

"Pierce the Plowmans Crede," 372

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Prince's division—for Edward had divided his great army into three columns, commanded by himself, the Black Prince, and Henry Duke of Lancaster, which effected a junction at Reims. Interesting details of the route of Chaucer's division, and the fighting by the way, are given by Gray a few lines above this passage.

G. G. COULTON.

EASTBOURNE.

‘PIERCE THE PLOWMANS CREDE,’ 372.

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|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Leeue it well, lef man· | and men ryzt-lokede, |
| þer is more pryue pride· | in Prechours hertes |
| þan þer lefte in Lucyfer· | er he were lowe fallen. |

Both in his *Specimens of English Literature*, 1394–1579, and in his recent edition of the *Crede* (1906), Professor Skeat explains ‘ryzt-lokede’ as ‘righteous, just,’ from A.-S. ‘rihtlic,’ with which it seems difficult to connect it phonetically. Is it possible that the hyphen is wrong, and that the phrase means ‘if one looked (i.e. observed) aright’? ‘Men’ would then be the phonetic weakening of ‘man,’ as in Chaucer, *C. T.*, *Prologue*, 149, ‘Or if men smoot it with a yerde smerte.’ Stratmann gives four instances of the form ‘lokede’ in M.E.

W. H. WILLIAMS.

HOBART, TASMANIA.

OCCLEVE, ‘DE REGIMINE PRINCIPUM,’ 299, 621.

Also who was hyer in filosofye
To Aristotle in our tunge but thow?

Professor Skeat in the glossary to his *Specimens* explains ‘hyer’ as ‘higher.’ But should not the right reading be ‘heyr’=‘heir’? Can one say ‘higher to’ for ‘higher than’? Besides, if this were possible, the context is against it. Occleve in his *Lament for Chaucer*, says of the poet, ‘to Tullius was neuer man *so like* amonges vs,’ and ‘The steppes of Virgile in poysye thou *folwedest* eke.’ Is it likely, considering the estimation of Aristotle in the middle ages, that Occleve would make Chaucer his superior in philosophy, after making him only equal to Cicero in rhetoric and inferior to Virgil in poetry? Whereas to make him his ‘heir’ would be perfectly consistent.