SECOND MIDDLE ENGLISH PRIMER

SWEET
PREFACE

The present work is intended as a continuation of my First Middle English Primer; it will, I hope, be welcome, not only to those who have already worked with the earlier book, but also to the more numerous class of students who simply wish to acquire the power of reading Chaucer at sight in such a way as to do full justice to the metre, and at the same time to restore, as far as possible, the genuine Middle English pronunciation.

My grammar is based mainly on Ten Brink's Chaucers Sprache und Verskunst, although, as will be seen, I differ from him on many questions of pronunciation. As regards vertu, vertew, &c., I have adopted Henry Nicol's view (Transs. Phil. Soc. 1877-9, vi), which Ten Brink seems to have overlooked. In the treatment of the French elements and the versification I have followed him more closely, as also in the inflections.

The phonetic transcriptions added to the Complaint to Pity and the Prologue may seem too minute and conjectural. But in studying a dead language we must adopt some definite pronunciation, and it is surely better that the beginner should have the benefit of the knowledge and experience of others—however imperfect the results may be—than that he should be left to flounder about by himself. Those who find a
difficulty in realising a phonetic notation would do well to work through a few pages of my [Primer of Spoken English].

To avoid clashing with the volumes of Chaucer extracts already published by the Clarendon Press, I have followed the advice of that old Chaucer hand, Dr. Furnivall, and made my selections mainly from the minor poems, adding, however, the greater part of the Prologue to the Canterbury Tales, together with an abridgment of the Pardoner's Tale, so as to complete the view of the development of Chaucer's genius in its chief aspects.

The text of the last two pieces is based on the Ellesmere MS., which certainly comes nearer to Chaucer's own language than the Harleian; that of the others on the one-text editions of the Chaucer Society. I have made as little alteration as possible in the MSS. texts, although metrical considerations made an exact reproduction of any one MS. impossible, and I have not hesitated to remove distinctly un-Chaucerian spellings wherever they seemed likely to confuse the beginner. I have not attempted to forestall the inevitable German who, it is to be hoped, will some day give us a critical edition of Chaucer, but have contented myself with attempting to construct a readable, metrical text. Whenever I introduce a conjectural reading, which I have frequently had to do in the Minor poems, I give the MS. reading at the foot of the page. I need scarcely say I have utilised Ten Brink's critical editions of the Complaint to Pity and the Prologue.

Rhiconich,
23 Aug. 1886.
PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

In this new edition I have been able to utilize Professor Skeat's *Minor Poems of Chaucer*, and consequently am now able to present a much more satisfactory text of those minor poems included in my selection. If, as one might almost infer from Professor Skeat's preface, it was my remark about 'the inevitable German' which induced him to undertake this most welcome piece of work, I can only say that my little book ought to feel itself very much flattered. On the other hand I have the pain of knowing that my playful epithet has given offence in some German quarters; although the majority of German scholars have taken it as it was meant—as a direct compliment to German energy, and an indirect reproach to my own countrymen.

I am glad to see that my phonetic treatment of Chaucer's language has also had a stimulating effect on Professor Skeat, the result of which is his lately published school edition of the *Prologue*, which may be cordially recommended to those who are unable to take phonetics except homœopathically.

In the present edition I have cut out most of the MS. readings, as I consider such details superfluous in a book of this character. I have, of course, carefully revised the phonetic notation. I have not added any notes, for which I must refer the reader to the editions of Professor Skeat.

HENRY SWEET.

Reigate, 28 Nov. 1891.
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SECOND MIDDLE ENGLISH PRIMER.

GRAMMAR.

Chaucer was a native of London, and his dialect is the London dialect of the second half of the fourteenth century, which was mainly Midland, mixed, however, with some Kentish and South-Western elements. In its grammatical forms Chaucer’s English is closely allied to that of the Ormulum. In its spelling it shows the same French influence as the Ancren Riwle, only stronger. The two main changes that took place in the language itself during the fourteenth century were (1) the further loss of grammatical forms, and (2) the wholesale introduction of French words.

SPELLING.

The chief innovations in spelling that took place in the course of the fourteenth century (some of which began earlier in some parts of the country) were the following. The sound of (uu) was represented by the French ou, u keeping its older value of French u, long and short, as also that of short (u) in many cases. But as in writing u was liable to be confused with some other letters, especially n and m, the sound of (u) was, according to French usage, expressed by o in such words as sone ‘son,’ somer, world, cors=curs ‘curse,’ &c. As i was an ambiguous letter, y—again after French usage—was substituted for it, especially when in juxtaposition with u, n, m, as in wyues=wyves, fyne ‘fine,’ and generally at the beginning and end of words. Initial u was often written v, as in vnder, and initial i was
often written as a capital letter. The diphthongs ai, au, &c., were often written ay, aw, especially at the end of words, or before a vowel, as in say, lawe. w was also written for u in such words as narw, sorwful, on the analogy of narwe (plur.) and sorwe, where it represented the cons. w. In the consonants ð was completely, and þ and þ almost completely disused, sch being also gradually supplanted by sh. f was no longer allowed to represent the sound of v. y was used as a consonant instead of palatal ð.

In the spelling used in this book, which is in most cases that of the Ellesmere MS. of the Canterbury Tales, the following letters and digraphs (denoting simple sounds) occur: a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, ie, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, ph, q(u), r, s, t, th, u, v, w, x, y, z. In the MSS. j hardly ever occurs, being usually written i or I, or expressed by ð, and u and v are used to express both the vowel and the consonant; in this book i and j, u and v are distinguished as in the present spelling. The long vowels are often denoted by doubling, especially in monosyllables, and when final; but i and u are never doubled, because of the graphic confusions that would arise. In this book diacritical marks have been added to some of the letters to distinguish their sounds, giving the following additional letters: ñ, ñ, o, ÿ, ü, û, long vowels being marked (-), unless already doubled in the MSS. Silent letters we put in italics.

PRONUNCIATION.

The following table shows the probable pronunciation of the vowels and diphthongs, with approximate key-words:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>Word in English</th>
<th>Pronunciation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>man</td>
<td>as in aha!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ñ</td>
<td>name</td>
<td>&quot; aha!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ai, ay</td>
<td>day</td>
<td>&quot; mine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>au, aw</td>
<td>cause</td>
<td>&quot; haus G.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Pronunciation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>e</th>
<th>(e)</th>
<th>men</th>
<th>as in</th>
<th>men.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>o, ie, ye</td>
<td>(ee)</td>
<td>hē, meschief</td>
<td>,</td>
<td>see G.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ē</td>
<td>(ē)</td>
<td>dēl</td>
<td>,</td>
<td>there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ei, ey</td>
<td>(ei)</td>
<td>wey</td>
<td>,</td>
<td>veil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ēi, ēy</td>
<td>(eei)</td>
<td>grēy</td>
<td>,</td>
<td>=ē + i.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ēi, ēy</td>
<td>(ei)</td>
<td>keye</td>
<td>,</td>
<td>=ē + u.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ŏu, ū</td>
<td>(eeu)</td>
<td>nēwe, vertū</td>
<td>,</td>
<td>=ê + u.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ūu</td>
<td>( uu )</td>
<td>shēwen</td>
<td>,</td>
<td>si F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i, y</td>
<td>{i}</td>
<td>kyng</td>
<td>,</td>
<td>in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ī, ū</td>
<td>{ii}</td>
<td>lif</td>
<td>,</td>
<td>sie G.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>(o)</td>
<td>on</td>
<td>,</td>
<td>sonne G.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ŏ</td>
<td>(oo)</td>
<td>gōd</td>
<td>,</td>
<td>so G.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ĕ</td>
<td>(o)</td>
<td>brod</td>
<td>,</td>
<td>on, but long.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oi, oy</td>
<td>(oi)</td>
<td>noise</td>
<td>,</td>
<td>noise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o(gh)</td>
<td>(ou)</td>
<td>noght</td>
<td>,</td>
<td>=o + u.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ŏu, ūw</td>
<td>(oou)</td>
<td>grōwen</td>
<td>,</td>
<td>=ō + u.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ūu, ūw</td>
<td>( uu )</td>
<td>squle</td>
<td>,</td>
<td>=o + u.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u, w, ŏ</td>
<td>{u}</td>
<td>yōng, narw</td>
<td>,</td>
<td>sou F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ŏu, ow</td>
<td>{w}</td>
<td>us</td>
<td>,</td>
<td>full.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ou, ow</td>
<td>(uu)</td>
<td>hous</td>
<td>,</td>
<td>muth G.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ū</td>
<td>{y}</td>
<td>argument</td>
<td>,</td>
<td>écu F.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ū</td>
<td>{yyyy}</td>
<td>jūst</td>
<td>,</td>
<td>=wide of F. u.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ū, ui</td>
<td>(yy)</td>
<td>ūsen, fruit</td>
<td>,</td>
<td>=long F. u.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The pronunciation of the 'weak' *e* in *nāme*, &c., is uncertain, and it is safest to pronounce it like the *e* of *men*; it probably varied between the *e* of *father* and that of *fishes*. When *-es* rhymes on *ys*, &c., it must, of course, be pronounced *-is*.

The distinction between *ei, ēi, ēi* is not quite certain, and it is possible that they were all levelled under the first. So also with *ēu, ēu*, and with *ōu, ōu*.

The distinction of narrow and wide *i* is inferred from phonetic
transcriptions of the beginning of the sixteenth century—the Welsh hymn to the Virgin (in Trans. Phil. Soc. 1880–1) being apparently still older—in which wide i is identical with the Welsh y. These transcriptions show that i was narrow, = (i), before the back cons. k, g, j (as in sing) and before gh, and when final, and was wide, = (*), elsewhere. Hence we may with some confidence assume that in Chaucer's pronunciation the i was narrow in such words as thikke, six, big, kyng, nyght, many, and probably also in such a word as pitee, where an unaccented i is followed by a cons. beginning an accented syllable; and that it was wide in such words as wille, is, sitten, snibben. There is no direct evidence of a parallel distinction in u and ü, but these vowels no doubt followed the same law as i.

The distinction between ai and ei, as in day and wey, was probably still kept up in Chaucer's pronunciation, but the two diphthongs were beginning to be confused, probably through the a of ai being modified nearly to the sound of our vowel in man.

i and ü were probably pronounced very close, approximating to i and ü respectively.

noght, &c., is often written nought; the former spelling is adopted here to prevent confusion with ou = (uu), this diphthong ou only occurring before gh.

As regards the consonants, it is necessary to pronounce the doubled ones really double, sönne 'sun' as in 'penknife' not as in 'penny.' So also in alle, sitten. ssh between vowels, as in fresshe, seems to mean (jj), but the doubling of the s when the sh is final, as in fissh, was unmeaning. The doubled cons. in French words were often pronounced single, especially in unaccented syllables, as in tirannýe; also ll in such words as boillen.

Most of the consonants were pronounced as in the present English. c had the two sounds of (k) and (s) as at present, and was silent in the combination sc in such words as science, conscience. In all cases where g had the 'soft' sound (dʒ) it is marked ǵ in this book. g in ng seems to have been always distinctly sounded; as it still is in such words as longer. Double ǵg, as in eþge 'edge,' was probably = (ddʒ), cch being = (ttʃ), as in cacchen 'catch.'
h was silent in honest, honour, humble and some other French words, just as it is in the present English. It was further dropped in unaccented words, such as he, hath, how, these words keeping the h when emphatic and accented.

r was always a strong trill, as in Scotch.

The vowel i, y was often pronounced as the cons. y when preceded by certain cons., especially l, n, s, and followed by a vowel, as in many a man, glorie, famulier, condicioun, such a word as the last having in poetry sometimes four, sometimes only three syllables. ll in French words, such as boillen, vitaille, was perhaps sometimes pronounced ly (y cons.) but it was generally = simple l. French gn, as in cembourg, Boloigne, was perhaps sometimes pronounced ny (y cons.), but in familiar pronunciation it was = simple n, preceded either by a diphthong, as in the two instances just cited, or by a long vowel, as in signe = (siine), dignitee = (diinitee).

g had two distinct pronunciations. After the front vowels e, i it had the sound of German ch in ich, as in streight, high, bryght. This front gh was vocalized into consonantal y before a vowel, and then generally dropped, as in the plural hye. The other gh had the sound of German ch in auch, = the German ch in ach rounded. Hence it is always preceded either by (uu), as in ynough, plough, or by u forming the second element of a diphthong. This u is always written after a, as in taughte, laughter, while after o it is sometimes written, sometimes left to be inferred from the following gh, as in trogh, trough, thoghte, thoughte. This gh was often dropped before a vowel, especially after (uu), as in the plural ynowe.

s had the two sounds (s) and (z), as in the present English. But final s was always (s) not only in such words as pens = the present pence, but also in his, was, &c.
So also final *f* was always (f) in *of, yaf* = the present of, *gave*, as well as in *staf* = *staff*.

*th* always had the sound of (p), not only in such words as *thing*, but also in *the, this, then, &c.* In foreign words, such as *apotheçarie*, it probably had the sound of *t*, especially in proper names.

*s* and *th* were voiced (z, ð) between vowels or vowels and voiced consonants, as in *houses* (huuzes) = *house's* and *houses, erthe* 'earth.'

As a general rule every written consonant must be pronounced. This applies especially to the *k* in *kn-* and the *w* in *wr-*.

**Stress.**

There are three main degrees of stress or accent: strong, half-strong, and weak. In such a word as *martyrdöm* the first syllable is strong, the second weak, the last half-strong. In the texts we mark strong stress by (•) at the beginning of the syllable when necessary. In poetry the strong and half-strong stresses were allowed to change places where this was required by the metre, so that *martyrdöm* could be pronounced with the strong stress on the last syllable. So also *créatüre* in poetry may have the strong stress either on the first or the third syllable, the second and fourth being always weak. Other examples are *résoun, nätüre.* The popular tendency in these words was no doubt to throw the stress back as much as possible. Even weak syllables often take the strong stress away from an adjoining strong syllable in poetry. Such weak syllables are called accentuable. Final *e*, as in *námé*, is never accentuable. Examples of accentuable weak syllables are afforded by the second syllables of *wörly, syngynge, fréndshiphe.* Stress-shifting on to a naturally weak syllable at the beginning of a line or a
metrical pause (cæsura) should be softened down as much as possible by giving the two syllables a nearly equal stress, as in Pity 59 sheweth, Prol. 125 after. Stress-shifting on to the rhyme-syllable must, of course, be marked by a more emphatic stress, as in Pity 32 sōdeynlī. These are the three places in which stress-shifting is most frequent.

PHONOLOGY.

Quantity.

The most important change that took place in the fourteenth century was the lengthening of accented short vowels before a single consonant followed by a vowel, as in näme, ēten, byfore. i and u, however, were not lengthened: wriken, sōne. Monosyllables generally kept their short vowels, which are lengthened when a vowel is added in inflection or otherwise: smal, plur. smāle, bath, plur. bāthes, bāthen verb. If the cons. is doubled when a vowel is added, there is, of course, no lengthening of the preceding vowel: al, plur. alle.

r, l, n in a following syllable seem often to have kept vowels short, as in fader, fāder, heven, heven, as also y: many, body.

Long vowels were probably more or less shortened when unaccented, as in hāve when used as an auxiliary, or otherwise made unemphatic.

Accented vowels were lengthened before ng, nd, mb, as in long, blīnd, clīmben, except that i and u were short before ng: syngen, sōngen ptc.

Vowels.

The distinction between close and open ē and ē, ơ and ơ is most easily learnt from the present spelling, in which, as a general rule, the close vowels are represented by ee, ie, oo, as
in see, feel, field, too, moon = Chaucerian sēn, fēlen, fēld, tō, mōne, the open by e, ea, o, oa, oe, as in rede, sea, stone, broad, foe = Chaucerian rēd, sē, stōn, brōd, fō. Note, too, that ā is pronounced (uu) in the present English, ō being pronounced (ou).

In who, twō, wōmb the ā has developed out of older ō by the influence of the w.

Close and open ē and ō are generally separated in rhyme, except finally, where ē is allowed to rhyme on ē, and ō on ō because otherwise there would not be rhymes enough. Thus sē can rhyme on sē ‘slay,’ twō on sp, &c.

Older ōgh regularly becomes ough, as in plough, ynough.

Old-English y is generally represented by the Midland i, as in bilēy, symne, but also by the South-East-Midland and Kentish e, as in bilēy = bilēy, kessen, and further by the West-Saxon ū, as in bilēy, Caunterbūry.

The French ū was regularly diphthongized into eu when final or followed by a vowel, which pronunciation is here written u, as in verēu, crēuel. The latter word is, indeed, often written crewel.

**Consonants.**

Double consonants are written single when final, thus to the plur. alle corresponds al in the sing. Conss. that were originally single are doubled between vowels in some words: God, gen. Goddes, ship, plur. shippes.

Final unaccented n is often dropped in inflections, such as the infinitive bīnde(n), pret. pl. herde(n), and in derivate syllables, as in ofte(n). In the following frequent, mostly unemphatic words, it is regularly dropped before consonants (except h), and kept before vowels and h: ōn, an, mēn, lēn. So also frō is generally used instead of from before consonants. The n of ōn is dropt in o loft ‘aloft.’
Unaccented e.

The unaccented *e* in such words as *nāme, grēne leves*, was still pronounced in Chaucer's time, but was beginning to drop out. Hence, although generally preserved strictly in rhyme, it is often dropped in the body of the verse whenever it suits the metre. It was, besides, more or less regularly dropped in accordance with certain laws. In this book the silent *es* are put in italics.

The most important of these laws is, that two 'weak' (completely unaccented) *es* were, as a general rule, not allowed in two successive syllables, one of them being consequently dropped. Thus *fether* has plur. *fetheres*, often written *fethres*, *gevere* was pronounced either *gvere* or *guver*, never as a trisyllable. Even after a half-strong syllable there was a tendency to drop a weak *e*. In this way the dropping of a final *e* often depends on the position of the accent; thus, when such words as *nātūre, manēre* retain their French accent on the middle syllable, the final *e* is always kept, but when the accent is thrown back to the first syllable, it is regularly dropped.

There was also a tendency to drop weak *e* in subordinate words, such as *hūre, thise 'these,' wēre, bēfro*; in these words, indeed, and in some others, it is always silent. It is kept in writing, partly because it was probably sounded in the emphatic pronunciation of these words, partly because it in some cases was a guide to the pronunciation. Thus the final *e* of *thise* shows that it was pronounced (*þiZ*), and so distinguishes it from the sing. *thīs*-(*þiZ*).

There is also a strong tendency to drop final *e* in such words as *sōne 'son,' wōne 'habit,'* and in participles such as *wrihte, cōme*, which have dropped their final *n*—that is, after a single cons. preceded by short *i* or *u*. But these *es* seem to have been kept in rhyme.

This was probably the result of an unconscious desire to get rid of
short accented syllables, which, through the general lengthening of short vowels before single consonants in such words as name, had come to be in the minority.

Some words, lastly, had originally two forms, one with, the other without a final e; such words are here, her, and there, ther.

Other weak vowels besides e are dropped in some words. Thus the u in Jerusalem was silent, that is was contracted into that s, this is into this'.

In verse, a final weak e was regularly dropped before another vowel beginning the next word, and, of course, before silent h, whether in such French words as humble, or in unemphatic words such as his, or in unaccented syllables, as in harneys when the stress is on the last syllable. Hiatus was freely allowed after the, and ne=‘neither,’ but not after ne=‘not,’ nor generally in other words, except after a pause.

Other vowels were occasionally elided in verse before a vowel, especially those of me, thé, tô, as in m’awrgke, labýden.

**INFLECTIONS.**

**SUBSTANTIVES.**

The only regular inflections are the -es of the genitive singular, and of the plur., in which the gen. is the same as the ‘common’ case (nominative). Substantives with irregular plurals form the gen. plur. by adding es to the common case plural:

| Sing. Com. | foul ‘bird’ | man |
| Gen. | foules | mannes |
| Plur. Com. | foules | men |
| Gen. | foules | mennes |

When -es rhymes on ys &c., it is often written -ys.

The e is often dropped when an unaccented syllable pre-
Adjectives have a strong and a weak form, which latter is formed by adding e, and a plur. formed also in e:

Strong Sing. göd  Weak Sing. göde
Strong Plur. göde  Weak Plur. göde

The weak form is used after the definite article: the yônge sônne, and other demonstratives: this ilke mônk ‘this same monk,’ possessive pronouns: mû swyrne brôther, and as a vocative: lève brôther! But if an attributive adjective is put
after its subst. it keeps the strong form: *on the morwe grēy, now lādy bryghtl*

Adjectives in -e, such as *nēwe*, are of course invariable, as also are such dissyllabic adjectives as *cursed, honest*.

The comparative ends in -er (invariable), and the superlative in -est, which is declinable. *grēl* compares *gretter, gretlest*.

The following are irregular:

- **old**
- **gōd**
- **evel**
- **muche(l)**
- **litel**
- **lōng**

*more* has plur. *mō*.

### NUMERALS.

#### CARDINAL.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>qon, q</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>twō, tweye, twyne</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>thrē</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>fōure</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>fŷl, fŷve</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>six, sixe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>sevne</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>eighte</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>nŷne</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>ten</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>eleven</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>twelf, twelve</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>threttēne</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>fōurtēne</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>fiftēne</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### ORDINAL.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>firste</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>ōther, secounde</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>thridde</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>fērthe</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>fifte</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>sixte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>tenthe</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>threttēnthe</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The fuller forms *f深深ee*, &c. are generally used when the numeral stands alone, or is put after its substantive.

PRONOUNS.

The personal pronouns have two cases, nominative and objective, and are declined thus:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SINGULAR</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nom.</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>we</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obj.</td>
<td>mē</td>
<td>us</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SINGULAR</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nom.</td>
<td>hē</td>
<td>they</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obj.</td>
<td>hym</td>
<td>hem</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*i* is really the unaccented form of *ich*, but this fuller form is rarely used by Chaucer.
thou is sometimes run on to a preceding verb, as in shallou = shalt thou.

The plur. ye, you is often used as a sing. in respectful address.

The reflexive pronoun is often the simple pronoun, but generally self (selven, selve) is added: my-self, thy-self, hym-self (masc. and neut.), hire-self, oure-self, youre-self, hem-self.

The possessives are my(n), thy(n), his masc. and neut., hire, oure, youre, here.

myn and thyn drop their final n before cons. except h, keeping it when they follow their subst.: Grisilde myn! They have plur. myne, thyne, as in children myne; when they precede their subst. the plur. in e only appears before a vowel, where it is, of course, elided, as in myne yen. The plur. of his is often written hise, but the e is never sounded.

The absolute (predicative) forms of the possessive pronouns are: myn, thyn, his, hires, oures, youre, heres.

The old indefinite me 'one' still survives, but men 'men' is generally substituted for it, as in Prol. 149.

Demonstratives. that, plur. thq. this, plur. thise. that is used in the sense of 'the' in that ilke 'the same' = thilke (for the ilke). ilke 'same,' this ilke, &c. The definite article the is indeclinable. swich, such, has plur. swiche adjectival, swiche substantival.

Interrogatives. Nom. whô, Obl. whôm, Possessive whôs. which, plur. whiche. whether, 'which of two?'. As a conjunction whether is often contracted into wher.

Relatives. which is sometimes used as a gen., as in Prol. 4: of which vertû, 'from whose virtue.' the which. whô and that are also used as relatives, as also the compounds which-that, the which-that, that-hë, that-his, that-him, &c.

Indefinites. gn, ngn, any. sôm, plur. sôme. sôm-what. other,
VERBS.


VERBS.

There are two classes of verbs, strong and weak, the former conjugated by means of vowel-change in the root, the latter by the addition of *d (t).

The following paradigm of the strong verb *býnden will show the general scheme of endings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INDICATIVE</th>
<th>SUBJUNCTIVE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pres. sing.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. *býnd-e</td>
<td>*býnd-e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. *býnd-est</td>
<td>*býnd-e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. *býnd-eth</td>
<td>*býnd-e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>plur.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*býnd-e(n)</td>
<td>*býnd-e(n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pret. sing.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. bond</td>
<td>bound-e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. bounde; bond</td>
<td>bound-e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. bond</td>
<td>bound-e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>plur.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bounde(n); bond</td>
<td>bounde(n)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Imper. sing.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*býnd; plur. *býnde(th), *býnd.</td>
<td>*býnde(n).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part. pres.</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*býnd-ynge; pret. (y)bounde(n).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some verbs have a gerund in -ne, which often drops the *e, and is thus confused with the infinitive: *lô don(e), *lô seyn(e) ‘say.’

It will be observed that there is a tendency to extend the singular forms to the plur., especially in the pret. indic. and imperative. The tendency to drop final *n also helps to level the endings, especially in the whole of the subjunctive. The only fixed endings are -e, -est, -eth, -ynge.
STRONG VERBS.

In these the 2nd sing. pret. indic. and the whole pret. subj. originally always had the vowel of the pret. plur. indic.: *thou bounde, if hē bounde*, &c., agreeing with *we bounden*; but in most verbs the 2nd sing. pret. indic. is levelled under the two other persons of the sing.: *thou drank* instead of *thou drōnke*. The *e* of the 2nd sing. pret. indic. is not sounded except in verbs of the 3rd conjugation.

The endings -*est* and -*eth* often drop their vowel: *lŷest* and *lŷest, cōmeth* and *cōmth*. *(d)deth* and *(t)teth* when contracted become -*i*, long vowels being shortened: *sīdeth, slit*; *biddeth, bit*; *fīndeth, fynt*; *bīteth, bit*; *mēteth* ‘dreams,’ *mēteth* -*seth* becomes -*sti*, with vowel-shortening: *rīseth, rīst*.

The -*en* of the infinit. drops its *e* in some verbs, especially those ending in a vowel: *sēn* ‘see,’ *sīn* ‘slay.’

The -*en* of the part. pret. often does the same, especially after vowels and *r, l*: *sλayn, bērn, stλn*. It often drops its *n*, especially when *i* or *u* precedes, in which case the *e* is also dropt, though kept in writing: *cōme, driβe*. The part. pret. often, though not necessarily, takes the prefix *y*.

The following are the chief strong verbs. ‘Weak’ forms are marked with a star.

### I. ‘Fall’-conjugation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRES.</th>
<th>PRET.</th>
<th>INFIN.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>falle</td>
<td>fel, fil</td>
<td>fallen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walke</td>
<td>wēlk ¹, *walkede</td>
<td>*walked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lēte ²</td>
<td>lēt</td>
<td>lēten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slēpe</td>
<td>slēp, *slepte</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wēpe</td>
<td>wēp, *wepte</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lepe</td>
<td>lēp</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ P. F. 297. ² Imper. lēt, lēt.
### VERBS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present Tense</th>
<th>Present Participle</th>
<th>Past Tense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>growe</strong></td>
<td><strong>growe</strong></td>
<td><strong>growen</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>blowe</strong></td>
<td><strong>blowe</strong></td>
<td><strong>blowen</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>holde</strong></td>
<td><strong>held</strong></td>
<td><strong>holden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>honge</strong></td>
<td><strong>heng</strong></td>
<td><strong>hongen</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>hote (be called)</strong></td>
<td><em>highte 1, <em>hette 2</em></em></td>
<td><strong>hote</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>knowe</strong></td>
<td><strong>knowe</strong></td>
<td><strong>knowen</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>throwe</strong></td>
<td><strong>throwe</strong></td>
<td><strong>throwen</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### II. 'Shake'-conjugation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present Tense</th>
<th>Present Participle</th>
<th>Past Tense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>bake</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>baken</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>for-sake</strong></td>
<td>-sök</td>
<td>-säken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>shåke</strong></td>
<td>shök</td>
<td><strong>shåken</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>shåpe</strong></td>
<td>shöp</td>
<td><strong>shåpen</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>tåke</strong></td>
<td>tök</td>
<td><strong>tåken</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>wåke</strong></td>
<td>wök</td>
<td><strong>wåken</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>swåre</strong></td>
<td>swör</td>
<td><strong>swåren</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>stånde</strong></td>
<td>stöd</td>
<td><strong>stånden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>drawe</strong></td>
<td>drow</td>
<td><strong>drawen</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>laughe</strong></td>
<td>lough</td>
<td><strong>laughen</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>sle</strong></td>
<td>slough, slow</td>
<td><strong>slawen</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>heve</strong></td>
<td>haf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>wasshe</strong></td>
<td>wessh</td>
<td><strong>wasshen</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>waxe, wexe</strong></td>
<td>wēx</td>
<td><strong>woxen</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### III. 'Bind'-conjugation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present Tense</th>
<th>Present Participle</th>
<th>Past Tense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>bỳnde</strong></td>
<td>bònd; <strong>pl. bounden</strong></td>
<td><strong>bounden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>fỳnde</strong></td>
<td>fònd; <strong>pl. founden</strong></td>
<td><strong>founden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>grỳnde</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>grounden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>wỳnde</strong></td>
<td>wònd; <strong>pl. wounden</strong></td>
<td><strong>wounden</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>clỳmbe</strong></td>
<td>clòmb; <strong>pl. clòmben</strong> 3</td>
<td><strong>clòmben</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

1 Also used as a pres., especially in the shorter form **hight**
2 P. F. 436.
3 Also **cloumben** (?).
rynge  røng; pl. røngen  røngen
synge  søng; pl. søngen  søngen
sprynge  sprøng; pl. sprøngen  sprøngen
stynge  støng; pl. støngen  støngen
thrynge  thrøng; pl. thrøngen  thrøngen
wrynge  wrøng; pl. wrøngen  wrøngen
drynke  drank; pl. drønken  drønken
synke  sank; pl. sønken  sønken
shrynke  shrank
stynke  stank; pl. stønken  stønken
swynke (labour) —
bi-gynne -gan; pl. -gønnen -gønnen
wynne  wan; pl. wønnen  wønnen
swymme  swam; pl. swømmen  swømmen
renne  ran; pl. rønnen  rønnen
kerve  karf; pl. korven  korven
sterve (die)  starf; pl. storven  storven
delve  halp; pl. holpen  holpen
swelle  swal  swollen
yëlde  —  yölden
breste (burst)  brast; pl. brosten  brosten
fighte  faught; pl. foghten  foghten

IV. 'Bear'-conjugation.

береж  bär, bër  boren
breķe  brak  brøken
shēre  —  shøren
spēke  spak; pl. spēken  spøken
steķe  stäl  stølen
tēre  tår  tøren
trēde  trad  trøden
### VERBS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>weve</th>
<th>waf</th>
<th>woven</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>wrēke</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>wrēken, wrēken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cōme</td>
<td>cam, cōm; pl. cāmen</td>
<td>cōmen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nēme (take)</td>
<td>nam, nōm</td>
<td>nōmen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### V. ‘Give’-conjugation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ēte</th>
<th>ēt; pl. ēten</th>
<th>ēten</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ģete</td>
<td>gat</td>
<td>ģeten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mête (measure)</td>
<td>mat</td>
<td>mêten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bidde</td>
<td>bad</td>
<td>bēden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sitte</td>
<td>sat, sēt</td>
<td>sēten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yive</td>
<td>yaf</td>
<td>yiven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lye</td>
<td>lay; pl. lēyen</td>
<td>leyen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sē</td>
<td>say, saugh</td>
<td>seyen, sēne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(quēthe)</td>
<td>quoth, quod</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### VI. ‘Shine’-conjugation.

| agrise (be terrified) | agros | — |
| bide                | bōd   | biden |
| bīte                | bōt   | bitten |
| drīve               | drōf  | dryven |
| glide               | gōd   | gliden |
| gnide (rub)         | gnōd  | gniden |
| ride                | rōd; pl. riden | riden |
| rīve (lear)         | rōf   | — |
| rise                | rōs   | risen |
| shīne               | shōn  | — |
| shrīve              | —     | shryven |
| smīte               | smōt  | smyten |
| stride              | strōd | — |
| strīve              | strōf | stryven |
| wrīte               | wrōt; pl. writen | writen |
VII. ‘Choose’-conjugation.

chēse (choose)  chēs; pl. chōsen  chosen
clēve  *cleftē  cloven
crēpe  crep; *crepte; pl. cṛpen  cṛpen
lēse (loose)  *lostē  lor(e)n, *lost
shēte (shoot)  —  shoten
sēthe  —  soden
louke (lock)  —  loken
flē, flē (fly)  fleigh, fley; pl. flōwen  flōwen
flē (flee)  fleigh, fley, *fledde  —
drēe (suffer)  pl. drēen  —
bēde (bid)  bad  —

bēde owes its pret. bad to confusion with bidden (conj. 5).

WEAK VERBS.

There are two conjugations of weak verbs: (1) those with pret. in -de (-te); (2) those with pret. in -ede (-ed).

Conjugation I.

INDICATIVE. SUBJUNCTIVE.

Pres. sing. 1. hēr-e  hēr-e
2. hēr-est  hēr-e
3. hēr-eth  hēr-e
plur.  hēr-e(n)  hēr-e(n)

Pret. sing. 1. herd-e  herd-e
2. herd-est  herd-e(st)
3. herd-e  herd-e
plur.  herd-e(n)  herd-e(n)

Imper. sing. hēr(e); plur. hēr-eth, hēr(e). Infin. hēre(n).
Part. pres. hēr-ynge; pret. (y)herd.

1 P. F. 251.
The endings -est and -eth are contracted as in the strong verbs: setteith, set, etc.

The d of the pret. and part. pret. becomes t after t, p, s, f: gröten, grette; kêpen, kepte; kissen, kiste; leven, lasfe. Final -lt in the part. pret. is written -t; -rdd, -lld-, -nnd- become -rt-, -lt-, -nt- respectively: girde, gitte, gilt; bilde, bille, bilt; wende, were, went. -de, -d also become -te, -t after simple l(l), n(n): fêlen, felle; dwelven, dwelle; menen, mente; brennen ‘burn,’ brente. -thd- becomes dd in kithen ‘make known,’ kidde, kid (part. also kithed).

Many verbs shorten long vowels in the pret. and part. pret.: høre, herde, herd; fêlen, felte; mêlen, mette; wênen ‘think,’ wende.

The following change ɐ to a in the pret. and part. pret.: drêden, dradde; leden, ladde; leven, lasfe; rêden ‘advise,’ ‘read’ radde; rëven, raftle; spôden, spradde. clôtten has cladde, clad, but also clôted.

The following show consonantal irregularities:
drenchen, dreynte. quenchchen, queynote. sprengeb ‘sprinkle,’ spyrepte.

GRAMMAR.

Pret. sing. 1. lōv-ede lōv-ede
2. lōv-ede(st) lōv-ede(st)
3. lōv-ede lōv-ede
plur. lōv-ed(en) lōv-ed(en)

Imper. sing. lōv-e; plur. lōv-eth. Infin. lōv-e(n).

Part. pres. lōv-ynte; pret. (y)lōv-(e)d.

The full ending -eden of the pret. is rare.
The pret. is often contracted to lōvede.
The shortened part. pret. is rare, except in French verbs
with the stress on the first syllable: armed, ypunished = (-ist).
Not in caried, stūdied &c.
māken has pret. mākede, māde, part. pret. ymād.
quiten 'requite' has part. pret. quit.

STRONG-WEAK VERBS.

INDICATIVE. SUBJUNCTIVE.

Pres. sing. 1. can cōnne
2. canst cōnne
3. can cōnne
plur. cōnne(n); can cōnne(n)

Pret. kouthe, koude. Infin. cōnne(n).

So also:
dār, darst; dorste.
may, myght (mayst), pl. mowe(n). Pres. subj. mowe. Pret.
myghte.
mōt 'must,' mōst, mōten; mōste.
gwe, gwest, gweth; oghte.
shal, shalt, shullen, shul(en); sholde.
wgt 'know,' wost, wite(n). Imper. wite. Pret. wiste. Inf.
witen. Partt. witynge, wist.
VERBS.

A similar verb is


IRREGULAR VERBS.

am, art, is; plur. bë(n), rarely ar(n). Subj. bë. Pret. was, were, was, werë(n). Subj. pret. were. Imper. bë; bëth. Infin. bë(n). Part. bë-ynge; bë(n). So also nam 'am not,' nis, nas, nëre.

hâve, have, hast, hath, plur. hâve(n), hân, han. 2nd pers. plur. also hâveth. Pret. hadde, hâde. Part. pret. had.


gê, gôst, gôth, gê(n). Pret. wente, yêde. Inf. gê(n). Partt. gêynge; gê(n).
KEY TO THE PHONETIC TRANSCRIPTION.

For the vowels see p. 2.
The only consonant-symbols that require explanation are:

- ç as in ich G.
- ð " then
- j " you
- η " sing
- ş " fish
- þ " thin
- x " aух G.
- ʒ " measure.

The stress is marked as follows:
The first syllable of a group is strong (s.) when no mark is prefixed; if (-) is prefixed, it is weak (w.); if (;) is prefixed, it is extra strong (es.). Unmarked syllables which do not begin a group are weak. Half-strong (hs.) stress is marked ( : ).

The following, therefore, is the accentuation of the first line of the Complaint to Pity:

w. es. w.hs.w. s. hs. s.w s.

-pi ;tee -þat:iiav souxt :so jora go.
I.

COMPLAINT TO PITY.

1. Pitë that i have soght so yoȝe agȝ, with herte soȝe and ful of besy peyne, that in this wîrld was nêver wight so wȝ, withoute deþ— and yf i shal nat feyne, my purpos was tō Pitë tō cōmpleyne upon the crueltē and tirannye of L̄ôve, that for my tróu the dōth mē dīe.

2. And whan that i, bŷ lengthe of certeyn yēres, hadde ēvere-in-quōn a tïme soght tō speke, tō Pitee ran i, al bespreynt with tères, tō preyen hir on crueltē me awręke; but ēr i myght with any wōrd outbręke, or tellen any of my peynes smerte, i fònd hir dēd and būried in an herte.

3. Adoun i fel, whan that i saugh the herse, dēd as stōn, whil that the swough mē laste; but up ṣōs with cōloure ful dyverse, and pitously on hir mŷn ſyen caste, and nēr the cors i gan tō presen faste, and for the soule i shōp mē for tō preye: i nas but lōrn— thēr was nō mōre tō seye.
1. -pi ;tee -pat:iiav souxt :so jora go,
-wyp herte sor -and fullof bezi peine,
-pat:inipis wurld -was never:wiict:so wo,
-wi:uute deh— -and:ii:Jalnat feine,
-mii purpos:was -too piteeookum pleine
-uponpe:kreeuel teeeand:ti:ra niie
-of 'lauv -pat:formii troou:de doopme diie.

2. -and:whanpat:ii, -bii le:of sertein tres,
-had:evrin on -a tiime souxttoo speke,
-too pitee ranii, albe spreintwip tres,
-too preienhur -on:kreeuel teema wr:ke;
-but erii:m:ichtwip ani wooduut br:ke,
-or tellen:ani -osmii peines smerte,
-ii fondhur de:and -and byrjedinan herte.

3. -a duunii fel, -whan:patii sauxpe herse,
;detdas ston, :whiil:patpe swuuxmee laste;
-but upii ros, -wip kuluur:fulldi verse,
-and:ruusli -on hirmii ii'en kaste,
-and:narpe kors -ii:gan:too preesn faste,
-and:forpe soul -ii:joopmeesortoo preie:
-ii:nasbut lorn— -ter:was:no mortoo seie.
4. Thus am I slayn, sith that Pite is deëd. 
Allas that day, that ever hyt sholde falle! 
what maner man dar now hólde up his héd? 
tō whóm shal any sorwful herte calle? 
now Crueltē hath cast tō sléën us alle, 
in ýdel hópe, folk rëdeles of peyne— 
sythe shē is deëd, tō whóm shul wē cōmpleyne?

5. But yet encrēseth mē this wōnder nēwe, 
that nō wight wōg, that shē is deëd but ī. 
sō many men as in her tyme hir knēwe; 
and yet shē dīed noght sō sōdeynlī; 
for ī have soght hir ay ful besylī 
sythe first ī hadde wit or mannes mŷnde; 
but shē was deëd ēr that ī koude hir ſyne.

6. Aboute hir herse thēre stōden lustyly 
withouten any wōg, as thoghte mē, 
Bountē parfyt, wēl armed and richely, 
and fresshe Bēautē, Lust, and Jolytē, 
assūred Maner, Youthe, and Honestē, 
Wisdōm, Estaat, and Drēd, and Gōvernaunce, 
confedred bōthe bŷ bond and alliaunce.

7. A cōmpleynt had ī, writen, in mŷn hōnd, 
for tō han put tō Pitee as a billé, 
but whan ī al this cōmpanŷe thēr fond, 
that rāther wolden al mŷ cause spille 
than dō mē helpe, ī hēld mŷ pleynye stille; 
for tō that folk, withouten any fayle, 
withoute Pitee may nō billë avaiле.

33. hir ever.
COMPLAINT TO PITY.

-a laspat dai, -pat øvrijfolde falle!
:what:maner man :daar nuu:hold upis hød?
-too whoomfal:ani sor(u)fal herte kalle?
:nuu:kreeuel tee -hø kasttoo skønus alle,
in iidel hop, :folk rødelsøf peine—
-sip sees død, -too whoomful:weekum pleine?

5. -but:jeten krøsep:meeøis wunder neeue,
-øat nowiøt wøt -øat:seeis dødbut ii,
-so mani men -as:iner tiumir kneeeue;
-and:jetsee diied:nouxt:so sudeinli;
-for:iav souxtør ai -ful bezili,
-sip:irstii:hadde wit -or mannes mijnde;

6. -a:buutir hers -øer stooden lustili
-wø:uuten:ani wo, -as þouxte mee,
buun tee:par fit, :weel armd -and røtsel,
-and freffe beeutee, lust -and:døli tee,
-a syyred maner, juuø -andones tee,
wiz doom -es taat -and død -and:øver naunse,

7. -a kumpleint:hadii wriøen -inmiin hønd,
-for:toohan pøtoo pitee -asa bille,
-but:whanii al pis:kumpa niøer fond,
-øat raøerwolden almii kauze spille
-than:doomee help, -ii:heeldmii pleinte strille;
-for:toøpat folk, -wø:uutenani faile,
wø:uute ;pitee :mai:no brilla vaile.
8. Than lève I al thise vertūes sāve Pitē, kep'ynge the cors, as yē have herd mē seyn, confedered alle bŷ bond of crūeltē, and bēn assented that i shal bē sleyn; and i have put mŷ cōmpleyt up ageyn, for tō mŷ fōs mŷ bille i dār nat shēwe, th' effect of which seith thus in wōrdes fēwe:

9. Hūm'blest of herte, hŷ'est of reverence, benygn flour, cōrōne of vertūes alle, shēw'eth untō yourē rial excellence yourē servaunt, yf ì dorste mē sō calle, hys mortal harm in which hē is ysalle, and noght al qōnyly for his ēvel sāre, but for your 'renoūn, as hē shal declāre.

10. Hit stōndeth thus: yourē cōntraire, Crūeltē, alŷed is agayn your regalŷe, un'der cōlōr of wōmanlŷ bēautē— for men [ne] sholde nat knōwe hir tirānnŷe— with Bountē, Gentilesse, and Curteisŷe, and hath deprŷved yōw now of your plācē, that hyght 'Bēautē apertenaunt tō Grāce.'

11. For kyndely, bŷ yourē herytāge aryght, yē bēn annexed ēver untō Bountē; and verraylŷ yē oghte dō yourē myght, tō helpe Trōuthe in his adversytē; yē bēn also the cōrōne of Bēautē: and certes, yf yē wanten in thise twēyne, the world is lōre— ther is no more tō seyne.
COMPLAINT TO PITY.

8. -pan hvii alþiz verteeus saavpi tee,
   kee pingþe kors, -as:jeeav herdmee sein,
   -kon fedred al -bii bonsof:kreeuel tee,
   -and:beena sented :patii:albee slein;
   -and:iiav putmii kumpleint upa gein,
   -for:toomii fos -miibillii:daarnat fein,
   -þe fektos:whitþ :seif þus -in wordes fein:

9. ym blesto hert, :ii estos:revre rense,
   -be niine fluur, -ko ruunof verteeus alle,
   fein epun:toojuur riaalekse lense
   -juur servaunt, :i ei dorste:mee:so kalle,
   -his mortal harm -in:whitþ-eeisi falle,
   -and nouxtal onli -for:is erving saare,

10. -hit stondeþ þus: -juur kuntrair, :kreeuel tee,
    -a liied:is -a gainjuur:rega liie,
    :un:derku luurof wamanliibeeu tee—
    -for.menne:foldnat knouirtira niie—
    -wþ buuntee, :dgenti les -andkurtei ziiie
    -and:hapde pruived :juunuufsjuur plaase,
    -pat hiictbeeu teea:perte naunttoo graase.

11. -for kiindli, :biijuur eritaadzda riht,
    -jee:beena neksed evrun:too:buun tee;
    -and verai:lii -jee ouxte:doojuur miht,
    -too helpe -troouþ -in:hisad:versi tee;
    -jee:beenal:so -þe koruunof:beeu tee;
    -and sertes, :iij:ee wanteninþiz tweeine,
    -þe wurldis lor— -þr:is:no mortoo seine.
12. Œk what availeth Maner and Gentilesse, withoute yow, benigne creþiure? shal Cruelté bë your governeresse? al/as! what herte may hyt longe endûre? wherfore, but yë the ràther tâte cùre tò brèke that pe'rilous aliaunce, yë sleèn hem 'that bën in your obeisaunce.

13. And further òver, yf yë suffre this, youre 'renoun ys fordoon than in a thròwe; ther shal nó man wite wël what Pitë is; al/as that your renoun is salle só lowel yë bë than fro youre heritâge ythròwe bỳ Crueltë that occúpieth youre plàce, and wë despeyréd that sèken tò your gràce.

14. Have mercy on mé, thou Herynes quëne, that yow have soght só tenderly and yöre; let sòm strem of youre lyght on mé bë sëne, that lôve and drede you ay len'ger the mòre; for, sóth tò seyne, i bëre the hevy sòre; and thogh i bë nat kunnyng for tò pleyne, for Goddes lôve, have mercy on më peyne!

15. Më peyne is this, that what só i desire, that have i noght, ne nó thing lỳk thertò, and òver set Desïre mëyn herte on fire ëk on that òther sỳde, where só i góo; what maner thing that may encrëse wóo, that have i redy, unsoght, everywhëre: më ne lakketh but më dëth, and than më bëre.
COMPLAINT TO PITY.

12. 

sk whata vaileb manrand:dzenti lesse, 
-wrór uute :juu, -be niine:kreea tyyre? 
:jal:kreeuel tee -bee :juur:guverne resse? 
-a las :what herte :maiit longen dyyre? 
-whr:sor -but:jee -pe raador taake kyyre 
-too brêke:patpe rliuusali aunse, 

13. 

-and:sorîer over, :iljee sustre pis, 
-juur renuunisfor doonpan -ina proue; 
-þor:jal:no:man:wit weel :what ;pitee is; 
-a las:pat:juurre nuunis fallso louel 
-jee:beejan:frjuur:eri taadgi proue 
-bii:kreeueel tee -þatoky pii:juur plaase. 
-and:weedes peird -þat seekentoojuur graase.

14. 

-hav mersi:onmee, :þuue rines kweene, 
-þat:juuav souxt :so tenderliand jore; 
:let:sum strûmosjuur liçton:mebee seene, 
-þat luvand drëdjuu ai:len gerþe mœre; 
-for, soohtoo sein, -ii bþe hevi sore; 
-and:þouxii:beenat kunning:fortoo pleine, 
-for goddes:luv -hav mersiomnii peine1

15. 

-mii peinis pis, -þat whatso:iide ziire, 
-þat:havii nouxt, -ne nóþing liikþer too, 
-and ever setde ziirmiin herton fiire 
-sk:on:pat oöder:siid, -whër soii go; 
-what maner þing:pat:maien këse wo, 
-þat:havii redi, unsouxt, evri where: 
:meen lakkep:butmii dp, -and þamii bëre.
16. What nēdeth tō shewe parcel of mŷ peyne?

syth ēvery wōr that herte may bethynke
i suffre, and yet i dār nat tō yow pleyne.
For wēl ē wōt, althogh ē wāke or wynke,
yē rekke noght wheth'er ē flēte or synke.
Yet nātheles mŷ trūthe ē shal sustēne
untō mŷ dēth, and that shal wēl bē sēne.

17. This is tō seyne: ē wōl bē youres ēver;
thogh yē mē slēg bŷ crueltē your fōg,
algāte mŷ spirit shal nēver dissever
frō youre servīse, for any peyne or wōg.
Sith yē bē dēd— al'as that hyt is sōg!—
thus for your dēth ē may wēl wēpe and pleyne,
with herte sōre and ful of besy peyne.
COMPLAINT TO PITY.

16. :what needep:too:šu parselosmii peine?
    -sîp:švri wò -pât hertemaibe šįįke
    -ii sufr -and:jetii daarnat:toojuu pleine.
    -for weelii wot, -al pouxii waakor wįįke,
    -jee rekke nouxt, :whe:šerii fleetor siįįke.
    :jet:naade lès -mii troouđii:šalsus teene

17. -piš:istoo sein : -ii:wulbee juures εver ;
    -poux:jeemee së -bii:kreeuel tee -juur fo,
    -al gaatmii spirit :šal:ne:verdi sver
    -fro:juurser viis, -for:ani peinor wò.
    -sîp:jeebee deòd— -a laspätis so !—
    :bus:forjuur dep -ii:maiweel weepand pleine,
    -wiŋ herte sôr -and fullof bezi peine.
II.

THE FORMER AGE.

1.

A blysful līf, a paysyble and a swēte lad’d’en the pēples in the former āge.
They held hem payed of frūtes that they ēte, whiche that the fēldes yaf hem bī ūsāge.
They nēgre nat forpampred with owtrāge: 5
unknowen was the quyerne and ēk the melle;
they ēten hawes, mast, and swych pownāge,
and drōnken wāter of the coldde welle.

2.

Yet nas the ground nat wounded with the plough;
but cōrn upsprōng unsōwe of mannes hōnd,
the which they gnōd, and eet nat half inough.
Nō man yet knēw the fōrves of his lōnd;
Nō man the fyr out of the flynth yet lōnd;
unkorven and ungrōbbbed lay the vīne;
Nō man yet in the morter spīces grōnd,
tō clarre ne tō sawse of galentīne.

3.

Nō mader, wēlde, or wōd nō litestere
ne knēw: the fles was of his former hēwe;
Nō flessh ne wyste offence of eggē or spēre;
Nō coyn ne knēw man which was fals or trēwe; 20
Nō ship yet karf the wāwes grēne and blēwe:
Nō marchaunt yet ne fette owtlandissh wāre;
Nō trōmpes, for the werres folk ne knēwe,
ne towres hīe, and walles rownde or squāre.

3. of the. 7. mast hawes. 11. gnodded.
4.

What sholde it hän avayled tō werreye? Thër lay nō profyt, thër was nō rychesse, But cōrsed was the tŷme, i dār wēl seye, that men fyrst didē here swĕty bysynesse, tō grōbbe up metal lurkyngē in derknesse, and in the ryverēs after ġemmes soghtē: al/ās! than sprōng up al the cursednesse of cōveytŷse, that fyrst ourē sorwe broghtē.

5.

Thysē tyraunts putte hem gladly nat in prēs nō plāces wylde ne bussels for tō wynne, thër povertē īs, as seith Diōgenēs, thër as vitayle īs ēk sō skārs and thinne, that noght but mast or apples is thērinne; but thër as bagges bēn and fat vitaile, thër wōl they gōn and spāre for nō synne with al here ġst the cytē for tō asayle.

6.

Yet were nō paleis-chaumbres ne nōn halles: in kāves and in wōdes softe and swēte sleptēn this blessed folk withoute walles, on gras or lēves in joye and in quiēte; nō down of fetherēs ne nō blêched shēte was kyd tō hem; but in sūrtē they slepte. Her hertes wēēre al ǒn withoute galles; ēve'rych of hem his feith tō oother kepte.

30. fyrst gemmys.
34. no places wyldnesse ne no bussels for to wynne.
44. in parfyt joye and quiete.
7.
Unforged was the hawberke and the plāte:
the lambyssh pēple, voyded of al výce,
had'den no fantasýe tō debāte,
but ēch of hem wolde oother wēl cherýce.
Nō prīde, nōn envýe, nōn avarýce,
no lورد, no taylāge bī no týranýe;
timblesse and pēs, good feith, the emperīce,

8.
Yet was nat Juppiter the lykerous,
that fyrst was fāder of delicasie,
côme in this wōrd ; ne Nembrot, desyrous
tō reignen, had nat maad his toures hāye.
Alas! alas! now may men wēpe and crye;
for in ourē dayes nīs but cōvetysē,
and doublenesse and trespoun, and envēye,
poy'soun, manslaughter, and mōrther in sowdry wīse.

III.
ADAM SCRIVENER.

Adām Scryveyn, if ever it thē byfalle
Boēce or Troylus for tō wrīten nēwe,
un'der thē lokkes thou mōst have the scalle,
but after mī māk'yng thou wrīte trēwe:
sō oft a daye i mōt thē werk renēwe,
it tō corecte and ēk tō rubbē and scrāpe;
and al is thrugh thē neglygēnce and rāpe.

3. long lokkes.
IV.

TRUTH.

1.

Fle fro the pres, and dwelle with sothfastnesse;
suffixe thin qwenene thing, thogh it bë smal.
For hord hath hate, and clymbyng tykeinesse,
pres hath envye and wële blent over al.
Savour no more thanne the byhöve shal;
reule weel thiself that other folk canst reëde:
and tróute the shal delyvere—it is no drede.

2.

Tempest the noght al cröked tò redresse,
in trust of hire that turneth as a bal;
gréet reste stant in litel besynesse.
Bywär thérfore tò spurne agayn an ál;
strëve not as dòth the crokke with the wal;
daunte thísself that dauntest òtheres döde:
and tróuthe thë shal delyvere—it is no drede.

3.

That thë is sent receyve in buxumnesse;
the wrastlyng for the wörldë ax'eth a fal;
hër is nön hóm: hër nys but wyldernesse.
Forth, pylgrym, forth! forth bëste out of thî stall!
know thî côntré! lôke up! thank God of al!
hold the hëe weye, and lat thî gost thë læde,
and tróuthe thë shal delyvere—it is no drede.
V.

THE HUNT.

(FROM THE DEATH OF BLANCHE.)

Mė thoghte thus:—that hyt was May,
and in the dawnyng ther ī lay,
mē mette thus in bed al nāked,
and lōked forth, for ī was wāked
with smāle foules, a greţ hēp,
that had affrayed mē out of slēp
thurgh noysē and swētenesse of her sōng;
and as mē mette, they sat among
upon mī chaumbre-roof wythoute
upon the tyles al aboute,
and ēve рейc sōng in hys wīse
the mōste solemyn servise
bỳ noqte that ēver man, ĭ trōwe,
had herd, for sōme of hem sōnge lōwe,
sōme hīe, and al of qon acord.
Tō telle shortly at qō wōrd,
was nēver herd sō swēte a steven,
but hyt had bē a thyng of heven;
sō mery a soun, sō swēte in tūnes
that certes for the toun of Tūnes
ī nolde but ī had herd hem synge.
For al my chaumbre gan tō rynge
thurgh syngyng of her armonye,
for instrument ne melodye
was nowhere herd yet half so sweet,
nor of acorde half so meete;
for ther was noon of hem that feyned
to synge, for eche of hem hym peyned
to fynde out mery crafty notes:
they ne spared nat her throtes.
And sooth to seyn, my chaumbre was
ful wél depeynted, and with glas
were al the wyndowes wél yglased
ful clere, and nat an hoo! ycrased,
that to beholde hyt was grete joye.
For holly al the story of Troye
was in the glasyng ywroght thus,
of Ector, and kyng Príamus,
of Achillês and Lamedôn,
of Mědéa, and of Jásôn,
of Páris, Eleyn, and Lavýne;
and al the wallæs with coloure fyne
were peynted both [with] text and glæse
of al the Romaunce of the Rose.
My wyndowes were shette eche on,
and thurgh the glas the sönne shon
upon my bed with bryghte bëmes,
with many glade gilden stremes;
And eke the welken was so fair:
blëw, bryght, clëre was the ayr,
and ful at/empre for soth hyt was:
for neyther cold nor hoo! yt was,
ne in al the welken was a clowd.
And as i lay thus, wönder lowd
më thoght i herde an hunte blewé,
t' assay hys hörn, and for tō knōwe
whether h'yt wēre clëre or hōrs of sōun.
I herde gön bothe up and doun men, hors, houndes, and òther thynge; and al men spéken of huntyng, how they wolde sleeg the hert with strengthe, and how the hert had upon lengthe sò mòche enbòsed— y nòt now what.

Anògn-ryght whan i herde that, how that they wolde on huntyng gôn, ì was ryght glad, and up anògn; ì took mỳ hors, and forth i wente out of my chaumbre. Ì never stente till ì còm tò the fëld withoute; ìer òvertòk y a grët route of huntes and of forestères, with many relayes and lỳmères, and hỳed hem tò the forest faste, and ì with hem. sò at the laste ì asked gòn, ladde a lỳmère, 'say, felòwe, whoo shal hunte hëre?' quod ì, and hë answered ageyn, 'sỳre, th' emperour Octovyèn' quod hë, 'and ys hër faste by.' 'A Goddès half in good tìme,' quod ì, 'gò wë faste', and gan tò rỳde. Whan 'wë cam tò the forest-sỳde, evey man dide ryght anògn as tò huntyng fìl tò doon; the mayster-hunte anògn fòt-hòt with a grët hòrn blëw thër mòt at the uncoupleyn of hys houndys. Withynne a while the hert [y]founde ys, ihalòwed, and rechàsed faste longe tìme; and at the laste
THE HUNT.

this hert růsed, and staal away
from alle the houndes a privē wey:
the houndes had overshot hem alle
and were on a defaute yfalle.
Therwyth the hunte wōnder faste
blew a forloyne at the laste.
I was gō walked frō mē tree,
and as Ĩ wente ther cam bē mē
a whelp that fauned mē as Ĩ stood,
that folwed hadde, and koude nō good.
Hyt cōm and creep tō mē as lōwe
ryght as hyt hadde mē yknewe;
held doun hys hēd, and joyned hys ēres,
and leyde al smōthe doun hys hēres.
I wolde have kaught hyt, and anōn
hyt fledde, and was frō mē gōn;
and Ī hym folwed. And hyt forth wente
doun bē a floury grēne bente
ful thikke of gras ful softe and swēte,
with flourys feλe, faire under fēt
and litel ūsed, hyt sēmed thus;
for bōth Flōrā and Zephirus
they twō that māke floures grōwe
had mād her dwellyng thēr, ī trōwe.
For hit was on tō behōlde,
as thogh the erthe envīe wolde
tō bē gayer than the heven;
tō have mōg floures suche seven
as in the welken sterres bee.
Hyt had forgēte the povertee
that wynter thurgh hys colde morwes
had māde hyt suffre, and his sorwes—

108. wente.
al was foręte; and that was sēne.
For al the wōde was waxen grēne;
swētnesse of dēw had mād hyt waxe.
Hyt ys nō nēd ēk for tō axe
whēr thēr wērē many grēne grēves,
al thikke of trees sō fullē of lēves;
and ēvery tree stood bē hymselfe
frō ēther wēl ten foot or twelve;
sō grēte trees, so hūge of strengthe,
of fōurtie, fifty fādme lengthe,
clēne withoute bowgh or stikke,
with croppes bōdē and ēk as thikke;
yē they wērē nat an ynche asōnder,
that hit was shadwe ovr al under.
And many an hērt and many an hūnde
wēs bōthe bēfrē mē and behūnde;
of faunes, sowres, bukses, dōgs
wēs ful the wōde, and many rōgs,
and many squirē'les that sēte
ful hī upon the trees, and ēte,
and in her maner māden f赓es.
Shortly, hyt was sō ful of bęstes,
that thōgh Argus, the nōble countour,
sēte tō rēkene in hys countour,
and counten with his fīgūres ten—
for bē thō fīgūres mowe al ken,
yf they bē crafty, rēkene and noumbre,
and telle of ēvery thing the noumbre—
yet shōlde hē fayle tō rēkene ēven
the wōndres 'mē mette in mē swęven.
VI.

PARLAMENT OF BIRDS.

1.
The lyf so short, the craft so long to lerne, th' assay so sharp, so hard the conquering, the dreful joye that alwey slit so yerne—al this menē i bi Lōve, that mē fēlyng astōnych with his wōnderful werkyng, so sore iwis that when i on hym thinke, nat wot i wēl whether i wāke or wynke.

2.
For al bē that i knōwe nat Lōve in dēde, ne wot how that hē quiteth folk herē hyre, yet happeth mē ful ofte in bōkes reōde of hīs myrākles and his crēuel yre: ther reōde i wēl, hē wōl bē lōrd and sēre; i dār nat seyn—his strokes been so sore; but God sāve swich a lōrd—i can na mōgre.

3.
Of ūsāge, what for lust and what for lōre, on bōkes reōde i ofte, as i yow tōlde. But wherfōre that i spēke al this? Nat yōgre agōn it happeđe mē for tō beholeđe upon a bōk was write with letteres ġolde, and therupon a certeyn thing tō lērne the lōnge day ful faste i radde and yērne.
4.
For out of ðolde feldes, as men sey,
cómeth al this nêwe cõrn ðrô yer tò yerê,
and out of ðolde bôkes in good ley
cómeth al this nêwe science that men ërê.
But now tò purpos as of this matêre—
tò rède forth hit gan më sô delite
that al the day më thoghte but a lîte.

5.
This bôk of which ì mäke mencioun
entitled was al thus as ì shal telle,
*Tullûus, of the drgm of Cipioun;*
chapitres sevène it hadde of heven and helle,
and erthe, and soules that therinne dwelle,
of which, as shortly as ì can it trête,
of his sentence ì wöl yow seyn the grêête:

6.
Fyrst telleth it, whan Cipioun was cóme
in Affrik, how hë mette Massynisse,
that hym for joie in armes hath inõme;
than ne telleth hit here spéche, and al the blysse
that was betwix hem, til that day gan mysse,
and how his auncestre Affrycân sô deere
gan in his slêp that nyght tò hym apêre.

7.
Than ne telleth it that from a sterry plâce
how Affrycân hath hym Cartâge schewed;
and warnede hym byfore of al his grâce;
and seyde him what man, lerned other lewed,
that loveth comün profyt, wel itchewed,
hē shal untō a blysful plāce wende,
there as joye is that last withouten ende.

8.
Thanne axede hē if folk that hēr been dēde
hān līf and dwellyng in anōther plāce?
and Africān seyde 'yē, withoute drēde,'
and that ourē present wōrdes līves spāce
nys but a maner dēth what weye wē trāce,
and rightful folk shul gōn after they dīe
tō heven; and schewede hym the galaxie.

9.
Thanne schewede hē hym the little erthe that hēr is
at 'regard of the hevenes quantitē;
and after schewede hē hym the nīne spēres;
and after that the melodīe herde hē,
that cōmēth of th'īlke spēres thrīes thrē,
that welle is of mūsīk and melodīe
in this wōrld hēr, and cause of armonīe.

10.
Than bad hē hym, syn erthe was so līte,
and full of tōrment and of harde grāce,
that hē ne scholde hym in the wōrld delīte.
Thanne tōlde hē hym, in certeyn yēres spāce,
that every sterre sholde cōme into his plāce,
ther it was fyrst, and al scholde out of mŷnde
that in this wōrld is dōn of al mankŷnde.
11.

Thanne preyede hym Cypyoun tō telle hym al the wey tō cōme untō that hevene blisse; and hē seyde: 'know thyself fyrst immortal and lōke ay besyly thow werke and wysse tō comūn profil, 'and thow shalt nat mysse tō cōmen swiftly tō this plāce deere, that ful of blyssē is and of soules cleere.

12.

But brēkers of the lawe, sōth tō seyne, and lykerous folk after that they bēn dēde, shul alwey whirlē aboute th' erthe in peyne, tyl many a wōrd bē passed out of dēde and than, foryiven alle here wikked dēde, than shul they cōme intō that blysful plāce tō which tō cōmen God thē sende his grāce.'

13.

The day gan failen, and the derke nyght, That reveth bestes from here besynesse, berafte mē mē bōk for lak of lyght; and tō mē bed i gan mē for tō dresse, fulfyld of thoght and büsy hevynesse; for bōthe i hadde thyng which that i nolde, and ēk i nadde that thyng that i wolde.

14.

But fynally mē spirit at the laste, forwēry of mē lābour al the day, tōk reste that māde mē tō slēpe faste; and in mē slēp i mette, as i lay, how Affricān ryght in the sāme aray that Cipioun hym say bysōre that tŷde was cōme, and stōd right at mē beddes syde.
15.
The wery hunter sleepeynge in his bed,  
tō wōde again his mynde gōth anōn;  
the jūge drēmeth how his pleēs been sped;  
the cartere drēmeth how his cartes gon;  
the riche of göld; the knyght fyght with his fōn;  
the sēke met hē drynketh of the tōnne;  
the lōvere met hē hath his lādy wōnne.

16.
1 can nat seyn if that the cause wēre,  
that i haddē rad of Affricān byfōrn,  
that māde mē tō mēte that hē stōd thēre.  
But thus seyd hē: 'Thow hast thē sō wēl bōrn  
in lōkynge of mŷn olde bōk al tōfōrn,  
of which Mac'rōbyē roghte nat a lŷte,  
that sōmdēl of thŷ lābour wolde ē quŷte.'

17.
Cytēreā, thow blysful lādy swēte,  
that with thŷ fyrbrōnd dauntest whom thē lest,  
and mādest mē this swevene for tō mēte,  
bē thow mŷn helpe in this, for thow mayst best:  
as wissly as i say thē north-north-west,  
whan i began mŷ sweven for tō wrīte,  
sō yif mē myght tō rīme and ēk t'endŷte.

18.
This forseyd Affricān mē hente anōn,  
and forth with hym untō a gāte broghte  
ryght of a parrok walled with grēne stōn;  
and on the gāte with letteres lārge iwroghte  
thēr wēre vers iwriten as mē thoghhte,

122. park, parke MSS.  
123. over.
SECOND MIDDLE ENGLISH PRIMER.

on eyther half, of ful gretet difference, of whiche i shal yow seyn the pleyn sentence:

19.

'Thurgh mē men gon into that blysful plāce of hertes hēlē and dēdly woundes cūre; thurgh mē men gon unto the welle of Grāce, theēr grēne and lusty May shal evere endure. This is the wey to al good äventūre. Bē glad thow redere, and thē sorwe ofcaste; al open am i: passe in, and hē thē faste.'

20.

'Thurgh mē men gon,' than spak that ōther side, 'unto the mortal strokes of the spēre, of whiche Disdayn and Dausier is the gýde, theēr tree shal never frūt ne leaves bere; this strem yow ledeth to the sorwful were theēr as the fissh in prysoun is al drye; th'eschüing is onlŷ the remedŷe.'

21.

Thisē vers of gōld and blak iwritten were, the whiche i gan a stounde tō beholde: for with that on encrēsedē ay mŷ fēre, and with that ōther gan mŷn herte bōlde; that on mē hette, that ōther dide mē cólde. Nō wit hadde i, for errour, for tō chēse: tō entre or flēn, or mē tō sāve or lēse.

22.

Right as betwixen adamauntes twō of ēven myght a pēce of ūren set, ne hath nō myght tō mēve too ne frō— for what that on may hāle that ōther let— ferde i that nyste whether mē was best,
tō entre or lēve, til Affrycān mē gīde
mē hente and shōf in at the gātes wide;

23.

and seyd: 'it stōndeth writen in thŷ face
thŷn errour, thogh thow telle it nat tō mē;
but drēd thē nat tō cōme into this plāce:
for this wrīt'yng nys nothyng ment bi thē,
ne bŷ nōn but hē Lōves servaunt bē;
for thow of lōve hast lost thŷ tāst, ī gesse,
as sēk man hath of swēte and bytternesse.

24.

But nāthelēs, althogh that thow bē dul,
yit that thow canst nat dō, thow mayst hit sē;
for many a man that may nat stōnde a pul,
yit liketh hym at wrastlyng for tō bē,
and dēmen whether 'hē dō bet or 'hē:
and if thow haddest cunnyng for t'endite,
ī shal thē shēwe mater of tō wrīte.'

25.

With that mŷn hōnd hē tōk in his anŷn,
of which ī cīmfort kaughte, and wente in faste.

But lōrd! sō ī was glad and wēl beggoon!
for ōveral wher that ī mīne ūn caste,
were trees [y]clad with lēves that ay shal laste,
ēch in his kŷnd of colour fressh and greene
as emeraude, that joye was tō seenē.

26.

The bŷldere ȝk; and ēk the hardy assh;
the pilēr elm, the cofrē untō careyne;
the boxtrē pīpere; holm tō whippes lassh;
the saylyngge fyr; the cîpresse, dēth tō pleyne;
the shētere ēw; the asp, for shaftes pleyne;
the olýve of pês; and ēk the drônke výne;
the victor palm; the laurēr, tō devýne.

27.
A gardŷn say ī, ful of blosmy bowys,
upon a river in a grēne mède,
there as swētnesse ēveremōre inowgh is;
with floures white, blēwe, yelwe, and rēde,
and colde welle-stremes, nōthyng dēde,
that swōmmen ful of smâle fīsshes lighte
with fynnes rēde and skâles sylver-bryghte.

28.
On ēvery bowgh the bryddes herde ĵ synge
with voys of aungel in here armonyē;
sōme besyede hem here bryddes forth tō brynge;
the litele cōnyes tō here pleye gunne hŷe;
and ferther al aboute ĵ gan espŷe
the drēdful rō, the bukke, and hert, and hŷnde,
squyrēles, and bêstes smâle of ğentil kŷnde.

29.
Of instrumēnts of strenges in acord
herde ĵ sō pleye ravysshyn swētnesse
that God that mākere is of al and lōrd
ne herde nēverē beter, as ĵ gesse;
therwith a wŷnd—unnêthe it myght bē lesse—
mâde in the lēves grēne a noyse softe,
acordaunt tō the bryddes sōng alofte.

30.
The eyre of that plāce sō attempre was
that nēverē was grēvaunce of hōt ne cōld;
ther wēx ēk ēvery hōlsum spīce and gras;
ne nō man may thēre waxe sēk ne cōld;
yet was thēr joye mōre a thousandfōld
than man can telle; ne never wolde it nyghte, but ay clèr day tō any mannes syghte.

31.
Un'der a trē besyde a welle i say 
Cūpīde oure lord his arwes forge and file; and at his fēt his bowe al redy lay; and wēl his doghter temperede al the whīle the hēdes in the welle, and with hire wile shē couchede hem after as they sholde serve sōme for tō slē, and sōme tō wounde and kerve.

32.
Thī was i wār of Plesaunce anōn-ryght, and of Aray, and Lust, and Curteysie, and of the Craft that can and hath the myght tō dōn bī force a wight tō dōn folē—disfigūrāt was shē, i nyl nat lē; and bī himself un'der an ēk, i gesse, say i Delīt that stōd with Ġentilesse.

33.
ī say Bēutē withouten any atīr; and Youthe, ful of gāme and jolytē; Foolhardynesse, Flaterē, and Desīr; Messāgerē, and Meede, and ōther thrē—here nāmes shul nat hēre bē tōld for mē; and upon pilēres grēctē of jasper longe i say a temple of bras isfounded strōnge.

34.
Aboute that temple daunseden alwey wōmmen inowe, of whiche sōme ther wēre sārre of hemself, and sōme of hem were gay; in kirteles al dischevelē wente they thēre—that was here offys alwey ēr bī yeere;
and on the temple of dowves white and faire
say i syttynge many an hundred peyre.

35.
Byfor the temple-dore ful sobrely
dame Pes sat with a curteyn in hire hond;
and hire besyde wunder discretly
dame Pacience syttynge ther i fond
with face pale upon an hil of sond;
and aldernext withinne and ek withoute
Byheste and Art, and of here folk a route.

36.
Withinne the temple of sykes hotte as fyre
i herde a sowogh that gan aboute renne;
which sikes were engendred with desyer
that maden every auter for to brenne
of newe flame; and wel espyped i thenne
that al the cause of sorwes that they drye
cam of the bitter goddesse Jelousye.

37.
The god Priapus say i, as i wente
withinne the temple, in sovereyn place stonde,
in swich aray as whan the asse hym shente
with cri by nyght, with scepter in his hond;
ful besyly men gunne asaye and fond
upon his hed to sette of sundry hewe
gerlandes fulle of fresshe flores newe.

38.
And in a prive corner in desport
fond i Venus, and hire porter Richesse,
that was ful noble and hautayn of hyre port;
derk was that place; but afterward lightnesse
i say a lyte—unneth it myghte bë lesse—
and on a bed of gold she lay to rest
til that the hot sun gan to weste.

39.
Hyre gilte heres with a golde thred
ibounden were, untressed as she lay;
and nacked from the brést untó the héd
men myghte hyre sën; and, sóthly for to seye,
the remenaunt was wēl kēvered tō my pháye
ryght with a südtyl kerchēf of valence:
ther nas nō thikker clōth of nō defense.

40.
The plāce yaf a thousand sāvoures swōte;
and Bācus, god of wyn, sat hire besyde,
and Cēres next, that dōth of hunger boote;
and, as i seyde, amyddes lay Cypride;
tō whōm on knees twō yōnge folk thēre crēde
tō bēn here helpe; but thus i lēt hem lýe;
and ferther in the temple i gan espīe

41.
that in despīt of Dīane the chāste
ful many a bowe ibróke hēng on the wal
of maydens swich as gunne here týmes wāste
in hyre servyse; and peynted overal
of many a stōry of whiche i touche shal
a féwe, as of Calyxtē, and Athalante,
and many a mayde of which the nāme i wante;

42.
Semyramus, Candāce, and Herculēs,
Biblis, Didō, Tḥisbē, and Piramus,
Tristram, Ísaude, Paris, and Achilēs
Eleyne, Clēopātre and Trōylus
Sillā, and év the mōder of Rōmulus—
al thise were peynted on that őther syde,
and al here luve, and in what plyt they dyeđe.

43.
Whan i was cóme agayn untō the place
that i of spak, that was so swōte and grēne,
forth wēlk i thō mŷselven tō solāce;
thō was i wār wheř that thēr sat a queene,
that, as of lyght the sōmers sunne shēne
pass'eth the sterre, right so ov'er mesure
shē fayrer was than any créature.

44.
And in a launde upon an hil of floures
was set this nōble goddesse Natūre;
of braunches were hire halles and hire boures,
iwroght after hire craft and hire mesure;
ne thēre nas foul that cómeth of engendrūre,
that they ne were al prest in hire presence,
tō tāke hire dōm, and yive hire audyence.

45.
For this was on Seynt Valentīnes day,
whan every bryd cómeth thēre tō chēse his māke
of every kỲnde that men thenke may,
and that so hūge a noyse gan they māke
that erthe, and eyre, and trē, and every lāke
so ful was that unnēthe was thēre spāce
for mē tō stōnde—so ful was al the plāce.

46.
And right as Aleyn in the Pleynt of KỲnde
devyṣeth Natūre in aray and fāce,
in swich aray men myghten hire thēr fỳnde.
This nōble emperīce ful of grāce
bad every foul tō tāke his ǒwene plāce,
as they were wont alwey fro yer to yeere, Seynt Valentynes day, to stonden thegere.

47.
That is to seyn, the foules of ravyné were hyest set, and thanne foules smâle, that eten as hem nâtûre wolde enclîne—
as wôrm, or thynge of which i telle nó tâle—
but waterfoul sat lquest in the dâle;
and sole that lyveth bý sêd sat on the gréne—
and that so fêle that wônder was tô sêne.

48.
Theâre myghte men the rýal egle fînde,
that with his sharpe lôk perseth the sunne,
and öther ëgles of a lower kînde,
of whiche that clerkes wêl devyse cuinne:
ther was the tíraunt with his fetheres dunne
and grêye, i mené the goshauk that dôth pýne
 tô bryddes for his outràgeous ravyné;

49.
the gerfaucoun that with his feet distrayneth
the kynges hônd; the hardy sparhauk êke,
the quayles fôo; the merlioun that payneth
hymself ful ofte the larke for tô sêke.
Thér was the douve with hire yên mëke;
the jelous swan, agayn his dêth that syngeth;
the oule êk that of dêth the bôde bryngeth;

50.
the crâne géaunt with his trômpes soun;
the thêf, the chough; and êk the janglynge pýe;
the skornyng jay; the êles fô heroun;
the false lapwyngé, ful of trecherye;
the stâre, that the cônseyl can bewrye;

337. gentyl faucoun.
the tame ruddök; and the coward kyte;  
the kok that orlōge is of thorpes lyte;  

51.  
the sparwe, Vēnus sōne; the nyghtyngāle,  
that clēpeth forth the grēne lēves nēwe;  
the swalwe, mōrtherere of the foules smāle  
that mãken hōny of floures fresshe of hēwe;  
the wedded turtel with hire herte trēwe;  
the pōkok with his aungels fethers bryghte;  
the fesaunt, skornen, of the cōk bý nyghte;  

52.  
the wāker goos; the cōkkow ēver unkīnde;  
the popynjay, ful of de'licasēye;  
the drāke, stroyere of his owene kynde;  
the stork, the wrēkere of avouteryē;  
the hōte cormeraunt, ful of glōtenyē;  
the rāven wēys; the crouwe with vois of căre;  
the throstel oğlu; the frosty féldefāre—  

53.  
what sholde î seyn? of foules ēvery kynde,  
that in this wōrd han fetheres and stātūre,  
men myghten in that plāce assembled fynde,  
byfōre the nōble goddesse Nātūre;  
and ēverich of hem dide his besy clūre  
benīgnely tō chēse or for tō tāke  
bý hire acord his formel or his māke.  

54.  
But, tō the poynt—Nātūre hēld on hire hōnd  
a formel ēgłe of shāp the gentileste  
that ēverē shē amǒng hire werkes fōnd,  
the most benīgne, and the goodlieste;  
in hire was ēvery vertū at his reste,
so for-forth that Năture hirself hadde blysse
tō löke on hire, and ofte hire bek tō kysse.

55.
Năture, the vicaire of the Almyghty Lord,
that hōt, cold, hevy, lyght, [and] moyst, and drēye,
hath knyt bŷ even number of acord,
in ḯy voyys gan for tō spēke and seye:
‘Foul’es, tāk hēd of mŷ sentence, ḷ preye;
and for youre ēse in förtheryng of youre nēde
as faste as ḷ may spēke ḷ wōl mē speede.

56.
Yē knōwe wēl how, Seynt Valentynes day,
bŷ mŷ stātūte and thurgh mŷ gōvernaunce,
yē cōme for tō cheese—and ḥē youre wey—youre mākes as ḷ prike yow with plesaunce.
But nāthelēs mŷ ryghtful ordenaunce
may ḷ nat lėte for al this wōrld tō wynne:
that hē that mōst is wōrthi shal begynne.

57.
The tercel ęgle, as ḷ that yē knōwen wēl,
the soul rēāl abōve you in degrē,
the wyse and wōrthi, secrē, trēwe as stēl,
the which ɪ formed have as yē may sē
in ḯvery part as it best liketh mē—
it nēdeth nat his shāp yow tō devyse—
hē shal first chēse, and spēken in his gýse.

58.
And after hym bŷ ordre shul yē chēse
after youre kŷnde, ēverich as you lŷketh;
and as youre hap is, shul yē wynne or lēse.

396. have formed.
But which of yow that love most entriketh
God sende hym hire that sorest for hym sike. 405
And therewithal the tercel gan she calle,
and seyde: 'My sone, the choys is to the falle;

but nathelies in this condicioun
môt bê the choys of everich that is heere:
that she agré tó his eleccioun,
whô so hê bê that sholde bën hire seere—
this is oure usâge aȝ fro yer tó yeere;
and whô so may at this tîme have his gráice,
in blisful tîme hê cam intó this plâce.'

With hed enclinéd, and with hümble cheere
this ryal tercel spak, and taried noght:
'Untô my sôvereyn lâdy, and nat my fere,
i chëse and chês with wille and herte and thoght
the formel on youre hond so wêl iwroght,
whôs i am al, and ëvere wôl hire serve,
dô what hire lest tô dô më live or sterve;

besëkyng hire of merci and of gráice,
as shë that is my lâdy sôvereyne;
or let më dîe present in this plâce;
for certes longe i may nat lyve in peyne,
for in myn herte is korven every veyne;
and havyng only reward tô my trûtthe,
imy deere herte have on my wô süm rôuthel

And if that i tô hyre bê founde untrêwe,
disobeytsaunt, or wilful negligent,
avauntour, or in proces lôve anëwe;  
i preye tō yow, this bē mŷ jûgement,  
that with thise foules i bē al tōrent  
that ilke day that ēver shē mē fýnde  
tō hire untrēwe, or in mŷ gilt unkŷnde.

63.
And syn that nôn hire lôveth sō wēl as i,  
al bē shē nêvere of lôve mē [ogh]t behette,  
thanne oghte shē bē mŷn thurgh hire mercŷ—  
for ŵther bond can i nôn on hire knette—  
ne nêver for ŵo ŵe ne shal i lette  
tō serven hire, how fer sō that shē wende;  
say what yow list: mŷ tâle is at an ende.'

64.
Ryght as the fresshe rëde rôse nēwe  
agayn the sômer-sunne coloured is,  
ryght sō for shāme al wexen gan hire hēwe  
of this formel, whan [that] shē herde al this;  
shē nēyther answerde 'wēl' ne seyd amys,  
sō sōre abasshed was shē; tyl that Nâture  
seyd 'doghter, dreyd you noght, i yow assûre.'

65.
Anōther tercel egle spak anōn,  
of lōwer kŷnde, and seyde: 'That shal nat bē:  
i lônse hire bet than yē dôn, bŷ Seynt Jôn!  
or, at the lēste, i lônse as wēl as yē,  
and lēnger hâve served hire in mŷ degrē;  
and if shē sholde hâve lôved for lông lôvynge,  
tō mē alŏne hâdde bē the gerdonynge.
SECOND MIDDLE ENGLISH PRIMER.

66.
I dår ęk seyn, if shē mē sỳnde fals,
unkỳnde, jangēlēr, or rebel any wỳse,
or ġelous, dō mē hōngen bỳ the hals;
and but ī bëre mē in ĕre servỳse
as wēl as that mŷ wit can mē süffỳse
frō poynt tō poynt hyre hōne for tō sāve,
tāk shē mŷ līf and al the good ī hāve.'

67.
The thridde tercel ęgle ānswerde thō:
'Now sīres, yē seen the lỳtel leyser ĕreere:
for ěvery foul crỳeth out tō bēn agō
forth with his māke, or with his lādy deere;
and ēk Nātūre hirelself ne wōl nat ĕreere,
for tarying hēr, nat half that ī wolde seye:
and but ī spēke, ī mōt for sorwe dēye.

68.
Of lỳng servỳse avaunte ī mē nōthing;
but as possible is mē tō dȳe tō day
for wō as hē that hath bēn languysshyng
thìse twenty winter; and wēl happen may,
a man may serven bet and mōre tō pay
in half a yer, althogh it wre ē nō mōre,
thān sum man dōth that hath-serveď ful ygüre.

69.
Ī seye nat this bỳ mē, for ī ne can
dōn nō servỳse that may mŷ lādy plëse;
but ī dår seyn, ī am hire trēwest man
as tō mỳ dōm, and faynest wolde hire plëse:
at shōrte wōrdes, til that ēth mē sēse
ī wōl bēn hires, whether ī wāke or wynke,
and trēwe in al that herte may bethynke.'
70.
Of al mē lyf, syn ‘that day ī was bōrn,
so gentil plē in lōve or ēther thyngh
ne herde nēver nō man mē befōrn;
but whō [is] that hath leyser and cunnyng
for tō rehere here chēr and here spēkyng?
and fō the morwe gan this spēche laste
til dounward drow the sunne wōnder faste.

71.
The noyse of foules for tō bēn delyvered
sō loude rōng, ‘have dōn, and lat us wende!’
that wēl wēnde ī the wōde hadde al tōshyvered.
‘Cōm of,’ they criēd, ‘al/as, yē wōl us shende:
whan shal yourē cursed plētyng have an ende;
how sholde a jūge eyther partie lēve
for ye or nay withouten any prēve?’

72.
The goos, the cōkkow, and the dōke alsō
sō cryēden ‘kek kek! kōkkow! ‘quek quek! hēye
that thurgh mēne ēres the noyse wente thō.
The goos seyde: ‘al this nys nat wōrth a flyē;
but ī can shāpe hērof a remedīe:
and ī wōl seye mē verdit fayre and swīthe
for wāter-foul, whō sō bē wroθ or blīthe.’

73.
‘And ī for wōrm-foul,’ seyde the fōl kōkkow,
‘and ī wōl of mēn owene autorītē
for comūn spēde tāke the charge now,
for tō delyvere us ‘is grēt charitē.’
‘Yē may abīde a while yet pardē,’
seyde the turtel, ‘if it bē yourē wille,
a wight may spēke, hym wēre as good bē style.’
I am a sed-foul, on the unworthieste,
that wot i wel, and litel of cunnynge;
but bet is that a wyghtes tunge reste
than entremeten hym of such döinge,
of which hē neyther rede can ne synge;
and whō sō dōth, ful foule hymself acloyeth;
for offys uncommytted ofte anoyeth.'

Nature, which that alwey hadde an ere
tō murmour of the lewednesse behynde,
with facound voys seyd: 'Holdt youre tungen thēre,
and i shal sōne, i hope, a cōnseyl fynde
yow tō delyvere and frō this noyse unbynde:
i jūge, of every folk men shul ēn calle,
tō seyn the verdit for yow foules alle.'

Assented were tō this conclusioun
the briddes alle; and foules of rāvīne
han chosen fy rst bē playn eleccioun
the tercelet of the faucoun to diffyne
al here sentence, and as hem lest termyne,
and to Nātürē hym gunne tō presente,
and shē accepteth hym with glad entente.

The tercelet seyde than in this manēre:
'Ful hard were it tō prēve bē rēsoun,
whō lōveth best this gentil formel heere;
for ēverych hath swich replicācioun
that nōn bē skilles may been broght adoun:
i can nat sē that argūmentes avayle;
thanne sēmeth it thēre mōste bē batayle.'
78.
‘Al redy!’ quod thise égles tercels thô.
‘Nay sîres,’ quod hë, ‘if that i dorste it seye, yë dôn më wrong, mû tûle is nat idô;
for, sîres, ne tûketh nat a grêf, i preye;
it may nat gôn as yë wolde in this weye;
oures is the voys that hân the charge in hûnde;
and tô the jüges dôm yë mûten stônde.

79.
And thërsôre pésh i seye; as tô mû wit,
më wolde thynke how that the wôrthieste
of knyghthôd, and læng-est hath ûsed it,
most of estât, of blôd the gentileste
were sittyngest for hire, if that hire lestë;
and of thise thre shë wôt hireself i trôwe
which that hë bë, for hit is light tô knôwe.’

80.
The wâtэр-foules hân here hëdes leid
tôgidere, and of a short avûsement,
whan éverych hadde his large gölee seyd,
they seyden sóthly al by ôn assent,
how that ‘the goos with hire facounde gent,
that sô desûreth tô pronounce oure nêde,
shal telle oure tûle,’ and preyede ‘God hire spëde.’

81.
And for thise wâtэр-foules thô began
the goos tô spëke, and in hire kakelynge
shë seyde: ‘Pës! now tôk kêp évery man,
and herkeneth which a resoun i shal brynge—
mû wit is sharp, i lôve nó taryinge—
i seye, i rède hym, thogh hë wèrent mû brôther,
but shë wôl lôve hym, lat hym lôve anôther.’
82.

'Lo hēr a parfit rēsoun of a goos!' quod the sparhauk, 'nēver mōt shē thē! lō! swich it is tō have a tunge loos!
now pardē, fōl! yet wērē it bet for thē hān hōlde thē pēs than shēwē thē nīcetē;
it lŷth nat in his wit nor in his wille;
but sōth is seyd, "a fōl can nat bēn stille."

83.

The laughtēr args of gentil foules alle;
and right anōn the sēdfsoules chōsen hadde the turtel trēwe, and gunne hire tō hem calle, and preyēden hire tō seyn the sōthe sadde of this matēre, and axede what shē radde:
and shē answerde that pleynly hire entente sē wolde shēwē, and sōthly what shē mente.

84.

'Nay, God forbēde a lōvere sholde chaungē,' the turtel seyd, and wēx for shāme rēd,
'thogh that his lādy ēverē mōre bē straungē,
yet lat hym serve hire ay til hē bē dēd;
for sōth ī preyse nat the gōses rēd:
for thogh shē deyede ī wolde nōn ōther māke:
ī wōl bēn hires til that the Dēth mē tāke.'

85.

'Wel bourded,' quod the dōke, 'bī mēn hât!
that men sholde alwey lōven cause ēles,
whō can a rēsoun fynde or wit in that?
daun:sesth hē mūry that is myrthe ēles?
whō sholde recche of that is recche ēles?
yē, kekl! yit quod the dōke ful wēl and fayre,
'thēre been mō sterres, God wōt, than a payre.'
PARLAMENT OF BIRDS.

86.
‘Now fy, cherl!’ quod the gentil tercelet,
‘out of the dōnghil cam that wōrd ful right;
thow canst nat seen what thyng is wēl beset;
thow fārest bŷ lōve as oules dōn bŷ lyght—
the day hem blent, ful wēl they sēn bŷ nyght:
thŷ kŷnde is of sō lōw a wrecchednesse
that what lōve is thow canst nat seen ne gesse.’

87.
Thō gan the kōkkow putte hym forth in pēs
for foul that ēten wōrm, and seyde blŷve:
‘Sō i,’ quod hē, ‘may have mŷ māke in pēs,
I recche nat how lōnge that yē strŷve;
lat ēch of hem bēn sōleyn al here lŷve;
this is mŷ rēd, syn they may nat acorde;
this shorte lessoun nēdeth nat recorde.’

88.
‘Yē! have the glōtoun fild inough his paunche,
thanne āre wē wēl!’ seyde the merlioun;
‘thow mōrtherere of the heysugge on the braunche
that broghte thē forth, thow rēuthelės glōtoun!
līve thow sōleyn, wōrmes corupcioun!
for nō fors is of lak of thŷ nātūre;
gō! lēwed bē thow whil the wōrd may dūre!’

89.
‘Now pēs,’ quod Nātūre, ‘i comaunde hēre:
for i have herd al youre opinioun,
and in effect yet bē wē nat the nēre;
but fynally this is mŷ conclusioun,
that shē hireself shal hån the eleccioun
of whom hire lest, whōsō bē wroth or blŷthe,
hy m that shē chëst hē shal hire hån as swithe.'
For syn it may nat hēr discussed bē,
whō lōveth hire best, as sayde the tercelet,
thanne wēl ē dōn hire this favōur: that shē
shal have right hym on whom hire herte is set,
and hē hire that his herte hath on hire knyt.
Thus jūge ī, Nātūre, for ī may nat lē; 625
tō non estāt ī have non ēther ē.

But as for cōnseyl for tō chēse a māke,
if it were rēsonoun, certes thanne wolde ī
cōnseyle yow the rēal tercel tāke,
as sayde the tercelet ful skylfully,
as for the gentileste and mōst wōrthī
which ī have wroght sō wēl tō mī plesaunce
that tō yow oghtē tō been a süffisaunce.' 635

With drēdful vois the formel hire answerde:
'My rightful lādy, goddessē of nātūre!
sōth is that ī am ēver un-'der youre yerde,
lyk as is ēverych ōther crēātūre,
and mōt bēn youres whil that mī līf may dūrē;
and thērforē graunteth mē mī firste bōne,
and mīn entent ī wōl you seyn right sōne.' 640

'I graunte it yow,' quod shē, 'and that anōn.' 645
This formel ēgle spak in this degrē:
'Almyghty queen, untō this ygr bē gōn,
i axe respīt for to avise mē,
and after that tō have mī choys al fīrē;
this is al and sum that ī wōl spēke and seye—
yē gēte nō more, al thogh yē dō mē deye:
PARLAMENT OF BIRDS.

94.

I wōl nat serve Vēnus ne Cūpīde
for sōth as yet bŷ nō manēre weye.'
‘Now syn it may nōn ōther wey betyde,'
quod thō Nātūre, ‘heere is nō more tō seye;
thanne woldē I that thise foules wēre awweye
ĕch with his māke for taryinge lenger heere,' and seyd hym thus as yē shul after hēre:

95.

‘Tō yow spēke I, yē tercelets,’ quod Nātūre,
‘bēth of good hertē, and serveth, alle thrē;
a yer nis nat so lōnge tō endūre.
And ĕch of yow peine hym in his degrē
for ‘tō dō wēl, for, God wōt, quit is shē
frō yow this yer, what after so befalle;
this entremēs is dressed for yow alle.’

96.

And whan this werk al broght was tō an ende,
tō ēvery soul Nātūre yaf his māke
bŷ ēven acord, and on here weye they wende.
And lōrdē the blisse and joye that they māke!
for ĕch of hem gan ōther in wynges tāke,
and with here nekkes ĕch gan ōther wīnde,
thankyng alwey the noble queen of kynde.

97.

But fyrst wēre chōsen foules for tō synge,
as yer bŷ yer was alwey hēr ūsaunce
tō synge a roundel at here departynge,
tō dōn tō Nātūre honōur and plesaunce;
the nōte ē trōwe imāked was in Fraunce,
the wōrdes ‘wēre swiche ‘as yē may hēr līnde,
the nexte vers, as ē now have in mīnde:—
'Now welcom, sōmer, with [thī] sōnne softe,
that hast this wintres wedres overshāke,
and driven awey the large nyghtes blāke.

Seynt Valentīn, that art ful hīe on loftte,
thus syngen smāle foules for thy sāke:
[Now welcom, sōmer, with thī sōnne softe.] 685

Wel hān they cause for tō glāden ofte
sith ēch of hem recōvered hath hys māke;
ful blisful mowe they synge, whan they wāke:
[Now welcom, sōmer, with thī sōnne softe,
that hast this wintres wedres overshāke,
and driven awey the large nyghtes blāke.]

98.
And with the shoutyng, whan the sōng was dō,
the foules māden at here flyght awey,
i wōk, and other bōkes tōk mē tō,
tō rēde upon and yet i rēde alwey,
un hōpe iwīs tō rēde so sum day
that i shal mēte sum thyng for tō fāre
the bet; and thus tō rēde i nyl nat spare.
VII.

PROLOGUE TO THE CANTERBURY TALES.
Whan that Aprille with his schoures swoote
the drōghte of March hath perced tō the roote,
and bāthed every veyne in swich licour,
of which vertū engendred is the flour;
whan Zephirus ēk with his swēte brēth
inspired hath in every holt and hēth
the tendre croppes, and the yōnge sōnne
hath in the Ram his halve cours yrōnne,
and smāle fowles māken melodye,
that slēpen al the nyght with open yē—
so priketh hem nāture in here cōrāges—
thanne lōngen folk tō gōon on pilgrimāges,
and palmeres for tō sēken straunge strōndes,
tō serne halwes, couthe in sōndry lōndes;
and specially, from every shires ende
of Engelōnd tō Caunterbūry they wende,
the hōly, blisful martir for tō sēke,
that hem hath holpen, whan that they were seeke;
PROLOGUE TO THE CANTERBURY TALES.

When that pulle wipis suures swoote
- the druxtof mart - hap persedtoope roote,
- and baađed:tvri veinin:swifli kuur,
- of whitʃver teeu - en ðzendrediʃpe fluui;
- whan zefirustk: wipis sweete brẹp
- in spiüredhapin evri holtand ħẹp
- the tendre kroppes, - anđpe junge sunne
- hap:inpe rammis halve kuursi runne,
- and smaale fuules maaken:melo diie,
- pat sleepen alpe niıtʃwip open iie—
: so prikepem:naa tyyrınherku raadgẹs—
- pan longen:folktoo gönon:plgri maadgẹs,
- and palmers :fortoo seeken straundʒe stronđes,
- too ferne halwes, kuʊđin sunđi łoŋdes;
- and spesjalii, - from tvri fiires ende
- of engelond - too ;kaunterbripei wende,
- the ġölī, blisful martırsfortoo seeke,
- pat:hemap holpen :whanpatbeiewer seeke;
bifil that in that sesoun on a day
in Southwerk at the Tabard as i lay,
red y tō wenden on mī pilgrymāge
tō Caunterbury with ful devout cōrāge,
at nyght were cōme intō that hostelrye
wōl nīne and twenty in a cōmpaignyē
of sōndry folk by āventūre ysfalle
in felaweshipe, and pilgrims were they alle,
that tōward Caunterbury wolden ryde.
The chaumbres and the stābles wēren wūde,
and wēl wē wēren ēsed atte beste.
And shortly, whan the sōnne was tō reste,
sō hadde i spōken with hem ēverichon,
that i was of her felaweshipe āgon,
and māde forward ērly for tō rūse,
tō tāke oure wey ther as i yow devise.
But nāthelēges, whil i have tūme and spāce,
ēr that i ferther in this tāle pāce,
mē thynketh it acordaunt tō rēsoun
tō telle yow al the condicioun
of ēch of hem, sō as it sēmed mē,
and whiche they wēren, and of what degree,
and ēgk in what array that they wēre inne;
and at a knyght than wōl i first bigynne.

A Knyght thēr was, and that a wōrthy man,
that frō the tūme that hē first bigan
tō riden out hē lōved chivalrie,
trōuthe and honoure, frēdōm and curteisie.
Ful wōrthy was hē in his lōrdes werre,
and thērtō hadde hē riden, nō man ferre,
as wēl in cristendōm as ḥēthenesse,
and ēvere honoure for his wōrthynesse.
At Alisaundre hē was, when it was wōnne.
PROLOGUE TO THE CANTERBURY TALES.

-bi θlθatnθat sζuzu -ona dai,
-in suuðwerk -aθe tabardasii lai,
red iitto:wenden:onmii:pilgri maadze
-too kaunterbri -wθ fulde vuutku raadze,
-at niθtwθr kumin:toopath:ostel riie
:weel niinand twenti -ina:kumpai niie
-of sandri:folk -biiiaaven tyyri falle
-in felauθip, -and ;pilgrimswtrpeī alle,
-θat:tooward ;kaunterbyri:woleden riide.
-θe tʃaumbresandpe staableswθren wiide,
-and weelwe:wθren ezedatte beste.
-and sortli -whanpe sunnewastoo reste,
-sɔ:haddii spoken:wθem:ɛvritʃ ən,
-θat:iiwasosfer felauθipə nɔn,
-and:maade forward ərlisortoo riize,
-bzt:naaadə lɛs, :whiil:iiav tiimand spaase,
:st:θatii ʃerθerθipəs taale paase,
-mee ʃiŋkepita kordauntoo:re zuun
-too tellejuu alpekon dis:uuun
-of stʃof:hem, :sɔ:asit seemed mee,
-and whitʃpei wɛren, -andof whatde gree,
-and:skin whata raiθatθeiwθr inne;
-and:ata ;kniθt -θan:walli firstbi ginne.
- a kniθtθr:was, -and ɔt -a wurθi man,
-θat:frəpe tiimepatee firstbi gan
-too riiden uut -hee luvɛd:tʃiθal riie,
trouθ:ando nuur, free:doomand:kurtei ziie.
:ful wurθi:waseenθis lɔrdes werre,
-and:θɛrtoo:haddee rθdn, ɔθ:man ferre,
-as:weelin kɾιθtendoomas heθenesse,
-and evron uured -foris:wurθi nesse.
-at:alι zaundree:was, -whan:itwas wunne.
Ful ofte-týme hē hadde the börd bigônne
abôven alle nāciouns in Prûce.
In Lettw Timeline hadde hē reysed and in Rûce,
nō cristen man sō ofte of his degree.
In Gernâde at the seeĝe ēk hadde hē bē
of Alĝezîr, and riden in Belmarîye.
At Lyeys was hē, and at Satalye,
whan they were wœnne, and in the Grete Ŝè
at many a nōble arîve hadde hē bē.
At mortal batailles hadde hē been fîtêne,
and fōghten for oure feîth at Tramyssēne
in lystes thîres, and ay slayn his fōq.
This ilke wôrthy knyght hadde been alsō
sōmtŷme with the lîrd of Palatîye
agayn anôther hêthen in Turkîye;
and ēveremôgre hē hadde a sóvereyn prîs.
And thogh that hē wēre wôrthy, hē was wŷs,
and of his port as meekêt as is a maydê:
ĥē nêvere yet nō vileynŷe ne saydê
in al his lîf untō nō maner wîght:
hē was a verray parfit ġentil knyght.
But for tô tellen yow of his array,
his hôrs was good, but hē ne was nat gay;
of fustiān hē wēred a gypoun,
al bismötered with his habergeoun;
for hē was lââte ycôme from his viâge,
and wente for tô doon his pilgrîmage.
With ĥym thêr was his sône, a yōng Squîër,
a lôvyere, and a lusty Bachelêr,
with lôkkes crûlle, as they wēre leyd in presse.
Of twenty yeâr of âge hē was, i gesse;
of his stâtûre hē was of ēvene lengthe,
and wônderly delyvere and grêêt of strengthê.
-ful ofte:tiim -hee:hadpe boordbi gunne
-a buven alle:naasi uuns’in pryyse.
-in lettou:haddee reized -and’in ryyse,
-no kristen:manso oftof:hisde gree.
-in gernaadatpe seedzêk:haddee bee
-of:aldge ziir, -and rîdnîn:belma riie.
-at lieis:wasee, -andat:sata liie,
-whan:peiwe: war, -and:inpe grête st
-at:manja nobla riive:haddee bee.
-at mortal batails:haddee been:if teene,
-and fouxtensoruur feipatt:trami seene
-in listes thriies, -and ai slainîs fo.
-îs ilke wurđi knîçta:beenal so
-sum:tiimewît:pe lordof:pala tiie
-a gaina:noonđer he:nintar kiie;
-and euer:moree:hadda suvrein priis.
-and:pouxpat:heewër wurđi, -heewas wiis,
-and:olîs portas meekasîsa maide:
-hee never:jet:no:vlëi niine saide
-in alis liif -un:too:no maner wiçt:
-heew:wasa verai par:ît džentîl kniçt.
-but:for too tellenjuuof:hisâ rai,
hîs horswas good, -but:heene:wasnat gai;
of:fasti aan -hee wreida:dzî puun,
albi smuterdwîpis:haber dzuun;
-for:heewas laati kumfromisvii aadże,
-wîp:hîmpûr:wasis;sun, -a jungskwii:ecr,
a luvjer, -anda lusti:batçë leer,
wîp lokkes krul, -as:peiwe: leidîn presse.
of twenti:je:rof aadże:was, -iî gesse;
of:hisstaa tydr -heewasof even lenjöe,
-and wunderlîde livrand grêtof strenjöe.
And he hadde been somtyme in chyvachie, in Flaundres, in Artoys, and Pycardie, and born hym weel, as in so litel spåce, in hope to stonden in his lady grace. Embrègded was hë, as it were a meede, al ful of fresshe floures, whyte and rëgde. Syngynge hë was or floytyng al the day: hë was as fressh as is the month of May. Short was his gowne, with slëves longe and wëde. Wël koude hë sitte on hors, and faire ryde; hë koude sçnges make and wël endite, juste and ṭék daunce, and weil purtreye and write. Só hógte hë lóvede that bê nyghtertâle hë slepte na moøre than dooth a nyghtyngâle. Curteis hë was, lowely, and servysâble, and carf biforn his fâder at the table.

A YEMAN hadde hë and servauntz na mo at that tîme, for hym liste ride sop. And hë was clad in cote and hood of grëne; a sheëf of pëcok-arwes, vright and këne, un'der his belt hë bår ful thrustily. Wël koude hë dresse his tåkel yëmanly: hisë arwes drouped noght with fetheres lowe; and in his hond hë baar a myghty bowe. A nothged hadde hë with a broun visâge. Of wödecraft wël koude hë al the ûsâge. Upon his arm hë baar a gay brâcër; and b his syde a swërd and a bôkêlër; and on that oother syde a gay daggëre, harneised wël, and sharp as point of spere; a cristofere on his brëst of silver sheene. An hörn hë bår, the bawdryk was of grëne; a forster was hë soothly, as i gesse.
and:heeadbeensum:tiimin:sfiva tfie,
-in flaundres, -tnar tois, -andpikar diie,
-and bornim weel, -as:inso liitel spaase,
-in hoptoo:stondeninis laadi graase.
-em brouded:wasee, :asitwera made,
al fulo: fre:ffuure fluures, whiitand rede.
sin:gingee:was, -or floiting alpe dai:
-hee:wasas fre -as:isp e moonpof mai.
fort:wasis guun, -wip sleeves longand wiide.
:weel:kuudee siton hors, -and faire riide;
-hee:kuude sognesmaakand weelen diite,
djustandisk dauns, -and:weelpur treiand wriite.
:so hotee lav ed :patbii nie ter taale
-hee sleptna morjian:doopa niçti: galle.
kur teisee:was, lou:liand:serviz aable,
-and karfbif:ornis faaderaip: taable.
-a jeeman:haddee -andser vauntsna mo
-at þattiim, :forim liste riide so.
-and heewas kladen kotand hoodof greene;
a sfosof pëkok:arwes, briçtand keene,
:weel:kuudee dressis taakel jeeman:lii:
-his arwes druuped nouxtwip seôres loue;
-and:inis hondee baara miçti boe.
-a nothed:haddee -wipa bruunvi zaadge.
of wadekraftweel kuudee alpyy zaadge.
-uponis arm -hee baara gaibra see;
-and:biis siida sweerdanda:buk leer;
-and:onpat ooñer:siida gai:da geere,
-har neized weel, -and farpas pointof spere;
-a kris tofr:onis breestof silver jeene.
an hoornee baar, -be baudrikwasof greene;
a forster:wasee sooñli, -asii gesse.
Ther was also a nōnne, a Prioresse, that of hir smēlyng was ful symple and coy; hir gretteste qoth ne was but bē Seint Loy; and shē was cleped madāme Eglentīyne. Ful weel shē sōng the service dyvīne, entūned in hir nōse ful sēmely. And Frenssh shē spak ful faire and fetisly, after the scōle of Stratford atte Bowe, for Frenssh of Parys was tō hire unknōwe. At mėte wēl ytaught was shē with alle: shē leet nō morsel from hir lippes falle, ne wettē hir fyngres in hir sauce dēpe; wēl koude shē carie a morsel, and wēl kēpe, that nō drope ne fille upon hir brēst. In curteisle was set ful muchē hir lest: hir āverlippe wyped shē sō clēne that in hir cōppe was nō ferthyng sēne of grēce, whan shē drōnken haddē hir draughtē; ful sēmely after hir mēte shē raughtē. And sikerly shē was of grēt desport, and ful plesaunt, and āmyāble of port; and peyned hir tō countrefēte cheere of court, and been ēstālīch of manēre, and tō bēn hōlden dīgne of reverence. But for tō speken of hir conscience, shē was sō charitāble and sō pitous, shē wolde wēpe, if that shē saugh a mōs kaught in a trappe, if it wēre dēed or bledde. Of smāle houndes haddē shē that shē fēdde with rõsted flessh, and milk, and wastel brēd; but sōrē shē wepte, if qōn of hem wēre dēed, or if men smōqt it with a yerdē smerte; 148. wepte shē.
and al was conscience and tendre herte.
Ful sêmely hir wympel pynched was;
hire nose tretys, hir ūen grêye as glas;
hir mouth ful smal, and thertô softe and règd.
But sikerly shē hadde a fair forhègd:
it was almoçost a spanne brôd, ē trôwe;
for hardily shē was nat undergrôwe.
Ful fetys was hir clôke, as ē was wâr.
Of smal corâl aboute hire arm shē bâr
a peire of bêdes, gauded al with gréne;
and theron hêng a brôch of gold ful sheene,
on which ther was first write a crowned ā,
and after, Āmor vincit omniā.
Anōther nōnne with hire hadde shē,
that was hire chapeleyne, and preestes thrē.

A Mônk thēr was, a fair for the maistrie,
an outrîdîr, that lôvede venerie;
a manly man, tō been an abbot âble.
Ful many a deyntee hors hadde hē in stâble;
and whan hē rôgd, men myghte hîs brîdel heere
gynglen in a whistlynge wynd as cleere,
and ēçek as loude as dooth the chapel belle,
ther as this lord was kêpere of the celle.
The rēule of seint Maure or of seint Beneit,
bŷ cause that it was old, and sömdēl streit,
this ilke mônk leet [it] forbŷ him pâce,
and heeld after the nēwe wôrld the spâce.
Hē yaf nat of that text a pulled hen,
that seith that hunters been nat hôgly men,
ne that a mônk, whan hē is recchelôgs,
is likned til a fissh that is wâterlôgs;
this is tō seyn, a mônk out of his cloystre.
But thīlke text heeld hē nat wôrth an oystre;
and i seyde his opinioun was good.
What sholde he studie and make hymselfen wood,
on a book in cloystre alwey to poure, 185
or swynkenken with his hondes, and laboure,
as Austyn bit? How shal the world bë served?
Lat Austyn have his swynk to him reserved!
Therfore he was a prikasour aright:
gréyhoundes he hadde as swift as fowel in flight; 190
of prikyng and of huntyng for the häre
was al his lust, for no cost wold he späre.
I seigh his slëves ypurfiled at the hond
with grýs, and that the fyneste of a lond;
and for to festne his hood un-der his chyn,
he hadde of golde ywroght a curious pyn:
a lóve-knotte in the gretter ende ther was.
His hëed was balled, that shöën as any glas,
and ek his fáce, as it hadde been enoynt;
hë was a lórd ful fat, and in good poyn.
His eýen stëpe and rollynge in his hëed,
that stëmed as a förneys of a legëd.
His bootes souple, his hors in grët estaat.
Now certeinly he was a fair prelaat:
hë was nat pâle as a forpïned gôóst; 205
a fat swan lôved hë best of any rôóst.
His palfrey was as broun as is a berye.
A Frêre ther was, a wantown and a merye,
a lymytour, a ful solempûne man.
In alle the ordres fourë is noon that kan
so muche of daliaunce and fair langâge.
Hë hadde imaad ful many a mariâge
of yonge wômmen at his qwene cost.
Untë his ordre hë was a noble post.
And wel bilôved and famûliër was hë
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with frankeleyns over al in his contree, and eek with worthy wommen of the toun; for he hadde power of confessioun as seyde hymself, more than a curat; for of his ordre he was licenciät. Ful swetely herd he confessioun, and plesaunt was his absolucioun; he was an esy man to yeve penaunce, ther as he wiste han a good pitaunce; for untō a pōure ordre for to yive is signe that a man is wēl yshryve; for if he yaf, he dorste mak avaunt, he wiste that a man was repentaunt; for many a man so hard is of his herte, he may nat wepe, althogh hym sore smerte; thersore in stede of wepyng and preyères men moote yeve silver to the pōure frēres. His typet was ay farsed ful of knyves and pynnes for to ygven faire wyves. And certeinly he hadde a mūrye ngte; wēl koude he syngge, and pleyen on a rote; of yeddynges hē baar outrely the pris. His nekke whit was as the flour-de-lys; thertō hē strong was as a champioun. Hē knēw the tavernes wēl in every toun, and everich hostiler and tappestere bet than a lazar or a beggestere. For untō swich a worthy man as hē acorded nat, as by his facültee, tō have with sike lazars aqueyntaunce: it is nat honest, it may nat avaunce 'for tō deɡlen with no swich poraille, but al with riche, and selleres of vitailde,
and over all ther as profit sholde arise.
Curteis he was, and lowly of servyse;
thér nas nó man nowher so vertuous.
Hē was the beste beggere in his hous:
for thogh a wydwe hadde noght a shō,
so plêsaunt was his *In principiō,*
yet wolde hē have a serthyng ēr hē wente;
his purchās was wēl bettre than his rente.
And rāge hē koude, right as it were a whelpe;
in lōve-dayes ther koude hē muchel helpe.
for ther hē was nat lŷk a cloysterēr,
with thrēdbāre cōpe, as is a poure scolēr;
but hē was lŷk a maister, or a pope:
of double wōrstede was his semycope,
that rounded as a belle out of the presse.
Sōmwhat hē lipsed for his wantwnesse,
tō māke his Englissh sweete upon his tōnge.
And in his harpyng, whan that hē hadde sōnge,
hīs ēn twynkled in his hēgēd aryght
as doon the sterres in the frosty nyght.
This wōrthy lymytour was clēped Hūberd.

A Marchaunt was ther with a forked bērd;
in motelee and hīe on hors hē sat;
upon his hēgēd a Flaundryssh bēver hat;
hīs bootes clasped faire and fetisly.
Hīs ēnsouns 'hē spak ful solemplēly,
sow·nynge alway th' encrēs of his wyn·nyng.
Hē wolde the sēg wēre kept for any thing
bitwixe Middelburgh and Qrewelle.
Wēl koude hē in eschaunge sheeldes selle.
This wōrthy man ful wēl his wit bisette:
thēr wiste nó wight that hē was in dette,
so estāly was hē of his gövernaunce,
with his bargaynes and with his chevyssauce.
For soth hē was a worthy man with alle;
but sooth tō seyn, i nøgt how men hym calle.

A Clerk thēr was of Oxenford also,
that untō logyk hadde longe ygo.
As lēgne was his hors as is a rāke;
and hē nas nat right fat, i undertāke,
but looked holwe, and thērtō sōbrely.
Ful thrēdbāre was his overeste courtepī;
for hē hadde gete hym yet nø beneſcie,
ne was sō worldly for tō have ofſice,
For hym was lēvere have at his beddes hēed
twenty bookes, clad in blak or rēed,
of Aristōtle and his philosophie
than robes riche, or fīthele, or gay sautrie.
But al bē that hē was a philosophre,
yet hadde hē but litel göld in cofre;
but al that 'hē myghte of his freendes hente,
on bookes and his lērnyng hē it spente,
and bisily gan for the spules preye
of hem that yaf hym wherwith tō scōleye;
of studie took hē mōgest cūre and mōgest heede.
Noght 9 wōrd spak hē mōgre than was neede,
and that was seyd in forme and reverence,
and short, and quyk, and ful of hē sentence;
sownik in moral vertū was his spēche,
and gladly wolde hē lērne and gladly tēche.

A Sergeant of the Lawe, wār and wēs,
that often hadde been at the parvēs,
ther was al-sō, ful riche of excellence;
discreet hē was, and of greēt reverence;
hē sēmed swich, his wōrdes wēre sō wise.
Justice hē was ful often in assīse,
by patente, and by pleyn commissioun.
For his science, and for his high renoun,
of fees and robes hadde he many qun.
So greget a purchasour was nōwher nōon;
al was fee symple tō hym in effect;
his purchasyng myghte nat been infect.
Nōwher so bisy a man as he thēr nas,
and yet he sēmed bisier than he was.
In termes hadde he caas and doomes alle,
that fō the tyme of kyng William were falle.
Thērtō he koude endite and māke a thynge,
ther koude nō wight pynche at his wrītyng.
And every stātūt koude he pleyn bī rōte.
Hē rōd but hōomly in a medlee cōte,
girt with a ceint of silk, with barres smāle;
of his array telle i nō lenger tāle.

A Frankeleyn was in his compaignye;
whit was his hēd as is a dayes-ye;
of his complexioun he was san'gwyn.
Wel lōved he bī the morwe a sop in wīn;
tō lyven in delit was evere his wōne,
for he was Epicūrus qwene sōne,
that heeld opinioun that pleyn delit
was verrayly felicitee parfit.
An housholdere, and that a greget was hē;
seint Jūliān was hē in his contree.
His brēg, his āle was alweys after qun;
a bettre envyned man was nōwher nōon;
withoute bāke mēte was nēvere his hous,
of fissh and flessh, and that sō plentevous,
it snēwed in his hous of mēte and drynke.
Of alle deyntees that men koude thynke,
after the sōndry sesouns of the yeēr
he chaunged him his međe and his sōpēr. Ful many a fat partrich hadde hē in múwe, and many a brēem, and many a lūce in stūwe. 350 Wō was his cook, but if his sauce wgre poynaunt, and sharp, and redy al his gege. His tāble dormaunt in his halle alway stood redy cōvered al the longe day. At sessiouns ther was hē lōrd and sire; ful ofte-tŷme hē was knyght of the shīre. An anlaas, and a gipser al of silk heeng at his girdel, whīt as morne milk. A shirrēve hadde hē been and a countour; was nōwher such a wōrthy vavasour. 360

An HABERDASSHERE, and a CARPENTĒR, a WEBBE, a DYERE and a TAPYCĒR wēre with us, clothed alle in g lyveree, of a solemöne and greēt fraternitee. Ful fressh and nēwe her gege apiked was: her knyves wēre ychāped noght with bras, but al with silver, wroght ful clēne and weel here girdles and hir pouches ēverydēl. Wēl sēmed ǣch of hem a fair burgesys, tō sitten in a yēldhalle on a deys. 370 Ėverich for the wisdōm that hē kan was shāply for tō been an alderman.

For catel hadde they ynough and rente, and ēek her wīves wolde it wēl assente; and elles, certeyn, wēre they tō blāme: it is ful fair tō been yclēped ma dāme, and for tō goōn tō viĝils al bīføre, and have a mantel roiallich ybōre.

A COOK they hadde with hem for the nōnes, tō boille chiknes with the marybones,
and poudre-marchaunt tart, and galyngāle.
Wēl koude hē knōwe a draughte of London āle.
Hē koude rqōste, and sēthe, and boīlle, and frīe,
māk-en mortrēwes 'and wēl bāke a pŷe.
But greēt harm was it, as it thoghtē mē,
that on his shynē a mormal hadde hē;
for blankmangēr, that māde hē with the beste.

A Shīpmān was thēr, wōnyngē fer bēy weste:
for aught i wōpt, hē was of Dertemouthe.
Hē rqōd upon a rouncy, as hē kouthe,
[clad] i nā gwōne of faldyn tō the kēne.
A daggere hangyngē on a laa hadde hē
aboutē his nēkke un'der his arm adoun.
The hōptē sōmēr hadde maad his hēwe al broun;
and certeinly hē was a good felawe.
Ful many a draughtē of wēn hē hadde drawe
frō Burdeuxward, whil that the chapman sleep.
Of nyce conscience took hē nō keep:
if that hē faught, and hadde the hŷer hōnd,
bē wāter hē sentē hem hōqm tō ēvey lōnd.
But of his craft tō rēkene wēl his tŷdes,
his strēmes and his daungers hym bisīdes,
his herberwe, and his moone, his lōdemēnāge,
thēr nas nōon swich from Hulle tō Cartāge.
Hardy hē was, and wŷs tō undertāke.
With many a tempest hadde hē bėrd been shāke;
hē knēw wēl alle the hāvenes, as they wēre,
frō Gōptlōnd tō the Căpe of Fynystēre,
and ēvery cryke in Britaignē and in Spayne.
His barge yclēped was the Maurdelaynē.

With us thēr was a Doctour of Phīsīk.
In al this wōrd ne was thēr nōon hym līk
tō spēke of phīsīk and of surʒerŷe;
for he was grounded in astronomye;
he kepte his pacient a ful greçt deçel
in houres by his magyk natuurgel;
wel koude he fortûnen the ascendent
of hise ymage for his pacient.
He knëw the cause of everich maladye,
were it of hot or cold, or moyste, or drye,
and where engendred, and of what hümour;
he was a verray parfit praktisour;
the cause yknowe and of his harm the roote,
anon he yaf the sike man his boote.
Ful redy hadde he hise apothecâries
tö sende him drôgges and his letuâries,
for ech of hem mäde oother for tö wynne;
hir frendshiphe nas nat nêwe tö bigynne.
Wël knëw hë the olde Escûlapius
and Dëyscori'dês, and écëk Rûfus,
olde Ypocrâs, Hâly, and Gâlyen,
Serâpioñ, Razis, and Avycên,
Averrois, Damasciën, and Constantîn,
Bernard, and Gâtesden, and Gîlbertîn.
Of his diète mesûrable was hë,
for it was of no süperflûitee,
but of greçt nôrissyn, and digestible.
His studie was but litel on the Bible.
In sangwîn and in pers hë clad was al,
lûned with taaffatâ and with sendâl.
And yet hë was but êsy of dispence;
hë kepte that hë wan in pestilence;
for gold in phisik is a cordiál,
therefore hë lövede gold in speciál.
A good Wîr was thèr of biside Bâthe;
but shë was sôm-deçel deçf, and that was scâthe.
Of clōth-māk'ynge shē hadde swich an haunt,
shē passed hem of Ypres and of Gaunt.
In al the parisshe wif ne was thēr nōn
that tō the offryngge biforn hire sholde gōn;
and if thēr dide, certeyn sō wroth thā shē,
that shē was out of alle charitee.
Hir cöverchiffes ful fynne were of ground;
ī dorste swere, they weyeden ten pound,
that on a sōnday were upon hire hēgde.
Hir hōse were of fyn scarlet rēedd
ful streite yteyd, and shoos ful moyste and nēwe.
Boōld was hir fāce, and fair, and rēedd of hēwe.
Shē was a wōrthly wōman al hir līve.
Housbōndes at chirche dore shē hadde fynne,
withouten oother cōmpaignyē e in youthe;
but thērof nēdeth nat tō spēkke as nowthe.
And thrīes hadde shē been at Jerusalēm.
Shē hadde passed many a straunge strēm:
at Rōme shē hadde been, and at Boloigne,
in Galīce, at Seint Jāme, and at Coloigne;
shē koude muche of wandrynge bī the weye.
Gattōthed was shē, soothly for tō seye.
Upon an aumblere ēsily shē sat,
ywympled wēl, and on hir hēgde an hat,
as brōōd as is a bōkēler or a targe;
a foot-mantel aboute hir hipes large,
and on hire feet a paire of spōres sharpe.
In felaweshipe wēl koude shē laughe and carpe.
Of remedies of lōve shē knēw per chaunce,
for of that art shē koude the ōlde daunce.
A good man was thēr of religioun,
and was a pōure PERSOUN of a toun;
but rīche hē was of hōoly thoght and werk.
He was also a learned man, a clerk, that Christ's gospel truly wolde preche; hise parishëns devoutly wolde hē tēche. Benigne hē was and wōnder diligent, and in adversitee ful pācient; and swich hē was yprēved ofte-sīthes. Ful lōgth were hym tō cursen for hise tithes; but rāther wolde he yēven out of doute untō his pōure parishëns aboute, of his offerynge, and ēek of his substāunce; hē koude in litel thynge have sūffisāunce. Wŷd was his parīsše, and houses fer asōnder; but hē ne lafte nat for reyn ne thōnder, in siknesse nor in meschief tō visite the ferrestē in his parīsše, muchē and līte, upon his feet, and in his hōnd a staf. This nóble ensaunple tō his sheep hē yaf, that firstē hē wroghtē, and afterward hē taughtē. Out of the gospel hē thō wōrdes caughtē, and this figyūre hē added ēek thērtō, that if golē rustē, what shal ēren doo? For if a preest bē foul, on whom wē trustē, nō wōnder is a lewed man tō rustē.

Wel oghtē a preest ensaunple for tō yive bŷ his clēnnesse, how that his sheep sholde lyve. Hē sette nat his benefisē tō hīre, and leet his sheep encūmbred in the myre, and ran tō Lōndon untō seinte Pōules tō sēken hym a chaunterē for spules, or with a brētherhēd tō been withhōlde, but dweltē at hōgm, and kepte wēl his folde,
so that the wölfe ne māde it nat myscarie;
hē was a shepherde and nọ mercenārie.
And thogh hē hōoly wēre, and vertūous,
hē was tō synful men noght despitous,
ne of his spēche daungerous ne dīgne,
but in his tēchynng discreet and benygn;
tō drawen folk tō hevene bī fairness,
bī good ensaumple, was his bisynesse.
515
But it wēre any persone obstināt,
what so hē wēre, of high or lough estāt,
hym wolde hē snybben sharply for the nōnys.
A bettre preest i trōwe that nōwher nōn ys.
Hē ne waited after pompe ne reverence,
520
ne māked him a spiced conscience;
but Cristes lōgre and hisē Apostles twelve
hē taughte, but first hē folwed it hymselfe.

With hym thēr was a Plowman, was his brōther,
that hadde ylad of dōng ful many a fōther.
530
A trēwe swynkere and a good was hē,
lyvynge in pēgs and parfit charitee.
God lōved hē best with al his hōple herte,
at alle tīymes, thogh him gàmed or smerte,
and thanne his nįghhebōre right as hymselfe.
535
Hē wolde thresshe and thērtō dŷke and delve,
for Cristes sāke, for every poure wight,
withouten hīre, if it lay in his myght.
Hise tithes payede hē ful faire and wēl,
both of his propre swynk and his catel.
540
In a tabard hē rōgd upon a mēre.
Thēr was also a rēve, and a millēre,
a sōmnour, and a pardonēr also,
a maunciple, and mỳself—thēr wēre na mō.

The Millere was a stout carl for the nōnes,
ful byg hē was of brawn and eék of bones;
that proved weel, for over al thēr hē cam,
at wrastlynge hē wolde have alwey the ram.
He was short-shōldred, broōd, a thikke knarre;
ther nas no dore that hē nolde hēve of harre,
or bɾêke it at a rennyng with his hēed.
His bərd as any sowe or fox was rēed,
and thərtō broood, as thogh it were a spāde.
Upon the cop right of his nəse hē hāde
a werte, and thəron stood a toft of hęrys,
rēed as the brūstles of a sowes ėrys;
hise nōsethirles blāke were and wyde.
A swērd and bōkelēr bār hē bŷ his syde.
His mouth as wyd was as a grēt fōrneyes.
He was a janglere and a goliardeys;
and that was mōst of synne and harlotrīes.
Wēl koude hē stēlēn cōrn, and tollen thrīes;
and yet hē hadde a thōmb of gōld pardee.
A whit cōte and a blēw hood wēred hē.
A baggepipe wēl koude hē blōwe and sōwe,
and thēr-with-al hē broghte us out of towne.

A gentil Māunciple was thēr of a temple,
of which achatours myghte tāke exemple,
for tō bē wise in bŷynge of vitaille;
for whether that hē payde, or took bŷ taille,
algāte hē wayted so in his achaat
that hē was ay bifōrn and in good staat.
Now is nat that of God a ful fair grāce,
that swich a lēwed mannēs wit shal pāce
the wisdōm of an hēep of lērned mēn?
Of maistres hadde hē mō than thrīes ten,
that were of lawe expert and cūrious;
of whiche thēr were a duzeyne in that hōus,
worthy to been styward's of rent and land of any lord that is in England,
to make hym lyve by his propre good in honour dettelès, but if he were wood,
or lyve as scàrsly as hym list desire; and able for to helpen al a shire in any caas that myghte falle or happe— and yet this maunciple sette her aller cappe.

The Réve was a sclendre colerik man. His bêrd was shâve as ny as ever hê kan; his heçr was bê his ëres round yshorn; his top was dokked lyk a preest biforn. Ful longe were his legges and ful lêne ylîk a staf—ther was no calf ysène. Wêl koude hê kêpe a gerner and a bynne; ther was noûn auditour koude of him wynne. Wêl wiste hê bê the drôghte and bê the reyn the yêldyng of his seed and of his greyn. His lôrdes sheep, his nêçt, his dayerê, his swîn, his hors, his stôr, and his pultrîe was hqqîly in this rêves gövernyn, and bê his côvenaunt yaf the råkenyng, syn that his lord was twenty yeer of âge; ther koude no 'man brynge hym in arrerâge. Ther nas bailîf, ne hierde, ne oother hyne, that hê ne knêw his sleighte and his côvîne; they were adrad of hym as of the dêgth. His wônyng was ful faire upon an hêgth; with grêne trees yshadwed was his plâce. He koude bettre than his lord purchâce. Ful riche hê was astred pryvelî; his lord wêl koude hê plêsen sübtilly, tó yeve and lêne hym of his owene good,
and have a thank, and yet a gowne and hood. In youthe he lerned hadde a good myster: he was a wel good wrighte, a carpenter. This reve sat upon a ful good stot, that was al pomely grêy, and highte Scot. A long surcote of pers upon he hâde, and by his syde he baar a rusty blâde. Of Northfolk was this reve of which i telle, biside a toun men clepen Baldeswelle. Tukked he was, as is a frêre, aboute; and eve re he rûgd the hyndreste of oure route. A Sômnour was ther with us in that place, that hadde a fyr-rûgd cherubynes face; for sawceflëgm he was, with yen narwe; . . . . . . . . . with scalled browes blâke, and piled bêrd. Of his visâge children were afêrd. Ther nas quyk-silver, lytargê, ne brymstoôn, bôrâs, cerüce, ne oil/e of tartre noon, ne oynement that wolde clense and byte, that hym myghte helpen of the whelkes white, nor of the knobbes sittynge on his chêkes. Wêl lôved he garleek, oynouns, and êek lékes, and for tô dryñken strong wyn, rûgd as blood. Thanne wolde hê spêke, and criê as hê were wood; and whan that hê wêl drûnken hadde the wyn, than wolde hê spêke no wûrd but Latîn. A fêwe termes hadde hê, twô or thrê, that hê had lêrned out of sôm decree; no wûnder is—hê herde it al the day; and êek yê knowen wêl how that a jay kan clepen Watte as wêl as kan the pope. But whô sô koud in oother thyng hym grope,
thanne hadde he spent al his philosophie; 645
ay questio, quid juris wolde he crie.

... 650

And if he foun'd qwher a good felawe,
he wolde tetchen him to have noon awe
in swich caas of the ercedekenes curs,
but if a mannes soule were in his purs;
for in his purs he sholde ypunysshed be;
‘purs is the ercedekenes helle,’ seyde he.
But wel i wyot, he lýed right in dede:
of cursyng oghte ech gilty man him drede;
for curs wold slee, right as assoillyng sāvith;
and also wār him of a significāvit.
In daunger hadde he at his owene ġise
the yōnge girles of the diocese,
and knēw hir cōnseil, and was al hir ređd.
A gerland hadde he set upon his hēgd,
as ġreṭ as it were for an āle-stāke;
a bōkeleer hadde he maad him of a cāke.

With hym thēr was a gentil PARDONER
of Rouncival, his freend and his cōmpeer,
that streight was cōmen fro the court of Rōme.
Ful loude he spōng cōm hider lōve tō mē.
This Sōmnour bār tō hym a stif burdoun;
was nevēre trōmpē of half sō ġreṭ a soun.
This PARDONER hadde ġeer as yelw as wex,
but smōthe it hēng as dooth a strike of flex;
bē ounces hēnge hisē lokkes that he hadde,
and thérwith hē hise shuldres əversprædde;
but thynne it lay bŷ cōlpouns əgn and əgn.
But hood for jolitee ne wēred ḥē nōgn,
for it was trussed up in his walet;
hym thoghte hē rōd al of the nēwe jet;
dischevelee sāve his cappe hē rōd al bāre.
Swiche glārynge yēn hadde hē as an hāre.
A vernycl hadde hē sōwed upon his cappe.
His walet lay bīforn hym in his lappe,
bretful of pardoun cōme from Rōme al hōgt.
A voys hē hadde as smal as hath a gōgt.
Nō bērd hadde hē, ne nēvere sholde hāve;
as smōthe it was as it wēre lāte yshāve.

But of his craft frō Berwyk īntō Wāre,
ne was thēr swich anōther pardonēr.
For in his māle hē hadde a pilwe-beer,
which that hē seyde was oure lādy veyl;
hē seyde hē hadde a gobet of the seyl
[which] that seint Pēter hadde, when hē wente
upon the sēǫ, til Jhēsū Crist hym hente.
Hē hadde a croys of latoun ful of stōnes,
and in a glas hē hadde pigges bōnes.
But with thisē relikes, whanne that hē fōnd
a pōure persoun dwellynge upon lōnd,
upon a day hē gat hym mōre mōneye
than that the persoun gat in mōnthes twēye.
And thus with fēyned flatterīe and jāpes
hē māde the persoun and the pēple his āpes.
But trēwelī tō tellen atte laste,
hē was in chirche a nōble ecclēsiaste:
wēl koud hē rēde a lessoun or a stōrie;
but alderbest hē sōng an osfertōrie;
for wel he wiste, whan that song was songe,
he mooste prèche, and wel asfïle his tonge
to wynne silver as he ful wel koude;
therefore he song the mûrierly and loude.

VIII.

PARDONER'S TALE.

In Flaundres whilôm was a compagniye
of yonge folk, that haunteden folye,
as riot, hasard, stëwes, and tavernes,
wher as, with harpes, lûtes, and gyternes,
they daunce and pleye at dys bothe day and nyght,
and ете also, and drynken over her myght,
thurgh which they doon the dëvel sacrificise
withinne that dëvels temple in cursed wise,
by süperflûytee abomynable;
her òthes been so grete and so damûnable
that it is Grisly for tô heere hem Swere:
oure blessed Lordes body they tôtere;
hem thoghte Jewes rente hym noght ynough;
and ëch of hem at òthers synne lough.

Thise riotoures thre, of whiche ï telle,
longe erst ër prime song of any belle
were set hem in a taverne for tô drynke;
and as they sat, they herde a belle clynke
biforn a cors, was caried tô his gräve;
that _rnn of hem gan callen tô his knäve:
' gö bet,' quod hë, 'and axe redily,
what cors is this that passeth heer forbë;
and looke that thou reporte his náme weel.'
'Sire,' quod this boy, 'it nédeth néver-a-dgel:'
it was mé togold er yë cam heer twô houres.
Hë was pardee an old felawe of youres
and sôdeynlë hë was yslayn tonyght,
fordrônke as 'hë sat on his bench upright;
ther cam a privee theef, men clepen Dëghth,
that in this cöntree al the peple sleëth,
and with his spère hë smöqt his hërt atwo,
and wente his wey withouten wördes mo.
Hë hath a thousand slayn this pestilence.
And maister, er yë cóme in his presence,
më thynketh that it wëre necessàrie
for tò bë wär of swich an adversàrie:
bëth redy for tò meete hym évërmôgre;
thus taughte më mëy dâme—i sey na mógre.'
'Bë seinte Mârie,' seyd this tavernër,
'the child seith sooth, for hë hath slayn this yër
henne over a mile withinne a grët villâge,
bòthe man and wòmman, child, and hïne, and päge;
i trôwe, his habitâcioun bë thëre.
Tò been avïsed grët wysdôm it wëre,
er that hë dide a man a dishonour.'
'Ye, Goddes armes,' quod this riotour,
'is it swich peril with hym for tò meete?
I shal hym sèke bëy wey and éck bë streëte,
i mëke avow tò Goddes dîgne bônes!
Herk'neth felawes, wë thrë been al ònes;
lat êch of us holde up his hënd til oother,
and êch of us bicômen òthers brôther,
and wë wôl sleën this false traytour Dëghth:
hë shal bë slayn which that sô many sleëth,
bëy Goddes dignitee, er it bë nyght!'
Tôgidres han thisë thrë hir tròuthes plight,
tō lyve and dŷen ęch of hem for oother,
as thogh hē wre his ǭwene yborne brōther.
And up they stirte, al drônken in this rāge,
and forth they gōn tōwards that villāge
of which the tavernēr hadde s_pago beford;
and many a grisly gōth thanne hān they sworn,
and Cristes blessed body they tōrente—
‘Đeęth shal bē đęęd, if that they may hym hente.’

Whan they han gōn nat fully half a mile,
right as they wolde han troden over a stile,
an ǭlde man and a poure with hem mette.
This ǭlde man ful mēkely hem grette,
and seyde thus, ‘Now, lůrdes, God yow see!’
The proudest of thisē rītoures three
answerde agayn, ‘What, carl with sory grāce,
whȳ artow al forwrapped sāve thȳ fāce?
whȳ lyvestow so lōnge in so grēt āge?’
This ǭlde man gan looke in his visāge,
and seyde thus, ‘For i ne kan nat sỳnde
a man, thogh that i walked into Ynde,
neither in citee nor in nō villāge,
that wolde chaunge his youthe for mŷn āge;
and thergōfe moot i hān mŷn āge stille,
as lōnge tŷme as it is Goddes wille.
Ne đeęth, allas! ne wōl nat hān mŷ lŷf.
Thus walke i, lŷk a restelŷes kaitŷf;
and on the ground, which is mŷ moodres gāte,
i knokke with mŷ staf ěrlŷ and láte,
and seye, “leewe mooḍer, lōget mē in!
lō, how i vanysshė, flessh, and blood, and skyn!
allas! whan shul mŷ bones been at reste?
moo’dër, with yow i wolde chaunge mŷ cheste,
that in mŷ chaumbre lōnge tŷme hath bē,
ye, for an heyre clowt to wrappe mē!"
But yet tō mē shē wōl nat dō that grāce,
for which ful pāle and welked is mī fāce.
But sīres, tō yow it is nō curteisīe
tō spekēn tō an ǫld man vileynē,
but hē trespasse in wōrd or elles in dēde.
In hōply writ yē may yourself wēl rēde,
"agayns an ǫld man, hōr upon his hēed,
yē sholde arise;" whērsōr ē yēve yow rēed,
ne dooth untō an ǫld man nōn harm now,
na mōre than yē wold men did tō yow
in āgē, if that yē sō lōnge abīde;
and God bē with yow, whērē yē gō or rīde:
i moot gō thider as i hāve tō gō.'
'Nay, ǫlde cherl, bī God, thou shalt nat sō,'
seydē this oother hāsardour anōn,
'thou partest nat sō līghtly, bī Seint Jōhn!'
Thou spak right now of th'īlke traytour Dēth,
that in this cōntree alle ourē freendes sleēth.
Have hēer mī trōuthe, as thou art his espēye,
telle whēr hē is, or thou shalt it abīye,
bī God, and bī the hōply sacrement!
For soothe lyth thou art qōn of his assent,
tō sleēn us yōnge folk, thou false theef!' 'Now sīres,' quod hē, 'if that yow bē sō leef
tō fynde Dēth, turnē up this crōked wey,
for in that grove i lafte hym, bī mī fey,
under a tree, and thēr hē wōle abīde:
nat for 'youre bōost hē wōle him nōthyng hīde.
Sē yē that qōk?—right thēr yē shal hym fynde.
God sāve yow that boghte agayn mankīnde,
and yow amenēl,' thus seydē this ǫlde man.

And ēverich of thiste rioustoures ran,
til hē cam tō that tree, and thēr they founde
of floryns fyn of golde ycoyned rounde
wel-nī an eighte busshele, as hem thoghte.

Nō lenger thanne after Dēgh thay soghte,
but ḍech of hem so glad was of that sīghte,
for that the floryns been so faire and brighte,
that doun they sette hem by this precious hoord.
The wōrste of hem hē spak the firste wōrd:

‘Brēthreñ, quod hē, ‘taak kēpe what ē seye;
mī wit is greçt, thogh that ē bourde and pleye.
This tresor hath Fortūne untō us yiven,
in myrthe and jolitee oure līf tō lyven,
and lightly as it cōmeth so wōl wē spende.
Ey, Goddes precious dignītee! ēho wende
tōday that wē sholde hān so fair a grāce?
but myghte this golde bē caried frō this plāce
hōqm tō mīn hous, or elles untō youres—
for wēl yē wōqt that ēl this golde is oures—
thanne wēre wē in high felicitee.
But trēwelī by daye it may nat bee;
men wolde seyn that wē wēre thēves strōnge,
and for oure owne tresor doon us hōnge.
This tresor mōste ycaried bē by nyghte,
as wīsly and as slīly as it myghte.
Wherføre ē rēde that cut amōng us alle
bē drawe, and lat sē wher the cut wōl falle.
And hē that hath the cut with herte blithe
shal renne tō the town, and that ful swīthe,
and brynge us brēgd and wyn ful privelī.
And twō of us shul kēpen sūtillī
this tresor wēl; and if hē wōl nat tarie,
whan it is nyght we wōl this tresor carie
bē qōn assent wher as us thynket best.’
That gôn of hem the cut broghte in his fest,
and bad hem drawe, and looke wherë it wöl falle;
and it fil on the yõngeste of hem alle;
and forth tòward the toun hē wente anôn.
And al sô soone as that hē was gôn,
that gôn of hem spak thus untō that oother:
'Thou knowest wêl thou art mŷ swôrne brôther;
thŷ profit wöl î telle thee anôn.
Thou wôqst wêl that oure felawe is agôn,
and heer is gôld, and that ful grēt plentee,
that shal departed been among us thê.
But nāthelgês, if î kan shâpe it sô
that it departed wære among us twô,
hadde î nat doon a freendes tōrn tō thee?'
That oother answerde, 'î ngot how that may bē:
hē wôq how that the gôld is with us twēye;
what shal wē doon? what shal wē tō hym seye?'
'Shal it bē cônseil?' seyde the firste shrēwe,
'and î shal tellen thee in wôrdes sêwe,
what wē shal doon, and brynge it wēl aboute.'
'Î graunte,' quod that oother, 'out of doute
that bŷ mŷ trōuthe î shal thee nat biwrēye.'
'Now,' quod the firste, 'thou wôqst wël wē bē twēye,
and twô of us shul strenger bē than gôn.
Looke whan that hē is set, and right anqôn
arŷs, as thogh thou woldest with hym pleye,
and î shal rŷve hym thurgh the sŷdes twēye,
whil that thou strōgelest with hym as in gâme;
and with thŷ daggere looke thou dō the sâmë.
And thanne shal al this gôld departed bē,
mŷ deere freend, bitwixen mē and thee.
Thanne may wē bôthe oure lustes al fulfille,
and pleye at dŷs right at oure qwene wille.'
And thus acorded been this shrewes twēye
tō sleēn the thriddle, as yē han herd mē seye.

This yōngeste, which that wente unto the toun,
ful ofte in herte hē rolleth up and doun
the bēautee of this floryns nēwe and brighte:
‘q, lord,’ quod hē, ‘if sō were that i myghte
have al this tresor tō mŷ self allōne,
ther is nō man that lyveth un-der the trōne
of God that sholde lyve sō mūrye as ūl’

And atte laste the feend, oure enemŷ,
potte in his thoght that hē sholde poysoun beye,
with which hē myghte sleēn hise felawes twēye;
forwhy the feend fōond hem in swich lyvynge
that hē hadde lēve hem tō sorwe brynge;
for this was outrely hīs fulle entente,
tō sleēn hem bothe, and nēvere tō repente.

And forth hē gōoth—nō lenger wolde hē tarie—
into the toun, unto a pothecārie,
and preyde hym that hē hym wolde selle
sōm poysoun, that hē myghte hise rattes quelle;
and ǣck ther was a polcat in his hawe,
that, as hē seyd, hise capouns hadde yslawe,
and sayne hē wolde wrēke hym, if hē myghte,
on vermyn that destroyed hym bŷ nyghte.
The pothecārie an-swerde, ‘and thou shalt hāve
a thynge that, also God mŷ soule sāve,
in al this wōrd ther is nō crēatūre
that ēte or drōnke hath of this confitūre
noght but the mountaunc of a cōrn of whēte,
that hē ne shal his lif anōn forlēte:
yē, stervē hē shal, and that in lasse while
than thou wōlt gōon a paas nat but a mile;

this poysoun is sō strong and violent.’
This cursed man hath in his hand yhent
this poysoun in a box; and sith hē ran
into the nexte strēte, untō a man,
and borwed of hym large botels thrē:
and in the two his poysoun poured hē;
the thriddle hē kepte clēne for his drynke:
for al the nyght hē shoop hym for tō swynke
in caryinge of the gōld out of that plāce.
And whan this riotour, with sory grace,
hadde filled with wīn hīse grēte botels thrē,
tō hīse felawes agayn repaireth hē.

What nēdeth it tō sermone of it mōgre?
for right as they hadde cast his dēght bisōgre,
right sō they hān hym slayn, and that anōn.
And whan that this was doon, thus spak that anōn,
‘Now lat us sitte and drynke, and māke us merie,
and afterward wē wōl his body berie.’
And with that wōrd it happed hym par cās
tō tāke the botel thēr the poysoun was,
and drank, and yaf his felawe drynke also,
for which anōn they storven bothe twō.

But certes i supposē that Avycēn
wrōgt nēverē in nō canoun ne in nō sen
mō wōnder signes of empoisonyng
than hadde thīse wrecches twō ēr her endyng.
Thus ended been thīse homycīdes twō,
and ēk the false empoysonērē also.
GLOSSARY.

The order is alphabetical, except that words beginning with the prefix y- must be sought under their root: ythgued under t, &c. Words that cannot be found under i must be sought under y, and vice versa.

abïen, atone for, suffer for.
achât, purchase.
achâtour, buyer.
acloyen, over-burden.
a-drad, afraid.
affile, file, polish.
affrayen, startle.
al, all; entirely, completely—'over al,' everywhere; 'al bë,' although; 'with alle,' completely; 'al redy' 'all right.
al, awl.
alder-best, best of all.
alder-next, next, nearest of all.
âle-stâke, sign-post.
al-gâte, always.
Algezir, Algæciras (in Spain).
Alisaundre, Alexandria.
also, as; also.
amys, amiss, unfavorably.
anlås, dagger.
an-ôn, anon, at once; forthwith.
ançon-right, at once.
apiked, trimmed.
aray, array; magnificence (in dress and armour).
arîve, landing (of troops).
arreâgé, arcars.
asent, consent, conspiracy.
assoillen, absolve.
assoilling, absolution.
atte=at the—'a. beste,' in the best style.
attempre, tempered, mild.
atyr, ornament; dress.
Austyn, St. Augustine.
autër, altar.
avauncen, advance, profit.
avauntour, boaster.
âventüre, chance, adventure.
avisement, deliberation.
avisen, contemplate, consider.
reflex. consider.
avouterie, adultery.
avow, vow.
a-wrâken, avenge.
axen, ask; call for, provoke.
ay, always.
balled, bald.
barré, ornament.
bawdryk, belt.
beggestère, female beggar.
bê-hoten, promise.
Belmarye, a kingdom in Africa.
Beneit, Benedict.
bente, meadow.
be-setten, beset; apply, employ, utilise.
be-sprengën, sprinkle, bedew.
besy, busy, busy, anxious.
besynesse, fussiness.
bet, better; quickly (?).
be-wrïen, betray.
beyen, buy.
bisetten, see besetten.
bit, pres. indic. 3 sg. of bidden, ask, bid.
blenden, blind.
blent, see blenden.
b-lîve, quickly.
bode, offer; announcement, message.
boldtben, become bold.
bône, request, wish.
bôrës, borax.
GLOSSARY.

börð, table—'the b. biginnen,'
sit at the head of the table;
take the lead.
bôte, remedy.
bourden, jest.
brâcër, arm-guard.
brawn, muscle.
brennen, burn.
bret-ful, brimful.
bryd, young bird; bird.
bukke, he-goat; buck, stag.
burdoun, burden, accompani-
ment (of a song); bass.
burgeys, burgess, citizen.
but, but; unless; but if, un-
less.
burumnesse, obedience, cheer-
fulness.
bylder, builder.

can, knows; can.
careyne, caroyne, carrion,
corpse.
carl, fellow.
carpen, talk.
casten, cast; devise.
catel, property.
ceint, girdle.
celle, small monastery.
cerüce, white lead.
ycháped, inlaid.
charitáble, humane.
charitè, benevolence, kindness.
chaunterie, chantry, endow-
ment (for chanting mass.
chère, countenance, appearance;
state of mind, cheer; behaviour;
friendliness, friendly reception.
cherl, fellow; churl.
chésen, choose.
chevyssauce, loan.
chivalrie, knighthood, life of a
knight, chivalry.
chyvachie, military expedition,
campaign.
clærre, sweet, spiced wine.
clepen, call; name.
clerk, student, scholar.
côlede, coldness, chill.
cölpoun, shred, bundle.
cönseil, advice; deliberation;
secret.
cöntraire, contrary; adversary.
cönye, rabbit.
cop, tip.
cõpe, a priest's cloak.
córäge, heart, spirit, disposi-
tion.
coroune, crown.
corupcioun, destroyer.
coost, condition, nature—' for no 

cost,' in no way, on no account.
couchen, lay; trim, prepare,
finish.
coude, pret. of can.
countour, auditor, controller,
archimetician; abacus, count-
ing-board.
countre-fêten, imitate.
courtepy, short cloak.
couth, known.
couthe, pret. of can.
cöverchéf, cap.
côvine, deceit.
crafty, skilful.
deräsen, break.
cristofre, brooch.
crokke, pot.
crop, tree-top, shoot.
croys, cross.
crul, curly.
cryke, creek.
cunnyng, knowledge, skill.
cüre, care.
cut, lot.
daliaunce, gossip.
dâme, lady, dame—' my d.,' my
mother.
daungër, control, authority
danger.
daungerous, arrogant.
daunten, subdue.
dayes-ŷe, daisy.
default, failure, fault.
degrë, rank; manner.
dël, part, portion; quantity.
delicasŷe, luxury, daintiness.
delyvere, active, agile.
departen, divide, share.
GLOSSARY

depeynten, cover with paintings; paint.
despritous, merciless, unkind.
desport, sport, play, liveliness.
déth, death—' the d.,' the plague.
dévisen, tell, describe.
déynte, valuable; dainty, luxury.
deyes, dais, platform.
digne, dignified, proud, reserved.
dischevelê, with loose hair.
dispence, expenditure.
distraynen, strain, pull.
dóm, judgment, decision.
dón, do; cause, have.
doute, doubt—' out of d.,' without doubt.
drédful, timid; terrible.
dressen, prepare.
ðróghte, drought, dryness.
ðryen, suffer.
ðýken, dig a ditch.
eğge, edge.
êk, êke, also.
elles, else.
embruded, embroidered.
emperice, empress.
en-bosed, foaming at the mouth.
engendrûre, breeding.
enoïnten, anoint.
ensaumple, example.
entente, attention; intention; state of mind, will; opinion.
entre-mês, entremets; interval.
entremètten, refl. meddle with.
entrïken, ensnare, seize.
envéñen, envy; emulate, strive.
envïned, stored, provided with wine.
erce-déken, arch-deacon.
errour, error, uncertainty.
eschaunge, exchange.
êsen, make easy, accommodate.
esple, spy.
espien, espy.
estât, rank, dignity; condition.
estâtîlich, estâtîly, steady, reliable; stately.
êsy, moderate.

éven, level, even; impartial; average.
êver-in-on, continually.
eyre, air.
facound, eloquent.
facounde, eloquence.
fadme, fathom, yard.
faldyng, coarse cloth.
fallen, fall; happen, occur.
fären, travel; prosper—fære, noun hap; 'ével fære,' ill-luck.
farsen, stuff.
êle, many.
fen, chapter.
fer, far.
ferde, see fêren.
fêre, companion; mate.
fêren, go; fare, behave.
fêr-forth, far; 'sq f.,' to such a degree.
ferne, distant.
ferre, farther.
ferrest, farthest, most distant.
fêrther, farther.
fêrthyng, farthing; small portion, speck.
fest, fist, hand.
fetis, well-made, neat, elegant.
fette, pret. of fecchen, fetch.
fîthele, fiddle.
flaume, flame.
fiês, fleece.
fléten, float.
floyten, play the flute.
fôld, people; kind.
fonden, try.
for, for; because; against; to avoid.
for-bêden, forbid.
for-bû, prp. past.
for-drônken, dead drunk.
for-loyne, halt.
formel, female of a bird of prey, mate.
former, prior, earlier.
fôrneys, furnace; fireplace—'f. of a leûd,' fire under a cauldron.
fôr-pampred, over-pampered.
fôrpïned, worn out with tor-
ments, wasted away, worn out.
fors, matter, consequence.
fortūnen, make fortunate.
forward, agreement.
for-wéry, overtired, very weary.
for-whý, because.
fóther, load.
fó-t-hóp, 'foot-hot,' impatient to start.
foul, fowel, bird.
founden, found, build.
frankeleyn, squire.
galentýne, kind of sauce.
galyngále, the root of sweet cyperus.
gámen, play—'him gamed,' he was happy.
gan, see ginnen.
gat-tóthed, with teeth wide apart.
gauden, adorn.
Gaunt, Ghent.
geaunt, giant.
gent, noble, elegant, accomplished.
gerdonynge, rewarding, reward.
gre, gear, instruments, apparatus.
gerfaucoun, gerfalcon.
Gernáde, Granada.
gerne, garner, cornloft.
gilden, golden.
ginnen, begin.
gipser, pouch.
girl, young man or woman.
gíse, manner, way.
gníden, rub.
gobet, piece.
gólá, talk, gabble.
goliardeys, spunger.
gon, go; apply oneself.
góvernaunce, management.
graunten, agree.
grét, grievance.
grét, big—'the gréte,' the substance; 'the Gréte Sg,' the Mediterranean.
grévaunce, injury, annoyance.
grève, grove.
grópen, feel, grope; test.
ground, ground, bottom, foundation, texture.
grýs, (grey) fur.
gýpoun, jacket.
gyterne, guitar.
habergeoun, small coat of mail.
hálen, draw, attract.
half, side—'a(=on) Goddes h.' for God's sake.
halowen, halloo, drive with shouts.
hals, neck.
halwe, saint.
hán=háven, have.
hardily, certainly.
harlotrie, looseness, wantonness; buffoonery.
harm, injury, grievance.
harneisen, equip.
arre, hinge.
hasardour, gamester.
haunt, practice, skill.
haunten, follow after, practise.
hautayn, haughty.
hawe, enclosure, yard.
hei-sugge, hedge-sparrow.
héle, healing, health.
héne, hence.
henten, seize, take hold of; get.
hep, crowd.
herberwe, harbour.
herde, pret. of hérén, 'hear.'
hérde, keeper of cattle, shepherd.
hérse, hearse, decorated bier.
hert, hart.
herte, heart.
hethenesse, heathendom, heathen countries.
hette, see höten.
hette, pret. of hétten, 'heat.'
heyre, adj., of horsehair.
highte, see höten.
hindrest, hindermost, last.
holm, holm-oak.
holt, wood.
honest, becoming, proper.
hostelrye, dwelling; inn.
hostiler, inn-keeper.
hopte, hotly, fervently.
höten, be named.
hound, dog; hound.
hunte, hunter.
hýen, hasten.
hýne, farm-servant.
ilke, same.
infect, invalid.
ine, adv., in.
jangler, talker, babbler.
jäpe, jest, trick.
jet, style, fashion.
justen, joust, tilt, engage in a tournament.
kan, knows; can.
karf, see kerven.
ken = kyn, race, family—'al ken,' mankind, everyone.
köpe, heed.
köpen, keep; keep clear (of pirates), guard; watch.
köpere, keeper, head.
kerven, cut; carve.
knarre, knot in wood; a thick-set man.
knäve, boy, servant.
knetten = knytten, knit, join.
korven, see kerven.
kýd, ptc. pret. of kýthen, make known.
kýnde, nature; kind.
ladde, pret. of lêden 'lead.'
lafte, pret. of lêven 'leave.'
lambyssh, lamb-like.
large, large, wide, long; liberal.
läs, lace, thong.
latoun, kind of brass.
launde, glade, lawn.
laurër, laurel.
lazar, leper.
lêd, cauldron.
lêden, lead; convey, cart.
lênen, lend.
lênger, comp. of lông.
lêren, teach; learn.
lêsen, lose; destroy.
løst (=lust), pleasure.
lest, listen, see listen.
lêten, let; leave.
löttten, hinder; abstain, cease.
Lettgw, Lithuania.
létuárie, electuary.
løven, believe.
løven, leave; omit.
lêgwen, lay(man); ignorant, stupid.
lipsen, lisp.
listen, lest'en, vb. impers.—'him liste,' he desired, it was his humour to . .
lite, little.
litestêtre, dyer.
lôde-menâge, pilotage.
loft, height; upper room—'on lofte, a lofte,' aloft.
lônge, adv., for a long time.
lough, pret. of laughen.
lôve-dayes, love-days, days for settling disputes amicably, without lawsuits.
lûce, pike.
lust, desire; pleasure, enjoyment.
Lyveys, in Armenia.
lykerous, luxurious, lecherous.
lýmêre, greyhound.
lûmytour, mendicant friar.
maister, master, sir.
maister-hunte, chief huntsman.
maistré, mastery, superiority—'for the m.,' preeminently.
mâke, mate.
mâken, make; compose, draw up.
mâkyng, composition, writing poetry.
mâle, trunk, portmanteau.
maunciple, manciple, caterer.
may, can; may.
mêde, reward, wages; bribery.
mênen, complain; mean.
merlioun, merlin.
meshêf, misfortune.
messâgerie, message-carrying, pandering, intrigue.
GLOSSARY

met, pres. indic. 3 sing. of meten.
mète, fit, appropriate.
mëten, dream, pers. and impers.
mette, prt. of mëten, 'dream,' and of mèten, 'meet.'
mèven, move.
mp, adj. plur. more.
mormal, sore, gangrene.
morne-milk, morning-milk.
mortëwes, a kind of soup.
morwe, morning—'by the m.' in the morning.
mòt, signal.
mòt, ought to; must.
mountaunce, amount.
mowe, see may.
muche, big; much.
mùwe, mëwe, coop for fattening fowls.
myssen, miss, fail.
mystèr, craft, profession, trade.
na, no, not.
nam, nas, &c, am not, was not.
nä-the-lègès, nevertheless.
nätüre, nature; kind, race.
ne, not; neither—'ne .. ne,' neither .. nor.
Nembrot, Nimrod.
ng, cattle.
ngver-a-dëgél, not at all.
nûnes—'for the n.,' for the nonce, on the occasion.
Northfolk, Norfolk.
nose-thirles, nostrils.
not = ne wot.
nòte, melody; note.
nòt-hèd, crop-head.
nowthe, now—'as n.,' just now.
nýce, foolish.
nýcëtë, folly.
nyl, will not.
nyghten, be night.
nyghter-tåle, night-time.

office, office, secular appointment.
offrynge, offering in the church on Relic-Sunday.
ofte-sìthes, often.
ûn, one—'after ûn,' of uniform excellence.
ûnes, of one mind; once.
Ore-welle, Orwell, the port of Harwich.
orlégë, clock.
bthér, other.
bthér, or.
outlandissh, foreign
outråge, excess, luxury.
outrèly, utterly, entirely.
ôverest, uppermost, outer.
ôver-shâken, overcome.
ôver-shëten, overshoot; reflex. go too far.
päcenn, pass by, surpass.
Palatye, Palathia, in Asia Minor.
par căs, by chance.
parcel, portion; detail, account.
par-dè, by God.
pardonër, seller of indulgences.
parfit, perfìt, perfect.
parrok, park.
parvëys, portico of St. Paul's (where the lawyers met).
päss, pace—'gôn a p.,' go at a foot-pace.
passen, (sur)pass.
pay(e), satisfaction.
payen, please, content; pay.
paysyble, peaceful.
pers, grey cloth.
persoun, parish priest.
peynen, trouble—'peyned hire,' took trouble, endeavoured.
peynnten, depict, paint.
philosophre, philosopher; alchemist.
pìled, bald; thin-haired.
pilër, pillar, column.
pilwe-bër, pillow-case.
pipere, piper.
pitaunce, allowance of food.
plâte, armour.
ple, plea, argument.
plesaunce, pleasure.
GLOSSARY.

plętyng, pleading.
pleyn, full.
pleyn, playn, flat, smooth, straight.
pleynen, mourn.
pleynly, plainly, clearly.
pleynt, complaint.
plowman, petty farmer.
pço-kok, peacock.
pomely, dappled.
popynjay, parrot.
poraille, poor people.
port, deportment.
post, post, pillar, support.
pothécarie, apothecary.
poudre-marchaunt, flavouring powder, a kind of curry powder.
pounâge, swine's food.
pouynaunt, strong-flavoured, piquant.
present, immediately.
presse, press, hurry; crowd; mould.
pessen, pressen, press.
prest, ready.
préve, proof.
préven, prove.
prikasour, (spurrer), hard rider.
priken, prick; spur; incite.
prikyng, (spurring), hard ridiing.
prîme, prime, nine o'clock.
privé, private, secret.
proces, course of time.
Prüce, Prussia.
prîs, renown, value, price, prize.
pulled, plucked.
purchâs, gains, proceeds (of begging).
purchâcen, gain; buy.
purchâsour, conveyancer.
purchâsyng, conveyancing.
purfilen, embroider, garnish, fur.
purtreyen, draw.
pynchen, pinch, pleat—'p. at,' find fault with.

quellen, kill.
quérne, hand-mill.
quiten, requite, pay.

quod, quoth.
rade, pret. of rêden.
râge, madness, excitement.
râgen, play, romp.
râpe, hurry, haste.
raughte, pret. of rêchen.
recchelgs, careless.
recchen, reck, care.
re-châsen, drive back, head back.
rêchen, reach—'r. after,' help oneself to.
rêd, advice; opinion.
rêde-legs, without counsel, perplexed.
rêden, read; advise.
regalîe, authority.
relayes, fresh supply.
rennen, run.
rennynge, running.
rente, income.
replicacioun, answer.
rêsoun, reason; opinion; discussion, matter of argument.
reste, rest—'whan the sônne was to rest,' when the sun was at rest (had set)—'at his rest,' at home.
rêve, bailiff.
reverence, respect; dignity.
rêule, rule.
reward, regard, consideration.
reysen, make an expedition, inroad.
riál, royal.
right, right, rightly; exactly.
rightful, righteous.
roghte, see rechen.
rôte, a kind of harp.
rouncy, nag.
rounden, assume a round form route, company, troop.
Rûce, Russia.
ruddôk, redbreast.
rûsen, use tricks; escape.
rûven, pierce.
sad, sober; steady, settled
sangwyñ, red cloth.
Satalýe, Attalia, in Asia Minor.
sauf, sàve, save, except.
sautrie, psaltery, a kind of
stringed instrument.
sawce-flégem, having a red,
pimpled face.
scalled, scurvy.
scårsly, sparingly, frugally.
scåthe, harm, pity.
science, knowledge, learning.
scöleyen, go to the University,
study.
scryveyn, scribe.
se, sea—'the Gréte Se,' Medi­
terranean.
secré, secret; discreet.
sek, sìk, sick, ill.
semy-cópe, a monk's cape.
sën, see—'God yow së,' may
God protect you.
sendál, a kind of silk.
sentence, meaning.
servysàble, ready to be of ser­
vice, helpful.
set = setteth.
sèthen, boil, stew.
shåpen, shape, create; devise—
'shoop him,' intended.
shåply, of good shape, shapely;
fiitted, fit.
shèld, shield; (French) crown.
shenden, put to shame; injure,
spoil.
shène, bright, beautiful.
shèter, shooter.
shetten, shut.
shir-rèwe, (shire-reeve), sheriff.
shòf, pret. of shouven.
shòp, pret. of shåpen.
shouven, push.
shrèwe, villain.
shrîven, shrieve, confess.
sikerly, certainly.
sith, afterwards, then, since;
sith that, since.
sittỳngest, most suitable.
skił, discernment, sagacity,
reason, reasoning.
skylfully, reasonably.
sìèn, slay, kill.
slit, prs. of slíden, slide, slip.
smal, narrow; small.
smerte, pain; painful; sharply.
smerthen, hurt, smart—'him
smerte,' he was unhappy.
snéwen, snow; abound.
snybben, rebuke.
söleyyn, solitary, alone.
sött-dèl, somewhat.
sömnour, summoner, apparitor.
söm-tỳme, once.
sùth, true; truth—'for s.' in
truth, certainly.
soun, sound.
sounen, sound; conduce to.
soures, bucks of the third
year.
spåce, space; occasion; course
of life.
spåren, spare; abstain.
spar-hauk, sparrow-hawk.
spillen, destroy.
ståre, starling.
stëmen, shine.
stenten (=stiten), stop.
stërra, star.
sterry, starry.
step, steep, deep; bright.
sterven, die.
steven, voice.
stirten, start.
stot, stallion.
stounde, period of time.
streit, narrow; strict; streite,
tightly.
strike, hank.
strònge, strongly.
stroyer, destroyer.
stùwe, stëwe, fish-pond.
swich, such.
swoête, sweet.
swough, swoon.
swough, sound.
swynk, swynken, labour, toil,
trouble.
swynkerë, labourer.
swỳthe, strongly, very, much;
quickly.
sỳk, sỳken, sigh.
syn, since, because.
GLOSSARY.
tabard, sleeveless coat, smock frock.
table dormaunt, a standing table, table always ready.
taffattä, taffety, a kind of thin silk.
tailâge, impost.
taille — 'tōk by t.,' took on credit.
tapiçœr, upholsterer.
tappestere, female tapster, barmaid.
targe, shield.
tempesten, reflex. trouble oneself.
tercel, tercelet, male eagle or hawk.
terne, period; expression—'in termes hän,' express, define.
termynen, determine, settle.
text, quotation, remark.
than, then.
thên, prosper.
thechen, thenken, think.
ther, there—'th. as,' where.
ther-tō, besides.
ŷthewed—'wel ith.,' of good morals, virtuous.
thing, thing; agreement, document—'for any thing,' at all cost.
tho, then.
thoghte, pret. of thenchen and thenken.
thorp, village.
thridde, third.
thries, thrice.
thrōwe, moment.
thynken, seem.
tollen, take toll, allowance.
top, crown of head.
tō-renden, tear in pieces.
Tramyssēne, kingdom in Africa.
tretyts, well-shaped.
trōmpe, trumpet.
trōuthē, fidelity, truth.
tukked, tucked, coated.
twēye, two.
typet, hood, cowl.
un-committed, not delegated.
ungrōbbed, not dug round.
un-korven, unpruned.
un-kynde, unnatural; unkind.
unnēthe, not easily, scarcely.
untō, unto; until.
ūsāge, āsaunce, habit.
valence, a fine cloth.
vavasour, squire, country gentleman.
venerie, hunting.
vernycle, an ornament; a miniature picture of Christ.
verry, true; truly, very.
vileynye, brutality, anything ungentlemanly.
wāker, watchful, vigilant.
wār, wary, cautious; aware.
wāren, warn.
wastel—'w. brēd,' fine bread.
wāwe, wave.
waxen, grow.
wayten, watch, look out for.
webbe, weaver.
weder, weather; storm.
weide, dyer's rocket (a plant).
wēlk, pret. of walken.
welked, withered.
wēnen, think.
were, weir.
werreyen, wage war.
westen, go west.
what, what; why—'what . . what,' partly . . partly.
whelk, pimple.
whēr = whether.
which, which, of what kind.
whilōm, formerly, once upon a time.
whī, why—'for why,' because.
wisly, certainly.
wissen, direct guide.
with-hglden, keep in retirement.
wō, woe; unhappy.
wōd, mad.
wōd, woad.
wōnder, wonder; wonderfully.
wōne, custom.
wōrth, of high rank, distinguished, respectable.
GLOSSARY.

wot, knows.
wraastlyng, wrestling.
wræker, avenger; punisher.
wympel, covering for the neck.
ywympled, with a neck-cloth.
wynken, wink, doze.

yaf, pret. of yiven.
ñe, eye.
yeddyng, reciting ballads.

yëldhalle, guildhall.
yeman, upper servant, retainer
yerde, rod; sceptre; rule.
yërne, willingly, eagerly.
yet, yet, besides.
yiven, give—'y. of,' value.
yøre, long ago, for a long time;
'yøre agg,' for a long time,
long ago.

ADDITIONS.

ravine, (birds of) prey.
tô-shyveren, break to pieces.
tykelnessë, ticklishness, giddiness.

THE END
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