

HENRISON'S FABELN.

In folgendem sollen die fabeln Henrison's¹ nach der Harleianahandschrift no. 3865 zum abdruck gebracht werden. Hierbei möge es gestattet sein, einige bemerkungen über des dichters werke im allgemeinen, über ihre chronologische anordnung sowie ihre überlieferung vorzuschicken.

Je nach ihrem inhalt und ihrer speziellen behandlungsweise bin ich geneigt, Henrison's werke in drei perioden einzuordnen:

I. periode (ca. 1450—1462),

also bis zu seinem aufenthalte an der universität Glasgow. Hierher gehören die erotischen und allegorischen gedichte, die sich schon durch die natur des stoffes als jugendwerke charakterisieren, wie auch solche die, durch zeitumstände veranlasst, sich von selbst in diese periode einordnen:

1. The Garmond of gude Ladeis; erhalten im Bannat. Ms.² und abgedruckt bei Hailes in seinen Ancient Scottish Poems, Edinburg 1770.
2. The bludy Serk, im Bannatyne Ms.; abgedruckt im 1. band von Sibbald's Chronicle of Scottish Poetry, Edinb. 1802, 8^o, und in Pinkerton's Ancient Scottish Poems, vol. III. London 1792.
3. Robene and Makyne, erhalten im Bannatyne Ms. Abgedruckt bei Sibbald, vol. I, s. 115; in Ramsay's Evergreen, Edinb. 1724; bei Hailes, Edinb. 1770; in Percy's Reliques of Ancient English Poetry; von Chalmers für den Bannatyne Club, Edinb. 1824.
4. Sum Practyis of Medecyne, im Bannatyne Ms.
5. Ane Prayer for the Pest, 1456 geschrieben, erhalten im Bannatyne Ms.
6. Orpheus and Eurydice, im Asloan Ms. Zuerst gedruckt von Chepman & Myllar, Edinb. 1508; 'reprinted in 1827', 4^o, mit dem

¹ Ueber Henrison selbst und spezieller über seine fabeln, ihre quellen etc. habe ich gehandelt in meiner 1885 bei Niemeyer in Halle erschienenen dissertation: 'Die fabeldichtungen Henrison's'. Der hier in der Anglia s. 342 ff. folgende abdruck der zu grunde gelegten Harleiana hs. 3865 wird auch nebst jener dissertation als einleitung und mit einem glossar versehen separat in Niemeyer's verlag erscheinen.

² Näheres über die einzelnen hier erwähnten handschriften s. unten.

titel: The traitie of Orpheus Kyng and how he yeid to hevyn and hel to seik his quene.

Unter diesen jugendgedichten stehen seine ballade *'The bludy Serk'* und sein pastoralgedicht *'Robene and Makyne'* zweifellos am höchsten da und verraten schon bei überraschender formvollendung und originalität Henrison's dichterische berufung. Das erste und sechste gedicht sind von untergeordnetem poetischem werte, und das vierte sowie fünfte sind blosse gelegenheitsgedichte, in denen des dichters talent weniger hervortritt.

II. periode (ca. 1462—1488),

also von seinem aufenthalte in Glasgow bis etwa zum tode Jakob's III. In dieser zeit tragen seine dichtungen einen vorwiegend didaktisch-satirischen charakter; es ist Henrison's blütezeit, die seine vorzüglichsten leistungen umschliesst. Hierher gehören:

7. The Testament and the Complaint of Cresseid, worin Henr. eine fortsetzung zu Chaucer's *'Troilus and Creseide'* gibt und das weitere schicksal jener unbeständigen Trojanerin erzählt, über das Chaucer in seiner dichtung schweigt. Die darin befindliche stelle:

'Though love be hote, yet in a man of age
It kindlith not so sone as in a youthed',

die Irving auf eine abfassung in hohem alter schliessen lässt, ist keineswegs für eine solche annahme überzeugend und kann mit demselben rechte auf das gegenteil wie auch auf einen verfasser in blühendem mannesalter hinweisen. Das gedicht entstand jedenfalls im laufe der sechziger jahre. Handschriftlich ist es jetzt nicht mehr überliefert, stand aber früher, wie aus den katalogen der Auchinleck Library zu Edinburg hervorgeht, im Asloan Ms., aus dem es nebst mehreren anderen kopien schon frühe verschwunden ist. Es findet sich fast in allen älteren drucken von Chaucer's werken, zuerst im jahre 1532; dann separat gedruckt von Henry Charteris, Edinb. 1593, 4^o, wovon noch zehn blätter am Brit. Museum erhalten sind; 1824 wurde es auch von Chalmers für den Bannatyne Club neu gedruckt.

8. The Morall fabillis of Esope, dreizehn an der zahl nebst zwei prologen. Vollständig erhalten im Harl. Ms. 3865, teilweise noch im Asloan Ms. (2. fabel), im Bannatyne Ms. (1.—8., 12. und 13. fabel), und im Makculloch Ms. (1. fabel nebst 1. prolog). Weiteres über drucke dieser fabeln s. unten.

9. The Want of Wyse men, im Bannat. Ms.

10. Aganis Haisty Creddance of Titlaris, erhalten im Bannat. Ms. und im Maitland Ms.

11. The thre Deid Powis, bei dem die autorschaft zweifelhaft ist, da dies gedicht im Maitl. Ms. wol mit dem namen Henrison's, im

Bannat. Ms. hingegen mit 'Quod Patrick Johnston' unterschrieben ist. — Abgedruckt bei Hailes in den *Ancient Scottish Poems*, Edinb. 1770.

12. Maister Henrisone's dreme, war früher ebenfalls im Asloan Ms. überliefert, ist aber jetzt verschollen. Es muss um die mitte des 16. jahrhunderts sehr beliebt gewesen sein und wird auch ca. 1548 in 'The Complaint of Scotland' erwähnt (Edinb. 1801, 8^o, s. 98).

III. periode,

ca. 1488 bis zu des dichters tode; sie umfasst die gedichte mit vorwiegend geistlichem charakter, in denen sich Henrisone in religiöse und moralisierende reflexionen versenkt und somit jenen werken den stempel einer sittlich-reinen, tendenzlosen beschaulichkeit aufdrückt, wie sie so recht für das alter charakteristisch ist. Hierher gehören:

13. The Abbey Walk, erhalten im Bannat.- und Maitl. Ms.

14. The Salutation of the Virgin, in James Gray's Ms.

15. Einige kleinere religiöse gedichte, im Makculloch Ms.

16. The Prais of Aige, im Bannat. Ms.; abgedruckt bei Hailes 1770.

17. The Ressoning betwixt Aige and Yowth, im Bannat.- und Maitl. Ms.; abgedruckt bei Hailes.

18. The Ressoning betwixt Deth and Man, im Bannat. Ms.; abgedruckt bei Hailes.

Alle diese einzelnen dichtungen sind auch bis auf no. 12 und 15 (ohne rücksicht auf ihre chronologische entstehung) abgedruckt in Laing's *Poems and Fables of Henryson*, Edinb. 1865.

Die handschriften, in denen sich die genannten werke Henrisone's zerstreut finden.

(Z. t. nach Laing's beschreibung.)

1. Gray's Ms., ein kleines bändchen in der advokaten-bibliothek zu Edinburg, geschrieben am ende des 15. jahrhunderts von James Gray, einem 'notarius publicus'. Diese handschrift enthält von den obengenannten gedichten nur no. 14.

2. Asloan's Ms., in folio, geschrieben ca. 1515 von einem gewissen Asloan und jetzt in der Auchinleck-bibliothek zu Edinburg befindlich. Es enthielt nach den dortigen katalogen von den angeführten werken unseres dichters no. 6, 7 und 12 und von seinen fabeln die 2., 3., 4., 5., 7., 8. und 13. Jetzt sind alle diese stücke daraus verschwunden bis auf 'Orpheus and Eurydice' und die 2. fabel (von der stadt- und landmaus, mit einer lücke von v. 281—287).

3. Bannatyne Ms., in fol., eine der umfassendsten sammlungen schottischer dichtungen, geschrieben im jahre 1568 von George Bannatyne und jetzt zur advokaten-bibliothek in Edinburg gehörig. Von den obengenannten werken enthält diese handschrift no. 1—5, 9—11, 13, 16—18, und von den fabeln die 1.—8., 12. und 13., also nur zehn.

4. Das *Harleiana Ms. no. 3865*, klein folio, 38 centimeter hoch, 29 centimeter breit. Es ist die einzige handschrift, die eine vollständige sammlung der Henrisone'schen fabeln enthält; in folgendem soll sie zum ersten male herausgegeben werden. Die handschrift ist mit grosser sorgfalt angefertigt und scheint wegen ihrer ausschmückung durch farbige, wenn auch plumpe handzeichnungen zur dedication bestimmt gewesen zu sein. Die titelschrift ist durch einen sie umgebenden rahmen von farbigen arabesken verziert und trägt das datum 1571. Da die zahl 71 andersfarbig als die ganze übrige titelschrift geschrieben ist, so hatte der schreiber das ms. wol schon früher begonnen und dabei die genauere datierung bis zur vollendung desselben aufgeschoben. Nachher trug er wol aus mangel an derselben grünen farbe, mit der er den ganzen übrigen titel geschrieben, die zahl 71 in violet nach. Somit erreicht das *Harl. ms.* ungefähr ein gleiches alter wie das *Bannat. Ms.* Die titel wie die anfangsworte der fabeln und prologe sind in frakturschrift, während der übrige text in der *antiqua* geschrieben ist. Dem inhalte entsprechende titelbilder haben die erste fabel (hahn und jaspis) und die achte (schwalbe, vögel und bauer). Von fol. 1 ist die erste seite freigelassen, fol. 1^b enthält den titel und auf fol. 2^a beginnt der text, der mit durchschnittlich drei stropfen pro seite bis fol. 75^a reicht. Die rückseite dieses letzten folioblattes ist unbeschrieben. Die ganze handschrift enthält ausser den fabeln keinen anderen text.

Durch ihre unabhängige stellung, ihre vollständigkeit, wie ganz besonders auch durch treue überlieferung des textes nimmt sie unter allen erhaltenen handschriften und alten drucken Henrisone'scher fabeln die erste stelle ein und übertrifft die übrigen zweifellos an wert für die textkritik. — Da sie viele abweichende lesarten wie auch mehrere stropfen enthält, die im druck von 1570 (s. u.) fehlen, so irrt Laing, indem er annimmt, die *Harl. hs.* gehe auf jenen druck zurück.

5. *Makculloch Ms.*, geschrieben im jahre 1477 von einem gewissen Magnus Makculloch, während er vorlesungen an der universität zu Louvain in Brabant hielt. Dieses ms. enthält auf einigen leeren blättern von jüngerer hand aus dem ende des 16. jahrhunderts die oben unter no. 15 angeführten religiösen gedichte Henrisone's, ferner den ersten prolog und die erste fabel. Es war zuletzt im besitze Laing's, wurde aber im winter 1883/84 nebst dem übrigen literarischen nachlass Laing's in London zum verkaufe ausgeben.

6. *Maitland Ms.*, geschrieben in der zweiten hälfte des 16. jahrhunderts von Sir Richard Maitland (s. Irving s. 408), und befindet sich jetzt in der *Pepysian Library* zu Cambridge. Es enthält von den oben genannten gedichten no. 10, 11, 13 und 17, aber keine fabeln.

Verzeichniss der bisherigen drucke, in denen fabeln Henrisone's enthalten sind.

Zunächst haben wir einen alten druck anzunehmen, der wahrscheinlich aus der officin von Chepman & Myllar (ca. 1508—15) hervorgegangen war, von welchem aber leider kein exemplar mehr existiert. Die annahme

eines solchen druckes ist bedingt durch den titel der zweifellos auf ihm beruhenden fabelausgabe von 1570, die als 'newlie imprentit' bezeichnet wird.

Dieser druck von 1570 hat folgenden genauen titel:

The Morall Fabillis of Esope the Phrygian, Compylit in Eloquent and Ornate Scottis Meter, be Maister Robert Henrison. Scholemaister of Dunfermeling.

¶ Dulcius arrident seria picta jocis.

¶ Vt Naufragii lenamen est Portus, ita Tranquillitas
animi seu Incunditas est quasi Vitae Portus.

Newlie imprentit at Edinburgh, be Robert Lekpreuik, at the expensis of Henrie Charteris. A. D. MDLXX.

Das einzige noch existierende exemplar dieses druckes befindet sich jetzt in der advokaten-bibliothek zu Edinburg. Wenn auch der text dieser ausgabe im allgemeinen nicht den vorwurf der unzuverlässigkeit verdient, so enthält er doch noch an vielen stellen korrumpierte lesungen und zeigt oft auch beeinflussung durch den lautstand des Midland dialekts. Manche mängel sind wol auf ungenauen abdruck der vorlage zurückzuführen, bei dem zu jener zeit eine textkritik kaum zu erwarten stand. Die darin fehlenden verse 381—388, 2798—2804, 2941—47 und 2952—57 fanden sich wol in dem zu grunde liegenden älteren drucke, da sie sich in den ebenfalls auf jenen zurückgehenden ausgaben von 1577 und 1621 finden.

Die ausgabe von 1577, einen anglierten text enthaltend, hat folgenden genaueren titel:

The fabulous tales of Esope the Phrygian, compiled moste eloquentlie in Scottishe Metre by Master R. Henrison, and now lately Englished.

London. Imprinted by Richard Smith, 1577. 8°.

Diese recension enthält alle dreizehn fabeln und noch einen prolog des übersetzers Smith (buchhändler zu London). Ein exemplar davon findet sich noch am Sion College zu London.

Der druck von 1621, der früher nur durch eine von Bagford in seinem bücherkataloge (Sloane Ms. 885, fol. 49) aufgezeichnete notiz verbürgt wurde¹, ist zu anfang dieses jahrhunderts in einem ziemlich verstümmelten exemplare wider aufgefunden und der advokaten-bibliothek zu Edinburg einverleibt worden. Die worte des titels 'newlie reuised and corrected' genügen eigentlich schon allein zur kritik dieser ausgabe, die fast durchweg als eine korrumpierung des ursprünglichen textes anzusehen ist. Diesen verstand der herausgeber vielfach nicht mehr und kleidete ihn mit denkbar grösster willkür in teils englisches, teils verstümmeltes schottisches gewand. Aus dieser ausgabe wurden 1813 im Scot. Magazine s. 505 ff. der erste prolog und die neunte fabel wider abgedruckt.

Eine vollständige ausgabe davon wurde 1832 veranstaltet für den Maitland Club:

¹ Es heisst daselbst: 'Robert Henrison scolemaister of Dunfermeling put forth Esope fables in Scottish meter, in 8°, printed at Edinburgh by Andrew Hart, 1621'.

The | Moral Fables | of | Robert Henryson. | Reprinted from the edition
of | Andrew Hart. | Edinburgh. | MDCCCXXXII. | Presented to the Mait-
land Club by Duncan Stewart.

Der text ist vollständig unbrauchbar; seine fabelhafte entstellung ist natür-
lich grösstenteils schon auf rechnung von Hart's ausgabe zu setzen, doch
verraten falsche interpunktionen etc. auch oft die tollsten missverständ-
nisse seitens dieses herausgebers. Einige proben mögen den text hier
charakterisieren: v. 7 'anothing' statt 'ane vther thing'; v. 50 'like a heast'
statt 'beist'; v. 167 'an doth ermens(!) skaith' statt 'and vther mennis
skaith'; v. 175 'chiefe' statt 'cheis' etc.

Der vollständigkeit halber will ich noch zwei sammlungen erwähnen,
in denen teile aus Henrisone's fabeln abgedruckt sind:

Sibbald, Chronicle of Scottish Poetry, 1802, 8^o, enthaltend
im ersten bande s. 90 ff. den 2. prolog, die 12., 6. und 2. fabel (fälschlicher-
weise setzt Sibbald dieselben schon in die regierungszeit Jakob's II.).

Hailes, Ancient Scottish Poems, Edinburgh 1770, worin die 6.
und 12. fabel, wie auch die moralitäten der 1., 2., 7. und 13. fabel abge-
druckt sind. — Bei beiden ist der text etwas unkritisch und sorglos
nach dem Bannat. Ms. wiedergegeben.

Der schon vorerwähnte, durch Laing besorgte druck der fabeln in
Poems and Fables of Henryson, Edinburgh 1865, verdient in bezug auf
zuverlässigkeit des textes gewisse anerkennung. Seine mängel sind die
des druckes von 1570 (s. oben), den Laing unverändert widergibt.

Doch gehen wir nun über zur genauen wiedergabe der fabeln, wie
sie im mehrfach genannten Harl. Ms. 3865 überliefert sind. In der bei-
gefügten collation gebe ich die lesarten von *A*, *B* und *M* nur mit einiger
reserve wider, da ich dieselben erst indirekt aus den drei zuletzt genannten
drucken entlehnen konnte.

[fol. 1^b]

The Morall fabillis of
Esopo compylit be
Maister Robert Henrisoun
Scolmaister of Dun-
fermling.
1571.

[fol. 2^a]

Prolog.

1.

Thocht feinyeit fabillis of ald poetrie
Be not all grunded vpon truth, yit than
Thair polite termes of sweit rethorie
Richt plesand ar vnto the eir of man;

L = druck von 1570, abgedruckt von Laing 1865; *H* = Harl. Ms. 3865;
B = Bannatyne Ms.; *A* = Asloan Ms.; *M* = Makculloch Ms.; *MCl* =
druck für den Maitland Club 1832 (auf grund des druckes von 1621). Ist
nichts angegeben, so bezieht sich die collation auf *L*.

1 *L* feinyeit, auld. 2 *L* groundit, treuth. 4 *L* Ar richt.

And als the caus, that thay first began, 5
 Wes to repreue the haill misleuing
 Of man, be figure of ane vther thing.

2.

In lyke maner, as throw the bustious eird,
 Swa it be labourit with grit diligence,
 Springis the flouris and the corne abreird, 10
 Hailsum and gude to mannis sustenance:
 Swa dois spring ane morale sweit sentence
 Out of the subtell dyte of poetry,
 To gude purpois, quha culd it weill apply.

3.

The nuttis schell, thoct be hard and teuch, 15
 Haldis the kirknell and is delectabill.
 Sa lysis thair ane doctrine, wyse aneuch,
 And full of frute, vnder ane feinyeit fabill.
 And clerkis sayis, it is richt profitabill,
 Amangis eirnist to ming ane mery sport, 20
 To licht the spreit, and gar the tyme be schort.

4.

[2^b]

Forther mair, ane bow that is ay bent,
 Worthis vnsmart and dullis on the string.
 Sa dois the mynd that is ay diligent
 In eirnist full thoe[h]tis, and in studying. 25
 With sad materis sum merynes to myng
 Acordis weill, thus esope said, I wis:
 'Dulcius arident seria picta jocis'.

5.

Of this authour, my maisteris, with your leif,
 Submitting me in your correctioun, 30
 In mother tounge of lating I wald preif
 To mak ane maner of translatioun;
 Not of my self, for vane presumptioun,
 Bot be request and precept of ane Lord,
 Of quhome the name it neidis nocht record. 35

6.

In hamellie language, and in termes rude,
 Me neidis not, for quhy, of eloquence,
 Nor rethorik I never understude.
 Thairfoir meiklie I pray your reuerence;
 Gif that ye find it throw my negligence, 40

6 *L* reпреif, *M* reпреif the of thi misleuing. 9 *L* greit. 10 *L* on
 breird. 12 *L* Swa springis thair. 21 *L* To blyth. 22 *L* For as we se,
 ane bow. 24 *Sa* gais the man. 25 *H* thoctis. 31 *Latyne*. 37 neidis
 wryte, for.

Be deminute, or yit superfluous,
Correct it at your willis gracious.

7.

- [3] My author in his fabillis tellis, how
That brut beistis spak, and vnderstude,
In to guid purpois dispute, and argow, 45
Ane sillogisme propone, and eik conclude.
Put in exempill, and in similitude,
How mony men, in operatioun,
Ar like to beistis in conditioun!

8.

Na mervell is, ane man be like ane beist, 50
Quhilk luffis ay carnall and foull delite;
That schame can not him reinye, nor arreist,
Bot takis all the lust and appetyte,
And that throw custum and dalye ryte.
Synce in thair myndis sa fast is radicate, 55
That thay in brutall beistis ar transformate.

9.

This nobill clerk esope, as I haif tald,
In gay meter, as poete lawriate,
Be figure wrait his buik; for he not wald
Lack the disdane of hie nor law estait. 60
And to begin, first of ane cok he wrate,
Seikand his meit, quhilk fand ane joly stone,
Of quhome the fabill ye sall heir anone.

[3^b] I. The Tail of the Cok and the Jasp.

1.

Ane cok, sum tyme, with feddram fresch and gay,
Richt cant and crouß, albeit he was bot pure, 65
Flew furth vpoun ane dung hill sone be day,
To get his dennar set was all his cure:
Scaipand among the ass, be euenture
He fand ane joly jasp, richt precious,
Was castin furth be sweping of the houss. 70

2.

- [4] As damesellis wantoun, and insolent,
That fane wald play, and on the streit be sene,
To sweping of the houss thay tak na tent;
Thay cair na thing, swa that the flure be clene.

44 brutall. 45 And to gude. 47 Putting exempill. 51 luffis.
52 renye. 54 daylie. 56 are. 57 tauld. 60 Lak the wisdom. 61 wrait.
64 feddrame, *M* fethreme. 66 upon. 70 in sweping; *M* cassyn out.
71 *M* As madynis, *L* damysellis.

Jowellis ar tint, as oftymes has bene sene, 75
 Vpon the flure, and swopit furth anone,
 Peradventure, sa was the samyn stone.

3.

Sa mervelland vpon this stane, (quod he),
 'O gentill Jasp! o riche and noble thing:
 Thocht I the find, thow ganis not for me! 80
 Thow art ane jowell for ane lord, or king.
 Pietie it war, thow suld ly in this midding,
 Be buryit thus amang this muk on mold,
 And thow sa fair, and worth sa mekle gold.

4.

It is pietie I suld the fynd, for quhy, 85
 Thy gret vertue, nor yit thy cullour cleir,
 It may me nouthur extoll, nor magnify:
 And thow to me may mak bot litill cheir.
 To gret lordis thocht thow be leif and deir,
 I luif fer better thing of les auaill, 90
 As draf, or corne, to fill my tume intrail.

5.

[4b] I had leuer ga scrapit heir with my naillis
 Amangis this mow, and luik my lyfis fude:
 As draf, or corne, small wornes, or snaillis,
 Or ony meit wald do my stomok gude, 95
 Than of jaspis ane mekle multitude.
 And thow agane, vpoun the samyn wyse,
 For les auaill may me as now dispyis.

6.

'Thow hes na corne, and thairof I haif neid;
 Thy cullour dois but confort to the sicht, 100
 And that is not enewch my wame to feid;
 For wyfis sayis, luikand workis ar licht.
 I wald haif sum meit, get it gif I mycht,
 For hungrie men may not leue on luikis:
 Had I dry breid, I compt not for na cuikis. 105

7.

'Quhair suld thow mak thy habitatioun?
 Quhair suld thow duell, bot in ane royell tour?
 Quhair suld thow sit, bot on ane kingis croun?
 Exaltit in worschip and in gret honour!

78 the stane. 80 thee. 82 wer, thow sould. 83 And buryit be
 thus in this muke and mold. 84 mekill. 89 *L* leiff, *M* be haldyne
 deyr. 90 *L* lufe. 92 *L* lever haif scraipit; heir *fehlt*; *M* haif *statt ga*.
 93 *L* luke. 96 mekill. 97 wyis. 98 *L* For thyne availl, *M und B*
 May me as now for thyne awall dispice. 101 *L* aneuch. 104 nocht
 leif. 109 and greit.

Ryse gentill Jasp, of all stanis the flour, 110
 Out of this midding, and pas quhair thow suld be,
 Thow ganis not for me, nor I for the'.

8.

[5] Leuand this jowell law upoun the ground,
 To seik his meit this cok his wayis went;
 Bot quhen, or how, or quhome be it was found, 115
 As now I set to hald na argument:
 Bot of the inwart sentence and intent
 Of this as myne author dois wryte,
 I sall reheirs in rude and hamelie dyte:

Moralitas.

9.

This joly jasp had properteis sevin: 120
 The first, of cullour it was meruellous;
 Part lyke the fyre, and part like to the hevin,
 It makis ane man stark and victorious;
 Preseruis als fra cacis perillous:
 Quha hes this stane, sall haif gude hap to speid, 125
 Or fyre, nor water him neidis not to dreid.

10.

[5^b] This gentill jasp, richt different of hew,
 Betakynnis perfite prudence and cunning,
 Ornate with mony deidis of vertew, 130
 Mair excellent than ony eirthlie thing,
 Quhilk makis men in honour for to ring,
 Happie and stark to win the victorie
 Of all vicis, and spirituale enemie.

11.

Quha may be hardie, riche, and gracious?
 Quha can eschew perrell and euenture? 135
 Quha can gouerne ane realme, citie, or houß
 Without science? na man, I yow assure.
 It is riches that euer sall indure;
 Quhilk maith, nor moist, nor vther rust can screit,
 To mannis saule it is eternale meit. 140

12.

This cok, desirand mair the sempill corne
 Than ony jasp, vnto ane fule is peir,

111 quhar. 117 inward. 118 of this Fable. *Die überschrift 'Moralitas' steht im Harl. Ms. fälschlicherweise erst über der zehnten strophe.*
 122 *B* parte is lyk the hevin. 124 *L* und *B* caissis. 125 *L* hoip. 126 *B*
 off fyre, nor falls. 127 *B* und *M* oft different. 131 *B* ay to ring.
 137 *L* over all thing *statt* na man. 139 *L* moith, can freit. 142 may
 till ane fule be peir; *B* = *H*.

Quhilk at science makis bot ane mok and scorne,
 And na gude can, als litill will he leir;
 His hart wammillis wyse argument to heir, 145
 As dois ane sow, to quhome men for the nanis
 In hir draf troch wald saw precious stanis.

13.

[6] Quha is enemie to science and cunning,
 Bot ignorantis that vnderstandis nocht?
 Quhilk is sa noble, sa preciouß, and sa ding, 150
 That it may not with eirdlie thing be bocht!
 Weill war that man ouer all vther, that mocht
 All his lyfe dayis in perfite studie wair,
 To get science; for him neidis na mair.

14.

Bot now, [allace], this jasp is tint and hid; 155
 We seik it nocht, nor preis it for to find:
 Haif we riches, na better lyfe we bid,
 Of science thocht the saule be bair and blind.
 Of this mater to speik, it war but wind,
 Thairfoir I ceis, and will na ferther say. 160
 Ga seik the jasp quha will, for thair it lay.

Finis.

[6^b] II. The Taill of the vponlandis Mous and
 the burges Mous.

1.

Esope, my author, makis mentioun
 Of twa myis, and thay wer sisteris deir,
 Of quhome the eldest duelt in ane borous town.
 The vther wynnit vponland, weill near, 165
 Soliter, quhile vnder busk, quhile vnder breir,
 Quhilis in the corne, and vther mennis skaith,
 As outlawis dois and leuis on thair waith.

2.

This rurall mouß, in to the winter tyde,
 Had hunger, cauld, and tholit gret distres. 170
 The vther mous that in the burgh can byde,

143 *M und B* Makand at science bot a knak and skorne. 144 *B*
 Quhilk can na gud and als. 146 *B und L* nonis. 147 *L* draf troich,
B und L the precious stonis. 150 *Das zweite sa fehlt in B.* 151 *B*
 That may nocht with no erdly thing; *M* erdly gud. 152 *B* man of all
 uthir. 155 *H* allace *fehlt*; *L* Bot now, allace! science is; *B* *hat auch* allace.
 159 *M und B* Of this mater I do bot waistis wind; *L* I wair. 160 *L*
 forther, *B* furder. 161 *B und M* quha list.

II. *L* uplandis. 162 *L und B* myne. 164 quham. Borrowis. 166 *B*
und L Richt solitair, quhile under busk and breir. 167 *B* mennis schacht.
 168 *B* thair wacht.

Was gild-brother and maid ane fre burgeß:
Toll-fre als, but custum mair or les,
And fredome had to ga quhair euer scho list,
Amang the cheis in ark, and meill in kist. 175

3.

Ane tyme quhen scho was full and vnfute sair,
Scho tuik in mynde hir sister vponland,
And langit for to heir of hir weifair
[7] To se quhat lyfe scho had vnder the wand:
Bairfute, allone, with pykestalf in hir hand, 180
As pure pilgryme scho passit out of toun,
To seik hir sister baith ouer dail and doun.

4.

Furth mony wilsun wayis can scho walk,
Throw moß and mure, throw bankis, [busk] and breir,
Scho ran cryand, quhill scho come to ane balk: 185
'Cum furth to me, my awin sister deir;
Cry peip anis!' With that the mousse culd heir,
And knew hir voce, as kynnisman will do,
Be verray kynd; and furth scho come hir to.

5.

The hartlie joy, [Lord] god! gif ye had sene, 190
Beis kyth[it] quhen that thir [twa] sisteris met;
And gret kyndnes was schawin thame betuene,
For quhillis thay leuch, and quhillis for joy thay gret,
Quhile kissit sweit, quhillis in armes plet;
And thus thay fure, quhill soberit was thair mude, 195
Syne fute for fute vnto the chalmer yude.

6.

As I hard say, it was ane sober wane,
Of fog and farine full febillie was maid
Ane sillie scheill vnder ane steidfast stane,
Of quhilk the entres was not hie nor braid; 200
And in the samyn thay went but mair abaid,
Without fire or candill birnand bricht,
For commonlie sic pykeris luifes nocht licht.

7.

Quhen thay war lugeit thus, thir sillie myis,
The youngest sister in to hir butterie glide, 205

175 *B* cheis and meill, in ark and kist. 177 *L* tuke. 183 *B* Throw mony. 184 busk *fehlt in H*, *steht aber in B und L*. 185 *L* ranne, *B* Fra fur to fur, cryand fra balk to balk. 186 *B* myne sueit sister. 187 *L* mous. 190 *B* Their hairtly cheir, Lord God; Lord *fehlt in H*. 191 *L* Was kithit quhen that thir twa; *B* thir sisteris twa was met. *H* kyth, twa *fehlt*. 192 *L* greit kyndenes. 193 *L* quhyllis. 194 *L und B* armis. 198 *L* fairn. 202 *L* Withoutin fyre. 203 *L* luffis not. 204 *B und L* lugit, *L* selie myse. 205 *B* until hir butrie hyied, *L* unto. yeid *stalt* glide.

And brocht furth nuttis and candill in steid of spyce;
 Gif this was gude fair, I do it on thame beside.
 The burges mouß promptit furth in pride,
 And said, 'sister, is this your daylie fude?'
 'Quhy not', (quod scho), 'is not this meit richt gude?' 210

8.

'Na, be my saule, I think it bot ane scorne.'
 'Madame', quod scho, 'ye be the mair to blame;
 My mother said, sister, quhen we war borne,
 That I and ye lay baith within ane wame:
 I keip the rait and custome of my dame, 215
 And of my leving in to pouertie,
 For landis haif we nane in propertie'.

9.

[8] 'My fair sister', quod scho, 'haif me excusit,
 This rude dyat and I can not accord;
 To tender meit my stomok is ay vsit, 220
 For quhilis I fair als weill as ony lord:
 Thir widderit peis, and nuttis, or thay be bord,
 Will brek my teith, and mak my wame full sklender,
 Quhilk was befor vsit to meitis tender.'

10.

'Weill, weill, sister', quod the rurale mouß, 225
 'Gif it pleis yow, sic thing[is] as ye se heir,
 Baith meit and drink, herberie and houß,
 Sall be your awin, will ye remane all yeir,
 Ye sall it haif with blith and mery cheir,
 And that sould mak the maissis that ar rude, 230
 Amang freindis, richt tender and wonder gude.

11.

'Quhat plesure is in the feistis delicate,
 The quhilk ar gevin with ane glowmand brow?
 Ane gentill hart is better recreate
 With blith courage, than seith to him ane kow: 235
 Ane modicum is mair for till allow,
 Sua that gude will be carner at the dais,
 Than thrawin vult and mony spycit maif.'

206 *B* Brought forth; *B* und *L* peis *statt* candill. 208 *B* permyngit full of pryd. 210 *B* 'think ye this mess not gude?' 214 *L* und *B* That ye and I. 215 *L* rate — custume. 220 *L* Till tender. 223 *B* mak my mouth. 224 *B* Quhilk usit wer befor to meit mair tender; *L* meittis. 225 *B* than quod. 226 *B* Gif that ye pleiss sic things; *L* thingis; *H* thing. 227 *B* arbourie. 230 *L* suld, *B* messes. 231 *B* tender sueit and gude. 232 *B* plesans is in feists feir delicate. 233 *L* quhilkis. 235 *L* blyith curage, *B* blyth usage; *L* till him. 237 *L* will be kerver. 238 *B* Than a thrawn — mony a spycie mess.

12.

- [8^b] For all hir mery exhortatioun,
 This burges mous had litill will to sing, 240
 Bot heuillie scho kest hir browis down,
 For all the daynteis that scho culd hir bring.
 Yit at the last scho said, half in hething,
 'Sister, this victuall and your royell feist
 May weill suffice vnto ane rurall beist. 245

13.

- 'Let be this hole, and cum vnto my place,
 I sall to yow schaw be experience,
 My gude fryday is better nor your pace;
 My dische likkingis is wirth your hail expence.
 I haif housis anew of grit defence; 250
 Of cat, nor fall-trap, I haif na dreid.'
 'I grant', quod scho; and on togidder thay yeid.

14.

- In stubbill array throw [rankest] gres and corne,
 And vnder buskis preuille culd thay creip,
 The eldest was the gide and went beforen, 255
 The younger to hir wayis tuik gude keip.
 On nycht thay ran, and on the day can sleip;
 Quhill in the morning, or the lauerok sang,
 Thay fand the toun, and in blithlie culd gang.

15.

- [9] Not fer fra thine vnto ane wirthie wane, 260
 This burges brocht thame sone quhair thay suld be;
 Without god speid thair herberie was tane,
 In to ane spence with victuell grit plentie;
 Baith cheis and butter vpoun thair skelfis hie,
 And flesche and fische aneuch, baith fresche and salt, 265
 And sekkis full of meill and eik of malt.

16.

- Efter quhen thay disposit war to dyne,
 Without grace thay wesche and went to meit,
 With all coursis that cuikis culd defyne,
 Muttoun and beif strukkin in tailyeis greit; 270
 Ane lordis fair thus culd thay counterfeit,

244 *L* royall, *B* ryal. 246 *L* Lat — in to. 247 *B* I sall yow schaw by gude experience. 248 *B* That my Gude Fridays better than your Pase. 249 *L* dische weschingis; *MCl* dish — lickings; *B* disch — licking; *L und B* worth. 253 *L und B* haben rankest gers; rankest fehlt in *H*. 254 und 259 *L* couth. 256 *L* tuke. 260 *B* on till a worthy. 263 *B* In till a. 266 *B* pokkis full of grots, baith meil and malt. 268 *L und B* Withouttin. 269 *B* On every dish that cuikmen can divyne; *MCl* deuine. 270 *L und B* strikin. 271 *L* And Lordis — couth.

Except ane thing, thay drank the watter cleir
In steid of wyne, bot yit thay maid gude cheir.

17.

With blith vpcast and merie countenance,
The eldest sister sperit at hir gaist, 275
Gif that scho be ressonne fand difference
Betuix that chalmer and hir sarie nest.
'Ye dame', (quod scho), 'how lang will this lest?'
'For euermair, I wait, and langer to.'
'Gif it be swa, ye ar at eis', quod scho. 280

18.

[9b] Till eik thair cheir ane subcharge furth scho brocht,
Ane plait of grottis, and ane dische full of meill,
Thraf caikis als I trow scho spairit nocht,
Aboundantlie about hir for to deill;
And manfulle syne scho brocht in steid of geill, 285
And ane quhite candill out of ane coffer stall,
In steid of spyce to gust thair mouth with all.

19.

This maid thay merie quhill thay mycht na mair,
And 'hail, yull hail!' cryit vpone hié.
Yit efter joy oftymes cumis cair, 290
And troubill efter grit prosperitie!
Thus at thay sat in all thair jolitie,
The spensar come with keyis in his hand,
Oppynnit the dur and thame at denner fand.

20.

Thay taryit not to wasche, as I suppois, 295
Bot on to ga quha that mycht forrest win.
The burges had ane hoill, and in scho gois,
Hir sister had na hoill to hide hir in,
To se that selie mouß, it was grit sin,
So desolate and will of ane gude reid, 300
For verray dreid scho fell in swoun neir deid.

21.

[10] Bot as god wald, it fell ane happie cace;
The spensar had na laser for to byde,
Nouthur to seik nor serche, to skar no chace,
Bot on he went, and left the dur vp wyde. 305
The bald burges his passing weill hes spyde,

273 *L* Instead. 278 *B* but how. 280 *B* Gif that be trew. 281 *B*
To eik the. 283 *L* caikkis. 284 *B* Habundantlie. 285 *L* mane full.
287 *B* to creish thair teith with a. 288 *B* und *L* Thus. 289 *L* yule.
290 *L* cummis. 294 *L* dure. 295 *L* wesche, suppose. 301 *B* For very
feir. 304 *B* Nowthir to force, to seik, nor skar, nor chaiss. 306 *B*
This burges mouss his pasage.

Out of hir hoill scho come and cryit on hie,
 'How fair ye sister? cry peip, quhair euer ye be!'

22.

This rurall mouß lay flatling on the ground,
 And for the deith scho was full sair dreidand, 310
 For till hir hart straik mony wofull stound,
 As in ane feuer scho trimblit fute and hand;
 And quhen hir sister in sic ply hir fand,
 For verray pietie scho began to greit,
 Syne confort hir with wordis hunny sweet. 315

23.

'Quhy ly ye thus? ryse vp my sister deir,
 Cum to your meit, this perrell is over past.'
 The vther answerit hir, with heuie cheir,
 'I may not eit, sa sair I am agast;
 I had lever thir fourtie dayis fast, 320
 With watter caill and to gnaw benis and peis,
 Than all your feist, in this dreid and diseis.'

24.

[10^b] With fair tretie yit scho gart hir ryse,
 And to thè burde thay went and to gidder sat,
 And skantlie had thay drunkin anis or twyse, 325
 Quhen in come gib-hunter, our jolie cat,
 And bad god speid: the burges vp with that,
 And till hir hoill scho went as fyre on flint —
 Bawdronis the vther be the bak hes hint.

25.

Fra fute to fute he kest hir to and fra, 330
 Quhilis vp, quhilis doun, als cant as ony kid;
 Quhilis wald he lat hir rin vnder the stra,
 Quhilis wald he wink, and play with hir bukheid.
 Thus to the selie mous grit pane he did,
 Quhill at the last, throw fortoun and gude hap, 335
 Betuix ane burde and the wall scho crap.

26.

And vp in haist behind ane parraling
 Scho clam sa hie, that gilbert mycht not get hir,
 Syne be the clukè thair craftelie can hing,
 Till he was gane, hir cheir was all the better. 340
 Syne doun scho lap quhen thair was nane to lat hir,

310 *L* wes. 312 *L* trimbillit. 313 *B* sic plicht. 320 *L* levir, *B* Lever
 I had this. 321 *B* kail or gnaw; *L* or peis. 323 *L* uprise. 324 *B* To
 burde — on togither. 327 *B* up than gat. 328 *L* of flint. 332 *L* run.
 333 *L* bukhid. 334 *B* harm she did. 335 *B* und *MC* fair fortune and hap,
L fortune. 336 *B* Betwixt the dressour. 338 *B* Sae hie scho clam.
 341 *L* und *B* let.

And to the burges mouß loud can scho cry:
 'Fairweill, sister, thy feist heir I defy!

27.

[11] 'Thy mangerie is mingit all with cair,
 Thy guse is gude, thy gansell sour as gall; 345
 The subcharge of thy seruice is bot fair,
 Sa sall thow find heirefterwart na fall.
 I thank yone courtyne and yone perpall wall,
 Of my defence now fra yone crewell beist.
 Almychtie god, keip me fra sic ane feist! 350

28.

'Wer I in to the kith that I come fra,
 For weill nor wa suld I neuer cum agane.'
 With that scho tuik hir leue and furth can ga,
 Quhilis throw the corne, and quhilis throw the plane,
 Quhen scho was furth and fre, scho was full fane, 355
 And merilie merkit vnto the mure:
 I can not tell how weill thairefter scho fure.

29.

Bot I hard say, scho passit to hir den,
 Als warme as woll, suppois it was not greit,
 Full benelie stuffit, baith but and ben, 360
 Of beinis, and nuttis, peiß, ry and quhite;
 Quhen euer scho list, scho had aneuch to eit,
 In quiet and eis, withouttin ony dreid;
 Bot to hir sisteris feist na mair scho yeid.

[11^b]

Moralitas.

30.

Freindis, ye may find, and ye will tak heid, 365
 In to this fabill ane gude moralitie;
 As fytchis myngit ar with noble seid,
 Swa intermynglit is aduersitie
 With eirdlie joy; swa that na estait is fre,
 Without trubill and sum vexatioun: 370
 As namelie thay quhilk clymmis vp maist hie,
 That ar not content with small possessioun.

31.

Blissit be sempill lyfe withouttin dreid;
 Blissit be sober feist in quietie:
 Quha hes aneuch, of na mair hes he neid, 375

343 heir I thy feist defy. 346 B thy feris is. 347 L So — may fall;
 MCI no fail. 349 L fra ane. 352 L wo und I fehlen; B wae I sould.
 353 L tuke hir leif; B leif. 357 L efterwart; B how afterwart. 360 B
 was baith. 361 L quheit. 365 B heir may ye find, will ye tak heid.
 371 B And namely — hé.

Thocht it be litill in to quantitie.
 Grit aboundance and blind prosperitie,
 Oftymes makis ane evill conclusioun;
 The swëitëst lyfe, thairfoir, in this cuntrie
 Is sickernes, with small possessioun. 380

32.

[12] O wantoun man! that vsis for to feid
 Thy wambe, and makis it ane god to be,
 Luik to thy self, I warne the weill, but dreid;
 The cat cummis, and to the mouß hes ee:
 Quhat vaillis than thy feist and ryaltie, 385
 With dreidfull hart and tribulatioun?
 Best thing in eird thairfoir, I say, for me,
 Is blyithnes in hart, with small possessioun.

33.

Thy awin fire, my freind, sa it be bot ane gleid,
 It warmes weill, and is wirth gold to the; 390
 And Salomon sayis, gif that thow will reid,
 'Vnder the heuin thair can not better be,
 Than ay be blyith, and leue in honestie.'
 Quhairfoir I may conclude be this ressoun:
 Of eirdlie joy it beris maist degre, 395
 Blithnes in hart, with small possessioun.

Finis.

[12^b] III. The tail of schir Chantecler and
 the Foxe.

1.

Thocht brutall beistis be irrational,
 That is to say, wantand discretioun;
 Yit ilk ane in thair kynde naturale,
 Hes mony diueris inclinatioun: 400
 The bair boustious, the wolf, the wylde lyoun,
 The fox feinyeit, craftie and cawtelous,
 The dog to bark on nycht and keip the houß.

2.

Sa different thay ar in properteis,
 Vnknawin to man, and sa infinite, 405
 In kynd havand sa fell deuersiteis,
 My cunning is excludit for to dyte;

376 *B* quanteté. 377 *B* habowndance, *L* abundance. 381—88 *fehlt*
in L. 387 *B* *beginnt mit* Thairfoir. 390 *L* und *B* worth, *L* thee
 391 *B* and ye will reid. 392 *L* it can, *B* I can nocht better sé. 393 *L*
 und *B* leif.

III. *L* sire.

For-thy as now I purpois for to write,
 Ane cais I fand, quhilk fell this ather yeir,
 Betuix ane foxe and ane gentill Chanteclair. 410

3.

Ane wedow duelt in to ane drop thay dayis,
 Quhilk wan hir fude of spinning on hir rok;
 And na mair had forsuth, as the fabill sayis,
 Except of hennis scho had ane litill flok,
 And thame to keip scho had ane jolie cok: 415
 Richt curagious, that to this wedow ay
 Deuidit nycht, and crew before the day.

[13]

4.

Ane litill fra this foirsaid wedowis houß,
 Ane thornie schaw thair was of grit defence,
 Quhairin ane fox, craftie and cautelous, 420
 Maid his repair and daylie residence:
 Quhilk to the wedow did grit violence,
 In pyking of pultrie baith day and nycht,
 And na way be reuengit on him scho mycht.

5.

This wylie tod, quhen that the lark couth sing, 425
 Full sair hungrie vnto the toun him drest,
 Quhair Chanteclair in to the gray dawning,
 Werie for nycht, was flowin fra his nest.
 Lawrence this saw, and in his mynde he kest
 The jeperdie, the wayis, and the wyle, 430
 Be quhat menis he mycht this cok begile.

6.

Dissimuland in to countenance and cheir,
 On kneis fell, and simuland thus he said:
 'Gude morne, my maister, gentill Chanteclair!' 435
 With that the cok start bakwart in ane braid.
 'Schir, be my saule, ye neid not be affraid,
 Nor yit for me to start, nor fle abak;
 I come bot heir, seruice to yow to mak.

[13^b]

7.

Wald I not serue to yow, it war bot blame,
 As I haif done to your progenitouris: 440
 Your father full oft fillit hes my wame,
 And send me meit fra midding to the muris;
 And at his end I did my besie curis,
 To hald his heid, and gif him drinkis warme;
 Syne at the last, the sweit swelt in my arme.' 445

408 *L* purpose. 411 *L* dorp. 413 *L* forsuth. 422 *L* und *MC* this
 wedow. 429 and *doppelt* in *H*. 431 *L* meinis. 433 *L* this.

8.

'Knew ye my father?' quod the cok, and leuch.
 'Ye, my fair sone, I held vp his heid,
 Quhen that he deit vnder ane birkin beuch;
 Syne said the 'dirigie', quhen that he was deid,
 Betuix ws twa how suld thair be ane feid? 450
 Quhome suld ye traist bot me, your seruitour,
 That to your father did sa grit honour?

9.

[14] 'Quhen I behald your fedderis fair and gent,
 Your beik, your breist, your hekill, and your kame,
 Schir, be my saule, and the blissit sacrament, 455
 My hart is warme, me think, I am at hame;
 To mak yow blyith, I wald creip on my wame
 In frost, in snaw, in wedder, wan and weit,
 And lay my lyart loikkis vnder your feit.'

10.

This feinyeit foxe, fals and dissimulate, 460
 Maid to this cok ane cauellatioun:
 'Ye ar, me think, changit and degenerate
 Fra your father of his condition;
 Of craftie crawling he mycht beir the croun,
 For he wald on his tais stande and craw; 465
 This was na le, I stuid beside and saw.'

11.

With that the cok, vpoun his tais he,
 Kest vp his beik, and sang with all his mycht.
 Quod schir Lowrence, 'weill said, sa mot I the,
 Ye ar your fatheris sone and air vpricht; 470
 Bot of his cunning yit ye want ane slicht,
 For', quod the tod, 'he wald, and haif na dout,
 Baith wink and craw and turne him thryis about'.

12.

[14^b] The cok, infect with wind and fals vane gloir,
 That mony puttis vnto confusioun, 475
 Traisting to win ane grit worschip thairfoir,
 Vnwarlie winkand, wawland vp and down,
 And syne to chant and craw he maid him boun.
 And suddantlie be [he] had crawin ane note,
 The fox was wer and hint him be the throthe. 480

13.

Syne to the wode but tarie with him hyt,
 Of that cryme haifand but litill dout:

447 *L* Yea. 449 *L* Dirige. 451 *Q*uhome. 458 froist and snaw.
 459 *L* loikkis. 467 upon. 474 vaine gloir. 479 he *fehlt in H*.

With [that] Pertok, Sprutok, and Toppok cryt;
The wedow hard, and with ane cry come out,
Seand the cace scho sichit and gaif ane schout: 485
'How, murthour, hay!' with ane hiddious beir,
'Allace, now lost is gentill Chantecleir!'

14.

As scho war [wode] with mony yell and cry,
Rywand hir hair, vpoun hir breist can beit,
Syne pale of hew, half in ane extasie, 490
Fell doun for cair in swoning and in sweat.
With that the selie hennis left thair meit,
And quhill this wyfe wes liand this in swoun,
Fell in that cace in disputioun.

15.

[15] 'Allace', quod Pertok, makand fair murning, 495
With teiris grit attour hir cheikis fell,
'Yone wes oure drowrie, and oure dayis darling,
Oure nichtingall, and als oure orlege bell;
Oure walkryfe watehe, ws for to warne and tell,
Quhen that aurora, with hir curcheis gray, 500
Put up hir heid betuix the nicht and day.

16.

'Quha sall our lammien be? quha sall ws leid?
Quhen we ar sad, quha sall vnto ws sing?
With his sweit bill he wald brek ws the breid:
In all this warld was thair ane kynder thing? 505
In paramouris he wald do ws pleising
At his powar, as nature did him geif,
Now efter him, allace, how sall we leif?'

17.

Quod Sprutok than: 'ceis sister of your sorrow,
Ye be to mad for him, sic murning mais: 510
We sall fair weill, I find, sanct Johnne to borrow,
The prouerbe sayis 'als gude luif cummis as gais';
I will put on my haly dayis clais,
And mak me fresche agane this jolie may,
And chant this sang: 'was neuer wedow sa gay'. 515

18.

[15 b] 'He was angrie and held ws ay in aw,
And woundit with the speir of jelowsie;
Of chalmer-glew, full weill, Pertok, ye knaw,

483 that *fehlt in H.* 484 *L* heard. 488 wode *fehlt in H;* *L* woid;
MCl wode. 490 *L* pail. 493 *L* liand thus. 502 *L* lemman. 510 *L* too
mad. 511 Johnne. 513 claitis. 515 Syne chant. 518 *L und MCl*
Pertok, full we ye knaw.

Waistit he was, of nature cauld and dry.
 Sen he is gone, thairfoir, sister, say I, 520
 Be blyith in baill, for that is best remeid,
 Let quik to quik, and deid ga to the deid.'

19.

Than Pertok spak, with feinyeit faith befoir,
 'In lust but lufe he set all his delite;
 Sister, ye wate, of sic as him ane scoir 525
 Wald not suffice to slaik oure appetyte.
 I hecht [ye] be my hand, sen he is quite,
 Within ane oulke, for schame, and I durst speik,
 To get ane berne, suld better claw our breik.'

20.

Than Tappok like ane curate spak full crous: 530
 'Yone was ane verray vengeance from the hevin;
 He was sa louß, and sa lecherous:
 He had', quod scho, 'kittokis ma than sevine;
 Bot rychtious god, haldand the ballandis evin,
 Smytis richt sair, thocht he be patient, 535
 For adulterie that will thame not repent,

21.

[16] 'Prydfull he was, and joyit of his sin,
 And comptit not for goddis fauour nor feid,
 Bot traistit ay to rax and sa to rin,
 Quhill at the last his sinnis can him leid 540
 To schamefull end, and to yone suddane deid;
 Thairfoir it is the verray hand of god,
 That causit him be werryit with the tod.'

22.

Quhen this was said, this wedow fra hir swoun
 Start vp on fute, and on hir kennettis cryde; 545
 How-Bark, Berrie, Bawsie-Broun,
 Rype-Schaw, Rin-Weill, Curtes, Nuttie-Clyde,
 To gidder all but grunching furth ye glide:
 'Reskew my noble cok, or he be slane,
 Or ellis to me se ye cum neuer agane.' 550

23.

With that, but baid, thay braidit ouer the bent,
 As fyre of flint thay ouer the feildis flaw,
 Throw wichtilie thay throw wod and watteris went,
 And ceissit not schir Lawrence quhill thay saw.
 Bot quhen he saw the kennetis cum on raw, 555

525 *L* wait. 527 ye *fehlt in H und L*. 529 *L* my breik. 534 *L*
 rychteous. 541 *L* suddand. 545 *L* cryit. 553 *L* Full wichtlie
 — woid.

Vnto the cok he said in mynde: 'god sen,
That I and thow wer fairlie in my den'.

24.

[16b] Than said the cok, with sum gude spreit inspyrit,
'Do my counsale, and I sall warrand the;
Hungrie thow art, and for grit trauell tyrit, 560
Richt faint of force, and may not ferther flie:
Swyith turne agane, and say, that I and ye
Freindis ar maid and fellowis, for ane yeir;
Than will thay stint, I stand for it, and not steir.'

25.

This tod, thoct he was fals and friulous, 565
And had frawdhis his querell to defend,
Dissaut was be menis richt meruelous,
For falsset failyeis ay at the letter end:
He start about and cryit as he was kend.
With that the cok he braid out of the bewche. 570
Now juge ye all, quhair at schir [Lawrence] lewche.

26.

Begylit thus the tod, vnder the tre,
On kneis fell, and said, 'gude Chantecleir,
Cum down agane, and I, but meit or fe,
Sall be your man and seruant for ane yeir.' 575
'Na, fals theif and reuar, stand not me neir;
My bludy hekill, and my nek sa bla,
Hes partit freindschip for euer betwene ws twa.

27.

[17] 'I was vnwyse that winkit at thy will,
Quhairthrow almaist I loissit had my heid.' 580
'I was mair fule', quod he, 'to be sa still,
Quhairthrow to put my pray in to pleid.'
'Fair on, fals theif, god keip me fra thy feid.'
With that the cok ouer the feildis tuke his flicht,
And in at the wedowis lewer couth he lycht. 585

Moralitas.

28.

Now, worthie folk, suppois this be ane fabill,
And ouerheillit with typis figurall,
Yit may ye find ane sentence richt agreable,
Vnder thair feinyeit termes textuale:
To oure purpois this cok weill may we call 590

556 *L* in mynd he said, *diese stellung hat auch MCl.* 558 gude
spirit. 559 thee. 561 fe. 566 *L* freindis, *MCl* friends. 567 *L*
meinis. 568 latter. 574 *L* fey. 576 *L* reivar. 589 *L* thir.

Nyse proud men, wod and vane glorious
Of kin and blude, quhilk ar presumpteous.

29.

[Fy! puft up pryde, that is full poysonabill,
Qua favoris the on force man haif ane fall.
Thy strenth is nocht, thy stule standis unstabill, 595
Tak witnes of the feyndis infernall,
Quhilk houndit doun wes fra that hevinlie hall
To hellis hoill, and to that hiddeous hous,
Becaus in pryde thay wer presumpteous.]

30.

This feinyeit fox may weilbe figurate 600
To flatteraris, with plesand wordis quhite;
With fals mening, and mynd maist toxicate,
To loif and le that settis thair hail delite.
[17^b] All worthie folk at sic sould haif despite,
For quhair is thair mair perrelous pestillence? 605
Nor gif to learis haistelie credence!

31.

The wickit mynd and adullatioun,
Of sucker sweit haifand the similitude,
Bitter as gall, and full of poysoun,
To taist it is, quaha cleirlie vnderstude. 610
For-thy, as now, schortlie to conclude,
Thir twa sinnis, flatterie and vane gloir
Ar venomous; gude folk fie thame thairfoir!

Finis:

[18] IV. The taill, how this foirsaid Tod maid his
confessioun to freir wolf waitskaith.

1.

Leif we this wedow, glaid, I yow assure,
Of Chanteclair mair blyth than I can tell, 615
And speik we of the subtell auenture,
And destenie that to this foxe befell,
Quhilk durst na mair with wayting intermell,
Als lang as leme or licht was of the day,
Bot bydand nicht, full still lurkand he lay. 620

2.

Quhill that [Tethys], the goddes of the flude,
Phebus had callit to the harberie,
And Hesperous put up his cluddie hude,

592 L quhilk is. 593—99 *fehlt in H, hier ergänzt nach L.* 600 L
weill be. 603 L lee. 604 L suld. 606 MCI lyaris. 613 L vennemous.
IV. 621 Tethys *fehlt in H.*

Schawand his lustie visage in the sky.
 Than Lawrence luikit up, quhair he culd ly, 625
 And kest his hand upoun his ee on hicht,
 Merie and glaid, that cummit wes the nycht.

3.

[18^b] Out of the wod in to ane hill he went,
 Quhair he nicht se the twinkling sterris cleir,
 And all the planeitis of the firmament, 630
 Thair courß, and eik thair moving in the spheir,
 Sum retrograde, and sum stationeir,
 And of the zodiake, in quhat degre
 Thay wer ilkane, as Lowrence leirnit me.

4.

Than Saturne auld was enterit in capricorne 635
 And Juppiter movit in sagittarie,
 And Mars up in the ramms heid was borne,
 And Phebus in the lyoun furth can carie,
 Venus the crab, the mone was in aquarie;
 Mercurius, the god of eloquence, 640
 In to the virgyne maid his residence.

5.

Bot astrolab, quadrant, and almanak
 Teichit of nature be instructioun,
 The moving of the heum this [Tod] can tak,
 Quhat influence and constellatioun 645
 Was like to fall upoun the eirth adoun;
 And to him self he said, withouttin mair,
 'Weill worth my father, that send me to the lair.

6.

[19] 'My destenie and eik my weird I ken,
 My auenture is cleirlic to me kend, 650
 With mischeif myngit is my mortale men,
 My misleuing the soner bot gif I mend:
 It is rewaird of sin ane shamefull end;
 Thairfoir I will ga seik sum confessour,
 And schryif me clene of my synnis to this hour. 655

7.

'Allace', quod he, 'richt waryit ar we theuis,
 Our lyfis set ilk nycht in auenture,
 Our cursit craft full mony man mischeuis,
 For euer we steill, and euer ar like pure:

625 *L* couth. 627 *L* commed. 628 *L* wode unto. 629 *L* sternis,
MCl starnis. 637 *L* Rammis. 642 *L* und *MCl* or *statt* and. 644 *Tod*
fehlt in H, steht in L und MCl. 649 *L* destiny — I wait, *MCl* = *H*.
 651 *L* mortall fait, *MCl* ene *statt* men. 656 *L* theifis. 657 *L* lyiffis.
 659 *L* ever alyke ar pure; *MCl* ay are alike pure.

In dreid and schame our dayis we indure; 660
 Syne widdie-nek and crak-raip callit als,
 And till oure hire hangit vp be the hals.'

8.

Accusand this his cankerit conscience,
 In to ane craig he kest about his ee,
 Sa' saw he cumand, ane litill than frome thence, 665
 Ane wirthie doctour of diuinitie:
 Freir wolf waitskaith, in science wonder slie,
 To preich and pray wes new cummit fra the closter,
 With beidis in hand, sayand his 'pater noster'.

9.

[19^b] Seand this wolf, this wylie tratour tod 670
 On kneis fell, with hude in to his nek:
 'Welcome, my father gostliest under god',
 Quod he, with mony bingie and mony bek.
 'Ha', quod the wolf, 'schir tod, for quhat effek
 Mak ye sic fair? ryse vp, put on your hude'. 675
 'Father', quod he, 'I haif grit caus to dude:

10.

'Ye ar mirroure, lanterne, and sicker way,
 Suld gide sic sempill folk as me to grace;
 Your bairfeit, and your russat coule of gray,
 Your lene cheik, your pail pietious face, 680
 Schawis to me your perfite halienes;
 For weill war him, that anis in his lyfe
 Had hap to yow his sinnis for to schriue'.

11.

'Na, selie lawrence', quod the wolf, and leuch:
 'It plesis me that ye ar penitent'. 685
 'Of reif and stouth, schir, I can tell aneuch,
 That causis me full sair for to repent;
 Bot, father, byde still heir vpoun the bent,
 I yow beseik, and heir me to declair
 My conscience that prikkis me sa sair'. 690

12.

[20] 'Weill', quod the wolf, 'sit doun on thy kne'.
 And he doun bairheid sat full humilly
 And syne began with 'benedicite'.
 Quhen I this saw, I drew a litill by,
 For it effeiris nouthier to heir, nor spy, 695

666 *L* worthie. 668 *L* cumit — cloister. 670 *L* the Wolf.
 679 *L* russet cowl. 680 *MCl* cheekes; *L* cheikis; pitteous. 688 *L*
 upon. 690 *L* so sair. 691 *L* down upon. 693 *L* benedicite, *MCl*
 = *H*. 694 *L* ane lytill.

Nor to reuele thing, said vnder that seill;
Vnto the tod this gait, the wolf, couth kneill.

13.

'Art thou contreit and sorie in thy spreit
For thy traspas?' 'Na, schir, I can not dude:
Me think that hennis ar sa honie sweet, 700
And lambes flesche that new ar lattin blude,
For to repent my mynde can not conclude; —
Bot of this thing, that I haif slane sa few.'
'Weill', quod the wolf, 'in faith, thow art ane schrew.

14.

'Sen thow can not forthink thy wickitnes, 705
Will thow forbeir in tyme to cum, and mend?'
'And I forbeir, how sall I leif, allace!
Haifand na vther craft me to defend?
Neid causis me to steill quhair euer I wend.
I eschame to thig, I can not wirk, ye wait, 710
Yit wald I fane pretend to gentill stait.'

15.

[20b]

'Weill', quod the wolf, 'thow wantis pointis twa,
Belangand to perfite confessioun.
To the thrid pairt of penitence let ws ga:
Will thow tak pane for thy transgressioun?' 715
'Na, schir, consider my complexioun,
Selie and waik, and of my nature tender,
Lo, will ye se, I am baith lene and sklender.

16.

'Yit, neuertheles, I wald, sa it war licht,
Schort, and not greuand to my tendernes, 720
Tak pairt of pane, fulfill it gif I mycht,
To set my selie saule in way of grace.'
'Thow sall', quod he, 'forbeir flesche vntill pace,
To tame this corps, that cursit carioun,
And heir I reik the full remissioun.' 725

17.

'I grant thairto, swa ye will gif me leif
To eit puddingis, or laip ane litill blude,
Or heid, or feit, or panchis let me preif,
In cace na flesche vnto my fude I fall.'

696 *L* und *MCI* reveill. 697 *L* und *MCI* couth tell. 698 *L* contrite.
699 *L* trespas. 700 *L* sua honie. 701 *L* lettin bluid. 702 *L* mind-
conclud. 708 *L* nane uther. 711 to a. 714 *L* thrid point; *MCI* part.
716 *L* No. 719 *L* swa it. 720 *L* And schort (*MCI* Sport!). 721 *L*
und *MCI* fulfill it. 723 *L* flesche hyne till Pasche, *MCI* vntill Pasche.
725 *L* und *MCI* reach thee. 728 *L* paynehis. 729 *L* In cace I falt of
flesche in to my fude; *MCI* In cace I fall na flesh vnto my fude.

'I gif the leif to gust thy mouth with all, 730
 Twyis in the oulk, for 'neid may haif na law'.
 'God yeild yow, schir, for that text weill I knaw.'

18.

[21] Quhen this wes said, the wolf his wayis went.
 The foxe on fute he fuir vnto the flude,
 To fang him fische haillelie wes his intent; 735
 Bot quhen he saw the watter and wallis woude,
 Astonist all still in to ane stair he stude,
 And said: 'better that I had biddin at hame,
 Nor bene ane fischar in the deuillis name:

19.

'Now mon I scraip my meit out of the sand, 740
 And I haif nather boittis, net, nor bait.'
 As he was thus for falt of meit murnand,
 Luikand about his leuing for to lait,
 Vnder ane tre he saw ane trip of gait;
 Than wes he blithe, and in ane heuch him hid, 745
 And fra the gait he stall ane litill kid.

20.

Syne ouer the heuch vnto the see he hyis,
 And tuik the kid be the hornis twane;
 And in the watter outhur twyis or thryis
 He doukit him, and till him can he sayne, 750
 'Ga doun, schir kid, cum vp schir salmond agane', —
 Quhill he wes deid; syne to the land him drewch,
 And of that new maid salmond eit enewch.

21.

[21^b] Thus fynelie fillit with young tender meit,
 Vnto ane derne for dreid he him address, 755
 Vnder ane busk, quhair that the sone can beit,
 To beik his breist and bellie he thocht best;
 And rekleslie he said, quhair he did rest,
 Straikand his wame aganis the sonis heit,
 Vpoun this wame set war ane bolt full meit. 760

22.

Quhen this was said, the keipare of the gait,
 Cairfull in hart his kid wes stollen away,
 On euerie side full warlie couth he wait,
 Quhill at the last he saw quhair Lawrence lay;

730 For greit mister, I gif thee leif to dude, *MCl* = *L*. 737 *L* ane stait, *MCl* state. 741 *L* For I haif nouthur boittis, nor net, nor bait; nor net bait. 743 *L* und *MCl* for to get. 748 *L* tuke — rycht be; auch in *MCl* fehlt rycht. 753 *L* aneuch. 755 *L* he hes him drest; *MCl* = *H*. 760 this bellie; *MCl* = *H*. 763 *L* everilk.

Ane bow he bent, ane flane with fedderis gray, 765
 He hailit to the heid, and or he steird,
 The fox he prikkit fast vnto the eird.

23.

'Nòw', quod the foxe, 'allace! and wallaway!
 Gorrit I am and may na ferther gang;
 Me think na man may speik ane worde in play, 770
 Bot now on dayis in eirnist it is tane.'
 He harlit him and out he drew his flane;
 And for his kid, and vther violence,
 He tuik his skin, and maid ane recompence.

[22]

Moralitas.

24.

This suddane deith and vnprouisit end 775
 Of this fals tod, without prouisoun,
 Exempill is: exhortand folk to mend,
 For dreid of sic ane like confusioun;
 For mony now hes gude professioun,
 Yit not repentis, nor for thair synnis greit, 780
 Becauf thay think thair lustie lyfe sa sweet.

25.

Sum bene also throw consuetude and ryte.
 Vincust be carnale sensualitie, —
 Suppois thay be as for the tyme contreit, —
 Can not forbeir, nor fra thair sinnis fle; 785
 Vse drawis nature sa in properitie
 Of beist and man, that neidlingis thay mon do,
 As thay of lang tyme hes bene hantit to.

26.

Bewar, gude folk, and fle this suddane schot,
 Quhilk smytis sair withoutin resistance, 790
 Attend wyselie, and in your hartis be note,
 Aganis deith may na man mak defence:
 Ceis of your sin, remord your conscience,
 Obay vnto your god, and ye sall wend,
 Efter your deith, to blis withoutin end. 795

Finis.

766 *L und MCl* and ere. 769 *L* gorit. 772 *L* The Hird him hynt
 and out; *MCl* = *H*. 775 *L* suddand. 776 *L* without contritioun,
MCl = *H*. 777 *L und MCl* to amend. 779 *L* For mony gois now to
 confessioun, *MCl* possession. 783 *L* with carnall. 784 *L* contryte.
 787 *L* man do. 789 *L* schoit. 791 *L* hartis noit. 795 *L* deid.

V. The taill of the sone and air of the foirsaid fox,
callit father Wer: Alswa the parliament of fourfuttit
beistis haldin be the lyoun.

1.
[23] This foirsaid fox, that deit for his misdeid,
Had not ane barne wes gottin richteouslie,
Till airschip be law that nicht succeid,
Except ane sone, quhilk in adulterie
He gottin had in purches priuelie, 800
And till his name was callit father War,
That luifit weill with pultrie to tig and tar.
2.
It followis weill be ressoun naturall,
And gre be gre, of richt comparisoun:
Of euill cumis war, of war cumis werst of all, 805
Of wrangous geir cumis fals successioun.
This foxe, bastard of generatioun,
Of verray kynde behuifit to be fals;
Sa wes his father and his grandschir als.
3.
As nature will seikand his meit be sent, 810
Of cace he fand his fatheris carioun,
Nakit, new slane, and till him hes he went,
Tuik vp his heid, and on his kne fell down,
Thankand grit god of that conclusioun;
And said: 'Now sall I bruk, sen I am air, 815
The boundis, quhair thow was wont for, to repair'.
4.
[23^b] Fy! couetice vnkynd and venomous;
The sone was fane he fand his father deid,
Be suddane schot for deidis odious,
That he mycht ring and rax in to his steid, 820
Dreidand na thing the samyn lyfe to leid:
In thift, and reif, as did his father befor;
Bot to the end attent he tuik no moir.
5.
Yit, neuertheles, throw naturall pietie
The carioun vpoun his bak he tais; 825
'Now find I weill the prouerbe trew', quod he,
'Ay rynniss the foxe, als lang as he fute hes.'
Synne with the corps vnto the peitpot gais,

V. 801 *L* Father Wer. 802 *L* luifit. 804 *L* gree be gree. 805 cum-
mis. 809 Swa wes. 813 Tuke; kneis. 815 bruke. 819 suddand.
820 regne and rax. 826 this proverb.

Of watter full, and kest him in the deip,
And to the deuil he gaif his banis to keip. 830

6.

O fulische man! plungit in warldlienes,
To conqueis warldlie gude, and golde, and rent,
Tu put thy saule in pane or heuines,
To riche thy air, quhilk efter thow art went,
Haif he thy gude, he takis bot small tent 835
To execute, to do, to satisfie
Thy letter will, thy det, and legacic.

7.

[24] This tod, to rest him, he passit to ane craig,
And thair he harde ane boustious bugill blaw,
Quhilk, as he thoct, maid all the warld to waig; 840
Ane vnicorne come lansand ouer ane law,
Than start he vp, quhen he this hard and saw:
With horne in hand, ane bill in breist he bure,
Ane pursehant semelie, I yow assure.

8.

Vnto ane bank, quhair he mycht se about 845
On euerie side, in haist he culd him hy,
Schot out his voce, full schill, and gaif a schout,
And on this wyis twyse or thryse culd cry.
With that the beistis in the feild thairby,
All merueland, quhat sic ane thing suld mene, 850
Gretlie agast thay gadderit on ane grene.

9.

Out of ane bus ane bull sone can he braid,
And red the text withoutin tarying,
Commandand silence, sadlie thus he said:
'The noble lyoun, of all beistis the king, 855
Gretting to god, health euerlesting
To brutall beistis and irrational,
I send, as to my subjectis grit and small.

10.

[24 b] 'My celsitude, and hie magnificence
Lettis yow to wit, that euin incontinent, 860
Thinkis the morne, with royell diligence,

830 his banis he gaif. 832 wrangous gude; *MCI* worldly; *L* or
rent. 835 *L* takkis; *B* he takis small entent, | To sing, or say,
for thy saluatioun, | Fra thou be dede, done is thy deuotioun. 838 *L*
crag. 841 und 842 sind in *B* umgestellt. 843 *L* ane buist. 844 pur-
sephant. 847 *L* und *MCI* ane schout. 848 *L* And Oyas, Oyas, twyse
or thryse cond cry; *MCI* = *H*. 852 *L* Out of his buist ane bill. 856 *L*
Gretting to God, ay lestand, but ending; *MCI* = *H*. 860 *L* Lattis.

Vpoun this hill to hald ane parliament;
 Straitlie thairfoir I gif commandiment
 For to compeir befoir my tribunall,
 Vnder all pane, and parrell that may fall.' 865

11.

The morrow come, and phebus with his bemis
 Consumit had the mistie cluddis gray.
 The ground was grene, and als like gold it glemis,
 With gres growand gritlie gude and gay,
 The spyce thay spred to spring on euerie spray. 870
 The lark, the maueis and the merle full hie,
 Sueitlie can sing treipand fra tre to tre.

12.

The leopardis come with croun of massie gold
 Beirand, they brocht vnto that hillis hicht,
 With jaspis joynit, and royell rubeis rold, 875
 And mony diueris dyamontis dicht,
 With towis proud ane palgeoun can thay picht;
 And in that throne thair sat ane wyld lyoun
 In rob royell, with sceptour, sword, and croun.

13.

[25] Efter the tennour of the cry befoir, 880
 That gais on all fourfuttit beistis on eird,
 As thay commandit war withoutin moir,
 Befoir the lord the lioun thay appeirit:
 And quhat thay wer, to me as lowrence leirit,
 I sall reheirs ane pairt of euerie kynd, 885
 Als fer as now occurris to my mynd.

14.

The minotaur, ane monster meruelous,
 Bellerophant, that beist of bastardrie,
 The warwolf, and the pegase perillous,
 Transformit be assent of sorcerie, 890
 The linx, the tiger full of tiranie,
 The elephant, and eik the dromedarie;
 The cameill with his cran nek furth can carie.

15.

The leopard, as I haif tald beforne,
 The anteloip, the sparth furth can spreid, 895
 The peyntit pantheir, and the vnicornie,

867 *L* cloudis. 868 *L und MCl* and als as gold. 869 *L* growand
 gudeliie greit and gay. 872 *H* creipand, *L* treipand, *MCl* tripping.
 873 *L* come a croun of, *MCl* = *H*. 875 *L* jonit. 877 powis, *MCl* power.
 883 *L* thair lord, — appeird. 884 *L* leird. 885 *L* part of everilk. 895 *L*
 furth couth him speid, *MCl* could speed.

The reyndeir ran throw reueir, rone, and reid;
 The jolie, gillet and the gentill steid;
 The asse, the mule, the horß of euerie kynd;
 The da, the ra, the hornit hart, the hynd. 900

16.

[25^b] The bull, the beir, the bugill, and the bair,
 The tame cat, wyldcat, and the wyld wod-swyne,
 The hardbakkit hurcheoun, and the hirpilland hair,
 Baith otter and aip, and pennit porcupyne;
 The gukit gait, the selie schein, the swyne, 905
 The wyld once, the buk, the welterand brok,
 The founmart with the febert furth can flok.

17.

The gray grewhound, with slwth[h]ound furth can slide,
 With doggis all diueris and different;
 The rattoun ran, the glebard furth can glide, 910
 The quhairand quhitret with the quhasill went,
 The feitho that hes furrit mony fent;
 The mertrik with the cuning and the con,
 The bowranbane, and eik the lerion.

18.

The marmisset the mowdewart couth leid, 915
 Becaus that nature had denyit hir sicht;
 Thus dresset thay all furth for dreid of deid,
 The musk, the litill mous with all hir nicht,
 With haist scho haikit vnto that hill of hicht;
 And mony kynd of beistis, I couth not knaw, 920
 Befoir thair lord the lioun thay lowtit law.

19.

[26] Seing thir beistis all at his bidding boun,
 He gaif ane braid, and luikit him about,
 Than flatlingis to his feit thay fell all doun,
 For dreid of deith thay droupit all in dout. 925
 He luikit quhen that he saw thame lout,
 And bad thame, with ane countenance full sweit:
 'Be not effeirit, but stand vp on your feit.

20.

'I lat yow wit, my mycht is merciabile,
 And steiris nane that ar to me prostrait, 930
 Angrie, austerne, and als vnamiabile
 To all that stand fray to myne estait.

897 Rayndeir. 900 *L* The daw. 903 hirpland. 907 Fibert.
 908 gay grew-hound; *H* slwthound. 913 *L* cunning. 914 lerroun.
 921 *L* lord ilkane thay loutit law; *MCI* = *H*. 925 *L* doubt. 926 *L*
 The Lyoun lukit quhen he saw. 929 *L* let. 932 standis.

I rug, I reif all beistis that makis debait
 Aganis the nicht of my magnificence,
 Se nane pretend to pryde in my presence. 935

21:

'My celsitude and my hie majestie,
 With nicht and mercie myngit salbe ay,
 The lawest heir I can full sone vp hie,
 And mak him maister ouer yow all I may.
 The dromedarie, gif he will mak dirray, 940
 The grit cameill, thocht he war neuer sa crous,
 I can him law als litill als ane mous.

[26b]

22.

'Se neir be tuentie mylis quhair I am,
 The kid ga saiffie be the gaittis side,
 The tod lowrie luik not to the lam, 945
 Na reuand beistis nouthur rin nor ryde.' —
 Thay couchit all efter that this was cryde,
 This justice bad the court for to gar fence,
 The suittis callit, and foirfalt all absence.

23.

The panther, with the payntit coit armour, 950
 Fensit the court, as of the law effeirit;
 Than tod lowrie luikit quhair he couth lour,
 And start on fute, all stoneist, and all steirit,
 Ryifand his hair, he cryit with ane reird,
 Quaikand for dreid, and sichand culd he say: 955
 'Allace, this hour! allace, this dulefull day!

24.

'I wait, this suddane semblie that I se,
 Haifand the pointis of ane parliament,
 Is maid to mar sic misdoars as me.
 Thairfoir gif I me schaw, I wilbe schent, 960
 I wilbe socht and I be red absent:
 To byde, or fle, it makis no remeid,
 All is alike, thair followis not bot deid.'

[27]

25.

Perplexit thus in his hart can he mene,
 Throw falsset how he nicht him self defend, 965
 His hude he drew laich attour his ene,
 And winkand with ane eye, furth he wend;
 Clinschand he come, that he nicht not be kend,

935 none. 937 sall be. 938 hart — uphie. 940 Dromedair
 — deray. 945 luke nocht. 951 effeird. 953 stonist — steird.
 954 Ryvand. 955 couth he. 960 will be. 961 socht gif I.
 962 makkis.

And for dreddour that he suld bene arreist,
He playit bukhude behind, fra beist to beist. 970

26.

O fylit spreit, and cankerit conscience!
Befor ane roy reinyeit with richteousnes,
Blakinnit cheikis and schamefull countenance.
Fairweill thy fame, now gone is all thy grace,
The phisnomic, the faouour of thy face, 975
For thy defence is foull and disfigurate,
Brocht to the licht, baisit, blunt, and blait.

27.

Be thou atteichit with thift, or with tressone,
For thy misdeid wrangous, and wickit fay,
Thy cheir chaingis, lowrence, thou may luik down, 980
Thy worschip of this warld is went away. —
[27^b] Luik to this tod, how he wes in effray,
And fle the filth of falset, I the reid,
Quhairthrow thair followis sin and schamefull deid.

28.

Compeirand thus befor thair lord and king, 985
In ordour set as to thair stait effeirit,
Of euerie kynd he gart ane pairt furth bring,
And awfullie he spak, and at thame speird,
Gif thair wes ony kynd of beist on eird
Absent, — and thairto gart thame deiplic sweir; — 990
And thay said: 'nane, except ane stuid gray meir'.

29.

'Ga, mak ane message sone vnto that stuid.'
The court than cryit: 'now se, quha sall it be?'
'Cum furth, lowrie, lurkand vnder thy hudc.'
'Aa, schir, mercie! lo, I haif bot ane ee; 995
Hurt 'n the hoche, and cruikit as ye may se;
The wolf is better in ambassatry,
And mair cunning in clergie fer then I.'

30.

Rampan he said, 'ga furth, brybouris baith'.
And thay to ga withoutin tarying, 1000
Ouer ron and rute thay ran to gidder raith,
[28] And fand the meir at hir meit in the morning.
'Now', quod the tod, 'madame, cum to the king,

970 bakhude. 977 blaisit. 980 luke. 986 estait. 989 beistis
— erd. 992 go make, stude. 993 cryit: 'My Lord, quha; *MCl* = *H*.
997 *L* ambassadrie. 998 *L* far more, than I. 999 ye brybouris, ye *fehlt*
auch in MCl. 1001 *L* ron and ryse.

The court is callit, and ye ar contumax.
 'Let be, lowrence', quod scho, 'your courtlie knax.' 1005

31.

'Maistres', quod he, 'cum to the court ye mon,
 The lyoun hes commandit so indeid.'
 'Schir tod, tak ye the firdome, and the fon,
 I haif respite ane yeir, and ye will reid.'
 'I can not spell', quod he, 'sa god me speid.' 1010
 Heir is the wolf, ane noble clerk at all,
 And of this message is maid principall.

32.

'He is autentik, and ane man of aige,
 And hes grit practik of the chancellarye;
 Let him ga luik, and reid your priullage, 1015
 And I sall stand, and beir witnes yow by.' —
 'Quhair is thy respite?' quod the wolf, in hy. —
 'Schir, it is heir, vnder my hufe weill hid.'
 'Hald vp thy heill', quod he; and so scho did.

33.

[28^b] Thocht he was blindit with pryde, yit he presumis 1020
 To luik down law, quhair that hir letter lay.
 With that the meir gird him vpoun the gumis,
 And straik the hattell of his heid away;
 Half out of lyfe, thair lenand down he lay:
 'Allace', quod lowrence, 'Lupus, thow art loist'. 1025
 'His cunning', quod the meir, 'was wirth sum coist'.

34.

'Lawrence', quod scho, 'will thow luik on my letter,
 Sen that the wolf na thing thairof can win?'
 'Na, be Sanct Bryde', quod he, 'me think it better,
 To sleip in haill, than in hurt skin. 1030
 Ane skrow I fand, and this wes written in,
 — For fyve schillingis I wald not anis forfaut him —
 'Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum'.

35.

With bludie skap, and cheikis bla and reid,
 This wretchit wolf weipand thus on he went, 1035
 Of this meniye markand to get remeid;
 To tell the king the cace wes his intent.
 'Schir', quod the tod, 'bye still vpoun this bent,

1006 *L* to the court you mon cum. 1013 *L* age. 1023 *L* hattrell.
 1025 *L* lost. 1026 worth. 1028 wolf thairof can na thing wyn.
 1030 heill, nor in ane hurt skin. 1032 *L* forfault. 1034 bludie skalp.
 1038 upon the bent.

And fra your browis wesche away the blude,
And tak ane drink, for it will do yow gude'. 1040

36.

[29] To fetche watter, this fraudfull foxe furth fure,
Sydelingis abak he socht vnto ane syke;
On cace he meittis, cumand fra the mure,
Ane trip of lambis dansing on ane dyke.
This tratour tod, this tirrorane, and this tyke, 1045
The fattest of this flock he fellit hais,
And eit his fill, syne to the wolf he gais.

37.

Thay drank to gidder, and syne thair journey takis,
Before the king syne kneillit on thair kne:
'Qubhair is yone meir, schir tod, wes contumax?' 1050
Then lowrence said: 'My lord, speir not at me!
Speir at your doctour of diuinitie,
With his reid cap can tell yow weill aneuch'.
With that the lioun and all the laif thay leuch.

38.

'Tell on the cace, now, lowrence, let ws heir.'
'This wittie wolf', quod he, 'this clerk of age, 1055
On your behalf he bad the meir compeir,
And scho allegit to ane priuilege,
— Cum neir and se, and ye sall haif your wage, —
Becaus he red hir respite plane and weill, 1060
Yone reid bonat scho racht him with hir heill'.

[29^b]

39.

The lioun said, 'be yone reid cap I ken,
This taill is trew, quha tent wnto it takis:
The grittest clerkis ar not the wysest men,
The hurt of ane happie the vther makis'. 1065
As thay wer carpand in this cace with kuakis,
And all the court in merines and gam,
Sua come the yow, the mother of the lam.

40.

Before the justice on hir kneis fell,
Put out hir plaint on this wayis wofully: 1070
'This harlet huresoun, and this hound of hell,
Deuorit hes my lamb full doggitly,
Within ane myle, in contrair to your cry.

1011 *L* feche. 1043 cummand. 1044 dansand. 1045 syne *fehlt*
in L, in *MCl* *steht es*. 1052 *L* This new maid Doctour. 1053 weill
yneuch. 1055 cais. 1061 raucht. 1064 greitest. 1067 *L* garray *statt*
merines; *MCl* = *H*. 1070 *L* Put furth hir — wyis wofullie. 1071 *L*
huresone. 1072 *L* He werryit hes; *MCl* = *H*. 1073 *L* of your cry.

For goddis lufe, my lord, gif me the law
Of this lurker'; — with that lowrence let draw. 1075

41.

'Byde', quod the lioun; — 'limmer, let ws se,
Gif it be suthe the sillie yow hes said'.
'Aa, souerane lord, saif your mercy', quod he:
'My purpois wes with him for to haif plaid;
Causles he fled, as he had bene effraid; 1080
For dreid of deith he duschit ouer ane dyke,
And brak hes nek'; — 'thow leis', quod scho, 'fals tyke'.

42.

[30] 'His deith be practik may be preuit eith,
Thy gorrie gumis, and thy bludie snout;
The woll, the flesche yit stikkis on thy teith, 1085
And that is euidence aneuch, but dout'.
The justice bad ga cheis ane assyis about,
And so thay did, and fand that he wes fals
Of murthour, thift, pykeing and tressoun als.

43.

Thay band him fast, the justice bad belyif 1090
To gif the dome, and tak of all his clais;
The wolf, that new maid doctour, couth him schriue;
Synne furth him led, and to the gallowis gais,
And at the ledder fute his leif he tais;
The aip wes boucher, and bad him sone ascend, 1095
And hangit him; and thus he maid his end.

Moralitas.

44.

Richt as the minor in his minoraie,
Fair gold with fire may fra the leid weill win,
Richt so vnder ane fabill figurall
Sad sentence men may seik, and efter fyne, 1100
As dailie dois the doctouris of deuyne,
That to oure leuing full weill can apply
And paynt thair mater furth be poetry.

45.

[30^b] The lioun is the warld be liknes,
To quhome loutis baith empriour and king, 1105
And thinkis of this warld to get incres,
Thinkand dailie to get mair leuing;

1075 lymmar *statt* lurker; *MC* luker. 1079 *L* with him but to
haif playid. 1080 effrayid. 1082 his nek. 1084 gorie gummis.
1087 assyis out. 1089 murther. 1091 his claithis. 1092 schryif.
1093 gallous. 1097 mynour. 1098 lede weil wyn. 1100 fyn. 1104 *L*
lykliynes, *MC* liknesse. 1105 *L* emperour.

Sum for to rule, and sum to rax and ring;
 Sum gadderis geir, sum gold, sum vther gude,
 To win this warld, sum wirkis as thay wer wod. 1110

46.

The meir is men of gude condition, —
 As pilgrimes wandrand in this wildernes,
 Approuand that for richt religioun,
 Thair god onlie to pleis in euerie place;
 Abstractit frome this warldis wretchidnes, 1115
 Fechtand with lust, presumptioun, and pryde.
 And fra this warld in mynde ar mortyfyde. —

47.

This wolf I likkin to sensualitie,
 As quhen, like brutall beistis, we accord
 Oure mynd all to this warldis vanitie, 1120
 Lyking to tak, and loif him as oure lord:
 Fle fast thairfra, gif thow will richt remord;
 Than sall ressoun ryis, rax, and ring,
 And for thy saule thair is na better thing.

48.

[31] Hir hufe I likkin to the thocht of deid, 1125
 Will thow remember, man, that thow mon de!
 Thow may brek sensualiteis heid,
 And fleschlie lust away fra the sall fle,
 Fra thow begin thy mynd to mortifie;
 Salomonis saying, thow may persaif heirin: 1130
 'Think on thy end, thow sall not glaidlie sin'.

49.

This tod I likkin to temptacionis,
 Beirand to mynd mony thochtis vane,
 Assaultand men be sweit perswacionis,
 Ay reddie for to trap thame in ane trane; 1135
 Yit gif thay se sensualitie neir slane,
 And suddane deith draw neir with panis sore,
 Thay go abak, and temptis thame no moir.

50.

O mediatour! mercifull and meik,
 Thow souerane lord, and king celestiall, 1140
 Thy celsitude maist humelie we beseik,

1108 *L* to reull. 1110 *L* world — wode. 1112 *L* und *MCl* walk-
 and *statt* wandrand. 1114 *L* everilk. 1117 *L* mortifyde. 1123 *L*
 ryiss. 1124 no better. 1128 fra thee. 1134 with sweet, *MCl* by
 sweet. 1135 trayne. 1137 suddand dede. 1139 ff. *hat B folgende*
lesung: O Mary, myld modere of mercy meke, | Site down before thy
 Fader Celestiall; | For us synnaris his celsitude beseke. 1041 *L* hu-
 millie.

Ws to defend frome pane and perrellis all,
 And help ws vp vnto thy heuinlie hall,
 In gloir, quhair we may se the face of god. —
 And thus endis the talking of the tod. 1145
 Finis.

[31^b] VI. The Taill of the Scheip and the Dog.

1.

Esope ane taill puttis in memorie,
 How that ane dog, becaus that he wes pure,
 Callit ane scheip to the consistorie,
 Ane certane breid fra him for to requir. 1150
 Ane fraudfull wolf wes juge that tyme, and bure
 Authoritie and jurisdiction,
 And on the scheip send furth ane strait summoun.

2.

For by the vse, and cours, and commoun stile
 On this maner maid his citatioun:
 'I, maister wolf, pairtles of fraude and gile, 1155
 Vnder the panis of hie suspensioun,
 Of grit cursing, and interdictioun,
 Schir scheip, I chaig the for to compeir,
 And answeir to ane dog before me heir'.

3.

Schir corbie rauin wes maid apparetour, 1160
 Quha pykit had full mony scheipis ee;
 The charge hes tane, and on the letteris bure:
 Summonit the scheip before the wolf, that he
 Peremptourlie, within twa daxis or thre,
 Compeir vnder the panis in this bill, 1165
 To heir quhat perrie dog will say the till.

4.

This summond is maid before witnes anew;
 The rauin as to his office weill effeird,
 Indorsate hes the write, and on he flew;
 The sillie scheip durst lay na mouth on eird, 1170
 Till he before the awfull juge appeird,
 The hour of caus, quhilk that the juge vsit than,
 Quhen hesperous to schaw his face began.

VI. *B und L* The taill of the Dog, the Scheip and the Wolf.
 1146 ane *doppelt in H.* 1149 *B und L* recure. 1155 *B* frawd or gyle.
 1158 *L* charge thee straitly to compeir, *B* chaig ye straitly to compeir.
 1161 *B* Quhilk pyket. 1162 *B* His chaig. 1166 *B* Burry Dog — say
 him till, *L* thee till. 1168 *B* has till his office. 1169 *B* his write.
 1170 *B* till eird; *L* selie. 1171 *B* Till scho before that. 1172 *B* that
 court usit. 1173 *B* Esperus.

5.

The foxe wes clerk and notare in the cause;
 The gled, the grape at the bar couth stand, 1175
 As aduocatis expert in the lawis,
 The doggis pley to gidder tuke on hand,
 Quhilk wer confidderate straitlie in ane band,
 Aganis the scheip to procure the sentence;
 Thocht it was fals, thay had na conscience. 1180

6.

[32^b]

The clerk callit the scheip, and he wes thair;
 The aduocatis on this wayis couth propone:
 Ane certane breid, worth fiue schillingis or mair,
 Thow aw the dog, of quhilk the terme is gone.
 Of his awin heid, but aduocate allone, 1185
 The scheip ausitlie gaif answer in the cace:
 'Heir I decline the juge, the tyme, the place.

7.

'This is my cause, in motiue and effect:
 The law sayis, it is richt perrillous,
 Till enter in pley before ane juge suspect; 1190
 And ye, schir wolf, hes bene richt odious
 To me, for with your tuskis rauenous
 Hes slane full mony kynnismen of myne;
 Thairfoir, juge as suspect, I yow decline.

8.

'And schortlie, of this court ye memberis all, 1195
 Baith assessouris, clerk, and aduocate,
 To me and myne ar ennemeis mortale,
 And ay hes bene, as mony scheiphird wate;
 The place is fer, the tyme is feriat,
 Quhairfoir na juge suld sit in consistorie, 1200
 Sa lait at evin, I yow accuse for thy.'

9.

Quhen that the juge in this wayis wes accusit,
 He bad the parteis cheis, with ane assent,
 Twa arbeteris, as in the law is vsit,
 For to declair, and gif arbitrimint, 1205
 Quhidder the scheip suld answer in jugement

1175 *L* graip, *B* grip. 1178 *L* confederate, *B* confiderit — into
 ane. 1182 *L* wyse couth, *B* wys can. 1186 The scheip *fehlt* in *B*.
 1187 *B* and place. 1188 *B* and motive in effect. 1190 *B* 'Till interply.
 1191 *B* hes ay bene odious. 1192 *B* To me, with thyne tuskis.
 1194 *B* und *L* Thairfoir as juge. 1197 *B* immortal, *L* mortall. 1199 *L*
 place is ferre. 1200 *L* no juge, *B* In quhilk no jugeis. 1202 *B* und *L*
 this wyse. 1205 *B* for to dissyd. 1206 *B* suld byd in.

[33] Before the wolf; and so thay did but weir,
Of quhome the names efterwart ye sall heir.

10.

The beir, the brok the mater tuik on hand,
For to decyde, gif this exceptioun 1210
Wes of na strenth, nor lauchfullie nicht stand;
And thairupoun, as jugeis, thay sat down,
And held ane lang quhile disputatioun,
Seikand full mony decreitis of the law,
And glosis als, the veritie to know. 1215

11.

Of ciuile law volumis full mony thay reuolue,
The codies and degistis new and ald;
Contrait, prostrait argumentis thay resolue,
Sum objecting, and sum can hald;
For prayer, or price, trow ye, that thay wald fald? 1220
Bot held the text and glose of the decries,
As trew jugeis; I beschrew thame ay that leis.

12.

Schortlie to mak ane end of this debait,
The arbiteris than sweirand [full] plane
The sentence gaif and proces fulminate: 1225
[33^b] The schein suld pas before the wolf agane,
And end his pley; — than wes he na thing fane,
For fra thair sentence couth he not appeill.
On clerkis I do it, gif this sentence wes leill.

13.

The schein agane before the wolf dereinyeit, 1230
But aduocat abasitlie couth stand.
Vp rais the dog, and on the schein thus pleinyeit:
'Ane soume I pait haif before the hand
For certane breid'; thairto ane borrow he fand,
That wranguslie the schein did hald the breid, 1235
Quhilk he denyit; and thair began the pleid.

14.

And quhen the schein this stryif had contestait,
The justice in the caus furth can proceid;
Lowrence the actis and the proces wrait,

1209 *L* tuke. 1210 *B* dissyd. 1214 *L* decreittis, *B* decretals.
1215 *L* glossis. 1217 *L* digestis. 1218 *L* Contra and pro, strait argu-
mentis, *MCI* Contrate and prostrate. 1219 *B* und *L* Sum a doctrine,
and sum another hald; *MCI* = *H*. 1221 *L* held the glose and text of,
B = *H*. 1222 ay *fehlt* in *B* und *L*. 1224 full *fehlt* in *H*, *steht* in *L*,
B und *MCI*. 1233 *L* payit; *B* To the a sowme I payit befor hand.
1235 *B* schein held fra him breid. 1236 *B* And he denyit, and so began.
1238 *B* The jugeis. 1239 *B* and proces.

And thus the pley vnto the end thay speid. 1240
 This cursit court, corruptit all for meid,
 Aganis gude faith, law, and eik conscience,
 For this fals dog pronuncit the sentence.

15.

[34]

And it till put to executioun,
 The wolf chairgit the schein, without delay, 1245
 Vnder the panis of interditioun,
 The sowme of siluer, or the breid to pay.
 Of this sentence, allace, quhat sall I say?
 Quhilk dampnit hes the sillie innocent,
 And justifit the wrangous jugement. 1250

16.

The schein, dreidand mair the executioun,
 Obayand to the sentence, he couth tak
 His way vnto ane merchand of the toun,
 And sauld the woll, he bure vpoun his bak;
 Syne brocht the breid, and to the dog couth mak 1255
 Reddie payment, as it commandit was:
 Naikit and bair syne to the feild couth pas.

Moralitas

17.

This sillie schein may present the figure
 Of pure commounis, that daylie ar opprest
 Be tirrane men, quhilk settis all thair cure, 1260
 Be fals meinis to mak ane wrang conquest,
 In hope this present life suld euer lest;
 Bot albegilit, thay will in schort tyme end,
 And efter deith to lestand panis wend.

18.

[34^b]

This wolf I likkin to ane schireff stout, 1265
 Quhilk byis ane forfalt at the kingis hand,
 And hes with him ane cursit assyis about,
 And dytis all the pure men vpon land.
 Fra the crownare haif lait on him his wand,
 Thocht he wer trew as euir wes Sanct Johnne: 1270
 Slane sall he be, or with the juge compone.

1240 *B* And sone the pley. 1242 *B* gane gud fayth, gud law, and
 conscience. 1244 *B* to put in. 1245 *B* und *L* chargeit. 1251 *B* moir
 persecutioun. 1252 *L* Obeyant, *B* obeyit. 1254 *L* woll that he bure,
B sald his fleiss that he bure on. 1256 *B* as he foirjugeit was. 1257 *L*
 Naked, *B* nakit. 1258 *L* selie, *B* silly. 1260 *L* quhilkis. 1261 *B*
 With fals. 1264 *B* crewall panis. 1269 *L* crownar haif laid, *B* crowner
 lay on thame his wand. 1270 *B* Suppois he be als trew as was S. J.;
L ever — Johnne. 1271 *B* sall thay be.

19.

This ravin I likkin to ane fals crownair,
 Quhilk hes ane portioun of the inditement,
 And passis furth before the justice air,
 All misdoaris to bring to jugement. 1275
 Bot luik, gif he was of ane trew intent,
 To sraip out Johnne, and write in Will, or Wat,
 And tak ane bud at baith the parteis tat.

20.

Of this fals tod, of quhilk I spak befor,
 And of this gled, quhat thay nicht signifie, 1280
 Of thair nature, as now I speik no moir;
 Bot of this schein and of his cairfull cry,
 I sall reheirs; for as I passit by
 Quhair that he lay, on cais I luikit doun,
 And hard him mak sair lamentatioun. 1285

21.

[35] 'Allace', quod he, 'this cursit consistorie,
 In middis of the winter now is maid,
 Quhen borias, with blastis bitterlie,
 And hard frostis thir flouris doun can faid;
 On bankis bair now may I mak na baid.' 1290
 And with that word in to ane coif he crap,
 Fra sair wedder and frostis him to hap.

22.

Quaikand for cauld, sair murnand ay amang,
 Kest vp his ee vnto the hevinis hicht,
 And said: 'lord god, quhy slepis thow sa lang? 1295
 Walk, and decerne my caus, groundit on richt;
 Se how I am, be fraude, maistrie, and slicht,
 Peillit full bair'; — and so is mony one
 Now in this warld, richt wonder, wo be gone! —

23.

Se, how this cursit sone of couetice, 1300
 Lost hes baith lawtie and eik law. —
 Now few or nane will execute justice,
 In falt of quhome the pure man is ouerthrow.
 The veritie, suppois the juge it knaw,

1273 *L* porteouss; *B* porteous. 1276 *L* luke, *B* he be. 1278 *L*
 And swa ane bud — parteis tak. 1284 *L* case I lukit, *B* caiss. 1287 *B*
 In middis now of wintir it is maid. 1288 *B und L* Boreas. 1289 *B*
 With frawart frostis. 1292 *L* froistis. 1293 *B* Quaikand for cauld and
 murnyngis soir amang. 1295 *L* sleipis, *B* o Lord. 1296 *L* discernie,
B descerne; in richt. 1297 *B* Luk how. 1301 *B und L* Exylit hes
 baith lufe, lawtie and law.

He is so blindit with affectionn,
But dreid, for nicht, he lettis the richt ga doun. 1305

24.

Seis thow not, lord, this warld ouerturnit is,
As quha wald change gude gold in leid or tin;
The pure is peillit, the lord may do na mis,
And simonie is haldin for na sin, 1310
[Now is he blyith with okker maist may win;]
[35 b] Gentrice is slane, and pietie is ago,
Allace, gude lord, quhy tholis thow it so?

25.

Thow tholis this evin for oure grit offence,
Thow sendis ws troubill and plaigis sore, 1315
As hunger, derth, grit weir, or pestilence; —
Bot few amendis now thair lyfe thairfore. —
We puir peple, as now may do no moir
Bot pray to the, sen that we ar opprest
In to this eirth, grant ws in hevin gude rest. 1320

Finis.

[36] VII. The Taill of the Lyon and the Mous.

[Prolog.]

1.

In middis of June, that [joly] sweit seasoun,
Quhen that fair phebus, with his bemis bricht,
Had dryit vp the dew fra daill and doun,
And all the land maid with his bemis licht;
In ane morning, betuix midday and nicht, 1325
I rais, and put all sleip and sleuth aside,
And to ane wod I went allone, but gide.

2.

Sweit was the smell of flouris, quhite and reid,
The noyes of birdis richt delitious,
The bewis braid blomit aboue my heid, 1330
The ground growand with gres gratious;
Of all plesance that place wes plentious,
With sweit odouris, and birdis harmony,
The morning myld; — my mirth wes mair for thy.

1305 *B* Thay ar so blindit. 1306 *B* for meid thay thoill the rycht.
1307 *B* Se thou nocht. 1311 *fehlt in H.* 1312 *B* Gentreis — pety.
1313 Lord God. 1314 *B* this bot for our grit offens. 1315 *B und L*
soir. 1318 *L* pure pepill, *B* pure peple. 1319 *L* to thee, *B* to the,
sen we are thus opprest. 1320 *B* erd.

VII. 1324 *B und L* lemis licht. 1326 *B und L* all sleuth and sleip.
1329 *L* noyis. 1330 *L* abone. 1331 *L* gersis, *B* grassis. 1333 *B*
armonie.

3.

The rosis reid arrayit on rone and ryce, 1335
 The prymerois, and the purpouir violat bla;
 To heir it was ane point of parradice,
 Sic mirth the mauéis and the merle couth ma.
 The blossomis blith brak vp on bank and bra;
 The smell of herbis, and of foulis cry, 1340
 Contending, quha suld haif the victory.

4.

[36^b] Me to conserue than fra the sonis heit,
 Vnder the schaddow of ane hawthorne grenc,
 I lenit doun amang the flouris sweit,
 Syne cled my heid, and closit baith my ene. 1345
 One sleip I fell amang thir bewis bene,
 And, in my dreame, me thoct come throw the schaw
 The fairest man that euer before I saw.

5.

His gown wes of ane claith als quhite as milk,
 His chemeis was of chambelet pourpouir broun; 1350
 His hude of skarlate, bordourit weill with silk,
 On hekillit wyis, vntill his girdill doun;
 His bonet round, and of the suld fassoun,
 His beird wes quhite, his ene wes grit and gray,
 With lokker hair, quhilk ouer his schulderis lay. 1355

6.

Ane roll of paper in his hand he bair,
 Ane swannis pen stikkand vnder his eir,
 Ane inkhorne, with ane prettie gilt pennair,
 Ane bag of silk, all at his belt can beir.
 Thus was he gudlie grathit in his geir: 1360
 Of stature large, and with ane feirfull face,
 Evin quhair I lay he come ane sturdy pace,

7.

[37] And said, 'god speid, my sone', and I was fane
 Of that couth word, and of his cumpany;
 With reuerence I salust him agane: 1365
 'Welcome, father', and he sat doun me by.
 'Displeis yow not, my gude maister, thoct I
 Demand your birth, your facultie, and name,
 Quhy ye come heir, or quhair ye dwell at hame?'

1336 *L* viola, bla *fehlt*, *ebenso in B und MCl.* 1338 *L* mavis, *B*
 maviss. 1342 *L* then — sonniss. 1343 *B* awthorne. 1346 *L* On
 sleip. 1350 *L* His chymeris, *MCl* = *H*; *B* chymers; *L* chambelote.
 1351 *L* scarlet. 1353 *L* bonat. 1360 *L* gudelie graithit. 1365 *L*
 salusit.

8.

'My sone', said he, 'I am of gentill blude, 1370
 My natiue land is Rome withouttin nay;
 And in that toun first to the scolis I yude,
 In ciuile law studiit full mony ane day,
 And now my wyning is in hevin for ay;
 Esope I hecht; my writing and my werk, 1375
 Is couth and kend to mony cunning clerk.'

9.

'O maister Esope, poete lawriate,
 God wait, ye ar full deir welcome to me;
 Ar ye not he that all thir fabillis wrait,
 Quhilk in effect, suppois thay feinyeit be, 1380
 Ar full of prudence and moralitie?'
 'Fair sone', said he, 'I am the samyn man.' —
 God wait, gif that my hert wes merie than.

10.

[37^b] I said, 'Esope, my maister venerable,
 I yow beseik hertlie, for charitie, 1385
 Ye wald not disdane to tell ane prettie fabill,
 Concludand with ane guid moralitie.'
 Schaikand his head, he said: 'my sone lat be,
 For quhat is it wirth to tell ane feinyeit taill,
 Quhen halie preiching may na thing awaill?' 1390

11.

'Now in this warld, me think, richt few or nane
 To goddis worde that hes deuotioun;
 The eir is deif, the hart is hard as stane,
 Now oppin sin, without correctioun.
 The hart inclynand to the eirth ay doun, 1395
 Sa roustit is the warld with canker blak,
 That now my taillis may littill succour mak.'

12.

'Yit, gentill schir', said I, for my requeist,
 Not to displeis your father heid, I pray,
 Vnder the figure of a brutale beist, 1400
 Ane morale fabill ye wald denye to say:
 Quha wait, nor I may leir, and beir away
 Sum thing, thairby heirefter may auaill?'
 'I grant', quod he, and thus begouth ane taill.

The end of the prolog and beginnis the taill:

1372 *L* towne, sculis. 1378 *L* welcum. 1385 *L* hartlie for che-
 ritie. 1386 disdayne. 1387 *L* gude. 1388 *L* heid. 1389 *L* worth.
 1395 *L* The ee inclynand. 1396 *L* roustie.

13.

- [38] Ane lyoun at his pray war foirrun; 1405
 To recreat his limmis and to rest,
 Beikand his breist and belly at the sun,
 Vnder ane tre lay in the fair forrest;
 Sua come ane trip of myis out of thair nest,
 Richt tait and trig, all dansand in ane gyis, 1410
 And ouer the lioun lansit twyis or thryis.

14.

He lay sa still, the myis was not effeird,
 Bot to and fra out ouer him tuik thair trace,
 Sum tirlit at the campis of his beird,
 Sum sparit not to claw him on the face; 1415
 Merie and glaid thus dansit thay ane space,
 Till at the last the noble lyoun woke,
 And with his pow the maister mous he tuke.

15.

Scho gaif ane cry, and all the laif agast,
 Thair dansing left, and hid thame sone all quhair; 1420
 Scho that wes tane, cryit and weipit fast,
 And said, allace, oftymes that scho come thair:
 'Now am I tane ane wofull presonair;
 And for my gilt traistis incontinent
 Of lyfe and deith to thole the jugement.' 1425

16.

- [38^b] Than spak the lioun to that cairfull mous:
 'Thow catiue wretche, and vile vnworthie thing;
 Ouer malapart, and eik presumptuous
 Thow wes, to mak out ouer me thy tripping.
 Qnew thow not weill, I was baith lord and king 1430
 Of beistis all?' 'Yis', quod the mous, 'I knaw;
 Bot I misknew, becaus ye lay so law.

17.

'Lord! I besaik thy kinglie royaltie,
 Heir quhat I say, and tak in patience;
 Consider first my simple pouertie, 1435
 And syne thy michtie hie magnificence:
 Se als how thingis done of negligence,
 Nouthur of malice nor of presumptioun,
 The rather suld haif grace and remissioun.

1407 *L* the sone. 1408 *L* tree. 1413 *L* tuke. 1414 *L* tirlit
 at the lampis, *MCI* campes. 1417 nobill. 1425 *L* thoill. 1428 *L*
 malapert. 1430 *L* Knew. 1431 *L* Yes. 1439 *L* Erar suld haif,
MCI = *H*.

18.

We war repleit, and had grit aboundance, 1440
 Of all kin thingis, sic as to ws effeird;
 The sweit sesoun prouokit ws to dance,
 And mak sic mirth, as nature to ws leird.
 Ye lay sa still and law vpoun the eird,
 That be my saule we wenid, ye had bene deid, 1445
 Ellis wald we not haif dancit ouer your heid.'

19.

[39]

'Thy fals excuse', the lion said agane,
 'Sall not awaill ane myte, I vnderta;
 I put the caae: I had bene deid or slane,
 And syne my skin bene stoppit full of stra, 1450
 Thocht thow had found my figure liand swa,
 Becaus it bare the prent of my persoun,
 Thow suld for feir on kneis haif fallin down.

20.

'For thy trespas thow can mak na defence,
 My noble persoun thus to vilipend; 1455
 Of thy feiris, nor thy awin negligence,
 For to excuse, thow can na caus pretend;
 Thairfoir thow suffer sall ane schamefull end,
 And deith, sic as to tressoun is decretit,
 Vpon the gallous harlit be the feit.' 1460

21.

'Na, mercie, lord! at thy gentrice I ase:
 — As thow art king of beistis coronate, —
 Sober thy wraith, and let it onerpas,
 And mak thy mynd to mercy inclynate;
 I grant, offence is done to thine estait, 1465
 Qubairfore I wirthie am to suffer deid,
 Bot gif thy kinglie mercy reik remeid.

22.

[39^b]

'In cuerie juge mercy and truth suld be
 As assessouris, and collaterall;
 Without mercy justice is crueltie, 1470
 As said is in the lawis speciall:
 Quhen rigour sittis in the tribunale,
 The equitie of law quha may sustene?
 Richt few or nane, — but mercy gang betwene.

1440 *L* haboundance. 1444 *L* so still. 1445 *L* wend. 1449 *L*
 case. 1460 *L* On to the gallous. 1461 *L* A mercie, *MCI* no.
 1468 *L* und *MCI* mercie and reuth. 1471 *L* lawis spirituall, *MCI*
 speciall.

23.

'Alswa ye know, the honour triumphall 1475
 Of all victour vpon the strenth dependis
 Of his conqueist, quhilk manlie in battell
 Throw jeoperdie of weir lang defendis. —
 Quhat price or louing, quhen the battell endis,
 Is said of him, that ouercumis ane man, 1480
 Him to defend quhilk nouthir may nor can?

24.

'Ane thousand myis to kill, and eik denoir,
 Is litill manheid to ane strang lioun;
 Full litill worschip haif ye win thairfoir,
 To quhais strenth is na comparisoun; 1485
 It will degraid sum pairt of your renoun,
 To slay ane mous, quhilk may mak na defence,
 Bot askand mercie at your excellence.

25.

[40] 'Also it simes not your celsitude,
 Quhilk vsis dalie meittis delitious, 1490
 To fyle your lippis and teith with my blude,
 Quhilk to your stomok is contagious;
 Vnhailsun meit is of ane sarie mous,
 And that namelie vnto ane strang lioun,
 Wont till be fed with gentill vennesoun. 1495

26.

'My lyfe is litill worth, my deith is les,
 Yit and I leif, I may peraduentour
 Supplie your hienes beand in distres;
 For oft is sene, ane man of small stature
 Reskewit hes ane lord of hie honour, 1500
 Keipit that wes in point to be ouerthrawin
 Throw misfortoun: sic cace may be your awin.'

27.

Quhen this wes said, the lioun his language
 Paissit, and thoctt according to ressoun,
 And gart mercie his cruell ire asswage, 1505
 And to the mous grantit remissioun.
 Oppynnit his pow, and scho on kneis fell down,
 And baith hir handis vnto the heuin vpheld,
 Cryand: 'almichtie god mot yow foryeild!'

1478 *L* jeopardie. 1480 *L* ouercummis. 1483 *L* strong. 1486 *L*
 part. 1489 *L* it semis. 1490 *L* daylie. 1491 *L* your teith or lippis.
 1493 *L* sairie mous. 1494 *L* untill. 1497 *L* peradventure. 1502 *L*
 misfortune. 1505 *L* yre. 1507 *L* opynnit. 1508 *L* upheld.

28.

[40^b] Quhen scho was gone, the lioun held to hunt, 1510
 For he had nocht bot leuit on his pray,
 And slew baith tayme and wyld, as he wes wunt,
 And in the cuntrie maid a grit deray; —
 Till at the last the pepill fand the way,
 This cruell lioun how that thay might tak: 1515
 Of hempin cordis strang nettis couth thay mak.

29.

And in ye rod, quhair he was wont to rin,
 With raipis rude fra tre to tre it band;
 Syne kest ane range on raw the wod within,
 With hornis blast, and kennetis fast calland. 1520
 The lioun fled, and throw the rone rynnand,
 Fell in the net, and hankit fute and heid,
 For all his strenth he couth mak na remeid.

30.

Welterand about with hiddious rummissing,
 Quhile to, quhile fra, quhill he nicht succour get; 1525
 Bot all in vane, it vailyeit him na thing:
 The mair he flang, the faster was the net;
 The raipis rude was sa about him plet,
 On euerie side, that succour saw he none,
 Bot still liand, and murnand maid his mone. 1530

31.

[41] 'O lamit lioun, liggand heir sa law,
 Quhair is the might of thy magnificence,
 Of quhome all brutall beistis in eird stuid aw,
 And dreid to luik vpoun thy excellence? 1535
 But hoip or help, but succour or defence,
 In bandis strang heir man I ly, allace!
 Till I be slane, I se nane vther grace.

32.

'Thair is na wy, that will my harmes wreik,
 Nor creature do confort to my croun;
 Quha sall me bute? quha sall my bandis breke? 1540
 Quha sall me put fra pane of this presoun?' —
 Be he had maid this lamentatioun,
 Throw auenture the litill mous come neir,
 And of the lioun hard the pietuous beir.

1512 *L* wes wont. 1513 *L* ane greit. 1517 *L* in ane rod.
 1525 *L* Quhyles to, quhyles fra, gif he nicht. 1529 *L* everilk
 syde. 1534 *L* luke upon. 1536 *L* mon I. 1537 *L* I see. 1538 *L*
 wreck.

33.

And suddanlie it come in to hir mynd, 1545
 That it suld be the lioun, did hir grace,
 And said, 'now wer I fals, and richt vnkynd,
 Bot gif I quite sum part of thy gentrace,
 Thow did to me'; — and on this wayis scho gais
 To hir fellowis, and on thame fast can cry, 1550
 'Cum help, cum help'; — and thay come all in hy.

34.

[41^b] 'Lo', quod the mouß, 'this is the samyn lioun,
 That grantit grace to me quhen I was tane;
 And now is fast heir bundin in presoun,
 Brekand his hart with sair murning and mane, 1555
 Bot we him help, of succour wait he nane;
 Cum help to quit ane gude turme for ane vther,
 Go, lous him sone'; and thay said, 'ye, gude brother'.

35.

Thay tuik na knyfe, thair teith was scharpe aneuch. —
 To se that sicht, forsuith it was grit wounder, 1560
 How that thay ran amang the raipis tewch,
 Befoir, behind, sum gaid about, sum vnder,
 And schuir the raipis of the net in schunder;
 Syne bad him ryis, and he start vp anone,
 And thankit thame, syne on his way is gone. 1565

36.

Now is the lioun fre of all danger,
 Lous and deliuerit to his libertie,
 Be litill beistis of ane small power,
 As ye haif hard, becaus he had pitie. —
 Quod I, 'maister, is thair ane moralitie 1570
 In this fabill?' 'ye, sone', he said, 'richt guid'. —
 'I pray yow, schir', quod I, 'ye wald conclude'.
 Finis.

[42]

Moralitas.

37.

As I suppose, this michtie gay lioun,
 May signifie ane prince, or empriour,
 Ane potestate, or yit ane king with croun, 1575
 Quhilk suld be walkryfe, gide, and gouernour
 Of his pepill, that takis na labour
 To reule, and steir the land, and justice keip,
 Bot lysis still in lustis, sleuth, and sleip.

1545 suddanlie — in till. 1557 to quyte. 1559 *L* tuke — wes
 scharp. 1562 *L* sum yeid, *MC!* yeede. 1564 *L* ryse. 1571 *L* richt
 gude. 1573 *B* und *L* suppois. 1579 *L* slouth, *B* slewth.

38.

The fair forest with leuis lowne and lie, 1580
 With foullis sang, and flouris ferlie sweit,
 Is bot the warld and his prosperitie,
 As fals plesance mingit with cair replcit.
 Richt as the rois, with frost and winter weit,
 Faidis, swa dois the warld, and thame desauis, 1585
 Quhilk in thair lustis maist confidence hauis.

39.

Thir litill myis ar bot the commountie,
 Wantoun, wnwyse, without correctioun.
 Thair lordis and princes, quhen that thay se,
 Of justice mak na executioun; 1590
 Thay dreid na thing to mak rebellioun,
 And disobey; for quhy? thay stand nane aw; —
 That garris thame thair soueranis misknaw.

40.

[42^b] Be this fabill, ye lordis of prudence
 May considerd the vertue of pietie; 1595
 And to remit sum tyme ane grit offence,
 And mitigate with mercy crueltie:
 Of tymes is sene ane man of small degrie,
 Hes quit ane kinbute baith of gude and ill,
 As lordis hes done rigour, and grace him till. 1600

41.

Quha wait, how sone ane lord of grit renoun,
 Rowand in warldlie wit and vane plesance,
 May be ouerthrawin, distroyit, and put down
 Throw fals fortoun, quhilk of all variance
 Is hail maistres, and leidare of the dance 1605
 Till vnjust men, and blindis thame so soir,
 That thay na perrell can prouide befoir.

42.

Thir rurall men, that stentit hes the net,
 In quhilk the lioun suddanelie was tane,
 Waittit alway amendis for to get, 1610
 For hurt men writis in the merbill stane.
 Mair till expone as now I let allane,
 Bot king and lord may weill wit quhat I mene;
 Figure heirof oftymes hes bene sene.

1580 *B* and *lé*. 1582 *B* prosperité. 1583 *L* plesans. 1595 *L*
und B vertew. 1598 *L* degre. 1599 *L* and evill. 1600 *L* As lord
 — rigour or grace. 1601 *L* waitis. 1602 *L* Rolland in warldlie lust
 and; *MCI* wit; *B* lust. 1604 *L* Thow fals; *MCI* *und B* = *H*; *B* varians.
 1605 *L* leidar, *B* leder. 1606 *L und B* Till lusty men, *MCI* = *H*.
 1611 *L* marbill, *B* marble. 1612 *L und MCI* expound.

43.

- [43] Quhen this was said, quod Esope: 'my fair childe, 1615
 I the beseik and all men for to pray,
 That tressoun of this cuntrie be exyld,
 And justice ring, and lordis keip thair fay
 Vnto thair souerane king, baith nycht and day'. —
 And with that word he vanist, and I woke; 1620
 Syne throw the schaw my jurnay hamewart tuik.
 Endis the moralitie.

1616 *L* Persuaid the Kirkmen ythandly to pray; *MCI = H.* 1619 *L*
 Souverane Lord. 1620 *L* vaneist. 1621 *L* tuke.

(Die übrigen fabeln folgen im nächsten hefte.)

LEIPZIG.

A. R. DIEBLER.