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Wissenschaftliche Beilage zum Programm des Dorotheenstädtischen
Realgymnasiums. Ostern 1883.

A Critical Edition

of some of

Chaucer's 'Minor Poems'.

By

John Koch, Ph. D.

BERLIN 1883.

R. Gaertners Verlagsbuchhandlung

Hermann Heyfelder.

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I n t r o d u c t i o n .

We possess several editions of Chaucer's works, some being mere reprints from Mss. with all their faults, others reprints with a few alterations by the editors, when they thought the author ought to be helped up, or the scribe ought not to be trusted. A really critical restoration of the text has only been made of the 'Astrolabe', by Prof. Skeat¹⁾, of the General Prologue to the Canterbury Tales, and of the Balade 'Pite', by Prof. Ten Brink²⁾, and lately another of the Prologue, by Prof. Zupitza³⁾, who has promised to continue his publications, for the great advantage of all Chaucer students. But until he gets through the whole bulk of the Canterbury Tales, it may not be out of place to edit a few of the poet's Minor Poems, which work I intend to pursue, should this present trial meet with some encouragement from the leading authorities.

If Prof. Zupitza and other editors make a certain Ms. the basis of their texts, closely following its peculiarities, except where metre or sense require some deviation, there can scarcely an objection be raised against this mode of treatment, as long as one and the same Ms. can be used for the whole of the publication in question. Prof. Zupitza has chosen the Ellesmere Ms. for his purpose, which, though written rather late in the 15th century, is generally correct in its readings and grammatical forms. But such is not the case with the so called Minor Poems, which have apparently never been collected completely into one Ms. Most of them are to be found in the Ms. Fairfax 16, in the Bodleian Library, but its text is not to be very much relied upon, which is clearly shown by a comparison with those pieces which are also extant in older and better Mss. The Cambridge University Ms., Gg. 4, 27, also contains several, but is often disfigured by clerical errors and dialectical peculiarities. There are, furthermore, Shirley's Mss., which sometimes offer a good reading, where the others show the purest nonsense; but much oftener are dreadfully corrupted by their copyist's putting in his own words instead of the poet's, so that they can never entirely be trusted, where they disagree with the others. Besides, Shirley writes in a dialect which surely was not Chaucer's. The remaining Mss. contain either only a few poems, or are too bad to come into consideration.

The safest way out of this dilemma would have been to print each poem after its best Ms., but then we should have got a nice collection of different dialects and spellings. For there

¹⁾ Chaucer Soc., 1872, I Series XXIX.

²⁾ ib. 1874, II Ser., 9.

³⁾ Berlin, 1882.

are scarcely two Mss. in the whole number of 43, not counting the old Prints, which show the same principles of orthography. I did not dare to offer such a mixture as a critical edition, and so I saw myself compelled to venture upon a research after Chaucer's own way of spelling.

The farther we go back into the fourteenth century, we find that scribes only rarely use y for i, th for þ, y or g for ȝ, sh for sch, gh for h etc. These older characters also appear pretty regularly in the older Mss. of the *Canterbury Tales*; so in the *Corpus* and *Cambridge Mss.*, and even in the later *Lansdowne*, 851, and though the reprints of *Harleian 7334*, published by *Wright and Morris*, don't show any þ, I deduce from a quotation of *Mr. Furnivall* (*Temporary Preface*, p. 49) that this sign must be pretty frequently used in it. But it must be noticed that all these Mss. have been written in the provinces, mostly in the Northern Counties, where copyists evidently kept longer up a practice which in the Midland had become obsolete. What in the 15th century, however, was considered as old fashioned, may very well have been in a more general use in the middle of the 14th, about which time we must suppose that Chaucer learnt his orthography. It is now very likely that he always, even in his later writings, followed the rules he had adopted in his younger years, and though we are unable to reconstruct them with sufficient certainty, we must in general admit that his spelling cannot have been very far from that practised in that earlier period.

But with these generalities very little is done, and I am doubtful if I had been right to adopt *Herrn Stratmann's* way of spelling Chaucer, in his *Dictionary*, though I think he is pretty near to the author's method.

So I have tried to discover the leading rules, with regard to orthography, of the oldest Chaucer Mss. that have been written in or near London. There is a very good codex containing an Englishing of *Deguileville's Pèlerinage de la Vie humaine* together with the poet's ABC, *Cambridge Univ.*, Ff. V, 30, dated about 1425, being, thus, the earliest of the *Minor Poems*, which appears to represent pretty closely the poet's dialect. Its peculiarities are: M. E. i and i are generally expressed by i; ȝ in the beginning of words has always become y, ȝ vocalised is given by y, sometimes by i; þ is, with a few exceptions, to be found in the beginning and in the middle of words, th at the end; sh stands for the earlier sch; old h in the end of words, especially followed by t, remains; in words of French origin, ei, ai, oi are commonly represented by ey, ay, oy; long vowels are often doubled. Almost the same characteristics has the best, though not faultless, Ms. of the '*Astrolabe*', *Cambridge Univ.*, Dd. 3. 53, which *Prof. Skeat* thinks must have been written in London, about the year 1400¹⁾. But there are fewer þ's, the long vowels not doubled, as a rule, and y and w (standing for u in diphthongs etc.) more irregularly used. Furthermore, the best Ms. of the *Ballad 'Fortune'*, *Cambr. Univ. Libr.*, Ii. 3. 21, in spite of occasional bad or provincial spellings, resembles these two in some features: þ has become rather rare, y more frequent, but ht is constantly used, y for ȝ, sh for sch, th at the end of words etc.

According to these observations, I have in general adopted the method of spelling of the *Cambridge Ms.*, Ff. V 30, but have avoided the doubling of vowels, as the question, which of them Chaucer treated as long, and which as short ones, has not yet sufficiently been settled. In other

¹⁾ v. his Edition, p. IX.

points, I have not introduced uniformity of spelling, as in some (e. g. *naught* and *nought*, *leste* and *liste*, *wers* and *wors*) it is proved by rhymes that the poet admitted of both ways, and in others, we have not sufficient evidence to establish any rules. As for the use of *y*, I have adopted it, where the general practice of the Mss. agrees with some grammatical reason; so, when it stands for O. E. *-ich* or *-iȝ* (ig), or, when it corresponds with an O. E. *y*, M. E. *u*, though in some cases it only sounded like *i* (*fyr*, *kyng*); sometimes also I have admitted it, where it apparently is nothing but an ornament (?), but is supported by being constantly found in the same syllable. — I know quite well that this mode of treating a text is open to objections, but for the present occasion, I hope, it will answer its purpose, considering especially that not much mischief can have been done by it, as only letters, not sounds, still less grammatical terminations are concerned. Perhaps some future editor will improve upon this method, for I think we ought to try to render Chaucer, as near as possible, his proper orthography, instead of printing him, as if his writings were to be dated a century later.

I have to pass now to some metrical remarks. After the valuable researches of Prof. Child¹), and especially of Prof. Schipper²), on Chaucer's versification, very little remains for me to say.

But as I have to justify a few cases in which I have deviated from the Mss., I hold a short discussion necessary.

Prof. Schipper allows, agreeing with Mr. A. Ellis, in the five-accent metre, sometimes one surplus non-accented syllable, mostly in the beginning of a line, or after the caesural pause, and sometimes a non-accented initial syllable to be dropped before the first accented one. But as Chaucer evidently imitated the French verse of Machault, which does not admit of such licences, such a suggestion does not a priori seem very likely. Some surplus syllables, or wanting ones, occur indeed often enough in popular Early English Poetry, but Chaucer despised these productions, as he speaks slightly of alliteration in the Parson's Prologue, and ridicules the popular Ballades in his 'Sir Thopas'. So it would be more probable that he followed his original as strictly as possible. Now Prof. Schipper quotes some lines, especially of the Prologue and the Knightes Tale, in order to show that our poet really intended those licences, but unfortunately only after the reprint of faulty Mss. For Prof. Zupitza's edition has done away with several of those syllables, so that only a few doubtful cases are left to be considered. So, e. g., in line 260 of the Prologue, the word *is* has to be omitted, and in line 764, *not* is to be suppressed.

In others, however, the surplus syllable cannot be disposed of in the same manner, as the agreement of the best Mss., or the sense does not allow to omit a word. But in all of them occur combinations of sounds which may occasionally be slurred over, or contracted, so that two syllables are to be pronounced as one, or, at least, take the value of one. In most of these cases, one syllable ends with *r*, whilst the next begins with a vowel, or with *h*. As for instance, Prol., l. 16 and 22, I think *Caunterbúry* ought to be pronounced *Caunterb'ry*, l. 463, *Jrusalem*, l. 626, *lecch'rous* etc. Similarly: ib. l. 400, *By wáter he sént* etc., which is *By watere*, or *by wátre^he*; Monk. T. 3385, *fadere in: fadre^hin*; Kn. T. 398, : *morthre^hor*; perhaps the word *parische*, Prol. 491, is to be pronounced *p'rische*, as Prof. Child suggests (l. c. p. 491 sqq.) etc. Frequently

¹) The American Academy of Arts and Sciences, vol. VIII, p. II.

²) Englische Metrik I, p. 442 sqq.

also final *y* is to be slurred over to the following word, when it commences with a vowel or with *h*; e. g. Prol. 184 *stúdy*^and *make*, Nonne Pr. T. 438 *méry*^and *wél* etc.; Prol. 764 *mery*^a *companye* etc.

I have here only considered such lines as Prof. Schipper reckons among those in which two unaccented syllables meet, so that the whole number of them becomes one above the regular measure. The licences I have applied to them are well known to Prof. Schipper, but in some cases, he seems to have overlooked the possibility of reading them in the indicated way, in others, he apparently hesitated admitting them, as the words in question are separated by a caesural section. But that these pauses in Chaucer's verse are often only very slight ones, Prof. Schipper states himself (p. 458), so that an important objection cannot be derived from that fact. — Concerning the apocope of final *e*, whether radical or inflexional, or the elision of *e* in inflexional terminations, I have no doubt that it must be allowed, whenever the metre requires it; for although Chaucer generally kept it very accurately in his rhymes, there are several instances in which he even here takes some liberties in its use. It is scarcely necessary to quote rhymes where inflexional *e* has been suppressed; but there are also cases enough in which other final *e*'s, organic or anorganic ones, are occasionally dropped; e. g., sometimes *presse* rhymes with words in *-esse*, sometimes with those in *-es*; *ther* and *her* alternately rhyme with words in *-er* and in *-ere*; *quen* with those in *-en* and *-ene*; even *per* (Fr. pair) is, in a few instances, changed into *pere*; *force* rhymes with *cors* (corps) etc.¹⁾

Lines deficient in one syllable in the beginning are only a few left in Prof. Zupitza's edition, and even these, I think, can be cured on the authority of Mss. I do not count among them l. 76:

Al bismotered with his hábergeoun,

which has the right number of syllables, the five first of which, however, are to be read with even stress; nor l. 371:

Euerich fôr the wisdom thát he cân

where the first 3 syllables are to be pronounced in the same way, if one does not prefer to adopt the reading of Harl. 7334: *Every man*. But in l. 294 *clothed* (Harl. Ms.) or *iclad* (Cambr. Ms.) ought perhaps to be read instead of *clad*²⁾; and, in l. 391, instead of *faldyng*, *faldynge*, which is to be found in the Cambridge and in the Lansdowne Mss. Both lines must however be pronounced with level stress upon their first syllables. The same can be said of some deficient lines in the Kn. T., pointed out by Prof. Schipper. In l. 1512, several Mss., among them Ellesmere, read *alle* instead of *al*; in l. 1518, most Mss. have *Ther as* instead of the simple *Ther*; l. 1523 Ellesmere and others read *go sithen* for *goon ful*; l. 1537 is only complete in the Corpus Ms., which adds *and* before the second *now*; but the others may have accidentally dropped it, perhaps influenced by the preceding lines 1534 and 35:

Now in the croppe, now down in the breres,
Now up, now down etc.

¹⁾ cfr. Mr. Cromie's 'Ryme-Index to the Ellesmere Ms.'; Chaucer Soc., I Series, XLV.

²⁾ cfr., for the accentuation of this line, l. 384.

One may object to these restorations that some of them interrupt the easy flow of Chaucer's verse; but the same can be said against giving them only nine syllables: at any rate, they are exceptional, and it does not alter the case very much, whether one makes them faulty by depriving them of one syllable, or by reading them with a somewhat unusual accentuation. — Now I do not pretend to have settled this point with certainty, but think to have shown that the admission of deficient lines at least is very doubtful, and that many more cases founded, of course, upon a careful comparison of the best Mss. must be collected, before this question can be decided.

In general, therefore, I have the impression that Chaucer's verse is in principle much more regular than Prof. Schipper is inclined to allow, and applying the poet's licences of elisions, contractions and even stress to some apparently irregular lines, I have found scarcely any in the Prologue, nor in the Poems I am going to publish which cannot be reduced to the right measure. The very few alterations I thought myself justified to make are so easy and self-suggesting, that I hope they will be approved of.

As for the classification of the Mss. I have used for my edition, I must refer here to my paper in the 'Anglia'. (IV vol., Anzeiger, p. 93—116); only in a few instances I have altered my opinion about them, and these I shall treat of in the Notes which follow the Text. — Into the Variorum Lectio I have not admitted the orthographical and dialectical deviations of other Mss. than of that on which my text is based, but these I have carefully noted down.

I. An ABC.

Incipit carmen secundum ordinem literarum Alphabeti.

<p>Almihty and al merciable quene, To whom þat al þis world fleeth for socour, To haue reles of sinne, sorwe and teine, Glorious virgine, of alle floures flour, 5 To þe I flee, confounded in errour! Help and releue, þou mihti debonayre, Haue merci on mi perilous langour! Venquished me hath mi cruel aduersaire.</p>	<p>Bounte so fix hath in þin herte his tente, 10 Pat wel I wot þou wolt mi socour be, Pou canst not warne him þat, with good entente, Axeth þin helpe. Þin herte is ay so fre, Pou art largesse, of pleyn felicite, Hauene of refute, of quiete and of reste. 15 Lo, how þat þeues seuene chasen me! Help, ladi briht, er þat mi ship to breste!</p>
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1. Ms. queene. — 2. pat *om.* F, B, Gg, Sp, P, p, L, J. — 3. Ms. relees; of sinne of sorwe Ms, Gg, Sp, P, p, Gl, h; of synne and sorowe S; of tene F, Gg, Sp, Gl; and of tene P; Ms. teene. — 4. Ms. Gloriowse. — 5. Ms. þee; To þee I crye S. — 6. Ms. releue, J relesse me, L relees; þou *om.* Gg, Sp, H, P, p; al myȝty Gg, Sp, H; and Debonaire, b, L. — 7. Ms. mercy; of F, Gg, Sp, J, L; Ms. my; H ourre. — 8. hath me F, B, h, J, L. — 9. Ms. Bountee; fixed J, H, P (fixt); Gg, Sp. myn herte; his *om.* J, L. — 10. Ms. j; my; bee; S. his socour. — 11. him *om.* Gg, Sp.; in good H. — 12. þin herte || þou art H; Ms. free. — 13. pleyn || alle J, L, b; Ms. felicitee. — 14. Hauene & refute Gg, Sp, H, h; L refute quiete. — 15. Ms. Loo; theeves; sevene; mee; pat *om.* J, P; that that Gl; sevene now chasen H, chashen now me P. — 16. Ms. lady; my; lady deere H; pat *om.* B, p; to *om.* J.

Comfort is non, but in you, ladi dere,
 For lo, mi sinne and mi confusioun,
 Which ouhten not in þi presence appere,
 20 Han take on me a grevous accioun
 Of verrey riht and desperacioun;
 And, as bi riht, þei mihten wel sustene
 Pat I wer wurþi mi dampnacioun,
 Ner merci of you, blisful heuene quene.

25 Doute is þer non, þou quen of misericorde,
 Pat þou nart cause of grace and merci here.
 God vouched saf þurh þe with us taccorde.
 For certes, Cristes blisful moder dere,
 Wer now þe bowe bent in swich manere,
 30 As it was first, of iustice and of ire,
 Pe rihtful God nolde of no merci here,
 But þurh þe han we grace, as we desire.

Euere hath min hope of refuite ben in þe,
 For her biforn ful oft, in many a wise,
 35 Hast þou to misericorde receyued me.

But merci, ladi, at þe grete assise,
 Whan we shule come bifore þe hye iustice!
 So litel fruit shal þanne in me be founde,
 Pat, but þou er þat day me wel chastise,
 40 Of verrey riht mi werk me wole confounde.

Fleing I fle for socour to þi tente
 Me for to hide from tempeste ful of drede,
 Biseching you þat ye you not absente,
 Pouh I be wikke. O help yit at þis nede!
 45 Al haue I ben a beste in wille and dede,
 Yit, ladi, þou me cloþe with þi grace.
 Pin enemi and min — ladi, tak hede,
 Vn to mi deth in poynt is me to chace.

Glorious mayde and moder, which þat neuere
 50 Wer bitter, neiþer in erþe nor in see,
 But ful of swetnesse and of merci euere,
 Help þat mi fader be not wroth with me!
 Spek þou, for I ne dar not him ysee.
 So haue I don in erþe, allas þer while!

17. Ms. noon; yow; deere; in the lady J, H; my lady p. — 18. Ms. ffor loo, my. — 19. Ms. appeere, forto apere Gg, Sp, to apere L. — 20. Ms. grevous; Has J, L; Haue S, b, Haven P, Hath H; taken Gg, Sp, J, L, Gl, S; of me L, b. — 21. and || H of. — 22. Ms. susteene; mihten || may J, L; may it H; L. righte welc. — 23. Ms. were; my; worth P, h. — 24. Ms. Nere; J. Ware ne mercy ware; heuene *om.* Gg, Sp, J, L, Gl, H; heuenes F, B, S, P, p, h; blessyd full L; thy mercy thy. blessyd quene H; Ms. queene. — 25. Ms. Dowte, noon, queen; þou *om.* F, B, Gg, Sp, P, p, H, h; is *om.* P. — 26. Ms. heere; J. that ne þou erte; L. But þou L; art S, b, L, H; grace and *om.* h. — 27. Ms. thoruh þee; to accorde; þe *om.* h. — 28. Ms. ffor; crystes; mooder deere; Cristes || S lady and, b *om.*; L blyssedfull, blessed P, H. — 29. Ms. Were; þe *om.* J; þi L, p; y bente F, B, Gl, P, H; y belte y bent h; Ms. maneere. — 30. Ms. jre; justice || rigtwisnes J, H; of *om. before* ire H, b. — 31. Ms. god, mercy; heere; God *om.* S, b; lorde H; wolde Gg, Sp, L, J, H; no || þas J. — 32. Ms. þoruh þee. — 33. Ms. myn, refuit, been, þee; in þe be F, B, Gg, Sp, P, p, H, h. — 34. Ms. ffor, heer, ofte, wyse; a *om.* F, B, H, h, p. — 35. Ms. resceyued; Vn to mercy hastow F, B, Gg, Sp, P, p, H, h; Hast || Hase J, As L; Haue zow b. — 36. Ms. assyse; at þe || atte þy J, at that H, at p. — 37. Ms. iustyse; shal F, Gg, Sp, S, Gl, J, L, p; we || that h; þe || that H. — 38. fruit || good F, B, h; *om.* Gl, L; goodnesse J; in me þan schalle J, H. — 39. wel *only in* S; Ms. chastyse *only in* S and b, the others: correcte me, *except* J: correcte my folise. — 40. Ms. my; Of || O h, thurth veray right J, *om.* L; it will My werke b; werkes J, L, P; me þan confounde L, Gl. *adds a spurious line:* Mercy to haue ther by helle grownde. — 41. Ms. Fleeinge j flee; p on to. — 42. Ms. dreede; tempestes J; fro þe tempest P. — 43. Ms. Biseeching yow; you þat ye you || þe that þou the J, the lady be H, not *om.* p. — 44. Ms. j, neede; O yit helpe L, J, b, yit help H. — 45. Ms. j, wil, deede; Al haue || Alle waye hafe J; a *om.* h; wil || wytte F, B, Gg, Sp, P, p, H, h; and in dede Gl. — 46. þou *om.* H; þi *om.* J; close in with þyn owene grace Gg, Sp. — 47. Ms. enemy, myn, heede; S *adds yit before* ladi; takys J. — 48. Ms. my; vnto the deed es J; That vn to my deth P; mi deth || the d. H; me to || to me p. — 49. Ms. Gloriows, mooder; Glorious || Gracyouse Gg, Sp; Modir & Mayden b; þat || þer L; neuer || euer S. — 50. Ms. Were, eerþe; better J, L, H, b; Was neuer youre letter S; neiþer || nor F, B, Gg, Sp, P, p; nowþere J, *om.* L, none H; nor || S neyþer, ne J, L, ne yit H; the see J. — 51. But || Both L, That H; and mercy H. — 52. Ms. my; ne be not S; with me *om.* p. — 53. Ms. j; þou *om.* J, to hym H; for euer I S; ne *om.* J, L, H, P, S; ysee || see Gg, Sp, J, L, S, H, P, speke b; not him || him not Gg, Sp. — 54. Ms. j doon,

55 þat certes, but if þou mi socour be,
To stink eterne he wole mi gost exile.

He vouched saf, telle him, as was his wille,
Bicome a man to haue our alliaunce,
And with his precious blod he wrot þe bille
60 Vp on þe crois, as general acquitaunce,
To euery penitent in ful creauce,
And þerfore, ladi briht, þou for us praye.
þan shalt þou boþe stinte al his greuaunce,
And make our fo to failen of his praye.

65 I wot it wel þou wolt ben our socour,
þou art so ful of bounte, in certeyn.
For, whan a soule falleth in errour,
þi pite goth and haleth him ayein.
þan makest þou his pes with his souereyn,
70 And bringest him out of þe croked strete.
Who so þe loueth he shal not loue in veyn,
þat shal he finde, as he þe lif shal lete.

Kalenderes enlumined ben þei
þat in þis world ben lihted with þi name,
75 And who so goth to you þe rihte wey,

Him þar not drede in soule to be lame.
Now, quen of comfort, sith þou art þat same
To whom I seche for mi medicine,
Lat not mi fo no more mi wounde entame,
80 Min hele in to þin hand al I resyne.

Ladi, þi sorwe kan I not portreye
Vnder þe cros, ne his grevous penaunce.
But, for your boþes peynes I you preye,
Lat not our alder fo make his bobauce
85 þat he hath in his lystes of mischaunce
Conuict þat ye boþe haue bouht so dere.
As I seide erst, þou ground of our substaunce
Continue on us þi pitous eyen clere!

Moises, þat sauh þe bush with flaumes rede
90 Brenninge, of which þer neuer a stikke brende,
Was signe of þin vnwemmed maidenhede.
þou art þe bush on which þer gan descende
þe Holigost, þe which þat Moises wende
Had ben a fyir, and þis was in figure.
95 Now, ladi, from þe fyir þou us defende
Which þat in helle eternalli shal dure.

erpe; þer || the F, B, Gg, Sp, S, L, P, p, H, that J. — 55. Ms. my, bee; certaynly J; if || that F, B, P, p; *om.* Gl. J, L. — 56. Ms. my; To stink eterne || To lastande Paine J; sinke Sp. — 57. Ms. saaf tel; tel him *om.* J, L; as it was J, L. — 58. Ms. Bicomem, oure; To become L; a *om.* J, L, H; to haue our || as for our F, B, Gg, Sp, P, p, heere for vs in H. — 59. Ms. blood; And *om.* J, L; precious *om.* F, B, Gg, Sp, P, p, H; the blyful bille F, P, p; þat blisful bille Gg, Sp; a precious bille H. — 60. *Instead of this line*, P, p *have*: Of mercy put that in his remembrance. — 61. Ms. Penitent; criaunce. — 62. for vs þou J; lady deere thow for me H. — 63. Ms. þanne; þou *om.* L; boþe *om.* Gg, Sp, J, H; al his || alle F, B, Gl, al oure S; stynt and cease H. — 64. Ms. oure foo; fo || faes J; the fiendis alle H; to *om.* b; of || or B, *om.* H; his || þair J, H. — 65. Ms. oure; it *om.* Gg, Sp, b; wolt *om.* L. — 66. Ms. bowntee; þou || That F, B, — 67. Ms. ffor; a soule falleth || we falle J, L; in any errour J; into H. — 68. Ms. pitee; him || vs J, L. — 69. Ms. þanne; pees; So makes þou oure p. with oure J, L; Thow makest than H. — 70. Ms. crooked; him || vs J; of þe croked strete *om.* F, of drede B. — 71. Ms. þee; loues the J, H, he lovys L; he *om.* Gg, Sp; in *om.* Gl. — 72. Ms. fynde, lyf; as || when F, B, J, L; he *om.* *bef.* þe S, b. — 73. Ms. Kalendeeres enlumyned. — 74. Ms. lighted. — 75. Ms. yow; who so || so who H; to you || with þe Gg, Sp, to the J; rihte || redy H. — 76. Ms. thar; the thar nat dare drede H. — 77. Ms. queen, sithe; sith || sen J, L; þe same J, H, b, Sp; Norise quene H. — 78. Ms. j seeche, my medicyne; for || as for J, L; mi *om.* H. — 79. Ms. foo, my, vntame; entame || vntaame S, vntayne b, attayne H. — 80. Ms. Myn, j; hele || help al H. — 81. Ms. j; ne cane S. — 82. Ms. greevous; Vndir thy Sone crosse J; ne his || nor the H. — 83. Ms. youre, j yow; peynes || peyne Gg, Sp, penaunce S; boþes *om.* H, bothe F, B, L, bather J. — 84. Ms. oure, foo; alder || alþer J, H; olde L, aldres S, aller F, B; bovauns b, bostaunce Sp. — 85. Ms. hise; of || with Gg, Sp. — 86. Ms. deere; Conuict || Committe J, Conuicted H. — 87. Ms. j, oure; erst || ar J; ground || crowned L; our *om.* Gg, Sp. — 88. Ms. cleere; Continue || Open J; on || in F, B. — 89. Ms. flawmes; with || of Gg, Sp; flaumes || floures H. — 90. þer *om.* J, H, b, þat S, then Sp; a stikke || oon stroke S, a qwist J; þere brende Gg, I brent H. — 91. Ms. was; signe || figure H; maidenhede || womanhede b. — 92. on which || in whom H; gan || can Sp. — 93. Ms. holigost, moyses; þe *om.* *bef.* which B, Gg, Sp. — 94. a || on Gg, Sp, S, b; in || a J, L. — 95. Ms. deufende; þe || that H, þou *om.* Gg, Sp, J. — 96. Ms. D. RG. 1888.

Noble princesse, þat neuere haddest pere,
 Certes, if any comfort in us be
 þat cometh of þe, þou Cristes moder dere,
 100 We han non oper melodie or gle
 Vs to reioyce in our aduersite,
 Naduocat non þat wole and dar so preye
 For us, and þat for litel hire as ye,
 þat helpen for an Aue Marie or tweye.

105 **O** verrey liht of eyen þat ben blinde,
 O verrey lust of labour and distresse,
 O tresorere of bounte to mankynde,
 Þe whom God ches to moder for humblesse!
 From his ancille he made þe maistresse
 110 Of heuene and erþe, our bille up for to bede.
 Þis world awaiteth euere on þi goodnesse,
 For þou ne failest neuere wiht at nede.

Purpos I haue sum time for tenquere,
 Wherefore and whi þe Holigost þe souhte,
 115 Whan Gabrieles vois cam to þin ere.
 He not to werre us swich a wunder wrouhte,

But for to saue us þat he siþen bouhte.
 þan nedeth us no wepne us for to saue,
 But only þer we did not, as us ouhte
 120 Do penitence, and merci axe and haue.

Quen of comfort, yit whan I me biþinke
 þat I agilt haue boþe him and þe,
 And þat mi soule is wurþi for to sinke,
 Allas I caitif, whider may I fle?
 125 Who shal vn to þi sone mi mene be?
 Who, but þi self, þat art of pite welle?
 þou hast more reuthe on our aduersite,
 þan in þis world mihte any tunge telle.

Redresse me, moder, and me chastise,
 130 For, certeynly, mi fadres chastisinge
 þat dar I nouht abiden in no wise:
 So hidous hit his rihtful rekeninge.
 Moder, of whom our merci gan to springe,
 Beth ye mi iuge and ek mi soules leche,
 135 For euere in you is pite aboundinge
 To ech þat wole of pite you biseche.

which; That in helle Schalle endelesly endure J. — 97. Ms. peere; Noble || Now H; neuere zit had J, L. — 98. Ms. bee; Certes *om.* L; be in vs it comes þorow the J, in vs be it cometh of þe L. — 99. Ms. þee, mooder, deere; þou *om.* F, B, Gg, Sp, Gl; Thow erte cristis awyñ moder dere J, L, *which latter om.* awyñ. — 100. Ms. noon, ooper melodye, glee; or || ne Gg, Sp, no opere J, ne none oper L, nor H. — 101. Ms. reioyse, oure aduersitee; in our || of in H. — 102. Ms. Ne aduocat noon; Ne nane aduoket that J; þat dare þanne S; preye || prayne J, L. — 103. Ms. ffor, yee; for as litil Gg, Sp; for so lytyll B, L, H; ye || þe b. — 104. Ms. marie; for an || us for H; twayne J, L. — 105. Ms. light, blynde; þat || þo Gg, Sp. — 106. lust || reste J, L, H; and labour and of d. J; distresse || disease H. — 107. Ms. tresorcere, bountee; O verrey t. b, tresour and b. H. — 108. Ms. þee, mooder; þe || Yee S, þou J; to *om.* J, L. humblesse || mekenesse J; Whom God hir chese for verrey h. H. — 109. Ms. ffrom; And of H, ffor b; he *om.* J; þe || yowe S. — 110. eerþe, oure, beede; vp *om.* b., for *om.* Gg, Sp, S; bede || lede L. — 111. awaiteth || hase waite J; on || in L. — 112. Ms. wight, neede; ne *om.* J, L, H; fayledist Gg, Sp; na wight J, here wight H. — 113. Ms. to enquere; Purposed b; for *om.* L. — 114. Ms. holi gost þee; and whi *om.* L. — 115. Ms. gabrielles, vn to; vn to S, b. — 116. to werre || to wery L, the wers H. — 117. Ms. sithen; seyn J, L. — 118. Ms. þanne needeth, wepene; So nedyth vs than H, us *om.* S, L; for *om.* Gg, Sp, B, J, H; saue || haue S. — 119. Ms. oonly, diden; þer || there as F, B, whan H; did || do H; us || we F, B, H; as us ouhte *om.* J, L. — 120. Ms. Doo; To penitence ga and mercy hafe J, Vs aghte to penitence go and mercy haue L; Do || To b. — 121. Ms. Queen, j; me thinke B; yit || right Sp. — 122. Ms. j, þee; That day I agylted H; I haue a gylt L; I hafe offended J; him || thyu H; boope oft him S. — 123. Ms. my, wurthi; for || doune H. — 124. Ms. j caityf, fle; may || schal Gg, Sp. — 125. Ms. my, bee; vn to || to J, L; to thy Sonne schalle J. — 126. Ms. pitee; of pitee ert J; þat || þou L. — 127. Ms. oure aduersitee; on || of S, J, L. — 128. mihte || may H, b. — 129. Ms. mooder; and ek me Gg, Sp; and þow me S. — 130. Ms. ffor, my faderes; certeynly || certis B, H. — 131. Ms. j; þat || Ne Gg, Sp, *om.* F, B, J. — 132. Ms. it is rihtful rekenynge (*is corrected into hys by a later hand, in margin*); hit his || it is S, b, Gl, J, L, is his Gg, Sp, F, B, H; rihtful || þe rihtful S, þat rewfulle J, L, fulle Gg, Sp. — 133. Ms. mooder, oure; merci || ioye Gg, Sp; to *om.* J. — 134. Ms. my, eek my; ye || thow H; ek || also J, als L; soules || Sawle J, L. — 135. Ms. ffor, pitee haboundinge; you || the J, H; is pite aboundinge || I putte myne habidyng J, L; F *puts the last two words of l.* 136. *instead of* aboundinge, *omitting thus*

Soth is þat God ne graunteth no pite
 With oute þe; for God, of his goodnesse,
 Foryiueth non, but it like vn to þe.
 140 He hath þe naked vicaire and maistresse
 Of al þe world, and ek gouerneresse
 Of heuene, and he represseth his iustice
 After þi wille, and þerfore in wissesse
 He hath þe crowned in so rial wise.

145 Temple deuout, þer God hath his woninge,
 Fro which þese misbileued depriued ben,
 To you mi soule penitent I bringe.
 Receyue me! I can no ferþer fien!
 With þornes venymous, o heuene quen,
 150 For which þe erþe acursed was ful yore,
 I am so wounded, as ye may wel sen,
 þat I am lost almost — it smert so sore.

Virgine þat art so noble of appaile,
 And ledest us in to þe hye tour
 155 Of Paradys, þou me wisse and counsaile,

How I may haue þi grace and þi socour:
 Al haue I ben in filthe and in errour.
 Ladi, vn to þat court þou me aiourne
 þat cleped is þi bench, o freshe flour!
 160 þer as þat merci euere shal soiourne.

Xristus, þi sone, þat in þis world alihte,
 Vp on þe cros to suffre his passioun,
 And ek suffred þat Longius his hert pihte,
 And made his herte blod to renne adoun.
 165 And al was þis for mi saluacioun,
 And I to him am fals and ek vnkynde.
 And yit he wole not mi dampnacioun.
 þis þanke I you, socour of al mankynde.

Ysaac was figure of his deth, certeyn,
 170 þat so fer forth his fader wolde obeye,
 þat him ne rouhte no þing to be slayn:
 Riht so þi sone lust as a lamb to deye.
 Now, ladi ful of merci, I you preye,
 Sithe he his merci mesured so large,

a whole line. — 136. Ms. eche, pitee, biseeche; ech || euerych B, L; of pitie will you Sp; you || the H; Of Pitee of whilke I the be seche J. — 137. Ms. god, granteth, pitee; Soth and trowth it is H; is || it es J, L; þat om. Sp; God || he Gg, Sp, F, B; ne om. J, L. — 138. Ms. þee, god; þe || you L. — 139. Ms. fforiyveth noon, þee; non || nat H; but it || bot ȝif it J, L; vn om. J, L. — 140. Ms. þee; vicair; maked || *the others* made; He hase made the J. — 141. Ms. eek gouernowresse; gouernouresse J, L, b; gouernesse F, B; þe Ms, S, b, þis, *the others*; ek || also J, L. — 142. Ms. iustise; Off heuen and erth empresse his iustise J; he om Gg, Sp. — 143. Ms. wil; þerfore || therof H. — 144. Ms. þee crowned; has crowned þe J; ryal a wise S, J, H. — 145. Ms. god; þer || where L, H, where in J; hath || ches Gg, Sp; his om. J. — 146. Ms. ffor, misbileued; been; misbileued || mysbileuande J, heretikes H; depriued || pryued J, L. — 147. Ms. my, j; you || the J, H. — 148. Ms. Resceyue, ferþere fien; Resceyueþe S; me! I || me for I Gg, Sp, me now I H, me I ne can S. — 149. Ms. thornes, O, queen; o || I F, B, om. Gg, Sp. — 150. Ms. ffor, eerpe; cursed J, L; was om. L; yore || sore H, Sp. — 151. Ms. seen; so om. Ms., b, soore S; I so am J. — 152. Ms. j; almost om, S, b; it || I J, L, H; hit smerteþe me so soore S, b. — 153. art so noble || so noble es J, þat is so n. L. — 154. Ms. toure; And || That F, B, Gg, Sp, om. Gl; þe || þyne S, þy b; hye || highest H; Led vs vnto the hie paradies toure J; lede vs vnto þin hygh tour of paradyce L. — 155. wisse || wiche Gg, wish Sp; þou wisse me lady and me counsaile J, Thou me wisse lady and counsaile L. — 156. Ms. j; How || On whate wise J; Of what wyse L. — 157. Ms. All, j; Al haue I || For I haue H; filthe || fighte L; and errour J, L. — 158. court || contrey F, B, Gg, Sp. — 159. Ms. O fresh; cleped || chepid Gg; bench || bouche L; called J; o || of Gg, Sp, F, B, H, of a J. — 160. þer as þat || thare whare J, Theras L, Wher that thy H; euere shal || shal euermore H, J, shall euer L. — 161. Ms. Xpr, alighte; alihte || lith J. — 162. þe || a F, B, Gg, Sp, H, om Gl. — 163. Ms. eek, longius, herte pighte; ek || also L, om. J; suffred ek Gg, Sp, H; þat om. H; to pight H. — 164. Ms. blood, bloody H; to || forto J, om. Gg, Sp; down J, L. — 165. Ms. my; So was it al S, And al þis was Gg, Sp, H, b; þis || thus L. — 166. Ms. j, eek; To hym I J, I to hym L, And we to him ben H; ek || also J, L. — 167. Ms. my; oure H. — 168. Ms. thanke j yow; Than thanke we the sauour H; you || the J. — 169. figure || signe B; deth || dede J. — 170. his || to his J, L; In that he wold his fader wil obey H. — 171. Ms. thing; So ferre that H; him || he J; ne om L; for to Sp, H. — 172. Ms. soo; om. L; lustas a lamb to deye || as a lambe liste dye J, as lamb lyst for to dye L; a om. F, B. — 173. Ms. j yow; Now I pray the ladi fulle of mercy J; ffor vs now blessed lady I the preye H; preye || besech Gg. — 174. Sithe || Señ J, L; me seured Gg, sured me Sp; mesured

175 Be ye not skant, for al we singe and seye
 þat ye ben from vengeance ay oure targe.

Zacharie you clepeth þe opne welle
 To wasshe sinful soule out of his gilt.
 Perfore þis lessoun ouhte I wel to telle

180 Þat, ner þi tender hert, we weren spilt.
 Now, ladi briht, sithe þou canst and wilt
 Ben to þe sed of Adam merciable,
 Bring us vn to þat palais þat is bilt
 To penitentes þat ben to merci able.

II. Chaucers Wordes vn to Adam, his owen Scriveyn.

Adam scriveyn, if euer it þe bifalle
 Boece or Troylus for to writen newe,
 Vnder þi lokkes þou most haue þe scalle,
 But after mi making þou write trewe.

5 So oft a day I mot þi werk renewe
 It to correcte and ek to rubbe and scrape,
 And al is þurh þi negligence and rape.

III. The Former Age.

A blisful lif, a paisible and a swete
 Ledden þe poeples in þe former age;
 þei helde hem paied of fruites, þat þei ete,
 Which þat þe feldes yaue hem bi vsage;
 5 þei nere nat forpampred with outrage;
 Vnknownen was þe querne and ek þe melle;
 þei eten mast, hawes, and swich pounage,
 And dronken water of þe colde welle.

Yit nas þe ground nat wounded with þe plouh,
 10 But corn vp sprong, vnsowe of mannes hond,
 þe which þei gnodded and ete nat half inouh.

No man yit knew þe forwes of his lond;
 No man þe fyr out of þe flint yit fond;
 Vn koruen and vn grobbed lay þe vine;
 15 No man yit in þe mortar spices grond
 To clare, ne to sause of galantine.

No mader, welde or wod no litestere
 Ne knew, þe flex was of his former hewe;
 No flessh ne wyste offence of egge or spere;
 20 No coyn ne knew man which is fals or trewe;
 No ship yit karf þe wawes grene and blewe;
 No marchaunt yit ne fette out landissh ware;

hath so large H. — 175. Ms. alle; ye || thow H; seye || softly J. — 176. ye ben || þou erte J, ye ar L; Ageyne veiaunce that thow art ay his targe H. — 177. Ms. yow, opene; (opne *only* G1); you || the J, H; clepeth || caley J, L. — 178. To wasshe || þe whiche Gg, The whylk L, That wisht Sp; of synfull sowlys excusys þe gylte L. — 179. Ms. ouht j; þerfore || wherfor H; ouht || awe L. — 180. Ms. nere, herte; ware nozt J; were but spilt H. — 181. bryzt *only* in Gg and Sp; sithe || sen J, L; thow both canst H; and eeke wilt S. — 182. Ms. seed. — 183. vn to *only* in H; And brynge J; So bring S; þat || thy J, L; palais || place J, L, H. — 184. Penitence J, penitent L; þat to thy mercy ar able J.

II. *Heading*: R: Chauciers wordes a Geffrey vn to Adame his owen scryveyne, St: Chaucers woordes vnto his owne Scriuener. — 1. R scryveyne, þee byfalle; St Scriuener. — 2. R wryten newe; St Troiles. — 3. R þy, þowe; þi lokkes || þy longe lokkes R, St. — 4. R after my makyng þowe wryte, truwe; wryte more truwe R, St. — 5. R oft, daye, þy, renuwe. — 6. R eke. — 7. R thorough þy neglygence. —

III. 1. Ii Blysfyl lyf, paisyble. — 2. Ii the. — 3. Ii They; hem || them Hh; of the fructes Ii, with þe frutis Hh; þey Ii. — 4. Ii Whiche, the, by; hem || them Hh. — 5. Ii They ne weere, owtrage. — 6. Ii Onknowyn, quyerne. — 7. Ii They, swych pounage. — 8. Ii the. — 9. Ii the grownd, wownded, plowh. — 11. Ii they, eete, I. nowh; Hh knoddyd. — 12. Ii knewe the. — 13. Ii the, owt, the flynt fonde; Hh. No man zit fier owt of the flynt faude. — 14. Ii the vyne. — 15. Ii the. — 16. Ii clarre, sawse, galentyne. — 17. Ii Madyr; Hh madder, wellyd, lister. — 18. Ii knewh | the fles; his || is; Hh flesse. — 19. Hh Ne flesche. — 20. Ii knewh; Ne coyne Hh; is || was Hh. — 21. Ii the; Hh Ne shyppe. — 22. Ii Marchaunt, owt landissh; Ne marchand Hh. —

- No trompes for þe werres folk ne knewe,
 Ne toures heye and walles rounde or square.
- 25 What sholde it han avayled to werreye ?
 Þer lay no profit, þer was no richesse.
 But cursed was þe time, I dar wel seye,
 Þat men fyrst dede hir swety bysynesse,
 To grobbe vp metal, lurkinge in derknesse,
 30 And in þe riveres fyrst gemmes souhte.
 Allas, þan sprong vp al þe cursednesse
 Of coueytise, þat fyrst our sorwe brouhte!
 Þise tyrauntz put hem gladly nat in pres,
 No wildnesse, ne no busshes for to winne.
 35 Þer pouerte is, as seith Diogenes,
 Þer as vitaille is ek so skars and þinne,
 Þat nauht but mast or apples is þer inne.
 But þer as bagges ben and fat vitaille,
 Þer wol þei gon and spare for no synne
 40 With al hir ost þe cite for tassaile.
- Yit was no paleis, chaumbres, ne non halles;
 In caues and in wodes softe and swete
 Slepten þis blissed folk with oute walles,
- On gras or leues in parfit quiete.
 45 No doun of feþres, ne no bleched shete
 Was kyd to hem, but in surte þei slepte.
 Hir hertes were al on with oute galles,
 Euerich of hem his feith to oþer kepte.
 Unforged was þe hauberk and þe plate,
 50 Þe lambish poeple, voyd of alle vice,
 Hadden no fantasie to debate,
 But ech of hem wolde oþer wel cherice.
 No pride, non enuie, non auarice,
 No lord, no taylage bi no tyrannie —
 55 Humblesse and pes, good feith, þe emperice,
 [Yit hadden in þis worlde þe maistrie].
 Yit was nat Iuppiter þe likerous,
 Pat fyrst was fader of delicacie,
 Come in þis world, ne Nembrot, desirous
 60 To reynen, had nat mad his toures hye.
 Allas, allas! now may men wepe and crie!
 For in our dayes nis but couetise
 And doublenesse, tresoun and enuie,
 Poyson, manslauhtré and mordre in sondry
 wise.

IV. Fortune.

Balades de visage sanz peinture.

- I. Le Pleintif countre Fortune.
 þis wreched worldes transmutacioun,
 As wel or wo, now poer and now honour,
- With outen ordre or wis discrecioun
 Gouerned is bi Fortunes errour.
 5 But napeles, þe lak of hir fauour

23. li No batails trompes; the; Hh Ne batayllys trumpys; warre. — 24. li towres, rownde. — 26. li Ther, profyt, ther, rychesse. — 27. li corsed, the tyme. — 28. Hh did first. — 29. li lurkyngé, dirkenesse. — 30. li Ryuerys, gemmys sowhte. — 31. li than, the cursydnesse; þe || owre Hh. — 32. li coueytise, ovr, browhte. — 33. li Thyse tyrauntz. — 34. li No places wyldnesse, Hh No place of wildnesse; li wyne. — 35. li Ther, diogenes. — 36. li Ther, vitayle, thinne; Hh eke is. — 37. li nat, Hh nowt; li ther Inne. — 39. li Ther, they. — 40. li the Cyte forto a sayle. — 41. was || were Hh. — 42. li kanes; Mss and wodes. — 43. li Sleptin this blyssed; owte. — 44. li Or gras, parfyt loye reste and quiete; Hh parfite Joy and quiete. — 45. li down, fetheres. — 46. li they; surte || surt Hh. — 47. li weere, owte. — 48. li Euerych, oother; to odyr hys fayth Hh. — 49. li the hawberke, the. — 50. li lambyssh, voyded, vyse. — 51. li fantesye. — 52. li eche, oother, cheryce. — 53. li enuye, Auaryce. — 54. li by, tyranye. — 55. li Vmblesse, the; emperice || emprise Hh. — 56. *In neither of the two Mss.* — 57. li the lykerous; Hh nat *om.* — 58. li fadyr, delicacie. — 59. li this, nembrot desyrrous. — 60. li regne, maad, towres. — 61. li men *om.*, And crye. — 62. li owre, couetyse; nis || is not Hh. — 63. li Dowblenesse and tresoun and enuye; Hh Dowblenesse tresoun and enuye. — 64. li Poyson and manslawhtre; wyse; Hh Poysonne | manslawtyr | mordre in sondre wyse. Finit Etas prima. Chaucers.

IV. 1. li This, worlde is. — 2. li wele, poeere; or || as C, *the others* and; poer || F pouerte, *the others* pouere; F now riche honour. — 3. li with owten ordyr, descreyoun; wis || due C. — 4. li gouerned, by fortunes; by ffortunes fals errour A, falle errour H, hye errour R. — 5. li but natheles the lakke, hyr; nevirthelesse L. —

Ne may nat don me singen, þouh I dye:
 Jay tout perdu mon temps et mon labour.
 For finaly, Fortune, I þe defie.
 Yit is me left þe liht of mi resoun,
 10 To knowen frend fro fo in þi mirour.
 So muche hath yit þi whirlinge vp and doun
 Itauht me for to knowen in an hour.
 But trewely, no force of þi reddour
 To him þat ouer him self hath þe maystrie!
 15 Mi suffisaunce shal be mi socour:
 For finaly, Fortune, I þe defie.
 O Socrates, þou stidfast champioun,
 She neuer mihte be þi tormentour;
 þou neuer dreddest hir oppressioun,
 20 Ne in hir chere founde þou no socour.
 þou knewe wel þe deceyte of hir colour,
 And þat hir moste worshiþe is to lye.
 I knew hir ek a fals dissimulour:
 For finaly, Fortune, I þe defie.

II. La respounse de Fortune au Pleintif.

25 No man is wrechched, but him self it wene,

And he þat hath himself hath suffisaunce.
 Whi seystou þanne I am to þe so kene,
 þat hast þi self out of mi gouernaunce?
 Sey þus: Graunt merci of þin aboundaunce
 30 þat þou hast lent or þis. Whi wolt þou striue?
 What wostou yit, how I þe wole auauance?
 An ek þou hast þi beste frend alieue.

I haue þe tauht diuisioun bi twene
 Frend of effect, and frend of countenaunce;
 35 þe nedeth nat þe galle of non hyene,
 þat cureth eyen derked for penaunce.
 Now sestou cler þat were in ignoraunce.
 Yit halt þin ancre, and yit þou mayst arriue,
 þer bounte berth þe keye of mi substaunce:
 40 And ek þou hast þi beste frend alieue.

How many haue I refused to sustene,
 Syn I þe fostred haue in þi plesaunce!
 Woltou þan make a statute on þi quene
 þat I shal ben ay at þin ordinaunce?
 45 þou born art in mi regne of variaunce,

6. Ii ne, syngen, thowh, deye; þaugh þat I dye A, H, L, al þaugh R; dye || doe P. — 7. mon || ma A, P, om. C; perdu tout P. — 8. Ii fynaly fortune, the deffye; finally nowe ffortune A, fortune now I etc. R; þe only in Ii. — 9. Ii yit, lyht, my; liht || the others sight. — 10. Ii to, foo, thi merowr; knowe boþe freonde and foo A, H; þi || þis R; myn errorr L. = 11. Ii mochel, thy whirlynge; þi || my H; whirlinge || tournig the others. — 12. Ii I tawht, knowe, howr; for only in Ii; in || with Inne A, H, right in R. — 13. Ii but, fors, thi reddour; þi || þy fals A, þis R. — 14. Ii to hym, hym, the maystrye; þat haþe vpon him self A, on hymself H; þe om. A, L, C. — 15. Ii My suffisaunce, my; shal ay | beo R, shalbe alwey my H. — 16. Ii fynaly, fortune, thee deffye; finally yitte ffortune A, H; þe only in Ii. — 17. Ii chaumpyoun. — 18. Ii myht, thi tormentowr; Yit might fortune not be R, the others: She might neuer be. — 19. Ii thow, hyr, oppressyoun; dredist neuyr B, P; hir || ffortunes A, H. — 20. Ii ne, hyr, fownde thow; nor L; þou fondest A, H; fauowr C. — 21. Ii thow, deseyste, hyr; knewest A, om. P; ay weele disceyte A, R, H; wel om. C; of || in A, R; colour || fauour R. — 22. Ii most; to || for to A, R, H, for C. — 23 knew || the others knowe. — 24. v. l. 8; finally yitte ffortune A, H, fortune loo I, R. — II. Le respounse, a pleintif Ii, La Respons du F, B, encoutre le pleyntiff L; Fortune al pleyntyf P, contre pleyntief H; Fortune ageinst þe Pleyntyff A; þanswer of fortune ageynst þe lover R, to the pleintyf C. — 25. Ii ys wrechchyd, hym, yt. — 26. Ii hym self hat; And || ffor A, om. H. — 27. Ii seysthow thanne y am the. — 28. Ii thy, owt, my; hauest F, B. — 29 Ii thus, graunt mercy, thyn haboundaunce; gramercy A, H, L; grant mercy god of P. — 30. Ii that thow, this why, stryue; þou hast || þee is R; lent || laute A, R, H; Whi wolt þou || þou shalt not the others; or || er R. — 31. Ii what woost thow, y the wol; wostou || knost þou P; how I þe wole || how wele I wol A, H, how I wol þee R; þaunaunce A. — 32. Ii thow, thy, frende a lyue; haste yit | þy R; hauest F, B; friend yit alieue H. — 33. Ii the tawht deuisyoun by; eke betwene H. — 34. Ii frende of cowtenaunce; effect and || effected P; by countenaunce A. — 35. Ii the, no. — 36. Ii derkyd; derke the others; for || fro F, B, L, from þeire A, H, frome hir R. — 37. Ii seist thow (ist in a later hand, on erasure), cleer, weere; sestou || seist B; elierly H; were || waste A, was H. — 38. Ii yit, thio, thow, aryue; and þou A, R; mayst thow P. — 39. Ii ther bownte, my. — 40. Ii thy, frende alyue; hast yit þe R; friend yit alive H. — 41. Ii manye, sustigne (igne in a later hand). — 42. Ii the, thy; Sith A, R, H, F, B; haue || om. P; haue the fostred C; þi || my R — 43. Ii Wolthow thaune, þy quene; on || of L, H. — 44. Ii thy ordinaunce; shoulde A, R; ay beo A; gouernaunce H. — 45. Ii thow, my, varyaunce. —

Aboute þe whel with oþer mostou driue.
Mi lore is bet þan wikke is þi greuance,
And ek þou hast þi beste frend aliue.

Riht so mot I kyþen mi brutelnesse.
In general, þis reule may nat fayle.

Le Pleintif contre Fortune.

III. La respounse du Pleintif contre Fortune.

þi lore I dempne, it is aduersite.
50 Mi frend maystou nat reuen, blind goddesse.
þat I þi frendes knowe, I þanke þe.
Tak hem agayn, lat hem go lye on presse.
þe nigardie in keping hir richesse
Prenostik is þou wolt hir tour assaile;
55 Wikke appetit comth ay bifore syknesse:
In general, þis reule may nat faile.

65 Lo, þexecucioun of þe maieste
þat al purueyeth of his rihtwisnesse!
þat same þing Fortune clepen ye,
Ye blinde bestes, ful of lewednesse!
þe heuene hath proprete of sikernesse,
70 þis world hath euer resteles trauayle;
þi laste day is ende of min interesse:
In general, þis reule may nat fayle.

Lenvoy de Fortune.

La respounse de Fortune contre le Pleintif.
þou pinchest at mi mutabilite,
For I þe lente a drope of mi richesse,
And now me liketh to with drawe me.
60 Whi sholdestou mi realte oppresse?
þe see may ebbe and flowen more or lesse,
þe welkne hath miht to shine, reyne or hayle;

Princes, I prey you of your gentillesse,
Lat nat þis man on me þus crie and pleyne,
75 And I shal quite you your bysynesse
At mi requeste, as þre of you or tweyne;
And, but you lest releue him of his peyne,
Preyeth his beste frend of his noblesse
þat to som betre estat he may atteyne.

46. li abowte the wheel, oother, most thow dryue; *this line om. in A*; maystow R, F, B; thow must H. — 47. li My loore, than, thi; bettir L, sette H; gouernaunce H; than thi wikkid gouernaunce L. — 48. v. l. 40. — III. Li Le Respounse etc.; encountre L; Le pleintif encountre Fortune F, B, contre H; þe plentyff ageinst ffortune A, Pleyntyf als fortune P; Thanswer to fortune C. — 49. li Thy loore y, aduersyte; dampne || banne A; *the whole stanza wanting in R*. — 50. li My, maysthow, blynde; reuen || reue *the others*; thow blynd goddess H, *om. A*. — 51. li thy, thanke to the; and that I freendis L; þi || my P, *om. H, B*; freonde A, F, B; þe || not þee A, it nat the H, *the others it the*. — 52. on || in A, H, a F, B, P. — 53. li the negardye, kepyng hyr rychesse; þe || Thy H; nigardie || nigardes *the others*; alle in *etc. A*; in *om. L*; hir || theyr H. — 54. li prenostik, thow, towr asayle; her tour thou wilt L; hir || theyr H. — 55. wikke appetyt, before syknesse; Wikke || wikkid L, P, With A, H; come ayen H; to fore A, H. — 56. li in, this rewle; ne may A. — *Heading*: li Le respounse de fortune contre le pleintif, L a pleyntiff; Fortune encountre le pleintif F, B, contre pleyntef H; Fortune aginst Pleyntyff A, the pleyntyf P; þanswer of þe fortune ageynst louer R; Fortune C. — 57. li Thow pynchest, my, mutabylyte. — 58. li the, my rychesse; lante A, R; lent the H. — 59. li lykyth; þer fore me lykeþe A, H; to || not | to A, for to R, now to H. — 60. li whi sholdysthow my, apresse; þow þanne R, H. — 61. li the, moore; may || doth P; floo boþe more A, R; or || and *the others*. — 62. li the, myht, shyne; welkne || sky R; or || and *the others*. — 63. li ryht, my, kythen; mot || moste A, H, C; kyþe ay my b. R; brokelnesse P. — 64. v. l. 56; ne may not A, R, H. — *Heading*: Le pleintif li; L v. l. 56; Le pleintif encountre Fortune F, B, contre H; þe Pleyntyff ageinst Fortune A, to fortune P; þanswer of þe Lover ageynst fortune R; The pleyntyf C. — 65. li Lo excussyou, the; So execucion L; þe || þe hye R, thy H. — 66. li ryhtwysnesse; provydeþe A. — 67. li that, thinge fortune clepyn; thing loo ffortune A, H. — 68. li blynde beestys; Ye || The P; so ful H; of al l. R; rudenesse A, L. — 69. li the, sykyrnesse. — 70. li this; euer more R. — 71. li thy, myn interesse; þe eonde (þeonde) A, R, H; min || þyne R; encesse A, H. — 72. v. l. 56; li rewele; ne may not A, H; may no wyse R. — *Heading*: Lenvoye et la request | de fortune | R; Thenuoye of fortune C. — L drops the following stanza. — 73. li Prynses, yow, yowre, gentillesse; your *om. A*. — 74. li this, thus, crye; þus on me R, B. — 75. li quyte yow yowre; your || this F, B, P, C; *not in H*. — 76. *only in li*; at my, thre, yow. — 77. li yow, hym, hys; And || þat li, R; yow || ye H, P, C; but || yf C; lest, him *om. P*. — 78. li preyeth hys best; Preyeþe þanne A, that H, Praye ye C; his hye n. R. — 79. li That, betere, attayne.

V. Truth.

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|---|---|
| <p>Fle from þe pres, and dwelle with soþfastnesse,
Suffice vnto þi þing, þouh it be smal.
For hord hath hate, and clymbing tikelnesse;
Pres hath enuie, and wel blent oueral,
5 Sauour no more þan þe bihoue shal,
Werk wel þi self þat oþer folk canst rede,
And trouthe shal þe deliuere, it is no drede.</p> <p>Tempest þe nouht al croked to redresse,
In trust of hir þat turneth as a bal:
10 Gret reste stant in litel besynesse.
And ek biwar to sporne ageyns an al,</p> | <p>Striue not, as doth þe crokke with þe wal.
Daunte þi self þat dauntest oþres dede,
And trouthe shal þe deliuere, it is no drede.</p> <p>15 þat þe is sent, receyue in buxumnesse,
þe wrastling for þis worlde axeth a fal.
Her nis non hom, her nis but wildernesse:
Forth, pilgrim, forth! Forth, beste, out of þistal!
Know þi countre, loke vp, þank God of al,
20 Hold þe heye wey, and lat þi gost þe lede:
And trouthe shal þe deliuere, it is no drede.</p> |
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VI. Gentilesse.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>þe firste stok fader of gentilesse,
What man þat claymeth gentil for to be,
Must folwe his trace, and alle his wittes dresse
Vertu to suwe, and vices for to fle.
5 For vnto vertu longeth dignite,
And nouht þe reuers, sauely dar I deme,
Al were he mitre, croune or dyademe.</p> | <p>þis firste stok was ful of rihtwisnesse,
Trew of his word, sobre, pitous and fre,
10 Clene of his gost, and loued besynesse
Ayenst þe vice of slouthe, in honeste.
And, but his heir love vertu, as did he,
He is nouht gentil, þouh he riche seme,
Al were he mitre, croune or dyademe.</p> |
|---|---|

V. 2. Gg Suffise; þyn þyngþow; vnto þi þing || þin owen þing a, vn to thi good E, R, r, H', f, vn to thi lyuyng A, the thy good F. — 3. Gg hap, clymbyng tekilnesse. — 4. Gg hap enuie, wele blyndþ; blyndþ E, Cl, A, R, is blynd f, is blent *the others*. — 5. Gg Sauoure, behoue schal; þe *om.* H'. — 6. Gg Werke, þyn, oþere; Werk || Reule a, L, Doo, R, r, H', F, f; folk *om.* A. — 7. Gg schal deluerye; trowthe þee shal R, r, H', F, f; þe *om.* Gg, E, Cl, a. — 8. Gg nougt, crokyd; Tempest || Restreyne A, Peyne R, r, H', F, f; al || euery A, eche F, f, L; to || for to r. — 9. Gg hire, turnþ; þat || as H'. — 10. Gg litil; For gret reste E, Cl, Myche wele a; stondeþe r, H'. — 11. Gg be war; And ek biwar || Bywar þefore a, Beware also R, r, H', F, f; ageyns || agayn E, F, L, ayenst Cl, R, r; al || hille H', nalle F, f, walle L; A *puts l. 12 instead of 11, and reads for 11* Clymbe no to hye for ferde thou falle. — 12. Gg. Stryue, doþ; doth *om.* A; þe crokke || a croke F, f, L, A; with || agaynes A, L; þe wal || a walle F, f, L. — 13. Gg þyn, dauntyst oþeris; Daunte weel þy R, Dawnte ay þy; dountest ay oþers H'. — 14. *v. l. 7*; Gg delyuere. — 15. Gg buxsumnesse; þe || þere H'; in || with r, H'. — 16. Gg wrastelyng, axep; for þis || of this F, f, L, A, of þe R, with þis r, with þe H'. — 17. Gg Here, home, here, wildirnesse; nis non *only in Gg, E, the others* is no(n); nis but *only in Gg, E, a, the oth.* is but; Cl. wildnesse. — 18. Gg pilgrym, þin; forth *om. after pilgrim* F, f; out *om.* H'. — 19. Gg knowe þyn cuntre; Looke vp on hye | and thanke god of al R, r, H', F, f, L. — 20. Gg þyn; Hold þe heye wey || Weywe þy loust R, r, H', F, f, L. — 21. *v. l. 7 and 14.*

VI. 1. Cl The, stocke fadir, gentilnesse; stock fader || fader and foundour A', fader | fynder R, fadir & fynder H', strooke fader h, stok was fader H. — 2. þat claymith || desireth Cl, R, H', h, coueytoth A. — 3. Cl folowe; al *om.* C, his *om.* r'. — 4. Cl Vertue; suwe || shew H', r', folowe C, loue Cl, h, A, H; for *om.* H'. — 5. Cl vertue. — 6. Cl nougt, reuerse. — 7. Cl Coroune miter; Al were he || Whether he were H. — 8. Cl This first, rihtwisnesse; was ful || was grounde A', is grounde R, was fader H. — 9. Cl Trewe, worde; Clene of his gost H. — 10. Cl goost; loued || loueþe R, A; Triewe of his word H. — 11. Cl the vyse. — 12. Cl heire, vertue; but || yef H; did || doþe R. — 13. Cl nougt, though; not *om.* A, althoug H; he || him A', R, H'. — 14. *v. l. 7*; Cl myter

15 Vice may wel be heir to olde richesse,
 But þer may no man, as men may well se,
 Biquethe his heir his vertuous noblesse,
 þat is appropred vnto no degre,

But to þe firste fadre in mageste,
 20 þat maketh his heir him þat can him queme,
 Al were he mitre, croune or dyademe.

VII. Lack of Stedfastnesse.

Som time þis world was so stedfast and stable
 þat mannes word was obligacioun,
 And now it is so fals and deceiuable,
 þat word and dede, as in conclusioun,
 5 Ben no þing lik, for turned vp so doun
 Is al þis world for mede and wilfulnesse,
 þat al ist lost for lak of stedfastnesse.

Vertu hath now no dominacioun,
 Pite exiled, no man is merciabe.
 þurh couetise is blent discrecioun;
 þe world hath mad a permutacioun
 20 Fro riht to wrong, fro trouthe to fikelnesse,
 þat al is lost for lak of stedfastnesse.

What maketh þis world to be so variable,
 But lust þat folk haue in dissensioun?
 10 Among vs now a man is holde vnable,
 But yif he can, bi som collusioun,
 Don his neyghbour wrong or oppressioun.
 What causeth þis, but wilful wrecchednesse,
 þat al is lost for lak of stedfastnesse?

Lenvoy.
 O prince, desire to be honourable,
 Cherish þi folk and hate extorcioun!
 Suffre no þing þat may be reprevable
 25 To þin estat, don in þi regioun.
 Shew forth þi swerd of castigacioun,
 Dred God, do law, loue trouthe and worþynesse,
 And wed þi folk agein to stedfastnesse.

15 Trouthe is put doun, resoun is holden fable;

Coroune. — 15. Cl Vicesse, heire; Vices h, A'; heir || an heyre A', om. C; to || til A', R; olde || holde C — 16. Cl there; men may || þou maist A', yee may R, H'; al men may C; may no wight as euery man se H; se || seeme A'. — 17. Cl heire, vertues noblisse. — 18. Cl That, aproprid; ffor that H. — 19. Cl first fader; But || Savyng H; þe om. A'. — 20. Cl That, that, hym, heires hem || Cl, h, A', R, H'; Eyre suche H; hem eyres C; þat || as H; can || om. Cl, h, wol A', R, doone H'. — 21. v. l. 14. —

VII. 1. Cl Sumtyme, worlde; þis || the Cl, r', The; so steidfast was Th, B'. — 2. Cl That, worde, obligacion; was || was holde H', was holde for R, was an Th. — 3. Cl nowe, false, deseiuable; and so d. F, h. — 4. Cl That worde, conclusion; dede || werke H', R; as || discordis B'. — 5. Cl thing lyke; Ben || Ar Ad, B, Is Cl, F, h, Th; lik || els butt r'; for || bot B'; vp so || so op and Ad, vp and doun r', B', is vp so Th. — 6. Cl all this worlde; for || thorowe H', r', Th; by R; mede and || wikked R, greid and B'. — 7. Cl That. — 8. Cl this worlde, variable; maketh || made H', maye R, causyht r'. — 9. Cl that folke, discension; folk || folkes R, men r', Th; in dissensioun || but discretioun B'. — 10. For among vs now Cl, F, h, A, now om. r', Th; For nowe adayes H', R. — 11. by Cl, conclusion Cl, F, h, A; som || sum maner r. — 12. Cl Do, neyghburgh, oppressioun; expressioun h; Doing B'. — 13. Cl this, wilfull wrechidnesse; causeth || makis B'; And alle causyht wyful r'; woful B'. — 14. s. l. 7; Cl lake. — 15. Cl putte; put || þus H'. — 16. Cl domynacioun; Vertew hes nane at hir devotioun B'. — 17. Cl noman; exiled || ys exlyd r', Th; man || wight H'; is om. A, B'; mercyable || meretabile B'. — 18. Cl Thorough; is blent || blent ys r', Blind is B'. — 19. Cl The worlde, made permutacion; a om. H'. — 20. Cl right, trought; trouthe to fikelnesse || ressonne to wilfulnes B'. — 21. s. l. 7. — 22. *Envoy not* in A; Cl. honorable; O om. r', Th; for to beo H', R, B'. — 23. Cl Cherice. — 24. Cl thing that; may om. B'. — 25. Cl thine estaat doen; B' has 26 for 25: That vertew may rigne within thy regioun. — 26. Cl Shewe, thy swerde; þi || the Th; swerd || yerd r', Th. — 27. Cl Drede god, worthynesse; trouthe and || thorow all H'; ryhtwysnis r', B'. — 28. Cl thi, ayen; wed || drive H', R, bring B'.

VIII. Lenvoy de Chaucer a Bukton.

Mi maister Bukton, whan of Criste our kinge
 Was axed, what is trouthe or soþfastnesse,
 He nat a word answerd to þat axinge,
 As who saith: 'No man is al trew', I gesse.
 5 And þefore, þouh I hihte to expresse
 Þe sorwe and wo þat is in mariage,
 I dar not write of it no wikkednesse,
 Lest I mi self falle eft in swich dotage.

I wol nat seyn, how þat it is þe cheyne
 10 Of Sathanas, on which he gnaweth euere,
 But I dar seyn, were he out of his peyne,
 As bi his wille he wold be bounde neuere.
 But þilke doted fol þat oft hath leuere
 Y cheyned he þan out of prisoun crepe,
 15 God lete him neuer from his wo disseuere,
 Ne no man him biwayle, þouh he wepe.

But yit, lest þou do worse, tak a wif;
 Bet is to wed þan brenne in worse wise.
 But þou shalt haue sorwe on þi flesh, þi lif,
 20 And ben þi wifes þral, as seyn þese wise,
 And if þat holy writ may nat suffice,
 Experience shal þe teche, so may happe,
 Þat þe wer leuer to be take in Frise
 þan eft fallen of wedding in þe trappe.

25 þis litel writ, prouerbes, or figure
 I sende you, tak kepe of it, I rede:
 Vnwise is he þat can no wel endure.
 If þou be siker, put þe nat in drede.
 Þe wif of Bathe I pray you þat ye rede
 30 Of þis matere þat we haue on honde.
 God graunte you your lif frely to lede
 In fredom, for ful hard is to be bonde.

IX. Lenvoy de Chaucer a Scogan.

To broken ben þe statutz hye in heuene
 þat creat were eternally to dure,
 Syn þat I se þe brihte goddes seuene
 Mow wepe and wayle, and passioun endure,
 5 As may in erþe a mortal creature.
 Allas, from whennes may þis þing procede?
 Of which errour I deye almost for drede.

 Bi word eterne whilom was it shape
 þat from þe fifte cercle, in no manere,

10 Ne mihte a drope of teres doun escape.
 But now so wepeth Venus in hir spere,
 þat with hir teres she wol drenche vs here.
 Allas, Scogan, þis is for þin offence!
 þou causest þis deluge of pestilence.

15 Hast þou not seyð in blasphemie of þe goddis,
 þurh pride, or þurh þi grete rechelesnesse,
 Swich þing as in þe lawe of loue forbode is?
 þat, for þi ladi saw not þi distresse,

VIII. 1. F My, kyng; Bukton || &c Th. — 2. F ys, sothfastnesse. — 3. F worde answerde, that; a || one N. — 4. F noo. — 5. F therefore though, hight; to || you N. — 6 F The, woo | that. — 7. F writen, hyt, noo. — 8. F Leste y my. — 9. F that hyt, the; seyn how || seychow N. — 10. euere || uer N; knaweth Th. — 11. F oute. — 12. F by, wolde, neuere. — 13. F thilke, foole | that; oft || efte Th. — 14. F than, prison. — 15. Mss. fro; F woo. — 16. F noo, bewayle, though. — 17. F yet, thow doo, take, wyfe. — 18. F ys, wedde | than. — 19. F thow, thy, thy lyfe; þou || yow N. — 20 F the, thral, these; trall, the wyse N. — 21. F yf that hooly writte, suffyse; holo N. — 22. F the. — 23. F That the were lever, frise; Take the way leuer Th; to om., betake infryse N. — 24. F Than, falle, weddyng, thy; ofte N; to fal Th. — 25. F this lytel writte; Th figures. — 26. F yow, take, hyt. — 27. F that kan noo wele. — 28. F thow, the; put || pua N. — 29. F The wyfe, yow that. — 30. F this, that; on || no N. — 31. F you, lyfe. — 32. F fredam, harde it is.

IX. 1. Gg brokene, statutis in; statutez F. — 3. Syth F; bryzte goddis Gg. — 4. Gg. pascioun. — 6. Gg whens, þyng; hens p. — 7. Gg whiche. — 8. Gg Be, whilhom, schape (*in corrector's hand*); it shape | y shape F. — 9. Gg serkele. — 10. Gg myzte, teeris; a drope om. p. — 11. Gg wepyth venus, his. — 12. hire teris sche wele. — 13. Gg skogon, þyn. — 14. Gg þu causist, deluuye (uye *corrected*), pestelence. — 15. Gg þu; Hauesthow F; þe || this F. — 16. Gg þour, þyn; þi || they F. — 17. Gg þyng, forbodyn; forbode F, p. — 18. Gg þyn. —

perfore þou yaue hir vp at Michelmesse!
 20 Allas, Scogan, of olde folk ne yonge
 Was neuere erst Scogan blamed for his tonge!

þou drowe in scorn Cupide ek to record
 Of þilke rebel word þat þou hast spoken,
 For which he wol no lengere be þi lord.
 25 And þouh his howe, Scogan, be not broken,
 He wol not with his arwes ben iwroken
 On þe, ne me, ne non of our figure,
 We shul of hem haue neyþer hurt ne cure.

Now certes, frend, I drede of þin vnhappe
 30 Lest for þi gilt þe wreche of Loue procede
 On alle hem þat ben hore and round of shape,
 þat ben so likly folk in loue to spede.
 þan shul we for our labour han no mede;

But wel I wot þou wilt answere and seye :
 35 Lo! Olde Grisel lest to ryme and pleye!

Nay, Scogan, sey not so, for I mexcuse,
 God help me so! in no rym, douteles,
 Ne þinke I neuere of slep to wak mi muse,
 þat rusteth in mi shepe stille in pes.
 40 While I was yong, I putte hir forth in pres,
 But al shal passen þat men prose or ryme,
 Tak euery man his torn, as for his time.

Scogan, þat knelest at þe stremes hed
 Of grace, of alle honour and worþynesse,
 45 In þende of which strem I am dul as ded,
 Forgete in solitarie wilderness;
 Yit, Scogan, þenke on Tullius kyndenesse,
 Mynne þi frend, þer it may fructifie!
 Far wel, and lok þou neuere eft Loue defie!

X. La Complainte de Chaucer a sa Bourse Voide.

To you, mi purse, and to non oþer wiht
 Compleyne I, for ye be mi ladi dere!
 I am so sory now þat ye be liht,
 þat certes, but ye make me heuy chere,
 5 Me were as lef be leyd vp on mi bere;
 For which vn to your merci þus I crie:
 Beth heuy agayn, or elles mot I dye!
 Now voucheth saf þis day, or it be niht,
 þat I of you þe blisful soun may here,

10 Or se your colour lik þe sonne briht,
 þat of yelwenesse hadde neuer pere.
 Ye be mi lif, ye be min hertes stere,
 Quene of comfort and gode companie :
 Beth heuy agayn, or elles mot I dye!

15 Now purse, þat be to me mi liues liht
 And saueour as down in þis worlde here,
 Out of þis toune help me þurh your miht,
 Sin þat ye wole not be mi tresorere,

19. Gg perefore, zeue hire, mychelmesse — 20. Gg scogon, no þong. — 21. Gg Scogon, blamyd, tong. — 22. Gg þow drow, cupid; recorde F. — 23. Gg þe ilke. — 24. Gg whiche, wele, þya; lorde F, p. — 25. Gg þow, Scogon; And Scogan thow F, p; his || thy F. — 26. Gg wil, arwis. — 27. Gg none, oure; youre F. — 28. Gg schal; hem || him Gg, F. — 29. Gg sertys, thyn onhap. — 30. Gg þyn, loue. — 31. Gg schap. — 32. in loue om p. — 33. Gg þanne schal, oure; we shall p. — 34. wot || wit Gg. — 35. Gg grisil, leste; tholde F. — 36. Gg Scogon, me excuse. — 37. Gg helpe. — 38. Gg þynke, wake, myn. — 39. Gg rustyþ, myn schede styllle. — 40. Gg Whil, zong, forþ; hir || it Gg, hyt F, her p. — 41. Gg schal passyn. — 42. Gg tyme. — 43. Gg knelist; stremes || wellis Gg. — 45. þe ende Gg, p; wich Gg. — 44. Gg wildirnes. — 47. Gg zit, þyng, tullius kyndenes. — 48. Gg Myneue þyn, pere. — 49. Gg Farewel, loke, loue defye. —

X. 1. A zou, my, othir wighte. — 2. A Complayn, ze, my. — 3. A that, ze, lyghte. — 4. A That, ze; þat || But p, For the others; but ye || but yf ye F, H', Ff; ye now C; heuy || any A. — 5. A lefe, vpon my; mi om. p, a C. — 6. A whiche, vnto zoure, thus, crye. — 7. Be A, p, C; A ellys mote, dey. — 8. A Nowe, this, hit, nyghte; vouchesafe A, p, C; it || yet p, C. — 9. A That, zou, sown. — 10. A zoure coloure lyche the, bryghte; se || shew H'; þe || to þe H'. — 11. A That, zaloways had neuyr; yelwenesse || the lewdnesse Ff; his pere H'. — 12. A ze, my life, ze, my hertis. — 13. A comforte, companye; gode || of H', the others of gode. — 14. v. l. 7; A mote. — 15. A that, my lyues lyghte. — 16. A sauyour, down, this; as in þis worlde doune H'. — 17. A Oute, towne, helpe, thorow zour migte; þurh || by C. — 18. A that ze wil, my; Sithe H'. —

For I am shaue as ney as eny frere
 20 But yit I pray vn to your curtesie:
 Beth heuy agayn, or elles mot I dye!

Leniuy.

O Conquerour of Brutes Albioun!

Which þat bi lyne and fre eleccioun
 Ben verrey king, þis song to you I sende.
 25 And ye þat mowen alle harmes amende,
 Haue mynde vp on mi supplicacioun!

19. A neygh; as is a frere F. — 20. A But yit, vnto your curtesye; yit *om.* C. — 21. v. l. 7; A ellis, mot *om.* — 22. p o brutes Albion. — 23. p be, election. — 24. p kinge, this, yow, send; song *om.* p, C. — 25. p that mow harmes; mowen || may H', C; alle myn harme F, all oure harmous H', Ff (harmes); C = p. — 26. p my Supplicacyon.

NOTES.

As the space allotted to me is rather scarce, I give only a few explanations to justify my readings, or to illustrate Chaucer's borrowings from his sources, leaving all remarks upon his language for another occasion. —

I. An ABC.

Mr. Furnivall has printed 14 Mss. of this early poem, the best of which is undoubtedly Cambridge Univ. Libr., Ff. V, 30 (in the various readings called Ms.). It is a copy of the same original that the Glasgow Ms. Q. 2. 25 (G1), Shirley's Sion College Ms. (S), and the Bedford Library Ms. (b) have also made use of; but so, that Ff and G1 belong to one, S and b to another branch. A derivation from the first branch, but a rather faulty one, must have been the source of St. John's Coll., Cambr., G 24 (J) and of Laud Ms. 740, Bodl. Libr. (L), which are still more degenerated. The other group of Mss. is formed by the Cambr. Univ. Ms. Gg 4. 27 (Gg), of which Speght's edition (Sp) of 1602 is a very close reprint, by the Fairfax Ms. 16 (F), the Bodleian 638 (B), the Harleian 7578 (h) — these three being copies from the same branch — and the two hands of the Pepys Ms. 2006 (P, p) — which must have been taken from *one* common source. They are not complete, though, ending with a spurious, 60th line; h breaks off even before, its last is l. 48. Finally, there is the Harleian Ms. 2251 (H), which, however, is so bad, that I might have entirely neglected it.

The source of this poem is a hymn in Deguileville's *Pèlerinage de la Vie humaine*, which M. Paul Meyer has edited, from the best Paris Mss., for the Chaucer Society (I Series, XXIV). The French work has been translated into English prose, and in 5 of the above Mss. (Ff, G1, J, L and S), our poet's version of the hymn is put in between. But Chaucer has by no means made a literal translation of it, only now and then he follows his text more closely. Apparently the very artificial construction of Deguileville's stanza of 12 four-accented lines — the rhymes being a b a b b b a b b a — induced our poet to employ the line of five accents, and to limit their number to eight, rhyming a b a b b c b c.

The second heading is to be found in the Mss. Ff, S and b; S adds the following note in the margin: *Chauc. | Devotissima oracio | Mariam. pro omni ten | tribulacione necess | angustia*, whilst the two hands of the Pepys Ms. have: *Pryer a Nostre Dame — per Chaucer.* Speght prints: *Chaucers A B C | called La Priere de nostre Dame . . . made, as some say, at the request of Blanch, Duchesse of Lancaster, as a praier for her priuat use, being a woman in her religion very deuout.* But this late testimonial is of very doubtful value.

l. 3. *of sinne, sorwe and tene*; Ff and other Mss. put *of* between *sinne* and *sorwe*; but such monosyllables look suspicious, as scribes of the 15th century, who did not pronounce the final *e*, are often inclined to put a syllable in, where, according to Chaucer's pronunciation, none is wanted; cfr. Fort. l. 51, Truth, l. 9, Purse, l. 25 etc. The case, however, is quite another in line 14, where, after the eventual omission of the second *of*, the third could not remain either, which would entirely spoil the metre. — l. 15. *Jeues seuene* are the "seven dedly synnes" as Shirley informs us, in a marginal note; cfr. also the French original, l. 15., *pechies mortez*.

25. *misericorde*, to be pronounced *mis'ricorde*, cfr. l. 35.

30. *of iustice and of ire*, sc. *þe bowe* (l. 29), cfr. Fr. l. 42: *arc de justice*.

35. Comparing the reading: *Vnto merci hastow receiued me* of the Mss. Gg, F, B etc. with the French: *En toy ay m' esperance eü | Quant a merci m' as recëu* etc. (l. 49), it seems, at the first glance, to deserve the preference to the one I have used; but looking into the next line, where a second *merci* turns up, we find the reason, why Chaucer has here abandoned the expression of his source.

39. *me chastyse* in Ff stands over an erasure, G1 has, like most of the others, *correcte me*, so that his reading probably was the original one of Ff, too; consequently, S and its near relation b are the only right ones in this place (for the construction of the stanza requires a rhyme in *-ise*), except that b erroneously omits *wel*, which is necessary to fill up the measure.

41sq. cfr. the French: *Fuiant me'n viens a ta tente | moy mucier pour la tourmente* etc. (l. 61 sq.)

49. *Glorious*, not *Gracious* is to be read, as the Fr. text: *Glorieuse vierge mere* etc. shows us.

50. I should read: *neíþr'in érþe nór* etc.

73 sqq., cfr. the French: *Kalendier sont enluminé | Et autre livre enteriné | Quant ton non les enlumine* etc.

79. *untame* in Ff, S etc. can only be a miswriting for *entame* (Fr. *entamer*), which is to be found in most of the other Mss.

80. *resyne*=Fr. *resigner*; Deguilleville has: (l. 112) *A tout meschief ont resiné | Ceus qui se sont acheminé | A toy pour leur medicine* etc.

81. *þi sorwe* shows that M. P. Meyer's version of Deguilleville is wrong in the corresponding line (121), reading *La douceur de toy pourtreye | Je ne puis*, etc., instead of *La douleur* etc.

88. Pronounce: *continú on ús*, where *u* perhaps had the sound of modern *v*.

96 sqq. Deguilleville begins the corresponding stanza with the same word: *Noble princesse du monde | qui n'as per ne seconde*; here Chaucer's irregular *pere*, rhyming to *dere*, should be noticed; cfr. also Purse, l. 11.

100. *non oþer melodie or gle*=*N'avons autre tirelire*. (Chaucer evidently mistook *tirelire* for *turelure*.)

132. *So hidous hit his rihtful rekeninge*; the reading of the one group of Mss. *it is* is senseless; the other group seems to be in order with its *is his*, but a comparison with the French text (l. 196: *Son chastoy si fiert a hie*) shows, how the error of the first class must have originated; the copyist of the Ms. which became the common source for the Mss. belonging to it, apparently took *hit his* only for a bad spelling of *it is*, and corrected these words in his opinion, but spoilt the sense entirely; whilst another scribe, whose work became the original for the second group, altered this nonsense, but did not hit upon the right reading.

141. cfr. the French: *Du monde gouverneresse* (l. 214).

145 sqq. resemble very much the original: *Temple saint ou Dieu habite | Dont priué sont li herite* etc. and so do 153 sqq.: *Vierge de noble et haut atour | Qui au chastel et a la tour | De paradis nous atournes* etc. (229 sqq.), and 158 sqq.: *Sequeur moy, point ne sejournes | Ou tu a la court m'ajournes | Ou ta pitie fait son sejour* (237 sqq.).

l. 163 is a very awkward one, but it becomes readable, when *Longius* is pronounced in two syllables, and the final *e* of *herte* is dropped. But perhaps *And* may be turned out, by which operation the scansion would become easier, and at the same time, the construction of this stanza be improved, as in its present shape, the subject of the first part, *Christus*, remains without a predicate. Cfr., however, for a similar construction, the last stanza of *Scogan*.

181 and 183 are deficient in one syllable, according to the best Mss. In the first case, Gg and Sp make a very good suggestion with their *ladi bryzt*, which phrase also occurs in the lines 16 and 62 in all Mss.; in the second, perhaps H has by chance the best reading with its *vnto*, instead of *to*; perhaps, *bill* is to be altered into *ybill*. If the best texts seem to prove that no such addition is necessary, one ought to bear in mind that their common source must already have been a faulty one, as is clearly shown by my remarks to ll. 79, 152 etc., so that omissions in the last line would not at all be unlikely.

II. Chaucers Wordes vn to Adam, his owen Scriveyn.

Only extant in one of Shirley's Mss., Trin. Coll. Libr., R. 3. 20 (R), and in Stowe's Print of the year 1561 (St). It seems that Stowe has taken his text from Shirley, with a few modifications in spelling, and altered Shirley's *Scriveyn* into *scrivener*, apparently because that word was out of use in his time. *Scriveyn* is O. Fr. *escrivain* M. Fr. *écrivain*. Lines 3 and 4 are too long, but *longe* and *more* are unnecessary for the sense, wherfore I have omitted them.

III. The Former Age.

This Poem and the following four form a *cyclus*, as it were, being free transcriptions of different passages in Boethius' *Consolatio Philosophiae*. The 'Former Age' and 'Fortune' are found in the Cambr. Univ. Ms., li 3. 21 (li), together with Chaucer's own translation of Boethius' well known work, where they come in between the Fifth Metre and the Sixth Prose of the II Book. It has, therefore, the appearance, as if Chaucer made these paraphrases at the time, when he was translating the Latin Philosopher. But as 'Truth', 'Gentillesse' and 'Stedfastnesse' are, as far as I know, not in any of the Boethius Mss., but have partly been taken from this author (which I shall prove afterwards), the above conclusion becomes doubtful again. Besides, our poet's Englishing of the '*Consolatio Philosophiae*' must have been finished between 1375 and 1380 about¹⁾, at which period his longer poetical productions don't show anything of that melancholy which is a common characteristic of those five Ballads. Now I have tried to prove, in my "*Ausgewählte kleinere Dichtungen Chaucer's etc.*", p. XIV sqq. and 48, note, that the most likely date for 'Truth', 'Gentillesse', 'Stedfastnesse' and 'Fortune' is the time between 1386 and 89, when Chaucer had lost his appointment, when everybody complained of Richard II.'s wickedness, and our poet's best friend, John of Gaunt, was far away from England. So I think that the 'Former Age' ought to be reckoned to this group as well; for, in my opinion, Chaucer had no reason to write in that mournful tone, before King Richard turned out such a capricious and selfish sovereign, and the country had come into that deplorable and hopeless condition into which it was thrown by his bad government. Most likely our poet did not feel the truth of the '*Consolatio Philosophiae*' until he himself had fallen into misfortune, and then taking up his former translation, was incited by reading it over to vent his disconsolate feelings in those five 'Ballades'.

As for the text, there is, besides li, only one more Ms. known, Cambr. Univ. Ms., Hh 4. 12 (Hh). Both agree almost literally, but this does not prove that their version is to be relied upon; on the contrary, it is so faulty — a whole line has been omitted in both — that I have been obliged to make more alterations than, considering the shortness of this poem, in any other edited by me.

l. 3. The Mss. read '*the frutes*', which I need not have touched, because '*frutes*' can be pronounced 'fruit's'; but I think my omission improves the rhythm.

l. 7. *pounage*, derived from O. Fr. *poïn* = sickle; *pounage* means, therefore, properly 'what is cut with a sickle'.

l. 11. Instead of *gnodded* is perhaps better to be read *gnóde*, from the str. verb *gníden*, O. E. *gnídan*; praet. *gnád* etc., but as I have no quotation from Chaucer at hand, where this form occurs, I have not altered it, though this line has a syllable too much.

l. 16. *galantine* (not mentioned by Morris, nor by Stratmann) is in M. Fr. a cold dish of turkey, veal etc. mixed up in a jelly.

l. 17. *litéstere*, derived in the same way from *liten* (to dye), as *beggestere* (Prol. 242) from *beggen*.

l. 18. *flez*; thus, not *fles* (sic Mss.), was Chaucer's pronunciation; see the rhyme, Prol. 676.

l. 24. *batails*, l. 34 *places* and l. 44 *ioy reste* etc. must be rejected, because they overload the metre, and are not essential for the sense.

l. 41. Mr. Morris, in his Aldine Edition, seems to take *paleis chaumbres* for one word; but *was* being the predicate, I think I have been right in putting a comma between.

l. 142. I have added *in* before *wodes*, because of the metre.

l. 56 is my own make, and I hope, will at least help the reader better to understand the last lines of this stanza. — I supposed the first word to be *yit*, as the next line begins with *Yit*, so that a scribe may have overlooked this line, being confused by seeing two lines commencing with the same word; *hauen the maistrise* is a common phrase, s., e. g., Fortune, l. 16.

l. 63 and 64 are both out of order in the Mss., and I shall be gratified, if my putting them straight will be approved of.

IV. Fortune.

Whilst it was scarcely necessary to enter into details about Chaucer's borrowings from Boece in his 'Former Age', as Mr. Furnivall, in his Parallel-Text Edition of this poem, has not only printed the whole of Book II, Metr. V, but also marked the corresponding lines of both, a close comparison of that kind has not yet been made between 'Fortune' and the Latin author. I have said in my '*Ausgewählte kleinere Dichtungen*

¹⁾ vide ten Brink, Chaucer, Studien etc. 139 sqq. and Furnivall, Trial-Forewords, p. 16 and 21.

Chaucer's, (p. 48, foot-note)¹) that the poet's chief source was L. II, Prose I and II, but have since discovered some more parallel passages.

For the beginning, there is some likeness to be found in II, Metr. I:

*Haec cum superba uerterit dextra etc.*²)
Dudum tremendos saeua proterit reges,
Humilemque uicti subleuat fallax uultum.
Non illa miseros audit aut curat fletus
Vltroque gemitus, dura quos fecit, ridet.
Sic illa ludit, sic suas probat uires
Magnumque suis monstrat ostentum, si quis
Visatur una stratus ac felix hora.

l. 14, 15 and 25 sqq.: L. II, Prose IV, l. 70 sqq.: *Igitur si tui compos fueris, possidebis quod nec tu amittere unquam uelis, nec fortuna possit auferre.*

l. 17. Socrates is mentioned in I, Prose III.

l. 25 etc.: II, Prose II, which is too long to be quoted here at length.

l. 32 etc.: II, Prose VIII, l. 23: *desine amissas opes quaerere, quod pretiosissimum diuitiarum genus est amicos inuenisti.*

l. 34. II, Pr. VIII, l. 20: *hacc (sc. fortuna) tibi certos sodalium uultus ambiguosque secreuit etc.*

l. 35 etc.: II, Pr. I, 31.: *Deprehendisti caeci numinis ambiguos uultus. Quae sese adhuc uelat aliis, tota tibi prorsus innotuit.*

l. 38. II, Prose IV, l. 28: *Nondum est ad unum omnes exosa fortuna nec tibi nimium ualida tempestas incubuit, quando tenaces haerent anchorae quae nec praesentis solamen nec futuri spem temporis abesse patientur.*

l. 46. II. Pr. II 28 sq., *rotam uolubili orbe uersamus etc.*

l. 49 sqq. II, Pr. VIII, l. 7 sqq., especially l. 52, and, l. c., l. 21: *discedens suos (sc. sodales) abstulit, tuos reliquit.*

l. 53 sqq. There is some resemblance in II, Pr. V, 40 sqq.

l. 57 sqq. II, Pr. II; cfr. especially l. 60, and, l. c., l. 20: *An ego sola meum ius exercere prohibeor?*

Further l. 61, and, l. c., 24 *Ius est mari nunc strato aequore blandiri nunc procellis ac fluctibus inhorrescere etc.*

Besides, it ought to be noticed that the idea of writing this poem in the shape of a dialogue is an imitation of Boece. — There are a few more passages in this author which show some resemblance to our poet's version, but it is not always easy to refer them to a certain line.

As for the Mss., the best is Camb. Univ., li. 3. 21 (li), on which my text is based; Shirley's Ashmole 59 (A) and Trin. Coll. R. 3. 20 (R) agree, as usually, except in a few passages, where their scribe had forgotten the poet's words and put in his own; Harleian 2251 (H) is derived from the same source; Fairfax 16 (F) and Bodleian 638 (B), giving, as always, almost the same version, belong, with the afore named three, to the same group, of which Lansdowne 699 (L), Pepys 2006, hand B, (P) and Caxton's Print (C) also form branches, though their readings are often corrupted, so that I have thought occasional quotations from them sufficient.

The heading in li, F, and B is: *Balade(s) de vilage saunz peynture*, which words Caxton has translated: *Balade of the vilage without peynting*. But that *vilage* is to be altered into *visage* has already been shown by Mr. Bradshaw³). H and L have (*Le*) *pleyntef (en)countre fortune*, whilst Shirley tells us, in his Ash. Ms., that this 'compleynte' was 'translated oute of frensshe in to Englysshe by [hat famous Rethorissyen Geffrey Chaucier]' which, of course, is not true. In his Trin. Coll. Ms. (R) he names this piece, for a change, 'a balade made by Chaucier of [he louer and of Dame ffortune]'.
 2. *poer* is *power*, here to be pronounced *porē* or *poer*; Fairfax, in putting *pouerte*, gives the best sense, as *power* is no proper antithesis to *honour*, like *wel* or *wo*; but this word is impossible, because of the metre; *poure* (*poor*) of the other Mss. is scarcely admissible either, as a substantive is required here.

7. This line is also quoted in the Parson's Tale (Aldine Edit. III, p. 279) as '*thilke newe Frenshe song*'.

32. '*he beste frend*' is, I suppose, John of Gaunt.

51. *I þanke he* is, I think, the right reading; the different groups of the Mss. put in a different monosyllable in order to fill up the metre, as their scribes did no longer pronounce the final e of *þanke*.

75 sq., which I did not understand at first (s. Anglia, l. c. p. 110), I translate: I shall pay you your service which you do at my request, whether there are two or three of you.

75 sq., which I did not understand at first (s. Anglia, l. c. p. 110), I translate: I shall pay you your service which you do at my request, whether there are two or three of you.

¹) See Mr. Furnivall's Trial-Forewords, p. 109, note to p. 8.

²) I quote from the edition of Rudolphus Peiper, Lips. MDCCCLXXI, Teubner.

³) s. Trial-Forewords, p. 8, note 1.

V. Truth.

For the source of this Poem, compare Boethius, L. III, Metr. XI:

*Quisquis profunda mente uestigat uerum
Cupitque nullis ille deuis falli,
In se reuoluat intimi lucem uisus
Longosque in orbem cogat inflectens motus
Animumque doceat quidquid extra molitur
Suis retrusum possidere thesauris,*

and, for the last stanza, see Liber IV, Prosa I, the last lines: '*pinnas etiam tuae menti quibus se in altum tollere possit adfigam, ut perturbatione depulsa sospes in patriam meo ductu mea semita meis etiam uehiculis reuertaris*' ('Philosophia' is speaking). Similar is Metr. I of the same book.

There are plenty of Mss., which represent two different groups. To the first belong Additional 10, 340(a), Cambridge University Gg 4. 27 (Gg), Ellesmere (E), Cotton Cleopatra D VII (Cl), and Additional 22, 139 (A). Of these, *a* adds an Envoy which I consider spurious (see Anglia, l. c. p. 106, note¹); A has several mistakes, but has in ll. 7, 14 and 21 *þe* (*And trouthe shal þe deliuere*), which I hold necessary, and which the other four, being derived from one source, have dropped. E and Cl are taken from the same branch of this source (s. l. 10). The other group is chiefly represented by two copies in Shirley's Trin. Coll. Ms., R. 3. 20, (R and r), by two in Fairfax 16 (F and f), and by Harleian 7333 (H'). Scarcely worth mentioning are Lansdowne 699 (L) and Caxton's Print (C), but without any interest Arch. Seld. B. 24, Cambridge University Libr. Kk. 1. 5, and Corpus Christi College, 203. The chief deviations of the two groups from each other are to be found in ll. 2, 6, 7, 8, 14, 19—21; but some of the readings of the last named Mss. are not at all so bad, that they might not appear, at the first glance, as another version of the poet himself which he afterwards rejected.

The headings are: *Balade de bone conseyl*, in Gg, and similar: *La bon Conseil de le Autour* in L; H' calls it a *Moral Balade*, whilst Shirley reports that this is a Balade '*þat Chaucier made on his deeth bedde*', which very much looks like the 'dear old fellow's' own fiction.

2. *Suffice vnto þi þing* etc. means, as I take it: Devote thyself entirely to one thing, even if it is not very important in itself, instead of hunting after a phantom.

4. *blyndyþ* won't do for the metre, but, I think, *a* has kept here the right reading.

8. *Tempeste þe*. cfr. Deguileville's *Pèlerinage* etc. l. 62/63:

— — — — *la tormente*
Qui ou monde me tempeste.

9. *For* in E and Cl is a make-up for the final *e* of *reste*, become silent at this time.

10. I withdraw my former explanation of *al* (*Litteraturblatt für germ. und rom. Philologie*, 1880, 383 sq.); I had overlooked the rhyme, which proves that *al* means *all the world*.

VI. Gentillesse.

This Ballad is an imitation of Boece, III, Prose VI l. 18 sqq. and Metre VI:

*Omne hominum genus in terris simili surgit ab ortu:
Unus enim rerum pater est, unus cuncta ministrat* etc.

The Mss. are: Shirley's Ashmol. 59 (A'), Trin. Coll. R. 3. 20 (R), and Harleian 7333 (H'); Cotton, Cleopatra, D VII (Cl) and Harleian 7578 (h), which are copied from the same original; Additional 22, 139 (A), which belongs to the same branch; Caxton's Print (C), Harleian 2251 (H) and R. 14. 51, Trin. Coll. Cambr. (r'), which, though not free from faults, are of interest here, as they partly support some readings of A' that have the appearance of being genuine, in spite of Shirley's general dubiousness. H' calls this poem a '*Moral balade of Chaucier*', R and r' shortly a '*Balade*'.

¹) þer fore þou vache leue þine olde wrechednesse
Vnto þe world. leue now to be þral
Crie hym mercy. þat of hys hie godnesse
Made þe of nouzt in especial
Drawe vnto hym & pray & in general
For þe and eke for oper heuenelyche mede
And trouþe schal delyuere it is no drede.

l. 1. Shirley's readings are too bad, with regard to metre and sense, and contradicted by all the other Mss.; cfr. besides l. 8.

l. 4. *suve* is supported by *sheve* in H and r', and, as an antithesis to *fle*, is preferable to *loue* in the others, which sounds rather commonplace.

l. 12. perhaps *did* is to be dropped, and the final e in *loue* to be pronounced.

l. 20. A is right in putting *heir him*, as it is shown by *he* in l. 21; but *wol* is most likely a gratuitous alteration of Shirley's.

VII. Lack of Stedfastnesse.

Compare with this Poem Boece, II, Metre VIII:

- (l. 1.) *Quod mundus stabili fide
Concordes uariat uices,
Quod pugnantia semina
Foedus perpetuum tenent etc.*
- (l. 13.) *Hanc rerum seriem ligat
Terras ac pelagus regens
Et caelo imperitans amor.
Hic si frena remiserit,
Quidquid nunc amat inuicem
Bellum continuo geret etc.*
- (l. 22.) *Hic sancto populos quoque
Iunctos foedere continet etc. etc.*

The Mss. are: Shirley's and Trinity Coll., R. 3, 20 (R.) and Harleian 7333 (H'), from Shirley; Cotton Cleopatra, D. VII (Cl), Fairfax 16 (F), Harleian 7578 (h) and Addit. 22, 139 (A), forming another group; R. 14. 51, Trin. Coll., (r') and Thynne's Print (Th), a little distant, but both connected with the original of the former four; finally the Bannatyne Ms., of the year 1568 (B'), which, though greatly spoilt in some passages, seems to me a derivation — with several intermediate stations, of course — from a very good direct copy¹). For it has the right readings, not to be found in all Mss., in l. 5 *Ar* (instead of *is* in Cl, F, h, Th, r) — which I have however altered into *Ben*, according to Chaucer's dialect — *folk*, l. 9, *collusioun* l. 11. For this reason, I believe that in l. 10 its: *Among us now* can be accepted in preference to the others adding a superfluous *For*, which, besides, overloads the line with one syllable. Shirley's '*for nowe a dayes*' is not bad, but looks suspicious, as all the special readings of this scribe.

But this time, his information in H', as to the address of the Envoy, is to be relied upon (*this balade made Geoffrey Chauncers the Laureall Poete of Albion and sent it to his souerain lorde Kyng Richarde the secounde hane being in his Castell of Windesore*), at least upon its first part; for, whether it can be stated that Richard at that time really was at Windsor, must be left undecided. R tells us that this *Balade Royal* was made '*by oure laureal poete of Albyon in hees laste yeeres*.'

Further, there ought to be noticed that B' puts stanza 3 instead of 2, and adds a spurious one before the Envoy, which, in its second line, contains a sally against the Reformation.

VIII. Lenvoy de Chaucer a Bukton.

Must have been composed some time after 1391, which I make the date of the Prologue (s. my *Ausgew. klein. Dicht.* etc. p. 65 and 66), to which l. 29 contains an allusion. For further explanation I refer, for brevity's sake, to Mr. Furnivall's Notes (s. his Parallel-Text Edit. of Ch.'s Minor Poems, P. III p. 432), and to my own (*Ausgew. klein. Dicht.*, p. XVII and 62).

There is only one Ms. left containing this Poem: Fairfax 16 (F), and the two old prints, Julian Notary's (N), A. D. 1499—1501, and Thynne's (Th), A. D. 1532, agree pretty well with it.

l. 2. cfr. the Gospel according to St. John, Ch. 18, v. 38.

l. 17. cfr. St. Paul to the Corinth., Ch. VII, 9 & 28.

¹) I have altered my opinion given in the *Anglia*, l. c., p. 109.

- l. 23. Perhaps a hint that Bukton had been taken prisoner in Friseland; see *Ausgew. kl. D.*, p. 62.
l. 25. *prouerbes* is rather curious, referring to a singular, but seems to be right, as *prouerbe* would lose its last syllable, standing before a vowel.

IX. Lenvoy de Chaucer a Scogan.

Most likely written in 1393, as l. 11—14 seem to allude to the rains which fell in October 1393 (See Mr. Furnivall's Note, P.-T. Ed. etc. p. 419). Besides, observe '*Michelmesse*' in l. 19. — See also, *Ausgew. kl. D.*, p. XVII sq., and p. 63.

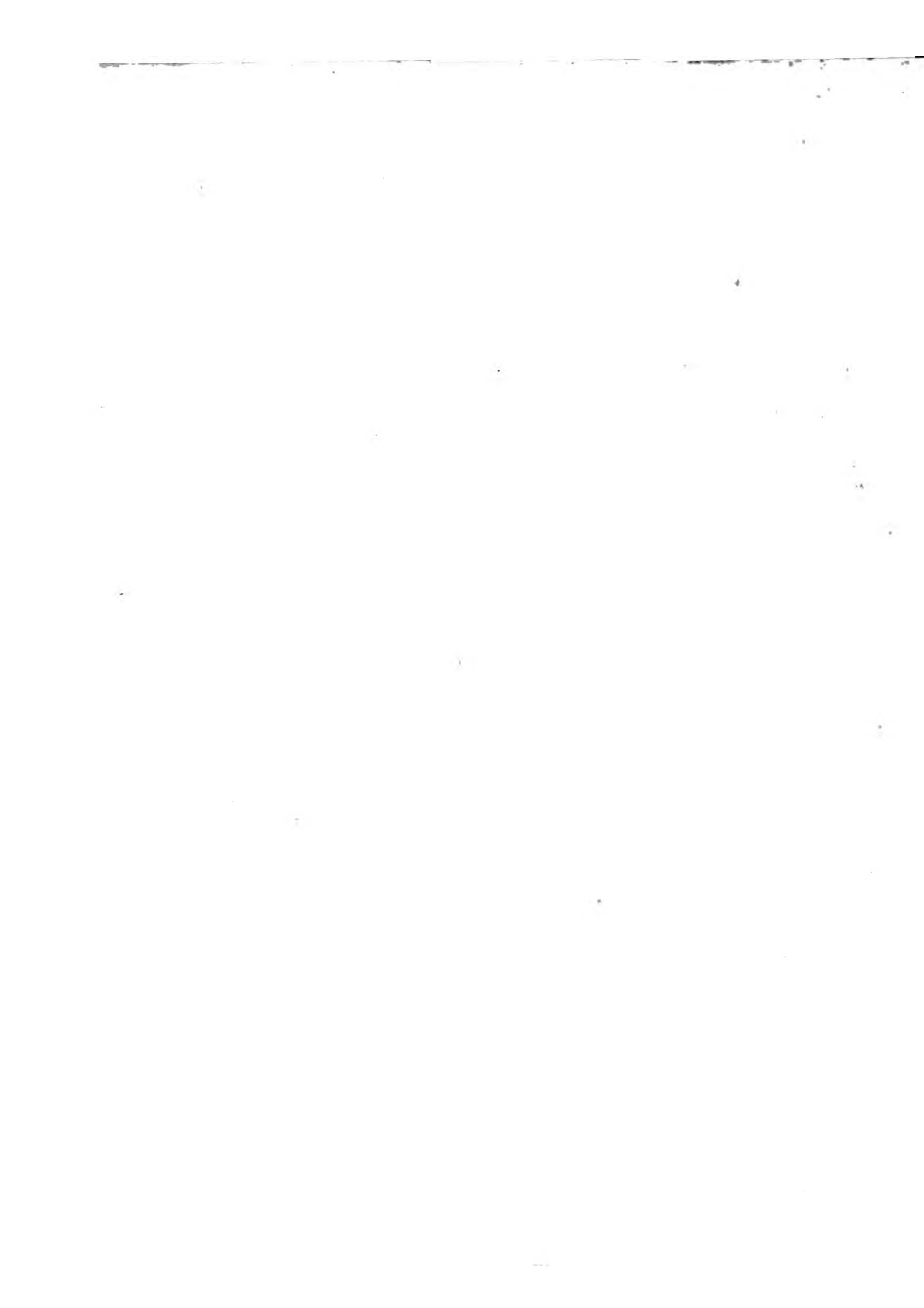
This Poem is contained in 3 Mss.: Cambr. Univ. Libr. Gg 4, 27 (Gg) Fairf. 16 (F), and Pepys 2006, hand E (p), the two latter of which must have been copied from the same original. The heading in Gg is *Litera directa de Scogon per G. C.*

- l. 1. It is not just necessary to put *hye* in, but it improves the rhythm, in my opinion.
l. 22. *record* must here be the substantive, because of the rhyme to: *lord* (l. 23).
l. 28. *hem*; only Pepys is right here, this pronoun undoubtedly referring to *arwes* (l. 26); and so is this Ms. again, reading *her*, l. 40.
l. 43. The Mss. have here in margin: (a) *Wyndisore*, and l. 45 or 46 *a Grenewych*. (s. *Ausgew. kl. D.*, p. XIX sq.). I have preferred *stremes hed*, which means *welle*, finding that *wellis hed* is saying the same thing twice; besides cfr. l. 45. — l. 47 *Tullius kyndenesse* is perhaps an allusion to Cicero's Epist. VI ad Caecinam.

X. La Complainte de Chaucer a sa Bourse Voide.

The '*Conquerour of Brutes Albioun*' is Henry IV, and the Poem must therefore have been written in Oct. 1399¹⁾. — Of the 6 Mss. extant, I consider now Addit. 22, 139 (A) relatively the best, (s. above, p. 24, V.), as it is most likely a more direct derivation from the original than the others, especially its readings in ll. 4 and 13 seem to me quite correct, though in l. 4 *any* must be a miswriting for *heuy*. A near relation to it is Pepys 2006, hand E (p), which belongs to the same branch with Caxton's Print (C). The Envoy being omitted in A, I have taken it from p. Fairfax 16 (F) and Harleian 7333 (H') belong to the same group, and so does Cambr. Univ. Libr. Ms. Ff. 1. 6, though it shows some corruption. Harleian 2251, however, is so bad, that I have disregarded it altogether. The heading is taken from p, there being none in A; F has: *The complaynt of Chaucer to his Purse*, nearly the same (*vnto his empty purse*) has Caxton, whilst H' calls it '*A supplicacioun to Kyng Richard by chaucier*'. — Ll. 7, 14, 21. *Beth*, I think, sounds more after Chaucer, though *Be* may be right here; pronounce the next words *heuy agayn*. 25. I should suggest to pronounce *harm's*. —

¹⁾ Mr. Furnivall says that Henry granted our poet 40 marks on the 13. Oct. 1399 (s., l. c., p. 447).



Bepr. von ten Brink, Literaturbl. für germ. & rom. Phil.
IV. 420. (1883).





