A Passage in "Salomon and Saturn"

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The impossible 'O.E. *spīder*' given in most English dictionaries is, as was duly pointed out in the *Oxford English Dictionary*, due to a mistake of Cockayne's. He prints (*Leechdoms* III, 42, in a charm) 'Her com ingangan in spider wiht,' but the MS. has clearly *inspidenwiht*. There is some appearance of an erasure in the *n*, but the letter cannot possibly have been *r*, and Cockayne's translation, 'a spider wight,' does not suit the context. The words are clearly corrupt, but no satisfactory emendation has occurred to me.

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A PASSAGE IN 'SALOMON AND SATURN.'

The prose *Salomon and Saturn* is printed in Thorpe's *Analecta Anglo-Saxonica*, p. 110 seq. In answer to the question, what are the eight pounds by weight called, of which Adam was made? Solomon is made to say: 'fifte wæs gyfe pund, þanon him wæs geseald se fat and geðang.' Kemble (*Ælfric Society* no. 13), in a text so incorrect that it can hardly be taken from the MS., reads 'se fæt and gepang,' and translates: 'the fifth was a pound of grace, whence were given him his fat and growth.' Bosworth-Toller, relying on and quoting only this passage, has: 'Gepang, *growth*.' I do not know how the mistake arose, or how fat came to be regarded as a product of grace, presumably a by-product (as in Mr Chadband); but the MS. (Cotton Vitell. A. xv, the Beowulf MS.) has quite clearly and unmistakably: 'fifte wæs gyfe pund, þanon hym wæs geseald sefa 7 geðang' (the fifth was a pound of grace, whence was given to him mind and thought). I lay stress on the perfect legibility of the text, because *sefa* is regarded as a word belonging entirely to the poetic vocabulary.

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TWO PASSAGES IN BALE'S 'JOHN, KING OF ENGLAND.'

Act I, ll. 450-8.

It cannot escape remark that in the lengthy note entitled 'Religions,' given by Mr John S. Farmer in his edition of Bale's *King John* (*The Dramatic Writings of John Bale*: Early English Drama Society), which