Fifteenth Century Carols and Other Pieces

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FIFTEENTH CENTURY CAROLS AND OTHER PIECES

THE manuscript of which the contents are here printed, St John's College, Cambridge, S. 54, is a single quire of paper of fourteen leaves, measuring $5\frac{3}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$ in. Originally it probably had sixteen leaves, but now wants the first and last: ff. 13 and 14 are fragments.

The manuscript is of Cent. XV (second half), and has its original parchment wrapper. The second cover is so prolonged as to wrap the manuscript round completely. It would travel comfortably in the pocket or wallet, and looks as if it had been folded into half its size. It seems to have been presented to the College by Thomas Baker. The letter B in a modern hand is on f. 1. There seems to be other indication of provenance.

The book is written apparently in two, if not three, different hands:

A, a small neat script, f. 1, ll. 1—3, perhaps the first half of f. 2 a, ff. 3 b—4 b, 7 b—10 a, 12 a—14 (i, 1—4; iii; vii, 1—viii, 39; xii, 5—xv, 18; xix ff.); B, large and irregular, f. 1 from l. 4, ff. 2—3 b, 4 b—7 b, 10 a—11 b; the first three lines of 3 a are more roughly written and may be in a third hand. The transcript is careless and the spelling bad: in parts also the writing is faded and difficult to read. There is no punctuation and none has been attempted here; but some emendations of the text have been made, the manuscript readings being given in the foot-notes. The expansion of contractions is indicated usually by italics, but it has not been thought necessary so to distinguish the cases where 'and' is represented by an abbreviation. In the notes at the end of the text some of the difficulties are dealt with, but others must remain unsolved.

[I]

f. 1 a
y^e borys hed haue we in broȝht
lok ȝe be mery in herte and thoȝht
quod he y^t all y^s worlde has wrowt
saue ȝow and eke me

[II]

Of X and M and oyir too

Of I and E I syng all so

X for *cristys* hym selfe was dyth

As clerkys redyn in story ryth

Qwan X and M w^t word was lyth

To saue us fro y^e fendys [feng]

M be gynnyth a gloryos name

Mary moder w^t owtyn fane

Qwan X and M was borne in same

Oure goy be gynnyth to spreng

10

Of E I wyll syng [yer 3ete]

On *cristys* cross y^t letre was sette

f. 1 b

qwan X and E to geyir mette

M and E in herte was woo

I begynnyth y^e name of Ion

qañ X upon y^e rode was done

M and I stod styll alone

And hys postyllys went hym fro

y^{eis} iiij letrys worchippe (?) we all

for *crist* was borne in ox stalle

20

to bryng us fro y^e dewlys all

w^t hys w.....kles

[III]

f. 2 a

Nowell nowell ell ell

I wys yt ys a wunder nowell

Jhesu restyd in a may

xl wekys and a day

yer fore I may syng and say

Nowell ell ell

At y^e feste of architriclyn

Crist turnyd watyr in to wyn

And yer fore xalle y^{is} song be myn

Nowell ell ell

10

II, 5 wrod. 6 for y^e fendys flyth. 11 3 yed. 18 wnet hym for.
19—22 *These four lines are struck out and not altogether legible.* 21 for.

Ihesu asse y^u art hewyn kynge
 Grawnt *vus* alle yⁱ dere blyssynge
 hosyll and schrift at owre endynge
 Nowell ell ell

[IV]

A A A A
 gaude cely domina

Mary myld for loue of y^e
 Glad and blythe now may we be
 I 3ow telle os 3e may see
 Tua *quinque* gaudia

y^e fyrst Ioy y^t was sente y^e
 was qwan *gabryelle* gret y^e
 and seyde mary of chastite
Efficieris Grauida

10

y^e second Ioy it was full good
 qwan crist of y^e toke flesch and blode
 w^t outyn synne w^t myld mode
Enixa est puerpera

f. 2 b

y^e iij Ioy was of grette myth
 qwan *crist* was on y^e rode dyth
 dede and beryd for oure ryyth
Surrexit die tersia

y^e iiij Ioy was on [holy Thurs]day
 qwan *crist* to hewyn toke y^e way
 God and man y^s is oure say
Ascendit supra scidera

20

y^e v Ioy in y^e gan lyth
 qwan y^u were in hewyn w^t him dyth
 All holy chyrche y^u hast in myth
 In tua potencia

III, 13 schirft.
 19 on day. 26 I.

IV, 2 gaudet.

8 grabryelle.

13 mede.

18 de.

[V]

A dere god qwat I am fayn
 for I am madyn now gane
 y^s endyr day I mete a clerke
 and he was wyllly in hys werke
 he prayd me w^t hym to herke
 and hys cownsell all for to lene

I trow he cowd of gramery
 I xall now a good kyll wy
 for qwat I hade sicculy

To warne hys wyll had I no may

10

qwan he and me browt nuus (?) y^e schete
 Of all hys wyll I hym lete
 Now wyll not my gyrdyll met
 a dere god qwat I xall say

f. 3 a

I xall sey to man and page
 y^t I haue bene of pylgrymage
 Now wyll I not lete for no rage
 w^t me a (?) clerk for to pley

[VI]

A A A A

salue caterina

lystyn lordyngys qwatte I xall sey
 A grette maruell tell I may
 Of a louely medyn tell I may
 salue caterina

Of god *grace* sche was full wys
 Sche was qweryd in hyr dewys
 Of all dottys y^t were so wys

Wundyr marwelys be godys *grace*
 y^r is no woman in y^{is} plase
 A woman is y^e of *grace*

10

Thorow y^e *prayer* of sent cataryne
 God send us a hows twyl in
 y^t wordy lady and bryth and schene

V, 3 euery.
 4 maruiell.

8 go^d.
 6 caterria.

10 no] mo.
 15 schne.

VI, 2 caterria.

3 lordygnys.

f. 3 b Y^r sche in fyre was done
 Sche brent nere here nere hone
 Sche stod in hewen anone

[VII]

I may syng and sey I wys
 Gre mercy my owne [purse]
 In euery plas qwere y^t I wende
 My purse is my owne frende
 y^r for gladly may I syng
 Gre mercy my own purse

Qwere so euer I goo in lond
 My purse is redy at my hond
 y^r for y^{is} is a redy song

vt *supra*

10

Qwere so I walke be y^e way
 My purse xall help me all vay
 y^r for may I syng and say

vt *supra*

If I be out in y^e cuntre
 And my purse be far fro me
 yañ most I on beggyng fle
 And far xall go and letyll xall haue

And 3e wol w^t fellechyp won
 Tay 3oure purse in 3ore bosom
 yan may I well my song vowyn
 [Gre mercy my own purse]

20

[VIII]

f. 4 a Lullay lay lay lay
 my dere modyr lullay
 As I me lay y^{is} endyres nyth
 All on my loue lokyng
 Me thouth I saw a semyly syth
 A mayn cradyll kepyng
 lullay

VI, 18 sted. *At the end of this piece is written the line, 'Qwan crist was borne,'*
a false beginning of IX. VII, 21 yan I may I.

y^e modyr wold w^t outyn song
 A slepe here chyld to bryng
 y^e chyld hym thoȝth sche dyd hym wrong 10
 And bad hys modyr syng
 lullay

Syng now modyr seyð y^e chyld
 Qwat xall of me be fall
 here after qwan I com of age
 so chuld y^o moderys all
 lullay

ffor euery modyr sekyrly
 y^t can here cradyll kepe
 sche most syng lullay 20
 To bryng here child on slepe

Swete modyr seyð he
 Sethyn y^t it is so
 I pray ȝou y^t ȝe roke me
 And sum qwat sey y^r to

f. 4 b

Swet son seyð sche
 Qwere of chyld xuld I syng
 Wot I neuer more be y^e
 yan of Angyll gretyng

he grett me gladly on kne 30
 he seyð heyle mary
 full of grace god is v^t y^e
 yⁿ xalte bere mercy

I wondyr gretly in my thouȝth
 ffor man knew I non
 Mary he seyð drede y^e noȝth
 let god all mythy alone

y^t holy gost xall do all y^{is}
 Yow he be owt of won
 And xall haue ... Manys blys 40
 Goddys owne son

VIII, 27 xald.

28 Wost.

be se y^e.

29 A Angyll.

Now knele we downe all iij in fere
And offyr to y^{is} derlyng dere
Gold foree and rekyls clere

and myre al so

40

and myre al so in tokenyng
y^t he is ueri man and kyng
Soffarond prins ouyr all thyng
oon and no moo

for holy wryth bere wyttene al so

An angell warnyd hem in here slepe
y^t y^{ei} xuld hem for herowyd kepe
y^{ei} thankyd god w^t deuocion depe

and hom y^{ie} wente

and hom y^{ie} wente on here Iornay

50

quan y^r of herowd hard say

he seyde alas and welaway

for I am schente

y^{is} chylde he wyll my kyndam hente

f. 6 a

y^e rerowd was both wode and wroth

w^t mekyll Ire he mad hys othe

y^t all y^e londe it xulde be loth

y^t he was borne

y^t he was borne y^t xuld be kyng

he dyde to doo a spythfull thyng

60

to slee chyldryn both elle and 3yng

in bedlem borne

w^t in ij wyntrys y^r beforne

y^e chyldryn sprongyld an y^e sperys

y^e moderys wept ful bytyr terys

y^t herowd dyd hem gylteles derys

y^t fend so felle

y^t fend so fell fowle mut hym befalle

y^t y^{us} y^{eis} chyldryn martyryd all

On to marie we gye and calle

70

to scheld us from y^e pyth of helle

y^{re} in blys well

IX, 39 Glod. 46 selpe. 50 Iornoy. 51 y^{ie} of.
57 *This line is placed after l. 59 in the MS.* 61 3yng] thayng.
66 gylte les. 70 marte. 71 schend us ferm.

52 he] y^e.
63 before.

[X]

f. 6 b

Lollay lay lay lay my dere modyr lullay
Lullay my chyld

A chyld ys born e wys
y^t all y^{is} word xall blys
hys joy xall neuer myse
for Ihesu ys hys name

On y^e good ȝowe morne
y^e blysfull chyld was borne
to were a crown of thorne
vt *supra*

10

Of a madyn so good
he toke both fleche and blod
for us he deyde up on y^e rode
vt *supra*

Of a medyn so trew
he toke both fleche and hewe
for us he deyde on a tre
vt *supra*

on y^e estern morn all blyth
he ros fro deth to lyue
to make us all blyth
vt *supra*

20

f. 7 a

On y^e good fryday at non
to y^e deth he was done
for us he deyde on tre
vt *supra*

[XI]

pray we to oure lady .dere for here holy grace
Sche saw y^{eis} women all bedene
both for sorow and for tene
Madys and wyuys and weduys in weme
all be y^{ei} fayre in face

X, 19 mon.

20 for.

XI, 1 oure] ȝoure.

3 fro.

Women be both good and hend
Clen curteys cumly and kend
Yche a cumpany is wele amende
yf a woman be in a plase

Of a woman com all oure blys
y^r for I loue hem all I wys
qwo so euer seyth on hem amys
be god he gawyd in hys face

Were a man in sore syynge
A woman xall hym out bryng
And w^t a kys lesse hys mornyng
and sette hym in solace

7 b y^{ies} men arne falce fekyll in tho3th
 women be wood y^t trow hem howt
 for welle y^{ie} hote and hold it noth
 but spek in here song

derē lady to yⁱ son yⁿ pray
 he synd y^{eis} women os he wylle may
 for false men y^t downe hym tray
 y^t y^{em} sene he neuēr in face

[XII]

Now ys y^e xij day com
Fadyr and son dy gydyr wone
y^e holy gost w^t hem is nowme
in fere
God send us all a gud new 3er
I xall 3ow syng thoro hys my3ht
Of a chyld y^t is so fayr of sy3ht
a mayd hym bare of cristynmes ny3ht
so styl
as ya was hys wyll

f. 8 a iij kyngys y^r cum of galily
 y^e cum toward bedlem iude
 hym to sek and to se
 Be ny3ht
 y^t was a semly sy3ht

XI, 8 cupany. amede. 16 mornyg. 25 y^{en}. XII, 3 hym.

As yei cum w^t yer offryng
 y^e mete w^t Erawd y^t mody kyng
 he hasked hem of here cummynge
 y^t syd
 and yus tyll hem he sayd

20

fro qweyre cum 3e kynges iij
 owt of y^e est as 3e may se
 to seke hym y^t euer xall be
 of my3ht
 lord prince kyng and kni3ht

I pray 3ow lordys all iij
 qwan 3e haue y^t chyld se
 y^t 3e cum ageyn be me
 and telythe
 qwere y^t fayr chyld dwellyth

30

kyng herawd we wyll not lete
 as yⁿ hast seyde yt xall be sete
 we cum ageyn w^t owte lete
 and tell
 qwer y^t fayr chyld dwell

f. 8 b

qwan he had seyde hys lykyng
 Syr herawd y^t mody kyng
 and forth y^e wente w^t y^r offryng
 Be ny3th
 ye stere gaue hem ly3ht

40

be y^e stere y^t schon so bry3ht
 y^e iij kyngys tok wey ful ry3ht
 Be y^e hape of y^t chyld so bry3ht
 Thoro grace
 to y^t holy place

qwan yei^e cum to holy place
 y^r Ihesu and hys moder was
 yi^e offryd to hym w^t grete solace
 infer
 golde encens and myrrre

50

XII, 25 kni3ht.

all y^{ei} wer both blythe and glade
 qwan y^{ei} hade her offryng made
 as y^e holy gost hem bad
 and dedyn
 worschype god *and* redyn
 qwen y^e lordyngys wer wente
 y^e chylde an angell from hevyn sente
 to y^e kyngys y^t mad presente
 or day
 to tech hem y^e waye

60

f. 9 a

my lord warnyth 3ow euery chone
 y^t non of 3ow be herowde gone
 for yf 3e don 3e xall be slone
 and stroy
 and do 3ow mekyll noye
 Thoro y^e my3ht of god verrey
 y^e kyngys tokyn anodyr away
 owt yei cum or yt was day
 full ry3ht
 home yei cum y^t ny3ht

70

[XIII]

fadyr my wyll yt is
 nolo mortem peccatoris
 ffadyr I am yⁿ owyn chylde
 and born of mary meke and mylde
 fadyr now my wyll yt is
 nolo mortem peccatoris
 My hert is sore qwan I be thynk
 and se mene trespas and in syn synk
 for all y^t is done amyse
 nolo mortem peccatoris
 yⁿ falce fend w^t all y^t slente
 y wyll no more man kynde be schente
 Of hem yⁿ getyst no ry3ht ywys
 vt *supra*

10

XII, 51 blytxhe.

Now mak we both ioy and myrtht
 In worschyp of cristys owyn byrtht
 y^s is goddys owyn word ywys
 vt supra

[XIV]

f. 9 b

War y^t war y^t war y^t wele
 Wemen be as trew as stele

Stel is gud I sey no *odyr*
 So mowun women be kaymys brodyr
 ylk on lere schrewdnes at *odyr*
 women be os trew as stele

Stel is gud in euery knyfe
 So kun y^s women both flyte and stryfe
 Also yei cun ful wele lye
 women vt supra

10

Stele is gud in euery nedyll
 So be y^s women both falce and fekyll
 and os yer a...wyne ryght brytyll
 vt supra

Stele is both fayr and bryght
 So be y^s women be candyl lyght
 And som wyll both flyte and fyght
 vt supra

Stel is gud in lond and watyr
 So cun y^s women both *den* and flatyr
 and ȝyt for ned to play y^e faytur
 vt supra

20

[XV]

Ay ay be y^s day
 y wyll mak mery qwyll y may

Qwyll mene haue her bornys full
 y^r of y thynk my *parte* to pull
 for to...for y^e kyngys wolle
 y^t may both selye and be my fey

XIV, 13 *partly illegible.*

f. 10 a for be yt werre or be yt pece
 for we may yt be neuer ye les
 lete hem sytte on y^e hye dese
 To *serue* hem in hys may 10

Me thynk y^s word is wonder wery
 and fadyth as y^e brymbyll bery
 y^r for y wyll now but be mery
 how long I xall y can not sey

Syrs and 3e do *after* me
 Car 3e not thow y^t 3e the
 Now y red do aftyr me
 for Iak rekles is my name

[XVI]

Now Ihesus rector *anime*
 ne cademus sustine

God y^t all y^{is} word has wro3th
 And w^t *precius* blod hath both
 Of us synfull men haue thouthe
 ne cademus sustine

y^u arth lord y^t mad all thyng
 for all *grace* is in yⁱ gouyrnyng
 y^u saue us fro y^e fendys fowndyng
 defensor *noster domine* 10

We haue iij enmys qwen y^t we wende
 y^e werd y^e fendys and y^e flesch
 y^u saue us fro hem y^t we not schende
 Incidiantes deprime

In all 3oure leue wyll are here
 we haue here wo trauyll and care
 mete drynke *and* cloth we haue no more
 pro *nostro graui opere*

XV, 13 büt.	XVI, 3 wrod.	8 gouynyng.	9 fre.	13 y ^u] y ^t .
schede. 16 hire.	17 dryke.			

f. 10 b

[XVII]

Nowell

y^{is} word is falce I dare wyll say
 and man xall fade as dose hay
 for as a flour it fallys away
 tunc non ualebit corpore

tell me sothe qwo so canne
 qwan he hys dede qwat is he than
 qwere se 3e eny ryche dede man
 reuela mihi hodie

yⁿ plesyst hym both nyth and day
 and knele to serue hym wyll to pay 10
 he may not hym a good word say
 cum operitur puluere

hys secutourys w^t oute lete
 3ow be myth...ouer sette
 y^{ei} sey he ouyt so mykyll dette
 non potest solui integre

qwan he is closyd in hys graue
 yan is he y^r he may not craue
 Os he haue done so xall he haue
 oblitus paruo tempore 20

And y^r for man or yⁿ hens wende
 dele yⁱ good w^t yⁱ honde
 And thynke wyll dede man haue no frond
 tu miserecis anime

f. 11 a

lord 3yf us grace so to do here
 y^t qwan we are broch on bere
 yⁿ take oure sole y^t yⁿ both dere
 pendens alto arbore

and gyfe us grace so to spende
 y^t god y^t yⁿ on to us sende 30
 y^t we may sey at oure last end
 laus summo regule

XVII, 6 qwat his he wan.

20 praue.

27 y take.

31 3oure.

[XVIII]

A newyr a newyr y^e chyld was borne
fadyr of hewyn hys owyn son haue sende
hys [kyngdom] for to clemyn

y^s chyld was borne y^{is} endyr nyth
vus for to saue w^t all is myth
so blyssyd be tyme a newyr

y^e chyld was borne y^{is} endys day
All of a clene madyn as *zur* tell may
so blyssyd [be] fadyr of hewyn *tur*

All of ane madyn *our* lord was borne 10
All for to wyn y^t Adam had forlorn

Lullay my letyll chyld my own swete seynt
[Man]y scharp schourys xall yⁱ body hent

f. 11 b lullay lay letyll chyld my own suete foode
how xall I suffyr yⁱ fayre body forto be rent on rode

lullay lay letyll chyld we owth myrthys to make
for many scharp schoures xall yⁱ body schake

lullay lay letyll chyld we out to mak myrth
And so out euery cristen man to worchyp yⁱ byrth

blyssyd be y^e modyr y^e chyld bare about 20
And so be y^e modyr y^e chyld gaue soke

blyssyd be y^e moder y^e chyld cam to
Benedicamus domino
so blyssyd be y^e tyme

[XIX]

f. 12 a Nowell nowell ell ell
I pray 3ow lystyn qwat I 3ow [tell]
Ouer all gatis that I haff gon
Amonge y^e grovys so fayer and grene
So ffayer a brownch yan know I non
As Ivy ys and that I mene

XVIII, 9 hewe. 10 mad madyn. 17 schape. XIX, 2 *a word torn*
away at the end of the line.

Ivy ys grene and wyl be grene
 Qwere so euer a grow in stok or ston
 y^{er} ffore I red 3ow so mut I cheue
 3e loue well Ivy eueryschon 10

I xall 3ow tell a reson quy
 3e xall low Ivy *and* thynk no chame
 y^e ffyrst lett^{re} begynnyth w^t I
 and ry3ht 3evyn so Ihesus name

y^e second lett^{re} ys a V
 I lykyn to Awmihty wyffe
 Modyr sche ys and maydyn trewe
 Non but on I y^t euer bare lyffe

y^e thred lett^{re} is an e
 I lykyn to emanuell 20
 That is to sey cryst w^t *vus* be
 And euer more ffor to dwell

f. 12 b As I lay in my bed alone
 A comely lady sent to me
 And be bad me rede y^{eis} lettrys eueryschon
 and all y^e bettre xuld I be

All how holy be 3oure ffonn
 And wilde ... towch w^t tray and tene
 Me...of Yvy xall hym ouer gonne
 And ffayer burdys ouer be twene 30

Ouer all gatys that I have gone
 Among y^{eis} grouys ffayer and grene
 I have be wery son anon
 My botte sche was y^t Ivy tre

yus yus Ivy ffull ffayer I gan spelle
 So ffayer a brawnch know I non
 I pray 3ow tent qwat I 3ow tell
 And love well Ivy eueryschon

XIX, 8 agrow. 14 ry3h. 19 and. 38 eueryschon.

[XX]

f. 13 a Women ben good ffor lo ...
 that sit above
 In evyn yer sitte a lady ...
 Of all women sche ...
 Women to loue yt y ...
 Women to loue ...
 To loue women ...
 Women to loue ...
 Women xall In ...
 Day nye nyth ...
 Womenys crip ...
 I wys I hold ...
 That of no w ...
 Women to good
 Women ben goo ...
 Women to us ...
 Women to lo ...

10

f. 13 b ... I wasche 3e and goo to met in honest
 ... 3e xall se
 ... blyshe 3our mete
 ... o 3e be
 ... fest be ganne
 ... e both god and man
 ... wasche

 vt supra
 ... is no nay

 vt supra
 ... y^e blod

 ... 3^u good

 ... ke on me
 vt supra

- f. 14 a qwan 3e haue was ...
 My pasche ...
 y^t I furssyd ...
 loke at y^e
 to sytte at ...
 in hewne ...
 so to w ...
 y^t we m ...
 a and ...

NOTES

- I This is presumably the last stanza of a piece which was written mainly on the first leaf.
- II 5 Perhaps we should read 'Qwan X in to y^e word was lyth,' 'When Christ descended into the world.'
 6 *feng* (clutches) satisfies the sense and the rhyme. The scribe frequently writes 'for' instead of 'fro.'
- IV This piece occurs also (with variations) in MS. Balliol 354 (ed. Dyboski, No. 29) and in Wright's *Songs and Carols* (Percy Society, 1847), No. LIX.
 1 The other copies have 'gaude,' which is obviously the true reading.
 9 Ball. MS. 'And sayd Hayle Mary in chastite.'
 19 The other copies have 'on holy Thursday.'
- V The text of this piece is so corrupt that it is hopeless to attempt to restore it.
 6 *lene*, conceal (= 'laine'). Perhaps this is the rhyme throughout the stanzas and we ought to read 'mayn,' 'sayn,' 'pleyn.'
- 18 *me a*. The MS. reading is uncertain here.
- VI 8f. 'She was questioned in her conversation by all the doctors,' &c.
 10—15. These two stanzas seem to be in a very bad condition.
- VII A different version is given by Wright, *Songs and Carols* (1836), No. IV, and several other pieces occur with the same refrain.
- VIII 33 Read 'wondryd.'
 38 *Yow*, i.e. *Though*.
- IX 2 *os bryth* [*os lem*], 'as bright as flame.' The line is incomplete in the MS. For 'lem,' cp. MS. Balliol 354 (ed. Dyboski, No. 1, l. 13):
 'Forth they went by þe sterres leme
 Til they com to mery Bethelem.'
 7 *unchond*, perhaps for 'unchende' (= 'unkende'), i.e. unnatural, strange. Or a misspelling for 'unconde,' unknown.
 39 *foree*, probably for 'free,' i.e. abundant.
 43 *Soffarond*, i.e. sovereign.
 55 Read perhaps 'y^r erowd.'
 70 Read perhaps 'crys and calle.'
- XI 21 *song*] Both rhyme and sense fail here.
- XII Also in Wright, *Songs and Carols* (1847), No. XLIII, and elsewhere.
 10 Wright, 'As it was hys will.' Perhaps read 'yt' for 'ya' here.
 11 Originally 'kyngys of coleyn y^r cum,' but 'of coleyn' appears to be struck out, and certainly ought to be so.
 19 y^t *syd* corresponds to 'That tym' in Wright's text. Apparently 'syd' is for 'syth.' But the version found in MS. Harl. 541 has 'this tyde,' and 'tyd' may be the true reading here.
 63 Read 'he xall 3ou slone.' Wright, 'he wol 3ow sclon.'

- XIV 8 ff. *y^e women*, 'these women,' i.e. women generally.
 13 Illegible.
 20 *den and flatyr*, perhaps 'scold loudly and flatter'; 'den'=din.
- XV 5 f. Not easy either to read or to explain.
- XVI, XVII are perhaps one piece, but they are separated by the word 'Nowell' at the beginning of the new page, and the second does not read quite as a continuation of the first. This form of stanza occurs frequently with a Latin tag or refrain.
- XVI 9 *fowndyng*, temptation.
- XVIII Cp. Wright, *Christmas Carols* (Percy Society, 1841), No. VII.
 3 'The word 'kyngdom' is supplied from Wright's text. Here a word is torn away.
 9 'So blessed be the father of heaven's tower.'
- XIX 9 *so mut I cheue*, 'so may I thrive.'
 14 Read perhaps, 'And rysht begynnyth so.'
 16, 20 *I lykyn*, i.e. 'ilike.'
 27 ff. This stanza is partly illegible and seems to give no satisfactory meaning, but is apparently a reference to the old strife between ivy and holly.
- XX The ends of the lines and the lower part of the leaf are torn away. So on f. 13 b the beginnings of the lines are lost, and again on f. 14 a the ends. On f. 14 b there are a few words only.

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