

IV.—ON HAVELOK, LINE 2333. By HENRY BRADLEY,
M.A., Ph.D.

IN *Havelok*, ll. 2332–3, the reading of the MS. is as follows:—

“po mouthe men se eueril gleu,
per mouthe men se hw grim greu.”

Professor Skeat, following Sir F. Madden, prints ‘Grim’ with a capital, and understands l. 2333 to mean that the sports at Havelok’s inauguration included a scenic representation of the story of Grim. It may be conceded that there is no great unlikelihood in the supposition that the career of the legendary founder of Grimsby might, in the thirteenth century, have been the theme of a drama performed at local merrymakings; but there is no evidence that any such drama existed, and the word *greu* does not, even allowing for the exigencies of rime, seem very appropriate to express the supposed meaning. Professor Holthausen has attempted to extract a more plausible sense from the passage by emending *grim* into *glam*. But as this word means ‘loud noise,’ it does not appear to agree with the context. I do not know whether it has ever been pointed out that the exact phrase of the text occurs in *Sir Beves* (Auchinleck MS.), l. 1880. After giving the words of defiance uttered by the giant and Beves before they come to blows, the poet says, “þus beginneþ grim to growe.” The meaning of *grim* here is obviously the warlike fury of the opposing champions. Now the couplet above quoted from *Havelok* is immediately preceded by a reference to the baiting of bulls and of boars, and a few lines earlier we read of “butting with sharpe speres,” “skirming with talevaces,” and “wrestling with laddes.” It therefore seems to me clear that l. 2333 above means that the spectators had the pleasure of watching the kindling of the rage of battle between the combatants, human and animal.

P.S.—Since the above was in type, I have been informed by Professor Napier that my explanation of the line was anticipated ten years ago by the late Professor Kölbing (*Englische Studien*, xix, 148), who also referred to the parallel passage in *Sir Beves*.

TREASURER'S CASH ACCOUNT, 1902.

Dr. BENJAMIN DAWSON, Esq., *Treasurer, in account with the Philological Society.* Cr.

CASH RECEIVED.			CASH PAID.		
1902.	£	s. d.	1902.	£	s. d.
Jan. 1.			Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.		
To Balance		37 8 1	By Meetings—Expenses of Rooms and Refreshments.....		8 15 5
Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. To sums received in 1902—			" Bank charges.....		0 3 0
For Arrears	8	8 0	" Treasurer's expenses, including the Dictionary	112 13 8	1 3 0
" Entrance Fees	5	5 0	" Balance at Bankers'	0 2 9	
" Subscriptions, 1902	51	9 0	" " in Treasurer's hands		112 16 5
" Life Composition	10	10 0			
" In advance.....	2	2 0			
		<u>77 14 0</u>			
For Sale of Publications		7 10 11			
		<u>122 13 0</u>			
Received from Members for copies of the Society's Dictionary	24	3 10	Paid to Clarendon Press for Members' copies of the Society's Dictionary		23 19 0
		<u>£146 16 10</u>			<u>£146 16 10</u>

We have examined this Account with the Books and Vouchers, and certify that it is correct.

(Signed) HENRY B. WHEATLEY, } AUDITORS.
RICHARD WARE, }

APRIL 17TH, 1903.