



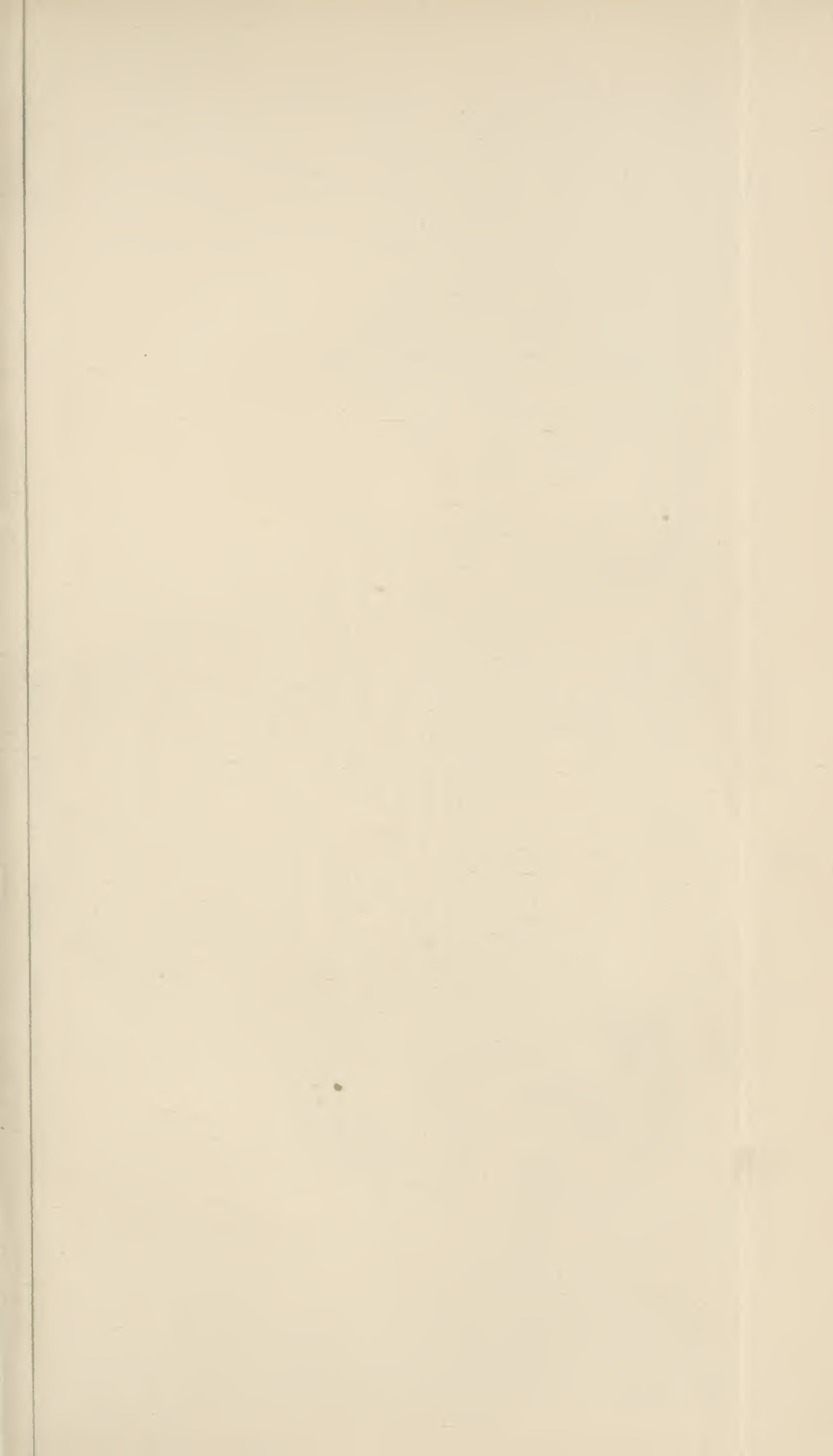
The Scottish Text Society

Lancelot of the Laik

FROM

Cambridge University Library MS.





He of morde and the infire of ground
The wylde out the storme in full
Dunghen that the best of fusth illuminae
Dreystig why in his for there
He hot comf in to the court
And frome he spre his goldme frome sun
Elydne the ground in maid off the fat
The why thing to vallye in thair chryste
That nature hanta out God hinc munde
If outa gylt and floure praxie luffe vnt
and namys thund that flite the luffe
of lufe to shew the kalendur of may
Theob andre pnter of some lopp bre hy
That sefit not one luffe for o bre
Left luffe for that throu shewth of pnter
The old wylde of lobbie of fusth
and frome thair the brith fae luffe
It dont me no luffe for to be
More that lone schuld in to me luffe fusth
That wallye fusth be wallye in my munde
The dedful lobbie vntur al to luffe
Duffe me in lone of pnterful hawmpe fusth
The schewer dave and the hawmpe pnter
quill pnter thair hawmpe pnter al the pnter
Withoutine hope or traufinge of comfort
So be fusth me fusth wale my God
Thine in my fusth luffe al my God
My fusth hart cadning fusth in lobbie
The dedful fusth of lobbie hot duffe
So be the morden out lobbie a fusth
In fusth of the wylde hot pnter
That hawmpe my hart in fusth a fusth hawmpe
Only to me thair wale hawmpe vnter of
hot fusth hawmpe pnter luffe my luffe pnter
The schawp affe and vnter fusth pnter
of duffe lobbie do me noulpunge fusth
Dunghen that of hawmpe remembrit one luffe hot
Hawmpe fusth pnter lobbie al my hawmpe hawmpe

My myrrour have remembred me myrrour
how she myrrour called my myrrour

SCOTTISH TEXT SOCIETY

CAMB. UNIV. LIB. MS. k. k. i. 5. FOL. No. 1^a

X

Lancelot of the Laik

FROM

Cambridge University Library MS.

EDITED BY

MARGARET MURIEL GRAY, M.A.

ASSISTANT TO THE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW



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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	vii
TEXT	I
GLOSSARY	105

LIST OF FACSIMILES.

1. CAMB. UNIV. LIB. MS. k. k. 1. 5. FOL. NO. 1^a . *Frontispiece*
2. CAMB. UNIV. LIB. MS. k. k. 1. 5. FOL. NO. 20^b . *To face p. 1*
3. CAMB. UNIV. LIB. MS. k. k. 1. 5. FOL. NO. 40^a . " 96

ERRATA.

- L. 103. No stop after *so*.
- L. 137. Comma after *vrit* instead of full stop.
- L. 518. *wordly* should be *worldly*.
- L. 647. *fall* should be *fall*.
- L. 2068. *lift* should be *lift*.

INTRODUCTION.

THE present text, known as the 'Lancelot of the Laik, is an incomplete poem of over 3000 lines, preserved in a single MS. in the Cambridge University Library. The author is unknown, the exact date conjectural. The source of the poem is the French prose romance of 'Lancelot du Lac,' and the translation furnishes evidence that it is the work of a Scottish writer with an ambition to write English. The poem has been edited twice, first in 1839, by Joseph Stevenson for the Maitland Club, and again in 1865, by Professor Skeat for the E. E. T. Society. The present edition is based on a new transcript from the MS., and the editor has refrained from accepting anything from previous editions until confirmed by independent authorities or individual research.¹

THE MS.

The text is one of the pieces contained in MS. KK. I. 5. in the Cambridge University Library. The pieces in the volume are of various dates, and in subject have

¹ The work was originally undertaken, and in part carried out, for a Carnegie Research Scholarship.

no connection with one another, varying from extracts from the laws of King David of Scotland to a portion of Sir Philip Sidney's 'Arcadia.' The various pieces have been separated, and the 'Lancelot' is now KK. 1. 5. No. 7. At the beginning of the original complete volume is a list of contents, in a hand of the seventeenth century probably, and in it the poem is thus given, "No. 7 an English poem"; nowhere in the MS. is the title 'Lancelot of the Laik' applied to the text.

Several of the pieces in the MS. are in the same hand as the 'Lancelot'; these have been edited for the E. E. T. Society by J. R. Lumby, in 1870.

These are, in order:—

A prose piece without title usually known as the 'Craft of Deyng.' It begins—

"Sen the pasage of this vrechit warlde . . ."

and ends—

. . . "God grant us al to do for his mekill mercy. Amen.
explicit &c."

Next a number of short poems, one after another, without any definite separation.

First the short piece, beginning—

"Do way fore that may not awaitzhe."

Then a version of Chaucer's ballad, beginning—

"Fle fra the pres . . ."

ending—

"And treuthe the sall delivyr that is no dreid."

Then two verses of the "Ballad of Good Counsel,"
beginning—

"Sen trew vertew encreseð dignytee,"

ending—

"For ilk ynch he wyll the quyt a spane."

Then lines beginning—

"Sen in waist natur na thinge mais,"

ending—

"That may excuð hyme fra lawbor."

All these are without any ascription of authorship of
any kind.

Then a prose piece beginning—

"[K]yng Salomone sais . . ."

ending—

. . . "and then sal al thys warld temperall take end.

Expliciunt dicta Salomonis.
per manum V. de F. &c."

Then the moral poems.

The prologue to the first begins—

"[M]y dere sone wnderstande this buk."

The poem begins—

"Forethi my suet sone procur grace."

In the epilogue occurs the title—

"THE QUHILK IS RATIS RAVING CALD."

The next poem begins—

"Sen vysmen that before our dawis,"

ends—

"Explicit the foly of fulys and the thewis of wysmen."

Next—

“And syne here efter folowis ye Counsail and teiching at the wyð man gaif his sone.

[Q]whay takes plesans in 3outhage,”

ends—

“Al this the wysman taught his sone

And bad hyme at it suld be done.

explicit.”

The next poem is the only one which has a title, it is headed,

“THE THEWIS OF GUDWOMEN.”

And begins—

“The gud wyf shawis fore best scho can

Qubilkes ar the thewis of gud women,”

ends—

“Amen, amen fore cherytee.

Explicit liber moralis secundum dicta

antiquorum patrum &c. &c. Amen.”

Then follows a prose piece—

“[H]er begynniss the vertewis of the með . . .”

ends—

. . . “or vthir ways haldin thar fra.”

Then follows a page with some careless scribblings of the scribe, and next the ‘Lancelot,’ without a title. It is written on 42 leaves, and breaks off at the foot of the 42nd, the rest of the leaves being missing, probably amounting to a third of the whole. This is the end of the writing of the scribe.

Next in the MS. follows a page covered with desultory scribblings, one of which is a verse of a lyric, beginning—

“My luf mornis for me for me, my luf mornis for me,”

and on the next page follows an extract from the laws of David of Scotland.

The handwriting of V. de F. is close and fairly clear, and of that type common in Scottish MSS. of the latter part of the fifteenth and the early part of the sixteenth century. It closely resembles the writing of such MSS. as that which contains Henry's 'Wallace' and the 'Bruce,' and the MS. of Douglas's translation of the 'Æneid' in Trinity College Library, Cambridge, also the writing of the 'Quare of Jelusy,' in the same volume as the 'Kingis Quair' in the Bodleian. The illumination is very poor and only partially completed, the spaces for illuminated letters being left vacant or having a small letter inserted as a guide. Such missing letters are marked in the printed text by square brackets. The contractions used are those common to all MSS. of a similar type (cp. the list of contractions given by Professor Skeat in his Introduction of the 'Kingis Quair,' S. T. S.). It should be noted, however, that the scribe makes no distinction between the symbol ß which stands for *s*, *ss*, or even *sis*, and the symbol which stands for *ser* as in *observans* (see facsimile of first page) and *service*. This same carelessness is seen in the writing of the 'Kingis Quair' and the 'Quare of Jelusy.' A similar carelessness is observable in the formation of *s* (long) and *f*, which are frequently only to be distinguished by the context; this is especially noticeable before *o* and *a*, and becomes of importance in discussing the linguistic peculiarities. The small *i* placed above the line (to signify that *i*+another letter must be inserted) is sometimes so formed as to resemble the contraction for *er*. Of the other letters *c* and *t* cause some difficulty—*e.g.*, it is impossible to decide whether

wichsaif or *withsaif* is the spelling of the scribe, while *o* and *a* and *o* and *e* occasionally cause confusion. In the MS. all the lines do not begin with capitals, but there does not seem to be any system in their employment, save perhaps that when *and* begins a line the letter is usually small.

In the printed text letters in italics represent expanded contractions; words or letters in square brackets are not in the MS. and are supplied by the editor, as is also the punctuation (including hyphens in divided words).

This scribe, V. de F., can be cleared of all suspicion of tampering with the language of his original by comparing the 'Lancelot' with the other pieces in his hand. In them he has preserved intact the unmodified Scottish, and none of the peculiarities of this text are reproduced. In the somewhat hazy composition and grammar of the poem, especially of the prologue, the scribe seems to have been at a loss as to *his* and *hir*, and at least twice seems to have been misled, and corrected the mistake himself; there still seems to remain at least one mistake of the same kind in the prologue uncorrected, in l. 98. While in line 2396 if '*his* thoct' be read instead of '*hir* thoct' the meaning is improved, and it becomes possible to read *fayndit* as the ordinary Northern word with the meaning "proved," or "tried to find out," instead of as a curious form of "feigned."

SOURCE.

The poem is a translation of a portion of the great French prose romance of 'Lancelot du Lac,' a portion consisting of from five to seven chapters of the printed versions, according to the edition. It is the only version in our language which treats of the first section of the 'Lancelot,' of which Malory seems to have had no knowledge, he ignores it so completely. The translation deals with the wars between Arthur and Galiot, Lancelot's prowess therein, and his devotion to Guinevere. It should be remarked, however, that these wars between Arthur and Galiot, although belonging to the early part of the prose 'Lancelot,' are really a late addition to the Lancelot story, and unknown to it in the original verse form. The poem is only a part; had the whole of it been preserved it would probably have concluded with the peace between Arthur and Galiot and the famous interview between Lancelot and the Queen, of which Professor W. P. Ker says "there is nothing in Malory corresponding to the truth and dramatic sincerity of the first interview between Lancelot and the Queen." Perhaps it is fortunate that time has not preserved this writer's version, which could hardly have been anything but a travesty of the original scene. The story he has chosen hinges on Galiot's demand for homage and tribute from Arthur, and Arthur's rejection of the demand; and it may be noted that this demand for homage is a leading motive in all Scottish Arthurian poems, cp. the 'Morte Arthure,' 'Gawayne and Golagros,' and the 'Auntys of Arthur,' and suggests the possibility that we have here not a coincidence, but an

evidence of how far the ever present fear of the English demands for homage had become an obsession in the Scottish national mind. The most spirited lines in the poem are those in which Arthur rejects Galiot's demands—

“Shir knycht, your lorde wondir hie pretendis,
 When he to me sic salutatioune sendis ;
 For I as yit, in tymys that ar gone,
 Held neuer lond excep of god alone,
 Nore neuer thinkith til ertly lord to yef
 Trybut nor rent, als long as I may lef.”

These represent the French “biax sire je ne ting onques terre de nului fors de Dieu ne ja chestui ne la tendrai.”

Amongst the versions of the French prose Lancelot which I have been able to examine, I have not found one which can be confidently accepted as the exact version from which the poem is translated. Of course it is difficult to judge when the translator expands his original as this one does, in the wise man's advice to King Arthur, in the descriptions of fighting, and in the defiant speeches of his heroes (for a similar expansion of fighting scenes, cp. Douglas in his translation of the ‘Æneid’). The descriptions of nature at the beginning of the different books are also original; they bear a strong resemblance to the similar descriptions at the beginning of the books of Henry's ‘Wallace,’ from which they were probably imitated. There are, however, certain definite points which can be compared. The versions I have examined are (1) the text edited by Dr Sommer from British Museum MSS. (chiefly Add. MS. 10293, but giving variations from Lansdowne 755, Royal 19, C XIII; Royal 19, B VII, and Royal 20, D III); (2) and (3) two editions in the Bodleian, printed in 1488 at

Rouen (Lostel de Gaillard); (4) an edition printed at Paris in 1533 (Phelippe le Noir); and (5) portions of the 1513 edition from which Professor Skeat prints extracts in his edition for the E. E. T. Society. Of these, Dr Sommer's text appears to be the nearest to the one used by the translator. Thus, in the interpretation of Arthur's dream, the translator says he shall receive succour through "the *watrye* lyon," a translation of the "lyons *iauaiges*" of this version, and of two of the versions collated with it. On the other hand, all four early printed texts mentioned above have "lyon *sauuaige*." Again, all the early printed texts have, in Galiot's message to Arthur, the statement that "il a conquis 30 reaumes mais il ne volt corunez devant ceo quil ait conquis le reume de logres,"—this is not in the Add. text, nor is it in the Scottish translation. From a variety of data of this kind I have accepted Dr Sommer's text as the nearest to the translation, and have used it as a basis of comparison in the glossary. There are points which prove that it was not the actual source—*e.g.*, the Scottish translator does not seem to invent and insert names where his original had none, yet he gives the name of Arthur's wise adviser as Amytans, and there is no name in any of the French texts given above, which simply say "lors vint en lost du rois artus un homme de grant sauoir" (1488), or "un preudons plein de grant sauoir" (Add.); but in 'Lestoire de Merlin' this man is called Nascien, and it seems probable that in some of the many Lancelot MSS. the name Amytans may occur. On the other hand, there are points in the language of the Scottish translation which seem to show a connection with the

early printed versions, and this complicates the discussion of the language used by the translator and the degree of French influence. Thus at that point where the lady of Melyhalt and her cousin go to look at Lancelot in prison, the translator uses the word *incontinent*=immediately (l. 1214), but in the Add. (Dr Sommer's) text the word is *maintenant*, whereas the printed 1533 text gives *incontinent*, and probably the translator's source had this word also.

A similar resemblance is shown in the description of Galiot's host; the Scottish writer says (l. 731)—

“For of fute folk he had a gret powere
That bowis bur, and vther *Instrumentis*,
And with them lede ther palzonis and ther tentis,
With mony o strong chariot and cher
With yrne qwhelis and barris long & sqwar.”

Dr Sommer's text has “avoient aportes rois de fer qui venoient en cars et en caretes”; but the 1488 edition supplies the translator with the word *instrumentis*, “avoient amene des *instruments* de fer quilz menoient en chars et en charettes.”

Again, when Lancelot mounts Galiot's horse and returns to the fight, the poem runs (l. 3422)—

“And *als so fresch* unto the feld is gon
As at no strokis he that day had ben,”

the Sommer text has “revient a la melle autresi com sil neust hui mais colp feru,” the 1513 has no equivalent, but the 1488 editions agree with the translation in using the phrase *aussi frays*.

This word test can, of course, be used to confirm the connection between the translation and the Sommer text

—thus in l. 2100 we have in the translation *catifis* and in the Sommer text “proier pour les *chaitis*,” while the 1533 has “proier pour tous poures *pecheurs*.” I have dwelt on this point somewhat at length because it is of importance in discussing the French influence on the language of the writer, which, as will be shown later, seems to have been very moderate, consisting rather in suggesting the use of the French words of his source, if they were already adopted in his own tongue, than in introducing new words.

Of changes which the translator makes in familiarising the names there are not many, but the Aguisel or Aguisans of the original becomes Angus; at another point he says, obviously referring to Gawayne (l. 2692)—

“Of galowa the knyght goith to the erde,”

when there is no equivalent in his original, but in the oldest English and Scottish Gawayne legends that knight is always connected with Galloway. So, too, King Ban of Benoic, father of Lancelot, becomes Bane of Albanake, thus acquiring more interest by adopting the old name for Scotland, Albane. It is curious to note that “King Albanact” is a ruler in some of the legendary tales of Britain.

One curious little point calls for notice. In the MS., in describing the arrangement of the respective “batellis” of Arthur and Galiot, the scribe, in each case, when he comes to the fifth division, writes *first* instead, but in the 1533 edition, the commander of Arthur’s first division is Yvain, and the commander of the 5th, a different Yvain, similarly Galiot’s 1st and 5th commander have practically the same name. It may be a mere coincidence.

AUTHORSHIP AND LITERARY PARALLELS.

The author of the poem is unknown. The poem shows resemblances on the one hand to the type of poetry of the 'Kingis Quair' and on the other to that of Douglas and Dunbar. But the closest resemblance is shown to the poem known as the 'Quare of Jelusy,' which is found in same MS. as the 'Kingis Quair,' and Professor Skeat's conclusion (as contained in his article in 'The Scottish Historical Review,' October 1910) that they are the work of the same writer seems quite justified. To his arguments, based largely on parallel passages, I would add some evidence based on two marked idiosyncrasies of style or language which are capable of being shown in tabular form. One of these is the constant use of *which that* as the relative, the other, the continual recurrence of *into* = in. These features can be used at the same time as arguments against Professor Lawson's theory that the 'Kingis Quair' is also by the same writer, and since making these tests I find that Professor Skeat has used that of the use of "into" for this purpose in his recent revised edition of the 'Kingis Quair' for the Scottish Text Society.

The method of the test was to take 600 lines at random from the various poets selected, and find how often, if at all, these words were present. The No. 600 was chosen because the shortest of the poems, the 'Quare of Jelusy,' is 607 lines in length. But the whole of the 'Kingis Quair' was used (1379 lines), therefore in the other cases the number of times the word occurs would have to be doubled to get the just proportions.

	No. of lines tested.	No. of times "which that" occurs.	No. of times "into" = in.
<i>Lancelot of the Laik</i> (3 tests)	{ 600	9	29
	{ 600	6	28
	{ 600	14	29
<i>Quare of Jelusy</i>	607	12	22
<i>Kingis Quair</i> (S. T. S.)	1379	0	0
<i>Court of Love</i> (E. E. T. S.)	600	1	0
Barbour (S. T. S.)	{ 600	0	1
	{ 600	0	6
Wyntoun, Cott. MS.	600	0	5
Henryson (S. T. S.)	600	0	3
Stewart (Cron. Scot.)	600	0	19
Dunbar (S. T. S.)	600	0	10
Douglas	600	0	8
Lyndesay	600	0	20
Henry (S. T. S.)	{ 600	0	10
	{ 600	0	10

These statistics seem fairly strong proof of the relation between the 'Quare of Jelusy' and the 'Lancelot of the Laik,' and of the absence of relationship between these poems and the 'Kingis Quair.' They show the rarity of *which that* as a relative, and they suggest that the excessive use of *into* was prominent in the later poets.

In the poem itself there is only one passage which appears to make a reference to the author, if we except the Prologue, which must be largely discounted as a poetic commonplace of the age. The passage occurs at l. 1435—

"The maner wich quho lykith for to here
 He may It fynd In to the holl romans,
 Off confessione o pasing cercumstans.
 I can It not, I am no confessour,
 My wyt haith ewil consat of that labour,
 Quharof I wot I aucht repent me sore."

A passage which, combined with the Prologue, seems

to suggest a layman rather than an ecclesiastic as the author.

The 'Quare of Jelusy' has a colophon which was read by David Laing as "Quod auchen . . ." and the poem has hence been attributed to the Affleck or Auchenleck of Dunbar's "Lament for the Makaris." It should be said, however, that all that is decipherable now is the "Au." In 'The Scottish Historical Review,' April 1911, I put forward the claims of Vidas Achinlek, a Scotsman resident in France, Steward in the household of Louis XII., as the author of these poems, as against James Auchenleck, Chantor of Dornoch, but both claims are purely speculative. In the same article I endeavoured to bring out the extraordinary resemblance which exists between some of the passages in the 'Lancelot' and the 'Quare of Jelusy' and some of Dunbar's poems.

Here, perhaps, attention should be called to the passage at the end of the Prologue in praise of an unnamed poet and his "fresch enditing of his laiting toung," which, it may be surmised, was in honour of Virgil, a passage which should be compared with Douglas's panegyric on "mast reverend Virgill of Latyne poetis prince" and his "dulce ornate fresch endite."

LINGUISTIC CHARACTERISTICS.

The poem, although it possesses little literary value, has a considerable share of linguistic interest. It shows, as has been pointed out, an attempt on the part of a Middle Scots writer to adopt English, and the attempt

is as superficial and as little convincing in the domain of the written language as that of some of his latter day fellow-countrymen in the domain of the spoken tongue, and might well be compared with it. Yet it may be noticed that it apparently deceived the owner of the MS., for in the list of contents already referred to, whereas the 'Lancelot' is described as "an English poem," one of the other Scottish pieces is distinguished as 'Dicta Salomonis in Scotch.'

The linguistic features readily fall under three heads—
 (1) English Imitations, (2) Middle Scots Characteristics,
 (3) French Influence.

(1) *English Imitation.*

The verbs display this feature best. The writer mixes English and Scottish inflections, but he has not mastered the former, so that he presents usages unknown in either tongue. The Southern termination *ith* seems to have had a peculiar attraction for him, and he uses it not only in its normal position in the 3rd pers. sing. indic., but in the 2nd pers. sing. of the indicative, in the imperative singular, and most fantastic of all, in the past tense and past participle—cp. "yhow tempith hyme," l. 95; "ne blamyth her," l. 102; "thei ar distroyth," l. 1369. Mingled with these the proper Scottish terminations *is* and *it* occur. It would almost seem as if sometimes this *ith* were the work of the scribe, but it cannot have been introduced by the scribe of this MS., for there is no trace of the peculiarity in the other pieces in the same hand. The confusion in the use of this termination in the 2nd sing. indic. and sing. imper. is a feature which

it shares with the 'Quare of Jelusy' alone of Middle Scottish productions, this particular misconception of English grammar being absent in the 'Kingis Quair,' save for *one* instance of the imperative singular in *ith* in stanza 102, a point which should be noted. As regards its use in past tense and past ppl., this text is unique, save for one instance in the 'Quare of Jelusy,' and the mannerism is so meaningless and arbitrary, it may be a mere orthographic fad of an intermediate scribe.

The other imitations of Southern usage can, in almost every case, be paralleled in Douglas, but his immense vocabulary of unusual Northern words tends to obscure his Southernism. Thus the extraordinarily confused use of *yne, ine, yng, ing*, indifferently for the English infin. in *en*, the pl. of the pres. indic. in *en*, and the pres. part. in *ing*, and for the Northern past ppl. in *en*, pres. ppl. in *and*, and pres. part. or gerund in *ing* or *yng*, is duplicated in Douglas—cp. L. of L., *hating*, inf., 134, *longyne*, pres. ppl., 433, *thei speking*, 1268, &c., and Douglas, *may demyng, thai maiking*, &c.

Similarly the occurrence of the prefix *I* or *y* with the past participle in 'Lancelot of the Laik,' both in the normal Southern form *y-grave*, l. 1798, and in the nondescript hybrid form *Iclosit*, l. 53, can be compared with Douglas, *y-clois, y-bound*.

The mingling of Northern and Southern forms of words is a feature of the text; thus we have the Southern forms *o, one, atonis, boith, holl, know, so, tone, wot*, with the Northern, *a, ane, atanis, baith, haill, knaw, sa, tane, wat*; the Southern *shal, shuld, sche, not*, with the Northern *sal, suld, scho, nocht*. These double forms are all found

in Douglas save *shal* and *shuld*, which he does not seem to have employed. *Tone* as past ppl. of take is an artificial form; it is found in the 'Lancelot' and the 'Quare of Jelusy' rhyming with *dispone*; Douglas rhymes it with *anone*, but he also rhymes the latter type of word with the *-one* of Latin or French origin—cp. *none, one, expone*. In Stewart's 'Chronicle of Scotland' (1535), *tone* rhymes with *lyonne*. It seems to be a somewhat late form invented by Scottish writers. *Boith* is also artificial, the *i* being Northern and the *o* Southern.

The poem also offers the double forms—*sic, streke, elyk, ryk, besek*, and *sich, stretch, elyche, rych, beseich*.

The correct Scottish *quh* is varied with *qwh, qu, wh, w*, while the added *i*, so characteristic of Middle Scotch, is sometimes present, sometimes absent—cp. *hall* and *haill, nose* and *nois, glore* and *gloire, dred* and *dreid*, and frequently in the rhyming couplet one word has the *i* and the other has not.

In the poem occur two words or phrases which have a peculiarly Chaucerian suggestion, *althirbest* and *atte last*, but they are both found in the poem 'Ratis Raving' in the same MS.—*altherbest*, Bk. II. l. 471 (E. E. T. S.), *atte last*, Bk. II. l. 469; and *altherbest* is more correctly employed, "thai wen to stand *altherbest*," than in the 'Lancelot,' which has *althirbest of two*, yet 'Ratis Raving' is quite free from any intentional imitation of English.

(2) *Scottish or Northern Characteristics.*

It may be well to note a few of the orthographic characteristics which are found, and of which the following are examples:—

The *a* for *e* in certain words—*e.g.*, *rameid*, *raquer*, *raleif*.

The intrusive *l*—*e.g.*, *walkin* = *waken*, *chalmer*.

Liquid *l* represented by *lz*—*e.g.*, *failzeis*, *dispolzeith*, *palzonis*.

n for *ng* before *th*—*e.g.*, *strenth*.

sc for *sh*—*srikth* = *schrieketh*.

t lost after *c* and *p*—*e.g.*, *respek*, *effec*, *correk*, *excep*, *empit*, *tempith*.

i interchanged with *u*—*e.g.*, *resput* = *respite*, *by thus* = *by this*.

Intrusive *t* after *th* or *ch*—*troutht* = *truth*, *wight* = *with*.

The disappearance in pronunciation of *v* between two vowels—*e.g.*, *approuit* rhymed with *alowit*, l. 1753.

The curious rhyme *destitute* and *destitute* rhymed with *conclude* seems to be due to a false analogy with *dude* = *do it*, or *landis* rhymed with *inhabitantis*. It occurs in both the 'Lancelot' and the 'Quare of Jelusy.'

The metathesis of *r*—*gyrfs*, *stornng*, *derdful*, *virsl yng*.

Of word forms the following are characteristic of Middle Scots:—

Verbs formed from the Latin infinitive rather than the ppl.—*e.g.*, *dispone*, *proponit*, *possede*, *promyt*, *suppone*.

Uninflected past ppl.—*e.g.*, *exaltate*, *ordinat*, *preordynat*, *repute*.

The short adjectival form—*e.g.*, *contrare, etern, solitare*; also noun forms, *glore, illumynare*.

Curtailed forms—*e.g.*, *noyt, semblit*; and expanded forms—*e.g.*, *deden, empleſs*.

Conjunctions formed from verbs — *e.g.*, *suppos, set*, possibly *gif*.

Perhaps the choice of relative pronouns made by the writer is the most curious feature next to his fantastic verbal inflections. Thus it has already been shown that his favourite form is the double *which that*; but not infrequently *at* (=that) occurs, which is an old form, thus further reducing the number of times of occurrence of the [usual Southern *that* or Middle Scots *quhilk*. This use of *at*, however, is a feature of Douglas, and there are not a few points in which their language coincides. The M.Sc. *quhilkis* does not occur at all, although it is found occasionally in earlier works—*e.g.*, in Wyntoun's 'Chronicle' and in 'Ratis Raving.' Further, the 'Lancelot' differs from the usage of later Middle Scots in not adopting *ane* as the universal demonstrative before consonants as well as vowels. It seems only to be used three times before a consonant, and then in the Southern form "one"—*in one plane*, 682; *one knychtly sorte*, 813; *one new assemblee*, 929. It is, however, misleading to suggest that this usage was universal in a work even of the date of Douglas's translation of the 'Æneid,' for *a* seems as common as *ane* (in the text of Small's edition).

E.g.—

"And hest *a* terrabill or *a* feirfull sound."

"Than he begouth assay him wyth *a* trayn
And with *a* sle dissayt thus first he said."

Characteristic of M.Sc. grammar and syntax is the extended use of the auxiliary verb *do*. *E.g.*—

“My wo haith *done* my livis gost expell” (l. 78);

“Thinking to *do* his ladice love to have” (l. 3169);

done expell = expelled; *to do to have* = to have.

So also the use of *nor* = but, or that not—

“Sche had no knycht, sche had no damyseill,
Nor thei richly rewardit war and well” (l. 2349).

also ll. 2228, 3176, &c.

The use of the adjectival phrase *of ane* = of all—

“As first that galyot conquerit *of one*” (l. 1546).

Another usage which seems peculiarly Scottish, but which I have not seen mentioned, is *or than* = or. In the N.E.D. the phrase *or than* = ere than, before, is found, but this usage is not given. It occurs frequently in Douglas, when “before” or “rather than” cannot be the meaning, as well as in the ‘Lancelot.’ Cp. ‘Lancelot’—

“But causith of sum maner influens,
Emprif of thocht ore superfleuytee,
Or than sum othir casualitytee” (l. 391);

or—

“Thinking to do his ladice love to have,
Or than his deth befor hir to resave” (l. 3169);

or Douglas—

“Or the soft violet that dois freschlie schyne
Or than the purpoure flour hait jacyntyne”
(Æn., Bk. XI. ch. ii.),

where the context makes the meaning clear. *Than* is

probably = "then," not "than." The same usage occurs in Wyntoun.

Other curious idiomatic usages are the use of *as* in such a sentence as the following—

"Besiching hyme that of his Ignorance
That knew hyme nat, *as* takith no grewance" (l. 1074).

And again l. 1956. And the use of "them" before both, as well as the noun or pronoun in the nominative. *E.g.*—

"So *them thei boith*" (l. 1551, and also l. 1214).

In one of these passages Professor Skeat in his edition treats *them* as a scribal error and makes it *then*, but *than* is the usual form of *then*, and *them both* does not seem impossible as a Scottish idiom. The Scottish use of *has* and *was* with a plural subject also occurs—*e.g.*, *thei has* (l. 495), *strokis was* (l. 1193). *Thir multitude* (l. 803) is also Northern.

Amongst the characteristically M.Sc. words are *affere* (v. and sb.), *ameyne*, *anarmit*, *anerding*, *conten* (bear oneself), *degest*, *devith*, *feill*, *fek*, *ferleit*, *found* (went towards), *fruschit*, *gentrice*, *humyll*, *laif*, *melle*, *mon*, *newis* (fists), *ourfret*, *pens* (think), *quhy* (sb. *cause*, reason), *recidens* (delay), *rowm* (v. clear, empty), *sege* (seat), *sort* (a company), *socht* (went, or attacked), *stek* (shut), *supprisit* (overwhelmed) *wy*, *speciall* (intimate).

There are certain rare words in the text which call for notice. The word *demand*, used in the sense of "demur, opposition," is one of these. It is used several times in the text (see Glossary), and the only other writer who uses it frequently is Stewart in his 'Croniclis of Scot-

land' (1535). These are the only two writers from whom quotations illustrating the use of the word are given in the N.E.D. But the word occurs at least once in Douglas with this meaning (although it is not glossed in Small's edition), in 'Palice of Honour,' Part II., stanza 45—

"There was na stopping, lang *demand*, nor pleid."

And this line also suggests that it is quite unnecessary to seek a derivation of the word in the Fr. "desmander," to countermand, for it seems a natural development of the ordinary sense of "demand"; thus "pleid," which is used along with it in this line, occurs frequently, in Douglas in the phrase "but pleid," which has a similar meaning, "without demur." In the French sources examined "desmander" never occurs, and the parallel Fr. passages to those in which it occurs in the 'Lancelot' offer no support to that derivation.

Crownell and *vpwarpith* are two rare words used by Douglas in a very similar context, but not found in other writers. Thus in the Prologue to the twelfth book of the 'Æneid,' Douglas says Aurora *vpwarpis* the "portes crystallyne" of dawn, and in the 'Lancelot' the "bricht sone" *vpwarpith* the "crystoll teris" from the flowers. In the same Prologue of Douglas occurs the line—

"The dasy dyd on breid hir *crownell* smail";

in the 'Lancelot' the same flower

"Wnclosing gane the *crownell* for the day."

Another word in the use of which the practice of this author seems to agree with that of Douglas is *aderw*,

which the latter uses regularly in the sense of "away" or even "gone." Cp.—

"We wening thaim hame passit and *adew*"

(Æn., Bk. II. ch. i. l. 22),

and 'Lancelot'—

"Your worldly honore nedis most *adew*" (l. 518).

A word which is capable of two interpretations is *ward*, in l. 3182—

"For in the *ward* it was the maner tho

That non o knycht shuld be the brydill tak,"

which might be either *ward*=host, troop, as used by Douglas—cp.,

"Upon this wyß the ostis and *wardis* hail

On ather part returnyt in battaill"

(Æn., Bk. XII. ch. ix. l. 109),

or simply *ward*.

There are words, too, uncommon in the particular sense or form they possess, which are found also in the works of Douglas—*e.g.*, *translat*=take away, *liging* (lying), *mor attour* (Douglas, mair attour), *recounterit*, *careldis* (Douglas, carellis), for the *d*, cp. *cammamyld* for *camomile* in Douglas. The use of *quhy* as a substantive = cause, reason (remarked on by Professor Lawson in his book on the 'Kingis Quair'), seems to have been not uncommon in Middle Scots; besides occurring in 'Kingis Quair,' 'Quare of Jelusy,' and 'Lancelot,' it occurs in Douglas—

"Syne zeild the to thy fa but ony *quhy*"

(Æn., Bk. XI., Prol., stanza 18),

and somewhat later in the poems of Alexander Scott, and very frequently in Stewart's 'Croniclis of Scotland.'

It is easy, too, to duplicate from Douglas some of the out-of-the-way phrases of the text: *e.g.*—

“Tak . . . apone them self the bak” (l. 1491).

“Tak the bak and flee” (*Æn.*, Bk. XI., Prol., stanza 18).

“Rowmyth all the compas hyme about” (l. 3388).

“Rowmyt was the feild” (*Æn.*, Bk. XII. ch. xii. l. 38).

“As was the maner tho” (l. 2219).

“As was the maner tho” (*Æn.*, Bk. I. ch. vi. l. 70).

“The adventur now stondith one the point” (l. 2906).

“Now standis the poynt to suffir in batale”

(*Æn.*, Bk. XII. ch. xi. l. 140).

“The perell how disiont” (l. 2905).

“Catchit at disiunct” (*Æn.*, Bk. XII. ch. xiii. l. 30).

and expressions like “at schort,” “shortly to conclude,” &c.

Interesting in another way is the apparent occurrence of the word *soundith* = tends (ll. 149, 1809, 1941), which seems a direct Chaucerian imitation. The word also occurs in the ‘*Quare of Jelusy*,’ and if we could accept it without question it would form another interesting link between these two poems, for it appears to be unused by other Scottish writers, save Douglas, and does not occur in the works of Barbour, Henry, Dunbar, Henryson, Lyndesay, Stewart, nor in the Alliterative Poems. There is one difficulty—the *long s* in this MS. and in others of the same type is frequently almost indistinguishable from *f*, sometimes quite so, and the context has to decide; this is particularly the case before *o* and *a*. The scribe in making his own copy seems to have in one place interchanged *set* and *fet*. We have thus the possibility that *soundith* is really the Scottish word *found*, a common word in many of the writers mentioned above, and having

the meaning of "advance, go towards," a meaning which could without difficulty fit the context of the 'Lancelot'; indeed, taking the word as *soundith*, it does not seem to be used precisely in the Chaucerian fashion. This substitution seems the more probable, because in l. 105 the MS. has apparently *sonde*, and this has been retained, but *fonde* would restore the meaning and avoid a structure found nowhere else in the text. In Douglas the same doubt arises, his words (describing fortitude) are—

"The first *soundis* towart virteu sum deyll"

(Æn., Prol. to XI. Bk., stanza 7).

(*Sound* in this sense is not glossed in Small's edition, so further search might produce other passages in which it occurs.) A debateable word is *deuit* which occurs in the Prologue. It has been explained as formed from the verb "dow" (dugan, to be able), but its form suggests rather a verb from "due" (see Glossary).

Finally, the *prekyne hat* (l. 2888), a translation of French "capel de fer," must be the "*sellat or prikit hat*" of the Sc. Act of Parl. of October 1456, and is the helmet of a foot-soldier with a spike or "prick" on the top, rather than a "prekyne" or riding hat.

This part of the discussion has been dwelt upon, and the comparison with Douglas has been carried out in an attempt to show how many of the national literary characteristics the poem has preserved, despite its superficial Anglicising, and how often its vagaries in the way of English imitation can be paralleled in his pages.

(3) *French Influence.*

Consideration of the vocabulary brings up the vexed question of the French influence on Middle Scots. The poem being a translation from that language, would seem to offer a very favourable opportunity for finding the fullest evidence of that influence. But the question is complicated by the fact that the exact date of the poem is a matter of individual opinion, while the particular MS. from which the translation was made is still to seek. We cannot, therefore, tell with absolute certainty whether the writer was the pioneer in adopting certain French words, or whether he found them already current in the language of his predecessors and contemporaries. Thus such words as *conten*, *dereyne*, *essenzie*, *melle*, *sege*, although found in the French 'Lancelot,' had already been used by Barbour, so also *pens* by Henryson, *recounterit* by Wyntoun, *intermet* in 'Ratis Raving'; and the words *frusshit* and *anerding*, both of French origin, cannot be traced to any of the French sources examined—*e.g.*, the parallel passage to this of the Sc. 'Lancelot,'

"Arthure, wich had of al this worlde the floure
Of cheuelry *anerding* to his crown" (l. 344),

is "il a en sa maison la flor de toute la terriene cheualerie."

Two words directly adopted and sufficiently rare to be ascribed directly to the source, are *bertes* or *bretis* (battlements), from "la bertesque," and *nece* for nephew, from Arthur's usual address to Gawayne, "biax nies." Words which, although not new, are directly taken over by the translator, are *aras* from "esrache," *bachleris* from "bachelor," *supprisit* from "sousprise," "assemblyng on a

rout" from "assembla a un conroi" (*i.e.*, attack), "*wencust al the assemble*" from "venqui lassemblee," *grant mercy* from "grands mercis." The expression, "wit memoratyve," although having no equivalent in the source, suggests French influence.

(Whenever a word given in the Glossary has an equivalent in the French 'Lancelot' (Dr Sommer's edition), it is given.)

Taking into consideration the fact that the total number of words of French origin used by the writer is not exceptional, that he has not in the course of his translation a single French word peculiar to himself, that it is doubtful if he has one in the use of which he is the pioneer, the conclusion that must be drawn is that in his case, at least, the traditional French influence can prove its existence in only a very moderate degree.

VERSE.

The poem is written in ten-syllable rhyming couplets of a monotonous but also inaccurate kind. In the Prologue of 334 lines there are 43 lines which are syllabically imperfect either through excess or deficiency, and this does not take into account lines so faulty in their accent that they cannot be scanned, although possessing the requisite number of syllables. Even having recourse to that panacea beloved of critics, the Chaucerian accented *e*, or to the Scottish pseudo-Chaucerian accented *e*, the matter is not remedied, for there still remain 24 lines which err through undue length, or which offer no adjective or noun on to which the *e* can be tacked either correctly or incorrectly, and this, although the

Prologue is the most Chaucerian part of the poem. Even of the lines left some offer words which seem to admit more readily of internal lengthening than of the addition of the accented *e*—e.g., *saul*, *thare*, *leif*. It should be noted that in about three-fourths of the words in the pronunciation of which an accented *e* is thus postulated, that *e* has first to be supplied, being absent in the text. This phenomenon of the accented *e* appears occasionally in Douglas, in the same almost accidental fashion. When we have such ample evidence in the 'Lancelot' of the writer's prosodic carelessness, it would be difficult to prove that he ever seriously employed the accented *e* as a metrical device, despite the fact that here and there its presence might help the rhythm.

Another feature which the examination of the metre brings out is that the plural termination *is* of nouns can be pronounced as a separate syllable or not, at the writer's discretion. This is the case even with monosyllables, which in the text are almost as frequently found monosyllabic in the plural as dissyllabic. This shows a comparatively late date for the poem, for monosyllables were the last to drop the pronunciation of the *is* as a separate syllable. The earlier manner can be seen in the 'Kingis Quair.'

It may be argued that if no conclusions can be drawn from the possibility of correcting defective lines by the addition of the *é*, neither can any be drawn from the *is* or 's. But the cases are quite different; the importance of accented *e* in Scottish poetry is, to say the least of it, highly hypothetical, whereas the change in the usage with regard to the pronunciation of *-is* is part of the normal and proved development of the language.

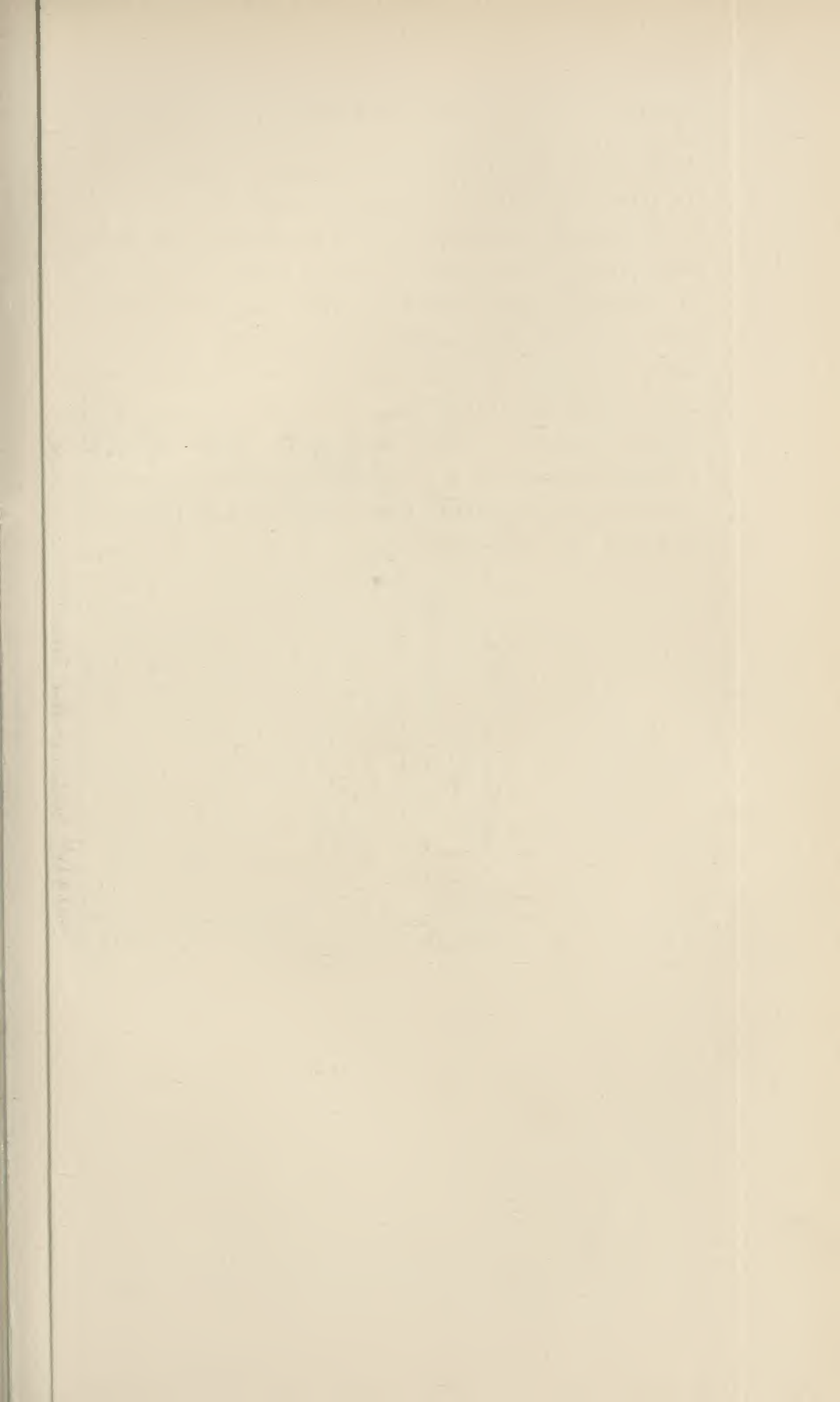
CONCLUSION.

It remains simply to suggest the conclusions that may be drawn. First, the poem, although bearing a general resemblance in artificiality to the 'Kingis Quair,' belongs, by certain individual and unique peculiarities of style, and by the wider evidence of vocabulary and grammar, to a later date. Further, these smaller idiosyncrasies referred to, as well as the general style and language, coincide so completely with those of the 'Quare of Jelusy' that there can be little doubt they are the work of the same poet. Also the poem shows in many coincidences of line, turn of speech, rare word, grammatical form, that it has considerable affinity with the poems of Dunbar and Douglas, and makes it highly probable that the writer was acquainted with the work of these poets, and it should be remembered that some of Douglas's work, including translations, is supposed to be lost.

Taking these facts into consideration, it would seem that even if Vidas Achinleck be not the writer, neither is James Auchinleck who died in 1497. For although the author must be given his quietus in time to qualify for admission to Dunbar's "Lament for the Makaris," yet taking the 'Lancelot' as the later of his works, the extra years give him time to have known the work of Dunbar and Douglas, and felt its influence. It is almost a pity he cannot be left alive long enough to have read Douglas's translation of the 'Æneid,' with its praise of Virgil, and other points which the 'Lancelot' seems to have copied. However, if he was Auchinleck,

that cannot be, and perhaps Douglas borrowed a word or phrase from this insignificant writer.

It must be admitted that of all the Scottish writers who admired and imitated Chaucer, none have succeeded in producing such colourless and characterless results as are found in the 'Lancelot' and the 'Quare of Jelusy'; other writers have either preserved some of the charm and sweetness of their inspiration, as the poet of the 'Kingis Quair,' or, when they failed to do this, have offered at least the homely verve and vigour of their native tongue: the poet of the 'Lancelot' and the 'Quare of Jelusy' has done neither.



In the god With humble hart, we praye
And we commaund at al tyme our lord
And so we lat praye tyme alle becomme
Of love and myghte justlye tyme alle
And tyme alle to justlye tyme alle
The wille of our tyme alle to comite
That yow be not in tyme alle blame
For wryte tyme alle and yow sal full be fynde
That we tyme alle to tyme alle be blame
And forwate god tyme alle shal be tyme alle
If tyme alle shal yow be tyme alle
Not in tyme alle tyme alle be tyme alle
For tyme alle tyme alle and tyme alle tyme alle
The tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle
That tyme alle be tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle
And love and tyme alle tyme alle of tyme alle
And be of tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle
For tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle
And that of tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle
That we alle tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle
And tyme alle al tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle
Tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle
Of tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle
And of tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle
The tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle
And tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle
For al tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle hold
The tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle
For tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle
The tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle
And tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle
Of tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle
A tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle
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And tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle tyme alle
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Furth to the self hold the the love of the
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SCOTTISH TEXT SOCIETY

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LANCELOT OF THE LAIK.

[Fol. 1.]

THe soft morow ande The lustee Aperill,
The wynter set, the stormys in exill,
Quhen that the brycht & fresch illumynare
Uprifith arly in his fyre chare
His hot courß in to the orient, 5
And frome his spere his goldine stremis sent
Wpone the grond, in maner off mesag,
One euery thing to valkyne thar curage,
That natur haith set wnder hire mycht,
Boith gyrß, and flour, & euery lusty vicht; 10
And namly thame that felith the assay
Of lufe, to schew the kalendis of may,
Throw birdis songe *wit*h opine wox one hy,
That seffit not one lufaris for to cry,
Lest thai forzheth, throw slewth of Ignorans, 15
The old wfage of lowis obseruans.
And frome I can the brycht face asspy,
It deuit me no langare fore to ly,
Nore that loue schuld fleuth In to me finde,¹
Bot walkine furth, bewalinge in my mynde 20
The dredful lyve enduret al to longe,
Sufferans in loue of sorouful harmys stronge,
The scharpe dais and the hewy zerys,
Quhill phebus thris haith passith al his speris,

¹ MS. Nore that loue schuld "In to me" "fleuth" finde.

Withoutine hope ore traiftinge of comfort ; 25
 So be fuch meine fatit was my sort.
 Thus in my faull Rolinge al my wo,
 My carful hart carwing cañ In two
 The derdful fuerd of lowis hot diffire,
 So be the morow set I was a fyre 30
 In felinge of the accesß hot & colde,
 That haith my hart in sich a fevir holde,
 Only to me thare was noñe vthir eß
 Bot thinkine qhow I schulde my lady pleß.
 The fcharp affay and ek the Inwart peine 35
 Of dowblit wo me neulyngis cañ constrein,
 Quhen that I have remembrit one my thocht
 How sche, quhois bewte al my harm haith wrocht,
 [Fol. r b.] Ne knouith not how I ame wo begoñe,
 Nor how that I ame of hire *feruandis* oñe ; 40
 And in my felf I cañ nocht fynde the meyne
 In to quhat wyß I fal my wo compleine.
 Thus in the feild I walkith to & froo,
 As thochtful wicht that felt of nocht bot woo,
 Syne to o gardinge, that weß weil befeñ, 45
 Of quiche the feild was al depaynt *wit* greñ.
 The tendyre and the lufly flouris new
 Up thrōue the greñ vpone thar stalkis grew
 Azhane the sone, and thare levis fpred,
 Quhar*wit* that al the gardinge was Icledde, 50
 That pryapus, in to his tyme before,
 In o luftear walkith nevir more ;
 And al about enweronyt and Iclofit
 One sich o wyß, that none *wit*in fupposit
 Fore to be feñ *wit* ony vicht thare owt, 55
 So dide the levis clof it¹ all about.
 Thar was the flour, thar was the queñ alphest,²
 Rycht wering being of the *nichtis* reß,

¹ MS. "clofit."

² *I.e.*, "alcest."

Wnclofing gañe the crownel for the day ;
 The brycht fone illumynit haith the spray, 60
 The nychtis fobir ande the most fchowris,
 As cristoll terys w~~it~~h hong vp[o]ne the flouris,
 Haith vpwarpith In the lusty aire,
 The morow makith soft, ameyne, and faire ;
 And the byrdis thar mychty voce out throng, 65
 Quhill al the wood refonite of thar fonge,
 That gret confort till ony vicht It wer
 That pleffith thame of lustenes to here ;
 Bot gladneß til the thochtful, auer mo
 The more he feith, the more he haith of wo. 70
 Thar was the garding w~~it~~h the flouris ourfret,
 Quich is in pofy fore my lady set,
 That hire Represent to me oft befor,
 & thane also ; thus al day gan be for¹
 Of thocht my goft w~~it~~h torment occupy, 75
 That I becañe In to one exafy,
 Ore flep, or how I wot, bot fo befell,
 My wo haith done my livis goft expell,
 And in fich wiß weil long I can endwr,
 So me betid o wondir aventur. 80
 As I thus lay, Rycht to my fpreit vas feñ
 A birde, yat was as ony lawrare greñ,
 Alicht, and fayth in to hir birdis chere ;
 “ O woful wrech, that levis in to were !
 To fchew the thus the god of loue me fent, 85
 That of thi fervice no thing is content,
 For in his² court yhoue lewith in diffpar,
 And vilfully sustenis al thi care,
 And fchapith no thinge of thine awn remede,
 Bot clepith ay and cryith apone dede ; 90
 Yhow callith the birdis be morow fro thar bouris,
 Yhoue devith both the erbis and the flouris,

[Fol. 2.]

¹ MS. “befor.”² The scribe has written “hir” and then changed the “r” into “s.”

And clepit hyme vnfaithful king of lowe,
 Yow dewith hyme in to *his* rigne abufe,
 Yhow tempith hyme, yhoue doith thi felf no gud, 95
 Yhoue art o moñ of wit al destituede.
 Wot yhoue *nocht* that al liwis creatwre
 Haith of thi¹ wo *in* to *hir* hand the cwre?
 And fet yhoue clep one erbis and one treis,
 Sche *heris* not thi wo, nore *zhit* fche feis; 100
 For none may know the dirkneß of thi *thocht*,
 Ne blamyth *her*, thi wo fche knowith *nocht*,
 And It is weil accordinge It be so.
 He fuffir harme, that to redreß *his* wo
 Previdith not; for long ore he be sonde, 105
 Holl of his leich, that schewith not *his* vound.
 And of owid ye autor schall yhow knaw
 Of lufe that feith, for to confel or fchow,
 The last he clepith althir best of two;
 And that is futh, and fal be *euer* mo. 110
 And loue also haith chargit me to fay,
 [Fol. 2 b.] Set yhoue prefume, ore beleif, ye affay
 Of his *feruice*, as It wil ryne ore go,
 Prefwme It not, fore It wil not be so;
 Al magre thine a *feruand* schal yow bee. 115
 And as tueching thine *aduerfyttee*,
 Complen and sek of the ramed, the cwre,
 Ore, gif yhow likith, furth thi wo endure."
 And, as me *thocht*, I anfuerde *azaiñe*
 Thus to the byrde, in *wordis* fchort and plane: 120
 "It ganyth not, as I have harde Recorde,
 The *feruand* for to difput *wit* ye lord;
 Bot well he knowith of al my vo the quhy,
 And in quhat wyß he hath me fet, quhar I
 Nore may I not, nore can I not attane, 125
 Nore to *hir* hienes dare I not complane."

¹ Before "thi" the word "hir" is written and deleted.

"Ful!" *quod* the bird, "lat be thi nyß dispere,
 For in this erith no lady is so fare,
 So hie estat, nore of so gret empriß,
 That in hire self haith visdome ore gentrice, 130
 Yf that o wicht, that worthy is to be
 Of lovis court, fchew til hir that he
 Seruith hire in lovis hartly wyß,
 That schall thar for hyme hating or dispriß.
 The god of love thus chargit the, at fchort, 135
 That to thi lady yhoue thi wo Report ;
 Yf yhoue may not, thi plant schall yhov writ.
 Se, as yhoue cane, be *maner* ofe¹ endit
 In metir, quhich that no *man* haith fuffpek,
 Set oft tyme thai contenyng gret effece ; 140
 Thus one fume wyß yhow schal thi wo dwclar.
 And, for thir fedulis and thir billis are
 So *generall*, and ek so fchort at lyte,
 And fwme of thaim is lost the appetit,
 Sum trety schall yhoue for yi lady sak, 145
 That wnkouth is, als tak one hand and mak,
 Of love, ore armys, or of *sum* othir thing,
 That may hir one to thi *Remembryng* brynge,
 Qwich foundith Not one to no hewynes,
 Bot one to gladneß and to lusteneß, 150
 That yhoue belevis may thi lady plesß,
 To have hir thonk and be one to hir esß ;
 That sche may wit in *seruice* yhow art one.
 Faire weil," *quod* sche, "thus schal yhow the dispone,
 And mak thi self als mery as yhoue may, 155
 It helpith not thus fore to wep al way."
With that, the bird sche haith hir leif tak,
 For fere of quich I can onone to wak ;
 Sche was ago, and to my self *thocht* I
 Quhat may yis meyne? quhat may this *signify*? 160

[Fol. 3.]

¹ Or "oft."

Is It of troutht, or of Illufiounē?
 Bot finaly, as in conclufiounē,
 Be as be may, I fchal me not discharge,
 Sen It apperith be of lovis charg;
 And ek myne hart noñe othir biffynes 165
 Haith bot my ladice *feruice*, as I geß;
 Among al vtheris I fchal one honde tak
 This litil occupatiounē for hire fak.
 Bot hyme I pray, the mychtty gode of loue,
 That fitith hie in to his spir abuf, 170
 (At *command* of o wyß quhois vifiounē
 My goft haith takin this opvniounē,)
 That my lawboure may to my lady pleß,
 And do wnto hir ladefchip *fun* eß,
 So that my *trauell* be *nocht* tynt; and I 175
 Quhat vtheris fay fetith no thing by,
 For wel I know that, be this worldis fañe,
 It fchal not be bot hurting to my nañe,
 Quhen that thai here my febil negligens,
 That empit is, and bare of eloquens, 180
 Of difcreffiounē, and ek of Retoryk;
 The metire and the cuning both elyk
 So fere difcording frome perfecciounē;
*Quhil*k I fubmyt to the correcciounē
 Of *yaim* the quhich that is difcret & wyß, 185
 And enterit is of loue in the *feruice*;
 [Fol. 3 b.] Quhich knouyth that no lovare dare *wit*ftonde,
 Quhat loue hyme chargit he mot tak one honde,
 Deith, ore defañ, or ony maner wo;
 And at this tyme *wit*h me It ftant *rycht* fo, 190
 As I that dar makine no demande
 To quhat I wot It lykith loue *commande*.
 Tueching his chargis, as *wit*h al deftitut,
*Wit*hin my mynd fchortly I conclud
 For to fulfyll, for ned I mot do fo. 195
 Thane in my *thocht* rolling to and fro

Quhare that I *mycht* *fum* wnkouth mater fynde,
 Quhill at ye laſt it fell in to my mynd
 Of o ſtory, that I befor had fene,
 That boith of loue and armys can conteñ, 200
 Was of o *knycht* clepit lancelet of ye laik,
 The fone of bane was king of albanak ;
 Of quhois fame & worſchipful dedis
 Clerkis in to diuerß bukis redis
 Of quhome I thynk her *fumthing* for to writ 205
 At louis charge, and as I cane, endit ;
 Set *men* tharin fal by *experiens*
 Know my confait, and al my negligens.
 Bot for that ſtory is fo paſing larg,
 One to my wit It war fo gret o charg 210
 For to tranſlait the romans of that *knycht*,
 It paſſith fare my *cunying* and my *mycht*,
 Myne Ignorans may It not comprehend ;
 Quharfor thare one I wil me not depend
 How he was borne, nor how his fader deid 215
 And ek his moder, nore how he was denyed
 Eſter thare deth, *preſumyng* he was ded,
 Of al ye lond, nore how he fra that ſtede
 In ſacret wyß wnwylt away was tak,
 And nwrift *wit* ye lady of ye lak. 220
 Nor, in his youth, think I not to tell
 The *auentouris*, quhich to hyme befell ;
 Nor how the lady of the laik hyme had
 One to the court, quhare that he *knycht* was mad ;
 [Fol. 4.] None wiſt his nome, nore how that he was tak 225
 By loue, and was Iwondit to the ſtak,
 And throuch & throuch perfit to ye hart,
 That al his tyme he couth It not aſtart ;
 For thare of loue he enterit in *feruice*,
 Of wanore throuch the beute and franchis, 230
 Throuch quhois *feruice* in armys he has vrocket
 Mony wonderis, and *perellis* he has ſocht.

Nor how he thor, in to his young curage,
 Hath maid awoue, and in to lous rage,
 In the rewenging of o wondit knyght 235
 That cumyne was in to the court that nyght;
 In to his hed a brokin¹ fuerd had he,
 And in his body also myght men see
 The tronfioure of o brokine fper that was,
 Quhich no man out dedenyt to aras; 240
 Nor how he haith the wapnis out tak,
 And his awow apone this wis can mak,
 That he schuld hyme Reweng at his poware
 One euery knyght that louith the hurtare
 Better thane hyme, the quhich that was Iwond. 245
 Throw quich awoue in armys hath ben founde
 The deth of mony wereoure ful wicht;²
 For, fro tho wow was knowing of the knyght,
 Thare was ful mony o pafage in the londe
 By men of armys kept to withstond 250
 This knyght, of quhome thai ben al set afyre
 Thaim to reweng in armys of desir.
 Nor how that thane incontynent was fend
 He and fir kay togidder to defend
 The lady of nohalt, nore how that hee 255
 Gouvernit hyme thare, nore in quhat degre.
 Nor how the gret pasing vassolag
 He escheuit, thrōue the outragouss curag,
 In conquiryng of the sorowful castell.
 Nor how he passith doune in the cauis fell, 260
 And furth ye keys of Inchantment brocht,
 That al distroyt quhich that thare vas vrocht.
 [Fol. 4 b.] Nore howe that he reskewit fir gawane,
 With his ix falouss in to presone tane;
 Nore mony vthere diuers aduenture, 265
 Quhich to report I tak not in my cwre;

¹ MS. "abrokin."

² The MS. wrongly transposes ll. 247 and 248.

Nor mony affemblay that gawane gart be maid
 To wit *his* name ; nor how that he hyme hade
 Wnwist, and hath the worfchip & emprif ;
 Nor of the *knychtis* in to mony diuerf wyf 270
 Throuch his awoue that hath thare dethis found ;
 Nor of the sufferans that by louis wounde
 He in his trawel sufferith *auer* more ;
 Nor in the quenis *presens* how tharfor
 By camelot, in to that gret Revare, 275
 He was ner dround. I wil It not declare
 How that he was in louis hewy *thocht*
 By dagenet in to the court Ibrocht ;
 Nor how the *knycht* that tyme he cane *perfew*,
 Nor of the *gyantis* by camelot he flew ; 280
 Nor wil I not her tell the *maner* how
 He flew o *knycht*, by *natur* of his wow,
 Off melyholt ; nore how in to that toune
 Thar came one hyme o gret confufione
 Of pupil & *knychtis*, al enarmyt, 285
 Nor how he thar haith kepit hyme wnharmyt ;
 Nor of his worfchip, nor of *his* gret prowes,
 Nor his defens of armys in the pres.
 Nor how the lady of melyhalt *yat* fche
 Came to the feild, and prayth hyme that he 290
 As to o lady to hir¹ his fuerd hath zold
 Nor how he was in to hir keping hold ;
 And mony vthir nobil deid alfo
 I wil report quharfor I lat ourgo.
 For quho *thaim* lykith for to fpecyfy, 295
 Of one of *thaim* *mycht* mak o gret ftory ;
 Nor thing I not of his hye renōwn
 My febil wit to makin menfioune ;
 Bot of the *weris* that was fsharp & ftrong,
 Richt *perellouf*, and hath enduryt long, 300

¹ MS. "his."

[Fol. 5.] Of Arthur In defending of his lond
 Frome galiot, fone of the fair gyonde,
 That brocht of knyghtis o pafing confluens;
 And how lancelet of arthuris hol defens
 And of the veris berith the renowñ; 305
 And how he be the wais of fortouze
 Tuex the two princis makith the accorde,
 Of al there mortall weris to concorde;
 And how that venus, siting hie abuf,
 Reuardith hyme of trauell in to loue, 310
 And makith hyme his ladice grace to have,
 And thankfully his feruice cane refave;
 This is the mater quhich I think to tell.
 Bot stil he mot rycht with the lady duell,
 Quhill tyme cum est that we schal of hym spek. 315
 This proceß mot clofine beñ and stek;
 And furth I wil one to my mater go.
 Bot first I pray, and I befek also,
 One to the most conpilour to support,
 Flour of poyetis, quhois nome I wil report 320
 To me nor to noñ vthir It accordit,
 In to our rymyng his nam̄ to be recordit;
 For sum fuld deme It of presumpfioune,
 And ek our rymyng is al bot deryfioune,
 Quhen that remembrit is his excellens, 325
 So hie abuf that stant in reuerans.
 Ye fresch enditing of his laiting tounge
 Out throuch yis world so wid is yrounge,
 Of eloquens, and ek of retoryk,
 Nor is, nor was, nore neuer beith hyme lyk, 330
 This world gladith of his fuet poetry.
 His faul I blyß conferuyt be for thy;
 And yf that ony lusty terme I wryt
 He haith the thonk yerof, & this endit.

[Fol. 5 b.]

Quhen tytan, withe his lusty heit, 335
 Twenty dais In to the aryeit
 Haith maid his courß, and all with diuerß hewis
 Aparalit haith the feldis and the bewis,
 The birdis amyd¹ the erbis & the flouris,
 And one the branchis, makyne gone thar bouris, 340
 And be the morow finging in ther chere
 Welcum the lusty fessone of the 3ere.
 In to this tyme the worthi conqueroure
 Arthure, wich had of al this worlde the floure
 Of cheuelry anerding to his crown, 345
 So pafing war his knyghtis in renoune,
 Was at carlill ; and hapy~~n~~nit fo that hee
 Soiornyt well long in that faire cuntree.
 In to whilk tyme In to the court thai heire
 None awenture, for wich the knyghtis weire 350
 Anoit all at the abiding thare.
 For why, beholding one the fobir ayre
 And of the tyme the pafing lustynes,
 Can fo thir knyghtly hartis to encreß,
 That thei shir kay one to the king haith fende, 355
 Beseiching hyme he wold wichfaif to wende
 To camelot the Cetee, whare that thei
 Ware wont to heryng of armys day be day.
 The king forfuth, heryng thare entent,
 To thare desir, be schort awyßment, 360
 Ygrantid haith ; and fo the king proponit
 And for to pas one² hyme one the morne difponit.
 Bot fo befell hyme that nycht to meit
 An aperans, the wich one to his spreit

¹ MS. "among" deleted and replaced by "amyd."² In MS. a faint line through "one."

- It femyth that of al his hed ye hore 365
 Of fallith and maid defolat ; wharfore
 The king therof was pensyve in his mynd,
 That al the day he couth no resting fynde,
 Wich makith hyme his Iorneye to delaye.
 And so befell apone the thrid day, 370
 The bricht sone, pasing in the west,
 Haith maid his courß, and al thing goith to Rest ;
 The king, so as the story can dewyß,
 He thoght azeine, apone the famyne wyß,
 [Fol. 6.] His vombe out fallith vith his hoil syde 375
 Apone the ground, & liging hyme besid ;
 Throw wich anon out of his slep he stert,
 Abasit and adred in to his hart.
 The wich be morow one to the qwen he told,
 And she azeine to hyme haith ansuer 380
 "To dremys, *sir*, shuld no man have Respek,
 For thei ben thingis weyn, of non affek."
 "Well," quod the king, "god grant It so befall !"
 Arly he roß, and gert one to hyme call
 O clerk, to whome that al his hewynes 385
 Tweching his drem shewith he expreß ;
 Wich ansuer yaf and feith one to the kinge ;
 "Shir, no Record lyith to such thing ;
 Wharfor now, shir, I praye yow tak no kep,
 Nore traift in to the vanyteis of slep, 390
 For thei are thingis that askith no credens,
 But causith of sum maner influens,
 Empriß of thoght ore *superfleuytee*,
 Or than sum othir casualytee."
 "3it," quod the king, "I sal *nocht* leif It so ;" 395
 And furth he chargit *mesingeris* to go
 Throgh al his Realm, *wit*houten more demande,
 And bad them stratly at thei shulde comande
 Al the bishopes, and makyng no delay
 The shuld appere be the twenty day 400

At camelot, with al thar hol clergy
 That most expert war, for to certefye
 A mater tueching to his gost be nyght.
 The mesag goith furth with the *lettres* Right.

The king eft sone, *wit/in* a litill space, 405
 His Iornay makith haith frome place to place,

Whill that he cam to camelot ; and there
 The clerkis all, as that the chargit were,
 Affemblit war, and came to his prefens,
 Of his desir, to viting the sentens. 410

To them that war to hyme most speciall
 Furth his entent shauyth he al hall ;
 By whois conseil, of the worthiest
 He chefish ten, yclepit for the best,
 And most expert and wifest was supposit, 415

[Fol. 6 b.]

To qwhome his drem all hail he haith discloffit,
 The houre, the nyght, and al the *cercumstans*,
 Besichyne them that the signifycans
 Thei wald hyme shaw, that he *mycht* resting fynde
 Of It, the wich that occupeid his mynde. 420

And one of them with¹ al ther holl assent
 Saith, "shire, fore to declare our entent
 Vpone this matere, ye wil ws delay
 Fore to awysing one to the ix day."
 The king ther-to grantith haith, bot hee 425

In to o place, that strong was and hye,
 He closith them, whare thei may no whare get,
 Vn to the day, the wich he to them set.
 Than goith the clerkis fadly to awys
 Of this mater, to seing in what wys 430

The kingis drem thei shal best specesfy.
 And than the maistris of astronomy
 The bookis longyne to ther artis set ;²
 Not was the bukis of arachell forget,

¹ MS. "saith with," "saith" possibly meant to be deleted.

² So in MS. Read "fet."

Of nembrot, of danzhelome, thei two, 435
 Of moyfes, & of herynes all soo ;
 And feking be ther calcolacioune
 To fynd the planetis difpoficioune,
 The wich thei fond ware wonder ewill yfet
 The famyne nyght the king his fweuen niet. 440
 So ner the point focht thei have the thing,
 Thei fond It wonder hewy to the king,
 Of wich thing thei waryng in to were
 To fhew the king, for dreid of his danger.
 Of ane accorde thei planly haue proponit 445
 No worde to fhow, and fo thei them difponit.
 The day is cumyng, and he haith fore them fent,
 Befichyne them to fhewing ther entent.
 Than fpak they all, and that of an accorde ;
 "Shir, of this thing we can no thing Recorde, 450
 For we can nocht fynd in til our sciens,
 Tweching this mater, ony ewydens."
 "Now," quod the king, "and be the glorius lorde,
 Or we depart ye fhall fum thing recorde ;
 So pas yhe uot, nor fo It fall not bee." 455
 "Than," quod the clerkis, "grant ws dais three."
 [Fol. 7.] The wich he grantid them, and but delay,
 The term passith, no thing wold the fay,
 Wharof the king ftondith heuy cherith,
 And to the clerkis his vifag fo apperith, 460
 That all thei dred them of the kingis myght.
 Than faith o clerk, "sir, as the thrid nyght
 Ye dremyt, fo giffis ws delay
 The thrid tyme, and to the thrid day."
 By whilk tyme thei fundyng haith the ende 465
 Of this mater, als far as fhall depend
 To ther sciens ; yit can thei not awyß
 To fchewing to the king be ony wyß.
 The day is cum, the king haith them befocht,
 Bot one no wyß thei wald declar ther thocht ; 470

Than was he wroth in to his self and noyt,
 And maid his wou that thei shal¹ ben distroyt.
 His baronis he *commandit* to gar tak
 Fyve of them one to the fir ftak,
 And vther fyve be to the gibbot tone ; 475
 And the furth *wit* the king's charg ar gone.
 He bad them in to secreet wyß that thei
 Shud do no harm, but only them affey.
 The clerk's, dredful of the king's Ire,
 And saw the *perell* of deth and of the fyre, 480
 Fyve, as thei can, has grantit to record ;
 That vther herde and ben of ther accorde ;
 And al thei ben yled one to the king,
 And shew hyme thus as tueching of this thing.
 " Shir, fen that we constrenyt ar by myght 485
 To shaw wich that we knaw no thing aricht ;
 For thing to cum preferuith It allan
 To hyme the wich is euery thing *certain*,
 Excep the thing that til our knowleg hee
 Hath ordynat of certain for to bee ; 490
 Therfor, shir king, we your magnificens
 Befeich It turne till ws to non offens,
 Nor hald ws *nocht* as lear's, thocht It fall
 Not in this *mater*, as that we telen shall."
 And that the king haith grantit them, & thei 495
 Has chargit one, that one this wiß fall feye.
 " Prefumyth, shir, that we have fundyne so ;
 All erdly honore ye nedist most for-go,
 [Fol. 7 b.] And them the wich ye most affy in tyll
 Shal failye 3ow, magre of ther will ; 500
 And thus we haue in to this *mater* founde."
 The king, qwhois hart was al wyth dred ybownd,
 And askit at the clerk's, if thei fynde
 By there clergy, that stant in ony kynde

¹ MS. "that."

Of possibilitie, fore to reforme 505
 His desteny, that stud in such a forme :
 If in the hewyne Is preordynat¹
 On such o wiß his honor to tranflat.
 The clerk's faith, "forfuth, and we haue fene
 O thing whar of, if we the trowth shal meñ, 510
 Is fo obscure and dyrk til our clergie,
 That we wat not what It shal signefye,
 Wich causith ws we can It not furth say,"
 "Yis," quod the king, "as lykith yow ye may,
 For wers than this can nat be said for me." 515
 Thane faith o maistir, "than futhly thus finde we ;
 Thar is no thing sal fucour nor refkew,
 Your wordly honore nedis most adew,
 But throuch the watrye lyone & ek syne
 On throuch the liche & ek the wattir syne, 520
 And throuch the conseill of the flour ; god wot
 What this shude meñ, for mor ther of we not."
 No word the king ansuerid ayane,
 For al this refone thinkith bot in weyne.
 He shawith outward his contenans 525
 As he therof takith no greuans ;
 But al the nyght it passid nat his thoght.
 The dais courß with ful desir he focht,
 And furth he goith to bring his mynd in rest
 With mony O knyght vn to the gret forest ; 530
 The rachis gon wn-copelit for the deire,
 That in the wodis makith nois & cheir ;
 The knyght's, with the grewhund's in aweit,
 Secith boith the planis and the streit.
 Doune goith the hart, doune goith the hynd also ;² 535
 The swift grewhund, hardy of assay,
 Befor ther hedis no thing goith away.

¹ Scribe has begun to write "predestinat" and deleted it.

² A line must here be lost, but there is nothing to show this in the MS.

[Fol. 8.]

The king of hunting takith haith his sport,
 And to his palace home he can Refort,
 Ayan the noon ; and as that he was set 540
 Vith all his noble knyghtis at the met,
 So cam ther in an agit knyght & hee
 Of gret efflat femyt for to bee ;
 Anarmyt all, as tho It was the gyß,
 And thus the king he faluþ, one this wiß : 545
 “**S**hir king, one to yow am y fende
 Frome the worthiest that in world is kend,
 That leuyth now of his tyme and age,
 Of manhed, wifdome, & of hie curag,
 Galiot, fone of the fare gyande ; 550
 And thus, at short, he bidis yow your londe
 Ye yald hyme our, witzout Impedyment ;
 Or of hyme holde, and if tribut and rent.
 This is my charge, at short, whilk if youe left
 For to fulfill, of al he haith conquest 555
 He fais that he most tendir shal youe hald.”
 By short awys the king his anfuer yald ;
 “Shir knyght, your lorde wondir hie pretendis,
 When he to me sic salutatioune sendis ;
 For I as yit, in tymys that ar gone, 560
 Held neuer lond excep of god alone,
 Nore neuer thinkith til erthly lord to yef
 Trybut nor rent, als long as I may lef.”
 “Well,” quod the knyght, “ful for repentith me ;
 Non may recist the thing the wich mone bee. 565
 To yow, fir king, than frome my lord am I
 With diffyans fent, and be this refone why ;
 His purpos Is, or this day moneth day,
 With all his ost, planly to assay
 Your lond, witz mony manly man of were, 570
 And helmyt knyghtis, boith with sheld & spere ;
 And neuer thinkith to retwrn home whill
 That he this lond haith conquest at his will ;

And ek vanour the quen, of whome that hee
 Herith report of al this world that shee 575
 In fairhed and in wertew doith excede,
 He bad me fay he thinkis to possede."
 "Schir," quod the king, "your mesag me behufis
 Of resone and of curtafy excuffis ;
 But tueching to your lord & to his ost, 580
 His powar, his mesag, and his boft,
 That pretendith my lond for to distroy,
 Tharof as 3it tak I non anoye ;
 [Fol. 8 b.] And fay your lord one my behalf, when hee
 Haith tone my lond, that al the world shal see 585
 That It shal be magre myne entent."
 With that the knyght, withouten leif, is went,
 And richt as he was pafing to the dure,
 He saith, "a gode!¹ what wykyt aduventure
 Apperith!" with that his hors he nome, 590
 Two knichtis kepit, waiting his outcome.
 The knicht is gon, the king he gan Inquere
 At gawan, and at other knyghtis sere,
 If that thei knew or euer hard recorde
 Of galiot, and wharof he wes lorde ; 595
 And ther was non among his knyghtis all
 Which ansuerd o word in to the hall.
 Than galygantynis of walys rafe,
 That trauelit in diuers londis has,
 In mony knyghtly auentur haith ben ; 600
 And to the king he saith, "sir, I haue sen
 Galiot, which is the fareft knyght,
 And hiest be half a fut one hycht,
 That euer I saw, and ek his men accordith ;
 Hyme lakid nocht that to a lord recordith. 605
 For visare of his ag is non than hee,
 And ful of larges and humylytee ;

¹ MS. "agode."

An hart he haith of pafing hie curag,
 And is not xxiiij 3er of age,
 And of his tyme mekil haith conquerit ; 610
 Ten king's at his *command* ar fterit.
 He *with* his *men* fo louit is, y gefß,
 That hyme to pleß is al ther befynes.
 Not fay I this, *sir*, in to ye entent
 That he, nor none wnder the firmament, 615
 Shal pouere haue ayane your maieftee ;
 And, or thei shuld, this y fey for mee,
 Rather I shall knyghtly in to feild
 Refaue my deith anarmyt wnder fheld.
 This spek y left ;"—the king, ayan the morn, 620
 Haith varnit huntaris baith with hund & horne,
 And arly gan one to the forest ryd,
 With mony manly knyght's by his fid,
 Hyme for to sport and comfort *with* the dere,
 Set contrare was the fefone of y^e yere. 625
 His moft huntynge was atte wyld bore ;
 God wot a lustye cuntree was It thoore,
 In the ilk tyme ! weil long this noble king
 In to this lond haith maid his fiiornyng.
 Frome the lady was send o mefinger 630
 Of melyhalt, wich faith one this maner,
 As that the story shewith by recorde :
 " **T**O yow, *sir* king, as to hir foueran lorde,
 My lady hath me chargit for to fay
 How that your lond stondith *in* affray ; 635
 For galiot, fone of the fare gyande,
 Enterit Is by armys in your land,
 And fo the lond and cuntre he anyoth,
 That quhar he goith planly he distroyth,
 And makith al obeifand to his honde, 640
 That nocht is left wnconquest *in* that lond,
 Excep two castell's longing to hir cwre,
 Wich to defend she may *nocht* long endure.

Wharfor, *fir*, in wordis plan & short,
 Ye mon difpone your folk for to support." 645
 "Wel," *quod* the king, "one to thi lady fay,
 The neid is myne, I fall It not delay ;
 But what folk ar thei *nemmyt* for to bee,
 That in my lond is *cumyne* in sich degree ?"
 "An hundreth thoufand boith vith fheld & spere 650
 On hors ar armyt, al redy for the were."
 "Wel," *quod* the king, "and but delay this *nycht*,
 Or than to morn as that the day is lycht,
 I fhall remuf ; ther fhall no thing me mak
 Impedymēt my Iorney for to tak." 655
 Than feith his *knychtis* al *wit*h one affent,
 "Shir, that is al contrare our entent ;
 For to your folk this mater is *wnwift*,
 And ye ar here our few for to recift
 3one power, and youre cuntre to defende ; 660
 Tharfor abid, and for your folk ye send,
 That lyk a king and lyk a weriour
 Ye may fufte in armys your honoure."
 "Now," *quod* the king, "no langer that I 3eme
 My crowne my fepture, nor my dyademe, 665
 Frome that I here, ore frome I *wnderftand*,
 That ther by fors be entrit in my land
 Men of armys by fhrenth of vyolens,
 If that I mak abid or refydens
 In to o place langar than o *nycht*, 670
 For to defend my cuntre & my *rycht*."
 [Fol. 9 b.] The king that day his mefage haith furth sent
 Throuch al his realme, and fyne to reft is went.
 U

goith the morow, wp goith the *brycht* day,
 Wp goith the sone in to his fresh aray ; 675
 Richt as he fprede his bemys frome northeft,
 The king *wpraf*s *wit*houten more areft,
 And by his awn confeil and entent
 His Iornaye tuk at fhort awyfmēt.

And but dulay he goith frome place to place 680
 Whill that he cam nere whare¹ the lady was,
 And in one plane, apone o reuer fyde,
 He lichtit doune, and ther he can abide ;
 And yit *wit* hyme to batell fore to go
 Vij thousand fechteris war thei, & no mo. 685

This was the lady, of qwhome befor I tolde,
 That lancilot haith in to hir kepinge holde ;
 But for to tell his pafing hewynesse,
 His peyne, his sorow, and his gret distresse
 Of presone and of loues gret suppris, 690
 It war to long to me for to dewys.
 When he remembrith one his hewy charge
 Of loue, wharof he can hyme not discharge,
 He wepith and he sorowith in his chere,
 And euery nyght femyth hyme o yere. 695
 Gret peite was the sorow that he maad,
 And to hyme self apone this wis he faade :

“ **Q**what haue y gilt, allace ! or qwhat deseruit ?
 That thus myne hart shal vondit ben & carwit
 One by the suord of double peine and wo ? 700
 My comfort and my plesans is ago,
 To me is nat that shuld me glaid referuit.

I curß the tyme of myne Natiuitee,
 Whar in the heuen It ordinyd was for me,
 In all my lyue neuer til haue ees ; 705
 But for to be example of disesß,
 And that apperith that euery vicht may see.

Sen thelke tyme that I had sufficians
 Of age, and chargit thoghtis sufferans,
 Nor neuer I continewite haith o day 710
 With-out the payne of thoghtis hard assay ;
 Thus goith my youth in tempest & penans.

¹ MS. “whare that,” “that” deleted.

And now my body is In pefone broght ;
 [Fol. 10.] Bot of my wo, that in Regard is nocht,
 The wich myne hart felith euer more. 715
 O deth, allace ! whi hath yow me forbore
 That of remed haith the fo long befoght !”

Thus neu~~e~~remore he fefith to compleine,
 This woful knyght that felith not bot peine,
 So prekith hyme the smert of loues fore, 720
 And euery day encreffith more and more.
 And with this lady takine is alfo
 And keptit whar he may no where go
 To haunt knyghted, the wich he moft defirit ;
 And, thus his hart w~~it~~ dowbil wo yfrite, 725
 We lat hyme duel here with the lady still,
 Whar he haith laifere for to compleine his fyll.

And galiot in this meyne tyme he laie
 By ftrong myght o castell to affay,
 With many engyne and diuerß wais fere, 730
 For of fute folk he had a gret powere
 That bowis bur, and vther Inftrumentis,
 And with them lede ther palzonis & ther tentis,
 With mony o ftrong chariot and cher
 With yrne qwhelis and barris long & fqwar ; 735
 Well fuffit with al maner apparell
 That longith to o fege or to batell ;
 Whar with his oft was clofit al about,
 That of no ftrength nedith hyme to dout.
 And when he hard the cumyne of the king, 740
 And of his oft, and of his gaderyng,
 The wich he reput but of febil myght
 Ayanis hyme for to fufte the ficht,
 His confell holl affemblit he, but were,
 Ten kingis with other lordis fere, 745
 And told them of the cuming of the king,
 And askit them there confell of that thing.

Hyme thoght that it his worschip wold degrade,
 If he hyme self in *propir persone* raide
 Enarmyt ayane so few menye 750
 As It was told arthur fore to bee ;
 And thane the kyng An hundereth *knychtis* cold,
 (And so he hot, for *neuer* more he wolde
 Ryd of his lond, but In his *cumpany*
 O hundyre *knychtis* ful of *chiuellry*), 755
 [Fol 10 b.] He saith, "shir, ande I one hond tak,
 If It you ples, this Iorney shal I mak."
 Quod galiot, "I grant It yow, but ye
 Shal first go ryd, yone *knychtis* oft & see."
 With-uten more he ridith our the plan, 760
 And saw the oft, and is returnyd ayañ ;
 And callit them mo than he hade sen, for why
 He dred the reprefe of his *cumpany*.
 And to his lord apone this wys saith hee,
 "Shir, ten thousand y ges them for to bee." 765
 And galiot haith chargit hyme to tak
 Als fell folk, and for the feld hyme mak.
 And so he doith and haith them wel Arayt.
 Apone the morne his banaris war displayt.
 Up goth the trumpetis with the clariouns, 770
 Ayaine the feld blawen furth ther sownis ;
 Furth goth this king *wit* al his oft anon.
 Be this the word wes to king arthur gone,
 That knew no thing, nor wist of ther entent,
 But sone his folk ar one to armys went ; 775
 But arthur by Report hard saye
 How galiot non armys bur that day,
 Wharfor he thoght of armys nor of sheld
 None wald he tak, nor mak hyme for the feld.
 But gawane haith he clepit, was hyme by, 780
 In qwhome Rignith the flour of cheuelry,
 And told one what *maner*, and one what wys
 He shuld his batelles ordand and dewys,

	Befeching hyme, wily to for-see	
	Azaine thei folk, wich was far mo than hee.	785
	He knew the charg, and passith one his way	
	Furth to his horß, and makith no dulay ;	
	The clariounis blew, and furth goth al onon,	
	And our ye watter and the furd ar gone.	
	Within o playne vpon that other fyd	790
	Ther gawan gon his batellis to dewide,	
	As he wel couth, and set them in aray,	
	Syne with o manly contynans can fay,	
	“Ye falowis wich of the round table beñ,	
	Through al this erth whois fam is hard & fen,	795
	Remembrith now It stondith one the poynt,	
	For why It lyith one your speris poynt, ¹	
[Fol. 11.]	The well fare of the king and of our londe ;	
	And fen the fucour lyith in your honde,	
	And hardement is thing shall most awaill	800
	Frome deth ther men of armys in bataill,	
	Lat now your manhed and your hie curage	
	The pryd of al thir multitude affuage.	
	Deth or defence, non other thing we wot.”	
	This fresch king, that maleginis was hot,	805
	With al his oft he cummyne our the plañ,	
	And gawan fend o batell hyme agañ	
	In myde the berde, and festinit in the stell	
	The sperithis poynt, that bitith scharp & well ;	
	Bot al to few thei war, and mycht nocht left	810
	This gret Rout that cummyth one so fast.	
	Than haith <i>sir</i> gawan fend, them to support,	
	One othir batell with one knychtly sorte,	
	And fyne the thrid, and fyne the ferde also ;	
	And fyne hyme self one to the feld can go,	815
	When that he fauch thar latter batell steir,	
	And the ten thousand cummyne al thei veir ;	

¹ At the bottom of this page appears for the first time a catchword, which is—“The wel fare.”

Qwhar that of armes prewit he so well,
 His *ennemys* gane his mortall [*strokis*]¹ fell.
 He goith ymong them in his hie curage, 820
 As he that had of knyghthed the wfage,
 And couth hyme weill *conten in* to on hour ;
 Azaine his *strok* resiflit non armour ;
 And mony *knycht*, that worth ware and bolde,
 War thore with hyme of *arthur's* household, 825
 And knyghtly gan one to the feld them bere,
 And mekil wroght of armys In to were ;
Sir gawan than vpone fuch wyß hyme bure,
 This othere goith al to *discumfitoure* ;
 Sewyne thousand fled, & of the feld thei go, 830
 Whar of this king in to his hart was wo,
 For of hyme self he was of hie curage.
 To galiot than fend he in *mesag*,
 That he shuld help his folk for to defende ;
 And he to hyme hath xxx^{te} thousand sende ; 835
 Whar of this king gladith in his hart,
 And thinkith to *Reweng* all the smart
 That he to for haith suffirit and the payne.
 And al his folk returnyt Is ayayne
 Atour the feld, and *cummyne* thilk as hail ;² 840
 The swyft hors goith first to the affall.
 This noble knyght that feith the *grete* forß
 Of armyt men, that *cummyne* vpone horsß,
 To-giddir *semblit* al his falowfchip,
 And thought them at the sharp poynt to kep, 845
 So that thar harm shal be ful deir yboght.
 This vthere folk with *straucht* courß hath focht
 Out of aray atour the larg felld ;
 Thar was the *strok's* festnit in the shelde,
 Thei war *Refaut* at the *sper's* end ; 850
 So *arthur's* folk can manfully defend ;

¹ Professor Skeat's suggested insertion.

² MS. "thilk as (Rayne) hail."

The formeſt can thar lyues end conclude,
 Whar fone affemblit al the multitude.
 Thar was defens, ther was gret affaill,
 Richt wonderfull and ſtrong was y^e bataill, 855
 Whar arthuris folk fuſtenit mekil payn,
 And knychtly them defendit haith azaine.
 Bot endur thei mycht, apone no wyß,
 The multitude and ek the gret ſuppryß ;
 But gawan, wich that fetith al his payn 860
 Vpone knyghthed, defendid fo azaine,
 That only in the manhede of this knyght
 His folk reIoſit them of his gret myght,
 And ek abafit hath his ennemys ;
 For throw the feld he goith in fuch wyß, 865
 And in the preß fo manfully them ſeruith,
 His fuerd atwo the helmys al to-kerwith,
 The hedis of he be the ſhoulderis ſmat ;
 The horß goith, of the maiſter defolat.
 But what awalith al his befynes, 870
 So ſtrong and fo inſufferable vas the preß ?
 His folk are paſſit atour the furdis ilkon,
 Towart thar bretis and to ther luges gon ;
 Whar he and many worthy knyght alſo
 Of arthuris houß endurit mekill wo, 875
 That neuer men mar in to armys vrought
 Of manhed, 3it was It al for noght.
 [Fol. 12.] Thar was the ſtrength, ther was the paſing myght
 Of gawan, wich that whill the dirk nyght
 Befor the luges faucht al hyme aloñ, 880
 When that his falowis entrit ware ilkoñ.
 On arthuris half war mony tan and flan ;
 And galotis folk Is hame returnyd azaine,
 For it was lait ; away the oftis ridith,
 And gawan 3it apone his horß abidith, 885
 Witß fuerd in hond, when thei away var gon,
 And ſo for-wrocht hys lymmys ver ilkon,

And wondit ek his body vp and doune,
 Vpone his horß Right thore he fel in fwoune ;
 And thei hyme tuk & to his luyne bare, 890
 Boith king and qwen of hyme vare *in* dispare,
 For thei supposit, throw marwellis that he vroght,
 He had hyme self to his confusioune broght.

[T]his was nere by of melyhalt, the hyll,
 Whar lanscelot 3it was *wit*h the lady still. 895

The knychts of the court pasing home ;
 This ladiis knychts to hir palice¹ com,
 And told to hir, how that the feld was vent,
 And of gawan, and of his hardyment,
 That merwell was his manhed to behold ; 900

And fone thir tithingis to the knycht vas told,
 That was with wo and hewyness opprest,
 So noyith hyme his fuiorne and his rest ;
 And but dulay one for o knycht he send,
 That was most speciall with the lady kend. 905

He comyne, and the knycht vn to hyme said,
 "Displeß yow not, *sir*, be 3he not ill paid,
 So homly thus I yow exort to go,
 To gare my lady spek o word or two
 With me, that am a carful presonere."² 910

"*Sir*, your commande y shall, *wit*houten were,
 Fulfill ;" and to his lady passit hee
 In lawly wyß befiching hir, that she
 Wald grant hyme to pas at his request,
 Vnto hir knycht, stood wnder hir areft ; 915
 And she, that knew al gentilleß aright,
 Furth to his chamber passit wight the licht.

[Fol. 12 b.]

And he aroß and salust Curtasly
 The lady, and said, "madem, her I,
 Your presoner, befekith yow that 3he 920
 Wold merfy and compassione have of me,

¹ "gone" scored out.

² MS. "presonerere."

And mak the ranfone wich that I may yeif ;
 I waift my tyme in presouze thus to leife.
 For why I her on be report be told,
 That arthur, with the flour of his housholde, 925
 Is cummyne here, and in this cuntre lysis,
 And stant In danger of his ennemyis ;
 And haith affemblit, and efter this shalt bee
 Within short tyme one new affemlee.
 Thar for, my lady, y youe *grace* besech ; 930
 That I mycht pas, my Ranfon for to fech ;
 Fore I *presume* thar longith to that fort
 That loud me, and shal my nede support.”
 “ **S** hire *knycht*, It stant *nocht* in sich dugree ;
 It is no ranfone wich that caufith me 935
 To holden yow, or don yow sich offens,
 It is your gilt, It is your wiolens,
 Whar of that I desir no thing but law,
Without report your awn trespas to know.”
 “ Madem, your plesance may ye wel fulfill 940
 Of me, that am in *presone* at your will.
 Bot of that gilt, I was for til excusß,
 For that I did of werrey nede behwß,
 It tuechit to my honore and my fame ;
 I mycht *nocht* lese It but hurting of my nam, 945
 And ek the *knycht* was mor to blam than I.
 But ye, my lady, of your curteffy,
 Wold ze deden my *Ransoune* to refaue,
 Of *presone* so I my libertee myght haue,
 Y ware *zolde euermore* your *knyght*, 950
 Whill that I leif, *wit* al my holl myght.
 And if so be ye lykith not to ma
 My *ranfone*, if me leif to ga
 To the affemlee, wich sal be of new ;
 And as that I am feithful *knycht* & trew, 955
 At *nicht* to yow I enter shall azaine,
 But if that deth or other lat *certain*,

[Fol. 13.]

Throw wich I have fuch Impediment,
 That I be hold,¹ magre myne entent."
 "Sir knyght," quod she, "I grant yow leif, w^{ith}thy 960
 Your name to me that ze wil specify."
 "Madem, as zit, futly I ne may
 Duclar my name, one be no maner way ;
 But I promyt, als fast as I haue tyme
 Conuenient, or may vith-outen cryme, 965
 I shall ;" and than the lady faith hyme tyll,
 "And I, schir knyght, one this condiscione will
 Grant yow leve, so that ye oblist bee
 For to Return, as ye haue said to me."
 Thus thei accord, the lady goith to rest ; 970
 The sone discending clofit in the vest.
 The ferd day was dewyfit for to bee
 Betuex the oftis of the assemblee.
And galiot Richt arly by the day,
 Ayane the feld he can his folk aray ; 975
 And fourty thousand armyt men haith he,
 That war not at the othir assemble,
 Commandit to the batell for to gon ;
 "And I my self," quod he, "shal me dispone
 On to the feild azaine the thrid day ; 980
 Whar of this were we shal the end affay."
ANd arthuris folk that come one euery fyd,
 He for the feld can them for to prouide,
 Wich ware to few azaine the gret affere
 Of galiot zit to susten the were. 985
 The knyghtis al out of the cete roß
 Of melyholt, and to the semble gois.
 And the lady haith, in to sacret wyß,
 Gart for hir knyght and profoner dewyß
 In red al thing, that ganith for the were ; 990
 His curfeir red, so was both scheld & fperre.

¹ MS. "behold."

& he, to qwham the presone hath ben smart,
 With glaid desir apone his cursour start;
 Towart the feld anon he gan to ryd,
 And in o plan houit one reuer syde. 995
 This knycht, the wich that long haith ben in cag,
 He grew in to o fresch & new curage,
 Seing the morow blythfull and amen,
 The med, the Reuer, and the vodus gren,
 The knychtis in armys them arayinge, 1000
 [Fol. 13 b.] The baneris ayaine the feld displaying.
 His youth in strenth and in prosperytee,
 And fyne of lust the gret aduerfytee,
 Thus in his thocht remembryng at the last,
 Esterward one fyd he gan his Ey to cast, 1005
 Whar our a bertes¹ lying haith he sen
 Out to the feld loking was the qwen;
 Sudandly with that his gost astart
 Of loue anone haith caught hyme by the hart;
 Than saith he, "How long shall It be so, 1010
 Loue, at yow shall wirk me al this wo?
 Apone this wyß to be Infortunat,
 Hir for to ferue the wich thei no thing wate
 What sufferance I in hir wo endure,
 Nor of my wo, nor of myne aduenture? 1015
 And I wnworthy ame for to attane
 To hir presens, nor dare I noght complane.
 Bot, hart, sen at yow knawith she is here,
 That of thi lyue and of thi deith is stere,
 Now is thi tyme, now help thi self at neid, 1020
 And the dewod of euery point of dred,
 That cowardy be none In to the señ,
 Fore and yow do, yow knowis thi peyne, I weyn;
 Yow art wnable euer to attane
 To hir mercy, or cum be ony mayne. 1025

¹ MS. "abertes."

Tharfor y red hir thonk at yow differue,
 Or in hir *presens* lyk o knyght to sterf."
 With that confusit *wit*h an hewy thoct,
 Wich ner his deith ful oft tyme haith hyme *focht*,
 Deuoydit was his spritis and his goft, 1030
 He wist not of hyme self nor of his oft ;
 Bot one his horß, als still as ony ston.
 When that the knyghtis armyt war ilkon,
 To warnnyng them vp goith the bludy fown,
 And euery knyght vpone his horß is bown, 1035
 Twenty thousand armyt men of were.
 The king that day he wold non armys bere ;
 His batellis ware deuyfit euerilkon,
 And them forbad out our the furdís to gon.
 Bot frome that thei ther ennemys haith sen, 1040
 In to such wys thei cout^h them nocht fustē ;
 Bot ovr thei went withouten more delay,
 And can them one that oyer sid assay.
 The red knyght still in to his hewy thoght
 Was hufyng 3it apone the furd, & nocht 1045
 Wist of hime self; with that a harrold com,
 And sone the knyght he be the brydill nom,
 Sayng, "awalk ! It is no tyme to slep ;
 Your worschip more expedient vare to kep."
 No word he spak, so prikith hyme the smart 1050
 Of hevynes, that stood vnto his hart.
 Two screwis cam with that, of quhich oñ
 The knyghtis sheld ryght frome his hals haith toñ ;
 That vthir watter takith atte last,
 And in the knyghtis wentail haith It cast ; 1055
 When that he felt the vatter that vas cold,
 He wonk, and gan about hyme to behold,
 And thinkith how he sumquhat haith mysgoñ.
 With that his spere In to his hand haith ton,
 Goith to the feild *wit*houten vordis more ; 1060
 So was he vare where that there cam before,

[Fol. 14.]

O manly man he was in to al thing,
 And clepit was the first conquest king.
 The Red knyght *wit*h spuris smat the sted,
 The tother cam, that of hyme hath no drede ; 1065
 With ferß curag ben the knyghtis met,
 The king his spere apone the knyght hath set,
 That al in peciß flaw in to the felde ;
 His hawbrek helpit, suppos he had no scheld ;
 And he the king in to the scheld haith ton, 1070
 That horsß and man boith to the erd ar gon.
 Than to the knyght he cummyth, that haith tan
 His sheld, to hyme deliuerith It ayane,
 Befiching hyme that of his Ignorance
 That knew hyme nat, as takith no grewance. 1075
 The knyght his sche[l]d but mor delay haith tak,
 And let hyme go, and no thing to hyme spak.
 That thei the¹ wich that fo at erth haith sen
 Ther lord, the first conquest king, y meñ,
 In haift thei cam, as that thei var agrevit, 1080
 And manfully thei haith ther king Releit.
 [A]nd Arthuris folk, that lykith not to byde,
 In goith the spuris in the stedis syde ;
 [Fol. 14 b.] To-giddir thar assemblit al the oft,
 At whois meting many o knyght was loft. 1085
 The batell was richt crewell to behold,
 Of knyghtis wich that haith there lyvis zolde.
 One to the hart the spere goith throw the scheld,
 The knyghtis gaping lyith in the feld.
 The red knyght, byrnyng in loues fyre, 1090
 Goith to o knyght, als swift as ony vyre,
 The wich he perfit throuch & throuch the hart ;
 The spere is went ; *wit*h that anon he start,
 And out o fuerd in to his hond he tais ;
 Lyk to o lyone in to the feld he gais, 1095

¹ MS. "thee" with second e scored out.

In to his Rag fmyting to and fro
 Fro fum the arm, fro fum the nek in two,
 Sum in the feild lying is in swouz,
 And fum his fuerd goith to the belt al doune.
 For qwen that he beholdith to the qwen, 1100
 Who had ben thore his manhed to haue sen,
 His doing in to armys and his myght,
 Shold¹ fay in world war not such o wight.
 His faloufchip siche comfort of his dede
 Haith ton, that thei ther ennemys ne dreid ; 1105
 But can them self ay manfoly conten
 In to the flour, that hard was to fusten ;
 For galyot was O pafing multitude
 Of prewit men in armys that war gude,
 The wich can w^{it}h o fresch curag affaill 1110
 Ther ennemys that day In to batell ;
 That ne ware not the vorschip & manhede
 Of the red knyght, in perell and in dreid
 Arthur's folk had ben, vith-outen vere ;
 Set thei var good, thei var of fmal powere. 1115
 And gawan, wich gart bryng hyme self befor
 To the bertes, set he was vondit sore,
 Whar the qwen vas, and whar that he mycht see
 The manere of the oft and affemble ;
 And when that he the gret manhed haith sen 1120
 Of the red knyght, he faith one to the qwen,
 "Madem, zone knyght in to the armys Rede,
 Nor neuer I hard nore² faw in to no sted
 O knyght, the wich that in to schortar fpace
 In armys haith mor forton nore mor grace ; 1125
 Nore bettir doith boith with sper and scheild,
 He is the hed and comfort of our feild."
 "Now, *sir*, I traift that neuer more vas fen,
 Ne man in feild more knyghtly hyme coten ;

[Fol. 15.]

¹ MS. "shlold" with "1" scored out.² "never" deleted before saw.

I pray to hyme that euery thing hath cure, 1130
 Saif hyme fro deth or wykit aduenture."
 The feild It was *rycht* *perellus* and strong
 On both the fydis, and continewit long,
 Ay from the sone the *varldis* face gan licht
 Whill he was gone & *cumyne* vas the nyght ; 1135
 And than o forß thei *mycht* It not afftart,
 On euery fyd behouit them depart.
 The feild is don and ham goith euery *knycht*,
 And prevaly, unwist of any wicht,
 The way the red *knycht* to the cete taiis, 1140
 As he had hecht, & in *his* chambre gais.
 When arthure hard how the *knycht* Is gon,
 He blainyt fore his lordis *euerilk* one ;
 And oft he haith remembrit in his thoght,
 What multitud that galiot had broght ; 1145
 Seing his folk that ware so ewil arayt,
 In to his mynd he stondith al affrayt,
 And faith, " I traist ful futh It fal be founde
 My drem Richt as the *clerkis* gan expound ;
 For why my men failzeis now at neid, 1150
 My felf, my londe, in *perell* and in dreide."
 And galiot vpone hie worfchip set,
 And his confell anon he gart be fet,
 To them he faith, " with arthur weil ze see
 How that It flant, and to qwhat degre, 1155
 Azanis ws that he is no poware ;
 Wharfor, me think, no worfchip to ws ware
 In conqueryng of hyme, nor of his londe,
 He haith no strenth, he may ws not vithlonde.
 Wharfor, me think, It best is to delay, 1160
 And resput hyme for a tuelmoñeth day,
 Whill that he may affemble al his myght ;
 Than is mor worfchip azanis hyme to ficht ; "

And thus concludit, thocht hyme for the best.
 The very knyghtis passing to there Rest. 1165
 Of melyholt the ladeis knyghtis ilkone
 Went home, and to hir *presens* ar thei gon ;
 At qwhome ful sone than gan scho to Inquere,
 And al the maner of the ostis till spere ;
 How that It went, and in what maner wyß, 1170
 Who haith most worschip, & who is most to pryß ?
 [Fol. 15 b.] "Madem," quod thei, "O knyght was In the feild,
 Of Red was al his armour and his sheld,
 Whois manhed can al otheris to exceed,
 May nan report in armys half his deid ; 1175
 Ne wor his worschip, shortly to conclud,
 Our folk of help had ben al defitud.
 He haith the thonk, the vorschip in hyme lysis,
 That we the feld defendit in sich wyß."
 The lady thane one to hir self haith¹ thocht,
 "Whether Is ðone my *presonar*, ore noght ? 1180
 The suthfastnesß that shal y wit onon."
 When euery wight vn to ther Rest war gon,
 She clepith one hir *cwfynes* ful nere
 Wich was to hir most speciall and dere, 1185
 And faith to hir, "qwheyar if yone bee
 Our *presoner*, my consell Is we see."
 With that the maden In hir hand hath ton
 O torche, and to the stable ar thei gon ;
 And fond his sted lying at the ground, 1190
 Wich wery was, ywet *wit* mony wounde.
 The maden faith, "vpone this horsß is fen,
 He in the place quhar *strokis* was hath beñ ;
 And ðhit the horsß It is *nocht* wich that hee
 Furt*h* *wit* hyme hade ;"—the lady said, "*per* dee, 1195

¹ "soght" partially written and scored out.

He vsyt haith mo horß than one or two ;
 I red one to his armys at we go."
 Tharwith one to his armys ar thei went ;
 Thei fond his helm, thei fond his hawbrek rent,
 Thei fond his scheld was fruschit al to *nocht* ; 1200
 At schort, his armour In sich wys vas vrocht
 In euery place, that no thing was left haill,
 Nore neuer eft accordith to bataill.
 Than faith the lady to hir cufynesß,
 "What sal we say, what of this mater gesß?" 1205
 "Madem, I say, thei have *nocht* ben abwsyt ;
 He that them bur, schortly, he has them vsyt."
 "That may ze say, suppos the best that lewis,
 Or most of worschip in til armys prewis,
 Or zhit haith ben in ony tyme beforñ, 1210
 Had them in feld in his mast curag borñ."
 "Now," *quod* the lady, "will we pass, and see
 The knyght hyme self, and ther the futz may we
 [Fol. 16.] Knaw of this thing." Incontynent them boith
 Thir ladeis vn to his chambre goith. 1215
 The knyght al very fallyng was on slep ;
 This maden passith In, & takith kep.
 Sche fauch his breft *wit* al his schowderis bare,
 That bludy war and woundit her and thare ;
 His face was al to hurt and al to schent, 1220
 His newis swellyng war and al to Rent.
 Sche smylyt a lyt, and to hir lady said,
 "It femyth weill this knyght hath ben affaid."
 The lady fauch, and rewit in hir thoght
 The knyghtis worschip wich that he haith vroght. 1225
 In hire Remembrance loues fyre dart
Wit hot desyre hir smat one to the hart ;
 And then a quhill, *wit*-outen wordis mo,
 In to hir mynd thinking to and fro,
 She studeit fo, and at the last abraid 1230
 Out of hir thocht, and sudandly thus said,

"With-draw," quod she, "one fynd a lyt¹ the lyght,
 Or that I pass that I may kyss the knyght."
 "Madem," quod sche, "what is It at ze men?
 Of hie worschip our mekill have ze seyn 1235
 So sone to be supprifit with o thocht.
 What is It at zhe think? preswim ze noght
 That if yon knyght wil walkin, and persaf,if,
 He shal yarof no thing bot ewill confais;
 In his entent Ruput yow therby 1240
 The ablare to al lychtneß and foly?
 And blam the more al vtheris in his mynd,
 If your gret wit in sich desire he fynde?"
 "Nay," quod the lady, "no thing may I do
 For sich o knyght may be defam me to." 1245
 "Madem, I wot that for to loue yone knyght,
 Confidir his fame, his worschip, and his mycht;
 And to begyne as worschip wil dewyß,
 Syne he ayaine mycht lowe yow one such wyß,
 And hold yow for his lady and his loue, 1250
 It war to yow no maner of Reprwe.
 But qwhat if he appetit be and thret,
 His hart to lowe and ellis whar yfet?
 And wel y wot, madem, if It be so,
 His hart hyme sal not suffir to loue two, 1255
 [Fol. 16 b.] For noble hart wil have no dowbilneß;
 If It be so, zhe tyne yowr low, I geß;
 Than is your self, than is your loue Refusit,
 Your fam is hurt, your gladneß is conclusit.
 My confell is, therefore, you to absten 1260
 Whill that to yow the werray Rycht be seyn
 Of his entent, the wich ful son zhe may
 Have knowlag, If yow lykith to assay."
 So mokil to hir lady haith she vroght
 That at that tyme she haith Returnyt her thocht, 1265

¹ MS. "alyt."

And to hir chambre went, *wit/outen* more,
 Whar loue of new affaith hir ful sore.
 So well long thei fpeking of the *knyc/ht*,
 Hir cufynace hath don al at the *myc/ht*
 For to expel that thing out of hir *thoc/ht* ;
 It wil not be, hir labour Is for *nocht*.
 Now leif we hir In to hir newest pan,
 And to arthur we wil retwrn agaī.

1270

EXPLICIT PRIMUS LIBER,
 INCIPIT SECUNDUS.

The cloudy nyght, wndir whois obscure
 The rest and quiet of euey creatur 1275
 Lyith fauf ; quhare the gost *wit*h besyneß
 Is occupiit, *wit*h thoughtfull hewynes,
 And, for that *thocht* furth schewing vil *his mycht*,
 Go fare wel rest and quiet of the *nycht*.
 Artur, I meyne, to whome that rest is *nocht*, 1280
 But al the *nycht* supprifit is with *thocht* ;
 In to his bed he turnyth to and fro,
 Remembryng the apperans of his wo,
 That is to fay, his deith, his confusioune,
 And of his realme the opin distruccioune, 1285
 That in his wit he can no thing *prowide*,
 Bot tak his forton thar for to abyd.
 Vp goith the son, vp goith the hot morow ;
 The thoughtful king al the *nycht* to forow,
 [Fol. 17.] That fauch the day, vpone his feit he start, 1290
 And furth he goith, distrublit in his hart.
 A quhill he walkith in his penfyf gost,
 So was he ware thar *cummyne* to the ost
 O clerk, with whome he was aqwynt befor,
 In to his tyme non *better* was ybore ; 1295
 Of qwhois com he gretly vas Reiofit,
 For in to hyme fum comfort he supposit ;
 Betuex them was one hartly affeccioune.
 Non *orderis* had he of Relegioune,
Famus he was, and of gret excellence, 1300
 And *rycht* expert in al the vij. science ;
 Contemplatif and chafst in *gouernance*,
 And clepit was the maister amyntans.

The king befor his palzoune one the gren,
 That knew hyme well, & haith his *cummyn* feñ, 1305
 Vel*cummyt* hyme, and maid hyme *rycht* gud chere,
 And he agan, agrewit as he were,
 Saith, "nothir of thi falofing, nor the,
 Ne rak I *nocht*, ne charg I *nocht*," *quod* hee.
 Than *quod* the king, "maister, & for what why 1310
 Ar zhe agrewit? or quhat *treffpas* have I
Commytit, fo that I shal yow *disples*?"
Quod he, "no thing It is ayane myn eß,
 But only *contrare* of thi felf alway ;
 So fare the courß yow *passith* of the way, 1315
 Thi *fchip*, that goth apone the stormy vall,
 Ney of thi *careldis* in the fwelf it fall,
 Whar she almost is in the *perell* drent ;
 That is to fay, yow art fo far *myfwent*
 Of *wykitneß* vpone the *vrechit* dans, 1320
 That yow art *fallyng* in the storng *vengans*
 Of *goddis* wreth, that shal the fon *deuour* ;
 For of his *strok* *approchit* now the hour
 That both thi *Ringe*, thi *ceptre*, & thi *crowñ*,
 Frome hie *estat* he *fmyting* shal *adoune*. 1325
 And that *accordith* well, for in thi *thocht*
 Yow *knawith* not hyme, the wiche that haith the *wrocht*,
 And fet the *vp* in to this hie *estat*
 From *power* ; for, as the *felwyne* wat,
 It *cummyth* al bot only of his *myght*, 1330
 And not of the, nor of thi *elderis* *Richt*
 To the *discending*, as in *heritage*,
 For yow was not *byget* in to *spoufag*.
 [Fol. 17 b.] Wharfor yow *aucht* his *biding* to *obferf*,
 And at thy *mycht* yow *shuld* hyme *pleß* & *ferf* ; 1335
 That *dois* yow *nat*, for yow art fo *confuffit*
 With this *fals* *warld*, that thow haith hyme *Refuffit*,
 And *brokine* haith his *reul* and *ordynans*,
 The wiche to the he gave in *gouernans*.

He maid the king, he maid the *gouernour*, 1340
 He maid the fo, and fet in hie honour
 Of Realmys and of peplis fere ;
 Efter his loue thow shuld them Reul & stere,
 And wnoppressit kep in to Iustice,
 The wykit men and pwnyce for ther wice. 1345
 Yow dois no thing, bot al in the *contrare*,
 And suffrith al thi puple to forfare ;
 Yow haith non Ey bot one thyne awn delyt,
 Or quhat that plesing shall thyne appetyt.
 In the defalt of law and of Iustice, 1350
 Wndir thi hond is sufferyt gret suppriß
 Of faderleß, and modirleß also,
 And wedwis ek sustenit mekill wo.
 With gret myschef oppressit ar the pure ;
 And thow art causß of al this hol Iniure, 1355
 Whar-of that god a raknyng fal craf
 At the, and a fore Raknyng fal hafe ;
 For thyne estat is gewyne to Redreß
 Thar ned, and kep them to *rychtwyfneß* ;
 And thar is non that ther *complantis heris* ; 1360
 The *mychty* folk, and ek the flattereris
 Ar cheif with the, and doith this oppreßioun ;
 If thai complen, It is ther confussioune.
 And daniell faith that who doith to the pure,
 Or faderleß, or modirleß, EnIure, 1365
 Or to the puple, that ilke to god doth hee ;
 And al this harme sustenit Is throw the.
 Yow sufferith them, oppreßith & anoyith ;
 So yow art causß, throw the thei ar distroyth ;
 Than, at thi *mycht*, god so distroys yow. 1370
 What shal he do azane? quhat shal yow,
 When he distroys by vengeance of his fuerd
 The *fynaris* fra the *vysagis* of the Erde?
 Than vtraly yow shall distroyt bee ;
 And that Richt weill apperis now of thee, 1375

For yow allon byleft art folitere,
 And the wyß salamon can duclar,
 ‘Wo be to hyme that is byleft alone,
 [Fol. 18.] He haith no help;’ so Is thi forton goñe ;
 For he is callit, *wit* quhom that god is nocht, 1380
 Allone ; and fo thi wykitneß haith wrocht
 That god hyme felf he is bycumyn thi fo,
 Thi pupleis hartis haith thow tynt also ;
 Thi wykitneß thus haith the maid alon,
 That of this erth thi fortune Is ygoñ. 1385
 Yow mone thi lyf, yow mone thi vorfchip tyne,
 And eft to deth that neuer ðhal haf fyne.”
 “**M**aister,” *quod* he, “of yowre beneuolens,
 Y yow befech that tueching myn offens,
 ðhe wald wichfaif your confell to me If 1390
 How I fal mend, and ek her eftir leif.”
 “Now,” *quod* the maister, “and I have *merwell* qwhy
 Yow askith confail, and wil in non affy,
 Nor wyrk thar-by ; and ðhit yow may In tym,
 If yow lykith to amend the cryme.” 1395
 “ðhis,” faith the king, “and futhfaßty I will
 ðour ordynans in *euery* thing fulfyll.”
 “And if the lif at confail to abide,
 The remed of thi harme to *prouyde*—
 Firt, the begyning is of fapiens, 1400
 To dreid the lord and his *magnificens* ;
 And what thow haith in contrar hyme ofendit,
 Whill yow haith *mycht*, of fre defir amend it ;¹
 Repent thi gilt, repent thi gret trefpaß,
 And remembir one goddis richwyfneß ; 1405
 How or to hyme that wykitneß anoyt,
 And how the way of fynaris he diftroit ;
 And if ye lyk to ryng wnder his peß,
 Ye wengans of his *mychty* hond yow feß,

¹ MS. “amendit.”

This schalt yow do, if yow wil be *perfit*. 1410

Firft, mone yow be penitent and contrit
Of euery thing that tuechith thi consiens,
Done of fre will, or ʒhit of neglygens.

Thi neid requirith ful contretioune,
Princepaly with-out conclusioun; 1415

With humble hart and goftly bysynes,
Syne shalt yow go deuotly the confes
Ther of vnto sum haly confessor,
That the wil consail tueching thin arour;
And to fulfill his will and ordynans, 1420

In fatiffaccione and doing of penans,
And to amend al wrang and al Iniure,
By the ydone til euery Creature;

[Fol. 18 b.] If yow can In to thi hart fynde,
Contretioune well degeft In to thi mynd. 1425
Now go thi weie, for if it leful were,
Confessioun to me, I shuld It here."

Than arthur, Richt obedient & mek,
In to his wit memoratyve can feik
Of euery¹ gilt wich that he can pens, 1430

Done frome he passith the ʒeris of Innocens;
And as his maister hyme commandit hade,
He goith and his confessione haith he maad
Richt deuotly with lementable chere;
The maner wich quho lykith for to here 1435

He may It fynd In to the holl romans,
Off confessione o pasing *cercumstans*.
I can It not, I am no confessor,
My wyt haith ewil confat of that labour,
Quharof I wot I aucht repent me fore. 1440

The king wich was confessit, what is more,
Goith and til his maister tellith hee,
How euery fyne In to his awn degree

¹ "thing" scored out, "gilt" written above.

He shew, that mycht occuryng to his mynde.
 "Now," *quod* the maistere, "left thow aght behynde 1445
 Of albenak the vorfchipful king ban,
 The wich that vas in to my *seruice* flan,
 And of his wif disherist eft also?
 Bot of ther sone, the wich was them fro,
 Ne spek y not;"—the king in his entent 1450
 Abafyt was, and furt/*wit*h is he went
 Azane, and to his confessour declarith;
 Syne to his maister he ayane Reparith,
 To quhome he saith, "I astir my *curyng*
 Your ordinans fulfillit in al thing; 1455
 And now right hartly y beseich and prey,
 3he wald *wit*hschaif sum thing to me say,
 That may me comfort in my gret dreid,
 And how my men ar falzet in my Neid,
 And of my dreme, the wich that is so dirk." 1460
 This master saith, "and thow art bound to virk
AT my consail, and if yow has maad
 Thi confessione, as yow before hath said,
 And in thi conciens thinkith *perseuere*,
 As I *presume* that thow onon shalt here 1465
 That god hyme self shal so for y^e *prouide*,
 Thow shal Remyne and In thi Ring abyd.
 [Fol. 19.] And why thi men ar falzet At this nede,
 At short this is the causß, shalt yow *nocht* dred,
 Fore yow to gode was frawart and *perwert*; 1470
 Thi ryngne and the he *thocht* for to subwart;
 And yow fal knaw na power may recist,
 In contrar quhat god lykith to affi[*f*]t.
 The vertw nore the strenth of victory
 It *cummyth* not of man, bot *anerly* 1475
 Of hyme, the wich haith *euery* strinth; & than,
 If that the waiis plessit hyme of man,
 He shal have forß azane his *eznemys*.
 A-ryght agan apone the famyne vyß,

If he displeß vn to the lord, he shall 1480
 Be to his fais a fubiet or a thrall,
 As that we may In to the bible red,
 Tueching the folk he tuk hyme self to led
 In to the lond, the wich he them byhicht.
 Ay when thei 3hed in to his ways Richt, 1485
 Ther fois gon befor there fuerd to nocht ;
 And when that thei ayanis hyme hath vrocht,
 Thei war fo full of radur and diffpare,
 That of o leif fleing in the air,
 The found of It haith gart o thoufand tak 1490
 At onys apone them self the bak,
 And al ther manhed vterly foryhet ;
 Sich dreid the lord apone ther hartis set.
 So shalt yow know no powar may wit3stond,
 Ther god hyme self hath ton the cauß on hond. 1495
 And ye quhy flant in thyne awn offens,
 That al thi puple fal3het off defens.
 And fum ar fal3eing magre ther entent ;
 Thei ar to quhom thow yewyne hath thi rent,
 Thi gret Reuard, thi richeß and thi gold, 1500
 And cheriffith and held in thi houfhold.
 Bot the moßt part ar fal3heit the at wyll,
 To quhome yow haith wnkyndneß fchawin till,
 Wrong and inIure, and ek defalt of law,
 And pwnyng of qwich that thei stand aw ; 1505
 And makith feruice but reward or fee,
 Syne haith no thonk bot fremmytneß of the.
 Such folk to the cummyth bot for dred,
 Not of fre hart the for to help at nede.
 And what awalith owthir fheld or fper, 1510
 Or horß or armoure according for ye were,
 Vith-outen man them for to stere and led ?
 And man, yow wot, that vantith hart is ded,
 That in to armys feruith he of noght ;
 A cowart oft ful mekil harm haith vroght. 1515.

In multitude nore ȝhit in confluens
 Of ſich, is nowther manhed nore defens.
 And fo thow hath the rewlyt, that almoſt
 Of al thi puple the hartis ben yloſt
 And tynt richt throw thyne awn myfgouernans, 1520
 Of auerice and of thyne errogans.
 What is o prince? quhat is o gouernoure
 Withouten fame of worſchip and honour?
 What is his mycht, ſuppos he be A lorde,
 If that his folk ſal nocht to hyme accorde? 1525
 May he his Rigne, may he his holl Empire
 Suften al only of his owne deſyre,
 In ferwyng of his wrechit appetit
 Of auerice and of his awn delyt,
 And hald his men, wncheriſt, in thraldome? 1530
 Nay! that ſhal ſone his hie eſtat conſome,
 For many o knyght therby is broght ydoune,
 All vteraly to ther confuſioure:
 For oft it makith vther kingis by
 To wer on them In traſt of victory; 1535
 And oft als throw his peple is diſtroyth,
 That ſyndith them agrewit or anyth;
 And god alſo oft with his awn ſwerd,
 Punyſith ther wyfis one this erd.
 Thus ſalith not o king but gouernans, 1540
 Boith realme and he goith one to myſchans."

AS thai war thus ſpeking of this thinge,
 Frome galiot cam two knyghtis to the king;
 That one the king of hundereth knyghtis was;
 That other to nome the fyrſt conqueſt king he¹ has, 1545
 As firſt that galyot conquerit of one.
 The nereſt way one to the king thei gon,
 And vp he roß, as he that wel cout^h do
 Honor, to qwhome that It afferith to;

¹ MS. "kinghe," miſtake of ſcribe for king he, cp. l. 2525 kinghis for king his.

And 3hit he wift not at thei kingis were ; 1550
 So them thei boith and vyth rycht knyghtly cher
 Reuerendly thei faluft hyme, and thane
 The king of hunder knyghtis he began
 And faid hyme, "fir, to 3ow my lord ws fende,
 [Fol. 20.] Galiot, whilk bad ws fay he wende, 1555
 That of this world the vorthieft king wor 3he,
 Greteft of men and of awtoritee ;
 Wharof he has gret wonder that 3he ar
 So feble cummyne In to his contrare,
 For to defend your cuntre & your londe, 1560
 And knowith well 3he may hyme nocht withftonde.
 Wharfor he thinkith no worfchip to conquere,
 Nore in the weris more to perfyuere ;
 Confiddir yowr wakneß and your Indegens,
 Azanis hyme as now to mak defens. 1565
 Wharfore, my lord haith grantit by vs here
 Trewis to¹ yhow and refput for o 3here,
 If that yhow lykith by the 3heris fpace
 For to retwrn ayane In to this place,
 Her to manteine yhour cuntre, and withftond 1570
 Hyme with the holl power of yhour lond.
 And for the tyme the trewis fhall endure,
 Yhour cuntre and yhour lond he will affurre ;
 And wit 3he 3hit his powar is nocht here.
 And als he bad ws fay yhow by the yhere, 1575
 The gud knycht wich that the Red armys bure
 And in the feild maid the difcumfiture,
 The whilk the flour of knyghted may be cold,
 He thinkith hyme to haue of his houfhold."
 "Well," quod the king, "I have hard quhat yhe fay, 1580
 Bot if god will, and ek if that I may,
 In to fich wyß I think for to withftond,
 Yhour lord fhall have no powar of my londe."

¹ MS. "yow" scored out and "yhow" substituted.

Of this mesag the king Reiofing haß,
 And of the trewis wich that grantit was, 1585
 Bot anoyt 3hit of the knycht was he,
 Wich thei awant to have in fuch dogre.
 Ther leif thei tuk ; and when at thei war gon,
This maister faith, "how lykith god dispone !
 Now may yhow se & futh is my recorde ; 1590
 For by hyme now is makith this accord ;
 And by non vthir worldly providens,
 Sauf only grant of his bynewolans,
 To se if that the lykith to amend,
 And to prouid thi cuntre to defend. 1595
 Wharfor yow shalt in to thi lond home fair,
 And governe the as that I shall declaire.
 [Fol. 20 b.] First, thi god with humble hart yow ferse,
 And his comand at al thi mycht obserf ;
 And syne, lat paß the ilk bleffit wonde 1600
 Of lowe *with* mercy Iustly throw thi londe ;
 And y beseich—to quhome yow sal direke
 The rewle vpon, the wrangis to correk—
 That yow be *nocht* in thi electioun blynde ;
 For writin It Is and yow sal trew It synde, 1605
 That, be thei for to thonk or ellis blame,
 (And towart god thi *part* shal be the faim ;)
 Of Ignorans shalt yow *nocht* be excusit,
 Bot in ther werkis forly be accusit,
 For thow schuld euer cheß apone sich wyß 1610
 The ministeris that rewill haith of Iustice :—
 First, that he be defcret til wnderstonde
 And lowe and ek the mater of the londe ;
 And be of mycht and ek Autoritee,
 (For puple ay *contempnith* low degre,) 1615
 And that of trouth he folow furth the way ;
 That is als mych as he louyth trewth alway,
 And haitith al them the wich fal pas therfro.
 Syne, that he god dreid and lowe al-so.

Of auerice be war with the defyre, 1620
 And of hyme full of haftynes & fyre;
 Be war thar for of malice and defire,
 And hyme also that lowith no medyre;¹
 For al thir abhomizable was hold,
 When Iustice was in to the tymis olde. 1625
 For qwho that is of an of thir by-know,
 The left of them subuertith al the low,
 And makith It w[n]Iustly² to *procede*;
 Eschew tharfor, for this fal be thi meid
 Apone the day when al thing goith aright, 1630
 Whar none excuß hidyng schal ye lyght;
 Bot he the Iug, that no man may fuffpek,
 Euery thing ful Iustly fal correk.
 Be war thar *wit*h, as before have I told,
 And cheß them wyßly that thi low shal hold. 1635
 And als I will that it well oft be sen,
 Richt to thi self how thei thi low *conten*;
 And how the Right, and how the dom is went,
 For to Inquer that yow be delygent.
 [Fol. 21.] And punyß for, for o thing shal yow know, 1640
 The most trespas is to subuert the low,
 So that yow be not in thar gilt accufit,
 And frome the froit of bliffit folk refufit.
 And pas yow shalt to euery chef toune,
 Throw out the boundis of thi Regiounne 1645
 Whar yow fall be, that Iustice be Elyk
 With-out diuifione baith to pur & ryk.
 And that thi puple have awdiens
*Wit*h thar complantis, and also thi *presens*;
 For qwho his eris frome the puple stekith, 1650
 And not his hond in ther support furth rekith,

¹ Word almost undecipherable; "medyre" is Professor Skeat's reading. Possibly "mesyre," a forced form of "measure" for sake of rhyme. Cp. ll. 1827-28, *conquerour* and *myfour*.

² MS. "w Iustly."

His dom fall be ful grewous & ful hard,
 When he fal cry and he fal *nocht* be hard.
 Wharfor thyne eris ifith to the pwre,
 Bot in redress of ned, & not of *injure* ; 1655

Thus fall thei don of Resfone & knowlag.
But *kingis* when thei ben of tender ag,
 Y wil not fay I traft thei ben excusit,
 Bot schortly thei fall be far accusit,
 When so thei cum to yheris of Refone, 1660
 If thei tak not full contrifoune,
 And pwnyß them that hath ther low myfgyit.
 That this is trouth it may not be denyit ;
 For vther ways thei fal them not difcharg,¹

One estatis of ther realm, that shold 1665
*Wit*h-in his youth se that his low be hold.²
 And thus thow the, *wit*h mercy, kep alway.
 Of Iustice furt*h* the ilk bleffit way.

And of thi wordis beis trew and stable,
 Spek not to mych, nore be not vareable. 1670
 O *kingis* word shuld be o *kingis* bonde,
 And said It is, a *kingis* word shuld stond ;
 O *kingis* word, among our faderis old,
 Al out more *precious* & more fur was hold
 Than was the oth or feel of any wight ; 1675
 O king of trouth fuld be the werray lyght,
 So treuth and Iustice to o king accordyth.
 And als, as thir clerkis old recordith,

In tyme is larges and humilitee 1680
 Right well according vnto hie dugre,
 And pleffith boith to god and man al-so ;
 [Fol. 21 b.] Wharfor I wil, *incontinent* thow go,
 And of thi lond in euery *part* abide,
 Whar yow gar fet and clep one *euery* fid

¹ A blank space here occurs, just sufficient to contain one line.

² M.S. "behold."

Out of thi cuntreis, and ek out of thi tovnis, 1685
 Thi dukis, erlis, and thi gret baronis,
 Thi pur knyghtis, and thi bachleris,
 And them refauf als hartly as afferis,
 And be them felf yow welcum them ilkon :
 Syne, them to glaid and cheris, thee difpone 1690
 With festing and with humyll *contynans*.
 Be not penyfyve, nore proud in arrogans,
 Bot *wit*h them hold in gladnes cumpany ;
 Not with the Rich nor myghty *anerly*,
 Bot with the pure worthi man also, 1695
*Wit*h them thow fit, *wit*h them yow ryd and go.
 I fay not to be our fameliar,
 For, as the most philofephur can duclar,
 To mych to oys familiaritee
 Contempnyng bryngith one to hie dugre ; 1700
 Bot cherice them *wit*h wordis fair depaynt,
 So with thi pupelle fal yow the aquaynt.
 Than of ilk cuntre wyfly yow enquere
 An agit knyght to be thi consulere,
 That haith ben hold in armys Richt famus, 1705
 Wyß and discret, & no thing Inwyus ;
 For ther is non that knowith so wel, I-wyß,
 O worthy man as he that worthi Is.
 When well long haith yow fwiornyt in a place,
 And well acqueynt the *vit*h thi puple has, 1710
 Than shalt thow ordand & *prowid* the
 Of horß and ek of armour gret plente,
 Of gold, and filuer, tressore, and cleithing,
 And euery Riches that longith to o king ;
 And when the lykith for to tak thi leif, 1715
 By largeß thus yow thi reward geif,
 First to the pure worthy honorable,
 That is til armys and til *man*hed able ;
 (Set he be pur, 3hit worfchip in hyme bidith) ;
 If hyme the horß one wich thi felwyne Ridith, 1720

And bid hyme that he Rid hyme for yhour fak ;
 Syne til hyme gold and filuer yow betak ;
 The horsß to hyme for worfchip and prowes,
 The trefor for his fredome and larges.

- [Fol. 22 a.] If most of Riches, and of Cherifing 1725
 Eftir this gud knyçt berith vitnefing.
 Syne to thi tennandis & to thi wawafouris
 If effy haknays, palfrais, and cursfouris
 And robis sich as plesand ben and fair ;
 Syne to thi lordis wich at myçhty aire, 1730
 As dukis, erlis, princis, and ek kingis,
 Yow if them strang, yow if them vncoutç thingis,
 As diuerß iowellis, and ek preciouß stonis,
 Or halkis hundis, ordinit for the nonis,
 Or wantone horsß that can noch stand in stāble ; 1735
 Thar giftis mot be fair and delitable.
 Thus, first vn to the vorthi pur yow if
 Giftis, that may ther pouerte Releif ;
 And to the rich iftis of plesans,
 That thei be fair, fet noch of gret substans ; 1740
 For riches askith no thing bot delyt,
 And powert haith ay ane appetyt
 For to support ther ned and Indigens :
 Thus shall yow if and makith thi dispens.
 And ek the quen, my lady, shalt also 1745
 To madenis and to ladeis, quhar ðhe go,
 If, and cheriß one the samyne wyß ;
 For in to largesß al thi welfar lyis.
 And if thy giftis with sich continans
 That thei be sen ay gifyne vitç plesans ; 1750
 The wyß man fais, and futh it is approuit.
 Thar is no thonk, thar is no ift alowit,
 Bot It be ifyne In to sich manere,
 That is to fay, als glaid in to his chere,
 As he the wich the ift of hyme Refauith ; 1755
 And do he not, the gifar is disfauth ;

For who that *iffis*, as he not if wald,
 Mor *profit* war his ift for to *wit*-hald ;
 His thonk he tynith, and his ift also.
 Bot that thow ifith, if *wit* both two, 1760
 That is to fay, with hart and hand atonis ;
 And fo the wyfman ay ye ift difponis.
 Beith larg and *iffis* frely of thi thing ;
 For largeſt is the trefour of o king,
 And not this other Iowell's nor this gold 1765
 That is in to thi trefory with-holde.

[Fol. 22 b.]

Who gladly iffith, be vertew of larges
 His trefory encrefiſ of Richeſſ,
 And fal aȝaïne the mor al out refawe.
 For he to quhome he ȝewith fall hawe, 1770
 Firſt his body, fyne his hart with¹ two,
 His gudis al for to difpone also
 In his *feruice* ; and mor atour he ſhall
 Have O thing, and that is beſt of all,
 That is to fay, the worſchip and the loſſ 1775
 That vpon larges in this world furth goſſ.
 And yow ſhal know the lawbour & the preſſ
 In to this erth about the gret Richeſſ.
 Is ony, bot² apone the cauſſ we see
 Of met, of cloth, & of *profperitee* ? 1780
 All the remanant ſtant apone the name
 Of purches, furth apone this world's fame.
 And well yow wot, in thyne allegians
 Ful many Is, the wich haith ſufficians
 Of euery thing that longith to ther ned ; 1785
 What haith yow more, qwich them al to lede,
 For al thi Realmys and thi gret Riches,
 If that yow lak of worſchip the encreſſ ?
 Well leſſ, al out ; for eſter thar eſtate
 Thei have vorſchip, and kepith It al gat ; 1790

¹ MS. doubtful whether "with" or "wich."

² MS. "Is ony bout bot ;" "bout" deleted.

And yow degradith al thyne hie dūgree,
 That so schuld shyne In to nobelitee,
 Throuch wys and throw¹ the wrechitneß of hart.
 And knowis yow not what fall be² thi part,
 Out of this world when yow fal paß the cours? 1795
 Fair well, I-wyß ! yow neuer shall Recourß
 Whar no prince more shall the subiet³ have,⁴
 But be als dep in to the erd y-grave,
 Sauf vertew only and worfchíp wích abidith
 Wítz them ; the world apone the laif dewidith ; 1800
 And if he, wích shal eftir the succed,
 By larges spend, of quích that yhow had dreid,
 He of the world comendit is and prifit,
 And yow stant furth of euey thing dispifit ;
 The puple faith and demyth thus of thee, 1805
 ‘ Now is he gone, a werray vrech was hee,
 And he the wích that is our king and lord
 Boith wertew haith & larges in accorde ;
 Welcum be he ! ’ and so the puple foundith.
 [Fol. 23 a.] Thus through thi víß his wertew mor aboundith, 1810
 And his wertew the more thi wíce furth schawith.
 Wharfor zhe, wích that princes ben y-knowith,
 Lat not yhour vrechit hart so yhow dant,
 That he that cummyth next yhow may awant
 To be mor larg, nore more to be commendit ; 1815
 Best kepít Is the Riches well dispendit.
 O zhe, the wích that kingis ben, fore sham
 Remembrith yhow, this world hath bot o naam
 Of good or ewill, efter zhe ar gone !
 And wyßly tharfor cheffith yhow the toñ 1820
 Wích móst accordith to nobilitee,
 And knytith larges to yhour hie degre.
 For qwhar that fredome In O prince Ringnis,
 It bryngith In the victory of kingis,

¹ Or “throch.”

² MS. has “by.”

³ MS. has “subei^t.”

⁴ Ll. 1797 and 1798 might with advantage be transposed.

- And makith realmys and puple boith to dout, 1825
 And fubectis¹ of the cuntre al about.
 And qwho that thinkith ben o conquerour,
 Suppos his largeß fumquhat pas myfour,
 Ne rak he nat, bot frely iffith ay ;
 And as he wynyth, beis var al-way 1830
 To mych nor 3hit to gredy that he hold,
 Wich fal the hartis of the puple colde.
 And low and radour cummyth boith two
 Of larges ; Reid and 3he fal fynd It fo.
 Alexander, this lord the warld that wan, 1835
 First *wit*h the fuerd of larges he began,
 And as he wynith ifith largely,
 He rakith No thing bot of cheuelry ;
 Wharfor of hyme fo passith the Renown,
 That many o cetee, and many o strang town, 1840
 Of his worschip that herith the Recorde,
 Diffirith fo to haveing sich o lorde,
 And offerith them *wit*h-ouen strok of spere,
 Suppos that thei war manly men of were,
 But only for his gentilleß that thei 1845
 Have hard ; and fo he louit was al-way
 For his larges, humilitee, and manhed,
*Wit*h his awn folk, that neuermore, we Reid,
 [Fol. 23 b.] For al his weris nor his gret trawell,
 In al his tym that thei hyme onys fail ; 1850
 Bot in his worschip al thar besynes
 Thei fet, and lewith in to no distres ;
 Whar-throw the fuerd of victory he berith.
 And many prince full oft the palm werith,
 As has ben hard, by largeß, of before, 1855
 In conquering of Rignis & of glore.
 And wrechitnes Richt fo, in the contrar,
 Haith Realmys maid ful defolat & barre,

¹ Or "subettis."

- And king's broght doun from ful hie estat ;
 And who that Red ther old buk's, wat 1860
 The vicis lef, the wertew have in mynde,
 And takith larges In his awn kynd,
 A-myd standing of the vicis two,
 Prodegalitee and awerice also ;
 Wharfor her of It nedith not to more, 1865
 So mych ther of haith clerk's vrit to fore.
 Bot who the wertw of larges & the law
 Sal cheß, mot ned confidir well & know
 In to hyme felf, and thir thre wnderstande,
 The substans first, the powar of his land, 1870
 Whome to he iffith, and the cauß wharfore,
 The nedful tyme awatith euermore.
 Kepith thir thre ; for qwho that fal exceed
 His rent, he fallith fodandly in nede.
 And so the king, that on to myster drowis, 1875
 His subietts and his puple he our-thrawis,
 And them dispolzeith boith of lond and Rent ;
 So is the king, fo is the puple schent.
 For quhi the woice It fcrikth vp ful ewyne
 With-out abaid, and passith to the hewyne, 1880
 Whar god hyme felf refauith ther the crye
 Of the opprefioun and the teranny,
 And with the fuerd of wengans douz yfmytith,
 The wich that caruith al to for, and bitith,
 And hyme distroyth, as has ben hard or this 1885
 Of euery king that wirkith sich o mys.
 For ther is few eschapith them, It fall
 Boith vpone hyme & his succeffione fall ;
 For he forfuth haith ifyne hyme the wond
 [Fol. 24 a.] To Iustefy and Reull in pece his lond, 1890
 The puple all submytit¹ to his cure ;
 And he aȝan one to no creatur

¹ At end of "submytit" an "h" deleted.

Save only shall vn to his gode obey.
 And if he passith so far out of the wey,
 Them to oppress, that he shuld reul & gid, 1895
 Ther heritag, there gwdis to dewide,
 Ye, wnder whome that he most nedis stond,
 At correccioun fal strek his mychty hond,
 Not euery day, bot shal at onys fall
 On hyme, mayhap, and his succescione all. 1900
 In this, allace! the blyndis of the kingis,
 And Is the fall of princis and of Rygnis.
 The most wertew, the gret Intellegens,
 The bleffit tokyne of wyfdom and prudens
 Iffs, in o king, for to restren his honde 1905
 Frome his pupleis Riches & ther lond.
 Mot euery king have this wice in mynd
 In tyme, and not when that he ned fynde!
 And in thi larges beith war, I pray,
 Of nedful tyme, for than is best alway. 1910
 Awyß the ek quhome to that thow falt if,
 Of there fam, and ek how that thei leif;
 And of the wertws and wicious folk also,
 I the befeich dewidith well thir two,
 So that thei stond noch in o degree; 1915
 Difcreccioun fall mak the diuersitee,
 Wich clepith the moder of al vertewis.
 And beith war, I the befeich of this,
 That is to fay of flatry, wich that longith
 To court, and al the kingis larges fongith. 1920
 The vertuouß man no thing thar-of refauith,
 The flattereris now so the king diffauith
 And blyndith them that wot no thing, I-wyß,
 When thei do well, or quhen thei do o myß;
 And latith kingis oft til wnderstonde 1925
 Thar vicis, and ek ye faltis of ther lond.
 In to the realme about o king Is holde
 O flatterere were than is the stormys cold,

Or pestelens, and mor the realme anoyith,
 For he the law and puple boith distroyith. 1930
 [Fol. 24 b.] And in to principall ben ther three thingis,
 That cauffith flattereris stonding *wit* the kingis;
 And on, It is the blyndit Ignorans
 Of kingis, wich that hath no *gouernans*
 To *wnderstond* who doith sich o myß; 1935
 But who that farest schewith hym, I-wyß,
 Most suffisith and best to his plefans.
 Wo to the realme that havith sich o chans!
 And secundly, quhar that o king Is
 Weciuß hyme self, he cheriffith, ywys, 1940
 Al them the wich that one to vicis foundith,¹
 Whar throw that vicis and flattery ek aboundith.
 The thrid, is the ilk schrewit harrmsful wice,
 Wich makith o king *wit*in hyme self so nyce,
 That al thar flattry and ther gilt he knowith 1945
 In to his wit, and 3hit he hyme *wit*-drowith
 Them to repref, and of ther vicis he wot;
 And this It is wich that diffemblyng hot,
 That in no way accordith for o king.
 Is he not set abuf apone his Ringne, 1950
 As *fouerane* his puple for to lede?
 Whi schuld he spare, or quhom of schuld he dred
 To fay the treuth, as he of Right is hold?
 And if so ware that al the kingis wold,
 When that his legis comytit ony wyce, 1955
 As beith not to schamful, nore to nyce,
 That thei perfume that he is negligent,
 But als far as he thinkith that thei myßwent,
 But diffemblyng repewith as afferis,
 And pwnice them quhar pwnyng Requeris, 1960
 Sauf only *mercy* in the tyme of ned.
 And fo o king he schuld his puple led,

¹ Or "foundith."

That no trespaß, that cummyth in his way,
 Shuld paß his hond wne-pwnist away ;
 Nore no good deid in to the samyn degree, 1965
 Nore no wertew, fuld wn-Reuardid bee.
 Than flattry shuld, that now is he, be low,
 And wice from the king's court witz-drow ;
 His minsteris that shuld the Iustice reull,
 Shuld kep well furtz of quiet & reull, 1970
 That now, god wat, as It conferwit Is,
 The stere is lost, and al is gon amys ;
 [Fol. 25 a.] And vertew shuld hame to the court hyme drest,
 That exillith goith in to the wildernes.
 Thus if o king stud lyk his awn degree, 1975
 Wertwis and wyß than shuld his puple bee,
 Only fet by vertew hyme to pleß,
 And fore adred his wifdom to displeß.
 And if that he towart the vicis draw,
 His folk fall go on to that ilk law ; 1980
 What shal hyme pleß that wil nocht ellis fynd,
 Bot ther apon fetith al ther mynde.
 Thus only in the wertew of o king
 The reull stant of his puple & his ringne,
 If he be wyß and, but diffemblyng, schewis, 1985
 As I have said, the vicis one to schrewis.
 And so thus, fir, It stant apone thi will
 For to amend thi puple, or to spill ;
 Or have thi court of vertewis folk, or fullis ;
 Sen yow art holl maister of the scoullis 1990
 Teichith them, and thei sal gladly leir,
 That is to say, that thei may no thing heir
 Sauf only wertew towart thyn estat ;
 And cheriß them that wertews ben algait.
 And thinkith what that wertew is to thee ; 1995
 It pleßith god, vphaldith thi degree."
 "Maister," quod he, "me think rycht profitable
 Yowr conseell Is, and wonder honorable

For me, and good ; *rycht* well I have *confaut*,
 And in myne hart's Inwartneß *refaut*. 2000
 I shal fulfill and do yowr ordynans
 Als far of wit as I have *suffifans* ;
 Bot y befeich yow, in til hartly wyß,
 That of my drem zhe so to me dewyß,
 The wich so long haith occupeid my mynd, 2005
 How that I shal no *maner* fucour synd
 Bot only throw the wattir lyon, & fyne
 The leich that is *withouten* medysyne,
 And of the confell of the flour ; wich ayre
 Wonderis lyk that no man can duclar." 2010
 " **N**ow, *sir*," quod he, "and I of them al thre,
 What thei betakyne shal I schaw to the,
 Such as the clerkis at them specefit ;
 [Fol. 25 b.] Thei vsit no thing what thei signefit.
 The wattir lyone Is the god werray, 2015
 God to the lyone is lyknyt many way ;
 But thei have hyme In to the wattir señ,
 Confufit were ther wittis al, y weñ ;
 The wattir was ther awn fragelitee,
 And thar trespas, and thar Inequitee 2020
 In to this world, the wich thei stond yclofit ;
 That was the wattir wich thei have supposit,
 That haith there knowlag maad so Inperfyte ;
 Thar fyne & ek ther worldis gret delyt,
 As cloudy wattir, was *euer*more betweñ, 2025
 That thei the lyone *perfitly* hath *nocht* señ ;
 Bot as the wattir, wich was *yer* awn *synne*,
 That *euer*mor thei stond confufit In.
 If thei haith stond in to religioñ clen,
 Thei had the lyone Not in watter sen, 2030
 Bot clerly vp in to the hewyne abus,
Eternaly whar he shal not remuse.
 And *euer*more in vatter of fyne vas hee,
 For quhi It is Impossfeble for to bee ;

And thus the world, wich that thei ar In, 2035
 Yclofit Is in dyrknes of ther syne ;
 And ek the thikneß of the air betwen
 The lyone mad in vattir to be fen.
 For It was *nocht* bot strenth of ther clergy
 Wich thei have here, and It is bot erthly, 2040
 That makith them there refou~~ns~~ dewyß,
 And fe the lyone thus in erthly wyß.
 This is the lyone, god, and goddis sone,
 Ihesu crist, wich ay in hewyne fal wonne.
 For as the lyone of euery best is king, 2045
 So is he lord and maister of al thing,
 That of the bleffit vyrgyne vas ybore.
 Ful many a natur the lyone haith, quhar fore
 That he to god resemblyt is, bot I
 Lyk not mo at this tyme specify. 2050
 This is the lyone, thar of have yow no dred,
 That shal the help and comfort In thi ned.
The sentens here now woll I the desyne
 Of hyme, the lech *wit*houten medysyne,
 Wich is the god that euery thing hath vrought. 2055
 [Fol. 26 a.] For yow may know that vther Is It noght,
 As furgynis and fescianis, wich that delith
*Wit*ß mortell thingis, and mortell thingis helyth,
 And al thar art is in to medysyne,
 As it is ordanit be the *mycht* dewyne, 2060
 As *plasteris*, *drinkis*, and anouyntmentis¹ feir,
 And of the qualyte watyng of the yher ;
 And of the planetis dispo~~fi~~cioune,
 And of the naturis of compleccyounge,
 And in the diuerß changing of hwmowris. 2065
 Thus wnder reull lyith al there cwris ;
 And yhit thei far as blynd man In the way
 Oft, quhen that deith thar craft list to affay.

¹ MS. "anoñytmētis," or "anoñytmētis."

Bot god, the wich that is the *foueran* lech,
Nedith no *maner* medyfyne to fech ; 2070

For ther is no Infyrmyte, nore wound,
Bot as hyme lykith al is holl and found.
So can he heill Infyrmytee of thoght,
Wich that one erdly medefyne can noght ;
And als the faul that to confufiounē goith, 2075

And haith with hyme and vther *parteis* boith,
His dedly wound god helyth frome the ground ;
On to his cure no medyfyne is found.

This Is his *mycht* that *neuer* more shall fyne,
This is the leich *wit*houten medyfyne ; 2080

And If that yhow at confessiounē hath ben,
And makith the of al thi *synn*is clen,
Yow art than holl, and this ilk *famyn* is he
Schall be thi leich In al *necessitee*.

Now of the flour y woll to the *discern* : 2085
This is the flour that haith the froyt *eter*n,

This is the flour, this *sadith* for no *schour*,
This is the flour of euery flouris *floure* ;
This is the flour, of quhom the froyt *vas* *bor*n,
This *ws* *redemyt* *ester* that we *war* *lor*n ; 2090

This Is the flour that *euer* *spryngith* new,
This is the flour that *changith* *neuer* hew ;
This is the *vyrgyne*, this is the *bleffit* flour
That *Ihesu* bur that is our *salweour*,
This flour *wnwemyt* of hir *wirginit*ee ; 2095

This is the flour of our *felicitee*,
This is the flour to quhom *ve* *shuld* *exort*,
This is the flour not *fessith* to support
In *prayere*, *confell*, and in *byssynes*,

[Fol. 26 b.] Vs *catifis* ay In to our *wrechitnes* 2100

On to hir sone, the quich hir *confell* *herith* ;
This is the flour that al our *gladness* *sterith*,
Throuch *whois* *prayer* *mony* one is *fawit*,
That to the *deth* *eternaly* *war* *refawit*,

Ne war hir hartly fuplicatioune. 2105
 This is the flour of our faluatioune,
 Next hir sone, the froyt of euery flour ;
 This is the fam that shal be thi succour,
 If that the lykith hartly Reuerans
 And *seruice* 3eld one to hir excellens, 2110
 Syne worfchip hir *wit* al thi byffynes ;
 Sche fal thi harm, sche fall thi ned redress.
 Sche fall fice confell if one to the two,
 The lyone and the fouerane lech also,
 Yow fall not Ned yi drem for to dispar, 2115
 Nor 3hit no thing that is in thi contrare.
 Now"—*quod* the maister—"yow may well wnderstand
 Tueching thi drem as I have born on hande ;
 And planly haith the *mater* al declarith,
 That yhow may know of wich yow was disparith. 2120
 The lech, the lyone, and the flour also,
 Yow worfchip them, yow ferve them *euermo* ;
 And ples the world as I have faid before ;
 In *gouernans* thus stondith al thi glore.
 Do as yow list, for al is in thi honde, 2125
 To tyne thi self, thi honore, and thi londe,
 Or lyk o prince, o *conquerour*, or king,
 In honore and in worfchip for to Ringe."
 "Now," *quod* the king, "I fell that the support
 Of yhour confell haith don me sich comfort, 2130
 Of euery raddour my hart is In to eß,
 To 3hour *command*, god will, y fal obeß.
 Bot o thing is yneuch wn to me,
 How galiot makith his awant that he
 Shall have the *knyc*ht, that only by his honde 2135
 And manhed, was defendour of my londe ;
 If that shall fall y pray yhow tellith me,
 And quhat he hecht, and of quhat lond is hee ?"
 "What that he hecht yow shall no *foryer* know,
 His dedis fall her *esterwart* hyme schaw ; 2140

Bot *contrar* the he shall be found no way.
 No more thar of as now y will the fay." ¹
 [Fol. 27 a.] With that the king haith at his maistr tone
 His leve, one to his cuntre for to goñe ;
 And al the oft makith none abyde, 2145
 To passing home anone thei can *prowid* ;
 And to *fir* gawane thei haith o lytter maad,
 Ful fore ywound, and hyme on *wit* them haade.
 [T]he king, as that the story can declar,
 Passith to o Cete that was Right fair, 2150
 And clepit cardole, In to walis, was,
 For that tyme than It was the *nerest* place,
 And thar he foiornt ^{ti} xxiiij days
 In ryall festing, as the auttore ² fays.
 So difcretly his puple he haith cherit, 2155
 That he thar hartis holy haith *conquerit*.
 And *fir* gawan helyt holl and found
 Be xv dais he was of euery wounde ;
 Right blyt therof in to the court war thei.
 And so befell, the xxiiij ³ day, 2160
 The king to fall in to o hewynes,
 Right ate his table siting at the mes ;
 And *fir* gawan *cummyth* hyme before,
 And said hyme, "*fir*, yhour thought is al to fore,
 Confidering the diuers *knichtis* fere 2165
 Ar of wncouth and strang landis here."
 The king anfuert, as in to matelent,
 "*Sir*, of my thocht, or zhit of myne entent,
 Yhe have the wrang me to repref, for quhy
 Thar lewith none that shuld me blam, for I 2170
 Was thinkand one the worthiest that lewynt,
 That al the worfchip In to armys prewynt ;
 And how the thonk of my defens he had,
 And of the wov that galiot haith mad.

¹ At the bottom of the page is the catch-word, "With that the king."

² Or "auctore." ³ MS. "xxviiij," altered to "xxiiij."

- But I have fen, when that of my houfhold 2175
 Thar was, and of my falowfchip, that wold,
 If that thei wift, quhat thing fhuld me pleß,
 Thei wald *nocht* leif for trawell nor for eß.
 And fum tyme It *preßwmyt* was & faid,
 That in my houfhold of al this world I had 2180
 The flour of *knyçhted* and of chevalry ;
 Bot now thar of y fe the contrarye,
 Sen that the flour of *knyçhted* is away.”
 “Schir,” *quod* he, “of Refone futh yhe fay ;
 [Fol. 27 b.] And if god will, In al this warld fo Round 2185
 He fal be foght, if that he may be found.”
 Than gawan goith *wit* o *knyçhtly* chere,
 At the hal dure he faith In this maner :
 “In this pafag who lykith for to wend ?
 It is o Iorne moft for to comend 2190
 That In my tyme In to the court fallith,
 To *knyçhtis* wich that chewellry lowith,
 Or trawell In to armys for to hant ;
 And lat no *knyçht* fra thyne *furth* hyme awant
 That it denyith ;”—*wit* that onon thei roß, 2195
 Al the *knyçhtis*, and frome the burdis goß.
 The king that fauch In to his hart was wo,
 And faid, “*fir* gawan, nece, why dois yow fo ?
 Knowis yow *nocht* I myne houfhold fuld encreß,
 In *knyçhted*, and in honore, and largeß ? 2200
 And now yow thinkith mak me diffolat
 Of *knyçhtis*, and my houß tranfulat,
 To fek o *knyçht*, and It was *neuer* more
 Hard fich o femble makith o before.”
 “*Sir*,” *quod* he, “als few as may yhow pleß ; 2205
 For what I said was no thing for myne eß,
 Nor for defir of faloufchip, for why
 To paß alone, but cumpany, think I ;
 And ilk *knyçht* to paß o fundry way ;
 The mo thei paß the fewar efchef thay, 2210

Bot thus shal pas no mo bot as yhow left."
 "Takith," *quod* he, "of quhom zhe lykith best,
 Fourty in this pafag for to go ;"
 At this *command* and gawan chefit fo
 Fourty, quich that he louit, & that was 2215
 Richt glaid in to his falowfchip to pas.

[A]nd furth thei go, and al anarmyt thei
 Come to the king, *wit*houten more delay,
 The relykis brocht, as was the maner tho,
 When any knyghtis frome the court suld go. 2220

Or when the passit, or quhen thei com, thei swor
 The trouth to schaw of euery aduentur.
Sir gawan knelyng to his falowis fais,
 "Yhe lordis, wich that in this feking gais,
 So many noble and worthi knyghtis ar zhe, 2225
 Me think in wayne yhour *trauel* shuld *nocht* be,

[Fol. 28 a.] For aduentur is non so gret to pref,
 As I suppone, nor zhe fal It effchef,
 And if zhe lyk as I that shal dewyfs,
 Yhour oth to fwer In to the samyne wyfs 2230

Myne oith to kep ;"—and that thei *vndertak*,
 How *euer* fo that he his oith mak,
 It to conferf, and that thei have all sworñ.
 Than gawan, wich that was the king befor,
 On kneis swore, "I fal the futh duclar 2235

Of euery thing when I agan Repar,
 Nor *neuer* more azhane fal I return,
 Nore in o place long for to fuiorñ
 Whill that the knyght or verray evydens
 I have, that shal be toknis of credens." 2240

His faloufchip abasit of that thing,
 And als therof anoyt was the king,
 Sayng, "Nece, yow haith al foly vroght
 And wilfulness, that haith *nocht* in thi thoght
 The day of batell of galot and me." 2245
Quod gawan, "Now non other ways ma be."

Thar-wit~~h~~ he and his falowfchip also
 Thar halmys lafit, on to ther hors~~s~~ thei go,
 Syne tuk ther lef, and frome the court the fare,
 Thar names ware to long for to declar. 2250

Now fal we leif hyme and hi~~s~~ cumpany,
 That in thar feking paffith biffely ;
 And of the lady of melyhalt we tell,
 Wit~~h~~ whome the kny~~cht~~ mot ned alway duell.

¹[O] day she mayd hyme on to hi~~r~~ prefens fet, 2255
 And on o sege be-fid hir haith hyme fet,
 "Sir, in keping I have yow halding long,"

And thus fche said, "for gret trespas & wrong,
 Magre my stewart, in worfchip, and for thi
 3he fuld me thonk;—"madem," quod he, "and I 2260
 Thonk yhow fo that euer, at my mycht,
 Whar fo I paß that I fal be yhour kny~~cht~~."

"Grant mercy, fir, bot o thing I 3ow pray,
 What that 3he ar 3he wold wic~~hs~~auf² to fay."
 "Madem," quod he, "yhour mercy ask I, quhy 2265
 That for to fay apone no wyß may I."

"No ! wil 3he not ? non oyer ways as now
 3he fal repent, and ek I mak awow
 One to the thing the wich that I best love,

[Fol. 28 b.] Out frome my keping fal 3he not Remuf 2270
 Befor the day of the affembee,

Wich that, o 3her, is nereft for to bee ;
 And if that 3ow haith pleffit for to fay,
 3he had fore me deliuerit ben this day ;
 And I fal knaw, quheyer 3he wil or no, 2275
 For I furt~~h~~ wit~~h~~ one to the court fal go,
 Whar that al thithing~~is~~ goith & cumy~~th~~ foñ."

"Madem," quod he, "yhour plesance mot be doñe."
 Wit~~h~~ that the kny~~cht~~ one to his chalmer goith,
 And the lady hir makith to be wroith 2280

¹ Room is here left in the MS. for an illuminated letter, and a small "o" inserted.

² Or "wic~~hs~~auf."

Azanis hyme, but futhly vas fche not,
 For he al out was mor in to hir thocht.
 Than fchapith fhe azane the ferd day,
 And richly fche gan hir-felf aray;
 Syne clepit haith apone her cufynes, 2285
 And faith, "y will one to the court me drefß;
 And malice I have fchawin on to 3hon knycht,
 For quhy he wold *nocht* fchew me quhat he hicht;
 Bot fo, I-wyß, It is *nocht* in my thocht,
 For worthyar non In to this erth is wrocht. 2290
 Tharfor I pray, and hartly I requer
 3he mak hyme al the cumpany and chere,
 And do hyme al the worfchip and the eßß,
 Excep his honore, wich that may hym pleßß;
 And quhen I cum deliue~~r~~ith hyme als fre 2295
 As he is now;"—"ne have no dred," *quod* fche.
 [T]he lady *partit*, and hir lef hath ton,
 And by hir Iorne to the court Is gon.
 The king hapnit at logris for to bee,
 Wich of his realme was than the chef cete; 2300
 And haith hir met, and In til hartly wyßß
 Refaut her, and welcummyt oft fyßß;
 And haith hir home one to his palice brocht,
 Whar that no dante nedith to be focht,
 And maid hir cher *with* al his ful entent. 2305
 Eft fupir one to o chalmer ar thei went,
 The king and fche, and ek the quen al thre;
 Of hir tithand~~s~~ at hir than askit hee,
 And what that hir one to the court had brocht?
 "Sir," *quod* fche, "I come¹ not al for *nocht*;" 2310
 I have o frend haith o dereyne ydoo,
 [Fol. 29 a.] And I can fynd none able knycht tharto;
 For he, the wich that in the *contrar* Is,
 Is hardy, ftrong, and of gret kyne, I-wyßß;

¹ MS. "conne."

Bot, It is said, If I *mycht* have *wit* me 2315
 3our *knycht*, quich in the last affemble
 Was in the feld, and the red armys bur,
 In his manhed y *mycht* my causß affur ;
 And yhow, *sir*, richt hartly I exort
 In to this ned my *myster* to support." 2320
 "Madem, by faith one to the quen I aw
 That I best loue, the *knycht* I *neuer* saw
 In nernesß by which that I hyme knew ;
 And ek gawane Is gan hyme for to few
*Wit*h other fourty *knychtis* In to cumpany." 2325
 The lady fmylit at ther fanteffy ;
 The quen thar *wit*h *presumyt* wel that sche
 Knew quhat he was, and said, "madem, If 3he
 Knowith of hyme what that he is, or quhar,
 We 3how befech til ws for to declar." 2330
 "Madem," *quod* sche, "now be the faith that I
 Aw to the king and yhow, as for no why
 To court I cam, but of hyme to Inquere ;
 And fen of hyme I can no tithingis here,
 Nedlyngis to-morn homwart mon I fair." 2335
 "Na," *quod* the king, "madem, our son It waire ;
 3he fal remayne her for the qwenys fak ;
 Syne shal 3he of our best *knychtis* tak."
 "Sir," *quod* sche, "I pray 3ow me excuß,
 For quhy to paß nedis me behuß ; 2340
 Nor, fen I want the *knycht* which I have *focht*,
 Wtheris *wit*h me to have desir I *nocht*,
 For I of otheris have that may suffice."
 Bot 3hit the king hir prayt on sich wyß,
 That sche remanit whill the thrid day ; 2345
 Syne tuk hir leif to pasing hom hir way.
 It nedis not the festing to declar
 Maid one to hir, nor company, nor fare ;
 Sche had no *knycht*, sche had no damyseill,
 Nor thei richly rewardit war and well. 2350

Now goith the lady homwart, and fche
 In hir entent defyrus Is to fee
 The flour of knyghted and of chevelry,
 So was he pryfit and hold to euery wy.

[Fol. 29 b.]

The lady, which one to hir palace come, 2355
 Bot of fchort time remanith haith at home,
 When fche gart bryng, *wit*houten Recidens,
*Wit*h grete effere this knyght to hir *presens*,
 And faid hyme; "*fir*, fo mekil have I *focht*,
 And knowith that be-for I knew *nocht*, 2360
 That If yhow lyk I wil yhour Ransone mak."
 "Madem, gladly, wil zhe wichfauf to tak
Efter that as my powar may atteñ,
 Or that I may *prowid* be ony meñ?"
 "Now, *fir*," sho faid, "forfut^h It fal be so, 2365
 Yhe fal have thre, and cheß yhow on of tho;
 And if yhow lykith them for to refusß,
 I can no mor, but zhe fal me excuß,
 Yhe nedis mot fusten yhour aduentur
 Contynualy In ward for til endur." 2370
 "Madem," *quod* he, "and I yhow hartly pray,
 What that thei fay¹ zhe wald *wich*fauf² to fay?"
 "[T]he first," *quod* fche, "who hath in to the cheñ
 Of low yhour hart, and if zhe may dereñ?
 The next, yhour nam, the which ze fal not lye? 2375
 The thrid, if *euer* zhe think of cheualry
 So mekil worfchip to atten in feild
 Apone o day in armys wnder scheld,
 As yat zhe dyd the famyne day, when zhe
 In red armys was at the affemlee?" 2380
 "Madem," *quod* he, "is thar non vther way
 Me to redem, but only thus to fay
 Of thing's, which that Rynyth me to blam,
 Me to awant my lady or hir name?"

¹ So MS. Perhaps "bee."² Or "*wit*sauf."

- But If that I moſt ſchawin furth that one, 2385
 What ſouerte ſchal I have for to gone
 At libertee out of this danger free?"
 "Schir, for to dred no myſter is," *quod* ſhee ;
 "As I am trew and faithfull woman hold,
 3he fal go fre quhen one of thir is told." 2390
 "Madem, yhour will non vther ways I may,
 I mone obey ; and to the firſt y fay,
¹[A]s to declar the lady of myne hart,
 My goſt fal rather of my breſt aſtart"—
 Whar by the lady fayndit al for nocht 2395
 The lowe quhich long hath ben In to *her thocht* ²—
 "And of my nam, ſchortly for to fay,
 It ftondith fo that one no wyß I may.
 [Fol. 30 a.] Bot of the thrid, madem, I ſe that I
 Mon fay the thing that tuechith velany ; 2400
 For fut^h it is I traſt, and god before,
 In feld that I fal do of armys more
 Than euer I did, if I *commandit* bee.
 And now, madem, I have my libertee,
 For I have faid I *neuer thocht* to fay." 2405
 "Now, *fir*," *quod* ſche, "when euer 3he wil ye may ;
 Bot o thing Is, I yhow hartly raquer,
 Sen I have hold yhow apone fuch maner
 Not as my fo, that 3he vald grant me till."
 "Madem," *quod* he, "It fal be as 3he will." 2410
 "Now, *fir*," *quod* ſche, "it is no thing bot 3he
 Remañ *wit* ws wn to the affemble,
 And euery thyng that In yhour myſter lyis
 I fall gar ordan at yhour awn dewyß ;
 And of the day I ſhall yow *certefy* 2415
 Of the affemble, 3he fal not pas therby."

A ſpace is here left for an illuminated letter, evidently "A." Cp. ll. 2228 and 2903 for redundant "as."

² The ſcribe has written "thoght" ſo cloſe to the contraction for "her" that it touches, and has deleted it and rewritten it in contracted form.

"Madem," *quod* he, "It fal be as yhow list."
 "Now, *sir*," *quod* fche, "and than I hald It best,
 That zhe remañ lyk to the famyne degre
 As that zhe war, yat non fal wit that zhe 2420
 Deliuert war; and in to facret wyß
 Thus may zhe be; and now yhe fal dewyß
 What armys that yhow lykyth I gar mak."
 "Madem," *quod* he, "armys al of blak."
With this, this knyght is to his chalmer goñ; 2425
 The lady gan ful prewaly diffpone
 For al that longith to the knyght, in feild;
 Al blak his horß, his armour, and his scheld,
 That nedful is, al thing fche well *prewidith*;
 And in hir keping thus *with* hir he bidith. 2430
 Suppos of love fche takyne hath the charg,
 Sche bur It clos, ther of fche vas not larg,
 Bot wyfly fche abstenit hir diffir,
 For ellis quhat, fche knew, he was afyre;
 Thar for hir wit hir worschip haith defendit, 2435
 For in this world thar was nan mor *commendit*,
 Boith of discreccioune and of womanhed,
 Of *gouernans*, of nurtur, and of farhed.
 This knyght *with* hir thus al this whil mon duell,
 And furt^h of arthur fumthing wil we tell— 2440
 [T]hat walkyng vas furt^h in to his *Regiouzis*,
 And foiornt in his ceteis and his townis,
 [Fol. 30 b.] As he that had of visdome sufficyans.
 He kepit the lore of maister amyntans
 In ryghtwyfnes, In festing and larges, 2445
 In cherisng *company* and hamlynes;
 For he was biffy and was deligent,
 And largely he iffith, and difpent
 Rewardis, boith one to the pur & riche,
 And holdith fest throw al the zher eliche. 2450
 In al the warld passng gan his name;
 He chargit not bot of encreß and fañe,

And how his puples hartis to empleß ;
 Thar gladnes ay was to his hart most eß.
 He rakith not of riches nor treffour, 2455
 Bot to dispēd one worschip & honour ;
 He ifith riches, he ifith lond and rent.
 He cheriffyth them *witʰ* wordis eloquent,
 So that thei can them vtraly *propone*
 In his *seruice* thar lyves to dispone : 2460
 So gladith themē his homely *contynans*,
 His cherifyng, his wordis of plesans,
 His cumpany, and ek his mery chere,
 His gret rewardis, and his *iftis* fere.
 Thus hath the king non vthir besynes 2465
 Bot cherifing of *knychtis* and largeß,
 To mak hyme self of honour be *commend* ;
 And thus the ʒher he drywith to the ende.

EXPLICIT SECUNDA PARS,
 INCIPIT TERTIA PARS.

- T**he long dirk pasag of the vinter, & the *lycht*
 Of phebus *comprochit with* his *mycht*; 2470
 The which, ascending In his altitud,
 Awodith saturn̄ *with* his stormys Rude ;
 The soft dew one fra the hewyne doune valis
 Apone the erth, one hillis and on valis,
 And throw the sobir & the mwft hwmouris 2475
 Vp nurifit ar the erbis, and in the flouris
 Natur the erth of many diuers hew
 Ourfret, and cled *with* the tendir new.
 [Fol. 31 a.] The birdis may them hiding in the grawis
 Wel frome the halk, that oft ther lyf berevis ; 2480
 And scilla hie ascending in the ayre,
 That euery vight may heryng hir declar
 Of the seffone and passing lustynes.
 This was the tyme that phebus gan hym dres
 In to the rame, and haith his courß bygown, 2485
 Or that the trewis and the 3her vas Rown,
 Which was yfet of galiot and the king
 Of thar assemble, and of thar meting.
 Arthur haith a xv dais before
 Affemplit al his barnag and more 2490
 That weryng wnder his subieccioune,
 Or louith hyme, or longith to his crown ;
 And haith his Iornay tone, *with*houten let,
 On to the place the wich that was yfet,
 Whar he hath found befor hyme mony o *knycht* 2495
 That *cummyng* war *with* al thar holl *mycht*,
 Al enarmyt both *with* spere & scheld,
 And ful of lugis plantith haith the feld,

Hyme In the wer for to fupport and ferf
 At al ther mycht, his thonk for to differf, 2500
 And gawan, which was in the feking 3hit
 Of the gud knycht, of hyme haith got no wit,
 Remembrith hyme apone the kingis day,
 And to his falowis one this wys can fay :
 " To 3how is knowin the mater, in what wyß 2505
 How that the king hath with his ennemys
 A certan day, that now comprochit nere,
 And one to ws war hewynes to here
 That he var in to perell or in to dreid,
 And we away, and he of ws haith neid ; 2510
 For we but hyme no thing may efchef,
 And he but ws in honore well may lef ;
 For, be he loft, we may no thing withftond,
 Our felf, our honore we tyne, & ek our lond.
 Tharfor, I red we pas on to the king, 2515
 Suppos our oth It hurt in to fum thing,
 And in the feld with hyme for til endur,
 Of lyf or deth and tak our aduentur."
 Thar to thei ar consentit euerilkon,
 And but dulay the have thar Iorney toñe. 2520
 [Fol. 31 b.] When that the king them faw, in his entent
 Was of thar com Right wonder well content ;
 For he preswmyt no thing that thei wold
 Have cummyne, but one furt to yer feking hold.
 And thus the king his¹ oft affemblit has 2525
 Azane the tyme, azaine the day that vas
 Y-statut and ordanit for to bee,
 And euery thing hath fet in the dogre.
 [A]nd galiot, that haith no thing for3het
 The termys quhich that he befor had set, 2530
 Affemblit has, apone his beft maner,
 His folk, and al his other thingis fere,

¹ MS. "kinghis."

That to o weryour longith to *prouid*,
 And is y-come apone the tothir fyde.
 Whar he befor was one, than vas he two, 2535
 And al his vthir artiljery also
 He dowblith hath, that *merwell* was to feñ ;
 And by the rewere *lychtit* one the greñ,
 And stronghar thane ony wallit toune
 His oft y-bout yclofit in Randoune. 2540
 Thus war thei *cummyne* apone ather fyd
 Be-for the tyme, them felf for to *prouid*.
 Or that the trewis was complet & rwn,
 Men *mycht* have fen one euery sid begwn
 Many a fair and knyghtly Iuperty 2545
 Of lusty men, and of zong chevalry,
 Difyrus In to armys for to pruf ;
 Sum for wynyng, *fum* caufith vas for luf ;
 Sum In to worfchip to be exaltate,
 Sum caufit was of wordis he & hate, 2550
 That lykit not ydill for to ben ;
 A hundereth pair at onis one the gren.
 Thir lusty folk thus can thar tyme dispend,
 Whill that the trewis goith to the ende.
 The trewis past, the day is *cummyne* onone, 2555
 One euery fyd the can them to dispone ;
 And thai that war most facret & most dere
 To galiot, at hyme the can enquere,
 “ Who fal affemble one yhour fyd to-morne?
 To-*nicht* the trewis to the end is worne.” 2560
 He anfuerit, “ As yhit one to this were
 I ame awyfit I wil none armys bere,
 Bot If It stond of more Necessitee ;
 Nor to the feld will pas, bot for to fee
 Yhone *knycht*, the which that berith sich o fame.” 2565
 Than clepit he the *conquest* king be name,
 And hyme *commandit* xxx thousand tak
 Azaine the morne, and for the feld hyme mak.

And gawane haith, apone the toyer syde,
 Confulit his Eme he schuld for them prowid, 2570
 And that he schuld none armys to hyme tak
 Whill¹ galiot will for the feld hyme mak.
 "I grant," *quod* [he²], "wharfor þhe mone dispone
 Yhow to the feld *witþ* al my folk to-morne,
 And thinkith in yhour manhed and curage 2575
 For to recist þhone folkis gret owtrag."
 [T]he *nycht* is gone, vp goith the morow gray,
 The *brycht* fone so clerith al the day :
 The *knychtis* gone to armys than, in haft ;
 One goith the *scheildis*, and the helmys laft ; 2580
 Arthuris oft out our the furrde thai ryd.
 And thai agane, apone the toyer syd,
 Affemblit ar apone o lusty greyne,
 In to o waill, whar fone thar *mycht* be feyne
 Of *knychtis* to-geddir many o pair 2585
 In to the feld affemblyng her & thair,
 And *stedis* which that haith thar *mafter* lorne ;³
 The *knychtis* war done to the erth doune borne.
Sir esquyris, which was o manly *knycht*
 In to hyme self, and hardy vas & *wycht* ; 2590
 And in till armys gretly for to pryfs,
 Þhit he was pure, he prewit wel oft fyfs ;
 And that tyme was he of the *cumpane*
 Of galiot, bot *esterwart* was hee
Witþ arthur ; and that day In to the feild 2595
 He come, al armyt boith *witþ* spere and scheld,
Witþ ferfs desir, as he that had na dout,
 And is affemblit ewyne apone a rowt ;
 His spere is gone, the *knycht* goith to the erd,
 And out onon he pullith haith o sward ; 2600
 That day In armys *prewit* he *rycht* well,
 His strenth, his manhed arthuris folk thai fell.

¹ MS. "Wihill."² Omitted in MS.³ MS. has "borne."

Than galys gwynans, *wit*h o manly hart,
 Which broyer was of ywane the bastart,
 He *cummyne* Is onone one to the flour 2605
 [Fol. 32 b.] For *conquering* In armys of honour,
 And *cownterit* *wit*h esqyris hath so,
 Than horß and man, al four, to erth thai go ;
 And still o quhill lying at the ground.
*Wit*h that o *part* of arthuris folk thei found 2610
 Till gwyans, and haith hyme fone refkewit.
 Azanis them til esqyris thei sewyt
 Of galiotis well xxx^{ti} knychtis & mo ;
 Gwyans goith done, and vthir vij also,
 The wich war tone, & esqwyris relewit. 2615
 Than ywane the anterus, aggrewit,
*Wit*h kynmifmen one to the melle *focht*.
 The hardy knychtis, that one thar worfchip thocht,
 Cownterit them In myddis of the scheld,
 Whar many o knycht was born down in the feld ; 2620
 Bot thei wich ware on galiotis part,
 So wnder^takand nor of fo hardy hart
 Ne ware thei not as was in ye *contrare*.
Sir galys gwyans was refqwyt thare
*Wit*h his falowis, and esqwyris don bore. 2625
 Thar al the batellis cam, *wit*houten more,
 On ather part, and is affemblit fo
 Whar fyfty thoufand war thei, & no mo.
 In o plane besyd the gret Riwere
 Xxx thoufand one galiotis half thei vare ; 2630
 Of arthuris x thoufand and no mo
 Thei ware, and 3hit thai *contenit* them fo,
 And in the feld fo manly haith born,̄
 That of thar fois haith the feld forsworn.
 The *conquest* king, wich the *perell* knowith, 2635
 Ful manly one to the feld he drowith ;
 The lord *sir* gawan, *couerit* *wit*h his scheld,
 He rufchit in myddis of the feld,

And haith them fo in to his com affayt,
 That of his manhed ware thei al affrait ; 2640
 No langer mycht thei *contrar* hyme endur,
 Bot fled, and goith one to *discumfiture*.
 And galiot, wich haith the *discumfit* fen,
 Fulfillit ful of *anger* and of ten,
Incontinent he fend o new poware, 2645
 Whar-*wit*h the *feldis* al our *couerit* ware
 [Fol. 33 a.] Of armyt *fledis* bot*h* in plait and maill,
*Wit*h *knichtis* wich war reddi to affaill.
Sir gawan, feing al the gret suppris
 Of fois *cummyng* In to sich o wys, 2650
 Togiddir al his cumpany he drew,
 And comfortable *wordis* to them *schew* ;
 So at the *cummyng* of thar ennemys
 Thei them *refauf*, in fo manly *wyß*,
 That many one felith deithis wound, 2655
 And *wnder* horß lyith *fobing* one the ground.
 This vther *cummyth* in to gret *desir*,
 Fulfillit ful of *matelent* and *Ire*,
 So *frefchly*, *wit*h fo gret o *confluens*,
 Thar *strong* *affay* hath don sich *vyolens*, 2660
 And at thar come *arthuris* folk fo led,
 That thai war ay *abayfit* and *adred*.
 Bot gawan, wich that, by this *worldis* fame,
 Of *manhed* and of *knichted* bur the name,
 Haith *prewit* well be *experiens* ; 2665
 For only In til armys his *defens*
 Haith maid his *falowis* tak sich *hardyment*,
 That *manfully* thei *biding* one the bent.
 Of his *manhed* war *merwell* to *raherß* ;
 The *knichtis* throw the *scheldis* can he *perß*, 2670
 That many one thar *dethis* haith *refaut* ;
 None armour frome his *mychty* hond them *faut*,
 3hit ay for one ther *ennemys* wor thre.
 Long *mycht* thei *nocht* endur in fuch *dugree*,

The preß it wos fo creuell & fo strong, 2675
 In gret anoy and haith *continewit* longe,
 That, magre them, thei *nedis* most abak
 The way one to thar *lugis* for to tak.
Sir gawan thar sufferith gret myfchef,
 And *wonderis* in his *knychthed* can he pref; 2680
 His *faloufchip* haith *merwell* that hym faw,
 So haith his *fois* that of his *fuerd* stud aw.
 King arthur, that al this whill beheld
 The *danger* and the *perell* of the feld,
Sir ywan *with* o *falowfchip* he fende, 2685
 Them In that ned to help & to defend,
 [Fol. 33 b.] Qwiche fond them In to danger and in were,
 And *enterit* nere In to thar tentis were.
Sir gawan *fechtand* was one fut At erde,
 And no defend, but only in his *fwerde*, 2690
Azanis them *both with* *spere* and *scheld*.
 Of *galowa* the *knycht* goith to the erde.¹
 Thar was the *batell* *furyous* and *woid*
 Of *armyt knychts*; to the *grownde* thai *ghud*.
Sir ywane, that was a noble *knyght*, 2695
 He *schew* his *strenth*, he *schew* thar *his gret mycht*,
 In al his tyme that *neuer* of before
 Off *armys*, nore of *knychthed*, did he more :
Sir gawan thar *reskewit* he of *fors*,
 Magre his *fois*, and haith *hyme* fet one *horß* 2700
 That *frome* the first *conquest* king he *wañ* ;
 Bot *fir* gawan fo *ewill* was *wondit* than,
 And in the feld *fupprifit* was fo fore,
 That he the *werß* thar of was *euer*more.
 Thar *schew* the lord *fir* ywan *his* *curage*, 2705
 His *manhed*, & *his* noble *waffolage* ;
 And gawan, in his doing, *wald* *nocht* irk ;
 So al the day *enduring*, to the *dyrk*

¹ Read "felde"?

Sal them, magre of thar defyre, *constren*
 On ayar half fore [to] depart in twen. 2710
 And when that gawan of his horß vas toñ,
 The blud out of his noiß & mouth is goñ,
 And largely fo passith euery wounde,
 In swonyng thore he fell one to the ground :
 Than of the puple petee was to here 2715
 The lemytable clamour, and the chere ;
 And of the king the forow and the care,
 That of his necis lyf was in diffpare.
 "Far well," he fais, "my gladnes, & my delyt,
 Apone knyghted far well myne appetit, 2720
 Fare well of manhed al the gret curage,
 Yow flour of armys and of vaffolage,
 Gif yow be lost !"—thus til his tent hyme brocht
 With wofull hart, and al the surryzenis focht,
 Wich for to cum was reddy at his neid ; 2725
 Thai fond the lord was of his lyf in dreid,
 For wondit was he, and ek wondit fo,
 And in his fyd ware brokyne Ribys two.
 Bot nocht for thi the king thai maid beleif
 [Fol. 34 a.] That at that tyme he shuld the deith efchef. 2730
 [O]ff melyhalt the ladyis knyghtis were
 In to the feld, and can thir tithingis here,
 And home to thar lady ar thai went,
 Til hir to fchewing efter thar entent,
 In euery poynt, how that the batell flud 2735
 Of galiot, and of his multitud ;
 And how gawan hyme in the feld hath borñ,
 Throw quhoys swerd fo many o knyght vas lorñ,
 And of the knyghtly wonderis that he wrocht,
 Syne how that he one to his tent vas brocht. 2740
 The lady hard, that lowit gawan so,
 She gan to wep, in to¹ hir hart vas wo.

¹ MS. "in in."

Thir tythyng^{is} one to lancelot ar goñ,
 Whar of that he was wonder wo bygone,
 And for the lady hastely he sent, 2745
 And sche til hyme, at his command, Is went :
 He saluſt hir, and faid, “ madem, Is trew
 Thir tithing^{is} I her report of new
 Of the affemble, and meting of the oſt,
 And of ſir gawan, wich that ſhuld be loſt? 2750
 If that be fwth, adew the flour of armys,
 Now neuer more recoueryt be the harmys !
 In hyme was manhed, curteſſy, and trouth,
 Befy trawell In knyghted, ay but fleuth,
 Humylite, gentrice, and cwrag ; 2755
 In hyme thar was no maner of outrage.
 Allace ! knyght, allace ! what ſhal yow fay?
 Yow may complen, yow may bewail the day
 As of his deith, and gladſchip aucht to fes,
 Baith menſtrafy and feſting at the des ; 2760
 For of this lond he was the holl comfort,
 In tyme of ned al knyghted to ſupport !
 Allace ! madem, and I durſt fay at zhe
 Al yhour beheſt not kepit haith to me,
 Whar of that I was in to full belef 2765
 Azañe this day that I ſchuld have my lef,
 And nocht as cowart thus ſchamfully to ly
 Excludit in to cage frome chewalry,
 Whar othir knyght^{is} anarmyt on thar ſtedis
 Hawnt^{is} ther zhouthhed in to knyghtly dedis.” 2770
 “ Sir,” quod ſche, “ I red yhow not diſpleß,
 zhe may In tyme her eſter cum at es ;
 For the thrid day Is ordanit, & ſhal be
 Of the oſtzs a new affemble,
 And I have gart ordan al the gere 2775
 That longith to zour body for to were,
 Boith horß and armour In the famyne wyß
 Of fable, ewyne aſtir zhour awn dewyß ;

[Fol. 34 b.]

And yhe fal her remayne one to the day ;
 Syne may zhe paß, fore well zhe know the way." 2780
 "I will obey, madem, to yhour entent."
With that fche goith, and to hir rest is went :
 One the morn arly vp fche roß
*With*out delay, and to the knyght fche gois,
 And twk hir leß, and said that fcho vald fare 2785
 On to the court, *with*-outen any mare.
 Than knelit he, and thankit hir oft fys,
 That fche so mych hath done hyme of *gentriß*,
 And hir byhecht euer, at his myght,
 To be hir awn trew & stedfast knyght. 2790
 Sche thonkith hyme, and fyne fche goith *her* way
 On to the king, *with*-owten more delay,
 Whar that *in*¹ honour *with* king & qwen fche fall
Ryght thonkfully refaut be *with* all.
 Eft to *fir* gawan thai hir led, & fche 2795
Ryght gladly hyme defyrit for to fee,
 And fche hyme fond, and fche was glad tharfore,
 All vthir ways than was hir told before.
 The knyght, the wich in to hir keping vas,
 Sche had *commandit* to hir cuffynece, 2800
 Wich cherist hyme apone hir best manere,
 And comfort hyme, and maid *hym ryght* gud chere.
 [T]he days goith, so passith als the *nicht*,
 The thrid morow, as that the fone vas *lycht*,
 The knyght onon out of his bed aroß, 2805
 The maden fone one to his *chalmer* goß,
 And sacretly his armour one hyme spent.
 He tuk his leß, and fyne his way he went
 Ful prewaly, *ryght* to the famyne greñ
 One the rewere, whar he befor han ben, 2810
 Ewyne as the day the first courß hath maad.
 Alone *ryght* thar he howit, and abaade,

¹ MS. "*with*;" which is crossed out, and "*in*" inserted above, rather minutely written.

[Fol. 35 a.] Behal ding to the bertes, whar the qwen
 Befor at the affemble he had señ.
 Rycht fo the fone schewith furt^h his lycht, 2815
 And to his armour went is euery wycht ;
 One athir half the Iufing is bygon,
 And many o fair and kny ch[t]ly courß is rowñ.
 The blak kny ch t 3hit howyns on his fted,
 Of al thar doing takith he no hed, 2820
 Bot ay, apone the befynes of thocht,
 In beholding his ey departit noch t.
 To quhom the lady of melyhalt beheld,
 And knew hyme by his armour & his scheld,
 Qwhat that he was ; and thus fche faid one hych t : 2825
 “ Who is he 3one ? who may he be, 3hone kny ch t,
 So ftill that hovith and fterith not his Ren,
 And feith the kny ch t is rynyng one the greñ ? ”
 Than al beholdith, and in princypale
 Sir gawan beholdith moft of all ; 2830
 Of melyha[l]t the lady to hyme maid
 Incontinent, his couche and gart be had
 Be-fore o wyndew thore as he my ch t se
 The kny ch t, the oft, and al the affemble.
 He lukith furt^h, and fone the kny ch t hath fen, 2835
 And, but delay, he faith one to the qwen,
 “ Madem, if 3he remembir, fo it was
 The red kny ch t in to the famyne place
 That wencuft al the firft affemble ;
 Whar that 3one kny ch t howis, howit hee.” 2840
 “ 3ha,” quod the qwen, “ rycht well remembir I ;
 Qwhat is the cauß at 3he inquere, & quhy ? ”
 “ Madem, of this larg warld is he
 The kny ch t the wich ¹ I moft defir to fee,
 His ftrenth, his manhed, his curag, and his my ch t, 2845
 Or do in armys, that longith to o kny ch t.”

¹ MS. “that ” after “ which ” deleted.

[B]y thus, arthur, *wit*h confell well awyfit,
 Haith ordanit his batellis, and devyfit :
 The first of them led ydrus king, & he
 O worthy man vas *nemmyt* for to bee. 2850

The fecund led harwy the Reweyll,
 That in this world was *knycht* that had most feill
 For to *prowid* that longith to the were,
 One agit *knycht*, and well couth armys bere.

[Fol. 35 b.] [T]he thrid feld deliuerit in the hond 2855

Of *angus*, king of ylys of scotlande,
 Wich cufing was one to king arthur nere,
 One hardy *knycht* he was, *wit*houten were.
 The ferd batell led ywons the king,
 O manly *knycht* he was In to al thing. 2860
 And thus dewyfit ware his batellis fere,
 In euery feld xv thousand were.

[T]he fift¹ batell the lord *sir* ywan lede
 Whois *marshed* was in euery cuntre dred,
 Sone he was one to wryne the kyng, 2865
 Forwart, stout, hardy, wyß, and þhing ;
 Xx thousand in his oft thai past,
 Wich ordanit was for to affemble last.

[A]nd galiot, apone the tothir fyde,
Rycht wyßly gan *his* batellis to dewid. 2870
 The first of them led malenginys the king,
 None hardyar In to this erth lewyng ;
 He *neuer* more out of his cuntre Raid,
 Nor he *wit*h hyme one hundereth *knychts* hade.

[T]he fecund the first conquest king led, 2875
 That for no *perell* of armys vas adred.
 The thrid, o king clepit walydeyne,
 He led, and was o manly *knycht*, but weyne.

[T]he ferd, king clamedeus has,
 Wich that lord of far ylys was. 2880

¹ MS. "firft." See l. 2868.

The fift¹ batell, whar xl thousand were,
 King brandymagus had to led and ftere,
 O manly knycht, and prewit well oft fyß,
 And in his confell wonder fcharp & wyß.
 Galiot non armys bur that day, 2885
 Nor as o knycht he wald hyme-felf aray,
 But as o feruand in o habariowne,
 O prekyne hat, and ek o gret trownfciowñ
 In til his hond, and one o curfour fet,
 The beft that was in ony lond to get. 2890
 Endlong the rewar men mycht behold & fee,
 Of knychtis weryne mony one affemble ;
 And the blak knycht ftill he couth abyde,
 Witouth remowyng, one the Riwer fyde,
 Bot to the bartes to behold and fee 2895
 Thar as his hart defyrit moft to bee :
 And quhen the lady of melyhalt haith feñ
 [Fol. 36 a.] The knycht fo ftond, fche faid one to the qweñ,
 “ Madem, It is my confell at þhe fend
 One to þone knycht, þour felf for to commend, 2900
 Befeching hyme that he wald wndertak
 This day to do of armys, for þour fak.”
 The quen anfuerit as that hir lykit nocht,
 For othir thing was more In to hir thocht,
 “ For well þhe fe the perell how disiont, 2905
 The adwentur now ftondith one the point,
 Boith of my lord his honore, and his lond,
 And of his men, in danger how thai ftond ;
 Bot þhe, and ek thir vthere ladice may,
 If that yhow lykith, to the knycht gar fay 2910
 The mefag ; is none that wil yhow let,
 For I tharof fal nocht me entermet.”
 On to the quen fcho faith, “ her I,
 If fo it pleß thir vthir ladice by,

¹ MS. “ firft.”

- Am for to fend one to the knyght content ;” 2915
 And al the ladice can thar to affent,
 Befeching hir the mesag to dewyß,
 As sche that was most prudent & most wyß.
 Sche grantit, and o madeñ haith thei tone,
 Discret, apone this mesag for till gone ; 2920
 And *sir* gawan a sqwyar bad also,
With two sferis one to the knyght to go.
 The lady than, *wit*houten more dulay,
 Haith chargit hir apone this wyß to fay :
 “Schaw to the knyght, the ladice euer-ilkone 2925
 Ben In the court, excep the quen allon,
 Til hyme them haith recommandit oft sýß,
 Befeching hyme of knyghted and gentriß,
 (Or if It hapyne euermore that he shall
 Cum, quhar thai may, owther an or all, 2930
 In ony thing awail hyme or support,
 Or do hyme ony plesans or comfort,)
 He wold wichfaif for loue of them this day
 In armys sum manhed to assay ;
 And fay, *sir* gawan, hyme the sferis sent ; 2935
 Now go, this is the sek of our entent.”
 The damyfell sche hath hir palfray tone,
 The sqwyar *wit*h the sferis *wit*h hir goñ ;
 [Fol. 36 b.] The *nerest* way thai paß one to ye knyght,
 Whar sche repete hir mesag haith ful rycht : 2940
 And quhen he hard, and planly wnderstude,
 How that the quen not in the mesag zude,
 He spak no word, bot he was not content ;
 Bot of *sir* gawan, glaid in his entent,
 He askit quhar he was, and of *his* fair. 2945
 And thai to hyme the maner can duclair ;
 Than the sqwyar he prayth that he wold
 Paß to the feld, the sferis for to hold.
 He saw the knyghtis semblyng her and thare,
 The stedis Rynnyng *wit*h the sadillis bare ; 2950

His spuris goith in to the stedis syde,
 That was ful fwyft, and lykit not to byd ;
 And he that was hardy, ferß, and stout,
 Furth by o fyd affemblyng on a rout
 Whar that one hundereþh knyghtis was, & mo ; 2955
 And *wit*h the first has Recounterit so,
 That frome the deth not helpith hym his fcheld,
 Boith horß and man is lying in the feld ;
 The spere is gone, and al in pecis brak,
 And he the trunfcyoun in his hand hath tak 2960
 That two or thre he haith the fadill's rest,
 Whill in his hond fchortly no thing is left.
 Syne, to the fquyar, of the feld is goñ,
 Fro hyme o spere In to his hond haith ton,
 And to the feld returnyt he azayne : 2965
 The first he met, he goith one the plan,
 And ek the next, and fyne the thrid also ;
 Nor in his hond, nore in his strak was ho.
 His *e*znemys that veryng In affray
 Befor his strok, and makith rovm alway ; 2970
 And in sich wyß ay in the feld he wrocht,
 Whill that his sporis gon var al to nocht ;
 Whar of *fir* gawan berith vitnesing
 Throw al this world that thar vas non levyng,
 In fo fchort tyme fo mych of armys wrocht. 2975
 His sporis gone, out of the feld he focht,
 And passit is one to the Rewere syde,
 Rycht thore as he was wont for to abyde ;
 [Fol. 37 a.] And fo beholdyne In the famyne plañ,
 As to the feld hyme lykit nocht azañ. 2980
 Sir gawan saw, and faith on to the quen,
 " Madem, yhone knyght disponit [not],¹ I weyñ,
 To help ws more, fore he fo is awyfit ;
 As I *pr*efume, he thinkith hyme dispifit

¹ MS. omits "not."

- Of the meſag that we gart to hyme mak ; 2985
 Yhowre ſelf yhe have ſo ſpecialy out tak,
 He thinkith ewill contempnit for to bee,
 Conſidering how that the neceſſitee
 Moſt prinſpaly to yhowr ſupporting lyis.
 Tharfor my confell is, yhow to dewyß, 2990
 And ek yhowre ſelf in yhowr trefpas accuß,
 And aſk hyme mercy, and yhour gilt excuß.
 For well it oucht o prince or o king
 Til honore and til cheriß in al thing
 O worthi man, that is in knyghted prewit ; 2995
 For throw the body of o man eſchevit
 Mony o wondir, mony one aduenture,
 That merwell war til any creature.
 And als oft tyme is boith hard & fen,
 Quhar xl thouſand haith diſcumfit ben 3000
 Vith v thouſand, and only be o knyght ;
 For throw his ſtrength, his vorſchip, & his mycht,
 His falowſchip ſich comfort of hym taiß
 That thai ne dreid the danger of thar fays.
 And thus, madem, I wot, withouten were, 3005
 If that yhone knyght this day will perſywere
 Witß his manhed for helping of the king,
 We fal have cauß to dred in to no thing.
 Our folk of hyme thai fal ſich comfort tak,
 And ſo adred thar ennemys fal mak, 3010
 That fur I am, onys or the nycht,
 Of forß yhone folk fal tak one them the flycht :
 Wharffor, madem, that yhe have gilt to mend,
 My confell is one to yhon knyght ze fend.”
 “Sir,” quod ſche, “quhat pleffith yhow to do 3015
 Yhe may dewyß, and I conſent thar-to.”
 Than was the lady of melyhalt content,
 And to ſir gawan in to contynent
 [Fol. 37 b.] Sche clepit the maid, wich that paſſit ar ;
 And he hir bad the meſag thus duclar. 3020

"Say the knycht, the quen hir recommendith,
 And fal correk in quhat that fche offendith
 At his awn will, how fo hyme list dewyß ;
 And hyme exortith, in moßt humyll wyß,
 As euer he will, whar that fche can or may, 3025
 Or powar haith hir charg, be ony way,
 And for his worschip and his hie manhede,
 And for hir luf, to helpen *in* that ned
 The kingis honore, his land fore to preferf,
 That he hir thonk for euer may deferf." 3030
 And four sqwyaris chargit he also
 Wit^h thre horß and speris x to go
 Furt^h to the knycht, hyme prayng for his fak,
 At his raqueß thame in his ned to tak.
 [T]he maden furt^h wit^h the sqwyaris is went 3035
 One to the knycht, and schawith yer entent.
 The mesag hard, and ek ye present feñ,
 He answerit, and askith of the qwen ;
 "Sir," quod fche, ["sche"]¹ in to þhone bartiis lysis,
 Whar that this day yhour dedis fal dewyß, 3040
 Yhowr manhed, yhour worschip, and affere,
 How þhe *conteñ*, and how yhe armys bere ;
 The quen hir felf, and many o lady to,
 Sal Iugis be, and vitnes how yhe do."
 Than he, whois hart stant in o new aray, 3045
 Saith, "damyceyll, on to my lady fay,
 How euer that hir lykith that it bee,
 Als far as wit or powar is in me,
 I am hir knycht, I fal at hir *command*
 Do at I may, wit^houten more demand. 3050
 And to *sir* gawan, for his gret gentriß,
 Me recommend, and thonk a thousand syß."
 Wit^h that o sper he takith in his hond,
 And fo in to his sterapis can he stond

¹ Professor Skeats' insertion ; but "wha that" instead of "whar that" in next line might be a better emendation.

That to *sir* gawan femyth that the knyght 3055
 Encresyng gon o larg fut one hycht ;
 And to the ladice faith he, and the qwen,
 “ ʒhon is the knyght that euer I have sen
 In al my tyme most knyghtly of affere,
 And in hyme self gon farest armys bere.” 3060

[Fol. 38 a.] [T]he knyght that haith Remembrit in his thocht
 The qwenys chargis, & how sche hym befocht,
 Curag can encresyng to his hart ;
 His curser lap, and gan onon to start ;
 And he the sqwaris haith reqwyrit fo, 3065
 That thai *witʒ* hyme one to the feld wald go.
 Than goith he one, *witʒ*outen mor abaid,
 And our the reuar to the feld he raid ;
 Don goith his spere onone In to the Rest,
 And in he goith, *witʒ*outen mor areft, 3070
 Thar as he saw most *perell* and most dred
 In al the feld, and most of help¹ had ned,
 Whar semblyt was the first *conquest* king
Witʒ mony o knyght that was in his ledyng.
 The first he met, doune goith boith hors & man ; 3075
 The sper was holl, and to the next he Rañ
 That helpit hyme his hawbrek nor *his* scheld,
 Bot throuch and throuch haith perfit *in* the feld.
Sir kay, the wiche haith this encontyr fen,
 His hors he strekith our the larg gren, 3080
 And *sir* fygramors ek the desyrand,
Witʒ *sir* grefown cummyth at *yer* honde,
 Son of the duk, and alswa *sir* ywan
 The bastart, and *sir* brandellis onan,
 And gahers, wiche that broyir was 3085
 To gawan ; thir sex in a Raß
 Deliueryly com prekannd our the feldis
Witʒ speris straucht, and couerit *witʒ* thar scheldis ;

¹ MS. “held.”

Sum for love, sum honor to purchesþ,
 And aftir them one hundereth knyghtis was, 3090
 In famyne will, thar manhed to affay.
 On his v falowis clepit than *fir* kay,
 And faith them, "*firis*, thar has þhonder ben
 A courþ that neuer more farar was fen
 Maid be o knyght, and we ar cummyn ilkon 3095
 Only ws one worfchip to dispone ;
 And neuer we in al our dais mycht
 Have bet axampil than iffith ws þone knyght
 Of well doing ; and her I hecht for me
 Ner hyme al day, if that I may, to bee, 3100
 And folow hyme at al mycht I fall,
 Bot deth or vthir adwentur me fall.
With that thir fex, al in one affent,
With frefch curag In to the feld Is went.
 [Fol. 38 b.] The blak knyghtis fperre in pecis goñe, 3105
 Frome o fqwyar oñe vthir haith he toñe,
 And to the feld onone he goith ful rycht ;
 Thir fex *with* hyme ay holdith at *yer* mycht.
 And than bygan his wonderis in the feld ;
 Thar was no helme, no hawbryk, nore no fcheld, 3110
 Nor yhit no knyght fo hardy, ferþ, nore stout,
 No þhit no *maner* armour mycht hald owt
 His ftrenth, nore was of powar to *with*ftond ;
 So mych of armys dyde he *with* his houde,
 That euery wight ferleit of *his* deid, 3115
 And al his fois ftondith ful of dreid.
 So befely he can his tyme dispand,
 That of the fperis wich *fir* gawin fend,
 Holl of them all thar was not lewit oñe ;
 Throw wich, but *mercy*, to the deyth is gon 3120
 Ful many o knyght, and many o weriour,
 That coutþ fuffen ful hardely o flour.
 And of his horþ fupprifit ded ar two,
 One of his awn, of gawanis one alfo,

And he one fut was fechtand one the gren, 3125
 When that *sir* kay haith *wit* his falowis señ ;
 The sqwyar *wit* his hors than to hym brocht ;
 Magre his fois he to his courfeir focht
 Deliuerly, as of o mychty hart,
*With*out steropis in to his fadill start, 3130
 That euery wycht beholding *mer*vel has
 Of his strenth and deliuer befynes.
Sir kay, feing his hors, and how that thai
 War cled in to *sir* gawanis aray,
 Askith at the squyar if he knewith 3135
 What that he was, this knycht? & he hym schewith
 He wist no thing quhat that he was, nore hee
 Befor that day hyme neuer faw *wit* Ee.
 Than askith he, how and one quhat wys
 On gawanis hors makith hyme sich *fer*uice? 3140
 The sqwar faith, "forfuth y wot no more ;
 My lord ws bad, I not the caus quharfore."
 The blak knycht, horfit, to the feld can few
 Als fresch as he was in the morow new ;
 The fex falowis folowit hyme ilkone, 3145
 And al in front on to the feld ar goñ ;
 [Fol. 39 a.] *Ry*cht freschly one thar ennemys thai foght,
 And many o fair poynt of armys vroght.
 [T]han hapnyt to king malangins oft
 By ydras king discumfit was, & lost, 3150
 And fled, and to the *con*quest king ar goñe,
 Thar boith the batellis affemblit In to one ;
 King malengynis in to his hart was wo,
 For of hyme self no better knycht mycht go ;
 Thar xl thousand war thai for xv. 3155
 Than mycht the feld *ry*cht *per*ellus be fen
 Of armyt knychts gaping one the ground,
 Sum deith, and sum *wit* mony a grewous wond ;
 For arthuris knychts, that manly war and gud,
 Suppos that vthir was o multitude, 3160

Refaut them well at the speris end ;
 Bot one such wyß thai may not lang defend.
 The blak knyght saw the danger of the feld,
 And al his doings knowith quho beheld,
 And ek remembrith in to his entent 3165
 Of the mesag that sche haith to hyme sent :
 Than curag, strenth encrefing with manhed,
 Ful lyk o knyght one to the feld he raid,
 Thinking to do his ladice love to have,
 Or than his deth befor hir to refave. 3170
 Thar he begynyth in his ferß curag
 Of armys, as o lyoune in his rag ;
 Than merwell was his doing to behold ;
 Thar was no knyght so strong, nor yhit so bold,
 That in the feld befor his fuerd he met, 3175
 Nor he so hard his strok apone hyme fet,
 That ded or wondit to the erth he focht ;
 For thar was not bot wonderis that he wrocht.
 And magre of his fois euerilkone,
 In to the feld oft tymys hyme aloñ 3180
 Throuch and throuch he passith to & fro ;
 For in the ward it was the maner tho
 That non o knyght shuld be the brydill tak
 Hyme to orest, nore cum behynd his bak,
 Nor mo than on at onys one o knyght 3185
 Shuld strik, for that tyme worfchip stud so rycht.
 3hit was the feld rycht perellus and strong
 Til arthuris folk, fet thai contenynt longe ;
 Bot in sich wyß this blak knyght can conten,
 That thai, the wich that hath his manhed señ, 3190
 Sich hardyment haith takyne In his ded,
 Them thocht thai had no maner cauß of dred,
 Als long as he mycht owthir ryd or go,
 At every ned he them recomfort fo.

Sir kay haith *wit*h his falowis al the day 3195
 Folowit hyme al that he can or may,
 And wondir well thai have in armys *pre*wit,
 And *wit*h thar manhed oft thar folk relewit ;
 Bot well thai faucht in diuerſ placis fere,
*Wit*h multitud *yer* folk confufit were, 3200
 That long in fich wyſ¹ *mycht* thai *nocht* *conten*.
Sir kay, that hath *fir* gawans ſquyaris² ſen,
 He clepit hyme, and haith hyme prayt fo,
 That to *fir* harwy the rewell wil he go,
 And fay to hyme, “ws think hyme ewil awyfit ; 3205
 For her throuch hyme he ſufferit be ſupprifit
 The beſt *knyc*ht that euer armys bur ;
 And if it ſo befell of adwentur,
 In his defalt, that he be ded or lamyt,
 This warld fal have hyme vtraly defamyt. 3210
 And her ar of the round table alfo
 A falouſchip, that fall in well and wo
 Abid *wit*h hyme, and furt^h for to endur
 Of lyf or deth, this day, thar adwentur ;
 And if ſo fal diſcumfyt at thai bee, 3215
 The king may fay that wonder ewill haith he
 Contentit hyme, and kepit his honore,
 Thus for to tyne of chevalry the flour !”
 The ſqwar hard, and furt^h his way Raid,
 In termys ſchort he al his meſag ſaid. 3220
Sir harwy faith, “y witneſſ god, that I
 Neuer in my days comytit tratory,
 And if I now begyne In to myne eld
 In ewill tyme fyrſt com I to this feld
 Bot, if god will, I fal me ſon diſcharg. 3225
 Say to *fir* kay, I fal not ber the charg,

¹ After “wyſ” is “conten” deleted.

² MS. “qfquyaris.”

He fal no mater have me to rapref,

I fal amend this mys if that I lef."

The fqwyar went and tellit to *fir* kay ;

And *fir* harwy, in al the haft he may, 3230
Affsemblyt hath his oſtis, & onoñ

[Fol. 40 a.] In gret defyre on to the feld is gon

Before his folk, and haldith furt^h his way ;

Don goith his ſper, and ewyne before *fir* kay

So hard o knycht he ſtrykith in his ten 3235

That horß and he lay boith apone the gren.

Sir gawan ſaw the counter that he maad,

And leuch for al the farnes that he had :

That day *fir* harwy prewyt in the feld

Of armys more than longith to his eld, 3240

For he was more than fyfty yher of ag,

Set he was ferß and 3ong in his curag ;

And fro that he affsemblyt his bataill

Doune goith the folk of galotis al haill ;

For to *wit*ßtond thai war of no poware, 3245

And yhit of folk x thouſand mo thei vare.

K yng valydone, that fauch on ſuch o wyß

His falowis dangerit *wit*ß thar ennemys,

*Wit*ß al his folk, being freß and new,

Goith to the feld onon, them to reßkew ; 3250

Thar was the feld *rycht* *perellus* a3aÑe,

Of arthuris folk ful many on var ſlan.

Bot angus, quhich that lykith not to bid,

And ſaw the *perell* one the tothir ſid,

His ſted he ſtok, and *wit*ß his oſt is gon 3255

Whar was moſt ned, and thar the feld has ton.

K yng clamedyus makith non abaid,

Bot *wit*ß his oſt one to the ſid he raid.

And ywons king, that haith his *cummyn* fen,

Encounterit hyme in myddis of the greñ. 3260

The aucht batellis affsemblyt one this wiß ;

On ather half the clamore and the cryiß

we haue no frentg wot banas (f not andus
Nor yet may wot qv ritqg creatur
And bot feto fquage ab tar to amend
+ hi Cadia mory or tqi Horeand
And wot wot ab that cy to hie p fure

SCOTTISH TEXT SOCIETY

Was lametable and petws for til her,
 Of knyghtis wich in diuers placis fere
 Wondit war, and fallyng to and fro, 3265
 3hit galyotis folk war xx thousand mo.

The blak knyght than on to hyme-felf he said :
 “Remembir the, how yhow haith ben araid,
 Ay fen ye hour that yow was makid knyght,
 Wit*h* love, azane quhois powar & whois mycht 3270

Yow haith no strenth, yow may It not endur,
 Nor 3hit non vthir erthly creatur ;
 And bot two thingis ar the to amend,
 Thi ladice mercy, or thi lyvys end.
 And well yhow wot that on to hir *presens*, 3275

[Fol. 40 b.]

Til hir estat, nor til hir excellens,
 Thi febilneß neuermore is able
 For to attan, fche is fo honorable.

And fen no way yow may fo hie extend,
 My verray confell is, that yow pretend 3280

This day, (fen yow becummyne art hir knyght
 Of hir comand, and fechtit in hir *sycht*),
 And well yow schaw, fen yow may do no mor,
 That of refone fche fal the thank tharfore ;
 Of euery poynt of cowardy yow fcham, 3285

And in til armys purchesß the fum nam.”
 Wit*h* that of love in to o new desir
 His spere he straucht, and fwift as any wyre
 Wit*h* al his forß the *nerest* feld he focht ;
 His ful strenth in armys thar he vroght, 3290

In to the feld rufching to and fro,
 Doune goith the man, doune goith the horsß also ;
 Sum throw the fcheld is perfit to the hart,
 Sum throw the hed, he may It not astart.
 His bludy fuerd he dreuch, that carwit fo 3205

Fro fum the hed, and fum the arm in two ;
 Sum in the feld fellit is in fwoñ,
 Throw fum his fuerd goith to the sadill doune.

His fois waren abafit of his dedis,
 His mortell ftrok fo gretly for to dred Is ; 3300
 Whar thei hyme faw, *wit*hin a lytall fpace,
 For dreid of ded, thai levyng hyme the place,
 That many o ftrok ful oft he haith forlorñ ;
 The fpedy horß away the *knycht* hath born.
 In to his wyrking *neuer*more he feft, 3305
 Nor non abaid he makith, nor areft.
 His falowis, fo in his *knych*thed affuryd,
 Thai ar recomfort, thar manhed is recoueryt,
 And one thar fois ful ferfly thai foght,
 Thar goith the lyf of many o *knycht* to *nocht*. 3310
 So was the batell wonderful to tell,
 Of *knychtis* to fe the multitud that fell,
 That pety war til ony *knycht* to feñ
 The *knychtis* lying gaping on the gren.
 The blak *knycht* ay *continewit* fo faft, 3315
 Whilk many one difcumfit, at the laft
 [Fol. 41 a.] Are fled, and planly of the feld thei pas :
 And galyot haith wondyr, for he was
 Of mor powar, and askit at them qwhy
 As *cowartis* thai fled fa fchamfully? 3320
 Than faith o *knycht*, for wondit in the brayne,
 “ Who lykith, he may Retwrn azayne
 Frome qwhens we come, *merwalis* for to fee,
 That in his tyme *neuer* fich fauch hee.”
 “ Marwell,” *quod* he, “ that dar I boldly fay 3325
 They may be callit, and quhat thai ar, I pray? ”
 “ Schir, in the feld forfuth thar is o *knycht*,
 That only throw his body and his *mycht*
 Wencuffith all, that thar may non fuffen
 His ftrokis, thai ar fo fureows and ken. 3330
 He farith as o lyone or o beyre,
 Wod in his rag, for fich is his affere.
 Nor he, the *knycht* in to the armys Red,
 Wich at the first affemble in this fted

Wencuffith all, and had the holl renown, 3335

He may to this be no comparyfoune,
Fore neuer he fefith fen the day vas gon,
Bot euermore *continewit* in to one."

Quod galiot, "in nome of god! and we
Al, be tyme, the futhfastneß fal see." 3340

[T]han he in armys that he had is gon,
And to the feld *witʰ* hyme azane hath ton
Al the flear^{is}, and foundyne¹ fich aray
His folk, that ner difcumfyt al war thay ;
Bot quhen thai saw *cummyne* our the plan 3345

Thar lord, thai tuk fich *hardement* azañ,
That thar effenʒeis lowd thai gon to cry.
He chargit tham to go, that ware him by,
Straucht to the feld, *witʰ* all thar holl forß ;
And thai, the wich that sparit not the horß, 3350

All redy war to fillyng his *command*,
And freschly went, *witʰowten* more demand :
Throw qwich thar folk *recoueryt* haith thar place,
For al the feld *preswmyt* that thar was
O new oft, one fuch o wyß thai foght ; 3355

Whar arthuris folk had passith al to *nocht*,
Ne war that thai the better war ilkoñe,
And at thai can them vtraly dispoñe

[Fol. 41 b.] Rather to dee than flee, in thar entent,
And of the blak *knycht* haith fich *hardymnt* ; 3360
For at al *perell*, al harmys, and mysfchef,
In tyme of ned he can tham all ralef.

[T]har was the batell *dangerus* & strong,
Gret was the pres, *bath* *perellus* & throng ;
The blak *knycht* is born on to the ground, 3365
His horß hyme falyth, that fellith dethis wound.

The vi falowis, that falowit hyme al day,
Sich was the preß, that to the erth go thay :

¹ So in MS. Should be probably "found in," not "foundyne."

And thar in myd among his ennemys
 He was about enclofit one sich wyß 3370
 That quhare he was non of [his] falowis knew,
 Nor *mycht nocht* cum to help hyme, nore reskew.
 And thus among his ennemys allon
 His nakid fuerd out of his hond haith ton ;
 And thar he *prewit* his wertew & *his* strenth ; 3375
 For thar was none *wit*zin the fuerdis lenth
 That came, bot he goith to confusioune.
 Thar was no helme, thar was no habirioune,
 That may resist his fuerd, he smytith so ;
 One euery fyd he helpith to and fro, 3380
 That al about the compas thai *mycht* ken,
 The ded horß lyith virflyng *wit*h the men.
 Thai hyme affalzeing bot*h* *wit*h scheld & spere,
 And he azane ; as at the stok the bere
 Snybbyth the hardy hound*is* that ar ken, 3385
 So farith he ; for *neuer* *mycht* be fen
 His fuerd to rest, that in the gret rout
 He rowmyth all the compas hyme about.
 [A]nd galiot, beholding his manhed,
*Wit*zin his self wonderith of his ded, 3390
 How that the body only of o *knycht*
 Haith sich o strenth, haith sich offere & *mycht* ;
 Than said he thus, "I wald not that throw me,
 Or for my causß, that such o *knycht* fuld dee,
 To conquer all this world that is so larg." 3395
 His horß than can he *wit*h his spuris charg,
 A gret trunsioune In to his hond hath ton,
 And in the thikest of the preß is goñ,
 And al his folk chargit he to feß.
 At his *command* thai levying al the preß ; 3400
 [Fol. 42 a.] And quhen he had departit all the rout,
 He said, *sir* *knycht*, havith now no dout."
 Wich answerit, "I have no causß to dred."
 "ÿis," *quod* he, "fa euer god me sped,

- Bot apone fut quhill 3e ar fechtand here, 3405
 And yhow defendith apone sich manere,
 So hardely, and ek fo lyk o knycht,
 I fal my felf *wit* al my holl mycht
 Be yhour defens, and varand fra al harmys ;
 Bot had yhe left of worschip In til armys, 3410
 What I have don I wold apone no wys ;
 Bot sen yhe ar of knychthed fo to prys,
 3he falt no maner caus have for to dred :
 And fet yhour hors be falit at this ned,
 Displeß yhow not, for quhy 3e fal not want 3415
 Als many as yhow lykith for to hawnt ;
 And I my felf, I fal yhowr sqwyar bee,
 And, if god will, neuer more fal wee
 Depart ;" *wit* that, anon he can to lycht
 Doune frome his hors, and gaf hyme to y^e knycht. 3420
 The lord he thonkit, and the hors hath ton,
 And als fo fresch one to the feld is gon,
 As at no strokis he that day had ben.
 His falowis glad, one hors that hath hym sen,
 To galiot one vthir hors thai broght ; 3425
 And he goith one, and frome the feld he *focht*,
 And to the plan quhar that his ostis were ;
 And brandymagus chargit he to stere
 Ester hyme, *wit*zin a lytill space,
 And x thoufand he takyne *wit* hym haß. 3430
 Towart the feld onon he can to Rid,
 And chargit them befor ye ost to byd.
 Wp goith the trumpetis, and the claryownis,
 Hornys, bugillis blawing furtz thar fownis,
 That al the cuntre refownit hath about ; 3435
 Than arthuris folk var in dispar & dout,
 That hard the noys, and saw the multitud
 Of fresch folk ; thai cam as thai war wod.
 [B]ot he that was *wit*howten any dred,
 In sabill cled, and saw the gret ned, 3440



Affemblyt al his falowis, and arayd ;¹
 And thus to them in manly *termes* said :
 [Fol. 42 b.] " What that 3e ar I know not yhour estat,
 Bot of manhed and worfchip, well I wat,
 Out through this warld yhe aw to be *commendit*, 3445
 This day 3e have fo *knychtly* yhow defendit.
 And now yhe see how that, azanis the *nycht*,
 Yhour ennemys *pretendit* *wit* thar myght
 Of multitud, and *wit* thar new oft,
 And *wit* thar buglis and thar wyndis boft 3450
 Frefchly *cummyng* In to fih aray,
 To ifyne yhow one owtray or affray.
 And now almoft *cummyne* Is the *nycht*,
 Quharfor yhour strenth, yhour curag, & yhovr' *mycht*
 Yhe occupye in to fo manly wys, 3455
 That the worfchip of *knychthed* & empyß
 That yhe have wonyng, and ye *gret* renown
 Be not yloft, be not ylaid doune.
 For one hour the sufferyng of distrefß,
 Gret harm It war yhe tyne the hie encreß 3460
 Of vorfchip, *sevit* al this day before.
 And to yhow al my confell is, tharfore,
Wit manly curag, but radour, yhe *pretend*
 To met tham fcharply at the fperis end,
 So that thei feil the cold fperis poynt 3465
 Out throw thar *scheldis*, in thar *hartis* poynt.
 So fal thai fynd we ar no thing affrayt ;
 Whar through we fall the well leß be affayt.
 If that we met them fcharply in the berd,
 The formeft fal mak al the laif afferd." 3470
 And *wit* o woyß thai cry al, " *fir* *knycht*,
 Apone yhour manhed, and yhour gret *mycht*,
 We fal abid, for no man shall efchef
 Frome yhow this day, his manhed for to pref."

¹ MS., "t" has been changed to "d."

And to his oft the lord *fir* yvane said, 3475
 "Yhe comfort yow, yhe be no thing affrayd,
 Ws ned no more to dreding of suppriß ;
 We fe the strenth of al our ennemys."
 Thus he said, for he wend thai var no mo,
 Bot *fir* gawan knew well It vas not fo ; 3480
 For al the ostis *mycht* he fe al day,
 And the gret host he saw quhar yat it lay.
 [A]nd galiot he can his folk exort,
 Befeching them to be of good comfort,
 And sich encounter¹

[*The rest is wanting.*]

¹ The words "and sich encounter" are written under the last line as a catch-word for the following page.

GLOSSARY.

The New English Dictionary (N.E.D.), Jamieson's Scottish Dictionary (J.), and Bradley's Middle English Dictionary, are the chief authorities for this glossary, aided by a study of the glossaries of many texts of the Early English Text Society and of the Scottish Text Society, and a study of the text of Douglas, for which existing glossaries are incomplete. The abbreviations Sc. and N. are used to denote words peculiar to Scotland and the North of England. (N. includes Sc., the latter denoting a more restricted use.) When a reference to the French 'Lancelot' contains the abbreviation *transl.* (translated or translation), it means that the word referred to occurs in the equivalent passage in that text; when this is wanting, the word occurs in the French 'Lancelot' but not in the equivalent passage.

- Abaid, *sb.* delay, North. form of abode, 1880, 3067, 3257, 3306.
 Abid, *sb.* stay, 669; abyde, 2145.
 Abasit, *v.* (1) *trans.* discomfited, 864; (2) *intr.* abashed, discomfited, 378, 2241, 3299; abasyt, 1451; abaysit, 2662. *Transl.* of "esbahis" in Fr. Lancelot.
 Abraid, *v.* started, roused, 1230.
 Access, *sb.* a fever or ague fit, 31.
 Accorde, *sb.* agreement, 307.
 Accorde, *v.* to be in harmony with, to be fitting, 1525; accordeinge, 103, 321; accordith, 1203, 604; accordyth, 1677, 1949.
 Acqueynt, *pa. ppl.* acquainted, 1710; aqwynt, 1294. Fr. Lancelot, "acointe."
 Adew, (1) *interj.* adieu, 2751; (2) *adv.* away, 518.
 Adred, *ppl. adj.* terrified, 378, 2662.
 Affek. See Effece.
 Afferd, *ppl. adj.* afraid, 3470.
 Affere, *sb.* Sc. (1) affair, action, performance, 984; effere, 2358. Fr. Lancelot, "affaire." (2) bearing, deportment, 3041, 3392.
 Afferis, *v.* belongs to, is fitting, 1688, 1959; afferith, 1549.
 Affray, *sb.* (1) an attack, 3452; (2) terror produced by sudden disturbance or attack, 635, 2969.
 Affrait, *ppl. adj.* terrified, 1147, 2640. Fr. Lancelot, "esfrae."
 Affy, *v.* trust, 499, 1393.
 Ago, *pa. ppl.* departed, gone, 159, 701.
 Algait, always, 1994; algat, 1790.
 Al out, entirely, altogether, 1674, 1789.
 Als, (1) also, too, 146, 1575, &c.; (2) antecedent or correlative with as, als-as, 155, 563, &c.
 Althir best, orig. force of althir lost, "althir best of two," 109.
 Amen, pleasant, 998; ameyne, 64.
 Anarmyt, armed, 619, 544, 2217, 2769; enarmyt, 285.
 And=if, 1023, 1590.
 Anerding, Sc. adhering, 345.
 Anerly, (*North.*) only, 1475, 1694.
 Apparell, material, requisites, 736.
 Arayt, (1) ordered, equipped, 1146; arayd, 3441; (2) araid, afflicted, 3268.

- Aras, to pull up or out, 240. Transl. Fr. Lancelot, "esrachier."
- Arest, (1) halt, delay, 677, 3306, 3070. Fr. Lancelot, "sans arrest"; (2) legal restraint, 915.
- Artillery, munitions of war, 2536.
- Assay, *sb.* an attack, 35, 536, 2660.
- Assay, *v.* (1) to attack, 2068; assaith, 1267; assayt, 2639; (2) to try, test, 981, 1263, 2934, 3091; assey, 478.
- Assaill, *sb.* assault, 854; assall, 841.
- Assaill, *v.* attack, 1110; assalzeing, 3383.
- Assemblit, *v.* (with on or upon), attacked. Transl. of Fr. Lancelot, "assambla a," with same meaning, 2598; assemblyng, 2954.
- Assembley, *sb.* (1) meeting, assembly, 267; (2) warlike meeting, battle, assemble, 954, 1119; assemblee, 929, 2271. Transl. of "l'assemblee" of Fr. Lancelot.
- Astart, *v.* start up, escape, 228, 1008, 1136, 2394, 3294.
- At, that (occurs about ten times), 398, 1018, 1197, &c.
- Atonis, at once, 1761.
- Atour, over (of place) 840, 848, 872; besides, 1773.
- Atte, at the, 626, 1054.
- Aw, ought, 3445.
- Awaill, avail, help, 800.
- Awant, *sb.* a boast, 2134.
- Awant, *v.* to boast, avaunt, 1587, 1814, 2194, 2384. Fr. Lancelot, "se vanter."
- Awodith, drives away, 2472.
- Awyf, advise, consult, 429, 1911; awyfsit, 2847, 2983, 3205.
- Awyfment, consideration, 360, 679.
- Ay, ever, 90, 1134, 1488.
- Bachleris, young knights, 1687. Transl. of "bachelor" in Fr. Lancelot.
- Bartes, a parapet on a fortress, 2895; bartiis, 3039; bertes, 1006, 1117, 2813; bretis, 873. Transl. of "la bertesque" in Fr. Lancelot.
- Batellis, battalions, divisions of an army, 791. Transl. Fr. Lancelot, "batailles."
- Be, by.
- Beform, before, 1210, 2234.
- Behufis, behoves, is incumbent on, 578; behuf, 2340; behouit, 1137; behwif (with nominative of person), 943.
- Beleif, either believe = trust, or belev = abandon, 112.
- Berde, "in the berde" = in the front, face to face, 808, 3469.
- Bent, a plain or heath, 2668.
- Besen, furnished, adorned, 45.
- Bet, better, 3098.
- Betak, entrust, 1722.
- Billis, letters, documents, 142.
- Blythfull, joyous, 998.
- Bot, (1) but; (2) without (a few times).
- But, usually = without, a few times in modern sense.
- Bown, ready, 1035.
- Burdis, boards, table, 2196.
- Byhecht, promised, 2789; byhicht, 1484.
- Byknow, aware, 1626.
- Byleft, abandoned, left, 1378.
- Can, (1) followed by *infin.* with or without *to* = did, 158, 1174, 28, 36, 79, &c., &c.; (2) modern usage = am able, 125.
- Couth, (1) did, 822; (2) could, 228, 792.
- Careldis, carols, merry-makings, 1317.
- Catifs, miserable creatures, 2100. Transl. of "les chaitis" of Fr. Lancelot.
- Charge, *v.* (1) to command, 135, 188, &c.; (2) regard, give attention to, 709, 1309, 2452; (3) to strike, or spur on, 3396. Fr. Lancelot, "carge de ses colps."
- Chare, chariot, 4.
- Chariot, a cart or wagon, 734. Transl. of "carettes" in Fr. Lancelot.
- Cher, a cart or wagon, 734. Transl. of "cars" in Fr. Lancelot.
- Chief, foremost; possibly with peculiarly Sc. sense of intimate; "are chief with thee," 1362.
- Chere, aspect, manner, 83, 341, 694, 2716. Fr. Lancelot, "malvaie, chiere."
- Ches, choose, 1610, 1635, 2366; chesit, 2214.
- Clep, (1) call = cry, summon, 99; clepith, 90; clepit, 780, 3019; (2) call = name; clepith, 109; clepit, 93, 201, 1063.
- Clergy, (1) learning, 504, 511, 2039; (2) members of the clergy, clerks, 401.
- Colde, *v.* make cold, 1832.
- Cold, *v.* called, named, 752, 1578.
- Com, *sb.* coming, 1296, 2522.

- Command, *sb.* 611 911, 2746, 3400. (Apparently in common use as a substantive in Scottish writers, earlier than in English. See N.E.D.) In Fr. Lancelot, *sb.* usually "commandement," but "le commant" occurs at least once.
- Command, *v.* commend, 2800. Fr. Lancelot, "commander" = commend.
- Comprochit, approaches, 2470, 2507.
- Conclusit, concluded, 1259.
- Concorde, *v.* to arrange by agreement, 308.
- Confluens, an assemblage, 303, 1516.
- Compilour, author, 319.
- Conquest, conquered, 555, 573, 1063 (but "conquerit" also found). Fr. Lancelot, *pa. ppl.* "conquis."
- Consait, conceit = mental capacity, 208.
- Conserf, preserve, keep, 2233; conseryt, 332, 1971.
- Conten, (1) contain, 200; (2) keep, hold (a law), 1637; (3) bear oneself. Transl. of "contenir" in Fr. Lancelot, with same meaning, 822, 1106, 1129, 3189; contenit, 2632, 3217; (4) either continued (Sc. use of conten), or same as (3), 3188, 3201.
- Continans, bearing, 1749; contynans, 1691, 2461. Fr. Lancelot, "contenance" and "contenement."
- Contrar, *prep.* against, 2641; contrare, 657, 2141; into his contrare = against him, 1559.
- Counter, *sb.* encounter, 3237.
- Cowardy, cowardice, 1022, 3285.
- Cownterit, encountered, 2607, 2619. Transl. of "encontra" in Fr. Lancelot; also encounterit, 3260.
- Creatwre, creator, 97.
- Crownel, coronal, 59.
- Cuning, skill, knowledge, 182, 212, 1454.
- Cure, (1) care, charge, 1130, 1891; cwre, 266, 642; (2) cure, healing, 2078; cwre, 98, 117; cwriss, 2066.
- Cusynes, cousin, kinswoman, 2285; cwsynes, 1184; cussynece, 2800; cუსynace, 1269.
- Danger, power to punish or injure, 444, 3004.
- Dangerit, endangered, 3248.
- Dant, daunt, 1813.
- Ded, *sb.* death, 3302; dede, 90.
- Deden, Sc. form of deign, 948; dedenynt, 240.
- Defalt, neglect, mistake, failure, 3209, 1504, 1350.
- Degest, *ppl. adj.* fixed, settled, 1425.
- Delitable, delightful, 1736. Fr. Lancelot, "delitable."
- Deliver, quick, active, 3132; deliverly, quickly, nimbly, 3087, 3132. Fr. Lancelot, "delivre," quick, ready.
- Demande, *sb.* demur, 191, 397, 3050, 3352. Rare word, *pecul. Sc.*, used by Douglas, *Palice of Honour*, Part 2, stanza 45—
"There was na stopping, lang demand, nor pleid."
- See Introduction.
- Depart, part, 3419; departit, 3401. Transl. of Fr. Lancelot, "departir."
- Depaynt, painted, coloured, 46, 1701.
- Depend, (1) appertain to, 466; (2) expend, spend, 214.
- Deren, *v.* claim, vindicate a claim, 2374.
- Dereyne, *sb.* a combat in maintenance of a right; "o dereyne ydoo," 2311, a transl. of Fr. Lancelot, "querele desraisnier."
- Des, dais, high table, 2760. Fr. Lancelot, "dois."
- Deuit, a difficult word, prob. a verb formed from *due*, with sense of be-fitted, or owed; "it deuit me" = "I owed it to myself." N.E.D. has quotation from Holinshed, "for deuit and postponit justice to our lieges," with a similar verb; and also from Drayton, *Odes VI.*, 16—"when it him deweth."
- Devith, deafen, 92; dewith, 94.
- Dewyfs, *sb.* design, choice, 2778. Transl. of Fr. Lancelot, "quantque vous deviseres."
- Dewyfs, *v.* (1) appoint, arrange, 783, &c.; dewyfsit, 972, &c. Transl. of Fr. Lancelot, "deviser," with same meaning; (2) tell, recount, 373, 691. Fr. Lancelot, "le contes devisera."
- Devoydit, departed, 1030; dewod, rid, devoid, 1021.
- Dewidith = divide, or = devoid, in sense of depart, as above, 1800.
- Discharge, (1) get rid of an obligation, exempt, 163; (2) get rid of an obligation by fulfilling it, 1664.
- Discumfit, *v.* defeat, 3000. Transl. of Fr. Lancelot, "desconfist."
- Discumfitour, *sb.* defeat, 829. Transl. of Fr. Lancelot, "descomfiture."

- Disess, unrest, distress, 706.
 Disherist, disinherited, 1448. Transl. of Fr. Lancelot, "desiretee."
 Disiont, in a difficult position, 2905.
 Dispend, spend (time), 3117; (riches), 2456; dispendit (riches), 1816; dispent (rewardis), distributed, dispensed, 2448. Fr. Lancelot, "despendre."
 Dispens, expenditure, outlay, 1744. Transl. of Fr. Lancelot, "despense."
 Dispone (chiefly Sc.), dispose, arrange, incline, 979, 1589, 1690, &c. (used at least 12 times).
 Distrublit, disturbed, 1291.
 Dout, *sb.* fear, 2597, 3402, 3436.
 Dout, *v.* to fear, 739, 1825. Fr. Lancelot, "douter," to fear.
 Dredful, full of fear, 479.
 Drent, drowned, overwhelmed, 1318.
 Dress, to direct a course, 1973, 2286, 2484. Fr. Lancelot, "adreceh."
 Efece, effect, worth, 140; affek, 382.
 Effere. See Affere. In l. 2358 = pomp, dignity. J. gives meaning as "what is becoming to one's rank or station."
 Eft, after, 315.
 Ek, also, 35, 165, 181, 216, &c., &c.
 Eld, old age, 3223, 3240.
 Eme, uncle, 2570.
 Empit, emptied, 180.
 Empleß, please, 2453.
 Empriss, *sb.* (1) glory, renown, 129, 269, 3456; (2) pre-occupation, 393. Fr. Lancelot has "empris" = undertaken, "il lavoit empris a quere," but the equivalent of *empriss* (1) is "pris," cp. "conquere los et pris."
 Enarmyt. See Anarmyt.
 Endit, *sb.* composition, poem, 334.
 Endit, *v.* indite, 206.
 Endlong, along, 2891.
 Entent, intention, thought, 657, 1450, 2168, 2305, &c.
 Entermet, have to do with, interfere, 2912. Transl. of Fr. Lancelot, "entremetre."
 Eschef, (1) achieve, 2228, 2511; escheuit, 258, 2996. Transl. of "a chief mener" or of "achever" in Fr. Lancelot; (2) eschew, escape, 3473. Fr. Lancelot, "eskieuë." "Deith eschef," (2730) = escape death, transl. of "gariroit moult bien"; eschef (2210) might be either achieve or escape.
 Essenzeis, battle-cries, 3347. Transl. of Fr. Lancelot, "l'enseingne."
 Exaltate, exalted, 2549.
 Exasy, ecstasy, 76.
 Exort, entreat, urge, 2319, 2097; exortith, 3024.
 Express, *adv.* clearly, 386.
 Fairhed, beauty, 576; farhed, 2438.
 Fantessy, delusion, 2326.
 Fayndit, dissembled, 2395.
 Feill, Sc. or N. knowledge, 2852.
 Fek, Sc. effect, gist, purport, 2936.
 Fell, *v.* feel, 2129, 2602; fellith, 3366.
 Fell, many, 767.
 Fell, dreadful, destructive, 260. Fr. Lancelot, "fel."
 Fellit, *v.* struck down, 3297. In line 819, fell may be either = feel, or = strike down.
 Ferleit, wondered, 3115.
 Fet, to fetch, 1684; be fetched, 2255; fetched, 1153.
 Fongith, seizeth, 1920.
 Forfare, perish, 1347.
 Forß, 'o forß' = perforce. Fr. Lancelot, "a forche."
 Forlorn, lost, 3303.
 Forthi, therefore, 2259, 2729; forthy, 332.
 Found, went, made towards, 2610.
 Fra, from, 218, 1373; fro, 248, 91.
 Franchis, nobility, 230.
 Fremmytneß, strangeness, coldness, 1507.
 Fruschit, shattered, 1200.
 Furth. Frequently joined to a verb to express continuity of action, as "kep . . . furth," 1668, 1970, 3213.
 Fyne, *sb.* end, 1387.
 Fyne, *v.* end, 2079.
 Fyne, (?) completely, 519.
 Gan, usually = can, in the sense of did, but occasionally = began, 59, 1134, 1149, 1168.
 Ganith, is suitable, 121, 990.
 Gar, cause, 473, 909, 1684, 2414; gart, 267, 1153, &c.; gert, 384, &c.
 Gentilleß, courtesy, 916, 1845. Fr. Lancelot, "gentilleche."
 Gentrice, nobility, courtesy, 2755, 130; gentriß, 2788, 3051.
 Gere, armour, accoutrements, 2775.
 Gif, Sc. and N. if, 118, 2723.
 Gilt, been guilty of, offended, 698, 3013.

- Gladdith, rejoices, 331.
 Gladschip, gladness, 2759.
 Grant mercy, 2263, transl. of "grans mercis" in Fr. Lancelot.
 Gyß, guise, usual manner, 544. Fr. Lancelot, "guise."
- Habariowne, habergeon, 2887; habirionne, 3378. Transl. of Fr. Lancelot, "haubergon."
 Halmys, helmets, 2248; helm, 1199. Transl. Fr. Lancelot, "hiaume."
 Hals, neck, 1053.
 Hant, use, practise habitually, 2193; haunt, 724; hawnt, 3416; hawntis, 2770. Fr. Lancelot, "hanter," to use.
 Hardement, courage, daring, 3346, 800; hardymment, 899, 2667, 3360. Transl. of Fr. Lancelot, "hardement."
 Hawbryk, hauberk, 1069, 1199; hawbryk, 3110. Transl. Fr. Lancelot, "hauberc."
 Hecht, (1) N. form of hight, is called, named, 2138, 2288; (2) promised, 1141; promise, 3099.
 Ho, pause, stop, 2968.
 Hold, *pa. ppl.* held, esteemed, 1705, 2354.
 Hore, hair, 365.
 Hot, named, is named, 805, 753, 1948.
 Howis, lingers, tarries, usually on horseback, 2840; houit, 995; howith, 2827; howit, 2840; howyns, 2819; hufyng, 1045.
- I, a prefix to past participles. Iclosit, 53; Ibrocht, 278; Iwond, 245; Iwondit, 226.
 If, to give. There are at least seven spellings of this word in the text, including if, iffith, 3ewith, gifyne, geif, yeif, yef.
 Ilk, (1) same, 1600, 1668, 1366; (2) each, 2209.
 Ill-paid, ill pleased, 907.
 In to=in; used continually, "after 1400 characteristically Scottish," N.E.D.
 Incontinent, immediately, 253, 1214, 2645, 2832; in-to-contynent, 3018.
 Iniure, *sb.* injury, 1355.
 Irk, *v.* weary, 2707.
 Iuperty, daring exploit, 2545.
 Iustefy, to administer justice, 1890.
 Iwyß, certainly, 1707, 1923, 1936, 2314.
- Kend, known, 547, 905.
 Kep, *sb.* in phrase "tak kep"=heed, 389.
- Laif, *Sc.* the remainder, the rest, 1800, 3470.
 Lametable, lamentable, 3263; lemytable, 2716; lementable, 1434.
 Last, laced, 2580.
 Larges, liberality, 607, 1679; largeß, 1748. Transl. Fr. Lancelot, "largeuche."
 Lat, *sb.* let, hindrance, 957.
 Latith, prevents, 1925.
 Lat, *v.* let, allow, 294, 127, 802.
 Led, *pa. ppl.* of lay=cast down, humbled, 2661.
 Leful, permissible, 1426.
 Leich, physician, 106, 2008; liche, 520; lech, 2054.
 Leir, learn, 1991.
 Lest, *v.* list, please, 554, 2211. In l. 620 either=list or=last.
 Lest, *v.* last, endure, 810.
 Liging, lying, 376.
 Longith, belongeth, 737, 1714, 1919, 2427, 2776.
 Lorn, lost, doomed to destruction, 2090, 2738.
 Loß, praise, 1775. Transl. Fr. Lancelot, "los."
 Low, (1) love; (2) law.
 Luges, tents, huts, 873, 880; lugis, 2498, 2678; lugyne, 890. Fr. Lancelot, "loges."
 Lust, happiness, 1003.
 Lyt, little; alyt, 1222; at lyte, 143.
- Ma, make, 952.
 Magre, in spite of, 959, 2677, 2700; magre of, 500, 2709; "magre thine," 115. Fr. Lancelot, "malgre sien."
 Matelent, ill-will, displeasure, 2167, 2658. Fr. Lancelot, "maltalent."
 Medyre. See Mysour.
 Meit, to dream, 363; met, 440.
 Melle, battle, hand-to-hand conflict, 2617. Transl. Fr. Lancelot, "mellee."
 Memoratyve, pertaining to the memory; the phrase, "wit memoratyve," 1429, means the memory.
 Men, tell, 510.
 Menye, a body of retainers, a company, 750. Fr. Lancelot, "maisnie."
 Barbour uses the phrase "a few menþe," and also Stewart, Cron. Scot.

- Meß, a meal, a course at a meal, 2162.
 Fr. Lancelot has "le premier mes"
 = the first course.
- Misgyit, misguided, 1662.
- Mo, more, 110, 1196, &c.
- Mon, must, 645, 2335; mone,
 565, 1386, 2392.
- Mot, must, 188, 195, 314, 316, &c.
- Mys, *sb.* wrong, fault, 1886, 1924,
 1935, 3228.
- Myschief, distress, injury, 3361;
 myschef, 2679, 1354. Transl. Fr.
 Lancelot, "meschief."
- Mysgone, *pa. ppl.* gone astray, erred,
 1058; mys went, *pa. t.* and *pa. ppl.*
 1319, 1958.
- Mysour, *sb.* measure, 1828; mesyre
 (?), 1623.
- Myster, need, 1875, 2320, 2388, 2413.
 Transl. Fr. Lancelot, "mestiers."
- Nat, naught, 702.
- Ne, not, 39, 102, 1176, 3357.
- Nece, nephew, 2198, 2243, 2718.
 Transl. of Fr. Lancelot, "nies" =
 nephew.
- Nedlyngis, of necessity, 2335.
- Nemmyt, named, declared, 648, 2850.
- Neulyngis, anew, 36.
- Newis, fists, 1221.
- Nome, name, 225.
- Nom, took, 1047; nome, 590.
- Nonis, the nonis = the nonce, 1734.
- Nor, Sc. = that not or but, 2228,
 2350, 3176, 3333.
- Not, *v.* know not, 522, 3142.
- Noyith, annoys, troubles, 903; noyt,
 471.
- Nyß, foolish, 127; nyce, 1944.
- O, a, an, or one.
- Obeisand, adj. obedient, 640.
- Obeiß, *v.* obey, 2132.
- Oft-syß, oftentimes, 2302, 2592, 2883,
 2927; oft sys, 2787.
- One = on or in; one to = unto.
- Onys, once, 3011, 3185.
- Or, ere, before, 617, 1233, 1885, 2543,
 3011; or than = or, 394, 653.
- Ordan, *v. inf.* prepare, arrange, or-
 dain, 2414, 2775; ordanit, 2848,
 2060; ordinyd, 704; ordinit, 1734;
 ordynat, 490. When referring to
 battle order, a translation of Fr.
 Lancelot, "ordener."
- Ordand, *v. inf.* prepare, arrange, 783,
 1711.
- Oucht, *impers. v.* behoves, befits, 2993.
- Our, over.
- Ourfret, adorned, embroidered, 71,
 2478.
- Ourgo, to pass on or over, 294.
- Out throng. See Throng.
- Outragouß, excessive, extreme, 258.
 Fr. Lancelot, "outrageuse valor."
- Owtray, injury, act of violence, 3452.
 Fr. Lancelot, "outrage."
- Oyfß, use, 1699.
- Paid, ill paid = ill pleased, 907.
- Palzonis, Sc. form pavilions, tents,
 733; palzoune, 1304. Transl. Fr.
 Lancelot, "pauellons."
- Pasage, a passage of arms, 249.
- Pens, think, 1430. Fr. Lancelot,
 "penser."
- Planly, openly, 3317.
- Perwert, perverse, 1470.
- Plesance, pleasure, 940, 2278; ples-
 ans, 1750, 1937, "wordis of ples-
 ans," gracious, pleasant words,
 2462. Fr. Lancelot, "plaisans."
- Possede, possess, 577.
- Prekand, spurring, riding, 3087. The
 "prekyne hat" in l. 2888 is not a
 riding hat, but a helmet with a
 "prick" or iron spike on it. See
 Introduction. Transl. Fr. Lance-
 lot, "capel de fer."
- Pres, a throng in battle, the thick of
 the fight, 288, 3364; preß, 866,
 871, 3398. Transl. of Fr. Lancelot,
 "la presse."
- Pretend, aspire, endeavour, 3280,
 3463; pretendis, 558; pretendit,
 3448; pretendith, 582.
- Process, *sb.* narration, story, 316.
- Promyt, *v.* promise, 964. Fr. Lance-
 lot, "pramet."
- Propone, propose, put forward, 2459;
 proponit, 445, 361.
- Pryß, to praise, commend, esteem,
 1171, 2591, 3412; prysit, 2354.
 In Sc. and N. pryß is equivalent to
 both praise and prize, and translates
 such phrases in Fr. Lancelot as
 "proisies d'armes," "un de plus
 proisies chevaliers."
- Purchesß, win, acquire, 3089, 3286.
 Fr. Lancelot, "porcachier."
- Quh-, Qu-, Qwh-, Qu-, frequently used
 instead of *wh.*
- Quhilk, which, who, 184; whilk, 465,
 349, 554, 1555, 1578.
- Quhill, until, 24, 66, 198, 315, &c.
- Quhy, *sb.* reason, cause, 123, 1496;
 why, 1310, 2332.

- Rachis, hunting-dogs, 531.
 Radour, Sc. fear, 1833, 3463; radur, 1488; raddour, 2131.
 Rak, reck, 1309, 1829.
 Ramed, remedy, 117; remede, 89; remed, 717.
 Randoune, properly a swift course, a straight course, but apparently sometimes separated from the idea of motion, as here, and equivalent to "in a line," whether straight or curved, 2540. Cp. Barbour, Bk. xviii. l. 128—
 "The cawse (*i.e.*, causeway)
 That wes betuix them and the tounne
 That strekit lang in a randoune."
 Ranson, ransom, 931; ransone, 922. Fr. Lancelot, "raenchon."
 Recidens, "withouten recidens" = without delay, 2357; to "mak resydens" = to stay at a place, 669.
 Recomfort, reassured, inspired with fresh courage, 3308. Fr. Lancelot, "reconfortes."
 Recounterit, met, encountered, 2956. Fr. Lancelot, "rencontrer."
 Record, *sb.* witness, testimony, 388.
 Recorde, hard recorde = heard mention, 121, 594; recorde = declare, 454, 481; recordith, befits (?), 605. (The rhymes in ll. 604 and 605 should perhaps be exchanged.)
 Recourß, return, 1796.
 Red, advise, 1026, 1197, 2515, 2771.
 Rekith, N. form of reach, 1651.
 Remed. See Ramed.
 Report, rumour, 776, 939.
 Reprefe, blame, ignominy, 763; re-preve, 1251.
 Reput, *pa. t.* reputed, considered, 742; *pres. t.* ruput, 1240.
 Resput, *v.* respite, 1161.
 Reweyll, "Harwy the reweyll" = Fr. Lancelot, "Hervi de ruel."
 Rigne, *sb.* kingdom, 94, 1526; ring, 1467; ringe, 1324; ringne, 1950; rygnis, 1902; ryngne, 1471; rignis, 1856. Transl. Fr. Lancelot, "li regnes."
 Ringe, *v.* to reign, 2128; ryng, 1408; rignis, 1823; rignith, 781.
 Rout, a company, troop, 811, 2954, 3401; rowt, 2598; usually a transl. of "conroi."
 Rowmyth, clears, empties, 3388.
 Salosing, *sb.* greeting, 1308.
 Salust (Sc. and N.) *pa. t.* saluted, 545, 918, 1552, 2747.
 Samyne, N. form of same, 440, 2777, 2809.
 Sauch, N. form of saw, 816, 1218, 1224, 2197.
 Schent, destroyed, 1878.
 Schrewis, worthless persons, 1986; screwis, 1052.
 Schrewit, cursed, 1943.
 Scilla, a bird, a lark, 2481. Scylla, daughter of Nisus, was transformed into a bird.
 Sedulis, writings, 142.
 Sege, a seat, 2256. Fr. Lancelot, "siege."
 Semble, assembly, 987, 2204.
 Semblit, assembled, 844.
 Semblyng, attacking, encountering, 2949. See Assemblying.
 Sen, since, 164, 485, 708, 799, &c.
 Sere, several, various, 593, 730, 1342, 2165, 2532.
 Set, although, 99, 140, 207, 625, &c.
 Sew, follow, 2324, 3143; sewyt, 2612. Transl. of Fr. Lancelot, "sieut."
 Sic, such, 559; sice, 2113; sich, 32, 54, &c.
 Snybbyth, checks, hinders, 3385.
 Socht, went, advanced, 847, 2617, 2976, 3177, 3426; soght, 3289; soght on, 3147, 3309.
 Sor, either *adj.* = sad, or *sb.* = sorrow, 74.
 Sort, a company, 932; sorte, 813.
 Sort, lot, fate, 26.
 Soundith, tends, 149, 1809, 1941. A very pronounced Chaucerian appropriation, for the word is unknown in Sc. texts. See Introduction.
 Sonerte, guarantee, surety, 2386. Transl. Fr. Lancelot, "seurte."
 Speciall, *adj.* intimate, confidential, 411, 1185; *adv.* 905.
 Spent, fastened, M.E. spennan, to fasten, 2807.
 Spere, *sb.* sphere, 6; spir, 170; speris, 24.
 Spere, *v.* ask, 1169.
 Spill, destroy, 1988.
 Stak, prob. "to the stak" = to the hilt, 226. Jamieson has stok, the stock of an anchor or a gun. Douglas uses *v.* stok to convey idea of thrusting violently. Cp. Æn.—
 "For so Eneas stokkis his stiff brand
 Throw out the youngkere hard up tyl his hand."

- Stant, stands, 190, 326, 504.
 Sted, place, 1123; stede, 218.
 Stek, shut, 316; stekith, 1650.
 Steir, *v.* stir, 816; sterith, 2827.
 Stell, *sb.* = steel, 808, or perhaps =
 Sc. steill or stail, a part of an army,
 a body of troops.
 Stere, *sb.* helm, hence = control, guid-
 ance, 1972, and = guide, controller,
 1019.
 Stere, *v.* guide, control, 2882; sterith,
 2102; sterit, 611, 1343; stere =
 direct a course, 3428.
 Sterf, die, 1027.
 Stour, conflict, fight, 1107, 2605,
 3122. Transl. Fr. Lancelot,
 "estors."
 Strait, narrow, 534.
 Straucht, straight, 847, 3349.
 Streck, stretch, 1898; strekith, 3080.
 Suppone, (chiefly Sc.) suppose, 2228.
 Suppos, although, 1069, 2431, 2516,
 &c.
 Suppris, *sb.* (1) an overwhelming force,
 859, 2649; (2) oppression, 690,
 1351, 3477.
 Supprisit, overwhelmed, suddenly
 overtaken, 1236, 1281, 2703, 3123,
 3206. Transl. Fr. Lancelot, "sous-
 prise," cp. "supprisit with o thoct"
 = "sousprise de folie."
 Swelf, a gulf, whirlpool, 1317.
 Sweuen, a dream, 440.
 Syne, afterwards, 45, 520, 2740, &c.
 Syfs, times, 3052.
- Tak, take, 167, 146, *pa. ppl.* takin,
 172; tak, 157, 219, 225; tane, 264;
 ton, 1053, 1070, 1495; tone, 475;
pres. t. tais, 1094, 3003; taiis,
 1140.
 Ten, teen, vexation, 2644, 3235.
 Tennandis, vassals, liegemen, 1727.
 Than, then, 429, 966, &c.
 The, (1) they; (2) thy; (3) thee.
 Thelke, that, the same, 708.
 Ther, these, 1860; thir, 142, 803, &c.
 There = where, 1495.
 Thithingis, tidings, 2277; tithingis,
 901, 2334; tithandis, 2308.
 Tho, then, 544, 2219.
 Tho, them or those, 2366.
 Thoore, there, 627; thore, 233, 825,
 889, 1101.
 Throng, *adj.* crowded, 3364; *v.* out
 throng = burst forth, 65.
 Til, to.
 Tint. See Tyne.
 Tithandis. See Thithingis.
- To, intensive prefix attached to verbs,
 to-kerwith, 867; to-shent, 1220;
 to-hurt, 1220; to-rent, 1221. The
to is not joined to the verb in the
 MS.
 Ton. See Tak.
 Ton, the ton = that one, 1820.
 Tothir, the other, 2534; toyer, 2569,
 2582.
 Traisting, *sb.* trust, confidence, 25.
 Translait, (1) translate (modern sense),
 211; (2) take away, remove; trans-
 lat, 508; transulat, 2202.
 Trauell, toil, hardship, 310, 175;
 trawel, 273; trauel, 2226.
 Trety, treatise, 145.
 Tratory, treachery, 3222.
 Trewis, truce, 1567, 1572, 2486, 2543.
 Transl. Fr. Lancelot, "trieues."
 Tronsioune, the shaft of a spear, 239;
 trunscioune, 2960. Transl. of Fr.
 Lancelot, "tronchons." Trown-
 sciown, l. 2888 = a short heavy
 staff. Transl. of Fr. Lancelot,
 "baston gros et court."
 Tyne, lose, 1257, 1386, 2514, 3460;
 tynth, 1759; tynt, 175, 1383,
 1520.
- Unwist, unknown, 1139; wnwist,
 269, 658; wnwyst, 219.
- Valis, descends, 2473 (shortened form
 of avale), used in 'Kingis Quair,'
 also in Henry's 'Wallace' (1570
 copy)—
 "The donk dew doun fra the hevin did
 vaill."
 Fr. Lancelot, "avaler," to descend.
 Valkyne, waken, 8; walkin, 1238.
 Vall, a wave, 1316.
 Varand, *sb.* warrant, surety.
 Vassolage, deed of valour, valour,
 257, 2722; wassolage, 2706; Fr.
 Lancelot, "vasselage."
 Vere, doubt, 1114. See Were.
 Very, weary, 1165.
 Vicht, person, 10, 55, 67; wicht, 131;
 wight, 1183.
 Virsling, wrestling, struggling, 3382.
 Vityng, *inf.* to know, 410.
 Vncouth, strange, unknown, 1732;
 wnkouth, 146, 197.
 Vpwarpith, drawn up, raised, 63.
 Vyre, arrow for a cross-bow, 1091;
 wyre, 3288.
 Vysagis, "the Vysagis of the earth"
 = the face of the earth, 1373.

- Walkin. See Valkyne.
- Ward, a division of an army, an army, 3182. A.S. weored, a host. Gavin Douglas uses the word, *Æn.* Bk. XI. ch. xiv. l. 11—
 “. . . The wardis all of every nation
 . . . tystis to fecht.”
- See Introduction.
- Wassolage. See Vassolage.
- Wat, know, 512; wot, 77, 97, 192, &c.
- Wawasouris, vavasours, vassals of inferior rank, 1727. Transl. Fr. Lancelot, “vauassors.”
- Wend, *v.* to go, 2189.
- Wend, *v.* thought, 1555, 3479.
- Wentail, ventail, the part of the helmet which admits the air, 1055.
- Were, *sb.* war.
- Were, *sb.* doubt, apprehension, 84, 443, 911, 2687.
- Were, worse, 1928.
- Wering, weary, 58.
- Weyne, but weyne=without doubt, 2878.
- Whill, until, 1135, 572.
- Why. See Quhy.
- Wicht, *sb.* See Vicht.
- Wicht, *adj.* strong, powerful, 247; wycht, 2590.
- Wit, *sb.* information, tidings, 2502.
- Wit, *v.* to know, 268.
- Withouten, without, 397; vithoutine, 25.
- With-thy, provided that, 960.
- Wnkouth. See Vncouth.
- Wnwist. See Unwist.
- Wnwemmyt, unspotted, undefiled, 2095.
- Wod, mad, furious, 3438, 3332; woid, 2693.
- Wond, wand, rod of office, 1889; wonde, 1600.
- Wondir, *adj.* wonderful, 80; *adv.* wonderfully, very, 558.
- Wonk, winked, 1057.
- Wonne, dwell, 2044.
- Worschip, honour, renown, 1157, 1163.
- Wox, voice, 13.
- Wy, man, person, 2354.
- Wyre. See Vyre.
- Wys, vice, 1793; wysis, 1539.
- Wyß, wise man, 171.
- Y, pronoun I.
- Y-, prefix to *pa. ppl.* y-clepit (called), 414; y-grave (buried), 1798; y-statut (appointed), 2527. Used about 20 times, including the wrong use in y-smytith.
- Y-, at beginning of word instead of a or e; y-mong, y-doune, yneuch, ydoo.
- Yer, year, 609; yher, 2062; yhere, 1575. (In l. 1575, “by the yhere”=Fr. Lancelot, “au chief de l’an.”)
- Yis, yes, 514.
- Yis, this, 160, 328.
- Yone, yonder, that, 759.
- Ywyß. See Iwyß.
- ȝeme, keep, guard, 664.
- ȝere, year, 342; zerys, 23, 1431.
- ȝha, yea, 2841.
- ȝhe, ye, 920.
- ȝhing, young, 2866.
- ȝhis, yes, 1396; ȝis, 3404.
- ȝhit, yet, 100; zit, 583.
- ȝhone, yonder, that, 3006; zhon, 2287; zone, 660.
- ȝhouthhed, youth, 2770.
- ȝolde, yielded, 291, 380, 950, 1087.
- ȝow, you, 500.

602 2

