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The Scottish Text Society

THE POEMS

OF

WILLIAM DUNBAR

"I see that the Ayrshire Bard had one giant before him."

—*Crabbe to Sir Walter Scott; 'Lockhart's Life of Scott.'*

X

THE POEMS

OF

WILLIAM DUNBAR

EDITED BY

THE LATE JOHN SMALL, LL.D.

LIBRARIAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

VOL. II.

POEMS

WITH PREFATORY NOTE



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PREFATORY NOTE.

[The late Mr Small issued the text of the Poems of William Dunbar in two parts. The First Part ended with p. 160. To each part he prefixed a Note. It has been thought proper to combine the two Notes without any alteration, except the deletion of the last paragraph with respect to the Introduction, Notes, and Glossary.—W. G.]

IN issuing the First Part of a new edition of the Poems of William Dunbar, a few remarks as to the sources from which the text has been derived, and on the previous editions of his works, may not be out of place.

Dunbar, who was “the Rhymer” or Poet-Laureate of Scotland of his time, was born about the year 1460, and died about 1513. His works must have been very popular; and it is somewhat remarkable that the writings of a poet so distinguished should have been for a long period almost forgotten. Although he had the good fortune to see several of his compositions printed by Chepman and Myllar, in the first volume that issued from the Scottish press in 1508, every copy of that work was subsequently lost, and it was only in the year 1788 that a thin decayed and mutilated volume containing a portion of the book was discovered in Ayrshire, and was afterwards presented to the Library of the Faculty of Advocates. The seven poems by Dunbar which that early volume contains are the first in order in the present edition. The greater portion of the poems of Dunbar, however, were preserved by the care of George Bannatyne, in whose MS. collec-

tion, preserved in the Advocates' Library, no less than forty-two of his separate pieces are contained. A considerable number were also copied about the same time by Sir Richard Maitland into his well-known collection of Scottish poetry, now preserved in the Pepysian Library, Magdalen College, Cambridge. This manuscript contains, besides several pieces that are also in the Bannatyne MS., twenty poems of Dunbar which do not occur elsewhere. In a volume known as the Reidpeth MS., preserved in the University Library, Cambridge, are a considerable number of Dunbar's poems, ten of which are not otherwise accessible. Several of Dunbar's poems exist also in the Howard MS., preserved in the British Museum, the Asloan MS., preserved at Auchinleck House, and in other MS. volumes which will be subsequently noticed.

With regard to the printed editions:—Allan Ramsay was the first to call attention to the long-forgotten poems of Dunbar. In his 'Evergreen,' published in 1724, he included "The Thistle and the Rose," "The Dance," "The Tournament," "The Golden Targe," "The Flying with Kennedy," and twelve of his other poems. In 1770 Lord Hailes, in his 'Ancient Poems from the MS. of George Bannatyne, MDLXVIII,' inserted thirty-one poems of Dunbar. In 1786 John Pinkerton, in his 'Ancient Scottish Poems never before in print, but now published from the MS. collections of Sir Richard Maitland of Lethington,' included "The Twa Mariit Wemen and the Wedo," and twenty of the smaller poems. In 1802 Sibbald's well-known 'Chronicle of Scottish Poetry from the 13th century' was published, in which were included thirty-two poems by Dunbar. About the beginning of the present century George Chalmers made collections for a complete edition of the poems of Dunbar. He died, however, before accomplishing the work; but the intention of that distinguished Scottish antiquary was carried out in an extremely satisfactory manner by the late Dr Laing, who had acquired his transcripts for the purpose. Dr Laing, who was in early life an ardent student of Scottish literature, and ultimately one of its most accurate illustrators, may be said to have almost more than fulfilled his task. His edition appeared in 1832, in two volumes 8vo, and in addition to printing the poems of Dunbar, he included those of several of his contemporaries. He cancelled these, however, and thus in his edition pp. 113-208 of the second volume are wanting. In 1865

he issued a supplement, incorporating a few additional poems by Dunbar, and corrections of some of his former notes.

The edition by Dr Laing has long been much esteemed and coveted by collectors, and its high price now renders it almost inaccessible to ordinary readers. In his editorial labours Dr Laing has not implicitly followed the text of any of his authorities, but has inserted what he considered the best readings, so as to render the poems more easily intelligible. He has also modernised the spelling of many words, and in a few instances has substituted different expressions for those which he believed might offend the taste of persons unaccustomed to the plain speaking of our early writers.

Between 1874 and 1881 the Hunterian Club has carried out the printing of the whole of the Bannatyne MS., which includes a large portion of the poems of Dunbar.

In preparing the present edition the editor has not endeavoured to place the poems in chronological order. The first seven, as before stated, are taken from the volume printed by Chepman and Myllar in 1508, and may be regarded as having had the benefit of the supervision of the author. The other poems in this Part are taken from the Bannatyne MS., with which they have been carefully collated, and various readings added from the Maitland and other MSS.

For the readings from the Maitland MS. the best thanks of the editor are due to the Rev. Professor W. W. Skeat of Cambridge, who has, at much trouble to himself, in consequence of the conditions under which alone the MS. is accessible, made the necessary collations.

This Second Part contains the completion of the text of the Poems of William Dunbar. Of the hundred and one pieces which have been printed, the first ninety are, with the exception of Nos. XXXVII. and LXXI., undoubtedly by that poet. As the poem No. XXXVII., "Surrexit Dominus de Sepulchro," bears so much resemblance to No. XXXVIII., "Done is a Battell on the Dragon Blak," and No. LXXI., "We Lordis hes chosin a Chiftane mervellus," refers, like No. LXX., to the Duke of Albany's return to France, these two have been inserted among the other poems known certainly to be by Dunbar.

The last eleven pieces, including the very amusing poem of

"The Freiris of Berwik," have been attributed to Dunbar by Pinkerton, Laing, and other editors of ancient Scottish poetry. They are kept together, and are numbered separately.

In the Prefatory Note to Part I., the various MSS., &c., in which the poems are preserved were briefly indicated. These may now be more specifically acknowledged.

1. The Black-letter volume, printed by Chepman and Myllar in 1508, preserved in the Advocates' Library, has supplied Nos. I. to VII.

2. The Bannatyne MS., Advocates' Library, Edinburgh, Nos. IX. to XLIX., and No. LXXI.

3. The Maitland MS., Pepysian Library, Magdalen College, Cambridge, Nos. L. to LXX.

4. The Reidpeth MS., University Library, Cambridge, No. VIII. and Nos. LXXVII. to LXXXIV.

5. The Asloan MS., Auchinleck, Nos. LXXXV. and LXXXVI. Another copy of LXXXVI. is preserved in the Makulloch MS., University of Edinburgh.

6. A volume of the Register of Sasines in the Town Clerk's office, Aberdeen, No. LXXXVII.

7. The British Museum MSS., Nos. LXXXVIII. to XC.

Of the eleven poems attributed to Dunbar which are numbered separately (pp. 285-329), all are taken from the Bannatyne MS. except No. IV., which occurs in the Maitland MS., and No. VII., which is taken from the volume printed by Chepman and Myllar in 1508.

The editor has to express his thanks to the Rev. Professor Skeat, Dr Richard Garnett, and the Rev. Dr Gregor, for collations at Cambridge, London, and Aberdeen respectively, which have been of the greatest service.

ABBREVIATIONS:—A. *Asloan MS.*; B. *Bannatyne MS.*; H. *Howard MS.*; M. *Maitland MS.*; MK. *Makulloch MS.*; R. *Reidpeth MS.*

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DUNBAR'S POEMS.

I.

THE GOLDYN TARGE.

Here beynnys ane littil tretie intitult the goldyn targe
compilit be Maister Wilgum Dunbar.

RYGHT as the stern of day begouth to schyne,
Quhen gone to bed war Vesper and Lucyne,
I raise,¹ and by a rosere² did me rest ;
Wp sprang the goldyn candill matutyme,
With clere depurit bemes cristallyne, 5
Glading the mery³ foulis in thair nest ;
Or Phebus⁴ was in purpur cape⁴ revest
Wp raise⁵ the lark, the hevyns⁶ menstrale fyne
In May, in till a morow myrthfullest.

Full angellike thir birdis sang thair houris 10
Within thair courtyns⁷ grene, in to⁸ thair bouris,
Apparalit quhite⁹ and red, wyth blomes¹⁰ suete ;
Anamalit¹¹ was the felde wyth all colouris,
The perly droppis schake in silvir schouris,

¹ B. M. raiss.

² M. ane river.

³ B. mirry.

⁴ B. kaip ; M. capie vest.

⁵ B. sprang.

⁶ B. hevynis.

⁷ B. courtingis.

⁸ B. within.

⁹ B. with quhayte.

¹⁰ B. blumys.

¹¹ B. Ennammalit.

Quhill all in balme did branch and levis flete ; 15
 To part¹ fra Phebus, did Aurora grete,
 Hir cristall teris I saw hyng on the flouris,
 Quhilk he for lufe all drank vp with his hete.

For mirth of May, wyth skippis and wyth hoppis,²
 The birdis sang vpon the tender croppis, 20
 With curiouse³ note, as Venus chapell clerkis :
 The rosis yong, new⁴ spreding of thair knoppis,
 War powderit brycht with hevinly beriall droppis,
 Throu bemes rede, birnyng⁵ as ruby sperkis ;
 The skyes rang for schoutyng of the larkis, 25
 The purpur hevyn our scailit in silvir sloppis
 Ourgilt the treis, branchis, lef[is]⁶ and barkis.

Doun throu the ryce a⁷ ryuir ran wyth stremys,
 So lustily agayn⁸ thai lykand lemys,
 That all the lake as lamp did leme of licht, 30
 Quhilk schadovit all about wyth twynkling glemis ;
 That bewis bathit war in secund bemys
 Throu the reflex of Phebus visage brycht ;
 On every syde the hegies⁹ raise on hicht,
 The bank was grene, the bruke vas full of bremys, 35
 The stanneris clere as stern in frosty nycht.

The cristall air, the sapher firmament,
 The ruby skyes of the orient,
 Kest beriall bemes on emerant bewis grene ;
 The rosy garth depaynt and redolent, 40
 With purpur, azure, gold, and goulis gent
 Arayed was, by dame Fflora the quene,
 So nobily, that ioy was for to sene ;
 The roch agayn the rywir resplendent
 As low enlumynit all the leues schene. 45

¹ B. Depairt ; M. Depart.² P. happis.³ B. courius.⁴ B. reid, now ; M. reid.⁵ B. lemyng.⁶ B. leivis.⁷ B. thrwch ryss ane.⁸ M. vpon.⁹ B. ege.

Quhat throu the mery foullys armony,
 And throu the ryueris sounn rycht¹ ran me by,
 On Fflorais mantill I slepit as² I lay,
 Quhare sone in to my dremes fantasy
 I saw approach agayn the orient sky, 50
 A³ saill, als quhite as blossom vpon spray,
 Wyth merse⁴ of gold, brycht as the stern of day;
 Quhilk tendit to the land full lustily,
 As falcounn swift desyrouse of hir pray.⁵

 And hard on burd vnto the blomyt medis, 55
 Amang⁶ the grene rispis and the redis,
 Arrivit sche,⁷ quhar fro anonn thare landis
 Ane hundreth ladyes, lusty in to⁸ wedis,
 Als fresch as flouris that in May⁹ vp spredis,
 In kirtillis grene, withoutyn kell or bandis: 60
 Thair brycht hairis hang gletering on the strandis
 In tressis clere, wyppit wyth goldyn thredis,
 With pappis¹⁰ quhite, and mydlis¹¹ small as wandis.

 Discriue¹² I wald, bot quho coud¹³ wele endyte
 How all the feldis wyth thai lilies quhite 65
 Depaynt war brycht, quhilk to the hevyn did glete:
 Noucht thou, [H]omer,¹⁴ als fair as thou coud¹³ wryte,
 For all thine¹⁵ ornate stilis¹⁶ so perfyte;
 Nor yit thou, Tullius, quhois lippis suete
 Off rethorike did in to termes flete: 70
 Your aureate tongis both bene all to lyte,
 For to compile that paradise complete.

 Thare saw I Nature, and [als dame] Venus quene,¹⁷
 The fresch Aurora, and lady Flora schene,
 Iuno, Appollo,¹⁸ and Proserpyna, 75

¹ B. that. ² B. quhair; M. quhar. ³ B. And; M. Ane. ⁴ B. M. mast.
⁵ B. omits l. 54. ⁶ B. Amangis. ⁷ B. scho. ⁸ B. till.
⁹ B. the May. ¹⁰ B. pawpis. ¹¹ middillis. ¹² P. distrine.
¹³ B. cowth; M. couth. ¹⁴ M. Tholomeie. ¹⁵ B. thi. ¹⁶ B. style.
¹⁷ P. M. and Venus quene and quene. ¹⁸ B. Probably for Latona.

Dyane the goddesse chaste of¹ woddis grene,
 My lady Cleo, that help of Makaris bene,
 Thetes, Pallas, and prudent Minerua,
 Fair feynit Fortune, and lemand Lucina,
 Thir mychti quenis in crounis² mycht be sene, 80
 Wyth bemys blith, bricht³ as Lucifera.

There saw I May, of myrthfull monethis quene,
 Betuix Aprile, and June, her sister⁴ schene,
 Within the gardyng⁵ walking vp and doun,
 Quham of the foulis gladdith al bedene; 85
 Scho was full tender in⁶ hir yeris grene.
 Thare saw I Nature present hir a gounn
 Rich to behald, and nobil of renounn,
 Off ewiry hew under⁷ the hevin that⁸ bene
 Depaynt, and broud⁹ be gude proporcoun. 90

Full lustily thir ladyes all in fere
 Enterit within this park of most plesere,
 Quhare that I lay our¹⁰ helit wyth leuis ronk;
 The mery foulis, blisfullest of chere,
 Salust Nature, me thought, on¹¹ thair manere, 95
 And ewiry blome on branch, and eke on bonk,
 Opnyt and spred thair balmy leuis donk,
 Full low enclynynge to thair Quene so¹² clere,
 Quham of thair nobill norising¹³ thay thonk.

Syne to dame Flora, on the samyn wyse, 100
 Thay saluse, and thay thank a thousand syse;
 And to dame Wenus, lufis mychti quene,
 Thay sang ballettis¹⁴ in lufe, as was the gyse,
 With amourouse notis lusty¹⁵ to devise,

¹ B. of chest and.² B. corrownis.³ B. bricht, blyth.⁴ B. sisteris.⁵ B. gairdene.⁶ B. in till.⁷ B. that vndir.⁸ B. hes.⁹ B. braid.¹⁰ B. omits.¹¹ B. in.¹² B. full.¹³ B. nvrissing.¹⁴ P. ballettis; B. ballattis.¹⁵ B. most lusty.

As thay that had lufe in thair hertis grene ; 105
 Thair hony throtis, opnyt fro the splene,
 With werblis¹ suete did perse the hevinly skyes,
 Quhill loud resownyt the firmament serene.

Ane othir court thare saw I consequent,²
 Cupide the king, wyth bow in hand ybent,³ 110
 And dredefull arowis grundyn scharp and square :
 Thare saw I Mars, the god armypotent,
 Aufull and sterne, strong and corpolent ;
 Thare saw I crabbit Saturn ald and haire,
 His luke was lyke for to perturb the aire ; 115
 Thare was Mercurius,⁴ wise and eloquent,
 Of rethorike that fand the flouris faire ;

Thare was the god of gardingis,⁵ Priapus ;
 Thare was the god of wildernes, Phanus ;
 And Ianus, god of entree⁶ delytable ; 120
 Thare was the god of fludis, Neptunus ;
 Thare was the god of wyndis, Eolus,
 With variand luke, rycht lyke a lord vnstable ;
 Thare was Bacus⁷ the gladder of the table ;
 Thare was Pluto, the elrich incubus, 125
 In cloke of grene, his court usit no sable.

And ewiry one of thir, in grene arayit,
 On harp or lute full merily thai playit,
 And sang ballettis with michty notis clere :
 Ladyes to dance full sobirly assayit, 130
 Endlang the lusty rywir so thai mayit :
 Thair obseruance rycht hevynly was to here ;
 Than crap I throu the leuis, and drew nere,
 Quhare that I was richt sudaynly affrayit,
 All throu a luke, quhilk I haue boucht⁸ full dere. 135

¹ B. warbillis.² B. subsequent.³ B. ay bent.⁴ B. Marcourius.⁵ B. gardynis.⁶ B. entres.⁷ B. Bachus.⁸ B. coft.

And schortly for to speke, be¹ lufis quene
 I was aspyit, scho bad hir archearis kene
 Go me arrest; and thay no time delayit;
 Than ladyes fair lete fall thair mantillis gren[e],
 With bowis big in tressit hairis schene, 140
 All² sudaynly thay had a felde arayit;
 And yit rycht gretly was I noucht affrayit,
 The party was so plesand for to sene,
 A wonder lusty bikkir³ me assayit.

And first of all, with bow in hand ybent,⁴ 145
 Come dame Beautee,⁵ rycht as scho wald me schent;
 Syne folowit all hir dameselis yfere,⁶
 With mony diuerse aufull instrument,
 Wnto the pres, Fair Having wyth hir went,
 Fyne Portrature, Plesance, and lusty Chere. 150
 Than come Resoun, with schelde of gold so clere,
 In plate and maille, as Mars armypotent,
 Defendit me that nobil cheuallere.

Syne tender Youth come wyth hir virgyns⁷ ying,
 Grene Innocence, and schamefull Abaising, 155
 And quaking Drede, wyth humble⁸ Obedience;
 The Goldyn Targe harmyt thay⁹ no thing;
 Curage in thame was noucht begonne¹⁰ to spring;
 Full sore thay dred to done a violence:
 Suete Womanhede I saw cum in presence, 160
 Of artilye a warld sche did in bring,
 Seruit wyth ladyes full of reuerence.

Scho led wyth hir Nurture and Lawlynes,
 Contenance,¹¹ Pacience, Gude Fame and Stedfastnes,
 Discretioun, Gentrise, and Considerance, 165

¹ B. of.² B. Rycht.³ B. bikar.⁴ B. ay bent.⁵ B. Bewty.⁶ B. dammosallis in feir.⁷ B. virginis.⁸ B. humyll.⁹ B. armit thame.¹⁰ B. began.¹¹ B. Continwance.

Leuefell¹ Company, and Honest Besynes,
 Benigne Luke, Mylde Chere, and Sobirnes :
 All thir bure ganyeis to do me greuance ;
 But Resonn bure the Targe wyth sik constance,
 Thair scharp assayes mycht do no dures² 170
 To me, for all their³ aufull ordynance.

Wnto the pres persewit Hie Degree,
 Hir folowit ay Estate and Dignitee,
 Comparisoun, Honour, and Noble Array,
 Will, Wantonnes, Renoun, and Libertee, 175
 Richesse, Fredomm, and eke Nobilitee :
 Wit ye thay did thair baner hye display ;
 A cloud of arowis as hayle schour lousit thay,
 And schot, quhill wastit was thair artilye,
 Syne went abak reboytit of thair⁴ pray. 180

Quhen Venus had persautit this rebute,
 Dissymilance⁵ scho bad go mak persute,
 At all powere to perse the Goldyn Targe ;
 And scho that was of doubilnes the rute,
 Askit hir choise of archeris in refute. 185
 Wenus the best bad hir go⁶ wale at large ;
 Scho tuke Presence plicht ankers⁷ of the barge,
 And Fair Callyng that wele a flayn coud schute,
 And Cherising for to complete hir charge.

Dame Hamelynes scho tuke in company, 190
 That hardy was, and hende in archery,
 And broucht dame Beautee⁸ to the felde agayn ;
 With all the choise of Venus cheualry⁹
 Thay come, and bikkerit vnabaisitly :

¹ B. Lefull.³ B. For all thair preiss and.⁵ B. dissemblance.⁸ B. Bewty.² B. do to me no deirance.⁴ B. rebutit of the.⁶ B. to.⁷ B. anker.⁹ B. chevelly.

The schour of arowis rappit on as¹ rayn ; 195
 Perilouse² Presence, that mony syre has slayne,
 The bataill broucht on bordour hard vs³ by,
 The salt was all the sarar suth to sayn.

Thik was the schote of grundyn dartis kene ;
 Bot Resoun with the Scheld of Gold so schene, 200
 Warly⁴ defendit quho so ewir assayit ;
 The aufull stoure⁵ he manly did sustene,
 Quhill⁶ Presence kest a pulder in his ene,
 And than as drunkyn man he all forwayit :
 Quhen he was blynd⁷ the fule wyth hym thay playit, 205
 And banyst⁸ hym among the bewis grene ;
 That sory⁹ sicht me sudaynly affrayit.

Than was I woundit to¹⁰ the deth wele¹¹ nere,
 And yoldyn as a wofull prisonnere
 To lady Beautee,¹² in a moment space ; 210
 Me thocht scho semyt lustiar of chere,
 Efter that Resoun tynt had¹³ his eyne clere,
 Than of before, and lufiare of face :
 Quhy was thou blyndit, Resoun? quhi, allace !
 And gert ane hell my paradise appere, 215
 And mercy seme, quhare that I fand no grace.

Dissymulance was besy me to sile,
 And Fair Calling did oft apon¹⁴ me smyle,
 And Cherising¹⁵ me fed wyth wordis fair ;
 New Acquyntance enbracit me a quhile, 220
 And fauouryt me, quhill men mycht go a¹⁶ myle,
 Syne tuk hir leve,¹⁷ I saw hir nevir mare :
 Than saw I Dangere toward me repair,

¹ B. a.² B. Perrellus.³ B. me.⁴ B. Weirly.⁵ B. schour.⁶ P. Quhillk.⁷ B. drukkin.⁸ B. benneist.⁹ B. sair.¹⁰ B. till.¹¹ B. full.¹² B. Bewty.¹³ B. had tynt.¹⁴ B. vpoun.¹⁵ B. Chirressing.¹⁶ B. ga anc.¹⁷ B. leif.

I coud¹ eschew hir presence be no wyle,
On syde scho lukit wyth ane fremyt fare. 225

And at the last departing coud¹ hir dresse,
And me delyuerit vnto Hevynesse
For to remayne, and scho in cure me tuke ;
Be this the Lord of Wyndis, wyth wodcnes,
God Eolus, his bugill² blew I gesse ; 230
That with the blast the leuis all to-schuke,
And sudaynly, in the space of a³ luke,
All was hyne went, thare was bot wil dernes,
Thare was no more bot birdis, bank,⁴ and bruke.

In twynkling of ane eye⁵ to schip thai went, 235
And swyth vp saile vnto the top thai stent,
And with swift course atour the flude thay frak ;
Thay fyrit gunnis wyth powder⁶ violent,
Till that the reke raise to the firmament,
The rochis all resownyt⁷ wyth the rak, 240
For reird⁸ it semyt that the raynbow brak ;
Wyth spirit affrayde⁹ apon my fete I sprent
Amang the clewis, so carefull was the crak.

And as I did awake¹⁰ of my sueving,
The ioyfull¹¹ birdis merily did syng 245
For myrth of Phebus tendir bemes schene ;
Suete war the vapouris, soft the morowing,
Halesum the vale, depaynt wyth flouris ying ;
The air attemperit,¹² sobir, and amene ;
In quhite and rede was all the felde¹³ besene, 250
Throu Naturis nobil fresch anamalyng,¹⁴
In mirthfull May,¹⁵ of ewiry moneth Quene.

¹ B. cowth.² B. bowgill.³ B. ane.⁴ B. bonk.⁵ B. e.⁶ B. polder.⁷ B. resoundit.⁸ P. rede.⁹ B. spreit affrayit.¹⁰ B. awalk.¹¹ B. jowfull.¹² B. intemperit.¹³ B. erd.¹⁴ B. ennamaling.¹⁵ B. Maij.

O reuerend Chaucere, rose of rethoris all,
 As in oure tong ane ¹ flour imperiall,
 That raise in Britane ewir, quho redis rycht, 255
 Thou beris of makaris the tryumph riall;
 Thy ² fresch anamalit termes celicall
 This mater coud illumynit haue ³ full brycht:
 Was thou noucht of oure Englisch ⁴ all the lycht,
 Surmounting ewiry tong terrestriall, 260
 Alls fer as Mayes morow dois mydnycht?

O morall Gower, and Ludgate laureate,
 Your sugurit lippis and tongis ⁵ aureate,
 Bene to oure eris cause of grete delyte;
 Your angel ⁶ mouthis most mellifluate 265
 Our rude langage has clere illumynate,
 And faire ⁷ our-gilt oure speche, that imperfyte
 Stude, or your goldyn pennis schupe to wryte;
 This Ile before was bare, and desolate ⁸
 Off rethorike, or lusty fresch ¹ endyte. 270

Thou lytill Quair, be ewir obedient,
 Humble, subiect, and symple of entent,
 Before the face of ewiry connyng wicht:
 I know quhat thou of rethorike hes ⁹ spent;
 Off all ¹⁰ hir lusty rosis redolent 275
 Is nonn in to thy gerland sett on hicht;
 Eschame thar of, ¹¹ and draw the out of sight.
 Rude is thy wede, disteynit, ¹² bare, and rent,
 Wele aucht thou be afiret ¹³ of the licht. ¹⁴

¹ P. and.² B. The.³ B. hafe illuminit.⁴ B. Inglis.⁵ B. toungis and lippis.⁶ B. angelik.⁷ B. hes.⁸ B. dissolat.⁹ P. may.¹⁰ B. omits.¹¹ B. thairfoir.¹² B. destitute.¹³ B. affeirrit.¹⁴ After line 279, B. *Explicit, quod Dumbar, of the Goldin Targe.*

II.

THE
FLYTING OF DUNBAR AND KENNEDIE.

The flyting of Dunbar and Kennedie heir efter followis
Jocound and Mirrie.

[DUNBAR TO KENNEDIE.]

SCHIR Johne¹ the Ross, ane thing thair is compild
In generale be KENNEDY and QUINTING,
Quhilk hes thame self aboif the sternis styld ;
Bot had thay maid of mannace ony mynting
In speciall, sic stryfe sould ryse but stynting ; 5
Howbeit with bost thair breistis wer als bendit
As Lucifer, that fra the hevin descendit,
Hell sould nocht hyd thair harnis fra harmis hynting.

The erd sould trymbill, the firmament sould schaik,
And all the air in vennamus² suddane stink, 10
And all the diuillis of hell for redour quaik,
To heir quhat I sould wryt, with pen and ynk ;
For and I flyt sum sege for schame sould sink,
The se sould birn, the mone sould³ thoill ecclippis,⁴
Rochis sould ryfe, the warld sould hald no grippis, 15
Sa loud of cair the commoun bell sould clynk.

¹ B. Johine.

³ M. micht.

² B. vennaum ; M. suld of vennamy.

⁴ M. sone sould tak ecclippis.

Bot wondir laith wer I to be ane baird,
 Flyting to vse, for gritly I eschame;
 For it is nowthir wyning nor rewaird,
 Bot tinsale baith of honour and of fame, 20
 Incres of sorrow, sklander, and evill name;
 3it mycht thay be sa bald, in thair bakbyttin,
 To gar me ryme, and rais the feynd with flytting,
 And throw all cuntreis, and kinrikis thame proclame.

Quod Dumbar to Kennedy.

[KENNEDIE TO DUNBAR.]

Dirtin Dumbar, quhome on blawes thow thy boist? 25
 Pretendand the to wryte sic skaldit skrowis;
 Ramowd¹ rebald, thow fall doun att the roist,
 My laureat lettres at the and I lowis;
 Mandrag, mymmerkin, maid maister bot in mowis,²
 Thryse³ scheild trumpir, with ane threid bair gown, 30
 Say *Deo mercy*, or I cry the doun,
 And leif thy ryming, rebald, and thy rowis.

Dreid, dirtfast dearch, that thow hes dissobeyit
 My cousing Quintene and my commissar;
 Fantastik fule, trest weill thow salbe fleyit, 35
 Ignorant elf, aip, owl irregular,
 Skaldit skaitbird, and commoun skamelar;⁴
 Wan-fukkit funling, that natour maid ane yrle,
 Baith Iohne⁵ the Ross and thow, sall squeill and skirle
 And evir I heir ocht of 3our making mair. 40

Heir I put sylence to the in all partis,⁶
 Obey and ceis the play that thow pretendis;
 Waik walidrag, and werlot⁷ of the cairtis,
 Se sone thow mak my commissar amendis,
 And lat him lay sax leichis on thy lendis, 45

¹ M. Raw-mowat.

² B. mowss.

³ B. Thryss.

⁴ M. scammelar.

⁵ B. Iohine.

⁶ B. pairtis.

⁷ M. verlot.

Meikly in recompaning of thi scorne,
 Or thow sall ban the tyme that thow wes borne,
 For Kennedy to the this cedull sendis.

Quod Kennedy to Dumbar.
 Iuge in the nixt quha gat the war.

[DUNBAR TO KENNEDIE.]

IRSCHE¹ brybour baird, wyle beggar with thy brattis,
 Cuntbittin crawdoun Kennedy, coward of kynd, 50
 Evill farit and dryit, as Denseman on the rattis,
 Lyke as the gleddis had on thy gulesnowt dynd ;
 Mismaid monstour, ilk mone owt of thy mynd,
 Renunce, rebald, thy ryming, thow bot royis,
 Thy trechour tung hes tane ane heland strynd ; 55
 Ane lawland ers wald mak a bettir noyis.

Revin, raggit ruke, and full of rebaldrie,
 Scårth fra scorpione, scaldit in scurrilitie,
 I se the haltane in thy harlotrie,
 And in to vthir science no thing slie, 60
 Off every vertew woyd, as men may sie ;
 Quytclame clergie, and cleik to the ane club,
 Ane baird blasphemar, in brybrie ay to be ;
 For wit and wisdom ane wisp fra the may rub.

Thow speiris, dastard, gif I dar with the fecht ? 65
 3e dagone, dowbart, thairof haif thow no dowl !
 Quhair evir we meit thairto my hand I hecht,
 To² red thy rebald ryming with a rowt :
 Throw all Bretane it salbe blawin owt,
 How that thow, poysonit pelor, gat thy paikis ; 70
 With ane doig leich I schepe to gar the schowt,
 And nowthir to the tak knyfe, swerd, nor aix.

¹ B. Iersche.² P. Tho.

Thow crop and rute of traitouris tressonable,
 The fathir and moder of morthour and mischeif,
 Dissaitfull tyrand, with serpentis tung, vnstable ; 75
 Cukcald cradoun, cowart, and commoun theif ;
 Thow purpest for to vndo our Lordis cheif
 In Paislay, with ane poysons that wes fell,
 For quhilk, brybour, 3it sall thow thoill a breif ;
 Pelour, on the I sall it preif my sell. 80

Thocht I wald lie, thy frawart phisnomy
 Dois manifest thy malice to all men ;
 Fy ! tratour theif ; Ffy ! glengoir loun, fy ! fy !
 Fy ! feyndly front, far fowlar than ane fen.
 My freyindis thow reprovit with thy pen ? 85
 Thow leis, tratour ! quhilk I sall on the preif,
 Suppois thy heid war armit tymis ten,
 Thow sall recryat, or thy croun sall cleif.

Or thow durst move thy mynd malitius,
 Thow saw the saill abone my heid up draw ; 90
 But Eolus full woid, and Neptunus,
 Mirk and moneless, wes met with wind and¹ waw,
 And mony hundreth myle hyne coud ws blaw
 By Holland, Seland, 3etland, and Northway coist,
 In desert quhair we wer famist aw ; 95
 3it come I hame, fals baird, to lay thy boist.

Thow callis the rethory with thy goldin lippis :
 Na, glowrand, gaipand fule, thow art begyld,
 Thow art bot Gluncoch² with thy giltin hippis,
 That for thy lounry mony a leisch hes fyld ; 100
 Wan wisaged widdefow, out of thy wit gane wyld,
 Laithly and lowsy, als lathand as ane leik,
 Sen thow with wirschep wald sa fane be styld,
 Haill, souerane senjeour ! Thy bawis hingis throw thy breik.

¹ B. woundis ; P. wound and.² B. Gluntoch.

Forworthin fule, of all the world reffuse, 105

Quhat ferly is thocht thow reioys to flyte?

Sic eloquence as thay in Erschry vse,

In sic is sett thy thraward appetyte ;

Thow hes full littill feill of fair indyte :

I tak on me ane pair of Lowthiane hippis 110

Sall fairar Inglis mak, and mair parfyte,

Than thow can blabbar with thy Carrik lippis.

Bettir thow ganis to leid ane doig to skomer,

Pynit pykpurs pelour, than with thy maister pingill.

Thow lay full prydles in the peise this somer, 115

And fane at evin for to bring hame a single,

Syne rubbit at ane vthir auld wyfis inge ;

Bot now, in winter, for purteth thow art traikit ;

Thow hes na breik to latt thy bollokis¹ gyngill ;

Beg the ane club, for, baird thow sall go naikit. 120

Lene larbar, loungeour, baith lowsy in lisk and lonze ;

Ffy ! skolderit skyn, thow art bot skyre and skrumple ;

For he that rostit Lawarance had thy grunze,

And he that hid sanct Johnis ene with ane wimple,

And he that dang sanct Augustine with ane rumple, 125

Thy fowll front had, and he that Bartilmo flaid ;

The gallowis gaipis eftir thy graceles gruntill,

As thow wald for ane haggeis, hungry gled.

Commirwald crawdoun, na man comptis the ane kerse,

Sueir swappit swanky, swynekeper ay for swaittis ; 130

Thy commissar Quintyne biddis the cum kiss his erse,

He luvis nocht sic ane forlane loun of laittis ;

He sayis, thow skaffis and beggis mair beir and aitis

Nor ony cripill in Karrik land about ;

Uthir pure beggaris and thow ar at debaittis, 135

Decrepit karlingis on Kennedy cryis owt.

¹ B. bellokis.

Mater annwch I haiff, I bid nocht fenjie,
 Thocht thow, fowll trumpour, thus vpoun me leid;
 Corrupt¹ carioun, he sall I cry thy senjie;
 Thinkis thow nocht how thow come in grit neid, 140
 Greitand in Galloway, lyk to ane gallow breid,
 Ramand, and rolpand, beggand koy and ox;
 I saw the thair, in to thy wachemanis weid,
 Quhilk wes nocht worth ane pair of auld gray fox.

Ersch Katherane, with thy polk breik, and rilling, 145
 Thow and thy quene, as gredy gleddis, 3e gang
 With polkis to mylne, and beggis baith meill and schilling;
 Thair is bot lyse, and lang nailis 3ow amang:
 Ffowll heggirbald, for hennis thus will 3e hang,
 Thow hes ane perrellus face to play with lambis; 150
 Ane thowsand kiddis, wer thay in faldis full strang,
 Thy lymmerfull luke wald fle thame and thair dammis.

In till ane glen thow hes, owt of repair,
 Ane laithly luge that wes the lippir mennis;
 With the ane sowtaris wyfe, off bliss als bair, 155
 And lyk twa stalkaris steilis in cokis and hennis,
 Thow plukkis the pultre, and scho pullis off the pennis;
 All Karrik cryis, God gif this dowsy be drownd;
 And quhen thow heiris ane guse cry in the glennis,
 Thow thinkis it swetar than sacrand bell of sound. 160

Thow Lazarus, thow laithly lene² tramort,
 To all the warld thow may example be;
 To luk vpoun thy gryslie peteous port,
 Ffor hiddowis, haw, and holkit is thyne ee;
 Thy cheik bane bair, and blaiknit is thy ble; 165
 Thy choip, thy choll, garris men for to leif chest;
 Thy gane it garris us think that we mon de:
 I coniure the, thow hungert heland gaist.

¹ B. Corruptit.² P. kene.

The larbar lukis of thy lang lene craig,
 Thy pure pynit thrott, pelit¹ and owt of ply, 170
 Thy skolderit skin, hewd lyk ane saffrone bag,
 Garris men dispyt thar flesche, thow spreit of Gy :
 Ffy ! feyndly ffront ; ffy ! tykis face, ffy ! ffy !
 Ay loundand, lyk ane loikman on ane ledder ;
 [Thy ghaistly luke fleys folkis that pas the by,]² 175
 Lyke to ane stark theif glowrand in ane tedder.

 Nyse nagus, nipcaik, with thy schulderis narrow,
 Thow lukis lowsy, loun of lownis aw ;
 Hard hurcheoun, hirpland, hippit as ane harrow,
 Thy rigbane rattillis, and thy ribbis on raw, 180
 Thy hanchis hirkkis, with hukebanis harth and haw,
 Thy laithly lymis ar lene as ony treis ;
 Obey, theif baird, or I sall brek thy gaw,
 Ffowll carrybald, cry mercy on thy kneis.

 Thow purehippit, ³vgly averill, 185
 With hurkland banis, holkand throw thy hyd,
 Reistit and crynit as hangitman on hill,
 And oft beswakkit with ane ourhie tyd,⁴
 Quhilk brewis mekle barret to thy bryd ;
 Hir cair is all to clenge thy cabroch howis, 190
 Quhair thow lyis sawsy in saphron, bak and syd,
 Powderit with prymross, sawrand all with clowiss.

 Fforworthin wirling, I warne the it is wittin,
 How, skyttand skarth, thow hes the hurle behind ;
 Wan wraiglane wasp, ma wormiss hes thow beschittin, 195
 Nor thair is gerss on grund, or leif on lind ;
 Thocht thow did first sic foly to my fynd,
 Thow sall agane with ma witness than I ;
 Thy gulsoch gane dois on thy back it bind,
 Thy hostand hippis lattis nevir thy hoss go dry. 200

¹ B. peilit.² Line 175 wanting in P. and B., supplied from the Reidpeth MS. The M. MS. reads—"With hingit luik ay wallowand vpone wry."³ M. pure pynhyppit.⁴ M. All beskitterrit everie tyme and tyde.

Thow held the burcht lang with ane borrowit gown,
 And ane caprowsy barkit all with sweit,
 And quhen the laidis saw the sa lyk a loun,
 Thay bickerit the with mony bae and bleit :
 Now vpaland thow leivis on rubbit quheit, 205
 Oft for ane causs thy burdclaith neidis no spredding,
 Ffor thow hes nowthir for to drink nor eit,
 Bot lyk ane berdles baird, that had no bedding.

Strait Gibbonis air, that nevir ourstred ane horse,
 Bla berfute berne, in bair tyme wes thow borne ; 210
 Thow bringis the Carrik clay to Edinburgh Corse,
 Upoun thy botingis, hobland hard as horne ;
 Stra wispis hingis owt, quhair that the wattis ar worne :
 Cum thow agane to skar us with thy strais,
 We sall gar scale our sculis all the to scorne, 215
 And stane the vp the calsay quhair thow gais.

Off Edinburgh, the boyis as beis owt thrawis,
 And cryis owt ay, "Heir cumis our awin queir Clerk !"
 Than fleis thow, lyk ane howlat chest with crawis,
 Quhill all the bichis at thy botingis dois bark : 220
 Than carlingis cryis, "Keip curches in the merk,
 Our gallowis gaipis ; lo ! quhair ane greceles gais."
 Ane¹ vthir sayis, "I se him want ane sark,
 I reid 3ow, cummer, tak in your lynning clais."

Than rynis thow down the gait, with gild of boyis, 225
 And all the toun tykis hingand in thy heilis ;
 Of laidis and lownis thair ryssis sic ane noyis,
 Quhill runsysis rynniss away with cairt and quheilis,
 And cager aviris castis bayth coillis and creilis,
 Ffor rerd of the, and rattling of thy butis ; 230
 Fische wyvis cryis, Fy ! and castis down skillis and skeilis ;
 Sum claschis the, sum cloddiss the on the cutis.

¹ P. And.

Loun lyk Mahoun, be boun me till obey,
 Theif, or in greif, mischeif sall the betyd ;
 Cry grace, tykis face, or I the chece and sley ; 235
 Oule, rere¹ and 3owle, I sall defowll thy pryd ;
 Peilet gled, baith fed and bred of bichis syd,
 And lyk ane tyk, purspyk, quhat man settis by the !
 Forflittin, countbittin, beschittin, barkit hyd,
 Clym ledder, fyle tedder, foule edder, I defy the. 240

Mauch² muttoun, vyle buttoun, peilit gluttoun, air to Hilhouse ;
 Rank beggar, ostir dregar, foule fleggar, in the flet ;³
 Chittirlilling, ruch rilling, lik schilling in the milhouse ;
 Baird rehator, theif of natour, fals tratour, feyndis gett ;
 Filling of tauch, rak sauch, cry crauch, thow art our sett ; 245
 Muttoun dryver, girnall⁴ ryver, 3adswyvar, fowll fell the :
 Herretyk, lunatyk, purspyk, carlingis pet,
 Rottin crok, dirtin dok, cry cok, or I sall quell the.
 Quod Dunbar to Kennedy.

[KENNEDIE TO DUNBAR.]

DATHANE deuillis sone, and dragon dispitous,
 Abironis birth, and bred with Beliall ; 250
 Wod werwolf,⁵ worme, and scorpion vennemous,
 Lucifers laid, fowll feyndis face infernall ;
 Sodomyt, syphareit fra sanctis celestiall,
 Put I nocht sylence to the, schiphird knaif,
 And thow of new begynis to ryme and raif, 255
 Thow salbe maid blait, bleir eit, bestiall.

How thy forbearis come, I haif a feill,
 At Cokburnispeth, the writ makis me war,
 Generit betuix ane sche⁶ beir and a deill ;
 Sa wes he callit Dewlbeir and nocht Dumbar : 260
 This Dewlbeir, generit of a meir of Mar,

¹ B. rare.² M. myche.³ P. slet.⁴ M. garnale.⁵ B. P. werwoif.⁶ B. scho.

Wes Corspatrik, Erle of Merche ; and be illusioun
 The first that evir put Scotland to confusioun
 Wes that fals tratour, hardely say I dar.

Quhen Bruce and Balioll differit for the croun, 265
 Scottis Lordis could nocht obey Inglis lawis ;
 This Corspatrick betrasit Berwick¹ toun,
 And slew sevin² thousand Scottismen within thay wawis,
 The battall syne of Spottismuir he gart cause,
 And come with Edwart Langschankis to the feild, 270
 Quhair twelve³ thowsand trew Scottismen wer keild,
 And Wallace chest, as the Cornicle⁴ schawis.

Scottis Lordis chiftanes he gart hald and chessone
 In firmance fast, quhill all the feild wes done,
 Within Dumbar, that auld spelunk of tressoun ; 275
 Sa Inglis tykis in Scotland wes abone,
 Than spulzeit thay the haly stane of Scone,
 The Croce of Halyrudhouse, and vthir jowellis.
 He birnis in hell, body, banis, and bowellis,
 This Corspatrik that Scotland hes vndone. 280

Wallace gart cry ane counsale in to Perth,
 And callit Corspatrick tratour be his style ;
 That dampnit dragone drew him in diserth,
 And sayd, he kend bot Wallace, king in Kyle :
 Out of Dumbar that theif he maid exyle 285
 Unto Edward, and Inglis grund agane :
 Tigris, serpentis, and taidis will remane
 In Dumbar wallis, todis, wolffis and beistis wyle.

Na fowlis of effect amangis tha⁵ binkis
 Biggis, nor abydis, for no thing that may be ; 290
 Thay stanis of tressone as the bruntstane stinkis.

¹ B. Berwik.² B. vij.thowsand, P. vii^m.³ B. P. xij.⁴ B. carnicle.⁵ B. thay.

Dewlbeiris moder, cassin in by the se,
 The wariet apill of the forbiddin tre,
 That Adame eit, quhen he tynt Paradyce,
 Scho eit invennomit lyk a cokkatryce, 295
 Syne merreit¹ with the Diuill for dignite.

3it of new tressone, I can tell the tailis,
 That cumis on nycht in visioun in my sleip ;
 Archbald² Dumbar betrasd the house of Hailis,
 Becaus the jung Lord had Dumbar to keip ; 300
 Pretendand throw that to thair rowmis to creip,
 Rycht crewaly his castell he persewit,
 Brocht him furth boundin and the place reskewit,
 Sett him in fetteris in ane dungeoun deip.

It war aganis bayth natur and gud ressoun, 305
 That Dewlbeiris bairnis were trew to God or man ;
 Quhilkis wer baith gottin, borne, and bred with tressoun,
 Belzebubbis³ oyis, and curst Corspatrikis clan :
 Thow wes prestyt, and ordanit be Sathan
 For to be borne to do thy kin defame, 310
 And gar me schaw thy antecessouris schame ;
 Thy kin that leivis may wary the and ban.

Sen thow on me thus, lymmer, leis and trattillis,
 And fyndis sentence foundit of invy,
 Thy elderis banis ilk nycht ryssis and rattillis, 315
 Apon⁴ thy corss vengeance, vengeance ! thay cry.
 Thow art the cause thay may not⁵ rest, nor ly ;
 Thow says for thame few psaltris, psalmis,⁶ or creidis,
 Bot geris me tell thair trentalis of⁷ misdeidis,
 And thair ald sin with new schame certify. 320

Insensuat sow, cesse fals Eustase⁸ air !
 And know, kene skald, I hald of Alathya,

¹ B. marreit.² B. P. Archbard.³ B. P. Belgebubbis.⁴ B. And on.⁵ B. noth.⁶ B. salptaris, salmis.⁷ B. rentellis and.⁸ B. Ewstace.

And cause me nocht the cause lang to declair
 Of thy curst kyn, Deulber and his Allya :
 Cum to the Croce,¹ on kneis, and mak a crya ; 325
 Confess thy crime, hald Kenydy the² king,
 And with ane hauthorne³ skurge thy self and dyng ;
 Thus dre thy penance wyth⁴ *Deliquisti quia*.

Pass to my commissar, and be confest,
 Cour befor him on kneis, and cum in will ; 330
 And syne ger Stobo for thy lyf protest ;
 Renounce thy rymis, baith ban and birn thy bill ;
 Heve⁵ to the heuyn thy handis, ande hald the still :
 Do thou nocht thus, brigane,⁶ thou salbe brynt,
 Wyth pik, fyre, ter, gun puldre, or⁷ lint, 335
 On Arthuris Sete,⁸ or on ane hyar⁹ hill.

I perambalit¹⁰ of Pernaso the montayn,
 Enspirit wyth Mercury fra his goldyn spere ;¹¹
 And dulcely¹² drank of eloquence the fontayne,
 Quhen it was purifit with frost, and flowit cleir : 340
 And thou come, Fule ! in Marche or Februere,
 Thair till a pule, and drank the paddok rod,¹³
 That gerris the ryme in to thy termis glod,¹⁴
 And blaberis that noyis mennis eris to here.

Thow lufis nane Irische,¹⁵ elf, I vnderstand, 345
 Bot it suld be all trew Scottis mennis lede ;
 It was the gud langage of this land,
 And Scota it causit to multiply and sprede,
 Quhill Corspatrik, that we of tressoun reid,
 Thy forefader, maid Irisch¹⁵ and Irisch men thin, 350
 Throw his tressoun broght Inglise rumplis¹⁶ in,
 Sa wald thy self, mycht thou to him succede.

¹ B. corss.² B. thy.³ B. authorne.⁴ B. omits.⁵ B. Heive.⁶ P. bogane.⁷ B. and.⁸ B. Arthowr Sait.⁹ B. hiear.¹⁰ B. perambulat.¹¹ B. spheir.¹² B. dulely.¹³ B. rude ; M. roid.¹⁴ B. gude ; M. glويد.¹⁵ B. Ersche.¹⁶ B. rumpillis.

Ignorant fule ! in to thy mowis and mokis,
 It may be verifeit that thy wit is thin ;
 Quhare thow writis Densmen dryit apon¹ the rattis, 355
 Densmen of Denmark ar of the kingis kyn.
 The wit thou suld haue had, was castin in
 Evyn at thyne ers, bakwart, with a staf flong.
 Herefore, fals harlot, hursone, hald thy tong :
 Deulbere ! thow devis the deuill, thyne eme, wyth dyn. 360

Quhare as thow said, that² I stall³ hennis and lammys,
 I latt the wit, I haue land, store and stakkis.
 Thou wald be fayn to gnaw, lad,⁴ wyth thy gammys,
 Wnder my burd, smoch⁵ banis behynd doggis bakkis :
 Thow has a tome purs, I haue stedis and takkis, 365
 Thow tynt cultur,⁶ I haif cultur and pleuch,
 Substance⁷ and geir, thou has a wedy teuch
 On Mount Falconn, about thy crag to rax.

And yit Mount Falconn gallowis is our fair,
 For to be fylde⁸ with sic a frutles face ; 370
 Cum hame, and hing on our gallowis of Aire,
 To erd the vnder it I sall purchas grace ;
 To eit thy flesch the doggis sall haue na space,
 The ravyns⁹ sall ryve na thing bot thy tong rutis,
 For thou sik malice of thy maister mutis, 375
 It is wele sett that thou sik barat¹⁰ brace.

Small fynance amang¹¹ thy frendis thow beggit,
 To stanch the storm,¹² wyth haly muldis thou loste ;
 Thou sailit to get a dowcare, for to dreg it,
 It lyis closit in a clout on Seland¹³ cost : 380
 Sic reule gerris the be seruit wyth cald rost,

¹ B. on.² B. omits.³ B. M. staw.⁴ B. knaw, laird.⁵ B. snoch.⁶ B. coulter.⁷ B. For substance.⁸ B. fylit.⁹ B. revynis.¹⁰ B. barret.¹¹ B. amangis.¹² B. scorne.¹³ Northway.

And sitt vnsoupit ¹ oft beyond the sey,
 Cryiand *caritas* ² at durris *amore Dei*,
 Bairfut, brekeles, and all in duddis vpdost.

Deulbere hes not ado with a Dunbar, 385
 The Erl of Murray bure that surname ryght,
 That euyr trew to the King ³ and constant ware,
 And of that kin come Dunbar of Westfelde knyght;
 That successione is hardy, wyse, and wycht,
 And has na thing ado now with the deuile : 390
 Bot Deulbere is thy kyn, and kennis the wele,
 And has in hell for the a chaumir ⁴ dicht.

Cursit croapand ⁵ craw, I sall ger crop thy tong,
 And thou sall cry, *Cor mundum*, on thy kneis;
 Duerch, ⁶ I sall ding the, quhill thow ⁷ dryte and dong, 395
 And thou sall lik thy lippis, and suere thou leis :
 I sall degraid the, graceles, of thy greis;
 Scaile the for scorne, and shere the of the scule, ⁸
 Ger round the hede transforme the till a fule,
 And syne with tresone trone the on ⁹ the treis. 400

Raw-mowit ¹⁰ ribald, renegate ¹¹ rehatour,
 My linage and forebearis war ay lele;
 It cumis of kynde to the to be ¹² a traytoure,
 To ryde on nycht, to rug, ¹³ to reue, and stele.
 Quhen ¹⁴ thow puttis poysonn to me, I appelle 405
 The in that part, [and] preue it pelour wyth thy persone; ¹⁵
 Clame not to clergy, [for] I defy the, gersonne,
 Thow sall by it dere, wyth me, ¹⁶ duerche, and thou dele. ¹⁷

¹ B. onswpit.² B. Cryand at durris, Carritas.³ B. trew and constant to the King grace war.⁴ B. chalmer.⁵ B. Cursit crovand. ⁶ B. Derch. ⁷ M. thow sall. ⁸ B. scar the of thy swle.⁹ P. to.¹⁰ B. rawmowd.¹¹ B. rannegald.¹² B. cumis oft to the to be ane.¹³ B. rin.¹⁴ P. Quhare.¹⁵ B. preif it on thy persoun.¹⁶ B. annuch.¹⁷ B. of the deill.

In Ingland, oule, suld¹ be thyne habitacione,
 Homage to Edward Langschankis maid thy kyn, 410
 In Dunbar thai² ressaut him the³ false nacione,
 Thay suld be exilde Scotland mare and myn.
 A stark gallowis, ane wedy, and a pyn,
 The hede poynt of thyne elderis armes ar ;
 Wryttyn abone in poesie,⁴ Hang Dunbar, 415
 Quarter and draw, and mak that surname thin.

I am the kingis blude, his trew speciall clerk,
 That newir yit ymaginit hym offense,
 Constant in myn allegeance, word⁵ et⁶ werk,
 Onely dependand on⁷ his excellence ; 420
 Traistand to haue of his magnificence
 Guerdoun,⁸ reward, and benefice bedene ;
 Quhen that the ravyns sall ryve out bath thine ene,
 And on the rattis salbe thy residence.

Fra Etrike⁹ Forest furthward to Drumfres 425
 Thow beggit with a pardoun in all kirkis,
 Collapis, cruddis, mele, grotis, grisis, and geis,
 And ondir nycht quhyle stall thou staggis et⁶ stirkis.
 Because that¹⁰ Scotland of thy begging irkis,
 Thow scapis in France to be a¹⁰ knycht of the felde ; 430
 Thow has thy clamschellis, and thy burdoun kelde,
 Wnhonest wayis all, wolronn, that thou wirkis.

Thou may not pas Mount Barnard¹¹ for wild bestis,
 Nor wyn throw Mount Scarpre for the snawe ;
 Mount Nycholas, Mount Godart thare¹² aretis, 435
 Brigantis sik bois and¹³ blyndis thame wyth a blawe.
 In Parise wyth the maister buriawe¹⁴

¹ B. fowld.² B. omits.³ B. thy.⁴ B. in poysie abone.⁵ B. in mynd, in thocht, wird and.⁶ B. and.⁷ B. vpoun.⁸ B. Gwairdoun.⁹ B. Atrik.¹⁰ B. omits.¹¹ B. Bernard.¹² B. the.¹³ B. Sic beis of briggand blindis ; M. boyis and bludis.¹⁴ B. thy maister burreaw.

Abyde, and be his prentice nere the bank,
 And help to hang the pece for half a frank,
 And, at the last, thy self sall¹ thole the lawe. 440

Haltane harlot, the deuill a² gude thou hais !
 For fault of puissance, pelour, thou mon³ pak the ;
 Thou drank thy thrift, sald and⁴ wedsett thy clais,
 Thare is na lorde that will in seruice⁵ tak the.
 A pak of fla-skynnis, fynance for to mak the, 445
 Thow sall ressaue, in Danskyn, of my tailye ;
 With *De profundis* fend the,⁶ and that failye,
 And I sall send the blak Deuill⁷ for to bak the.

Into the Katryne⁸ thou maid a foull cahute,
 For thow bedrait hir, doun fra starn to stere ; 450
 Apon hir sydis was sene thou⁹ coud schute,
 Thy¹⁰ dirt clevis till hir towis this twenty yere :
 The firmament na¹¹ firth was newir cler,
 Quhill thou, Deulbere, deuillis birth,¹² was on the see,
 The saulis had sonkin¹³ throu the syn of the, 455
 War nocht the peple maid sa grete prayere.

Quhen that the schip was saynit, et¹⁴ vndir saile,
 Foul brow¹⁵ in holl thow preposit for to pas,
 Thow schot, and was not sekir of thy tayle,
 Beschate the stere, the compas, et¹⁶ the glas ; 460
 The skippar bad ger land the at the Bas :
 Thow spewit, and kest out mony a lathly lomp,
 Fastar than¹⁷ all the marynaris coud pomp ;
 And now thy wame is wers than ewir it was.

Had thai bene prouuait¹⁸ sa of schote of gvne 465
 By men of were but perile thay had past ;

¹ B. man. ² P. haue. ³ B. ma. ⁴ B. and als. ⁵ B. in seruice that will.

⁶ B. sett the. ⁷ B. Deill. ⁸ B. Katherene. ⁹ B. that thow. ¹⁰ B. the.

¹¹ B. nor. ¹² B. deuillis birth Dewlbeir. ¹³ B. suckin. ¹⁴ B. and.

¹⁵ B. Soule brow. ¹⁶ B. and. ¹⁷ B. nor. ¹⁸ B. prowdydit.

As thow was louse, and reddy of thy bune, ✱
 Thay nicht haue tane the collum¹ at the last ;
 For thou wald cuk a cartfull at a cast ;²
 Thair is na schip that wil³ the now ressaue ; 470
 Thow fylde⁴ faster than fyftenesum mycht lawe,
 And myrit⁵ thaym wyth thy mvk to the myd mast.

Throu Ingland thef, and tak the to thy fute,
 And boun with the to haue⁶ a fals botwand ;
 A horse marschall thou call the at the mute, 475
 And with that craft convoy the throu the land :
 Be na thing argh,⁷ tak ferily on hand,
 Happyn thow to be hangit in Northumbir,
 Than all thy kyn ar wele quyte of thy cumbir,
 And⁸ that mon be thy donie, I vndirstand. 480

Hye Souuerane Lorde, lat newir this synfull sot
 Do schame, fra hame, vnto your nacion !
 That newir nane, sic ane, be callit a Scot,
 A rottyn crok, louse of the dok, thare down.
 Fra honest folk deuoide this lathly lown : 485
 In sum desert, quhair thare is na repaire,
 For fyling and infecking of the aire,
 Cary⁹ this cankerit corrupt carioun.

Thou was consaut in the grete eclips,
 A monstir maid be god¹⁰ Mercurius ; 490
 Na hald agayn, na hoo is at thy hips,
 Infortunate, [foull,] false, et¹¹ furius,
 Evill schryvin, wan-thryvin, not clene na¹² curius ;
 A myten,¹³ full of flyting, [the] flyrdom lyke,¹⁴
 A crabbit, scabbit, euill facit messan tyke ; 495
 A schit, but wit, schrewit¹⁵ et iniurius.

¹ B. na tollum.² B. the cast.³ B. the will.⁴ B. fylit.⁵ B. myr.⁶ B. to haif with the.⁷ B. airch.⁸ B. For.⁹ B. Causs cary.¹⁰ B. grit.¹¹ B. and.¹² B. nor.¹³ B. myting.¹⁴ B. the flurdome maist lyk.¹⁵ P. schir.

Greit in the glaykis gude Maister Gilliam gukkis,
 Our imperfyte in poetry, or in prose,
 All crosse¹ vndir cloud of nycht thou cukkis.
 Rymis thou of me, of Rethory the Rose, 500
 Lunatike, lymare, luschbald, louse thy hose,
 That I may touch thy tone² wyth tribulation,
 In recompensing of thy conspiracy,
 Or turse the out of Scotland : tak thy chose.

Ane benefice quha wald gyue sic ane beste, 505
 Bot gif it war to gyngill Iudas bellis ;
 Tak the a fidill, or a floyt et³ geste,
 Wndought, thou art ordanyt to not ellis !
 Thy cloutit cloke, thy skryp,⁴ and thy clamschellis,
 Cleke on thy cors,⁵ and fare on in to France, 510
 And cum thow newir agayn but a mischance ;
 The fend fare wyth the, forthward our the fellis.

Cankrit Caym, tryit trowane, Tutiuillus,
 Marmaidyn, mymmerken, monstir of all men,
 I sall ger bake the to the lard of Hillhouse, 515
 To suelly the in stede of a pullit hen.
 Fowmart, fasert,⁶ fostirit in filth and fen,
 Foule fond, flend⁷ fule, apon thy phisnom⁸ fy !
 Thy dok of dirt dreipis,⁹ and will newir dry,
 To tume¹⁰ thy tone it has¹¹ tyrit carlingis ten. 520

Conspiratour, cursit cokatrice, hell caa,
 Turk, trumpour, traitour, tyran intemperate ;
 Thow irefull attircop, Pilate apostata,
 Judas, iow, iuglour, Lollard laureate ;
 Sarazene,¹² symonyte, provit¹³ Pagane pronunciate, 525

¹ B. clossis.² B. twich thy tounge.³ B. to.⁴ B. crip.⁵ B. croce.⁶ B. fazart.⁷ B. fleird.⁸ B. phisnomy.⁹ B. ay drepis of dirt.¹⁰ P. tune.¹¹ B. wald.¹² B. Sayarene.¹³ B. prowld.

Mahomete, manesuorne, bugrist abhominabile,
 Deuill, dampnit dog, sodomyte insatiable,
 With Gog and Magog grete glorificate.

Nero thy nevow, Golyas thy grantsire,
 Pharao thy fader, Egipya thy dame, 530
 Deulbere, thir ar the causis that I conspire,
 Termygantis temp[t]ise the, et¹ Waspasius thine eme;
 Belzebub thy full brothir will clame
 To be thyne air, and Cayphas thy sectour;
 Pluto thy hede of kyn, and protectour 535
 To hell to leid the,² on lycht day and leme.

Herode thyne othir eme, and grete Egeas,
 Marciane, Machomete, and Maxencius,
 Thy trew kynnismen, Antenor et Eneas,
 Throp thy nere nece, and austern Olibrius, 540
 Puttidew,³ Baal, and Eyobulus;⁴
 Thir fendis⁵ ar the flour of thy four branchis,⁶
 Sterand the potis of hell, et⁷ newir stanchis,⁸
 Dout nocht, Deulbere, *Tu es Dyabolus*.

Deulbere, thy spere of were, but feir, thou yelde, 545
 Hangit, mangit, eddir-stangit, stryndie stultorum,
 To me, maist hie Kenydie, et flee the felde,
 Pickit, wickit, conwickit,⁹ lamp Lollardorum.
 Defamyt, blamyt, schamyt, Primas Paganorum.¹⁰
 Out! out! I schout, apon that snowt that snevillis. 550
 Tale tellare, rebellare, induellar wyth the deuillis,
 Spynk, sink with stynk ad Tertara Tèrmagorum.
 [Quod Kennedy to Dumbar,
 Iuge 3e now heir quha gat the war.]¹¹

¹ B. temptis and.² B. to leid the to hell of.³ B. Pettedew.⁴ B. Eubuluss.⁵ B. freyndis.⁶ B. foir braynchis.⁷ B. and.⁸ B. stenchis.⁹ B. stickit, convickit.¹⁰ B. Pagaorium.¹¹ P. omits.

III.

[THE

TUA MARIIT WEMEN AND THE WEDO.]

Heir beginnis the tretis of the tua mariit wemen and the wedo,
compylit be Maister William Dunbar.¹

A PON the Midsummer ewin, mirriest of nichtis,
I muvit furth allane, neir as midnicht wes past,
Besyd ane gudlie grene² garth, full of gay flouris,
Hegeit, of ane huge hicht, with hawthorne treis;
Quhairon ane bird, on ane bransche, so birst out hir notis 5
That neuer ane blythfullar bird was on the beuche harde:
Quhat throw the sugarat sound of hir sang glaid,
And throw the sauar sanatiue of the sueit flouris,
I drew in derne to the dyk to dirkin eftir myrthis;
The dew donkit the daill, and dynarit the foulis.³ 10

I hard, vnder ane holyn hewinlie grein hewit,
Ane hie speiche, at my hand, with hautand wourdis;
With that in haist to the hege so hard I intrang
That I was heildit with hawthorne, and with heynd leveis:
Throw pykis of the plet thorne I presandlie luikit, 15
Gif ony persoun wald approche within that plesand garding.

I saw thre gay ladeis sit in ane grene² arbeir,
All grathit in to garlandis of fresche gudellie flouris;
So glitterit as the gold wer thair glorius gilt tressis,

¹ From Maitland MS.² M. grein.³ M. dynnit the feulis.

Quhill all the gressis did gleme of the glaid hewis ; 20
 Kemmit was¹ thair cleir hair, and curiouslie sched
 Attour thair schulderis doun schyre, schyning full bricht ;
 With curches, cassin thame abone, of kirsp cleir and thin :
 Thair mantillis grein war as the gress that grew in May sessoun,
 Fetrit with thair quhyt fingaris about thair fair sydis : 25
 Off ferlifful fyne favour war thair faceis meik,
 All full of flurist fairheid, as flouris in June ;
 Quhyt, seimlie, and soft, as the sweit lillies ;
 New vpspred vpon spray, as new spynist rose,
 Arrayit ryallie about with mony rich wardour, 30
 That nature, full nobillie, annamalit fine with flouris
 Off alkin hewis under hewin, that ony heynd knew ;
 Fragrant, all full of fresche odour fynest of smell,
 Ane marbre tabile coverit wes befoir thai thre² ladeis,
 With ryale cowpis apon rawys full of ryche wynys : 35
 And of thir fair wlonkes, with tua [that] weddit war with lordis,
 Ane wes ane wedow, I wist, wantoun of laitis.
 And, as thai talkit at the tabill of mony taill funde,
 Thay wauchtit at the wicht wyne, and waris out wourdis ;
 And syne thai spak more spedelie, and sparit no materis. 40

[*Deinde vidua jam cum interrogatione sua*]³

Bewrie, said the Wedo, 3e weddit wemen 3ing,
 Quhat mirth 3e fand in maryage, sen 3e war menis wyffis ;
 Reueill gif 3e rewit that rakles conditioun ?
 Or gif that ever 3e luffit leyd vpone lyf mair
 Nor thame that 3e 3our fayth hes festinit for euir ? 45
 Or gif 3e think, had 3e chois, that 3e wald cheis better ?
 Think 3e it nocht ane blist band that bindis so fast,
 That none vnto it adew may say bot the deithe alane ?

[*Responsio prime uxoris ad viduam*]³

Than spak ane lusty belyf, with lusty effeiris ;
 It, that 3e call the blist band that bindis so fast, 50

¹ M. war.

² M. tha ther.

³ From M. MS.

Is bair of blis, and bailfull, and greit barrat wirkis.
 3e speir, had I fre chois, gif I wald cheis better?
 Chenzeis ay ar to eschew; and changeis ar sueit:
 Sic cursit chance till eschew, had I my chois anis,
 Out of the chenzeis of ane churle I chaip suld for euir. 55
 God gif matrimony were made to mell for ane zeir!
 It war bot monstrous¹ to be mair, bot gif our myndis pleisit:
 It is agane the law of luif, of kynd, and of nature,
 Togiddir hairtis to streine, that stryveis with vther:
 Birdis hes ane better law na bernis be meikill, 60
 That ilk zeir, with new ioy, ioyis ane maik;
 And fangis thame ane fresche feyr, vnfulzeit, and constant;
 And lattis thair fulzeit feiris flie quhair thai pleis.
 Chryst gif sic ane consuetude war in this erth holdin!
 Than weill war vs wemen, that euir we may be fre; 65
 We suld haue feiris as fresche to fang quhen we wald,²
 And gif all larbaris thair leveis, quhan thai lak curage.
 My self suld be full semlie with³ silkis arrayit;
 Gymp, jolie, and gent, richt joyus, and gentryce,⁴
 I suld at fairis be found, new faceis to spy;⁵ 70
 At playis, and preichingis, and pilgrimages greit,
 To schaw my renoun, royaly, quhair preis was of folk;
 To manifest my makdome to multitude of pepill,
 And blaw my bewtie on breid, quhair bernis war mony;
 That I micht cheis, and be chosin, and change quhen me lykit: 75
 Than suld I waill ane full weill, our all the wyd realme,
 That suld my womanheid weild the lang winter nicht;
 And when I gottin had ane grume, ganest of vther,
 3aip, and 3ing, in the 3ok ane zeir for to draw;
 Fra I had preveit his pitht the first plesand moneth, 80
 Than suld I cast me to keik in kirk, and in markat,
 And all the cuntre about, kyngis court, and vther,
 Quhair I ane galland micht get aganis the nixt zeir,
 For to perfurneis furth the werk quhen failzeit the tother;

¹ M. marrens.² M. us likit.³ M. in.⁴ M. gent.⁵ M. se.

A forky fure, ay furthwart, and forsy in draucht ; 85
 Nothir febill, nor fant, nor fulzeit in labour ;
 Bot als fresche of his forme, as flouris in May ;
 For all the fruit suld I fang thocht he the flour burgeoun.

[*Aude ut dicet de viro suo.*]

I haue ane wallidrag, ane worme, ane auld wobat carle, .
 A waistit wolroun, na worth bot wourdis to clatter ; 90
 Ane bumbart, ane dron bee, ane bag full of flewme,
 Ane skabbit skarth, ane scorpioun, ane scutarde behind ;
 To see him scart his awin skyn grit scunner I think.
 Quhen kisset me that carybald, than kyndillis all my sorow ;
 As birss of ane brym bair, his berd is als stif, 95
 Bot soft and soupill as the silk is his sary lwme :
 He may weill to the syn assent, bot sakles is his deidis.
 And gory is¹ his tua grym ene gladderit all about,
 And gorgeit lyk twa gutaris that wer with glar stoppit ;
 Bot quhen that glourand gaist grippis me about, 100
 Than think I hiddowus Mahoune hes me in armes ;
 Than ma na sanyne me save fra that auld Sathane ;
 For, thocht I cros me all cleine, fra the croun doun,
 He wil my corse all beclip, et² clap [me]³ to his breist.
 Quhen schaffyn⁴ is that ald schalk⁵ with a scharp rasiour, 105
 He schowis on me his schewill mouth, and schedis my lippis ;
 And with his⁶ hard hurcheone⁷ skyn sa heklis he my chekis,
 That as a⁸ glemand gleyd glowis my chaftis ;
 I schrenk for the⁹ scharp stound, bot schout dar I nought,
 For schore of that auld schrew, schame him betide ! 110
 The luf-blenkis of that bogill, fra his blerde¹⁰ ene,
 As Belzebub had on me blent, abasit my spreit ;
 And quhen the smy on me smyrkis, with his smake smolet,¹¹
 He feppillis¹² like a farcy aver, that flyrit on a gillot.¹³

¹ M. And gor is.

² M. and.

³ P. omits ; M. retains.

⁴ M. shavein.

⁵ M. schak.

⁶ M. omits.

⁷ M. hurchoun.

⁸ M. ane.

⁹ M. that.

¹⁰ M. bleirit.

¹¹ M. smollat.

¹² M. fipillis.

¹³ M. gylat.

Quhen that the sound¹ of his saw sinkis in my eris, 115
 Than ay renewis my noy, or he be neir cumand :
 Quhen I heir nemmyt his name, than mak I nyne crocis,
 To keip me fra the cummerans of that carll mangit,
 That full of eldnyng² is, et³ anger, et³ all euill thewis.
 I dar nought luk to my luf for that lene gib, 120
 He is sa full of ielusy, and engyne fals ;
 Euer ymagynyng in mynd materis of evill,
 Compasand et³ castand cakis a thousand
 How he sall tak me, with a trawe,⁴ at trist of ane othir :
 I dar nought keik⁵ to the knaip that the cop fillis, 125
 For eldnyng⁶ of that ald schrew that euer on euill thynkis ;
 For he is waistit, et³ worne fra Venus werkis,
 And may nought beit worth a bene⁷ in bed of my mystirs.
 He trowis that 3ounge folk I 3erne 3eild, for⁸ he gane is,
 Bot I may 3uke all this 3er, or his 3erd help. 130
 Ay⁹ quhen that caribald carll wald clym on¹⁰ my wambe,
 Than am I dangerus, et dane,¹¹ and dour of my will ;
 3it leit I neuer that larbar my leggis ga betueene,
 To fyle my flesche, na fumyll me, without a fee gret ;
 And thocht his pen purly me payis in bed, 135
 His purse pays richely in recompense efter :
 For, or he clym on my corse, that carybald forlane,
 I haue¹² conditioun of a curche¹³ of kersp allther fynest ;
 A govn¹⁴ of engranyt claith, right gaily furrit ;
 A ring with a ryall stane, or other riche iowell, 140
 Or rest of his rousty raid, thocht he wer rede [wod]:¹⁵
 For all the buddis of Iohne Blunt, quhen he abone clymis,
 Me think the baid deir aboutt sa bawch ar his werkis ;
 And thus I sell him solace, thocht I it¹⁶ sour think :¹⁷
 Fra sic a syre, God 3ow saif, my sueit sisteris deir ! 145

¹ M. soundis.² M. elduring.³ M. and.⁴ M. ane trew.⁵ M. luik.⁶ M. indilling.⁷ M. ane bein.⁸ M. warne 3eild quhair.⁹ M. And.¹⁰ M. vr ?¹¹ P. dame.¹² M. haue ane.¹³ M. ane curchef.¹⁴ M. Ane gowne.¹⁵ P. wer wmthod.¹⁶ M. eit.¹⁷ M. illegible.

Quhen that the semely had said her sentence to end,
 Than all thai leuch apon loft, with laitis full mery;
 And raucht the cop round about full off riche wynis,
 And ralȝest¹ lang, or thai wald rest, with ryatus speche.

[*Hic bibent, et inde vidua interrogat alteram
 mulierem, et illa respondet, vt sequitur.*]²

The wedo to the tothir wlonk warpit ther wordis; 150
 Now, fair sister, fallis ȝow but fenȝeing to tell,
 Sen man ferst with matrimony ȝow menkit in kirk,
 How haif ȝe farne be ȝour faith? confese ws the treuth:
 That band to blise, or to ban, quhilk ȝow best thinkis?
 Or how ȝe like lif to leid³ in to leill spousage? 155
 And syne my self ȝe⁴ exeme on the samyn wise,
 And I sall say furth the south, dissymyland no word.⁵

The plesand said, I protest, the treuth gif I schaw,
 That of ȝour tounȝis ȝe be traist: The tothir⁶ twa grantit;
 With that sprang vp hir spreit be a span hecher. 160
 To speik, quoth scho, I sall nought spar; ther is no spy neir:
 I sall a⁷ ragment reveil fra [the]⁸ rute of my hert,
 A roust that is sa rankild⁹ quhill risis my stomok;
 Now sall the byle all out brist, that beild has [bein]¹⁰ so lang;
 For it to beir on my brist wes berdin our hevy: 165
 I sall the venome devoid¹¹ with a⁷ vent large,
 And me assuage of the¹² swalme, that suellit wes gret.

My husband wes a hur maister, the hugeast in erd,
 Tharfor, I hait him with my hert, sa help me our Lord!
 He is¹³ a ȝoung man ryght ȝaip, bot nought in ȝouth[is] flouris;
 For he is fadit full far, and feblit of strenth: 171
 He wes as flurising fresche within this few ȝeris,
 Bot he is falȝeid full far, and falȝeid¹⁴ in labour;

¹ M. railȝet.² From M. MS.³ M. lyk lyf to leyd.⁴ M. ȝow.⁵ M. dissembland na wourde.⁶ M. vther.⁷ M. ane.⁸ P. omits.⁹ M. ranclit.¹⁰ From M. MS.¹¹ M. avoyd.¹² M. that.¹³ M. illegible.¹⁴ M. fulȝeit.

He has bene lychour so lang quhill lost is his natur,
 His lwme is vaxit larbar, and lyis into swonne : 175
 Wes neuer sugeorne wer set na on that snaill tyrit,
 For efter seven¹ oulkis rest, it will nought rap² anys ;
 He has bene waistit apon wemen, or he me wif chesit,
 And in adultre, in my tyme, I haif him tane oft :
 And 3it,³ he is als brankand with bonet on syde,³ 180
 And blenkand to the brichtest that in the burgh duellis,
 Also curtly of his clething, and kemmyng⁴ of his hair,
 As he that is mair valzeand in Venus chalmer ;
 He semys to be sumthing worth, that syphyr in bour,
 He lukis as he wald luffit be, thocht he be litill of valour ; 185
 He dois as dotit dog that damys⁵ on all bussis,
 And⁶ listis his leg apon loft, thocht he nought list pische ;
 He has a luke without lust, et⁷ lif without curage ;
 He has a forme without force, and fessoun⁸ but vertu,
 And fair wordis but effect, all fruster of dedis ; 190
 He is for ladyis in luf a⁹ right lusty schadow,
 Bot into derne, at the deid, he salbe drup¹⁰ fundin ;
 He ralis, and makis repet¹¹ with ryatus wordis,
 Ay rusing him of his radis, and rageing in chalmer ;
 Bot God wait quhat I think quhen he so thra spekis : 195
 And how it settis him so syde to sege¹² of sic materis.
 Bot gif him self, of sum evin, myght ane say amang thaim,
 Bot he nought ane is, bot nane of naturis possessoris.
 Scho that has ane auld man nought all is begylit ;
 He is at Venus werkis na war na¹³ he semys : 200
 I wend I iosit a gem,¹⁴ and I haif [ane]¹⁵ geit gottin ;
 He had the glemyng of gold, and wes bot glase fundin ;
 Thought men be ferse, wele I fynd, fra falze ther curage,
 Thar is bot eldnyng, or¹⁶ anger ther hertis within.

¹ M. vii.² M. he will nocht ryd.³ M. omits.⁴ M. kemmit.⁵ M. danis.⁶ M. He.⁷ M. and.⁸ M. fassioun.⁹ M. ane.¹⁰ M. droup.¹¹ M. rippet.¹² M. segis.¹³ M. nor.¹⁴ M. had chosin ane Ieme.¹⁵ P. omits.¹⁶ M. Than is bot endling and.

3e speik of berdis on bewch : of blise may thai sing, 205

That, on sanct Valentynis day, ar vacandis ilk 3er ;

Hed I that plesand prevelege to part quhen me likit,

To change, et¹ ay to cheise agane, than, chastite, adew !

Than suld I haif a fresch feir to fang in mynn armes :

To hald a freke, quhill he faynt, may foly be callit. 210

Apone sic materis I mus[e], at mydnyght, full oft,

And murnys² so in my mynd, I murdris³ my selfin ;

Than ly I walkand for wa, and walteris about

Wariand off⁴ my weckit kyn, that me away cast,

To sic a craudoune, but curage, that⁵ knyt my cler bewte ; 215

And ther so mony kene knyghtis this kenrik within :

Than think I on a semelyar, the suth for to tell,

Na is our syre be sic sevin ;⁶ with that I sych⁷ oft :

Than he ful tenderly dois turne to me his twme person,

And with a 3oldin 3erd, dois 3olk me in armys ; 220

And sais, " My souerane sueit thing, quhy sleip 3e no⁸ betir ?

Me think ther haldin 3ow a hete, as 3e sum harme alyt."

Quoth I, " My hony, hald abak, and handill me nought⁸ sair ;

A hathe is⁹ happinit hastily at my hert rut."¹⁰

With that I seme for to swoune, thought I na swerf tak ; 225

And thus beswik I that swane, with my sueit wordis :

I cast on him a crabbit E, quhen cleir¹¹ day is cummyn,

And lettis it is a luf-blenk, quhen he about glemys,

I turne it in a tender luke, that I in tene warit,

And him behaldis hamely,¹² with hertly smyling. 230

I wald a tender peronall, that myght na put thole,

That hatit men with hard geir, for hurting of flesch,

Had my gud man to hir gest ; for I dar God suer,

Scho suld not stert for his straik a stray breid of erd.

And syne, I wald that ilk band, that 3e so blist call, 235

Had bund him so to that bryght, quhill his bak werkit ;

¹ M. and.

² P. warnys.

³ M. murdriss.

⁴ M. oft.

⁵ M. to.

⁶ M. sewin.

⁷ P. syth ; M. sicht.

⁸ M. nocht.

⁹ M. Ane hache hes.

¹⁰ M. hairt-rute.

¹¹ M. the cleir.

¹² M. hamlie.

And I wer in a beid broght with berne that me likit,
I trow, that bird of my blis suld a bourd¹ want.

Onone² quhen this amyable had endit hir speche,
Loudly³ lauchand the laif allowit hir mekle : 240
Thir gay Wiffis maid game amang the grene leiffis ;
Thai drank, and did away dule, vnder derne bewis ;
Thai swapit of⁴ the sueit wyne, thai swan-quhit of hewis,
Bot all the pertlyar in plane thai put out ther vocis.

[*Nunc bibent, et inde prime due interrogant viduam, et
de sua responsione, et quomodo erat.*]⁵

Than said the Weido, I vis ther is no way othir ; 245
Now tydis me for to talk ; my taill it is nixt :
God my spreit now inspir, et⁶ my speche quykkkin,
And send me sentence to say, substantious, et⁶ noble ;
Sa, that my preching may pers your perverst hertis,
And mak yow mekar to men in manneris and conditiounis. 250

I schaw 3ow,⁷ Sisteris in schrift, I wes a schrew euir,
Bot I wes schene in my schrowd, et⁶ schew me innocent ;
And thought I dour wes, et⁶ dane, dispitois, et⁶ bald,
I wes dissymblit suttelly⁸ in a sanctis liknes :
I semyt sober, and sueit, et⁶ sempill without fraud, 255
Bot I couth⁹ sixty dissaif¹⁰ that suttillar¹¹ wer haldin.

Wnto my lesson 3e lyth, and leir at me wit,
Gif yov nought list be forleit with losingeris vntrew :
Be constant in 3our gouernance, and counterfeit gud maneris,
Thought 3e be kene, inconstant, et⁶ cruell of mynd ; 260
Thought 3e as tygris be terne, be treftable in luf ;
And be as turtoris in your talk, thought 3e haif talis brukill ;
Be dragonis baitht and dowis, ay¹² in double forme,
And quhen it nedis 3ow, onone, note baith ther stranthis ;
Be amyable with humble face, as angellis apperand, 265

¹ M. ane burde. ² M. Anone. ³ M. Loud ; P. Luly ranthand.

⁴ M. at. ⁵ From. M. MS. ⁶ M. and. ⁷ M. omits. ⁸ M. subtelie.

⁹ M. culd. ¹⁰ M. desaeue. ¹¹ M. subtillar war. ¹² M. ane.

And with a terrebill tail be stangand as edderis ;
 Be of 3our luke like innocentis, thocht 3e haif euill myndis ;
 Be courtly ay in clething, et¹ costly arrayit,
 That hurtis 3ow nought worth a hen ; 3owr husband pays for all.

Twa husbandis haif I² had, thai held me baith deir, 270
 Thought I dispytit thaim agane, thai spyit it na thing :
 Ane wes ane hair hogear³, that hostit out flewme ;
 I hatit him like a hund, thought I it hid preue :
 With kissing, et¹ with clapping, I gert the carill⁴ fon ;
 Weil couth I claw⁵ his cruke bak, and kemm his cowit⁶ noddill,
 And with a bukky in my cheik bo on him behind ; 276
 And with a bek gang about, et¹ bler his ald E ;
 And with a kyind contynance kys his crynd chekis ;⁷
 In to my mynd makand mokis at that mad fader,
 Trovand me with trew lufe to treit him so fair : 280
 This cought I do without dule, et¹ na dises⁸ tak,
 Bot ay be⁹ mery in my mynd, and myrthfull of cher.

I had a lufsummar¹⁰ leid, my lust for to slokyn,
 That couth be secrete and sure, and ay saif my honour,
 And sew bot at certayne tymes, et¹ in sicir¹¹ placis ; 285
 Ay when the ald did me anger, with akword wordis,
 Apon the galland for to goif it gladit me agane.
 I had sic wit that for wo weipit I [bot]¹² litill ;
 Bot leit the sueit ay the sour to gud sesone¹³ bring.
 Quhen that the chuf wald me chid,¹⁴ with girnand chaftis, 290
 I vald him chuk, cheik et¹ chyn, et¹ cheris him so mekill ;
 That his cheif chymys [he]¹⁵ had chevist¹⁶ to my sone,
 Suppos the churll wes gane chaist, or the child wes gottin :
 As wis woman ay I wrought, et¹ not as wod fule,
 For mar with wylis I wan na wichtnes¹⁷ of handis. 295

Syne maryit I a marchand, myghti of gudis :
 He was a man of myd eld, et¹ of mene statur ;

¹ M. and. ² M. I haue. ³ M. hachart. ⁴ M. carle. ⁵ P. keyth.

⁶ P. kewt. ⁷ M. cheik. ⁸ M. diseise. ⁹ M. omits. ¹⁰ M. lustiar.

¹¹ M. secreit. ¹² P. omits. ¹³ M. the sessoun. ¹⁴ M. chyde.

¹⁵ P. omits. ¹⁶ M. I wist. ¹⁷ M. vertuousnes.

Bot we na fallowis wer in frendschip and¹ blud,
 In fredome, na furth bering, na fairnes of persoune ;
 Quhilk ay the fule did forȝet, for febilnes of knowlege ; 300
 Bot I sa oft thoght him on quhill angrit² his hert,
 And quhilum I put furth my voce, et³ Pedder him callit :
 I wald ryght tuichand [in] talk⁴ be, I wes tuyse maryit,
 For endit wes my innocence with my ald husband :
 I wes apperand to be pert⁵ within perfit eild ; 305
 Sa sais the curat of our kirk, that knew me full ȝing :
 He is our famous to be fals, that fair worthy prelot ;
 I salbe laith to lat him le,⁶ quhill I may luke furth.
 I gert the buthman⁷ obey, ther wes no bute ellis ;
 He maid me ryght hie reverens, fra he my rycht knew : 310
 For, thocht I say it my self, the seuerance wes mekle,
 Betuix his bastard blude, et⁸ my birth noble.
 That page wes neuer of sic price for to presome anys
 Wnto my persone to be peir, had pete nought grantit.
 Bot mercy in to womanheid is a mekle⁸ vertu : 315
 For neuer bot in a gentill hert is generit ony ruth.
 I held ay grene in to his mynd that I of grace tuk him,
 And for⁹ he couth¹⁰ ken him self I curtasly him lerit :
 He durst not sit anys my summondis ; for, or the second charge,
 He wes ay redy for to ryn ; so rad he wes for blame. 320
 Bot ay my will wes the war of womanly natur ;
 The mair he loutit for my luf, the les of him I rakit ;
 And eik, this is a ferly thing, or I him faith gaif,
 I had sic favour to that freke, and feid syne for euer.
 Quhen I the cure had all clene, et³ him ourcummyn haill, 325
 I crew abone that craudone, as cok that wer wictour ;
 Quhen I him saw subiect,¹¹ and sett¹² at myn bydding,
 Than I him lichtlyit as a lowne, et³ lathit his maneris.
 Than woxe I sa vnmerciable¹³ to martir him I thought,

¹ M. nor.² M. angerrit.³ M. and.⁴ P. tinchandly talk.⁵ M. pairt.⁶ M. lie.⁷ M. bicheman.⁸ M. greit.⁹ M. that.¹⁰ M. culd.¹¹ M. subiecht.¹² P. soit.¹³ M. vnmercifull.

For, as a¹ best, I broddit him to all boyis laubour : 330
 I wald haif ridden him to Rome, with [ane] raip in his heid,
 Wer not ruffill of my renovne, et² rumour of pepill.
 And 3it hatrent I hid within my hert all ;
 Bot quhilis it hepit so huge, quhill it behud out :
 3it tuk I neur the wosp clene out of my wyde throte, 335
 Quhill I oucht wantit of my will, or quhat I wald desir.
 Bot quhen I seuerit had that syre of substance in erd ;
 And gottin his biggingis to my barne, et² hie burrow landis ;
 Than with a stew stert out the stoppell of my hals,
 That he all stwnyst throu the³ stound, as of a stele wappin. 340
 Than wald I, efter lang, first sa fane haif bene wrokin,
 That I to flyte wes als fers as a fell dragoun.
 I had for flattering of that fule fenzeit so lang,
 Mi eidentis of heritagis or thai wer all selit ;
 My breist that wes gret beild, bowdyn⁴ wes sa huge, 345
 That neir my baret out brist or the band makin ;
 Bot quhen my billis, and my bauthles⁵ wes all braid⁶ selit,
 I wald na langar beir on bridill, bot braid vp my heid ;
 Thar myght na molet⁷ mak me moy, na hald my mouth in :
 I gert the renzeis rak, et² rif into sondir ;⁸ 350
 I maid that wif carll⁶ to werk all womenis werkis,⁹
 And laid all manly materis, and mensk in this eird.
 Than said I, to my cumaris, in counsall about,
 "Se how I cabeld 3one cout with a kene brydill !
 The cappill, that the crelis kest in the caf mydding, 355
 Sa curtasly the cart drawis, and kennis na plungeing,
 He is nought skeich, na 3it sker, na scippis¹⁰ nought on syd : "
 And thus the scorne and the scaith scapit he nothir.

He wes no glaidsum gest for a¹¹ gay lady,
 Tharfor, I gat him a game that ganyt him bettir ; 360
 He wes a gret goldit man, et² of gudis riche ;
 I leit him be my lumbart to lous me all¹² misteris,

¹ M. ane. ² M. and. ³ M. stuneist of that. ⁴ M. and bowdin.

⁵ M. bauchlis. ⁶ M. omits. ⁷ M. mollat. ⁸ M. schundyr.

⁹ M. laubouris. ¹⁰ M. skippis. ¹¹ M. no. ¹² M. all my.

And he wes fane for to fang fra me that fair office,
 And thocht my favoris to fynd through his feill giftis.
 He grathit me in a¹ gay silk, et² gudly arrayis ; 365
 In gownis of engranyt claight, et gret goldin chenzeis ;
 In ringis ryally set with riche ruby stonis,³
 Quhill hely⁴ raise my renovne amang the rude peple ;
 Bot I full craftely did keip thai courtly wedis,
 Quhill eftir dede of that drupe, that docht nought in chalmir :
 Thought he of all my clathis maid cost et² expense, 371
 Ane othir sall the worschip haif, that weildis me eftir ;
 And thocht I likit him bot litill, zit for [the] luf of otheris,
 I wald me prunza⁵ plesandly in precius wedis,
 That luffaris myght apon me luke, and zing lusty gallandis, 375
 That I held more in daynte, et² derer be ful mekill,
 Ne him that dressit me so dink : full dotit wes his heyd.
 Quhen he wes heryit out of hand, to hie vp my honoris,
 And payntit me as pako,⁶ proudest of fedderis,
 I him miskennyt, be Crist ; et cukkald him maid ; 380
 I him forleit as a lad, and lathlyit him mekle :
 I thocht my self a papingay, et² him a plukit herle ;
 All² thus enforsit he his fa, et² fortifyit in⁷ strenth,
 And maid a stalwart staff to strik him selfe doune.
 Bot of ane bowrd in to bed I sall zow breif zit : 385
 Quhen he ane hail year wes hanyt, and him behuffit rage,
 And I wes laith to be loppin with sic a lob avoir,⁸
 Also lang as he wes on loft, I lukit on him neuer ;
 Na² leit neuer enter¹ in my thocht that he my thing persit.
 Bot ay in mynd ane other man ymagynit that I haid ; 390
 Or ellis had I neuer mery bene at⁹ that myrthles raid.
 Quhen I that grome geldit had of gudis, and of natur,
 Me thought him gracelese on to goif, sa me God help :
 Quhen he had warit all on me his welth, et² his substance,
 Me thocht his wit wes all went away with the laif ; 395

¹ M. omits.² M. and.³ M. stanis.⁴ M. all helie.⁵ M. prein.⁶ M. pacok.⁷ M. my.⁸ M. aver.⁹ M. mirrie bein of.

And so I did him despise, I spittit quhen I saw¹
 That super spendit euill spreit, spvlzeit of all vertu.
 For, weill² 3e wait, wiffis, that he that wantes riches,
 And valzeandnes in Venus play, is ful vile haldin :
 Full fruster is his fresch array, et³ fairnes of persoune, 400
 All is bot frutlese his effeir,⁴ and falzeis at the vp-with.

I buskit vp my barnis like baronis sonnys,
 And maid bot fulis of the fry of his first wif :
 I banyst fra my boundis his brethir ilkane ;
 His frendis as my fais I held at feid evir ; 405
 Be this, 3e belief may, I luffit nought him self,
 For neuer I likit a leid that langit till his blude :
 And 3it thir wisemen, thai² wait that all wiffis euill⁵
 Ar kend with ther conditionis, et³ knawin with the samin.

Deid is now that dyvour,⁶ et³ dollin in erd : 410
 With him deit all my dule, et³ my drery thoghtis ;
 Now done is my dolly nyght, my day is vpsprungin,
 Adew dolour, adew ! my daynte now begynis :
 Now am I a wedow, I wise, and weill am at ese ;
 I weip as I wer woful, bot wel is me for euer ; 415
 I busk as I wer bailfull, bot blith is my hert ;
 My mouth it makis murnyng, et³ my mynd lauchis ;
 My klokis thai ar caerfull in colour of sabill ;
 Bot courtly and ryght curyus my corse is ther vndir :⁷
 I drup with a ded luke, in my dule habit, 420
 As with manis daill [I] had done⁸ for dayis of my lif.

Quhen that I go to the kirk, cled in cair weid,
 As foxe in a lambis fleise fenze I my cheir ;
 Than lay I furtgh my bright buke on breid on my kne,
 With mony lusty letter ellummynit with gold ; 425
 And drawis my klok forthwart our my face quhit,
 That I may spy, vnaspyit, a space me beside :⁹
 Full oft I blenk by my buke, et³ blynis of deuotioun,

¹ M. saw him.² M. omits.³ M. and.⁴ M. affect.⁵ M. ar ewill.⁶ M. divyr.⁷ M. corpse thar vnder.⁸ M. I done had.⁹ M. ane space be my syde.

To se quhat berne is best brand,¹ or bredest² in schulderis,
Or forgeit is maist forcely, to furnyse a bancat³ 430

In Venus chalmer, valjeandly, withoutin vane ruse :
And, as the new mone, all pale, oppressit with change,
Kythis quhilis her cleir face, through cluddis of sable,
So keik I through my klokis, and castis kynd lukis
To knychtis, and to cleirkis, and courtly⁴ personis. 435

Quhen frendis of my husbandis behaldis me on fer,
I haif a water spunge for wa, within my wyde klokis,⁵
Than wring I it full wylely, et⁶ wetis my chekis ;
With that wateris myn ene, and welteris doune teris.
Than say thai all, that sittis about, "Se 3e nought, allace ! 440
3one lustlese led so lelely scho luffit hir husband :
3one is a pete to enprent in a princis hert,⁷

That sic a perle of plesance suld 3one pane dre !"

I sane me as I war ane sanct, et⁶ semys ane angell ;
At lantage of lichory I leit as I war crabit : 445

I sich, without sair hert, or seiknes in body ;
According to my sable weid I mon haif sad maneris,
Or thai will se all the suth ; for certis, we wemen
We set us all fra the syght to syle men of treuth :
We dule for na euill⁸ deid, sa it be derne haldin. 450

Wise women⁹ has wayis, and wonderfull gydingis
With gret engyne to beiaip¹⁰ ther ielyus¹¹ husbandis ;
And quyetly, with sic craft, convoyis¹² our materis
That, vnder Crist, no creatur kennis of our doingis.
Bot folk a cury may miscuke, that knowledge wantis, 455

And has na colouris for to cover thair awne kindly favtis ;
As dois¹³ thir damysellis, for derne dotit lufe,
That dogonis haldis in dainte, et⁶ delis with thaim so lang,
Quhill all the cuntre knaw ther kyndnes, et¹⁴ faith :
Faith has a fair name, bot falsheid¹⁵ faris bettir : 460

¹ M. branit.² M. braidest.³ M. furneis ane bankat.⁴ M. to courtlie.⁵ M. toukis ?⁶ M. and. ⁷ M. omits l. 442.⁸ M. ewill.⁹ P. men.¹⁰ M. begaik. ¹¹ P. iolyus.¹² M. gydis.¹³ M. And dois as.¹⁴ M. of.¹⁵ M. falset.

Fy on hir that can nought feyne her fame for to saif!¹

ȝit am I wise in sic werk, et² wes all my tyme;

Thoght I want wit in warldlynes, I wylis haif in luf,

As ony happy woman has that is of hie blude:

Hutit be the³ halok lase a hunder ȝeir of eild! 465

I have ane secrete serwand, rycht sobir of his tounge,

That me supportis of sic nedis, quhen I a syne mak:

Thoght he be sympill to the sicht, he has a tong sickir;

Full mony semelyar sege wer service dois mak:

Thought I haif cair, vnder cloke, the cleir day quhill⁴ nyght, 470

ȝit haif I solace, vnder serk, quhill the sone ryse.

ȝit, am I haldin a haly wif our all the haill schyre,

I am sa peteouse to the pur, quhen ther [is]⁵ personis mony

In passing of pilgrymage I pride me full mekle,

Mair for the prese of peple, na⁶ ony perdoun wynyng. 475

Bot ȝit, me think, the best bourd, quhen baronis and knychtis,

And othir bachilleris, blyth blwmyng in ȝouth,

And all my luffaris lele, my lugeing persewis,

And⁷ fillis me wyne wantonly, with weifair et² ioy:

Sum rownis; and sum ralȝeis; and sum redis ballatis; 480

Sum raiffis⁸ furght rudly with riatus speche;

Sum plenis, and sum prayis; sum prasis mi bewte,

Sum kissis me; sum clappis me; sum kyndnes me proferis;

Sum kerffis⁹ to me curtasli; sum me the cop giffis;

Sum stalwardly steppis ben, with a stout curage, 485

And a stif standand thing staiffis¹⁰ in my neiff;

And mony blenkis ben our, that but full fer sittis,

That mai nought, for the thik thrang, thrif as thai wald.

Bot, with my fair calling, I comfort thaim all:

For he that sittis me nixt, I nip on his finger;¹¹ 490

I serf him on the tothir syde on the samin fasson;

And he that behind me [sittis],⁵ I hard on him lene;

And him befor, with my fut fast on his I stramp;

¹ M. fenȝe hir awin fame to saue.

² M. and.

³ M. that.

⁴ M. to the.

⁵ P. omits.

⁶ M. nor.

⁷ M. Sum.

⁸ M. raveis.

⁹ M. karvis.

¹⁰ M. stavis.

¹¹ M. fyngar.

And to the bernis far but sueit blenkis I cast :
 To euery man in speciall speke I sum wordis, 495
 So wisly, and so womanly, quhill warmys ther hertis.
 Thar is no liffand¹ leid so law of degre
 That sall me luf vnluffit, I am so loik² hertit ;
 And gif his lust so be lent, into my lyre quhit,
 That he be lost or with me lig, his lif sall nocht [haif]³ danger ;
 I am so mercifull in mynd, et⁴ menys all wichtis, 501
 My sely saull salbe saif, quhen sa bot⁵ all iugis.
 Ladyis leir thir lessonis, et⁴ be no lassis fundin :
 This is the legeand of my lif, thought Latyne it be nane.

Quhen endit had her ornat speche this eloquent wedow, 505
 Lowd thai lewch all the laif, and loffit⁶ hir mekle ;
 And said, thai suld exampill tak of her souerane teching,
 And wirk efter hir wordis, that woman wes so prudent.
 Than culit thai thair mouthis with comfortable drinkis ;
 And carpit full cummerlik, with cop going round. 510

Thus draif thai our that deir night, with danceis full noble,
 Quhill that the day did vp daw, et⁴ dew donkit the⁷ flouris ;
 The morow myld wes et⁴ meik, the mavis did sing,
 And all remuffit the myst, et⁴ the meid smellit ;
 Siluer schouris doune schuke, as the schene cristall, 515
 And berdis schoutit in schaw, with thair schill notis ;
 The goldin glitterand gleme, so gladi⁸ ther hertis,
 Thai maid a glori⁹ gle amang the⁹ grene bewis.
 The soft souch of the swyr, et⁴ sovne of the stremys,
 The sueit sawour of the sward, [and]⁷ singing of foulis,¹⁰ 520
 Myght confort ony creatur of the kyn of Adam ;
 And kindill agane his curage thocht it wer cald sloknyt.

Than rais thir ryall¹¹ roisis, in ther riche wedis,
 And rakit hame to ther rest, through the rise blwmys ;

¹ M. levand.² M. luik.³ M. haue no.⁴ M. and.⁵ M. sownet.⁶ M. lovit.⁷ P. omits ; M. inserts.⁸ M. glaid.⁹ M. thai.¹⁰ M. fewlis.¹¹ M. royale.

And I all prevely past to a plesand arber, 525
And with my pen did report thair pastance¹ most mery.

3e Auditoris, most honorable, that eris has gevin
Onto this vncouth aventur,² quhilk airly me happinnit ;
Of ther thre wantoun wiffis, that I haif writtin heir,
Quhilk wald 3e vvaill to 3our vvif, gif 3e suld vved one? 530
Quod Dunbar.³

¹ M. pastyme.

² M. adventure.

³ M. Maister Williame Dunbar.

IV.

[LAMENT FOR THE MAKARIS.]

QUHEN HE WES SEIK.]

I THAT in heill¹ wes and glaidnes,
 Am trublit now with gret seiknes,
 And feblit with infirmitie ;
 Timor Mortis conturbat me.

Our plesance heir is all vane glory, 5
 This fals warld is bot² transitory,
 The flesche is brukle, the Fend³ is sle ;
 Timor Mortis conturbat me.

The stait of man dois change et⁴ vary,
 Now sound, now seik, now blyth, now sary, 10
 Now dansand mirry, now like⁵ to dee ;
 Timor Mortis conturbat me.

No stait in erd heir standis sickir ;
 As with the wynd wavis the wickir,
 [So]⁶ wavis⁷ this warldis vanite ; 15
 Timor Mortis conturbat me.

Onto the ded gois all Estatis,
 Princis, Prelotis, and Potestatis,
 Baith riche et⁴ pur of all degre ;
 Timor Mortis conturbat me. 20

¹ M. heilth.² M. bot ane.³ B. Feyind.⁴ B. M. and.⁵ B. M. lyk.⁶ P. omits.⁷ B. wannis ; M. Swa waveris the.

He takis the knychtis in to ¹ feild,
 Anarmit vnder ² helme et scheild ;
 Wictour he is at all melle ;
 Timor Mortis conturbat me.

That strang vnmercifull tyrand ³ 25
 Tak[is] on the moderis breist sowkand
 The bab, full of benignite ;
 Timor Mortis conturbat me.

He takis the campion in the stour,
 The capitane closit in the tour, 30
 The lady in bour full of bewte ;
 Timor Mortis conturbat me.

He spairis no lord for his piscence,
 Na clerk for his intelligence ;
 His awfull strak may no man fle ; 35
 Timor Mortis conturbat me.

Art, magicianis, and astrologgis,
 Rethoris, logicianis, et theologgis,
 Thame helpis no conclusionis sle ;
 Timor Mortis conturbat me. 40

In medicine⁴ the most practicianis,
 Lechis, surrigianis, et phisicianis,
 Thame self fra ded may not supple ;
 Timor Mortis conturbat me.

I see that⁵ makaris amang the laif 45
 Playis heir ther pageant,⁶ syne gois to graif ;
 Sparit is nocht ther faculte ;
 Timor Mortis conturbat me.

¹ B. to the ; M. the.² M. Enarmit baith with.³ B. vnyvnsable tirrand ; M. vnmercyfull terand.⁴ B. madecyne.⁵ B. the.⁶ B. padyanis ; M. thair padjandis.

He hes done petuously devour,
 The noble Chaucer,¹ of makaris flour,
 The Monk of Bery, and Gower,² all thre ;
 Timor Mortis conturbat me. 50

The gude Syr Hew of Eglintoun,
 Et eik,³ Heryot, et Wyntoun,
 He hes tane out of this cuntre ;
 Timor Mortis conturbat me. 55

That scorioun fell hes done infek
 Maister Iohne Clerk, and James Afflek,⁴
 Fra balat making et trigide ;
 Timor Mortis conturbat me. 60

Holland et Barbour he has berevit ;
 Allace ! that he nought with ws lewit
 Schir Mungo Lokert of the Le ;
 Timor Mortis conturbat me.

Clerk of Tranent eik he has tane,
 That maid the anteris of Gawane ;
 Schir Gilbert Hay⁵ endit has he ;
 Timor Mortis conturbat me. 65

He has Blind Hary, et Sandy Traill
 Slaine with his schour⁶ of mortall haille,
 Quhilk Patrik Iohnestoun⁷ myght nought fle ;
 Timor Mortis conturbat me. 70

He hes reft Merseir⁸ his endite,
 That did in luf so lifly write,
 So schort, so quyk, of sentence hie ;
 Timor Mortis conturbat me. 75

¹ B. Chawser.² B. Gowyr.³ B. Ettrik ; M. Eleik.⁴ M. Auchinleck.⁵ B. Gray ; M. Hey.⁶ B. schot ; M. the schour.⁷ B. Johnistoun.⁸ M. Mersar.

He hes tane Roull of Aberdene,
 And gentill Roull of Corstorphin[e];
 Two bettir fallowis did no man se;
 Timor Mortis conturbat me. 80

In Dumfermelyne he has done rovne¹
 With² Maister Robert Henrisoun; ³
 Schir Iohne the Ros enbrast hes he;
 Timor Mortis conturbat me.

And he has now tane, last of aw, 85
 Gud gentill Stobo et Quintyne Schaw,
 Of quham all wichtis hes pete:
 Timor Mortis conturbat me.⁴

Gud⁵ Maister Walter Kennedy,
 In poynt of dede lyis veraly, 90
 Gret reuth it wer that so suld be; ⁶
 Timor Mortis conturbat me.

Sen he has all my brether tane,
 He will naught lat me lif alane,
 On forse I man his nyxt pray be; 95
 Timor Mortis conturbat me.

Sen for the deid⁷ remeid is non,
 Best is that we for dede⁷ dispone.
 Eftir our deid⁷ that lif may we;
 Timor Mortis conturbat me. 100

Quod Dunbar quhen he wes seik, etc.

¹ tane Broun.

² B. With gud.

³ M. Hendersoun.

⁴ M. omits ll. 85-88.

⁵ B. And.

⁶ M. he suld de.

⁷ B. deth.

V.

[THE

BALLAD OF KYND KITTOK.]

MY Gudame wes a gay wif, bot scho wes rycht gend,
 Scho duelt furth fer in to France, apon Falkland fellis;¹
 Thay callit her Kynd Kittok, quhasa hir weill² kend :
 Scho wes like a caldrone cruke cler vnder kellis;³
 Thay threplit that⁴ scho deit⁵ of thrist, et⁶ maid a gud end. 5
 Efter hir dede, scho dredit nought in hevin for⁴ to duell ;
 And sa to hevin the hieway dreidless scho wend,
 Git scho wanderit, and ȝeid by to ane elriche well.
 Scho met thar, as I wene,
 Ane ask rydand on a snaill, 10
 Et⁷ cryit, " Ourtane fallow, haill ! " ⁸
 And raid ane inche behind the taill,
 Till it wes neir evin.⁹

Sa scho had hap to be horsit to hir herbry,
 Att ane ailhous neir [hevin],¹⁰ it nyghttit thaim thare ; 15
 Scho deit of¹¹ thrist in this warld, that gert hir be so dry,
 Scho neuer eit, bot drank our mesur¹² et⁶ mair.
 Scho slepit quhill the morne at none, et⁶ rais airly ;
 And to the ȝettis of hevin fast can the wif¹³ fair,

¹ B. fell.² B. sa quha weill hir.³ B. kell.⁴ B. omits.⁵ B. deid.⁶ B. and.⁷ B. Scho.⁸ B. haill, haill.⁹ B. eue.¹⁰ P. omits.¹¹ B. for.¹² B. missour.¹³ B. coud scho.

And by Sanct Petir, in at the 3et, scho stall prevely : 20
 God lukit et saw hir lattin in, et lewch his hert sair.

And thar, 3eris sevin
 Scho lewit a gud life,
 And wes our Ladyis¹ hen wif :
 And held Sanct Petir at² stryfe, 25
 Ay quhill scho wes in hevin.

Sche lukit out on a day, and thocht ryght³ lang
 To se the ailhous beside, in till an euill hour ;
 And out of hevin the hie gait cought⁴ the wif gang
 For to get hir⁵ ane fresche drink, 3e aill⁶ of hevin wes sour. 30

Scho come againe to hevinnis 3et, quhen the⁷ bell rang,
 Sanct Petir hat hir with a club, quhill a gret clour
 Rais in hir heid,⁸ becaus the wif 3eid wrang.

Than⁹ to the ailhous agane scho ran, the pycharis to pour,
 And for¹⁰ to brew, and baik. 35

Frendis, I pray you hertfully,¹¹
 Gif 3e be thristy or dry,
 Drink with my Guddame, as¹² 3e ga by,
 Anys for my saik.

Explicit, &c.

¹ B. Leddeis.

² B. in.

³ B. verry.

⁴ B. cowth.

⁵ B. omits.

⁶ B. haill.

⁷ B. that the.

⁸ B. heid behind.

⁹ B. And than.

¹⁰ B. thair.

¹¹ B. hairtfully.

¹² B. quhen.

VI.
[THE
TESTAMENT OF MR ANDRO KENNEDY.]

I, MAISTER ANDRO¹ KENNEDY,
Curro quando sum vocatus,
Gottin with sum incuby,
Or with sum freir infatuatus ;
In faith I can nought tell redly,² 5
Unde aut vbi fui natus,
Bot in³ treuth I trow trewly,
Quod sum dyabolus incarnatus.

Cum nichill sit certius morte,
We mon all de, [quhen we haif] done,⁴ 10
Nescimus quando, vel qua sorte,
Na blind Allane wait of the mone.
Ego patior in pectore,
This night I myght nocht sleip a⁵ wink ;
Licet eger in corpore, 15
Ûit wald my mouth be wet⁶ with drink.

Nunc condo testamentum meum,
I leiff my saull for euermair,
Per omnipotentem Deum,
In to my lordis wyne cellair ; 20

¹ M. Walter.² M. trewlie.³ M. Be my.⁴ M. P. man that is done.⁵ M. ane.⁶ M. wait.

Semper ibi ad remanendum,
 Quhill domisday, without disseuer,
 Bonum vinum ad bibendum,
 With sueit Cuthbert that luffit me neuer.

Ipse est dulcis ad amandum, 25
 He wald oft ban me in his breith,
 Det michi modo¹ ad potandum,
 And I forgif him laith et² wraith :
 Quia in cellario cum cervisia,
 I had lever lye baith air and lait, 30
 Nudus solus in camesia,
 Na in my Lordis bed of stait.

A³ barell bung ay at my bosum,
 Of varldis gud⁴ I bad⁵ na mair ;
 [Et]⁶ corpus meum ebriosum, 35
 I leif on to the toune of Air ;
 In a³ draf mydding for euer and ay
 Ut ibi sepeliri queam,
 Quhar drink and draff may ilka day
 Be cassyne super faciem meam : 40

[Thair wald I be bereit, me think,
 Or beir my bodie ad tabernam,
 Quhair I may feill the savour of drink,
 Syn sing for me requiem eternam.]⁷

I leif my hert that neuer wes sic[k]ir,
 Sed semper variabile,
 That never mair wald flow nor⁸ flickir,
 Consorti meo Iacobe :

¹ M. potum.² M. B. and.³ M. B. Anc.⁴ M. welth.⁵ B. omits.⁶ P. omits.⁷ Additional stanza from M. MS.⁸ B. and.

Thought I wald bynd it with a wickir, 45
 Verum Deum renui;
 Bot and I hecht to teme a bicker,
 Hoc pactum semper tenui.

Syne leif I the best aucht I bocht,
 Quod est Latinum propter caupe,¹ 50
 To hede of kyn,² bot I wait nought
 Quis est ille, than I³ schrew my scawpe:⁴
 I callit⁵ my lord my heid, but hiddill,
 Sed nulli alii hoc dixerunt,⁶
 We weir als sib as seue⁷ et riddill, 55
 In vna silua que creuerunt.

Omnia mea solatia
 Thay wer bot lesingis all et⁸ ane,
 Cum omni fraude et fallacia,
 I leif the maister of Sanct Antane; 60
 Willelmo Gray,⁹ sine gratia,
 Myne¹⁰ awne deir cusing, as I wene,
 Qui nunquam fabricat mendacia,
 Bot quhen the holyne growis grene.

My fenzeing, and my fals wynyng, 65
 Relinquo falsis fratribus;
 For that is Goddis awne bidding,
 Dispersit,¹¹ dedit pauperibus.
 For menis saulis thay say thai¹² sing,
 Mentientes pro muneribus; 70
 Now God gif thaim ane euill ending,
 Pro suis prauis operibus.

¹ B. cape.² B. To the hede of my kin.³ P. omits.⁴ B. skape.⁵ B. tald.⁶ B. sciuerunt.⁷ B. seif.⁸ B. and.⁹ B. William.¹⁰ B. My.¹¹ B. Disparssis.¹² B. and.

To Iok Fule, my foly fre
 Lego post corpus sepultum ;
 In faith I am mair fule than he, 75
 Licet ostendit¹ bonum vultum :
 Of corne and catall, gold² and fe,
 Ipse habet walde multum,
 And 3it he bleris my³ lordis E
 Fingendo eum fore stultum. 80

To Master Iohne Clerk syne,
 Do et lego intime,
 Goddis [braid]⁴ malisone and myne :
 Ipse est causa mortis mee.
 War I a dog and he a swyne, 85
 Multi mirantur super me,
 Bot I suld ger that lurdane quhryne,
 Scribendo dentes sine de.⁵

Residuum omnium bonorum
 For to dispone my Lord sall haif, 90
 Cum tutela puerorum,
 Ade,⁶ Kytte, and all the laif.
 In faith I will na langar raif :
 Pro sepultura ordino
 On the new gys, sa God me saif, 95
 Non sicut more solito.

In die mee sepulture
 I will nane haif⁷ bot our avne⁸ gyng,
 Et duos rusticos de rure
 Berand a barell on a styng ; 100
 Drynkand and playand cop out, evin,
 Sicut egomet solebam ;
 Singand and gretand with hie stevin,
 Potum meum cum fletu miscebam.

¹ B. ostendo.² B. geir.³ B. me.⁴ M. P. omits.⁵ M. d.⁶ B. Baith Ade.⁷ M. haue nane.⁸ M. awin.

I will na preistis for me sing, 105
 Dies illa, Dies ire ;
 Na 3it na bellis for me ring,
 Sicut semper solet¹ fieri ;
 Bot a bag pipe to play a spryng,
 Et unum ail wosp² ante me ; 110
 In stayd of baneris³ for to bring
 Quatuor lagenas ceruisie,
 Within the graif to set sic thing,
 In modum crucis juxta me,
 To fle the fendis,⁴ than hardely sing 115
 De terra plasmasti me.

[Heir endis the Tesment of Maister Andro
 Kennedy, maid be Dunbar quhen he
 wes lyk to dy.]⁵

¹ M. solet semper.

² B. M. ailwisp.

³ B. In steid of torchis.

⁴ M. dewill.

⁵ From B. MS. ; M. reads Finis quod Kennedie, &c.

VII.

[THE

BALLAD OF LORD BERNARD STEWART,
LORD OF AUBIGNY.]

The ballade of ane right noble victorius and myghty Lord Barnard Stewart, lord of Aubigny, erle of Beaumont, roger and bonassre, consaloure, and chamerlane ordinaire to the maist hee, maist excellent, and maist crystyn prince Loys, King of France, Knight of his ordour, Capitane of the kepnyng of his body, Conquereur of Naplis and unquihile constable general of the same, Compilt he maistir Willgam dumbar at the said lordis cumyng to Edinburghe in Scotland send in ane ryght excellent embassat fra the said maist crystin King to our maist Souuerane lord and victorius prince James the ferde, King of Scottis.

RENOWNIT, ryall, right reuerend and serene
 Lord, hie trywmphing in wirschip and valoure,
 Fro kyngis downe most Cristin knight, and kene,
 Most wyse, most valyeand, most laureat hie wictour,
 Onto the sterris vpheyt is thyne honour ; 5
 In Scotland Welcum be thyne Excellence
 To King, Queyne, lord, clerk, knight and seruatur,
 Withe gloire and honour, lawde and reuerence.

Welcum in stour most strong, incomparable knight,
 The fame of armys, and floure of vassalage ; 10
 Welcum in were moste worthi, wyse and wight ;
 Welcum the soun of Mars of moste curage ;

Welcum moste lusti branche of our linnage,
 In euery realme oure scheild, and our defence;
 Welcum our tendir blude of hie parage, 15
 With gloire and honour, lawde and reuerence.

Welcum in were the second Iulius,
 The prince of knightheyd, and flour of cheualry;
 Welcum most valyeant and victorius;
 Welcum invincible victour moste wourthy; 20
 Welcum our Scottis chiftane most dughty;
 Wyth sowne of clarioun, organe, song and sence,
 To the atonis, Lord, Welcum all we cry;
 With gloire and honour, lawde and reuerence.

Welcum oure indeficient adiutorie, 25
 That evir our Naceoun helpit in thare neyd;
 That neuer saw Scot yit indigent nor sory,
 Bot thou did hym suport, with thi gud deid;
 Welcum, therfor, abufe all livand leyd,
 Withe us to liue, and to maik recidence, 30
 Quhilk never sall swnye for thy saik to bleid:
 To quham be honour, lawde and reuerence.

Is none of Scotland borne faithfull and kynde,
 Bot he of naturall inclinacioune
 Dois favour the, withe all his hert and mynde, 35
 Withe fervent, tendir, trew intencioun;
 And wald of inwart hie effectioun,
 Bot dreyd of danger, de in thi defence,
 Or dethe, or schame, war done to thi persoun;
 To quham be honour, lawde and reuerence. 40

Welcum thow knight, moste fortunate in feild;
 Welcum in armis moste aunterus and able,
 Wndir the soun that beris helme or scheild;
 Welcum thou campiou, in feght wnourcumable;

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Welcum most dughti, digne, and honorable, And moist of lawde, and hie magnificence, Nixt wndir kingis to stand incomparable ; To quham be honour, lawde and reuerence.	45
Throw Scotland, Ingland, France, and Lumbardy, Fleys on weyng thi fame, and thi renoune ; And our all cuntreis, wndirnethe the sky, And our all strandis, fro the sterris doune ; In euery province, land, and regioun, Proclomit is thi name of excellence, In euery cete, village, and in tounne, Withe gloire and honour, lawd and reuerence.	50 55
O feyrse Achill, in furius hie curage ! O strong invincible Hector, vndir scheild ! O vailyeant Arthur, in knyghtli vassalage ! Agamemnon, in gouernance of feild ! Bold Henniball, in batall to do beild ! Iulius, in iupert, in wisdom and expence ! Most fortunable chiftane, bothe in yhouth and eild, To the be honour, lawde and reuerence !	60
At parlament thow suld be hye renownit, That did so mony victoryse opteyn ; Thi cristall helme with lawry suld be crownyt, And in thi hand a branche of olyve greyn ; The sueird of conquis, and of knyghtheid keyn, Be borne suld highe before the in presence, To represent sic man as thou has beyn ; With gloire and honour, lawde and reuerence.	65 70
Hie furius Mars, the god armipotent, Rong in the hevin at thyne natiuite ; Saturnus doune, withe fyry eyn, did blent, Throw bludy visar, men manasing to gar de ;	75

On the fresche Wenus keist hir amoureuse E ;
 On the Marcurius furtheyet his eloquence ;
 Fortuna Maior did turn hir face on the ;
 With gloire and honour, lawde and reuerence. 80

Prynce of fredom, and flour of gentilnes,
 Sweyrd of knightheid, and choise of cheualry,
 This tyme I lefe, for grete prolixitnes,
 To tell quhat feildis thou wan in Pikkardy,
 In France, in Bertan, in Naplis, and Lumbardy ; 85
 As I think eftir, withe all my diligence,
 Or thow departe, at lenthe for to discry ;
 With gloire and honour, lawd and reuerence.

B, in thi name, betaknis batalrus ;
 A, able in feild ; R, right renoune most hie ; 90
 N, nobilnes ; and A, for aunterus ;
 R, ryall blude ; for dughtines, is D ;
 W, valyeantnes ; S, for strenewite ;
 Quhoise knyghtli name, so schynying in clemence,
 For wourthines in gold suld writtin be ; 95
 With gloire and honour, lawd and reuerence.

.

[The preceding seven poems of Dunbar are those printed at Edinburgh in 1508 by Walter Chepman and Andro Myllar. They were thus published in Dunbar's lifetime, and most probably had the benefit of his revision.]

The crop of curage, the strenth of armes in stour,¹
 The fame of France, the fame of Lumbardy,
 The choiss of chiftanes, most awfull in armour,
 The charbunczell, cheif of every chevelrie !

Pray now for him, all that him loveit heir ! 25
 And for his saull mak intercessioun
 Unto the Lord that hes him bocht so deir,
 To gif him mercie and remissioun,
 And namelie we of Scottis natioun,
 Intill his lyff quhom most he did affy, 30
 Forzett we nevir into our orisoun
 To pray for him, the flour of chavelrie.

Quod Dumbar.²

¹ R. stoir.

² From R. MS.

IX.

[I CRY THE MERCY, AND LASAR TO
REPENT.]

TO The, O mercifull Salviour,¹ Jesus,
 My King, my Lord, and my Redemar sweat,
 Befoir thy bludy figor dolorus
 I repent my synnys,² with humill hairt contreit,³
 That evir I did vnto this hour compleit, . 5
 Baith in werk, in word, and eik⁴ intent ;
 Falling on face, full law befoir thy feit,
 I cry The mercy, and lasar to repent.

To The, my sweit Saluiour,⁵ I me schirryve,
 Committing⁶ me in thy mercy [maist] excelleng,⁷ 10
 Off the wrang spending of my wittis fyve,—
 In hering, seing, gusting, twiching,⁸ and⁹ smelling,
 Ganestanding, greving, moving,¹⁰ and rebelling
 Aganis The my God and Lord⁹ omnipotent ;
 With teiris of sorrow frome¹¹ my ene distilling, 15
 I cry The mercy, and lasar to repent.

I wretchit synner, vyle, and full of vyce,
 Off the Sevin Deidly Synnys dois¹² me schirryve,¹³—

¹ M. Saluitour myn.² M. schryve my sin ; II. schir me cleyne.³ M. hart and spreit.⁴ M. 2 B. in.⁵ M. meik sweit salvatour.⁶ M. And dois.⁷ 2 B. And dois me in thy mercy most excellenting.⁸ M. twiching, taisting.⁹ M. omits.¹⁰ M. offending.¹¹ M. fro.¹² 2 B. do.¹³ M. schryue.

Off pryde, off yre, invy,¹ and covetyce,
 Off lichery,² gluttony, with slewth ay to ourdryve,³ 20
 Exercing vycis evir in all my lyve,⁴
 For quhilk, allace ! I servit to be schent :
 Rew on me, Jesu, for thy woundis fyve !
 I cry⁵ The mercy, and lasar to repent.

I confess⁶ me, Lord ! that I abusit haif 25
 The Sevin Deidis of Mercy Corporall,—
 To⁷ hungre meit, nor drynk to thristy⁸ gaif,
 Nor veseit the seik, nor did⁹ redeme the thrall,
 Harbreit the wolsome, nor naikit cled att all,
 Nor 3it the deid to bury, tuke I tent : 30
 Thow, that put mercy aboif thy workis all,
 I cry The mercy, and lasar to repent.

In the Sevin Deidis of Marcy Spirituall,—
 To ignorantis¹⁰ nocht gaif I my teiching,
 Synnaris correctioun, nor destitut counsall, 35
 Na¹¹ vnto wofull wretchis conforting,
 Nor to my nychtbouris support¹² of my praying,¹³
 Nor was to ask forgifnes penitent,¹⁴
 Nor to forgif my nychtbouris offending ;
 I cry The mercy, and lasar to repent. 40

Lord ! I haif done full littill reverence
 To thy¹⁵ Sacramentis excellent of¹⁶ renoun,—
 Thy Haly Supper ffor my syn recompence,
 And of my guilt the holy¹⁷ satisfacioun,¹⁸

¹ M. invy, of yre.² M. lichorie.³ M. ourdryff.⁴ M. lyff.⁵ M. That cryis.⁶ M. schryve ; 2 B. schryif.⁷ M. The.⁸ M. 2 B. thristie drink I gave.⁹ M. Vesiit the seik, nor 3it.¹⁰ M. ignorant.¹¹ M. Nor.¹² M. vnto vydeis confort.¹³ H. Nor unto saulis support of my preiching.¹⁴ M. forgevenes patient.¹⁵ M. Onto the.¹⁶ M. sewin of grit ; 2 B. of excellent.¹⁷ 2 B. Gif I for my sin bewaill and mak.¹⁸ H. Baptising, penance, and confirmatioun,
 Matrimony, ordour, and extreme unctioun.

I CRY THE MERCY, AND LASAR TO REPENT. 67

And Bapteme, als quhilk all my syn wesche doun; 45
 Heiroyf, als far as I was negligent,
 With hairt contreit, and teiris falling doun,
 I cry The mercy, and lasar to repent.¹

The² Ten Commandis,—ane God for till honour, Com-
 Nocht tane in vane his name, no³ slayar to be, 50 mandis.
 Fader and moder⁴ to wirschep at all hour,
 To be no theif, the haly day to vphie,
 Nychtbouris to lufe, fals witness for to fle,
 To leif adultre, to covet no manis rent;
 Aganis thir preceptis⁵ culpable knaw I⁶ me; 55
 I cry The mercy, and lasar to repent.

The⁷ Articulis of Trewth,—in God to⁸ trow, Articulis,
 The Fader that all thingis wrocht and⁹ comprehendit, Creid.
 And in his haly¹⁰ blissit Sone, Jesu,
 Of Mary borne, on croce deit, to hell¹¹ descendit, 60
 The thrid day rysing, to the Fader¹² ascendit,
 Off quick¹³ and deid to cum, and hald jugement;
 In to thir poynttis, O Lord! quhair I offendit
 I cry The mercy, and lasar to repent.

I trow in to the blissit Haly Spreit, 65
 And in the Kirk, to¹⁴ do as it commandis,
 And to thy dome that¹⁵ we sall ryss compleit
 And tak our flesche agane, baith feit and handis,
 All to be saiff in stait of grace that standis;
 Plane I rewoik in thir quhair I miswent, 70
 Befoir The, Juge and Lord of see¹⁶ and landis,
 I cry¹⁷ The mercy, and lasar to repent.

¹ M. omits lines 43-48.

² M. Thy.

³ M. No man slayar.

⁴ M. Father and mother.

⁵ M. In all this, Lord full; 2 B. In all this world Lord.

⁶ M. I knaw.

⁷ 2 B. In; H. The artickillis.

⁸ M. In articlis of the treuth ane God I.

⁹ M. and all thing.

¹⁰ M. onlie.

¹¹ M. and.

¹² M. Faderis hand.

¹³ M. quyk.

¹⁴ M. and.

¹⁵ M. omits.

¹⁶ M. sey.

¹⁷ And cryis.

I synnyt, Lord ! that¹ nocht being strong as wall,
 In howp, in faith, in fervent cheretie ;
 Nocht with the Foure² Vertewis Cardenall, 75
 Aganis vycis seure enarming me,
 With fortitude, prowdenche,¹ and temperance, thir thre
 With justice evir [in] work, word, or³ intent ;
 To The, Chryst Jesu, casting vp myne e,
 I cry The mercy, and lasar to repent.⁴ 80

[The seuin commandis of the Kirk, that is to say,
 Thy teind to pay, and cursing to eschew,
 To keipe the festuall and the fasting day,
 The mess on Sondag, the parroche kirk persew,
 To proper curat to mak confessioun trew, 85
 Anis in the 3eir to tak the sacrament ;
 In thir pointis, quhair I offendit, sair I rew ;
 I cry The mercy, and lasar to repent.]⁵

Off syn als aganis⁶ the Haly Spreit,
 Of vertew postponyng, and⁷ syn aganis nateur, 90
 Off [in]contritioun, [of confessioun]⁸ indiscreit,
 Of ressait sinffull of The my Saluour,⁹
 Of non repentance,¹⁰ and satisfaction seur,
 Of the Sevin Giftis the Haly¹¹ Gaist me sent,
 Of Sex Petitionis in Pater Noster peur ;¹² 95
 I cry The mercy, and lasar to repent.

Nocht thanking The of gratitud nor grace,
 That thow me wrocht, and bocht [me] with thy [deid] ;¹³
 Of this schort lyfe remembring nocht the space,
 The hevenis bliss, the hellis hiddouss feid,¹⁴ 100

¹ M. omits.² M. fair Four.³ werk, wourd, and.⁴ After l. 80, M. has three lines of the following stanza inserted from the H. MS.⁵ Stanza inserted from H. MS.⁶ M. also into.⁷ M. schryft postponing, of.⁸ B. confessour.⁹ M. Saluitour.¹⁰ M. 2 B. vndone pennence.¹¹ M. of halie.¹² M. pater-noster and sewin petitiounis pure.¹³ B. blude.¹⁴ 2 B. seid.

But moir trespass, my synnis to remeid,
 Concluding nevir¹ all thrwch in myne entent ;
 [O]² Thow, quhois blude on rude ran for my deid,³
 I cry The mercy, and lasar to repent.

I knaw me vicious, Lord, and richt culpable 105
 In aithis sweiring, leising, and blaspheming,
 Off frustrat⁴ speiking in court, in kirk, and table,
 In wordis vyle, in vaneteis expreming,
 Preysing my self, and evill my nichtbouris deming,
 And so in ydilnes my dayis haif [I]⁵ spent ; 110
 Thow that was rent on rude for my redeming,
 I cry The mercy, and lasar to repent.

I synnit in consaving⁶ thochtis jolie,
 Vp to the hevin extolling⁷ myne ententioun,
 In he exaltit arrogance and folye, 115
 Prowdnes, derisioun, scorne and vilipentioun,
 Presumptioun, inobedience and contemptioun,
 In fals vane gloir and deidis negligent ;
 O Thow, that deit on rud, for my redemptioun,
 I cry The mercy, and lasar to repent. 120

I synnit als in reif and in oppressioun,
 In wranguss gudis taking and posseding,
 Contrar gud⁸ ressoun, conscience and discretioun,
 Of⁹ prodigall spending, but rewth of peure folkis neiding,
 In fowll disceptionis, in fals inventionis breiding, 125
 To conqueiss¹⁰ honor, tresor, land and rent,
 In fleschly lust aboif mesur exceding ;
 I cry The mercy, and lasar to repent.

¹ M. euir.

² M. omits.

³ M. 2 B. for men ran reid.

⁴ M. Of frusture.

⁵ B. omits.

⁶ M. 2 B. dissaving.

⁷ M. hewin extollit.

⁸ M. 2 B. Contrair my.

⁹ M. 2 B. In.

¹⁰ M. conqueir ; 2 B. conquere.

Off mynd dissymvlat,¹ Lord ! I me confess,
 Of feid vndir [ane] freindly countenance, 130
 Of parcial² jugeing, and pervess³ wilfulness,
 [Off]⁴ flattering wordis for fynning of⁵ substance,
 Of fals solisting ffor wrang deliuerance
 At Counsale, Sessioun, and at Parliament ;
 Of every gilt, and wicket govirnance, 135
 I cry The mercy, and lasar to repent.

I schryve me of all cursit cumpany,
 All tymes both witting and vnwitting me,
 Off criminall causs, off deid⁶ of fellony,
 Of tyranny, and vengeable crewaltie, 140
 [Off] hurt⁷ or slawchter, culpable gif I be,
 Be ony maner,⁸ deid, counsale, or consent ;
 O deir Jesu ! that for me deit on tre,
 I cry The mercy, and lasar to repent.

Thocht I haif nocht thy precious feit to kiss, 145
 As had the Magdalene, quhen scho did mercy craif,
 I sall, as scho, weip⁹ teiris for my¹⁰ miss,
 And every morrow seik¹¹ The at thy graif ;
 Thairfoir, forgif me, as Thow hir forgaif,
 That seis my hart as hiris penitent !¹² 150
 Thy precious body in breist or I ressaif,
 I cry The mercy, and lasar to repent.

To mak me, Jesu, on The to¹³ remember !
 I ask thy Passioun in me so to habound,¹⁴

¹ M. dissemblit.² M. partiale.³ M. of perverst.⁴ B. In.⁵ M. wourdis and fenzeing for.⁶ M. causis and deidis.⁷ M. blude ; 2 B. deid.⁸ M. wyse ; 2 B. wyis.⁹ M. Allace, scho weipit.¹⁰ M. hir.¹¹ M. did seik.¹² M. for ll. 140, 141 reads—

That seis my hart, as thow hir forgaif,
 Thairfoir gif me, as I am penitent.

¹³ M. 2 B. for to.¹⁴ M. in mynd for to abonde.

Quhill nocht vnmenzeit be¹ in me ane member, 155
 Bot fall² in wo, with The, of every wound;
 And every straik mak throw my hart a³ stound,
 That evir did stenzie⁴ thy fair flesche innocent,
 So that no pairt of my body be sound,
 Bot crying The mercy, and lasar to repent. 160

Off all thir synnis that I did heir expreme,⁵
 And als⁶ forjet, to The, Lord ! I me schryif,
 Appeling fra thy justice court extreme
 Vnto thy court of mercy exvltif;⁷
 Thow mak my schip in blissit port to arryif, 165
 That sailis⁸ heir in stormis violent,
 And saif⁹ me, Jesu ! for thy woundis fyve,
 That cryis The mercy, and lasar to repent.

Finis quod Dumbar.¹⁰

¹ M. on me vnmenzeit be.

² M. feiling.

³ M. to.

⁴ M. stryk.

⁵ M. expremitt.

⁶ M. hes.

⁷ M. exultyve ; B. exvlyif.

⁸ M. fallis.

⁹ M. sauf.

¹⁰ M. Heir endis ane Confessioun generale compylit be Maister
 Williame Dumbar.

X.

[RORATE CELI DESUPER.]

RORATE celi desuper !
 Hevins distill 3our balmy schouris,
 For now is rissin the bricht day ster,
 Fro the ross Mary, flour of flouris :
 The cleir Sone, quhome no clud devouris, 5
 Surmunting Phebus in the est,
 Is cumin of his hevinly touris ;
 Et nobis Puer¹ natus est.

Archangellis, angelis, and dompnationis,
 Tronis, potestatis, and marteiris seir, 10
 And all 3e hevinly operationis,
 Ster, planeit, firmament, and speir,
 Fyre, erd, air, and watter cleir,
 To him gife loving, most and lest,
 That come in to so meik maneir ; 15
 Et nobis Puer natus est.

Synnaris be glaid, and pennance do,
 And thank your Maker hairtfully ;
 For he that 3e mycht nocht cum to,
 To 3ow is cumin full humly, 20
 Your saulis with his blud to by,
 And louss 3ow of the feindis arrest,
 And only of his awin mercy ;
 Pro nobis Puer natus est.

¹ B. power.

All clergy do to him inclyne, 25
 And bow vnto that barne benyng,
 And do your obseruance devyne
 To him that is of kingis King ;
 Ensence his altar, reid, and sing
 In haly kirk, with mynd degest, 30
 Him honouring attour all thing,
 Qui nobis Puer natus est.

Celestiall fowlis in the are
 Sing with your nottis vpoun hicht ;
 In firthis and in forrestis fair 35
 Be myrthfull now, at all your mycht,
 For passit is your dully nycht ;
 Aurora hes the cluddis perst,
 The son is rissin with glaidsum lycht,
 Et nobis Puer natus est. 40

Now spring vp flouris fra the rute,
 Reuert 3ow vpwart naturally,
 In honour of the blissit frute
 That raiss vp fro the rose Mary ;
 Lay out your levis lustely, 45
 Fro deid tak lyfe now at the lest
 In wirschip of that Prince wirthy,
 Qui nobis Puer natus est.

Syng hevin imperiall, most of hicht,
 Regions of air mak armony ; 50
 All fishe in flud and foull of flicht,
 Be myrthfull and mak melody :
 All GLORIA IN EXCELSIS cry,
 Hevin, erd, se, man, bird, and best,
 He that is crownit abone the sky 55
 Pro nobis Puer natus est.

I.

[MEMENTO, HOMO, QUOD CINIS ES!]

MEMENTO, homo, quod cinis es!
 Think, man, thow art bot erd and ass!
 Lang heir to dwell na thing thow press,
 For as thow come sa sall thow pass,
 Lyk as ane schaddow in ane glass; 5
 Hyne glydis¹ all thy tyme that heir is.
 Think, thocht thy bodye ware of brass,
 Quod tu in cinerem reuerteris.

Worthye Hector and Hercules,
 Forcye Achill and strong Sampson, 10
 Alexander of grit nobilnes,
 Meik² Daid and fair Absolone
 Hes playit thair pairtis,³ and all are gone
 At will of God⁴ that all thing steiris:
 Think, man, exceptioun thair is none, 15
 Sed tu in cinerem reuerteris.

Thocht now thow⁵ be maist glaid of cheir,
 Fairest and plesandest of port;
 3it may thow be, within ane 3eir,
 Ane vgsum, vglye⁶ tramort; 20
 Ane sen thow knawis thy tyme is schort,
 And in all houre thy lyfe⁷ in weir is,
 Think, man, amang all vthir sport,
 Quod tu in cinerem reuerteris.

¹ M. gais.² M. King.³ M. past thair tyme.⁴ M. him.⁵ M. thow now.⁶ M. horrible.⁷ M. dait.

Thy lustye bewte and thy ȝouth 25
 Sall feid¹ as dois the somer² flouris ;
 Syne sall the swallow³ with his mouth
 The dragone Death [that all devouris.]⁴
 No castell sall the keip, nor touris,
 Bot he sall seik⁵ the with thy feiris ; 30
 Thairfore, remembir at all houris
 Quod tu in cinerem reuerteris.

Thocht all this warld thow did possaid,
 Nocht eftir death thow sall possess,
 Nor with the tak, bot thy guid deid, 35
 Quhen thow dois fro this warld the dres.⁶
 So speid the, man, and the confes,
 With humill hart and sobir teiris,⁷
 And sadlye in thy hart inpres
 Quod tu in cinerem reuerteris. 40

Thocht thow be taklit nevir so sure
 Thow sall in deathis port arryve,
 Quhair nocht for tempest may indure,
 Bot ferslye all to speiris [dryve].⁸
 Thy Ransonner,⁹ with woundis¹⁰ fyve, 45
 Mak thy plycht anker and thy steiris,
 To hald thy saule with him on lyve,
 Cum¹¹ tu in cinerem reuerteris.

Finis quod Dumbar.

¹ M. faid.

² M. symmer.

³ M. he swellic.

⁴ M. The dragoun deith that all devouris.

⁵ M. feche.

⁶ M. fra the cuntre dress.

⁷ M. Tak this to spur the quhen thow sueiris.

⁸ M. freshlie all to spymis dryff.

⁹ M. ransoun.

¹⁰ M. his woundis.

¹¹ M. Quod.

“ Evirmair vnto this warldis¹ joy
 As nerrest air succeidis noy;
 Thairfoir, quhen joy ma nocht remane,
 His verry air succeidis pane.”

“ Heir helth returnis in seikness 25
 And mirth returnis in haviness,
 Toun in desert, forrest in plane :
 All erdly¹ joy returnis in pane.”

“ Fredome returnis in wrechitness,
 And trewth returnis in dowbilness, 30
 With fenzeit² wordis to mak³ men fane :
 All erdly¹ joy returnis in pane.”

“ Vertew returnis in-to vyce,
 And honour in-to avaryce ;
 With cuvatyce is consciens slane : 35
 All erdly joy returnis in pane.”

“ Sen erdly joy abydis nevir,
 Wirk for the joy that lestis evir ;
 For vder joy is all bot vane :
 All erdly¹ joy returnis in pane.” 40

Quod Dumbar.

¹ M. warldlie.

² M. feynzeand.

³ M. and makis.

XIII.

[TIDINGS FROM THE SESSION.]

A NE mvrlandis man of vplandis mak
 At hame thus to his nychtbour spak,
 “Quhat tydingis gossep, peax or weir?”
 The tother rownit¹ in [his eir,]²
 “I tell 3ow this vndir confessioun, 5
 Bot laitle lichtit of my meir,
 I come of Edinburch fra the Sessioun.”

“Quhat tythingis hard 3e thair, I pray 3ow?”
 The tother answerit, “I sall say 3ow,
 Keip this all³ secreit, gentill brother;⁴ 10
 Is na man thair that trestis⁵ ane vther:
 Ane commoun doar of transgressioun
 Of innocent folkis prevenis a futher:
 Sic tydingis⁶ hard I at the Sessioun.”

Sum with his fallow rownis him to pleiss 15
 That wald for invy⁷ byt of his neiss;
 His fa sum by⁸ the oxstar leidis;
 Sum patteris with his mowth on beidis,
 That hes his mynd all on oppressioun;
 Sum beikis full law⁹ and schawis bair heidis, 20
 Wald luke full heich war not the Sessioun.

¹ M. R. vther roundit.² B. heir.³ M. in.⁴ M. brudir.⁵ M. trestis; R. thair trowis.⁶ M. R. tythandis.⁷ M. R. anger.⁸ M. R. be.⁹ M. R. laich.

Sum bydand the¹ law layis land in wed ;
 Sum super expendit² gois to his bed ;
 Sum speidis, for he in court hes menis ;
 Sum of parcialitie complenis,³ 25
 How feid and favour flemis discretioun ;
 Sum speiks full fair, and falsly fenis :
 Sic tythings hard⁴ I at the Sessioun.

Sum castis summondis, and sum exceptis ;
 Sum standis besyd and skaild law keppis ; 30
 Sum is continwit, sum wynniss, sum tynis ;
 Sum makis him mirry at the wynis ;
 Sum is put owt of his possessioun ;
 Sum herreit, and on creddens dynis :
 Sic tydingis hard I at the Sessioun. 35

Sum sweiris, and⁵ forsaikis God ;
 Sum in ane lamb skin is ane tod ;
 Sum in his toung his kyndnes tursis ;
 Sum cuttis⁶ throttis, and sum pykis⁷ pursis ;
 Sum gois to gallouss⁸ with processioun ; 40
 Sum sanis the Sait, and sum thame cursis :
 Sic tydings hard I at the Sessioun.

Religious men of diuerss placis
 Cumis thair to wow and se fair facis ;
 Baith Carmeleitis and Cordilleris 45
 Cumis thair to genner and get ma¹ freiris,
 And ar vnmyndfull⁹ of thair professioun ;
 The 3ungar at the eldar leiris :
 Sic tydingis hard I at the Sessioun.

¹ M. R. omits.³ M. R. Of parcialite sum complenis.⁵ M. R. and sum. ⁶ M. R. kervis.⁸ M. R. To gallows sum gais.² M. R. superspendit.⁴ M. tythandis herd.⁷ M. R. cuttis.⁹ M. R. As is the use.

Thair cumis 3ung monkis of he¹ complexioun, 50
Of devoit mynd, lue, and affectioun ;
And in the courte thair hait² flesche dantis,
Full faderlyk, with pechis and pantis ;
Thay ar so humill of intercessioun,
All mercyfull wemen thair eirandis grantis : 55
Sic tydings hard I at the Sessioun.

Finis quod Dumbar.

¹ M. R. het.

² M. R. proud.

XIV.

[DEVORIT WITH DREME, DEVYSING IN
MY SLUMMER.]

DEVORIT with dreme, devysing in my slummer,
 How that this realme, with nobillis owt of nummer,
 Gydit, provydit sa mony 3eiris hes bene ;
 And now sic hunger, sic cowartis, and sic cummer
 Within this land was nevir hard nor sene. 5

Sic pryd with prellattis, so few till¹ preiche and pray ;
 Sic hant of harlettis with thame bayth nicht and day,
 That sowld haif ay thair God afoir² thair ene ;
 So nyce array, so strange to thair abbay,
 Within this land was nevir hard nor sene. 10

So mony preistis cled vp in secular weid,
 With blasing breistis casting thair clathis³ on breid,
 It is no neid to tell of quhome I mene ;
 So quhene the Psalme⁴ and Testament to⁵ reid
 Within this land was nevir hard nor sene. 15

So mony maisteris, so mony guckit clerkis,
 So mony westaris to God and all his warkis,
 So fyry sparkis, of dispyt fro the splene,
 Sic losin sarkis, so mony glengoir markis
 Within this land was nevir hard nor sene. 20

¹ 2 B. to.² 2 B. befoir.³ 2 B. clais.⁴ 2 B. Psalmes.⁵ 2 B. for to.

Sa mony lordis, so mony naturall fulis,
 That better accordis to play thame at the trulis,
 Nor seiss the dulis that commonis dois sustene ;
 New tane fra sculis, sa mony anis and mvlis
 Within this land was nevir hard nor sene. 25

Sa mekle tressone, sa mony partiall sawis,
 Sa littill ressone to help the commoun cawis,
 That all the lawis ar not sett by ane bene ;¹
 Sic fenzeit flawis, sa mony waistit wawis
 Within this warld² was nevir hard nor sene. 30

Sa mony theivis and mvrdereris³ weill kend,
 Sa grit relevis of lordis thame to defend,
 Becawis the⁴ spend the pelf thame betwene ;
 So few till wend this mischief till⁵ amend,
 Within this land was nevir hard nor sene. 35

This to correct, thay schoir with mony crakkis,
 Bot littill effect of speir or battar⁶ ax,
 Quhen curage lakkis the corss that sowld mak kene ;
 Sa mony jakkis, and brattis on beggaris bakkis,
 Within this land was nevir hard nor sene. 40

Sic vant of wostouris⁷ with hairtis in sinfull staturis,
 Sic brallaris and bosteris, degenerat fra⁸ thair naturis,
 And sic regratouris, the peure men to prevene ;
 Sa mony tratouris, sa mony rubeatouris,
 Within this land was nevir hard nor sene. 45

Sa mony jugeis and lordis now maid⁹ of lait,
 Sa small refugeis¹⁰ the peur man to debait,
 Sa mony estait, for commoun weill sa quhene ;
 Ouir all the gait sa mony thevis sa tait
 Within this land was nevir hard nor sene. 50

¹ 2 B. prene.² 2 B. land.³ 2 B. mvrderis.⁴ 2 B. thai.⁵ 2 B. to.⁶ 2 B. battell.⁷ 2 B. vestouris.⁸ 2 B. degerat frat.⁹ 2 B. maid now.¹⁰ 2 B. refuge.

Sa mony ane sentence retreitit, for to win
 Geir and ¹ acquentance, or kyndnes of thair kin,
 They think no sin, quhair proffeit cumis betwene ;
 Sa mony ane gin to haist thame to the pin,
 Within this land was nevir hard nor sene. 55

Sic knavis and crakkaris to play at cartis and dyce,
 Sic halland² schekkaris, quhilk at Cowkelbyis gryce
 Ar haldin of pryce, quhen lymmaris dois convene ;
 Sic stoir of vyce, sa mony wittis vnwyce
 Within this land was nevir hard nor sene. 60

Sa mony merchandis, sa mony ar mensworne,
 Sa peur tennandis, sic cursing evin and morne,
 Quhilk slayis the corne and fruct that growis grene ;
 Sic skaith and scorne, so mony paitlattis worne
 Within this land was nevir hard nor sene. 65

Sa mony rakkettis, sa mony ketcche-pillaris,
 Sic ballis, sic nackettis, and sic tutivillaris,
 And sic evill-willaris to speik of king and quene ;
 Sic pudding-fillaris, discending down frome millaris,
 Within this land was nevir hard nor sene. 70

Sic fartingailis on³ flaggis als fatt as quhailis,
 Facit lyk fulis with hattis that littill availis,
 And sic fowill tailis, to sweip the calsay clene,
 The dust vpskaillis ; so⁴ mony fillok with fuck sailis
 Within this land was nevir hard nor sene. 75

Sa mony ane Kittie, drest vp with goldin chenȝe,
 So few witty, that weill can fabillis fenȝe,
 With apill renȝe ay schawand hir goldin⁵ chene ;
 Off⁶ Sathanis senȝie syne sic ane vnsall⁷ menȝie
 Within this land was nevir hard nor sene. 80

Finis quod Dumbar.

¹ 2 B. or.

² 2 B. heland.

³ 2 B. with.

⁴ 2 B. omits so.

⁵ 2 B. semble.

⁶ 2 B. As.

⁷ 2 B. wmsall.

XV.

[IN ASKING SOWLD DISCRETIOUN BE.]

OFF every¹ asking followis nocht
 Rewaird, bot gif sum caus war² wrocht;
 And quhair causs is, men weill³ ma sie,⁴
 And quhair nane⁵ is, it wilbe thocht
 In asking sowld discretioun be. 5

Ane fule, thocht⁶ he haif causs or nane,
 Cryis ay, Gif me, in to a drene;⁷
 And he that dronis ay⁸ as ane bee
 Sowld haif ane heirar dull as⁹ stane :
 In asking sowld discretioun be. 10

Sum askis¹⁰ mair than he deservis;¹¹
 Sum askis far les¹² than he servis;
 Sum schames to ask, as¹³ braidis of me,
 And all withowt reward he¹⁴ stervis :¹⁵
 In asking sowld discretioun be. 15

To ask but seruice hurtis gud fame;
 To ask for seruice is not to blame;

¹ M. R. Eftir everie.² M. R. be.³ 2 B. R. omits.⁴ M. R. be thair causs, as men may see.⁵ M. be thair nane.⁶ M. R. quhidder.⁷ M. Cryis gif me, gif me, in-till a rane; 2 B. ane drane; R. a rame.⁸ M. R. on. ⁹ 2 B. as ane.¹⁰ M. R. gifis.¹¹ 2 B. desyris.¹² 2 B. askis less.¹³ 2 B. R. M. and breidis.¹⁴ 2 B. withowt gwerdoun.¹⁵ M. R. within his guardoun servis.

To serve and leif in beggartie
 To man and maistir is baith schame :
 In asking sowld discretion be.¹ 20

He that dois² all his best servyiss³
 May spill it all⁴ with crakkis and cryis,
 Be fowll inoportunitie ;⁵
 Few wordis may serve⁶ the wyis :
 In asking sowld discretioun be. 25

Nocht neidfull is men sowld be dum;⁷
 Na⁸ thing is gottin⁹ but wordis sum ;
 Nocht sped¹⁰ but diligence we se ;
 For nathing it allane will cum :
 In asking sowld discretioun be. 30

Asking wald haif convenient place,
 Convenient tyme, lasar, and space,
 But haist or¹¹ preiss of grit menzie,
 But hairt abasit, but toung rekless :¹²
 In asking sowld discretion be. 35

Sum micht haif ze, with littill cure,
 That hes oft nay, with grit labour ;
 All for that¹³ tyme not byd can he,
 He tynis baith eirand and honour :
 In asking sowld discretion be.¹⁴ 40

¹ M. R. omit ll. 16-20.² M. R. makis.³ M. R. maist servuice.⁴ M. R. He may it tyne.⁵ M. R. In fulishe oportunitie.⁶ 2 B. may suffice to ; R. suffice be.⁷ M. R. in asking, that men be dum.⁸ M. R. For no.⁹ 2 B. wone.¹⁰ M. R. Now speche.¹¹ 2 B. M. but.¹² M. rekles or toung abasit.¹³ 2 B. his.

M. R. for this stanza has—

Sum hes so muche, he takis no cuire,
 That of the wyning tak no laboure :
 Bot for his tyme no mor hes he ;
 He tynnis baith eirand and honure :
 In asking suld discretion be.

Suppois the servand be lang vnquit,¹
 The lord sumtyme rewaird will it ;²
 Gife he dois not, quhat remedy?
 To fecht³ with fortoun is⁴ no wit :
 In asking sowld discretioun be.

45

*Finis of Asking.*⁵

¹ R. vnservit.

² 2 B. rewardis it ; M. R. Sum tyme the maister will rewaird it.

³ M. flyte ; R. flytt. ⁴ R. it is. ⁵ 2 B. Endis discretioun in Asking.

XVI.

[OF DISCRETIOUN IN GEVING.]

TO speik of gift¹ or almouss deidis ;
 Sum gevis for mereit and for² meidis ;
 Sum wardly honour to vphie
 Gevis³ to thame that no thing neidis :
 In geving sowld discretioun be. 5

Sum gevis for pryd and glory vane ;
 Sum gevis with grugeing⁴ and with pane ;
 Sum gevis in⁵ practik for supple ;⁶
 Sum gevis for twyiss als gud⁷ agane :
 In geving sowld discretioun be. 10

Sum gevis for thank, sum [for] chereitie ;⁸
 Sum gevis money, and⁹ sum gevis meit ;
 Sum gevis wordis fair and sle ;
 Giftis¹⁰ fra sum ma na¹¹ man treit :
 In giving sowld discretioun be. 15

Sum is for gift sa lang requyrd,¹²
 Quhill that¹³ the crevar be so tyrd¹⁴
 That, or¹⁵ the gift deliuerit be,

¹ M. R. giftis.² M. R. sum for.³ M. R. Sum giffis.⁴ 2 B. R. grunching ; M. grwnsching.⁵ 2 B. on ; M. R. for.⁶ M. R. and supplie.⁷ 2 B. als mekle.⁸ 2 B. and sum for cherite ; M. R. and sum for threit.⁹ 2 B. R. omits.¹⁰ M. And giftis.¹¹ M. can no ; R. can na.¹² M. for his giftis sa lang requirit ; R. for his gift.¹³ 2 B. omits.¹⁴ M. R. the perseware be so tyrit.¹⁵ M. ar.

The thank is frustrat and expyrd :¹
In geving suld discretioun be. 20

Sum gevis to littill full² wretchitly,
That his giftis ar not set by,
And for a huidpyk³ haldin is hie,
That all the warld cryis on him fy:
In geving sowld discretioun be.⁴ 25

Sum in his geving is so large,
That⁵ all ourlaidin⁶ is his barge ;
Than vyce and⁷ prodigalite
Thairof his honour dois⁸ discharge :
In geving sowld discretioun be. 30

Sum to the riche gevis geir,⁹
That micht his giftis weill forbeir ;
And thocht the peur for falt sowld de,
[H]is cry nocht enteris in his eir :
In geving sowld discretioun be. 35

Sum givis to strangeris with face new,¹⁰
That yisterday fra Flanderis flew ;
And to awld serwandis list not se,¹¹
War thay nevir¹² of sa grit vertew :
In geving sowld discretioun be. 40

Sum gevis to thame can ask and plenzie ;¹³
Sum gevis to thame can flattir and fenzie ;¹⁴
Sum gevis to men of honestie,
And haldis all janglaris at disdenzie :
In geving sowld discretioun be. 45

¹ M. R. expyrit.² 2 B. and full ; R. so litle and.³ 2 B. for sic hudipyk ; R. so grit ane hudepyk.⁴ M. omits ll. 21-25, and M. R. 31-35.⁵ 2 B. M. Quhill.⁶ M. ourlaydynnit.⁷ R. Throw want and.⁸ 2 B. omits.⁹ 2 B. his geir.¹⁰ M. R. and faces.¹¹ M. will not pay auld seruandis fee.¹² M. R. Thocht thai be never.¹³ M. flattir and feinze.¹⁴ M. R. craftlie pleinze.

Sum gettis giftis and riche arrayis,
 To sweir all that his maister sayis,
 Thocht all the contrair weill knawis hie ;¹
 Ar mony sic now in thir dayis :²
 In geving sowld discretioun be. 50

Sum gevis gud men³ for thair [thewis ;]⁴
 Sum gevis to trumpouris and to schrewis ;
 Sum gevis to [knaiffis]⁵ awtoritie ;
 Bot in thair office gude fundin few is :
 In geving sowld discretioun be. 55

Sum givis parrochynniss⁶ full wyd,
 Kirkis of Sanct Barnard and Sanct Bryd,
 To teiche, to rewill and to ouirsie,⁷
 That he na wit hes thame⁸ to gyd :
 In geving sowld discretioun be. 60

Finis of Discretioun of Geving.

¹ M. R. he ken weill the contrarie.

² M. R. So is thair mony now a dayis.

³ M. R. to gude men.

⁴ B. gud kewis.

⁵ B. knaw his ; R. kneavis.

⁶ M. parochounis.

⁷ M. R. The peple to teche and oursee.

⁸ M. hes na witt thame-selffe.

XVII.

[OF DISCRETIOUN IN TAKING.]

EFTIR geving I¹ speik of taking,
 Bot littill of ony gud forsàiking:²
 Sum takkis our littill awtoritie,
 And sum our mekle, and that is glaiking:
 In taking sowld discretioun be. 5

The³ clerkis takis beneficis with brawlis,
 Sum of Sanct Petir, and sum of Sanct Pawlis;
 Tak⁴ he the rentis, no cair hes⁵ he,
 Suppois the diuill tak all thair sawlis:
 In taking sowld discretioun be. 10

Barronis⁶ takis fra the tennentis peure
 All fruct that growis on the feure,⁷
 In mailis and gersomes rasit ouir hie,⁸
 And garris thame beg fra dur to dure:
 In taking sowld discretioun be. 15

[Thir merchantis takis vnlesum win,
 Quhilk makis thair pakkis oftymes full thin,
 Be thair successioun 3e may see
 That ill-won geir riches not the kin:
 In taking suld discretioun be.]⁹ 20

¹ M. R. we will. ² M. R. na gude giftis. ³ M. R. Thir. ⁴ M. R. Sett.

⁶ M. R. na cure giffis.

⁶ M. Thir baronis; R. Thir barrounes.

⁷ M. R. in the fure.

⁸ M. R. gressowmes ar rasit so hie.

⁹ Additional stanza from M. MS. It is also in R. MS.

Sum takis vthir menis takkis,
 And on¹ the peure oppressioun makkis,
 And nevir remembris that he mon die,
 Quhill² that the gallowis gar him rax :
 In taking sowld discretioun be. 25

Sum takis be sie and be³ land,
 And nevir fra taking can hald thair⁴ hand,
 Quhill he be tit vp to⁵ ane tre ;
 And syne⁶ thay gar him vndirstand
 In taking sowld discretioun be. 30

Sum wald tak all his nychbouris geir,
 Had he of man als littill feir
 As he hes dreid that God⁷ him see ;
 To tak than sowld he nevir⁸ forbeir :
 In taking sowld discretioun be. 35

Sum wald tak all this warldis breid,⁹
 And 3it not satisfeid of thair neid,¹⁰
 Throw hairt vnsatiable and gredie ;
 Sum wald tak littill, and can not speid :
 In taking sowld discretioun be. 40

Grit men for taking and oppressioun
 Ar sett full famous at the Sessioun,
 And peur¹¹ takaris ar hangit hie,
 Schamit¹² for evir and thair successioun :
 In taking sowld discretioun be. 45

Finis quod Dumbar.

¹ M. R. to.

² z B. Quhilk.

³ M. R. pairt be.

⁴ M. R. parte fra taking can not hold his.

⁵ M. R. titt vp on.

⁶ M. R. than. ⁷ M. R. dois God quha dois.

⁸ M. R. it all he wald not.

⁹ M. R. warld on breid.

¹⁰ M. not 3it can be satisfeid.

¹¹ M. R. Quhair small.

¹² M. That ar schamit ; R. Thai ar schameit.

XVIII.

[MUSING ALLONE THIS HINDER NICHT.]

MUSING allone this hinder nicht,
 Of mirry day quhen gone was licht,
 Within ane garth vndir a tre,
 I hard ane voce, that said on hicht,
 May na man now vndemit be.

5

For thocht I be¹ ane crownit king,
 3it sall² I not eschew deming;
 Sum callis me guid, sum sayis I lie,³
 Sum cravis of⁴ God to end my ring,
 So sall⁵ I not vndemit be.

10

Be I ane lord, and not lord lyk,
 Than every pelour and purspyk
 Sayis, Land war¹ bettir warit on me;
 Thocht he dow not to leid a tyk,
 3it can he not lat deming be.

15

Be I ane lady fresche and fair,
 With gentill⁶ men makand repair,
 Than will thay say, baith scho and hie,
 That I am jaipit lait and air;
 Thus sall I not vndemit be.

20

¹ M. wer.² M. 3it sould.³ M. thai le.⁴ M. praxis to.⁵ M. Thus can.⁶ M. plesand.

Be [I] ane courtman or ane knycht,
 Honestly cled that cumis me richt,¹
 Ane prydfull man than call thay me ;
 Bot God send thame a widdy wicht,
 That can not lat sic demyng be. 25

Be I bot littill of stature,
 Thay call me catyve createure ;
 And be I grit of quantetie,
 Thay call me monstrowis of nature ;
 Thus can I not vndemit be. 30

And be I ornat in my speiche,
 Than Towsy sayis, I am sa streiche,
 I speik not lyk thair houss menzie.
 Suppois hir mouth misteris a leiche,
 3it can I not vndemit be. 35

Bot wist thir folkis that vthir demiss,
 How that thair sawis to vthir semiss,
 Thair vicious wordis and vanitie,
 Thair tratling tungis that all furth temiss,
 Sum wald lat thair demyng be. 40

[War nocht the mater wald grow the mair,
 To wirk vengeance on ane demar ;
 But dout I wald caus mony de,
 And mony cative end in cair,
 Or sum tyme² lat thair deming be.]³ 45

Gude James the Ferd, our nobill king,
 Quhen that he was of yeiris ying,
 In sentens said full subillie,
 " Do weill, and sett not by demying,
 For no man sall vndemit be." 50

¹ M. eftir my mycht.² 2 M. or than they wald.³ From M. MS.

And so I sall, with Goddis grace,
Keip his command in to that cace ;
Beseiking ay the Trinitie,
In hevin that I may haif ane place,
For thair sall no man demit be.

55

Finis quod Dumbar.

XIX.

[HOW SOWLD I REWILL ME, OR
QUHAT WYISS.]

HOW sowld I rewill me, or¹ quhat wyiss,
 I wald sum wyisman wald dewyiss;
 I can not² leif in no degre,
 Bot sum will my maneris dispyiss.³
 Lord God, how sall⁴ I governe me? 5

Gif I be galland, lusty and blyth,
 Than will thay say on me full swyth,
 That owt of mynd 3one man is hie,⁵
 Or sum hes done him confort kyth.
 Lord God, how sall⁴ I governe me? 10

Gife I be sorrowfull and sad,
 Than will thay say that I am mad;
 I do bot drowp as I wald die,
 Thus⁶ will thay say,⁷ baith man and lad.
 Lord God, how sall⁴ I governe me? 15

[Be I liberall, gentill and kynd
 Thocht I it tak of nobill strynd,
 3it will thai say, baythe he and he,
 3on man is lyke out of his mynd :
 Lord God, how sall I gowerne me?]⁸ 20

¹ M. R. or in. ² M. R. Sen I can. ³ M. R. my maneris will despyss.

⁴ M. R. sould. ⁵ M. R. 3on man out of his mind is he. ⁶ M. So; R. Sa.

⁷ M. R. thai deyme. ⁸ Additional stanza from M. MS. It is also in R. MS.

Gife I be lusty in¹ array,
 Than lue I parramouris thay say,²
 Or in my hairt³ is prowde and hie,
 Or ellis I haif it sum wrang way.⁴
 Lord God, how sall I governe me? 25

Gif I⁵ be nocht weill als⁶ besene,
 Than twa and twa sayis thame betwene,
 That evill he gydis 3one man trewlie;⁷
 Lo! be his claithis⁸ it may be sene.
 Lord God, how sall I governe me? 30

Gif I be sene in court ouir lang,
 Than will thay myrmour⁹ thame amang,
 My freyndis ar not worth a fle,
 That I sa lang but [guerdon]¹⁰ gang.
 Lord God, how sall I governe me? 35

In court rewaird than purchess I,¹¹
 Than haif thay malyce and invy,
 And secretly thay on me¹² lie,
 And dois me hinder prevely.¹³
 Lord God, how sall I governe me? 40

I wald my gyding war diwysit;¹⁴
 Gif I spend littill I am despysit;
 Gif I be nobill, gentill¹⁵ and fre,
 A prodigall man I am so¹⁶ prysit.
 Lord God, how sall I governe me? 45

¹ M. R. in myne. ² M. R. say thay. ³ M. R. mynd. ⁴ M. R. omit l. 24.

⁵ M. And gif. ⁶ M. R. omit. ⁷ M. R. Euill gydit is 3on man parde.

⁸ M. R. Be his clething. ⁹ M. R. quhispir.

¹⁰ B. reward. ¹¹ M. R. And gif sum tyme rewarde gif I.

¹² M. R. on me thai. ¹³ M. R. sklandir privaly.

¹⁴ M. R. How sould my gyding be devysit. ¹⁵ M. R. Be I courtas nobill.

¹⁶ M. R. than am I.

Now juge thay me baith guid¹ and ill,
And I may no mans tung² hald still;
To do the best my mynd salbe,
Latt every man say quhat he will.
The gracious God mot governe me.

50

Finis quod Dumbar.

¹ M. Sen all is jugit bayth gud.

² M. No manniss toung I may.

XX.

[TO DWELL IN COURT, MY FREIND.]

TO dwell in court, my freind, gife that thou list,
 For gift of fortoun invy thou no degre;
 Behold and heir, and lat thy tung tak rest,
 In mekle speic[h]e¹ is part of vanitie;
 And for no malyce preiss the nevyr to lie; 5
 Als trubill nevyr thy self, sone, be no tyd,
 Vthiris to rewill,² that will not rewlit be:
 He rewlis weill, that weill him self can gyd.

Bewar quhome to thy counsale thou discure,
 Ffor trewth dwellis nocht ay for that trewth appeiris: 10
 Put not thyne honour into aventure;
 Ane freind may be thy fo as fortoun steiris:
 In cumpany cheiss honorable feiris,
 And fra vyle folkis draw the far on syd;
 The Psalme sayis, Cum sancto sanctus eiris: 15
 He rewlis weill, that weill him self can gyd.

Haif pacience thocht thou no lordschip posseid,
 For hie vertew may stand in law estait;
 Be thou content, of mair thou hes no neid;
 And be thou nocht, desyre sall mak debait 20
 Evirmoir, till deth say to the than chakmait:
 Thocht all war thyne this warld within so wyd,
 Quha can resist the serpent of dispyt?
 He rewlis weill, that weill him self can gyd.

¹ B. speice.² B. reiwll.

Ffle frome the fallowschip of sic as ar defamit, 25
 And fra all fals tungis fulfild with flattry,
 Als fra all schrewis, or ellis thow art eschamit ;
 Sic art thow callit as is thy cumpany :
 Fle perrellus taillis foundit of invy ;
 With wilfull men, son, argown thow no tyd, 30
 Quhome no resson may seiss nor pacify :
 He rewlis weill, that weill him self can gyd.

And be thow not ane roundar in the nwke,
 For, gif thow be, men will hald the suspect :
 Be nocht in countenance ane skornar, nor by luke, 35
 Bot dowl siclyk sall stryk the in the neck :
 Be war also to counsall or coreck
 Him that extold hes far him self in pryde :
 Quhair parrell is but proffeit or effect,
 He rewlis weill, that weill him self can gyd. 40

And sen thow seyis mony thingis variand,
 With all thy hart treit bissines and cure ;
 Hald God thy freind, evir stabill be him stand,
 He will the confort in all misaventure ;
 And be no wayis dispytfull to the peure, 45
 Nor to no man to wrang at ony tyd :
 Quho so dois this, sicker I 3ow assure,
 He rewlis weill, that sa weill him can gyd.

Finis quod Dumbar.

XXI.

[QUHOME TO SALL I COMPLENE MY WO.]

QUHOME to sall I complene my wo,
 And kyth my kairis on¹ or mo?
 I knaw nocht, amang riche nor pure,
 Quha is my freynd, quha is my fo;
 For in this warld may non assure.

5

Lord, how sall I my dayis dispone?
 For lang seruice rewarde is none,
 And schort my lyfe may heir indure,
 And lossit is my tyme bygone:²
 Into this warld ma none assure.

10

Oft falsett rydis with ane rowt,
 Quhen trewth gois on his fute abowt,
 And lak of spending dois him spur;
 Thus quhat to do I am in dowl:
 In to this warld ma none assure.

15

Nane heir bot riche men hes renoun,
 And bot³ pure men ar pluckit doun,
 And nane bot⁴ just men tholis iniure;
 Sa⁵ wit is blindit and ressoun:
 In to⁶ this warld ma none assure.

20

¹ M. ane.² M. bigaine.³ M. R. omit.⁴ R. be.⁵ M. Swa.⁶ M. R. For in.

Vertew the court hes done dispyiss ;
 Ane rebald to renoun dois ryiss,
 And cairlis of nobillis hes the cure,
 And bumbardis brukis the benifyiss :
 Into¹ this warld may none assure. 25

All gentrice and nobiltie²
 Ar passit out of he degre ;
 On fredome is laid³ foirfaltour ;
 In princis is thair no pety ;
 For⁴ in this warld may none assure. 30

Is non so armit in-to plait
 That can fra truble him debait ;
 May no man lang in welth indure,
 For wo that evir lyis⁵ at the wait :
 Into¹ this warld may none assure. 35

Flattry⁶ weiris ane furrir gown,
 And falsett with the lord⁷ dois roun,
 And trewth standis barrit at the dure,
 And exul is⁸ of the toun :
 In to¹ this warld may none assure. 40

Fra everilk⁹ mowth fair wirdis proceidis ;
 In every hairt disceptioun breidis ;
 Fra everylk⁹ E gois luke demure,
 Bot fra the handis gois few gud deidis :
 Into¹⁰ this warld may none assure. 45

Toungis now are maid of quhyte quhail bone,
 And hairtis ar maid of hard flynt stone,
 And ene of amiable blyth asure,¹¹

¹ M. R. So in.

² R. nobilitie.

³ M. led ; R. hed falture.

⁴ R. So.

⁵ M. lyis evir.

⁶ M. Flattire.

⁷ R. lordis.

⁸ M. R. Exylit is honour.

⁹ M. R. everie.

¹⁰ R. Sua in.

¹¹ M. R. eyn ar maid of blew asure.



And handis of adamant laith to dispone :
 Into this warld may none assure. 50

3it hairt with hand¹ and body, all
 Mon answer deth, quhen he dois call
 To compt befor the iuge future :
 Sen all ar deid, or than² de sall,
 Quha suld in to this warld assure? 55

No thing bot deth this schortly cravis,
 Quhair fortoun evir, as so, dissavis
 With freyndly smylingis of³ ane hure,
 Quhais fals behechtis as wind hyne wavis :
 Into⁴ this warld may none assure. 60

O ! quha sall weild the wrang possessioun,
 Or the gold gatherit⁵ with oppressioun,
 Quhen the angell blawis his bugill sture,
 Quhilk vnrestorit helpis no confessioun?
 Into this warld may none assure. 65

Quhat help is thair in lordschippis sevin,
 Quhen na houss is bot hell and hevin,
 Palice of licht, or pitt obscure,
 Quhair 3oulis ar hard with horreble stevin :
 In to this warld may none assure. 70

Vbi ardentis anime,
 Semper dicentes⁶ Ve ! Ve !
 Sall cry Allace ! that wemen thame bure,
 O quante sunt iste tenebre !
 In to this warld may none assure. 75

Than quho sall wirk for warldis wrak,
 Quhen flude and fyre sall our it frak,

¹ M. R. and handis.² M. R. omit.³ M. R. lyk.⁴ R. So in.⁵ M. R. gadderit gold.⁶ M. R. dicentes sunt.

And frely fruster feild and fure,
 With tempest kene and hiddouss crak?¹
 In to this warld may none assure.

80

Lord! sen in² tyme sa sone to cum
 De terra surrectourus sum,
 Reward me with non³ erdly⁴ cure,
 Tu regni da imperium:⁵
 In⁶ to this warld may non assure.

85

Finis quod Dumbar.

¹ M. R. thwndir crak. ² M. R. the. ³ R. me not with. ⁴ M. erthlie.

⁵ M. R. Bot me ressaue in regnum tuum. ⁶ M. R. Sen.

XXII.

[SCHIR, 3IT REMEMBIR AS OF BEFOIR.]

SCHIR, 3it¹ remembir as of befoir,
 How that my 3owth I² done forloir
 In 3our seruice, with pane and greif;
 Gud consciens cryis reward thairfoir;
 Excess of thocht dois me mischeif. 5

3our clerkis ar seruit all about,
 And I do lyk ane reid³ halk schout,
 To cum to lure that hes no leif,
 Quhair my plummyis⁴ begynis to brek out:⁵
 Excess of thocht dois me mischeif. 10

Fforsett is ay the falconis kynd,
 Bot euir the mittane⁶ is hard in mynd,
 Of quhome the gled dois prettikis preif;⁷
 The gentill goishalk gois⁸ vndynd:
 Excess of thocht dois me mischeif. 15

The pyet with hir pretty cot⁹
 Fen3eis to sing the nychtingalis not;
 Bot scho can nevir the corchat cleif,¹⁰
 Ffor harsknes of hir carlich¹¹ throt:
 Excess of thocht dois me mischeif. 20

¹ M. 3e. ² M. is. ³ M. rid. ⁴ M. plwmis. ⁵ M. mowt.

⁶ M. myttell. ⁷ M. Quhone the gled dois the peirtrikis preif.

⁸ B. The first two letters of *gois* are indistinct. ⁹ M. the pairtie cote.

¹⁰ M. not the corchet cheiff. ¹¹ M. carleche.

Ay farest faderis¹ hes farrest fowlis ;
 Suppois thay haif no sang bot 3oulis,
 In siluer caigis thai sit at cheif ;²
 Kynd natyve nest dois clek bot owlis :
 Excess of thocht dois me mischeif. 25

O gentill egill ! how may this be ?
 That³ of all fowlis dois heest fle,
 3our legis quhy will⁴ 3e nocht releif,
 And chereiss eftir thair degre ?
 Excess of thocht dois me mischeif. 30

Quhen seruit is all vdir man,
 Gentill and semple of euery clan,
 Kyne of Rauf Col3ard⁵ and Johnne the Reif,
 Na thing I get, na⁶ conquest than :
 Excess of thocht dois me mischeif. 35

Thocht I in court be maid refuss,
 And haif few vertewis for to russ,
 3it am I cumin⁷ of Adame and Eif,⁸
 And fane wald leif as vderis doiss ;
 Excess of thocht dois me mischeif. 40

Or I suld leif in sic mischance,
 Gife it to God war no grevance,
 To be a⁹ pykthank I wald preif,
 Ffor thay in warld wantis no plesans :
 Excess of thocht dois me mischeif. 45

In sum parte on¹⁰ my self I plen3e,
 Quhen vdir folkis¹¹ dois flattir and fen3e ;
 Allace ! I can bot ballattis breif,

¹ M. feddiris.² M. but grief.³ M. Quhilk.⁴ M. do.⁵ M. R. Of Coil3earis kynd.⁶ M. nor.⁷ M. cum.⁸ M. Eve.⁹ M. ane.¹⁰ M. of.¹¹ M. omits.

Sic bairneheid biddis¹ my brydill renze :
Excess of thocht dois me mischeif. 50

I grant my seruice¹ is bot licht ;
Thairfoir of mercy, and nocht of richt,
I ask 3ow, schir, no man to greif,
Sum medecyne gife that 3e nicht :
Excess of thocht dois me mischeif. 55

May nane² remeid my melady
Sa weill as 3e, schir, veraly;
Ffor³ with a benifice 3e may preif,
And gif I mend nocht hestely :
Excess of thocht dois me mischeif, 60

I wes in 3owth on nureiss kne,
Dandely,⁴ bischop, dandely,⁵
And quhen that ege now dois me greif,
Ane semple vicar I can nocht be :
Excess of thocht dois me mischeif. 65

Jok, that wes wont to keip the stirkis,
Can now draw him ane cleik of kirkis,
With ane fals cairt in to his sleif,
Worth all my ballattis vndir the birkis :
Excess of thocht dois me mischeif. 70

Twa curis or thre hes vpolandis Michell,
With dispensationis bund in⁶ knitchell,
Thocht he fra nolt had new tane leif ;
He playis with *totum* and I with *nichell* :
Excess of thocht dois me mischeif. 75

How suld I leif that is⁷ nocht landit,
Nor 3it with benifice am I³ blandit?

¹ M. leidis.² M. Nane can.³ M. omits.⁴ M. Cald dandelie.⁵ M. dandillie.⁶ M. in ane.⁷ M. and I.

I say nocht, schir, 3ow to repreif;
Bot doutles, I ga rycht neir hand it:
Excess of thocht dois me mischeif. 80

As saule is heir in¹ purgatory,
Leving² in pane and houp³ of glory,
Seand⁴ my self I haif⁵ beleif
In houp, schir, of 3our adiutory:
Excess of thocht dois me mischeif. 85

Ffinis quod Dumbar.

¹ M. into.

² M. Leifand.

³ M. with hoip.

⁴ M. So is.

⁵ M. 3e may.

XXIII.

HERMES THE PHILOSOPHER.

Be mirry and glaid, honest and vertewous,
Ffor that suffisis to anger the invyous.¹

BE mirry, man ! and tak nocht far in mynd
The wawering of this wrechit warld² of sorrow ;
To God be hvmill, and to thy freynd be kynd,
And with thy nychtbouris glaidly len and borrow ;
His chance to nycht it may be thyne to morrow. 5
Be blyth in hairt for ony aventure,
For oft with wysmen it¹ hes bene said aforrow,
Without glaidnes awailis no tressour.

Mak the gud cheir of it that God the sendis,
For warldis wrak but weilfair nocht awailis ;³ 10
Na gude is thyne saif only bot⁴ thow spendis,
Remenant all⁵ thow brukis bot with bailis ;
Seik⁶ to solace quhen sadnes the assailis,
In dolour lang thy lyfe ma nocht⁷ indure ;
Quhairfoir⁸ of confort set⁹ vp all thy sailis : 15
Without glaidnes availis no tresour.

Follow on petie,¹⁰ fle truble and debait ;
With famows folkis hald thy¹¹ cumpany ;

¹ M. omits.³ M. For welth but weilfair no-thing the avalis.⁵ M. The remenant.⁷ M. For lang in dolour thi dayis may no.⁹ M. pull.¹⁰ M. peiss.² M. vale.⁴ M. sauf only that.⁶ M. Seik thou.⁸ M. Thairfor.¹¹ M. the in.

Be charitabill and humyll¹ in thyne estait,
 For warldly honour² lestis bot a cry; 20
 For truble in erd tak no mallancoly;
 Be riche in patience, gif thow in gudis be pure;
 Quho levis mirry, he levis michtely:
 Without glaidnes availis no tresour.

Thow seis thir wrechis sett with sorrow and cair, 25
 To gaddir gudis in³ all thair lyvis space,
 And quhen thair baggis ar full thair selfis ar bair,⁴
 And of thair richness bot the keping hess;
 Quhill vthiris cum⁵ to spend it that hes grace,
 Quhilk of thy wynting no labour had nor⁶ cure; 30
 Tak thow example⁷ and spend with mirriness:⁸
 Without glaidnes availis no tresour.

Thocht all the werk⁹ that evir had levand wicht
 Wer only thyne no moir thy pairt dois fall,¹⁰
 Bot meit, drynk, clais,¹¹ and of the laif a sicht, 35
 3it to the iuge thow sall gif¹² compt of all;
 Ane raknyng rycht¹³ cumis of ane ragment small;
 Be just and joyws¹⁴ and do to non ingure,¹⁵
 And¹⁶ trewth sall mak the strang as ony wall:
 Without glaidness availis no tresure. 40

Quod Dumbar.

¹ M. meik.

² M. All warldlie plesour.

³ M. omits.

⁴ M. Thair baggis ar full, thair-self ar alwayis bair.

⁵ M. ane cum eftir.

⁶ M. tuik bot lytill.

⁷ M. Thairfor be glaid.

⁸ M. mirrie face.

⁹ M. wraik.

¹⁰ M. of it no more haue sall.

¹¹ M. and claithe.

¹² M. mak.

¹³ M. raiknyng ryche.

¹⁴ M. ioyous.

¹⁵ M. iniure.

¹⁶ M. Than.

XXIV.

[FULL OFT I MVSS AND HES IN THOCHT.]

FULL oft I mvss¹ and hes in thocht
 How this fals warld is ay on flocht,
 Quhair no thing ferme is nor degest;
 And quhen I haif my mynd all socht,
 For to be blyth me think it best. 5

This warld evir dois flicht and wary,²
 Ffortoun sa fast hir³ quheill dois cary;
 Na tyme bot turne can⁴ tak rest;
 For quhois fals change suld none be sary;
 Ffor to be blyth me think it best. 10

Wald men consididir in mynd⁵ richt weill,
 Or fortoun on him turn hir⁶ quheill,
 That erdly honour may nocht lest,
 His fall less panefull he suld⁷ feill;
 Ffor to be blyth me think it best. 15

Quha with this warld dois warsill and stryfe,
 And dois his dayis in dolour dryfe,
 Thocht he in lordschip be possest,
 He levis bot ane wrechit lyfe;
 For to be blyth me think it best.⁸ 20

¹ M. R. muse. ² M. dois euer chynge and varie; R. chainge and varie.

³ M. R. the. ⁴ M. R. in turning can it. ⁵ M. R. in mynd consider.

⁶ M. R. turnit on him the. ⁷ M. R. sould he. ⁸ M. R. omit ll. 16-20.

Off warldis gud¹ and grit richness,
 Quhat fruct² hes man but miriness?
 Thocht he this warld had eist and west,
 All wer³ pouertie but glaidness;
 For to be blyth me think it best. 25

Quho suld for tynsall drowp or de
 For thyng that is bot vanitie,
 Sen to the lyfe that evir dois⁴ lest
 Heir is bot twynklyng of ane Ee;⁵
 For to be blyth me think it best. 30

Had I for warldis⁶ vnkyndness
 In hairt tane ony haviness,
 Or fro⁷ my plesans bene opprest,
 I had bene deid langsyne, dowlless;
 For to be blyth me think it best. 35

How evir this warld do⁸ change and vary
 Lat ws in hairt nevir moir be sary,⁹
 Bot evir¹⁰ be reddy and addrest
 To pass out of this frawdfull fary;¹¹
 For to be blyth me think it best. 40

Etc. *Quod* Dunbar.

¹ M. warldlie guddis; R. warldlie gude.

² M. R. frute.

³ M. R. is bot.

⁴ M. R. sall.

⁵ M. E.

⁶ M. R. warldlie.

⁷ M. R. for.

⁸ M. R. dois.

⁹ M. no moir in hart be sarie; R. na mair in heart be sarie.

¹⁰ M. R. ay.

¹¹ M. fraudfull faire; R. fraufull farie.

XXV.

[WE THAT AR HEIR IN HEVINS GLORY.]

The Dregy of Dunbar maid to King
James the Fyift¹ being in Striuilling.²

WE that ar heir in hevins glory,
To 3ow that ar in purgatory,
Commendis ws on our hairtly wyiss;
I mene we folk in³ parradyis,
In Edinburcht with all mirriness, 5
To 3ow of⁴ Striuilling in distress,
Quhair nowdir plesance nor delyt is,
For pety⁵ thus ane⁶ Apostill⁷ wrytis.
O! 3e heremeitis and hankersaidilis,⁸
That takis your pennance at your tablis, 10
And eitis nocht meit restorative,
Nor drynkis no wyn confortative,
Bot aill and⁹ that is thyn and small:
With few coursis into 3our hall,
But cumpany of lordis and knychtis, 15
Or ony vder gudly wichtis,
Solitar walkand¹⁰ 3our allone,
Seing no thing bot stok and stone;
Out of 3our panefull purgatory,

¹ Error for Fourth.

² M. omits; R. Dunbaris dirige to the King, bydand our lang in Stirling.

³ M. R. of.

⁴ M. at.

⁵ M. pietie.

⁶ M. omits.

⁷ M. R. this epistell.

⁸ M. R. ankersadillis.

⁹ M. R. Nor aill bot.

¹⁰ M. R. walking.

To bring 3ow to the bliss of¹ glory, 20
 Off Edinburgh the mirry toun
 We sall begyn ane cairfull soun ;
 Ane dergy² devoit and meik,
 The Lord of bliss doing beseik
 3ow to delyuer out of 3our noy,³ 25
 And bring 3ow sone to Edinburgh ioy,
 For to be mirry amang⁴ ws ;
 And sa the dergy⁵ begynis thuss.

Lectio prima.

The Fader, the Sone and⁶ Haly Gaist,
 The mirthfull⁷ Mary virgene chaist, 30
 Of angellis all the ordouris⁸ nyne,
 And all the hevinly court devyne,
 Sone bring 3ow fra the pyne and wo
 Of Striulling, every court-manis fo,
 Agane to Edinburghis ioy and bliss, 35
 Quhair wirschep, welth and weifar is,
 Pley, plesance and eik⁹ honesty :
 Say 3e amen, for cheritie.

Responsio, Tu autem Domine.

Tak consolatioun in 3our pane,
 In tribulatioun tak consolatioun, 40
 Out of vexatioun cum hame agane,
 Tak consolatioun in 3our pane.

Jube Domine benedic[ere].¹⁰

Oute of distress of Striulling¹¹ toun
 To Edinburcht bliss, God mak 3ow boun.

¹ M. R. and.² M. R. dirige.³ B. nowy.⁴ M. merye amangis.⁵ M. dirige.⁶ M. R. the.⁷ M. R. blissit.⁸ M. R. ordour.⁹ M. R. eik and.¹⁰ B. benedicite.¹¹ M. R. Stirling.

Lectio secunda.

Patriarchis, profeitis¹ and² appostillis deir, 45
 Confessouris, virgynis and marteris cleir,
 And all the saitt³ celestiall,
 Devotely we vpoun thame call,
 That sone out of 3our panis fell,
 3e may in hevin heir with ws dwell, 50
 To eit swan, cran, pertrik and plever,⁴
 And every fische that swymis in rever ;
 To drynk with ws the new fresche wyne,
 That grew upoun the rever of Ryne,
 Ffresche fragrant clarettis out of France, 55
 Of Angerss⁵ and of Orliance,
 With mony ane coursse of grit dyntie :⁶
 Say 3e amen, for cheritie.

Responsorium, Tu autem Domine.

God and Sanct Jeill⁷ heir 3ow convoy
 Baith sone and weill, God and Sanct Jeill⁷ 60
 To sonce and seill, solace and joy, .
 God and Sanct Geill heir 3ow convoy.
 Out of Striuilling⁸ panis fell,
 In Edinburcht ioy sone mot 3e dwell.

Lectio tertia.

We pray to all the Sanctis of⁹ hevin, 65
 That ar aboif the fterris sevin,
 3ow to deliuer out of 3our pennance,
 That 3e may sone play, sing and dance
 Heir¹⁰ in to Edinburcht and¹¹ mak gude cheir,
 Quhair welth and weifair is, but weir ; 70

¹ M. prophetis.² M. omits.³ M. R. hewinlie court.⁴ M. R. pluver.⁵ M. Anger.⁶ M. daynte ; R. dantie.⁷ M. Sanct Geill.⁸ M. R. Stirling.⁹ M. R. in.¹⁰ M. R. And.¹¹ M. R. omit.

And I that dois 3our panis discryve
 Thinkis for to vissy 3ow belyve ;
 Nocht in desert with 3ow to dwell,
 Bot as the angell Sanct Gabriell
 Dois go betwene fra hevinis glory 75
 To thame that ar in purgatory,
 And in thair tribulatioun
 To gif thame consolatioun,
 And schaw thame quhen thair panis ar¹ past,
 Thay sall till² hevin cum at³ last ; 80
 And how nane servis to haif sweetness
 That nevir taistit bittirness,
 And thairfoir how suld 3e⁴ consididir
 Of Edinburcht bliss, quhen⁵ 3e cum hiddir,
 Bot gif 3e taistit had befoir 85
 Of Striulling⁶ toun the panis soir ;
 And thairfoir tak in patience
 3our pennance and 3our abstinence,
 And 3e sall cum, or 3ule begyn,
 Into the bliss that we ar in ; 90
 Quhilk grant the glorius Trinitie !
 Say 3e amen, for cheritie.

Responsorium.

Cum hame and dwell no moir⁷ in Striulling ;⁶
 Frome⁸ hiddouss hell cum hame and dwell,
 Quhair fische to sell is non bot spirling ; 95
 Cum hame and dwell no moir⁷ in Striulling.⁶

Et ne⁹ nos inducas in temptationem de Striulling :⁶
 Sed libera nos a malo illius.¹⁰
 Réquiem Edinburgi dona eijs, Domine,

¹ M. R. paine is.

² M. R. to.

³ M. R. at the.

⁴ M. R. 3e sould.

⁵ M. quhone.

⁶ M. R. Stirling.

⁷ R. na mair.

⁸ R. Fra.

⁹ M. R. omit.

¹⁰ M. eiusdem.

Et lux ipsius luceat eijs. 100

A porta tristitie de Striulling,¹

[Erue],² Domine, animas [et corpora]³ eorum.

Credo gustare statim⁴ vinum Edinburgi,

In villa viuentium.

Requiescant Edinburgi.⁵ Amen. 105

[Domine, exaudi orationem meam,

Et clamor meus ad te veniat.]⁶

[*Oremus.*]⁶

Deus qui iustos et corde humiles

Ex omni⁴ eorum tribulatione liberare dignatus es,

Libera famulos tuos apud villam de Stirling versantes

A penis et tristitijs eiusdem,

Et ad Edinburgi gaudia eos⁷ perducas, 110

Vt requiescat Striulling.¹ Amen.

Heir endis Dunbaris Dergy to the King,
bydand to⁸ lang in Stirling.

¹ M. R. Stirling.

² B. Orna.

³ From M. MS.

⁴ M. R. omit.

⁵ M. statim in Edinburgo.

⁶ R. MS.

⁷ M. feliciter.

⁸ M. ouir lang.

XXVI.

THE DANCE [OF THE SEVIN DEIDLY SYNINIS.]

OFF Februar¹ the fyiftene nycht,
 Full lang befor the dayis lycht,
 I lay in till a trance ;
 And then I saw baith hevin and hell :
 Me thocht, amangis the feyndis fell, 5
 Mahoun² gart cry³ ane dance
 Off schrewis that wer nevir⁴ schrevin,
 Aganiss⁵ the feist of Fasternis evin,
 To mak thair observance ;
 He bad gallandis⁶ ga graith a gyiss, 10
 And kast vp gamountis in⁷ the skyiss,
 That last came out of⁸ France.

“Lat se,” quod he, “Now quha begynniss ;”
 With that the fowll Sevin Deidly Synnis
 Begowth to leip at anis. 15
 And first of all in dance wes⁹ Pryd,
 With bair wyld bak and bonet on syd,
 Lyk to mak vaistie wanis ;¹⁰
 And round about him, as a quheill,
 Hang all in rumpillis to the¹¹ heill 20

¹ M. Feverzeir.² M. The devyll.³ M. cryit eftir.⁴ R. nevir weill.⁵ M. Agane.⁶ R. alowd.⁷ M. gambauldis to ; R. galmandis to.⁸ M. As varlottis dois in ; M. 2. Of the new vse of France.⁹ M. cam.¹⁰ M. wastie waness.¹¹ M. till his.

His kethat for the nanis :
 Mony prowde trumpour with him trippit
 Throw skaldand fyre, ay as thay skippit
 Thay gyrnd with hiddouss granis.

Heilie¹ harlottis on hawtane wyiss 25
 Come in with mony sindrie gyiss,
 Bot 3it luche nevir Mahoun ;
 Quhill preistis come in with bair schevin nekkis,
 Than all the feyndis lewche, and maid gekkis,
 Blak Belly and Bawsy Brown. 30

Yre.

Than Yre come in with sturt and stryfe ;
 His hand wes ay² vpoun his knyfe,
 He brandeist lyk a beir :
 Bostaris, braggaris, and barganeris,
 Eftir him passit in to pairis, 35
 All bodin in feir of weir ;

In iakkis, and stryppis³ and bonettis of steill,
 Thair leggis wer chenzeit to the heill,
 Ffrawart wes thair affeir :
 Sum vpoun vdir with brandis best, 40
 Sum jaggit vthiris to the heft,
 With knyvis that scherp coud scheir.

Invy.

Nixt in the dance followit Invy,
 Fild full of feid and fellony,
 Hid malyce and dispyte ; 45
 Ffor pryvie hatrent that tratour trymlit.
 Him followit mony freik dissymlit,
 With fenzeit wirdis⁴ quhyte ;

And flattereris in to menis facis ;
 And bakbyttaris of sindry racis,⁵ 50

¹ M. Hely.² M. euer.³ B. may be read scryppis ; M. stryppis.⁴ M. wordis and.⁵ M. in secreit places.

To ley that had delyte ;
 And¹ rownaris of fals lesingis ;
 Allace ! that courtis of noble kingis
 Of thame can nevir be quyte.

Nixt him in dans come² Cuvatyce, 55 Auaryce.
 Rute of all evill and grund of vyce,
 That nevir cowl be content ;
 Catyvis, wrechis and okkeraris,³
 Hud-pykis, hurdaris and gadderaris,
 All with that warlo went : 60

Out of thair throttis thay schot on vdder
 Hett molting⁴ gold, me thocht⁵ a fudder,
 As fyreflawcht maist fervent ;
 Ay as thay tomit⁶ thame of schot,
 Ffeyndis fild thame new vp⁷ to the thrott 65
 With gold of allkin prent.

Syne Sweirnes, at the secound bidding, Sueirnes.
 Come lyk a sow out of a midding,
 Full slepy wes his grunzie :
 Mony sweir bumbar⁸ belly huddroun, 70
 Mony slute daw and slepy duddroun,
 Him serwit ay with sounzie ;

He drew thame furth in till a chenzie,
 And Belliall, with a brydill renzie,
 Evir lascht thame on the lunzie : 75
 In dance thay war so slaw of feit,
 Thay gaif thame in the fyre a heit,
 And maid thame quicker of⁹ counzie.

¹ M. And still.² M. after him cam.³ M. okkararis.³ M. Off meltyne.⁵ M. mair thane.⁶ M. temit.⁷ M. wp new.⁸ M. lumbard.⁹ M. for to.

Lichery. Than Lichery, that lathly corss,
 Berand lyk a bagit¹ horss, 80
 And Ydilness² did him leid ;
 Thair wes with³ him ane vgly sort,
 And⁴ mony stynkand fowll tramort,
 That had in syn bene deid.

Quhen thay wer entrit in the dance, 85
 Thay wer full strenge of countenance,
 Lyk turkass⁵ birnand reid ;
 All led⁶ thay vthir by the tersis,⁷
 Suppoiss thay fycket⁸ with thair ersis,
 It mycht⁹ be na remeid. 90

Gluttony. Than the fowll¹⁰ monstir Glutteny,
 Off wame vnsasiable¹¹ and gredy,
 To dance he¹² did him dress :
 Him followit mony fowll drunkart,
 With can and collep,¹³ cop and quart, 95
 In surffet and excess ;

Full mony a waistless wallydrag,
 With wamiss vnweildable,¹⁴ did furth wag,
 In creische that did inress ;
 Drynk ! ay thay cryit, with mony a gaip, 100
 The feyndis¹⁵ gaif thame hait leid to laip,
 Thair lovery¹⁶ wes na less.

Na menstrallis playit to thame but dowl,
 Ffor glemen¹⁷ thair wer haldin owt,
 Be day, and eik by nycht ; 105

¹ M. Come berand lyk ane bawkit.² M. Sir Lytleness.³ M. followit.⁴ M. Full.⁵ M. With tortchis.⁶ M. Ilk ane led.⁷ M. tarssis.⁸ M. fyllit.⁹ B. myicht.¹⁰ M. full.¹¹ M. With wame insatiable.¹² M. thair.¹³ M. collop.¹⁴ M. wnweildable.¹⁵ M. dewellis.¹⁶ M. leweray.¹⁷ M. glewe-men.

Except a menstrall that¹ slew a man,
 Swa till his¹ heretage he wan,
 And entirt² be breif of richt.

Than cryd Mahoun³ for a Heleand padzane ;⁴
 Syne ran a feynd to feche⁵ Makfadzane, 110
 Ffar northwart in a nuke ;
 Be he the correnoch⁶ had done schout,
 Erschemen⁷ so gadderit him abowt,
 In Hell grit rowme thay tuke.

Thae tarmegantis, with tag and tatter, 115
 Ffull lowd in Ersche begowth⁸ to clatter,
 And rowp lyk revin and ruke :
 The Devill sa devit⁹ wes with thair zell,
 That in the depest pot¹⁰ of hell
 He smorit thame with smvke.¹¹ 120

¹ M. omits.² M. Entering.³ M. Mahouine cryit.⁴ M. Hiland padzeane.⁵ M. and fechtit.⁶ M. corynoche.⁷ M. Irsche men.⁸ M. begowthe in Irsche.⁹ M. deifet.¹⁰ M. pit.¹¹ M. a smuik.

XXVII.

THE TURNAMENT.¹

NIXT that a turnament wes tryid,²
 That lang befoir in hell wes cryid,³
 In presens of Mahoun ;
 Betuix a telȝour and ane sowtar,
 A pricklouss and ane hobbell⁴ clowttar, 5
 The barress wes maid boun.
 The tailȝour, baith with speir and scheild,
 Convoyit wes vnto the feild,
 With mony⁵ lymmar loun,
 Off seme byttaris⁶ and beist knappar, 10
 Off stomok steillaris and clayth takkaris,⁷
 A graceless garisoun.

His baner born wes him befoir,
 Quhairin wes clowttis ane hundreth scoir,⁸
 Ilk ane of diuerss hew ; 15
 And all stowin⁹ out of sindry webbis,
 For, quhill the Greik¹⁰ sie flowis¹¹ and ebbis,
 Telȝouris will nevir be trew.
 The tailȝour¹² on the barrowis¹³ blent,
 Allaiss ! he tynt all hardyment, 20

¹ In M. MS. this follows the preceding poem without any break.

² M. Syne till ane turnament fast thai hyt.

³ M. tryit.

⁴ A. coble.

⁵ A. mony a.

⁶ M. With seym byttaris.

⁷ M. wit-clipparis ; A. cat knappar.

⁸ M. mony score.

⁹ A. stollin.

¹⁰ M. greit ; A. flude.

¹¹ M. fillis.

¹² M. buthman.

¹³ M. barres ; A. barrass.

Ffor feir¹ he chaingit hew :
 Mahoun come furth and² maid him knycht,
 Na ferly thocht his hart wes licht,
 That to sic honor grew.

The tailzeour³ hecht hely⁴ befor Mahoun, 25
 That he suld ding the sowtar doun,
 Thocht he wer strang as mast ;⁵
 Bot quhen he on the barrowis⁶ blenkit,
 The telzouris hairt⁷ a littill schrenkit,
 His hairt did all ourcast. 30
 Quhen to the sowtar he did⁸ cum,
 Off all sic wirdis⁹ he wes full⁴ dum,
 So soir he wes agast ;
 In harte he take¹⁰ ȝit sic ane scunner,
 Ane rak of fartis lyk ony thunner, 35
 Went fra him,¹¹ blast for blast.

The sowtar to the feild him drest,
 He wes convoyid out of the west,
 As ane¹² defender stout :
 Suppoiss he had na lusty varlot, 40
 He had full mony lowsy harlott,
 Round¹³ rynnand him aboute,
 His baner wes of¹⁴ barkit hyd,
 Quhairin Sanct Girnega¹⁵ did glyd,
 Befoir that rebald¹⁶ rowt : 45
 Ffull sowttar lyk he wes of laitis,
 For ay betuix the¹⁷ harness plaitis
 The vly birstit out.¹⁸

¹ M. dreid.² M. to confort him ; A. him comfort.³ M. He made ane ; A. He hecht hiely.⁴ M. omits.⁵ M. maist ; A. wicht as mast.⁶ M. barres ; A. barrass.⁷ M. tailzouris curage ; A. corage.⁸ M. A. And quhen he saw the souter.⁹ M. wourdis ; A. wordis.¹⁰ M. Intill his hart wes ; A. For he in hart take.¹¹ M. He leit of.¹² M. the.¹³ A. Fast.¹⁴ M. ane.¹⁵ M. Girnegay.¹⁶ M. the foulsum.¹⁷ M. his.¹⁸ M. oliy furth couth spout ; A. olyy.

Quhen on the telzour¹ he did luke,
 His hairt a littill dwamyng² take, 50
 He mycht nocht rycht vpsitt ;³
 In to his stommok wes sic ane steir,
 Off all his dennar quhilk he coft⁴ deir
 His breist held deill a bitt.⁵
 To comfort him, or he raid forder,⁶ 55
 The Devill⁷ off knychtheid gaif him⁸ order ;
 For sair syne⁹ he did spitt,
 And he about the Devillis¹⁰ nek
 Did spew agane ane quart of blek,
 Thuss¹¹ knychtly he him quitt. 60

Than¹² fourty tymis the Feynd cryd,¹³ Fy !
 The sowtar rycht effeiritly¹⁴
 Vnto the feild he socht :
 Quhen thay wer serwit of¹⁵ thair speiris,
 Ffolk had ane feill¹⁶ be thair effeiris, 65
 Thair hairtis wer baith on flocht.
 Thay spurrit thair horss on adir¹⁷ syd,
 Syne thay attour the grund coud glyd,¹⁸
 Than¹⁹ thame togidder brocht ;
 The tailzeour that wes nocht²⁰ weill sittin, 70
 He left his²¹ sadill all beschittin,
 And to the grund²² he socht.

His harness brak and maid²³ ane brattill,
 The sowtaris horss scart²⁴ with the²⁵ rattill,

¹ M. Vpon the tailzour quhen.² M. wambling ; A. dwalming.³ M. Scantlie he nicht vpsit ; A. wneiss he mycht.⁴ M. A. that cost him.⁵ M. A. never ane bit.⁶ M. furthir.⁷ M. Mahoun.⁸ M. omits.⁹ M. savour syn ; A. stynk than.¹⁰ M. Mahounis.¹¹ A. So.¹² M. And.¹³ M. A. cryit.¹⁴ M. abaisitly ; A. furth affraitlye.¹⁵ M. for ; A. with.¹⁶ M. Thay nicht weill ken.¹⁷ M. A. vpon ather.¹⁸ M. The hors attour the ground did glyd ; A. the grene.¹⁹ M. A. And.²⁰ M. on was nocht ; A. was no thing.²¹ M. A. the.²² M. erde.²³ M. with.²⁴ M. stert ; A. scarrit.²⁵ M. ane.

And round about coud¹ reill; 75
 The beist² that frayit wes³ rycht evill,
 Ran with the sowtar to the Devill,
 And he rewardit⁴ him weill.
 Sum thing frome him the Feynd⁵ eschewit,
 He went⁶ agane to bene bespewit,⁷ 80
 So stern⁸ he wes in steill:
 He thocht he wald agane debait him,
 He turnd his erss and all bedret⁹ him,
 Evin quyte from¹⁰ nek till heill.

He lowsit it of¹¹ with sic a reird, 85
 Baith horss and man he straik till eird,¹²
 He fartit¹³ with sic ane feir;
 "Now haif I quitt¹⁴ the," quod Mahoun;
 Thir new maid knychtis lay bayth¹⁵ in swoun,
 And did all armes mensweir.¹⁶ 90
 The Devill¹⁷ gart thame to dungeoun dryve,
 And thame of knychtheid cold¹⁸ depryve,
 Dischairgeing thame of¹⁹ weir;
 And maid thame harlottis bayth²⁰ for evir,
 Quhilk still to keip thay had fer levir,²¹ 95
 Nor²² ony armes beir.

I had mair of thair werkis writtin,
 Had noch the sowtar bene beschittin,

¹ M. A. did. ² M. hors. ³ M. wes effrayit; A. was affrayit.

⁴ M. thair he warit; A. thar revardit. ⁵ M. fra him Mahoun.

⁶ M. A. throwit. ⁷ M. to have bein spewit. ⁸ A. strenyt.

⁹ M. A. bedrait. ¹⁰ Quyte our fra.

¹¹ A. omits. ¹² M. blew till erde; A. flawe to the erd.

¹³ M. A. fart. ¹⁴ M. ha I quyt; A. half I quyt.

¹⁵ M. That new maid knycht wes laid; A. The new maid knycht lay into.

¹⁶ M. A. forsweir. ¹⁷ M. Mahoun gert. ¹⁸ M. did; A. hed to.

¹⁹ M. A. all. ²⁰ M. all; A. agane.

²¹ M. Sic steill to keip thai haid far lever; A. Quhilk style to kepe thai had fer leuer.

²² M. Than; A. Na.

With Belliallis erss vnblast ;
 Bot that¹ sa gud ane bourd me thocht, 100
 Sic solace to my hairt it rocht,²
 For lawchtir neir I brist ;
 Quhairthrow I walknit³ of my trance.
 To put this in remembrance,
 Mycht no man me resist, 105
 Ffor this said justing it⁴ befell
 Befoir Mahoun, the air⁵ of hell :
 Now trow thiss⁶ gif 3e list.

Heir endis the sowtar and tailjouris war,
 Maid be the nobill poyet Mr William Dumbar.

¹ M. thair. ² M. A. thar socht. ³ M. And quhen I waknit.

⁴ M. To tell the cast how it ; A. To dyte how all this thing.

⁵ M. dewill ; A. heir.

⁶ M. Schirris trow it.

XXVIII.

FFOLLOWIS THE AMENDIS MADE BE HIM TO THE
TELȝOURIS AND SOWTARIS FOR THE TURNA-
MENT MAID ON THAME.

BETUIX twell¹ houris and ellevin,
I dremed ane angell came fra Hevin,
With plesand stevin sayand on hie,
Telȝouris and Sowtaris, blist be ȝe.

In Hevin hie ordand is ȝour place, 5
Aboif all sanctis in grit solace,
Nixt God, grittest in dignitie :
Tailȝouris and Sowtaris, blist be ȝe.²

The causs to ȝow is nocht vnkend,
That God mismakkis ȝe do amend, 10
Be craft and grit agilitie :
Tailȝouris and Sowtaris, blist be ȝe.

Sowtaris, with schone weill³ maid and meit,
ȝe mend the faltis of ill maid⁴ feit,
Quhairfoir to Hevin ȝour saulis will fle ; 15
Telȝouris and Sowtaris, blist be ȝe.

¹ M. twelfe.³ M. weill maid schwne.² M. omits ll. 5-8.⁴ M. ewill maid.

Is nocht in all this fair a¹ flyrok,
 That hes vpoun his feit a² wyrok,
 Knowll tais, nor mowlis in no degrie,
 Bot ȝe can hyd thame : blist be ȝe. 20

And ȝe tailȝouris, with weilmaid clais
 Can mend the werst maid man that gais,
 And mak him semely for to se :
 Telȝouris and Sowtaris, blist be ȝe.

Thocht God mak ane misfassonit man, 25
 ȝe can him all schaip new agane,
 And fassoun him bettir³ be sic thre :
 Telȝouris and Sowtaris, blist be ȝe.

Thocht a man haif a brokin bak,
 Haif he a gude crafty⁴ telȝour, quhattrak, 30
 That can it cuver with craftis⁵ slie :
 Telȝouris and Sowtaris, blist be ȝe.

Off God grit kyndness may ȝe clame,
 That helpis his peple fra cruke and lame,
 Supportand faltis with ȝour supple : 35
 Tailȝouris and Sowtaris, blist be ȝe.

In erd⁶ ȝe kyth sic mirakillis heir,
 In Hevin ȝe salbe sanctis full cleir,
 Thocht ȝe be knavis⁷ in this cuntre :
 Telȝouris and Sowtaris, blist be ȝe. 40

*Quod Dumbar.*⁸

¹ M. the land ane.

² M. fute ane.

³ M. With bettir fassoun.

⁴ M. omits.

⁵ M. crafte.

⁶ M. eird.

⁷ M. knaifis.

⁸ M. Quod Dumbar quhone he drank to the dekyannis ffor amendis to the bodeis of thair craftis.

XXIX.

[SANCT SALUATOUR! SEND SILUER SORROW.]

SANCT Saluatour! send siluer sorrow;
 It grevis me both evin and morrow,
 Chasing fra me all cheritie;
 It makis me all blythness to borrow;
 My panefull purss so pricliss me. 5

Quhen I wald blythlie ballattis breif,
 Langour thairto givis me no leif;
 War nocht gud howp my hart vphie,
 My verry corporis for cair wald cleif;
 My panefull purss so prikillis me. 10

Quhen I sett me to sing or dance,
 Or go to plesand pastance,
 Than pansing of penuritie
 Revis that fra my remembrance;
 My panefull purss so prikillis me. 15

Quhen men that hes purssis in tone,
 Passis to drynk or to disione,
 Than mon I keip ane grauetie,
 And say, that I will fast quhill none;
 My panefull purss so pricliss me. 20

My purss is maid of sic ane skyn,
 Thair will na corss byd it within;

Fra it as fra the Feynd thay fle,
 Quha evir tyne, quha evir win ;
 My panefull purss so pricliss me. 25

Had I ane man of ony natioun
 Culd mak on it ane coniuratioun,
 To gar siluer ay in it be,
 The Devill suld haif no dominatioun,
 With pyne to gar it prickill me. 30

I haif inquiryt in mony a place,
 For help and confort in this cace,
 And all men sayis, My Lord, that 3e
 Can best remeid for this malice,
 That with sic panis prickillis me. 35

Quod Dumbar to the King.

XXX.

FFOLLOWIS HOW DUMBAR WES DESYRD
TO BE ANE FREIR.

THIS nycht befor the dawning cleir,
 Me thoct Sanct Francis did to me appeir,
 With ane religiouss abbeir¹ in his hand,
 And said, "In thiss go cleith the my serwand;
 Reffuss the warld, for thow mon be a freir." 5

With him and with his abbeir² bayth I skarrit,
 Lyk to ane man that with a gaist wes marrit:
 Me thoct on bed he layid³ it me abone,
 Bot on the flure delyuerly and sone
 I lap thairfra, and nevir wald cum nar it. 10

Quoth he, "Quhy skarris thow with⁴ this holy weid?
 Cleith the thairin, for weir it thow most neid;
 Thow, that hes lang done⁵ Venus lawis teiche,
 Sall now be freir, and in this abbeir² preiche;
 Delay it nocht, it mon be done but dreid." 15

Quod I, "Sanct Francis, loving be the till,
 And thankit mot thow be of thy gude will

¹ M. R. habite.² M. habeit.³ M. R. laid.⁴ M. R. at.⁵ M. R. done lang.

To me, that of thy clayis ar so kynd ;
 Bot thame to weir it nevir come in my mynd ;
 Sweit Confessour, thow tak it nocht in ill.¹ 20

In haly legendis haif I hard allevin,²
 Ma sanctis of bischoppis, nor freiris, be sic sevin ;
 Off full few freiris that hes bene sanctis I reid ;
 Quhairfoir ga bring to me ane bischopis weid,
 Gife evir thow wald my saule gaid³ vnto Hevin. 25

My brethir oft hes maid the supplicationis,
 Be epistillis, sermonis, and relationis,
 To tak the abyte,⁴ bot thow did postpone ;
 But ony⁵ process, cum on thairfoir annone,
 All circumstance put by and excusationis. 30

Gif evir my fortoun wes to be a freir,
 The dait thairof is past⁶ full mony a⁷ 3eir ;
 For into every lusty toun and place
 Off all Yngland, frome Berwick to Kalice,⁸
 I haif⁹ in to thy habeit maid gud cheir. 35

In freiris weid full fairly haif I fleichit,
 In it haif⁹ I in pulpet gon¹⁰ and preichit
 In Derntoun kirk, and eik¹¹ in Canterbury ;
 In it I past at Dover our the ferry
 Throw Piccardy, and thair the peple teichit. 40

Als¹² lang as I did beir the freiris style,
 In me, God wait, wes mony wrink and wyle ;

¹ M. R. omit ll. 16-20.² M. R. ellevin.³ M. R. 3eid.⁴ M. R. this habeit bot.⁵ M. R. forder.⁶ M. gone ; R. hes gane.⁷ M. omits.⁸ M. R. Calice.⁹ M. R. haue.¹⁰ M. R. gane.¹¹ M. R. omits.¹² M. So.

In me wes falset with every wicht to flatter,
Quhilk mycht be flemit with na haly watter ;
I wes ay reddy¹ all men to begyle.² 45

This freir that did Sanct Francis thair appeir,
Ane feind³ he wes in liknes of ane freir ;
He vaneist away with stynk and fyrie smowk ;
With him me thocht all the houshend he towk,⁴
And I awoik⁵ as wy that wes in weir. 50

Quod Dumbar.

¹ M. R. Reddie wes I.

² M. for to bakbyte.

³ M. feynd ; R. feind.

⁴ M. R. hous end he take.

⁵ M. R. awuke.

XXXI.

[HE THAT HES GOLD AND GRIT RICHES.]

HE that hes gold and grit richness,
 And may be into mirryness,
 And dois glaidness fra him expell,
 And levis in to wrechitnes,¹
 He wirkis sorrow to him sell. 5

He that may be but sturt or² stryfe,
 And leif ane lusty plesand lyfe,
 And syne with mariege dois him mell,
 And bindis him with³ ane wicket wyfe,
 He wirkis sorrow to him sell. 10

He that hes for his awin genzie⁴
 Ane plesand prop, but mank or menzie,⁵
 And schuttis syne⁶ at ane vncow⁷ schell,
 And is forfairn⁸ with the fleis of Spenzie,⁹
 He wirkis sorrow to him sell.¹⁰ 15

And he⁶ that with gud lyfe and trewth,
 But varians or vder slewth,

¹ M. daylie in distres.² M. and.³ M. weddis syn.⁴ M. gainze.⁵ M. mainze.⁶ M. omits.⁷ M. vncouth.⁸ M. forfarne.⁹ M. fleyis of Spainze.¹⁰ M. I giff him to the dewill of hell.

Dois evir mair with ane maister dwell,
That nevir of him will haif no¹ rewth,
He wirkis sorrow to him sell. 20

Now all this tyme lat ws be mirry,
And sett nocht by² this warld a chirry :³
Now⁴ quhill thair is gude wyne to sell,
He that dois on dry breid virry,⁵
I gif him to the Devill of hell. 25

*Quod Dumbar.*⁶

¹ M. mair will of him.

² M. on.

³ M. ane chirrie.

⁴ M. And.

⁵ M. wirrie.

⁶ M. Finis.

XXXII.

THE WOWING OF THE KING QUHEN HE
WES IN DUMFERMELING.

THIS hindir nycht in Dumfermeling,
 To me wes tawld ane windir ¹ thing ;
 That lait ane tod wes with ane lame,
 And with hir playit, and maid gude ² game,
 Syne till his breist did hir imbrace, 5
 And wald haif riddin hir lyk ane rame :
 And that me thocht ane ferly cace.

He braisit hir bony body sweit,
 And halsit hir with [his] ³ fordir feit ;
 Syne schuk his taill, with quhing and ȝelp, 10
 And todlit ⁴ with hir lyk ane quhelp ;
 Syne lowrit on growfe and askit grace ;
 And ay the lame cryd, Lady, help !
 And that me thocht ane ferly cace.

The tod wes nowder lene nor skowry, 15
 He ⁵ wes ane lusty reid haird ⁶ lowry,
 Ane lang taid beist and grit with all ;
 The silly lame wes all to small

¹ M. wondrous.² M. grit.³ from M. MS.⁴ M. todillit.⁵ M. Bot.⁶ M. rid-harit.

To sic ane tribill¹ to hald ane bace :
 Scho fled him nocht ; ffair mot hir fall ! 20
 And that me thocht ane ferly cace.

The tod wes reid, the lame wes quhyte,
 Scho wes ane morsall of delyte ;
 He lovit na 3owis auld, twch² and sklender :
 Becaus this lame wes 3ung and tender, 25
 He ran vpoun hir with a race,
 And scho schup nevir for till³ defend hir :
 And thiss me thocht ane ferly cace.

He grippit hir abowt the west,⁴
 And handlit hir as he had hest ;⁵ 30
 This innocent that nevir trespass,
 Tuke hert that scho wes handlit fast,
 And lute⁶ him kiss hir lusty face ;
 His girnand gamis⁷ hir nocht agast :
 And that me thocht ane ferly cace. 35

He held hir till him⁸ be the hals,
 And spak full⁹ fair thocht he wes falss ;
 Syne said and swoir to hir be God,
 That he suld nocht twich hir prenecod ;¹⁰
 The silly thing trowd¹¹ him, allace ! 40
 The lame gaif credence to the tod :
 And that me thocht ane ferly cace.

I will no lesingis¹² put in verss,
 Lyk as thir jangleris dois reherss,
 Bot be quhat maner thay war mard, 45
 Quhen licht wes owt and durris wes bard ;

¹ M. trybill.² M. tewcht.³ M. preissit neir for to.⁴ M. waist.⁵ M. haist.⁶ M. leit.⁷ M. gammys.⁸ B. him till hir.⁹ M. rycht.¹⁰ M. preyne-cod.¹¹ M. trowit.¹² M. na lesing.

I wait nocht gif he gaif hir grace,
 Bot all the hollis wes stoppit hard :
 And that me thocht ane ferly cace.

Quhen men dois fleit in joy maist far,¹ 50
 Sone cumis wo, or thay be war ;
 Quhen carpand wer thir two most crowss,
 The wolf he ombesett² the houss,
 Vpoun the tod to mak ane chace ;
 The lamb than cheipit lyk a mowss : 55
 And that³ me thocht ane ferly cace.

Throw hiddowis 3owling of the wowf,
 This wylie tod plat doun on growf,⁴
 And in the silly lambis⁵ skin,
 He crap als far as he nicht win, 60
 And hid him thair ane weill lang space ;
 The 3owis besyd thay maid na din :
 And that me thocht ane ferly cace.

Quhen of the tod wes hard no peip,
 The wowf⁶ went all had bene on sleip ; 65
 And quhill the tod⁷ had strikkin ten,
 The wowf⁸ hes drest him to his den,
 Protestand for the secound place :
 And this report I with my pen,
 How at Dumfermling fell the cace. 70

Quod Dumbar.

¹ M. fer.

² M. vmbeset.

³ M. this.

⁴ M. a-growfe.

⁵ M. lammes.

⁶ M. wolfe.

⁷ M. bell.

⁸ M. wowlfe.

XXXIII.

ANE BALLAT OF THE FENȝEIT FREIR¹ OF TUNG-
LAND, HOW HE FELL IN THE MYRE FLEAND
TO TURKILAND.

AS ȝung Awrora, with cristall haile,
In orient schew hir visage paile,
A sweuyng swyth did me assaile,
Off² sonis of Sathanis seid ;
Me thocht a Turk of Tartary 5
Come throw³ the boundis of Barbary,
And lay forloppin in Lumbardy,
Ffull lang in waithman weid.

Ffra baptasing for to eschew,
Thair a religious man he slew, 10
And cled him in his abeit⁴ new,
Ffor he cowth wryte and reid.
Quhen kend was his dissimvlance,⁵
And all his cursit govirnance,⁶
Ffor feir he fled and come in France, 15
With littill of Lumbard leid.

To be a leiche he fenyt him thair,
Quhilk mony a man nicht rew evirmair ;
For he left nowthir seik nor sair
Vnslane, or he hyne ȝeid. 20

¹ A. falss frer.² A. with.³ A. out of.⁴ A. habit.⁵ A. dissimilans.⁶ A. governans.

Vane organis he full clenely carvit,
 Quhen of his straik so mony starvit,
 Dreid he had gottin that he desarvit,
 He fled away gud speid.

In Scotland than, the narrest way 25
 He come, his cunnyng till assay ;
 To sum man thair it was no play
 The preving of his sciens.

In pottingry ¹ he wrocht grit pyne,
 He murdreist ² mony in medecyne ; 30
 The jow was of a grit engyne,
 And generit was of gyans.

In leichecraft he was homecyd,
 He wald haif, for a nicht to byd,
 A haiknay and the hurtmanis hyd, 35
 So meikle he was of myance.

His yrnis was rude as ony rawchtir,
 Quhair he leit blude it was no lawchtir,
 Full mony instrument for slawchtir
 Was in his gardevyance.³ 40

He cowth gif cure for laxatyve ;
 To gar a wicht horss want his lyve,
 Quha evir assay wald, man or wyve,
 Thair hippis 3eid hiddy giddy.
 His practikis nevir war put to preif, 45
 But suddane ⁴ deid, or grit mischeif;
 He had purgatioun to mak a theif
 To dee withowt a widdy.⁵

Vnto no mess pressit this ⁶ prelat,
 For sound of sacring bell nor skellat ; 50

¹ A. potingary.² A. omits.³ A. gardyvians.⁴ A. sudand.⁵ A. wedye.⁶ A. the.

As blaksmyth bruikit was his pallatt,
 Ffor battering at the study.
 Thocht he come hame a new maid channoun,
 He had dispensit with matynnis channoun,
 On him come nowthir stole nor fannoun, 55
 Ffor smowking of the smydy.

Me thocht seir fassonis he assailȝeit,
 To mak the quintessance, and failȝeit ;
 And quhen he saw that nocht availȝeit,
 A fedrem¹ on he tuke, 60
 And schupe in Turkey for to fle ;
 And quhen that he did mont on he,
 All fowill² ferleit quhat he sowld be,
 That evir did on him luke.

Sum held he had bene Dedalus, 65
 Sum the Menatair marvelous,³
 Sum the Martis smyth Wlcanus,
 And sum Saturnus kuke.
 And evir the cuschettis at him tuggit,
 The rukis him rent, the ravynis him druggit, 70
 The hudit crawis his hair furth ruggit,
 The hevin he nicht not bruke.

The myttane, and Sanct Martynis fowle,
 Wend he had bene the hornit howle,
 Thay set avpone him with a ȝowle, 75
 And gaif him dynt for dynt.
 The golk, the gormaw, and the gled,
 Best him with buffettis quhill he bled ;
 The sparhalk to the spring him sped,
 Als fers as fyre of flynt. 80

¹ A. federem.² A. fowlis.³ A. Mynataur merwalus.

The tarsall gaif him tug for tug,
 A stanchell hang in ilka lug,
 The pyot furth his pennis did rug,
 The stork straik ay but stynt.

The bissart, bissy but rebuik, 85
 Scho was so cleverus of hir clvik,
 His bawis he nicht not langer bruik,
 Scho held thame at ane hint.

Thik was the clud of kayis and crawis,
 Of marlezonis, mittanis, and of mawis, 90
 That bikkrit at his berd with blawis

 In battell him abowt.
 Thay nybbillit him with noyis and cry,
 The rerd of thame raiss to the sky,
 And evir he cryit on Fortoun, Fy! 95
 His lyfe was in to dowt.

The ja him skrippit with a skryke,
 And skornit him as it was lyk;
 The egill strong at him did stryke,
 And rawcht him mony a rowt. 100

Ffor feir vncunnandly he cawkit,
 Quhill all his pennis war drownd and drawkit,
 He maid a hundreth nolt all hawkit
 Beneth him with a spowt.

He schewre his feddreme that was schene, 105
 And slippit owt of it full clene,
 And in a myre, vp to the ene,
 Amang the glar did glyd.

The fowlis all at the fedrem dang,
 As at a monster thame amang, 110
 Quhill all the pennis of it owsprang
 In till the air full wyde.

And he lay at the plunge evirmair,
Sa lang as any ravin did rair ;
The crawis him socht with cryis of cair 115
 In every schaw besyde.
Had he reveild bene to the rwikis,
Thay had him revin all with thair clwikis :
Thre dayis in dub amang the dukis
 He did with dirt him hyde. 120

The air was dirkit with the fowlis,
That come with ȝawmeris and with ȝowlis,
With skryking, skrymming and with scowlis,
 To tak him in the tyde.
I walknit with the noyis and schowte, 125
So hiddowis beir was me abowte ;
Sensyne I curss that cankerit rowte
 Quhair evir I go or ryde.

Ffinis quod Dumbar.

XXXIV.

[THIS NYCHT IN MY SLEIP I WES AGAST.]

THIS nycht in my sleip I wes agast,
 Me thocht the Devill wes tempand fast
 The peple with aithis of crewaltie ;
 Sayand as throw the mercat he past,
 Renunce thy God and cum to me.¹

5

Me thocht as he went throw the way,
 Ane preist sweirit be God verey,
 Quhilk at the alter ressaut he ;
 Thow art my clerk, the Devill can say,
 Renunce thy God and cum to me.²

10

Than swoir ane courtyour mekle of pryd,
 Be Chrystis windis bludy and wyd,
 And be his harmes wes rent on tre ;
 Than spak the Devill hard him besyd,
 Renunce thy God and cum to me.³

15

¹ R. MS. Dreinand methocht that I did heir
 The commoun people ban and sueir,
 Blasfeimand Godis maestie ;
 The Divell ay roundand in thair eir,
 Renunce your God, and cum to me.

² R. omits ll. 6-10.

³ R. omits ll. 11-15.

Ane merchand, his geir as he did sell,
 Renuncit his pairt of hevin and hell;
 The Devill said, "Welcum mot thow be,
 Thow salbe merchand for my sell,
 Renunce thy God and cum to me."¹ 20

Ane goldsmyth said, "The gold is sa fyne,
 That all the workmanschip I tyne,
 The Feind ressaif me gif I le ;"
 "Think on," quod the Devill, "that thow art myne,
 Renunce thy God and cum to me."² 25

Ane tailjour said, "In all this toun
 Be thair ane bettir weilmaid³ gown,
 I gif me to the Feynd all⁴ fre ;"
 "Gramercy,⁵ teljour," said Mahoun,
 "Renunce thy God and cum to me." 30

Ane⁶ sowttar said, "In gud effek,
 Nor I be hangit⁷ be the nek,
 Gife bettir butis of ledder ma be ;"
 "Fy," quod the Feynd,⁸ "Thow sairis of blek,
 Go clenge the clene and cum to me." 35

Ane baxstar sayd, "I forsaik God,
 And all his werkis evin and od,
 Gif fairar stuff neidis to be ;"⁹

¹ R. MS. The merchand sweiris mony aith,
 That never man saw bettir claith,
 Na fynar silk cam ouer the se.
 "To sweir," quod Sathan, "be not layth,
 To sell my geir, I will haue thee."

² R. omits ll. 21-25.

³ R. shapin.

⁴ R. als.

⁵ R. Grant mercyis.

⁶ R. The.

⁷ R. The devill mot hang me.

⁸ R. The feind sayis, fy.

⁹ R. That bettir breid did na man se.

The Dyvill luche¹ and on him qwoth² nod,
Renunce thy God and cum to me.³ 40

Ane fleschour swoir be the sacrament,⁴
And be Chrystis blud maist innocent,
Nevir fatter flesch saw man with E ;
The Devill said, "Hald on thy intent,
Renunce thy God and cum to me."⁵ 45

["Be Godis bluid," quod the taverneir,
"Thair is sic wyne in my selleir
As neur come in this cuntrie."
"3ett," quod the Deuill, "thou sellis our deir,
With thy fals mett cum unto me."]⁶ 50

The maltman sais, "I God forsaik,
And that the Devill of hell me taik
Gif ony bettir malt may be,
And of this kill I haif inlaik ;"
Renunce thy God and cum to me. 55

Ane browstar swoir the malt wes ill,
Bath reid and reikit on the kill,
That it will be na aill for me,
Ane boll will nocht sex gallonis fill ;
Renunce thy God and cum to me. 60

The smyth swoir be rude and raip,
In till a gallowis mot I gaip,
Gif I ten dayis wan pennyis thre,
Ffor with that craft I can nocht thraip ;
Renunce thy God and cum to me.⁷ 65

¹ R. said.² R. could.³ R. With thy licht lewis cum down to me.⁴ R. Godis woundis.⁵ For ll. 43-45 R. reads—

Come neur sic beiff into thir boundis,

Na fattar muttoun cannot be ;

Fals, quoth the feind and till him rounds.

⁶ From R. MS.⁷ R. omits ll. 51-65.

Ane¹ menstrall said, "The Feind me ryfe,²
 Gif I do ocht bot drynk and swyfe ;"
 The Devill said, "Hardly mot it be,³
 Exerss that craft in all thy lyfe ;
 Renunce thy God and cum to me." 70

Ane dysour said with wirdis of stryfe,
 The Devill mot stik him with a knyfe,
 Bot he kest vp fair syisis thre ;
 The Devill said, "Endit is thy lyfe,
 Renunce thy God and cum to me." ⁴ 75

Ane theif said, "God, that evir I chaip,
 Nor ane stark widdy gar me gaip,
 Bot I in hell for geir wald be ;"
 The Devill said, "Welcum in a raip,
 Renunce thy ⁵ God and cum to me." 80

The fische wyffis flett and swoir with granis,
 And to the Feind, saule,⁶ flesch and banis,
 Thay gaif thame, with ane schowt on hie ;⁷
 The Devill said, "Welcum all att anis,
 Renunce thy God and cum to me." 85

[The rest of craftis gryt aithis swair
 Thair wark and craft had na compair,
 Ilk ane into thair qualitie ;
 The Deuill said then, withouttin mair,
 "Renunce 3our God, and cum to me." 90

The court man did gryt aithis sueir,
 He wald serue Sathan for seuin 3eir,
 For fair claithis and gold plaintie ;

¹ R. The.² R. that evir I thryve.³ R. then I counsall the.⁴ R. omits ll. 71-75⁵ R. 3our.⁶ R. gaue.⁷ R. Sa did the hukstaris haillilie.

The Deuill said, "Thair is sum for geir
Wald renunce God and cum to me."

95

To ban and sweir nan stuid [in] a,
Man or woman gryt or sma,
Rich or pure nor the clargie ;
The Deuill said then, "Of commoun la
All mensworne folk man cum to me." ¹

100

Me thocht the Devillis, als blak as pik,
Solistand wer as beis thik,
Ay tempand folk with wayis sle ;
Rownand to Robene and to Dik,
Renunce thy God and cum to me. ²

105

Quod Dumbar.

¹ ll. 86-100 from R. MS.

² R. omits ll. 101-105.

XXXV.

[LUCINA SCHYNNYNG IN SILENCE OF
THE NICHT.]

LUCINA schynnyng in silence of the nicht,
 The hevin being all ¹ full of sternis bricht,
 To bed I went, bot thair I tuke no rest,
 With havy thocht I wes so soir ² opprest,
 That sair I langit eftir [the] ³ dayis licht. 5

Off Fortoun I complenit hevely,
 That scho to me stude so contrariowsly;
 And at the last, quhen I had turnyt oft,
 Ffor weirines on me ane slummer soft
 Come with ane dremyng and a fantasy. 10

Me thocht Deme Fortoun with ane fremmit cheir
 Stude me beforne, and said on this maneir,
 Thow suffer me to wirk gif thow do weill,
 And preiss the nocht to stryfe aganis my quheill,
 Quhilk every warldly thing dois turne and steir. 15

Full mony ane man ⁴ I turne vnto the ⁵ hicht,
 And makis als mony full law to doun licht ;
 Vp-on my staigis or that thow ⁶ ascend,
 Trest weill thy truble neir is ⁷ at ane end,
 Seing thir taikinis, quhairfoir thow mark thame rycht. 20

¹ M. R. all being.² M. R. so sair I wes.³ From M. MS.⁴ M. R. omit.⁵ M. R. set vpone.⁶ M. R. thow do.⁷ M. R. is neir.

Thy trublit gaist sall neir moir be degest,
 Nor thow in to no benifice beis¹ possest,
 Quhill that ane abbot him cleith in ernis pennis,
 And fle vp in the air amangis the crennis,
 And as ane falcone fair fro eist to west. 25

He sall ascend as ane horrebbel grephoun,
 Him meit sall in the air ane scho dragoun ;
 Thir terrible monsteris sall togidder thrist,
 And in the cludis gett the Antechrist,
 Quhill all the air infeck² of thair pvsoun.³ 30

Vndir Saturnus fyrie regioun
 Symone Magus sall meit him and Mahoun,
 And Merlyne at the mone sall him be bydand,
 And Jonet the weido on ane bussome⁴ rydand,
 Off wichiss⁵ with ane windir⁶ garesoun. 35

And syne thay sall discend with reik and fyre,
 And preiche in erth⁷ the Antechrysts impyre,
 Be⁸ than it salbe neir this⁹ warldis end.
 With that this lady sone fra me did¹⁰ wend ;
 [Sleipand and walkand wes frustrat my desyr.]¹¹ 40

Quhen I awoik, my dreame it was so nyce,
 Ffra every wicht I hid¹² it as a vyce ;
 Quhill I hard tell be mony suthfast wy,¹³
 Ffle wald ane abbot vp in to the sky,
 And all his fethreme¹⁴ maid wes at devyce. 45

¹ M. R. omit.² M. infeit ; R. infect.³ M. R. pousoun.⁴ M. R. a bwsom hame.⁵ M. wytchis ; R. witchis.⁶ M. wondrus ; R. wondrous.⁷ M. eird ; R. erd.⁸ M. R. And. ⁹ M. the.¹⁰ M. R. did schortlie fra me.¹¹ Line 40, B. omits ; supplied from M. MS.¹² R. had.¹³ R. cry.¹⁴ M. feddrem.

Within my hairt confort I tuke full sone ;
 "Adew," quod I, " My drery dayis ar done ;¹
 Ffull weill I wist to me wald nevir cum thrift,
 Quhill² that twa monis wer sene vp³ in the lift,
 Or quhill ane abbot flew aboif the mone."⁴ 50

Quod Dumbar.

¹ M. doine.

² R. Till.

³ M. R. first sene.

⁴ M. moyne.

XXXVI.

[MAN, SEN THY LYFE IS AY IN WEIR.]

MAN, sen thy lyfe is ay in weir,
 And deid is evir drawand neir,
 The tyme vnsicker and the place ;
 Thyne awin gude spend quhill thow hes space.

Gif it be thyne thy self it vsis, 5
 Gif it be nocht the it refusis,
 Ane vthir of it the proffeit hess ;
 Thyne awin gud spend quhill thow hes spaiss.

Thow may to day haif gude to spend,
 And hestely to morne fra it wend, 10
 And leif ane vthir thy baggis to braiss ;
 Thy awin gud spend quhill thow hes space.

Quhill thow hes space se thow dispone,
 That for thy geir quhen thow art gone,
 No wicht ane vder slay nor chace ; 15
 Thyne awin gud spend quhill thow hes space.

Sum all his dayis dryvis our in vane,
 Ay gadderand geir with sorrow and pane,
 And nevir is glaid at 3ule nor Paiss ;
 Thyne awin gud spend quhill thow hes space. 20

Syne cumis ane vder glaid of his sorrow,
That for him prayit nowdir evin nor morrow,
And fangis it all with mirrynais ;
Thyne awin gud spend quhill thow hes space.

Sum grit gud gadderis and ay it spairis, 25
And eftir him thair cumis jung airis,
That his auld thrift settis on ane ess ;
Man, thyne awin gud spend quhill thow hes space.

It is all thyne that thow heir spendis,
And nocht all that on the dependis, 30
Bot his to spend it that hes grace ;
Thyne awin gud spend quhill thow hes spais.

Trest nocht ane vthir will do the to,
It that thy self wald nevir do,
Ffor gife thow dois, strenge is thy cace ; 35
Thyne awin gud spend quhill thow hes spais.

Luke how the bairne dois to the muder,
And tak example be nane vdder,
That it nocht eftir be thy cace ;
Thyne awin gud spend quhill thow hes space. 40

Quod Dumbar.

XXXVII.

[SURREXIT DOMINUS DE SEPULCHRO.]

SURREXIT Dominus de sepulchro,
 The Lord is rissin fra deid to lyfe agane,
 Qui pro nobis pependit in ligno,
 Quhilk for our synnys on the croce wes slane ;
 Quhame to annoynt went Mary Magdalene, 5
 Ibat Maria Salame cum ea ;
 Quhen Godis angell thus did ansuer plane,
 "Surrexit sicut dixit, allalua !"

This angellis weid wes snawith in cullour,
 His face as fyrflacht flawmit, ferly brycht ; 10
 The knychtis keparis of Christis sepultour
 Ffell doun as deid, afferit of his licht,
 Quhome to behald thay had no grace nor mycht ;
 Et terre motus est factus in Judea ;
 The wurd of Jesew is fulfillit rycht, 15
 Surrexit sicut dixit, allalua !

Behaldin the brichtnes of this angell,
 The Magdalene and Mare Salamee
 Abasit wer in sprit, as sayis the Ewangell,
 And stud abak. "Be nocht afferd !" said he, 20
 "The Lord is rissin quhome 3e come to se,

Ipsē p̄cedit vos in Gallelela ;
To his appostillis ga tell the verite,
Surrexit sicut dixit, allalua !”

All honour we this Lord with joy and glory, 25
Thanking that mychty Campioun invincible,
That wan on tre trevmphe of he victory ;
Syne brak the hellis dungeoun most terrible,
And chest the dragonis hidous and horrible
Per crucis validissima trophea, 30
And brocht the sawlis to joy euir permansible :
Surrexit sicut dixit, allalua !

Pleiss we this Lord that did in battell byd
For ws, quhilk had non vthir bute nor beild,
Quhill bludy wes his bak, body, and syd ; 35
He wes our mychte paviss, and our scheild.
Or Phebus dirknes him Goddis Sone reveild
Sanguinea erant eius cannepea ;
He deit triumphand, he raiss and wan the feild :
Surrexit sicut dixit, allelua ! 40

Finis.

XXXVIII.

[DONE IS A BATTELL ON THE DRAGON
BLAK.]

Pro 3oulis.

DONE is a battell on the dragon blak,
 Our campiou Chryst confoundit hes his force ;
 The jettis of hell ar brokin with a crak,
 The signe triump hall rasis is of the croce,
 The diuillis trymmillis with hiddouss voce, 5
 The saulis ar borrowit and to the bliss can go,
 Chryst with his blud our ransonis dois indoce :
 Surrexit Dominus de sepulchro.

Dungen is the deidly dragon Lucifer,
 The crewall serpent with the mortall stang ; 10
 The auld kene tegir, with his teith on char,
 Quhilk in a wait hes lyne for ws so lang,
 Thinking to grip ws in his clowss strang ;
 The mercifull Lord wald nocht that it wer so,
 He maid him for to felze of that fang : 15
 Surrexit Dominus de sepulchro.

He for our saik that sufferit to be slane,
 And lyk a lamb in sacrifice wes dicht,
 Is lyk a lyone rissin vp agane,
 And as gyane raxit him on hicht ; 20
 Sprungen is Aurora radius and bricht,
 On loft is gone the gloriu Appollo,
 The blisfull day departit fro the nycht :
 Surrexit Dominus de sepulchro.

The grit victour agane is rissin on hicht, 25
 That for our querrell to the deth wes woundit ;
 The sone that vox all pail now schynis bricht,
 And dirknes clerit, our fayth is now refoundit ;
 The knell of mercy fra the hevin is soundit,
 The Cristin ar deliuerit of thair wo, 30
 The Jowis and thair errour ar confoundit :
 Surrexit Dominus de sepulchro.

The fo is chasit, the battell is done ceiss,
 The presone brokin, the jevellouris fleit and flemit ;
 The weir is gon, confermit is the peiss, 35
 The fetteris lowsit and the dungeoun temit,
 The ransoun maid, the presoneris redemit ;
 The feild is win, ourcumin is the fo,
 Dispulit of the tresur that he 3emit :
 Surrexit Dominus de sepulchro. 40

Finis quod Dunbar.

XXXIX.

[FFREDOME, HONOUR AND NOBILNES.]

FREDOME, honour and nobilnes,
 Meid,¹ manheid, mirth and gentilnes
 Ar now in cowrt reput² as vyce ;
 And all for causs of cuvetice.

All weilfair, welth and wantones 5
 Ar chengit in-to wretchitnes,
 And play is sett at littill price ;
 And all for causs of covetyce.

Halking, hunting and swift horss rynning
 Ar chengit all in wrangus wynnyng ; 10
 Thair is no play bot cartis and dyce ;
 And all for causs of covetyce.

Honorable houshaldis ar all laid³ down ;
 Ane⁴ laird hes with him bot a loun,
 That leidis him eftir his devyce ; 15
 And all for causs of covetyce.

In burghis,⁵ to landwart and to sie,
 Quhair was plesour⁶ and grit plentie,
 Vennesoun, wyld fowill, wyne and spyce,
 Ar now decayid thruch⁷ covetyce. 20

¹ M. Med.² M. all reput.³ M. omits.⁴ M. A.⁵ M. townnes.⁶ M. play.⁷ M. Is now bot cair and.

Husbandis that grangis had full grete,
 Cattell and corne to sell and ete,
 Hes now no beist¹ bot cattis and myce ;
 And all thruch² caus of covettyce.

Honest ȝemen in every toun 25
 War wont³ to weir baith⁴ reid and broun,
 Ar now arrayit in raggis with⁵ lyce ;
 And all thruch² caus of covettyce.

And⁴ lairdis in silk harlis to the eill,⁶
 For quhilk thair tennentis sald somer meill,⁷ 30
 And leivis⁸ on rutis vndir the ryce ;
 And all thruch² caus of covettyce.

Quha that dois deidis of petie,
 And leivis in pece and cheretie,
 Is haldin⁹ a fule, and that full nyce ; 35
 And all thruch² caus of covettyce.

And⁴ quha can reive¹⁰ vthir menis rowmis,
 And vpoun peur men gadderis¹¹ sowmis,
 Is now ane active man and wyce ;
 And all thruch² caus of covettyce. 40

Man, pleiss thy makar and be mirry,
 And sett not by¹² this warld a chirry ;
 Wirk for the place of paradyce,
 For thairin¹³ ringis na covettyce.

*Ffinis.*¹⁴

¹ M. guidis. ² M. for. ³ M. That vont war. ⁴ M. omits
⁵ M. vithe, raggis and. ⁶ M. heill. ⁷ M. haiff sould thair seill.
⁸ M. liffes. ⁹ M. now ane. ¹⁰ M reiff can
¹¹ M. puir men gadder. ¹² M. off. ¹³ M. thair. ¹⁴ M. *Quod* Dumbar.

XL.

[RYCHT AIRLIE ON ASK WEDDINSDAY.]

RYCHT airlie on Ask Weddinsday,¹
 Drynkand² the wyne satt cumeris tway ;
 The tane cowth³ to the tother⁴ complene,
 Graneand and supband cowl⁵ scho say,
 "This lang Lentern makis⁶ me lene."⁵

On cowch³ besyd the fyre scho⁷ satt,
 God wait gif scho wes grit and fatt,
 3it to be feble scho did hir fene ;
 And ay scho said,⁸ "Latt preif of that,
 This lang Lentern makis me lene."⁹

10

"My³ fair, sweit¹⁰ cummer," quod the tuder,¹¹
 "3e tak that nigirtness¹² of 3our muder ;¹³
 All¹⁴ wyne to test scho wald¹⁵ disdane
 Bot mavasy,¹⁶ scho bad nane vder ;¹⁷
 This lang Lentern makis me lene."¹⁸

15

¹ M. R. Airlie on Ass wodinsday.² M. R. At.³ M. omits.⁴ M. tother cold ; R. could.⁵ M. Sichand and soupand can ; R. Soband.⁶ M. R. hes maid.⁷ M. R. quhar that scho.⁸ M. R. sayand ay, cummer.⁹ M. That Lenterne sall nocht mak ws lene ; R. Lentrane may.¹⁰ R. gentill.¹¹ M. said the tother ; R. uther.¹² M. R. nigarnes ; Aberd. MS. megernes.¹³ M. R. mother.¹⁴ M. R. Ill.¹⁵ M. R. did.¹⁶ M. mawissie ; R. mavasie.¹⁷ Aberd. MS. and nay drink uthir.¹⁸ R. That Lenterne suld nocht mak hir lene.

"Cummer, be glaid ¹ both evin and morrow,
 Thocht 3e suld bayth beg and borrow,²
 Fra our lang fasting 3e ³ 3ow refrene,
 And latt your husband dre the sorrow;⁴
 This lang Lantern makis me lene."⁵ 20

"3our counsale,⁶ cummer, is gud,"⁷ quod scho,
 "All is to tene him that ⁸ I do,
 In bed he is nocht wirth a ⁹ bene;
 Fill fow the glass¹⁰ and drynk me to;
 This lang¹¹ Lenterne makis me lene."¹² 25

Off wyne owt of ane choppyne stowp,¹³
 They drank twa¹⁴ quartis, sowp and sowp,
 Of drowth sic excess did thame constrene;¹⁵
 Be¹⁶ than to mend thay had gud howp;¹⁷
 This lang Lentroun makis me lene.¹⁸ 30

Quod Dumbar.

¹ M. R. blythe.

² M. R. And lat 3our hwsband drie the sorrow.

³ M. omits.

⁴ M. R. And I sall find 3ow God to borrow.

⁵ M. R. That Lenterne sall nocht mak 3ow lene.

⁶ M. R. Fair gentill.

⁷ M. than; R. than seid.

⁸ M. at.

⁹ M. R. worth ane.

¹⁰ M. R. Fill the cop, cumer.

¹¹ R. That.

¹² M. This Lenterne sall nocht mak ws lene.

¹³ M. R. Thir twa, out of ane chopin stowp.

¹⁴ M. thre; R. thrie.

¹⁵ M. R. Sic drouthe and thrist was thame betwene.

¹⁶ M. R. Bot.

¹⁷ M. R. hop.

¹⁸ M. That Lenterne swld nocht mak thame lene; R. That Lentrane sould not.

XLI.

[BE 3E ANE LUVAR, THINK 3E NOCHT
3E SULD.]

BE 3e ane luvar, think 3e nocht 3e suld
 Be weill adwysit in 3our gouerning?
 Be 3e nocht sa, it will on 3ow be tauld ;
 Bewar thairwith for dreid of misdemyng.
 Be nocht a wreche, nor skerche in 3our spending, 5
 Be layth alway to do amiss or schame ;
 Be rewlit rycht and keip this doctring,
 Be secreit, trew, incurring of 3our name.

Be 3e ane lear, that is werst of all,
 Be 3e ane tratlar, that I hald als ewill ; 10
 Be 3e ane janglar, and 3e fra vertew fall,
 Be nevir mair on to thir vicis thrall ;
 Be now and ay the maistir of 3our will,
 Be nevir he that lesing sall proclame ;
 Be nocht of langage quhair 3e suld be still, 15
 Be secreit, trew, incurring of 3our name.

Be nocht abasit for no wicket tung,
 Be nocht sa set as I haif said 3ow heir ;
 Be nocht sa lerge vnto thir sawis sung,
 Be nocht our prowde, thinkand 3e haif no peir ; 20

Be 3e so wyiss that vderis at 3ow leir,
Be nevir he to sklander nor defame ;
Be of 3our lufe no¹ prechour as a freir,
Be secreit, trew, inccessing of 3our name.

Finis quod Dumbar.

¹ Indistinct, might be read *nor*.

XLII.

[SEN THAT I AM A PRESONEIR.]

SEN that I am a presoneir
 Till hir that farest¹ is and best,
 I me commend, fra 3eir till 3eir,
 In till hir bandoun² for to rest.
 I govit on that³ gudliest, 5
 So lang to luk I tuk laseir,⁴
 Quhill I wes tane withouttin test,⁵
 And led furth as a presoneir.

Hir sweit having,⁶ and fresche bewte,
 Hes wondit⁷ me but swerd or lance ; 10
 With hir⁸ to go commandit me,
 Ontill⁹ the castell of pennance.
 I said, "Is this 3our gouirnance,
 To tak men for thair lukiing heir?"
 Bewty sayis,¹⁰ "3a, schir,¹¹ perchance 15
 3e be my ladeis presoneir."

Thai had me bundin to the 3et,
 Quhair Strangenes had bene portar ay,
 And in deliuerit me thairat,
 And in thir termis can thai say, 20

R. fairest.

² R. bandon.³ R. the.⁴ R. leasser.⁵ R. then withottin kest.⁶ R. Sueitt Heffing.⁷ R. Thai restit me.⁸ R. thame.⁹ R. Unto.

R. Fresche Bewtie said 3e.

¹¹ R. omits.

Do wait, and lat him nocht away.
 Quo Strangnes vnto the porteir,
 "Ontill my lady, I dar lay,
 3e be to pure a presoneir."

Thai kest me in a deip dungeoun, 25
 And fetterit me but lok or cheyne ;
 The capitane hecht Comparesone,
 To luke on me he thocht greit deyne.
 Thocht I wes wo I durst nocht pleyne,
 For he had fetterit mony affeir ; 30
 With petouss voce thus cuth I sene,
 Wo is a wofull presoneir.

Langour wes weche vpoun the wall,
 That nevir sleipit bot evir wouke ;
 Scorne wes bourdour in the hall, 35
 And oft on me his babill schuke,
 Lukand with mony a dengerous luke.
 Quhat is he 3one, that methis ws neir?
 3e be to townage, be this buke,
 To be my ladeis presoneir. 40

Gud Houp rownit in my eir,
 And bad me baldlie breve a bill ;
 With Lawlines he suld it beir,
 With Fair Scherwice send it hir till.
 I wouk, and wret hir all my will ; 45
 Fair Scherwice fur withouttin feir,
 Sayand till hir with wirdis still,
 Haif pety of 3our presoneir.

Than Lawlines to Petie went,
 And said till hir in termis schort, 50
 Lat we 3one presoneir be schent,
 Will no man do to ws support ;

Gar lay ane sege vnto 3one fort.
 Than Petie said, "I sall appeir ;"
 Thocht sayis, "I hecht, com I ourthort,
 I houp to lowss the presoneir." 55

Than to battell thai war arreyit all,
 And ay the wawart kepit Thocht ;
 Lust bur the benner to the wall,
 And Bissines the grit gyn brocht. 60
 Skorne cryis out, sayis, "Wald 3e ocht ?"
 Lust sayis, "We wald haif entre heir ;"
 Comparisone sayis, "That is for nocht,
 3e will nocht wyn the presoneir."

Thai thairin schup for to defend, 65
 And thai thairfurth sailzeit ane hour ;
 Than Bissines the grit gyn bend,
 Straik down the top of the foir tour.
 Comparisone began to lour,
 And cryit furth, "I 3ow requeir, 70
 Soft and fair and do fawour,
 And tak to 3ow the presoneir."

Thai fryit the 3ettis deliuerly
 With faggottis wer grit and huge ;
 And Strangenes, quhair that he did ly, 75
 Wes brint in to the porter luge.
 Lustely thay lakit bot a juge,
 Sik straikis and stychling wes on steir,
 The semeliest wes maid assege,
 To quhome that he wes presoneir. 80

Thrucht Skornes noss thai put a prik,
 This he wes banist and gat a blek ;
 Comparisone wes erdit quik,
 And Langour lap and brak his nek.

Thai sailzeit fast, all the fek, 85
Lust chasit my ladeis chalmirleir,
Gud Fame wes drownit in a sek ;
Thus ransonit thai the presoneir.

Fra Sklandir hard Lust had vndone
His enemeis, him aganis 90
Assemblit ane semely sort full sone,
And raiss and rowttit all the planis.
His cusing in the court remanis,
Bot jalouss folkis and geangleiris,
And fals Invy that no thing lanis, 95
Blew out on Luvis presoneir.

Syne Matremony, that nobill king,
Was grevit, and gadderit ane grit ost,
And all enermit, without lesing,
Chest Sklander to the west se cost. 100
Than wes he and his linege lost,
And Matremony, withowttin weir,
The band of freindschip hes indost,
Betuix Bewty and the presoneir.

Be that of eild wes Gud Famiss air, 105
And cumyne to continwatioun,
And to the court maid his repair,
Quhair Matremony than woir the crowne.
He gat ane confirmatioun,
All that his modir aucht but weir, 110
And baid still, as it wes resone,
With Bewty and the presoneir.

Finis.

XLIII.

[THIR LADYIS FAIR, THAT MAKIS REPAIR.]

THIR ladyis fair, That makis repair,
 And in the court ar kend,
 Thre dayis thair, Thay will do mair,
 Ane mater for till¹ end,
 Than thair gud men Will do in ten, 5
 For ony craft thay can,
 So weill thay ken, Quhat tyme and quhen,
 Thair menes² thay sowld mak than.

With littill noy, Thay can convoy
 Ane³ mater fynaly, 10
 Richt myld and moy, And⁴ keip it coy,
 On evyns⁵ quyety.
 Thay do no miss, Bot gif thay kiss,
 And keipis collatioun,
 Quhat rek⁶ of this? Thair⁷ mater is 15
 Brocht to conclusioun.

Wit 3e weill,⁸ Thay haif grit feill,
 Ane mater to solist,
 Trest⁹ as the steill, Syne nevir a deill
 Quhen thay cum hame ar¹⁰ mist. 20

¹ M. R. to.² M. R. meynis.³ M. R. A.⁴ M. R. thai.⁵ M. R. ewynnys.⁶ M. R. rak.⁷ M. R. the.⁸ M. R. 3e may wit.⁹ M. R. Traist.¹⁰ M. R. is.

Thir lairdis ar, Methink, richt far
 Sic ladeis behaldin to,
 That sa weill dar Go to the bar,
 Quhen thair is ocht ado.

Thairfoir I reid,¹ Gif 3e haif² pleid, 25
 Or mater in to pley,
 To mak remeid, Send in 3our steid,
 3our ladeis grathit vp gay.
 Thay can defend, Evin to the end,
 Ane mater furth express ; 30
 Suppois thay spend, It is vnkend,
 Thair geir is nocht the les.

In quyet place, Thocht³ thay haif² space,
 Within less nor twa howris,
 Thay can, percaice, Purchess sum grace, 35
 At the compositouris.
 Thair compositioun, With full remissioun,⁴
 Thair fynaly is endit,
 With expeditioun And full conditioun,⁵
 Thair seilis ar to pendit.⁶ 40

Alhaill almoist, Thay mak the coist,
 With sobir recompens,
 Richt littill loist, Thay get indoist,
 Alhaill thair evidens.
 Sic ladyis wyiss, Thay ar⁷ to prys, 45
 To say the veretie,
 Swa can devyiss, And not⁸ suppryiss
 Thame, nor⁹ thair honestie.

Finis quod Dumbar.

¹ M. R. rid.

² M. have.

³ M. R. and.

⁴ M. R. without suspitioun.

⁵ M. R. remissioun.

⁶ M. R. And seilis thairto appendit.

⁷ M. R. ar all.

⁸ M. none ; R. nane.

⁹ M. R. throw.

XLIV.

[IN PRAYS OF WOMAN.]

NOW of wemen¹ this I say for me,
 Off ertthly thingis nane may bettir be ;
 Thay suld haif² wirschep and grit honoring
 Off men, aboif all vthir ertthly³ thing ;
 Rycht grit dishonour vpoun him self he takkis 5
 In word or deid quha evir wemen lakkis ;
 Sen that of wemen cumin all ar we,
 Wemen ar wemen and sa will end and de.
 Wo wirth⁴ the fruct⁵ wald put the tre to nocht,
 And wo wirth⁴ him rycht so that sayis ocht 10
 Off womanheid that may be ony lak,
 Or sic grit schame vpone him for to tak.
 Thay ws consaif⁶ with pane, and be thame fed
 Within thair breistis thair we be boun to bed ;
 Grit pane and wo, and mvrnyng mervelluss,⁷ 15
 Into thair birth thay suffir sair for ws ;
 Than meit and drynk to feid ws get we nane,
 Bot that⁸ we soik⁹ out of thair breistis bane.
 Thay ar the confort that we all haif² heir,
 Thair may no man be till ws half so deir ; 20
 Thay ar our verry nest of nvrissing,¹⁰
 In lak of thame quha can say ony thing,

¹ M. Off women now.² M. haue.³ M. warldlie.⁴ M. worth.⁵ M. frute.⁶ M. consaue.⁷ M. marvelous.⁸ M. it.⁹ M. sowik.¹⁰ M. nwreissing.

That fowll¹ his nest he fylis, and forthy
 Exylit he suld be of all gud cumpany ;
 Thair suld na wyiss² man gif audience, 25
 To sic ane without intelligence.
 Chryst to his fader he had nocht ane man ;
 Se quhat wirschep wemen suld haif³ than.
 That Sone is Lord, that Sone is King of kingis,
 In hevin and erth his maiestie ay ringis.⁴ 30
 Sen scho hes borne him in hir halines,
 And he is well and grund of all gudnes,
 All wemen of ws suld haif⁵ honoring,
 Service and lue, aboif⁶ all vthir thing.

[*Finis*] *quod* Dumbar.⁷

¹ M. fule.

² M. wyse.

³ M. haue.

⁴ M. regnis.

⁵ M. sould of ws haue.

⁶ M. luif, abuif.

⁷ M. Quod Dumbar in prays of woman.

XLV.

[QUHA WILL BEHALD OF LUVE
THE CHANCE.]

QUHA will behald of luve the chance,
 With sueit dissauyng countenance,
 In quhais fair dissimvlance

May none assure ;
 Quhilk is begun with inconstance, 5
 And endis nocht but variance,
 Scho haldis with continwance
 No scheruiture.

Discretioun and considerance
 Ar both out of hir gouirnanace ; 10
 Quhairfoir of it the schort plesance

May nocht indure ;
 Scho is so new of acquentance,
 The auld gais fra remembrance ;
 Thus I gife our the obseruanss 15
 Of luvis cure.

It is ane pount of ignorance
 To lufe in sic distemperance,
 Sen tyme mispendit may avance
 No creature ; 20

In luv to keip allegance,
It war als nyss an ordinance,
As quha wald bid ane deid man dance,
In sepulture.

Finis quod Dumbar.

XLVI.

[IN MAY AS THAT AURORA DID VPSRING.]

I N May as that¹ Aurora did vpspring,
 With cristall ene² chasing the cluddis³ sable,
 I hard a⁴ merle with mirry notis sing
 A⁴ sang of lufe, with voce rycht comfortable,
 Agane the orient bemis amiable, 5
 Vpone a blisful brenche of lawryr⁵ grene ;
 This wes hir sentens⁶ sueit and delectable,
 A⁴ lusty lyfe in luves scheruice⁷ bene.

Vndir this brench⁸ ran down a⁴ revir bricht,
 Of balmy liquour, cristallyne of hew, 10
 Agane the hevinly aisur⁹ skyis licht,
 Quhair did, vpone¹⁰ the tothair syd, persew
 A nyctingall, with suggurit¹¹ notis new,
 Quhois angell¹² fedderis as the pacok schone ;
 This wes hir song, and of a⁴ sentens trew, 15
 All lufe¹³ is lost bot vpone God allone.

With notis glaid and glorious armony,
 This joyfull merle so salust scho the day,
 Quhill rong the widdis of hir melody,
 Saying, "Awalk, 3e luvaris, O, this May. 20

¹ M. omits.² M. ein.³ M. cloudis.⁴ M. ane.⁵ M. lawrie.⁶ M. sang.⁷ M. service.⁸ M. branche.⁹ M. aissure.¹⁰ M. apon.¹¹ M. sugorit.¹² M. angellis.¹³ M. luif.

Lo, fresche Flora hes flurest every spray,
 As natur hes hir taucht, the noble quene,
 The feild bene clothit in a new array;
 A lusty lyfe in luvis scheruice bene.

Nevir suetar noys wes hard with levand man, 25
 Na maid this mirry gentill nychtingaill,
 Hir sound went with the rever as it rân,
 Outthrow the fresche and flureist lusty vail.
 "O merle," quod scho, "O fule, stynt of thy taill,
 For in thy song gud sentens is thair none, 30
 For boith is tynt the tyme and the travaill
 Of every luvè bot vpone God allone."¹

"Seiss," quod the merle, "thy preching, nychtingale,
 Sall² folk thair 3ewth spend in-to holiness?
 Of 3ung sanctis growis auld feyndis but fable;³ 35
 Fy, ypocreit, in⁴ 3eiris tendirness,
 Agane the law of kynd⁵ thow gois express,
 That crukit aige makis on with 3ewth serene,⁶
 Quhome⁷ natur of conditionis maid dyverss;
 A⁸ lusty life in luvès scheruice⁹ bene." 40

The nychtingaill said, "Fule,¹⁰ remembir the,
 That both¹¹ in 3ewth and eild,¹² and every hour,
 The luvè of God most deir to man suld be,
 That him of nocht wrocht lyk his awin figour,
 And deit him self fro deid him to succour. 45
 O, quhithir wes kythit thair trew luvè or none?
 He is most trew and steidfast paramour;
 All luvè is lost bot vpone him¹³ allone."

¹ M. omits ll. 17-32.² M. sould.³ M. faill.⁴ M. ypocraceis growis in.⁵ M. kynd of law.⁶ M. sould nocht with 3outh be sene.⁷ M. Quhilk.⁸ M. ane.⁹ M. service.¹⁰ M. Foull.¹¹ M. omits.¹² M. eild and 3outh.¹³ M. God.

The merle said, "Quhy put God so grit bewte
 In ladeis, with sic womanly having, 50
 Bot gife he wald that thay suld luvit¹ be?
 To lue eik natur² gaif thame inclynnynng;
 And He, of natur that wirker wes and king,
 Wald no thing frustir³ put, nor lat be sene,
 In to his⁴ creature⁵ of his awin making : 55
 A lusty lyfe in lues scheruice bene."

The nychtingall said, "Nocht to that behufe
 Put God sic bewty⁶ in a ladeis face,
 That scho suld haif the thank thairfoir⁷ or lufe,
 Bot He, the wirker, that put in hir sic grace, 60
 Off bewty, bontie,⁸ richness, tyme or space,
 And⁹ every gudness that bene¹⁰ to cum or gone;
 The thank redoundis to him in every place;
 All lue is lost bot vpone God allone."

"O nychtingall, it¹¹ wer a¹² story nyce, 65
 That lue suld nocht depend on¹³ cherite,
 And gife that vertew contrair be to vyce,
 Than lufe mon¹⁴ be a vertew, as thinkis¹⁵ me;
 For ay to lufe invy mone contrair¹⁶ be :
 God bad eik lufe thy nychtbour fro¹⁷ the splene, 70
 And quho than ladeis suetar¹⁸ nychbouris be?
 A¹² lusty lyfe in lufe[s] scheruice¹⁹ bene."

The nychtingaill said, "Bird, quhy dois thow raif?
 Man may tak in his lady sic delyt,²⁰
 Him to forȝet that hir sic vertew²¹ gaif, 75
 And for his hevin rassaif²² hir cullour quhyt;

¹ M. luffit.² M. And eik nature to luif.³ M. frusture.⁴ M. omits.⁵ M. creaturis.⁶ M. luif into ane.⁷ M. tharof.⁸ M. bounte, bewte.⁹ M. Off.¹⁰ M. is.¹¹ M. that.¹² M. ane.¹³ M. in.¹⁴ M. suld.¹⁵ M. than think.¹⁶ M. man contrarie.¹⁷ M. from.¹⁸ M. sweitar.¹⁹ M. service.²⁰ M. Ane man may in his ladie tak sic delyt.²¹ M. bewtie.²² M. ewin resae.

Hir goldin tressit¹ hairis redomyt,
 Lyk to² Appollois³ bemis thocht⁴ thay schone,
 Suld nocht him blind fro lufe that is perfytt ;
 All lufe is lost bot vpone God allone." 80

The merle said,⁵ " Lufe is causs of⁶ honour ay,
 Luve makis⁷ cowardis manheid to purchass,
 Luve makis knychtis hardy at assey,⁸
 Luve makis wrechis full of lergeness,
 Luve makis sueir folkis full of bissiness, 85
 Luve makis sluggirdis fresche and weill besene,
 Luve changis vyce in vertewis nobilness ;
 A⁹ lusty lyfe in luvis scheruice¹⁰ bene."

The nychtingaill said, " Trew is the contrary ;
 Sic frustir luve,¹¹ it blindis men so far,¹² 90
 In-to thair myndis¹³ it makis thame to vary ;
 In fals vane glory¹⁴ thai so drunken ar,
 Thair wit is went, of wo thai ar nocht war,
 Quhill that all¹⁵ wirchip away be fro thame gone,
 Fame, guddis and strenth ; quhairfoir weill say I dar, 95
 All luve¹¹ is lost bot vpone God allone."

Than said the merle,¹⁶ " Myn errour I confess ;
 This frustir luve all is¹⁷ bot vanite ;
 Blind ignorance me gaif¹⁸ sic hardiness,
 To argone¹⁹ so agane the varite ; 100
 Quhairfoir I counsall every man, that he
 With lufe²⁰ nocht in the feindis net²¹ be tone,
 Bot luve²² the luve¹¹ that did for his lufe de ;
 All lufe is lost bot vpone God allone."

¹ M. tressis and.² M. till.³ M. Appollonis.⁴ M. quhen that.⁵ M. sayis.⁶ M. luif causis.⁷ M. causis.⁸ M. assay.⁹ M. ane. ¹⁰ M. service.¹¹ M. luif.¹² M. frusture luif bindis manis hart so sair.¹³ M. mynd.¹⁴ M. langar.¹⁵ M. thair.¹⁶ M. The merle sayis.¹⁷ M. frusture luif is all.¹⁸ M. gaif me.¹⁹ M. argoun.²⁰ M. For luif,²¹ M. nek.²² M. omits

Than sang thay both with vocis lowd and cleir ; 105
 The merle sang, "Man, lufe God that hes the wrocht :"
 The nyctingall sang, "Man, lufe the¹ Lord most deir,
 That the and all this warld maid of nocht :"
 The merle said, "Luve him that thy lufe hes² socht
 Fra³ hevin to erd, and heir tuk flesche and bone :"
 The nyctingall sang, "And with his deid the⁴ bocht ; 110
 All lufe is lost bot vpone him⁵ alone."

Thane flaw thir birdis our the bewis schene,⁶
 Singing of lufe amang the levis⁷ small,
 Quhois ythand pleid 3it maid my thochtis⁸ grene, 115
 Bothe sleping, walking,⁹ in rest and in travall ;¹⁰
 Me to reconfort most it dois awaill¹¹
 Agane for lufe, quhen lufe I can find none,
 To think how song¹² this merle and nyctingail,
 All lufe is lost bot vpone God alone. 120

Finis quod Dumbar.

¹ M. luif thy. ² M. Man luif him that hes the. ³ M. Frome.
⁴ M. said, With all his blude ws bocht. ⁵ M. God.
⁶ M. attour thir feyldis grene. ⁷ M. thir leffis. ⁸ M. into my thocht is.
⁹ M. wakking. ¹⁰ M. travale ; B. MS. altered to restand in travell.
¹¹ M. confort it dois maist avalè. ¹² M. sang.

XLVII.

NOW CUMIS AIGE QUHAIR 3EWTH HES BENE,
AND TREW LUVE RYSIS FRO THE SPLENE.

NOW culit is dame Venus brand ;
Trew luvis fyre is ay kindilland,
And I begyn to vndirstand,
In feynit lufe quhat foly bene :
Now cumis aige quhair 3ewth hes bene, 5
And trew lufe rysis fro the splene.

Quhill Venus fyre be deid and cauld,
Trew luvis fyre nevir birnis bauld ;
So as the ta lufe vaxis auld,
The tothir dois inress moir kene : 10
Now cumis aige quhair 3ewth hes bene,
And trew lufe rysis fro the splene.

No man hes curege for to wryte
Quhat plesans is in lufe perfyte,
That hes in fenzeit lufe delyt, 15
Thair kyndnes is so contrair clene :
Now cumis aige quhair 3ewth hes bene,
And trew lufe rysis fro the splene.

Full weill is him that may imprent,
Or onywayiss his hairt consent, 20
To turne to trew lufe his intent,

And still the quarrell to sustene :
Now cumis aige quhair 3ewth hes bene,
And trew lufe rysis fro the splene.

I haif experience by my sell ; 25
In luvis court anis did I dwell,
Bot quhair I of a joy cowth tell,
I culd of truble tell fyftene :
Now cumis aige quhair ȝewth hes bene,
And trew lufe rysis fro the splene. 30

Befoir quhair that I wes in dreid,
Now haif I confort for to speid ;
Quhair I had maugre to my meid,
I trest rewaird and thankis betuene :
Now cumis aige quhair ȝewth hes bene,
And trew lufe rysis fro the splene.

Quhair lufe wes wont me to displeiss,
 Now find I in to lufe grit eiss ;
 Quhair I had denger and diseiss,
 My breist all confort dois contene : 40
 Now cumis aige quhair 3ewth hes bene,
 And trew lufe rysis fro the splene.

Quhair I wes hurt with jelosy,
 And wald no luer wer bot I,
 Now quhair I lufe I wald all wy 45
 Als weill as I luvit I wene :
 Now cumis aige quhair 3ewth hes bene,
 And trew lufe rysis fro the splene.

Befoir quhair I durst nocht for schame
My lufe discure, nor tell hir name ; 50
Now think I wirschep wer and fame,

To all the warld that it war sene :
 Now cumis aige quhair 3ewth hes bene,
 And trew lufe rysis fro the splene.

Befoir no wicht I did complene, 55
 So did hir denger me derene ;
 And now I sett nocht by a bene
 Hir bewty nor hir twa fair ene :
 Now cumis aige quhair 3ewth hes bene,
 And trew lufe rysis fro the splene. 60

I haif a luv farar of face,
 Quhome in no denger may haif place,
 Quhilk will me guerdoun gif and grace,
 And mercy ay quhen I me mene :
 Now cumis aige quhair 3ewth hes bene, 65
 And trew lufe rysis fro the splene.

Vnquyt I do no thing nor sane,
 Nor wairis a luv is thocht in vane ;
 I salbe als weill luvit agane,
 Thair may no jangler me prevene : 70
 Now cumis aige quhair 3ewth hes bene,
 And trew luv rysis fro the splene.

Ane lufe so fare, so gud, so sueit,
 So riche, so rewthfull and discreit,
 And for the kynd of man so meit, 75
 Nevir moir salbe nor 3it hes bene :
 Now cumis aige quhair 3ewth hes bene,
 And trew lufe rysis fro the splene.

Is none sa trew a luv as he,
 That for trew luv of ws did de ; 80
 He suld be luffit agane, think me,

XLVIII.

THE THISTLE AND THE ROSE.

QUHEN Merche wes with variand windis past
 And Appryll had, with hir siluer schouris,
 Tane leif at nature with ane orient blast ;
 And lusty May, that mvddir is of flouris,
 Had maid the birdis to begyn thair houris 5
 Amang the tendir odouris reid and quhyt,
 Quhois armony to heir it wes delyt ;

In bed at morrow, sleiping as I lay,
 Me thocht Aurora, with hir cristall ene,
 In at the window lukit by the day, 10
 And halsit me, with visage pail and grene ;
 On quhois hand a lark sang fro the splene,
 Awalk, luvaris, out of your slomereng,
 Se how the lusty morrow dois vp spring.

Me thocht fresche May befoir my bed vpstude, 15
 In weid depaynt of mony diuerss hew,
 Sobir, benyng, and full of mansuetude,
 In brycht atteir of flouris forgit new,
 Hevinly of color, quhyt, reid, broun and blew,
 Balmit in dew, and gilt with Phebus bemys, 20
 Quhill all the houss illumynit of hir lemys.

“Slugird,” scho said, “awalk annone for schame,
 And in my honour sum thing thow go wryt ;
 The lork hes done the mirry day proclame,

To raiss vp luvaris with confort and delyt, 25
 3it nocht inccessis thy curage to indyt,
 Quhois hairt sum tyme hes glaid and blisfull bene,
 Sangis to mak vndir the levis grene."

"Quhairto," quod I, "sall I vpryss at morrow,
 For in this May few birdis herd I sing? 30
 Thai haif moir causs to weip and plane thair sorrow,
 Thy air it is nocht holsum nor benyng ;
 Lord Eolus dois in thy sessone ring ;
 So busteous ar the blastis of his horne,
 Amang thy bewis to walk I haif forborne." 35

With that this lady sobirly did smyll,
 And said, "Vpryss, and do thy observance ;
 Thow did promyt, in Mayis lusty quhyle,
 For to discryve the Ross of most plesance.
 Go se the birdis how thay sing and dance, 40
 Illumynit our with orient skyis brycht,
 Annamyllit richely with new asur lycht."

Quhen this wes said, depairtit scho, this quene,
 And enterit in a lusty gairding gent ;
 And than, me thocht, full hestely besene, 45
 In serk and mantill [eftir hir]¹ I went
 In to this garth, most dulce and redolent
 Off herb and flour, and tendir plantis sueit,
 And grene levis doing of dew doun fleit.

The purpour sone, with tendir bemys reid, 50
 In orient bricht as angell did appeir,
 Throw goldin skyis putting vp his heid,
 Quhois gilt tressis schone so wondir cleir,
 That all the world tuke confort, fer and neir,
 To luke vpone his fresche and blisfull face, 55
 Doing all sable fro the hevynnis chace.

¹ B. MS. repeats *full haistely* ; "eftir hir" supplied by Lord Hailes.

And as the blisfull sonne of cherarchy
 The fowlis song throw confort of the licht ;
 The birdis did with oppin vocis cry,
 O, luvaris fo, away thow dully nycht, 60
 And welcum day that confortis every wicht ;
 Haill May, haill Flora, haill Aurora schene,
 Haill princes Natur, haill Venus luvis quene.

Dame Nature gaif ane inhibitioun thair
 To ferss Neptunus, and Eolus the bawld, 65
 Nocht to perturb the wattir nor the air,
 And that no schouris, nor blastis cawld,
 Effray suld flouris nor fowlis on the fold ;
 Scho bad eik Juno, goddes of the sky,
 That scho the hevin suld keip amene and dry. 70

Scho ordand eik that every bird and beist
 Befoir hir hienes suld annone compeir,
 And every flour of vertew, most and leist,
 And every herb be feild fer and neir,
 As thay had wont in May, fro 3eir to 3eir, 75
 To hir thair makar to mak obediens,
 Full law inclynnand with all dew reuerens.

With that annone scho send the swyft Ro
 To bring in beistis of all conditioun ;
 The restles Sualow commandit scho also 80
 To feche all fowll of small and greit renown ;
 And to gar flouris compeir of all fassoun,
 Full craftely conjurit scho the Yarrow,
 Quhilk did furth swirk als swift as ony arrow.

All present wer in twynkling of ane e, 85
 Baith beist, and bird and flour, befoir the quene,
 And first the Lyone, gretast of degre,

Was callit thair, and he, most fair to sene,
 With a full hardy contenance and kene,
 Befoir dame Natur come, and did inclyne, 90
 With visage bawld, and curage leonyne.

This awfull beist full terrible wes of cheir,
 Persing of luke, and stout of countenance,
 Rycht strong of corporis, of fassoun fair, but feir,
 Lusty of schaip, lycht of deliuerance, 95
 Reid of his cullour, as is the ruby glance ;
 On feild of gold he stude full mychtely,
 With flour delycis sirkulit lustely.

This lady liftit vp his cluvis cleir,
 And leit him listly lene vpone hir kne, 100
 And crownit him with dyademe full deir,
 Off radyous stonis, most ryall for to se ;
 Saying, "The King of Beistis mak I the,
 And the cheif protector in woddis and schawis ;
 Onto thi leigis go furth, and keip the lawis. 105

Exerce justice with mercy and conscience,
 And lat no small beist suffir skaith, na skornis
 Of greit beistis that bene of moir piscence ;
 Do law elyk to aipis and vnicornis,
 And lat no bowgle, with his busteous hornis, 110
 The meik pluch ox oppress, for all his pryd,
 Bot in the ȝok go peciable him besyd."

Quhen this was said, with noyis and soun of joy,
 All kynd of beistis in to thair degre,
 At onis cryit lawd, "Viue le Roy !" 115
 And till his feit fell with humilite,
 And all thay maid him homege and fewte ;
 And he did thame ressaif with princely laitis,
 Quhois noble yre is proceir prostratis.

Syne crownit scho the Egle King of Fowlis, 120
And as steill dertis scherpit scho his pennis,
And bawd him be als just to awppis and owlis,
As vnto pacokkis, papingais, or crennis,
And mak a law for wycht fowlis and for wrennis ;
And lat no fowll of ravyne do efferay, 125
Nor devoir birdis bot his awin pray.

Than callit scho all flouris that grew on feild,
Discirnyng all thair fassionis and effeiris ;
Vpone the awfull Thrissill scho beheld,
And saw him kepit with a busche of speiris ; 130
Concedring him so able for the weiris,
A radius croun of rubeis scho him gaif,
And said, " In feild go furth, and fend the laif ;

And, sen thow art a king, thow be discret ;
Herb without vertew thow hald nocht of sic pryce 135
As herb of vertew and of odor sueit ;
And lat no nettill vyle, and full of vyce,
Hir fallow to the gudly flour delyce ;
Nor latt no wyld weid, full of churlicheness,
Compair hir till the lilleis nobilness. 140

Nor hald non vdir flour in sic denty
As the fresche Ross, of cullour reid and quhyt ;
For gife thow dois, hurt is thyne honesty,
Conciddering that no flour is so perfyte,
So full of vertew, plesans and delyt, 145
So full of blisfull angeilik bewty,
Imperiall birth, honour and dignite."

Than to the Ross scho turnyt hir visage,
And said, " O lusty dochtir most benyng,
Aboif the lilly, illustare of lynnage, 150

Fro the stok ryell rying fresche and ȝing,
 But ony spot or macull doing spring;
 Cum blowme of joy with jemis to be cround,
 For our the laif thy bewty is renownd."

A coistly croun, with clarefeid stonis brycht, 155
 This cumly quene did on hir heid incloiss,
 Quhill all the land illumynit of the licht;
 Quhairfoir me thocht all flouris did reioss,
 Crying attonis, "Haill, be thow richest Ross!
 Haill, hairbis empyrce, haill, freschest quene of flouris, 160
 To the be glory and honour at all houris."

Thane all the birdis song with voce on hicht,
 Quhois mirthfull soun wes mervelus to heir;
 The mavyss song, "Haill, Roiss most riche and richt,
 That dois vp flureiss vndir Phebus speir; 165
 Haill, plant of ȝowth, haill, princes dochtir deir,
 Haill, blosome breking out of the blud royall,
 Quhois pretius vertew is imperiall."

The merle scho sang, "Haill, Roiss of most delyt,
 Haill, of all flouris quene and souerane; 170
 The lark scho song, "Haill, Roiss, both reid and quhyt,
 Most plesand flour, of mighty cullouris twane;
 The nychtingaill song, "Haill, naturis suffragene,
 In bewty, nurtour and every nobilness,
 In riche array, renown and gentilness." 175

The commoun voce vprais of birdis small,
 Apone this wyss, "O blissit be the hour
 That thow wes chosin to be our principall;
 Welcome to be our princes of honour,
 Our perle, our plesans and our paramour, 180
 Our peax, our play, our plane felicite,
 Chryst the conserf frome all aduersite."

Than all the birdis song with sic a schout,
That I annone awoilk quhair that I lay,
And with a braid I turnyt me about 185
To se this court; bot all wer went away:
Than vp I lenyt, halfingis in affrey,
And thuss I wret, as 3e haif hard to forrow,
Off lusty May vpone the nynt morrow.

Explicit, quod Dumbar.

XLIX.

[IN VICE MOST VICIUS HE EXCELLIS.]

IN vice most vicius he excellis,
 That with the vice of tressone mellis;
 Thocht he remissioun
 Haif for prodissioun,¹
 Schame and susspissioun² 5
 Ay³ with him dwellis.

And he evir odious as ane owle,
 The falt sa filthy⁴ is and fowle;
 Horrible to natour
 Is ane tratour, 10
 As feind in fratour
 Vndir a⁵ cowle.

Quha is a⁵ tratour or ane theif,
 Vpoun him selff turnis the mischeif;
 His frawdfull wylis 15
 Him self begylis,
 As in the ilis⁶
 Is now a⁵ preiff.

The fell strong tratour, Donald Owyr,
 Mair falsett had nor⁷ vdir fowyr; 20
 Rowme ylis and seyis

¹ M. R. proditiōne.² M. R. suspēciōne.³ M. R. omit.⁴ M. R. terrible.⁵ M. R. ane.⁶ M. R. yllis.⁷ M. R. hes thane.

In his suppleis,
 On gallow treis
 3itt dois he glowir.¹

Falsett no feit hes, nor deffence, 25
 Be power, practik, nor puscence;
 Thocht it fra licht
 Be smord² with slicht,
 God schawis the richt
 With soir vengeance. 30

Off the falis fox dissimvlatour,
 Kynd hes every³ theiff and tratour;
 Eftir respyt
 To wirk dispyt
 Moir⁴ appetyt 35
 He hes⁵ of natour.

War the fox tane a⁶ thousand fawd,⁷
 And grace him gevin als oft for frawd,⁸
 War he on plane
 All war in vane, 40
 Frome hennis⁹ agane
 Micht non him hawd.¹⁰

The murtherer ay mvrthour¹¹ mais,
 And evir¹² quhill he be slane he slais;
 Wyvis thuss makis mokkis 45
 Spynnand on rokkis;
 Ay rynniss the fox
 Quhill he fute hais.

*Finis,*¹³ *quod* Dumbar, *for* Donald Ovre *Epetaphe*.¹³

¹ M. R. Now he dois glowr.—This and the following verse are transposed in B. MS.

² M. R. smorit.

³ M. R. all reffar.

⁴ M. R. Mair.

⁵ M. thai heff.

⁶ M. R. ane.

⁷ M. R. fauld.

⁸ M. And grace him gevin ay quhen he cald.

⁹ M. Fra hen3e; R. Fra hennis.

¹⁰ M. R. Nane mycht him hald.

¹¹ M. murder.

¹² M. R. ay.

¹³ M. R. omit.

[The Poems, Nos. IX.-XLIX., are printed from the Bannatyne MS.]

L.

[OF SIR THOMAS NORRAY.]

NOW lythis of ane gentill Knycht,
 Schir Thomas Norray,¹ wyse and wicht.²
 And full of chivalrie ;
 Quhais³ father was ane Grand Keyne,⁴
 His mother was ane Farie Queyne, 5
 Gottin be sosserie.

Ane fairer knycht nor he was ane,
 On ground may nother⁵ ryd nor gang,
 Na beir bucklar nor brand ;
 Or cum in this court but dreid ; 10
 He did full mony valzeant deid
 In Roiss, and Murray land.

Full many catherein hes he cheist,
 And cummered mony Helland gaist,
 Amang thai dully glennis :⁶ 15
 Off the Glen Quhettane twenti scoir
 He drawe as oxin him befoir ;
 This deid thocht na man kennis.

At feistis and brydallis wpaland,
 He wan the gre, and the garland ; 20
 Danceit non so on⁷ deiss :

¹ R. Norry.² M. vyss and vycht.³ R. Quhois.⁴ R. Keine.⁵ R. nether.⁶ R. glaines.⁷ R. in.

He hes att warslingis beine ane hunder,
 3ett lay his body nevir at wnder :
 He knawis gif this be leiss.¹

Was never vyld² Robeine wnder bewch, 25
 Nor 3et Roger of Clekkinsklewch,³
 So bauld a bairne as he ;
 Gy of Gysburne, na Allan Bell,
 Na Simones sonnes of Quhynfell,
 At schot⁴ war nevir so slie. 30

This anterouss knycht, quhaire ever he vent,
 At justinge, and⁵ at tornament,
 Evir moir he wan the gre ;
 Was never of halff so gryt⁶ renoun
 Schir Bevis⁷ the knycht of South Hamptoun : 35
 I shrew him gif I lie.

Thairfoir Quhentyne was bot ane lurdane,
 That callit him ane full plum Jurdane,
 This wyse and worthie knycht ;
 He callit him foullar than ane fuill, 40
 He said he was ane licheruss bull,
 That croynd bayth day and nycht.

He wald have maid him⁸ Curris knaiff;⁹
 I pray God better his honour saiff,
 Na to be lichtleit sua ! 45
 3ett this far⁸ furth I dar him prais,
 He fyld never sadell in his dais ;
 And Curry befyld tua.

¹ R. lies.² R. weild.³ R. Clekkinsleweh.⁴ R. Off thocht.⁵ R. nor.⁶ R. great.⁷ R. Bewis.⁸ R. omits.⁹ M. kneff.

Quhairfoir, ever at Pasche and 3ull,
I cry him Lord of everie fuill,¹

50

That in this regioun dwellis ;
And, verralie, that² war gryt rycht :
For, of ane hy³ renowned knycht,
He wantis no thing bot bellis.

Quod Dumbar.

¹ R. fooll.

² R. it.

³ R. hie.

LI.

OF JAMES DOG, KEPAR OF THE
QUENIS WARDROP.

TO THE QUENE.

THE Wardraipper of Wenus boure,
 To giff a doublett he is als doure,
 As it war off ane futt syd frog :
 Madame, 3e heff a¹ dangerouss Dog !

Quhen that I schawe to him 3our markis, 5
 He turnis to me again, and barkis,
 As he war wirriand² ane hog :
 Madame, 3e heff³ a dangerouss Dog !

Quhen that I schawe to him 3our wryting,
 He girnis that I am red for byting ; 10
 I wald he had ane hawye clog :
 Madame, 3e heff ane dangerouss Dog !

Quhen that I speik till him freindlyk,
 He barkis lyk ane midding tyk,
 War chassand cattell through a bog : 15
 Madame, 3e heff a¹ dangerouss Dog !

He is ane mastyf, mekle⁴ of mycht,
 To keip 3our wardroippe ower⁵ nycht

¹ R. ane.² R. worriand.³ R. have.⁴ R. mekill.⁵ R. day and.

Fra the grytt Sowdan Gog-ma-gog :

Madame, 3e heff a¹ dangerouss Dog !

20

He is owre mekle to be 3our messan,²

Madame, I red 3ou get a¹ less ane,

His gang garris all 3our chalmeris³ schog :

Madame, 3e heff a¹ dangerouss Dog !

Quod Dumbar of James Dog, Kepar
of the Quenis Wardrop.

¹ R. ane.

² R. messoun.

³ R. chalmer.

LII.

OF THE SAME JAMES,
QUHEN HE HAD PLESETT HIM..

O GRACIOUS Princes, guid and fair !
Do weill to James 3our Wardraipair ;
Quhais faithfull bruder¹ maist freind I am :
He is na Dog ; he is a Lam.

Thocht I in ballet did with him bourde, 5
In malice spaik I newir ane woord,
Bot all, my Dame, to do 3ou gam :
He is na Dog ; he is a Lam.

3our Hienes can nocht gett ane meter,
To keip your wardrope,² nor discreter,³ 10
To rule⁴ 3our robbis, and dress the sam :
He is na Dog ; he is a Lam.

The wyff, that he had in his⁵ innys,
That with the taingis wald brack his schinnis,
I wald scho drownit war in a dam : 15
He is na Dog ; he is a Lam.

The wyff that wald him kuckald⁶ mak,
I wald scho war, bayth syd and bak,
Weill batteret⁷ with ane barrow-tram :
He is na Dog ; he is ane Lam. 20

¹ R. brother.² R. wairdrop.³ R. discreitter.⁴ R. rewlle.⁵ R. this.⁶ R. cukkald.⁷ R. batterrit.

He hes sa weill doin me obey
In-till all thing, thairfoir I pray
That newir dolour mak him dram :
He is na Dog ; he is a Lam.

Quod Dumbar, of the same James quhen
he had plesett him.

LIII.

OF A DANCE IN THE QUENIS CHALMER.

SCHIR JHON SINCLAIR begowthe to dance,
 For he was new cum owt of France ;
 For ony thing that he do mycht,
 The ane futt 3eid ay onrycht,
 And to the tother wald not gree. 5
 Quoth¹ ane, "Tak vp the Quenis knycht :"
 A mirrear Dance mycht na man see.

Than cam in Maister ROBERT SCHA :²
 He leuket³ as he culd lern⁴ tham a ;
 Bot ay his ane futt did wawer, 10
 He stackerit lyk ane strummall awer,
 That hap schackellit war abone the kne :
 To seik fra Sterling to Stranawer,
 A mirrear Daunce mycht na man see.

Than cam in the Maister ALMASER,⁵ 15
 Ane hommilty jommelye juffler,⁶
 Lyk a stirk stackarand⁷ in the ry ;
 His hippis gaff mony hiddouss⁸ cry.
 JOHN BUTE the Fule said, "Wa es me !
 He is bedirtin,—Fy ! fy !" 20
 A mirrear Dance mycht na man se.

¹ R. Quod. ² R. Shaw. ³ R. lowkit. ⁴ R. learned. ⁵ R. dancer.

⁶ R. hummeltie jummeltie juffeller. ⁷ R. starlland. ⁸ R. huddouss ; M. hoddous.

Than cam in DUNBAR the Mackar ;¹
 On all the flwre² thair was nane frackar,
 And thair he daunset the dirrye dantoun ;
 He hoppet lyk a³ pillie wantoun, 25
 For luff of Mwsgraeffe,⁴ men tellis me ;
 He trippet, quhill he tint his pantoun :
 A mirrear Dance mycht⁵ na man se.

Than cam in Maestriss MWSGRAEFFE ;
 Scho mycht hef⁶ lernit all the laeffe ; 30
 Quhen I saw hir sa trimlye dance,
 Hir guid conwoy and countenance,
 Than, for hir sack, I wissitt⁷ to be
 The grytast⁸ erle, or duik, in France :
 A mirrear Dance mycht na man see. 35

Than cam in Dame DOUNTEBOUR ;⁹
 God waitt gif that scho loukit sour !
 Scho maid sic morgeownis¹⁰ with hir hippis,
 For lauchter nain mycht hald thair lippis ;
 Quhen scho was danceand bysselye,¹¹ 40
 Ane blast of wind soun¹² fra hir slippis :
 A mirrear Dance mycht na man see.

Quhen thair was cum¹³ in fywe or sax,
 The Quenis DOG begowthe to rax ;
 And of his band he maid a bred, 45
 And to the danceing soun¹⁴ he him maid ;
 Quhou mastew-lyk¹⁵ about ȝeid he !
 He stinckett lyk a tyk, sum said :
 A mirrear Dance mycht na man se.

Quod Dumbar of a dance in the
 Quenis chalmer.

¹ R. makker.	² R. floore.	³ R. ane.	⁴ R. Musgraiff.
⁵ R. did.	⁶ R. have.	⁷ R. wist.	⁸ R. gritest.
⁹ R. Dautiebour.	¹⁰ R. murgeans.	¹¹ R. busylie.	¹² R. sone.
¹³ R. cumd.	¹⁴ R. then sone.	¹⁵ R. Quhone mastive lyk.	

LIV

OF ANE BLAK-MOIR.

LANG heff I maid of ladyes quhytt,
 Now of ane blak I will indytt,
 That landet furth of the last schippis ;
 Quhou¹ fain wald I descrywe perfytt,
 My ladye with the mekle lippis. 5

Quhou scho is tute mowitt lyk an aip,
 And lyk a gangarall² unto graip ;
 And quhou hir schort catt noiss vp skippis ;³
 And quhou scho schynes lyk ony saip ;
 My ladye with the mekle lippis. 10

Quhen scho is claid in reche⁴ apperrall,
 Scho blinkis als brycht as ane tar barrell ;
 Quhen scho was born, the sone tholit clippis,
 The nycht be fain faucht in hir querrell :
 My ladye with the mekle lippis. 15

Quhai⁵ for hir saik, with speir and scheld,
 Preiffis maist mychtelye in the feld,
 Sall kiss, and withe hir go in grippis ;
 And fra thyne furth hir luff sall weld :
 My ladye with the mekle lippis. 20

¹ R. Quhome.² R. gangarull.³ R. kippis.⁴ R. reid.⁵ R. Quha.

And quhai¹ in felde receawes schame,
And tynis thair his knychtlie name,
Sall cum behind and kiss hir hippis,
And newir to wther confort clame :
My ladye with the mekle lippis.

25

Quod Dumbar of ane blak-moir.

¹ R Quha.

LV.

[TO THE QUENE.]

MADAME, 3our men said thai wald ryd,
 And latt this Fasterrennis¹ ewin ower slyd ;
 Bott than thair wyffis cam furth in flockis,
 And baid tham betteis soun² abyd
 At hame, and lib tham of the pockis. 5

Now propoyss thai, sen 3e dwell still,
 Off Venus feest to fang ane fill,
 Bott in the felde preiff³ thai na cockis ;
 For till heff riddin had bein less ill
 Nor latt thair wyffis breid the pockis. 10

Sum of 3our men sic curage hed,
 Dame Venus fyre sa hard tham sted,
 Thai brak vp durris,⁴ and raeff vp lockis,
 To get ane pampholet on ane pled
 That thai mycht lib thame of the pockis. 15

Sum, that war ryatouss as rammiss
 Ar now maid tame lyk ony lammiss,⁵
 And settin down lyk sarye crockis ;
 And hes forsae kin all sic ganmiss,
 That men callis libbing of the pockis. 20

¹ R. Fasternis.² R. son ; in M. *indistinct*, may be som.³ R. feder preiv.⁴ R. dures.⁵ R. lames.

Sum, thocht tham selffis¹ stark, lyk² gyandis,
 Ar now maid waek lyk willing wandis ;
 With schinnis scharp and small lyk rockis ;
 And gottin thair bak in bayth thair handis,
 For ower oft libbing of the pockis. 25

I saw cowclinkis³ me besyd,
 The 3oung men to thair howses⁴ gyd,
 Had bettir liggit in the stockis ;
 Sum fra the bordell wald nocht byd,
 Quhill that thai gatt the Spanzie⁵ pockis. 30

Thairfor, all 3oung men, I 3ou pray,
 Keip 3ou fra harlattis nycht and day ;
 Thay sall repent quha with thame 3ockis ;⁶
 And be war with that perrellouss play,
 That men callis libbing of the pockis. 35

Quod Dumbar.

¹ R. omits.

² R. as ony.

³ M. cocklinkis.

⁴ R. houssis.

⁵ R. Spaneze.

⁶ R. jockis.

LVI.

[TO THE KING.]

QUHEN MONY BENEFICES VAKIT.

SCHIR, at this feist of¹ benefyce,
 Think that small partis makis grit seruice,²
 And equale distributioun,
 Makis thame content that hes ressoun;
 And quha hes nane ar plesit na³ wyiss. 5

Schir, quhiddir is it mereit⁴ mair
 To gif him drink that thristis sair,
 Or fyll ane fow⁵ man quhyll he brist,
 And lat his fallow de for thrist,
 Quhylk wyne to drynk als worthie war? 10

It is no glaid collatioun
 Quhair ane makis myrrie, ane vther lukis doun;
 Ane thristis, ane vther playis cop out:
 Lat anis the cop ga round about,
 And wyn the covanis⁶ banesoun. 15

Quod Dumbar quhone mony
 benefices vakit.

¹ M. omits.² R. schervice.³ R. on na.⁴ R. almess.⁵ R. full.⁶ R. tounnes; 2 M. couenis.

LVII.

AGANIS THE SOLISTARIS IN COURT.

BE dyuers wayis¹ and operatiounis
 Men makis in court thair solistationis :
 Sum be seruice² and diligence ;
 Sum be continewale residence ;
 On substance sum man³ dois abyde, 5
 Quhill fortoun do for him prowye ;
 Sum singis ; sum dancis ; sum tellis storeis ;
 Sum lait at evin bringis in the moreis ;
 Sum flyrdis ; sum feynzeis ; and sum flattiris ;
 Sum playis the fule,⁴ and all-out clattiris ; 10
 Sum man, musand with⁵ the wa,
 Luikis as he mycht nocht do with a ;⁶
 Sum standis into a nuke, and rownis ;
 For covatice ane vther neir swownis ;
 Sum beiris as he wald ga wod⁷ 15
 For hot⁸ desyir off warldis gude ;
 Sum at the mes levis⁹ all devotioun,
 And besey¹⁰ labouris for promotioun ;
 Sum hes thair advocattis in chamer,
 And takis thame selffe thairof na glamer.¹¹ 20
 My sympilnes, amang the laif,
 Wait of na way, sa God me saiff !

¹ R. diverss wyis.² M. schervice.³ R. Sum on his substance.⁴ R. fuill.⁵ R. be.⁶ R. aw.⁷ R. wud.⁸ R. haitt.⁹ R. lewes.¹⁰ R. busy.¹¹ R. glawmir.

Bot, with ane humill¹ cheir and face,
 Referris me to the Kyngis grace :
 Me think his gracious countenance 25
 In riches is my sufficence.

Quod Dumbar aganis the solistaris
 in court.

¹ R. humbill.

LVIII.

[TO THE KING.]

OFF benefice, Schir, at everie feist,
 Quha monyast¹ hes makis maist requeist :
 Get thai nocht all, thay think 3e wrang thame :
 Ay is the our-word of the geist,²
 Giff thame the pelffe to pairt amang thame. 5

Sum swelleis swan,³ sum swelleis duke,
 And I stand fastand in a nwke,⁴
 Quhill the effect of all thay fang thame :
 Bot, Lord ! how petewuslie I luke,
 Quhen all the pelfe thay pairt amang thame. 10

Off sic hie feistis of saintis⁵ in glorie,
 Baithe off commoun and propir storie,
 Quhair lordis war patrones, oft I sang thame
Caritas pro Dei amore ;
 And 3it, I gat na thing amang thame. 15

This blynd warld euer so payis his dett,
 Riche befor pur spreidis ay thair nett,
 To fische all wateris dois belang thame :
 Quha na thing hes, can na thing gett,
 Bot ay as syphir⁶ sett amang thame. 20

¹ R. monyest.² R. gaist.³ R. swallis suan.⁴ R. nuik.⁵ R. sanctis.⁶ R. cyphar.

Swa thai¹ the² kirk haue in thair cure,
 Thay fors bot litill how it fure,
 Nor of the buikis, nor bellis quha rang³ thame :
 Thay panss⁴ nocht off the parrochin pure,
 Had thai the pelfe to pairt amang thame. 25

So variant⁵ is this warldis rent,
 That nane thairof can be⁶ content,
 Off deathe quhyll that the dragoun stang thame ;
 Quha maist hes than sall maist⁷ repent,
 With largest⁸ compt to pairt amang thame. 30

Quod Dumbar.

¹ R. they.

² R. omits.

³ R. hang.

⁴ R. penss.

⁵ R. waryit.

⁶ R. men of it ar nevir.

⁷ R. maist dois than.

⁸ R. And hes maist.

LIX.

[COMPLAINT TO THE KING AGANIS MURE.]

SCHIR,¹ I complane of iniuris :
 A refyng² sone of rakyng MURIS³
 Hes magellit my making, throw his maliss,
 And present it into 3owr paliss :⁴
 Bot, sen he plesis with me to pleid, 5
 I sall him knawin mak hyne to Calyss,⁵
 Bot giff 3owr Hieness it remeid.

That fulle dismemberit hes my meter,⁶
 And poysound⁷ it with strang salpeter,
 With rycht defamowss speiche off lordis, 10
 Quhilk with my collouris all discordis :
 Quhois crewall sclander seruiss⁸ deid ;
 And in my name all leis⁹ recordis,
 3our Grace beseik I of remeid.

He hes indorsit myn indytting 15
 With versis off his [awin]¹⁰ hand vrytting ;
 Quhairin baithe sclander is and tressoun :
 Off ane vod fuill far owt off seasoun,
 He wantis nocht bot a¹¹ rowndit heid,
 For he has tynt baith wit and ressoun : 20
 3owr Grace beseik I off remeid.

¹ R. Sir.² R. ryseing.³ R. Muirs.⁴ R. palice.⁵ R. Calice.⁶ R. meater.⁷ R. poysand.⁸ R. scherviss.⁹ R. hie.¹⁰ M. R. omit.¹¹ not bot ane.

Puness him for his deid culpabile ;
Or gar deliver him ane babile,¹
That Cuddy Rig the Drumfress fuill,
May him resave agane this 3uill,
All roundit in-to 3allow² and reid ;
That ladis may bait him lyk a buill :
For that to me war sum remeid.

25

Quod Dumbar.

¹ R. bable,² R. 3elow.

LX.

[DUNBAR'S COMPLAINT.]

TO THE KING.

COMPLANE I wald, wist I quhome till,
 Or wnto quhome direct my bill;
 Quhidder to God, that all thing steiris,
 All thing seis, and all thing heiris,
 And all thing¹ wrocht in dayis seweyne;² 5
 Or till his Moder,³ Quein of Heweyne;
 Or wnto wardlie⁴ prince heir downe,⁵
 That dois for justice weir a crowne;
 Off wrangis, and of gryt⁶ iniuris
 That nobillis in thar dayis indures, 10
 And men of wertew, and cuning,
 Of wit, and visdome in gyding,
 That nocht can in this cowrt conquyss
 For lawte, luiff, nor lang servyss.⁷
 Bot fowll, jow-jowrdane-hedit jevellis, 15
 Cowkin-kenseis, and culroun kewellis;
 Stuffettis, strekouris, and stafische strummellis;
 Wyld haschbaldis, haggarbaldis, and hummellis;
 Druncartis,⁸ dysouris, dy[v]owris, drewellis,
 Misgydit memberis of the dewellis;⁹ 20
 Mismad mandragis of mastyf strynd,¹⁰
 Crawdones, couhirttis,¹¹ and theiffis of kynd;

¹ R. thingis.² R. sevin.³ R. mother.⁴ R. worldlie.⁵ R. doun.⁶ R. great.⁷ R. schervice.⁸ R. druncardis.⁹ R. divellis.¹⁰ R. kynd.¹¹ R. couartis.

Blait-mowit bladzeanes, with bledder cheikis,
 Club-facet cluccanes, with cloutit breikis,
 Chuff-midding churllis, cuming off cart-fillaris, 25
 Gryt¹ glaschew-hedit gorge-millaris,
 Ewill horrible monsteris,² falss and fowl;
 Sum causless clekis till him ane cowl,
 Ane gryt convent fra syne to tyss;
 And he him-selff exampill³ of vyss : 30
 Enterand for geir, and no devotioun,
 The dewell⁴ is glaid of his promotioun;
 Sum ramyis ane rokkat fra the roy,
 And dois ane dastart destroy;
 And sum that gaittis⁵ ane personage, 35
 Thinkis it a⁶ present for a page;
 And on no⁷ wayis content is he,
 My lord quhill that he callit be.

Bot quhow is he content, or nocht,
 Deme 3e abowt in to 3our thocht ! 40
 The lerit sone of erll or lord,
 Wpone⁸ this ruffie to remord,
 That with ald castingis hes him cled,⁹
 His erandis for to ryne and red?¹⁰
 And he is maister natiwe borne, 45
 And all his eldaris him beforne;
 And mekle mair cuning be sic thre,
 Hes to posseid ane dignite,
 Saying his odius ignorance
 Panting ane prelottis countenance, 50
 Sa far abowe him sett at tabell
 That wont was for to muk the stabell:
 Ane pyk-thank in a⁶ prelottis claiss,
 With his wawill¹¹ feitt, and virrok taiss,

¹ R. Great.² R. monstouris.³ R. example.⁴ R. divell.⁵ R. gettis.⁶ R. ane.⁷ R. na.⁸ R. Upoun.⁹ R. claid¹⁰ R. ryd.¹¹ R. wauld.

With hoppir hippis, and henchis narrow, 55
 And bausy handis to beir ane barrow ;
 With lut schulderis, and luttaird bak,
 Quhilk natur maid to beir a¹ pak ;
 With gredy² mynd, and glaschand game,
 Mell-heidit lyk ane mortar-stane, 60
 Fenzeing the feiris of ane lord,
 And he ane strumbell, I stand ford ;
 And evir moir as he dois ryss,
 And nobillis of bluid he dois dispyss,
 And helpis for to hald thame downe, 65
 That they ryss nevir to his renowne.
 Thairfoir, O Prince, maist honorable !
 Be in this mater merciabill,
 And to thy auld schervandis have an E,
 That lang hes lippinit into the ; 70
 Gif I be ane of thay my sell,
 Throw all regiones hes bein hard tell,
 Of quhilk my wrytting vitnes beris ;
 And yet thy danger ay me deris :
 Bot eftir danger cumis³ grace, 75
 As hes bein herd in mony place.

Quod Dumbar.

¹ R. ane.

² R. gryddy.

³ R. cumes.

LXI.

[THE PETITION OF THE GRAY HORSE,
AULD DUNBAR.]

NOW lufferis cummis with largess lowd,¹
 Quhy sould not palfrayis thane be prowde,
 Quhen gillettis wilbe schomd and schroud,
 That ridden ar baith with lord and lawd?
 Schir, lett it nevir in toun be tald, 5
 [That I sould be ane 3uillis 3ald !]²

Quhen I was 3young and into ply,
 And wald cast gammaldis to the sky,
 I had beine bocht in realmes by,
 Had I consentit to be sauld. 10
 Schir, lett it nevir in toun be tald,
 [That I sould be ane 3uillis 3ald !]²

With gentill horss quhen I wald knyp,
 Thane is thair laid on me ane quhip,
 To colleveris than man I skip, 15
 That scabbit ar, hes cruik and cald.
 Schir, lett it nevir in toun be tald,
 [That I sould be ane 3uillis 3ald !]²

Thocht in the stall I be nocht clappit,
 As cursouris that in silk beine trappit, 20
 With ane new houss I wald be happit,

¹ Ll. 1-22 from R. MS.² R. omits.

Aganis this Crysthinmes for the cald.

Schir, lett it nevir in town be tald,¹

That I sould be ane 3uillis² 3ald !

Suppois I war ane ald 3aid aver,

25

Schott furth our clewch to pull the clever,³

And had the strenthis off all Strenever,⁴

I wald at 3oull be housit and stald,

Schir, latt it nevir in toun be tald,

That I suld be ane 3uillis 3ald !

30

I am ane auld horss, as 3e knaw,

That evir in duill dois drug⁵ and draw ;

Great court horss puttis me fra the staw,

To fang the fog be firthe⁶ and fald.

Schir, latt it nevir in toun be tald,

35

That I sould be ane 3uillis 3ald !

I haif run lang furth in the feild,

On pastouris that ar plane and peild ;

I mycht be now tein in for eild,

My beikis ar spruning he and bauld.

40

Schir, latt it nevir in toun be tald,

That I sould be ane 3uillis 3ald !

My mane is turned in to quhyt,

And thairof 3e haff all the wyt !

Quhen uther horss had bran to byt

45

I gat bot griss, cnype⁷ gif I wald.

Schir, latt it nevir in toun be tald,

That I sould be ane 3uillis 3ald !

¹ M. begins with line 23 and ends with line 53.

³ R. claver.

⁶ R. furth.

⁴ R. strenth of all Stranaver.

⁷ R. knip.

² M. 3owllis.

⁵ R. dring.

I was nevir dautit into stabell,
 My lyf hes bene¹ so miserable, 50
 My hyd to offer I am abill,
 For evill schom strae that I reive wald.

Schir, latt it nevir in toun be tald,
 That I sould be ane 3uillis 3ald !

And 3itt, suppois my thrift be thyne, 55
 Gif that I die 3our aucht within,
 Latt nevir the soutteris have my skin,
 With uglie gumes to be gnawin.

Schir, latt it nevir in toun be tald,
 That I sould be ane 3uillis 3ald ! 60

The court hes done my curage cuill,
 And maid me [ane]² forriddin muill ;
 3ett, to weir trappouris at this 3uill,
 I wald be spurrit at everie spald.

Schir, latt it nevir in toun be tald, 65
 That I sould be ane 3uillis 3ald !³

RESPONSIO REGIS.

Eftir our wrettingis, thesaurer,
 Tak in this gray horss, Auld Dunbar,
 Quhilk in my aucht with schervice trew
 In lyart changeit is in hew. 70
 Gar howss him now aganis this 3uill,
 And busk him lyk ane beschopis muill,
 For with my hand I have indost
 To pay quhat euir his trappouris cost.

¹ R. bein.² R. omits.³ Ll. 55-74 from R. MS.

LXII.

[TO THE KING.]

THAT HE WAR JOHNE THOMOSUNIS MAN.

SCHIR, for 3our Grace bayth nicht and day,
 Richt hartlie on my kneis I pray,
 With all devotioun that I can,
 God gif 3e war Johne Thomsounis man !

For war it so, than weill war me, 5
 But benifice I wald nocht be ;
 My hard fortoun wer endit than :
 God gif 3e war Johne Thomsounis man !

Than wald sum reuth within 3ow rest,
 For saik of hir, fairest and best 10
 In Bartane, sen hir tyme began ;
 God gif 3e war Johne Thomsounis man !

For it micht hurt in no degre,
 That one, so fair and gude as sche,
 Throw hir vertew sic wirschip wan, 15
 As 3ow to mak Johne Thomsounis man.

I wald gif all that ever I haue
 To that conditioun, sa God me saif,
 That 3e had vowit to the Swan,
 Ane 3eir to be Johne Thomsounis man. 20

The mersy of that sweit meik Rois,
Suld soft 3ow, Thirsill, I suppois,
Quhois pykis throw me so reuthles ran ;
God gif 3e war Johne Thomsounis man !

My aduocat, bayth fair and sweit, 25
The hale reiosing of my spreit,
Wald speid in-to my erandis than ;
And 3e war anis Johne Thomsounis man.

Ever quhen I think 3ow harde or dour,
Or mercyles in my succour, 30
Than pray I God, and sweit Saint An,
Gif that 3e war Johne Thomsounis man !

Finis, quod Dunbar.

LXIII.

DUNBAR'S REMONSTRANCE.

TO THE KING.

SCHIR, 3e haue mony servitouris,
 And officiaris of dyuers curis ;
 Kirkmen, courtmen, and craftismen fyne ;
 Doctouris in jure, and medicine ;
 Divinouris, rethoris, and philosophouris, 5
 Astrologis, artistis, and oratouris ;
 Men of armes, and vail3eand knychtis,
 And mony vther gudlie wichtis ;
 Musicianis, menstralis, and mirrie singlaris :
 Chevalouris, callandaris, and flingaris ; 10
 Cun3ouris, carvouris, and carpentaris,
 Beildaris of barkis, and ballingaris ;
 Masounis, lyand vpon the land,
 And schip-wrichtis hewand vpone the strand ;
 Glasing wrichtis, goldsmythis, and lapidaris, 15
 Pryntouris, payntouris, and potingaris ;
 And all of thair craft cunning,
 And all at anis lawboring,
 Quhilk pleisand ar and honorable ;
 And to 3our hienes profitable ; 20
 And richt convenient for to be
 With 3our hie regale majestie ;
 Deserving of 3our grace most ding
 Bayth thank, rewarde, and cherissing.

And thocht that I, amang the laif, 25
 Vnworthy be ane place to haue,
 Or in thair nummer to be tald,
 Als lang in mynd my wark sall hald !
 Als hail in everie circumstance,
 In forme, in mater, and substance, 30
 But wering, or consumptioun,
 Roust, canker, or corruptioun,
 As ony of thair werkis all,
 Suppois that my rewarde be small !
 Bot 3e sa gracious ar, and meik, 35
 That on 3our hienes followis eik
 Ane vthir sort, more miserabill,
 Thocht thai be nocht sa profitable :
 Fen3eouris, fleichouris, and flatteraris ;
 Cryaris, craikaris, and clatteraris ; 40
 Sonkaris, groukaris, gledaris, gunnaris ;
 Monsouris of France, gud clarat-cunnaris ;
 Innopportoun askaris of Yrland kynd ;
 And meit revaris, lyk out of mynd ;
 Scaffaris, and scamleris in the nuke, 45
 And hall huntaris of draik and duik ;
 Thrimlaris and thriftaris, as thay war woid,
 Kokenis, and kennis na man of gude ;
 Schulderaris, and schowaris, that hes no schame,
 And to no cunning that can clame ; 50
 And can non vthir craft nor curis
 Bot to mak thrang, Schir, in 3our duris,
 And rusche in quhair thay counsale heir,
 And will at na man nurtir leyr :
 In quintiscence, eik, ingynouris joly, 55
 That far can multiplie in folie ;
 Fantastik fulis, bayth fals and gredy,
 Off toung vntrew, and hand ewill dredie :
 Few dar of all this last additioun,
 Cum in tolbuyth, without remissioun. 60

And thocht this nobill cunning sort,
 Quhom of befor I did report,
 Rewardit be, it war bot ressoun,
 Thairat suld no man mak enchessoun :
 Bot quhen the vthir fulis nyce 65
 That feistit at Cokelbeis gryce
 Ar all rewardit, and nocht I,
 Than on this fals world I cry, Fy!
 My hart neir bristis than for teyne,
 Quhilk may nocht suffer nor sustene 70
 So grit abusoun for to se,
 Daylie in court befor my E !

And ȝit, more panence wald I have,
 Had I rewarde amang the laif,
 It wald me sumthing satisfie, 75
 And less of my malancolie,
 And gar me mony falt ouerse,
 That now is brayd befor myn E :
 My mynd so fer is set to flyt,
 That of nocht ellis I can endyt ; 80
 For owther man my hart to-breik,
 Or with my pen I man me wreik ;
 And sen the tane most nedis be,
 In-to malancolie to de,
 [Or]¹ lat the venim ische all out,— 85
 Be war, anone, for it will spout,
 Gif that the tryackill cum nocht tyt
 To swage the swalme of my dispyt !

Quod Dumbar.

¹ And, in MS.

LXIV.

[TO A LADYE.]

SWEIT roiss of vertew and of gentilnes,
 Delytsum lyllie of everie lustynes,
 Richest in bontie, and in bewtie cleir,
 And everie vertew that is [held most]¹ deir,
 Except onlie that 3e ar mercyleless. 5

In to 3our garthe this day I did persew,
 Thair saw I flowris that fresche wer of hew;
 Baithe quhyte and reid moist lusty wer to seyne,
 And halsum herbis vpone stalkis grene;
 3it leif nor flour fynd could I nane of rew. 10

I dout that Merche, with his cauld blastis keyne,
 Hes slane this gentill herbe, that I of mene;
 Quhois petewous deithe dois to my hart sic pane
 That I wald mak to plant his rute agane,
 So confortand his levis vnto me bene. 15

Quod Dumbar.

¹ M. omits. Pinkerton reads, 'to hevin is deir.'

LXV.

[LEARNING VAIN WITHOUT GUID LYFE.]

WRITTEN AT OXINFURDE.

TO speik of science, craft, or sapience,
 Off vertew, morall cwnnyng, or doctrine ;
 Off jure, of wisdom, or intelligence ;
 Off euerie study, lair, or discipline ;
 All is bot tynt, or reddie for to tyne, 5
 Nocht vsing it as it sould vsit be ;
 The craift exerceing, considdering not the fyne :
 Ane paralous seiknes is vaine prosperite.

The curious¹ probatioun logical ;
 The eloquence of ornat rethorie ; 10
 The naturall science philosophical ;
 The dirk apperance of astronomie ;
 The theologis sermoun² ; the fablis³ of poetry ;
 Without gud lyfe all in the self dois de,
 As Mayis⁴ flouris dois in September dry : 15
 A paralous⁵ lyfe is vaine prosperite.

Quhairfoir, 3e clarkis grittest⁶ of constance,
 Fullest of science and of knowlegeing,

¹ R. curius.² R. schermoun.³ R. fable.⁴ M. Maii.⁵ R. perrulous.⁶ R. greatest.

To ws be myrroure in 3our governance ;
And in our darkness¹ be lampis in² schyning : 20
Or than in frustar³ is [all]⁴ 3our lang leirning ;
Gif to 3our sawis 3our deidis contrair be,
3our maist accusar salbē 3our awin cwnning :
A peralus seiknes⁵ is vane prosperitie.

Quod Dumbar at Oxinfurde.

¹ R. dirkinnes.

² R. of.

³ R. ellis vane.

⁴ M. omits.

⁵ R. lyf.

LXVI.

[OF THE WARLDIS INSTABILITIE.]

TO THE KING.

THIS waverand warldis wretchidness,¹
 The failjeand and frutless bissines,²
 The mispent³ tyme, the service vaine,
 For to considder is ane pane.

The slydand joy, the glaidness schort, 5
 The feinjeid luif, the fals confort,
 The sweit abayd, the slichtfull trane,
 For to considder is ane pane.

The sugurit mouthis, with myndis therfra,
 The figurit speiche, with faceis tua, 10
 The plesand toungis, with hartis unplane,
 For to considder is ane pane.

The leill labour lost, and leill seruice,⁴
 The lang availl on humill wyse,
 And the lytill rewarde agane, 15
 For to considder is ane pane.

Nocht I say all be this cuntre,
 France, Ingland, Ireland, Almaine,
 Bot als be Italie and Spaine;
 Quhilk to considder is ane pane. 20

¹ R. wretchitnes.² R. busines.³ R. unspent.⁴ R. schervice.

The change of warld fra¹ weill to wo,
 The honourable vse is all ago,
 In hall and bour, in burgh and plane ;
 Quhilk to considder is ane pane.

Beleif dois hep, traist dois nocht² tarie, 25
 Office dois flit, and courtis dois varie,
 Purpois dois change as³ wynd or rane ;
 Quhilk to considder is ane pane.

Gude rewle⁴ is banist our⁵ the Bordour,
 And rangat ringis but ony ordour, 30
 With reird of rebaldis,⁶ and of swane ;
 Quhilk to considder is ane pane.

The pepill so wickit ar of feiris,
 The frutless erde⁷ all witness beiris,
 The ayr infectit⁸ and prophane ;⁹ 35
 Quhilk to considder is ane pane.

The temporall stait to gryp and gather,
 The sone disheris wald the father,
 And as ane dyvour wald him demane ;
 Quhilk to considder is ane pane. 40

Kirkmen so halie ar and gude,
 That on thair conscience, rowme and rude,
 May turne aucht oxin and ane wane ;
 Quhilk to considder is ane pane.

I knaw nocht¹⁰ how the kirk is gydit, 45
 Bot beneficis ar nocht leill devydit ;
 Sum men hes sewin, and I nocht¹⁰ ane ;
 Quhilk to considder is ane pane.

¹ R. frome.² R. hoip, traist dois not.³ R. at.⁴ R. rule.⁵ R. over.⁶ R. reballis.⁷ R. earth.⁸ R. infectit.⁹ R. profane.¹⁰ R. not.

And sum, vnworthy to browk ane stall,
 Wald clym to be ane cardinall, 50
 Ane bischoprik may nocht him gane ;
 Quhilk to considder is ane pane.

Vnworthie I, amang the laif,
 Ane kirk dois craif, and nane can haif ;
 Sum with ane thraif playis passage plane ; 55
 Quhilk to considder is ane pane.

It cumis be king, it cumis be quene,
 Bot ay sic space is ws betwene,
 That nane can schut it with ane flane ;
 Quhilk to considder is ane pane. 60

It nicht have cuming in schortar quhyll
 Fra Calȝecot and the new-fund Yle,
 The partis of Transmeridiane ;
 Quhilk to considder is ane pane.

It nicht, be this, had it bein kynd, 65
 Cummin¹ out of the desertis of Ynde,
 Our all the grit se oceane ;
 Quhilk to considder is ane pane.

It nicht have cuming out of all ayrtis,
 Fra Paris, and the Orient partis, 70
 And fra the Ylis of Aphrycane ;
 Quhilk to considder is ane pane.

It is so lang in cuming me till,
 I dreid that it be quyt gane will,
 Or bakwart it² is turnit agane ; 75
 Quhilk to considder is ane pane.

¹ R. cuming.² R. omits.

Vpon the heid of it is hecht
 Bayth unicornis, and crownis of wecht,
 Quhen it dois cum, all men dois frane ;
 Quhilk to considder is ane pane. 80

I wait [it] is for me provydit,
 Bot sa done tyrsum¹ it is to byd it,
 It breikis my hairt, and birstis my brane ;
 Quhilk to considder is ane pane.

Greit abbais grayth I nill to gather,² 85
 Bot ane kirk scant coverit with hadder ;
 For I of lytill wald be fane ;
 Quhilk to considder is ane pane.

And for my curis in sindrie place,
 With help, Schir, of 3our nobill Grace, 90
 My sillie saule sall never be slane ;
 Na for sic syn to suffer pane.

Experience dois me so inspyre,
 Of this fals fail3eand warld I tyre,
 That ever more flytis³ lyk ane phane ; 95
 Quhilk to considder is ane pane.

The formest hoip 3it that I haue
 In all this warld, sa God me saue,
 Is in 3our Grace, bayth crop and grayne,
 Quhilk is ane lessing⁴ of my pane. 100

Finis, quod Dumbar.

¹ R. tyresum.

² R. gadder.

³ R. flittis.

⁴ R. lessoun.

LXVII.

[OF CONTENT.]

O UHO thinkis that he hes sufficiencye,
 Of gudis hes no¹ indigence ;
 Thocht he haue nowder² land nor rent,
 Grit³ mycht, nor hie⁴ magnificence,
 He hes anewch⁵ that is content. 5

Quho had all riches⁶ vnto Ynd,
 And wer not satisfiet in mynd,
 With powertie I hald him schent ;
 Off covatyce sic is the kynd :
 He hes anewch that is content. 10

Thairfoir I pray 3ow, breder⁷ deir,
 Not to delyt in⁸ daynteis seir ;
 Thank God of it is to the sent,
 And of it glaidlie mak gud cheir :
 He hes anewch that is content. 15

Defy the⁹ warld, feynzeit and fals,
 With gall in hart, and hwnyt¹⁰ hals :
 Quha maist it servis sall sonast¹¹ repent :
 Off quhais subchettis¹² sour is the sals :
 He hes anewch that is content. 20

¹ R. And of guidis hes non.² R. nether.³ R. Great.⁴ R. 3itt.⁵ R. enowch.⁶ R. Quha all the riches had.⁷ R. Quhairfoir thocht thow my brother.⁸ R. Not schervit be with.⁹ R. this.¹⁰ R. hony in.¹¹ R. Quho maist it schervis maist sall.¹² R. quhois surcharge.

Gif thow hes mycht, be gentill and fre ;
 And gif thow standis in powertie,
 Off thine¹ awin will to it consent ;
 And riches sall returne² to the :
 He hes anewch that is content. 25

And 3e and I, my bredir³ all,
 That in⁴ this lyfe hes lordschip⁵ small,
 Lat languour not⁶ in ws imprent ;⁷
 Gif we not clym we tak no fall :
 He hes anewch that is content. 30

For quho in warld moist covatus⁸ is
 In world is purast man, I-wis,
 And moist neidy of⁹ his intent ;
 For of all gudis no thing [is his,]¹⁰
 That of no thing can be content. 35

Quod Dumbar.

¹ R. thy.

² R. And it sall riches turne.

³ R. brothar.

⁴ R. Within.

⁵ R. lordeschippis.

⁶ R. nane.

⁷ R. be lent.

⁸ R. that leist contentit.

⁹ R. And neidfullest in.

¹⁰ M. he hes.

LXVIII.

[OF THE CHANGES OF LYFE.]

I SEIK abowte this warld onstable,
 To find a¹ sentence conveniable ;
 Bot I can not in all my witt,
 Sa trew a¹ sentence find of it,
 As say, it is dissavable. 5

For 3isterday, I did declair
 How that the sasoun² soft and fair,
 Come in als fresche as pacok feddir ;³
 This day it stangis lyke ane eddir,
 Concluding all in my contrair. 10

3isterday fair sprang⁴ the flowris,
 This day thai ar all slane with schouris ;
 And foulis in forrest that sang cleir,
 Now walkis⁵ with ane drerie cheir,⁶
 Full cauld ar bayth thair beddis and bouris. 15

So nixt to symmer, wynter bene ;
 Nixt eftir confort, cairis keine ;
 Nixt eftir myd⁷ nycht, the² myrthfull morrow ;
 Nixt eftir joy, ay cwmis sorrow :
 So is this warld, and ay hes bene. 20

Quod Dumbar.

¹ R. ane.

² R. omits.

³ R. Bot now so changit is the wedder.

⁴ R. wpsprang.

⁵ R. weipis.

⁶ R. scheir.

⁷ R. dark.

LXIX.

[MEDITATIOUN IN WYNTIR.]

I N to thir dirk and drublie dayis,
 Quhone sabill all the hewin arrayis,
 With mystie vapouris, cluddis and skyis,
 Nature all¹ curage me denyis
 Off sangis, ballattis, and of playis. 5

Quhen that the nycht dois lenthin² houris,
 With wind, with haill, and havy schouris,
 My dule spreit dois lurk for schoir;
 My hairt for languor dois forloir,³
 For laik of symmer with his flouris. 10

I walk, I turne, sleip may⁴ I nocht,
 I vexit am with havy thocht;
 This warld all our I cast about,
 And ay⁵ the mair I am in dout,
 The mair that I remeid have socht. 15

I am assayit on everie syde,
 Dispair sayis ay, "In tyme prowde,
 And get sum thing quhairon to leif;
 Or with grit trouble⁶ and mischeif,
 Thow sall in to this court abyde." 20

¹ R. Naturall.² R. doth lenth in.³ R. omits l. 9.⁴ R. can.⁵ R. euer.⁶ R. troubill.

Than Patience sayis, "Be nocht agast :
 Hald Hoip and Treuthe within the fast ;¹
 And lat Fortoun wirk furthe hir rage,
 Quhen that no rasoun may assuage,
 Quhill that hir glas be run and past." 25

And Prudence in my eir sayis ay,
 "Quhy wald thow hald that will away ?
 Or craif that thow may have no space,
 Thow tending to ane uther place,
 A journey going everie day?" 30

And than sayis Age, "My freind, cum neir,
 And be nocht strange, I the requir :
 Cum, brodir, by the hand me tak,
 Remember thow hes compt to mak
 Off all thi tyme thow spendit heir." 35

Syne Deid castis up his zettis wyd,
 Saying, "Thir oppin sall 3e abyd ;
 Albeid that thow were never sa stout,
 Vndir this lyntall sall thow lowt :
 Thair is nane vther way besyd." 40

For feir of this all day I drowp ;
 No gold in kist, nor wyne in cowp
 No ladeis bewtie, nor luiffis blys
 May lat me to remember this :
 How glaid that ever I dyne or sowp. 45

3it, quhone the nycht begynnys to schort,
 It dois my spreit sum part confort,
 Off thocht oppressit with the schouris.
 Cum, lustie symmer ! with thy flouris,
 That I may leif in sum disport. 50

Quod Dumbar.

¹ R. ends with l. 22.

LXX.

[ANE ORISOUN.]

QUHEN THE GOVERNOUR PAST IN FRANCE.

THOW that in hewin¹ for our salvatioun,
 Maid justice, mercie, and pietie, to aggre;
 And Gabriell send with the salutatioun
 On-to the mayd of maist humilite;
 And maid thy sone to tak humanite, 5
 For our demeritis to be of Marie borne;
 Haue of us pietie, and our protectour be!
 For, but thy help, this kynrick is forlorne.

O hie supernale² Father of sapience,
 Quhilk of thy vertew dois everie folie chais, 10
 Ane spark of thy hie excellent prudence
 Giff³ ws, that nouthur wit nor ressoun hes!
 In quhais heartis no prudence can tak place,
 Exemple, nor experience of beforne;
 To us, synnaris, ane drop send of thy grace! 15
 For,⁴ but thy help, this kynrick is forlorne.

We ar so beistlie, dull, and ignorant,
 Our rudnes may nocht lichtlie be correctit;
 Bot thow, that art of mercy militant,
 Thy vengeance seiss⁵ on us to syn subjectit, 20

¹ R. heawin.² R. supernacule.³ R. Off.⁴ R. Els.⁵ R. scase.

And gar thy justice be with reuth correctit ;
 For quyt away so wyld fra us is worne,
 And in folie we ar so fer¹ infectit,
 That,² but thy help, this kynrick is forlorne.

Thow, that on rude ws ransomit³ and redemit, 25
 Rew on our syn, befor 3our sicht decydit ;
 Spair our trespas, quhilk may nocht⁴ be expremit,
 For breif of justice, for we may nocht⁴ abyd it,
 Help this pure realme, in partyis⁵ all devydit !
 Ws succour send, that wair the croun of thorne, 30
 That with the gift of grace it may be gydit !
 For, but thy help, this kynrick is forlorne.

Lord ! hald thy hand, that strikken hes so soir ;
 Haue of ws pietie, eftir our punytioun ;
 And gif ws grace the [for]⁶ to greif no more, 35
 And gar us mend with penance and contritioun ;
 And to thy vengeance mak non additioun,
 As thow that of michtis may to morne
 Fra cair to confort thow mak restitioun :⁷
 For, but thy help, this⁸ kynrick is forlorne. 40

Quod Dunbar quhen the Gouvernour
 past in France.

¹ R. far.² R. Els.³ R. ransoumit.⁴ R. not.⁵ R. pairtis.⁶ M. R. omit.⁷ R. restitution.⁸ R. thy.

LXXI.

[WE LORDIS HES CHOSIN A CHIFTANE
MERVELLUS.]

WE Lordis hes chosin a chiftane mervellus,
 That left hes ws in grit perplexite,
 And him absentis, with wylis cautelus
 Zeiris and dayis mo than two or thre,
 And nocht intendis the land nor peple se, 5
 Faltis to correct, nor vicis for to chace.
 Our Lord Gouvernour, this sedull send we the :
 In lak of iustice this realme is schent allace !

Is nane of ws ane vddir settis by,
 Bot laubouris ay for vthiris distructioun ; 10
 Quhilk is grit plessour to our auld innamy,
 And daly caussis grit dissentioun,
 Amang ws now and als diuisioun,
 Quhilk to heir is ane drery cace
 To the, our lord and gyd vnder the croun ; 15
 In lak of iustice this realme is schent allace !

Thy prudent wit we think thow hes abusit,
 Absentand the for ony warldly geir ;
 We zarne thy presens, bot oft thow hes refusit
 Till cum ws till, or jit till merk ws neir, 20

Quhilk is the causs of thift, slawchter and weir.
 Approch in tyme our freindschip to purchase ;
 Thy leiges leill thy byding byis full deir ;
 In lak of iustice this realme is schent allace !

Couatyce ringis into the spirituell state, 25
 Zarnand banifice the quhilk ar now vacand ;
 That, but thy presens, will causs rycht grit debait,
 And contrauersy to ryss into this land ;
 And thy bidding we trest thay sall ganestand,
 Without thow cum and present thame thy face. 30
 Address the sone, fulfill thy will and band ;
 In lak of iustice this realme is schent allace !

Grit wer and wandrecht hes bene ws amang,
 Sen thy depairting, and 3it approchis mair ;
 Thy tardatioun caussis ws to think lang, 35
 For of thi cuming we haif rycht grit dispair.
 Off gyd and gouirnance we ar all solitair,
 Dependand ay vpoun thy stait and grace ;
 Speid the thairfoir, in dreid we all forfair ;
 In lak of iustice this realme is schent allace ! 40

LXXII.

[ANE BALLAT
OF THE PASSIOUN OF CHRIST.]

A MANG thir freiris, within ane cloister,
 I enterit in anè oritorie,¹
 And kneling² doun with ane pater noster,
 Befoir the michti king of glorye,
 Having³ his passioun in memorye ; 5
 Syne to his mother⁴ I did inclyne,
 Hir halsing⁵ with ane gaude-flore ;
 And sudandlie⁶ I slepit syne.

Me thocht Judas⁷ with mony ane⁸ Jow
 Tuke blissit Jesu, our Salvatour, 10
 And schot him furth, with mony ane schow,
 With⁹ schamefull wourdis of dishonour ;
 And lyke ane thef, or ane tratour,
 Thai led that hevinlie prince most hie,
 With manassing attour mesour, 15
 O mankynd, for the luf of the.

Falsly condampnit befoir ane juge,
 Thai spittit in his visage fair ;
 And, as lyonis with awfull ruge,
 In yre thai hurlit him heir and thair, 20

¹ A. Oratory.² A. knelit.³ A. Havand.⁴ A. till his moder.⁵ A. I halsit hir.⁶ A. sodanely.⁷ A. that Judas.⁸ A. a.⁹ A. And.

And gaif him mony buffat sair,
 That it was sorrow for to se ;
 And of his claithis thai tirvit him bair,
 O mankynd, for the luif of the.

Thai tyrandis to revenge thair teyne, 25
 For scorne thai cled him in-to quhyte ;
 And hid¹ his blythfull glorious eyne,
 To se quham angellis had delyt ;
 Dispituouslie syne did him smyt,
 Saying, " Gif sone of God thow be, 30
 Quha straik the now, thow tell us tyt ?"—
 O mankynd, for the luf of the.

In tene, thai tirvit him agane,
 And till ane pillar thai him band ;
 Quhill blude birst out at every vane, 35
 Thai scurgit him baith fut and hande :
 At every straik ran furth ane strand,
 Quhilk mycht have ransomit warldis thre ;
 He baid in stour quhill he mycht stand,
 O mankynd, for the luif of the.² 40

Nixt all in purpour thai him cled,
 And syne with thornis scharp and kene ;
 His saikles³ blude agane thai sched,
 Persing his heid with pykis grene ;
 Vneiss with lyf he mycht sustene 45
 That croune, on thrungin⁴ with crueltie,
 Quhill flude of blude blyndit his ene,⁵
 O mankynd, for the luif of the.

Ane croce that was baith large⁶ and lang,
 To beir thai gaif that blissit Lord ; 50
 Syn fullelie,⁷ as theif to hang,
 Thai harlit him furth with raip and corde ;

¹ A. omits.² A. omits ll. 33-40.³ A. preciouss.⁴ A. thrung.⁵ A. eyne.⁶ A. gret.⁷ A. fowlely.

With blude and sweit¹ was all deflorde
His face, the fude of angellis fre ;
His feit with stanis war rewin² and scorde, 55
O mankynd, for the luif of the.

Agane thai tirvit him bak and syde,
Als brim as ony baris woid ;
The claith that claif to his clere hyde,³
Thai raif away with ruggis rude, 60
Quhill fersly followit flesche and blude,
That it was pietie for to se ;
Na kynd of torment he ganestude,
O mankynd, for the luif of the.

Unto the crose⁴ of breid and lenth, 65
To gar his lymmis langar wax,
Thai straitit him with all thair strenth,
Quhill to the rude thai gart him rax ;
Syne tyit him on with greit irne takkis,⁵
And him all nakit on the tre 70
Thai raisit on loft, be houris sax,
O mankynd, for the luif of the.

Quhen he was bendit so⁶ on breid,
Quhill all his vanys brist and brak,
To⁷ gar his cruell pane exceid, 75
Thai leit him fall doune with ane swak,
Quhill corss and corps and all did crak ;
Agane thai raisit him on hie,
Reddie⁸ mair turmentis for to mak,
O mankynd, for the luif of the. 80

Betuix tuo theiffis the spreit he gaif,
On-to the Fader most of mycht ;
The erde did trimmill,⁹ the stanis claif,¹⁰
The sone obscurit of his licht ;

¹ A. swait.

² A. rent.

³ M. cleir syde.

⁴ A. croce.

⁵ A. tax.

⁶ A. all.

⁷ A. Till.

⁸ A. redy.

⁹ A. trymble.

¹⁰ A. cragis raif.

The day wox dirk as ony nycht, 85
 Deid bodyis raiss in the cite :
 Godis deir Sone all thus was dicht,
 O mankynd, for the luif of the.

In weir that he was 3it on lyf,
 Thai ran ane rude speir in his syde, 90
 And did his precious body ryff,
 Quhill blude and wattir did furth glyde :
 Thus Jesus with his woundis wyde,
 As martir ¹ suffirit for to de,
 And tholit to be crucifyid, 95
 O mankynd, for the luif of the.²

Methocht Compassioun, vode of feiris,
 Than straik at me with mony ane stound,
 And for Contritioun, baithit in teiris,
 My visage all in watter drownd, 100
 And Reuth into my eir ay round
 "For schame, allace ! behald, Man, how
 Beft is with mony bludy wound
 Thy blissit Salvatour Jesu !"

Than rudelie come Rememberance 105
 Ay rugging me, withoutin rest,
 Quhill croce and nalis scharp, scourge, and lance,
 Ane bludy crowne befor me kest ;
 Than pane with passioun me opprest,
 And ever did Petie on me pow, 110
 Saying, "Behald how Jowis hes drest
 Thy blissit Salvatour Jesu !"

With greiting glaid be than come Grace,
 With wourdis sweit saying to me,
 "Ordane for Him ane resting-place, 115
 That is so werie wrocht for the :

¹ M. Ane martirdome.² A. ends with l. 96.

The Lord within thir dayis three
 Sall law under thy lyntell bow,
 And in thy hous sall herbrit be
 Thy blissit Salvatour Jesu."¹ 120

Than swyth Contritioun wes on steir,
 And did eftir Confessioun ryn ;
 And Conscience me accusit heir,
 And kest out mony cankerit syn ;
 To ryse Repentence did begyn 125
 And out at the 3ettis did schow ;
 Penance did walk the house within,
 Byding our Salvatour Jesu.¹

Grace become gyd and governour,
 To keip the house in sicker stait, 130
 Ay reddy till our Salvatour,
 Quhill that he come, air or lait ;
 Repentence ay with cheikis wait,
 No pane nor pennence did eschew,
 The house within ever to debait, 135
 Only for luif of sweit Jesu.

For grit terrour of Chrystis deid,
 The erde did trymmyll quhar I lay ;
 Quhairthrow I waiknit in that steid,
 With spreit halflingis in effray ; 140
 Than wrait I all without delay,
 Richt heir as I have schawin to 3ow,
 Quhat me befell, on Gud Friday,
 Befoir the Croce of sweit Jesu.

Finis quod Dunbar.

¹ M. Chryst Jesu.

LXXIII.

[O WRECHE, BE WAR!]

O WRECHE, be war ! this world will wend the fro,
 Quhilk hes begylit mony greit estait ;
 Turne to thy freynd, beleif nocht in thy fo,
 Sen thou mon go, be grathing to thy gait ;
 Remeid in tyme, and rew nocht all to lait ; 5
 Provyde thy place, for thou away man pass
 Out of this vaill of trubbill and dissait :
Vanitas Vanitatum, et omnia Vanitas.

Walk furth, pilgrame, quhill thou hes dayis lycht,
 Dress fro desert, draw to thy dwelling-place ; 10
 Speid home, for-quhy anone cummis the nicht
 Quhilk dois the follow with ane ythand chaise !
 Bend up thy sail, and win thy port of grace ;
 For and the deith ourtak the in trespas,
 Then may thou say thir wourdis with allace ! 15
Vanitas Vanitatum, et omnia Vanitas.

Heir nocht abydis, heir standis no thing stabill,
 [For] this fals world ay flittis to and fro ;
 Now day vp bricht, now nycht als blak as sabill,
 Now eb, now flude, now freynd, now cruell fo ; 20
 Now glaid, now said, now weill, now in-to wo ;
 Now cled in gold, dissoluit now in ass ;
 So dois this world transitorie go :
Vanitas Vanitatum, et omnia Vanitas.

Finis quod Dunbar.

LXXIV.

[TO A LADYE.]

QUHONE HE LIST TO FEYNE.

MY hartis tresure, and swete assured fo,
 The finale endar of my lyfe for ever ;
 The creuell brekar of my hart in tuo,
 To go to deathe, this I deservit never :
 O man-slayer ! quhill saule and life dissever ; 5
 Stynt of 3our slauchter ; Allace ! 3our man am I,
 A thowsand tymes that dois 3ow mercy cry.

 Haue mercie, luif ! haue mercie, ladie bricht !
 Quhat haue I wrocht aganis 3our womanheid,
 That 3e [suld]¹ mwrdir me, a saikles wicht, 10
 Trespassing neuer to 3ow in word nor deid ?
 That 3e consent thairto, O God forbid !
 Leif creuelte, and saif 3our man for schame,
 Or throucht the warld quyte losit is 3our name.

 My deathe chasis my lyfe so besalie 15
 That wery is my goist to fle so fast ;
 Sic deidlie dwawmes so mischeifaislie
 Ane hundrithe tymes hes my hairt ouripast ;
 Me think my spireit rynniss away full gast,
 Beseikand grace, on kneis 3ow befoir, 20
 Or that 3our man be lost for evermoir.

¹ M. omits.

Behald my wod intollerabill pane,
 For evermoir quhilk salbe my dampnage !
 Quhy, vndir traist, 3our man thus haue 3e slane ?
 Lo ! deithe is in my breist, with furious rage, 25
 Quhilk may no balme, nor tryacle assuage,
 But 3our mercie, for laik of quhilk I de :
 Allace ! quhair is 3our womanlie petie !

Behald my deidlie passioun dolorous !
 Behald my hiddows hew and wo, allace ! 30
 Behald my mayne, and mwrning merwalous,
 Withe sorrowfull teris falling frome my face !
 Rewthe, luif, is nocht, helpe 3e not in this cace,
 For how sould ony gentill hart indure
 To se this sycht on ony creature ! 35

Quhyte dow, quhair is 3our sobir humilnes ?
 Swete gentill turtour, quhair is 3our pete went ?
 Quhair is 3our rewthe ? the frute of nobilnes,
 Off womanheid the tresour, and the rent ;
 Wertue is neuer put out of meik intent, 40
 Nor out of gentill hart is fundin petie ;
 Sen mercyles may no wycht nobill be.

In-to my mynd I sall 3ow mercye cry,
 Quhone that my toving sall faille me to speik ;
 And quhill that nature me my sycht deny ; 45
 And quhill my ene for paine incluse and steik ;
 And quhill the dethe my hart in sowndir breik ;
 And quhill my mynd may think, and towng may steir ;
 And syne, Fair weill, my hartis Ladie deir !

Quod Dumbar quhone he list to feyne.

LXXV.

[IN SECREIT PLACE THIS HYNDIR NYCHT.]

IN secreit place this hyndir nycht,
 I hard ane beyrne ¹ say till ane bricht,
 "My hwny,² my hart, my hoip,³ my heill,
 I haue bene lang 3our luifar leill,
 And can of 3ow get confort nane ; 5
 How lang will 3e with danger deill?
 3e brek my hart, my bony ane !"

His bony beird wes kemmit ⁴ and croppit,
 Bot all with cale ⁵ it wes bedroppit ;
 And he wes townysche, peirt,⁶ and gukit ; 10
 He clappit fast, he kist, and ⁷ chukkit,
 As with the glaikis he wer ouirgane ;
 3it be his feiris he wald haue fukkit ;
 3e brek my hart, my bony ane !

Quod he, "My hairt, sweit as the hwnye,² 15
 Sen that I borne wes of my mynnye,
 I nevir wowit weycht ⁸ bot 3ow ;
 My wame is of 3our lufe sa fow,
 That as ane gaist I glour and grane,
 I trymble ⁹ sa, 3e will not trow ; 20
 3e brek my hart, my bony ane !"

¹ B. bern.² B. hunny.³ B. my houip, my hairt.⁴ B. kemd.⁵ B. kaill.⁶ B. to mich fulich.⁷ B. he.⁸ B. ane vder.⁹ B. trymmill.

"Tehe!"¹ quod scho, and gaif ane gaufe,²
 "Be still my cuchair³ and my calfe,
 My new spanit howffing⁴ fra the sowk,
 And all the blythnes of my bowk; 25
 My sweit swanking,⁵ saif 3ow allane,
 Na leid I luiffit all this owk;
 Full leifis me 3our⁶ graceles gane."

Quod he, "My claver, and my curldodie,⁷
 My hwny soppis, my sweit possodie, 30
 Be nocht our bosteous to 3our billie,
 Be warme hairtit and nocht ewill-willie;⁸
 3our heylis,⁹ quhyt as quhalis bane,
 Garss ryiss on loft my quhillelillie;
 3e brek my hart, my bony ane!" 35

Quod scho, "My clype, my vnspaynit gyane,
 With moderis milk 3it in 3our mychane,
 My belly huddrun, my swete hurle bawsy,
 My hwnygukkis, my slawsy gawsy;
 3our mvsing wald perss ane hairt of stane, 40
 Tak¹⁰ gud comfort, my grit-heidit slawsy,¹¹
 Full leifis me 3our⁶ gracles gane.

Quod he, "My kyd, my capircul3oun,¹²
 My bony baib with the rwch bryl3oun,¹³
 My tendir gyrle,¹⁴ my wallie gowdye, 45
 My tyrлие myrlie, my crowdie mowdie;¹⁵
 Quhone that our mowthis dois meit at ane,
 My stang dois storkyn¹⁶ with 3our towdie;
 3e brek my hairt, my bony ane!"

¹ B. To hie.² B. gawf.³ B. cowffyne.⁴ B. spanid howphyn.⁵ B. swanky.⁶ B. Fow leiss me that.⁷ B. curledoddy.⁸ B. illwillie.⁹ B. hals.¹⁰ B. Sa tak.¹¹ B. gawsy.¹² B. capircal3eane.¹³ B. ruch bril3eane.¹⁴ B. girdill.¹⁵ B. towdy mowdy.¹⁶ B. torkin.

Quod scho, "Now tak me be ¹ the hand, 50
 Wylcum ! my golk of maireland,²
 My chirrie and my maikles munȝoun,
 My sowklar³ sweit as ony vnȝoun,⁴
 My strwmmill stirk, ȝit new to spane,
 I am applyit to ȝour opunȝoun ;⁵ 55
 I luif rycht weill ȝour graceles gane."⁶

He gaiff to ⁷ hir ane apille rubye ;
 Quod scho, "Gramercye !⁸ my sweit cowhubye."
 And ⁹ thai twa to ⁷ ane play began,
 Quhilk men dois call the dery-dan ;¹⁰ 60
 Quhill that thair myrthis met baythe¹¹ in ane.
 "Wo is me !" ¹² quod scho, "quhair will ȝe, man ?
 Bot now I luif ¹³ that graceles gane."

*Quod Dumbar.*¹⁴¹ B. by.² B. maryland.³ B. sucker.⁴ B. vnȝeoun.⁵ B. opinȝoun.⁶ B. Fow leis me that.⁷ B. till.⁸ B. "Grammercy," quod scho.⁹ B. Syne.¹⁰ B. that thay call the dirry-dan.¹¹ B. baith thair bewis did meit.¹² B. Fow wo.¹³ B. Full leis me.¹⁴ B. Finis quod Clerk.

LXXVI.

[QUHAT IS THIS LYFE BOT ANE STRAUCHT
WAY TO DEID.]

QUHAT is this lyfe bot ane straucht¹ way to² deid,
 Quhilk hes a³ tyme to pas, and nane to duell;
 A slyding⁴ quheill ws lent to seik⁵ remeid;
 A fre chois gevin to Paradice or Hell;
 A⁶ pray to deid, quhome vane is to repell; 5
 A⁶ schoirt torment for infiniteit glaidnes,
 Als schort ane joy for lestand hevynes!

Quod Dumbar.

¹ B. draucht.

⁴ B. Ane slideing.

² B. to the.

⁵ B. win.

³ B. omits.

⁶ B. Ane.

[The Poems Nos. L.-LXX. and Nos. LXXII.-LXXVI.
are printed from the Maitland MS.*]

* No. LXXI. is printed from the Bannatyne MS. and inserted as a suitable companion to No. LXX.

LXXVII.

[BLYTH ABERDEIN.]

BLYTH Aberdein, thow beriall of all tounis,
 The lamp of bewtie, bountie, and blythnes;
 Unto the heaven [ascendit]¹ thy renoun is,
 Off vertew, wisdom, and of worthines;
 He nottit is thy name of nobilnes, 5
 Into the cumming of oure lustie quein,
 The vail of velth, guid cheir, and mirrines:
 Be blyth, and blisfull, burgh of Aberdein.

 And first hir mett the burgess of the toun,
 Richelie arrayit as become thame to be, 10
 Of quhom they cheset four men of renoun,
 In gounes of veluot, 3ounge, abill, and lustie,
 To beir the paill of veluet cramase
 Abone hir heid, as the custome hes bein;
 Gryt was the sound of the artel3[er]jie: 15
 Be blyth, and blisfull, burgh of Aberdein.

 Ane fair processioune mett hir at the Port,
 In a cap of gold and silk, full pleasantlie,
 Syne at hir entrie, with many fair disport,
 Ressauet hir on streittis lustilie; 20
 Quhair first the salutatioun honorabillie
 Of the sweitt Virgin, guidlie mycht be seine;
 The sound of menstrallis blawing to the sky:
 Be blyth and blisfull, burgh of Aberdein.

¹ R. has a blank space here.

And syne thow gart the orient kingis thrie 25
 Offer to Chryst, with benyng reuerence,
 Gold, sence, and mir, with all humilitie,
 Schawand him king with most magnificence ;
 Syne quhow the angill, with sword of violence,
 Furth of the joy of paradise putt clein 30
 Adame and Eve for innobedience :
 Be blyth and blisfull, burgh of Aberdein.

And syne the Bruce, that euir was bold in sto[u]r,
 Thow gart as roy cum rydand vnder croun,
 Richt awfull, strang, and large of portratour, 35
 As nobill, dreidfull, nichtie campiou :
 The [nobill Stewarts]¹ syne, of great renoun,
 Thow gart upspring, with branches new and greine,
 Sa gloriouslie, quhill glaided all the toun :
 Be blyth and blisfull, burgh of Aberdein. 40

Syne come thair four and twentie madinis jing,
 All claid in greine of mervelous bewtie,
 With hair detressit, as threidis of gold did hing,
 With quhyt hattis all browderit rycht brav[elie],
 Playand on timberallis, and syngand rycht sweitlie ; 45
 That seimlie sort, in ordour weill besein,
 Did meit the quein, hir [saluand]² reverentlie :
 Be blyth and blisfull, burgh of Aberdein.

The streittis war all hung with tapestrie,
 Great was the press of peopill dwelt about, 50
 And pleasant padgeanes playit prattellie ;
 The legeiss all did to thair lady loutt,
 Quha was convoyed with ane royall routt
 Off gryt barrounes and lustie ladyis [schene] ;¹
 Welcum, our quein ! the commoness gaif ane schout : 55
 Be blyth and blisfull, burgh of Aberdein.

¹ R. omits.² R. husband.

At hir cuming great was the mirth and joy,
For at thair croce abundantlie rane wyne ;
Vntill hir ludgeing the toun did hir convoy ;
Hir for to treit thai sett thair haill ingyne, 60
Ane riche present thay did till hir propyne ;
Ane costlie coup that large thing wald contene,
Couerit and full of cunzeit gold rycht fyne :
Be blyth and blisfull, burgh of Aberdein.

O potent princes, pleasant and preclair, 65
Great caus thow hes to thank this nobill toun,
That for to do the honnour, did not spair
Thair geir, riches, substance, and persoun,
The to ressaue on maist fair fasoun ;
The for to pleis thay socht all way and mein ; 70
Thairfoir, sa lang as quein thow beiris croun,
Be thankfull to this burgh of Aberdein.

Quod Dumbar.

LXXVIII.

[MY HEID DID 3AK 3ESTERNICHT.]

MY heid did 3ak 3esternicht,
 This day to mak that I na micht,
 So sair the magryme dois me men3ie,
 Perseing my brow as ony gan3ie,
 That scant I luik may on the licht. 5

And now, schir, laitlie, eftir mess,
 To dyt, thocht I begowthe to dress,
 The sentence lay full evill till find,
 Vnsleipit in my heid behind,
 Dullit in dulness and distres. 10

Full oft at morrow I wpryse,
 Quhen that my curage sleipeing lyis,
 For mirth, for menstrallie and play,
 For din, nor danceing, nor deray,
 It will nocht walkin me no wise. 15

Quod Dumbar.

LXXIX.

[MY LORDIS OF CHACKER, PLEIS 3OW
TO HEIR.]

MY Lordis of Chacker, pleis 3ow to heir
My coumpt, I sall it mak 3ow cleir,
But ony circumstance or songie ;
For left is nether corce nor cunzie
Off all that I tuik in the 3eir. 5

For rekkyning of my rentis and roumes,
3e neid nocht for to tyre 3our thowmes ;
Na, for to gar 3our countaris clink,
Nor paper for to spend, nor ink,
In the ressaueing of my soumes. 10

I tuik fra my Lord Thesaurair
Ane soume of money for to wair :
I cannocht tell 3ow how it is spendit,
Bot weill I waitt that it is endit ;
And that me think ane coumpt our sair ! 15

I trowit, in tyme, quhen that I tuik it,
That lang in burgh I sould haue bruikeit,
Now the remanes are eith to turss ;
I haue na preiff heir bot my purss,
Quhilk wald nocht lie, and it war luikit. 20

Quod Dumbar.

LXXX.

A NEW YEAR'S GIFT TO THE KING.

MY prince in God gif the guid grace,
 Joy, glaidnes, confort, and solace,
 Play, pleasance, myrth, and mirrie cheir,
 In hansell of this guid new 3eir.

God gif to the ane blissed chance, 5
 And of all vertew abundance,
 And grace ay for to perseveir,
 In hansell of this guid new 3eir.

God giue the guid prosperitie,
 Fair fortoun and felicitie, 10
 Euir mair in earth quhill thow ar heir,
 In hansell of this guid new 3eir.

The heavinlie Lord his help the send,
 Thy realme to reull and to defend,
 In peace and justice it to steir, 15
 In hansell of this guid [new] 3eir.

God gif the blis quhair euir thow bownes,
 And send the many Fraunce crownes,
 Hie liberall heart, and handis nocht sweir,
 In hansell of this guid new 3eir. 20

Quod Dumbar.

LXXXI.

[THE DREAM.]

THIS hinder nycht halff-sleiping as I lay,
 Me thocht my chalmer in ane new aray
 Was all depeint with many diuerss hew,
 Of all the nobill storyis ald and new,
 Sen oure first father formed was of clay. 5

Me thocht the lift all bricht with lampis lycht,
 And thairin enterit many lustie wicht,
 Sum 3oung, sum old, in sindry wyse arayit,
 Sum sang, sum danceit, on instrumentis sum playit,
 Sum maid disportis with hartis glaid and lycht. 10

Thane thocht I thus, this is ane felloun phary,
 Or ellis my witt rycht woundrouslie dois varie ;
 This seimes to me ane guidlie companie,
 And gif it be ane freindlie fantasie,
 Defend me Jhesu, and his moder Marie ! 15

Thair pleasant sang, nor 3ett thair pleasant toun,
 Nor 3ett thair joy did to my heart redoun ;
 Me thocht the drerie damiesall Distres,
 And eik hir sorie sister Hewenes,
 Sad as the leid, in baid lay me abone. 20

And Langour satt wp at my beddis heid,
 With instrument full lamentable and deid ;
 Scho playit sangis so duilfull to heir,
 Me thocht ane houre seimeit ay ane 3eir ;
 Hir hew was wan and wallowed as the leid. 25

Thane com the ladyis, danceing in ane trace,
 And Nobilnes befor thame come ane space,
 Saying, withe cheir bening and womanly,
 "I sa ane heir in bed oppressit ly,
 My sisteris, go and help to get him grace." 30

With that anon did start out of a dance
 Twa sisteris, callit Confort and Pleasance,
 And with twa harpis did begin to sing,
 Bot I thair of mycht tak na rejoseing,
 My heavines opprest me with sic mischance. 35

Thay saw that I nocht glaidder wax of cheir,
 And thair of had thai winder all but weir,
 And said ane lady that Persaueing hecht,
 "Of Heviness he feillis sic a wecht,
 Your melody he pleissis nocht till heir, 40

Scho and Distres hir sister dois him greve."
 Quod Nobilness, "Quhow sall he thame escheve?"
 Thane spak Discretioun, ane lady richt bening,
 "Wirk eftir me, and I sall gar him sing,
 And lang or nicht gar Langour tak hir leve." 45

And then said Witt, "Gif thai work nocht be the,
 But onie dout thai sall not work be me."
 Discretioun said, "I knaw his malady,
 The strok he feillis of melancholie,
 And Nobilness, [his] lecheing lyis in the. 50

Or euir this wicht at heart be haill and feir,
 Both thow and I most in the court appeir;
 For he hes lang maid service thair in vaine:
 With sum rewaird we mane him quyt againe,
 Now in the honour of this guid new zeir." 55

"Weill worth the, sister," said Considerance,

"And I sall help for to mantene the dance."

Than spak ane wicht callit Blind Effectioun,

"I sall befor 3ow be, with myne electioun,

Of all the court I haue the governance."

60

Thane spak ane constant wycht callit Ressoun,

And said, "I grant 3ow hes beine lord a sessioun,

In distributioun, bot now the tyme is gone,

Now I may all distribute myne alone ;

Thy wrangous deidis did euir man enschesoun.

65

For tyme war now that this mane had sum thing,

That lange hes bene ane serwand to the king,

And all his tyme neur flatter couthe nor faine,

Bot humblie into ballat wyse complaine,

And patientlie indure his tormenting.

70

I counsall him be mirrie and jocound ;

Be Nobilness his help mon first be found."

"Weill spokin, Ressoun, my brother," [quoth] Discretioun,

"To sett on deiss with lordis at the cessioun,

Into this realme 3ow war worth mony ane pound."

75

Thane spak anone Inoportunitie,

"3e sall nocht all gar him speid without me,

For I stand ay befor the kingis face ;

I sall him deiff, or ellis my self mak chace,

Bot gif that I befor him seruit be.

80

Ane besy askar soonner sall he speid,

Na sall twa besy serwandis out of dreid,

And he that askis nocht tynes bot his word,

Bot for to tyne lang seruice is no bourd,

3ett thocht I neur to do sic folie deid."

85

Than com anon ane callit Schir Johne Kirkepakar,
 Off many cures ane michtie vndertaker,
 Quod he, "I am possest in kirkis sevin,
 And 3itt I think thai grow sall till ellevin,
 Or he be seruit in ane, 3one ballet-maker.

90

And then Schir Bet-the-kirk, sa mot I thryff,
 I haif of busie serwandis foure or fyve,
 And all directit vnto sindrie steidis,
 Ay still awaitting vpoun kirk-menes deidis,
 Fra quhom my tithingis will I heir belyff."

95

Quod Ressoun than, "The ballance gois vnevin,
 That thow allace to serff hes kirkis sevin,
 And sevin als worth kirk, nocht haifand ane,
 With gredines I sie this world ourgane,
 And suffience dwellis nocht bot in heavin."

100

"I have nocht wyt thairof," quod Temperance,
 "For thocht I hald him evinlie the ballance ;
 And, but ane cuir, full [evin] micht till him wey,
 3ett will he take ane vther and gar it suey :
 Quha best can rewill wald maist haue governance.

105

Patience to me, "My friend," said, "mak guid cheir,
 And on the prince depend with heuinely feir,
 For I full weill dois knaw his nobill intent ;
 He wald nocht, for ane bischopperikis rent,
 That 3ow war vnrewairdit half ane 3eir."

110

Than as ane fary thai to duir did frak,
 And schot ane gone that did so rudlie trak,
 Quhill all the air did raird the ranebow vnder,
 On Leith sandis me thocht scho brak in sounder,
 And I anon did walkin with the crak.

115

LXXXII.

[SATIRE ON EDINBURGH.]

WHY will 3e, merchantis of renoun,
 Lat Edinburgh, 3our nobill toun,
 For laik of reformatioun
 The commone proffeitt tyne and fame?

Think 3e nocht schame, 5
 That onie vther regioun
 Sall with dishonour hurt 3our name !

May nane pas throw 3our principall gaittis,
 For stink of haddockis and of scaittis ;
 For cryis of carlingis and debaittis ; 10
 For fensum flyttingis of defame :

Think 3e nocht schame,
 Befoir strangeris of all estaittis
 That sic dishonour hurt 3our name !

3our stinkand S[ty]ll¹ that standis dirk, 15
 Haldis the lycht fra 3our parroche kirk ;
 3our foirstairis makis 3our housis mirk,
 Lyk na cuntray bot heir at hame :

Think 3e nocht schame,
 Sa litill polesie to wirk 20
 In hurt and sklander of 3our name !

At your hie Croce, quhair gold and silk
 Sould be, thair is bot crudis and milk ;
 And at 3our Trone bot cokill and wilk,

¹ R. has Scull or Stull.

Pansches, pudingis of Jok and Jame : 25

Think 3e nocht schame,
Sen as the world sayis that' ilk
In hurt and sclander of 3our name !

3our commone menstrallis hes no tone,
Bot 'Now the day dawis,' and 'Into Joun' ; 30

Cuningar men man serve Sanct Cloun,
And neuir to vther craftis clame :

Think 3e nocht schame,
To hald sic moweris on the mounne,
In hurt and sclander of 3our name ! 35

Tailyouris, soutteris, and craftis vyll,
The fairest of 3our streitis dois fyll ;
And merchandis at the stinkand Styll
Ar hamperit in ane hony came :

Think 3e nocht schame, 40
That 3e haue nether witt nor wyll
To win 3our selff ane bettir name !

3our burgh of beggeris is ane nest,
To schout thai swen3ouris will nocht rest ;
All honest folk they do molest, 45
Sa piteuslie thai cry and rame :

Think 3e nocht schame,
That for the poore hes nothing drest,
In hurt and sclander of 3our name !

3our proffeit daylie dois increas 50
3our godlie workis less and les ;
Through streittis nane may mak progres,
For cry of cruikit, blind, and lame :

Think 3e nocht schame,
That 3e sic substance dois posses, 55
And will nocht win ane bettir name !

Sen for the Court and the Sessioun,
 The great repair of this regioun
 Is in 3our burgh, thairfoir be boun
 To mend all faultis that ar to blame, 60

And eschew schame ;
 Gif thai pas to ane vther toun
 3e will decay, and 3our great name !

Thairfoir strangeris and leigis treit,
 Tak nocht ouer meikle for thair meit, 65
 And gar 3our merchandis be discreit,
 That na extortiounes be proclaime,

All fraud and schame :
 Keip ordour, and poore niechtbouris beit,
 That 3e may gett ane bettir name ! 70

Singular proffeit so dois 3ow blind,
 The common proffeit gois behind :
 I pray that Lord remeid to fynd
 That deit into Jerusalem ;
 And gar 3ow schame ! 75
 That sum tyme ressoun may 3ow bind,
 For to [win back to¹] 3ow guid name.

Quod Dumbar.

¹ Blank in MS.

LXXXIII.

[WELCOME TO THE LORD TREASURER.]

I THOCHT lang quhile sum lord come hame,
 Fra quhom faine kyndnes I wald clame ;
 His name of confort I will declair,
 Welcom, my awin Lord Thesaurair !

Befoir all raik of this regioun, 5
 Under our roy of most renoun,
 Of all my mycht, thocht it war mair,
 Welcom, my awin Lord Thesaurair.

3our nobill payment I did assay,
 And 3e hecht sone without delay, 10
 Againe in Edinburgh till repair ;
 Welcom, my awin Lord Thesaurair !

3e keipit tryst so winder weill,
 I hald 3ow trew as ony steill ;
 Neidis nane 3our payment till dispair ; 15
 Welcom, my awin Lord Thesaurair !

3ett in a pairt I was agast,
 Or 3e the narrest way had past,
 Fra toun of Stirling to the air :
 Welcom, my awin Lord Thesaurair ! 20

Thane had my dyt beine all in duill,
Had I my wage wantit quhill 3uill ;
Quhair now I sing with heart onsair,
Welcum, my awin Lord Thesaurair !

Welcum, my benefice, and my rent, 25
And all the lyflett to me lent ;
Welcum, my pensioun most preclair ;
Welcum, my awin Lord Thesaurair !

Welcum, als heartlie as I can,
My awin dear maister to 3our man ; 30
And to 3our schervand singulair,
Welcum, my awin Lord Thesaurair !

Quod Dumbar.

LXXXIV.

[BALLATE AGAINST EVIL WOMEN.]

THE beistlie lust, the furious appatite,¹
 The haistie wo, the verrie grit defame,
 The blind discretioun, and the foul delyte²
 Off woman-kynd that dreidis for na³ schame,
 Setand at nocht God nor manis blame, 5
 Thair lustis hes thame unreist⁴ so,⁵ but dreid,
 That all thair traist is in thair god Cupeid.

So quhone the biche is jolie and on rage,
 Scho chesis not the grewhund in the hour,
 The foulest tyk quhill scho hir lust aswage ; 10
 Rycht so the meir forsaikis the cursour,
 And takis a crukit aver and a dour,
 Evin so women wairis thair virginie
 On thame that maist ar holdin onworthie.⁶

The lustiast ladie⁷ that nature can devyne,⁸ 15
 Thocht scho have mony semelie scheruitour,⁹
 3it se 3e¹⁰ hir full suddanelie incleine¹¹
 To tak a cripill, or a creatour¹²
 Deformit as ane oule [be] dame Natour.¹³

¹ B. appetyt.² B. the hatrent and dispyte.³ B. no.⁴ B. nvreist thame.⁵ B. omits.⁶ B. omits ll. 8-15.⁷ B. lustiest lady.⁸ B. devyiss.⁹ B. servitour.¹⁰ B. sall 3e se.¹¹ B. suddanly inclyne.¹² B. ane crukit cripill criateur.¹³ B. Qubilk formit is ane owill be nateur.

Sic is thair weird, thairfoir quha sould thame wyte 20
To serue thair beistlie lust and appatite.¹

And sen thir clarkis² hes writtin in³ thair stylis
To 3oungar folk and thair successioun,
For to eschew the malice and the wylis
Off wickit woman, and thair⁴ oppressioun, 25
Thir folkis wise⁵ of gude discretioun
Hes teichit ws quhat skaithis and offence
That women dois with⁶ cullourit eloquence.

And war it possibill that in ony corce⁷
War⁸ Salamonis witt and hie⁹ sapience, 30
Arrestotlis¹⁰ clergie, Sampsonis strength and force,¹¹
Hectouris manheid¹² and michtie¹³ excellence,
3itt women sould with thair sle¹⁴ eloquence
Thair vertewis all mak of na availis,¹⁵
Be subtill winkis, and thair desaitfull talis.¹⁶ 35

Dissimulat so dangerous and dane,¹⁷
So feinzitt, and so fals with¹⁸ litill feir,
And quhair thai go thai beir the sleikit¹⁹ stane ;
Go follow thame, quha will inconstance leir,
Secreit invy, and of dispyt the speir ; 40
With women haill gois quyt now²⁰ for euir,
Quhilk sould caus men²¹ fra subtill huris dissuiur.

EXPLICIT.

Salviour, suppois my sensualitie
Subiect to syn hes maid my saull of syss,

¹ B. Thair beistly lust and furius appetyte. ² B. clarkis.
³ B. wret in to. ⁴ B. Of wemen quhilk ar our. ⁵ B. wyiss.
⁶ B. be. ⁷ B. possible war in till ane cumly corss.
⁸ B. Wyiss. ⁹ B. his hie. ¹⁰ B. Arristotillis.
¹¹ B. forss. ¹² B. proves. ¹³ B. Achillis.
¹⁴ B. wylie. ¹⁵ B. Cawiss all thir vertewis to be of non avail.
¹⁶ B. With thair sle serpent wrinkis and fals taill.
¹⁷ B. So dengerus, deir, dissavable, full of disdane. ¹⁸ B. fals and with so.
¹⁹ B. slaik. ²⁰ B. evill it gois all quyt. ²¹ B. ws lerne.

Sum spark of licht and spiritualitie, 45
Walkins my witt, and ressoun bidis me rys,
My corrupt conscience askis, clipis, and cryis
First grace, syn space, for to amend my myss,
Substance with honour doing nane suppryss,
Freindis prosperitie heir, peax, syn heavins blys.¹ 50

Quod Dumbar.

¹ B. omits ll. 43-50.

[The Poems Nos. LXXVII.-LXXXIV. are taken from the
Reidpeth MS.]

LXXXV.

ANE BALLAT OF OUR LADY.

HAILE, sterne superne ! Haile, in eterne,
 In Godis sicht to schyne !
 Lucerne in derne, for to discern
 Be glory and grace devyne ;
 Hodiern, modern, sempitern, 5
 Angelicall regyne !
 Our tern inferne for to dispurn,
 Helpe rialest rosyne.
 Aue Maria, gratia plena !
 Haile, fresche flour femynyne ! 10
 3erne ws, guberne, wirgin matern,
 Of reuth baith rute and ryne.

 Haile, 3hyng, benyng, fresche flurising !
 Haile, Alphais habitakle !
 Thy dyng ofspring maid ws to syng 15
 Befor his tabernakle ;
 All thing maling we dovne thring,
 Be sicht of his signakle ;
 Quhilk king ws bring vnto his ryng,
 Fro dethis dirk vmbrakle. 20
 Aue Maria, gratia plena !
 Haile, moder and maid but makle !
 Bricht sygn, gladyng our languissing,
 Be micht of the mirakle.

Haile, bricht, be sicht, in hevyn on hicht ! 25
 Haile, day sterne orientale !
 Our licht most richt, in clud of nycht,
 Our dirknes for to scale :
 Haile, wicht, in sicht, puttar to flicht
 Of fendis in battale ! 30
 Haile, plicht, but sicht ! Haile, mekle of mycht !
 Haile, glorious Virgine, haile !
 Aue Maria, gratia plena !
 Haile, gentill nychttingale !
 Way stricht, cler dicht, to wilsome wicht, 35
 That irke bene in travale.

Haile, qwene serene ! Haile, most amene !
 Haile, hevinlie hie empryss !
 Haile, schene, vnseyne with carnale eyne !
 Haile, ross of paradyss ! 40
 Haile, clene, bedene, ay till conteyne !
 Haile, fair fresche flour-de-lyce !
 Haile, grene daseyne ! Haile, fro the splene,
 Of Jhesu genetrice !
 Aue Maria, gratia plena ! 45
 Thow bair the prince of pryss ;
 Our teyne to meyne, and ga betweyne,
 Ane hevinle oratrice.

Haile, more decore, than of before,
 And swetar be sic sevyne, 50
 Our glore, forlore, for to restore,
 Sen thow art qwene of hevyn !
 Memore of sore, stern in Aurore,
 Lovit with angellis stevyne ;
 Implore, adore, thow indeflore, 55
 To mak our oddis evyne.
 Aue Maria, gratia plena !
 With lovingis lowde ellevyn,

Quhill store and hore, my 3outh devore,
Thy name I sall ay nevyne.

60

Empryce of pryss, imperatrice,
Brycht polist precious stane ;
Victryce of wyce, hie genetrice
Of Jhesu, lord souerayne :
Our wyss pavyss fra enemyss,
Agayne the feyndis trayne ;
Oratrice, mediatrice, salvatrice,
To God gret suffragane !
Aue Maria, gratia plena !
Haile, sterne meridiane !
Spyce, flour-de-lice of paradyse,
That bair the gloryuss grayne.

65

70

Imperiall wall, place palestrall,
Of peirless pulcritud ;
Trywmphale hall, hie tour royall
Of Godis celsitud ;
Hospitall riall, the lord of all
Thy closet did include ;
Bricht ball cristall, ross virginall,
Fulfillit of angell fude.
Aue Maria, gratia plena !
Thy birth has with his blude,
Fra fall mortall, originall,
Ws raunsound on the rude.

75

80

Quod Dumber.

LXXXVI.

[ROISS MARY MOST OF VERTEW
VIRGINALL.]

ROISS Mary most of vertew virginall.
 Fresche flowr on quhom the hevynnis dewe doun fell.
 O gemme joynit¹ in joye angelicall,
 In quhom Jhesu rejosit wes to dwell.
 Rute of refute, of mercy spring and well, 5
 Of ladyis chois² as is of letteris A,
 Empress of hevyne, of paradyss, and hell,
 O mater Jhesu, salue Maria !

 O sterne that blyndis Phebus bemys bricht,
 With course³ above the hevynnis cristallyne ; 10
 Above the speir of Saturne hie on hicht,
 Surmunting all the angelis ordouris nyne ;
 O lamp lemand befor the trone devyne !
 Quhar cherubyne⁴ syngis sweit Osanna,
 With organe, tympane, harpe, and symbilyne ; 15
 O mater Jhesu, salue Maria !

 O chast conclaif⁵ of clene virginite,
 That closit Crist but crymes criminale ;⁶
 Tryumphand tempill of the Trinite,
 That turned us fra⁷ Tartar eternall : 20
 Princes of peiss, and palme imperiall,
 Our wicht invinsable⁸ Sampson sprang⁷ the fra,

¹ Mk. junit.² Mk. schois.³ Mk. cowrss.⁴ Mk. ierubyne.⁵ Mk. schast conclaw.⁶ Mk. crimiabill.⁷ Mk. omits.⁸ Mk. inwynciabil.

That with ane buffat bair doune Beliall ;
O mater Jhesu, salue Maria !

Thy blyssit sydis bair the campioun, 25
The quhilk, with mony bludy woundis, in stour,
Victoriously discomfeit the dragoun
That reddy wes his pepill to devour ;
At hellis zettis he gaf hyme na succour,
He brak the barmekyn of that bribour bla, 30
Quhill all the feyndis trymbillit¹ for reddour :
O mater Jhesu, salue Maria !

O madyne meik, most mediatrix for man,
And moder myld, full of humilite !
Pray thy sone Jhesu,² with his woundis wan, 35
Quhilk deinzeit him for our trespass to de,³
And as he bled his blude vpon a tre,
Us to defend fra Lucifer our fa,
In hevyne that we may syng apon our kne :
O mater Jhesu, salue Maria ! 40

Hail, purifyet perle ! Haile, port of paradyse
Haile, redolent ruby, riche and radyuss !
Haile, clarifyit cristale ! Haile, quene and emperyse !
Haile, moder of God ! Haile, Virgin glorius !
O gracia plena, tecum Dominus ! 45
With Gabriell that we may syng and say,
Benedicta tu in mulieribus :
O mater Jhesu, salue Maria !⁴ .

¹ Mk. trimmlit.

² Mk. thi sweit sone.

³ Mk. That suferit ded for our iniquite,

That for thi saik he haf mercy of me,

And me defend fra Lucifer my fa,

That I may sing in hewyne apone my kne.

⁴ Mk. omits ll. 40-48.

[The Poems Nos. LXXXV., LXXXVI. are taken from the
Asloan Manuscript.]

LXXXVII.

[GLADETHE THOUE QUEYNE OF SCOTTIS
REGIOUN.]

GLADETHE thoue Queyne of Scottis regioun,
 3ing tendir plaunt of plesand pulcritude,
 Fresche flour of 3outhie, new germyng to burgeoun,
 Our perle of price, our princes fair and gud,
 Our chairbunkle chosin of hye Imperiale blud, 5
 Our Roys Riale, most reverent vnder Crovne,
 Joy be and grace onto thi Selcitud!
 Gladethe thoue Queyne of Scottis regioun.

O hye trivmphing paradiss of joy,
 Lodsteir and lamp of eivry lustines, 10
 Of port surmounting Pollexen of Troy,
 Dochtir to Pallas in angellik brichtnes,
 Mastres of nurtur and of nobilnes,
 Of fresch depictour princes and patroun,
 O hevin in erthe of ferlifull suetnes : 15
 Gladethe thoue Queyne of Scottis regioun.

Of thi fair fegour natur nicht reioiys,
 That so the kervit withe all hir curiys slicht;
 Sche has the maid this verray wairldis chois,
 Schawing on the hir craftis and hir nicht, 20
 To se quhow fair sche couthe depant a wicht,
 Quhow gud, quhow noble of all condicioun,
 Quhow womanly in eivry mannis sicht :
 Gladethe thoue Queyne of Scottis regioun.

Roys red and quhit, resplendent of colour, 25
 New of thi knop, at morrow fresche atyrit,
 One stalk ȝet grene, O ! ȝing and tendir flour,
 That with thi luff has all this Regioun firit ;
 Gret Gode ws graunt that we have long desirit,
 A plaunt to spring of thi successioun, 30
 Syne with all grace his spreit to be inspirit :
 Gladethe thoue Queyne of Scottis regioun.

O precius Mergreit, plesand, cleir, and quhit,
 Moir blith and bricht na is the beriall schene,
 Moir deir na is the diamaunt of delit, 35
 Moir semely na is the sapheir one to seyne,
 Moir gudely eik na is the emerant greyne,
 Moir riche na is the ruby of renovne,
 Fair gem of joy, Mergreit of the I meyne :
 Gladethe thoue Queyne of Scottis regioun. 40

[The Poem No. LXXXVII. is taken from the Register of Sasines,
 Vol. 2, in the Town Clerk's Office, Aberdeen.]

LXXXVIII.

[LONDON, THOU ART OF TOWNES
A PER SE.]

LONDON, thou art of townes A per se.
Soveraign of cities, semeliest in sight,
Of high renoun, riches and royaltie ;
Of lordis, barons, and many goodly knyght ;
Of most delectable lusty ladies bright ;
Of famous prelatis, in habitis clericali ;
Of merchauntis full of substaunce and myght :
London, thou art the flour of Cities all.

Gladdith anon thou lusty Troynovaunt,
 Citie that some tyme cleped was New Troy, 10
 In all the erth, imperiall as thou stant,
 Pryncesse of townes, of pleasure and of joy,
 A richer restith under no Christen roy ;
 For manly power, with craftis naturall,
 Fourmeth none fairer sith the flode of Noy : 15
 London, thou art the flour of Cities all.

Gemme of all joy, jasper of jocunditie,
Most myghty carbuncle of vertue and valour ;
Strong Troy in vigour and in strenuytie ;
Of royall cities rose and geraflour ; 20
Empresse of townes, exalt in honour ;

In beawtie beryng the crone imperiall ;
 Swete paradise precelling in pleasure :
 London, thow art the floure of Cities all.

Aboue all ryuers thy Ryuer hath renowne, 25
 Whose beryall stremys, pleasaunt and preclare,
 Under thy lusty wallys renneth down,
 Where many a swanne doth swymme with wyngis fare ;
 Where many a barge doth saile, and row with are,
 Where many a ship doth rest with toppe-royall. 30
 O ! towne of townes, patrone and not compare :
 London, thou art the floure of Cities all.

Upon thy lusty Brigge of pylers white
 Been merchauntis full royall to behold ;
 Upon thy stretis goeth many a semely knyght 35
 [All clad] in velvet gownes and cheynes of gold.
 By Julyus Cesar thy Tour founded of old
 May be the hous of Mars victoryall,
 Whos artillary with tonge may not be told :
 London, thou art the flour of Cities all. 40

Strong be thy wallis that about thee standis ;
 Wise be the people that within thee dwellis ;
 Fresh is thy ryver with his lusty strandis ;
 Blith be thy churches, wele sownyng be thy bellis ;
 Riche be thy merchauntis in substaunce that excellis ; 45
 Fair be their wives, right lovesom, white and small ;
 Clere be thy virgyns, lusty under kellis :
 London, thow art the flour of Cities all.

Thy famous Maire, by pryncely governaunce,
 With swerd of justice, the rulith prudently. 50
 No Lord of Parys, Venyce, or Floraunce
 In dignytie or honoure goeth to hym nye.

He is exemplar, loode-ster, and guye ;
 Principall patrone and roose orgynalle,
 Above all Maires as maister moost worthy: 55
 London, thou art the flour of Cities all.

[The Poem No. LXXXVIII. is taken from Cotton MSS. Vitellius
 A xvi. fol. 200, in the British Museum.]

LXXXIX.

[NOW FAYRE, FAYREST OFF EVERY FAYRE.]

NOW fayre, fayrest off every fayre,
 Princes most plesant and preclare,
 The lustyest one alyve that byne,
 Welcum of Scotland to be Quene !

3ounge tender plant of pulcritud, 5
 Descendyd of Imperyalle blode ;
 Freshe fragrant floure of fayrehede shene,
 Welcum of Scotland to be Quene !

Swet lusty lusum lady clere,
 Most myghty kynges dochter dere, 10
 Borne of a princes most serene,
 Welcum of Scotland to be Quene !

Welcum the Rose bothe rede and whyte,
 Welcum the floure of oure delyte !
 Oure secrete rejoyssyng frome the sone beine, 15
 Welcum of Scotland to be Quene ;
 Welcum of Scotlande to be Quene !

[The Poem No. LXXXIX. is taken from Appendix to Royal
 MSS. No. 58, fol. 15, b, in the British Museum.]

XC.

[O SYNFULL MAN, THIR AR THE FOURTY
DAYIS.]

O SYNFULL man, thir ar the fourty dayis
 That every man sulde wilfull pennence dre ;
 Oure Lorde Jhesu, as haly writ sayis,
 Fastit him self oure exampill to be ;
 Sen sic ane mighty king and lorde as he, 5
 To fast and pray was so obedient,
 We synfull folk sulde be more deligent.

I reid [the,] man, of thi transgressioun,
 With all thi hert, that thow be penitent ;
 Thow schrive the clene, and mak confessioun, 10
 And se thairto [that] thow be deligent,
 With all thi synnes into thi mynde present,
 That every syn be the selfe be schawin,
 To thyne confessioun it ma be kend and knawin.

Apon thi body gif thow hes ane wounde 15
 That caussis the gret panis for to feill,
 Thair is no leiche ma mak the haill and sounde,
 Quhill it be sene, and clengit every deill ;
 Rycht sua thi schrift, bot it be schawin weill,
 Thow art nocht abill remissioun for to get, 20
 Wittandlie and thow [suld] ane syn forjet.

Off twenty woundis, and ane be left unhelit
 Quhat awalis the leiching of the laif?
 Rycht sua thi schrift, and thair be oucht concelit,
 It avalis nocht thi sely saule to saif; 25
 Nor ȝit of God remissioun for to haif:
 Of syn gif thow wald have deliverance,
 Thow sulde it tell with all the circumstance.

Sa that thi confessour be wyss and discreit,
 Than can the discharge of every doute and weir, 30
 And power hes of thy synnes compleit:
 Gif thow can nocht schaw furth thi synnes perqueir,
 And he be blinde, and can nocht at the speir,
 Thow ma rycht weill in thi mynde consydder
 That ane blynde man is led furth be ane uther. 35

And sa I halde, that ȝe ar baith begylde;
 He can nocht speir, nor thow can nocht him tell,
 Quhen, nor how, thi conscience thow hes fylde;
 Thairfor, I reid, that thow excuse thi sell,
 And rype thi mynde how every thing befell, 40
 The tyme, the place, and how, and in quhat wyis,
 So that thi confessioun ma thi synnes pryce.

Awys the weill, or thou cum to the preist,
 Of all thi synnes, and namelic of the maist,
 That thai be reddy prentit in thi breist; 45
 Thow sulde nocht cum to schryfe the in [greit] haist,
 And syne sit doun abasit as ane beist:
 With humyll [hart] and sad contrytioun,
 Thow suld cum to [mak] thine confessioun.

With thine awin mouth thi synnes thow suld tell; 50
 Bot sit and heir the preist hes nocht ado,
 Quha kennes thi synnes better na thi sell?

Thairfor, I reid the, tak gude tent thairto ;
 Thow knawis best quhair bindis the thi scho ;
 Thairfor, be wys afor or thow thair cum, 55
 That thow schaw furth thi synnes all and sum.

Quhair seldin compt is tane, and hes a hevy charge,
 And syne is rekless in his governance,
 And on his conscience he takis all to large,
 And on the end hes no remembrance, 60
 That man is abill to fall ane gret mischance :
 The synfull man that all the 3eir our settis,
 Fra Pasche to Pasche, rycht mony a thing for3ettis.

I reid the, man, quhill thow art stark and young,
 With pith and strenth into thi 3eris grene, 65
 Quhill thow art abill baith in mynde and tounge,
 Repent the, man, and kepe thi conscience clene ;
 Till byde till age is mony perrell sene :
 Small merit is of synnes for to irke
 Quhen thow art ald, and ma na wrangis wyrke. 70

[The Poem No. XC. is taken from the Arundel MS. 285,
 fol. 161, in the British Museum.]

POEMS ATTRIBUTED TO DUNBAR

I.

THE FREIRIS OF BERWIK.

AS it befell, and happinnit in-to ¹ deid,
 Vpoun a rever, the quhilk is callit Tweid ;
 At Tweidis mowth thair standis a nobill toun,
 Quhair mony lordis hes bene of grit renovne,
 Quhair mony a lady bene ² fair of face, 5
 And ³ mony ane fresche lusty galland wass.
 In-to this toun, the quhilk is callit Berwik,
 Vpoun the sey thair standis nane it ⁴ lyk,
 For it is wallit weill abowt with stane,
 And dowbill stankis castin mony ane ; 10
 And syne the castell is so strang and wicht,
 With strait ⁵ towris and turattis he on hicht ;
 The wallis wrocht craftely withall ; ⁶
 The portcules most subtelly to fall,
 Quhen that thame ⁷ list to draw thame ⁸ vpoun hicht ; 15
 That it micht be of na maner of ⁹ micht
 To win that houss be craft or subteltie.
 Quhairfoir it is maist gud allutirly, ¹⁰
 In-to my tyme ¹¹ quhair evir I haif bene,
 Moist fair, most gudly, most plesand to be sene ; ¹² 20

¹ M. vnto. ² M. wourthy ladeis. ³ M. Quhair. ⁴ M. it is na vther.

⁵ M. staitelie. ⁶ M. With kirkals closit most craftelie of all.

⁷ M. they. ⁸ M. it. ⁹ M. may be into na mannis.

¹⁰ M. fair allenerlie.

¹¹ M. sicht.

¹² and all best besene.

The toвне, the wall, the castell and the land,
 The he wallis vpoun the vpper ¹ hand,
 The grit croce kirk, and eik the Masone Dew,
 The Jacobene freiris of the quhyt hew,
 The Carmeleitis, and the monkis ² eik ; 25
 The four ordouris wer ³ nocht for to seik,
 Thay wer all in this toun ⁴ dwelling.
 So appinnit in a Maij morning, ⁵
 That twa of the ⁶ Jacobyne freiris,
 As thay wer wont and vshit mony ⁷ 3eiris 30
 To pass amang thair brethir vpaland,
 Wer send of thame best practisit and cunnand, ⁸
 Freir Allane, and Freir Robert the ⁹ vder ;
 Thir silly Freiris with wyffis weill cowld gluder ;
 Rycht wondir weill plesit thai all wyffis 35
 And tawld thame tailis of haly sanctis lyffis, ¹⁰
 Quhill ¹¹ on a tyme thay purposit to pass hame ;
 Bot verry tyrit and wett wes ¹² Freir Allane,
 For he wes awld, and micht nocht wele ¹³ travell,
 And als he had ane littill ¹⁴ spyce of gravell. 40
 Freir Robert wes 3ounge, and verry hett ¹⁵ of blude,
 And be the way he bure both clothis and hude,
 And all thair geir, for he wes strong and wicht.
 Be that it drew neir towart the nicht,
 As thay wer cumand towart the toвне full neir ; 45
 Freir Allane said than, " Gud ¹⁶ bruder deir,
 It is to lait, I dreid the 3et be closit,
 And we ar tyrit, and verry ¹⁷ evill disposit
 To luge ¹⁸ owt of the toun, bot gif that we

¹ M. valays grene vpon the vther.² M. Augustins, Minors.³ M. of freiris war.⁴ M. And all into this wourthy place.⁵ M. intill ane fayre morowning.⁶ M. thir quhyt. ⁷ M. of usage 3eir by.⁸ M. Thir halie freiris thus walk thai furth on hand.⁹ M. hicht the.¹⁰ M. transposes ll. 35, 36.¹¹ M. Till.¹² M. Richt weyrie was and tyrit.¹³ M. dure the.¹⁴ M. grit.¹⁵ M. wounder hait.¹⁶ M. Robert, gude.¹⁷ M. wounder.¹⁸ M. lig.

In sume gud houss this nycht¹ mot herbryt be." 50
 Swa wynnit thair ane woundir gude hostillar,
 Without the toun, in till a fair manar,
 And Symon Lawrear wes his² name ;
 Ane fair blyth wyf he had, of ony ane,
 Bot scho wes sumthing dynk and dengerous. 55
 The silly Freiris quhen thay come to the³ houss,
 With fair hailing and beking⁴ courteslye,
 To thame scho anschirit agane in hye ;
 Freir Robert sperit eftir the gud man,
 And scho agane anschirit thame⁵ thane, 60
 "He went fra hame, God wait, on Weddinsday,
 In the cuntre for to seik corne and hay,
 And vthir thingis quhairof we haif neid."
 Freir Robert said, "I pray grit God him speid
 Him haill and sound in-to his⁶ travell," 65
 And hir desyrit the stowp to fill⁷ of aill,
 That we may drink, for I am wondir dry.
 With that the wyfe went furth richt schortly,⁸
 And fillit the⁹ stowp, and brocht in breid and cheiss ;¹⁰
 Thay eit and drank, and satt at thair awin eiss.¹¹ 70
 Freir Allane said to the gudwyf in hye,
 "Cum hiddir, deme, and sett 3ow down me bye,¹²
 And fill the cop agane anis to me ;"¹³
 Freir Robert said,¹⁴ "Full weill payit sall 3e be."¹⁵
 The Freiris wer¹⁶ blyth, and mirry tailis cowlde tell, 75
 And even with that¹⁷ thay hard the prayer bell
 Off thair awin¹⁸ abbay, and than thay wer agast,
 Becauss thay knew¹⁹ the 3ettis wer closit fast,

¹ M. Find sum gude hous that we.² M. Lawder he was callit be.³ M. cum to that mannis.⁴ M. And halsit hir richt bayth full.⁵ M. to thame richt softlie answert.⁶ M. And sauf him sound ay till his leil.⁷ M. Freyr Robert said, Dame fill ane stoip.⁸ M. gudwyf walkit furth in hy.⁹ M. Scho fild ane.¹⁰ M. cheis and breid.¹¹ M. and levit all thair pleyd.¹² M. heir fayr dame and sit us down neirby.¹³ M. this stoip agane, dame, I 3ow pray.¹⁴ M. For er we pairt.¹⁵ M. we sall 3ow pay.¹⁶ M. woxe.¹⁷ M. even so.¹⁸ M. Off that.¹⁹ M. wist.

That thay on na wayiss nicht gett entre.¹
 Than the gudwyfe thay prayit for cheritie 80
 To grant thame herbrye that ane² nicht ;
 Bot scho to thame gaif anschir with grit³ hicht,
 "The gudman is fra hame, as I ȝow tald,
 And God it wait, gif I durst be so bald
 To herbry Freiris in this houss with me, 85
 Quhat wald Symon say, ha, benedicite,
 Bot in his absence I abusit his place?⁴
 Our deir Lady Mary keip⁵ fra sic cace,
 And keip me owt of perrell and of⁶ schame."
 Than auld⁷ Freir Allane said, "Na, fair dame, 90
 For Godis saik, heir me⁸ quhat I sall say,
 In gud faith,⁹ we will both be¹⁰ deid or day ;
 The way is evill, and I am tyrit and wett,¹¹
 Our ȝettis ar closit that we may nocht in gett,
 And to our abbay we can nocht win in ; 95
 To causs ws perreiss but help ȝe haif grit syn ;¹²
 Thairfoir of verry neid we mon byd¹³ still,
 And ws commit alhaill¹⁴ in-to ȝour will."
 The gudwyf lukit vnto the Freiris tway,
 And, at the last, to thame culd scho say, 100
 "ȝe byd nocht heir, be Him that ws all¹⁵ coft ;
 Bot gif ȝe list to lig vp in ȝone loft,
 Quhilk is weill wrocht in-to the hallis end,
 ȝe sall fynd stray, and clathis I sall ȝow send ;
 Quhair, and ȝe list, pass on baith in feir, 105
 For on no wayis will I repair haif¹⁶ heir."
 Hir madin than scho send hir on befoir,
 And hir thay followit baith withowttin¹⁷ moir ;

¹ M. nicht nocht fra thyn get enteray.² M. thair for that.³ M. anone answerit on.⁴ M. I trow I durst neir luik him in the face.⁵ M. Lord Jesus me saif.⁶ M. fra.⁷ M. sillie.⁸ M. luif, ȝe heir.⁹ M. Put ȝe us out.¹⁰ M. omits.¹¹ M. after l. 93, has, "And as ȝe knaw it is sa verray lait."¹² M. omits l. 96.¹³ M. behuvis us to byd heir.¹⁴ M. put us haillie, dame.¹⁵ M. he's me.¹⁶ M. I will have no langer repayr.¹⁷ M. bad thame wend withoutin wourdis.

Thay war full blyth, and did¹ as scho thame kend,
 And vp thay went, in-to² the hallis end, 110
 In till a loft wes maid for corne and hay;
 Scho maid thair bed, syne past down but delay,³
 Closit the trop and thay remanit still.
 In-to the loft thay wantit of⁴ thair will;
 Freir Allane lay⁵ doun as he best micht; 115
 Freir Robert said, "I hecht⁶ to walk this nicht,
 Quha wait perchance sum sport I ma espy?"
 Thus in the loft latt I thir Freiris ly,
 And of the gudwyf now I will speik⁷ mair.
 Scho wes richt blyth that thay wer closit thair, 120
 For scho had maid ane tryst that samyn nicht
 Freir Johine hir luvis supper for to dicht;
 And⁸ scho wald haif none vder cumpany,
 Becauss Freir Johine that⁹ nicht with hir sowld¹⁰ ly,
 Quha dwelland wes in-to that samyne¹¹ toun, 125
 And ane Blak¹² Freir he wes of grit renown.
 He govirnit alhail the abbacy;
 Silwer and gold he had abundantly;
 He had a prevy posterne of his awin,
 Quhair he micht ische, quhen that he list, vnknawin: 130
 Now thus in-to¹³ the toun I leif him still,
 Bydand his tyme; and turne agane I will
 To this fair wyfe, how scho the fyre cowlde beit,
 And thristit¹⁴ on fatt caponis to the speit;
 And fatt cunying[is] to fyre did scho lay, 135
 Syne bad the madin, in all the haist [scho] may,
 To flawme, and turne, and rost thame tenderly.
 And to hir chalmer so scho went in hy;
 Scho pullit hir cunt, and gaif hit buffettis tway¹⁵
 Vpoun the cheikis, syne till it cowlde scho say, 140

¹ M. to do.² M. richt in.³ M. away.⁴ M. and had nocht all.⁵ M. liggis.⁶ M. oucht.⁷ M. this fayr wyff I will tellyne.⁸ M. Thairfoir.⁹ M. all. ¹⁰ M. wald.¹¹ M. within that nobill.¹² M. Ane gray.¹³ M. Thus in the.¹⁴ M. Scho thrangis.¹⁵ M. omits ll. 139-142.

"3e sould be blyth and glaid at my requeist,
 Thir myllis of 3ouris ar callit to ane feist."
 Scho cleithis hir in¹ a kirtill of fyne reid,
 Ane fair quhyt curch scho puttis vpoun hir heid ;
 Hir kirtill wes of silk, and silwer fyne, 145
 Hir vthir garmentis as the reid gold did schyne;²
 On every³ finger scho weiris ringis two ;
 Scho was als prowde as ony papingo.
 The burde scho cuverit with clath of⁴ costly greyne,
 Hir napry aboif wes woundir⁵ weill besene. 150
 Than but scho went, to se gif ony come,⁶
 Scho thocht full lang to meit hir lufe Freir Johine.
 Syne schortly did this Freir knock⁷ at the 3ett ;
 His knock scho kend, and did so him in⁸ lett.
 Scho welcomit him in all hir best⁹ maner ; 155
 He thankit hir, and said, " My awin¹⁰ lufe deir,
 Haif thair ane pair of bossis, gud and fyne,
 Thay hald ane gallone full of Gascone wyne ;
 And als ane pair of pertrikis richt new slane,
 And eik ane creill¹¹ full of breid of mane ; 160
 This I haif brocht to 3ow, my awin lufe deir,
 Thairfoir, I pray 3ow, be blyth, and¹² mak gud cheir ;
 Sen it is so that Semon is fra hame,
 I wilbe hamely now with 3ow, gud dame.
 Scho sayis, " 3e ar full hertly¹³ welcome heir 165
 At ony tyme, quhen that 3e list appeir.¹⁴
 With that scho smylit woundir lustely ;
 He thristit hir hand agane richt prevely,
 Than in hett lufe thay talkit vderis till.¹⁵

¹ M. Scho castis on.² M. With ane proud purs and keyis gingling syne.³ M. ilkane.⁴ M. And of ane burde of silk richt.⁵ M. Hir tusche was with siluer.⁶ M. And but scho come into the hall anone,
And syne scho went to se gif ony come.⁷ M. And ewin so freyr Johne knokt.⁸ M. knew, and in scho culd him.⁹ M. ane fayr.¹⁰ M. sueit.¹¹ M. als that creill is.¹² M. I reid now that we.¹³ M. weill mayr.¹⁴ M. Than Symon is, or sall be all this 3eir.¹⁵ M. omits. l. 169.

Thus at thair sport now will I leif thame still,¹ 170
 And tell þow off thir silly Freiris two
 Wer lokit² in the loft amang the stro :
 Freir Allane in the loft still can ly ;
 Freir Robert had ane littill jelosy,
 For in his hairt he had ane persaving, 175
 And throw the burdis he maid with his botkin
 A littill hoill on sic a wyiss³ maid he,
 All that thay did⁴ thair doun he nicht weill se,
 And every word he herd that thay did⁵ say.
 Quhen scho wes prowde, richt woundir fresche and gay, 180
 Scho callit him baith hert, lemmane and lue ;⁶
 Lord God, gif than his curage wes aboif,⁷
 So prelat lyk sat he in to the chyre :
 Scho rownis than ane pistill in his éir ;
 Thus sportand⁸ thame, and makand⁹ melody : 185
 And quhen scho saw the supper wes reddy,
 Scho gois belyfe and cuveris the burde annon,
 And syne the pair of bossis hes scho tone,
 And sett thame doun vpoun the burde hir¹⁰ by.
 And evin with that¹¹ thay hard the gudman cry, 190
 And knokand¹² at the þett he cryit¹³ fast :
 Quhen thay him hard¹⁴ then wer thay both¹⁵ agast :
 And als Freir Johine wes in a fellone fray,¹⁶
 He stert vp fast,¹⁷ and wald haif bene away,
 Bot all for nocht, he nicht no way win owt. 195
 The gudwyfe spak than,¹⁸ with a visage stowt,
 “ þone is Symone that makis all this fray,¹⁹

¹ After l. 170 M. has, Bydand thair tyme, and turne agane I will.

² M. That liggit.

³ M. rycht prevelie.

⁴ M. theyr deid.

⁵ nicht heir all that ever they culd.

⁶ M. And quhat scho war vpon hir heid abuif,

And how scho clipit him bayth hart and luif.

⁷ M. omits l. 182.

⁸ M. sport thai.

⁹ M. makis.

¹⁰ M. him.

¹¹ M. so.

¹² M. He knokit.

¹³ M. and callit.

¹⁴ M. Fra thay him knew.

¹⁵ M. all sayr.

¹⁶ M. sumthing in effray.

¹⁷ M. And stertis up.

¹⁸ M. speikis.

¹⁹ M. this deray.

That I nicht tholit full weill had bene¹ away ;
 I sall him quyt, and I leif half a 3eir,²
 That cummert hes ws thus in sic³ maneir, 200
 Becauss for him we may nocht byd togidder ;
 I soir repent and wo is 3e⁴ come hidder,
 For we wer weill gif that 3e wer⁵ away."
 "Quhat sall I do, allace?" the Freir can say,
 ["Into this case, Lord ! how sall I me beir, 205
 For I am schent and Symon fynd me heir,
 I dreid me sair, and he cum in this innis,
 And fynd me heir, that I los bath my quhynnis."]
 "Hyd 3ou," scho said,⁶ "quhill he be brocht to rest,
 In-to 3one troich, I think it⁷ for the best ; 210
 It lyis mekle and huge in all 3one⁸ nwke,
 It held a boll of meill⁹ quhen that we¹⁰ buke."
 Than vndir it scho gart him creip in hy,
 And bad him lurk thair verry quyetly;¹¹
 Scho closit him, and syne went on hir way. 215
 "Quhat sall I do, allace?" the Freir can say.¹²
 Syn¹³ to hir madin spedly scho spak,¹⁴
 "Go to the fyre, and the meitis fra it tak ;
 Be bissey als,¹⁵ and slokkin out the fyre ;
 Ga cloiss 3one burd, and tak away the chyre, 220
 And lok vp all in to 3one almary,
 Baith meit and drink, with wyne and aill put by ;¹⁶
 The mayne breid als thow hyd it with the wyne ;
 That being done, thow sowp the houss clene syne,
 That na apperance of feist be heir sene, 225

¹ M. now have thocht [was] weill.² M. may leif ane 3eir.³ M. Him that hes merrit us on this.⁴ M. me repent as now that we.⁵ M. Thocht we war weil and he had bene.⁶ M. "I mon 3ou hyd," scho sayis.⁷ M. Perchance, scho sayis, all cumis.⁸ M. Ane kneddin troche that lay intill ane.⁹ M. Wald hald ane boll of flour.¹⁰ M. scho.¹¹ M. Quhair he had rowme enough that he nicht ly.¹² M. omits l. 216.¹³ M. And.¹⁴ M. smertlie can scho say.¹⁵ Go cloiss the burde.¹⁶ M. and ga belyf in hy.

Bot sobirly our selffis dois sustene."¹
 And syne, withowttin ony mair delay,
 Scho castis of haill hir fresch array;
 Than went² scho to hir bed annone,
 And tholit him to knok³ his fill, Symone. 230
 Quhen he for knocking tyrit wes, and cryid,⁴
 Abowt he went vnto the vdir syd,
 [Till ane windo wes at hir beddis heid,
 And cryit "Alesoun awalk for Goddis deid!"]
 And on Alesone fast cold he cry; 235
 And at the last scho anschirit crabitly,
 "Ach, quha be this⁵ that knawis sa weill my name?
 Go henss," scho sayis, "for Symon is fra hame,
 And I will herbry⁶ no gaistis heir perfay;
 Thairfoir I pray 3ow to wend⁷ on 3our way, 240
 For at this tyme 3e may nocht lugit⁸ be."
 Than Symone said, "Fair dame, ken⁹ 3e nocht me?
 I am your Symone and husband of this place."
 "Ar 3e my spous Symone?" scho sayis, "allace,
 Be¹⁰ misknawlege I had almaist misgane,¹¹ 245
 Quha wenit that 3e sa lait wald haif cum hame?"
 Scho stertis vp and gettis licht in hy,
 And oppinit than the 3et full haistely;¹²
 Scho tuk fra him his geir at all devyiss,¹³
 Syne welcomit him on maist hairtly wyiss. 250
 He bad the madin kindill on the¹⁴ fyre,
 Syne graith me meit, and tak 3e all thy hyre.

¹ For ll. 223-226 M. has:—

Bayth cunnynys, capons, and wyld fowles fyne
 The mayne breid, the bossis with the wyne
 Scho hid up all; and strowit the hous so clein,
 That no liknes of feist meits nicht be sein.

² M. And bounit.

³ M. leit him knok thairout.

⁴ M. wes tynt, for knokit, and for cryit.

⁵ M. Say quha 3e be.

⁶ M. have.

⁷ M. wendis.

⁸ M. harbreit.

⁹ M. knaw.

¹⁰ M. Throw.

¹¹ M. I had gane wrang.

¹² M. And leit him in and that deliverlie.

¹³ M. as was the gys.

¹⁴ M. ane.

The gudwyf said schortly, "3e may trow,
 Heir is no meit that ganand is for 3ow."
 "How sa, fair deme, ga gait me cheiss and breid, 255
 Ga fill the stowp, hald me no mair in pleid,¹
 For I am verry² tyrit, wett and cauld."³
 Than vp scho raiss, and durst nocht mair be bauld,⁴
 Cuverit the burde, thairon sett meit in hy,
 Ane sowsit nolt fute, and scheinheid, haistely; 260
 And sum cauld meit scho brocht to him belyve,
 And fillit the stowp. The gudman than wes blyth;⁵
 Than satt he down, and swoir "be All hallow,
 I fair richt weill and I had ane gud fallow:
 Dame, eit with me, and drink, gif that 3e may." 265
 Said the gudwyf, "Deuill inche cun may I;⁶
 It wer mair meit in to 3our bed to be,
 Than now to sit desyrand cumpany."
 [The freiris twa, that in the loft can ly
 Thay hard him weill desyrand cumpany.]⁷ 270
 Freir Robert said, "Allace,⁸ gud bruder deir,
 I wald the gudman wist that we wer heir,
 Quha wait perchance sum bettir wald he⁹ fair;
 For sickerly my hairt will ay be sair
 Gif 3one scheinheid with Symon birneist be, 275
 Sa mekill gud cheir being in the¹⁰ almerie :"
 And with that word he gaif ane hoist anone.
 The gudman hard, and speirit, "Quha is 3one?
 [Methink that thair is men into 3on loft."
 The gudwyf ansuerit with wourdis soft, 280
 "3on ar 3our awin Freyris brether tway."¹¹
 Symone said,¹² "Tell me quhat Freiris be thay."
 "3one is Freir Robert and silly Freir Allane,

¹ M. and hald me with na pleid.² M. omits.³ M. and bayth cauld and wait.⁴ M. maid na mair debait.⁵ M. ane cop, and fenjet to be blyth.⁶ M. The gudwyf answert meiklie, Hop I nay.⁷ From M. MS.⁸ M. Allane.⁹ M. we may.¹⁰ M. And thair so gud meit in 3on.¹¹ B. The gudwyf said, "3one ar Freiris tway."¹² M. I pray the, dame.

That all this day hes travellit with grit¹ pane ;
 Be thay come heir it wes so verry lait 285
 Curfur² wes rung, and closit wes thair [3ait ;]
 And in 3one loft I gaif thame harb[o]rye."
 The gudman said, "Sa God haif pairt of me,
 Tha Freiris twa ar hairtly welcome hidder,
 Ga call thame down, that we ma drink togidder." 290
 The gudwyf said, "I reid 3ow latt thame be,
 Thay had levir sleip nor sit in cumpanye.
 [To drink and dot, it ganis nocht for thame."
 "Let be, fair dame, thy wordis ar in vane,
 I will thame haif be Goddis dignite ; 295
 Mak no delay, bot bring thame down to me."]
 The gudman said vnto the maid[in] thone,³
 "Go, pray thame baith to cum till me annone."⁴
 And sone the trop the madin oppinit than,
 And bad thame baith cum down to the gudman. 300
 Freir Robert said, "Now be sweit⁵ Sanct Jame,
 The gudman is verry velcome hame,
 And for his weifair dalie do we pray;⁶
 We sall annone cum down to him, 3e say."
 Than with that word thay start vp baith attone, 305
 And down the trop⁷ delyverly thay come,⁸
 Halsit⁹ Symone als sone as thay him se ;
 And he agane thame welcomit hairtfullie,
 And said, "Cum heir,¹⁰ myne awin bredir deir,
 And sett 3ow down sone¹¹ besyd me heir, 310
 For I am now allone, as 3e may se ;
 Thairfoir sitt down, and beir me cumpanye,
 And tak 3ow pairt of sic gud as we haif."
 Freir Allane said, "Schir, I pray God 3ow saif,
 For heir is now annwch of Godis gud." 315

¹ M. gane with meikle.² M. Houris.³ M. sone.⁴ M. down withoutin hone.⁵ M. Fair madin, be.⁶ M. Him for to pleis in all that ever we may.⁷ M. the leddir.⁸ M. ar gone.⁹ M. And salust.¹⁰ M. ben.¹¹ 3e bayth.

Than Symon anschirit, "Now, be the ¹ Rud,
 3it wald I gif ane croun of gold for ² me,
 For sum gud meit and drink amangis ws thre."
 Freir Robert said, "Quhat drinkis wald 3e craif,
 Or quhat meitis desyre 3e for to haif? 320
 For I haif mony sindry practikis seir,
 Beyond the sey in Pareiss did ³ I leir,
 That I wald preve ⁴ glaidly for 3our saik,
 And for 3our demys ⁵ that harbry coud ws maik.
 I tak on hand, and 3e will counsale keip, 325
 That I sall gar 3ow se, or ever I ⁶ sleip,
 Of the best meit that is in this cuntre ;
 Off Gascone wyne, gif ony in it be ;
 Or, be thair ony within ane hundreth myle,
 It salbe heir within a bony ⁷ quhyle." 330
 The gudman had grit mervell ⁸ of this taill,
 And said, "My hairt [will] neir be hail
 Bot gif 3e preve that practik or 3e pairte,
 [Be quhat kin science, nigromansy, or art."
 Freir Robert said, "Of this 3e haue no dreid, 335
 For I can do fer mair, and thair be neid."
 Than Symon said, "Freir Robert, I 3ou pray,
 For my saik that science 3e wald assay,]
 To mak ane sport." And than the Freir [vprais,] ⁹
 He tuk his buk and to the flure ¹⁰ he gais ; 340
 He turnis it our, and reidis it a littill space,
 And to the eist direct he turnis ¹¹ his face,
 [And maid ane croce, and than the freyr cuth lout]
 Syne to the west he turnit [him ewin about,] ¹²
 [Than in the north he turnit and lowtit down] 345
 And tuk his buk and red ane orisoun ;
 And ay his eyne wer on the almery,

¹ M. swere tham be the halie.² M. fra.³ M. cuth.⁴ M. preif, schir.⁵ M. our dame.⁶ M. that 3e.⁷ M. littil.⁸ M. mervalls meikill.⁹ B. vpstart.¹⁰ B. MS. has *freir*, evidently a mistake.¹¹ M. turnit ewin.¹² From M. MS.; B. and lukit down.

And on the troch quhair that Freir Johine did ly.
 Than sat he doun, and kest abak his hude,
 He granit, and he glowrit, as he wer woid ; 350
 And quhyllis still he satt in ¹ studeing,
 And vthir quhyllis vpoun his buk reding ;
 And [quhyllis] with baith his handis he wald clap,
 And vthir quhyllis wald he glour and gaip ;
 Syne in the sowth he turnit him ² about 355
 Weill thryiss, and mair than lawly coud he ³ lowt,
 Quhen that he come neir the almery.
 Thairat our dame had woundir grit invy,
 For in her hairt scho had ane persaving
 That he had knawin ⁴ all hir govirning. 360
 Scho saw him gif the almery sic a straik,
 Vnto hir self scho said, "Full weill I wait
 I am bot schent, he knawis full weill ⁵ my thocht ;
 Quhat sall I do? Allace, that I wes wrocht ;
 Get Symon wit, it wilbe deir doing." ⁶ 365
 Be that the Freir had left his studeing,
 And on his feit he startis vp full sture,
 And come agane, and seyit all his cure.⁷
 Now is it done,⁸ and 3e sall haif playntie
 Of breid and wyne, the best in this cuntre ; 370
 Thairfoir, fair dame, get vp deliverlie,
 And ga belyfe vnto 3one ⁹ almerie,
 And oppin it ; and se 3e bring ws syne
 Ane pair of boissis full of Gascone wyne,
 Thay had ¹⁰ ane galloun and mair, that wait I weill ; 375
 And bring ws als the mayne breid in a creill ;
 Ane pair of cunyngis, fat and het py pand ;
 The caponis als 3e sall ws bring fra hand ;
 Twa pair of pertrikis, I wait thair is no ma ;

¹ M. quhyllum sat still in ane.² M. And on this wyse he 3eid the hous.³ M. twys or thrys, and ay the freyr cuth.⁴ M. wit of.⁵ M. He knaws full weill that I have in.⁶ M. war my undoing.⁷ M. said, "All-haill my cure."⁸ M. Is done.⁹ M. 3our.¹⁰ M. hald.

And eik of pluveris se that 3e bring ws twa. 380
 The gudwyf wist it wes no variance ;
 Scho knew the Freir had sene hir govirnance ;
 Scho saw¹ it wes no bute for to deny;
 With that scho went² vnto the almery,
 And oppinnit it, and than scho fand thair³ 385
 All that the Freir had spokin of befoir.
 Scho stert abak, as scho wer in a fray,
 And sanyt hir, and smyland coud scho⁴ say,
 " Ha, banedicitie, quhat may this bene?
 Quha evir afoir hes sic a fairly sene? 390
 Sa grit a mervell⁵ as now hes apnit heir,
 Quhat sall I say? He is ane haly Freir,
 He said full swth of all that he did say."
 Scho brocht all furth, and on the burd coud lay
 Baith breid and wyne, and vthir thingis moir, 395
 Cunyngis and caponis, as 3e haif hard befoir ;
 Pertrikis and pluveris befoir thame hes scho brocht.
 The Freir knew weill and saw thair wantit nocht,
 Bot all wes furth brocht, evin at his⁶ devyiss.
 And⁷ Symone saw it appinnit⁸ on this wyiss, 400
 He had grit wondir, and sweris be the mone
 That Freir Robert weill his dett⁹ had done ;
 He may be callit ane man of grit science,
 Sa suddanly maid all this purviance
 Hes brocht ws heir throw his grit¹⁰ subteltie, 405
 And throw his knowlege in¹¹ filosofhie :
 In ane gud tyme it wes quhen¹² he come hidder ;
 Now fill the cop that we ma drink togidder,
 And mak gud cheir eftir this langsum¹³ day,
 For I haif riddin ane woundir wilsome way. 410
 Now God be lovit, heir is suffisance

¹ M. wist.² M. 3eid.³ M. richt 3oir.⁴ M. to Symon can.⁵ M. farlie.⁶ M. as him list.⁷ M. Fra.⁸ M. ferd upon.⁹ M. devoir.¹⁰ M. all throw his.¹¹ M. his arte and his.¹² M. It was in gude tyme that.¹³ M. us mirrie efter this ewil.

Vnto ws all throw 3our¹ gud govirnance :
 And than annone² thay drank evin round abowt
 Of Gascone wyne ; the Freiris³ playit cop owt.
 Thay sportit thame, and makis⁴ mirry cheir* 415
 With sangis lowd, baith Symone and the Freir ;
 And on this wyss the lang nicht thay ourdraif ;⁵
 No thing thay want that thay desyrd to haif.⁶
 Than Symon said to the gudwyf in hy,
 "Cum heir, fair dame, and sett 3ow down me by, 420
 And tak pairte of sic gud as we haif heir,
 And hairtly, I 3ow pray, to thank this Freir
 Off his bening grit besines and cure,
 That he hes done to ws vpoun this flure,
 And brocht ws meit and drink haboundantlie, 425
 Quhairfoir of richt we aucht mirry to be."⁷
 Bot all thair sport, quhen thay wer maist⁸ at eiss,
 Vnto our deme it wes bot littill⁹ pleiss,
 For vther thing thair wes in to hir thoct ;
 Scho wes so red,¹⁰ hir hairt wes ay¹¹ on flocht, 430
 That throw the Freir scho sowld discoverit¹² be,
 To him scho lukit oft tymes effeiritle,¹³
 And ay disparit in hart was scho,
 That he had witt of all hir purveance to.¹⁴
 Thus¹⁵ satt scho still, and wist no vdir wane ; 435
 Quhat evir thay say, scho lute him¹⁶ all alane,
 Bot scho drank with thame in-to cumpany
 With fenzeit cheir, and hert full wo and hevye.¹⁷
 Bot thay wer blyth annwche, God watt, and sang,
 For ay the wyne was rakand thame amang, 440
 Quhill at the last thay woix richt¹⁸ blyth ilk one.

¹ M. his. ² M. And with that wourde.³ M. the gud wyn ; and ay.⁴ M. They eit and drank and maid richt.⁵ M. our thay draif.⁶ M. craif. ⁷ M. omits ll. 419-426.⁸ M. thoct thai war weill.⁹ M. nicht hir nothing.¹⁰ M. had sic dreid.¹¹ M. all.¹² M. dishonorit.¹³ M. Asyd to him sche cast a fremmit E.¹⁴ M. omits ll. 433, 434.¹⁵ M. omits ; B. This.¹⁶ M. and let them.¹⁷ M. omits ll. 437, 438.¹⁸ M. waxit.

Than Symone said vnto the Freir annone,
 "I mervell mikill how that this may be,
 In till schort tyme that 3e sa suddanlye
 Hes brocht to ws sa mony denteis deir." 445
 Thairof haif 3e no mervell,"¹ quod the Freir,
 "I haif ane pege full prevy of my awin
 Quhen evir I list will cum to me² vnknawin,
 And bring to me sic thing as I will³ haif;
 Quhat evir I list it neidis me nocht to craif. 450
 Thairfoir be blyth, and tak in pacience,
 And trest 3e weill⁴ I sall do diligence;
 Gif that 3e list, or thinkis⁵ to haif moir,
 It salbe had and I sall stand thairfoir,⁶
 Incontinent that samyn sall 3e⁷ se; 455
 Bot I protest that 3e keip it previe,
 Latt no man wit that I can do sic thing."
 Than Symone swoir, and said, "Be hevynnis king,
 It salbe keptit prevy as for me;
 Bot, bruder deir, 3our schirwand⁸ wald I se, 460
 Gif it 3ow pleiss, that we may drynk togidder,
 For I wait nocht gif 3e ma ay cum hidder,
 Quhen that we want our neidis sic as this."
 The Freir said, "Nay, so mot I haif hevynnis⁹ bliss,
 3ow to haif the sicht of my schirwand 465
 It can nocht be; 3e sall weill vndirstand,
 That 3e may se him graithly in his awin kynd,
 Bot 3e annone sowld go owt of your mynd,
 He is so fowll and vgly for to se;¹⁰
 I dar nocht awnter for to tak on¹¹ me,¹² 470
 To bring him hidder heir in-to our sicht,¹³
 And namely now so lait in to the nicht;

¹ M. fairlie.² M. Will cum to me quhen that I list.³ M. wald.⁴ M. traistis.⁵ M. lykis.⁶ He sall bring it and that I sall stand fore.⁷ M. richt heir that 3e may.⁸ M. servand.⁹ Than Robert sayis, "Sua haue I joy or."¹⁰ M. omits ll. 465-469.¹¹ M. undertak it vpon.¹² After l. 470 M. has, For dyvers causis now apperandlie.¹³ M. intil Freyr Allanes sicht.

Bot gif it wer on sic a maner wyiss¹
 Him to translait or ellis dissagyiss²
 Fra his awin kynd in-to ane vder stait."
 475 Than Symone said, "I³ mak no moir debait,
 As pleisis 3ow⁴ so lyk is it to me,
 As evir 3e list, bot fane wald I him se."⁵
 [Freyr Robert said, "Sen that 3our will is so,
 Tell onto me withouttin wourdis mo,]
 480 In till quhat kynd sall I him gar appeir?"
 Than Symone said, "In liknes of a Freir,
 In quhyt cullour,⁶ richt as 3our self it war,
 For quhyt cullour will na body⁷ deir,"
 [And ewill spreitts quhyte colour ay will fle.]
 485 Freir Robert said that swa it cowlde nocht be,
 For sic caussis as he may weill foirse,⁸
 That he compeir in to our habeit quhyt,
 Vntill I⁹ ordour it wer a grit dispyte,
 That ony sic vnworthy wicht as he
 490 In till our habeit men sowld behald or¹⁰ se.
 Bot sen it pleissis 3ow that ar heir,
 3e sall him se in liknes of a Frier ;
 In habeit blak¹¹ it was his kynd to weir,
 [Into sic wys that he sall no man deir.]¹²
 495 Gif 3e so do, and rewl 3ow at all wyiss¹³
 To hald 3ow cloiss and still at my devyiss,¹⁴
 Quhat evir it be 3e owdir se or heir,
 3e speik no word, nor mak no kynd of steir,
 Bot hald 3ow cloiss, quhill I haif done my cure.
 500 Than said he, "Semon, 3e mone be on the flure,
 Neirhand besyd with staff in to your hand ;
 Haif 3e no dreid, I sall 3ow ay warrand."¹⁵

¹ M. it war upon this wyse.² M. into ane vther gyse.³ M. 3e.⁴ M. How ewir 3e will.⁵ M. Bot, brother deir, 3our servand wald I se.⁶ M. habite.⁷ M. it will to no man.⁸ M. omits l. 487.⁹ M. For till our.¹⁰ M. ony man suld.¹¹ M. gray habite.¹² B. repeats l. 493.¹³ M. as I sall 3ou devys.¹⁴ M. rewle 3ou on this wys.¹⁵ M. bot still be me 3e stand.

Than Symon said, "I assent that it be swa ;"
 And vp he start, and gat a¹ libberla 505
 In-to his hand, and on the flure he stert,
 Sumthing effrayit, thocht stalwart was his hart.
 Than to the Freir said Symone verry² sone,
 "Now tell me, maister, quhat 3e will haif done."
 "No thing," he said, "bot hald 3ow cloiss and still ; 510
 Quhat evir I do tak 3e gud tent thairtill,
 And neir the dur 3e hyd 3ow prevely,
 And quhen I bid 3ow stryk, strek hardely,
 In to the nek se that 3e hit him richt."
 "That sall I warrand,"³ quod he, "with all my nicht." 515
 Thuss on the flure I leif him standand still,
 Bydand his tyme ; and turne agane I will,
 How that the Freir did take⁴ his buke in hy,
 And [turnit] our the levis full besely,
 Ane full lang space, and quhen he had done swa, 520
 Towart the troch withowttin wordis ma
 He gois belyfe, and on this wyiss sayis he,
 "Ha, how, Hurlybass, now⁵ I coniure the,
 That thow vpryss and sone to me appeir,
 In habeit blak⁶ in liknes of a freir ; 525
 Owt of this troch, quhair that thow dois ly,
 Thow rax the sone, and mak no dyn nor cry ;⁷
 Thow tumbill⁸ our the troch that we may se,
 And vnto ws thow schaw the oppinlie ;
 And in this place se that thow no man greif, 530
 Bot draw thy handis boith in to thy sleif,
 And pull thy cowl down owttour⁹ thy face ;
 Thow may thank God that thow gettis sic a grace ;¹⁰
 Thairfoir thow turss the to thyne awin ressett,

¹ M. tuik ane.² M. Symon said vnto Freyr Robert.³ M. I warrand that.⁴ M. Till Freyr Robert, that tuik.⁵ M. Hurlbasie! anone.⁶ M. gray habite.⁷ M. us na tary.⁸ M. turne.⁹ M. pow thy cowl lenthe attour.¹⁰ M. For thow sall byd na langar in this place.

Se this be done and mak no moir debait ; 535
 In thy depairting se thow mak no deray
 Vnto no wicht, bot frely pass thy way ;
 And in this place se that thow cum no moir,
 Bot I command the, or ellis the charge befoir ;
 And our the stair se that thow ga gud speid ; 540
 Gif thow dois nocht on thy awin perrell beid."¹
 With that the Freir, that vnder the troch lay,
 Raxit him sone, bot he wes in a fray,²
 And vp he raiss, and wist na bettir wayn,
 Bot of the troch he tumlit our the stane ;³ 545
 Syne fra the samyn quhairin he thocht him lang,
 Vnto the dur he preisit⁴ him to gang,
 With hevy⁵ cheir and drery countenance,
 For nevir befoir him hapnit sic a chance.
 And quhen Freir Robert saw him gangand by, 550
 Vnto the Gudman full lowdly coud he cry,⁶
 Stryk, stryk herdely, for now is tyme to the.
 With that Symone a felloun flap lait fle,
 With his burdoun he hit him on the nek ;
 He wes sa ferce he fell owttour the sek, 555
 And brak his heid vpoun ane mustard stane.
 Be this Freir Johine⁷ attour the stair is gane
 In sic wyiss, that mist he hes the trap,
 And in ane myr he fell, sic wes his hap,
 Wes fourty futis of breid vndir the stair ; 560
 3eit gat he vp with clething nothing⁸ fair ;
 Full drerelie vpoun his feit he⁹ stude,
 And throw¹⁰ the myre full smertly than he 3ude,¹¹
 And our the wall he clam richt haistely,
 Quhilk round about wes laid with stanis dry : 565
 Off his eschaping in hairt he wes full fane,

¹ M. omits ll. 534-541.² M. No wounder thocht his hart was in effray.³ M. sone anone.⁴ M. schapis.⁵ M. ewill.⁶ M. Than on Symon he crysis hastelie.⁷ M. the freyr.⁸ M. And thus his pairt was nathing wounder.⁹ M. Into that tyme considdering how it.¹⁰ M. Out of.¹¹ M. at he woude.

I trow he salbe laith to cum agane.
 With that Freir Robert stert abak and saw
 Quhair the Gudman lay sa woundir law
 Vpoun the flure, and bleidand wes his heid ; 570
 He stert to him, and went he had bene deid,
 And clawcht him vp withowttin wordis moir,
 And to the dur delyverly him bure ;
 And fra the wind wes blawin twyiss in his face,
 Than he¹ ourcome within a lytill space ; 575
 And than Freir Robert² franyt at him fast,
 Quhat ailit him to be so soir agast.
 He said, " 3one Freir hes maid me thus gait say."³
 " Lat be," quod he, " the werst is all away ;
 Mak mirry, man, and se 3e mvrne na mair, 580
 3e haif him strikin quyt owttour the stair.
 I saw him slip,⁴ gif I the suth can tell,
 Doun our the stair,⁵ in till a myr he fell ;
 Bot lat him go, he wes a graceles gaist,
 And boun 3ow to 3our bed, for it is best.⁶" 585
 Thus Symonis heid vpoun the stane wes brokin,
 And our the stair the Freir in myre hes⁷ loppin,
 And tap our taill he fyld wes⁸ woundir ill ;
 And Alesone on na wayiss gat⁹ hir will.
 This is the story that hapnit of that¹⁰ Freir, 590
 No moir thair is, bot Chryst ws help most deir.¹¹

Finis.

¹ M. He sone.

³ M. feynd had maid me in effray.

⁵ M. Atour the bak.

⁷ M. als freyr Johne attour the stayr was.

⁸ M. hurt his heid and wart him.

¹⁰ M. And thus my taill I end heir of the.

¹¹ M. Chryst send us peice, and lat us nevir have weyr.

² M. Syne the freir.

⁴ M. skip.

⁶ M. to tak 3our rest.

⁹ M. scho gat nocht all.

II.

[DOUN BY ANE REVER AS I RED.]

DOUN by ane rever as I red,
 Outthrow a forrest that wes fair,
 Thynkand how that this warld wes maid ;
 Sa suddanly away we fair,
 That kingis and lordis sall haif no mair, 5
 Fra tyme that thay be bund on beir ;
 Thus spak a fowll, I ȝow declair,
 “Do for thy self quhill thow art heir.”

I marvellit quhat that bird sowld be
 That wes so fair, with fedderis gent ; 10
 Scho bownid hir nocht to fle fra me,
 But satt, and tald me hir intent,—
 “Off thy misdeidis thow the repent,
 And of thy synnys confess the cleir,
 For Deid he hes his bow ay bent ; 15
 Do for thy self quhill thow art heir.”

“Fra he begyn to schute his schot,
 Thow wat nocht quhen that it will licht ;
 He spairis the nocht, in schip, nor bot,
 In coive, nor craig, na castell wicht ; 20
 Bot as the sone that schynis bricht,
 Owtthrwch the glass that is so cleir,
 To lenth thy lyfe thow hes no micht ;
 Do for thy self quhill thow art heir.”

"Gif ony man his lyfe nicht lenth, 25
 I wat it had bene Salamone ;
 Of all wisdom he had the strenth,
 He knew the vertew of erb and stone ;
 He cowl'd nocht for him self dispone
 Attour his dait, to leif a 3eir ; 30
 Ane wysar wicht wes never none ;
 Do for thy self quhill thow art heir."

"Quhairto sowld I thir sampillis say ?
 Thow hes sene mo than I can tell,
 Off lordis in to this land perfay, 35
 Sum wyse, sum wicht, sum forss, sum fell,
 Thay dowttit nowthir hevin nor hell,
 Thay wer so wicht, withowttin weir ;
 Now with thair sawle we will nocht mell ;
 Do for thy self quhill thow art heir." 40

"And gif thow beis ane marchand man,
 And wynniss thy living be the see,
 Spend pairt of the gude [that] thow wan,
 And keip the ay with honestie ;
 Fra thow be gane, I tak on me, 45
 Thy wyfe will haif ane vthir feir,
 Thy dalie sample thow may se ;
 Do for thy self quhill thow art heir."

"Or gif thow hes a benefice,
 Preiss nevir to hurde the kirkis gude ; 50
 Do almouss deidis to peure alwayss,
 In to this warld ; to win the rude
 Thow mon be bwreit in thy hude,
 Thy windene scheit is nocht in weir,
 Thy airis ar of eild to dwid ; 55
 Do for thy self quhill thow art heir."

“I say this be a preist of pryd,
That wes full wanton of his will ;
Gold and siluer lay him besyd,
The fremmit thairof thair baggis can fill ; 60
All that thay prayit for him wes ill,
For now thay drink and makis gud cheir ;
Wyismen said, he did nane skill :
Do for thy self quhill thow art heir.”

“And of this preist I will speik mair, 65
That had sa mekle of warldis wrack,
Off all his freindis, less and mair
He wald nocht mend thame worth ane plack ;
Quhill Deid he hint him be the back,
That he nicht nowdir stand nor steir, 70
And lute him nocht his testment mack :
Do for thy self quhill thow art heir.”

“Sen for no wisdome, nor no strenth,
Nor for no richness in this erd,
That ony man his lyf may lenth, 75
Naythir for freyndschip agane wanewerd ;
I tak on hand fra thow be berd,
Thy sectouris spendis thy gudis cleir :
Thow may say that a fowle the lerd :
Do for thy self quhill thow art heir.” 80

III.

[FANE WALD I LUVE, BOT QUHAIR ABOWT?]

FANE wald I luv, bot quhair abowt?
 Thair is so mony luvaris thairowt,
 That thair is left no place to me ;
 Quhair of I hovit now in dowl,
 Gif I sowld luv, or lat it be.

5

Sa mony ar thair ladeis treitis
 With triumphand amowres balleitis,
 And dois thair bewteis pryiss so he,
 That I find nocht bot daft consaitis
 To say of luv ; bot lat it be.

10

Sum thinkis his lady lustiest,
 Sum haldis his lady for the best,
 Sum sayis his luv is A per se ;
 Bot sum, forswth, ar so opprest
 With luv, wer bettir lat it be.

15

Sum for his ladyis luv lyis seik,
 Suppois scho comptis it nocht a laik ;
 And sum drowpis down as he wold die ;
 Sum strykis down a threid bair cheik
 For luv, war bettir lat it be.

20

Sum luvis lang and lyis behind,
 Sum luvis and freindschip can nocht fynd,

Sum festnit is, and ma nocht fle ;
 Sum led is lyk the belly blynd
 With luvē, wer bettir lat it be. 25

Thocht luvē be grene in gud curage,
 And be difficill till asswage,
 The end of it is miserie :
 Misgovernit ȝowth makis gowsty age ;
 Forbeir ȝe nocht, and lat it be. 30

Bot quha perfytly wald imprent,
 Sowld fynd his luvē moist permanent,
 Luvē God, thy prince, and freind, all thre ;
 Treit weill thy self, and stand content,
 And latt all vthir luvaris be. 35

IV.

FAINE WALD I, WITH ALL DILIGENCE.

FAINE wald I, with all diligence,
 Ane sang mak, plesand of sentence,
 To everie mannis appetyte ;
 Bot thairin failȝes my science :
 Thus wait I nocht quhairof to wryte. 5

For, thocht sevin ȝeir I war avysit,
 And with my wittis all devysit,
 Ane singulare thing to put in dyte ;
 It suld with sum men be dispysit :
 Thus wait I nocht quhairof to wryte. 10

And thocht I say in generale,
 Sum sall it tak in speciale ;
 And of sum folk I suld have wyte,
 Quham I did never offend nor sall :
 Thus wait I nocht quhairof to wryte. 15

Wryte I of liberalitie,
 Of gentrice, or nobilitie,
 Than will thay say I flatter quyte,
 Sa few ar of that facultie ;
 Thus wait I nocht quhairof to wryte. 20

And, gif I wryte of wretchitnes,
 Than is it war than ever it wes ;

For thay will say that I bakbyte ;
So thik that surname dois incret ;
Thus wait I nocht quhairof to wryte. 25

Wryte I nocht eftir all mennis mynd,
Suppois that pairt be evil inclynd,
The making is nocht wourthe ane myte ;
Is nane so hable, heir to Ynde,
That eftir all mennis will can wryte. 30

Grit danger is in the endyting ;
Gif lytil rewarde be in wryting,
Bettir war leif my paper quhyte,
And [tak] me to vthir delyting :
Thus wait I nocht quhairof to wryte. 35

V.

[GIF 3E WALD LUF E AND LUVIT BE.]

G IF 3e wald lufe and luvit be,
 In mynd keip weill thir thingis thre,
 And sadly in thy breist imprent ;
 Be secreit, trew, and pacient.

For he that pacience can nocht leir, 5
 He sall displesance haif, perqueir,
 Thocht he had all this warldis rent ;
 Be secreit, trew, and pacient.

For quha that secreit can nocht be,
 Him all gud falloschip sall fle, 10
 And credence nane sall him be lent ;
 Be secreit, trew, and pacient.

And he that is of hairt vntrew,
 Fra he be kend, fair weill, adew.
 Fy on him, fy ! his fame is went ; 15
 Be secreit, trew, and pacient.

Thus he that wantis ane of thir thre,
 Ane luvar glaid may neuir be,
 Bot ay in sum thing discontent ;
 Be secreit, trew, and pacient. 20

Nocht with thy tounge thy self discure
The thingis that thow hes of nature ;
For, giff thow dois, thow suld repent ;
Be secreit, trew, and pacient.

Finis.

VI.

ANE LITTILL INTERLUD OF THE DROICHIS
PART OF THE [PLAY¹].

H IRY, hary, hubbilschow !
Se 3e not ²quha is cum now,
Bot 3it wait I nevir how,
With the quhirle wind?
A sargeand out of Sowdoun³ land, 5
A gyane strang for to stand,
That with the strenth of my hand
Beiris may bind.

Bot 3it I trow that I vary,
I am bot ane ⁴Blynd Hary, 10
That lang hes bene with⁵ the fary
Farlyis to fynd ;
And 3it gif this be not I,
I wait it is⁶ the spreit of Gy,
Or ellis fle be⁷ the sky, 15
And⁸ lycht as the lynd.

[The God of most magnificence
Conserf this fair presens,
And saif this amyable audiens
Grete of renoune. 20

¹ B. omits ; A. Heir followis the maner of the crying of ane playe.

² A. Se quha.

³ A. A Soldane owt of Seriand.

⁴ A. the nakit.

⁵ A. in.

⁶ A. I am.

⁷ A. go by.

⁸ A. omits.

Prowest, baillies, officeris,
 And honerable induellaris,
 Marchandis and familiaris
 Of all this fair towne.]¹

Quha is cum² heir bot I, 25
 A bawld, busteous bellomy,³
 Amang 3ow all to cry⁴ a cry,
 With ane mighty⁵ soun?
 That⁶ generit am of gyanis kynd,
 Fra the⁷ strong Hercules be strynd, 30
 Off all the Occident and⁸ Ynd,
 My elderis woir⁹ the croun.

My foir grandschir, hecht Fyn Mackcowll,
 That dang the Devill and gart him 3owll,
 The skyis raind quhen he wald [scowle]¹⁰ 35
 He¹¹ trublit all the air :
 He gat my gudschir¹² Gog Magog ;
 He,¹³ quhen he dansit, the warld wald schog ;
 Ten¹⁴ thowsand ellis 3eid in his frog
 Off Heland plaidis and mair.¹⁵ 40

And⁷ 3it he wes of tendir 3owth ;
 Bot eftir he grew mekle at fowth,
 Ellevin myle¹⁶ wyd mett was his mowth,
 His teith wes ten myle squair.
 He wald vpoun his tais vp⁷ stand, 45
 And tak the starnis doun with his hand,
 And sett thame in a gold garland
 Aboif his wyvis hair.

¹ Ll. 17-24 from A. MS.⁴ A. At 3our corss to mak.⁷ A. omits.¹¹ A. And.¹⁴ A. Five.⁸ A. of.² A. cumyn.⁵ A. a hie.⁹ A. bair.¹² A. grantschir.¹⁵ A. of hair.³ A. bellamy.⁶ A. Quhilk.¹⁰ B. 3owll.¹³ A. Ay.¹⁶ A. ell.

He had a wyf was mekle¹ of clift,
 Hir heid wan heichar² nor the lift ; 50
 The hevin reirdit quhen scho wald rift ;

The lass was na thing sklendir :
 Scho spatt³ Lochlomound with hir lippis ;
 Thundir and fyreflawcht flaw fra hir hippis ;
 Quhen scho was crabbit the sone thold clippis ; 55
 The Feynd durst nocht offend hir.

For cawld scho tuke the fevir cartane,
 For all the claith in France and Bartane,
 Wald not be to⁴ hir leg a gartane,
 Thocht scho was 3ounge⁵ and tendir ; 60
 Vpoun a nicht heir in the north,
 Scho tuke the gravall and staild Craig Gorth,⁶
 And pischit the grit watter of Forth,
 Sic tyd ran eftir hend hir.⁷

3it⁸ ane thing writtin of hir I fynd, 65
 In Yrland quhen scho blew behind,
 At Norway coist⁹ scho raisit the wynd,
 And grit schippis drownit thair.
 Scho fischit all the Spanzie seyis,
 With hir sark lap betuix hir theyis ; 70
 Thre dayis saling betuix hir kneysis
 It⁸ was estemid and mair.

The hingand brayis on adir¹⁰ syde
 Scho powtterit¹¹ with hir lymmis wyde ;
 Lassis nicht leir at hir to stryde, 75
 Wald ga to luvaris¹² lair.

¹ A. lang.² A. hiear.³ A. spittit.⁴ A. till.⁵ A. 3ing.⁶ A. stalit Cragorth.⁷ A. hender.⁸ A. omits.⁹ A. costis.¹⁰ A. athir.¹¹ A. poltit.¹² A. lufis.

Scho markit to the¹ land with mirth ;
 Scho² pischt fyve quhailis in the Firth,
 That croppin war in hir geig³ for girth,
 Walterand amang the wair. 80

My fader, mekle Gow M^cMorne,
 Owt of his moderis⁴ wame was schorne ;
 For littilnes scho was forlorne,
 Siche ane⁵ kemp to beir :
 Or he of aige⁶ was 3eiris thre, 85
 He wald step over the occiane sie ;
 The mone sprang nevir abone his kne,
 The hevins had of him feir.

Ane thowsand 3eir is past fra mynd,
 Sen I was generid of his kynd, 90
 Far furth in⁷ the desertis of Ynd,
 Amang lyoun and beir :
 Worthie⁸ King Arthour and Gawane,
 And mony a⁹ bawld berne of Bartane,¹⁰
 Ar deid and in the weiris ar⁹ slane, 95
 Sen I cowld¹¹ weild a speir.

Sophie and the Sowdown¹² strang,
 With weiris that hes lestit lang,
 Owt¹³ of thair boundis hes⁹ maid me gang,
 And turne to Turkey tyte. 100
 The King of Francis grit army
 Hes brocht in derth in Lumbardy,
 That in the¹⁴ cuntre he and I
 Can nocht dwell baith perfyte.

¹ A. merkit syne to.² A. And.³ A. count.⁴ A. that wyfis.⁵ A. Sic a.⁶ A. eld.⁷ A. Full far amang.⁸ A. Baith the.⁹ A. omits.¹⁰ A. in Brettane.¹¹ A. couth.¹² A. Sophea and the Soldane.¹³ A. furth.¹⁴ A. ane.

Swadrik, Denmark,¹ and Norraway, 105
 Nor² in the Steiddis I dar nocht ga ;
 Thair is nocht thair³ bot [tak] and slae,
 Cut throppillis and mak quyte.

Yrland for evir I haif reffusit,
 All wyismen will⁴ hald me excusit, 110
 For nevir in land quhair Eriche was vsit,
 To dwell had I dellyte.

[Quharfor in Scotland come I heir
 With 3ow to byde and perseveir,
 In Edinburgh quhar is meriast cheir, 115
 Plesans, disport and play,
 Quhilk is the lampe and A per se
 Of this regioun in all degre
 Of welefair and of honeste
 Renoun and riche aray.] 120

I haif bene formest⁵ evir in feild,
 And now sa lang I haif borne scheild,
 That I am crynit⁶ in for eild
 This littill, as 3e may sie.
 I haif bene banest vndir the lynd 125
 This lang tyme, that nane⁷ cowld me fynd,
 Quhill now with this last eistin⁸ wynd,
 I am cum⁹ heir perdie.

My name is Welth, thairfoir be blyth,
 I am cum¹⁰ confort 3ow to kyth ; 130
 Suppois wrechis will waill¹¹ and wryth,
 All darth I sall gar die ;

¹ A. In Denmark, Swetherik.² A. Na.³ A. Amang thaim is.⁴ A. wichtis suld.⁵ A. forthward.⁶ A. ell crynd.⁷ A. Full lang that no man.⁸ A. Southin.⁹ A. cumyn.¹⁰ A. come heir.¹¹ A. that wrechis wryng.

For certanelie,¹ the trewth to tell,
 I cum amang 3ow for² to dwell,
 Far³ fra the sound of curphour⁴ bell
 To dwell thinkis nevir me.⁵ 135

[Sen I am Welth cumyn to this wane,
 3e noble merchandis ever ilkane
 Address 3ow furth with bow and flane
 In lusty grene lufraze, 140
 And follow furth on Robyn Hude,
 With hartis coragious and gud,
 And thocht that wretchis wald ga wod,
 Of worschipe hald the way.

For I and my thre feres aye, 145
 Weilfair, Wantoness and Play,
 Sall byde with 3ou in all affray,
 And cair put clene to flicht,
 And we sall dredless ws address
 To banis derth and all distress 150
 And with all sportis and meryness
 3our hartis hald evir on hicht.]⁶

Now sen³ I am suche⁷ quantetie
 Off gyanis cum,⁸ as 3e may sie,
 Quhair wilbe gottin a wyfe to me 155
 Off siclyk breid and hicht?
 In all this boure is nocht a bryde⁹
 Ane houre I wait dar me abyde,
 3it trow 3e ony heir besyde,
 Micht suffir me all nicht. 160

¹ Sekerly.² A. heir.³ A. omits.⁴ A. Sanct Gelis.⁵ A. Nevir think I to fle.⁶ Ll. 137-152 from A. M.S.⁷ A. of mekle.⁸ A. kynd.

⁹ A. I dreid that thar be nocht a maide
 In all this towne may me abyde,
 Quha wait gif ony heir besyde,

[With 3ou sen I mon leid my lyf
 Gar sers baith Louthiane and Fyf
 And vale to me a mekle wyf,

A gret ungracious gan,
 Sen scho is gane the Gret Forlore]¹ 165
 [Of Babylon, that I full yore
 Espousit quhan we tocher store
 Fra gud Sanct Dawy wan.]]²

Adow, fair weill ! for now I go,
 Bot I will nocht lang byd 3ow fro ; 170
 Chryst 3ow conserve fra every wo,
 Baith madin, wyf and man ;
 God bliss thame, and the Haly Rude,
 Givis me a drink sa it be gude ;
 And quha trowis best that I do lude, 175
 Skynk first to me the can.

Finis off the Droichis Pairt of the Play.

Ll. 161-165 from A. MS.

ll. 166-168 wanting in A. MS. Supplied by R. Jamieson, Esq.

VII.

[IN ALL OURE GARDYN GROWIS THARE
NA FLOURIS.]

BALADE.

I N all oure gardyn growis thare na flouris,
Herbe nor tree that frute hes borne this yere,
The levys are doun schakyn with the schouris,
The fynkle fadit in oure grene herbere ;
The birdis that bene wount to syngen here, 5
In all this May vnese has songin thrise ;
And all of Dangere is our gardenere ;
And Gentrise is put quite out of seruice.

Quhat that I mene be this I dar noght speke,
For I na dare, my hert it is so sare, 10
Na neuer sall I me revenge na wreke,
Bot on myself, althogh I suld forfare ;
Saufand beaute I can prise na mare
Of hyr, that was wont to be gudeliest ;
And suth it is, and sene in all our quhare, 15
No erdly thing bot for a tyme may lest.

Sen in this warld thare is no sekernes,
Bot pas mon all, and end mon every thing,
I tak my leve at all vnstedfastnes.

VIII.

[JERUSALEM REIOSS FOR JOY.]

JERUSALEM reioß for joy,
 Jesus the sterne of most bewte
 In the is rissin, as rychtous roy,
 Fro dirknes to illumyne the ;
 With gloriuss sound of angell gle, 5
 Thy Prince is borne in Baithlem,
 Quhilk sall the mak of thraldome fre ;
 Illuminare Jerusalem !

With angellis licht, in legionis,
 Thow art illumynit all about ; 10
 Thre Kingis of strenge regionis
 To the ar cumin with lusty rout,
 All drest with dyamantis but dout,
 Reverst with gold in every hem ;
 Sounding attonis with a schout, 15
 Illuminare Jerusalem !

The regeand tarrant that in the rang,
 Herod, is exilit and his ofspring
 The land of Juda, that josit wrang ;
 And rissin is now thy richtouss King. 20
 So he, so mychtie is and ding,
 Quhen men his gloriuss name dois nem,
 Hevin, erd, and hell makis inclynyng :
 Illumynare Jerusalem !

His cummyng knew all element ; 25

The air be sterne did him persaife ;

The watter, quhen dry he on it went ;

The erd, that trymlit all and raife ;

The sone, quhen he no lichtis gaif ;

The croce, quhen it wes done contem ; 30

The stanis, quhen thay in pecis claif :

Illumynare Jerusalem !

The deid him knew that raiss vpricht,

Quhilk lang tyme had the erd lyne vndir ;

Crukit, and blynd declarit his nicht, 35

That helit of thame so mony hundir ;

Nature him knew, and had grit wundir,

Quhen he of wirgyn wes born but wem ;

Hell, quhen thair zettis wer brokin asundir :

Illumynare Jerusalem ! 40

Finis.

IX.

[NOW GLAIDITH EUERY LIFFIS CREATURE.]

NOW glaidith euery liffis creature,
 With bliss, and comfortable glaidness,
 The hevynnis King is cled in our nature,
 Ws fro the deth with ransoun for to redress;
 The lamp of joy, that chasis all dirkness, 5
 Ascendit to be the warldis licht,
 Fro euery baill our boundis for to bless,
 Borne of the gloriis Virgyn Mary bricht.

Abone the radius hevin etheriall,
 The court of sterris, the coursse of sone and mone, 10
 The potent Prince of joy imperiall,
 The he surmonting Empriour abone,
 Is cummyn fra his mychtie Faderis trone
 In erd, with ane inestimable licht,
 And is, of angellis with a sweit intone, 15
 Borne of the most chest Virgyn Mary bricht.

Quho euir in erd hard so blyth a story,
 Or titthing of sa grit felicite,
 As how the garthe of all grace and glory
 For lue and mercy hes tane humanite; 20
 Makar of angellis, man, erd, hevin, and se,
 And to ourcum our fo, and put to flicht,
 Is cumin a bab, full of benignite,
 Borne of the most chest Virgyn Mary bricht.

NOW GLAIDITH EUERY LIFFIS CREATURE.	325
The souerane Senjour of all celsitude,	25
That sittis abone the ordour cherubin,	
Quhilk all thing creat, and all thing dois includ,	
That neur sall end, na neur moir did begin,	
But quhome is nocht, fra quhome no tyme dois rin,	
With quhome all gud is, with quhome is euery wicht,	30
Is with his woundis cum for to wesche our syn ;	
Borne of the most chest Virgyn Mary bricht.	
Quhairfoir sing all with confort and glaidnes,	
And cast away all cair and cuvatic ;	
Devoyd all wo, and leif in merines ;	35
Exerce vertew, and banyss euery vice ;	
Dispyss fortun, richt rynis on synk and sise ;	
And, in the honour of his blisfull mycht,	
All welcum we the Prince of Paradice,	
Borne of the most chest Virgyn Mary bricht.	40

Finis.

X.

[O LUSTY FLOUR OF 3OWTH, BENYNG
AND BRICHT.]

O LUSTY flour of 3owth, benying and bricht,
 Fresch blome of bewty, blythfull, brycht, and schene,
 Fair lufsum lady, gentill and discret,
 3ung brekand blosum, 3it on the stalkis grene,
 Delytsum lilly, lusty for to be sene, 5
 Be glaid in hairt and expell haviness;
 Bair of bliss, that evir so blytht hes bene,
 Dewoyd langour, and leif in lustiness.

Brycht sterne at morrow that dois the nycht hyn chase,
 Of luvis lychtsum lyfe and gyd, 10
 Lat no dirk clud absent fro ws thy face,
 Nor lat no sable frome ws thy bewty hyd,
 That hes no confort quhair that we go or ryd,
 Bot to behald the beme of thi brychtness;
 Baneiss all baill, and into bliss abyd; 15
 Dewoyd langour, and leif in lustiness.

Art thow plesand, lusty, 3oing and fair;
 Full of all vertew and gud conditioun,
 Rycht nobill of blud, rycht wyiss and debonair,
 Honorable, gentill, and faythfull of renoun, 20
 Liberall, lufsum, and lusty of persoun,

Quhy suld thow than lat sadness the oppress ?

In hairt be blytht and lay all dolour doun ;
Dewoyd langour, and leif in lustiness.

I me commend, with all humilitie 25

Vnto thi bewty blisfull and bening,
To quhome I am, and sall ay scherwand be,
With steidfast hairt, and faythfull trew mening,

Vnto the deid, without depairting ;
For quhais saik I sall my pen address 30
Sangis to mak for thy reconforting,
That thow may leif in joy and lustiness.

O fair sweit blossom, now in bewty flouris,
Vnfaidit bayth of cullour and vertew,
Thy nobill lord that deid hes done devoir, 35

Faid nocht with weping thy vissage fair of hew ;
O lufsum lusty lady, wyse, and trew,
Cast out all cair, and confort do inress,
Exyll all sichand, on thy scherwand rew !
Dewoyd langour, and leif in lustiness. 40

Finis.

XI.

[THE STERNE IS RISSIN OF OUR
REDEMPTIOUN.]

THE Sterne is rissin of our redemptioun
 In Baithlem, with bemes blyth and bricht ;
 The Sone of God in erd he schewin him boun,
 Amang his angellis with a gloriuſ licht,
 As hevynnyis Lord of maieste and mycht ! 5
 Cum mortall kingis, and fall on kneis down
 Befoir the King of lestand lyfe and lycht :
 The Sterne is rissin of our redemptioun.

All empriouris, kingis, princis, and preleittis,
 Heir nakit borne, and nvreist vp with noy, 10
 Leif all 3our wofull truble and debaittis,
 Cum, luke on the eternall King of joy ;
 Ly all on grufe, befoir that hich grand Roy,
 That only King of euery regioun,
 Off Perce, of Ynd, of Egipt, Grece, and Troy : 15
 The Sterne is rissin of our redemptioun.

Inclyne befoir the Cristin Conquerour,
 Of every kith, and kinryk vnder sky,
 The he makar, the mychte Saluatour,
 The meik Redimar most to magnify ; 20
 With reverend feir down on 3our facis ly,

And on this day in his laudatioun,
 Aue Redemptor Jesu ! all 3e cry;
 The Sterne is rissin of our redemptioun.

We may nocht in this vale of bale abyd, 25
 Ourdirkit with the sable clud nocturn;
 The Sterne of glory is rissyn ws to gyd,
 Abone the speir of Mars and of Saturn;
 Abone Phebus, the radius lamp divrn,
 To the superne eternall regioun, 30
 Quhair noxiall skyis may mak no sogeorn;
 The Sterne is rissin of our redemptioun.

All follow we the Sterne of most brichtnes,
 With the thre blisfull orientall kingis,
 The sterne of day, voyder of dirknes, 35
 Abone all sterreis, planeitis, speiris, and singis;
 Beseiking him, fra quhome all mercy springis,
 Ws to ressaue, with mirth of angell soun,
 In to the hevin quhair the Imperiall ringis :
 The Sterne is rissin of our redemptioun. 40

Finis Natiuitatis Dei.

[The Poems attributed to Dunbar are taken from the Bannatyne MS., with the exception of No. IV., which occurs in the Maitland MS., and No. VII., which is among the Poetical Fragments printed by Chepman and Myllar in 1508.]

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