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 / an huge tree
lorde thoghi[t]1 I / who may that be [1 thought. Boll, 638]
Whati ayleti hym / to sitten here
Anooñ ryghti / I went nere
Thañ founde I sitte / eveni vpryghti
A wonder wel / farynge knyghti
By the maner / me thoghti soo
Of good moched / and ryghti yonge therto
Of the age / of four and twenty² yere [² four & twenty. Boll].
Vpon hys berde / but lytel here
And he was / clothed al in Blake
I stalked even / vnto hys bake
And there I stoode / as stille as ought
That soth to saye / he sawe me nought
For why he henge / hys hede adovne
And withi 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
Myghtt 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 kañ
Reherse hyt ryghtt / thus hyt begun
† I have of sorwe / so grete wone
That Ioy gete I / never none
Now that I see / my lady bryghtt
Which I have loved / with al my myghtt
Is fro me ded / and ys a-goōn
[...

† Allas dettie / what ayleth thie the
That thou boldest / haue takeñ me
Whañ thou toke / my lady swete
That was so faire / so freshe so fre
So goode that meñ / may wel se
Of al goodenesse / 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

[... no gap in the MS.† ¹ Bodl. 638, leaf 119, back, has no gap either]

[End of the Lay]
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 stoode / 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 / vpoñ hys herte
So throgñ hys sorwes / and hevy thoght:
Made hym / that he herde me noght:
For he had wel nygñ / loste hys mynde
Thogñ .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 was war of me / how y stoode
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 lyghti to make
Quod he / for ther lyethñ noon ther-to
There ys no thynge / myssayde nor do

CHAUCER MI.
Loo / how goodely spake thys knyghte
As hit had be / a-nother wyghte
He made hyt nouthier / towhi ne queynte
And I sawe that / and gañ me1 aqueynt
With hym / and fonde hym so tretable
Ryght' wonder skylful / and resonable
As me thoght' / for al hys bale
A-noon ryght' / I gañ fynde a tale
To hym / to loke wher I myght' 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 thought' ys there-őn / neuer a dele
Be oure lorde quod I / y trhow yow wele
Ryght' so me thenketh / by youre chere
But sir oo thyng / wol ye here
Me thynketh in grete sorowe / I yow see
But certys sir / yif that yee
Wolde ought' 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 / on me asyde
As who saythi 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 makethi my hewe / to fal and fade
And hath myn understondynge / lorne
That me ys woo / that I was borne
May noght make / my sorwes slyde
Nought al the remeydes / of Ovyde 568
Ne Orpheus / god of melodye
Ne Dedalus / with his playes slye
Ne hele me may / noo phisicien
Noght ypocras / ne Galycen 572
Me ys woo that I lyve / ourys twelve
But whoo so wol / assay hym selve
Whether his hert / kañ haue pitee
Of any sorwe / lat hym see me 576
Y wrecheñ that deti / hath made al naked
Of al blysse / that ever was maked
Y worthe worste / of al wyghtys
That hate my dayes / and my nyghtys 580
My lyfe my lustes / be me loothe
For al welfare / and I be wroothe
[leaf 137, back]
The pure deti / ys so ful my foo
That I wolde deye / hyt wolde not soo 584
For whañ I folwe hyt / hit wol flee
I wolde haue hym / hyt nyl nat me
This ys my peyne / wythoute rede
Alway deynge / and be not dede 588
That Thesiphus / that lyeth in helle
May not of more / sorwe telle
And who so wiste alle / be my trouthe
My sorwe / but he had rowthe 592
And pitee / of my sorwes smerte
That mañ hath / a fendely herte
For who so seethi me / firste on morwe
May seyn / he hath mette with sorwe 596
For y am sorwe / and sorwe ys y
$: Allas / and I wol tel the why
My sorowe ys turned / to pleynynge
And al my lawghtre / to wepynge 600
My glade thoghtys / to hevynesse
In travayle / ys myñ 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 sekeenesse
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 wakynges
My merthe and meles / ys fastynge
My countenaunce / ys nycete
And al abawed / where so I be
My pees / in pledynge and in werre
Alas how myght I / fare werre
My boldenesse / ys turned to shame
For fals Fortune / hath pleyde a game
Atte the chesse with me / alas the while
The trayteresse fals / and ful of gyle
That al behoteth / and no thyng halte
She gethe vpryght / and yet she is halte
That baggeth foule / and loketh faire
The dispitouse / debonaire
That skorneth many / a creature
An ydole / of fals portrayure
Ys she / for she wol soñe varieñ
She is the Mowstres / hed y-wriñ
As sylthe / over y-strawed with flouris
Hir moste worshippe / and hir flourys
To lyen / for that ys hyr nature
With-out ye the / lawe or mesure
She ys fals / and euer lawghynge
With one yolhe / and that other wepynges
That ys broght vp / she sette al doun
I lykne hyr / to the Scorpioun
That ys a fals / flatyrynge beste
For with his hede / he maketh feste
But al amydde / hys Flaterynge
With hys tayle / hyt wol stynghe
And envenyme / and so wol she
She ys / thenvyouse charite
That ys ay fals / and semeth wele
So turneth she / hyr fals whele
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 enchauntement
That semethh oon / and ys not soo
The fals thefe / what hath she doo
Trowest thou by oure lorde / I wol the sey
At the chesse withi me / she gan to pley
With hir fals draughtes / dyvers
She staale oon me / and toke my fers
And whañ I sawgh / my fers away
Allas I kouthe / no lenger play
But seyde fare-wel / swete y-wys
And fare-wel al / that ever ther ys
Ther-withi 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 worthe 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 she the more / excused be
For this I say yet / more ther-to
Had I be god / and myghte haue do
My wille whan 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 throg she 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 / noon element
That they ne yive me / a yifte echoñ
Of wepynge / whan I am alloñ
For whan 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 levyth / 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
Alas thañ am I / ouercome
For that ys doõñ / ys not to come
I haue more sorowe / than Tantale
And whan I herde / hym tel thys tale
This pitously / as I yow telle
Unnethe myght' y / lenger duelle
Hyt dyd myñ hert / so moche woo
A goode sir quod I / say not soo
Haue somme pitee / on 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' soo / for trewly
Thogh yé had loste / the ferses twelve
And ye for sorwe / mordred your selve
Ye sholde be damned / in this cas
By as goode ryght' / as Medea was
That slowgh hir children / for Iason
And Phyllis also / for Demophon
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 slowgh hir selfe / for Eneas
Was fals / which a foole she was
And Ecquo died / for Narcissus
Nolde nat love hir / and ryght' thus
Hatli many another / foly doon
And for Dalida / died Sampson
That slowgh 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.

Ioo / she that may be quod y
Good sir telle me / al hooly
In what wyse / how / why / and wherfore
That ye have thus / youre blysse lore
Blythely quod he / come sytte adooñ
I telle hyt the / vp a condicioñ
That thou shalt / hooly withi al thy wytte
Doo thyñ entent to herkene hitte
Yis syr / swere thy trouthe ther-to
Gladly / do thanne / holde here lo
I shal ryght blythely / so god me save
Hooly / withi al the witte I have
Here yow / as wel as I kañ
A goddys halfe quod he / and began
Syr quod he / siti 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 / withi 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 wallc / or a table
For hit ys redy / to cachehe and take
Al that meñ wil / theryn 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 haue kende / as wel or better
Paraunter / other Arte or letre
But for love came firste / in my thoght
Therfore / I forgate hyt noght
I ches love / to my first crafte
Therfore hit ys / withi me lafte
For why I toke hyt / of so yonge age
That malyce / had my corage
Nat that tyme turned / to no thynge
Thorgli 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 flyttynge
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 / on a day
In-to a place / ther that I say
Trewly the fayrest / companye
Off Ladyes / that euere mañ withi ye
Had señ to-gedres in oo place
Shal I clepe hyt / happe other grace
That broght me there / nay but Fortune
That ys to lyñ / 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
Amonge these ladyes / thus echoñ
Sothi to seyn / y sawghñ oon
That was lyke / noon of the Route
For I dar swere / withoute doute
That as the somerys / sonze bryghte
Ys fairer clerer / and hathi more lyghte
Thañ any other / planete in hevene
The moone / or the sterres sevène
For al the worlde / so had she
Surmountede / hem / al of beaute
Of maner / and of comelynesse
Of stature / and of so wel sette gladnessse
Of godeylyhed / and so wel be-sey
Shortly / what shal y sey
By god / and by halwes twelve
Hyt was my swete / ryghtñ 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 sone / in my thoghtñ
As helpe me god / so was y kaughtñ
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 thoghtñ
Seyde hit were beter / serve hir for noghtñ
Thañ withi a-nother / to be wel
And hyt was sothe / for eueredel
I wil a-noon / ryghtñ telle the why
I sawghñ 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 euer-more
Nas seyne / so a blysful a tresore
For euery heer / oñ hir hede
Soth to seyne / hyt was not rede
Ne nouther yelowe ne broune hyt nas
Me thought most lyke / hyt was
¶ And which eyeñ / my lady hadde
Debonair goode / glade and sadde
Symple of goode / mochel noght to wyde
Ther-to hir looke / nas not a-syde
Ne ouertwert / but besette so wele
Hyt drewh and tooke vp / euerydele
Al that oñ hir / gan be-holde
Hir eyeñ semed / anoon 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 / foly sprad
Ne wildely / thogñ that she pleyde
But euer me thought / 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 oñ / with hire loke she hert
And that sate hyr / ful lyteł at hert
For she knowe no-thynge / of her thought
¹ but whither she knew / or knew it nowght
Algate she ne rought / of hem a stree
To gete hyr love / noo nerre was he
DETHE OF BLAUNCHE. FAIRFAX MS 16.

That woned at home / that he in ynde
The formest was / alway behynde
But good folke ouer al other
She loved as mañ / may do hys brother 892
Of whiche loue / she was wounder large
In skilful placis / that bere charge
But which a visage / had she ther-too
Allas myñ hert / ys wonder woo 896
That I ne kañ / discryveñ hyt
Me lakketh both / englyssh and wit
For to vn-do hyt / at the fulle
And eke my spirits / 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 [blanche in margin, in Stone's hand]
And euery day / hir beaute newed
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 thynkyth / I se hir euer moo
And yet more over / thoghñ al thoo
That ever levede / were now a lyve
Ne sholde ha founde / to diskryve 916
Yn al hir face / a wikked sygne
For hit was sad / symple and benygne
And which a goodely / softe speche
Had that swete / my lyves leche 920
So frendely / and so wel y-grounded [leaf 142]
Vp al 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 928
I durste swere / thogh the Pape hit songe
That ther was neuer yet / thogh hir tonge
Mañ ne woman / gretely harmed
As for hit was / al harme hyd 932
Ne lasse flaterynge / in hir word
That purely / hir symple recorde
Was founde as trewe / as any bonde
Or trouthe / of any mannys honde 936
Ne chyde she koude / neuer a dele
That 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 white¹ smothe / streght² and pure flatte [1 blanche in margin, by Stowe]
Wyth-outeñ hole / or canel boon
As be semynge / had she noon
Hyr throte / as I hae now memoyre
Semed a rounde toure / of yvoyre
Of goode gretenesse / and noght² to grete
¶ And goode faire White² / she hete [² blanche in margin, by Stowe]
That was my lady Name / ryghte
She was bothe / faire and bryghte
She had not / hir name wronge
Ryght² faire shuldres / and body longe 952
She / had / and armes / euery lyth
Fattyss³ flesshy / not grete therwith
Ryght² white handes / and nayles rede
Rounde brestes / and of good brede 956
Hyr hippes were / a streight² flat bakke
I knewe on hir / noon other lakke.
That al hir lymmes / nere pure sywynge [leaf 142, back]
In as fferre / as I had knowynge 960
Therto she koude / so wel pley
Whañ that hir lyst / that I dar sey
That she was lyke / to torche bryghte
That euery mañ / may take of lyght!
Ynoghi / and hyt hathe / neuyer the lesse
Of maner / and of comlynesse
Ryghte so ferde / my lady dere
For euery wighte / of hir manere
Myghte cachche ynoghi / yif that he wolde
Yif he had Eyeñ / 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
Thoghi they had stonde / in a Rowe
To mennys Eyen / koude haue knowe
For wher so meñ had / pleyed or wakyd
Me thoghté the felysshyppe / as naked
Withouteñ hir / that sawgh I oones
As a corowne / withoute stones
Trewly she was / to myñ Eye
The soleyné Fenix / of Arabye
For ther levyth / nevir but oon
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-outé malyce / vpoñ gladnesse
And ther-to I sawgh / neuer yet a lesse
Harmeful than she was / in doynge
I sey nat that she / ne had knowynge
DETHE OF BLAUNCHE.  FAIRFAX MS 16.  29

What harme was / or elles she
Had koude¹ no good / so thenketh me ¹ or konde] [leaf 143
And trewly / for to speke of trouthe
But she had hadde / hyt hadde be routhe
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 / perseveraunce
And Esy atempry / gouernaunce
That euer I knewe / or wyste ytte
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 ryght¹
She wronge do wolde / to no wyght¹
No wyght¹ myght¹ doo / hir noo shame
She loved so wel / hir ovne name
Hyr lust to holde / no wyght¹ in honde
Ne be thou siker / she wolde not fonde¹
To holde no wyght¹ / in balaunce
By halfe worde / ne by countenaunce
But yif meñ wolde / vpoñ hir lye
Ne sende meñ / in-to walakye
To pruyse / and in-to Tartarye
To Alysaundre / ne in-to Turkye
And byd hym faste / anooñ that he
Goo hoodeles / in-to the drye se
And come home / by the Carrenare
And sey sir / be now ryght¹ ware
That I may of yow / here seyn
Worshyppe / or that ye come ageyn¹
DETHE OF BLAUNCHE.  FAIRFAX MS 16.

She ne vsed / no suche knakkes smale
But wherfore / that y tel my tale
Ryght oû 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 worldys 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 seyen
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 beaute
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\textsuperscript{t} nede / and I wol telle howe
For of goode wille my\textsuperscript{n} 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 telleth thus
The Romayne / Tytus lyuyus
She was as good / and no thynge lyke
Thogh hir stories / be Autentyke
Algate she was / as trewe as she
But wherfore / that I telle the
Whan I firste / my lady Say
I was ryght\textsuperscript{t} yonge / sothe to say
And ful grete nede / I hadde to lerne
Whan my herte / wolde yrne
To love / hyt was a grete empysse
But as my wytte / koude beste suffise
After my yonge / childely wytte
Withoute drede / I be-sette hytthe
To love hir / in my best wyse
To do hir worshippe / and the seruise
That I koude thoo / be my trouthe
Withoute ffeynynge / outhere slouthe
For wonder feyne / I wolde hir se
So mochel / hyt amended me
That wha\textsuperscript{n} I sawgh hir / first a morwe
I was warshed / of al my sorwe
Of al day after / til hyt were eve
Me thoght t' no-thyng / myghte me greve
Were my sorwes / neuer so smerte [leaf 144, back]
And yet she sytte / so myñ herte
That by my trouthe / y nolde noght t
For al thys worlde / oute of my thoght t
Leve my lady / noo trewly
Now by my trouthe / sir quod I
Me thynketh ye haue / suche a chaunce
As shryfte / wythoute repentaunce
Repentaunce / nay Fy quod he
Shulde y now / repente me
To love / nay certis thanï were I wel
Wers thanï was / Achetofel
Or Anthenor / so haue I ioye
The traytore that / betrayed Troye
Or the fals / Genellos
He that purchased / the tresoñ
Of Rowlande / and of Olyvere
Nay while I am / a lyve here
I nyl foryte 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 sawgh 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 t
Whether ye loued hir / or noght t
And telletñ me eke / what ye haue lore
I herde yow telle / herebefore
Yee / he seyde / thow nost what thou menyßt
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 goddys 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 / trewyly
For wostow why / she was lady
Of the body / she had the hert
And who hathe that / may not astert
But for to kepe me / so fro ydelvesse
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
Songs the knowe / the arte alle
As koude lamekys / sone Tuballe
That founde out firste / the art of songe
For as hys brothres / hamers ronge
Vpon hys Anuelet / vp and doon
Therof he tooke / the first soon
But Grekes seyñ / 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
¶ lorde hyt maketh / myñ hert lyght
Whañ I thenke / ôñ that swete wyghtt
DETHE OF BLAUNCHE. FAIRFAX MS 16.

That is so semely / oñ to see
And wisse to god / hit myghts so bee
That she wolde holde me / for hir knyghts
My lady that is / so faire and bryght
Now have I tolde / the sothe to say
My first songe / vpñ a day
I be-thoghts me / what woo
And sorwe that I / suffred thoo
For hir and yet / she wyster hyt noghts
Ne tel hir durst I / nat my thoghts
Allas thoghts I / y kañ no rede
And but I telle hir / I am but dede
And yif I telle hyr / to sey ryghts sothe
I am a-dred / she wol be wrothe
Allas what shal I / thanne doo
In this debate / I was so woo
Me thoghts myñ hert / brast a tweyne
So at the last / sothe to sayne
I be-thoghts me / that nature
Ne formed neuer in creature
So moche beaute / trewly
And bounte / wyth-out 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 beganne
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. wundes of Egipte
For many a worde / I ouer skipte
In my tale / for pure Fere
Lest my wordys / mys sett were
With sorweful herte / and wundes dede
Softe and quakyng / for pure drede
And shame / and styntynge in my tale
For ferde / and myñ hewe al pale
Ful ofte I wexe / bothe pale and rede
Bowynge to hir / I heng the hede 1216
I durste nat ones / loke hir onñ
For witte maner / and al was goon  [leaf 146]
I seyde mercy / and no more
Hyt nas no game / hyt sate me sore 1220
So at the laste / sothe to seyne
Whañ that myñ hert / was come ageyne
To telle shortly / at my speche
With hool herte / I gañ hir besche 1224
That she wolde be / my lady swete
And swore and gañ / hir hertely het
Ever to be stedfast / and trewe
And love hir alwey / fresshly newe 1228
And never other / lady have
And al hir worshippë / for to save
As I best koude / I swore hir this
For youres is alle / that euer ther ys 1232
For euermore / myñ herte swete
And neuer to false yow / but I mete
I nyl as wysse / god helpe me soo
And whañ I had / my tale y-doo 1236
God wote she acounted / nat a stree
Of al my tale / so thoght me
To telle shortly / ryght as hyt ys
Trewly hir answere / hyt was this 1240
I kañ not now wel / counterfete
Hyr wordys / but this was the grete
Of hir answere / she sayde nay
Alle outerly / allas that day 1244
The sorowe I suffred / and the woo
That trewy Cassandra / that soo
Bewayled / the destruccioñ
Of Troy / and of Ilyoñ 1248
Had neuer swich sorwe / as I thoo
I durst no more / say ther-too
For pure fere / but stale away
And thus I lyved / ful many a day 1252
That trewly / I hadde no nede
Ferther / than my beddes hede
Never a day / to seche sorwe
I fonde hyt redy / euery morwe 1256
For why / I loved hyr in no gere
So hit befel / another yere
I thoughte ones / I wolde fonde
To do hir knowe / and v[n]derstonde 1260
My woo / and she wel vnderstode
That I ne wilned / no thynge but gode
And worshippe / and to kepe hir name
Ouer alle thynes / and drëd hir shame 1264
And was so besy / hir to serve
And pitee were / I shulde sterve
Syth that I wilned / noen harme y-wys
So whan my lady / knewe al thys 1268
My lady yaf me / al hooly
The noble yifte / of hir mercy
Savynge hir worshippe / by al weyes
Dredles I mene / noen other weyes 1272
And therwithi / she yaf me a rynge
I trowe hyt was / the first thynge
But yf myñ hert / was I-waxe
Gladde / that is no nede to axe 1276
As helpe me god / I was as blyve
Reysed as fro dethe / to lyve
Of al happes / the alder' beste
The gladdest / and the moste at reste 1280
For trewly / that swete wyght
Whañ I had wrong / and she ryght
She wolde alway / so goodeley
For-yeve me / so debonairely 1284
In al my yowthe / in al chaunce
She tooke me / in hir gouernaunce
Therwyth she was / alway so trewe
Our Ioye was euer / y-lyche newe
Oure hertys werne / 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 kañ / 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 gañ to strake / forthi 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 Iohañ / oñ 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 slepyng
I fond hyt / in myñ honde ful evene
Thoghts I thys ys / so queynt a sweuene
That I wol / be processe of tyme
Fonde to put this / sweuene in ryme
As I kañ best / and that anoon
This was my sweuene / now hit ys doon

¶ Explicit the Boke of the Duchesse
II.

The Compleynte to Pite.

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

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

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

.WriteString("Balade.

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

(1) [The Proem.]

The that I haue sought / so yore agoo
With hert soore / and ful of besy peyne
That in this worlde / was neuer wight / so woo
With-oute deethe / and yf I shal not fayne
My purpose was / to pite / to compleyne
Vpon / the crueltie / and tirannye
Of loue / that for my trouthe doth me dye

(2) [The Story.]

And wheñ that I be lengthie / of certeyne yeres
Had euere in ooñ / soughte a tyme to speke
To pitee rañ I / al bespreyte withi teres
To prayeñ hir ooñ crueltie / me awreke
But er I myght / 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 / wheñ I saugh the herse
Dede as stone / while that the swogh me laste
But vp I roose / withe coloure ful dyuerse
And petously on hir / myñ eyeñ I caste
And ner the corps / I gañ preseñ faste
And for the soule / I shope me for to prey
I was but lorne / ther was no more to sey
Thus am I slayne / sith that pite is dede
Allas that day / that euer hyt shuld falle
What maner man / dar now hold vp his hede
To whom shal now / eny sorwful herte calle
Now cruelte hath caste / to slee vs alle
In ydel hope / folke redelesse of peyne
Sytih she is dede / to whom shul we compleyne

But yet encreseth 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 stoden lustely
Withouthe any woo / as thoughte me
Bounte parfyt / wel armed and richely
And fresshe 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 when 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 / when I shal be sleyñ
And I haue put my complaunt / vp ageynñ
For to my ffoes / my bille I dar not shewe
Theffect 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 noght 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
Vnder colour / of womanly beaute
For men shulde not / knowe hir tirannye
With bounte gentilesse / and curtesye
And hati depryved yow / of your place
That is hygh 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
Withouthe 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 sleen 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 sought / so tendirly and yore
Let somme streme of lyghts / 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 kunnynge / for to pleyne
For goddis loue / haue mercy on my peyne

My peyne is this / that what so I desire
That haue I not ne no thing / lyke therto
And euer setteñ desire / myñ hert oñ fire
Eke oñ 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 detñ / and than my bere
(16) (III. 2)
What nedeth to shewe parcel / of my peyne
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 deth / and that shal wel be sene

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

 Explicit.
The Parlement of Foules.
Here begynyth the parlement of ffoulys. [on leaf 480, back]

(1) [The Proem.]

He lyf so short the craft so longe to lerne [leaf 481]
Thassay so sharp / so hard the conquerynge
The dredful Ioye / alwey that slit so 3erne
Al this mene I / be loue / that myn felynge
A-stonyd with his woundyrful 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 his 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 wretewith letteris olde
And ther vpon a certeyn thing to lerne
The longe day ful faste I redde & 3erne

(4)

For ofte of olde feldys / as men sey
Comyth al this newel corn from 3er to 3ere [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 materre
To rede forth so gan me to delite
That al that day me thou3te but a lyte
This bok of which I make of mencioun
Entytlt 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 thercen1 dwelle [is altered from y]
Of whiche as shortly as I can it trete
Of his centence I were 3ow seyn the greete

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-twixxsyn hem thil that day gan mysse
And how his Auncestre Affrycan so deere
Gan in his slep that ny3t to hym a-pere

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 ơpër lewid
That louede comoun profyt wel I-thewid
He shulde in to a blysful place wende
There as Ioye is pat last with outyn ende

Thanne axede he If folk that now been dede
Han lyf & dwellynge In a nothir place
And Affrican seyde 3a with outyn drede
And that oure present wordis lyuys space
Nys but a maner deth what weye we trace
And rightful folk schul gon aftyr they deye
To heuene / & schewede hym the galylye
(9)
Thanne shewede he hym the erthe that here is
At regard of the heuenys quantite
And after shewede he hym the nyne speris
And aftyr that the melodye herde he
That comyth of thilke speris thryes thre
That welle is of musik & melodye
In this world here & cause of armony

(10)
Than bad he hym syn erthe was so lyte
And was sumdel disseyuable & ful of harde grace
That he ne schulde hym in the world delyte
Thanne tolde he hym in certeyn 3eris space
That euery sterre shulde come in to his place
Ther it was ferst & al schulde out of mynde
That in this world is don of al mankynde.

(11)
Thanne preyede hym cy Lyon to telle hym al
The weye to come In to that heuene blis
And he seyde know thyself 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

(12)
But brekeis of the lawe soth to seyn
And lykerous folk aftyr that they ben dede
Schul whirle a-boute þere alwey in peyne
Tyl manye a world be passid out of drede
And that for-þeuyw is his weked dede
Than shal þey comyn in to this blysful place
To whiche to comyn god synde us grace
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

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

The wery huntere slepynge In his bed
To wode a-ȝen his mynde goth a-non
The Iuge dremyth how his pleis been sped
The cartere dremyth 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

Can I nat seyn If that the cause were
For I hadde red of african by-foren
That made me to mete that he stod theer.
But thus seyde he thow hast the so wel born
In lokyng of myn olde bok by-forn
Of whiche Macrobye roughte nat a lyte
That sumdel of thyn labour wolde I quyte
(17) [Invocation.]

Cythera thow blysful lady swete
That with thyn ferbround 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
When I be-gan myn sweuene for to write
So 3if me myght to ryme & ek tendyte

(18) [The Story.]

This forseyde African 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-wrowght
There were vers I-wrete as me thout
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 & daunger is the gyde
That neuere 3it shal freut ne leuys bere
This strem 3ow ledith to sorweful were
There as the fisch in prysoun is al drye
Ther' 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 errore for to chese
To entre. or flen. or me to saue. or lese

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

And seyde it stant writyn In thyn face
Thyn errore 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 & bytynnesse

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 whe er 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 ouerall where that I myyne 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 seene

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 olynge of pes / & ek the droooke vyne
The victor palm / the laurer to deuyne

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

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

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

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

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
(33)

I saw beute with outyn ony a-tyr
And 3outhe ful of game & Iolyte
Fool hardynesse & flaterye & desyr
Messagerye & meede & ofer 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

(34)

Aboute that temple daunsedy 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 oflys alwey 3er be 3eere
And on the temple of dowis white & fayre
Saw I syttynge manye an hunderede peyre

(35)

By-fore the temple dore / ful sobyrly
Dame pes sat with / a curtyn in hire hond
And by hire syde / wondyr discretly
Dame pacience / syttynghe 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—

(36)

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 auter for to brenne
Of newe flaume & wel espyed I thenne
That¹ 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 souereyn place stonde  
In swich aray as wan \(^1\) the ass hym shente  [\(^1\) s scratcht out]  
With Cri be nyghte & with septure In his honde  
Ful besyly men guzne asaye & fonde  
Vp on his hed to sette of sundery hewe  
Garlondis ful of flourrys frosche & newe  

(38)  
And In a\(^2\) prue corner / In desport  [\(^2\) a altered from n]  
Fond I feby & hire porter richesse  
That was ful noble & hauntayn of hyre port  
Derk was that place but aftyward lightnesse  
I saw a lyte vnnethe it myȝte 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 myȝthe 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 saunowris sote  
And Bacus god of wyn sat hire be syde  
And sereis\(^3\) next that doth of hungir boote  [\(^3\) ei altered]  
And as I seyide a myydis lay Cypride  
To wham on kneis two ȝonge folk there cryede  
To ben here helpe / but thus I let hem lye  
And ferthere in the temple I gan espie  

---

\(^1\) s

---

\(^2\) a altered from n

---

\(^3\) ei altered
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 waunte

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

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

And In a launde vp on an hil of flouris
Was set this noble goddesse nature
Of braunchis were here hallis & here bouris
I-wrought 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 / & 3eue hire audyence
(45)
For this was on seynt Volantynys day
When euery bryd comyth there to chese his make
Of euery kynde that men thynke may
And that so heuge a noyse gan they make 312
That erthe & eyr & tre & euery lake
So ful was that onethe was there space
For me to stonde. so ful was al the place 315

(46)
And righ as aleyn In the pleynt of kynde
Deuyseth natur In aray / & face
In swich aray men myghte hire there fynde
This nobil emperesse ful of grace 319
Bad euery foul to take his owene place
As they were wonyd alwey from 3er to 3eere
Seynt Volantynys day to stondyn theree 322

(47)
That is to seyn the foulis of rauyne
Were heyest set & thanne foulis smale
That etyn as hem nature wolde enclyne
As werm or thyng I telle my^n tale 326
And watyr foul sat loueste in the dale
But foul that lyuyth be sed sat on the grene
And that so fele that wondyr was to sene 329

(48)
There myghte men the ryal egle fynde
That with his sharpe lok persith the sunne
And othere eglis of a lowere kynde
Of whiche that clerkis wel deuyse cuyne 333
Ther was the tiraunt with his federys dunne
A grey I mene the goshauk that doth pyne
To 1 bryddis for his outrageouis rauyne [p. Tho: h inserted] 336
The gentyl facoun that with his feet distraynyth
The kyngis hand / the hardy sperhauk eke
The quaylis foo / the Merilioun that paynyth
Hym self ful ofte the larke for to seke 340
There was the douue with hire eyen meke
The Ielous swan / a-zens hire, deth that syngith
The oule ek that of deth the bode bryngyth 343

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

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

The wakyr goos / the cokkow lmost onkynde [m altered from en]
The popyniay ful of delicasye
Thè drake stroyere of his owene kynde
The stork the wreker of a-vouterye 361
The hote Cormeraunt of glotenye
The rauen wys / the crowe wit vois of care
The thurstil old / the frosty feldefare 364
(53)
What shulde I seyn of foulys euery kynde
That In this world hath federis & stature
Men myghtyn in that place assembled fynde
By-fore the noble goddesse / nature
And euereiche of hem dede his besy cure
Benygnely to chese or for to take
By hire a-cord his formel or his make

(54)
But to the poynt nature held on hire hond
A formele egle of shap the gentilleste
That euere she a-mong hire werkis fond
The moste benygne & the goodlieste
In hire was eueri vertu at his reste
So fer forth that nature hire self hadde blysse
To loke on hire & ofte hire bek to kysse

(55)
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 3ore ese In fortheryng of 3oure nede
As faste¹ as I may speke I wele 3ow speede [² a altered] 385

(56)
³e knowe wel how seynt volantynys day
By myn statute / & thorw myn gouernaunce
³e come for to cheese & fle 3oure wey
3oure makis as I prike 3ow with plesaunce
But natheles myn ryghtful ordenaunce
May I nat breke for al this world to wyne
That he that most is worthi shal begynne
(57)
The terslet egle as that ye knowe ful wel
The foul ryal a-bouyn euery degre
The wyse & worthi secre trewe as stel
Whiche I haue formyd as ye 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

(58)
And aftyr hym by ordere shul they chese
Aftyr 3oure kynde eueriche as ye lykyth
And as 3oure hap is shul 3e wynn or lese
But which of 3ow that loue most entrikyth
God synde hym hire that soryst for hym sykyth
And therwithal the tersel gan she calle
And seyde myn sone the choys is to 3ow falle

(59)
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 is oure vsage alwey from 3er to 3eere
And ho so may at this tyme haue his grace
In blisful tyme he cam into this place

(60)
With hed enclyned & with humble cheere
This ryal tersel / spak. & tariede noht
Vn to myn souereyn lady & not myn fere
I chese & shes with wil & herte & thought
The formel on 3oure hond so wel I-wroujt
Whos I am al & euere wele hire serve
Do what hire lest / to do me leve[1] or sterve

[1 originally lere]
(61)
Besekynge hire of merci & of grace
As she that is myn\textsuperscript{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 routhe

(62)
And If that I to hyre be founde vntrewe
Dishobeysaunt or wilful negligent
Auauntour 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 vntrewe / or In myn gilt vnkynde

(63)
And syn that hire / louyth non so wel as I
Al be It that he me neuere of loue be-heette\textsuperscript{2}
Thanne ouhte she be myn thour hire mercy
For othir bond can I non on hire areete\textsuperscript{3}
Ne neuere for no wo ne shal I lette
To seruyn hire how fer so that she wende
Say what 3ow leste myn tale is at an ende

(64)
Ryght as the frosche rede rose newe
A-3en the somyr suzne coloured is
Ryght so for shame al waxen gan hire hewe
Of this formel whan she herde al this
She neythr answerde wel ne seyde a mys
So sore a-bashat was she tyl that nature
Seyde 4dooughter drede the nought I 3ow assure

\textsuperscript{1} corrected myn
\textsuperscript{2} to originally ee
\textsuperscript{3} altered to etc
\textsuperscript{4} altered to
A nothir tersel egle spak a-non
Of lower kynde seyde that shal nat be
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 louynge
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 suffysse
From poynt In poynt / 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 lytl leyser heere
For euery foul cryeth out to ben a-go
Forth with his mak or with his lady deere
And ek nature hire self 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 languyssynge
This twenty 3eer & as wel happyyn may
A man may seruyyn bet & more to pay
In half a 3er al thav It were no moore
Than sum man doth that hath seruyd ful 30ore
(69)
I sey not this by me for I ne can
Don non seruyse that may myn lady¹ plese
But I dar seyn / I am hire treweste man
As to myn dom and fayneste 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 bethynke

(70)
Of al myn lyf syn that day I was born
So gentil ple in loue or othir thyng
Ne herde neuere no man me be-forn
Ho that hadde leyser & cwnyng
For to reherse hyre cher & hire spekyng
And from the morwe gan this speche laste
Tyl dounward drow the sunne wondir faste

(71)
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 Iuge eythir partie leue
For 3e or nay / with outyn othir preue

(72)
The goos the cokkow / & the doke also
So cryede kek kek. kokkow . quek quek hye
That thourw myne erys the noyse wente tho
The goos seyde al this nys not worth a flye
But I can shappe herof a remedie
And I wele seye myn verdit fayre & swythe
For watyr foul ho so be wroth or blythe

CHAUCER MI.
(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 1 am a sed foul, on the onworthieste
That wot I wel / & litil of cunynge
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 luge on euery folk men shul on calle
To seyn the verdit for yow foulys alle

(76)

Assentid was to this conclusiou\n[leaf 488, back]
The briddis alle & foulis of lauynge
Han chosyn fyrst by playn eleccioun
The terselet of the facoun to diffyne
Al here centence as hem leste to termyne
And to nature hym gurne to presente
And she acceptyh hym with glad entente
(77)
The terslet seyde In this manere
Ful hard were it to proue by resouz
Who louyth best this gentil formele heere
For euerych hath swich replicacioun
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 seye
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 voys that¹ han the charg on honde
And to the Iugis dom / 3e motyn stonde

(79)
And therfore pes I seye / as to myn wit
Me wolde thynke how that the worthiest
Of knygthod² & lengest hath vsed it
Most of estat of blod the gentilleste
Were sittyngest for hire If that he leste
And of these thre she wot hire self I trowe
Whiche that he be / for here³ is light to knowe

(80)
The watyr foulis han here hedis leid
To gedere & of a short auysement
Whan eueryche hadde his large gole seyd
They seydyn 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 & preyede god hym spede
90 PAR.-TEXT
66 PARLAMENT OF FOULES. cg. 4. 27, CAMBR. UNIV. LIBR.

(81)
As for these watyr foulis tho¹ be-gan [goos scratcht out] [leaf 188]
The goos to speke & in his kakelynge
He seyde pes now tak kep euery man
And herkenyth which a resoun I shal brynge
Myn wit is sharp I loue no taryinge
I seye I rede hym thow he were myn brothir
But she wele loue hym let hym take a nothir

(82)
Lo here a perfit resoun of a goos
Quod the sperhauk / neuere mot he the
lo sich it is to haue a tunge loos
Now perde 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

(83)
The laughtere aros of gentil foulis alle
And righ a-non the sedful chosesyyn hade
The tersel trewe / and gunne 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

(84)
Nay god forbede a louere shulde chaunge
The tersel seyde / & wex for shame red
Thow that his lady euere more be straunge
3it lat hym serue hire til that he be ded
Forsothe I preys nat the gosis red
For thow sche deyede I wolde non othir make
I wele ben hire til that the deth me take
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 rekke of hym that is reckeles
Kek kek 3it seith the doke ful wel & fayre
There been mo sterris god wot than a payre

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

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 lesoun nedith nat recorde

3e have1 the glotoun fild I-now his paunche
Thanne are we wel seyde thanne a Merlioun
Thow mortherere of the heysoge on the braunche
That broughte the forth thow refulles glotoun
Leue thow soleyn werm corupcioun
For no fors is of lak of thyn nature
Go lewed be thow whil that the world may dure
(89)

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

(90)

For syn It may not here discussid be
Who 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 2 han altered\]
And he hire that / his herte hath on hire knyt
Thus Iuge I nature / for I may not lye
To non estat / I haue non othir eye . 630

(91)

But as for conseyl for to chese a make 1 leaf 490
If .I. were resoun certis thane wolde I
Conseyle 3ow the ryal tersel take
As seyde the terselet ful skylfully 634
As for the gentilleste & most worthi
which I haue wrought so wel to myn plesaunce
That to 3ow oughte to been a suffisaunce 637

(92)

With dredful vois / the formel tho answerde
Myn rightful lady goddesse of nature
Soth ist that I am euere vndyr 3oure 3erde
As is a nothir lyuis creature 641
And mot ben 3oure whil that myn lyf may dure
And therfore grauntyth me myn feste bone
And myn entent that wele I seyn wol sone 644
(93)
I graunte it 3ow quod she & that a-non
This formel egle spak in this degre
Almyghty queen vnto this 3er be gon
I axe respit for to a- wise me
And afyr 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
Forsoth 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-weye
Eche with his make for taryinge lengere heere
And seyde hym thus as 3e shul afyr 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 peignynge in his degre
For to do wel for god wot what is she
For 3ow this 3er what afyr 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 wende
But lord the blisse & Ioye that they make
For ech gan othir in his wyngis take
And with here nekkis eche gan othyr wynde
Thankynege alwey the noble queen of kynde
But first were chosyn / foulis for to synge
As yer be yer was alwey the vsance
To syngn a roundel at here departynge
To don to nature honour & plesaunc e
The note I trow I-makid were in fraunce
The wordis were sweche as ye 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 thys wintres wedres ovire shake
And dreuyne away the large nyghtes blake

(II.)
Saynt volantyne that erf ful hye o loft e
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 his 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 madyn at here flyght a wey
I wok & othere bokys tok me to
To reede vp on & 2it 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 Anium In die sancti Valentini ten- tum secundum Galfridum Chaucer. Deo gracias.
IV.

The Compleynt of Mars.
Complaynt of Mars and Venus.

[fn 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 flouris fresh / honoureñ the this day  
For when the sunne vprist · theñ wol they sprede  
But ye lovers · that lye in eny drede  
Fleeth lest wikked tongues · 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 worthe 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 repentynge · cheseth your make  
And ye that han ful chosen · as I deuise  
Confermeth hyt · perpetuely to dure  
And paciently · taketh your Auenture
And for the worship of this highe fest
Yet wol I in my briddes wise synge
The sentence of the compleynt at the lest
That woful Mars made atte departyng
Fro fresshe Venus in a morwnyng
Whaþ Phebus with his fiery torches rede
Ransaked hatði euery louer in hys drede

(5) [The Story.]

Whilom the thrid heuenes lord a-bowe
As wel by heuenysfy renolucion
As by desert hatði wonne Venus his love
And she hatði take him in subieccion
And as a maistresse taught him his lesson
Commaundyng he him that neuere in her seruise [leaf 15, back]
He ner so bolde no louer 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 bat with stering of her cher

(7)

Who regnetði now in blysse but Venus
That hatði thys worthy knyght in gouernaunce
Who syngeth now but Mars / that serueth thus
the fair Venus causer of plesaunce
He bynt him to perpetuall obeisance
And she bynt her to love him for euer
But so be that his trespace hyt deseuer
Thus be they knyt * and regnen as in heuen 
Be lokyng moost * til hyt fil on a tyde 
That by her bothe assent * was set a steuen 
That Mars shal entre * as fast as he may glyde 53 
In-to hir next paleys * to abyde 
Walkynge hys cours * til she had him a-take 
And he preiede her / to faste her . for his sake 56

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

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

The grete Ioye that was * betwex hem two 
When they be mette * ther may no tunge tel 
ther is no more * but vnto bed thei go 
And thus in Ioy and blysse * I let hem duel 74 
this worthi Mars * that is of knyghthode wel 
the flour of feyrenesse * lappeth in his armes 
And Venus kysseth Mars * the god of Armes 77
(12)
Soiourned hath this Mars of which I rede
In chambre 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

(13)
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
embraceth Mars and seyde alas I dye
the torch is come that al this world wol wrie

(14)
Vp stert Mars hym lust not to slepe
when he his lady herde so compleyne
but for his nature was not for to wepe
In stid of teres fro his eyen twyne
the firi sparkes brosten out for peyne
And hent his hauberke that ley hym besyde
Fle wold he not ne myght him seluen hide

(15)
He thewe 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 ouer londe
he may not holde with Venus companye
But bad her fleen lest phebus her espye
O woful Mars alas / what maist thou seyñ
that in the paleys / of thy disturbaunce
Art thou left by-hynde / in peril to be sleyñ
And yet ther-to / ys double thy penaunce
For she that hath thyn hert / in gouernaunce
Is passed halfe the stremes / of thin yen
that thou ner swift / wel maist thou wepe and crieñ

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

Derke was this caue / and smokyng as the hel
Not but two pales / within the yate hit stode
A naturel day in derk / I let her duel
Now wol I speke of Mars / 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

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 departynge / he toke gretter Ire
Then for al his brennyng / in the fire.
(20)
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  
Alas when shal I mete yow / hert dere this .xij. dayes / of apprile I endure Throgh Ielouse phebus / this mysaventure 

(21)
Now god helpe / sely Venus allone but as god wolde / hyt happed for to be That while that Venus / weping made her mone Cilinius rydinge / in his cheuache Fro Venus Valaunses / myght his paleys se And Venus he salueth / and maketh chere And her receyueth / as his frende ful dere

(22)
Mars dwelleth forth / in hes' aduersyte Compleynyng euer / on her departynge And what his compleynt was / remembr breth me And therfore / in this lusty morwnynge 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

(23) [The Proem.]
The ordre of compleynt / requireth skylfully that yf a wight / shal pleyn petously  
Ther mot be cause / wherfore that men pleyn other men may deme / he pleyneth folcely  
And causes alas / that am not I Wherfor the grounde and cause / of al my pelyn So as my troubled witte / may hit ateyn
I wol rehearse not / for to haue redresse
But to declare my grounde / of heuynesse

The first tyme / alas that I was wroght
And for certeyn effectes / hider broght
Be him that lordeth / ech 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

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

What wonder ys then / thogh I beset
my seruise on such oû / 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 euery wyght
For this day / in her seruise shal I dye
but grace be / I se her oones wyth ye
(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
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 auenture

(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
somtyme yf that Ielosie / hyt knewe
they myghten lyghtly / ley her hede to borowe
somtyme envyous folke / with tunges horowe
departen hem alas / whom may they plese
but he be fals / no louer hath his ese

(29) (II. 3)

But what availeth / suche a longe sermōn
of auentures of love / vp and dovne
I wol returne / and speken of my peyne
the poynt is this / of my distruccioō
My right lady / my sauačyoō
Is in affray / and not to whom to pleyn
O hert suete / O lady souereyn
For your disese / I oght wel sowne and swelt
thogh I none other harme / ne drede felt
(30)  [Third Tern of Stanzas, 1]

To what fyne made the god / that sitte so hye
be-nethen loue / other companye
And streyneth folke / to love malgre her hede
And then her Ioy / for oght I can espye

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

(31)  (III. 2)

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
doth 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

(32)  (III. 3)

Hit semeth he hath / to louers enemyte
And lyke a fissher / as men alday may se
Bateth hys angle-hoke / with summe plesaunce

[leaf 18, back]  
til mony a fischys wode / to that he be
Seses ther-with ./ and then at erst hath he
Al his desire / and ther-with al myschaunce
And thogh the lyne breke / he hath penaunce
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 every wight / that set on hit an ye
He wend anon / to worthe out of his mynde
So sore the beaute / wold his hert bynde
til he hit had / him thoght he must dye
And when 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

(34)  (IV. 2)

And when 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
Was not the cause / of this confusion
but he that wroght hit / enfortune hit so
that every wight that had hit / shuld have wo
And therfore in the worcher / was the vice
And in the couetour / that was so nyce

(35)  (IV. 3)

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

But to yow hardy knyghtis / of renoun
Syn that ye be / of my deuisioun
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 disese / and take hit not agame
the pruddest of yow / may be made ful tame
Wherfore I prey yow / of your gentilesse
that ye compleyn / for myn heuynesse

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

(1. A.)

À toy du monde le refui,
Vierge glorieuse, m’en fui
Tout confus, ne puis miex faire;
A toy me tien a toy m’apuy.
Relieve moy, abatu suy:
Vaincu m’a mon aversaire.
Puis qu’en toy ont tous repaire
Bien me doy vers toy retraire
Avant que j’aie plus d’annuy.
N’est pas luite neccessaire
A 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, pechis mortez,
Et erre par voie torte,
Esperance me conforte
Qui à toy hui me raporte
A ce que soie deportez.
Ma povre arme je t’aporte:
Sauve la: ne vaut que morte;
En li sont tous biens avortez.

Incipit carmen secundum ordinem Litterarum alphabeti.

(1. A.)
Al mihty and al merciable queene capm. lvii\textsuperscript{m}.
To whom pa\textsuperscript{t} al pis world fleeth for socour [leaf 112, back]
To haue relees of sinne of sorwe and teene
Gloriowse virgine of alle flour\textsuperscript{s} flour
To pee j flee confounded in errour
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\textsuperscript{t} thou wolt\textsuperscript{t} my socour bee
Thou canst\textsuperscript{t} not\textsuperscript{t} warne him pat with good entente
Axeth pin helpe. pin herte is ay so free
\textsuperscript{p}ou art\textsuperscript{t} largesse. of pleyn felicitee
Hauene of refute of quiete and of reste.
Loo how pat theeves severe chasen mee
Help lady briht er pat my ship to breste
(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 fés 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 Dieu bien se recorde
A sa gent estre racordé.
Par toy vint pes et concorde,
Et fu pour oster discorde
L'arc de justice descordé;
Et pour ce me sui accordé
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 eü
Quant a merci m'as recei
Autre foys en mainte guise
Du bien qui ou ciel fu creü
As ravive et repeü
M'ame qui estoit occise.
Las ! mès quant la grant assise
Sera, se n'y es assise
Pour moy mal y seray veüi.
De bien n'ay nulle reprise.
Las m'en clain quant bien m'avise,
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 accordés, concordés, which reading more conforms to the old French grammar, but spoils the rhyme.—45. B que ousté as.—46. A com je acorde; B com j'ay racordé; but recordé is kept by the other MSS.—49. A m'esperance ay; B ay mon esperance.—50. B Car a.—51. B et en.—53. B receu.—57. B y seray mal venu.
Comfort is noon but in yow ladi deere
ffor loo my sinne and my confusioun
Which ouhten not in þi presence appeere
Han take on me a greevous accioun
Of verrey riht and desperacioun
And as bi riht þei mihten wel susteene,
þat j were wurþi my dampnacioun
Nere merci of you blisful heuene queene

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

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

Fuant m'en viens a ta tente
Moy muier pour la tormente
Qui ou monde me tempeste.
Pour mon pechiel ne t'absente,
A moy garder met t'entente,
A mon besoing soiez preste.
Se lorc 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.

(7. G.)

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

(8. H.)

Homme voult par sa plaisance
Devenir, pour alliance
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 puett 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. ACD je me sente.—75. B N'es.—78. B per.—79. B li ne voit japer.—81. A m'anfance; the verse is omitted in D.—82. A t'apper.—85. B sa puissance.—90. A A avoir en moy; B Avoir en en mon; C Avoir eu a mon.—91. A misse a folage.—92. A me vint.—95. A n'aie a.
(a) THE "ABC."

(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 absentee
pouh j be wikke. O help yit at pis neede
Al haue j ben a beste in wil and deede
Yit ladi pou me clope with pi grace.
Pin emeny and myn ladi tak heede
Vn to my deth in poynis is me to chace

(7. G.)
Gloriows mayde and mooder which pat neuere
Were bitter neiper in eerpe nor in see
But ful of sweetnesse & of merci euere
Help pat my fader be not wroth with me
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 wole my gost exile

(8. H.)
He vouched saaf tel him as was his wille [leaf 113, tack]
Bicomen a man to haue oure alliaunce
And with his precious blood he wrot pe bille
Vp on pe crois as general acquitaunce
To euery Penitent; in ful criaunce
And perfore ladi briht; pou for us praye.
panne shalt pou bope stinte al his greuance
And make oure foo to failen of his praye
(9. I.)

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

(10. K.)

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 done, virge, t'encline,
Car a toy je m'acheminé
Pour estre bien mediciné;
Ne sueffre que de gainne
Isse justice devine
Par quoy je soye exterminé.

(11. L.)

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 sueuffres nul cruel trait.
Je reconnois bien mon mesfait
Et qu'ai colier j'ai souvent trait
Dont l'en me devroit detrayer;
Mey se tu veus tu as l'entrail
Par quoy tantost sera retrait
Le mehain qui m'est contraire.
I wot it weel, pou wolt ben oure socour:
Pou art so ful of bowntee in certeyn
Sfor whan a soule falleth in errour
Pi pitee goth & haleth him ayein
Panne makest pou his pees with his soureyn
And bringest him out of pe crooked strete.
Who so pee loueth he shal not loue in veyn
Pat shal he fynde as he pe lyf shal lete

Kalendeeres enlumyned ben pei
Pat in pis world ben lighted with pi name
And who so goth to yow pe rihte wey
Him thar not drede in soule to be lame
Now queen of comfort sithe pou art pat same
To whom j seeche for my medicyne.
Lat not my foo no more my wounde vntame
Myn hele in to pin hand al j resyne

Ladi pi sorwe kan j not portreye
Vnder pe cros. ne his greevous penaunce
But for youre bopees peynes j yow preye
Lat not oure alder foo make his bobance
That he hath in hise lystes of mischaunce
Convict pat ye bope haue bouht so deere.
As j seide erst pou ground of oure substaunce
Continue on us pi pitous eyen cleere
Moyes vit en figure
Que tu, vierge nete et pure,
Jhesu le filz Dieu conceus:
Un bysson contre nature
Vit qui ardoit sans arsure.
C'es tu, n'en suis point deceus,
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.

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

O Lumiere des non voians
Et vrai repos des recreans
Et de tout bien tresorier,
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 deüs chamberiere
Quant en toy vint li grans geans.
Or es de Dieu chanceliere
Et de graces aumosnieure
Et confort a tous recreans.

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

Moises ſat sauh ſe bush with flawmes rede
Brenninge, of which ſer neuer a stikke bренde
Was signe of ſin vnwemmed maidenhede
ſou art ſe bush on which ſer gan descende
ſe holigost ſe which ſat moyses wende
Had ben a fyir and ſis was in figure.
Now ladi from ſe fyir ſou us deſfende
Which ſat in helle eternalli shal dure

(13. N.)

Noble princesse ſat neuer haddest peere
Certes if any comfort in us bee
ſat cometh of ſee ſou cristes mooder deere
We han noon ooper melodye or glee
Vs to rejoyse in oure aduersitee
Ne aduocat noon ſat wolte & dar so pruye.
ſfor us. and ſat for litel hire as yee
ſat helpen for an Aue marie or tweye

(14. O.)

O verrey light of eyen ſat ben blynde
O verrey lust of labour and distresse
O tresorcere of bountee to mankynde
ſee whom god ches to mooder for humblesse
ſfrom his ancille he made ſe maistresse
Of heuene & eerpe. oure bille up for to beede.
ſis world awaiteth euere on ſi goodnesse
ſfor ſou ne failest neuer wight at neede
94 (b) G. DE DEGUILEVILLE'S ORIGINAL OF THE ABC.

(15. P.)

Pris m'est volenté d'enquerre
Pour savoir que Diex vint querre
Quant en toy se vint enserrer;
En toy devint vers de terre;
Ne cuit pas que fist pour guerre
Ne pour moy jus aterrer.
Vierge, se ne me sens errer,
D'armes ne me faut point ferrer
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,
Et qu'a mal est m'ame 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 liute,
Plus grief encore en est l'anuy.

(17. R.)

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

172. C com ver.—174. Sic ABCD; the verse is one syllable too short.—175. A omits ne.—176. B fault pas.—177. A Fors que; B del r.—178. A s'en vint en terre.—180. A encore.—184. A en est hui; B en moy ne truy; D en moi ne sui.—186. A 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.
—194. A je n'ose.—196. B lui fiert.—200. AC en empirant.—202. A en soit.—203. Omitted in A; B Car de pièce as l'oingement; C Car de pitié as longuement.—204. BC on te.
(15. P.)

 PURPOSE I haue sum time for to enquire
Wherefore and whi pe holi gost pe souhte
Whan gabrielles vois cam vn to pin ere
He not to werre us swich a wunder vrouhte
But for to saue us pat he sithen bouhte
paune needeth us no wepene us for to saue
But oonly per we diden not as us ouhte
Doo penitence and merci axe and haue

(16. Q.)

Queen of comfort yit whan j me bithinke
pat j agilt haue bope him and pee
And pat my soule is wurthi for to sinke
Allas j caityf whider may I flee
Who shal vn to pi sone my mene bee
Who but pi self pat art of pitee welle.
ou hast more reuthe on oure aduersitee
pan in pis world miht any tunge telle

(17. R.)

Redresse me moode and me chastise
ffor ceretynly my faderes chastisinge
pat dar j nouht abiden in no wise
So hidous it is hys rhiful rekenynge
Mooder of whom oure merci gan to springe
Beth ye my juge & eek my soules leche
ffor euere in you is pitee haboundinge
To eche pat wole of pitee you bisseeche

CHAUCE COR MI.

95

116

120

124

128

132

136
Sans toy nul bien ne foysonne
Et sans toy Diex riens ne donne,
Quar de tout t'a fet maistresse.
Quant tu veus trestout pardonne;
Et par toy est mise bonne
A justice la mairesse;
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 reson n'as pas couronne.

Temple saint ou Dieu habite
Dont privé sont li herite
Et a tous jours desherité,
A toy vieng de toy me herite
Reçoif moy par ta merite
Quar de toy n'ay point hesité.
Et se je me sui herité
Des espiennes d'iniquité
Pour quoy terre fu maudite,
Las m'en clain en verité,
Car a ce fait m'a excité
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 raournes.
A toy vieng, ne te destournes,
Quer au besoing es mon destour.
Sequeur moy, point ne sejourne,
Ou tu a la court ma journée,
Ou ta pitié fait son sejour.

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

Soth is pat god ne granteth no pitee
With oute pee. for god of his goodnesse
fforyiveth noon but' it like vn to pee
He hath pee maked vicair & maistresse
Of al pee world. and eek gouernowresse
Of heuene. and he repressth his iustise.
After pe wil. and perfore in witnesse
He hath pee corowned in so rial wise

(19. T.)

Temple devout: peer god hath his woninge
ffro which pese misbileened deprâued been
To you my soule penient: j bringe
Resceyue me. I can no ferpee fleen
With thornes venymous O heuene queen
ffor which pe eerpe 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 counsaile
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 euere shal soiourne
Xpc ton filz, qui descendii
En terre et en la crois pendi,
Ot pour moy le costé fendu.
Sa grant rigour il destendi
Quant pour moy l'esperit rendi,
Son corps pendant et estendu;
Pour moy son sanc fu espadnu.
Se ceci j'ai bien entendu
A mon salut bien entendi,
Et pour ce, se l'ay offendi
Et il ne le m'a pas rendu,
Merci t'en rens, graces l'en di.

(22. Y.)

Ysaac le prefigura
Qui de sa mort rien ne cura
En obeïsant au pere.
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 euer dur a;
Fai que grace si m'apere;
Et n'en soiez pas avere
Quar largement la mesura.

(23. Z.)

Zacharie de mon somme
Me exite, et si me somme
D'en toy ma merci atendre;
Fontaine patent te nomme
Pour laver pecheuir homme:
C'est leçon bonne a apprendre.
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.
(a) THE "A B C."

(21. X = Ch.)

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

(22. Y.)

Ysaac was figure of his deth certeyn
pat' so fer forth his fader wolde obeye
pat' him ne rouhte no thing to be slayn
Riht' 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. for alle we singe & seye
pat' ye ben from vengeaunce ayoure targe

(23. Z.)

Zacharie yow clepeth pe opene welle
To washe sinful soule out of his gilt\(^t\)
perfore pis lessoun ouht j wel to telle
pat' nere pi tender herte we weren spilt\(^t\)
Now ladi sithe jou canst and wilt\(^t\)
Ben to pe seed of Adam merciable.
Bring us to pat' palais pat is bilt\(^t\)
To penitentes pat ben to merci able Amen

Explicit\(^t\) carmen.

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

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

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

Mother of God.

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

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

Ad beatam virginem.

(1) (I. 1)

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

(2) (I. 2)

Modir of mercy, wey of indulgence
pat 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 wreches aH
[leaf 34, back]
Be at myn endyng what pat I shal deye
O Welle of pitee / vn to thee I caH
ful of swetnesse / helpe me to weye
Ageyn the feend, pat with his handes tweye
And his might plukke wol / at the balance
To weye vs doun keepe vs from his nusance.
And for thow art ensample of chastitee
And of virgynes worship and honour
Among all women blessed thou be
Now speke and preye to our Sauueour

pat he me sende swich grace & favour

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

O blessed lady / the cleer light of day
Temple of our Lord / and roote of al goodnesse

pat by prayer wypest 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

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 wone
Lady / all swiche emprises been thyne

Swich an aduocatrice who can dyuyne
As thow right noon, our greuues to redresse.
In thy refuyt is al our sikirnesse.

Thow shapen art by goddes ordenance
Mene for vs flour of humilitie

sicche pat lady in thy remembrance
Lest our fo the feend thurgh his sotiltee

pat in awayt lyth for to cacche me
Me ouercome with his treccherie

Vn to my soules helthe thow me gye
(8) (III. 2)

Thow art the way of our Redemption
ffor cryst of thee hath deyned for to take
fflessh 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 oghten we thee worshipe & 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
Ioie and honour / be now & eueremo
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
Thow to thy sone canst be swich a mene
That aH 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 telH
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 werne thee
Of thy requeste / I wot wel / doutelees
Than spare nat, foorth thee to putte in prees
To preye for vs Crystes modir deere
Benygnely wol he thyn axyng' heere

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

Apostle and freend familier 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 aH preye
Do this for vs Crystes derlyng I seye.
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 resistance
Ageyn the feend, & make him to bewaiH
pat your preyer may so moche auaiH

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

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

And to pat othir / heer thy modir lo
Than preye I thee / pat for the greet swetnesse
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 giltes make our herpes bleede
Vn to yow tweyne, I my soule commende Marie and Ioñin for my sauuacion Helpith me pat I may my lyf amende Helpith now, pat the habitacion Of the holy goost our recocation Be in myn herte now and euere more And of my soule, wasshe 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 doublenesse and flateryng discerne d her without cause / she beyng than oon of þe trewest gentilwomen that bere lyf compleyneth her I beseche you.

(1) [Proem or Invocation: 3 stanzas]


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

(2)

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

(3)

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

HARLEIAN 7333 (FROM SHIRLEY)
(4) [The Story: 27 stanzas]

W

Han Theseus with werres longe and grete
The Aspre folke of Cithe had ouercomme
With laurer corouned in his chare gold bete
home to his Cuntre / houses is ecombe
For which the people blisfuH hole and somme
So crydon / pat unto the sterres it wente
And him to honuren, diden / aH her entente

(5)

† Beforne this duk in signe of hie Victorye
The trumpes came / and in his baner large.
The ymage of mars and tokenyng of his glorie.
Men mighten seen / of tresoure many a Charge.
Many bright helme and many spere and targe
many a fresh knyght / and blisful route
On hors and fote / In aH the felde aboute

(6)

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

(7)

† With his Tryumphe / of lawrier corouned thus
In aH the floure of Fortunes yevyng
lete I this noble prince this Theseus
Towardes Attenes in his wey ridyng
And fonde I woH in shortly for to bryng
The sleght wey of that I gan to write
Of tho quene Anelida / and fals Arcyte.

HARLEIAN 7333 (FROM SHIRLEY)
¶ Mars which thurgh his furious Cours of yre [leaf 134, col. 2]
The old wrath of Juvo to fulfille
Hath sette the peoplis hertis both on fyre
Of Thebes and grece / yche othir for to kylle
With blody speris / ne rested neuer stille
But throng now here now pere amongis hem both
TyH euerich othir slough so were thei wroth

¶ For whan Amphyorax and Tedius
ypomedon Parthonopee also
weren dede and sleyn proude Campaneus
And whan pere wrecchid 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

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

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

HARLEIAN 7333 (FROM SHIRLEY)
Yong was this quene of xxxi yere eld. Of mynde stature and 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 shall be comprehendid
In her ne myght no thing be amendid

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

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

But natheles ful myche besynesse.
had he or pat he myght his lady wynne
And swore he wold dey. for distresse.
Or from his witte he wold twynne.
Alas pe while for hit was routh and synne.
That she vpon his sorowis wolden rewe.
But no thing thenkith pe fals as doth the trewe.
Hir fredome fonde Arcyte in suche maner
That aH was his / pat she ha|h 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 ples
pat aH pat liked him hit did hit her ese /

here nas to hir no maner lettre sent
pat towchide love from anye maner wyght
pat she ne shewide it him or it was bren
So pleyne she was and did hir ful might
pat she nil hyden no thing frome hir knyght
lest he of anye vntroupe hir vpbroide /
with outen bode / his heste sheo / cleyde /

And eke he made him Ialowse ouer hir
pat what pat any man had to hir seyde
Anoon he wolde preyen her to swere / what was that word / or maken him yuel apayde /
panne wende sheo oue of her wyt haue brayed But aH this nas / but flight & flaterie /
Withouten love of Feyned Ialowsye

And Al this toke sheo so debonayrel
pat al his wille hir thought hir skilful thing
And euuer the lenger sheo lovid him tendrely
An did him honour as he were a kynge / hir hart was to him / weddi with a Ringe /
So ferforpe vpon troupe is hir entente /
pat where he gopo his hert with him wente
When sheo shaH etc / on him is al hir thought / 134
pat wele vnnepe of mete tooke she keepe
And whan pat sheo was to hir Reste ebrought
On him sheo thought alwey tih sheo slepe
When he was absent preuely sheo weepe/
bus lyvepe fayere Anelyda pe qveene/
For Fals Arcyte pat did hir that tene 140

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

But natheles gret wondre was it noone 148
pawgh 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 /

jis fals Arcyte sumwhat moste he feyne 155
Whane he was fals to couer his thratourye
Right as an hors pat can boope byte & pleyne
For he bare hir on honde of Trecherye
And swore he Coude hir dowbilnesse espie /
And aft was Falsnesse that sheo to hir mente
bus swore this peoff and for he his weye he wente / 161
158-159 PAR.-TEXT
116 ANELIDA AND ARCITE. HARLEIAN MS. 7338.

(24)
If Ellas what hart myght endure it 162
For Roupe and woo hir sorow for to tell
Or what man hath pe connynge or pe witte / 165
Or what man myght with in the Chambre dwelle
Yf I to him Rehersin shoulde pe hell
Which sufferith faire Anelyda pe Quene /
For Fals Arcyte pat did her aH pis teene 168

(25)
If Sheo weopepe waylepe swoonepe pytously 169
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 /
 OPER coloure janne Asshen hath sheo noone
Noon othir worde spekithe sheo mucho or luytle
But mercy crueth harte mynJ arcyte /

(26)
If And peus endurith til sheo was soo mate 172
pat sheo nathe onJ whiche sheo may sustene
But forshe langwissing in pis estate
OnJ which arcyte haJpe Rowpe noon ne teene /
His herte was ellis where nuwe and grene
pat onJ hir woo nought deynid hime to thinke
Him Reccheth nought wheper sheo fleeete / or swynke / 182

(27)
If His nuwe Ladye holdithe him so narowe / 183
Vp by pe brydeH at pe staves ende
pat euery 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 graunteid him in hir lyvynge
No grace whi he hathe noo luste to syngle /
HARLEIAN 7333 (FROM SHIRLEY)
(28)

\[\begin{align*}
&\text{But drofe him forthe \ vnnenethe list\ hir knowe} / \\
&\text{pat he was servant vn to hir ladishipe} \\
&\text{But leste that he were proude sheo held\ him lowe} / \\
&\text{pus seruepe he withouten mete or shepe} \\
&\text{Sheo sent him nowe to lande \ and\ nowe to shipe} \\
&\text{And\ for sheo gave him daungere al his fille} \\
&\text{bere\-fore sheo had him at hir owne wille.}
\end{align*}\]

(29)

\[\begin{align*}
&\text{Ensaample of this yee thrifty women\ a\!l} \\
&\text{Take\pe of Anelida \ and\ Arcyte} / \\
&\text{And\ for hir list him dere herte Calle} \\
&\text{And\ was soo meke pere\-fore he louid\ hir luyte} \\
&\text{\pe kynde of mannes herte is to delight} \\
&\text{In thing\ pat straunge is / als soo god me save} \\
&\text{For what he may not gete \ pat wolde he have /}.
\end{align*}\]

(30)

\[\begin{align*}
&\text{Nowe tourne we to Anelyda A\-geyne} \\
&\text{Which peynithe day by day in languisshing\!} \\
&\text{But whane sheo sawe / \ pat hir gate no gayne} \\
&\text{Vppon\! A day full\ soroufu\! wepynge} \\
&\text{Sheo caste hir for to make a compleyning} \\
&\text{And\ of hir Owne honde sheo gane hit wreyte /} \\
&\text{And\ sent hit to hir Theban knyght\! dann Arcyte}
\end{align*}\]

The compleynte of\ anelida \pe Quene of\ Hermonye 
upon arcyte borne of\ pe blode Ria\! of Thebes for his 
Doublenesse.

(31) (Compleint 1. Proem)

\[\begin{align*}
&\text{O thirle\pe with\ pe poyn of Rememberaunce} \\
&\text{The swerde of sorowe whette with\ fals pleasaunce /} \\
&\text{Myn hart bare of blisse and\ blak of hues} \\
&\text{That turnid is in quakynge a\!l\ my daunce} \\
&\text{My suretee in a whaaped\ countenaunce}
\end{align*}\]
Sithe it A-vaylith nowght for to be trewe
For who soo trewest is it shal[h] hir rewe
Pat seruith the love And do[p]e hir observaunce /
Alday til[o] oon[)/ Chaungep[e] for no newe

(32) (Compl. 2; Mov. I. 1)
If I wot my selfe als welle als any wight
For I louid[o] oon[) with ah my[n] herte and might
More than my selfe an hunderipe thousand sithe /
And calid[h] him my[n] hertes lyff my knight
And was al his / als fer as it was Right
When he was glad[] pane was I euere klype
For his desire was to me depe als swythe
And he A geyne his trought hathe me plight
For euermore / his ladye me to kyth[e]

(33) (Compl. 3; Mov. I. 2)
If Nowe is he Fals / ellas and[ ] Causelesse
And[ ] of my woo he is so rewthelesse
Pat with[o] oon[w] worde / him liste not oonys deyne
To brynge ageyne my sorowful[ ] hert in pese
For he is kaute vp in a neper lese
Right as him liste he laughethe / at/ my peyne /
And I ne can myne herte nought Restreyne
For to love him Alweye neuer the lesse
And[ ] of AH this I note / to whome me pleyne /

(34) (Compl. 4; Mov. I. 3)
If And[ ] shall I pleyne / ellas [at] harde stounde
Vn to my foo that gave myn herte A wounde /
And yette desirithe that myne harome be more
Nay for certes/ per shal[h] I neuer be founde
Noon othr helpepe my soores for to sounde
My destenye hathe shapen[it fu]tt yore/
I wolle noon o[p]er medecyne ne lore/
I wolle ben ay [pere I] was oones bounde/
Pat I have seyde / beo syde for euermore/

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

Ellas wher is be comen your gentilnesse/
Youre wordes ful 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 pere nowe neyher worde ne cheere/
Yee wouchensaff vppon myn hevinesse
Ellas youre / love I bie it aff to dere /

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

Nowe Certes swete paughe pat yee
Bus Causelesse pe Cause be
Of my dedely Aduersitee
Your manly Rayson aught it for to Respite/
To slee your frende and namlie me /
Pat neuer yitte in noo degree
Offendid yowe / als wissely he
Pat al wat oute of woo my sowle quite
But for I was so pleyne / Arcyte
In aff my werkes much and lyte
And so besye yowe to delyte
Myn honour sauf / 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 thenken yee pat serperid be your name
To love a newe / And be vntrewe nay
And putte yowe in sclaundre nowe and blame
For to do me / Aduersite / and grame
166-167 PAR.-TEXT
120 ANELIDA AND ARCITE. HARLEIAN MS. 7333.

That love yowe moste / god weH ðou woste / Alwaye/
Yitt Come A gayne / And yit be playne some daye/
And ðat shal this / ðat nowe is mis / be game/
And Al forgven / while ðat here live I maye

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

[leaf 135, col. 2]

Il loo herte myne / Al ðis is for to seyne
And whethir shalH I pray / or elles pleyne
Which is ðe wey to do yowe to be trewe
For ouer mote I have yow in my cheyne
Or withe ðe dethe yee mutte departe vs twene
Per lithe noon othir / meene weyes nuwe/
For god so wisly of my soule ruwe
As verraylye yee slee me with ðe payne
ðat may yee see vnfeynid on ð mynw huwe

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

[For thus ferforth haue ,I my detli soghte
My selfe .I. morder with my pryue thoghte
For sorou and routh of youre vnkyndenes
I. wepe / I. wele / I. fmste aH helpeth noghte
I. voyde ioy / that is to speke of oghte
I. voyde companye .I. flee gladdenes
who may avauñce her bet of heuynes
Then .I. and to this plite haue ye me broghte
with oute gilte me nedyth no witnes]

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

And shulde I preye and venyme womanhode
Nay Raþere dye þat do soo CreueH dede
And Axse mercy causeles what nede
And yf I pleyne what life þat I lede
Þane wol yee laughe I knowe it oute of drede
And yf þat I / to yowe myne othes beede /
For myn excuse / a scorne shalH be my mede/
Youre chere floureþe / but it it wolle not sede
FulH longe a-gon) / I ought to have taken hede

HARLEIAN 7333 (FROM SHIRLEY)
(41) (Compl. 11; Mov. II. 4)

¶ For pæughe / I hade yowe / nuwe agayne to morowe/ 308
I myght als weele kepe / AuaryH from Rayne
As holde yow trewe / and make yowe hoole stedfaste /
Almyghti god of trowth the soverayne
Where is þe trowthe of man whoo hathe it slayne 312
Sheo that hem trustith the shan hem fynde als faste
As in a tempeste is þe Roton maste
Is þat a tame beste þat is ay fayne
To flee awaye 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 halffe a waye
I fare as doþe þe songe of Chaunte pleure 320
For nowe I pleyne / and now I playe
I am so mased þat I deye
Arcyte hathe borne awaye þe keye
Of aH: my worlde/ and my goode Aventure/
For in this worlde nys Creature
Wakyng in moore discomfiture
þane I ne more sorowe endure
And þ yf I SlepE A furlonge wey or tweye /
¶ þan thinkithe me þat youre figure
Be-fore me stante Clooþed in Asure/
To profren efte and nuwe ensure/
For to be trewe / and love me til I dye 332

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

¶ þe longe Nyght / þis wonder sight I drye 333
And on the day for þilke a fraye I dye
And of Al this right nought ewysse yee rechche
Ne never mo / myne eyen two beo drye
And to youre rought / and to your trouthe 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 341

(44) (Compl. 14. Conclusion.)

If Jeanne eondid! I thus sithe I may do namore 342
And yeve it vp for now and evir more
For shaH I neuer este put in balaunse
My sikurnesse/or leorne of love pe lore
But as pe swane/I have harde sey fuH yore 346
Ageynist his dethe/shaH synge his penavnse/
So sey I here/my destenye or chaunce/
How pat Arcyte/Anelyda so sore
Hape thrilled with pe poynte of Remembaunaunce/ 350

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

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

[Imperfect: I never finisht. 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.

[Cambridge Univ. MS. ii. 3. 21, leaf 52, back.]

Chawcer vp-on this fyfte metur of the second book

(1)

A Blysful lyf a paysyble and a swete
Ledden the poeples in the former age
They helde hem paied of the fructes pat pey ete
Whiche pat the feldes yane hem by vsage
They ne were 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)

Þ 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. I.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 grond
To clarre ne to sawse of galentyne

(3)

Þ No Madyr welde or wod no litestere
Ne knewh / the fles was of is former hewe
No flessh ne wyste offence of egge or spore
No coyn ne knewh man which is fals or trewe
No ship yit karf the waves grene and blewe
No Marchauwt yit ne fette owt-landish ware
No batails trompes for the werres folk ne knewe
Ne towres heye and walles rounde or square
(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
pat men fyrst dede hir' swety bysynesse
To grobbe vp metal lurkyngne in dirkenesse
And in pe Ryuerys fyrst gemmys sowhte
Allas than sprong' vp al the cusyndnesse
Of coueytyse pat fyrst owr sorwe browhte

(5)

¶ Thyse tyraunt3 put hem gladly nat in pres
No places wyldnesse ne no buscnes for to wynne
Ther pouerte is as seith diogenes
Ther as vitayle is ek so skars and thinne
pat nat but mast or apples is ther Inne
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 blyssed folk' with-owte walles
Or gras or leues in parlyt loye reste and quiete
No down of fetheres ne no bleched shete
Was kyd to hem but in surte they slepte
Hir hertes weere al on with-owte galles
Euerych of hem his feith to oother kepte

(7)

¶ Vnforged was the hawberke and the plate
P* lambyssh poeple 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.]
Yit was nat Iuppiter the lykerous
Pat fyrst was fadyr of delicasi
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
IX.

Adam Scribener.
ADAM SCRIVENER.

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

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

¶ Adam · scryveyne / if euer' it' þee byfalle
Boece or Troylus / for to wryten nuwe /
Vnder þy longe lokkes / þowe most' haue þe scalle
But after my makyng' þowe wryte more truwe
So offt a daye · I mot þy werk' renewe /
It to. corect' and eke to rubbe and scrape /
And al is thorough · þy neeglygence and rape /

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. V stands for t with a curl turned over it, sometimes printed 'te'.]

[BOOK I.]

[Proem.]

Od turne vs / every dreme to goode
for hyt is wonderd / be the Roode
To my wytte / what causeth swevenes
Eyther1 on] morwes / or on] evenes
And why theeffecte / folweth of somme
And of somme / hit shal never come
Why that is / an avisioun
And why this / a reuelacioun
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 knoweth / bet then] I
Devyne he / for I certenly
Ne kan] hem noght / ne never thinke
To besely my Wytte / to swinke
To knowe / of hir signifiaunce
The gendres / neyther the distaunce
Of tymes of hem / ne the causis
for-why this is more / then that cause is
As yf folkys / complexions
Make hem dreme / of reflexions
Or ellis thus/ as other sayne
for to grete feblenesse / of her brayne
By abstinence / or by sekenesse
Prison] stewe / or grete distresse
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 deuocion\nOf somme / and contemplacion\nCauseth / suche dremes ofte
Or that the cruelle lyfe / Vn-softe
Whiche these ilke louers / leden
That hopen ouer meche / or dremen
That purely / her\ impressions
Causeth hem / Avisions
[leaf 155]
Or yf that spiritis / haue the myght\nTo make folke / to dreme a-nyght\nOr 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 that oure flessi / ne hath no myght\nTo vnderstonde / hyt aryght\nffor hyt is warned / to derkly
But why the cause is / noght\ wot I
We[l] worti of this thynge / grete clerkys
That trete of this / and other werkes
For I of noo\ oppinion\Nyl as now / make mensyon\But oonly that / the holy Roode
Turne vs / euery dreme to goode
ffor neuer sithi / that I was borne
Ne no man) elles / me beforene
Mette I trowe / stedfastly
So wonderful / a dreme as I
The tenth day / now of Decembre
The which as I kan / yow remembre
I wol yow tel / euerydele

[Invocation.]

But at my gynnyng / trusteth wele
I wol make / Inuocation)
With special / deuocioun)
Vnto the god / of slepe anoont)
That duelleti / in a Cave of stoon)
Vpon) a streeme / that cometh fro lete
That is a floode / of helle vnsweete
Besyde a folke / men clepeth Cymerie
There slepeth ay / this god vnmerie
With his slepy / thousande sones
That alwey for to slepe / hir wonen 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 ioy / 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 vnhappe / and eche disese
And send hem alle / that may hem plese
That take hit wele / and skorne hyt noghte
Ne hyt mysdeme / in her thoght)
Thorgh malicious/ / entencion)
And who-so thorgh / presumciou
Or hate or skorne / or thorgh envy
Dispite or Iape / or vilanye

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

[Story.]

Of Decembre / the tenthe day
Whan hit was nyght / to slepe I lay
Ryght ther as I was / wonte to done
And fille on slepe / wonder sone
As he that wery was / for-goo
On pilgrymage / myles two
To the Corseyn / leonarde
To make lythe / of that was harde
But as I slept/ me mette I was
Withyn a temple / y-made of glas
In whiche ther were / moo ymages
Of golde stondyng / in sondry stages
And moo ryche / tabernacles
And with perre / moo pynacles
And moo curiouse / portreytures
And queynt maner / of figures
Of olde werke / then I sawgh euer
ffor certeynyl / I nyste neuer
Wher that I was / but wel wyste I
Hyt was of Venus / redely
The temple / for in portreytoure
I sawgh anoon / ryght hir figure 132
Naked fletynge / in A see
And also on hir hede / partee
Hir Rose garlond / white and rede
And hir combe / to kembe hyr hede 136
Hir dowves / and daun Cupido
Hir blynde sone / and Vulcano
That in his face / was ful browne
But as I romed / vp and downe 140
I fonde / that on a walle ther was
Thus writen / on a table of bras
I wol now say / yif I kan
The Armes / and also the man 144
That first came / thorgh his desstane
ffugyffe / of Troy Contree
In Itayle / with ful moche pyne
Vnto the strondes / of Labyne 148
And tho began / the story anoon
As I shal telle / yow echon
First sawgh I / the destruction
Of troy / throgh the greke Synon
With his fals / forsweryng
And his chere / and his lesynge
Made the hors brough / in-to troye
Thorgh which troyens / lost al her Ioye 156
And aftir this / was grave allas
How Ilyon / assayled was
And wonne / and kynge Priam y-slayne
And Polite / his sone certayne 160
Dispitously / and daun Pirrus
And next that / sawgh I how Venus
Whan that she sawgh / pe castel brende
Dovne fro the heuene / gan descende 164
And bad hir sone / Encas flea
And how he fled / and how that he
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 fforest / 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 spirite / gan\ appere
Ther sawgR I grave / eke how he
Hys fader eke / and his meyne
With hys shippes / gan to saylle
Towardses the Contree / of Itaylle
As streight\ / as that they myght\ goo
Ther saugh I the crwel / Iuno
That art / daun\ Iupiters wife
That hast y-hated / al thy lyfe
Alle the Trojanyshe / bloode
Renne and crye / as thou were woode
Onolus / the god of wyndes
To blowe oute / of al kyndes
So lowde / that he shulde drenche
Lorde and lady / grome and wenche
Of al the Troian / nacion
Withoute any / savacion
Ther saugth I suche / tempeste aryse
That every hert / myght be agryse
To see hyt peynted / on the walle
Ther saugth I graven / eke with-alle
Venus how ye / my lady dere
Wepyng / with ful woeful chere
Prayen) Jupiter / an hye
To save and kepe / that navye
Of the Troian) / Eneas
Syth that he hir sone was
Ther saugth I Iouses / Venus kysse
And graunted / of the tempest [. [. [. [. 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 / highe Achate
Mette with venus / that day
Goynge / in A queynt array
[leaf 157, back]
As she had bew / an hunteresse
With wynde blowynge / vpoun hir tresse
How Eneas / gan hym to pleyne
When that he knewe hir / of his peyne
And how his shippes / dreynyte 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 weddyng 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 aqueyntedem / 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 / vpon 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 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 myw hede
Ther may be vnder / godelyhede
Keuered many / a shrewde vice
Ther-fore 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 shewn 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 / knowetti therbe
May savely ley hyt / to his ye
Withoute drede / this ys no lye
But let vs speke / of Eneas
How he betrayed / hir allass
And lefte hir ful / vnkyndely
So when she saw / al ytterly
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 trewe
That every yere / wolde haue a newe
Yf hit so longe / tyme dure
Or elles three / peraventure

1 Cauete vos innocentes mulieres.

1 As thus of loue / he wolde haue fame
In magnyfyinge / of hys name [1 leaf 138, back]
A-nother for frendshippe / seyth he
And yett i 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
As me mette / redely
Non) other auttour / a-legge .I.
Allas quod he / my swete hert
Haue pitee / on) my sorwes smert
And slee mee not / goo noght) awey
O woful Dido / wele-away
Quod she / to hir-selfe thoo
O Eneas / what wol ye doo
O that your loue / ne your bonde
That ye ha sworne / with your ryght) honde
Ne my crewel deth / quod she
May holde yow stille / here with me
O haueth of my deth / pitee
I-wys my dere hert / ye
Knowen) ful wel / that neuer yit
As ferforth) / as I had wytte
Agylte yowe / in thoght) ne dede
O haue ye men) / suche godelyhede
In speche / and neuer a dele of trouthe
Allas that euer / had routhe
Any woman) / on) any man)
Now see I wel / and tel kan)
We wrechched wyamment / konne noon) Arte
For certeyne / for the more parte
Thus we be served / euerychon)
How sore that ye / men) konne groon)
Anoon) as we / haue yow receyved
[Certenly we ben deceuyyd]
[From Bodley 685]
For though your loue / laste A seson)
Wayte vpon) / the conclusyon)
And eke how that / ye determynen
And for the more / part diffynen
O weleawey / that I was borne
[leaf 150]
For thorghi yow is / my name lorne

FAIRFAX
And al youre Actes / red and songe
Ouer al thys londe / on euery tonge
O wikke Fame / for ther nys
No thinge so swifte / lo as she is
O sothe ys / euery thinge ys wyste
Though hit [be] keuered / with the myste
Eke though I myght / dure euuer
That I haue do / rekeuer I neuer
That I ne shal / be seyde allas
Y-shamed be / though Eneas
And that I shal / thus Iuged be
Loo ryght as she / hatli now. she
Wol doo eftf-sones / hardly
Thus seytf 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 / counseylled hir thertoo
But what / when this was seyde and doo
She rofe hir selfe / to the herte
And dyed thorgli / 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 Eneydos
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
But weleaway / the harme the routhe
That hath betyd / for suche vntrouthe
As men wol ofte / in bokes rede
And al day so hyt / yet in dede
That for to thynke hyt / a tene is
Loo / Demophon duke of Athenys
How he foreswore hym / ful falsly
And trayied Phillis / wikkidly
That kynges doghtre / of T[r]ace
And falsly / gam hyt termes pace
And when she wiste / that he was fals
She henge hir selfe / ryght be the hals
For he had doo hir / suche vntrouthe
Loo / was not this / a woo and routhe
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 Thesens
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 have 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 lefte hir slepynge / in an Ile
Deserte allone / ryght in the se
And stale a-way / and let hir be
And tooke hir suster / Phedra thoo  
With him and gan / to shippe goo  
And yet he had / y-swore to hire  
On\w alle that euer / he myght\w swere  
That so she saved / hym hys lyfe  
He wolde haue take hir / to hys wife  
ffor she desired / no-thinge ellis  
In certeyne / the booke tellis  
But to excusen\w / Eneas  
ffullyche / of al his trespas  
The booke seyth / Mercur\w saun\w fayle  
Bad hym goo / in-to Itayle  
And leue / Auffrikes Region\w  
And Dido / and hir fair tou\w  
Thoo sawgh I grave how / that to Itayle  
Daun\w Eneas is goo / for to assayle  
And how the tempest / al began\w  
And how he lost / hys steris-man\w  
Which that the stere / or he toke kepe  
Smote ouer\w 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\w Virgile / or on\w Claudian  
Or Daunte / that hit tel kan\w  
Tho saugh I grave / al the Aryvayle  
That Eneas had / in Itayle  
And withi kynge latyne / hys tretee  
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 wannne labina / to his wife
And alle the mervelouse / signals
Of the goddys / celestials
How Mawgree Iuno / Eneas
For al hir sleigt/ and hir compas
Acheved alle / his aventure
For Iupiter tooke / of hym cure
At the prayer / of Venus
The whiche I prey / alwey save vs
And vs ay / of oure sorwes lyghte
When I had seen / al this syghte
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 bushi 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
Ne sawgh me to / to rede or wisse
O criste thought' I / that art in blysse
Fro Fantome / and Illusion
Me save / and with denuicion
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 myn\) ye
Me thought I sawgh / An Egle sore
But that hit semed / moche more
Then I had any Egle / seyn)e
But this as soothe / as det\) certeyene
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 som\)what dounwarde / gan) hyt lyghte

[BOOK II.]

[Proem.]

Ow herkeneth / every maner man\)
That englissh\) / vnderstonde kan\)
And listene\) / of my dreme to lere
For now at erste / shul ye here
So sely / an\) 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 on\) / Parnaso duelle
Be Eicon / the clere welle

FAIRFAX
[Invocation.]

O thought / 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
Now / kythe thyng / engyne / and myght

[Story.]

This Egle of whiche / I haue yow tolde
That shone with Fethres / as of golde
Which that so high / gan to sore
I gan beholde / more and more
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 Rome / was in the Felde
And with hys grym / pawes stronge
Withyn hys sharpe / nayles longe
Me flaynge / in a swappe he hente
And with hys sours / a-yene vp went
Me cryinge / in his clawes starke
As lyghtly / as I were a larke
How high / I can not telle yow
For I came vp / y nyste how
For so astonyed / and a-sweued
Was euery vertu / in my heued
What with his sours / and with my drede
And al my felynge / gan to dede
For whi hit was / to grete affray
Thus I longe / in hys clawes lay

FAIRFAX
Til at the last / he to me spake
In mannes vois / and seyde awake
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
Ryghtt in the same vois / and stevene
That vseth oon / I koude nevene
And withi that vois / sothi for to seyne
My mynde came / to me ageyne
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
Til that he felt / that I had hete
And felte eke / that my hert bete
And thoo gan he / me to disporte
And withi wordes / to conforte
And sayede twyes / seynt Mary
Thou arte noyouse / for to cary
And nothynge nedeth / pardee
For also wis / god helpe me
As thou noon harme / shalt haue of this
And this caas / that betyddde the is
Is for thy lore / and for thy prowed
let see darst thou / yet loke nowe
Be ful assured / boldly
I am thy frende / and therwith I
Gan for to wondren / in my mynde
O god thoughtt I / that madeste kynde
Shal I noon other / weyes dye
Wher loues wol me / stelleyfe
Or what thinge / may this sygnifye
I neyther am Ennok / ne Elye
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 thoo / my fantasye
But he that bare me / gan espye
That I so thoughte / and seyde this
Thow demest / of thy selfe amys
For Ioues ys not / ther aboute
I dar wel put the / out of doute
To make of the / as yet a sterre
But er I bere the / moche ferre
I wol the telle / what I am
And whider thou shalt / and why I cam
To do thys / so that thou take
Goode herte / and not for fere quake [ll 162, bk]
Gadly quod I / now wel quod he
First I that in my fete / haue the
Of which thou hast / a fere and wonder
Am dwellynge / with the god of thonder
Whiche that men called) / Iupiter
That doothi me flee / ful ofte fer
To do al hys / comaundement
And for this cause / he hath me sent
To the / now herke be thy trouthe
Certeyn) he hath / of the routhe
That thou so longe / trewly
Hast served so / ententyfly
Hys blynde neviwe / Cupido
And faire Venus / also
Withoute guerdon) / euer yitte
And neuer the lesse / hast set thy witte
Al-though that in thy hede / ful lytel is
To make songes / dytees bookys
In Ryme or elles / in cadence
As thou best canst / in reuerence
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 / never parte
Wherefore / also god me blesse
Ioues halt hyt / grete humblesse
And vertu eke / that thou wolt make
A nyghite 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 / furthereynges
And in hir matere / al devisest
And noght hym / nor his folke dispisest
Al-though thou maiste / goo in the daunce
Of hym / that hym lyst not avaunce
Wherefore / as I seyde y-wys
Iupiter / considereth this
And also beau sir / other thynges
That is that thou hast / no tydynges
Of louses folke / yf they be glad
Ne of noght elles / that god made
And noght oonly / fro frerre contree
That ther no tydynges / cometh to thee
But of thy werray / neyghibors
That duelle almoste / at thy dore
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 yourne / to thy house anon
And Also dombe / as any stow
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 / thors hys grace
Wol that I bere the / to a place
Which that hight / the house of Fame
To do the somme / disport and game
In somme / recompensacion
Of labour / and deuociōn
That thou hast had / lio causeles
To Cupido / the rechcheles
And thus this god / thorgi 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 / casually
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 thinketh hem / 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
Withoute Rasour / or Sisoures
Y-made / then greyndes be of sondes
And eke moo holdynge / in hondes
And also moo / renovelaunces
Of olde for-leten / aqueyntaunces
Mo loue dayes / and acordes
Then on\ Instrumentes / be acordes
And eke of\ loues / moo eschaunges
Then\ euer cornes / were in graunges
Vnethe 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 spies
In al a Realme / and al the spies
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 tellith
Hir paleys stant / as I shal sey
Ryght even in myddes / of the wey
Be-twexen heuene / and erthe and see
That what so ener / in al these three
Is spoken either prevy / or aperte
The aire therto / ys so overt e
And stant eke / in so Iuste 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 worthe / a demonstracion
In mynd / 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
Thorghi his kyndely / enclynyng
Moveth / for to come to
Whan that hyt is / awey therfro
As thus loo / thou maist alday se
That any thinge / that hevy be
As stoon or lede / or thynge of wight
And bere hyt neuer / so hye on hight
lat goo thyn hande / hit fallet houn
Ryght 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
lyght 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
Hath fyssh duellynge / in floode and see
And trees eke / in erthe bee
Thus euery thinge / by thys reason
Hath his propre / mansyon
To which seket / to repaire ) but be kept
As there hit shuld / not apaire } 756
Loo this sentence / ys knowen kouthe
Of euery Philosophres / moutho
As Aristotile / and daun platon
And other / clerkys many oon
And to confirme / my reasoun
Thou wost wel this / that specl is soun
Or elles no man) / myght hyt here
Now herke what / y wol the lere
Sovne ys noght / but eyre ybroken
And euery specl / that ys yspoken
lowde or pryuee / foule or faire
In his substaunce / ys but aire
For as flaumbe ys / but lyghted smoke
Ryght soo 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 / with violence
And rent loo / thys ys my sentence
Eke whan) men) / harpe strynges smyte
Whether hyt be / moche or lyte
Loo with the stroke / the ayre to-breket
[And right so breketh it whan men speketh] [From Thynne]
Thus wost thou wel / what thinge is speche
Now hennes-forthe / y wol the teche
How euery speche / or noyse or sovne
Thurgh hys / multiplicacione
Thogh 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)
Wel wost thou / hyt wol make anoon)
A litel roundel / as a sercle
Parauenture brode / as a couercle
And ryght) anoon) / thow shalt see wel
That whele sercle / wol cause another whele
And that the thridde / and so forth) brother
Euery sercle / causyng other /
Wydder / than hym self was
And this fro roundel / compas
Eche aboute other / goynge
Caused of othres / sterynge
And multiplyinge / euer 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-though thou thenke / hyt a grete wounder

FAIRFAX
And who so seyth / of trouthe I varye
Bid hym proven] / the contrarye 808
And ryght so thus / euery worde y-wys
That lowde or pryvee / y-spoken ys
Moveth first / an ayre a-boute
And of thys movynge / out of doute 812
Another ayre / anoon ys meved
As I haue / of the watir preved
That euery cercle / causeth other
Ryght so of ayre / my leue brother 816
Euerycʰi ayre / other sterethi
More and more / and speche vpberethi
Or voys or noyse / or worde or sound
Ay through / multiplicacion 820
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 824
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 828
Hath his kyndelych / stede
That sheweth hyt / withouten drede
That kyndely / the mansion
Of euery speche / of euery sound 832
Be hyt eyther / foule or faire
Hath his kynde place / in ayre
And synth that euery thynge / that is
Out of his kynde / place y-wys 836
Moueth thidder / for to goo
Yf hyt a-awei / be ther froo
As I have be-fore / preved the
Hyt seweth euery sound / parde 840
Moueth kyndely / to pace
Al vp / in-to his kyndely place

FAIRFAX
And this place / of which I telle
Ther as Fame / lyst to duelle
Ys set / amyddys of these three
Heven / erthe / and eke the see
As most conservatyf / the sound
Than ys this / the conclusyon
That euer speche / of euery man
As y the telle / first began
Moveth vp / ow high to pace
kyndely / to fames place
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 poetríe
Or colours / or rethorike
Pardee hit ought / the to lyke
For harde langage / and hard matere
ys encombrouse / for to here
Attones / wost thou not wel this
And y answered / and seyde yis
A. ha. quod he / lo so I can
lewdely / trewlewed man
Speke and shewe hym / swyfh skiles
That he may shake hem / be the bile
So palpable / they shulden be
But telle me this / now pray y the
How thenketh the / my conclusyon
A goode / persuasion
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
Of euery word / of thys sentence
A. prevef / by experience
And with thyn eres / heren wel
Toppe and taylle / and euerydel
That euery word / that spoken ys
Cometh in to Fames house / y-wys
As I haue seyde / what wilt thou more
And withi 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 tovne
Or hous or any / other thinge
And whan thou hast / of ough† knowynge
Looke that thou / warne me
And y anoon / shal telle the
How fer that thou / art now therfro
And y adow / to loken 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 seyllynge / in the see
But thus sone / in A while hee
Was flowen fro the grounde / so hye
That al the worlde / as to myn ye
No more semed tham / a prikke
Or elles was the aire / so thikke
That y ne myght† / not discerne
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 high as this
Nas Alixandre / macedo
Ne the kynge / Daun Cipio
That saw in dreme / at poyn 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
Duelleth many / a Citezeyn
Of which that seketh / Daun Plato
These ben eyryssh / bestes lo
And so saw y / all that meyne
Booth goon / and also flee
Now quod he thoo / 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 gournaunce
And gan / for to lepe and launce
And beren hym / now vp now down
Til that he sey / the Scorpioun
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 doun descende
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 / ayerissi bestes
Cloudes mystes / and tempestes
Snowes hayles / reynes wyndes
And thengendrynge / in hir kyndes
Ah the wey throught / whiche I came
O god quod y / that made adame
Moche ys thy myghtt / and thy noblesse
And thoo thought y / vp on Boesse
That writ of thoughtt / may flee so hye
Wythi fetheres / of Philosophye
To passen eueryche / element
And whan he hath / so fer y-went
Than may be seen / be hynde hys bake
Cloude and erthe / and alle that y of spake
Thoo gan y wexen / in a were
And seyde y wote wel / y am here :
But wher in body / or' in gost
I not y-wys / but god thou' west
For more clere / entendement
Nas neuer yit / y-sent
And thand thoughtt y / on' Marcian'
And eke on' / Anteclaudian')
That sooth was / her descripton
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 / poetrie
How goddes gone / 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 mater
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 bow hostele

FAIRFAX
Se her the house / of Fame lo
Maistow not heren / that I do
What quod I / the grete soun
Quod he / that rumbleth vp and doun
In fames house / ful of tydynges
Bothe of feire speche / and chidynges
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 doth / 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 / will beten the
Thow shalt non harme / haue truly
And with this worde / both he and y.
As nygh the place / arryved were
As men may casten / with a spere
Y nyst how / but in a strete
He sette me fair / on my fete
And seyde walke / forth a pace
And take thyn auenture / or case
That thou shalt fynde / in fames place
Now quod I / while we han space
To speke or that / I goo fro the
For the loue of god / telle me
In sooth that wil I / of the lere
yf thys noyse / that I here

FAIRFAX
Be as I haue herd / the tellen
of folke that doun / in erthe duellen
And comet hy / 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 wilt haue wonder'
Ioo / to the hous / of Fame yonder
Thou wost now how / comet hy every speche
Hyt nedeth noght / eft the to teche
But vnderstond now / ryght wel this
Whan eny spech / y-come ys
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 with this worde / farewell quod he
And here I wol / abyden the
And god of heuen / sende the grace
Some goode to lerne / in this place
And I of him / toke leve anon
And gan forthe / to the paleys gon}

FAIRFAX
[BOOK III.]

[Invocation.]

God of science / and of lyghts
Appollo / thurgh thy grete myghts
This lytel last boke / thou' gye
Nat that I wilne / for maistrye 1094

Here Art poetical / be shewed
But for the ryme / ys lyghts and lewed
Yit make hyt sumwhat / agreeable
Though somme vers fayle / in A sillage 1098
And that I do / no diligence
To shew crafte / but o sentence
And yif devyne / vertu nowe
Wilt helpe / to shewe yowe 1102
That in myn hede / y-marked ys
Loo / that is for to menen this
The hous of Fame / for to descryve
Thou shalt se men / go as blyve 1106
Vn to the next / laure y see
And kysse yt / for hyt is thy tree
Now entreth in / my brest anoon

[Story.]

Whan I was / fro thys Egle good
I gan beholde / ypon this place
And certein / or I ferther pace 1110
I wol yow / al thyshap deuyse
Of houe and ciete / and al the wyse
How I gan / to hys place aproche
That stood ypon / so hygh a roche
Hier' stant ther now / in spayne
But vp I clombe / with alle payne
And though to clymbe / greued me
Yit I entenyf / was to see 1118
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 / as pied 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) on) bilt / god so me saue
Tho sawgh) I / the halfe y-graue
With famouse folkes / names fele
That had I-ben) / in mocbel 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 / oon) or two
Was molte away / of euery name
So vnfamouse / was wox hir fame
But men) seyn) / what may euery last
Tho gan) I / in myn) hert cast
That they were molte / awey with hete
And not awey / with stormes bete
For on) that other syde / I say
Of this hille / that Northewarde lay
How hit was writen) / ful of names
Of folkes / that hadden) grete fames
Of olde tymes / and yet there were
As fressh as men) / had writen hem here

FAIRFAX
The selfe day / ryght\(^t\) or that oure
That I vpoun hem / gan\(^n\) to poure
But wel I wiste / what yt made
Hyt was con\(^s\)erved / with the shade
Alle this writynge / that I sigh\(i\)
Of a castel / stoode on\(^h\) high
And stoode eke / on\(^b\) so colde a place
That hete myght\(^t\) hit / not deface
Thoo gan\(^n\) I vp / the hille to goo\(n\)
And fonde vpoun the cop / a woone
That al the men\(^b\) that ben\(^w\) on lyve
Ne han the kunzynge / to descrine
The beaute / of that ylke place
Ne coude casten\(^w\) / no compace
Swich a nother / for to make
That myght\(^t\) of beaute / ben\(^w\) hys make
Ne so wonderlych / y-wrought\(^t\)
That hit a astonyeth\(^i\) yit my thought\(^t\)
And maketh\(^i\) alle my wyt / to swynke
On\(^b\) this castel / to be-thynke
So that / the grete beaute
To caste / the curiosite.
Ne kan\(^b\) I not / to yow deuyse
My wit ne may / me not suffise
But natheles / alle the substance
I haue yit / in my remembrance
For whi me thoughte / be seynt Gyle
Alle was of ston\(^b\) / of Beryle
Both\(^b\) castel / and the toure
And eke the halle / and euery boure
Wythouten\(^n\) peces / or ioynynges
But many subtile / compassinges
Rabewyures / and pynacles
Ymageries / and tabernacles
I say and ful / eke of wyndowes
As flakes falle / in grete snowes
And eke in ech / of the pynacles
Weren’ sondry / habitacles
In which / alle withi oute
Ful the castel / alle a boute
Of al maner / mynstralles
And gestiours / that tellen’ tales
Bothi of wepinge / and of game
Of alle that longeth / vnto fame
Ther’ herd I playen’ / 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 / withi her gleges
Satem’ vnder hym / in sees
And guzne on’ hym / vpwarde to iape
And countrefet hym / as an Ape
Or as crafte / countrefeteth kynde
Tho saugh I stonden’ / hym behynde
A .fer fro hem / alle be hem selue
Many thousand / tymes twelue
That madeyn’ 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 kepyn’ bestis / in the bromes
And of Athenes / daun’ Pseustis
Ther saugh I than’ / Atiteris
And Marcia / that lost her skyn
Bothe in face / body and chyn
For that she wolde / envien llo
To pipen bet / than Appolloo
Ther saugh I fames / olde and yonge
Pipers / of alle Duche tonge
To lerne loue / Daunces / sprynges
Reus and these / straunge thynges
Tho saugh I / in an other place
Stonden / in A large space
Of hem that maken / blody soun
In trumpe beme / and claryoun
For in seight / and blodesheynges
Ys vsed gladly / clarionynges
Ther herd I trumpen / Messenius
Of whom that speket / virgilius
There herd I trumpe / Ioab also
Theodomas / and other m6
And al that vsed / clarionon
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 / neve ne
Moo than sterres / ben in heuene
Of whiche I ny1 not / now ryme
For ese of yow / and losse of tyme
For tyme y-lost / this knowen ye
Be no way / may recouerd be
Ther saugh I pley / Iugelours
Magiciens / and tregetours
And Phitonesses / charmeresses
Olde wrecches / Sorceresses
That vse / exorsisacions /
And eke thes / fumiygacions /
And Clerkes eke / which konne wel
Alle this magikes / naturel
That craftely doon / her ententes
To maken / in certeyn ascendentes
Ymages / lo / througli which magike
To make a man / bewoo hool or sykeh
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 doen men han Fame"
Ther saugh I / Colle tregetour
Vpon a table / of Sygamour
Pley an vncouthe / thynge to telle
Y saugh him carien / a wyndmelle
Vnder a walsh 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 / euer thinge y-wis
As kynde thynge / of Fames is
I gan to roman / til I fonde
The castel yate / ow my ryght honde
Which that so wel / corwen was
That neuer suche / another nas
and yit it was / be auenture
I-wrought / as often as be cure
Hyt nedeth noght / yow more to tellen
To make yow / to longe duellen
Of these yates / florishshinges
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 haue 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 wroghtt / 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 / noughtt y-lyche
But noghtt 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) myghtt make / of hem a bible
XXt. foote thykke / y trowe
For certeyn) / who so koude I-knowe
Myght ther alle / the armes seen
Of famouse folke / that ha\w y-been
In auffrike 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 finest/ stones faire
That men\ reden\ / in the lapidaire
Of greses grown\ / 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 ow hye / above a dees
Sit in a see / imperiall
That made was / of a rubee all
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 streight
That with hir fete / she erthe reight
And with hir hed / she touched heuene
Ther as shynen / sterres seve
And ther to eke / as my witte
I saugh a gretter / wonder yitte
Vpon her eyen / to be-holde
But certeyn / y hem neuer tolde
For as feele yen / had she
As fetheres / vpon foules be
Or weren / on the bestes foure
That goddis trone / gunze honoure
As Iohn 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 lورد the heuenyssh / 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 eights / sustren eke
That in her face / semen meke
And euer mo / eternally
They synge of Fame / as thoo 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
On her shuldres / gan sustene
Bothe armes / and the name
Of thoo that hadde / large fame
Alexander / and hercules
That with a shert / hys lyfe les
And thus fonde y syttynge / this goddes
In noble honour / and ryches
Of which I stynte / a while nowe
Other thinges / to telle} yowe
Tho saugft I stonde / on} eyther syde
Streight} doun / to the dores wide
Fro the dees / many a peler
Of metal that shoon} / not ful chere
But though they ner / of no rychesse
Yet they were made / for gret noblesse
And in hem / gret sentence
And folkes / of digne reuerence
Of whiche / I wil yow tel fonde
Vpon} the piler / saugft I stonde
Alderfirste / loo / ther I sighe
Vpon} a piler / stonde on} highe
That was of lede / and yren} fyne
Hym of Secte / saturnyne
The Ebrayke / Iosephus the olde
That of Iewes / gestes tolde
And he bare / on} hys shuldres hye
The fame / of the Iurye
And by hym stonden} / other seuene
Wise and worthy / for to neuene
To helpen} hem / bere vp the charge
Hyt was so hevy / and so large
And for they writen} / of batayles
As wel as other / olde mervayles
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 Columpnis
And englyssh Gaunfride / eke y-wis
And eche of these / as haue I loye
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

FAIRFAX
Tho saugh I stonde / on a pilere
That was of tynned / yren clere
That latyn Poete / Virgile
That bore hathī vp longe / while
The fame / of Pius Eneas
And next hym / on a pilere was
Of Coper / Venus clerk / ovide
That hathī y-sowen / wonder wide
The grete god / of loues name
And therē he bare / vp wel hys fame
Vpon this pilere / also hye
And I hyt myghtē / see [with] mynē ye
For why this halle / of whiche I rede
Was woxen on high / the length and brede
Wel more / be a thousande dele
Thanē hyt was erst / that saugh I wel
Thoo saugh I / on a pilere by
Of yren wroghtē / ful sturmely
The grete poete / Daunē Lucanē
And onē hys shuldres / bare vp thanē
As highē as that / y myghtē see
The fame of Iulius / and Pompe
And by him stoden / alle these clerkes
That writenē / of Romes myghty werkes
That yf y wolde / her names telle
Alle to longe / most I dwelle
And next him / onē pilere stoođe
Of soulfre lyke / as he were woode
Daunē 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 writenē al / of the olde gestes
As benē onē trees / rokes nestes
But hit a ful / confuse matere
Were al the gestes / for to here [leaf 175] 1518
That they of write / or how they highte
But while that y / beheld thys syghte
I herd a noyse / aprochen blyve
That ferd as been dow / in anh hive 1522
Ayen her tyme / of oute flynge
Ryghte suche a maner / murmuryng
For al the world / hyt seemed me
Tho gan I loke / aboute and see 1526
That ther come entryng / in to the halle
A ryghte grete companye / with alle
And that of sondry / regiouns
Of alle skynnes / condiciouns 1530
That duelle in erthe / vnder the mone
Pore and ryche / and also sone
As they were come / in to the halle
They gone down / onh knees falle 1534
Before this ilke / noble quene
And seyde graunte vs / lady shene
Eche of vs / of thy grace a bone
And somme of hem / she graunted sone 1538
And somme she werned / wel and faire
And some she graunted / the contraire
Of her axyng / utterly
But thus I sey / yow trewly 1542
What her cause / was y nyste
For this folke / ful wel y wiste
They had good fame / eche deserved 1545
[Al thoughthey were dyuersly serued] [From Thynne's ed. 1532] nota
Ryghte as her suster / Daun fortune
Ys wonte to serven / in comune
Now herke how / she gan to paye
That gone her / of her grace praye 1550
And ryght lo / al this companye
Seyden sooth / and noght a lye
Ma dame quod they / we be
Folke that here / besechen the
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.]
Vpon 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 toun
With whiche he wonte is / to diffame
hem that me liste / 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
That they gonne / as beres rore
He bonde and pressed hem / so sore
This messanger / gan) fast crye
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 tho
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 guwne crie
Lady graunthe vs / good fame
And lat oure werkes / han that name
Now in honour / of gentilesse
And also god / your soule blesse
For we han wel / deserued hyt
Therfore is ryght) / that we ben) wel quyty
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 wikkedy) los / and wors name
Though ye good los / haue deserued
Now goo your wey / for ye be serued
haue doon) Eolus / let see
Take forth thy trumpe / anon) quod she
That is cleped / sklaundre lyghte
And blow her loos / that euery wighte

Speke of hem harme / and shrewdenesse
In stede of good / and worthynesse

For thou shalt trumpe / alle the contrarie
Of that they han / dom wel or fayre
Allas thought I / what auentes
Han these sory / creatures

For they amonges / al the pres
Shul thus be shamed / gilltles
But what / hyt most nedes be
What did this Eolus / but he
Toke out hys blake / trumpe of bras
That fouler than / the deu el was
And gan this trumpe / for to blow
As al the worlde / shuld ouerthrowe
That thurgh out / euery Regioun
Went this foule / trumpes souf
As swifte / as pelet out of gonne
Whan fire is in / the poudre ronne
And suche a smoke / gan out wende
Out of his foule / trumpes ende
Blak bloo grenyssh / swart rede
As dothe where that / men melt lede
Loo alle on high / fro the tuelle
And therto oo thing / saugh I welle
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
Allas thus was her / shame y-ponce
And gilltles / ow euery tonge
Tho come the thirddel / companye
And gunne vp to the dees / to hye
And doun ow knes / they fille anow
And seyde we ben / everychow

FAIRFAX
Folke that ben) / ful cruelly  
Deserued fame / ryghte fully  
And pray yow / hit mot be knowe  
Ryghte as hit is / and fortih y-blowe  
I graunte quod she / for me leste  
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 anoon)  
Late now quod she / thy trumpe goon)  
Thou Eolus / that is so blake  
And out thyn other / trumpe take  
That highte Laude / and blowe yt soo  
That throug the worlde / her fame goo  
Esely / and not to faste  
That hyt be knownen) / 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 every wightt / hath of hit wonder  
So brode hyt ran) / or than) hit stynt  
And certes / al the breth that went  
Out of his trumps mouthe / smelde  
As men) a potful / of bawme helde  
Amonge a basket / ful of roses  
This fauour did he / til her loses  
And ryghtt with this / y gan) aspye  
Ther come the ferthe / companye  
But certyn) they were / wonder fewe  
And guzne stonde / in a rewe  
And seyd) certes / lady bryghtt  
We hab) done wel / with al our myghtt  
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 myn) hede 1702
And saugh anoon) / the fifte route nota [leaf 177, back]
That to this lady / gunne loute
And down on) knes / anoon) to falle
And to hir thoo / besoughten) alle 1706
And hidden / her goode werkes eke
And seyden) they yeven) / noght) a leke
For no Fame / for suche renoun
For they / for contemplacioun 1710
And goddes loue / hadde y-wrought
Ne of Fame / wolde they nought
What quod she / and be ye woode
And wene ye / for to doo goode 1714
And for to haue / of that no Fame
Haue ye dispite / to haue my name
Nay ye shul lyen) / everychon)
Blowe thy trumpes / and that anon)
Quod she / Eolus y hote
And rynge this folkes werkes / be note
That alle the worlde / may of hyt here 1722
And he gan) blowe her loos / so clere
In his golden) / clarioun)
That through the worlde / went the sound
Also kenely / and eke so softe
But atte last / hyt was on) lofte 1726
Thoo come the sext / companye
And gunne fast / on) Fame crie
Ryghte verraly / in this manere
They seyden) mercy / lady dere 1730
To tellen) certeyn) / as hyt is
We han don) neither / that ne this

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

FAIRFAX
This Eolus gan hit / so blowe
That through the worlde / hyt was y-knowe
Thoo come the seventh / route anon)
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 / euerychon)
Ye maisty Swyne / ye ydel wrechhes
Ful of rotew / slowe techches
What fals theves / or ye wolde
Be famous good / and no thing nolde
Deserne why / ne neuer ye roughte
Men) rather yow / hangen) ought
For ye be lyke / the swynt catte
That wolde haue fissh / but wostow whatte
He wold no thinge / wete his clowes
Ywel thrifte come / to your Iowes
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 euer mowes / were in aper
And that went / al the world about
That euery wight / gan on hem shout
And for to lawgh / as they were wode
Suche game fonde they / in her hode
Tho come a nother / companye
That had y-doone) / the trayterye
The harme / the gret wikkednesse
That any hert / kouthe gesse
And prayed her / to han good fame
And that she nolde / doone) hem no shame
But yeve hem loos / and good renoun)
And do hyt blowe / in a clarion)
Nay wis quod she / hyt were a vice
Al be ther in me / no Justice
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 sowne
And seyden) lady / leefe and dere
We ben) suche folkes / as ye mowe here
To tell al the tale / a ryght)'
We ben) shrewes / euery wyght)'
And han delyte / in wikkednes
As good folke han / in godenes
And Ioy to be / knowen) shrewes
And ful of vices / and wikked thewes
Where fore / we pray yow a rowe
That oure fame / suche be knowe
In alle thing / ryght) as hit ys
Y graunte hyt yow / quod she y-wis
But what art thow / that seyst this tale
That werest on) thy hose / a pale
And on thy tipet / suche a belle
Ma dame quod he / sotli to telle
I am that ylke / shrewy y-wis
That brende the temple / of ysidis
In Athenes Loo / that Citee
And wherfor didest thou / so quod she
By my thriught / quod he ma Dame
I wolde fayn / han hadde a fame
As other folke hadde / in the tovne
Alle though they were / of grete renovne
For her vertue / and for her thewes
Thought y as gret a fame / han shrewes
Though hit be noght / for shrewdenesse
As good folke han / for godenesse
And siti that may not / haue thatoon
That other nyly / noght for-goon
And for to gette / of Fames hire
The temple set y / alle a fire
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
Ma dame yis / ful wel quod he
And I wil trumpen / parde
And toke his blake / trumpe faste
And gan to pufen / and to blaste
Til hyt was / at the wordes ende
With that y gan / aboute wende
For oon that stoode / ryght at my bake
Me thoughte goodely / to me spake
And seyde frende / what is thy name
Artow come hider / to han fame
Nay for sothe / frende quod y
I cam noght hyder / graunt mercy
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 thinge / 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 both / 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
Diuersly / 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 desirest / for to here
Come forthi and stonde / no lenger here
And y wil the / with outen) drede
In suche another / place lede 1914
Ther thou shalt here / many oon)
Tho gan) I forthe / with hym to goon)
Oute of the castel / sothe to sey
Tho saugh y stond / in a valey 1918
Vnder the castel / fast by
An house / that domus dedaly
That laboryncus / cleped ys [leaf 180, back]
Nas made so wonderlych / y-wis 1922
Ne half so queyntlych / y-wroughtt
And euer mo / so swyft as thoughtt
This queynt hous / a bout went
That neuer mo stil / hyt stent 1926
And ther out come / so grete a noyse
That had hyt stonde / ypon) oyse
Men myght) hyt / han herd esely
To Rome y trowe / sikerly 1930
And the noyse / whiche I haue herde
For alle the world / ryght) so hyt ferde
As dooth) the rowtynge / of the stone
That from thengyne / ys leten gowd 1934
And al thys hous / of whiche y rede
Was made of twigges / falwe rede
And grene eke / and somme were) white
Whiche as men) / to these cages thwite 1938
Or maken) of / these panyers
Or elles hattes / or dossers
That for the swough) / and for the twynges
This house was also / ful of gyges 1942
And also ful eke / of chirkynges
As ful this lo
And eke this hous / hath) of entrees
As fele of leues / as ben) in trees 1946
In somer / whan) they grene been
And on) the rove / men) may yet seen)
A thousand holes / and wel moo
To leten) wel / the sovne out goo
And be day / in euery tyde
Been) al the dores / opened wide
And be nyght) echo) vnshet
Ne porter ther is / noon) to let
No maner tydtynges / in to pace
No neuer rest is / in that place
That hit nys silde / ful of tydtynges
Other lovde / or of wiprynges
And ouer alle the houses / Angles
Ys ful of rovnynges / and of Iangles
Of werres of pes / of mariages
Of restes and of labour / of viages
Of A-bood of deeth / of lyfe
Of love of hate / acorde of stratfe
Of loos of lore / and of wynnynges
Of hele of sekenesse / of bidades
Of faire wyndes / and eke of tempestes
Of qwalme of folke / and eke of bestes
Of dyvers / transmutacions
Of estates / and eke of Regions
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
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
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
That is the moder / of tydtynges
As the see of welles / and of sprynges
And hyt was shapen / lyke a cage
Certys quod y / in al myn age
Ne saugh y suche / an hous as this
And as y wondred / me y-wys
Vpon this hous / tho war was y
How that myn Egle / fast by
Was perched hye / vpon a stoon
And I gan streghte / to hym gon
And seyde thus / y prey the
That thou a while / a-bide me [leaf 181, back]
For goddis loue / and lete me seen
What wondres / in this place been
For yit paranenture / 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 oon thyng / 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 whirleth / lo aboute
But sithe that Iouys / of his grace
As I haue seyde / wol the solace
Fynally / with these things
Vnkouthe syght / and tydynges
To passe / with thyne heunynesse
Suche routhe hath he / of thy distresse
That thou suffrest / debonairly
And wost thy selfen / outtirly
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 through hys / myghty merite
Wol do than ese / al be hyt lyte
FAIRFAX
And yaf in expres / commaundement [MS. p]
To whiche I am / obedient 2022
To further the / with al my myght\t
And wisse and teche the / a ryght\t
Where thou maist most / tidynges here
Shaltow here anoow / many oow lere 2026
With this worde / he ryght anoow [hie caret versus]
[Hent me vp bytwene his tone] [From Thynne's ed. 1532.]
At a wyndowe / yn me broghte [leaf 182]
That in this hous / was as me thoughte 2030
And ther with alle / me thoughte hit stent
And no thinge / hyt aboute went
And me set / in the flore adoun
But which / a congregacioun 2034
Of folke as I saugiL / rome a-bout
[Some within and some without] [From Thynne's ed. 1532.]
Nas neuer seen / ne shal ben\t eft
That certys / in the worlde nys left 2038
So many formed / be nature
Ne dede / so many a creature
That wel vnnenethe / in that place
Hadde y A fote / brede of space 2042
And euery wight\t / that I saugh there
Rovned / in others ere
A newe / tydynge preuely
Or elles tolde / alle oppenly 2046
Ryght\t thus and seyde / nost not thou
That ys betydde
No quod he / telle me what
And than\t he tolde hym / this and that 2050
And swore therto / that hit was sothe
Thus hath he sayde / and thus he dothe
And thusshal hit be / and thus herde y seye
That shal be fouad\t / that dare I leye 2054
That alle the folke / that ys a lyve
Ne han the kunynge / to discryve

FAIRFAX
The things / that I herde there
What a lovde / and what in ere 2058
But al the wonder / most was this
Whan\ oon\ had herde / a thinge y-wis
He come forth\ ryght\ / to another wight\ 2062
And gan him tellen / anon\ ryght\ 2062
The same / that him was tolde
Or hyt a forlonge way / was olde 2066
But gan somme what / for to eche
Tho this tydynge / in this speche
More / than\ hit euer was 2070
And nat so sone / departed nas
That he fro him / thoo he ne mette
With the thrid / and or he lette
Any stounde / he told him als
Were the tydynge / sothe or fals
Yit wolde he telle hyt / natheles
And euermo / with more encre\s 2074
Than\ yt wase erst / thus north and southe
Went euery mouthe / fro mouthe to mouthe
And that encre\sing / 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 anoon\v
Vp to a wyndowe / out to goon\v
Or but hit myghtt\ / oute there pace
Hyt gan\ out crepe / at somme crevace 2086
And flygh forth\ fast / for the nones
And som tyme / saugh\ thoo at ones
A lesyng / and a sad sothe sawe
That gonne of auentur / thrawe 2090
Out to a wyndowe / for to pace
And when\ they metten\ in that place

FAIRFAX
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 / ensuren) the
Wyth the nones / that thou wolt do so
That I shal neuer / fro the go
But be thyn) ovne / sworen) brother*
We wil medle vs / eche with other
That no man) / be they neuer so wrothe
Shal hau) on two / but bothe
At ones al / besyde his leve
Come we morwe / or ow) eve
Be we cried / or stille y-rovned
Thus saugh I fals / and sothe compovned
To-geder fle / for oo tydynge
Thus oute at holes / gunne wringe
Euery tydynge / streght) to Fame
And she gan yeve / eche hys name
After / hir disposicioun
And yaf hem / eke duracioun
Somme to wexe / and wynne sone
As dothe the faire / white mone
And lete hem goon) / ther myght) y seen)
Wenyed wondres / fast fleen)
XXu) thousand / in a route
As Eolus / hem blew aboute
And lord this hous / in al tymes
Was ful of Shipmen) /and pilgrimes
Withi shrippes bret / ful of lesenges
Entremedled / withi tydynges
And eke allone / be hem selue
O many a thousand / tymes twelue
Saugh I eke / of these Pardoners
Currors and eke / messangers
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 told for me
For hit no neide is / redely
Folke kan syngge 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 / tydynge told
And I gan / thiderwarde be-holde
For I saugh reynyng / euery wight
As fast as that / they hadden myght
And eueryche cried / what thing is that
And somme sayde / I not neuer what
And whan they were / alle on an hepe
Tho behynde / beguane vp lepe
And clamben 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.]
The Legend of Good Women.

[Of the first cast of the Prologue to this Poem, only one copy is known, that in M.S. 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† [writ I corrected]
†That there ne is non that dwellyth 2 In this cunte 5† [I corr.]
That eythir hath in helle or heuene I-be 6
Ne may of it non othere weyis wytyyn 7
But as he hath herd seyd / or founde it wrytyn 8 8
ffor by asay / there may no man it preue 9
†But goddis forbode / but men schulde leue 10†
Wel more thyng / than men han seyn with eye 11
Men schal nat wenyn / euery thyng alye 12 12
§ffor that he say it nat of 3ore a-go 13§
§God wot a thyng is neuere the lesse so 14§
Thow euery wyght ne may it nat I-se [§ corr.]
Bernard the monk ne8 say nat al parde 16
Thanne motyn we to bokys / that we fynde 17
Thourw whiche that olde thyngis ben 4 In mynde [I corr.]
And to the doctryne of these olde wyse 19
3euyn credence 5 In euery 6skylful wyse [I, 6 sky, corr.] 20
§And trowyn on these olde aprouede storyis 21§
Of holynes / of regnys of victoryis 22
Of loue / of hate / of othere sundery thyngis 23
Of whiche I may nat make rehersyngys 24 24
And If that olde bokis weryn aweye 25
I-loryn were of remembrance the keye 26

Gg. 4. 27
The Legend of Good Women.

[Fairfax MS. 16, leaf 83.]

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

The prologue of ix. goode Wymmen. [2nd Cust.]

1 A thousande tymes / I haue herd telle
2 ther ys Ioy in heuene / and peyne in helle
3 and I acord wel / that it ys so
4 But netheles yet / wot I wel also
5 that ther is noñ 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 written
9 for by assay / ther may no mañ it preve
10 But god forbede / but meñ shulde leve
11 Wel more thing / then meñ han seen with eye
12 Men shal not wenen / euery thing a lye
13 But yf him-selfe yt seethi / or elles doothi
14 For god wot / thing is neuer the lasse soothi
15 Thogh euery wight / ne may it nat y-see
16 Bernarde the monke / ne saugh nat all pardee
17 Than mote we / to bokes that we fynde
18 Thurgh whichi / that olde thinges ben in mynde
19 And to the doctrine / of these olde wyse
20 Yeve credence / in euery skylful wise
21 That tellen of these olde appreued / stories
22 of holynesse / of Regnes of victories
23 of love of hate / of other sondry thynges
24 of whiche I may not maken / rehersynges
25 And yf that olde bokes / were a-wey
26 Y-lorne were / of Remembraunce the key

Bernardus
Monachus
non vidit
omnia.

Fairfax
§ Wel ouȝte vs thanne on olde bokys leue
§ There as there is non othyr a-say be preue
§ And as for me thow that myn wit be lite
    On bokys^{1} for to rede I me delyte [^{y corr.}]
    And in myn herte haue hem in reuerence

§ And to hem ȝeue swich lust & swich credence
§ That there is wel onethe game non
That from myn bokys make me to gon
§ But it be oper vp-on the haly day
§ Or ellis in the Ioly tyme of may
§ Whan that I here the smale foulys syng
    And that the flouris^{2} gynne for to sprynge^{3} [^{2}louris, ^{3}prynge, corrected]
§ Ȝfarwel myn stodye as lastynge pat sesoun
§ Now haue I therto this condycyouf
    That^{4} of alle the flouris in the mede [^{* at corr.}]
Thayne lone I most these flourys white & rede
Swyche as men calle dayesyis in oure toun
To hem haue I so gret affeccioun
As I seyde erst whan comyn is the may
That in myn bed there dawith me no day
That I ne am vp & walkynge in the mede
To sen these flouris a-gen the sunne to sprede
§ Whan it vp ryseth be the morwe schene
* The longe day thus walkyng in the grene

§ And whan the sunne be-gynns for to weste
§ Thanne closeth it & drawith it to reste

_{Cambridge, MS. Gg. 4. 27_}

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^{1} from MS. Gg. 4. 27
^{2} from MS. Gg. 4. 27
^{3} from MS. Gg. 4. 27
^{4} from MS. Gg. 4. 27

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27§ Wel ought vs thanne / honoureth and beleve
28§ These bokes / there we han noon other preve
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
33§ So hertly / that ther is game noon
34 that fro my bokes / makethi me to goon
35§ but yt be seldom / on the holyday
36§ save certeynly / whan that the monethe of May
37§ Is comen / and that I here the foules synge
38 And that the flourys / gynnet for to sprynge
39§ Faire-wel my boke / and my devocioun
40§ Now have I thanne / suche a condicion
41 That of al the flourys / in the mede
42 Thanne love I most / thise flourys white and rede
43 Suche as meñ callen / daysyes in her tovne
44 To hem have I / so grete affeccion
45 As I seye erst / whanne comeñ is the May
46 That in my bed / ther dawethi me no day
47 That I nam vppe / and walkyng in the mede
48† To seen this flour / ayein the sonne sprede
49§ Whan it vprysitfi / erly by the morwe
*That blisful sight / softnetfi al my sorwe
*So glad am I / whane that I haue presence
*Of it / to dooñ it al / reuerence
55§ As she that is / of al flourys flour
56† Ful-filled of al vertue / and honour
57 and euere ilyke faire / and fresethi of hewe
58§ and I love it / and euere ylike newe
*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 whane that hit ys eve / I renne blyve
51§ As sone as evere the sonne / gynnethi weste
52§ To seen this flour / how it wol go to reste

FAIRFAX
§ So sore it is a-ferid of the ny3t 62
*Til on the morwe that it is dayis ly3t *
§This dayeseye of alle flouris flour 53§
†ffulvyld of vertu & of alle honour 54† 56
And euere I-like fayr & frosch 1 of hewe 55
§As wel In wyntyr as in somyr newe 1 [\texttt{\textit{\textit{\textit{\footnotesize{[correted]}}}}} 56§
§ffayn wolde I preysyn If I coude a-ryht 67§
*But wo is me it lyth nat in myn myght * 60

†ffor wel I wot that folk han here be-forn 73†
Of makyng ropyn & lad a-wey the corn 74
I come aftyr glenyng here & ther 75
And am ful glad if I may fynde an er 76 64
†Of ony goodly word that they han laft 77†
†And If it happe me reherse eft  [\texttt{\textit{\textit{\textit{\footnotesize{[correted]}}}}} 78†
†That they han 2 In here frosche songis said 79†
§I hope that they were nat ben euele a-payed 80§ 68
§Sithe it is seyd in fortheryng & honour 81§
§Of hem that 3 eythir seruyn lef or flour 2 [\texttt{\textit{\textit{\textit{\footnotesize{[corrt.]}}}}} 82§
§ffor trustyth wel I ne haue nat vndyr-take
§As of the lef a-gayn the flour to make
§Ne of the flour to make a-gayn the lef
No more than of the corn a-gen the shef
ffor as to me is lefere non ne lothere
I am witholde 3it with neuer nothire
I not ho seruynth lef ne who the flour
§That nys nothyng the entent of myn labour
†ffor this werk is al of a-nothyr tunne
†Of old story er swich strif was be-guene

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*Hire chere is pleynly sprad / in the brightnesse
*Of the sonne / for ther yt wol vnclose
*Alas that I ne had / englyssh ryme / or prose [see 66 68]
*For fere of nyght / so hateth she derknesse * 64
*Of the sonne / for ther yt wol vnclose
*Alas that I ne had / englyssh ryme / or prose [see 66 68]
*For fere of nyght / so hateth she derknesse * 64
<table>
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<th>PAR.-TEXT</th>
<th>LEGEND OF GOOD WOMEN. MS. GG. 4. 27, CAMBR.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>But wherfore that I spak to 3eue credence</td>
<td>98†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+To bokys olde &amp; don hem reuereence</td>
<td>98†</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§Is for men schulde autoriteis be-leuene</td>
<td>99§</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>§There as there lyth non othyr a-say be preue</td>
<td>100§</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*ffor myn entent is or I fro 3ow fare</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*The nakede tixt in englis to declare</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| *Of manye a story or ellis of manye a geste | *[
| *As autourys seyn leuyth hem If 3ow leste | * |

| §Whan passed was almost the monyth of may | 108§ |
| §And I hadde romed al the somerys day | 180§ |
| *The grene medewe of which that I 3ow tolde | * |
| §Vp-on the frosche dayseie to be-holde | 182§ |
| +And that the somne out of the souht gan weste | 197† |
| §And clothede was the flour & gon to reste | 198§ |
| +ffor derknese of the nyht of which sche dradde | 199† |
| Hom to myn hous ful swiftly I me spadde | 200 |
| And in a lytyl erber that I haue | 203 |
| +I-benchede newe with turwis frorsche 2I-grawe | 204†[
| I bad 3 men schulde me myn couche make | 205[
| ffour deynte of the newe somerys sake | 206 |
| I bad hem strowe flouris on myn bed | 207 |
| Whan I was layd & hadde myn eyen hid | 208 |
| +I fel a-slepe with-Inne an our or two | 209† |
| +Me mette how I was in the medewe tho | 210† |
| *And that I romede in that same gyse *1[i. daiseye | * |
| §To sen that flour/4 as 3e han herd deuyse | 202, 212§ |
| *ffayr was this medewe as thou;te me oueral | * |
| +With flouris sote 5embroudit was it al 5 | 119†[
| +As for to speke of gomme or erbe or tre | 121† |
| Comparisoun may non I-makede be | 122 |
| ffour it surmountedede pleynly alle odours | 123 |
| +And of ryche beute alle flourys | 124† |
| fforgetyn hadde the erthe his pore estat | 125 |

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But wherfore / that I spake to yive credence
To olde stories / and doon hem reuerence
And that men mosten / more thyng beleve
Theñ may seen at eighe / or elles preve
That shal I seyn / whanne that I see my tyme
I may not attones / speke in ryme
My besy gost / that trusteth alwey newe
To seen this flour / so yong / so freshi of hewe
Constreyned me / withi so gledy desire
That in myn herte / I feele yet the fire
That made me to ryse / er yt wer day
And was now / the firste morwe of May
Withi dredful hert / and glad deuocion
for to ben / at the resureccion
Of this flour / whañ yt shulde vnclose
A-gayne the sonne / that roos as rede as rose
That in the brest was / of the beste that day
That a-genores doghtre / ladde away
*And doyne oni knes / anooni ryght I me sette
*And as I koude / this fresshi flour I grette
*knelyng alway / til it vnclosed was
*Vpon the smal softe / swote gras
That was withi flourles swote / enbrovded al
*Of swich suetnesse / and swich odour ouer al
That for to speke / of gomme or herbe or tree
Comparisoni may noon / y-maked bee
For yt surmounteth / pleyly alle odoures
And of riche beaute / of flourles
For-geten had the erthe / his pore estate
Of wyntyr that hym nakede made & mat 126
†And with his swerd of cold so sore hadde greuyd † [oi.446, br.]
†Now hadde the tempre some al that 1 releuyd1 128† [i—t corr.]
§And clothede hym in grene al newe a-geyn 129§ 117
The smale foulis of the seson fayn 130
†That from the panter & the net ben skapid2 131† [2 a corr.]
Vp-on the foulere that hem made a-wapid 132 120
In wyntyr & distroyed hadde hire brod 133
In his dispit hem thouȝte it dede hem good 134
To synge of hym & in here song despise 135
The foule cherl that for his coueytyse 136 124
Hadde hem be-trayed with his sophistrye 137
This was here song the foulere we defye 138
§Some songyn on the brauachis clere 139§
§Of loue & that Ioye It was to here 140§ 128
†In worschepe & in preysyng of hire make 141†
†And of the newe blysful somerys sake 142†

†That sungyn blyssede be seynt volentyn 145†
†At his day I ches 3ow to be myn 146† 132
With ouте repentyng myn herte swete 147
And therwithal here bekys guyne mete 148
§The honour & the humble obeysaunce 149§ 135
And after3 dedyn othere obseruaunceys 150 [i3 after corr.]
§Ryht on to loue & to natures 151§
*So eche of hem to cryaturys
*This song to herkenyn I dede al myn entent
*ffor why I mette I wiste what they ment
Of wyntir / that hem naked made and mate

And withī his swerd of colde / so sore greued

Now hatī thatempre sonne / aH that releued 128

That naked was / and clad yt new agayn §

The smale foules / of the sesōn fayn

That of the panter / and the nette ben scaped +

Vpoñ the foweler / that hem made a-whaped 132

In wynter / and distroyed hadde hire broode

In his dispite / hem thoghte yt did hem goode

To synge of hym / and in hir songe dispise

The foule cherle / that for his covēytise 136

Had hem betrayed / with his sophistrye

This was hire songe / the foweler' we defye

And al his crafte / and somme songen clere §

Layes of love / that Ioye it was to here § 140

In worshipynge / and in preysinge of hir make +

And for the newe / blisful somers sake +

*Vpoñ the braunches / ful of blosmes softe *

*In hire delyt / they turned hem ful ofte * 144

And songen / blessed be seynt valentyne +

For oñ his day / I chees yow to be myne +

With-outeñ repentynge / myñ hert swete

and therwith-alle / hire bekes gonnen meete 148

Yeldyng honour / and humble obeysaunces §

To love and diden / hire othere observaunces §

That longeth on-to love / and to nature §

*Construeth that as yow lyst / I do no cure * 152

*And thoo that hadde doon / vnkyndnesse *

*As dooth the tydif / for new fangelnesse * [leaf 85]

*Besogîte mercy / of hir trespassynge *

*And humblely / songe hire repentynge * 156

*And sworn on 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 * 160

*Yet pitee / thurgh his stronge gentil myght*
For-gaf / and mad mercy passeñ ryght
Thurgh Innocence / and ruled curtesy
But I ne clepe yt nat / Innocence folye
Ne fals pitee / for vertue is the mene
As etike seith in swich maner I mene
And thus thise foweles / voide of al malice
Acordeden to love / and lafteñ vice
Of hate / and songe alle of oon acorde
Welcome somer / our gouernour and lorde
And Zepherus / and flora gentilly
Yaf to the florues / 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 monyñ of May
With-outen slepe / with-outen mete or drynke
A-dovne ful softly / I gañ to synke
And lenynge on myñ elbowe / and my syde
The longe day / I shoope me for tabide
For nothing ellis / and I shal nat lye
But for to loke / vpon the daysie
That men by resoñ / wel it calle may
The daisie or elles the ye / of day
The emperice and floure / of floures alle
I pray to god / that faire mote she falle
And alle that loven florues / for hire sake
But natheles ne wene nat / that I make
In preysing of the flour / agayñ the leef
No more than of the corne / agayñ the sheef
For as to me / nys lever noon ne lother
I nam with-holden yit / withi never mother
Ne I not who serueth leef / ne who the flour
Wel browken they / her service or labour
For this thing is / al of another tonne
Of olde storye / er swiche thinge was be-gonne
Whan that the sonne / out of the southi gañ west
*Tyl at the laste a larke song a-boue
*I se quod she the my3ty god of loue
*Lo 3ond he comyth I se hise wyngis sprede
§Tho gan I loke endelong the mede
§And saw hym come & in his hond a quene
†Clothid in ryal abyte al of grene
A frette of goold she hadde next hyre her
And vp-on that a whit corone sche ber
§With mane flourys & I schal nat lye
ffor al the world ryght as the dayseye
I-corounede is with white leuys lite
†Swiche were the flourys of hire corene white
†ffor of o perle fyn & oryental
Hyr white coroun was I-makyd al
ffor whiche the white coroun a-boue the grene
Made hire lyk a dayseye for to sene
†Considerede ek the fret of gold a-boue
I-clothede was this myhty god of loue
†Of silk I-broudede ful of grene greuys
§A garlond on his hed of rose leuys
*Stekid al with lylye flourys newe
*But of his face I can not seyn the hewe
§ffor sekyrly his face schon so bryhte
*That with the glemy a-stonede was the syhte
§A furlongwey I myhte hym not be-holde
94§ And that this flour an gan close / and goon to rest §
95† For derknesse of the nyght / the which she dred †
96 Home to myn house / ful swiftly I me sped 200

*To goon to reste / and erly for to ryse *
106§To seen this flour / sprede as I deuyse §
107 And in a litel herber / that I have †
108†that benched was / on turves freshe y-grave † 204
109 I bad meñ sholde me / my covche make
110 For deyntee / of the newe someres sake
111 I bad hem straueñ floures / on my bed
112 Whan I was leyde / and had myn eyen hed 208
113†I fel on slepe / in with an houre or twoo †
114†Me mette how I lay / in the medewe thoo †
115§And from a fer / come walkyng in the mede §
116§To seen this flour / that I love so and drede § 212
117†The god of love / and in his hande a quene †
118†And she was clad / in real habite grene †
119 A fret of gold she had / next her heer
120 And vpon that / a white corwne she beer 216
121 With flourouns smale / and I shal nat lye $
122 Y-corovned ys / with white leves lyte
123†So were the flowrouns / of hire corovne white † 220
124†For of O perle / fyne oriental †
125 Hire white corovne / was I-maked al
126 For which the white corovne / above the grene
127 Made hire lyke / a dayse for to sene 224
128†Considered eke / hir fret of golde above †
129 Y-clothed was / this myghty god of love
130†In silke enbrouded / ful of grene greves †
131 In with a fret / of rede rose leves $ 228

*The freshest syn the worlde / was first bygonne *
*His gilte here / was corrowned with a sonne *
*I-stede of golde / for heuynesse and wyght *
133§Therwith me thought / his face shoon so bryght § 232
134§That wel vnethes / myght I him beholde §
§ But at the laste in hande I saw hym holde
   Tho fery dartis as the ingleedys rede
† And augellych hyse wengis gan he sprede
   And al be that men seyn that blynd is he
† Algate me thouste he myste wel I-se
   I saw cornyage of ladyis nynetene
§ Hire name was Alceste the thebonoyre
† I preye to god that euere falle sche fayre
   ffor ne hadde confort been / of hire presense
   I hadde be ded / with outyn ony defence
   ffor dred of louys / wordys & his chere
   As whan tyme is / here aftyr 3e schal here
†† By-hynde this god / of loue vp on this grene
   I saw comynage of ladyis nynetene
   In ryal abyte a ful esy pas
   And aftyr hem come of wemen swich a tras
† That syn that god adam made of erthe
§ The thredde part of wemen ne the ferthe
   Ne wende I not by possibilite
† Haddyn euere in this world I-be
   And trewe of loue these wemen were echon
   Now whether was that a wondry thyng or non
   That ryht anon as that they guyne espye
   This flour whiche that I clepe the dayseye
   sful sodeynly they styntyn alle atonys
   And knelede a-doun as it were for the nonys
* And aftyr that they wentyn in campas
* Dausynge aboute this flour an esy pas
* And songyn as it were in carolewyse
166 And in his hande me thoght / I saugh him holde
167 Twoo fiery dartes / as the gledes rede
168†And aungelyke / hys wynges saugh I sprede  † 236
169 And al be that men seyn / that blynd ys he
170†Al-gate me thoght / that he myght se †
171 For sternely oñ me / he gan byholde
172 So that his loking // dooth myñ hert colde  240
173†And by the hande he helde / this noble quene †
174 Corowned withi white / and clothed al in grene
175 So womanly so benigne / and so meke
176 That in this world / thoght that men [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)

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<td>Ek Cleopatra with al thyn passioun</td>
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<td>Hide 3e 3oure trouth in loue &amp; 3oure ronoun</td>
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<td>And thow² tysbe / that hast for loue swich peyne [²y corr.]</td>
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<td>§Alceste is here that al that may desteyne</td>
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<td>†Mak of 3oure trouthe in loue no bost ne soun</td>
<td>267†</td>
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<td>§Nor ypermystre or Adriane ne pleyne</td>
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§Whan that this balade al I-songyn was                  | 270§   |        |

²The manuscript contains a variant reading "thou² wyske" for "thou² wyske".
LEGEND OF GOOD WOMEN. Fairfax MS. 16. 209

PAR.-TEXT 260

*And therfore may I seyn / as thynketh me  *
*This songe in preysyng / of this lady fre  *

(Songe, or Balade. 1)

203 [Hyde / Absolon / 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 / Catoun
207 Make of youre wifthode / 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 Lavyne / and thou lucrese of Rome tovne
212 And polixene / that boghteñ loue so dere
213 And cleopatre / with al thy passyoñ
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
218 And Phillis hangyng for thy Demrophoñ
219 And Canace / espied by thy chere
220 Ysiphile / betrayed with Iason
221†Maketh of your trouthe / neythir boost ne sovne †
222§Nor ypermystre / or Adriane ye tweyne §
223§My lady cometh / that al this may dysteyne § 269

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

FAIRFAX
*Vp-on the softe & sote grene gras
They settyn hem ful softly adoun
§By ordere alle in cumpas / alle in verouz
†ffyrst sat the god of loue & thanne this queene
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 of space
§I lenyngge 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

Fx. II. Go. II.

* 225 301 300§ 303 229 304 305† 306† 323 307† 308§ 309 310 236 311†

gg. 4. 27
That ys so good / so faire / so debonayre

I prey to god / that euere falle hire faire

For nadde comfort/ ben of hire presence

I hadde ben dede / withouten any defence

For drede of loves wordes / and his chere

That ys so good / so faire / so debonayre

That syñ that god / Adam hadde made of erthe

The thirdde part of mankynde / or the ferthe

Ne wende I not / by possibilitee

Had euer in this wide / worlde y-bee

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

ths flour / which that I clepe the daysie

Ful sodeynly / they styten al attones

And knelede dovne / as it were for the nones

And songen withi O vois / heel and honour

The trouthe of womanhede / and to this flour

that bereth our alder pris / in figurynge

Hire white corowne / beryth the witnessynge

And with that word / a-compas enviroyn

They setten hem / ful softly a-douñ

First sat the god of love / and sythi his quene

Withi 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

I knelyng by this flour / in good entente

A-booide to known / what this peple mente

As stille as any stoñ / til at the last

This god of love oñ me / hyse eighen caste
And seyde ho restith there & I answerde

And vy to his axsyng whan that I hym herde

And seyde seyde It am I & cam hym never

And salwed hym. quod he what dost thow her

In myn presence & that so boldely

ffor it were bettere worthi trevely

A werme to come in myn syht than thow

And why serere I and it lyke 30w

ffor thow quod he art thereto no thyng able

*Myne seruauntis ben alle wyse & honourable*

*Thow art myn mortal fo & me warreyest*

And of myyne olde seruauntis thow mysseyst

And hynderyst hem with thyn translacyour

And lettist folk to han democyou

To seruyn me & haldist it folye

To troste on me thow mayst it nat denye

ffor in pleyn tixt it nedyth nat to glose

Thow hast translatid the romaiws of the rose

That is an cersye a-geyns myn lawe

And makyst wise folk fro me withdrawe

*And thykist in thyyn wit that is ful cole*

*That he nys but a verray propre fol

*That louyth paramouris to harde & hote*

*Wel wot I ther by/ thow begynnyst dote*

*As olde folis whan here spryt faylyth*

*Thanne blame they folk & wete nat what hem ealyth*

*Hast thow nat mad in englys ek the bok*

*How that Crisseyde Troylis forsok*

*In schewynge how that wemen han don mis*

*Bit natheles answere me now to this* [2 corr.]

*Why noldist thow as wel a seyd goodnes*

*Of wemen as thow hast seyd wekedenes*

*Was there no good matyr in thyyn mynde*

*Ne in alle thyne bokys ne coudist thow nat fynde*

*Sum story of wemen that were goode & trewe* [3 trewe corr.]

*is god wot .lx. bokys olde & newe [see 556 Fr.]*
238†And seyde / who kneleth there / and I answere 
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 owne flour / so boldly 
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 
247 *Yt is my relyke / digne and delytable * 
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 
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 
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 

265§And of Creseyde / thou hast seyde as the lyste 
266§That maketh men / to wommen lasse triste
*Hast thou thyself altogether full of story's great

That both the romanyes & eke grekis trete

Of sundry wemen whiche lyf that they ledde

And euere an hunderede goode a-gelyn on badde

This knowith god & alle clerkis ek

That vsyn sweche materis for to sek

What seith Valerye Titus or Claudyan

What seith Ierome agayns [2h corr.]

How clene maydenys & how trewe wyuys

How stedefaste wedewys durynge alle here lyuys

Tellyth Ierome & that nat of a fewe [2 h corr.]

But I dar seyn an hunderede on a rewe

That it is pete for to rede & routh

The wo that they endure for here trouthe

§3 for to hyre loun were they so trewe

That rather than they wole take a newe [2–3 corr.]

They chose to be ded in sundery wyse

And deiedyn as the story wele deuyse

And some were brend & some were cut the hals

And some dreynkt for thy woldyn not be fals

§ior alle kepids they here maydynam

Or eills wedlek or here widewehe

And this thing was nat kept for holynesse

But al for verray vertu & cleennesse

And for men schulde sette on hem no lak

And 3it they were hethene al the pak

That were so sore a-drad of alle schame

These olde wemen kepte so here name

That in this world I trowe men schal nat fynde

A man that coude be so trowe & kynde [leaf 440] [3 t corr.]

As was the lest woman in that tyde

What seyth also the epistelle of Ouyde

Of trewe wyuys & of here labour

What vincent in his estoryal myrour

Ek al te world of autours mayst tow here

Cristene & hethene trete of swich materere

266 PAR.-TEXT
214 LEGEND OF GOOD WOMEN. MS. Gg. 4. 27, CAMB.
288, that ben as trewe / as euer was any steel

\[ G_{\text{tre-ne}}. \]

\[ F_{\text{tre-ne}}. \]

\[ E_{\text{tre-ne}}. \]
*It nedlyth nat al day thus for to endite  
*But 3it I seye what eylyth the to wryte  
*The draf of storiys & forste1 the corn [gete corr.]*  
§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 worthye queene2 341§ [2nd e corr.]  
And seyde god ry3t of 3oure curteysye 342  
3e motyn herkenyn If he can replye 343  
†A-geyns these poynysts that 3e han to hym 3mevid3† [2-3 corr.]  
A god ne schulde not thus been a-greuyd 345 321  
§But of his dede / he schal be stable 346  
§And thierto ry3tful & ek mercyable 347§  
*He schal nat ryghtfully his yre wreke * 324  
*Or he haue herd the tothyr 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 aqeynte totulour acousur 353  
§That tabourryn in 3oure eres / manye a thyng 354§  
§ffor hate or for Ielous ymagynyng 355§  
§And for to han with 3ou sum dalysaunce 356§ 332  
§Enuye I prere to god 3eue hire myschaunce 358§  
§Is lauender In the grete court alway 358§  
ffor che ne partyth neythir nygh ne day 359  
Out of the hous of Cesar thus seyth dante 360 336  
§Who-so that goth alwey sche mote wante 361§  
†This man to 3ow may wrongly ben acused 350† [lj449a 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 thyng in no malyce 363§  
§But for he vsyth bokis for to make 364§  
§And takyth non hed of what materre he take 365§  

GG. 4. 27
*Of thyn answere / avise the ryght weel

314†For thoghī thou reneyed / 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 shal 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 agreeud

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 yt be / as I yow telleñ shalle

337†This mane to yow / may falsly ben accused

338 That as by right / him oughte ben excused

328 For in youre courte / ys many a losengeour

329 And many aqueynt toselere / accusour

330§That tabouren in youre eres / many a swoñ

331§Rygght aftir hire / ymagynacioñ

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 parteth / neither nyght ne day

336 Out of the house of Cesar / thus seith dante

337§Who so that gooth / algate she wol nat wante

340§And eke perauntere / for this mañ ys nyce

341§He myght doon 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 [*i corr.] * 344
*Of innocence & nyste what he seyde * 366
Or hym was bodyn make thilke tweye
Of sum persone & durste it not with-seye
*ffor he hath wret manye a bok er this * 348
He ne hath not don so greuosly a-mys 369 349
To translate that olde clerkis wryte 370
†As thow that he of maleys wolde endyte 371†
†Despit of loue & hadde hym self I-wrouht 372† 352
This schulde a ryghtwys lord han in his thought 373
And not ben lyk tyrauntis of lumbardye 374
§That vsyn wilfulhed & tyrannye 375§
ffor he that kyng or lord is naturel 376 356
†Hym oughte nat be tyraunt & crewel 377† [leaf 449, back, line 20]
As is a fermour to don the harm he can 378 [leaf 450, line 19]
He must thynke it is his lige man 379
*And that hym owith o verruy dueetee * 360
*Schewyn his peple pleyn benygnete * 381
*And wel to heryn here excusacyouns * 382
*And here compleyntys & petyciouns * [‡corr.] 383
*In duewe tyme whan they schal it profre * 364
This is the sentens of the philysophre
A kyng to kepe hise lygis in iustise 384
Which oughtyn doute that is his ofisse 385
*And therto is a kyng ful depe I-sworn * 368
*fful manye an humerede wyntyr here be-form * 386†
†And for to kepe his lordys hir degre 384†
As it is ryght and skylful that they be 385
†Enhaunsede and / honoured most dere 386† 372
ffor they ben half goddys in this world here 387
†This schal he don bothe to pore ryche 388†
Al be that here stat be nat a-lyche 389
And han of pore folk compassioun 390 376
ffor lo the gentyl kynde of the lyoun 391
ffor whan a flye offendyth hym or bytith 392 [f450, bb]
He with his tayl awey the flye smyteth 393
SIX-TEXT 270

LEGEND OF GOOD WOMEN. FAIRFAX MS. 16. 219

Ex. lines.

Gg. lines.

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

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

370†Al wol he kepe his lorde / hire degree  † 384
371 As it ys ryght / and skilful that they bee
372†Enhaunced and honoured / and most dere  †
373 For they beñ half goddys / in this world here
374†Yit mot he doon / bothe ryght to poore and ryche  †
375 Al be that hire estaat / be nat y-liche  389
376 And hañ of poore folke / 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 / away the fle smyteth

FAIRFAX
272 PAR.-TEXT
220 LEGEND OF GOOD WOMEN. MS. GJ. 4. 27, CAMB.

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 eurythy by equite
†And euere han reward to his own degre
ffor sire it is no maystrye for a lord
To dampne 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 sorwefull herte
And proferyth hym ryght in his bare scherte
To been rygh at 3oure owene Iugement
Than oughte a god by schort avisement
Considere his owene honour & his trespaces
ffor sythe no cause of deth lyth in this cace
3ow oughte to ben the lyghter merciable
Letith 3oure yre & beth sumwhat tretable
The man hath seruyd 3ow of his 1konnyg
†And fortheryd 3oure lawe with his makyng
*Whil he was 3ong he kepte 3oure estat
*I not where he be now a renagat*  
§But wel I wot with that he can endyte
†He hath makid lewede folk to delyte
To seruyn 3ow in preysynge of 3oure name
He made the bok that highte the hous of fame
And ek the deth of Blaunche the duchesse
And the parlement of foulis as I gesse
And al the loue of Palamon & Arcite
Of thebes thow the storye 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 wrecchede engendrynge of makynede *
*As man may in pope innocent I-fynde

Gg. 4. 27
PAR.-TEXT

LEGEND OF GOOD WOMEN.  FAIRFAX MS. 16.  221

380  Al esely / for of hys gentrye
381  Hym deynetli not / to wreke hym on a flye
382  As dooth a curre / or elles another best
383  In noble corage / ought ben areste
384† And weyen euery thing / by equyte
385† And euere haue rewarde / vnto his owen degree
386  For syr yt is no maistrye / for a lorde
387  To dampne a man / without answere of worde
388† And for a lorde / that is ful foule to vse
389† And it so be / he may hym nat excuse
390† But asketh mercy / with a dreedeful herte
391  And profereth him ryght / in his bare sherte
392  To ben ryght / at your owen Iugement
393  Than oght a god / by short avysement
394  Consydred his owne honour / and hys trespas
395  For syth no cause of dethe / lyeth in this caas
396  Yow oghte to ben / the lyghter merciable
397  Leteth youre Ire / and bethi sumwhat tretable
398  The man hath served yow / of his kunnyng
399† And furthred wel youre lawe / in his makyng

402‡ Al be hit / that he kan nat wel endite  $ [leaf 88, back]
403† Yet hath he made / lewde folke delyte
404  To serve yow / in preysinge of your name  nota.
405  He made the book / that hight the hous of Fame
406  And eke the deeth / of Blaunche the Duchesse
407  And the parlement of foules / as I gesse
408  And al the love / of Palamon and Arcite
409  Of Thebes / thogh the storye ys knowen lyte
410  And many an ympne / for your halidayes
411  That highten balades / roundels / virelayes
412† And for to speke / of other holynesse
413  He hath in proce / translated Boece

FAIRFAX
And made the lyf also of seynt Cecile 426 416
He made also gon is agre while 427
Orygenes vp-on the maudeleyne 428 418
Hym ouuȝte now to haue the lesse peyne 429
He hath mad manye a lay & manye a thyng 430 420
Now as ȝe ben a god & ek a kyng 431
I ȝoure alceste whilom quene of trace 432
I axe ȝow this man rygh of ȝoure grace 433
That ȝe hym neuere hurte in al his lyue 434 424
†And he schal swere to ȝow & that as blyue 435†
†He schal no more agilyne in this wyse 436†
But he schal makyn as ȝe wele deuyse 437
Of wemen trewe in lounge al here lyue 438 428
Wher so ȝe wele of maydyn or of wyne 439 [leaf 450, b, l. 18]
And fortheryn ȝow as meche as he myssseyde [leaf 450, b, l. 17]
Or in the rose or ellig in crisseyde 441
†The god of loue answerede hire thus a-non 442† 432
Madame quod he it is so longe a-gon 443
That I ȝow knew so charytable & trewe 444
That neuere ȝit sithe that the world was newe 445
†To me na fond I neuere non betere than the 446† 436
†That If that I wele saue myn degre 447†
I may ne wel not warne ȝoure requeste 448
†Al lyth in ȝow doth with hym what ȝow leste 449†
†And al forȝeue with ȝoute lengere space 450† 440
ffor who so ȝeuyth a ȝife or doth a grace 451
Do it be tymel his thank is wel te more 452
And demyth ȝe what he shal1 don thfore 453 [shal corr.]
Go thanke now myn lady here quod he 454 444
I ros and doun I sette me on myn kne 455
And seyde thus madame the god a-boue 456
ffor-zelde ȝow that ȝe the god of loue 457
Han makyd me his wrethe to forȝeue 458 448
And ȝeue me grace so longe for to leue 459
That I may knowe sothly what ȝe be 460
†That han me holpyȝ & put me in swich degre 461†
416 And maade the lyfe also / of seynt Cecile
417 He made also / goon ys a grete while
418 Origenes / vpoñ 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 mañ / ryght of your grace
424 That ye him never hurte / in al his lyve
425†And he shal swereñ to yow / and that blyve
426†He shal neuer more / agilten in this wyse
427 But [he] shal makeñ / as ye wol deyse
428 Of wommen trewe / in lovyng al hire lyfe
429 Wher so ye wol / of mayden or of wyfe
430 And forthreñ yow / as muche as he mysseyde
431 Or in the Rose / or elles in Cresente
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 / werne your requeste
439†Al lyeth 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 / on my knee
446 And seyde thus / madame the god a-bowe
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 trewely I wende as in this cas [leaf 451]
Naught haue a-gilt ne don to loue trespas
ffor why a trewe man with oute drede
Hath nat to parte with a theuys dede
†Ne a trewe louere may1 me nat blame [1 may corr.]
Thaw that I speke a fals2 louere sum scheme 467 [2 fals corr.]
They aughte rathere with me for to holde
ffor that I of Criseyde wrot or tolde
Or of the rose what so myn aȝtour 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 ensaumple this was myn menyng
And sche anserwe lat be thyn arguyng
ffor loue ne wele nat countyrpletyd be
†In ryght ne wrong & lerne this at me
Thow hast thyn grace & holde the ryght therto4 [4 corr.]
Now woile 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 lynys 485 [5 we corr.]
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 hiser suauntys by ony wyeye
To fortheryn the & wel thyn labour quite
†Go now thyn wey thyn penaunce is but lyte

GG. 4. 27
LEGEND OF GOOD WOMEN.  FAIRFAX MS. 16.

PAR.-TEXT 276

Fa. lines.

452 But trewly I wende / as in this cas
453 Naught have agilt / ne doon to love trespas
454 For why a trewe mañ / withouteñ drede 464
455 Hath nat to parten / with a theves dede
456† Ne a trewe louer / oght me not to blame  †
457 Thoghñ that I spake / a fals love re 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 Arguyng
466 For love ne wol nat / countrepleted be 476
467† In ryght ne wrong / and lerne that of me  †
468 Thow hast thy grace / and holde the ryghtñ thereto
469 Now wol I ñeyñ / what penance thou shalt do
470 For thy trespas / vnderstonde yt here 480
471 Thow shalt while that thou lyvest / yere by yere
472† The most partye / of thy tyme spende  †
473 In makyn / of A glorious legende
474 Of good wyñmen / maydennes and wyves 484
475† That wereñ trew in lovyng / al hire lyves  †
476 And telle of fals men / that hem bytraññ
477 [That al hir lyfe ne do nat but assayen]
478 How many women / that may doñ ashamed [leaf 89, back]
479 For in youre worlde / that is now holde a game 489
480† And thoghñ the lyke nat / a love re bee  †
481 Speke wel of love / this penance yive I the
482 And to the god of love / I shal so preye 492
483 that he shal charge / his servantez by any weye
484 To forthreñ thee / and wel thy labour quyte
485† Goo now thy weye / this penaunce ys but lyte  †

*And whañ this book ys maade / yive it the quene *
*Onñ my byhalfe / at Eltham or at Sheene  * 497

FAIRFAX
The god of love gan smyle & thanne he seyde 498
Wostow *quod* he wher this be wif or mayde 499
Or queen or cuntesse or of what degre 500 488
That hath so lytli penaunce 3euyn the 501
That hast deseruyd sorere for to smerte 502 [f.451, bk]
But pette rennyth sone in gentil herte 503
That mayst thow sen sche kytheth what sche is 504 492
And I answere dny sere so haue I blys 505
No more but that I se wel sche is good 506
That is a trewe tale by myn hod 507
Qod loue & that thow knowest wel parde 508 496
3if it be so that thow a-vice the 509
Hast thow nat in a bok lyth in thyn cheste 510
The grete goodnesse of the queene Alcest 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 answere a-zen & seyde 3is 517
Now knowe I hire & is this goode alcest 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 bonnte doubelyth hire renoun 522
Wel hath sche quit me myn affeccioune 523
That I haue to hire flour the dayesye 524 512
No wondyr is / thow Ioue hire stellesye 525
As tellyth Agaton for hyre goodnesse 526
Hire white coroun beryth of it witnesse 527
†ffor al-so manye vertuys hath sche 528† 516
As smale flourys in hyre coroun be 529
Of remembrauns of hire & in honour 530
Cibella made the dayesye & the flour 531
I-Coronede al with whit as men ma se 532 520
And Mars† 3af to hire corone red parde 533 [ s corr.]

gg. 4. 27
Go-linet. Fx. lines.

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 deserued [sorere for to smerte
But pite reneth] 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 hast deseued / she is good
That is a trewe tale / by myn 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 erckes / 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
Now fele I wel / the goodnesse of this wyf
That both aftir hir detli / and in hir lyf
Hir grete bounte / doubleth hir renon
Wel hath she quyt me / myn affeccióñ
That I have to hire flour / the daysye
No wonder ys / thogh Ioue hire stellyfye
As tellethe agatofi / for hire goodenesse
Hire white corowne / berith of hyt witnesse
Hir white corowne / doubleth hire renon
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 flour
Y-crowned al with white / as men may see
And Mars yaf to hire corowne / reede pardee

FAIRFAX
In stede of rubeis set a-mong the white 534
Therwith this queene wex red for schame a lyte 535
Whan sche was preysid so in hire presence 536 524
Thanne seyde loue a ful gret neglygence 537
§Was it to the / to write onstedefast-nesse 538
*Of women sithe thow knowist here goodnesse *
*By pref & ek by storyis here by-forn [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 [²yn corr.]
Whan thow hast othere smale mad by-fore 550 540
And fare now wel I charge the no more 551

At cliopatre I wele ³that thow begyynne 556 [³ that 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 preyed / so in hire presence 536
525 Thanne seyde love / a ful grete negligence
526†Was ys to the / that ylke tyme thou made § 538

*Hyd Absolom thy tresses / in balade * [See l. 249, p. 8.
†Ex. not on p. 8.]

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

*Syf that thou art / so gretly in hire dette *
533‡And west wel / that kalender ys shee §
*To any woman / that wol lover bee *
534‡For she taught al the crafte / of fyne lovyng § 544
535 And namely of wyfhode / the lyvyng
536 And al the boundes / that she oght kepe
537 Thy litel witte / was thilke tyme a-slepe
538 But now I charge the / vpon thy lyfe 548
539 That in thy legende / thou make of thys wyfe
540 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 * nota
*Ne shal no trewe lover / come in helle * 553
*Thise other ladies / sittynge here arowe *
*Ben in my balade / yf thou kanst hem knowe *
(273)†And in thy bookes / alle thou shalt hem fynde * 556
*Haue hem in thy legende / now al in mynde *
*I mene of hem / that ben in thy knowyng *
*For here ben twenty thousande moo sittynge *
*Thanne thou knowest / good wommen alle * 560
*And trewe of love / for oght that my byfalle * [see 289 Gp.]
*Make the metres of hem / as the lest [leaf 90, bk] *
*I mot gooñ home / the sonne draweth west *
*To paradys / with al thise companye * 564
*And serve alwey / the fressli daysye *

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

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

Explicit prohemium

[I.]

[THE LEGEND OF CLEOPATRA.]

Incipit legenda Cleopatriae¹ regine ¹ [ie corrected]

a fftyr the deth of tholome the kyng 580
That al Egipt hadde in his gouernynge
Regnede his queen Cleopataras

Tyl on a tyme be-fel there swich a cas
That out of rome was sent a senatour 584
ffor to conqueryn regnys & honour
Vn to the toun of rome as was vsagee
To han the world vn-to hyre obeysaunce
And soth to seyne Antoniæs 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
ffor which he tok with rome & Cesar stryf

gg. 4. 27
543 And so forthe / and my love so shal thou wynn 
(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 on my legende / gañ I make./ 579
Natheles for sothe this ilke senatour
Was a ful worthy / gentyl werriour
And of his deth it was ful gret damage
But lone hadde brought this man in swich a rage
And hym so narwe boundyn In his las
Al for the loue of Cleopatraas
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
In the diffens of hyre & of hire ryght
This noble queene ek louede so this knyght
Thour his desert & for his chyualrye
As certeynly but If that bokys lye
He was of persone & of gentillesse
And of discrecioun & of hardynesse
Worthi to ony wyght that lyuyn may
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 as hire leste
The weddyng & the feste to deuyse
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 thynge that beryth more effect & charge
ffor men may overlade a schip or barge
And for thy to theseect thane 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 desruccioun
With stoute romeynys crewel as lyouz
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

Gg. 4. 27
Hys wif & he & al his ost forth wentyn  [leaf 453]  632
To shepe anon no lengere they ne stente
And in the se it happede hem to mete
Vp goth the trompe & for to schoute & schete
And peynede hem to sette on with the suzme  636
With grysely soun out goth the grete 1gounne  [I o corrected]
And heterly they hurtelyn al atonys
ffrom the top doun comyth the grete stony
In goth the grapenel so ful of crokis  640
Among the ropis rennyth the scherynge hokys
In with the polax presith he & sche
By-hyndyn the mast begynnyth he to fle
And out a-geyn and dryuyth hym ouerborde  644
He styngith hym vp on his sperys orde
He rent the seyl with hokys lyk a sithe
He bryngith the cuppe & biddyth hem to be blythe
He pouryth pesyn vp on the hachis sledere  648
With pottis ful of lym they gon to gedere
And thus the longe day to-gedere they spende
Tyl at the laste as euery thyng hat ende
Antonye is schent & put hym to the flyght  652
And al his folk to go that best go myght
ffealth ek the queen withal hire porpere sayl
ffor strokys whiche that wente as thikke as hayl
No wondyr was sche myghte it nat endure  656
And whan that antonye / saw that auenture
Allas quod he the day that I was born
Myn worshepe in this day thus haue I lorn
And for dispeyr out of his wit he sterte  660
And rof hym self a-non thour out the herte
Or that he ferthere wente out of the place
His wif that coude of Cesar hane no grace
To egipt is sche fled for dred & for 2destresse  [2 st corrected]
But herkenyth 3e that spekyn of kyndenesse  665
3e men that falsely swere manye an oth
That 3e wele deye If that 3oure loue be wroth
Here may 3e sen of wemen which a trouthe
This woful Cleopatre hath mad swich routh
That ther is tunge non that may it telle
But on the morwe sche wolde no lengere dwelle
But made hire subtyl werkemen make a schryne
Of alle the rubyis & the stonys fyne
In al egypt that sche coude espie
And putte ful the schryne of spicerye
And let the cors enbaumme & forth sche fette
This dede cors & in the schryne it schette
And next the schryne a pet thazne doth sche graue
And alle the serpentyys that sche myghte haue
Sche putte hem in that graue & thus sche seyde
Now love to whom myn sorweful herte obeyede
So ferforthly that from that blisful our
That I 3ow swor to ben al frely 3our
I mene 3ow Antonius myn knyght
That neuere wakynge in the day or nygh
3e nere out of myn hertis remembraunce
ffor wel or wo for carole or for daunce
And in myn self this couenaunt made I tho
ffor rygh swich as 3e feldyn wel or wo
As fer forth as it in myn power lay
Unreprouable on to myn wyfhod ay
The same wolde I fele lyf or deth
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
Among the serpentyis in the pit sche styrtete
And there sche ches to haun hire buryinge
Anon the nadderys 1gonne hire for to stynge
And sche hire deth receyuyth with good cheere
ffor loue of antonye that was hire so dere
And this is storyal soth it is no fable
Now or I fynde a man thus trewe & stable
And wele for loue his deth so frely take  
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 [leaf 454]
   The wyche toun the quen semyramus
   Let dyche al a-boute & wallis make
   ffuil 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 tounys is the wone
   And soth to seyne that on man hadde a sone
   Of al that lond on of the lustyeste
   That othir hadde a doughtyr the fayrest
   That tho was in that lond Estward dwellynge
   The name of euerych gan to othyr sprynge
   By wemen that were neigheboris a-boute
   ffour in that cuntre 3it with-outyn doute
   Maydenys been I-kept for gelosye
   ffuil streyte lyst they dedyn sum folye
   This 3onge man was callyd Piramus
   And Tysbe heit te miade 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 rosoune of hire age
   There myghte a ben by-twixe hem maryage
   But that here faderys myghte nat assente
   And bothe in loue I-lyke sore they brente
   That none of alle hyre frendis myght it lette
   But pryuyly sum tyme 3it they mette
By sleighte & spokyn summe of here desyr
As wry the glede & better is the fyr
fforbede a loue & it is ten so wod 736
This wal which that bi-twixe hem bothe stod
Was cloue a two ryght from the cop a-down
Of olde tyme of his fundacioun
But 3it this clyfte was so narw & lyte 740
It nas nat sene deere I-now a myte
But wat is that that loue can nat espie
3e louerys two If that I schal nat lye 743
3e foundyn first this litil narwe clifte [leaf 454, back]
And with a soun as softe as ony shryfte
They lete here wordis thour the cliff pace
And toldyn whil that they stode in the place
Al here compleynt of loue & al here wo 748
At euerry 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 resseuye 752
And thus here wardeynys wolde they disceyue
And euerly day this wal they wolde threte
And wissche to god that it were doun I-bete
Thus wolde they seyn alas thow welkede wal 756
Thorw thyn enuye thow vs lettist al
Why nylt thow cleuere or fallyn al a two
Or at the laste but If thw woldist so
3it woldest thow but onys lat vs mete 760
Or onys that we myghtyn kysse swete
Thanne were we coueryd ofoure carys colde
But natheles 3it be we to the holde
In as meche as thow sufferyst for to gon 764
Ovre1 wordys thour thyn lym & thour thyn ston 2 corr.
3it oughte we2 with the been wel a-payed [2 we corr.]
And whan these ydele wordys weren sayed
The colde wal they wele kysse of ston 768
And take here lene & forth they woldyn gon
And this was gladly in the eue tyde
Or wondyr erly lest men it espiede
And longe tyme they wroughte in this manere
Tyl on a day that Phebus gan to cleere.
Aurora with the strenys of hete
Hadde dreyed vp the dew of erbis wete
Vn to this clyft as it was wone to be
Come Piramus / and after come Thysbe
And plyghtyn trouthe / fully in here fy
That ilke same nyght / to stele a wy
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 nynus 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 faste³
And longe hym thoughte that the sume laste
That it nere gon vndyr the se a doun
This tisbe hat so gret affeccioun
And so gret haste Piramus to se
That whan sche say hire tyme myghte be
At nygh sche stal a wey ful pryuyly
With hire face I-wymplid subtyly
And alle hire frendis for to saue hire trouthe
Sche hath forsake allas & that is routhe
That euere wolde ben so trewe
To tryste 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

GG. 4. 27
Out of the wode with oute more arest
With blody mouth of strangelynge of a best
To drynkyn of the welle there as sche sat
And whan that tisbe hadde espyed that
Sche rist hire vp with a ful dredy herte
And in a kaue with dredful fot sche sterlte
for by the mone sche say it wel with-alle
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 stylle
Whan that this lyonesse hath dronke hire 1 fille
A-boute the welle gan sche for to wynde
And ryght a-non the wympyl gan sche fynde
And with hire blody mouth it al to-rente
Whan this was don no lengere sche ne stente
But to the wode hire weye thanne hath sche nome
And at the laste this Piramus is come
But al to longe allas at hom was he
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
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
Allas quod he the day that I was born
This on nyght wele vs loueris bothe sle
How schulde I axe mercy of tisbe
Whan I am he that haue 30w slayn allas
Myn biddynge hath 30w slayn as in this cas
Allas to bidde a woman gon be nyghte
In place there as peril falle myghte
And I so slayn allas I ne hadde be
Here in this place a furlong weye or 3e
Now what lyoun that be in this forest
Myn body mote he renten or what best
That wilde is gnawe mote he now myn herte 844
And with that word he to that wympil sterte
And kiste it ofte & wep on it ful sore
And seyde wympil allas there is no more
But thow schat feele as wel the blod of me 848
As thow hast felt the bledyng of Thisbe
And with that word he smot hym to the herte
The blod out of the wounde as brode sterte 851
As watyr whaz the 1condit brokyn is [1 o corrected]
Now Tisbe which that wiste nat of this
But sittynge in hire drede sche thoughte thus
If it so falle that myn piramus
Be comyn hidir & may me not I-fynde 856
He may me holde fals & ek onkynde
And out she comyth & aftyr hym gan espien [leaf 456]
Bothe with hire herte & with hire eyen
And thouȝte I wele hym tellyn of myn drede 860
Bothe of the lyonesse & 2al myn deede [2 a corrected]
And at the laste hire loue thazne hath sche founde
Betyynge with 3hese helys on the grounde [3 & scratcht out]
Al blody & therwith a bak sche sterte 864
And lik the wawis quappe gan hire herte
And pale as box sche was & in a throwe
A-visede hire & gan hym wel to knowe
That it was piramus hire herte deere 868
Ho coude wryte which a dedly cheere
Hath Thisbe tho / & how hire 4heer she rente [4 hire out out]
And how sche gan hire selue 5to turnemente [5 u corr.]
And how sche lyth & swousynyth on the grounde 872
And how sche wep of terys ful hise 6wounde [6 s corr.]
How medeled she hise 6blod with hire compleynte
How with hise 6blod hire selue gan sche pente
How clyppith sche the deede cors allas 876
How doth this woful tisbe in this cas

og. 4. 27
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 thyn Tisbe that the callyth thus
And therwithal the leftyth vp his hed
This woful man that is nat fully ded
When that he herde the 2 name of Tisbe cryen
On hire he caste hise heuy dedly eyen
And dou n a-gayn & 3eldyth vp the gost
Tysbe ryst vp with-outyn ony bost
And saw hire 3 wypmil & his 4 emty schede
And ek his swerd that hym hath don to dede
Thanne spak sche 6 thus myn 7 woful hand quod she
Is strong I now in swich a werk to me
ffor loue schal 3eue me strenthe & hardynesse
To make myn wounde large I now I gesse
I wele the folwe ded & I wele be
ffelawe & cause of thyn deth quod sche
And thow that nothing saue the deth only
Mighte the fro me depare trewely
Thow schat no more departe now fro me
Than from 9 the deth for I wele go with the
And now 3e wrechede gelos faderys oure
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 euery louere synde
That louyth trewely more prosperite
Than euere 3it hade Piramus & Tisbe
And late no gentyl woman 10 hyre assure
To pottiyn hire in swich an aventure
But god forbede but a woman can
Ben as trewe & louynge as a man
And for myn part I schal a-non it kythe
And with that word his swerd sche tok a-swythe
That warm was of hire louys blod & hot
And to the herte sche hire self smot
And thus is Tisbe & Piramus I-go
Of trewe men I fynde but fewe mo
In alle myne bokis saue this piramus
And therfore haue I spokyn of hym thus
Sfor it is deynte for vs men to fynde
A man that can in loue been trewe & kynde
Here may 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 thyn 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 distruccioun
By grekis sleyghte & namely by Synoun
Feynyng the hors I-offerede to Mynerue
Thowr which that many troyan muste sterue
And ector hadde aftyr his deth apiered
And fyr so wod it my3te nat been steerid
In al the noble toure of ylioun
That of the cete was the chif dongeoun
And al the cunte was so Lowe brought
And priamus the kyng fordon & nought
And Enyas was chargit by Venus
To fleen a-wey & he tok ascanius
That was his sone in his rygh hand & fledde
And on his bak he bar & withym ledde
His owene fadyr I-clepid Anchises
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 when 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 ytayle as wolde his destene
But of hise auentourys in the se
Nis nat to purpos for to speke of heyre
for 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 cuitre for tespie
He tok with hym no more cumpaynye
But forth they gon & lafte his schepe 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 clothis cutte were vn-to the kne
But sche was 3it the fayreste creature
That euere was I-formyd by nature
And Eneas & Achates sche grette
And thus sche to hem spak whan sche hem mette
Saw se quod sche as se han walkid wyde
Onye of myne susteryn walke 3ow be syde

gg. 4. 27
With ony wilde bor or othir beste
That they han huntid to in this foreste
I-tukkid vp with arwis in hire cas
Nay sothly lady quod this Enyas
But by thyn beute as it thynkylt me
Thow myghtyst neuere erthely woman be
But Phebus systyr art thow as I gesse
And If so be that thow be a goddesse
Haue mercy on oure labour & oure wo
I ne am no goddesse sothly quod sche tho
flor maydenys walkyn in this cuentre here
With arwis & with bowe in this manere
This is the reyne of libie there 3e ben
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
It nedyth nat it were but los of tyme
flor this is al & som it was venus
His owene modyr that spak thus
And to cartage he bad he schulde hym dighte
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
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 grete honowr
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
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

gs. 4. 27
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 inuyisible
Thus seyt the bok with-outyn ony les
And whan this Enyas & Achates
Haddyn in this temple ben oueral
Thaune founde they depeyntid on the wal
How troye & al the lond distroyed was
Allas that I was born quod Enyas
Thour out the worloure shame is kid so wyde
Now it is peyntid vp-on euery syde
We that weryn in prosperite
Been now disclanderyd & in swich degre
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 3ong so lusty with hire eyen glade
That If that god that heuene & erte made
Wolde han a lone for beute & goodnesse
And womanhod & trouthe & smelynesse
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 3it 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 his 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 apiere Enyas [e for y]
And opynly he knew that it was he
Ho hadde Ioye thanne but his meyne
That hadde founde here lord here gouernour
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 verry gentil man
And wel hise wordis he besette can
And hadde a noble visage for thenonys
And formed wel of braun & of bonys
for aftyr Venus hadde he swich faynesse
That no man myghte be half so fayr I gesse
And wel a lord he semode 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
Refresche d muste he been of his distresse
And seye certis that sche sory was
That he hath had swych peryl & swich cas
And in hire frendely speche in this manere
Sche to hym spak & seye as 3e may here
Be 3e nat venus sone & anchises
In good fey al the worshepe & encre

Gg. 4. 27
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 comauzded 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 3ow the feste to descrev
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 amorous lokyng & deuys
This Enyas is come to paradys
Out of the swolv of helle & thus in Ioye
Remembrith hym of his estat in troye
To dawnsynge chaumberys ful of paramentys
Of riche beddis & of ornementis
This Enyas is led aftyr the mete
And with the quene / whan he hadde sete
And spicis partid & the wyn agon
Vn-to hise chambris was he led a non
ffor hise ese & for to take hise reste
With al his folk to don what so hem lest
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 ryche stonys
Ne sakkis ful of gold of large weyghte
Ne rubye non that shynede be nyghte
Ne gentil hawtein faucoun 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 honourable 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 & aftyr riche thyngis  
Bothe septre clothis & ek brochis ryngis  
Some for to were & some to presente  
To hy that alle thyngis hym sente  
And bad his sone how that he schulde make  
The presentis & to the quyen it take  
Repeyr 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 quen 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 begynne 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 theeffect what schude 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 sarmounnyng
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 chargith oure meyne
The nettis dresse & speris brode & kene
An huntyng wolde this lusti frosche 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
LEGEND OF GOOD WOMEN.  MS. Gg. 4. 27, CAMB. 249

Hire 3onge knyghtis houyn al a-boute 1196
And of hire wemen ek an huge route
Vp on a thikke palfrey paper whit [leaf 460, back]
With sadyl red enbroudit with delyt
Of gold the barris vp 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 lioun comyn or the bere
That I myghte hym onys mete with this spere
Thus sey these 3onge folk & vp they kylle 1216
These bestys wilde & han hem at here wille
Among al this to rumbelyn gan the heuene
The thundyr rorede with a greely steuene
Doun cam the reyn with hayl & slet so faste 1220
With heuenys fer that it so sore agaste
This noble quiene & 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 maketh of it no mencioun 1228
And here be-gan the depe affeccioun
Be twixe hem two this was the ferste morwe
Of hire gladnesse & gynere 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 lest
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
fful 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 ensaumplpes 3ow be-forn
Se 3e nat alle how that 3e ben forswn
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 & obeysyne
So gentil & so trewe of his doinge
And can so wel don alle hise obeysauncis 1268
And waytyn hire at festis & at dauncis
And whan sche goth to temple & hom ageyn
And fastyn til he hath his lady seyn
And beryn in hise deuyysis for hire sake 1272
Not I not what & songis wolde he make
Iustyn & don of Armys manye thyngis [leaf 461, back]
Synde hire letteres tokenys brochis ryngis
Now herkith how he schal his lady serue 1276
There as he was in paril for to sterue
ffor hungyr & for myschif in the se
And desolat & fled from his cuntre
And al his folk with tempest al to-dryuyn 1280
Sche hath hire body & ek hire reame 3euyyn
In to his hand there as she myghte haue been
Of outhere 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 ernest is al ouerblowe
And pryuyly he doth hise shepis dyghte 1288
And shapith hym to stele a-wey be nyghte
This dido hath suspescioun of this
And thoughte wel that it was al a-mys
ffor in hire bed sche lyth a nyght & sykyth 1292
Sche axeth hym a-non what hym mys lykyth
Myn dere herte whiche that I loue most
Sertis quod he this nyght myn faderys gost
Hath in myn slep so sore me tormentid 1296
And ek mercurye his massage hath presentid
That nedis to the conquest of ytayle
Myn destene is sone for to sayle
ffor which me thynkyth brostyn is myn herte 1300
Therwith hise false terys out they sterete
And takith hire with-Inne hise armys two
Is that in ernest quod sche wele 3e so
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 alas what schal I do
To telle in schort this noble quen dydo
Sche sekith halwis & doth sacryfise
Sche knelyth cryeth that routh is to deuyse
Coniurith hym & proferyth hym to be
His thral his servaunt in the leste gre
Sche fallith hym to-fore & swounnych ther
Discheule with hire bryghte gilte her
And seyth hauyth mercy & let me with 3ow ryde
These lordis whiche that wonyn me be syde
Wele me distroyen only for 3oure sake
And so 3e wele me now to wiue take
As 3e han sworn thanne wele I 3eue 3ow leue
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 traytour forth he gan to sayle
Toward the large cu\entre of ytake\le
Thus he hath laft dido in wo & peyne
And weddede ther a lady hy3te lauyne
A cloth he lafte & ck his swerd stondynge
Whan he from Dido stal in hire slepynge
Rygth at hire beddys hed so gan he hie
Whan that he stal a-wey to his nauye
Which cloth whan sely 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
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
Azens his deth be-gynthy 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 shall ben neuere the bettere
ffor thilke wynd that blew 3oure schip a-wey 1364
The same wynd hath blowe a-wey 3oure fey
But ho so wele al this lettere hauyn in myade
Rede he ouyde & in hym he shal it fynde

Gg. 4. 27
How rote of falce louveris Duc Iason
Thow sly deouerre & confusioun
Of tendere wemen gentil cryaturys
Thow madist thy\text{n} recleymyng & thy\text{n} luris
To ladyis of thy\text{n} statly aparauence
And of thyne wordis farced with plesaunce
And of thyne feynede trouthe & thy\text{n} manere
With thy\text{n} obeysaunce & humble cheere
And with thyne contrefetid peyne & wo

There othere falsyn on thow falsist two
O oftyn sworist thow that thow woldist deye
ffor louve whan thow ne feltist maledye
Saue foul delyt whiche that tow callist loue
3if that I leue thy\text{n} name shal be shoue
In englis that thy\text{n} secte shal be knowe
Haue at the Iason now thy\text{n} horn is blowe
But sertis it is bothe routhe & wo

That louve with false louveris werkyth so
ffor they schal haue wel betere louve & chere
Than he that hath abought his louve wol dere
Or hadde in armys manye a blodi box
ffor 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 ensaumle is wel I-sene
By Isiple & media the queene
In Tessalie as guidou tellith vs

There was a kyng that highte pelleus
That hadde a brothyr that highte Eson
And whan for age he myghte vnnethis gon
He 3af to Pelleus the gouernynge
Of al his regne & made hym lord & kyng
Of whiche Eson this Iason getyn was
That in his tymé 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
Imagynynge that Iason myghte be
Enhauwsede so & put in swich degré
With loue of lordis of his regioun
That from his regne he myghte ben put a doun
In his wit a nyght compassede he
How Iason myghte best distroyed be
With oute sclaundere of his compassemént
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
Besonde 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 a dragoun
And manye othere merveylis vp & doun
And with two bolys makyd al of bras
That spittyn fer & meche othir thyng there was
But this was ek the tale natheles
That who so wolde wynne tylke fles
He muste bothe or he it wynne myghte 1436
With the bole & the dragoun fyghte
And kyng Oetes lord was of that yle
This Pelleus be-thoute hym vp-on this wile
That he his neveu Iason wolde enhorte 1440
To saylyn to that lond hym to disporte
And sayde neuew If it myghte be
That swiche a worchepe myghte fallyn the
That thw this famous tresore myghtist wynne
And bryngyn it myn regioun with-inne
It were to me gret plesaunce & honour
Thanne were I holde to quyte thyn labour
And al the cost I wele myn seluyn make
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 1452
A-non Argus his schepis gan deuyse
And with Iason wente the stronge Ercules
And manye a-nothir that he with hym ches
But who so axeth who is with hym gon 1456
Lat hym ryde argonautycoun
ffor he wele telle a tale long I-now
Philoteces a-non the sayl vp drow 1459
Whan that the wynd was good & gan hym hye
Out of his cuntre callid Thessalye
So longe he seylith in the salte se
Til in the yle of lenou arynede he
Al be this nat rehersid of Gwido 1464
3it seyth ouyde in hise epistelis so
And of this Ile lady was & quien
The fayre yynge ysiphele the shene
That thoas douhtyr was the kyng 1468
Isiphile was gon in hire pleying
And romyne on the clyuys by the se
Vndyr a banke anon aspiede she
Where that the ship of Iason gan a-ryue
Of hire goodnesse a-doun she sendyth blythe
To wetyn If that any straunge wight
With tempest were thidyr blowe a nyght
To don hem socour as was hire vsaunce
To fortheryn euery wight & to don plesaunce
Of verry bounte & of curteysye
This messangeer a-doun hym gan to hye
And fond Iason & Ercules also
That in a cog to londe were I-go
Hem to refroshche & for to take the eyr
The morwynge attempre was & fayr
And in his wye this massanger hym mette
fful cunnyngely these lordis two he grette
And dede his massage axinge hym a-non
If they were brokyn or ought wo begun
Or haddy nede of lodman or vitayle
Or of socour they schulde no thyng fayle
ffor it was outrely the quien is wille
Iason answere mekely & style
Myn lady quod he thanke I hertyly
Of hire goodnesse vs nedyth trevely
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 wye
This lady romyth by the clyf to pleye
Wyth hire meyne endelon the stronde
And fyndith Iason & these othere stonde
In spekynge of this thyng as I 3ow tolde
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
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 gretheonour 1508
And axeth hem of trauayle & labour
That they han suffered in the salte se
So that with-inne a day or two or thre
Sche knew by folk that in his shepis be 1512
That it was Iason ful of renone
And Ercules that hadde tho gret los
That soughtyn the auenturys of Calcos
And dede hem honour more than be-fore 1516
And with hem delede euere lengere the more
ffor they ben worthy folk with-oute les
And namely most she spak with ercules
To hym hire herte bar / he shulde be 1520
Sad wys & trewe of wordy's a-vyse
With-outen any othir affecioun
Of loue or eyl ymagynacyoun
This Ercules hath so this Iason preysid 1524
That to the suwne he hath hym vp areysid
That so trewe a man there nas of loue
Vndyr the cape of héne that is aboue
And he was wis hardy secre & ryche 1528
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 1532
And of thessalye likly kyng to be
There nas no lak but that he was agast
To loue & for to speke shamefast
Hym selue to mordere & dye
Than that men shu.de a louere hym espye 1536
As wolde god that pat I hadde 3eune
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 knyght
And al this was compassid in the nyght

og. 4. 27
By-twixe hym Iason & this Arcules
Of these two here was a shrewede lees
To come to house vp-on an Innocent
Sfor 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 wowyn 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
Thorigynal that tellyth al the cas
The somme is this that Iason weddit was
Vn-to this queen & tok of it substaunce
What so hym leste onto his puruyaunce
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 [leaf 465, back]
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 Toye at hire herte
But devede for his loue / of sorwe smerte
To calcos comyn is this Duc Iason
That is of loue deoure & dragoun
As matier apetittith forme alwey
And from forme in to forme it passyn may
Or as a welle that were botemeles
Ryght so can fals Iason haue no pes
flor to desyryn thour his apetit
To don with gentil wemen his delyt
This is his lust & his felicite
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
Vn-to Oetes of that cunte 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
And doth hym honour as it was to done
So fer forth that his doughter & his ayr
Media that was so wis & fayr
That fayrere say there neuere man with eye
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
And of his lok as real as a leoun
And goodly of his speche & familer
And coude of loue al the craft & art pleyner
With oute bok & eneryche observaunce
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]
3e han 3oure self put in meche doute
flor ho so wele this auenture achem
He may nat wel astertyn as I leue

3e han 3oure self put in meche doute
flor ho so wele this auenture achem
He may nat wel astertyn as I leue
With-outyn deth but I his helpe be
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
That 3e han of myn deth or of myn wo
Any reward & don me this honour
I wot wel that myn myght ne myn labour
May nat disserue it in myn lyuys day
God thanke 3ow there I ne can ne may
3oure man I am & louely 3ow be-seche
To ben myn helpe with-oute more speche
But sertis for myn deth schal I nat spare
Tho gan this Media to hym declare
The peril of this cas from poynt to poynt
And of his batayle & in what disioynt
He muste stonde of whiche no cryature
Saue only she ne myghte his lyf assure
And shortly to the poynt 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 chambir & make there his oth
Vp-on the goddys that he for lef or loth
Ne shulde nueere hire false nyght ne day
To ben hire husbonde whil he lyue may
As she that from his deth hym sauyth here
And here vp a nyght they mette in feere
And doth his oth & goth with hire to bedde
And on the morwe vpward he hym spedde
ffor she hath taught hym how he shal nat fayle
The fles to wynue & stynted his batayle
And sauede hym his lyf & his honour
And gat hym a name ryth as a conquerour
Rygh thour the sleyte of hire enchau[n]tement [leaf 466, back]
Now hath Iason the fles & hom is went
With Media & tresor ful gret won 1652
But on-wist of hire fadyr is she gon
To Tessaly with Duk Iason hire lef
That afterward hat brought hire to myschef
for as a traytour he is from hire go 1656
And with hire lafte hire 3ynge childere two
And falsely hath be-trayysed hire allass
As euere in loue a thef & traytour he was
And weddyth 3it the thredde wif a-non 1660
That was the doughtyr of the kyng Creon
This is the mede of louynge & guerdoun
That Medya receyuyth of Iason
Rygh for hire treuthe & for hire kyndenesse 1664
That louede hym betere than hire self I gesse
And lafte hire fadyr & hire erytage
And of Iason this is the vassellage
That in his dayis nas ther non I-founde 1668
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 eu thyn 3elwe her to se 1672
More than the boundys of myn oneste
Why lyked eu thyn 3outhe & thyn fayrnesse
And of thyn tunge the infynyt graciousnesse
O haddist thow in thyn conquest ded I-be
fful meche ontrouthe hadde dyed with the
Wel can ouyde hire letteres in vers endyte
Whiche were as now to longe for me to wryte
[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 167] 1684
But for to preyse & drawe to me memorye
The verrv wif the verrv 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 compassion
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
ful longe lay the sege & lytil wroughten 1696
So that they were half Idyl as hem thou3ten
And in his pley tarquinius the zonge
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
To Colatynys hous / & doun they lyghte
Tarquinius & ek this Colatyn
The husbonde knew the estris wel & fyn
And ful pryuly in-to the hous they gon
Nor at the zote porter nas there non
And at the chambre dore they gan abyde
This noble wif sat by hire beddys side
Discheuele for no maleyce she ne thoughte
And softe wolle seyth that she wroughte
To kepe hire from slouthe & Idilnesse
And bad hire servuauntis don hire besynesse
And axith hem what tydngis heryn 3e
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 whan I thynke on that place
God saue myn lord I preye hym for his grace
And ther-with-al ful tendirly sche wep
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
And she a-non vp ros with blysful chere
Hyre cuntenaunce is to hire herte dygne
ffor they acorde bothe in dede & sygne
And kiste hym as of wiuys is the wone
Tarquinius this proude kyngis sone
Conseyuede hath hire beute & hyre cheere
Hire 3elwe her hire shap & hire manere

GG. 4. 27
Hire hew hire wordis that she hath compleynyd 1748
And by no craft hire beute nas nat feynyd
And caughte to this lady swich desyr
That in his herte brende as any fer
So wodly that his wit is al forgetyn 1752
for he woste wel she wolde nat ben getyn
And ay the more that he was in dispayr
The more coueyth hire & thoughte hire fayr
This blynde lust was al his coueytynge 1756
A morwe whan the brid be-gan to synges
Vn-to the sege he comyth ful priuily
And by hym self he walkyth sobirly
Thymage of hire recordynge alwey newe [leaf 468] 1760
Thus lay hire her / & thus frosch was hyre hewe
Thus sat thus spak thus span thus was hire chere
Thus fayr sche was & thus was hire manere
Al this conseit hys herte hath now I-take 1764
And as the se with tempest al to-shake
3it aftyr whan the storm is al a gou
3it wele the watyr quappe a day or two
Rygh so thow that hire forme were absent 1768
The plesaunce of hire forme was present
Natheles nat plesaunce but delit
Or an onrightful talent with dispit
for maugre hyre she schal myn leman be 1772
Hap helpith hardy man aldaiy 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 privé halk 1780
And in the nyght ful thefliy gan he stalk
Whan euery wight was to his reste braught
Ne no wight hadde of tresoun swich a thought

ag. 4. 27
Were it by wyndow 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 & thow crye or noyse make
Or If there ony creature awake
By thilke god that formede man a lyue
This swerd thowr out thyn herte shal I ryue
And therwith al in to hire throte he sterte
And sette the poynt al sharp vp-on hire herte
No word she spak she hath no myght therto
What shal she seyn hire wit is al ago
Ryght 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 thow nat quod he this crewel man
As wisely Iupiter myn soule sawe
As I shal in the stable slen thyn knawe
And ley hym In thyn bed & loude crye
That I the fynde In auouterye
And thus thow shalt be ded & also lese
Thyn name for thow shalt non othir chese
These Romeyn wyuys louede so here name
At Ilke 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 neythir foul ne fayr
Tarquinius that art a kyngis Ayr

352 PAR.-TEXT
266 LEGEND OF GOOD WOMEN. MS. Gg. 4. 27, CAMB.

[? MS.] 1816
And sholdist as be lynge & be ryght
Don as a lord & as a worthy knyght
Whi hast tow don dispit to chialrye
Whi hast thow don this lady vilanye
Allas of the this was a vileyn dede
But now to purpos in the story I rede
Whau this was gon & this myshaunce befalle
This lady sente after hire frendis alle
fleodryr 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 wepyage
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 thyss 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 fery
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 sayde anoon
Be as be may quod she / of forgfyng
Y wol not haue noo forgyst / for no-thinge
But pryvely she kaught / forthe a knyfe
And therwith-alle / she rafte hir selfe hir lyfe
And as she felle adown / 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 routhe
And Brutus hath / 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 / oñ a bere
Thurgh al the tovne / that meñ may see and here

The horruble 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-halwed dere
As in hir lawe / and thus endeth lucresse
The noble wyfe / Tytus beryth 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 duelletñ
For wel I wot / that criste him-self telletñ
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 loketh which tirannye
They doon alday / assay hem who so lyste
The trewest ys ful brotil / for to triste.
[VI.]

[THE LEGEND OF ARIADNE.]

Vge infernal / Mynos of gree kynge
Now cometh thy lotte / now comestow oñ the rynge
Nat oonly for thy sake / writeñ ys this story 1888
But for to clepe ageyñ vn-to memory
Of Theseus the grete / vntrewe of love
For which the goddis / of heven above 1891
Ben wrothe / and wreche han take / for thy synne
Be rede for shame / now I thy lyfe begynne
Mynos that was / the myghty kynge of Crete
That whañ añ hundred / Citees stronge and grete
To scole hatñ sent / hys sone Androgius 1896
To Athenes / of the whicñ hyt happeth thus
That he was slayne / lernynge philosophie
Ryghtñ in that Citeñ / nat but for envye
The grete Mynos / of the whiche I speke 1900
Hys sones dethe / ys come for to wreke
And the Citeñ besegññ / harde and longe
But natheles the walles / be so stronge
And Nysus / that was kynge of that Citeñ 1904
So chevalrouse / that lytel dredññ he
Of Mynos or hys Oste / toke he no cure
Til oñ a day / befel añ aventure1] [1 End of the Fairfax extract.]
That nysus doughtyr stod vp-on the wal 1908
And of the sege saw the maner al
So happid it that at a scarmuchynge
She caughte hyre herte vp-on Mynos the kynge
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 wynnyñ tilke place
So that the site was al at his wille 1916
To sauyñ hem hym leste or ellis spille

gg. 4. 27
But wikkedly he quitte hire kyndenesse
And let hire drench in sorwe & in distresse
Nere that the goddis hadde of hire pite
But that tale were to longe as now for me

[...]

But this theffect 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 brougt in his presence
He wolde hym ete ther helpith no defence
And every thredde with oute doute
They caste lot & as it fit 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 deuoure hym at his wille
And this hath Mynos don ryght In dispit
To wreke his sone was set al his delyt
And makyn hem of Athenys his thrall
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 deuouryd 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 tyme he shulde fretyn be
Wel maystow wepe o woful thesyus
That art a kyngis sone & damnded thus
Me thynkith thus that thow were depe I-holde
To hym that savede the from caris colde
And If now ony woman helpe the 1956
Wel aughtist tow hire seruan[nt] for to be
And ben hire trewe louere 3er be 3er
But now to come ageyn to myn matyr
The tour there as this thesyus is throwe 1960
Doun in the boteme dyrk & wondyr lowe
Was Ioynynge in the wal to a foreyne
And it was longynge to the doughteryn twayne
Of Thesius that in hire chaumberys grete 1964
Dwelledyn abowe toward the maystyr strete
Of Athenys in Ioye & in solas /
Not I not how it happid par cas
As Thesyus compleynede hym be nyghte 1968
The kyngis daughter Adryane that highte
And ek hire systyr ffedra herdyn al
His compleynynge as they stodyn on the wal
And lokedyrn vp-on the bryghe mone 1972
Hem leste nat to gone to bedde sone
And of his wo they haddyn compasioun
A kyngis sone to ben In swich a prysoun
And ben deuoured thoughte hem gret pete 1976
This Adryane spak to hire systeryn fre
And seyde leue systyr Phedra dere
This woful lordys sone may 3e nat here
How pitously compleynyth he his kyn 1980
And ek his pouere astat that he is In
And giltles now cerceyn it is routhe
And If 3e wele assentyn by myn trouthe
He shal ben holpyn how so euere we do 1984
Phedra answerde I-wis me is as wo
fiir hym as euere I was for man
And to his helpe the beste red I can
Is that we do the gayler priuyly 1988
To come & speke with vs hastily

gg. 4. 27
And don this woful man with hym to come ffor 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 ffor In the prysouz 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 thynkyth 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 gapith faste In to the bestis throte he shal hem caste To slake his hungir & encombe his teth And right a-non what that Thesys 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 fful pryuyly with-inne the prysoun hyde And for the hous is krynkeled two & fro And hath so queynte weyis for to go ffor it is shapyn as the mase is wrought Therto haue I a remedye In myn thought That by a ciewe of twyn as he hath gon The same weye he may returne a-non ffolwynge alwey the thred as he hath come And whan that he this beste hathe ouercome Thanne may he flen a-vey out of this drede And ek the gayler may he with hym lede And hym auaunce 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
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 twwynne after this aventure
But in 3oure servise thus I wele endure
That as a wreche vnknowe I wele 3ow serve
ffor euere mo til that myn herte sterue
fforsake I wele at hom myn herytage
And as I seyde ben of 3oure court a page
If 3e vouche saf that in this place
3e grauzte me to han so gret a grace
That I may han nat but myn mete & drynk
And for myn sustenauce 3it wele I swynk
Rygh as 3ow leste that Mynos ne no wight
Syn that he saw me neuere with eye syght
Ne non ellis shal me cunne espye
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
Thanne shulde 3e se If that I therof lye
And If I profre 3ow In low manere
To ben 3oure page & servyn 3ow ryght here
But I 3ow serve as louly In that place 
I preye to Mars so 3eue 3ow swich a grace 
That shamys deth on me than mote falle 2064
And deth & poverte to myzane frendys alle 
And that myn spirt be nyghte mote go 
Aftyr myn deth & walke two & fro 
That I mote of traytour hau a name 2068
for whiche myn spirt 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 2072
And mercy lady I can nat ellis seye 
A semely knyght was thesiaus to se 
And 3ong but of a twenty 3ir & thre 
But ho so hadde seyn his cuntoance 
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 seruauant in so low degre 
God shilde it for the shame of wemen alle 
And lene me neuere swich a cas be-falle 
But synde 3ow grace of slyghte & herte also 
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 haun a reume nat but faste by 
Than that I sufferede giltles 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 

gg. 4. 27
Or ellis suffere deth as wel as I
That 3e vnto 3oure sone as trewely
Don hire ben weddit at 3oure hom comyng
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 & theron swere
ffor thanne at erst I wot 3e wele me leue
By Mars that is the chif of myn beleue
So that I myghte leuyn & nat fayle
To morwe for tacheue myn batayle
I wolde neuere from this place flie
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 cunte
And aldermost desirede 3ow to se
Of any erthely leuynge 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 smylith at his stedefastnesse
And at his hertely wordis & his chere
And to hyre sistyr seyde in this mane[re]
Al softlye systyr myn quod she
Now be we duchesseis bothe I & 3e
And sekerede to the regalys of Athenys
And bothe hereafter likly to ben quenys
And sauyd from his deth a kyngis sone
As euere of gentil wemen is the won
To saue a gentyl man emforth hire myght
In honest cause & namely In his ryght

Gg. 4. 27
Me thyȝkyth no wight oughte herof vs blame
Ne beryn vs therfore an euyl name
And shortly of this mater for to make [leaf 473]
This thesian hath of hire leue take
And euery poynrt was performed In dede
As ȝe han In this couenaunt herd me rede
His wepne his clewe his thynge that I haue sayd
Was by the gayler in the hous I-leyd
Ther as the Mynotour hath his dwellyng
Rygh faste by the dore at his entryng
And Thesyus is lad onto his deth
And forth vnto this mynotour he geth
And by the techynge of this Adryane
He ouercwm this beste & was his ban
And out he comyth by the clewe a-gayn
fful priuyly 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 dauace they & syngge
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 & homward 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 seyde 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 cuntreward he saylith swythe
A twenty deuelewey the wynd hym dryne
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
ful sorwefullly hire herte may a-wake
Allas for the myn herte hath now pete
Ryght in the dawynnyng 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 stonde barefot faste she went
And cryede Thesius myn herte swete
Where be 3e that I may nat with 3ow mete
And myghte thus with bestys ben I-slayn
The holwe rokkis answerden hire a-gayn
No man she saw & 3it shynede the mone
And hye vp-on a rokke she wente sone
And saw his barge saylynge in the se
Cold wex hire herte & rygh thus sayde she
Mekere than 3e fynde I the bestis wilde
Hadd 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 stonde hire fynde
But al for nought his weye he is I-gon
Adoun she fyl aswoune vp-on a ston
And vp she rysith & kyssith in al hire care
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 grettere part awey I-gon
Allas where shal I wreche wight become
flor thow so be that boot here ne cone
Hom to myn cunte 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 louver can begyle
His trewe love the deyyl quyte hym his while

[ VII. ]

[ THE LEGEND OF PHILOMENE. ]

This fryre world & bar it In thyn thought
Eternaly er thow thyn werk beganne
Why madist thow on to the Slaunder of man
Or al be that it was nat thyn doinge
As for that fyn to make swich a thyngs
Whi sufferist thow that tereus was bore
That is In loue so fals & so forswore

og. 4. 27
That from this world vp to the ferste heuene
Coruptyh whan that folk his name nemene
And as to me so gresely was his dede
That whan that I his foule storye rede
Mynye 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 flower of that cuntre
Thow Iune lyst nat at the feste to be
Ne Imeneus that god of wedyng is
But at the feste redy ben I-wis
The furies thre with al here mortal brond
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 shortely of this story for to passe
ffor I am wery of hym for to telle
ffyne 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 lowne 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 greece hymself is forth I-fare

gg. 4. 27
Vn-to his fadyr in lawe gan he preye
To vouche saf that for a monyth or tweye
That Philomene his wyuys systyr myghte
On Pregne his wyf myghte onys han a syghte
And sheshal 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 3eue hire leue
Of al this world he louyth no thyng so
But at the laste leue hath she to go
ffor philomene with salte teris eke
Gan of hire fadyr grace to beske
To sen hire systyr that she lovith so
And hym embrasyth with hire armys two
And therwithal so 3ong & 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 hise 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 daughter here
That beryth the keye of al myn hertes lyf
And gret me wel myn daughter & thyn 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 hise 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 brouyte
And turnyth hom no maleyce he ne thoughte
The oris pullyn forth the vessel faste
And in-to trace aryuyth at the laste
And vp in-to a forest he hire ledde
And to a kaane pruyuly hym spedde
And in this dirke caue If hir lest
Or lest nat he bad hire for to resto
For whiche hire herte aros & seyde thus
Were is myn sistyr brothir Tireus
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
3it / it is asferyd & a-whapid
List it be hent eft sonys so that she
But vittyrl it may non othyr be
By force hat he this traytour don that dede
That he hath reft hire of hire maydnyzhede
Maugre hire hed by strenthe & by his e myght
Lo here a dede of men & that a ryght
Sche cryeth systyr with ful loude a steuene
And fadyr dere & help me god in heuene
Al helpith nat & 3it this false thef
Hath don this lady 3it a more myschef
fôr fere lyst she shulde his shame crye
And don hym opynly a vilenye
And with his swerd hire tonge of keruyth he
And in a castel made hire for to be
fful pruyuly in prisoun euere more
And kepte hire to his vsage & his store
So that she myghte hym neuere more asterte
O sely Philomene wo is thy n herte
God wreke the & sende the thy n bone
Now is it tyme I make an ende sone
This tereus / Is to his wif I-come
And in his armys hath his wif I-nome
And pitously he wep & shok his hed
And swor that he say his sistyr ded
flor which this sely progne hath swich wo
That nygh hire sorweful herte brak a two
And thus In terys let I Progne dwelle
And of hire sistyr forth I wele 3ow telle
This woful lady lernede hadde in 3oughte
So that she werkyn & enbroude couthe
And weuyn in hire stol the radynore
As it of wemyn hath be wonid 3ore
And sothly for to seyne she hadde hire fille
Of mete & drynk & clothynge 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 3er was al a-go
She hadde I-wouyn 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 systeris loue
And to a knave a ryng she 3af a-non
And preyede hym with signys to gon
Vn-to the queen & beryn hir that cloth
And be signys swor hym manye an oth
She wolde hym 3euyn 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 pilgrymage
To Bacus temple & In a litil stounde
Hire dombe sistyr sittynge hath she founde
Wepynge In the castel here a-lone
Allas the compleynt the wo & the mone
That Progne vp-on hire doumbe systyr makyth 2380
In armys euerych of hem othir takyth
And thus I late hem in here sorwe dwelle
The remenau[n]t is no charg* for to telle
ffor this is al & som thus was she seruyd 2384
That neuere harm a-gilte ne deseruyd
On to this crewel man that she of wiste
3e may ben war of men If that 3ow leste
ffor al be that he wil nat for his shame 2388
Don so as Tereus to lese his name
Ne serve 3ow as a morderour or a knaue
fful lytil while shal 3e trewe hym haue
That wele I seyn al were he now myn brothir 2392
But it so be that he may haue non othir

[VIII.]

[THE LEGEND OF PHILLIS.]

BY prof as wel as bi autorite 2396
That weked freut comyth o wekid tre
That m[a]y ye wete If that like 3ow
But for this ende I speke this as now
To tellen 3ow of false demophon
In loue a falsere herde I neuere non
But If it were his fadyr theseus 2400
God for his grace from swich on kepe vs
Thus may these wemen preyen that it here
Now to the effect turne I of myn matere
Destroyed is of troye the cete 2404
This Demophom comyth seylynge In the se
Toward Athenys to his paleys large
With hym come manye a ship & manye a barge
fful of his folk of whiche ful manyon 2408
Is woundit sore & sek & wo begon
As they han at thasege longe I-leyn
By-hynde hym come a wynd & ek a reyn
That shof so sore his sayl ne myghte stonde
Hym were leuere than al the world a londe
So huntith hym the tempest to & fro
So dere it was he coude nower go
And with a wawe brostyn was his stere
His ship was rent so lowe in swich manere
That Carpentir ne coude it nat a-mende
The se by nyghte as ony torche it brende
ffor wod & possith hym now vp now doun
Til neptune hath of hym compassioun
And Thetis, Thorus, Triton, & they alle
And madyn hym vp-on a lond to falle
Wherof that Philus lady was & queen
Ligurges doughter fayrere on to sen
Than is the flour a-geyn the bryghte suzne
Vnnethe is Demophon to londe I-wunne
Wayk & ek wery & his folk forpynnyd
Of werynnesse & also enfamynyd
That to the deth he almost was I-drevyn
Hise wise folk to conseyl han hym 3euyn
To seke helpe & socour of the quien
And loke what his grace myghte bien
And makyn In that lond sum cheuysau[?]ce
To kepyn hym from wo & fro myschaunce
ffor syk he was & almost at the deth
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
Men knewyn hym wel & dedyn hym honour
ffor of Athenys deuk & lord was he
As theysus his fadyr hadde be
That In his tyme was of gret renoun
No man so gret of al the regyoun
And lyk his fadyr of face & of stature
And fals of loue It com hym of nature
As doth the fox Renard the foxis sone
Of kynde he coude his owene faderys won
With-oute lore as can a drake sweme
When it is caught & Caryed to the brymme
This honourable 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-traysyng 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 sworyn thus
To weddyn hire & hire his treuthe plyte
And pikid of hire al the good he myghte
Whan he was hol & sound & hadde his reste
And don with Philus what so that hym leste
As wel coude I If that me leste so
Tellyn his doynge to & fro
He seyde vnto his cuntre muste he sayle
ffor there he wolde hire weddynge 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 retorne
And In that lond let make his ordenaunce
As verray lord & tok the obeysaunce
Wel & homly & let his shepis dighete
And hom he goth the nexte weye he myghte
for 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
When that she saw that Demophon hire trayede
But to hym first she wrot & faste she prayede
He wolde come & hire delyuere of peyne 2488
As I reherce shal a word or tweyne
Me lyste nat vouche saf on hym to swynke
Ne spende on hym a penne ful of ynke
flor 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 thou it be but lyte
Ostesse thyn quod she O demophon 2496
Thyn Philis whiche that is so wo begon
Of rodepeyre vp-on 3ow mot compleyne
Ouer the terme sette by-twixe vs tweyne
That ye ne holde forward that 3e seyde 2500
3oure anker that 3e In 3oure hauene leyde
Hyghte vs that 3e wolde 1comyn out of doute 2504
Or that the mone wepte onys a-boute
But tymys foure the mone hath hid hire face
Syn that thilke day 3e wente from this place

3it hat2 the storm of Sytoye nat brought [2 a late h added]
ffrom Athenys the ship 3it comyth it noght
And If that 3e the terme rekene wolde [leaf 478]
As I or as a trewe louere shulde
I pleyne nat god wot by-forn mynz day 2512
But al hire lettere wryte I ne may
By ordere for it were to me a charge
Hire lettere was rygh long & therto large
But here & ther In rym I haue it layd 2516
There as me thoughhe she wel hath sayd

gg. 4. 27
She sayde thyn saylis come nat agen
Ne to thy word there is no fey certeyn
But I wot why 3e come nat quod she
flor I was of myn loue to 3ow to fre
And of the goddis that 3e han forsowere
3if hire vengeance falle on 3ow therfore
3e be nat sufficient to bere the payne
To meche truste wel may I pleyne
Vp-on 3oure lynage & 3oure fayre tunge
And on 3oure teris falsely out L-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 euere the shal befalle
And whan thynne olde auncestres peyntede ben
In which men may here worthynes se
Than ne 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 vileny
That was his trewe loue In thought & dede
But sothly of on poyn 3it may they rede
That 3e ben lyk 3oure fadyr as In this
flor he begylede Adriane l-wis
With swich an art & with swich subtilete
As thow thyn selue hast begylede me
As In that poyn al thow it be nat fayr
As thow solwist hym certayn & art his ayr
But syn thus synfully 3e me be-gile
Myn body mote 3e se with Inne a while
Ryght In the hauene of Athenys fletynge
With-out seputation & beryinge

Gg. 4. 27
They are ben hardyere than any stone
And when this lettere was forth sent anon
And knew how brothil & how fals he was
She for dispeyr fordede hyre self alias
Swych sorwe hath she for she besette hire so
Be war 3e wemen of 3oure subtyl fo
Syn 3it this day men may ensample se
And trustythy as In loue no man but me

[IX.]
[THE LEGEND OF HYPERMNESTRA.]

In Grece whilom weren bretheryn two
Of whiche that on was clepid Danao
That manye a sone hath of his body wonne
As swiche false loueris ofte cuane
A-mong his sonys alle there was on
That aldlymost he louede of euerychon
And whan this child was born this danao
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
Of whiche he gat vp-on his ryghte wyf
A doughtyr dere & dede hire for to calle
Ypermystra 3yngeste of hem alle
The whiche child of hire natyuyte
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 greet beute
With Iupiter *componned* so was she
That conscience trouthe & dred of shame
And of hyre wifhod for to kepe hire name
This thoughte hire was felycite as hire
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* & other oppressioun
Of howses that Mars venym is a-doun
That ypermystre dar nat handele a knyf
In maleyce thow she shulde lese hire lyf
But natheles as heuene gan to turne
To badde aspectys hath she of saturne
That made hire for to turne In prisoun
As I shal aftyr make mencioun
To Danae & Egestes also
Al thow so be that they were brethery two
ffor thilke tyme was sparyd no lynage
It lykede hem to make a maryage
By-twixe ypermystre & hym lyno
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
The daughter 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
The flourys the lef is rent vp by the rote
To makyn garlondis & crounys hye
fiul is the place of soun of menstralsye
Of songis amorous of maryage
As tylke tyme was the pleyne vsage
This was In the paleys of Egeste
That In his hous was lord ryght as hym lyste

*GG. 4. 27*
And thus the day they dryve til an ende [leaf 479, back] 2620
The frendys takyn leue & hom they wende
The nyght is come the bryd shal go to bedde
Egistus to his chambere faste hym spedde
And priuyl ye he let his doughtyr calle 2624
Whan that the hous was voyd of hem alle
He lokyth on his doughtyr with glad chere
And to hire spak as 3e shal after here
Myn ryghte doughter tresor of myn herte 2628
Syn fyrst that day that shapyw was myn sherte
Or by the fatal systeryn hadde myn dom
So ngygh myn herte neuere thynge ne com
As thow myn ypermystre doughter dere
Tak hed what I thyn fadyr seyth the here
And werke after thy thyn wisere euere mo
ffor aldirfrester doughtyr I loue the so
That al the world to me is half so lef 2636
Ne I nolde rede the to thy n myschef
ffor al the good vndyr the colde mone
And what I mene It shal be seyd ful sone
With protestaciouw as in this wyse
That but thow do as I shal the deuyse
Thow shalt be ded by hym that al hath wrought
At shorte wordis thow nescapist nought
Out of myn paleys or that thow be ded
But thow concent and werke after myn red
Tak this to the for ful conclusiouw
This ypermystre caste hire eyen doun
And quok as doth the lef of aspis grene
Ded wex hire hew & lyk an asch to sene
And seyde lord & fadyr al 3oure wille
After myn myght god wot I shal fulfille
So it to me be non confusion
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

290 LEGEND OF GOOD WOMEN.  MS. cg. 4. 27, CAMB.
And whan thyn husbonde is to bedde go
Whil that he slepith kit his throte atwo
ffor In myne dremys it is warne\nde me
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
She grauntyth hym ther is non othir grace
And therwith al a costret takyth he
And seyde herof a draught or two or thre
3if hym drynke whan he goth to reste
And he shal slepe as longe as euere the leste
The narcotykis & opijs ben so stronge
And goth thyn wey lyst that he thynkyth longe
Out comyth the Bryd & with ful sobre cheere
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
And euery wight out at the dore hym spedde
The nyght is wastid & he fyl a slepe
fful tendyrly begynnynth she to wepe
She rist hire vp & dreqedly sche quakyth
As doth the braunch that sephers shakyth
And hust were alle In argon that cete
And cold as ony frost now waxeth she
ffor Pite by the herte hire streynyth so
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
Allas & shal myzane hondis blody be
I am a mayde & as by myn nature
And bi myn semblaut & by myn vesture

Longe of Good Women. *Ms. gg. 4. 27, Camb.* 291

*Par. Text* 402

Leaf 480
Myyne 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
Thazne shal I blede allas & 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 lyuynghe 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 enbrace
And hym she roggith & a-wakyth softe
And at a wyndow lep he fro the loft
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-vey 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 þe pres & dwelle wip sopœfastnesse.
Suffise þin owen þingþ þei it be smal.
For horde haþe hate & Clymbyngþ tykelnesse.
Pres haþe envye & wele blentþ oueral.
Sauoure no more þanne þe byhoue schal,
Reule weel þi selþ þat ofþe folkþ canstþ reede,
And trouþe schal delyuere itþ is no drede

(2)

Tempestþ þe nouþtþ al croked to redresse
In trustþ ofþ hire þatþ tourneþ as a bal
Myche wele stantþ in litel besynesse
Bywar þerfore to spurne aþeyns an al.
Stryue notþ as doþe þe crokke wip þe wal
Daunte þi selþ þatþ dauntestþ ofþerþ dede
And trouþe shal delyuere itþ is no drede.

(3)

þatþ þe is sentþ receyue in buxhumnesse
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 þonkþ god ofþ al
Holde þe heye weye & latþ þi gostþ þe lede,
And trouþe shal delyuere itþ is no drede.

[L’Envoy.]
þer-fore þou vache leue þine olde wrechedenesse
Vnto þe world. leue now to be pral.
Crie hym mercy. þatþ ofþ hie godnesse
Made þe ofþ nouþtþ & in especial
Draue vnto hym & pray in general
For þe and eke for ofþer heuenelyche mede
And trouþe schal delyuere itþ is no drede

ADDIT. 10,340
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 begynnepe a balade translated out of frenshe in to englissh/ by Chaucier Geffrey pe frenshe made .sir. Otes de Grauntsome knight. Savosyen/

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

er y nys / so hye. counfort / to my plesaunce / 1
Whane pat .I. am / in any hevynesse /
As for to haue leyser / of Remembrauence /
Vpon pe manhoode / and pe worpynesse /
vpon pe trouthe / and pe stedfastnesse /
Of him whoes I: am: / alweys whyle I: may dure /
Per aught to blamen me / no creature /
For he is croppe and roote / of gentylesse  [from margin] 8
(2) (I. 2)

¶ In him is bountee / wysdam and gouernaulence / 9
Weel more panne / any mannes wile kan gesse
For grace ha pe wolde / so ferfoorthe him avaunce /
pat of knighthoode / he is parfyt Rychessee /
Honour / honourpe / him for his noblesse /
Per to so wel ha pe / fortuned him nature /
pat I am his for ener / I him ensure /
For euery wight / preysepe his gentylesse / [page 140]
(3) (I. 3)

¶ 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 /
pat I am sette / in verray sikunresse /
Bus aughte me wele / to blesse myn aventure
Sith pat him list / me serven and honneure /
For euery wight / preysepe his gentylesse / 24

R. 3. 20
THE COMPLEYNT OF VENUS.

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

† Nowe certes / loue / hit is right couenable 25
bat men ful soore abye / py noble thing' /
As waake abedde / and fasting at pe 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 pe daunce /
Al pe Reuers / of' any glaade felyng' 32

(5) (II. 2)

† [lalousye] wer hanged by a Kable 33
Sheo wolde al knowe / thorugh hir espying' /
per doope no wight' / no thing so Raysonnable /
bat al nys harme / in hir Ymagynyn' 36
bus deere abought' / is love / in gyving' /
Whiche offt / he gyvepe / with oure ordeynaunce
As sorowe enough / and lytel of' plesaunce
Al pe Reuers / of' euery glaade feeling' 40

(6) (II. 3)

† A lytel tyme / his gyft is agreeable 41
But ful encoumberous / is pe vsing' /
ffor soutyle [lalousye] / pe deceyuale /
fful offten tymes / causepe destourbing' /
bus beon we euers / In dreed souffering' /
In noun certaine / we langwisshe in penaunce /
And huwe wel offt / many an hir meschaunce /
Al pe Reuers / of euery glaade / feelyng' 48

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

† But certes loue / I. say not / in suche wyse / [page 141] 49
bat for teschape / oute of youre lace / I ment /
ffor I so long/ haue beon in youre servyce/
bat for to leet / of' wol I neuer assente 52
No force / [lalousye] / me more tourment' / Souffisepe me / to seon him. whane I may
And fore certes / vn to myn eending day /
To love him best/ ne shal I. neuer. Repent' 56
(8) (III. 2)

And certes love / whanne I. me weel avyse
On any estate / pat man may. represent
pane haue yee maked me / thorughie youre fraunchysyse
Cheese pe best/ pat euer / on eorpe went
Nowe loue weele hert / and looke pou neuer stent
And let pe Ialouse / put it nowe in assaye /
pat for no peyne ne shal I. neuer sey naye /
To love him best / ne neuer to Repent

(9) (III. 3)

Hert to pe hit aught / enoughe souffysyse /
pat loue so hye a grace / hape to pe sent/
To cheese pe wofyest / 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. eonde pis compleynt or pis laye /
And loue him best / and neuer to Repent

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

Pryncesse · resceyuepe / pis complaynt in gree
Vn to youre excellent benignytee /
Dyrect/ afFter/ my lytel souffysaunce /
ffor eelde pat in my spiryt doullepe me /
Hape of pedyting/ al pe subtylytee
Welnyeghe byrafft / out of my · remembraunce
And eke to me / it is right gret penaunce /
Sith, ryme in englisshie / hape suche skarsytee /
To folowen word by word · pe cyrosytee /
Of Graunsome / flour/ of hem pat make in ffrance /

[p. 142] Hit is sayde pat Graunsome made pis Last balade for Venus resembled to my lady of york. aunswering pe complaynt of Mars /

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

Enbov to Scogan

FROM

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

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

Litera directa de Scogon per G. C.

(1) (Tern I. 1)

To-brokene ben þe statutis in heuene þat creat were eternally to dure
Syn þat I se þe bryȝte goddis seuene
Mow wepe & wayle and pascioun endure 4
As may in erpe 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 whilhom was it schape² þat from þe fift serkele in no manere ¹[leaf 8]
Ne myȝte a drope of teeris doun escape ¹[2 schape in corrector's hand]
But now so wepyth venus in his spere
þat with hire teris sche wele drenche vs here
Allas skogon þis is for þyn offence
þu causist þis deluuye² of pestelence ¹[3 uye corrected] 14

(3) (I. 3)

†Hast þu not seyd in blaspheme of þe goddis ¹[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 ¹[18
Þerefore þou þeue hire vp at mychelmesse
Allas scogon of olde folk no þong
Was neuere erst Scogon blamyd for his tong 21

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

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

(5) (II. 2)

 Tolkien now sertys frend I drede of thyn onhap
 Lest for payn gift pe wreche of loue procede
 On alle hem pat ben hore & round of schap
 pat ben so likly folk in loue to spede
 panne schal we for oure labour han no mede
 But wel I wit pow wilt answere & seye
 Lo olde grisil leste to ryme & pleye

(6) (II. 3)

 Tolkien Nay Scogan sey not so for I me excuse
 God helpe me so in no rym douteles
 Ne paynke I neuere of slep to wake myn muse
 pat rusty payn in myn schede stytyle in pes
 Whil I was song I putte it for payn in pres
 But al schal passyn pat men prose or ryme
 Tak euery man his torn as for his tyme

(7) (Lenvoiy)

 Scogan pat knelist at pe wellis hed
 Of grace of alle honour and worpynesse
 In pe ende of wich strem I am dul as ded
 Forgete in solitaries wildirnes

Scogan payng on tullius kyndenes
Mynewe payn frend payn it may fructifie
Farewel & loke pow neure eft loue defye
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
Was axed / what ys trouthe or sothefastnesse
He nat a worde answerde / to that axinge
As who saith / noo man is al trew I gesse
And therfore though I hight / to expresse
The sorwe and woo / that is in mariag
I dar not writen of hyt / noo wikkednesse
Leste y my-self falle eft / in swich dotage

2.
I wol nat seyn / how that hyt is the cheyne
Of Sathanas / on which he gnaweth euere
But I dar seyn / were he out of his payne
As by his wille / he wolde be bounde nevere
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

3.
But yet lest thow doo worse / take a wyfe
Bet ys to wedde / than brenne in worse wise
But thow shalt have sorwe / on thy flesh thy lyfe
And ben thy wifes thral / as seyn these wise
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 weddnynge / in the trappe
This lytel writte / prouerbes or figure
I sende yow / take kepe of hyt I rede
Vnwise is he / that kan noo wele endure
Yf thow be siker / put the nat in drede
The wyfe of Bathe / I pray yow that ye rede
Of this matere / that we haue on honde
God graunte yow your lyfe / frely to lede
In fredam for ful harde it is/ to be bonde

‡ Explicit/

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

"Gentilesse."

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

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

1. Be first fader / and foundour of gentylesse / What man pat claymepe / 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. Bis first stocke / was grounde of rightwysnesse / Truwe of his worde / sobur pitous and fre Clene of his gooste / and loved besynesse Ageinst pe vice of sloupe / in honestee And but his heyre / love vertue as did he He nys not gentyle / þaughe him ryche seeme Al were he mytre / crowne or dyademe /

3. Vyce may wele be / an heyre til olde Richchesse But þere may noman / as þou maist wele seeme Beqweyþe 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.]

¶ Prouerbe.

(1) [Question]

¶ What shal þees cloþes þus many fold?  

Loo þis hoote / somers day /  

[Answer]

Affter heet/ komeþe coldþ  

No man cast þis pilcheche away /  

[Quod Chaucer]

(2) [Complaint]

¶ Of þis worlde / þe wyde compas /  

Hit wol not / in myn armes twayne /  

[Answer]

Who so mychel wol embrace /  

Lytel þer-of þe shal destreyne /  

[Quod Chaucer]
Lack of Stedsfastness.

A BALADE.

FROM

THE HARLEIAN MS. 7333,

SHIRLEY'S, OR COPIED FROM SHIRLEY.
LACK OF STEDFASTNESS.

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

This balade made Geoffrey Chaunciers the Laureat Poete Of Albion and sent it to his soverain lorde kynge Richard the seconde pane being/ in his Castle of Windesore/

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

Some tyme this worlde was so stedfaste & stable/ That manis worde was holde obligacion)
And nowe it is fals & deseyvable
pat worde and werke as in conclusion
Beon noo thyng oon for tvmid vp so downe
Is all pis worlde / thorowe mede & wyfullnesse
pat al is loste for lac of stedfastnesse

(2)

What made this worlde to be so variable
But louste pat folke / haue in discencion
For nowe adayes / a man is holde vnable
But yf he can by sume collucione
Do his neyghtboure wronge or oppression
What causithe this but wilfulH wrecchednesse /
pat al is loste for lac offi stedfastnesse

(3)

Trowthe is pis downe raisonne is holden fable
Vertu hathe nowe no dominacion)
Pite ExiledH no wight is merciable
porow Covetyse is blent descrescioun
be worlde hathe made permutacion)
From Right to wronge frome trowght to fekyluesse
pat all is lost for lac of Stedfastnesse/

HARL. 7333
Lenvoye /

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

Fortune.

(THREE BALADES, WITH AN ENVOY.)

FROM

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

[ Camb. Univ. MS. li. 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 sans peinture.

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

¶ This wrecched worlde-is transmutacioun [leaf 53] 1

as wele / or wo / now pocere and now honour

with-owten ordyr or wis descresyoun
gouerned is by fortunes errour

but natheles the lakke of hyr fauowr

ne may nat don me syngen thowh .I. deye

Iay tout perdu moñ temps et moñ labour [leaf 58, back] 8

For fynaly fortune .I. the deffye

(2) (I. 2)

¶ yit is me left the lyht of my resou

to knowen frend fro foo in thi merowr

So mochel hath yit thy whirlynge vp and down

I-tawht me for to knowe in an howr

but trewely no fors of thi reddowr
to hym put ouer hym self hath the maystrye

My suffysaunce shal be my socour

For fynaly fortune I. thee deffye 16

(3) (I. 3)

¶ O Socrates pou stidfast chaumpyoun [leaf 58] 17

she neuer myht be thi tormentowr

thow neuer dreddest hyr oppressyoun

ne in hyr chere fownde thow no sauour

thow knewe wel the deseyte of hyr colour

And pat hir' most worshipe is to lye

I knew hir ek a fals dissimulour

For fynaly fortune .I. the deffye 24

II. 3. 21
Le réponse de fortune a pleintif

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

Le respouone de fortune a pleintif

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

(5) (II. 2)

¶ I haue the tawht denisyoun by-twene 33
Frend of effect and frende of cowntenauce
The nedeth nat the galle of no hyene
pat cureth eyen derkyd for penaunce 36
Now se[ist]1 thow cleer pat were in ignoraunce
yit halt thin ancre and yit thow mayst aryue
ther bownte berth the keye of my substauance
And ek þou hast thy beste frende alyue 40

(6) (II. 3)

¶ How manye haue .I. refused to sustigne2 44
Syn .I. the fostred haue in thy plesaunce
Wolthow thanne make a statute on þy quyene
þat .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 þou hast thy beste frende a-lyue 48

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

Le Respoune du pleintif contre fortune

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

ii. 3. 21
(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 purueyeth of his ryhtwysnesse 
that same thinge fortune clepyn ye  
Ye blynde beestys ful of lewednesse  
the heuene hath *proprete* of sykyrnesse  
this world hath ever restesles trauayle  
thy laste day is ende of myn inter[e]sse  
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  
preyeth hys best frend of his noblesse  
That to som betere estat he may attayne
XX.

Purse,

A BALADE,

FROM

FAIRFAX MS. 16, BODLEIAN LIBRARY.
To yow my purse / and to noon other wight
Complaynt I / for ye be my lady dere
I am so sorry 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
Beeth hevy ageyne / or elles moote I dye

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 hevy aayyne / or elles moote I dye
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 LEILA PORTER.

with

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

by

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INTRODUCTION.

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

The value of a Ryme-Index is not, perhaps, apparent on the surface to all lovers of Chaucer. But to the student of language, and above all, to an editor, it is a most precious boon, for many reasons. Of these perhaps the chief is, that it is only by such help that we can get back to the 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*, *ylie*, or *ihe*, because the diphthong *ey* would not ryme.

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

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

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

Now we learn, from the Ryme-Index, that we have here an impossible ryme. Chaucer's word for 'he went' is *he went-e*, where *went-e* is dissyllabic, and cannot possibly ryme with *yhent* and *torment*; and therefore cannot be the right word. The solution is fortunately given by the excellent Cambridge MS., which offers us the alternative reading *is went*, which alone is correct. The past participle of a weak verb has no final e, whereas the past tense takes one. This may seem, at first, a small matter; but it ceases to become so when we find that so good an editor as Tyrwhitt was unaware of this elementary grammatical fact, and has given us quite a large number, probably several hundred, grotesque and impossible spellings of Chaucerian words, in consequence of his neglect of this one rule. A Ryme-Index would have saved him from this.
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; enchauntment, 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; enchauntment, 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 vente 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 vente, sb., in l. 398. Well, it is a
INTRODUCTION.

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 solwed, and hit forth went-e
Doun by a floury gren-e went-e.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹ The numbering in Michel's edition is different, and is entirely useless. The printers have numbered the lines so carelessly as to miss, in one page, some hundreds of lines at a time.
hand. It may be divided into two parts, called A 1 and A 2; A 1 ending at l. 1704 (or thereabouts). 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 fill-le is rymed with til. In l. 6108, we find atte last-e (as it would be in Chaucer) ryming with the pp. agast. In l. 6431, we find the dreadful ryme: pacience, 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, all-le; and it is all right. And so in other cases.

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

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

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

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

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

165; Felony, Vilany. Read Felony-e, Vileiný-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, hardely.

291; awrie, baggingly. Read awry.

335; pytfe, 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, theryne; cf. ll. 699, 1279. Read gardin, therin; see 511.

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

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

591; daungersous, thus; see ll. 1491, 1601. Cf. vicios, 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 tymbestere, swere.

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

873; samet, delit. Read samyt, delyt.

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

885; preyse, devise. Read pryse, devyse.

908; sette, chapelett. Read set, chapelet.

933; twythen, writen. Read thwiten, writen.

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

953; lasse, simplesse. Read lesse.

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

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

1187; fresh, sarlynysh. Read fresh, sarsinesh. The latter word is due to F. sarrezinesche in the original.
ON "THE ROMAUNT OF THE ROSE."

1201; gounfaucon (!), 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; loreyes, oliveris. Read loreres (F. loriers),
oliveres. And again read oliveres in l. 1381.
1341. (See this discussed below.)
1357. lyke, sike. Ch. has syke, Ho. Fame, 1270.
1375; chesteyns, fayne is. Read chesteynes, fayn is.
1387; it, yet. Read yit; as usual. See l. 871.
1397; knytte, sytte. Read knet, set; as in Parl. Foules,
627, 628.
1405; clapers, maners. Read claperes, maneres.
1413; devys, condys. Here condys is the pl. of condyt, a
declam; see conduit in
Mätzner, who cites the pl. condwys, from the Ayenbite of
Inwyzt, p. 91. Similarly, Chaucer has avocas as the pl. of
avocat, C. T. C. 291, ryming with allas.
1453; dere, nere. Read deer, neer; cf. l. 113.
1489; dide, preide. Read deyde, preyde; cf. C. T. E.
550.
1515, &c. Read straughte, draughte, sene (adj. visible),
shene, abaished, betraysshed.
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, bacheleres.
1641. Read For sithen I had sore syked.
1652. Read enclos is; where enclos is the F. pp.
Most of the above difficulties are due to the scribe, and
are positive mistakes. It is significant that, as soon as the
spellings are reduced to the usual Chaucerian forms, the
rymes become perfect. A careful perusal of these instances
will show that the difficulties practically vanish. Of those
that at last remain, the most notable are only two. These
are the rymes *mirour, tresour*, at l. 567, where we should have expected *treasure*, 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, i-wys.

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

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

We must therefore either suppose that Chaucer (if it is Chaucer's) has used *shet for shoten* (which, I confess, does not seem to me impossible), or else the passage is corrupt.

We may notice that the pt. t. *shette*, i.e. shot, occurs in ll. 1727, 1777, 1861; whereas the true form of the pt. t. is *sheet*; for it is a strong verb. I understand that Dr. Kaluza believes the ryming words to be *shete* and *mete*, infinitive forms. If so, we might read:

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

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

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

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

W. W. S.
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MS. II. 3. 21, CAMBR. UNIV. LIBRARY.

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PHILLIPPS MS. 8151, CHELTENHAM.

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* Since I printed the Parallel-Text of this Poem, I have seen Hoccleve’s 3 Presentation MSS, the Phillipps, Durham and Ashburnham copies, all in the same hand, and I have read all Hoccleve’s Virgin and other short Poems. The MS evidence is conclusively in favour of Hoccleve being the author of The Mother of God; the internal evidence of the Virgin’s white paps—which are in all, or nearly all, the Virgin poems—and the rymes, &c confirm this. See Prof. Skeat’s forthcoming ‘Selections from Chaucer’s Minor Poems’ (Clarendon Press). Dr. Koch and other German critics long ago declared The Mother of God spurious. My former judgment of Hoccleve’s poetic power was founded on his long dreary De Regimine. His short devotional poems are better, and go well with The Mother of God.—F. J. Furnivall, 27 Nov. 1888.
ryme-index to "mother of god."

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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-ë. L. 62. Here been rymes with grene. L. 86. man has to be altered to mon; I do not think Chaucer could have rymed man with upon. L. 106 ends with thing; there is a difficulty about the ryme with swoonyngeë. There is the same difficulty at l. 238, where lesing has to be lesingë, to ryme with bringë.

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

W. W. S.
### RYME-INDEX.

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

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FLOWER AND LEAF.

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

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(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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er. 519.
ere. 37. 55. 211. 223. 351.
334. 419. 450. 463. 477; see below.
1ere. 41. 104. 226. 261. 281.
330; see above.
es. 20. 377. 391.
esse. 524. 534.
et. 153.
*et (ete). 212.
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ete. 15. 90. 349. 405. 412.
eves. 365.
eve. 50. 317. 407.
*ew (ewe). 30.

1 Probably Chaucer distinguishes between these two sets of words in -ere.
I (see Y).
-ide. 323. 582.
 1ide (yed). 72.
ie (y). 1; (see y).
ight. 13. 16. 36. 69. 135.
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 321. 394. 400. 433. 436.
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ike. 132.
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ine. 29.
*ing (inge). 415.
inge. 92.
is. 471.
ise. 97. 566.
*it (ite). 205.

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*old (olde). 169.
olde. 426. 443. 594.
onde. 482. 512.
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 225. 293. 328. 335. 344.
 363. 456. 468.
oné (oon). 167.

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ong. 100.
onge. 244.
ore. 204. 288. 447. 504.
ote. 83. 99.
oude. 275.
*oughte (ought). 48.
on. 253. 562.
our. 510. 545.
*oure (our). 573; (ure). 496.
oures. 8. 356.
oute. 71. 147. 195. 265.
oth. 547.
owe. 190. 316. 359. 569.

Y.
y. 57. 134. 156. 176. 302.
 345. 352. 440. 454. 461.
 527. 541. 568. 575.
*sy (saw). 78. 85. 191.
*y (ye). 105. 130. 162. 175.
 181. 219. 230. 324. 337.
 428. 464. 475. 503. 517.
 520. 583.

N.B.—Observe—swete : (F.) Margarete. 349. Also the astonishing ryme of glorie with worthily and wholly (520); whereas in Chaucer it rymes with membrìe, purgatìe, storìe, victòrie only.

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

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

RYME-INDEX (by stanzas).

A.

able. 98.
ace. 11. 31. 38. 79; (see as).
*ace (as). 21. 32. 62. 87. 94.
96.
ad. 68.
age. 7. 77.
*aid(e). 30. 55. 88.
aile. 6. 27. 68. 77. 81. 93.
aip. 8. 15. 25. 47. 50. 52.
56. 61. 63. 80. 86. 96.
*ain (aine). 20. 35. 60. 67.
94. 100.
aine. 85.
ale. 3.
all. 33. 65.
alie. 1. 21. 46. 51. 57. 79.
*alle (all). 82. 92. 98. 102.
am. 46. 99.
an. 32.
ance. 9. 13. 26. 56. 58. 62.
106; (see aunce).
*and (ande). 23.
ande. 72.
arje. 22.
ary. 79.
as. 66: — *as (asse). 63.
ast (aste?). 31.
at. 22. 25. 36. 40. 70. 78.
at. 26.
aunce. 20. 34. 39. 48. 54.
72. 83. 94. 95. 97. 107.
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*aye (ay). 14. 16. 19. 29. 35.
51. 52. 62. 92.

E.
45. 50. 53. 58. 65. 66. 82.
100. 108.
ed. 83.
ed. 42.
efe. 1.
ele (el). 97. 101.
e. 7. 67.
ence. 26. 29. 85.
ent. 16. 45. 76. 80. 82. 103.
105.
ente. 5.
*ent (ente). 98. 102.
epe. 11.
er. 4. 9. 25. 28. 30. 39. 56.
59. 67. 73. 78. 86. 95.
103.
*erte (ert). 91.
es. 64. 96.
esed. 18.
esse. 27. 31. 49. 64. 87.
est. 55. 88.
est(e). 41. 54. 89; este (?). 6.
et. 49.
eve. 105.
evied. 104.
*ew (ewe). 10. 45. 70.
ew. 17. 37. 48.
I (see Y).

ice. 15; (see ise).
*ide (iedy). 28.
igh (ighte). 68. 108.
igh. 19.
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<td>ore. 30. 36. 59. 65. 73. 89.</td>
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<td>71. 76. 90. 91. 92. 95.</td>
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<td>97. 104.</td>
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<td>*is (isse). 19. 52.</td>
<td>òth. 10.</td>
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<td>ise. 2. 10. 13. 18. 24. 48.</td>
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<td>55. 57. 58. 75. 76. 84. 85.</td>
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<td>87. 93. 101. 105; (see ice. yes).</td>
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<td>41. 42. 60. 64. 73. 80. 81.</td>
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<td>ure. 8. 12. 29. 38. 71. 74.</td>
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<td>100.</td>
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<td>*on (oon). 12. 17. 34. 81. 89.</td>
<td>used. 61.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Y (see I).</td>
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<td>28. 36. 40. 42. 43. 53. 57.</td>
<td>y. 13. 41. 44. 46. 51. 53.</td>
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<td>61. 63. 66. 71. 78. 83.</td>
<td>70. 74. 91. 103.</td>
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<td>102. 106.</td>
<td>*y (ye). 59. 72. 84. 86. 90.</td>
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<td>*one (= oon). 1. 5. 20. 33.</td>
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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 1. 13 we have write ryming with aright, shewing that the sound of gh was lost; and many more instances of the same. At 1. 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.