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SHELF MARK: *S.1
TITLE: Supplementary parallel-texts of Chaucer's minor poems, 1871
AUTHOR: Chaucer, Geoffrey; Furnivall, Frederick James

N.B. Scanned as single pages.
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[*Tanner MS* 346 (*vellum*, ? 1440, *Bodl. Libr.*), *leaf* 120.]

The Parlement of Briddis.

(1) [*The Proem.*]

The lif so short the craft so long to lerne
The assay so hard so sharpe the conqueryng
The blysful ioy a-wey that fleth so yerne
Alh this mene I be loue that my felyng
Astonyeth so with his dredfulh worchyng
So sore I-wis that whan I on hym thynke
That wote I wele where I wake or wynke

(2)

ffor alh be that I knowe not loue in dede
Ne wote how he quyteth folke hir hire
Yit happeth me in bokis ofte rede
Of his myraclys and of his crueh ire
Ther rede I wele he wol be lord and sire
Dar I not seyn his strokis ben so sore
But god saue swich a lorde I can no more

(3)

Of vsage what for lust what for lore
On bokes rede I oft as y you tolde
But why þat I speke alh þis not yoore
A-gone it happed me for to be-holde
Vp on a boke was wryte with lettres olde
And ther vp on a certeyn thyng to lerne
The longe day ful fast I radde and yerne

(4)

For out of olde feldes as men seith
Comyth al this new corn fro yer to yer
And oute of olde bokes in good feith
Comyth al þis new science þat men lere
But now to purpos of my first matere
To rede forth it gan me so delite
That al day thought me but a lyte

[*Digby MS* 181 (*Bodl. Libr., paper*, ? 1450-60), *leaf* 44.]

[m, n̄ *are printed for* m, n *with curls over them; initial* a *generally for* A; f *and* k *have curls to them. Of* r· *the* · *may be meant as part of the* r, *as in the Cambr. Univ. Libr. MS Ff. i.* 6.]

the parlement of Fowlis.

(1) [*The Proem.*]

t He life so short / the crafte so longe to lerne
The assay so harde / so sharpe the conqueryng
The blisfulh ioy awey that fleith so yerne
Alh this mene I by loue / that my Felyng
Astonyth so with his dredfulh worchyng
So sore I-wis þat when I on hym thynke
Not wote I welh wher þat I flete or synke

(2)

¶ For by alh that I knowe not loue in dede
Ne wete howe she quyteth Folke here hire
Yit happith me in bokes ofte to rede
Of his myracles and of his Crueh ire
there rede I welh / he wolh be lorde & sire
Dare I not sayn his strokes ben so sore
But god saue suche a lorde I can no more

(3)

¶ Of vsage what for· luste / what for· lore
On bokis rede I. ofte as I you tolde
But why þat I speke alh þis /. not yore
Agoon it happed me For· to beholde
Vpon a book was write with lettres olde
And ther-vpon a certeyn thyng to lerne
The longe day fulh faste I redde / and yerne

(4)

¶ For· out of olde Feldis as men seith
Comyth alh this new corn from yere to yere
And out of olde bokis in good feyth.
Comyth alh þis newe sciens that men lere
But nowe to purpos of my First matere
To rede forth it ganne me to delite
That alh day it thought me but a lite

[*MS Arch. Seld. B.* 24. (*Bodl. Libr., paper*, ? 1470-80), *leaf* 142.]

[*The first* 2 *stanzas of the Proem are wanting. A leaf is out of the MS.*]

(3)

OF vsage olde quhat for loue / quhat for lore
On bokis red I oft / as I 3ou tolde
And quher-fore þat I speke now this but more
I schall 3ow seyne /. It hapned me to beholde
Vpon a book writen with lettres olde
And ther-upon a certane thing to lere
The long day I red full fast but were

(4)

For out of olde feldis quhere sowen sede is
Commyth all this new corne fro 3ere to 3ere
And out of olde bookis as men redis
Cummyth all this new science þat men lere
But now to purpose of this ilke matere
I can me so delyte forth for to rede
The long day me thoght full schort but drede

(5)

This boke of which I make mencion
Entitlid was al ther I shal you teH
Tullius of the dreme of the Cipion
Chapetres it had .vij. of heuen & helle
And erth and sowlys that ther-in dweH [leaf 120, back]
Of which as shortlye as I kan trete
Of his sentence I wol you teH the grete

(6)

First tellith it whan Scipion was come
In to Aufrik how he mette Masinysse
That him for ioy in armes hath I-nome
Than tellith he hir spech and aH the blysse
That was be-twixt hem tyl the day gan mysse
And how his aunsetry aufrikan so dere
Gan on his slepe that nyght to hym Appere

(7)

Than tolde he hym that fro A sterry place
how aufrican hath hym Cartage I-shewid
And warnid hym by-for of al his grace
And seid hym what man lerid or lewid
Þat louyth commoun profit weH I-thewid
he shal vn to a blysful place wende
Theyr ioy is that lasteth with-oute ende

(8)

Than askid he yif the folke Þat her be dede
haue lyf and dwellyng in an other place
And aufrikan seid ye with-out drede
And oure present worldis lyuys space
Menith but a man deth what wey we trace
And rightful folk shul go whan they dey
To heuyn & shewed hem the Galoye

(5)

¶ This book of which I make mencion
Entitelled was aH Þer I shaH you teH
Tullius of the dreme of the Cipion
Chapters it had vij. of heuen and heH
And erth. and sowlis Þat ther-in dweH
Of which as shortly. as I can trete
Of his sentens I woH you teH the grete

(6)

¶ First tellith it when Cipion was come
Into Affrik. howe he mette Masinysse
Þat hym for ioy. in armes hath I-nome
Than tellith he hir speche & aH the blisse
Þat was bitwix hem / tiH Þe day gan mysse
And howe his auncetre Aufrican so dere
Gan on his slepe. that nyght tiH hym appere.

(7)

¶ Than tolde he hym that fro a sterry place [leaf 44, back]
howe Aufrican hath hym cartage I-shewed
And warned hym bifore of aH his grace
And said hym what man leryd or lewde
That louyth commune profite / weH I-thewyde
he shaH vnto a blisfuH place wende
There ioy is Þat lastith without ende

(8)

¶ Than asked he if Þe Folke Þat here be dede
haue lif and dwellyng in a-nothir place
And Aufrican seid / ye with-out drede
And howe oure present worldis lifis space
Mornyth but a maner deth what wey we trace
And righfuH folke / shuH go when they die
To heuen and shewed hem the Galeye

(5)

This book / now quhich I mak of mencion
Entitulit was thus / as I schall telle
Tullius of the dreme of Scipion
Chapitres sevin It had of hevin and hell
How Þat the body and soule ther-In mon duell
Off quhiche as schortly as I can It trete
Off this sentence I schall ȝow seyne the grete

(6)

First tellis It quhan Scipion was comen
In Affric. how he met with Manassis
And him / for Ioye In armes hath he nomen
Than telles he thair speche and all thair blis
That was betuene thame quhill the day can mys
And how his ancester Affrican so dere
Gan In his slepe that nyght to him appere

(7)

Than tellis It Þat from a sterny place
How Affrican hath him Cartage schewit
And warnyt him before of all his grace
And seid quhoso he be lerit or lewit
That loue is cummyn profyte wele thewit
He schuld In-to a blisfull place wende
Quhere Ioy Is ay / with-outen any ende

(8)

Than askit he / gif folk Þat here ar dede [leaf 142, back]
Haue lyf and duelling In an othir place
Affrican said / ȝa without any drede
And how Þat here oure present lyves space
Was bot a moment here quhat weye we trace
And ryghtwise folk schulde go after thai dye
To heuen but drede / and schewit him the galye

(9)

Thañ shewed he hym the litel erthꝫ þat her is
At regard of heuenys quantite
And after shewid he hym the ix speris
And after that the melody herd he
þat comythꝫ of thilk speris thries thre
That wel is of Musyk and Melodye
In þis world here and cause of Armonye

(10)

Than bade he hym se the erthꝫ that is so lite [leaf 121]
And was somdele ful of harde grace
That he ne sholde hym in certeyn yeres space
Than told he hym in certeyn yeres space
þat euery sterre shuld come in to his place
Ther it was first and aH shal oute of mynde
þat in this world was don of aH mankynde

(11)

þañ prayed he Scipion teH hym alle
The wey to come to heuen blysse
And he seid knowe þy self first mortall
And loke ay bisily thou werk and wisse
To comon profit & thu shalt neuer mysse
To come swiftly vn to that place dere
That ful of blisse is and soulis clere

(12)

But brekers of the lawe for to seyn
And leccherous folke after þat they be dede
Shul alwey a-boute the erthꝫ in peyne
Tyl many a world be passed oute of drede
And þan foryeve hem al her wicked dede
Than shul they come vn to that b[l]isful place
To whichꝫ to come god sende echꝫ louer grace

(9)

¶ Thañ shewed he hymꝫ the litle erthe þat here is
At regarde of heuens quantite
And after shewed he hymꝫ the ix. speres
And after þat / the melodye herde he
þat comythꝫ of þilk speres thries thre
That wellis beeñ of musik and melodie
In this wordle here / and cause of armonye

(10)

¶ Thañ bade he hymꝫ se the erthꝫ þat is so lite
And was sumdeH fuH of harde grace
That he ne sholde hymꝫ / in þis wordle delite
Thañ tolde he hymꝫ in certeyñ yeres space
That euery sterre shold come in to his place
Ther· it was firste / and aH shaH out of mynde
That in this wordle was dooñ of aH mankynde

(11)

¶ Thañ praid he Cipioñ teH hymꝫ aH
The wey to come to heueñ blisse
And he said knowe þi-silf first mortaH
And loke ay bisily thowe werke and wisse
The commune profite . and þou shalt neuer mysse
To come swiftly / vnto that place dere
That FuH of blisse is and sowlis chere

(12)

¶ But brekers of the lawe sothe to sayñ
And lecherous Folk / after þat they beeñ deed
ShuH alwey whirle about the erthꝫ in payñ
TyH many a world be passid out of drede
And theñ for-yeue hemꝫ aH here wicked dede
Thañ shaH þei come into that blisfuH place
To whichꝫ to come god sende eche louer grace .

(9)

Than schewit he him the lytill erth þat here Is
At regard of the heuenys quantitee
And after schewit he him the nyne speris
And after that /. the melodye herd he
That cummyth of thai ilke speris thrise thre
That welles ar of musik and melodye
In this world here /. and cause of armonye

(10)

Than seid he thus syn erth was here so lyte
And full of turment and of hard grace
That he ne schuld him In this world delyte
For ilke sterne schuld cum Into thaire place
Thider quhare he predestynate was
Quhare It was first / and all schuld out of mynd
That In this world was doon of all mankynd

(11)

Than praid him Scipioñ to tell him all
That were to cum vnto that heuenys blis
And he seid / first knowe thy-self mortall
And luke ay besily thou wirk ywis
The commoñ profit / and thou shalt noght mys
To cum swiftly vnto that place so dere
That full of blis is /. and of soulis clere

(12)

But brekaris of the lawe sooth forto seyne
And lecherouse folk aftere thai be dede
Schall quhirll alweye the world about In peyne
Quhill many a world be passit out of drede
In this degree quitis god ilke man his mede
Than schall thay cum In-to that blisfull place
To quhiche to cum god send vs all grace

(13)

The day gan faile and the derke nyght
That revith bestis from her' bisinesse
Bereft me my boke for lak of light
And to my bedde y gañ me for to dresse
Fu[l]filled' of thought & besy heuynesse
For both I had thing' which þat I nolde
And ek I ne had thing' that I wolde

(14)

But finally my spirit at the last'
For wery my labour' all the day
Toke rest' that made me to slepe fast'
And in my slepe I mette as I lay
how Affrican right in that seluen A-ray [leaf 121, back]
That Scipion hym sawe be-fore þat tide
was comen & stode right at my beddes side

(15)

The verry hunter sleping in his bedde
To wode a-yen his mynde goth a-non
The Iuge demeth hou his plees beñ spede
The carter dremeth hou his cartes gone
The rich of golde þ^e knyght fighteth with his fone
The seke meteth he drynketh of the tonne
The louere metith he hath his lady wonne

(16)

Can I not seyn yif that the cause were
For I red hadde of Affrican be-forn
That made me to mete þat he stood ther'
But thus seid' he þou hast the so wel born
In lokyng' of myn olde boke al to-torn
Of which Macrobye rought nought A lite
That somdele of thy labour' wolde I quyte

(13)

¶ The day gañ faile and the derk nygħt [leaf 45]
That revith bestis from here besynesse.
Bireft me my book for lak of ligħt
And to my bedde I gañ me for' to dresse
Fulfilled' of thoughte / and of besy heuynesse
For' bothe I hadde thyng'. which þat I nolde
And I ne hadde thyng'. that I wolde.

(14)

¶ But finally my spirite att last
For' wery of my labour aħ the day
To rest that made me to slepe fast
And in my slepe I mette as I lay
howe Aufricañ righte in þat seluen aray
That Cipioñ hym sawgħ before þat tide
Was comyñ and stood' righte at þe beddis side

(15)

¶ The wery hunter slepyng' in his bedde
To the wode a-yeñ / his mynde goth anooñ
The Iuge dremyth howe his plees beeñ spedde
The Carter dremyth. howe his Cartes gooñ
The Riche of golde / þe knygħt feighttith with his Fooñ
The seke dremyth / howe he drynketh of þe Toñ
The lover' metith / he hath his lady' woñ

(16)

¶ Cañ I not sayñ if that the cause were
For I redde hadde of Aufricañ biforñ
That made me to mete he stode there
And thus said' he / þou hast þe so weħ bornñ
In lokyng' of myñ olde boke aħ to-tornñ
Of which Macrobie roughte not a lite
þat somdele of thy labour wold' I the quyte

(13)

The day gan faile / and the derk ny*ght* [leaf 143]
That revis bestis all thaire besynesse
Rest me my book for faut and lak of ly*ght*
And to my bed I gan me for to dresse
Fulfild' of tho*ght* /. and besy hevynesse
For bothe I had thing þat I wold' no*ght* haue
And als the thing I wold'. so god me saue

(14)

Bot fynaly my spirit at the last
For Irknes of the laboure all the day
Toke rest' þat maid me for to slepe fast
And In my slepe I met þat I schall say
How Affricane ry*ght* In that ilk array
That Scipioñ him sawe before that tyde
Was cu*m*myn / and stude ry*ght* at my beddis syde

(15)

The wery huntare sleping In his bed
To wod agayn him think*is* he gois anoñ
The Iuge dremys how his pledis beñ sped
The cartare dremys how his cartis gone
The riche of gold' / the kny*ght* fightis w*ith* his fone
The seke man wenis he drink*is* of the tonne
The lou*er* wenis he has his lady wonne

(16)

Can I no*ght* seye if þat the cause were
For I had red of Affrican beforñ
That maid me to think þat I stude there
But thus said he /. thou has the so wele borne
I loking on my*n* old' book for to torne
Off quhiche Macroby had sum tyme delyte
That he sum dele thy labour wold' the quite

(17) [*Invocation.*]

Cithera thu blisfuⱨ lady swete
þ*a*t w*i*t*h* þy firy bronde dau*n*test who the liste
And madest me þ*i*s sweven for to mete
Be þ*o*u my helpe in this for þ*o*u mayst' best'
As wisely as I saw the north north west
when I be-gañ my sweven for to wryte
So yeue me myght to ryme & to endyte

(18) [*The Story.*]

This forseid' African me hente A-none
And forth̄ with̄ hym vn-to A gate brought
Right of A park' walled' w*i*t*h* grene stone
And ouer the gate w*i*t*h* l*ett*res large I-wrought
Ther' wer' vers writen As me thought
On either half' of ful grete reuerence
Of which I shal now sey the pleyn sentence

(19)

Thorogh me men gon in to that blisfuⱨ place [leaf 122]
Of hertes hele & dedely wo*u*ndis cure
Thorogh me meñ gon vn to the wel of g*r*ace
There grene & lusty may shal eu*er* endure
This is the wey to al good auenture
Be glad þ*o*u reder' and þy sorowe of caste
Al open am I. passe in and hye the faste

(20)

Thorogh me men goñ than spake þat o þ*er* side
vn to the mortal strook of the spere
Of which dysdayne & dau*n*g*er* is the gide
þ*er* tre shal neuer frewte ne leues bere
This streme yo*u* ledeth̄ vn to þe sorwful were
þ*er*-as this fissh̄ in prison is aⱨ drye
The-shewing' is only the Remedye

(17) [*Invocation.*]

¶ Citherea thowe blisfuⱨ lady swete
þat with̄ thy Firebrond' dauntist whom̄ þ*o*u list
And madist me this sweveñ for· to mete
Be thowe myñ helpe in this for· þou maist best
As wisly. as I sawe the Northⱨ Northⱨ West
Wheñ I be-gañ my sweveñ for· to write
So yeue me myght / to write it and endite

(18) [*The Story.*]

¶ This forsaid' aufricañ me hent anoon
And forth̄ with̄ hym̄ vnto a gate brought
Right of a parke walled' w*i*t*h* grene stooñ
And ou*er* the gate w*i*t*h* letters large I-wrought
There were vers wretyñ as me thought
Oñ eyther· half / of fuⱨ grete differens
Of which̄ I shaⱨ nowe say / the playñ sentens

(19)

¶ Through̄ me meñ come into þat blisfuⱨ place [leaf 45, back]
Of hertis hele and deedly woundis cure
Through̄ me meñ gooñ vnto þe weⱨ of grace
Ther grene and lusty may. shaⱨ eu*er* endure
This is the way to aⱨ good auenture
be glad þou reder'. and þi sorow of cast'
Aⱨ opeñ am̄ I passe in. and hie the Fast'

(20)

¶ Through̄ me meñ gooñ / þan spake þat oþir· side
Vnto the mortaⱨ stroke of the spere
Of which̄ disdayñ and daungere is þe gide
There tree shaⱨ neu*er* frute / ne leves bere
This streme you ledith̄ vnto the sorowfuⱨ were
There as this Fysshe in prisoñ is aⱨ drie
The-shewyng' is only the remedie

(17) [*Invocation.*]

Citherea thou blisfull lady suete
That with thy grete hete dantis quhom the lest
That maid me this sueving for to mete
Be thou my help In this / for thou may best
And als wisely as I saw the north north west
Quhan I began my sueving to endyte
So geue me grace to ryme It / and to wryte

(18) [*The Story.*]

This foresaid Affricañ me hent anoñ [leaf 143, back]
And forth w*i*t*h* him to a ȝett me bro*ght*
Ry*ght* of a park wallid w*i*t*h* grene stone
And ou*er* the ȝet with l*ett*res large wele wro*ght*
There was versis writtin as me tho*ght*
On athir half of full grete defference
Off quhich̄ I schall ȝow seyne the pleyne sentence

(19)

Throw me me*n* gois vnto that blisfull place
Off hertes hele / and dedely woundis cure
Throu me men gois vnto the well of grace
Quharè grene and lusty May schall eu*er* endure
This is the weye / to all gude aue*n*ture
Be glad thou reder. and thy sorow out cast
I am opyn /. pas In /. and spede the fast

(20)

Throu me men gois than spak that othir side
Vnto the dedely strokis of the spere
Off quhich̄ disdeyne and dangere is the gide
Quhare neuir tree schall fruyte ne leues bere
This weye ȝow ledis to the soroufull were
There quhar' the fische In p*r*isoñ is all drye
The eschewing is onely remedye

(21)

This vers of gold' and blak' I-wryten wer'
Of which I gan a stounde to be-holde
For with þat one encresid ay my fere
And with þat other gan myn hert to bolde
That on me hette that other did me colde
No wyt had I for errour' for to chese
To entre or fle or me to saue or lese

(22)

Right as be-twix addemaundis two
Of evyn myght a pece of Iryn is sett'
That hath no myght to meue to ne fro
For what þat one may hale þat oþer lette.
Ferd' I that I ne wist' whe*þer* þat me was bette
To entre or leue tyl Affrycan my gide
Me hente and shoof' me in at the gate wide

(23)

And seid' it stondeth wryten in thy face
Thy errour' though thu tel it not me
But drede the not to come in to þis place
For this wrytyng' is no thing' ment be the
Ne be none but he loues seruant be [leaf 122, back]
For thu of loue hast lost thi tast' y gesse
As seek man hath of swete & bitt*er*nesse

(24)

But nathelees al though thu be duH
þat þou canst not do yit þou mayst it se
For many a man þat may nat stonde a puH
It liketh hym at the wrastlyng' to be
And demyth yit whe*þer* he do bet or he
And yif' þou haddest kunnyng for to endite
I shal the shewen mater of to write

(21)

¶ This verse of golde and blak I-wretyn were
Of which I gan stonde to beholde
For· w*ith* that oon incresid ay my fere
And w*ith* þat othir· gan myn hert bolde
That oon me hette / þat othir did me colde
No witt had I. for· erroure for to chese
To entir· or· Fle / or me to saue or· lese

(22)

¶ For· right as bitwix adamauntis two.
Of evyn myght a pece of yron I-sette
That hath no myght to meue to ne Fro
For· what þat oon may hale / þat othir lette
Thus ferde I. þat I ne wiste / whedir me was bette
To entir or· leue tiH aufrican my gide
Me hent. and shoof me in / at þe gate wide

(23)

¶ And said' it stondith wretyn in thy Face
Thyn errour· thoughh þou teH it not to me
But drede the not to come in-to this place
For· this writyng' is no-thyng' ment by the
Ne by nooh but he. loves seruaunt be
For· þou of loue hast loste / thy tast I gesse
As a seke manh. hath of swete & bittirnesse.

(24)

¶ But natheles aH-þoughh thowe be duH
þat þou canst not doo / yit þou maist it se
For· many a manh that may not stonde a puH
It likithh hym att the wrastlyng' to bee
And demythh it / whethir he do bette or· hee
And if þou haddist connyng' to endite
I shaH the shewe / mater of to write

(21)

Thir verse of gold' and blak wele writen were
The quhiche I was astonyt to behold*e*
For with that one encrescit ay my chere
And with that othir began my hert wax cold*e*
That one me fleyit' that othir maid me
No witt had I for erroure for to chese
To enter to flee / ne me to saue or les*e*

(22)

For right as betuene adamant*is* two
off even my*gh*t a pece of Irne were sett
That one no my*gh*t hath to moue It to ne fro
For quhat þat one may that othir may lett
So fure I / þat I ne wist quhethir me was bett
To ent*er* or leue / quhill Affrican my gyde
Me hent /. and schot In / at the ȝett*is* wyde

(23)

And said It stondis writin In thy face [leaf 141]
Thyne erroure / though thou tell It no*gh*t to me
Bot drede the no*gh*t to cum vnto this place
For this writing is ment nothing by the
Ne by noh / bot he loues s*er*uant be
For thou of loue has lost the taste I gesse
As seke man hath of suete and bitt*er*nesse

(24)

Bot neu*er*theles . though that thou be dull
And can no*gh*t do /. for-sooth ȝit may thou see
For many a man þat may no*gh*t stand a pull
ȝit likith It him at wrastling for to be
And deme ȝit quhethir he dooth bet or he
And if thou hast craft forto endyte
I schall the schewe matere quhar'of to w*r*ite

(25)

with what myn honde in his he took a-non
Of which I comfort taught & went in fast
But lorde so I was glad and wele be-gon
For ou*er* aH wher I myn eyen cast
weren tres clade w*ith* leuys *þ*at ay shal last
Ech in his kynde with coloure ffressh & grene
As Emeawde *þ*at ioy was to sene

(26)

The bildre ook & eke the hardy Assh
The peler elm the coffre vn to the careyn
The box pype tre holme to whippes lassh
The saillyng fir the Cipresse deth to pleyn
The sheter ewe the Aspe for shafft*es* pleyn
The Olyue of pees & eke the dru*n*ken vyne
The victor palme the laurer to devyne

(27)

A gardyn saw I ful of blossemed bowis
vp on a ryuer yn a grene mede
Ther as swetnesse eu*er*-mo I-now is
with floures white blew yelow & rede
A colde wel stremes nothing dede
And swy*m*mmyng ful of smal fisshes light
with fy*n*nys rede & scalis of sylu*er* bryght [leaf 123]

(28)

On eu*er*y bough the briddes herde I singe
w*ith* vois of aungel in here armonye
*þ*at besied hym her briddes forth to bryng
The litel conyes to her pley gynnen hie
And furthir aboute I gan espie
The dredful Roo the buk the hert & hinde
Squerel and bestes smale of gentyl kynde

(25)

¶ With that myn honde in his he toke anon [leaf 46]
Of whiche I comforte caught & went in fast
But lorde so I was gladde and weH bigoon
For· ou*er* aH / where I myn eyen cast
Were trees cladde w*ith* leues *þ*at ay shaH last
Eche in his kynde with coloure Fresshe and grene
As Emeraude that ioye was to seyn

(26)

¶ The bilder ooke / and eke the hardy asshe
The Peler· Elme / the cofre vnto careyn
The box*e* pipe / the holme to whippes lasshe
The sailyng firre / the Cipres deth to playn
The Sheter Ewe· / the aspe for· shaftis playn
The Olyve of Pees / and eke the dronkyn vyne
The victo*ur* palme / the laurer to deuyne /

(27)

¶ A gardyn sawe I fuH of blossomyd bowes.
Vpon a rever in a grene mede.
þer as swetnesse eu*er*more I-nowe is
W*ith* Floures white blewe yelowe & rede
And colde weH stremys no-thyng dede
And swymmyng fuH of smale fisshes · ligh̄t
With Fynnes rede. and scales silu*er* brigh̄t

(28)

¶ In eu*er*y bough the briddes herde I synge
With vois of aungelis. in here armonye
That beside hem hir· briddis forth to brynge
The litle Conyes to hire pley gonnen hie
And Ferther· about I ganne espie
The dredfuH Roo / the buk the hert & hynde
Squerellis and bestis smale / of gentiH kynde

(25)

W*ith* that my hand he hent In his anon.
Off quhiche I confort caught and went full fast
But lord so I wex glad / and wele begone
For ou*er* all quher I my*n* eyne can cast
Were treis clad w*ith* leues *þ*at eu*er* schuld last
Eche In his kynde w*ith* leues quhite and grene
As emerant *þ*at Ioy was for to sene

(26)

The bild*er* oke and eke the hardy esche
For pilers elm / the cofir on-to careine
The bosche pipere the holyn to quhippis fresche
For sailing firre / the cipres deth to pleyne
The v. the esp for archer*is* sooth to seyne
The olyve of pes /. and als the dronk wyne
The victor palm / the laurere to deuyne

(27)

A gardyn saw I full of blossomyt bewis
Vpon a ryu*er* In a grene mede
Quhare *þ*at suetenes eu*er*mor anewis
Off flour*is* quhite blewe ȝalow and rede
And cold well stremes quik and nothing dede
That swymmand was full of fischis ly*gh*t
With fynnes rede / and scalis silu*er* brigh̄t

(28)

On eu*er*y beugh briddis herd I sing [leaf 144, back]
With angel voce Into thair armonye
Sum thame besyit thair birdis furth to bring
The lytill conyngis to thair caues can hye
And forthir In the temple I went to spye
The dredefull raa the buk / the hert the hynd.
Scurellis and smale best*is* of gentill kynd

(29)

On instrumentes of stringe in A-corde
Herde I so pley and rauysshinge swetnesse
That god þat maker is of al and lorde
Ne herd neuer better as I gesse
Ther-with a wynde vnneth it myght be lesse
Made in þe leuys grene a noyse softe
Acordaunt to the foules songe on lofte

(30)

The eire of þat place so a-tempre was
That neuer was greuaunce þerof hote ne colde
Ther groweñ ek euery holsoñ spice & gras
No man may þer wex seke ne olde
Yit was ther Ioy more a thousand fold
No man cañ teH neuer wold it nyght
But ay clere day to any man-is sight

(31)

Vnder A tree be-side a weH I say
Cupide our lorde his arwes forge & file
And at his fete his bowe al redy lay
And while his doughter tempred aH þe while
The heedes in þe weH and with herde fyle
She couched hem after as they shuH serue
Som to sle and som to wounde and kerue

(32)

Tho was I war of plesaunce anon right
And of aray and lust and curtasie [leaf 123, back]
And of the craft þat can & hath the myght
To go by-fore a wight to do folie
Disfigured was she I shaH not lye
And by hym self vnder an Oke I gesse
Saugh I delite that stood with gentilnesse

(29)

¶ Oñ instrumentis of strenght in a-corde
Herde I so pleie / and raueshyng swetnesse
That god þat maker is of aH / and lorde
Ne herde neuer bettir as I gesse
þerwith a wynde vneth it mygHt be lesse
Made in the leues grene a noise fuH softe.
Accordaunt to the Fowlis songe . on lofte

(30)

¶ The eire of þat place so attempre was.
þat neuer was greuaunce there / of hote ne colde
There growen eke / euery holsome spice & gras
No mañ may there wexe / seke ne olde
ȝhit was þer ioy more a thowsand fold
No mañ cañ teH / neuer wold it be nygHt
But ay clere day . to any manys sight

(31)

¶ Vnder a tree beside a weH I saie [leaf 47, back]
Cupide oure lorde his arowes forge & file
And att his Feet his bowe aH redy lay.
And while his doughter tempred aH þe while
The hedis in the weH / and with harde file
She couched hem̄ . aftir as þei shold serue
Some to slee and some to wounde & kerue

(32)

¶ Tho was I ware of plesaunce anoñ rigHt
And of aray and luste and curtesie
And of þe crafte þat came / & hath þe mygHt
To goo bifore a wigHt to do Folie
Disfigured was she I shaH not lie
And by hym̄-silf vnder an oke I gesse
Saugh I delite that stood with gentilnesse

(29)

Off menstralcye of stringis In acord
I herd there play a wonderfull suetnesse
That god þat maker is of all and lord
Ne herd neuer a better as I gesse
Ther-with a wynd vneth It mygHt be lesse
Maid In the bewis grene a noyes soft
Acording to the foulis song on loft

(30)

The eire of the place so attemper was
That neuer was there greuance of hote ne cold
There was no holsum spicis of suete gras
That no man may there wax seke ne old
ȝit was there Ioy wele more a thousand fold
Than man can tell /. for It was neuer nygHt
Bot euer day to ilke mannis sight

(31)

Vndere a tree besyde a well I sawe
Cupide oure lord his arowis forge and fyle
And at his feet his bowe lay In a thrawe
And wele his doughter temperit all the quhile
The hedis In the well /. and with hir wile
Sche ordanyt thame after as thei schuld serue
Sum for to slee / and sum to wound and kerue

(32)

So was I warr · of plesance anoñ rygHt
And of array / and lust and curtesye
And eke the craft þat can and hath the mygHt
To do by forse I wote nogHt throu folye
Defigured sche was / I wole nat lye
And by him-self vnder añ oke I gesse
I saugh delyte there stond by gentillesse

(33)

I sawgħ bewtee with oute any a-tire
And youthꝫ ful of game and Iolite
Foolhardinesse flaterye & desire
Messagery mede and other thre
her names shul not be tolde for me
And vp-onꝺ pilers grete of Iasper longe
I saugh a temple of brasse founded stronge

(34)

A-boute þe temple daunsed alwey
wommen I-nowe of whicħ somme were
Fairꝰ of hem selfꝫ and som of hem gay
In kirtels al disheuele wente þey þere
þat was herꝰ office alwey yerꝰ by yere
And oñ the temple saugh I white & feirꝰ
Of dowues white meny an hundridꝫ peirꝰ

(35)

By-fore the temple dore ful soburlye
Dam pees sat a curtynꝺ in hir hande
And hire by-side wonder discretly
Dame pacience sittyng þere I founde
with face pale vp onꝺ an hiħ of sonde
And alther next with-in and withꝫ-oute
By hest and artꝫ & of herꝰ folke a route

(36)

with in the temple of sighes hoot as firꝰ
I herde a swoghꝫ þat gan a-boute reñ
which sighes werꝰ engendryd withꝫ desirꝰ
þat maden euery Auter for to breñ
Of new flawme and aspiedꝫ I thañ
That al þe cause of sorwes that they drye
Come of the bitter goddes Ialousie

(33)

¶ I saughꝫ beaute withꝫ-out any a-tire
And youthꝫ fuħ of game and Iolite.
Fool-hardynesse Flatrie and desire
Messanger Mede and other thre
here names shuħ not be tolde for me
And vpoñ Pilers grete / of Iasper longe
I saughꝫ a temple of bras. foundid stronge.

(34)

¶ About the Temple dauncedꝫ alwey.
Wymmen I-nowghꝫ / of whicħ some were
Faire of hemꝫ-silf / and some of hemꝫ gay.
In kirtelles aħ dissheueldꝫ went þei there
That was here office alwey yere by yere
And oñ the Temple sawe I. white and faire
Of dowfes many añ hundredꝫ paire.

(35)

¶ Bifore the Temple dore Fuħ sobirly.
Dame pees sate / a Curtayñ in hir honde
And hirꝰ beside wondir discretly.
Dame Paciens sittyngꝫ there I fonde
With face pale vpoñ añ hiħ of sonde
And alder next *with*inꝺ and eke *with*-outꝫ
Bihest and art and here Folke about

(36)

¶ Withꝫ-inꝺ the Temple of sighes hote as fire
I herde a swoghꝫ that ganne about renne
Whicħ sighes were engendridꝫ *with* desire
That madeñ euery auter forꝰ to brenne
Of newe flawme / and aspiedꝫ I thenne
That aħ the cause of sorowes þat þei drye
Come of the bitter goddis Ielosie.

(33)

I saugh beautee *with*-out any atire [leaf 145]
And thoughtfull game and eke Iolitee
Fule hardynesse flatery and desire
Misgref mede and als othir thre
Thaire names schall nat here be tolꝺ for me
And apon pillere grete of Iasper long
I sawe a temple of bras wele foundit strong

(34)

About the temple there dansit alway
Wommen ynewe / of quhicħ sum therꝰ were
Faire of thame-self. and othir sum were gay
In kirtillis all discheuall went they there
That was thaire office alway ȝere by ȝere
And on the temple of dowis quhite & faire
I sawe sitting many a thousand paire

(35)

Before the temple dore full sobirly
Dame pitee sat *with* courtyn In hir handꝫ
And by hir syde wonder discretly
Dame pacience sitting there I fandꝫ
With face pale vpon a hull of sand
Althir next withIn and als without
Behest and art / and of thaire folk a rout

(36)

WithIn the temple of sighis as hote as fyre
I herdꝫ a suough þat gan about renne
In maner of sighis engendrid *with* desire
That maid ilke altare therꝰIn for to brenne
Off new flaumbe /. and wele aspyed I thenne
That all the cause of sorow þat thei drye
Coñ of the bitter goddesse Ielousye

(37)

The god Priapus saugħ I as I wente
with in the temple *in* souerayn̄ place stonde
In swicħ array as whan þe asse hym shente
with cry by nyght and with his ceptr' in honde
FuH besily men gonne assay and fonde
vp oñ his heed to sett' of sondry hewe
Gerlandis ful of fresshe floures newe

(38)

And in a pryvy corner in disport'
Founde I venus and hire porter Richesse
That was ful noble & hauteyn̄ of hir port'
Derk' was that place but afterward' lightnesse
I saugh a lite vnneth it myght be lesse
And on A bed of gold she lay to rest'
Til that the hoot soñ gan to west'

(39)

hir' gilte heeres withħ A golde threde
I-bounden wer' vntressed' as she lay
And naked' fro the brest' vn to the hede
Men myght her' see & sothely for to say
The remenaunt coue*r*ed weH to my pay
Right withħ A subtile kerchef' of valence
Ther was no thikker' clothħ of defence

(40)

The place a thousand' sauo*ur*s swoote
And Bachus god of wyñ sat hir by-side
And Ceres next þ*a*t dothħ of hu*n*ger boot'
And as I seide amyddes lay Cipride
To whom on knees two yonge folkes cryde
To ben hir helpe but thus I lete hir lye
And ferther in þe temple I gan espie

(37)

¶ The god Priapus saugħ I as I went' [leaf 47]
W*ith*yn the Temple in sou*er*aigñ place stonde
In suche array. as wheñ the asse hym hent
Withħ crie be nyghtt / and withħ his septer in honde
FuH besily meñ gonne assay. and Fonde
Vpoñ his heed' to sette / of sundrie hewe
Garlaund*es* fuH of Fresshe Floures newe

(38)

¶ And in a Prevy Corner in disporte
Fonde I venus. and hir· porter ricchesse
Þat was fuH noble / and hauntεñ of here porte
Derke was þat place / but aftirward' lighnesse
I sawgħ a lite / vnnethħ it myghtt be lesse
And oñ a bedde of golde / she lay to reste
TiH that the hote sonne gañ to weste.

(39)

¶ Here gilt heres withħ a golde threde
I-boundeñ were vntressed' as she lay
And naked' / from the breste / to the hede
Meñ myghtt here see / and sothly for to say
The remanent coue*r*ed' weH to my pay
Righttwithħ a soteH kerchief of valence
Ther was no thikker clothħ of defence

(40)

¶ The place yaf a thowsand' savours sote
And bachus god of wyñ sate hire beside
And Ceres next that dothħ of hunger bote
And as I said' a-myddes lay Cupide
To whom̄ oñ knees two yonge folke cride.
To beeñ hir helpe but thus I lete here lie
And Further in the Temple I gañ espie

(37)

The god p*r*iapus saugh I as I went
WithIn the temple In sou*er*ane place sittand'
In suich array as quhan the as*e* hi*m* schent
W*ith* crye by ny*gh*t / and w*ith* ceptur' In hand'
Full besily men gan espye and' fand'
Vpon his hede to set of sundry hewe
Gerlandis full of fresche flour*is* newe

(38)

And In a p*r*iue corner*e* In disport [leaf 145, back]
Fond' I venus In hir port richess*e*
That was noble & hautane of aport
Derk was that place and afterward' lightness*e*
I sawe a light vnnethħ It my*gh*t be less*e*
And on a bed of gold' sche lay to rest
Quhill þ*a*t the hote sonne ȝede vnto the west

(39)

Hir gilt heer*e* with a silkyn threde
ybounden was vntressed as sche lay
And nakit fro the brest vnto the hede
Men my*gh*t hir see / and schortly sooth to say
The remanant was cou*er*it wele to my pay
W*ith* ry*gh*t a subtile courchef of valence
There was no thikker clothħ of no defens*e*

(40)

The place gave a thousand sauouris suete
And Bachus god of wine sat him besyde
And Ceres next þ*a*t can the hungir bete
And as I seid In myddis lay Cupide
To quhom on kneis the ȝong folk*is* cryde
To be thair*e* help /. bot thus I lat thame lye
And forthir In the temple I went to spye

(41)

That in despite of Dyane the caste [leaf 124, back]
Ful many a bowe I-broke henge on the waH
Of maydens swicH as gonne hir tymes waste
In hir seruice and peynted ouer aH
Of many a storie of whicH I touche shaH
A fewe as of Calixte and Athalant'
And many a mayde of whicH þe name I want'

(42)

Semiramus Candace and hercules
Biblis Dido Tesbe and priamus
Tristram Isoude parys and Achilles
Eleyne Cleopatre and Troylus
Silla and ek the moder of Romulus
AH thise were peynted on that oþer side
And al hire loue & in what' plyte they dide

(43)

whan I was comen ayein in to the place
That I of spak þat was so swote & grene
Forth welke I tho my siluen) to solace
Tho was I war wher' ther' sat a queene
That as of lyght the somer sonne shene
PassetH the sterr' rygHt' so ouer' mesur'
She fayrer was than any creature

(44)

And in a launde vp on an hiH of floures
was sette þis noble goddes of[1] nature [[1] of *late, interlined*]
Of braunches wer' hir halles and hir boures
I-wrought after hir craft' & hir mesure
Ne ther' nas foule that comeþ of' engendur'
That ther' ne wer' preest in hir presence
To take hir doom and yif her' audience

(41)

¶ That in despite of Diane the Chast
FuH many a bowe broke / hynge on the waH
Of maydenys / suche as gonne here tymes waast
In here seruise / and paynted' ouer· aH
Of many a story · of whicH I towche shaH
A Fewe // as of Calixte / and Athalante
And many a maide of whicH the name I wante /

(42)

¶ Semiramus Candace and hercules .
Bliblis Dido Tesbe and Piramus
Tristram Isaud Paris and Achilles
Eleyne Cleopatre and Troyles
Silla and eke the mother of Romulus
AH thise were paynted' on þat othir side
And aH here love / and in what plite they dide

(43)

¶ WheH I was ComeH a-yeH in-to the place [leaf 47, back]
That I of spake / that so soot and grene
FortH walkid' I thoo my-seluen to solace
Tho was I ware / where there sate a Quene
That as of ligHt / the somer sonne shene
PassitH the sterre / rigHt so ouer mesure
She fairer was thaH any Creature

(44)

¶ And in a launde vpon aH hiH of Floures
Was sette this noble goddes nature
Of braunches were hir hallis *and* hir boures
I-wrought after here crafte / and hire mesure
Ne ther was Fowle that comytH of engendrure
That ther ne were / preste / in here presence
To take here dome and yef here audience .

(41)

Than In dispyte of Dyane the chaste
Full many a brokin bow hang on the wall
Of maides suich as gan thaire tyme waste
In hir seruice /. and paynted als ouer all
Off many a storye of quhiche I touche schall
A fewe / as of Calixt & Athalant
And many a maide of quhicH the name I want

(42)

Symeramus Candes and hercules
Medea Dido /. Tisbe and piramus
Trestram ysoundH Paris and Achilles
Eleyne Cleopatre and Troilus
Silla and eke the modere of Romelus
All thir were payntit on that othir syde
And thaire loues / and In quhat plyte thai dide

(43)

Quhen I was cummyn agane to the place [leaf 146]
That I of spak þat was so soft and grene
Forth walkit I my-self for to solace
So was I warre quhere as ther' sat a quene
That rygHt so as the lygHt somer sonne schene
Passith the sterris / rygHt so out oure mesure
Sche fairere was than any creature

(44)

And in a land vpon a hull of flouris
Was sett this noble goddesse of nature
Off branchis were hir hallis and hir bouris
WrogHt after hir craft / and hir owne mesure
NogHt was there foule þat commyth of engendrur'
Ne thei were there prest In hir presence
To take thaire dome / and geve hir audience

(45)

For this was on Seint Valentynes day
whan eu*er*y foule comt̄ þ*er* to chese hir make
Of eu*er*y kynde that men thynke may [leaf 125]
And þat so huge a noyse gan they make 312
That erth and se and tre and eu*er*y lake
So fu̇ll was þat vnnet̄ was ther' space
For me to stonde so ful was al þe place 315

(46)

And right as alayne in þe pleynt' of kinde
Deuyseth nature of swich array and face
In swich̄ array men myght hir' ther' y-finde
This noble Empiresse ful of grace 319
Bad eu*er*y foule to take hir' owne place
As þey were wont' alwey fro yere to yere
Seint Valentynes day to stonden there 322

(47)

That is to sey the foule of Rauyne
were hiest' sette & þan the fowles smale
That etyn as that natur' wolde enclyne
As worm or thing' of which I tel no tale 326
But water foule sat' lowest in the dale
And foule þat lyueþ by sede sat' on þe grene
And that so fele that wonder was to sene 329

(48)

Ther' myght' men the roial egle finde
That with̄ his sharpe loke p*er*ceth þe sonne
And other Egles of a lower kynde
Of which̄ þat clerkes wel deuysen konne 333
Ther' was the tira*u*nt' with̄ his fetheris donne
And greyne I mene the goshauke þ*at* doth pyne
To briddes for his outerageus rauyne 336

(45)

¶ For this was oñ Seynt Valentynes day .
Whe̅n eu*er*y Fowle comyt̄ / þ*er* to chese his make
Of eu*er*y kynde that me̅n thynke may .
And þat so huge noise / gañ þei make . 312
That erthe and see / and tree & eu*er*y lake
So fu̇ll was that vnnet̄ was ther' space
For' me to stonde / so fu̇ll was a̅ll the place . 315

(46)

¶ And rig̈ht as Aleyñ in the pleynt of kynde
Deviset̄ nature / of suche aray and face
In suche aray me̅n myg̈ht hir' ther' Fynde
This noble Empresse / Fu̇ll of grace 319
Bade eu*er*y Fowle to take here own̄ place
As þei were wont alwey / fro yeer' to yere
On Seynt Valentynes day to stond there / 322

(47)

¶ That is to say the Fowle of Ravyne
Were hig̈hest sette / and þan þe Fowlis smale
That eteñ / as that nature wolde enclyne
As worme / or thyng of which̄ I te̅ll no tale 326
But wat*er* Fowle sate lowest in the dale
And Fowle þat leuyt̄ by seed̄ sate oñ þe grene
And that so Fele / that wonder was to sene 329

(48)

¶ Ther myg̈ht me̅n the Roya̅ll Egle Fynde .
That w*ith* his sharpe look p*er*cit̄ the sonne
And othir Egles of a lower kynde
Of which̄ þat Clerk*es* we̅ll devise̅n konne 333
Ther was the Tiraunt / w*ith* his Fethris donne
And gray / I mene the Gooshauke / þat dot̄ pyne
To briddis . for' his owtragis ravyne 336

(45)

And this was on seynt Vale*n*tynis day
Quhen all foulis cu*m*mys to chese thair*e* make
Off all kynd̄ þ*at* man on . think may
And þ*at* so huge . añ noyese gan thei make 312
That erd̄ : see / tree / and eu*er*y lake
So full was þ*at* vnese was there space
To me to stand̄ / so full was all the place 315

(46)

And ry*gh*t as Aleyne In the plaunt of kynde
Deuise nature In suich array and face
In suich array me*n* my*gh*t hir there fynd̄
That ry*gh*t noble Emperice full of grace 319
And ilke foule to take thair*e* owne place
As thei were wont̄ alweye fro ȝere to ȝere
Seynt valentynis day to stonden there 322

(47)

That Is to seye the foulis of revyne
Were hiest sett and than foulis smale
That ete as thair*e* nature wold̄ enclyne
As worme or thing of quhich̄ I tell no tale 326
There wantit nouthir the grete nor the smale
Bothe watere foule / and sede foule on the grene
That so fele were þ*at* wond*er* was to sene 329

(48)

There my*gh*t men the royall Egle fynd*e* [leaf 146, back]
That with his scharp loke percis the sonne
And other eglēs of a lowere kynd*e*
Off quhiche clerkis wele deuise conne 333
There was the tirant with hir make the donne
The graye I mene the gose-hawk þ*at* dooth pyne
The birdis / for his outrage*us* rauyne 336

(49)

The gentel faucon þat with his feet distreyneth
The kynges honde the sper-hauke eke
The quayles foo the Emerlion that peyneth
hym self ful ofte the larke for to seke [leaf 125, back] 340
Ther was the dowue with her eyghen meke
The Ialous swan ayenis his deth þat singeth
The owle ek that of deth the bode bryngeth 343

(50)

The crane the geaunt with his trompes sown
The thef the choghe and eke the Ianglynge pye
The scornyng Iay the Egles foo heroun
The false lapwynke fuH of trecherie 347
The staar þat þe counseil kan by-wrye
The tame Ruddok & the coward kyte
The cok that Orlogge is of thropes lyte 350

(51)

The sparwe venus sone the nyghtyngale
That clepeth forth the fresshe leues newe
The swalwe morther of the fowles smale
That maken hony of floures fressh of hewe 354
The wedded turtle with hir herte trewe
The pecok with his aungelis fetheris bright
The Fesaunt scorner of the Cok by nyght 357

(52)

The waker goos the cokkow euer vnkynde
The papeiay ful of delicacye
The drake stroyer of his owne kynde
The storke wreker of aduowtrye 361
The hote Carmeraunt of glotonye
The rauenes and the crowes with her vois of care
The throstel oolde the frosty felde fare 364

(49)

¶ The IentiH Fawcone þat with his Feet distreyneth [leaf 48]
The kyngis honde the spere-hawke eke
The quailis Foo the Emerlioñ þat peyneth
Hym-silf FuH ofte . the larke for to seek 340
Ther was the dowfe / with here eyeñ meek
The Ielous Swañ ayens his deth þat syngith
The Owle eke that of deth the bode bryngith 343

(50)

¶ The Crane the geaunt with his trompis sowne
The theef the Chogh / and eke the Ianglyng pie
The scornyng Iay . the Egles Foo the Hairoun
The fals lapwynke FuH of trecherye 347
The stare that the CounceH cañ biwrie
The tame Puttok / and the coward Kite
The Cok that orloger is of thropis lite 350

(51)

¶ The Sparowe venus soñ the Nyghtyngale
That clepith forth / the Fresshe leues · newe
The Swalowe mordrer of the Fowlis smale
That makyñ of the Floures Fresshe and newe 354
The weddid TurtiH with here hert trewe
The Pecok with his aungelis Fethris bright
The Fesaunt scorner of þe Cok by nyght 357

(52)

¶ The wakir Goos / the Cokkowe euer vnkynde
The Popyngay FuH of delicacie
The drake stroyer of his owñ kynde .
The storke wreker · of Avowtrie 361
The hote Cormeraunt of Glotonye
The Ravenys & þe Crowes with her voice of care
The ThrustyH olde / the Frosty Feldfare 364

(49)

The gentill faucoñ þat with his feet distreyneth
The kingis hand / the hardy spere-hauk eke
The qualis foo / the merlioñ þat peyneth
him-self full oft the lark forto seke 340
There was the douue with hir eyen meke
The Ielouse swan before hir deth þat singis
The oule þat of the deth bodeworde bringis 343

(50)

The cran was eke there with his trumpis souñ
The thef the chow : and eke the Ianglyng pye
The scornyng Ia /. the eles fo herouñ
The lapwing als ay full of trecherye 347
The sterlyng þat the counsele can bewrye
The tame roddok . the coward kyte In fight
The cok þat orloge is to folk on nyght 350

(51)

The sparow venus sone the nyghtingale
That callis on thir fresche louers newe
The suallow murderere of thir foulis smale
That maks hony of flouris fresche of hewe 354
The weddit turture full of treuth ay trewe
The pacok with his angel fetheris bryght
The fesand scornere of the cok by nyght 357

(52)

The wakir gose the cukkow euer vnkynd
The papinIoy full of delicacye
The drake distroyer of his owne kynd
The stork wrekar of aduouterye 361
The hote gormawe full of glutonye
The rauenes crowes with thaire voce of care
The thrustill old / the frosty feldefar 364

(53)

What sholde I seyn of fowles eu*er*y kynde
That in this worlde han fetheres & stature
Men myght in þat place assembled fynde
By-for that noble goddes of nature 368
And ech of hem dide his besy cure
Benignely to chese or for to take [leaf 126]
By hir acord his formel or his make 371

(54)

But to the point nature held on hir honde
A formel Egle of shape the gentelleste
That eu*er* she among hir werkes fonde
The moost benigne and goodlieste 375
In hir was eu*er* ver*t*ue at his reste
So ferforth þat natur hir self hadde blysse
To loke on hir and ofte hir beke to kysse 378

(55)

Natur the viker of the almyghty lorde
That hote colde heuy light moyste and drye
hath knyt by euyne nombr of A-corde
In esi voys by-gan to speke and seye 382
Fowles take hede of my sentence I prey
And for your ese in fortheryng of yo*ur* nede
As fast as I may speke I wole me spede 385

(56)

Ye know weH how þat Seint Valentynes day
By my statut and thorow my gou*er*nau*n*ce
Ye come for to chese and fle yo*ur* way
wiþ yo*ur* makes as I pryke you w*ith* plesau*n*ce 389
But nathelees my rightful gou*er*nau*n*ce
May I naught lete for AH this worlde to wyn
That he that moost is worthy shaH be-gyn 392

(53)

¶ What sholde I sayn of Fowlis eu*er*y kynde
That in this worlde haue Fethirs & stature
Men myght in þat place . assemblid Fynde
Bifore that noble goddes of nature 368
And eche of hem did his besy cure
Benyngly to chese / or for to take .
By hir accord his FormeH or his make 371

(54)

¶ But to the poynt / Nature helde on hir honde
A FormeH Egle of Shapte the Ientelest
That eu*er* she amonge hire workis Fonde
The most benyngne / and the most goodliest 375
In hir was eu*er*y vertu at his rest
So Ferforth þat nature here-silf had lisse
To look on here / and ofte here beek to kysse 378

(55)

¶ Nature the viker of the aH-mygHty lorde [leaf 48, back]
þat hoot . Colde . heuy . light . moist . and drie
hath knytte by eueN nombre of Accord
In esy voice / bigaN to speke and saie 382
Fowlis take heede of my sentêns I praie
And for yo*ur* ease . in forthryng of yo*ur* nede
As fast as I may speke / I woH me spede 385

(56)

¶ Ye knoweN how that oN Seynt Valentynes day
By my statute and througH myN ordena*u*nce
ye come / for to chose / and Fle youre way .
WitH youre makis as I pryk w*ith* plesaunce 389
But natheles my righHfuH gou*er*na*u*nce
May not let / for aH þis wordle to wynne
That he þat most is worthy . shaH begynne . 392

(53)

Quhat schuld I seye of foulis of all kynde [leaf 147]
That In this world had fether*is* or nature
Men my*gh*t In that place assemble fynd
Before that noble goddesse of nature 368
And sche of thame did hir besy cure
Benignely for to chese or for to take
By thaire acord / thaire formale / or thaire make 371

(54)

Bot to the point nature held on hir hand
A formale egle / of schap the gentillest
That sche among all hir werk*is* fand
The most benigne / and the gudeliest 375
In hir was all vertewe soothly at rest
So ferforth þat nature hir-self had blisse
To loke on hir / and oft hir beke to kisse 378

(55)

Nature the vicare of almy*gh*ti lorde
That hote colde heuy and eke dreye.
has knet by evin mesure In acorde
In esy voce bigan to speke and seye 382
Foulis take hede to my sentence I preye
As for 3o*ur* ese In furthering of 3o*ur* nede
Als fast as I may speke I wole me spede 385

(56)

3e knowe wele þat seynt vale*n*tynes day
By my statut and by myn ordynance
3e cu*m*myn are to chese and flee 3o*ur* way
W*ith* 3o*ur* makes as I prik 3ow plesance 389
Bot natheles my ry*gh*tfull gou*er*nance
May I no*gh*t let for all this world to wyn
Ne he þat is most worthy schall begynne 392

(57)

The turcel[1] Egle as that ye knowen weH [1 *or* turtel]
The foule royal a-bouen you in degree
The wise and worthy secree trew as steel
The which I haue formede as ye may see
In euery part' as it best liketh me
It nedeth naught' his shap you to deuyse
he shal first' chese and speken in his gise

(58)

And after hym ordre shul ye chese [leaf 126, back]
After your kynde euerych as you liketh
And as your' hap is shul ye wynne or lese
But which of you þat loue moost entriketh
God sende hym hir that sorest of hym siketh
And ther-with-aH the tersel gan she caH
And seid my sone the choys is to the faH

(59)

But nathelees in this condicion [leaf 126, back]
Moot be the choys of euerych þat is here
That she a-gree to his Eleccion
who so he be þat shulde ben hir' fere
That is our' vsage alwey fro yer' to yere
And who so may at this tyme haue his grace
In blisful tyme he come in to this place

(60)

with heed enclyned and with ful humble cheer'
Thus roiaH tercel spak & taried nought
Vn to my souerayn lady and nought my fere
I chese and chees with wyl & hert' and thought
The formel on your' honde so wel I-wrought
whos I am al and euer wole hir' serue
Do what' hir lust' to do me lyue or sterue

(57)

¶ The TarceH Egle as þat ye knowen weH
The Fowle riaH. aboven you in degre.
The wise and worthy secre true as stele
The which I haue formyd as ye may see
In euery parte as it beste liketh me
It nedith not his shape you to devise.
he shaH first chese and speken on his gise

(58)

¶ And aftir hym by ordre shuH ye chese
Aftir youre kynde / euryche as you liketh
And as youre hape is / shaH ye wyn or lese
But which of you / þat loue most intriketh
God sende hym hire þat sorest for hym siketh
And ther-with-aH / the TarceH gan she caH
And said my son / the Choice is to the FaH

(59)

¶ But nathelees in this Condicion
Mote be the Chois of euerych þat is here
That she agree to his eleccion
Who so he be / þat sholde been here fere
This is oure vsage alwey fro yere to yere
And who so may. at þis tyme haue his grace
In blisfuH tyme he come. into this place.

(60)

¶ With heed enclyned and with fuH humble chere.
This RoyaH TarceH / spake / and taried nought
Vnto my souraign lady. and nought my fere
I Chees. and chese. with wiH hert and thought
The FormeH on youre honde so weH I-wrought
Whoos I am aH / and ever woH here serve
Do what here liste to do me lyve or sterve.

(57)

The tersell egle as 3e knowe all wele
The foule royall aboue 3ow In degree
The worthy wise secre & trewe as stele
The quhich I haue fore namyt as 3e may see
In eche partie as It best likith me
It nedis noght his schap 3ow to deuise
He schall speke first / and speke ryght on his wise

(58)

And aftir him by ordoure schall 3e chese [leaf 147, back]
Aftir 3our kynd euery as him likis
And as 3oure hap is // 3e schall wyn or lese
Bot quhich of 3ow / þat loue most Intertrikis
God send him hir þat sorest for hir sikis
And there with-all the tercell gan sche call
And seid my sone / the chose is to 3ow fall

(59)

Bot natheles on this condicion
Mote be the chose of all þat now is here
That sche agree to his election
Quhat so he be þat schal be hir pere
This is 3our vsage ay fro 3ere to 3ere
And quhoso may at this tyme haue the grace
In blessed tyme he come Into this place

(60)

With hede enclynit and with full humble chere
This royall tersell spak and taried noght
Vnto my souerane lady and noght my pere
I chese and aske[1] with hert will and thoght [1 *or* askis]
The formale on 3our hand so wele is wroght
Quhois I am all / and euer wole hir serue
Do quhat hir list with me to lyve or sterue

(61)

Bisechyng' hir of mercy and of grace
As she that is my lady souereyne
Or let me dye present in this place
For certes long' may I nat lyue in peyne
For in my herte is koruen euery veyne
hauynge rewarde oonly to my trouth̄
My dere hert' haue on my woo som̄ routh̄

(62)

And if I be founde to hir vn-trewe [leaf 127]
Disobeysaunt or wylful negligent'
Auauntour or in processe loue a newe
I pray to you this be my Iuggement'
That with̄ thise fowles y be al to-rent'
That ilke day that euer she me fynde
To hir' vn-trew or in my gilt' vn-kynde

(63)

And syn that noon loueth hir so wel as I
AH thow she neuer of loue me bi-hette
Than ought she myn thorugh hir mercy
Of other bond' kan I noon on hir' knette
For neuer for woo ne shaH I lette
To seruen hir how fer so that she wende
Sey what' you list' my tale is at an ende

(64)

Right as the fresshe rede rose newe
A-yein the somer sonne colourid' is
Right so for shame al wexen gan þe hewe
Of this formel whan she herd' al this
Neither she aunswerd' wel ne seid' a-mys
So soore a-bayst' was she tyl þat nature
Seide doughter drede not nought I you assure

(61)

¶ Besechyng' hir· of mercy and grace.
As she þat is my lady souer*aign̄*
Or lete me die present in this place [leaf 49]
For· certes longe may I not leue in payn̄
For· in myn hert / is corueñ euery vayn̄
Hauyng' only reward' to my trouthe.
My dere hert haue oñ my wo som̄ routhe

(62)

¶ And if I be Founde to her vntrewe
Disobeisaunt / or· wilfuH negligent
Avaunter· / or· in processe / love a newe
I pray to you / this be my Iuggement
That with this Fowlis / I be aH to-rent
That ilke day that euer she me Fynde
To hir· vntrue / or· in my gilte vnkynde.

(63)

¶ And synne þat nooñ louyth her· so weH as I.
AH-though̄ she neuer of loue me bihete
Than̄ ough̄t she / be myn̄ through̄ her· mercy
For· othir bonde can̄ I nooñ knette
For· neuer for· no woo ne shaH I lette.
To seruen here / howe ferre þat she wende
Sey what ye liste / my tale is at an̄ ende

(64)

¶ Right as the Fresshe rede rose newe
Ayeñ the somer sonne coloured' is.
Right so for· shame / aH wexen gan̄ þe hewe
Of this FormeH / wheñ she herde aH this
Neither she answerde weH / ne said' a-mys
So sore abasshed' was she / tiH / that nature
Seid' dough̄ter drede you not / I you assure.

(61)

Beseking hir of mercy and of grace
As sche that is my lady souereyne
Or lat me dye present In-to this place
For certes longere I may noght lyve In peyne
For In my hert is coruen euery veyne
hauyng eye ȝe blith̄ vnto my treuth
My dere hert' · haue of my wo sum reuth

(62)

And if I be founden to hir vntrewe
Disobeysant or wilfull negligent
Avantoure or by processe loue an̄ newe
I preye to ȝow this be my Iugement
That with thir foulis I be all to-rent
That ilke day þat euer sche me fynde
To hir vntrewe or In my gilt vnkynde

(63)

And syn þat noñ loueth hir so wele as I [leaf 148]
Al-be-it I neuer throu hir loue be bet
Than ought sche be mercifull trewly
For othir bond can I noñ on hir knet
ȝit neuer for no wo. I schall noght let
To seruen hir how fer so þat she wende
Sey quhat ȝow list / my tale is at an̄ ende

(64)

Rygh̄t as the fresche rede rose newe
Ageyne the somer sonne colourit is
Rygh̄t so for schame all change gan the hewe
Off this formale quhen þat sche herd all this
Nouthir ansuerd sche wele /. ne seid amys
So sore abaisit sche was / quhill nature
Seid doughter drede ȝow noght / I ȝow assure

(65)

A-nother tercel Egle spak a-non
Of lower kynde & seide that sholde nat be
I loue hir bet þan ye do by seint Ioħn
Or at the leste I loue hir as wel as ye
And leng*er* haue ser*ued* hir in my degre
And yif ye sholde haue loued for long louynge
To me allone hadde ben the guerdonyng

(66)

I dar ek sey if she me fynde fals
vn-kynde Iañlo*ur* or rebel any wise [leaf 127, back]
Or Ialous do me hongen by the hals
And but I bere me in hir seruyse
As wel as my wyt kan me suffise
Fro point in point hir hono*ur* for to saue
Take she my lif and al the good I haue

(67)

The thrid tercel Egle answerde tho
Now sires ye sen the litel leiser here
For euery foule cryeth out to beñ a-go
For wiħ his make or wiħ his lady dere
And ek hir self ne wol nought here
For tarying here nought half þ*at* I wolde sey
And but I speke I mote for sorowe dey

(68)

Of longe seruise auaunte I me no thyng
But as possible is me to dey to day
For wo as he that hath ben languyssing
This xx^ti^. wynter and wel happen may
A man may ser*u*en bet and more to pay
In half a yher al thoug*ħ* it wer no more
Than som man doo*ħ* that hat*ħ* serued ful yoor

(65)

¶ Añ other TarceH Egle spake anooñ
Of lowgher kynde / and saiđ þat sholđ not be
I loue here bette thañ ye doo by seynt Ioħn
Or at the leste I loue here as weH as ye
And lenger haue ser*uy*đ here in my degre
And if she sholđ haue loued for long louyng
To me alone hadde be the guerdonyng

(66)

¶ I dare eke say if she me Fynde fals
Vnkynde / Iangeloure or rebeH in any wise
Or Ielous / do me hangeñ by the hals
And but I bere me in here servise
As weH as any witt cañ me suffise
Fro poynt to poynt / hir honoure for to saue
Take els my lijf / and aH the good I haue

(67)

¶ The thirde TarceH Egle answerid thoo
Nowe syres ye se the litle leyser here
For euery Fowle crieth out to be a-goo.
Forth with his make. or *with* his lady dere /
And eek nature hir-silff ne woH not here [leaf 40, back]
For tareyng here / not half I woH seie
And but I speke / I mote for sorowe deie

(68)

¶ Of longe ser*u*ise avaunt I me no-thyng
But as possible is. me to die to day
For woo as they that beeñ languysshyng
This twenty wynter / and weH happyn may
A mañ may serveñ bette / and more to pay.
In halff a yere / aH-though it were no more.
Thañ soṁ mañ doth / þat hath ser*u*id FuH yore

(65)

Añ othir tersell egle spak anoñ
Off laware kynde. and seid that schuld noght be
I loue hir better than ȝe by seynt Iohne
Or at the leste I loue as wele as ȝe
And longer haue ser*u*it In my degree
And if ȝe schuld haue loue for long loving
To me had beñ al hole that guerdonyng

(66)

I dare als seyne / if þ*at* sche fynd me false
Vnkynd Ianglere or rebell any wise
Or gelouse I be hangit by the halse
And bot I bere me als In hir ser*u*ise
As wele as all my wittis can suffise
Fro point to point / hir hono*ur* for to saue
Take sche my lyf / and all the good I haue

(67)

The thrid tersell egle ansuerd In fay
Now siris ȝe see litill laisere here
For all thir foulis cryis out to be away
Forth *with* his make / or *with* his lady dere
And als nature hir-seluen wole nogħt here
For tarying / here half þ*at* I wold seye
And bot I speke / I mote for sorowe deye

(68)

Off long ser*u*ice auant I me nothing [leaf 148, back]
For als possible is to me to dye this day
For wo / as he þ*at* has had langwissing
Twise twenty winter / and wele happen may
A man may ser*u*e better / and more to pay
In half a ȝere / all-though It no more were
Than othir sum þ*at* haue ser*u*ed a ȝere

(69)

I ne sey nat this by me for I ne kan
Do no seruice that may my lady plese
But I dar sey I am hir trewest man
As to my doom and faynest wolde hir plese
At shorte wordes tyl þat deth me sese
I wol ben hires whether I wak' or wynk'
And trewe in aH that herte may bithynke

(70)

Of al my lyf' syn that day I was born)
So gentil plee in loue or oothir thyng'
Ne herde neuer no man me by-forn)
Who þat hadde leiser and konnyng'
For to rehersen hir' chere and hir spekyng' [leaf 128]
And from the morwe gan this speche last'
Tyl downward' wente the sonne wonder fast'

(71)

The noyse of fowles for to ben delyuered'
So loude rong' haue doon and lat vs wende
That wel wende I the wode hadde al to-shyuered'
Com of thei cryed' allas ye wolde vs shende
whan shal your corsed' pledyng' haue an ende
how sholde a Iugge eyther party leeue
For ye or nay withouten any preeue

(72)

The goos the doke and the cokkow also
So criden keek keek kokkow quek quek hie
That thorough myn eris the noyse went' tho
The goos seid' tho al þis nys worth a flye
But I can shape her of' a remedie
And wol sey my vordyt fair' and swith
For water foule who so be wroth or blith

(69)

¶ I ne say not this by me / For· I ne can
Doo no seruise / that may my lady pleese
But I dare say / I am here truest man
As to my dome / and Faynest wold' here pleese
Att short wordis tiH that deeth me seese.
I woH ben hires whedir· I wake or· wynke.
And true in aH / that herte may bethynke

(70)

¶ Of aH my life. syn þat day I was born
So gentiH plee in loue / or othir thyng'
Ne herde neuer no man me biforn
Who that hadde leiser· and kunnyng'
For to reherseh hir chere and here spekyng'
And from the morowe / gan þis speche last
TyH downward' went the sonne wondir / fast'

(71)

¶ The noise of Fowlis for to beeh delyuered'
So lowde ronge / haue dooh / and lete vs wende
That weH wende I / the wordle had aH to-shevered'
Come of they cride / allas ye woH vs shende
Wheh shaH youre cursed' pledyng haue ah ende.
Howe sholde a Iugge eyther· partie leve
For· ye or· nay with-outeh any preve.

(72)

¶ The goos the doke. and the Cokkowe also
So crideh keek keek. Cokkowe quek quek hie
That through myh eris. the noise went tho
The goos saicd thoo / aH this nys worth a Flie
But I can shape here of a remedie
And woH saie my verdite faire and swith
For· water Fowle who so be wroth or· blith

(69)

I seye noght this for me / for I ne can
Do no seruice þat may my lady plese
Bot I dare seye I am hir trewest man
As to my dome / and faynest wold' hir ese
At schort wordis / quhill þat the deth me sese
I wole be hirs quhethir I wake or wynk
And euer trewe In all þat hert may think

(70)

Off all my lyf syn day þat I was borne
So gentill plede of loue / or othir thing
There herde neuer no man me beforn
Quho þat had hadde laiser or connyng
For to reherse thaire chere and thaire speking
And fro the morow gan this plede ay last
Till dounward' went the sonne wonder fast

(71)

The noyse of the foulis to be deliuerit
So long rong'. haue doon / and lat vs wende
That wele wende I / the wod had all to-scheuerit
Cum of / they crye / allace ȝe wole vs schende
Quhan schall oure cursit plede cum to an ende
How schold' a Iuge athir partye leve
For ȝa. or nay /. withouten othir preue

(72)

The gose the doke / and the cukkow also
Cryed cukkow cukkow queke queke ȝe hie
The gose seid / this is nat worth a slo
Bot I can schape her'of / a remedye
And take It I preye ȝow for no vileynye
For I wole sey my verdict' faire and swithe
For watir foule quho-so be wroth or blithe

(73)

And I for wormfowle seid the fool kokkow
For I wol of myn owne auctorite
For *com*mune speed take on me the charge now
For to delyueren vs is grete charite
Ye may a-bide a while yet pardee
Quod the turtyl if it be your wiH
A wyght may speke hym were as be stiH

(74)

I am a seedfowle oon of the worthiest
That woot I weH and liteH of konnyng
But bett*er* is that a wightes tonge rest
Þan entremette hym of swicH doynge
Of swicH he neither rede kan nor synge
And who so it dooth ful foule hym self acloyetH
For office vn-co*m*mytted ofte noyetH

(75)

Nature whicH Þat aHwey hadde an ere [leaf 128, back]
To murm*ur*e of the lewednesse by-hynde
With facond voys seide holde yo*ur* tonges there
And I shal soone I hope a counsel fynde
Yow for to delyueren & from Þ*is* noyse vnbynde
I. iugge of euery flok men shaH oon calle
To seyn the voirdyt for you fowles alle

(76)

Assented wer to this conclusioñ
Þe briddes al & the foules of rauyne
han chosen first by pleyn eleccion
The tercelet of the Faucoñ to defyne
AH hir sentence and as hym list to termyne
And to nature hym gonnen to p*re*sente
And she accepteth hym with glad entente

(73)

¶ And I for wormefowle . said the Fole Cokkowe .
For I woH of myñ owñ auctorite
For comeñ spede / take on me the charge nowe
For for to delyu*er*e vs . is grete charite
ye may abide a while / yett parde
Quod the TurtiH / if it be youre wiH
A wigHt may speke / hy*m* were as good be stiH

(74)

¶ I am a seed Fowle ooñ of the worthiest [leaf 50]
That wote I weH / and litle of konnyng
But bettir is that a wight*es* tunge rest /
Theñ entirmete hy*m* of suche doyng
Of whicH he / neider rede cañ ne synge
And who so it dotH FuH fowle hy*m* silf acloyetH
For office vn-commyttid ofte anoyetH

(75)

¶ Nature whicH that aHwey had añ ere .
To mormor of the lowdenesse be-hynd*e*
W*ith* Facunde voice said / holde yo*ur* tungis there
And I shaH sone I hope / a CounceH Fynde
Yowe to delyu*er*en / and fro*m* the noise vnbynde
A Iuge of eue*r*y Folke men sholde ooñ caH
To seyeñ the verdite for you Fowlis aH

(76)

¶ Assentid were to this Conclusioñ
That briddis aH and Þe Fowlis of Raveyne .
Hañ choseñ first / by playñ eleccioñ
The Tarcelet of the Faucon to dyuyne
AH here sentens as hym̃ liste to termyne
And to nature hem̃ gonneñ to p*re*sente .
And she acceptitH hym̃ w*ith* gladde entent

(73)

And I for worm̃ than seid the foule cukkow [leaf 150; *lf.* 149 *has been moved to leaf* 16, *its proper place.*]
For I wole of my*n* owne auctoritee
For com*m*oñ spede / tak on me the charge now
For to deliu*er* vs In charitee
Ȝe may abide ȝit a quhile p*ar*dee
Quod the turture if Þ*at* It be ȝo*ur* will
A wight may speke / him were als fair*e* be still

(74)

I am a sede foule one of the vnworthiest
That wote I wele /. and litill of co*n*nyng
Bot better It is / a wight his tong rest
Than inte*r*mett him of suich a doing
Of quhiche rede ne can he no*gh*t / nor sing
He Þ*at* so dois vnwisely him promovis
For office vnco*m*mytt oft-tyme amovis

(75)

Nature Þ*at* had alweyis one ere
To murmur*e* of the lewednesse behynd*e*
With faucoñ voce seid hold ȝo*ur* tongis there
And I schall soon I hope a counsele fynd*e*
ȝow to delyu*er* // and fro this noise vnbynd*e*
A Iuge of ilke foule me*n* schall ordane
To seye the verdict of ȝow foulis Ilkane

(76)

Assented was to this conclusioñ
The birdis all /. and the foulis of revyne
haue chosin first the pleyne electioñ
The tercellet of the faucoñ to deuyne
All thair*e* sentence and as him list t*er*myne
And to nature thai gan him soon p*re*sent
And sche acceptith him w*ith* good entent

(77)

The tercelet seid' than in this maner'
FuH harde were it' to preuen it by reson
who loueth beste þis gentyl formel here
For eu*er*ych hath swich repplicacion 536
That by skeles may noon be brought' a-down
I can nat sen that argumen*tes* auaille
Then semeth it' ther' moste be bataille 539

(78)

AH redy quod thise Egeles tercels[1] tho [1 *or* tertels]
Nay sires quod he · if' þat I dorst' it seye
Ye don me wrong' my tale is nat I-do
For sires taketh naught a greef I prey 543
It may naught as ye wolde in þis wey
Oures is the voys þat han the charge i*n* hande
And to þe iugges doom ye moten stande 546

(79)

And ther-for pees I sey as to my witte
Me wolde thynke hou þ*at* the worþiest'
Of knyghthode and lengest had vsed' it [leaf 129]
Moost' of' Estate of blood the gentilest' 550
were sittyng for hir if that hir lest'
And of this thre she wote hir self' I trow
Which þat' he be for it is lyght to knowe 553

(80)

The water fowles han hir' hedes leide
To-gidr' and of short' auysement'
Whan eu*er*ych had his large golee seide
They seiden sothely aH by oon assent' 557
hou þat þe goos with hir faconde gent'
þat' so desireth to p*ro*nounce our' nede
Shal teH oure tale and preide to god hir' spede 560

(77)

¶ The Tarcellet said' thañ in this man*ere*
FuH harde it were / to preven it by reasoñ
Who louyth beste / this IentiH FormeH here
For· eu*er*yche hath suche replicacioñ 536
That skilles may noon be brought a-douñ
I cañ not seyñ / that argumentis availe
Than semyth it ther most be bataile. 539

(78)

¶ AH redy q*uo*d thise Egles Tarcelles two.
Nay seres q*uo*d he / if that I durst it saie
ye dooñ me wronge / my tale is not I-doo
For Seres take nought agreef I praie 543
It may nought / as ye wolde in this waie
Oures is the voice / that haue þe charge oñ honde
And to the Iuges dome / ye mote stonde / 546

(79)

¶ And therfore pees I say as to my witte
Me wolde thynke howe that the worthiest
Of knyghthode / and longest had vsed itte
Most of estate / of blode the Ientelest 550
Were sittyng' for· here / if that here liste.
And of thise thre / she wote hir·-silf I trowe
Which that he be / for· that is light to knowe. 553

(80)

¶ The water· Fowles hañ hir· hedis leide
To-gedir / and of shorte avisement
Whеñ eu*er*ych hadde his large golee said' [leaf 50, back]
They saideñ sothly aH by ooñ assent 557
howe þat' the Goos / w*ith* here Fauconde gent
That so desireth to pronounce oure nede
ShaH teH oure tale and p*raid'* to god here spede. 560

(77)

The t*er*cellet seid In this manere
Full hard were It to preue as by resoñ
Quho loueth best this gentill formale here
For eu*er*y of 3ow hath suich replicacioñ 536
That by skillis may no*gh*t be bro*gh*t adouñ
I can no*gh*t see þ*at* argume*n*t*is* may auaille
Than semyth It þ*at* here most be bataille 539

(78)

All redy q*uo*d the t*er*cell egle / wele paid [leaf 150, back]
Nay sires q*uo*d he / if þ*at* I durst seye
3e do me wrong'. my tale is no*gh*t all said
For sires noñ agreue him here I preye 543
It may no*gh*t gone as 3e wold*e* In this weye
3our*is* is the voce þ*at* haue the charge In hand*e*
And to the Iuges dome 3e mote all stand*e* 546

(79)

Ther-fore I seye after my folye wit
Me wold*e* think how þ*at* the worthiest
Of kny*gh*thede /. and longest had vsit It
Most of estate / of blood the gentillest 550
Were best sitting for hir / if þ*at* hir lest
And of thir thre / sche wote hir self I trowe
Quhiche þ*at* he be // for It is eth to knowe 553

(80)

The watir foulis haue their*e* hedis leide
To-gid*er* /. and of schort avisement
Quhan eu*er*ichone his large gule seide
They seid schortly all by one assent 557
How þ*at* the gos*e* with hir faucoñ gent
That so desir*is* to p*ro*nounce oure nede
Schall tell our' tale /. I preye to god hir spede 560

(81)

And for thise water foules tho by-gan
The goos to speke and in hir talkyng⁽
She seid pees now take kepe euery man
And herkeneth which̄ a reson̄ I shal forth̄ bryng⁽ 564
My wit is sharp I loue no tarying⁽
I sey I rede hym though̄ he wer̄ my brother
But she wyH loue hym lat hym loue A-nother 567

(82)

loo her̄ a *per*fit reson̄ of a goos
Quod tho the sp*er*hauke neu*er* mote she thee
loo swich̄ it is to haue a tonge loos
Now pardee fool yit wer̄ it best⁽ for the 571
haue holde thy pees þan shewed̄ thy nycete
It lithe naught⁽ in his wit⁽ nor in his wyH
But sooth is seide a fool kan naught⁽ be styH 574

(83)

þe laughtre aroos of gentil fowlis aH
And right anon̄ the seed foules chosen̄ hadde
þe turtyl trew & gan hir̄ to hem caH
And preyden hir̄ to sey the sooth sadde 578
On this mater̄ and asked what⁽ she radde [leaf 129, back]
And she a*un*swerde þat pleynly hir̄ entente
She wolde shewe and soothly what⁽ she mente 581

(84)

Nay god forbede a louer sholde chaunge
The turtyl seide and weex for shame al rede
Theigh̄ that his lady eu*er* more be straunge
yet lat hym s*er*ue hir eu*er* tyl he be dede 585
For soth̄ I preyse nought the gooses reed
For they she deide I wolde noon oother make
I wol ben hirs til þat the deth̄ me take 588

(81)

¶ And for⁽ thise watirfowlis tho bigan̄
The goos to speke. and in kakelyng⁽
Sche said̄ pees / nowe take kepe eu*er*y man̄
And herkenyth̄ which̄ a reson̄ I shaH forth̄ bryng⁽ 564
My witte is sharp*e* I loue noo tareyng⁽
I say I rede hym̄ / though̄ he were my brother
But sche woH loue hym̄ / late hym̄ love a-nother 567

(82)

¶ loo here a parfite resou*n* of a Goos
Quod tho the Sperhawke neu*er* mote she the
loo suche it is to haue a tunge loos
Nowe parde FooH. yit were it bett for the 571
Haue holde thy pees / than shewed̄ thy nycete
It lieth nough̄t in thy witte nor⁽ in thy wiH
But soth̄ is said̄ / a FooH can not be stiH 574

(83)

¶ The lawgh̄ter aroos. of gentiH Fowlis aH
And righ̄t anon̄ the seed̄ Fowlis chosen̄ hadde
The TurtiH true / and ganne to hem caH
And praiden̄ here to seie the soth̄ sadde 578
Of this mater / and asked̄ what she radde
And she answerd̄ / that playnle here intent
She wold̄ shewe and soth̄ly what she ment 581

(84)

¶ Nay god forbede. a louer⁽ Chaunge ⁽
The TurtiH said̄ and wex*e* for shame aH rede
Though̄ þat his lady. eu*er*more be straunge.
Yit lete hym̄ s*er*ue hir eu*er*more / tiH he be dede 585
Forsoth̄ I preise not the goos his rede.
For⁽ þough̄ she̅ died̄ I wold̄ noon othir take
I woH be heres tiH þat þe deth̄ me take / 588

(81)

And for the watir foulis she began
The gos*e* to speke Into hir hie keklyng
She seid pes now / taketh hede eu*er*y man
And herknyth suich a reson̄ I schall forth bring 564
My wit is schort⁽. I loue no tarying
I seye I rede him / al-though he were my brothir
Bot she loue him / lat him go loue añ othir 567

(82)

Lo here a p*er*fyte reson̄ of a gos*e*
Seid the spere-hauk neu*er* mote sche thee
For so It is / to haue a tong louse
Now p*ar*dee foole / It had ben̄ bet for the 571
haue holden the pece than told̄ thy nycetee
It lik*is* no*ght* In his wit nor In his will.
Bot sooth is seid / a foole can no*ght* be still 574

(83)

The laughter roos amang the foulis all [leaf 151]
And ry*ght* anon̄ the sede foulis chosyn had
The turtur trewe /. and gan hir to thame call
Preying hir to seye the soth sad 578
Off this matere /. and asked quhat sche rad
And sche ansuerd̄ þ*at* pleynly hir entent
She wold̄ schewe tham̄ platly quhat þ*at* she ment 581

(84)

Nay god forbede þ*at* a lou*er* schold change
The turtur said /. and wox for schame all rede
Though his lady be eu*er* to him strange
ȝit lat him s*er*ue eu*er* quhill he be dede 585
For sooth I preis*e* no*ght* the gos*e* rede
For though sche dye I wole non̄ othir make
I wole be hirris quhill the deth me take 588

(85)

Wel bourdede quod the doke by my hat
That men sholde alwey louen causeles
Who can a resoñ finde or wyte in that
Daunceth he murye þ*at* is murthelees 592
Who sholde recch of þat is rechelees
Ye quek' the dok' ful wel and faire
Ther' ben mo sterres god woot þan a paire 595

(86)

Now fy cherl quod the gentyl turcelete[1] [1 *or* turtelete]
Out' of the donghiH com þ*at* worde fuH ryght
Þou canst' naught se whicħ þyng' is weH by-sett'
Thou farest by loue as oules don by lyght 599
The day hem blent' ful wel þey see by nyght
Thi kinde is of so lowe a wrecchednesse
Þ*at* what' loue is þ*o*u canst nei*þer* see ne gesse 602

(87)

Tho gan the cokkow put hym forth in prees
For foule that eteth worm and seid*e* blyue
So I quod he may haue my make in pees
I recch*e* naught how longe þ*at* ye stryue 606
lat ecħ of hem be soleyn) al hir' lyue
This is my rede syn they may nat a-corde
This shorte lesson) nedetħ naught recorde [leaf 130?] 609

(88)

Ye haue the glotou*n* filde ynough his paunch̄
Than ar we wel seide the Emerlon)
Þou mortherer of þe heysugge on þe braunch̄
Þ*at* brought the forth þ*o*u rewfuH glotон) 613
lyue thou soleyn wormes corrupcion)
For no force is of lakke of thy nature
Go lewde be þ*o*u while the worlde may dure 616

(85)

¶ WeH bourdid q*uo*d the Dook be myn̄ hatte
That meñ shold' loue alwey causeles
Who cañ a resoñ fynde / or' witte in that
Dauncitħ he mery that is myrthelees 592
Who sholde reche of that is rechelees
Ye queke queke / said' þe doke / fuH wele & faire
Ther beeñ moo sterris god wote thañ a paire 595

(86)

¶ Nowe Fye Chorle quod the Tarcellet
Out of þe donghiH come þ*at* word' fuH righ̄t
Þou canst not see whicħ þing' is weH be-sette
Þou farist by loue / as Owlis dooñ by ligh̄t / 599
The day hem blent / fuH wele þei see be nygh̄t [leaf 51]
Thy kynde is of so lowe a wrecchidnesse
Þ*at* what loue is þou canst neider se ne gesse. 602

(87)

¶ Thoo gañ the Cokkowe put hym̄ forth̄ in pees
For' Fowle þ*at* etith̄ worme / and said*e* blyve
So I quod he may haue / my make in pees
I recche not howe longe that ye stryve. 606
late eche of hem̄ be soleyñ aH here lyve
This is my rede / syñ þei may not accord*e*
This short lessoñ nedith not' record*e* 609

(88)

¶ Ye haue the glotoñ filled' I-nough̄ his paunche
Theñ ar we weH / said' the Emerloñ
Thowe mortherer of the heisugge / on the braunche
That browgh̄t the Forth̄ / thowe rewfuH glotoñ 613
leve thowe soleyne wormys corrupcioñ
For' no fors is of lacke of thy nature
Go lewde be þou / while þe wordle may dure / 616

(85)

Wele bourdit said the duke be my hat
That a man shuld' alweye loue causeles
Quho can resoñ or wit fynd' In-to that
Dansis he merily þ*at* is mirthles 592
Quho schuld' rek of him þ*at* is reuthles
ȝa · queke queke / ȝit seid the gos*e* wele & faire
Ther' is mo sterris In the list than a paire 595

(86)

Now fy cherll q*uo*d the gentill tercellet
Out of the donghill / com̄ that word full ry*gh*t
Thou cam no*gh*t se quhat thing is wele beset
Thou far*is* by love / as oulis do by sight 599
The day thame blyndis / full wele thai se by ny*gh*t
[1]So far*is* thou and othir mo þ*at* I knowe [1 *From here to the end cannot be Chaucer's.*]
Now sitt doun̄ cherll apon the rebald' rowe 602

(87) [*Spurious.*]

Orpes orpes sires seid the cok
And gan to crowe as loud as he were wood
I haue seven loues seid he in my flok
And all ar they douteles ry*gh*t of one brood' 606
And ȝit I durst lay wed my hat and hood
And I were absent fro thame hour*is* xj
I schuld*e* be cokwold' of thame all sevyn 609

(88) [*Spurious.*]

The nyghtgale with his noble notis newe [leaf 151, back]
The roddok the thres*e* /. and als the papin-Iay
Vpon thir louer*is* thei gan full sore rewe
And all thai said / for sorowe welaway 613
That eu*er* we schuld' abide this wikkid day
For to here thir louer*is* thus defamyt
And losingeour*is* escape away vnblamyt 616

(89)

Now pees quod natur' I comaunde her'
For I haue herde al your oppynyon'
And in effect' yet be we neu*er* the ner'
But fynally this is my conclusion'
That she her self' shaH haue hir' eleccion'
Of whom hir list' who so be wroth̄ or blith̄
Hym þat she cheest he shal hir' han as swith̄

(90)

For sith it' may nat here discussed be
who loueth hir best' as seid' þe tercelet
Than wole I don this fau*our* to hir that she
Shal haue ryght hym on whom hir hert' is sette
And he hir þat his herte hath̄ on hir knette
This Iugge I nature for I may nat lye
To noon estat I haue noon oother' eye

(91)

But as for conseil for to chese a make
If I were resoun than wolde I
Conseille you the roial tercel take
As seide þe tercelet' ful skylfully
As for the gentylest' and moost' worthie
which̄ I haue wrought' so wel to my plesaunce
That to you it ought' to beñ A suffisaunce

(92)

with̄ dredeful vois the formel hir añswerd' [leaf 130, back]
My ryghtfuH lady goddes of nature
Sooth is þat I am eu*er* vnd*er* your' yerde
As is eu*ery*ch̄ other creature
And moste be youres while my lif' may dure
And þer-for graun*t* me my first' boone
And myn entent' you wol y sey right soone

(89)

¶ Nowe pees q*uo*d nature I co*m*maunde here
For· I haue herde aH youre oppinioñ
For· in effect yit be we neu*er* the nere
But / fynally this is my conclusioñ
þat she hir-selfe shaH haue hir· eleccioñ
Of whom̄ hir· lest / who so be wroth̄ or· blith̄
hy*m* þat she chest / he shaH here hañ as swith̄

(90)

¶ For· sith̄ it may not here discussed be
Who louyth̄ here beste as said' the Tarcellet
Thañ woH I dooñ this Favoure to hir / þat she .
ShaH haue right hym̄ / on whom̄ her· hert is sett'
And he hir· / that his hert hath̄ oñ here knett
This Iuge I nature / for· I may not lie
To nooñ estate / I haue nooñ othir ye

(91)

¶ But as for CounceH for to chese a make .
If I were resoñ thanne wolde I
CounceH you the RoyaH TarceH take
As said' the Tarcellet fuH skilfully .
As for· the gentilest' and most' worthy .
Which̄ I haue wrought so weH to my plesaunce
That to you it ought to ben a suffisaunce .

(92)

¶ W*ith* dredfuH voice the FormeH here answerid'
My right̄fuH lady . goddesse of nature
Soth̄ is þat I am̄ eu*er* / vnder yo*ur* yerde
As is euery othir Creature
And must be yo*urs* / while my lif may endure
And þ*er*fore graunt me my first bone
And myn̄ intent I woH you shewe / right sone /

(89) [*Spurious.*]

[1]The pacok w*ith* his angell fether*is* bry*ght* [1 *Chaucer's, l.* 356]
Ry*ght* to nature he nomyt the ry*ght* way
And seid my sou*er*eyne lady ȝe vs hight
For to deliu*er* vs this samyn day
And here is nothing bot stryf ȝa· or nay
And thus on forse we mote for-soth̄ hens*e* wend*e*
And of oure causis make no goodly end*e*

(90) [*Spurious.*]

Bot as me think trewe In-to my wit
As throu record*e* of ȝo*ur* owen beheste
That all foulis þ*at* here abidis ȝit'
Als wele the most In his degree as leste
That here to this assemble at ȝo*ur* requeste
Ar cu*m*myn now to tak ȝo*ur* ordynance
Quhat nedis ȝow than to mak more distance

(91) [*Spurious.*]

Bot lat the gentill Egle first begynne
As worthiest foule / and most of dignitee
And by gud' auise his lady wynne
And than lat othir aftir of less*e* degree
And soon schall we her'of' añ end' see
Off all the causis of our' hid*er* co*m*myng
Than may we flee echone to oure logeing

(92) [*Spurious.*]

Nature bate on hir lip and sche smylit'
And wond*er* wele ther-of sche was apaid'
And tho*gh*t the pacok had ry*gh*t wele ysaid'
And his wordis were ry*gh*t wele enfilit
I wole no long*er* said sche / ȝe be delayd'
Go to· now ech̄ foule / and chese his chance
God graunt þ*at* loue ȝow all In fere auance

(93)

I *gra*unt it you quod she and right a-noon
This formeH Egle spakꝰ in this degree
Almyghty quene vn-to þis yherꝰ be dooñ
I aske respitꝫ for to avisen me
And after þat to haue my choys al free
This al and som þ*at* I wolde speke & seye
Ye gete namore aH-though ye do me deye

(94)

I wol nought s*er*uen venus ne Cipride
For soth as yet by no manerꝰ wey
Now syn it may noon otherꝰ weies betyde
Quod nature here is namore to sey
Thañ wolde I that thise fowles werꝰ a-wey
Ech̄ with his make for taryinge lenger here
And seide hem thus as ye shal after here

(95)

To you spek I ye tercelett*es* quod nature
Beeth̄ of good hert and s*er*ueth̄ al thre
A yerꝰ is nat so longꝫ to endure
And ech̄ of you peyne hy*m* in his degre
For to do weH for god wote quyt is she
For you this yherꝰ whatꝫ after so by-faH
This entremees dressedꝺ fro you aH

(96)

And whañ þis werke al wrought was to an ende
To euery foule Nature yaf his make
By euen a-corde and on hir wey þey wende
And lordꝺ the blysse and ioy that they make [leaf 131]
For ych̄ of hem gan oother in wynges take
And w*ith* hir nekkes ich̄ gan oother wynde
Touchyngꝫ alwey the noble goddes of kynde

(93)

¶ I graunt it you q*uo*d she / and righ̄t anooñ [leaf 51, back]
This FormeH Egle / spake in this degre
AH-mygh̄ty Quene / vnto this yere be dooñ
I aske respite forꝰ to avise me
And after þat to haue my choise aH Fre .
This is aH & some / þat I woldꝺ speke & saie
Ye gete no more aH-though̄ ye do me deie

(94)

¶ I woH not seruen Venus norꝰ Cupide
Forsothe as ȝhit by no man*er* weye
Nowe syñ it may . nooñ othir-wise be-tyde
Quod nature here is no more to seye
Thañ wolde I þat þise Fowlis were awey
Eche with his make . forꝰ tareyngꝫ leng*er* here
And saidꝺ hem̄ thus as ye shaH aftir here .

(95)

¶ To you speke I the Tarcellettis q*uo*d nature
Beth̄ of good hert and seruyth alle thre
A yere is notꝫ so longe to endure .
And eche of you / payn hym in his degre
For to do weH / forꝰ god wote quite is she
For you þis yere / what aftir so befaH
This entir-mese . is dressidꝺ fro you aH

(96)

¶ And wheñ werk aH wrough̄t was to añ ende .
To euery Fowle nature yaf his make .
By euen accordꝺ and on here wey they wende
And lorde the blisse . and ioye / that they make
For eche of hem̄ / gañ othir in wyngis take
And with̄ here nekkis eche gañ othir wynde .
Thankyngꝫ aHwey the nouble goddes of kynde .

(93) [*Spurious.*]

The melodye þ*at* there was thame amangis [leaf 152]
Quhan þ*at* thei scholde ches*e* ilke foule his make
Sum piked him / sum proyned / sum song songis
Eu*er*ich̄ foule for his owne ladies sake
Eche foule his love there gan take
To loue and s*er*ue alwey fro ȝere to ȝere
And neu*er* morꝰ to change his lady dere

(94) [*Spurious.*]

Quhan nature sawe þ*at* all was ry*gh*t wele done
And eche foule hath chosin hir his make
Vp sche aroos without drede than anoñ
And grete solace sche bigan to make
And there-with-all / hir leue than gan sche take
And all the foulis þ*at* were there p*re*sent
Quhat weye þ*at* sche passitꝫ . toke I na tent

(95) [*Spurious.*]

The foulis flawe aweye . as they were wilde
By two and two /. and no*gh*t by one allone
Sum flaw to forest /. and als sum flawe to feild*e*
And in a thrawe there was no*gh*t levit one
Off grete and smale / bot all were forth gone
Sauf an*er*ly añ oule þ*at* hie gan ȝout
Was leuit behindꝺ than of all that rout

(96) [*Spurious.*]

I walkit homewardꝺ all In full grete tho*gh*t
Quhan this said assemble was all furth went
That conuocacioñ forȝet I no*gh*t
I studyit ay on It In my*n* entent
Till my wittis almost therꝰwith werꝰ schent
Till at the last trewely as god It wold*e*
My*n* old*e* boke aȝeyne I gan beh-old*e*

(97)

But first' were chosen fowles for to singe
As yere by yere was alway hire vsaunce
To singe a rounde at hir departynge
To do nature honoure and plesaunce
The note I trowe makid was in fraunce
The wordes were swich as ye may here fynde
The next vers as I now haue in mynde

[*No extra break in the MS.*]

(98)

And with the showtynge whan her' songe was do
That foules made at her flight a-way
I woke and other bookes toke me to
To rede vp-on and yet y rede alway
I hope I-wis to rede som day
That I shal meete som thyng' for to fare
The bette and thus to rede I nyl not spare

e xplicit tractatus de Congregacione volucru*m* die S*anc*ti valentini

(97)

¶ But First' were chosen Fowlis for to synge .
As yere by yere / was alwey here vsaunce .
To synge a roundeH at hir departynge
To do nature honoure and plesaunce
The note I trowe / made was in Fraunce .
The word*es* were suche / as ye may here Fynde .
The next vers . as I nowe haue in mynde ·

[*Roundel turned into a stanza, and spoilt.*]

¶ NoWe weH-come some*r* w*ith* thy sonne softe
That hast this wynter wedirs ouer-shake
Seynt Valentyne þat art FuH hie on lofte
Hast drevyn awey / the longe nyghtis blake .
Thus syngen smale Fowlis for· thy sake
Sith eche of them recou*ered* hath his make
FuH blisfully they synge / and endles ioy þei make .

(98)

¶ And with the showtyng' / When here songe was done
That Fowlis made / at here Flight awey .
I woke / and othir bokis toke me too
To rede vpon / and 3hit I rede alwey
I hope I-wis to rede so some day
That I shaH mete some thyng for to fare
The bettir· / and thus to rede I woH not spare /

¶ Explicit .

¶ Here endith the parlement' of Fowlis .

(97) [*Spurious.*]

[1]For out of olde feildis as men seis
[1]Cummys all this new corn fro 3ere to 3ere
[2]And out of olde book*is*[2] quho thame viseis
[3]Cummys all this new science þat men now lere
Thus begi*n*nis and endis this matere
[6]The lyf so schort the craft so long to lere
To full connyng I can no*gh*t cum /: suppose I rede all 3ere

Here endis the p*ar*liament of foulis
*Quo*d Galfride Chaucere

[1] Chaucer's : lines 22, 23. [2–2] Chaucer's : part of l. 24.
[3] Chaucer's : l. 25. [6] Chaucer's : l. 1.