

HENRISONE'S FABELN.

(Fortsetzung und schluss.)

[43 b] VIII. The preiching of the Swallow.

1.

The hie prudence, and wirking meruelous,
The profound wit of god omnipotent
Is sa perfite, and sa ingenious,
Excellent for all mannis jugement. 1625
For quhy to him all thing is ay present,
Richt as it is, or ony tyme salbe,
Befoir the sicht of his diuinitie.

2.

Thairfoir oure saule with sensualitie
So fetterit is in presoun corporale, 1630
We may not cleirly vnderstand, nor sie
God, as he is, nor thingis celestiall.
Oure mirk and deidlie corps naturall
Blindis the spirituall operation,
Like as ane man war bundin in presoun. 1635

[44]

3.

In metaphisik Aristotell sayis,
That mannis saule is like ane bakkis ee,
Quhilk lurkis still als lang as licht of day is,
And in the gloming cumis furth to fie;
Hir ene ar waik, the sone scho may not se: 1640
Sa is oure saule with fantisie opprest,
To know the thingis in nature manifest.

4.

For god is in his poware infinite,
And mannis saule is febill and ouer small,
Of vnderstanding waik and imperfite, 1645

VIII. 1625 *L* Excelland. 1627 *L* sall be. 1631 *L* nor se. 1633 *L*
corps materiall, *MC* = *H*. 1639 *L* cummis — fle. 1641 *L* phantasie.
1643 *L* power. 1645 *L* unperfite.

To comprehend him that contenis all.
 Nane suld presume, be reasoun naturall,
 To seirche the secreities of the trinitie,
 Bot trow fermelie, and lat all ressoun be.

5.

Yit neuertheles we may haif knowleging 1650
 Of god almichtie, be his creatouris,
 That he is guid, fair, wyse and beninge;
 Exempill tak be thir jolie flouris,
 Richt sweit of smell, and plesand of colouris,
 Sum grene, sum blew, sum purpours, quhite and reid, 1655
 This distribute be gift of his godheid.

[44^b]

6.

The firmament paintit with starnis cleir,
 Frome eist to west rolland in cirkill round,
 And euerie planet in his proper spheir,
 In moving makand harmonie and sound. 1660
 The fyre, the air, the watter, and the ground
 Till vnderstand it is aneuch, I wis,
 That god in all his werkis wittie is.

7.

Luik weill the fische that swymmis in the se;
 Luik weill in eirth all kynd of bestiall; 1665
 The foullis fair, sa forcelie thay fle,
 Scheddand the air with pennis grit and small;
 Syne luik to man, that he, maid last of all,
 Lyke to his image and his similitude:
 Be thir we knaw that god is fair and gude. 1670

8.

All creture he maid for the behuif
 Of man, and to his supportatioun,
 In to this eirth, baith vnder and abuif,
 In number, wecht, and dew proportioun;
 The difference of tyme, and ilk seasoun, 1675
 Concordand till oure oppertunitie,
 As daylie be experience we may se.

9.

[45] The somer with his jolie mantill grene,
 With flouris fair furrit on euerilk fent,
 Quhilk Flora, goddess of the flouris quene, 1680
 Hes to that lord as for his seasoun lent,

1647 *L* None — ressoun. 1649 *L* lat dirk ressounis be. 1652 *L*
 gude — wyis — bening. 1653 *L* takis. 1654 plesant. 1657 starnis.
 1659 everilk. 1664 Luke. 1671 Creatoures — behufe. 1673 abufe.
 1676 opportunitie. 1678 of grene.

And phebus with his goldin bemis gent,
Hes purfellit and payntit plesandly,
With heit and moysture stilland frome the sky.

10.

Syne heruest hait, quhen Ceres that goddes, 1685
Hir barnis benit hes with abundance;
And Bachus, god of wyne, renewit hes
The tume pypeis in Italie and France,
With wynis wicht, and liquour of plesance;
And copia temporis to fill hir horne, 1690
That neuer wes full of quheit, nor vther corne.

11.

Syne winter wan, quhen austerne Eolus,
God of the wynd, with blastis boreall,
The grene garment of somer glorious
Hes altorent and revin in peeis small; 1695
Than flouris fair, faiddit with frost, man fall,
And birdis blyith chaingit thair noitis sweet,
In still murning, neir slane with snaw and sleit.

12.

[45 b] The dailis deip with dubbis drounit is,
Baith hill and holt heillit with frostis hair; 1700
And bewis bene laifit bair of blis,
Be wickit windis of the winter wair.
All wyld beistis than, frome the bentis bair,
Drawis for dreid vnto thair dennis deip,
Couchand for cauld in coifis thame to keip. 1705

13.

Syne cumis ver, quhen winter is away,
The secretar of somer with his seill,
Quhen columbie vpkeikis throw the clay,
Quhilk flet was before with froistis fell.
The maueis and the merle begynnys to mell; 1710
The lark on loft, with vther birdis haill,
Than drawis furth ouer derne, ouer down and dail.

14.

That samyn seasoun, in to ane soft morning,
Richt blyith that bitter blastis wer ago,
Vnto the wod, to se the flouris spring, 1715
And heir the maueis sing and birdis mo,
I passit furth, syne luikit to and fro,

1684 from. 1685 Harvest. 1686 beinit. 1687 Bacchus. 1694 gar-
mont. 1695 all to rent. 1696 faidit — mon. 1701 bene are laifit.
1703 from. 1706 cummis. 1708 columbine. 1709 befor with frostis
feill. 1711 small *statt* haill. 1717 lukit.

To se the soill, quhilk was richt seasonable,
Sappie, and to resaue all seidis able.

15.

[46] Mouing thus gait, grit mirth I tuik in mynd, 1720
Of lawboraris to se the besines,
Sum makand dyke, and sum the pleuch can wynd,
Sum sawand seidis fast, frome place to place,
The harrowis hoppand in the saweris trace:
It wes grit joy to him that luifit corne, 1725
To se thame labour, baith at evin and morne.

16.

And as I baid vnder ane bank full bene,
In hart gritlie rejoisit of that sicht,
Vnto ane hege, vnder ane hawthorne grene,
Ot small birdis thair come ane ferlie flicht, 1730
And doun belyif can on the leifis licht,
On euerie side about me quhair I stuid, —
Richt meruelous, ane mekle multitude.

17.

Amang the quhilkis, ane swallow loud can cry,
On that hawthorne hie in the crope sittand: 1735
'O ye birdis on bewis heir me by,
Ye sall weill knaw, and wyselie vnderstand,
Quhair danger is, or perrell apperand;
It is grit wisdom to provide befoir,
It to deuoid, for dreid it hurt yow moir'. 1740

18.

[46^b] 'Schir swallow', quod the lark agane, and leuch,
'Quhat haif ye sene, that causis yow to dreid?'
'Se ye yone churle', quod scho, 'beyond yone pleuch,
Fast sawand hemp, and gude linget seid? 1745
Yone lint will grow in litill tyme indeid,
And thair of will yone churle his nettis mak,
Vnder the quhilk he thinkis ws to tak.

19.

'Thairfoir I reid, we pas quhen he is gone,
At evin, and with ourre naillis scharpe and lang,
Out of the eirth scrape we yone seid anone, 1750
And eit it vp, for gif it growis, we sall
Haue caus to weip heirefter ane and all.

1718 *L* und *MCI* soyll that wes richt sessonabill. 1719 *L* resaif, abill.
1728 greitlie rejoisit. 1729 hedge, *s. v.* 1781. 1732 stude. 1733 me-
kill. 1735 croip. 1737 wyislie. 1738 appeirand. 1739 wisdom. 1749
scharp and small. 1750 scraip.

Se we remeid thairfoir with instante,
Nam leuius ledit quicquid praeuidimus ante.

20.

'For clerkis sayis, it is not sufficient, 1755
To considder that is before thine ee,
Bot prudence is ane inwart argument,
That garris ane man prouide and forese,
Quhat guid, quhat euill is liklie for to be,
Of euerie thing behald the finell end, 1760
And swa fra perrell the better him defend'.

21.

[47] The lark, lauchand, the swallow this couth scorne,
And said: 'scho fischit lang before the net,
The barne is eith to busk that is vnborne;
All growis not that in the ground is set; 1765
The nek to stoup, quhen it the straik sall get,
Is sone aneuch; deith on the fayest fall'. —
Thus scornit thay the swallow ane and all.

22.

Dispysing thus hir helthsum document,
The foullis ferlie tuik thair flicht anone, 1770
Sum with ane bir thay braiddit ouer the bent,
And sum agane ar to the grene wod gone.
Vpon the land quhair I was left allone,
I tuik my club, and hamewart couth I carie,
Swa ferliand, as I had sene ane farie. 1775

23.

Thus passit furth quhill june that jolie tyde,
And seidis that war sawin of beforne,
Wer growin; [he] that hairis nicht thame hide,
And als the quailze craikand in the corne;
I mouit furth betuix midday and morne, 1780
Vnto the hedge vnder the hawthorne grene,
Quhair I befor the said birdis had sene.

24.

And as I stuid be auenture and cace,
The samyn birdis as I haif said yow air,
I hope, becaus it was thair hanting place, 1785
Mair of succour, or yit mair soliter,
Thay lichtit down; and quhen thay lichtit wair,

1753 furthwith instante, *MCl* foorth with instante. 1756 befor.
1758 foirse. 1759 gude. 1760 Of everilk thing even at the finall
end. 1762 *L* und *MCl* thus. 1764 bairne. 1770 tuke. 1771 braidit.
1778 he fehlt in *H*, *L* hat dafür heich; *MCl* hie; *s. v.* 1796. 1783 *L* stude.
1785 *L* hoip. 1786 solitair. 1787 war.

[47^b] The swallow swyth put furth ane pietious pyme,
Said 'wo is him can not be war in tyme!

25.

'O, blind birdis! and full of negligence, 1790
Vnmyndfull of your awin prosperitie,
Lift vp your sicht and tak guid aduertence,
Luik to the lint that growis on yone le,
Yone is the thing, I bad forsuth, that we,
Quhill it was seid, suld rute furth of the eird, 1795
Now is it lint; now is it he on breird:

26.

'Go yit, quhill it is tender, [young] and small,
And pull it vp, let it na mair incres.
My flesche growis, my bodie quaikis all;
Thinkand on it, I may not sleip in peis.' — 1800
Thay cryit all and bad the swallow ceis,
And said, 'yone lint heirefter will do gude,
For linget is to litill birdis fude.

27.

'Me think, quhen that yone lint-bollis ar ryip,
To mak ws feist, and fill ws of the seid, 1805
Magre yone churle, and on it sing and pype.'
'Weill', quod the swallow, 'freindis hardlie beid;
Do as ye will, bot certane sair I dreid,
[48] Heirefter ye sall find als sour, as sweit,
Quhen ye ar speildit on yone carlis speit. 1810

28.

'The awner of yone lint ane fouler is,
Richt cawtelous and full of subiltie,
His pray full sindill tymes will he mis,
Bot gif we birdis all the warrer be;
Full mony of oure kin he hes gart die, 1815
And thoct it bot ane sport to spill thair blude,
God keip me fra him, and the halie rude'.

29.

Thir small birdis haueand but litill thoct
Of perrell, that nicht fall be aenture,
The counsell of the swallow set at nocht, 1820
Bot tuik thair flicht, and furth to gidder fure;
Sum to the wod, sum markit to the mure. —

1788 swyth. 1797 young *fehlt in H und MCl, steht in L.* 1804 *L*
rype. 1807 hardlie. 1810 speldit. 1813 sendill. 1814 warare.
1815 our — de; *MCl* For many of kinde hes our hee gart die. 1818 *L*
haifand but.

I tuik my stalf, quhen this was said and done,
And walkit hame, for it drew neir the none. —

30.

The lint rypit, the carle pullit the lyne, 1825
Rippillit the bollis, and in beitis set,
It steipit in the burne, and dryit syne,
And with ane bittill knokit it, and bet,
Syne swyngillit it weill, and hekillit in ye flet.
[48^b] His wyfe it span, and twynit it in to threid, 1830
Of quhilk the fouller nettis maid indeid.

31.

The winter come, the wickit wind can blaw,
The wodis grene war wallowit with the weit,
Baith firth and fell with froistis war maid faw,
Slonkis and slaik maid slidderrie with the sleit; 1835
The foulis fair for falt thay fell of feit,
On bewis bair it was na bute to byde,
Bot hyit vnto housis thame to hide.

32.

Sum in the barn, sum in the stak of corne,
Thair lugeing tuik, and maid thair residence. 1840
The foular saw, and grit aithis hes sworne,
Thay suld be tane trewlle for thair expence.
His nettis hes he set with diligence,
And in the snaw he schuillit hes ane plane,
And heillit it all ouer with calf agane. 1845

33.

Thir small birdis, seand the calf, was glaid,
Trowand it had bene corne, thay lichtit down;
Bot of the nettis na presume thay had,
Nor of the fowlaris fals intentionn,
[19] To sraip and seik thair meit thay maid thame boun. 1850
The swallow on ane litill brenche neir by,
Dreidand for gile, thus loud on thame couth cry:

34.

'In to that calf sraip quhill naillis bleid,
Thair is na corne, ye laubour all in vane;
Trow ye, yone churle for pietie will yow feid? 1855
Na, na, he hes it heir layit for ane trane;
Remoue, I reid, or ellis ye wilbe slane,

1824 *L* neir hand none. 1825 *L* rypit, carll. 1828 *L* betill knok-
kit — bett. 1829 *L* und *MCI* in the flet. 1831 *L* nettis war maid.
1833 *L* woddis grene wer. 1834 wer maid. 1836 foullis — off feit.
1844 schulit, *MCI* = *H*. 1847 *L* been. 1851 *L* branche. 1857 *L*
will be.

His nettis he hes set full prinely,
Reddie to draw, in tyme bewar for thy.'

35.

Grit fule is he that puttis in dangeir, 1860
His lyfe, his honour, for ane thing of nocht;
Grit fule is he that will not glaidlie heir
Counsall in tyme, quhill it auail him mocht.
Grit fule is he that hes na thing in thocht,
Bot thing present; and efter quhat may fall, 1865
Nor of the end hes na memoriall.

36.

[49^b] Thir small birdis for hunger famischit neir,
Full besie sraipand for to seik thair fude,
The counsall of the swallow wald not heir,
Suppois thair laubour did thame litill gude. 1870
Quhen scho thair fulische hartis vnderstude,
Sa indurat, vp in ane tre scho flew;
With that this churle ouer thame his nettis drew.

37.

Allace! it was grit hart-sair for to se,
That bludie bowcheour beit thay birdis doun, 1875
And for to heir, quhen thay wist weill to de,
Thair cairfull sang and lamentatioun:
Sum with ane staf he straik to eirth on swoun,
Of sum the heid he straik, of sum he brak the crag,
Sum half on lyfe, he stoppit in his bag. 1880

38.

And quhen the swallow saw that thay war deid,
'Lo', quod scho, 'thus it happynnis mony syis,
Of thame that will not tak counsall and reid
Of prudent men and clerkis that ar wyse:
This grit perrell I tauld thame mair than thryis; 1885
Now ar thay deid, and wo is me thairfoir!' —
Scho tuik hir flicht, — but I hir saw no moir.
Finis.

[50]

Moralitas.

39.

Lo, wirthie folk! Esope, that noble clerk,
Ane poet wirthie to be lawriate,
Quhen that he vaikit frome mair autentik werk, 1890

1863 *L* counsal, *s. v.* 1869; *H* him nocht, *MCl* mought. 1864 *L* no
thing. 1874 *L* Allace! it was rycht greit hairt-sair to se, *MCl* = *H*, *doch*
fehlt in MCl for. 1878 *L* staff. 1879 *L* Of sum the heid he brak,
of sum the crag, *MCl* = *H*. 1884 *L* men or clerkis — wyis. 1887 *L*
but hir I saw no moir. 1888 *L* worthie. 1889 Lawreat.

With vther ma, this fairsaid fabill wrait;
 Quhilk at this tyme may weill be applegate
 To guid morale edificationn,
 Hauand ane sentence according to ressoun.

40.

This carle and bond of gentrice spoliare, 1895
 Sawand this calf, thir small birdis to sla,
 It is the feind, quhilk fra the angelike stait
 Exylit is, as fals apostata:
 Quhilk day and nicht weryis not for to ga
 Sawand poyssoun in mony wickit thoecht 1900
 In mannis saule, quhilk full deir Christ hes bocht.

41.

And quhen the saule, as seid in to the eird,
 Gifis consent vnto delectioun,
 The wickit thoecht begynniss for to breird.
 In deidlie sin, quhilk is dampnatioun: 1905
 Ressoun is blindit with affectioun,
 And carnell lust growis full grene and gay,
 Throw conswetude hantit frome day to day.

42.

[50b] Proceeding furth be vse and consuetude,
 The sin ryipis, and schame is set on side; 1910
 The feind plettis his nettis scharpe and rude,
 And vnder plesance preuillie dois hyde,
 Syne on the feild he sawis calf full wyde,
 Quhilk is bot tume, and verray vanitie
 Of fleschlie lust, and vane prosperitie. 1915

43.

Thir hungrie birdis wretchis we may call,
 As sraipand in this warldis vane plesance,
 Greddie to gadder guidis temporall,
 Quhilk as the calf ar tume without substance:
 Litill of auail, and full of varience, 1920
 Like to the mow before the face of wind
 Quhiskis away, and makis wratchis blind.

44.

This swallow, quhilk eschaipit hes the snair,
 The halie preichour weill may signifie,
 Exhortand folk to walk, and ay be wair 1925
 Fra nettis of oure wickitemie,
 Quha sleipis not, bot euer is reddie,

1894 Haifand. 1596 *L* thisaffe. 1901 *MCl* und *L* quhilk Christ
 full deir hes bocht. 1903 *L* Gevis consent. 1907 *L* carnall. 1915 *L*
 vaine. 1918 Gredie. 1919 affe. 1922 *L* wretchis. 1925 *L* be war.

Quhen wretchis in this warld calf dois sraip,
To draw his net, than may thay not eschaip.

45.

[51] Allace! quhat cair, quhat weiping is and wo, 1930
Quhen saule and bodie depairtit ar in twane;
The bodie to the wormes keitching go,
The saule to fire, to euerlestand pane:
Quhat helpis than this calf, thir guidis vane?
Quhen thow art put in Luciferis bag, 1935
And brocht to hell, and hangit be the crag.

46.

Thir hid nettis for to persaue and se,
This sarie calf wyislie to vnderstand,
Best is bewar in maist prosperitie;
For in this warld thair is na thing lestand, 1940
Is na man wair, how lang his stait will stand,
His lyfe will lest, nor how that he sall end,
Efter his deith, nor quhidder he sall wend.

47.

Pray we thairfore, quhill we ar in this lyfe,
For foure thingis: the first, fra sin remufe; 1945
The secund is fra all weir and stryif;
The thrid is perfite charitie and luif;
The feird thing is, and maist for oure behuif:
That is in blis with angellis to be fallow.
And thus endis 'the preiching of the swallow'. 1950

[51^b] IX. The taill of the wolf that gat
the nekhering throw the wrinkis of the foxe that
begilit the cadgear.

1.

Quhilum thair wynnit in a wildernes,
As myne authour expreslie can declair,
Ane reuand wolf, that leuit vpoun purches
On bestiall, and maid him weill to fair; —
Was nane sa big about him he wald spair, 1955
And he wer hungrie, outhur for fauour or feid,
Bot in his wraith he werryit thame to deid. —

1928 *L* this warldis wrak dois sraip, *MCI* = *H*. 1929 *L* net, that
thay may nocht eschaip, *MCI* that. 1931 *L* departit. 1932 *L* wormis
keiching. 1933 *L* und *MCI* fire and everlastand. 1934 *L*affe. 1941 *L*
und *MCI* ware, *H* wait (*schreibfehler, wol entstanden in der meinung,*
dass dois vorausgehe). 1946 *L* is to ceiss all weir and stryfe. 1947 *L*
cheritie and lufe. 1948 *L* behufe.

IX. 1952 *L* expresslie. 1957 *L* weryit.

2.

Swa happynnit him in wetching, as he went,
 To meit ane foxe in middis of the way;
 He him foirsaw, and feinyeit to be schent, 1960
 And with ane bek he bad the wolf gud day:
 'Weleum to me', quod he, 'thow russell gray';
 Syne loutit down, and tuik him be the hand,
 'Ryse vp, lowrence, I leif thee for to stand.

3.

[52] 'Quhair hes thow bene this sesoun fra my sicht? 1965
 Thow sall beir office, and my stewart be,
 For thow can knap down caponis on the nicht,
 And lowrand law, thow can gar hennis de.'
 'Schir', said the foxe, 'that ganis not for me:
 And I am rad, gif thay me se on far, 1970
 That at my figure beist and bird will skar'.

4.

'Na', quod the wolf, 'thow can in couert creip,
 Vpoun thy wame, and hint thame be the heid;
 And mak ane suddane chow vpoun ane scheip,
 Syne with thy wappynnis wirrie him to deid.' 1975
 'Schir', said the fox, 'ye know my rob is reid,
 And thairfoir thair will na beist abide me,
 Thocht I wald be sa fals as for to hide me'.

5.

'Yis', quod the wolf, 'throw buskis and throw breiris,
 Law can thow lour, to cum to thine intent'. 1980
 'Schir', said the fox, 'ye wait weill how it gais,
 Ane lang space fra thame thay feill my sent,
 Then will thay eschaip, suppois thay suld be schent;
 And I am schamefull for to cum behind thame
 In to the feild, thocht I suld sleipand find thame.' 1985

6.

[52^b] 'Na', quod the wolf, 'thow can cum on the wind,
 For euerie wrink, forsuith, thow hes ane wyle'.
 'Schir', said the fox, 'that beist ye nicht call blind,
 That nicht not eschaip than fra me ane myle.
 How nicht I ane of thame that wyis begile? 1990
 My tippit twa eiris, and my twa gray ene,
 Garris me be kend, quhair I was neuer sene'.

7.

'Than', said the wolf, 'lowrence, I heir the le,
 And castis for perrellis thy ginnes to defend,

1958 watching. 1970 I am raid. 1974 suddand schow, *MCI* shew.
 1976 *L* foxe, robe. 1979 *L* und *MCI* throw brayes. 1980 *L* loure, thy
 intent. 1985 *L* them. 1992 *L* I wes. 1993 the lie. 1994 ginnis.

Bot all thy seinyes sall not auail the, 1995
 About the busk with wayis thocht thou wend:
 Falset will failye ay at the latter end,
 To bow at bidding, and byde not quhill thou brest,
 Thairfoir I gif the counsall for the best.'

8.

'Schir', said the fox, it is lenterne, ye se, 2000
 I can not fische, for weitting of my feit,
 To tak ane bane stikkill, thocht we baith suld de,
 I haif na vther craft to win my meit;
 Bot war it pasche, that men suld pultrie eit,
 As kiddis, lambes, or caponis in to ply, 2005
 To beir your office than wald I not set by.'

9.

'Than', said the wolf, in wraith, 'wenis thou with wylis,
 And with thy mony mowis me to mat?
 It is ane auld dog, doutles, that thou begilis,
 Thou wenis to draw the stra befor the catt!' 2010
 [53] 'Schir', said the fox, 'god wait, I mene not that;
 For and I did, it war weill worth that ye
 In ane reid raip had tyt me till ane tre.'

10.

'Bot now I se, he is ane fule perfay,
 That with his maister fallis in ressoning, 2015
 I did bot till assay quhat ye wald say:
 God wait, my mynd was on ane vther thing;
 I sall fulfill in all thing your bidding,
 Quhat euer ye charge on nichtis or on dayis'.
 'Weill', quod the wolf, 'I wait weill quhat thou sayis. 2020

11.

'Bot yit I will, thou mak to me ane aith,
 For to be leill attour all leuand leid'.
 'Schir', said the foxe, 'that ane word makis me wraith,
 For now I se, ye haif me at ane dreid;
 Yit sall I sweir, suppois it be not neid, 2025
 Be Juppiter, and on pane of my heid,
 I salbe trew to yow, quhill I be deid.'

12.

With that ane cadgear, with capill and with creillis,
 Come carpand furth, than lowrence culd him spy.

1995 *L* sonyeis, *MCl* sonyies; *L* thee. 1999 *L* I gif thee. 2000 *L*
und MCl it is Lentren. 2001 *L und MCl* And I can nouthr fische with
 huke nor net. 2003 *L* I had nane uther. 2005 *L* lambis. 2008 *L* to
 mate, *MCl* meat. 2010 *L* cat. 2012 *L* it wer. 2019 *L* charge. 2027 *L*
 I sall be.

The fox the flewar of the fresche heiring feillis, 2030
 And to the wolf he roundis priuely:
 'Schir, yone ar hering, the cadgear caryis by,
 Thairfoir I rid, that we se for sum wayis,
 To get sum fische aganis thir fasting dayis.

13.

[53 b] 'Sen I am stewart, I wald we had sum stuff, 2035
 And ye ar siluer-seik, I wait richt weill;
 Thocht we wald thig yone verray churlische chuff,
 He will not gif ws ane hering of his creill,
 Befoir yone churle on kneis thoct we wald kneill;
 Bot yit I trow alsone that ye sall se, 2040
 Gif I can craft to bleir yone carlis ee.

14.

'Schir, ane thing is, and we get of yone pelf,
 Ye man tak tranell and mak ws sum supple;
 For he that will not labour and help him self,
 In to thir dayis, he is not worth ane fle; 2045
 I think to wirk as bessie as ane be.
 And ye sall follow ane litill efterwart,
 And gadder hering, for that sall be your pairt'.

15.

With that he kest ane compas far about,
 And strawcht him down in middis of the way, 2050
 As he wer deid he feinyeit him, but dout,
 And than vpoun lenth vnluklie lay,
 The quhite he turnit vp of his ene tway;
 His toung out hang ane hand braid of his heid,
 And still he lay, als straucht as he wer deid. 2055

16.

[54] The cadgear fand the fox, and he was fane,
 And till him self this softlie can he say:
 'At the nixt bait, in faith, ye salbe flane,
 And of your skin I sall mak mittenis tway'.
 He lap about lichtlie quhair he lay, 2060
 And all the trace he trippit on his tais;
 As he hard ane pyper play, he gais.

17.

'Heir lyis', quod he, 'the deuill deid in a dyke.
 Sic ane selcouth saw I not this sevin yeir;

2030 *L* herring. 2032 *L* Sir. 2044 *L* nocht laubour. 2046 besie.
 2048 *L* part. 2051 *L* fenyeit. 2053 *L* The quhyte of his ene he turnit
 up in tway. 2054 *L* handbreid. 2055 *L* und *MCI* straucht. 2058 *L*
 sall be. 2059 *L* mittennis. 2060 *L* und *MCI* He lap full lichtlie about
 him quhair. 2062 *L* As he had heard. 2063 *L* und *MCI* Heir lyis the
 Deuill, quod he, deid in ane dyke.

I trow, ye haif bene tussillit with sum tyke, 2065
 That garris yow ly sa still withoutin steir:
 Schir foxe, in faith, ye ar deir welcum heir;
 It is sum wyfis malisoun, I trow,
 For pultrie pyking, that lichtit hes on yow.

18.

'Thair sall na pedder, for purs, nor for glufis, 2070
 Nor yit for pointis pyke your pellet fra me;
 I sall of it mak mittenis to my lufis,
 Till hald my handis hait quhair euer I be;
 Till Flanderis sall it neuer saille the se'.
 With that in hy, he hint him be the heillis, 2075
 And with ane swak he swang him on the creillis.

19.

[54^b] Syne be the heid the hors in hy hes hint;
 The fraudfull foxe thairto guid hes tane,
 And with his teith the stoppell, or he stint,
 Pullit out, and syne the hering ane and ane 2080
 Out of the creillis he swakkit doun gude wano.
 The wolf was war, and gadderit spedilie;
 The cadgear sang: 'huntis vp, vp, vpoun hie'.

20.

Yit at ane burne the cadgear luikit about,
 With that the foxe lap quite the creillis fray. 2085
 The cadgear wald haif raucht the foxe ane rout,
 Bot all for nocht, he wan his hoill that day.
 Than with ane schout thus can the cadgear say:
 'Abyde, and thow ane nekhering sall haif,
 Is worth my capill, creillis, and all the laif'. 2090

21.

'Now', quod the foxe, 'I schrew me, and we meit,
 I hard quhat thow hecht to do with my skin:
 Thy handis sall neuer in thay mittenis tak heit,
 And thow war hangit, carle, and all thy kin!
 Do furth thy marcat; at me thow sall not win, 2095
 And sell thy hering, thow hes thair, till hie price,
 Ellis thow sall win nocht on thy marchandice'.

22.

The cadgear trimmillit for teyne quhair that he stuid;
 'It is weill worthie', quod he, 'I want yone tyke,
 That had not in my hand sa mekle gude, 2100

2068 *L* malisone. 2070 *L* nor yit for gluifis. 2072 *L* luifes.
 2083 Hunts up, up, upon hie. 2084 at the burne. 2085 creillis fra.
 2092 I heard. 2093 mittennis. 2094 carll. 2095 mercat. 2097 mer-
 chandice. 2098 trimillit, *MCI* trimbled. 2100 sa mekill.

[55]

As staf, or sting, yone truker for to strike'.
 With that lichtlie he lap out ouer ane dyke,
 And hakkit down ane staf, for he was tene,
 That heuie was, and of the holyne grene.

23.

With that the fox vnto the wolf culd wend, 2105
 And fand him be the hering, quhair he lyis;
 'Schir', said he than, 'maid I not fair defend?
 Ane wicht man wantit neuer, and he war wyse,
 Ane hardie hart is hard for to suppryis'.
 'Than', said the wolf, 'thow art ane berne full bald, 2110
 And wyse at will, in gude tyme be it tald.

24.

'Bot quhat was yone the carle cryit on hie,
 And schuik his hand', quod he, 'hes thow no feill?'
 'Schir', said the foxe, 'that I can tell trewlie,
 He said, the nekhering was in the creill'. 2115
 'Kennis thow that hering?' 'ye, schir, I ken it weill,
 And at the creill mouth, I had it thryis but dount,
 The wecht thair of neir tit my tuskis out.

25.

'Now, surelie, schir, mycht we that hering fang,
 It wald be fische to ws thir fourtie dayis'. 2120
 Than said the wolf, 'now god nor that I hang,
 Bot to be thair, I wald gif all my clays,
 To se gif that my wappynnis nicht it rais'.
 'Schir', said the foxe, 'god wait, I wischit yow oft,
 Quhen that my teith nicht not beir it on loft. 2125

26.

[55^b]

'It is ane side of salmond, as it wair,
 And callour, py pand like ane pertrik ee;
 It is worth all the hering ye haif thair,
 Ye and we had it swa, is it worth sic thre'.
 'Than', said the wolf, 'quhat counsale geuis thow me?' 2130
 'Schir', said the foxe, 'wirk efter my deuyis,
 And ye sall haif it, and tak yow na suppryis.

27.

'First, ye mon cast ane compas far about,
 Syne straucht yow down in middis of the way;
 Beith heid, and feit, and taill ye man streik out, 2135
 Hing furth your tounge, and clois weill your ene tway,

2103 he wes. 2108 wyis. 2109 hairt. 2110 barne. 2113 schuke.
 2116 yea, schir. 2118 wecht of it. 2119 suirleie, Schir, might. 2123 mycht.
 2125 *L und MCl* my pith. 2126 *L* as it wer. 2129 *L und MCl* it is.
 2130 *L* counsell. 2135 *L* ye mon.

Syne se your heid on ane hard place ye lay;
And dout not for na perrell may appeir,
Bot hald yow clois quhen that the carle cummis neir.

28.

And thoct ye se ane staf, haif ye na dout, 2140
Bot hald yow winder still in to that steid;
And luik your ene be clois, as thay war out,
And se, that ye schrink nouthur fute nor heid:
Than will the cadgear carle trow ye be deid,
And in till haist will hint yow be the heillis, 2145
As he did me, and swak yow on his creillis'.

29.

[56] 'Now', quod the wolf, 'I sweir the be my thrift,
I trow, yone cadger carle he will me beir'.
'Schir', said the foxe, 'on loft he will yow lift,
Vpoun his creillis, and do him litill deir. 2150
Bot ane thing dar I surelie to yow sweir,
Get ye that hering sicker in sum place,
Ye sall not fair in fisching mair quhill pasche.

30.

'I sall say in principio vpoun yow,
And cros your corporis frome the top to tay; 2155
Wend quhen ye will, I dar be warrand now,
That ye sall die na suddane deith this day'.
With that the wolf gird vp sone and to gay,
And kest ane compas about the cadgear far,
Syne raucht him in the gait, or he come nar. 2160

31.

He laid his halfheid sicker hard and sad,
Syne straucht his foure feit fra him, and his heid,
And hang his toung furth as the foxe him bad,
Als still he lay, as he war verray deid,
Rakkand na thing of the carlis fauour nor feid, 2165
Bot euer vpoun the nekhering he thinkis,
And quite forgetis the foxe and all his wrinkis.

32.

[56^b] With that the cadger, wauering as the wind,
Come rydand on the laid, for it was licht,
Thinkand ay on the foxe that was behind, 2170
Vpoun quhat wyse reuenge on him he nicht;

2141 *L und MCl* wonder. 2147 *L* I sweir thee. 2148 *L und MCl*
cadgear carll dow nocht me beir. 2151 *L* dar I suithlie. 2155 *L* And
croce — to ta. 2157 ye sall de na suddand. 2158 to ga. 2159 *L*
cadgear. 2160 *L und MCl* Syne straucht him. 2162 *L* straucht his
four. 2165 carllis. 2167 forgettis. 2171 *H* revengit.

And at the last of the wolf gat ane sicht,
 Qubair he in lenth lay streikit in the gait,
 Bot gif he lichtit down, or not, god wait.

33.

Softlie he said: 'I was begilit anis, 2175
 Be I begilit twyis, I schrew ws baith,
 That euill bot it sall licht vpoun thy banis,
 He suld haif had that hes done me the skaith'.
 On hicht he houit the stal, for he was wraith,
 And hit him with sic will vpoun the heid, 2180
 Quhill neir he swonit and swalt in to that steid.

34.

Thre battis he buir, or he his feit nicht find,
 Bot yit the wolf was wicht, and wan away;
 He nicht not se, he wes sa verray blind,
 Nor wit reddilie, quhether it wes nicht or day. 2185
 The foxe beheld that seruice quhair he lay,
 And leuch on loft, quhen he the wolf sa seis,
 Baith deif, and dosinnit, fall swounand on his kneis.

35.

He that of ressoun can not be content,
 Bot couetis all, is abill all to tyne. 2190
 The foxe, quhen that he saw the wolf wes schent,
 Said to him self, 'thir hering salbe myne';
 I le, or ellis he was efterwart fyne,
 That fand sic wayis his maister for to greif:
 With all the fische thus lowrence tuik his leif. 2195

36.

The wolf was neir weill dungin to the deid,
 That vneith with his lyfe away he wan,
 For with the bastoun weill brokin wes his heid.
 The foxe in to his den sone drew him than,
 That had betraisit his maister and the man: 2200
 The ane wantit the hering of his creillis,
 The vtheris blude was rynnand ouer his heillis.

Moralitas.

37.

This taill is mingit with moralitie.
 As I sall schaw sum quhat, or that I ceis:
 The foxe vnto the warld may likkinnit be, 2205
 The reuand wolf vnto ane man but leis,

2179 *L* staf. 2181 *L* und *MCl* swounit and swelt. 2182 *L* he
 bure. 2185 *L* quhither. 2191 *L* was schent. 2192 *L* herring sall be.
 2193 *L* I lie, he wes. 2195 *L* take.

The cadger deith, quhome vnder all men preis,
That euer tuik lyfe, throw cours of kynd man die,
As man, and beist, and fische in to the see.

38.

The warld, ye wait, is stewart to the man, 2210
Quhilk makis man to haif na mynd of deid,
Bot settis for wyning all the craft thay can,
The hering I likkin vnto the gold sa reid,
Quhilk gart the wolf in perrell put his heid:
Richt swa the gold garris landis and cieteis 2215
With weir be waistit, daylie as men seis.

[57^b]

39.

And as the foxe, with dissimulance and gile,
Gart the wolf wene to haif worschip for euer,
Richt swa this warld, with vane gloir for ane quhile,
Flatteris with folk, as thay suld failye neuer, 2220
Yit suddandlie men seis it oft disseuer,
With thame that trowis oft to fill the sek,
Deith cummis behind, and nippis thame be the nek.

40.

The nicht of gold makis mony men [sa] blind,
That settis on auerice thair felicitie, 2225
That thay foryet the cadger cummis behind,
To stryke thame, of quhat stait so euer thay be. —
Quhat is mair dirk than blind prosperitie?
Quhairfor I counsall michtie men, to haif mynd
Of the nekhering, interpret in this kynd. 2230

Finis.

[58] X. The taill of the Foxe that begilit the Wolf
in the schadow of the mone.

1.

In elderis dayis, as Esope can declair,
Thair wes ane husband, quhilk had ane pleuch to steir.
His vse wes ay in morning to ryis air.
Swa happynnit him in streiking tyme of yeir,
Airlie in the morning to follow furth his feir, 2235
Vnto the pleuch, bot his gadman and he;
His stottis he straucht with 'benedicite'.

2.

The caller cryit: 'how, haik, vpoun hicht,
Hald draucht, my dowis', syne broddit thame full sair;

2208 *L* mon dee. 2212 *L* winning all the craftis. 2215 *L* land.
2218 to have. 2219 glore. 2224 *sa fehlt in H; steht in L und MCl.*
2225 avarice. 2229 *L* counsell.
X. 2232 *L* had the pleuch in steir. 2233 to ryse.

The oxin wes vnwsit, young, and licht, 2240
 And for fersnes thay couth the fur forfair.
 The husband than woxe angrie as ane hair,
 Syne cryit, and caist his patill and grit stanis:
 'The wolf', quod he, 'mot haif yow all at anis'.

3.

Bot yit the wolf was neirar nor he wend, 2245
 For in ane busk he lay, and lowrence baith,
 In ane ruch rone, was at the furris end,
 And hard the hecht; than lowrence leuch full raith:
 'To tak yone bud', quod he, 'it war na skaith'.
 'Weill', quod the wolf, 'I hecht the be my hand, 2250
 Yone carlis word, as he war king, sall stand',

4.

[58^b] The oxin waxit mair reulie at the last,
 Syne efter thay lousit, fra that it worthit weill lait,
 The husband hamewart with his cattell past. —
 Than sone the wolf come hirpilland in his gait, 2255
 Befoir the oxin, and schupe to mak debait.
 The husband saw him, and worthit sum deill agast,
 And bakwart with his beistis wald haif past.

5.

The wolf said, 'quhether dryuis thow this, pray?
 I chalenge it, for nane of thame ar thine'. — 2260
 The man thairof was in ane felloun fray,
 And soberlie to the wolf answerit syne:
 'Schir, be my saule, thir oxin ar all myne,
 Thairfoir I studdie, quhy ye suld stop me,
 Sen that I faltit neuer to yow, trewlie'. 2265

6.

The wolf said, 'carle, gaif thow not me this drift
 Airlie, quhen thow wes eirrand on yone bank?
 And is thair oucht, sayis thow, frear than gift?
 This taryng will tyne the all thy thank;
 For better is frelie for to gif ane plank, 2270
 Nor be compellit on force to gif ane mart.
 Fy, on the fredome that cummis not with hart!'

7.

[59] 'Schir', quod the husband, 'ane man may say in greif,
 And syne gane say, fra he auise and se:
 I hecht to steill, am I thairfoir ane theif?' 2275

2243 greit stanis. 2247 *L* rouch rone, *MC* rough. 2249 *L* it
 wer. 2250 thee. 2252 *L* oxin eirit mair reullie. 2260 *L* challenge.
 2263 saull. 2264 studie. 2266 carll. 2267 eirand. 2269 tyne thee.
 2270 Far better.

'God forbid, schir, all hechtis suld haldin be!'.
 'Gaif I my hand or obblissing?' quod he,
 'Or haif ye writ or writnes for to schaw?
 Schir, reif me not, but go and seik the law'.

8.

'Carle', quod the wolf, 'ane lord, and he be leill, 2280
 That schrinkis for schame, or doutis to be repruuit,
 His saw is ay als sickker as his seill.
 Fy! on the leid that is not leill and luifit,
 Thy argument is fals, and eik contrufit;
 For it is said in prouerb: "but lawte 2285
 All vther vertewis ar not worth ane fle".'

9.

'Schir', said the husband, 'remember of this thing:
 Ane leill man is not tane at half ane tail, —
 I may say, and ganesay, I am na king.
 Quhair is your witnes, that hard I hecht thame haill?' 2290
 Than said the wolf, 'thairfor it sall not faill;
 Lowrence', quod he, 'cum hidder of that schaw,
 And say na thing bot as thow hard and saw'.

10.

[59^b] Lowrence come lowrand, for he luifit neuer licht,
 And sone appeirit befor thame in that place. 2295
 The man lewch na thing, quhen he saw that sicht.
 'Lawrence', quod the wolf, 'thow man declair this cace,
 Quhair of we sall schaw the suith in schort space;
 I callit on the, leill witnes for to beir:
 Quhat hard thow that this man hecht me lang eir?' 2300

11.

'Schir', said the tod, 'I can not hastelie
 Swa sone as now gif sentence finall;
 Bot wald ye baith submit yow heir to me,
 To stand at my decreit perpetuall,
 To pleis baith I suld preif, gif it may fall'. 2305
 'Weill', quod the wolf, 'I am content for me';
 The man said, 'swa am I, how euer it be'.

12.

Than schew thay furth thair allegiance but fabill,
 And baith proponit thair pley to him compleit.
 Quod lowrence: 'now I am juge amicable: 2310
 Ye salbe sworne to stand at my decreit,

2278 *L* und *MCl* Or haif ye witnes or writ for. 2281 *L* repruifit.
 2284 *H* contrusit (*schreibfehler*). 2290 *L* Quhar is. 2299 *L* on thee.
 2310 *L* Lowrence: I am ane Juge amycabill; *MCl* Now am I an Judge.
 2311 *L* Ye sall be.

Qubether heirefter ye think it soure or sweit'.
The wolf braid furth his fute, the man his hand,
And on the toddis taill sworne thay ar to stand.

13.

[60] Than tuik the tod the man furth to ane side, 2315
And said him: 'freind, thow art in blunder brocht,
The wolf will not forgif the ane ox hide;
Yit wald my self fane help the, and I mocht;
Bot I am laith to hurt my conscience ocht.
Tyne not thy quarell in thy awin defence: 2320
This will not throw, but grit coist and expence.

14.

'Seis thow not buddis beris bernis throw,
And giftis garris cruikit materis hald full evin?
Sum tymes ane hen haldis ane man in ane kow.
All ar not halie that heifis thair handis to heuin'. 2325
'Schir', said the man, 'ye sall haif sex or sevin,
Richt of the fattest hennis of all the flock,
I compt not all the laif, leif me the cok'.

15.

'I am ane juge', quod lawrence than, and leuch;
'Thair is na buddis suld beir me by the richt, 2330
I may tak hennis and caponis weill aneuch,
For god is gane to sleip; as for this nicht
Sic small thingis ar not sene in to his sicht;
'Thir hennis', quod he, 'sall mak thy quarell sure,
With emptie hand na man suld halkis lure'. 2335

16.

[60^b] Concordit thus, than lawrence tuik his leiff,
And to the wolff he went in to ane ling;
Syne preuelie he plukkit him be the sleiff:
'Is this', quod he, 'in eirnist ye ask sic thing?
Na, be my saule, I trow it be in heithing'. 2340
Than said the wolff: 'Lowrence, quhy sayis thow sa?
Thow hard the hecht thy self, that he couth ma'.

17.

'The hecht', quod he, 'yone man maid at the pleuch,
Is that the caus, quhy ye the cattell craif?'
Half in to heithing, said lowrence than, and leuch; 2345
'Schir, be the rude, vnrokkit now ye raif;
The deuill, ane stirk taill thairfoir sall ye haif;

2315 *L* Then tuke. 2317 *L* ane oxe hyde. 2318 *L* help thee.
2320 querrell. 2322 beiris. 2323 cruikit. 2324 *L* Sumtimis ane nedill
haldis — ane row; *MCl* = *H*. 2327 *L* floik. 2328 *L* coik. 2334 *L*
querrell. 2336 *L* leif. 2338 privilie — sleif. 2339 *L* und *MCl* Is this
in ernist, quod he, ye. 2346 *L* unroikkit. 2347 devil.

Wald I tak it vpoun my conscience,
To do sa pure ane man, as yone, offence?

18.

'Yit haif I communit with the carle', quod he, 2350
'We ar concordit vpoun this cunnand:
Quit of all clames, swa ye will mak him fre,
Ye sall ane cabok haif in to your hand,
That sic ane sall not be in all this land;
For it is somer cheis, baith fresche and fair, 2355
He sayis it weyis ane stane, and sum deill mair'.

19.

[61] 'Is that thy counsale', quod the wolf, 'I do,
That yone carle for ane cabok suld be fre?'
'Ye, be my saule, and I war sworne yow to,
Ye suld na vther counsall haif for me; 2360
For gang ye to the maist extremitie,
It will not win yow worth ane widderit neip;
Schir, trow ye not, I haif ane saule to keip!'

20.

'Weill', quod the wolf, 'it is aganis my will,
That yone carle for ane cabok suld ga quite'. 2365
'Schir', quod the tod, 'ye tak it in na euill,
For, be my saule, your self had all the wyte'.
'Than', said the wolf, 'I bid na mair to flyte,
Bot I wald se yone cabok of sic prysis'.
'Schir', said the tod, 'he tauld me quhair it lyis'. 2370

21.

Than hand in hand thay held vnto ane hill,
The husband to his hors hes tane the way,
For he wes fane, he chaippit frome thair ill,
And on his feit wouke the dur quhill day.
Now will we turne vnto the vther tway: 2375
Throw woddis waist thir freikis on fute can fair,
Fra busk to busk, quhill neir mydnicht and mair.

22.

Lowrence wes euer remembring vpoun wrinkis,
And subtelteis, the wolf for to begyle;
That he had hecht ane cabok he forthingis, 2380
Yit at the last he findis furth ane wyle,
[61^b] Than at him self softlie couth he smyle.

2350 commonit with the Charll. 2352 Quyte — clamis. 2357 counsell.
2359 *L* Ya, be my saull, *MC!* yea. 2360 *L* nane other counsell.
2366 *L* nane evill. 2373 *L* schaipit from thair evill. 2374 *L* woke the dure.
2375 *L* the other. 2378 upon.

The wolf sayis, 'lowrence, thow playis bellie-blind,
We seik all nycht, bot na thing can we find'.

23.

'Schir', said the tod, 'we ar at it almaist; 2385
Soft yow ane litill, and ye sall se it sone'.
Than to ane manure place thay hyit in haist.
The nicht was licht, and penny full the mone.
Than till ane draw-well thir seinyeouris past but houe,
Quhair that twa bukkettis seuerall suithlie hang, 2390
As ane come vp, ane vther doun wald gang.

24.

The schadow of the mone schone in the well.
'Schir', said lowrence, 'anis ye sall find me leill;
Now se ye not the cabok weill your sell,
Quhite as ane neip, and round als as ane seill? 2395
He hang it yonder, that na man suld it steill:
Schir, traist ye weill, yone caboik, ye se hing,
Micht be ane present to ony lord or king'.

25.

'Na', quod the wolf, 'micht I yone caboik haif
On the dry land, as I it yonder se, 2400
I wald quitelame the carle of all the laif;
His dart oxin I compt thame not ane fle,
Yone war mair meit for sic ane man as me.
Lowrence', quod he, 'leip in the bukket sone,
[62] And I sall hald the ane, quhill thow haif done'. 2405

26.

Lowrence gird doun baith sone and subtellie;
The vther baid abuif, and held the flaill.
'It is sa mekill', quod lowrence, 'it maisteris me,
On all my tais it hes not left ane naill;
Ye man mak help vpwart, and it haill: 2410
Leip in the vther bukket haistelie,
And cum sone doun, and mak me sum supplie'.

27.

Than lichtlie in the bukket lap the loun,
His wecht but weir the vther end gart ryis,
The tod come hailland vp, the wolf yeid doun; 2415
Than angerlie the wolf vpoun him cryis:
'I cummand thus dounwart, quhy thow vpwart hyis!'

2387 *L* manore place. 2388 *L* wes lycht. 2389 thir senyeoure.
2390 several. 2394 caboik. 2395 and als round as ane. 2398 to our
Lord the King. 2403 Yone wer. 2407 other baid abufe. 2414 other
end. 2416 upon.

'Schir', said the foxe, 'this fair is of fortoun:
As ane cummis vp, scho quheillis ane vther doun!'

28.

Than to the ground sone yude the wolf in haist, 2420
The tod lap on land, as blyith as ony bell,
And left the wolf in watter to the waist.
Quha haillit him out, I wait not, of the well. —
Heir endis the text, thair is na mair to tell;
Yit men may find ane gude moralitie 2425
In this sentence, thocht it ane fabill be.

[62^b]

Moralitas.

29.

This wolf I likkin to ane wickit man,
Quhilk dois the pure oppres in euerie place,
And pykis at thame all quarrellis that he can,
Be rigour, reif, and vther wickitnes. 2430
The foxe the feind I call in to this cais,
Actand ilk man to rin vnrichtious rinkis,
Thinkand thairthrow to lok him in his linkis.

30.

The husband may be callit ane godlie man,
With quhome the feind faltis findes, as clerkis reidis, 2435
Besie to tempt him with all wayis that he can.
The hennis ar warkis that fra ferme faith proceedis:
Quhair sic sproutis spreidis, the euill spreit thair not speid,
Bot wendis vnto the wickit man agane;
That he hes tint his trauell is full vnfane. 2440

31.

The woddis waist, quhairin wes the wolf wyld,
Ar wickit riches, quhilk all men gaipis to get,
Quha traistis in sic trustrie ar oft begyld;
For mammon may be callit the deuillis net, 2445
Quhilk sathanas for all sinfull hes set.
With proud plesour quha settis his traist thairin,
But speciall grace lichtlie can not outwin.

32.

[63] The caboik may be callit couetice,
Quhilk blomes braid in mony mannis ee,
Wa worth the well of that wickit vyce; 2450
For it is all bot fraud and fantasie,

2418 Schir, quod the 'Tod, thus fairis it of Fortoun; *H* fairis in
einem wort. 2420 *L* sone yeid. 2425 *L* ane good. 2429 querrellis.
2430 and other. 2435 falt findis as Clerkis reid. 2439 againe.
2440 unfaine. 2443 trusterie — begyled. 2448 Cabok — covetyce.
2451 fantassie.

Dryuand ilk man to leip in the buttrie,
That dounwart drawis vnto the pane of hell. —
Christ keip all Christianis frome that wickit well!

Finis.

[63^b] XI. The taill of the Wolf and the Wedder.

1.

Quhylum thair wes, as Esope can report, 2455
Ane scheiphird duelland be ane forrest neir,
Quhilk had ane hound that did him grit comfort.
Full war he wes to walk his fauld but weir,
That nouthur wolf nor wyld cat durst appeir,
Nor foxe on feild, nor yit na vther beist, 2460
Bot he thame slew, or chaissit at the leist.

2.

Swa happynnit it, as euerie beist man de,
This hound of suddane seiknes to be deid;
Bot than, god wait, the keipar of the fe,
For verray wo woxe wanner nor the weid: 2465
'Allace', quod he, 'now se I na remeid,
To saif the selie beistis that I keip;
For wit, the wolf werryit beis all my scheip'.

3.

It wald haif maid ane mannis hart sair, to se
The selie schiphirdis lamentatioun: 2470
'Now is my darling deid, allace', quod he,
'For now to beg my breid I may me boun,
With pykestaff and with scrip to fair of toun;
For all the beistis before bandonit bene,
Will schute vpoun my beistis with ire and tene'. 2475

4.

[64] With that ane wedder wretchitlie wan on fute:
'Maister', quod he, 'mak merie and be blyith,
To brek your hart for baill it is na bute;
For ane deid dog ye na cair on yow kyith.
Ga fetche him hidder, and fla his skin of swyth, 2480
Syne sew it on me; and luik that it be meit,
Bodie and heid, baith taill crag and feit.

5.

'Than will the wolf trow that I am he;
For I sall follow him fast quhair euer he fair.

XI. 2457 *L* greit confort. 2460 no other. 2462 everilk. 2463 suddand. 2470 Scheiphirdis. 2473 pyikstaf. 2476 wedder wiechtlie, *MCl* wightlie. 2480 *L* fetche him hither — swyith. 2481 *L* luke. 2482 *L* and *MCl* Baith heid and crag, bodie, taill and feit. 2484 quhar ever.

All haill, the cure I tak it vpoun me, 2485
 Your scheip to keip at midday, lait and air.
 And he persew, be god, I sall not spair,
 To follow him als fast as did your doge,
 Swa that, I warrand, ye sall not want ane hoig'.

6.

'Than', said the scheiphird, 'this come of ane gude wit; 2490
 Thy counsall is baith sickker, leill, and trew;
 Quha sayis ane scheip is daft, thay leit of it'.
 With that in hy the dogis skin of he flew,
 And on the scheip richt softlie couth it sew.
 Than worth the wedder wantoun of his weid: 2495
 'Now of the wolf', quod he, 'I haif na dreid'.

7.

[61^b] In all thingis he counterfait the dog,
 For all the nicht he stuid and tuik na sleip,
 Swa that weill lang thair wantit not ane hog.
 Swa war he was, and walkryfe, thame to keip, 2500
 That lowrence durst not luik vpoun ane scheip;
 For and he did, he followit him sa fast,
 That of his lyfe he maid him all agast.

8.

Was nouthur wolf, wyldcat, nor yit tod,
 Durst cum within thay boundis all about, 2505
 Bot he wald chais thame baith throw rouch and snod.
 Thay bailfull beistis had of thair lyfis sic dout,
 For he wes mekle and semit to be stout.
 That euerie beist thay dred him as the deid,
 Within that wod, that nane durst hald thair heid. 2510

9.

Yit happynnit thair ane hungrie wolf to slide
 Out throw his scheip, quhair thay lay on ane le,
 'I sall haif ane', quod he, 'quhat euer betyde,
 Thocht I be werryit, for hunger or I de';
 With that ane lamb in to his cluke hint he. 2515
 The laif start vp, for thay war all agast;
 Bot, god wait, gif the wedder followit fast.

19.

Went neuer hound mair haistelie fra the hand,
 Quhen he wes rynnand maist raklie at the ra;
 Nor went this wedder baith ouer mois and strand, 2520

2485 upon. 2488 *L* dog. 2489 *L* und *MCl* hog (*s. v.* 2499 und
v. 2531). 2492 *L* thay lieit, *MCl* lie. 2493 *L* doggis skyn. 2498 *L*
 stude and tuke. 2501 *L* luke upon. 2506 *L* chaise thame. 2507 thair
 lyvis. 2508 mekill. 2510 that woid. 2515 in till his.

[65]

And stoppit nouthar at bank, busk, nor bra;
 Bot followit ay sa ferslie on his fa,
 With sic ane drift, quhill dirt and dust ouer draif him,
 And maid ane vow to god, that he suld haif him.

11.

With that the wolf let out his taill on lenth, 2525
 For he wes hungrie, and it drew neir the ene,
 And schupe him for to rin with all his strenth,
 Fra he the wedder sa neir cumand had sene.
 He dred his lyfe, and he ouertane had bene;
 Thairfoir he spairit nouthar busk nor boig, 2530
 For weill he kennit the kenenes of the doig.

12.

To mak him licht, he caist the lamb him fra,
 Syne lap ouer leis, and draif throw dub and myre.
 'Na', quod the wedder, 'in faith we part not swa:
 It is not the lamb, bot the, that I desire, 2535
 I sall cum neir, for now I se the tyre'.
 The wolf ran still quhill ane strand stuid behind him,
 Bot ay the neirar the wedder he couth bind him.

13.

[65^b]

Sone efter that he followit him sa neir,
 Quhill that the wolf for fleidnes fylit the feild; 2540
 Syne left the gait, and ran throw busk and breir,
 And schupe fra the schawis for to scheild.
 He ran restles, for he wist of na beild;
 The wedder followit him baith out and in,
 Quhill that ane breir busk raif rudlie of the skin. 2545

14.

The wolf was war, and blenkit him behind,
 And swa the wedder come thrawand throw the breir;
 Syne saw the doggis skin hingand on his lend.
 'Na', quod he, 'is this ye that is sa neir?
 Richt now ane hound, and now quhite as ane freir: 2550
 I fled ouer fer, and I had kennit the cais:
 To god I wow, that ye sall rew this rais.

15.

'Quhat was the caus, ye gaif me sic ane catche?'
 With that in hy he hint him be the horne.

2523 quhill dust and dirt. 2526 neir the evin, *MCI* euen. 2528 cum-
 mand. 2530 bog. 2531 *L* the cumming of the dog, *MCI* keinness. 2532 *L* he kest. 2535 *L* bot thee, desyre. 2537 *L* ran till ane rekil
 stude behind him, *MCI* — stude behind. 2538 *MCI* couth him bind. 2540 *L*
 the field. 2542 *L* and *MCI* schupe him fra. 2545 *L* ane brier busk
 raif rudlie — skyn. 2546 *L* was wer. 2547 And saw the wedder.
 2548 on his lind. 2552 I vow. 2553 wes the cause,

'For all your mowis ye met anis with your matche, 2555
 Suppois ye leuch me all this yeir to scorne.
 For quhat enchessoun this doggis skin haif ye borne?'
 'Maister', quod he, 'bot to haif playit with yow;
 I yow require that ye na vther trow'.

16.

'Is this your bourding in eirnist than?' quod he, 2560
 'For I am verray effeirit, and on flocht;
 Cum bak agane and I sall let yow se'.
 Than quhair the gait was grymmit he him brocht.
 'Quhether call ye this fair play, or nocht?
 To set your maister in sa fell effray, 2565
 Quhill he for feiritnes hes fylit vp the way.

[66]

17.

'Thryis, be my saule, ye gart me schute behind;
 Vpoun my hoichis the seinyeis may be sene,
 For feiritnes full oft I fylit the wind.
 Now is this ye? na, bot ane hound, I wene; 2570
 Me think your teith ouerschort to be sa kene.
 Blissit be the busk that reft yow your array,
 Ellis fleand, bursin had I bene this day'.

18.

'Schir', quod the wedder, 'suppois I ran in hy,
 My mynd wes neuer to do your persoun euill; 2575
 Ane flear gettis ane followare commounly,
 In play or eirnist, preif quha sa euer will.
 Sen I bot playit, be gracious me till,
 And I sall gar my freindis blis your banis,
 Ane full gude seruand will crab his maister anis'. 2580

19.

'I haif bene oftymes set in grit effray,
 Bot, be the rude, sa rad yit wes I neuer,
 As thow hes maid me be thy prettie play.
 I schot behind, quhen thow ouertuik me euer,
 Bot sickerlie now sall we not disseuer'. 2585
 Than be cragbane smertlie he him tuke,
 Or euer he ceissit, and it in schunder schuik.

[66^b]

Moralitas.

20.

Esope, that poete, first father of this fabill,
 Wrait this parabole, quhilk is conuenient,

2555 your mache. 2559 nane other. 2560 ernist. 2563 quhar.
 2563 wes grimmit. 2568 Upon — senyeis. 2576 follower. 2578 *L*
 gracious. 2581 oftymis — greit. 2583 *L* und *MC* maid me with thy.
 2584 *L* owertuke.

Becauss the sentence wes fructuous and agreable: 2590
 In moralitie examplatue prudent,
 Quhais problemis bene verray excellent,
 Throw similitude of figuris, to this day,
 Gifis doctrine to the reidaris of it ay.

21.

Heir may thow se, that riches of array 2595
 Will caus pure men presumptuous for to be;
 'Thay think thay hald of nane, be thay als gay,
 Bot counterfait ane lord in all degrie.
 Out of thair cais in pryde thay clym so hie,
 That thay forbeir thair better in na steid, 2600
 Quhill sum man tit thair heillis ouer thair heid.

22.

Richt swa in seruice vther sum exceidis,
 And thay haif withgang, welth, and cherising,
 That thay will lichtlie lordis in to thair deidis,
 And luikis not to thair blude, nor thair ofspring: 2605
 Bot yit, nane wait, how lang that reull will ring;
 Bot he wes wyse that bad his sone consider:
 Bewar in welth, for hall-benkis ar richt slidder.

23.

[67] Thairfoir I counsall men of euerilk stait,
 To know thame self, and quhome thay suld forbeir, 2610
 And fall not with thair better in debait;
 Suppois thay be als galland in thair geir,
 It settis na seruand for to vphald weir,
 Nor clym so hie, quhill he fall of the ledder;
 Bot think vpon the wolf and on the wedder! 2615
 Finis.

XII. The tail of the Wolf and the Lamb.

1.

Ane cruell wolf, richt rauenuous and fell,
 Vpoun ane tyme past to ane reueir;
 Discending frome ane rotche vnto a well,
 To slaik his thrist, drank of the wätter cleir. —
 Swa vpon cace, ane selie lamb come neir, 2620
 Bot of his fa, the wolf, na thing he wist,
 And in the streme laipit to cuill his thrist.

2591 *exemplative*, *MC* = *H*. 2592 *L* *problemis*. 2594 *L* *Gevis* —
redaris. 2596 *L* *presumptuous*. 2598 *L* *counterfute*, *MC* = *H*; *L* *degre*.
 2602 *L* *other*. 2603 *L* *cherissing*. 2606 *L* *na wait*. 2609 *L* *counsall*.
 2610 *self*. 2614 *sa hie*.

XII. 2617 *L* *Upon*, *B* *upone*. 2618 *L* *ane rocke*, *MC* *rotch*, *L* — *ane*
well. 2619 *L* *und B* *his thrist*. 2622 *L* *und B* *to cule*.

2.
 [67^b] This drank thay baith, bot not of ane intent,
 The wolvis thoct wes all on wickitnes;
 The selie lamb wes meik and innocent: 2625
 Vpon the reueir, in ane vther place,
 Beneth the wolf he drank ane litill space,
 Quhill he thoct guid, beleuand thair nane ill;
 The wolf him saw, and rampand come him till.
3.
 With girnand teith and awfull angrie luik, 2630
 Said to the lamb: 'thow catiue wretchit thing,
 How durst thow be sa bald to fyle and bruik,
 Quhair I sould drink, with thy foull slauering?
 It wer almous the for to draw and hing!
 That suld presume, with thy foull lippis vyle, 2635
 To glar my drink, and this fair watter fyle'.
4.
 The selie lamb, quaikand for verray dreid,
 On kneis fell, and said: 'schir, with your leif,
 Suppois I dar not say thairof ye leid;
 Bot, be my saule, I wait ye can not preif, 2640
 That I did ony thing that suld yow greif;
 Ye wait alswa that your accusatioun
 Faillies fra treuth, and contrair is to ressoun.
5.
 'Thocht I can not, nature will me defend,
 And of the deid perfite experience; 2645
 [68] All heueie thing man of the force descend;
 Bot gif sum thing on force mak resistance,
 Than may the streme on na way mak ascence,
 Nor rin bakwart: I drank beneth yow far;
 Ergo, for me your bruik wes neuer the war. 2650
6.
 'Alswa my lippis, sen that I wes ane lam,
 Tuichit na thing that wes contagious;
 Bot sowkit milk, frome pappis of my dam,
 Richt naturall, sweet, and als delitious'.
 'Weill', quod the wolf, 'thy language rigorous 2655
 Cummis the of kynd; swa thy fater before
 Held me at bait, baith with boist and schore.

2624 *L* all of wickitnes, *MCU* = *H*; *B* in *w*. 2626 *L* rever, *B* revir;
L other, *B* uthir. 2628 *B* und *L* gude, *L* nane evill. 2630 *L* angrie luk.
 2632 *B* und *L* fyle this bruk. 2633 *B* und *L* suld. 2634 *L* thee, *B* thé.
 2640 *L* saull, *L* und *B* can nocht. 2643 *L* Failyeis, *B* Felyeis; *L* und
B contrair till. 2646 *B*, *L* und *MCU* of the self the discend. 2650 *L*
 bruke. 2651 *L* ane Lamb, *B* lame. 2653 *L* Bot soukkit, *B* und *L* my
 dame. 2656 *L* thee, *fehlt in B*.

7.

'He wraithit me, and than I culd him warne
Within ane yeir, and I bruikit my heide,
I suld be wrokkin on him, or on his barne, 2660
For his exhorbetand and thrawart pleid:
Thow sall doutles for his deidis be deid'.
'Schir, it is wrang, that for the fatheris gilt,
The saikles sone suld puneist be, or spilt.

8.

'Haif ye not hard, quhat halie scriptour sayis, 2665
Endytit with the word of god almicht?
Of his awin deidis ilk man sall beir the prayis,
As pane for sin, rewaird for werkis rycht;
For my trespas quhy suld my sone haif plicht?
[68^b] Quha did the mis, let him sustene the pane'. 2670
'Yaa', quod the wolf, 'yit pleyis thow agane.

9.

'I let the wit, quhen that the father offendis,
I will refuis nane of his successioun;
And of his bairnis I will tak amendis,
Vnto the twentie degre descending down. 2675
Thy father thocht to mak ane strang poysoun,
And with his mouth in my watter did spew'.
'Schir', quod the lamb, 'thay twa ar nouthre trew.

10.

'The law sayis, and ye will vnderstand:
Thair suld na man, for wrang, nor violence, 2680
His aduersar puneis at his awin hand,
Without proces of law, and euidence;
Quhilk suld haif leif to mak lawfull defence,
And thairupoun summond peremptourlie,
For to propone, contrarie, or reply. 2685

11.

'Set me ane lauchfull court, I sall compeir
Before the lioun, lord and leill justice;
And, be my hand, I obleis me richt heir,
That I sall byde ane vnsuspect assyis.

2658 *B* He wexit me. 2659 *B* und *L* bruikit my heid. 2661 *B*
und *L* exhorbitant; *L* and frawart, *MCI* froward, *B* = *H*. 2665 *L* Scrip-
ture. 2666 *B*, *L* und *MCI* with the mouth of God. 2667 *B* und *L*
prais. 2668 *B* und *L* pyne for sin, reward. 2671 *L* Ya, *MCI* yea.
2672 *L* thee wit, *B* ye witt. 2673 *L* I will chereis, *B* cheris, *MCI* re-
fuse. 2674 *L* barnis I may weill tak, *B* barnis may weill be tane amendis.
2675 *L* degre descending. 2676 *B* und *L* pusoun. 2677 *L* fehlt did.
2681 *L* adversair punis, *B* = *H*. 2684 *L* thairupoun summondis, *B* sum-
mon. 2685 *L* contrairie, *B* propone and contra and reply. 2687 *L*
Lyoun. 2688 *L* obllis, *B* obllis.

This is the law, this is the instant gyis; 2690
 Ye suld pretend thairfor: ane summundis mak
 Aganis that day, to gif reasoun and tak'.

12.

[69] 'Na', quod the wolf, 'thow wald intruse ressoun,
 Quhair wrang and reif suld duell in propertie. 2695
 That is ane point and pairt of fals tressoun,
 For to gar reuth remane with creuelte.
 Be his woundis, fals tratour, thow sall die,
 For thy trespas, and for thy fatheris als'.
 With that anone he hint him be the hals.

13.

The selie lamb culd do na thing bot bleit, 2700
 Sone was he deid; the wolf wald do na grace;
 Syne drank his blude, and of his flesche can eit,
 Quhill he wes full, syne went his way a pace.
 Of his murthour quhat sall we say, allace?
 Wes not this reuth, wes not this grit pietie, 2705
 To gar this selie lamb but gilt thus die?

Moralitas.

14.

The pure people this lamb may signifie,
 As maill-men, marchandis, and all lawboreris,
 Of quhome the lyfe is half ane purgatorie,
 To win with lawtie leuing as effeiris. 2710
 The wolf betakynnis fals extortioneris
 And oppressouris of pure men, as we se,
 Be vioelence, or craft in facultie.

15.

[69^b] Thre kynd of wolvis in this world now ringis:
 The first ar fals peruerteris of the lawis, 2715
 Quhilk vnder poete termes falset mingis,
 Lettand that all wer gospell that he schawis;
 Bot for ane bud the pure man he ouerthrawis,
 Smorand the richt, garrand the wrang proceid:
 Of sic wolvis hellis-fyre sall be thair meid. 2720

16.

O man of law, let be thy subteltie,
 With nyce gimpis, and fraudis intricait;

2690 *L* instant use, *B* justest wyss, *MCI* gyse. 2691 *L* und *B* sum-
 mondis. 2692 *L* ressoun. 2693 *L* intruss. 2694 *L* Quhar. 2695 *L* part,
B poynt of oppin fals. 2697 *L* sall de. 2700 *B* mycht do, *L* und *B* bot
 blait. 2703 *L* und *MCI* full and went — on pace, *B* = *H*. 2704 *L* murther.
 2705 *L* greit pietie. 2706 *L* thus de, *B* dé. 2707 *L* pepill, *B* peple.
 2708 *L* lauboureris. 2713 *L* violence, *B* violens, *H* vioelence, *B* und *L*
 craft or subteltie, *MCI* = *H*. 2716 *L* polite termes. 2721 *L* be that.

And think that god in his diuinitie
 The wrang, the richt of all thy werkis wait.
 For prayer, price, for hie nor law estait, 2725
 Of fals querrellis se thow mak na defence;
 Hald with the richt, hurt not thy conscience.

17.

Ane vther kynd of wolffis rauenuous
 Ar nichtie men, hauand full grit plentie,
 Quhilkis ar sa gredie, and sa couetous. 2730
 Thay will not thoill the pure in pece to be,
 Suppois he and his houshald baith suld de
 For falt of fude; thairof thay gif na rak,
 Bot ouer his heid his mailling will thay tak.

18.

[70]

O man! but mercye, — quhat is in thy thoct? 2735
 War than ane wolf, and thow culd vnderstand.
 Thow hes aneuch; the pure husband richt nocht
 Bot croip and calf vpoun ane clout of land.
 For goddis aw, how durst thow tak on hand,
 And thow in barn and byre sa bene and big, 2740
 To put him fra-his tak, and gar him thig?

19.

The thrid wolff ar men of heritage:
 As lordis, that hes land be goddis lane,
 And settis to the mailleris ane village,
 And for ane tyme gressum pait and tane. 2745
 Syne vexis him, or half his yeir be gane,
 With pykit querrellis for to mak him fane
 To flit, or pay his gressome new agane.

20.

His horß, his meir he man len to the laird,
 To drug and draw in court and cariage; 2750
 His seruand, nor his self may not be spaird,
 To swing and sweit, withouttin meit or wage.
 Thus how he standis in labour and bondage,
 That scantlie may he purches be his mail,
 To leif vpon dry breid and watter caill. 2755

21.

Hes thow not reuth to gar thy tennentis sweit
 In to thy labour with fanit and hungrie wame?

2728 *L* other. 2729 *L und B* haifand aneuch plentie. 2731 *B* thoill
 in peax ane pure man be. 2737 *B* hes nocht. 2739 *B* how dar thow.
 2742 *B* wolffis is men. 2745 *L* gressome payit. 2746 *B und L* his terme.
 2749 *L* he mon. 2750 *B und L* To dring. 2751 *B und L* or his self.
 2752 *B und L* To swink. 2754 *B und L* by his mail. 2757 *L* faynt.

[70^b] And syne hes litill gude to drink or eit,
 With his menize at euin quhen he cummis hame.
 Thow suld dreid for richteous goddis blame, 2760
 For it cryis ane vengeance vnto the heuinnis hie,
 To gar ane pure man wirk but meit or fe.

22.

O, thow grit lord, that riches hes and rent,
 Be not ane wolf, thus to denoir the pure;
 Think, that na cruell nor violent thing present 2765
 May in this warld perpetuallie indure:
 This sall thow trow, and sikkerlie assure,
 For till oppres thow sall haif als grit pane,
 As thow the pure had with thy awin hand slane.

23.

God keip the lamb, quhilk is the innocent, 2770
 Frome wolfis byte and fell extortioneris;
 God grant, that wrangous men of fals intent
 Be manifestit and punischit, as effeiris.
 And god, as thow all richteous prayer heiris,
 Mot saif oure king, and gif him hart and hand, 2775
 All sic wolfis to banes out of the land.

Finis.

[71] XIII. The taill of the Paddok and the Mous.

1.

Vpon ane tyme, as Esope culd report,
 Ane litill mous come to ane reueir syde;
 Scho nicht not waid, hir schankis wer sa schort,
 Scho culd not swym, scho had na horß to ryde: 2780
 Of verray force behouit hir to byde,
 And to and fra beside that reueir deip
 Scho ran, cryand with mony pietious peip.

2.

‘Help ouer, help ouer’, this selie mous can cry,
 ‘For goddis lufe, sum bodie ouer the brym’. 2785
 With that ane paddok, in the watter by,
 Put vp hir heid, and on the bank can clym;
 Quhilk be nature culd douk, and gaylie swym,
 With voce full rauk scho said on this maneir:
 ‘Gude morne, schir mous, quhat is your eirand heir?’ 2790

2760 *B* und *L* suld be rad. 2764 *L* Thou art ane. 2765 *B*, *L* und
MC na thing cruell nor violent. 2767 *B* This is a sentens suth, I yow
 assure. 2771 *L* byit and men, *B* byt, I mene. 2773 *B* puneist. 2775 *B*
 hairt. 2776 *L* to banis, *B* to befeiss of this land.

XIII. 2778 *L* till ane rever syde. 2782 *L* rever. 2783 *L* pietuous.
 2784 *L* sillie. 2785 *L* ower this brym. 2790 *L* erand.

3.

'Seis thow', quod scho, 'of corne yone jolie flat
Of ryip aitis, of barlie, peis and quheit?
I am hungrie, and fane wald be thairat,
Bot I am stoppit with this watter greit;
And on this syde I get na thing till eit, 2795
Bot hard nuttis, quhilkis with my teith I bore, —
Wer I beyond, my feist wer fer the moir.

4.

[71^b]

'I haif no boit, heir is no maryner,
And thocht thair war, I haif na fraucht to pay'.
Quod scho: 'sister, let be thy heuie cheir; 2800
Do my counsale, and I sall find the way
Without horß, brig, boit, or yit gallay,
To bring the ouer saiffie, — be not effeird! —
And not weitand the campis of thy beird'.

5.

'I haif grit wounder', quod the litill mous, 2805
How can thow fleit without fedder or fin?
This reuer is sa deip and dangerous,
Me think that thow suld drownit be thairin.
Tell me, thairfoir, quhat facultie or gin
Thow hes to bring the ouer this watter wan? 2810
That to declair the paddok this began:

6.

'With my twa feit', quod scho, 'lukkin and braid,
In steid of airis, I row the streme full still,
And thocht the brym be perrillous to waid, 2815
Baith to and fra I row at my awin will.
I may not droun, for quhy my oppin gill
Deuoidis ay the watter I ressaif:
Thairfoir to droun forsuith na dreid I haif'.

7.

[72]

The mous beheld vnto hir fronsit face,
Hir runkillit cheikis, and hir lippis syde; 2820
Hir hingand browis, and hir voce sa hace,
Hir logerand leggis, and hir harsky hyde.
Scho ran abak, and on the paddok cryde:
'Gif I can ony skill of phisnomie,
Thow hes sum part of falset and invy. 2825

2792 *L* aittis. 2794 *L* stoppit be this; *MCl* by. 2797 *L* the more.
2798—2804 *fehlt im druck von 1570; in L ergänzt nach B.* 2798 *B*
marineris. 2799 *B* though thair ware. 2800 *B* lat be your havy cheir.
2802 *B* Withoutten. 2803 *B* To bring you ower saiffy — affeird. 2804 *B*
your beird. 2805 *L* the silly mowss. 2810 *L* thee ouer this watter? Than
2811 *L* Thus — Paddock sone began. *In beiden versen MCl = H.* 2817 *L*
ressaif. 2822 *L* loggerand. 2825 *L* invie.

8.

'For clerkis sayis, the inclinacioun
Of mannis thocht proceedis commounly
Efter the corporale complexioun
To guid or euill, as nature will apply:
Ane thrawin will, ane thrawin phisnomy. 2830
The ald prouerb is witnes of this: Lorum
Distortum vultum sequitur distortio morum'.

9.

'Na', quod the taid, 'that prouerb is not trew;
For fair thingis oftymes ar fundin faikin.
The blaberyis, thocht thay be sad of hew, 2835
Ar gadderit vp, quhen prymerois is forsaikin.
The face may fail to be the hartis takin;
Thairfoir I find this scriptour in all place:
'Thow suld not juge ane man efter his face' —

10.

'Thocht I vnhailsum be to luik vpoun, 2840
I haif na caus, quhy I suld lakkit be;
Wer I als fair as jolie Absolon,
I am no causer of that grit beutie.
This difference in forme and qualitie
Almichtie god hes causit dame nature 2845
To prent, and set in euerie creature.

11.

[72^b] 'Of sum the face may be full flurischand;
Of silkin tounge, and cheir richt amorous,
With mynd inconstant, fals, and variant;
Full of dissait, and menis cautelous'. 2850
'Let be thy preiching', quod the hungrie mous,
And be quhat craft thow gar me vnderstand,
That thow wald gide me to yone yonder land?'

12.

'Thow wait', quod scho, 'ane bodie that hes neid,
To help thame self suld mony wayis cast: 2855
Thairfoir ga tak ane doubill twynit threid,
And bind thy leg to myne with knottis fast.
I sall the leir to swym, — be not agast, —
Als weill as I'; — 'as thow?' than quod the mous,
'To preif that play it war richt perrillous. 2860

2829 *L* Ane thrawert vult, ane thrawert phisnomy; *MCl* = *L*. 2831 *L*
auld. 2834 *L* oftymis — faikyn. 2835 *L* bla-berryis. 2836 *L* prime-
ros is forsakin. 2838 *L* Scripture. 2840 *L* luke upon. 2843 *L* greit.
2846 *L* in everilk. 2847 *L* flurischeand. 2849 wariand. 3850 *L* und
MCl of desait.

13.

'Sould I be bund and fast, quhair I am fre,
 In hope and help, than I schrew ws baith;
 For I micht lois baith lyfe and libertie.
 Gif it war swa, quha suld amend the skaith?
 Bot gif thow sweir to me the murthour aith, 2865
 But fraude or gile to bring me ouer this flude,
 But hurt or harme'. — 'In faith', quod scho, 'I dude'.

14.

Scho goikit vp, and to the hevin can cry:
 'O Juppiter, of nature god and king,
 I mak ane aith trewlie to the, that I 2870
 This litill mous sall ouer this watter bring'.
 This aith wes maid; this mous, but presauing
 The fals ingyne of this foull carpand pad,
 Tuik threid, and band hir leg, as scho hir bad.

[73]

15.

Then fute for fute thay lap baith in the brym; 2875
 Bot in thair myndis thay war richt different:
 The mous thoct of na thing bot for to swym,
 The paddok for to droun set hir intent. —
 Quhen thay in midwart of the streme war went,
 With all hir force the paddok preissit doun, 2880
 And thoct the mous without mercie to droun.

16.

Persauand this, the mous on hir can cry:
 'Tratour to god, and manesworne vnto me,
 Thow swore the murthour aith richt now, that I
 But hurt or harme suld ferryit be and fre'; 2885
 And quhen scho saw, thair wes bot do or de,
 With all hir micht scho forcit hir to swym,
 And preissit vpoun the taidis bak to clym.

17.

The dreid of deith hir strenthis gart incres,
 And forcit hir defend with micht and mane. 2890
 The mous vpwart the paddok doun can pres,
 Quhile to, quhile fra, quhile doukit vp agane.
 The selie mous, plungit in to grit pane,
 Gan fecht als lang als breith war in hir breist,
 Till at the last scho cryit for ane preist. 2895

2861 *L* quhar. 2862 *L und MCl* hoip of help, na than I. 2864 *L*
 it wer. 2870 *L* to thee. 2872 *L* the Mous. 2873 *L* foull trappald
 Taid. 2874 *L* Tuke — as scho hir baid. 2876 *L* thay wer rycht.
 2879 *L* wer went. 289' *L* can preis. 2893 *L* sillie mous. 2894 *L*
 breith wes in.

18.

[73^b] Fechtand thusgait the gled sat on ane twist,
 And to this wretchit battell tuik guid heid,
 And with ane wisk, or ony of thame wist,
 He clawcht his cluik betuix thame in the threid;
 Syne to the land he flew with thame guid speid, 2900
 Fane of that fang, pyipand with mony pew:
 Syne lousit thame, and baith but pietie slew.

19.

Syne bowellit thame, that boucheour, with his bill,
 And bellie flaucht, full fettillie thame fled;
 Bot all thair flesche wald scant be half ane fill, 2905
 And guttis als, vnto that gredie gled.
 Of this debait, thus quhen I hard outred,
 He tuik his flicht, and ouer the feildis flaw. —
 Gif this be trew, speir ye at thame that saw.

Moralitas.

20.

My brother, gif thow will tak aduertence, 2910
 Be this fabill, thow may persaif and se,
 It passis far all kinde of pestilence,
 Ane wickit mynd, with wordis fair and sle;
 Bewar thairfoir, with quhome thow fallowis the:
 To the war better beir the stane barrow, 2915
 For all thy dayis to delf, quhill thow may dre,
 Than to be matchit with ane wickit marrow.

21.

Ane fals intent vnder ane fair pretence
 Hes causit mony innocent for to de.
 Grit folie is to gif ouer sone credence 2920
 To all that speikis fairlie vnto the.
 Ane silkin toung, ane hart of crueltye,
 Smytis more sore than ony schot of arrow.
 Brother, gif thow be wyse, I rid the fle,
 To matche the with ane thrawit, feinyeit marrow. 2925

22.

I warne the als, it is grit negligence,
 To bind the fast quhair thow was frank and fre.

2899 *L* claucht his cluke betwix. 2900 *L* gude (*fast stets*) für guid.
 2904 *L* belliflaucht, *MCI* belly-flaucht; *L* und *MCI* thame flaid. 2906 *L*
 Glaid. 2907 *L* und *MCI* Of thair debait; *L* outraid. 2908 *L* He tuke.
 2911 *L* persave. 2912 *L* all kynd. 2914 *L* fallowis thee, *B* thé. 2916 *B*
 Of sueitand, ding and delfe, quhill. 2917 *B* und *L* be machit. 2918 *L* fair
 presence. 2920 *B* folly is thairfoir to gife credence. 2921 *B* Our sone
 to all that speikis fair to thé. 2922 *B* ane hairt of crewelté. 2924 *B*
 Brudir, gif — I red thé flé; *L* I reid thee fle. 9225 *L* mache thee — ane
 thrawart; *B* ane frawart, *MCI* thraward. 2927 *L* quhar thow wes.

Fra thow be bund, thow may mak na defence,
 To saif thy life nor yit thy libertie:
 This simpill counsale, brother, tak of me, 2930
 And it to cum perqueir: se thow not tarrow;
 Better but stryfe allane to leif in le,
 Than to be matchit with ane wickit marrow.

23.

This hald in mynde; richt moir I sall the tell,
 Quhairby thir beistis may be figurate: 2935
 The paddok, vsand in the flude to duell,
 Is mannis bodie, swymand air and lait
 In to this warld, with cairis implicate;
 Now hie, now law; quhilis plungit vp, quhilis down;
 Ay in perrell, and reddie for to droun. 2940

24.

[74^b] Now dolorous, now blyith, as bird on breir;
 Now in fredome, now wappit in distres;
 Now haill and sound, now deid and brocht on beir;
 Now pure as Job, now rowand in riches;
 Now gownis gay, now bratis laid in pres; 2945
 Now full as fitche, now hungrie as ane hound;
 Now on the quheill, now wrappit to the ground.

25.

This litill mous, heir knit thus be the schin,
 The saule of man betakin may indeid;
 Bundin, and fra the bodie may not win, 2950
 Quhill cruell deith cum brek of life the threid;
 The quhilk to droun suld euer stand in dreid,
 Of carnale lust be the suggestioun,
 Quhilk drawis ay the saule, and druggis down.

26.

The watter is the warld, ay welterand, 2955
 With mony wall of trubulatioun,
 In quhilk the saule and bodie wer steirand,
 Standand richt different in thair opinioun:
 The saule vpwart, the bodie precis down;
 The saule richt fane wald be brocht ouer, I wis, 2960
 Out of this warld in to the heuinis blis.

2931 *B*, *L* und *MCl* to cum. 2932 *B* und *L* to leif allane in lé.
 2933 *L* machit. 2934 *L* mynd rycht more; *L* thee tell, *B* thé. 2935 *B*
 und *L* Quhairby. 2939 *B* quhyle. 2940 *L* perrell. 2941 *B* do-
 lorus. 2942 *B* distress. 2944 *B* richness. 2945 *B* now brattis to im-
 brass. 2946 *L* as a hound. 2948 *L* schyn, *B* chin. 2953 *B* carnall.
 2956 *B* tribulatioun. 2959 *L* body preisis, *B* preissis. 2960 *L* richt fain.
 2961 *L* heuenis. 2960—61 *B* The natur of the saule wald our be borne |
 Out of this warld unto the hevinly trone.

27.

The gled is deith, that cummis suddandlie,
 As dois ane theif, and cuttis sone the battell. —
 Be vigilant, thairfoir, and ay reddie,
 For mannis lyfe is brukill, and ay mortale: 2965
 My freind, thairfoir, mak the ane strang castell,
 Of faith in Christ; for deith will the assay,
 Thow wait not quhen: euin, morrow, or midday.

28.

[75] Adew, my freind; and gif that ony speiris,
 Of this fabill sa schortlie I conclude, 2970
 Say thow, I left the laif vnto the freiris,
 To mak exempill and ane similitude. —
 Now christ for ws that deit on the rude,
 Of saule and lyfe, as thow art saluour,
 Grant ws to pas in till ane blissit hour! 2975

Finis.

2962 *B* is deid. 2963 *L* and endis — battall, *B* endis this battell.
 2965 *B* is brukle, *L* und *B* mortall. 2966 *L* mak thee, *B* thé. 2967 *B*
 Of gud deidis, for deid will thé assay. 2968 *B* at evin morne. 2971 *B*
 Thow say.

LEIPZIG.

A. R. DIEBLER.