OLD ENGLISH SERIES · VOLUME 28

The Old English Laws

Ancient Laws and Institutes of England

The Old English Laws

The Laws of the Kings from Æthelberht to Cnut, with the Ordinances and Tracts

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order

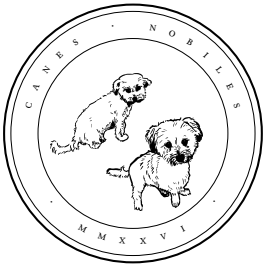


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The text is that of the first Old English manuscript Liebermann prints for each code, with his brackets and the manuscripts' accents, and the margin gives his paragraph numbers. The codes he prints only in Latin are not included, nor are I and II Cnut and the Old English of VII Æthelred, which are printed in Old English 20.

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The Laws of the Kings

The laws King Æthelberht set in Augustine's day. Theft from God, the church, and the clergy is repaid many times over, and the king's protection is worth fifty shillings, lesser men's less. A long tariff then fixes the compensation for slaying, binding, and robbery, for every wound from the hair to the toenail, for wrongs to women, widows, and maidens, and for the deeds of servants and slaves.

Þis syndon þa domas, þe Æðelbirht cyning asette on Inscr.
these are the judgments which Æthelberht king set in
Agustinus dæge.
of-Augustine day
Godes feoh ⁊ ciricean XIIgylde. Biscopes feoh XIgylde. 1
Of-God property and of-church twelvefold Of-bishop property elevenfold
Preostes feoh IXgylde. Diacones feoh VIgylde. Cleroces
Of-priest property ninefold Of-deacon property sixfold Of-cleric
feoh IIIgylde. Ciricfriþ IIgylde. Mæthlfriþ IIgylde.
property threefold Church-peace twofold Assembly-peace twofold
Gif cyning his leode to him gehateþ, ⁊ heom mon þær 2
If king his people to him summons and to-them one there
yfel gedo, IIbóte ⁊ cyninge L scillinga.
evil does double-compensation and to-king fifty shillings
Gif cyning æt mannes ham drincæþ, ⁊ ðær man lyswæs 3
If king at of-man home drinks and there one of-evil
hwæt gedo, twibote gebete.
aught does double-compensation let-amend
Gif frigman cyninge stele, IXgylde forgylde. 4
If freeman from-king steals ninefold let-repay
Gif in cyninges tune man mannan ofslea, L scill' gebete. 5
If in of-king estate one man slays fifty shillings let-amend

6 Gif man frigne mannan ofsleahþ, cyninge L scill' to
If one free man slays to-king fifty shillings as
drihtinbeage.
lord-payment

7 Gif cyninges ambihtsmið oþþe laadrincmannan ofslehð,
If of-king official-smith or outrider slays
meduman leodgelde forgelde.
with-middle wergild let-repay

8 Cyninges mundbyrd: L scillinga.
Of-king protection fifty shillings

9 Gif frigman freum stelþ, III gebete, ⁊ cyning age þæt
If freeman from-free steals threefold let-amend and king let-own that
wite ⁊ ealle þa æhtan.
fine and all the goods

10 Gif man wið cyninges mægdenman geligeþ, L scillinga
If one with of-king maiden lies fifty shillings
gebete.
let-amend

11 Gif hio grindende þeowa sio, XXV scillinga gebete. Sio
If she grinding slave be twenty-five shillings let-amend The
þridde: XII scillingas.
third twelve shillings

12 Cyninges fedesl XX scillinga forgelde.
Of-king feeding twenty shillings let-repay

13 Gif on eorles tune man mannan ofslæhþ, XII scill' gebete.
If on of-noble estate one man slays twelve shillings let-amend

14 Gif wið eorles birele man geligeþ, XII scill' gebete.
If with of-noble cupbearer one lies twelve shillings let-amend

15 Ceorles mundbyrd: VI scillingas.
Of-churl protection six shillings

Gif wið ceorles birelan man geligeþ, VI scillingum gebete; 16
If with of-churl cupbearer one lies six shillings let-amend
aet þære oþere ðeowan L scætta; aet þare þriddan XXX
at the second slave fifty sceattas at the third thirty
scætta.
sceattas

Gif man in mannes tún ærest geirneþ, VI scillingum gebete; 17
If one into of-man estate first runs six shillings let-amend
se þe æfter irneþ: III scillingas, siððan gehwylc scilling.
he who after runs three shillings afterward each shilling

Gif man mannan wępnum bebyreþ, ðær ceas weorð, ⁊ 18
If one to-man with-weapons furnishes where quarrel becomes and
man nænig yfel ne gedeþ, VI scillingum gebete.
one no evil — does six shillings let-amend

Gif wegreaf sy gedón, VI scillingum gebete. 19
If highway-robbery be done six shillings let-amend

Gif man þone man ofslæhð, XX scillingum gebete. 20
If one the man slays twenty shillings let-amend

Gif man mannan ofslæhð, medume leodgeld C scillinga 21
If one man slays middle wergild hundred shillings
gebete.
let-amend

Gif man mannan ofslæhð, æt openum græfe XX scillinga 22
If one man slays at open grave twenty shillings
forgelde ⁊ in XL nihta ealne leod forgelde.
let-repay and in forty nights whole wergild let-repay

Gif bana of lande gewiteþ, ða magas healfne leod forgelden. 23
If slayer from land departs the kinsmen half wergild let-repay

Gif man frigne man gebindeþ, XX scill' gebete. 24
If one free man binds twenty shillings let-amend

Gif man ceorlæs hlafætan ofslæhð, VI scillingum gebete. 25
If one of-churl loaf-eater slays six shillings let-amend

26 Gif læt ofslæhð, þone selestan LXXX scll' forgelde; gif
If freedman slays the best eighty shillings let-repay if
þane oþerne ofslæhð, LX scillingum forgelde; ðane þriddan
the second slays sixty shillings let-repay the third
XL scillinḡ forgelden.
forty shillings let-repay

27 Gif friman edorbrecþe gedeþ, VI scillingum gebete.
If freeman fence-breach does six shillings let-amend

28 Gif man inne feoh genimeþ, se man IIIgelde gebete.
If one within property takes the man threefold let-amend

29 Gif friman edor gegangeð, IIII scillingum gebete.
If freeman fence enters four shillings let-amend

30 Gif man mannan ofslea, agene scætte ȝ unfacne feo
If one man slay with-own money and sound property
gehwilce gelde.
any let-pay

31 Gif friman wið fries mannes wif geligeþ, his wergelde
If freeman with of-free man wife lies with-his wergild
abicge ȝ oðer wif his agenum scætte begete ȝ ðæm
let-buy and other wife with-his own money let-get and to-the
oðrum æt þam gebrenge.
other at that let-bring

32 Gif man rihthamscyld þurhstinð, mid weorðe forgelde.
If one right-home-shield pierces with value let-repay

33 Gif feaxfang geweorð, L sceatta to bote.
If hair-seizing occurs fifty sceattas as compensation

34 Gif banes blice weorðeþ, III scillingum gebete.
If of-bone exposure becomes three shillings let-amend

35 Gif banes bite weorð, IIII scillingum gebete.
If of-bone cut becomes four shillings let-amend

36 Gif sio uterre hion gebrocen worðeþ, X scillingum gebete.
If the outer membrane broken becomes ten shillings let-amend

Gif butu sien, XX scillingum gebete. 37

If both be twenty shillings let-amend

Gif eaxle gelæmed weorþeð, XXX scill' gebete. 38

If shoulder lamed becomes thirty shillings let-amend

Gif oþer eare nowiht gehereð, XXV scill' gebete. 39

If one ear naught hears twenty-five shillings let-amend

Gif eare of weorð aslagen, XII scill' gebete. 40

If ear off becomes struck twelve shillings let-amend

Gif eare þirel weorðeþ, III scill' gebete. 41

If ear pierced becomes three shillings let-amend

Gif eare sceard weorðeþ, VI scill' gebete. 42

If ear gashed becomes six shillings let-amend

Gif eage of weorð, L scillinga gebete. 43

If eye out becomes fifty shillings let-amend

Gif muð oþþe eage woh weorðeþ, XII scill' gebete. 44

If mouth or eye crooked becomes twelve shillings let-amend

Gif nasu ðyrel weorð, VIIII scillingum gebete. 45

If nose pierced becomes nine shillings let-amend

Gif hit sio an hleore, III scill' gebete. 46

If it be on cheek three shillings let-amend

Gif butu ðyrele sien, VI scill' gebete. 47

If both pierced be six shillings let-amend

Gif nasu ælcor sceard weorð, gehwylc VI scill' gebete. 48

If nose otherwise gashed becomes each six shillings let-amend

Gif ðirel weorþ, VI scill' gebete. 49

If pierced becomes six shillings let-amend

Se þe cinban forslæhð, mid XX scillingum forgelde. 50

He who jaw-bone smashes with twenty shillings let-repay

51 Æt þam feower toðum fyrestum, æt gehwylcum VI scillingas;
At the four teeth foremost at each six shillings
se toþ se þanne bistandeþ: IIII scill'; se þe ðonne bi
the tooth which then stands-beside four shillings that which then by
ðam standeþ: III scill'; ond þonne siþþan gehwylc: scilling.
them stands three shillings and then afterward each shilling

52 Gif spræc awyrd weorþ, XII scillingas.
If speech damaged becomes twelve shillings

52, 1 Gif widobane gebroced weorðeþ, VI scill' gebete.
If collar-bone broken becomes six shillings let-amend

53 Se þe earm þurhstinð, VI scillingum gebete.
He who arm pierces six shillings let-amend

53, 1 Gif earm forbrocen weorð, VI scill' gebete.
If arm broken becomes six shillings let-amend

54 Gif þuman ofaslæhð, XX scill'.
If thumb strikes-off twenty shillings

54, 1 Gif ðuman nægl of weorðeþ, III scill' gebete.
If of-thumb nail off becomes three shillings let-amend

54, 2 Gif man scytefinger ofaslæhð, VIIII scill' gebete.
If one shooting-finger strikes-off nine shillings let-amend

54, 3 Gif man middelfinger ofaslæhð IIII scill' gebete.
If one middle-finger strikes-off four shillings let-amend

54, 4 Gif man goldfinger ofaslæhð, VI scill' gebete.
If one gold-finger strikes-off six shillings let-amend

54, 5 Gif man þone lytlan finger ofaslæhð, XI scill' gebete.
If one the little finger strikes-off eleven shillings let-amend

55 Æt þam neglum gehwylcum scilling.
At the nails each shilling

56 Æt þam lærestan wlitewamme III scillingas ond æt þam
At the least disfigurement three shillings and at the
maran VI scill'.
greater six shillings

Gif man oþerne mid fyste in naso slæhð, III scill'. 57

If one other with fist on nose strikes three shillings

Gif dynt sie, scilling. 58

If blow be shilling

Gif he heahre handa dyntes onfehð, scill' forgelde. 58, 1

If he of-high hand blow receives shilling let-repay

Gif dynt sweart sie buton wædum, XXX scætta gebete. 59

If blow black be outside clothes thirty sceattas let-amend

Gif hit sie binnan wædum, gehwylc XX scætta gebete. 60

If it be within clothes each twenty sceattas let-amend

Gif hrifwund weorðeþ, XII scill' gebete. 61

If belly-wounded becomes twelve shillings let-amend

Gif he þurhðirel weorðeþ, XX scill' gebete. 61, 1

If he pierced-through becomes twenty shillings let-amend

Gif man gegemed weorðeþ, XXX scill' gebete. 62

If one tended becomes thirty shillings let-amend

Gif man cearwund sie, XXX scill' gebete. 63

If one grievously-wounded be thirty shillings let-amend

Gif man gekyndelice lim awyrdeþ, þrym leudgeldum hine man forgelde. 64

If one natural member damages with-three wergilds him one let-repay

Gif he þurhstinð, VI scill' gebete. 64, 1

If he pierces-through six shillings let-amend

Gif man inbestinð, VI scill' gebete. 64, 2

If one stabs-in six shillings let-amend

Gif þeoh gebrocen weorðeþ, XII scillingum gebete. 65

If thigh broken becomes twelve shillings let-amend

Gif he healt weorð, þær motan freond seman. 65, 1

If he lame becomes there must friends arbitrate

Gif rib forbrocen weorð, III scill' gebete. 66

If rib broken becomes three shillings let-amend

67 Gif man þeoh ðurhstingþ, stice gehwilce VI scillingas.
If one thigh pierces-through for-stab each six shillings

67, 1 Gyfe ofer ynce scilling, æt twam yncum twegen, ofer þry III scll'.
If over inch shilling at two inches two over three three shillings

68 Gif wælt wund weorðeþ, III scillingas gebete.
If weal wounded becomes three shillings let-amend

69 Gif fot of weorðeþ, L scillingum forgelden.
If foot off becomes fifty shillings let-repay

70 Gif seo micle ta of weorðeþ, X scll' forgelden.
If the big toe off becomes ten shillings let-repay

71 Æt þam oðrum taum gehwilcum healf gelde, ealswa æt þam fingrum ys cwiden.
At the other toes each half let-pay just-as at the fingers is said

72 Gif þare mycclan taan nægl of weorþeð, XXX scætta to bote.
If of-the big toe nail off becomes thirty sceattas as compensation

72, 1 Æt þam oþrum gehwilcum X scættas gebete.
At the others each ten sceattas let-amend

73 Gif friwif locbore leswæs hwæt gedeþ, XXX scll' gebete.
If free-woman lock-bearing of-evil aught does thirty shillings let-amend

74 Mægþbot sy swa friges mannes.
Maiden-compensation let-be as of-free man

75 Mund þare betstan widuwan eorlcundre L scillinga gebete.
Protection of-the best widow noble-rank fifty shillings let-amend

75, 1 Ðare oþre XX scll', ðare þriddan XII scll', þare feorðan VI scll'.
Of-the second twenty shillings of-the third twelve shillings of-the fourth six shillings

Gif man widuwan unagne genimeþ, II gelde seo mund 76
If one widow unowned takes double pay the protection
sy.
let-be
Gif mon mægþ gebigeð, ceapi geceapod sy, gif hit unfacne 77
If one maiden buys with-price bought let-be if it honest
is.
is
Gif hit þonne facne is, ef þær æt ham gebrenge, ⁊ him 77, 1
If it then false is back there at home let-bring and to-him
man his scæt agefe.
one his money let-give
Gif hio cwic bearn gebyreþ, healfne scæt age, gif ceorl 78
If she living child bears half money let-own if husband
ær swylteþ.
before dies
Gif mid bearnum bugan wille, healfne scæt age. 79
If with children dwell she-will half money let-own
Gif ceorl agan wile: swa an bearn. 80
If husband to-own wishes as one child
Gif hio bearn ne gebyreþ, fæderingmagas fioh agan ⁊ 81
If she child not bears paternal-kinsmen property let-own and
morgengyfe.
morning-gift
Gif man mægþmon nede genimeþ: ðam agende L scillinga 82
If one maiden by-force takes to-the owner fifty shillings
⁊ eft æt þam agende sinne willan ætgebicge.
and afterward from the owner his will let-buy
Gif hio oþrum mæn in sceat bewyddod sy, XX scillinga 83
If she to-other man in money betrothed be twenty shillings
gebete.
let-amend

84 Gif gængang geweorðeþ, XXXV scill' ⁊ cyninge XV
If return occurs thirty-five shillings and to-king fifteen
scillingas.
shillings

85 Gif man mid esnes cwynan geligeþ be cwicum ceorle,
If one with of-servant wife lies by living husband
II gebete.
twofold let-amend

86 Gif esne oþerne ofslea unsynnigne, ealne weorðe forgelde.
If servant other slay guiltless whole value let-repay

87 Gif esnes eage ⁊ foot of weorðeþ aslagen, ealne weorðe
If of-servant eye and foot off becomes struck whole value
hine forgelde.
him let-repay

88 Gif man mannes esne gebindeþ, VI scll' gebete.
If one of-man servant binds six shillings let-amend

89 Ðeowæs wegreaf se III scillingas.
Of-slave highway-robbery let-be three shillings

90 Gif þeo steleþ, II gelde gebete.
If slave steals twofold pay let-amend

The two Kentish kings add to their elders' law. A servant who kills a noble or a free man costs his owner the slayer and further man-values; a widow's child stays with its mother under a guardian until it is ten; stolen goods are vouched to the king's hall; suits go by surety and arbitration; a host answers for his guest; and a Kentishman who buys in London must have witnesses.

Þis syndon þa domas ðe Hloþhære ȝ Eadric, Cantwara Inscr.
these are the judgments which Hlothhere and Eadric of-Kentishmen
cyningas, asetton.
kings set
Hloþhære ȝ Eadric Cantwara cyningas ecton þa ǽ, þa Prol.
Hlothhere and Eadric of-Kentishmen kings increased the law that
ðe heora aldoras ær geworhton, ðyssum domum þe hyr
which their elders before made with-these judgments which here
efter sægeþ.
after says
Gif mannes esne eorlcundne mannan ofslæhð, þane ðe sio 1
If of-man servant noble man slays him who be
þreom hundum scll' gylde, se agend þone banan agefe
with-three hundreds shillings paid the owner the slayer let-give
ȝ do þær þrio manwyrð to.
and let-put there three man-values to
Gif se bane oþbyrste, feorþe manwyrð he togedo ȝ hine 2
If the slayer escape fourth man-value he let-add and him
gecænne mid godum æwdum, þæt he þane banan begeten
let-clear with good oath-helpers that he the slayer get
ne mihte.
not could

3 Gif mannes esne frigne mannan ofslæhð, þane þe sie hund
If of-man servant free man slays him who be hundred
scillinga gelde, se agend þone banan agefe ⁊ oþer manwyrð
shillings paid the owner the slayer let-give and other man-value
þær tó.
there to

4 Gif bana oþbyrste, twam manwyrþum hine man forgelde
If slayer escape with-two man-values him one let-repay
⁊ hine gecænne mid godum æwdum, þæt he þane banan
and him let-clear with good oath-helpers that he the slayer
begeten ne mihte.
get not could

5 Gif frigman mannan forstele, gif he eft cuma stermelda,
If freeman man steal if he back comes informer
secge an andweardne; gecænne hine, gif he mæge: hæbbe
say in presence let-clear himself if he can let-have
þare freora rim æwdamanna ⁊ ænne mid in aþe, æghwilc
of-the free number of-oath-men and one with in oath each
man æt þam tune þe he tohyre; gif he þæt ne mæge,
man at the estate which he belongs-to if he that not can
gelde swa he gono hage.
let-pay as he fully owns

6 Gif ceorl acwyle be libbendum wife ⁊ bearne, riht is
If husband die by living wife and child right is
þæt hit, þæt bearn, medder folgige, ⁊ him mon an
that it the child mother follow and to-him one among
his fæderingmagum wilsumne berigean gefelle, his feoh to
his paternal-kinsmen willing surety appoint his property to
healdenne, oþ þæt he X wintra sie.
hold until that he ten winters be

Gif man oþrum mæn feoh forstele, ⁊ se agend hit 7
If one from-other man property steal and the owner it
eft ætfó, geteme to cynges sele, gif he mæge, ⁊ þone
afterward seize let-vouch to of-king hall if he can and him
ætgebrenge þe him sealde; gif he þæt ne mæge, læte
let-produce who to-him sold if he that not can let-leave
án, ⁊ fo se agend tó.
off and let-take the owner to
Gif man oþerne sace tihte ⁊ he þane mannan mote an medle 8
If one other of-suit accuse and he the man meet at assembly
oþþe an þinge, symble se man þam oðrum byrigean geselle
or at meeting ever the man to-the other surety let-give
⁊ þam riht awyrce þe to hiom Cantwara deman gescrifen.
and to-him right let-do which to them of-Kentishmen judges prescribe
Gif he ðonne byrigan forwærne, XII scillingas agylde þam 9
If he then surety refuse twelve shillings let-pay to-the
cyninge, ⁊ sio se sacy swa open swa hio ær wes.
king and let-be the suit so open as it before was
Gif man oþerne tihte, siþþan he him byrigan gesealdne 10
If one other accuse after he to-him surety given
hæbbe, ⁊ ðonne ymb III niht gesecæn hiom sæmend
have and then about three nights let-seek them arbitrator
(buton þam ufor leofre sio þe þa tihtlan age); siþþan sio
unless to-him later preferable be who the charge owns after the
sace gesemed sio, an seofan nihtum se man þam oþrum
suit settled be in seven nights the man to-the other
riht gedo, gecwime an feo oððe an aþe, swa hwæder
right let-do satisfactory in money or in oath so which
swa him leofre sio. Gif he þonne þæt nille, gelde þonne
so to-him preferable be If he then that will-not let-pay then
C buton aðe, siþþan ane neaht ofer þæt gesem hie.
hundred without oath after one night over that settlement they

11 Gif man mannan an oþres flette manswara hateþ oððe
If one man in of-other hall perjurer calls or
hine mid bismærwordum scandlice grete, scilling agelde
him with insulting-words shamefully addresses shilling let-pay
þam þe þæt flet age, ⁊ VI scill' þam þe he þæt word
to-him who the hall owns and six shillings to-him whom he that word
togecwæde, ⁊ cyninge XII scll' forgelde.
spoke-to and to-king twelve shillings let-repay

12 Gif man oþrum steop asette ðær mæn drincen, buton
If one from-other cup take-away where men drink without
scylde, an eald riht scll' agelde þam þe þæt flet age, ⁊ VI
guilt by old right shilling let-pay to-him who the hall owns and six
scll' þam þe man þone steap aset, ⁊ cynge XII scll'.
shillings to-him who one the cup took-away and to-king twelve shillings

13 Gif man wæpn abregde þær mæn drincen ⁊ ðær man nan yfel
If one weapon draw where men drink and there one no evil
ne deþ, scilling þan þe þæt flet age, ⁊ cyninge XII scll'.
— does shilling to-him who the hall owns and to-king twelve shillings

14 Gif þæt flet geblodgad wyrþe, forgylde þem mæn his
If the hall bloodied become let-repay to-the man his
mundbyrd ⁊ cyninge L scill'.
protection and to-king fifty shillings

15 Gif man cuman feormæþ III niht an his agenum hame
If one stranger entertains three nights in his own home
(cepeman oþþe oðerne þe sio ofer mearce cuman) ⁊ hine
merchant or other who be over border come and him
þonne his mete fede, ⁊ he þonne ænigum mæn yfel gedo,
then with-his food feeds and he then to-any man evil does
se man þane oðerne æt rihte gebrenge oþþe riht forewyrce.
the man the other to justice let-bring or right let-perform-for

Gif Cantwara ænig in Lundenwic feoh gebycge, hæbbe 16
If of-Kentishmen any in London property buy let-have
him þonne twegen oððe ðreo unfacne ceorlas to gewitnesse
for-him then two or three honest churls as witness
oþþe cyninges wicgerefan.
or of-king town-reeve
Gif hit man eft æt þam mæn in Cænt ætfó, þonne 16, 1
If it one afterward from the man in Kent seize then
tæme he to wic to cyngæs sele to þam mæn ðe him
let-vouch he to town to of-king hall to the man who to-him
sealde, gif he þane wite ⁊ æt þam teame gebrengen mæge.
sold if he him knows and at the vouching bring can
Gif he þæt ne mæge, gekyþe ðanne in wiofode mid his 16, 2
If he that not can let-declare then at altar with of-his
gewitena anum oþþe mid cyninges wicgerefan, þæt he þæt
witnesses one or with of-king town-reeve that he the
feoh undeornunga his cuþan ceape in wic gebohte; ⁊
property openly with-his known price in town bought and
him man þanne his weorð agefe.
to-him one then his value let-give
Gif he þanne þæt ne mæge gecyþan mid rihtre canne, 16, 3
If he then that not can declare with right proof
læte þanne án, ⁊ se agend tofó.
let-leave then off and the owner let-take

At Bearsted King Wihtred and his council free the church from taxes and set the fine for breaching its protection at fifty shillings, as the king's. Unlawful unions end in penance, fines, or exclusion; work on Sunday and offerings to devils are fined; a bishop's or king's word needs no oath; and a thief caught in the act, or a stranger off the road who does not shout or blow a horn, may be slain.

Inscr. Ðis synd Wihtrædes domas Cantwara cyninges.
These are of-Wihtred judgments of-Kentishmen king

Prol. Ðam mildestan cyninge Cantwara Wihtræde rixigendum þe
The mildest king of-Kentishmen Wihtred reigning in-the
fiftan wintra his rices, þy niguðan gebanne, sextan dæge
fifth winter of-his reign in-the ninth indiction sixth day
Rugernes, in þære stowe þy hatte Berghamstyde, ðær wæs
of-Rugern in the place which is-called Bearsted there was
gesamnad eadigra geheahtendlic ymcyme:
assembled of-noble deliberative gathering

Prol., 1 ðær wæs Birhtwald, Bretone heahbiscop, ⁊ se ær næmda
there was Berhtwald of-Britons high-bishop and the before named
cyning; eac þan Hrofesceastre bisceop (se ilca Gybmund
king also besides of-Rochester bishop the same Gybmund
wæs haten) andward wæs;
was called present was

Prol., 2 ⁊ cwæð ælc had ciricean ðære mægðe anmodlice mid þy
and spoke each order of-church of-the nation unanimously with the
hersuman folcy.
obedient people

Þær ða eadigan fundon mid ealra gemedum ðas domas ⁊ Prol., 3
There the noble devised with of-all consents these judgments and
Cantwara rihtum þeawum æcton, swa hit hyr efter segeþ
of-Kentishmen to-right customs added as it here after says
⁊ cwyþ:
and speaks
Cirice an freolsdome gafola; 1
Church in freedom of-taxes
⁊ man for cyning gebidde, ⁊ hine buton neadhæse heora 1, 1
and one for king let-pray and him without compulsion with-their
willum weorþigen.
wills let-honor
Ciricean mundbyrd sie L scll' swa cinges. 2
Of-church protection let-be fifty shillings as of-king
Unrihthæmde mæn to rihtum life mid synna hreowe tofon 3
Wrong-cohabiting men to right life with of-sins repentance let-take
oþþe of ciricean genaman ascadene sien.
or from of-church fellowship separated let-be
Æltheodige mæn, gif hio hiora hæmed rihtan nyllað, of 4
Foreign men if they their cohabitation right will-not from
lande mid hiora æhtum ⁊ mid synnum gewiten;
land with their possessions and with sins let-depart
swæse mæn in leodum ciriclicæs gemanan ungestrodyne 4, 1
native men among people of-church fellowship unplundered
þoligen.
let-forgo
Gif ðæs geweorþe gesiþcundne mannan ofer þis gemot, þæt 5
If of-this happen noble man after this assembly that
he unriht hæmed genime ofer cyngæs bebod ⁊ biscopes ⁊
he wrong cohabitation take against of-king command and of-bishop and
boca dom, se þæt gebete his dryhtne C scll' an ald reht.
of-books judgment he that let-amend to-his lord hundred shillings by old right

5, 1 Gif hit ceorlisc man sie, gebete L scll'; ȝ gehwæder
If it churlish man be let-amend fifty shillings and either
þæt hæmed mid hreowe forlæte.
the cohabitation with repentance let-forsake

6 Gif priost læfe unriht hæmed oþþe fulwihðe untrumes
If priest allow wrong cohabitation or baptism of-sick
forsitte oþþe to þon druncen sie, þæt he ne mæge, sio
neglect or to that drunk be that he not can let-be
he stille his þegnungæ oþ biscopes dóm.
he still from-his ministry until of-bishop judgment

7 Gif bescoren man steorleas gange him an gestliðnesse,
If tonsured man unruled go for-himself in hospitality
gefe him man ænes; ȝ þæt ne geweorðe buton he
let-give to-him one once and that not let-happen unless he
leafnesse habbe, þæt hine man læng feormige.
leave have that him one longer harbor

8 Gif man his mæn an wiofode freols gefe, se sie folcfry;
If one to-his man at altar freedom give he let-be folk-free
freolsgefa age his erfe ænde wergeld ȝ munde þare
freedom-giver let-own his inheritance and wergild and protection of-the
hina, sie ofer mearce ðær he wille.
household be over border where he will

9 Gif esne ofer dryhtnes hæse þeowweorc wyrce an sunnan
If servant against of-lord command servile-work do on of-Sunday
æfen efter hire setlgange oþ monan æfenes setlgang, LXXX
eve after its sunset until of-Monday eve sunset eighty
scll' se dryhtne gebete.
shillings he to-lord let-amend

10 Gif esne deþ his rade þæs dæges, VI se wið dryhten
If servant does his ride on-that day six he to lord
gebete oþþe sine hyd;
let-amend or his hide

gif friman þonne an ðane forbodenan timan, sio he 11
if freeman then in the forbidden time let-be he
healsfange scyldig; ⁊ se man se þæt arasie, he age healf
of-neck-ransom liable and the man who that discovers he let-own half
þæt wite ⁊ ðæt weorc.
the fine and the work
Gif ceorl buton wifes wisdome deoflum gelde, he sie ealra 12
If husband without of-wife knowledge to-devils sacrifice he let-be of-all
his æhtan scyldig ⁊ healsfange. Gif butwu deoflum geldaþ,
his goods liable and of-neck-ransom If both to-devils sacrifice
sion hio healsfange scyldigo ⁊ ealra æhtan.
let-be they of-neck-ransom liable and of-all goods
Gif þeuw deoflum geldaþ, VI scll' gebete oþþe his hyd. 13
If slave to-devils sacrifices six shillings let-amend or his hide
Gif mon his heowum in fæsten flæsc gefe, frigne ge 14
If one to-his household in fast meat give free and
þeowne halsfange alyse.
slave with-neck-ransom let-redeem
Gif þeow ete his sylfes ræde, VI scll' oþþe his hyd. 15
If slave eat by-his own counsel six shillings or his hide
Biscopes word ⁊ cyninges sie unlægne buton aþe. 16
Of-bishop word and of-king let-be incontrovertible without oath
Mynstres aldor hine cænne in preostes canne. 17
Of-minster head himself let-clear in of-priest proof
Preost hine clænsie sylfæs soþe in his halgum hrægle 18
Priest himself let-clear with-own truth in his holy garment
ætforan wiofode ðus cweþende: 'Ueritatem dico in Christo,
before altar thus saying Truth I-speak in Christ
non mentior'. Swylce diacon hine clænsie.
not I-lie Likewise deacon himself let-clear

19 Cliroc feowra sum hine clænsie his heafodgemacene ȝ ane
Cleric of-four one himself let-clear of-his equals and alone
his hand on wiofode; oþre ætstanden, aþ abycgan.
his hand on altar others let-stand-by oath to-perform

20 Gest hine clænsie sylfes aþe on wiofode; swylce cyninges
Stranger himself let-clear with-own oath on altar likewise of-king
ðeng;
thane

21 ceorlisc man hine feowra sum his heafodgemacene on
churlish man himself of-four one of-his equals on
weofode; ȝ ðissa ealra að sie unlegnæ.
altar and of-these all oath let-be incontrovertible

21, 1 Ðanne is cirican canne riht:
Then is of-church proof right

22 Gif man biscopes esne tihte oþþe cyninges, cænne hine
If one of-bishop servant accuse or of-king let-clear him
an gerefan hand, oþþe hine gerefa clensie, oþþe selle to
in of-reeve hand or him reeve let-clear or let-give to
swinganne.
scourge

23 Gif man Gedes þeuwne esne in heora gemange tihte, his
If one Of-God slave servant in their company accuse his
dryhten hine his ane aþe geclænsie, gif he huslgenga sie;
lord him with-his alone oath let-clear if he communicant be
gif he huslgenga nis, hæbbe him in aþe oðirne æwdan
if he communicant not-is let-have for-himself in oath other oath-helper
godne oþþe gelde oþþe selle to swinganne.
good or let-pay or let-give to scourge

Gif folcesmannes esne tihte ciricanmannes esne, oþþe 24
If of-layman servant accuse of-churchman servant or
ciricanmannes esne tihte folcesmannes esne, his dryhten
of-churchman servant accuse of-layman servant his lord
hine ane his aþe geclensige.
him with-alone his oath let-clear
Gif man leud ofslea an þeofðe, licge buton wyrgelde. 25
If one man slay in theft let-lie without wergild
Gif man frigne man æt hæbbendre handa gefo, þanne 26
If one free man at having hand seize then
wealde se cyning ðreora anes: oððe hine man cwelle oþþe
let-choose the king of-three one or him one kill or
ofer sæ selle oþþe hine his wergelde alese.
over sea sell or him with-his wergild redeem
Se þe hine gefo ȝ gegange, healfne hine age; gif hine 26, 1
He who him seize and catch half him let-own if him
man cwelle, geselle heom man LXX scll'.
one kill let-give to-them one seventy shillings
Gif þeuw stele ȝ hi man alese: LXX scll', swa hweder 27
If slave steal and him one redeem seventy shillings so whichever
swa cyning wille; gif hine man acwelle, þam agende hi
so king will if him one kill to-the owner him
man healfne agelde.
one half let-pay
Gif feorran cumen man oþþe fræmde buton wege gange 28
If from-afar come man or stranger without road go
ȝ he þonne nawðer ne hryme ne he horn ne blawe, for
and he then neither — shout nor he horn — blow for
ðeof he bið to profianne: oþþe to sleanne oþþe to alysenne.
thief he is to prove or to slay or to redeem

Alfred opens his laws with God's words to Moses: the commandments, then the judgments of Exodus. A Christian slave goes free in the seventh year; a man who kills by intent dies, one who kills unwillingly may take sanctuary; eye is given for eye; a goring ox is stoned, and its owner slain or paid for if he knew its habit; and a thief slain breaking in by night is no manslaughter.

Prol. DRYHTEN WÆS SPRECENde ðas word to Moyse ⁊
LORD WAS SPEAKING these words to Moses and
þus cwæð: Ic éom dryhten ðin God. Ic ðe útgelædde of
thus said I am lord thy God I thee out-led from
Egipta londe ⁊ of hiora ðeowdome.
of-Egyptians land and from their servitude

1 Ne lufa ðu oþre fremde godas ofer me.
Not love thou other strange gods over me

2 Ne minne noman ne cig ðu on idelnesse; forðon þe ðu
Not my name — call thou in vanity because that thou
ne bist unscyldig wið me, gif ðu on idelnesse cigst minne
not art guiltless with me if thou in vanity callest my
noman.
name

3 Gemyne þæt ðu gehalgige þone ræstedæg; wyrceað eow VI
Remember that thou hallow the rest-day work you six
dagas ⁊ on þam siofoðan restað eow: forðam on VI dagum
days and on the seventh rest you because in six days
Crist geworhte heofonas ⁊ eorðan, sæs ⁊ ealle gesceafta
Christ made heavens and earth seas and all creatures
þe on him sint, ⁊ hine gereste on þone siofoðan dæg,
which in them are and himself rested on the seventh day
⁊ forðon Dryhten hine gehalgode.
and therefore Lord it hallowed

Ara ðinum fæder ⁊ þinre medder, ða þe Dryhten sealde, 4
Honor thy father and thy mother those whom Lord gave
þæt ðu sie þy leng libbende on eorþan.
that thou be the longer living on earth
Ne sleah ðu. 5
Not slay thou
Ne lige ðu dearnenga. 6
Not lie thou secretly
Ne stala ðu. 7
Not steal thou
Ne sæge ðu lease gewitnesse. 8
Not say thou false witness
Ne wilna ðu þines nehstan ierfes mid unryhte. 9
Not desire thou of-thy neighbor property with wrong
Ne wyrc ðe gyldne godas oððe sylfrene. 10
Not make for-thee golden gods or silver
Þis sint ða domas þe ðu him settan scealt: Gif hwa 11
These are the judgments which thou to-them set shalt If any
gebycgge cristenne þeow, VI gear ðeowige he; ðy siofoðan
buy Christian slave six years let-serve he the seventh
beo he frioh órceapunga; mid swelce hrægle he ineode, mid
let-be he free without-payment with such garment he went-in with
swelce gange he út. Gif he wíf self hæbbe, gange hio út
such let-go he out If he wife self have let-go she out
mid him. Gif se hlaford him þonne wif sealde, sie hio
with him If the lord to-him then wife gave let-be she
⁊ hire bearn þæs hlafordes. Gif se þeowa þonne cweðe:
and her children of-the lord If the slave then say
‘Nelle ic from minum hlaforde ne from minum wife ne
Will-not I from my lord nor from my wife nor
from minum bearne ne from minum ierfe’, brenge hine
from my child nor from my property let-bring him

þonne his hlaford to ðære dura þæs temples ȝ þurhþyrlige
then his lord to the door of-the temple and let-pierce
his eare mid æle, to tácne þæt he sie æfre siððan þeow.
his ear with awl as token that he be ever afterward slave
12 Ðeah hwa gebycgge his dohtor on þeowenne, ne sie hio ealles
Though any sell his daughter as bondwoman not let-be she altogether
swa ðeowu swa oðru mennenu: nage he hie út on elðeodig folc
so slave as other bondmaids owns-not he her out to foreign people
to bebycgganne. Ac gif he hire ne recce, se ðe hie bohte, læte
to sell But if he her not care he who her bought let-leave
hie freo on elðeodig folc. Gif he ðonne alefe his suna mid
her free to foreign people If he then allow his son with-her
to hæmanne, do hiere gyfta: locige þæt hio hæbbe hrægl; ȝ
to cohabit let-do her marriage let-see that she have garment and
þæt weorð sie hiere mægðhades, þæt is se weotuma, agife he
that value be of-her maidenhood that is the bride-price let-give he
hire þone. Gif he hire þara nan ne do, þonne sie hio frioh.
to-her that If he to-her of-those none — do then let-be she free
13 Se mon se ðe his gewealdes monnan ófslea, swelte se
The man he who of-his will man slay let-die he
deaðe. Se ðe hine þonne nedes ófsloge oððe unwillum oððe
by-death He who him then of-necessity slew or unwillingly or
ungewealdes, swelce hine God swa sende on his honda, ȝ
involuntarily as-if him God so sent into his hands and
he hine ne ymbsyrede, sie he feores wyrðe ȝ folcryhtre
he him not plotted-against let-be he of-life worthy and of-public-right
bote, gif he friðstowe gesece. Gif hwa ðonne óf giernesse
compensation if he sanctuary seek If any then from eagerness
ȝ gewealdes ófslea his þone nehstan þurh searwa, aluc ðu
and willfully slay his the neighbor through cunning drag thou
hine from minum weofode, to þam þæt he deaðe swelte.
him from my altar to that that he by-death die

Se ðe slea his fæder oððe his modor, se sceal deaðe 14
He who slay his father or his mother he shall by-death
sweltan.
die

Se ðe frione forstele ȝ he hine bebycgge, ȝ hit onbestæled 15
He who free-man steal and he him sell and it proven
sie, þæt he hine bereccean ne mæge, swelte se deaðe. —
be that he him excuse not can let-die he by-death

Se ðe werge his fæder oððe his modor, swelte se deaðe.
He who curse his father or his mother let-die he by-death

Gif hwa slea his ðone nehstan mid stane oððe mid fyste, 16
If any strike his the neighbor with stone or with fist
ȝ he þeah utgongan mæge bi stafe, begite him læce
and he yet out-go can by staff let-get for-him physician
ȝ wyrce his weorc ða hwile þe he self ne mæge.
and let-do his work the while that he self not can

Se ðe slea his agenne þeowne esne oððe his mennen, ȝ 17
He who strike his own slave servant or his bondmaid and
he ne sie idæges dead, ðeah he libbe twa niht oððe ðreo, ne
he not be same-day dead though he live two nights or three not
bið he ealles swa scyldig, forþon þe hit wæs his agen fioh.
is he altogether so guilty because that it was his own property

Gif he ðonne sie idæges dead, ðonne sitte sio scyld on him.
If he then be same-day dead then let-sit the guilt on him

Gif hwa on cease éacniende wif gewerde, bete þone 18
If any in quarrel pregnant woman injure let-amend the
ærwerdlan, swa him domeras gereccen. Gif hio dead sie,
injury as to-him judges direct If she dead be
selle sawle wið sawle.
let-give soul for soul

19 Gif hwa oðrum his eage oðdo, selle his agen fore: toð fore
If any from-other his eye out-puts let-give his own for tooth for
teð, honda wið honda, fet fore fét, bærning for bærninge,
tooth hands for hands feet for feet burning for burning
wund wið wunde, læl wið læle.
wound for wound weal for weal

20 Gif hwa áslea his ðeowe oððe his ðeowenne þæt eage út
If any strike his slave or his bondwoman the eye out
ȝ he þonne hie gedo ánigge, gefreoge hie for þon. Gif
and he then them make one-eyed let-free them for that If
he þonne ðone toð ófaslea, do þæt ilce.
he then the tooth strike-out let-do the same

21 Gif oxa ofhnite wer oððe wíf, þæt hie dead sien, sie he
If ox gore-to-death man or woman that they dead be let-be he
mid stanum ofworpod, ȝ ne sie his flæsc eten; se hlaford
with stones stoned and not let-be his flesh eaten the lord
bið unscyldig. Gif se oxa hnitol wære twam dagum ǽr
is guiltless If the ox goring were two days before
oððe ðrim, ȝ se hlaford hit wisse ȝ hine inne betynan
or three and the lord it knew and him in shut-up
nolde, ȝ he ðonne wer oððe wíf ofsloge, sie he mid
would-not and he then man or woman slew let-be he with
stanum ofworpod, ȝ sie se hlaford ófslegen oððe forgolden,
stones stoned and let-be the lord slain or paid-for
swa ðæt witan to ryhte finden. Sunu oððe dohtor gif he
as that councilors to right find Son or daughter if he
ofstinge, ðæs ilcan domes sie he wyrðe. Gif he ðonne
gore of-the same judgment let-be he worthy If he then
ðeow oððe ðeowmennen ófstinge, geselle þam hlaforde XXX
slave or bondwoman gore let-give to-the lord thirty
scill. seolfres, ȝ se oxa mid stanum ofworpod.
shillings of-silver and the ox with stones stoned

Gif hwa adelfe wæterpyt oððe betynedne ontyne ȝ hine 22
If any dig water-pit or closed open and it
eft ne betyne, gelde swelc neat swelc ðær on befealle, ȝ
again not close let-pay such beast such there in fall and
hæbbe him ðæt deade.
let-have for-himself the dead
Gif oxa oðres monnes oxan gewundige, ȝ he ðonne dead 23
If ox of-other man ox wound and he then dead
sie, bebycggen þone oxan ȝ hæbben him þæt weorð
be let-sell the ox and let-have for-them the value
gemæne ȝ eac ðæt flæsc swa ðæs deadan. Gif se hlaford
common and also the flesh as of-the dead If the lord
þonne wisse, þæt se oxa hnitol wære, ȝ hine healdan nolde,
then knew that the ox goring were and him keep would-not
selle him oðerne oxan fore ȝ hæbbe him eall ðæt flæsc.
let-give to-him other ox for and let-have for-himself all the flesh
Gif hwa forstele oðres oxan ȝ hine ófslea oððe bebycgge, 24
If any steal of-other ox and it slay or sell
selle twegen wið ȝ feower sceap wið anum. Gif he næbbe
let-give two for and four sheep for one If he have-not
hwæt he selle, sie he self beboht wið ðam fio.
what he give let-be he self sold for the property
Gif ðeof brece mannes hús nihtes ȝ he weorðe þær ofslegen, 25
If thief break of-man house by-night and he become there slain
ne sie he na mansleges scyldig. Gif he siððan æfter sunnan
not let-be he — of-manslaughter guilty If he afterward after of-sun
upgonge þis deð, he bið mansleges scyldig ȝ he ðonne
up-going this does he is of-manslaughter guilty and he then
self swelte, buton he nieddæda wære. Gif mid him cwicum
self let-die unless he necessity-doer were If with him living
sie funden þæt he ær stæl, be twyfealdum forgielde hit.
be found that he before stole by twofold let-repay it

26 Gif hwa gewerde oðres monnes wingeard oððe his ærcas
If any damage of-other man vineyard or his fields
oððe his landes awuht, gebete swa hit mon geeahtige.
or of-his land aught let-amend as it one assess

27 Gif fyr sie ontended rýt to bærnanne, gebete þone
If fire be kindled brushwood to burn let-amend the
æfwerdelsan se ðæt fýr ontent.
damage who the fire kindles

28 Gif hwa oðfæste his friend fioh, gif he hit self stæle,
If any entrust to-his friend property if he it self steal
forgylde be twyfealdum. Gif he nyte, hwa hit stæle,
let-repay by twofold If he knows-not who it stole
geladige hine selfne, þæt he ðær nán facn ne gefremede.
let-clear him self that he there no fraud — committed
Gif hit ðonne cucu feoh wære, ⁊ he secgge, þæt hit
If it then living property were and he say that it
here name oððe hit self ácwæle, ⁊ gewitnesse hæbbe, ne
army took or it self died and witness have not
þearf he þæt geldan. Gif he ðonne gewitnesse næbbe, ⁊
need he that pay If he then witness have-not and
he him ne getriewe, swerige he þonne.
he him not trust let-swear he then

More of Moses' judgments: against sorceresses and idolaters, for strangers, widows, and the poor debtor, and for even judgment without bribes. The apostles wrote to Antioch that converts keep only a few commands and not do to others what they would not have done to themselves; the synods then set money-compensation for every misdeed but treachery to a lord, and Alfred gathered what pleased him from Ine, Offa, and Æthelberht.

Gif hwa fæmnan beswice unbeweddode ȝ hire midslæpe, 29
If any virgin seduce unbetrothed and with-her sleep
forgielde hie ȝ hæbbe hi siððan him to wife. Gif ðære
let-pay-for her and let-have her afterward for-himself as wife If of-the
fæmnan fæder hie ðonne sellan nelle, agife he ðæt feoh
virgin father her then give will-not let-give he the money
æfter þam weotuman.
according-to the bride-price
Ða fæmnan þe gewuniað onfón gealdorcræftigan ȝ scinlæcan 30
The women who are-wont receive enchanters and sorcerers
ȝ wiccan, ne læt þu ða libban.
and witches not let thou them live
ȝ se ðe hæme mid netene, swelte he deaðe. 31
and he who lie with beast let-die he by-death
ȝ se ðe godgeldum ónsecge ofer God anne, swelte se 32
and he who to-idols sacrifice over God alone let-die he
deaðe.
by-death
Utan cumene ȝ elðeodige ne geswenc ðu no, forðon 33
From-outside come and foreigners not afflict thou — because
ðe ge wæron giu elðeodige on Egipta londe.
that ye were formerly foreigners in of-Egyptians land

34 Þa wuduwan ȝ þa stiopcild ne sceððað ge, ne hie nawer deriað.
The widows and the orphans not harm ye nor them anywhere injure
Gif ge þonne elles doð, hie cleopiað to me, ȝ ic gehiere
If ye then otherwise do they call to me and I hear
hie ȝ ic eow þonne slea mid minum sweorde ȝ ic gedó,
them and I you then slay with my sword and I make
þæt eowru wíf beoð wydewan ȝ eowru bearn beoð steopcild.
that your wives are widows and your children are orphans
35 Gif ðu fioh to borge selle þinum geferan, þe mid þe
If thou money as loan give to-thy companion who with thee
eardian wille, ne niede ðu hine swa swa niedling ȝ ne
dwell wishes not compel thou him so as bondman and not
gehene þu hine mid ðy eacan.
oppress thou him with the interest
36 Gif mon næbbe buton anfeald hrægl hine mid to wreonne ȝ
If one have-not but single garment himself with to cover and
to werianne, ȝ he hit to wedde selle, ær sunnan setlgonge
to clothe and he it as pledge give before of-sun setting
sie hit agifen. Gif ðu swa ne dest, þonne cleopað he to
let-be it given-back If thou so not dost then calls he to
me, ȝ ic hine gehiere, forðon ðe ic eom swiðe mildheort.
me and I him hear because that I am very merciful
37 Ne tæl ðu ðinne Dryhten, ne ðone hlaford þæs folces ne
Not slander thou thy Lord nor the lord of-the people —
werge þu.
curse thou
38 Þine teoðan sceattas ȝ þine frumripan gongendes ȝ
Thy tenth coins and thy first-fruits of-going and
weaxendes agif þu Gode.
of-growing give thou to-God

Eal ðæt flæsc þæt wildeor læfen ne eten ge þæt, ac sellað 39
All the flesh that wild-beasts leave not eat ye that but give
hit hundum.
it to-dogs
Leases monnes word ne rec ðu no þæs to gehieranne, ne his 40
Of-false man word not care thou — that to hear nor his
domas ne geðafa ðu, ne nane gewitnesse æfter him ne saga ðu.
judgments — allow thou nor any witness after him — say thou
Ne wend ðu ðe no on þæs folces unræd ȝ unryht 41
Not turn thou thyself — to of-the people folly and wrong
gewill on hiora spræce ȝ geclysp ofer ðin ryht, ȝ ðæs
desire in their speech and clamor over thy right and of-the
unwisestan lare ne him ne geðafa.
unwisest teaching nor him — allow
Gif ðe becume oðres mannes giemeléas fioh on hond, 42
If to-thee come of-other man straying property into hand
þeah hit sie ðin feond, gecyðe hit him.
though it be thy enemy make-known it to-him
Dem ðu swiðe emne. Ne dem ðu oðerne dóm þam 43
Judge thou very evenly Not judge thou one judgment to-the
welegan, oðerne ðam earman; ne oðerne þam liofran ȝ
wealthy other to-the poor nor one to-the dearer and
oðerne þam laðran ne dem ðu.
other to-the more-hateful — judge thou
Ónscuna ðu á leasunga. 44
Shun thou ever falsehoods
Soðfæstne man ȝ unscyldigne ne ácwele ðu þone næfre. 45
Truthful man and guiltless not kill thou him ever
Ne onfoh ðu næfre médsceattum, forðon hie ablendað ful 46
Not receive thou ever bribes because they blind very
óft wisra monna geðoht ȝ hiora word onwendað.
often of-wise men thought and their words pervert

47 Þam elðeodegan ȝ utan cumenan ne læt ðu no
To-the foreigner and from-outside come not behave thou —
uncuðlice wið hine, ne mid nanum unryhtum þu hine ne
strangely toward him nor with any wrongs thou him —
drece.
vex

48 Ne swergen ge næfre under hæðne godas, ne on nanum
Not swear ye ever under heathen gods nor in any
ðingum ne cleopien ge to him.
things — call ye to them

49 Þis sindan ða domas þe se ælmihtega God self sprecende
These are the judgments which the almighty God self speaking
wæs to Moyse ȝ him bebead to healdanne; ȝ siððan
was to Moses and him commanded to keep and afterward
se áncenneda Dryhtnes sunu, ure God, þæt is hælend Crist,
the only-begotten of-Lord son our God that is savior Christ
on middangeard cwom, he cwæð, ðæt he ne come no ðas
into world came he said that he not came — these
bebodu to brecanne ne to forbeodanne, ac mid eallum godum
commands to break nor to forbid but with all goods
to ecanne; ȝ mildheortnesse ȝ eaðmodnesse he lærde.
to increase and mercy and humility he taught

49, 1 Ða æfter his ðrowunge, ær þam þe his apostolas tofarene
Then after his passion before that that his apostles dispersed
wæron geond ealle eorðan to læranne, ȝ þa giet ða
were throughout all earth to teach and then yet when
hie ætgædere wæron, monega hæðena ðeoda hie to Gode
they together were many heathen nations they to God
gecerdon. Þa hie ealle ætsomne wæron, hie sendan
turned When they all together were they sent
ærendwrecan to Antiohhia ȝ to Syrie, Cristes æ to læranne.
messengers to Antioch and to Syria of-Christ law to teach

Þa hie ða ongeaton, þæt him ne speow, ða sendon hie 49, 2
When they then perceived that to-them not prospered then sent they
ærendgewrit to him. Þis is ðonne þæt ærendgewrit þe
letter to them This is then the letter which
ða apostolas sendon ealle to Antiohhia ȝ to Syria ȝ to
the apostles sent all to Antioch and to Syria and to
Cilicia, ða sint nu of hæðenum ðeodum to Criste gecirde:
Cilicia who are now from heathen nations to Christ turned
‘Ða apostolas ȝ þa eldran broðor hælo eow wyscað; ȝ 49, 3
The apostles and the elder brothers health to-you wish and
we éow cyðað, þæt we geascodon, þæt ure geferan sume
we to-you make-known that we learned that our companions some
mid urum wordum to eow comon ȝ eow hefigran [wisan
with our words to you came and you heavier ways
budon] to healdanne þonne we him budon, ȝ eow
commanded to keep than we them commanded and you
to swiðe gedwealdon mid ðam mannigfealdum gebodum,
too much led-astray with the manifold commands
ȝ eowra sawla ma forhwerfdon þonne hie geryhton. Ða
and your souls more perverted than they righted Then
gesomnodon we us ymb ðæt, ȝ ús eallum gelicode
assembled we ourselves about that and to-us all pleased
ða, þæt we sendon Paulus ȝ Barnaban; ða men wilniað
then that we sent Paul and Barnabas those men desire
hiora sawla sellan for Dryhtnes naman.
their souls give for of-Lord name
Mid him we sendon Iudam ȝ Silam, þæt eow þæt ilce 49, 4
With them we sent Judas and Silas that to-you the same
seccgen.
say

49, 5 Þæm halgan Gaste wæs geðuht ⁊ ús, þæt we nane
To-the holy Spirit was thought and to-us that we no
byrðenne on eow settan noldon ofer þæt ðe eow nedðearf
burden on you set would beyond that which to-you necessary
wæs to healdanne: þæt [is] ðonne, þæt ge forberen, þæt
was to keep that is then that ye forbear that
ge deofolgeld ne weorðien, ne blod ne ðicggen ne asmorod,
ye idols not worship nor blood — eat nor strangled
⁊ from diernum geligerum; ⁊ þæt ge willen, þæt oðre
and from secret fornications and that ye will that other
men eow ne don, ne doð ge ðæt oþrum monnum.
men to-you not do not do ye that to-other men

49, 6 Of ðissum anum dome mon mæg geðencean, þæt he
From this one judgment one may consider that he
æghwelcne on ryht gedemeð; ne ðearf he nanra domboca
each-one in right judges not needs he any judgment-books
oþerra. Geðence he, þæt he nanum men ne deme þæt he
other Let-consider he that he to-no man — judge that he
nolde ðæt he him demde, gif he ðone dóm ofer hine sohte.
would-not that he to-him judged if he the judgment over him sought

49, 7 Siððan ðæt þa gelamp, þæt monega ðeoda Cristes geleafan
After that then happened that many nations of-Christ faith
onfengon, þa wurdon monega seonoðas geond ealne
received then were many synods throughout all
middangeard gegaderode, ⁊ eac swa geond Angelcyn, siððan
world gathered and also so throughout English-race after
hie Cristes geleafan onfengon, halegra biscepa ⁊ éac oðerra
they of-Christ faith received of-holy bishops and also of-other
geðungenra witena; hie ða gesetton, for ðære mildheortnesse
distinguished councilors they then established for the mercy
þe Crist lærde, æt mæstra hwelcre misdæde þætte ða
which Christ taught at of-most each misdeed that the

weoruldhlafordas moston mid hiora leafan buton synne æt
worldly-lords might with their leave without sin at
þam forman gylte þære fiohbote ónfon, þe hie ða
the first offense the money-compensation receive which they then
gesettan; buton æt hlafordsearwe hie nane mildheortnesse ne
established except at lord-treachery they no mercy —
dorston gecweðan, forþam ðe God ælmihtig þam nane ne
dared declare because that God almighty to-those none —
gedemde þe hine oferhogdon, ne Crist Godes sunu þam
judged who him despised nor Christ of-God son to-those
nane ne gedemde þe hine to deaðe sealde, ȝ he bebead
none — judged who him to death gave and he commanded
þone hlaford lufian swa hine.
the lord love as himself

Hie ða on monegum senoðum monegra menniscra misdæda 49, 8
They then in many synods of-many human misdeeds
bote gesetton, ȝ on monega senoðbéc hie writan, hwær
compensation established and in many synod-books they wrote here
anne dom hwær oþerne.
one judgment there other

Ic ða Ælfred cyning þás togædere gegaderode ȝ awritan 49, 9
I then Alfred king these together gathered and write
het, monege þara þe ure foregengan heoldon, ða
commanded many of-those which our predecessors held those
ðe me licodon; ȝ manege þara þe me ne licodon
which to-me pleased and many of-those which to-me not pleased
ic áwearp mid minra witena geðeahte, ȝ on oðre wisan
I rejected with of-my councilors counsel and in other way
bebead to healdanne. Forðam ic ne dorste geðristlæcan
commanded to keep Because I not dared presume
þara minra awuht fela on gewrit settan, forðam me wæs
of-those my aught much in writing set because to-me was

uncuð, hwæt þæs ðam lician wolde ðe æfter ús wæren. Ac
unknown what of-this those please would who after us were But
ða ðe ic gemette awðer oððe on Ines dæge, mines mæges,
those which I found either or in of-Ine day of-my kinsman
oððe on Offan Mercna cyninges oððe on Æþelbryhtes, þe
or in of-Offa of-Mercians king or in of-Æthelberht who
ærest fulluhte onfeng on Angelcynne, þa ðe me ryhtoste
first baptism received in English-race those which to-me rightest
ðuhton, ic þa heron gegaderode, ⁊ þa oðre forlét.
seemed I those herein gathered and the others left
49, 10 Ic ða Ælfred Westseaxna cyning eallum minum witum þas
I then Alfred of-West-Saxons king to-all my councilors these
geeowde, ⁊ hie ða cwædon, þæt him þæt licode eallum
showed and they then said that to-them that pleased all
to healdanne.
to keep

VI · THE LAWS OF ALFRED: OATHS, SANCTUARY, AND THEFT

A man keeps his oath and pledge, and one who breaks a lawful pledge does forty nights in prison on a king's estate. A fugitive has three nights' respite at a minster and seven at a hallowed church; plotting against a king's or lord's life costs life and goods; theft on holy days pays double and in church costs the hand; and a man who fights in the king's hall is at the king's judgment.

1 Æt ærestan we lærað, þæt mæst ðearf ís, þæt æghwelc mon
At first we teach that most need is that each man
his að ⁊ his wed wærlice healde.
his oath and his pledge carefully keep

Gif hwa to hwæðrum þissa genied sie on woh, oððe to 1, 1
If any to either of-these compelled be to wrong or to
hlafordsearwe oððe to ængum unryhtum fultume, þæt is
lord-treachery or to any wrong help that is
þonne ryhtre to áleoganne þonne to gelæstanne.
then righter to belie than to fulfill
[Gif he þonne þæs weddige þe him riht sie to gelæstanne] 1, 2
If he then that pledge which to-him right be to fulfill
ȝ þæt aleoge, selle mid eaðmedum his wæpn ȝ his
and that belie let-give with humility his weapon and his
æhta his freondum to gehealdanne ȝ beo feowertig nihta
possessions to-his friends to keep and let-be forty nights
on carcerne on cyninges tune, ðrowige ðær swa biscep him
in prison on of-king estate let-suffer there as bishop to-him
scrife, ȝ his mægas hine feden, gif he self mete næbbe.
prescribe and his kinsmen him let-feed if he self food have-not
Gif he mægas næbbe oððe þone mete næbbe, fede cyninges 1, 3
If he kinsmen have-not or the food have-not let-feed of-king
gerefa hine.
reeve him
Gif hine mon togenedan scyle, ȝ he elles nylle, gif hine 1, 4
If him one compel must and he otherwise will-not if him
mon gebinde, þolige his wæpna ȝ his ierfes.
one bind let-forfeit his weapons and his property
Gif hine mon ófslea, licgge he orgilde. 1, 5
If him one slay let-lie he unpaid-for
Gif he út oðfleo ær þam fierste, ȝ hine mon gefó, sie 1, 6
If he out escape before the term and him one seize let-be
he feowertig nihta on carcerne, swa he ǽr sceolde.
he forty nights in prison as he before should

1, 7 Gif he losige, sie he áfliemed ȝ sie ámænsumod óf
If he escape let-be he outlawed and let-be excommunicated from
eallum Cristes ciricum.
all of-Christ churches

1, 8 Gif þær ðonne oþer mennisc borg sie, bete þone borgbryce
If there then other human surety be let-amend the surety-breach
swa him ryht wisie, ȝ ðone wedbryce swa him his scrift
as to-him right directs and the pledge-breach as to-him his confessor
scrife.
prescribes

2 Gif hwa þara mynsterháma hwelcne for hwelcere scylde
If any of-the minster-homes any for any guilt
gesece, þe cyninges feorm to belimpe, oððe oðerne frione
seek which of-king food-rent to belongs or other free
hiered þe árwyrðe sie, age he þreora nihta fierst him
community which venerable be let-own he of-three nights respite himself
to gebeorganne, buton he ðingian wille.
to save unless he settle will

2, 1 Gif hine mon on ðam fierste geyflige mid slege oððe mid bende
If him one in the respite harm with blow or with binding
oððe þurh wunde, bete þara æghwelc mid ryhte ðeodscipe,
or through wound let-amend of-those each with right law
ge mid were ge mid wite, ȝ þam hiwum hundtwelftig
both with wergild and with fine and to-the community hundred-twenty
scill. ciricfriðes to bote ȝ næbbe his agne forfongen.
shillings of-church-peace as compensation and let-have-not his own forfeited

3 Gif hwa cyninges borg abrece, gebete þone tyht swa him
If any of-king surety break let-amend the charge as to-him
ryht wisie, ȝ þæs borges bryce mid V pundum mærra
right directs and of-the surety breach with five pounds of-pure
pæninga. Ærcebiscepes borges bryce oððe his mundbyrd
pennies Of-archbishop surety breach or his protection

gebete mid ðrim pundum. Oðres biscepes oððe ealdormonnes
let-amend with three pounds Of-other bishop or ealdorman
borges bryce oððe mundbyrd gebete mid twam pundum.
surety breach or protection let-amend with two pounds
Gif hwa ymb cyninges feorh sierwe, ðurh hine oððe ðurh 4
If any about of-king life plot through himself or through
wreccena feormunge oððe his manna, sie he his feores
of-exiles harboring or of-his men let-be he of-his life
scyldig ⁊ ealles þæs ðe he age.
liable and of-all that which he owns
Gif he hine selfne triowan wille, do þæt be cyninges 4, 1
If he him self clear will let-do that by of-king
wergelde.
wergild
Swa we éac settað be eallum hadum, ge ceorle ge 4, 2
So we also establish concerning all ranks both churl and
eorle: se ðe ymb his hlafordes fiorh sierwe, sie he wið
noble he who about of-his lord life plot let-be he toward
ðone his feores scyldig ⁊ ealles ðæs ðe he age, oððe
him of-his life liable and of-all that which he owns or
be his hlafordes were hine getriowe.
by of-his lord wergild himself let-clear
Éac we settað æghwelcere cirican, ðe biscep gehalgode, ðis 5
Also we establish to-each church which bishop hallowed this
frið: gif hie fáhmon geierne oððe geærne, þæt hine seofan
peace if it feud-man run-to or ride-to that him seven
nihtum nan mon út ne teo. Gif hit þonne hwa dó, ðonne
nights no man out — draw If it then any do then
sie he scyldig cyninges mundbyrde ⁊ þære cirican friðes
let-be he guilty of-king protection and of-the church peace

(mare, gif he ðær mare ófgefo), gif he for hungre libban
more if he there more seize if he for hunger live
mæge, buton he self útfeohte.
can unless he self out-fight

5, 1 Gif hiwan hiora cirican maran þearfe hæbben, healde hine
If community their church greater need have let-keep him
mon on oðrum ærne, ⁊ ðæt næbbe ðon ma dura þonne
one in other building and that let-have-not the more doors than
sio cirice.
the church

5, 2 Gewite ðære cirican ealdor, þæt him mon on þam fierste
Let-see-to of-the church elder that to-him one in the respite
mete ne selle.
food not give

5, 3 Gif he self his wæpno his gefan utræcan wille, gehealden
If he self his weapons to-his foes out-hand will let-keep
hi hine XXX nihta ⁊ hie hine his mægum gebodien.
they him thirty nights and they him to-his kinsmen let-announce

5, 4 Eac cirican frið: gif hwelc mon cirican gesece for ðara
Also of-church peace if any man church seek for of-those
gylta hwylcum, þara ðe ær geypped nære, ⁊ hine ðær
offenses any of-those which before revealed not-were and himself there
on Godes naman geandette, sie hit healf forgifen.
in of-God name confess let-be it half forgiven

5, 5 Se ðe stalað on Sunnanniht oððe on Gehhol oððe on
He who steals on Sunday-night or at Yule or at
Eastron oððe on ðone halgan Þunresdæg on Gangdagas: ðara
Easter or on the holy Thursday in Rogation-days of-those
gehwelc we willað sie twybote, swa on Lenctenfæsten.
each we will be double-compensation as in Lent-fast

Gif hwa on cirican hwæt geðeofige, forgylde þæt angylde, 6
If any in church aught steal let-repay the single-value
ȝ ðæt wite swa to ðam angylde belimpan wille, ȝ slea
and the fine as to the single-value belong will and let-strike
mon þa hond óf ðe he hit mid gedyde.
one the hand off which he it with did
Gif he ða hand lesan wille, ȝ him mon ðæt geðafian 6, 1
If he the hand redeem will and to-him one that allow
wille, gelde swa to his were belimpe.
will let-pay as to his wergild belongs
Gif hwa in cyninges healle gefeohte oððe his wæpn gebrede, 7
If any in of-king hall fight or his weapon draw
ȝ hine mon gefó, sie ðæt on cyninges dome, swa deað
and him one seize let-be that in of-king judgment so death
swa lif, swa he him forgifan wille.
so life as he to-him grant will
Gif he losige, ȝ hine mon eft gefó, forgielde he hine 7, 1
If he escape and him one afterward seize let-pay-for he him
self á be his weregilde, ȝ ðone gylt gebete, swa wer
self ever by his wergild and the offense let-amend so wergild
swa wite, swa he gewyrht age.
so fine as he deserved has
Gif hwa nunnan of mynstere ut álæde butan kyninges 8
If any nun from minster out lead without of-king
lefnesse oððe biscepes, geselle hundtwelftig scill', healf cyninge,
leave or of-bishop let-give hundred-twenty shillings half to-king
healf biscepe ȝ þære cirican hlaforde, ðe ðone munuc age.
half to-bishop and of-the church to-lord who the religious owns
Gif hio leng libbe ðonne se ðe hie utlædde, nage hio 8, 1
If she longer live than he who her out-led owns-not she
his ierfes owiht.
of-his property aught

8, 2 Gif hio bearn gestriene, næbbe ðæt ðæs ierfes ðon mare
If she child beget let-have-not it of-the property the more
ðe seo modor.
than the mother

8, 3 Gif hire bearn mon ofslea, gielde cyninge þara medrenmæga
If her child one slay let-pay to-king of-the maternal-kinsmen
dǽl; fædrenmægum hiora dǽl mon agife.
share to-paternal-kinsmen their share one let-give

9 Gif mon wíf mid bearne ófslea, þonne þæt bearn in hire
If one woman with child slay when the child in her
sie, forgielde ðone wifman fullan gielde, ⁊ þæt bearn be
be let-pay-for the woman with-full payment and the child by
ðæs fædrencnosles were healfan gelde.
of-the paternal-kin wergild with-half payment

9, 1 Á sie þæt wite LX scill', oð ðæt angylde árise to XXX
Ever let-be the fine sixty shillings until that single-value rise to thirty
scill'; siððan hit to ðam árise þæt angylde, siððan sie þæt
shillings after it to that rise the single-value afterward let-be the
wite CXX scill'.
fine hundred-twenty shillings

9, 2 Geo wæs goldðeofe ⁊ stodðeofe ⁊ beoðeofe, ⁊ manig
Formerly was for-gold-thief and for-horse-thief and for-bee-thief and many
witu maran ðonne oþru; nu sint eal gelic buton manðeofe:
fines greater than others now are all alike except for-man-thief
CXX scill'.
hundred-twenty shillings

10 Gif mon hæme mid twelfhyndes monnes wife, hundtwelftig
If one lie with of-twelve-hundred man wife hundred-twenty
scill. gebete ðam were; syxhyndum men hundteontig scill.
shillings let-amend to-the husband to-six-hundred man hundred shillings
gebete; cierliscum men feowertig scill. gebete.
let-amend to-churlish man forty shillings let-amend

Gif mon on cirliscre fæmnan breost gefó, mid V scill. 11
If one on of-churlish woman breast seize with five shillings
hire gebete.
to-her let-amend

Gif he hie oferweorpe ⁊ mid ne gehæme, mid X scill. 11, 1
If he her throw-down and with not lie with ten shillings
gebete.
let-amend

Gif he mid gehæme, mid LX scill. gebete. 11, 2
If he with lie with sixty shillings let-amend

Gif oðer mon mid hire læge ǽr, sie be healfum ðæm 11, 3
If other man with her lay before let-be by half that
þonne sio bot.
then the compensation

Gif hie mon teo, geladiege hie be sixtegum hida, oððe 11, 4
If her one accuse let-clear herself by sixty hides or
ðolige be healfre þære bote.
let-forfeit by half of-the compensation

Gif borenran wifmen ðis gelimpe, weaxe sio bót be 11, 5
If to-higher-born woman this happen let-increase the compensation by
ðam were.
the wergild

Gif mon oðres wudu bærneð oððe heaweð unaliefedne, forgielde 12
If one of-other wood burns or hews unpermitted let-pay-for
ælc great treow mid V scill., ⁊ siððan æghwylc, sie swa
each great tree with five shillings and afterward each let-be so
fela swa hiora sie, mid V pæningum; ⁊ XXX scill. to wite.
many as of-them be with five pennies and thirty shillings as fine

13 Gif mon oðerne æt gemænan weorce óffelle ungewealdes, agife
If one other at common work fell-upon unintentionally let-give
mon þam mægum þæt treow, ⁊ hi hit hæbben ær XXX nihta
one to-the kinsmen the tree and they it let-have before thirty nights
of þam lande, oððe him fó se to se ðe ðone wudu age.
from the land or for-himself let-take he to he who the wood owns

14 Gif mon sie dumb oððe déaf geboren, þæt he ne mæge
If one be dumb or deaf born that he not can
synna onsecggan ne geandettan, bete se fæder his misdæda.
sins deny nor confess let-amend the father his misdeeds

15 Gif mon beforan ærcebiscepe gefeohte oððe wæpne gebregde,
If one before archbishop fight or weapon draw
mid L scill. ⁊ hundteontegum gebete; gif beforan oðrum
with fifty shillings and hundred let-amend if before other
biscepe oððe ealdormen ðis gelimpe, mid hundteontegum
bishop or ealdorman this happen with hundred
scill. gebete.
shillings let-amend

16 Gif mon cu oððe stodmyran forstele ⁊ folan oððe cealf
If one cow or stud-mare steal and foal or calf
ófadrife, forgelde mid scill. ⁊ þa moder be hiora weorðe.
drive-off let-pay with shilling and the mothers by their value

17 Gif hwa oðrum his unmagan oðfæste, ⁊ he hine on ðære
If any to-other his ward entrust and he him in the
fæstinge forferie, getriowe hine facnes se ðe hine fede, gif
fostering die let-clear himself of-fraud he who him fed if
hine hwa hwelces teo.
him any of-any accuse

An assault on a nun pays twice a layman's rate, and a betrothed woman who fornicates pays her surety by her rank. A man who lends a weapon for a killing pays a third unless he clears himself of knowing; a priest who slays is unordained; a dog's owner pays more for each bite; a band that kills pays by the dead man's rank; and public slander costs the tongue.

Gif hwa nunnan mid hæmeðþinge oððe on hire hrægl oððe 18
If any nun with fornication or on her garment or
on hire breost butan hire leafe gefó, sie hit twybete
on her breast without her leave seize let-be it double-compensated
swa we ær be læwdum men fundon.
as we before for lay man found
Gif beweddodu fæmne hie forlicgge, gif hio sie cirlisc, mid 18, 1
If betrothed woman herself fornicate if she be churlish with
LX scill. gebete þam byrgean, ⁊ þæt sie on cwicæhtum
sixty shillings let-amend to-the surety and that let-be in livestock
feogodum, ⁊ mon nænigne mon on ðæt ne selle.
goods and one no man in that — give
Gif hio sie syxhyndu, hundteontig scill. geselle þam byrgean. 18, 2
If she be six-hundred hundred shillings let-give to-the surety
Gif hio sie twelfhyndu, CXX scill. gebete þam byrgean. 18, 3
If she be twelve-hundred hundred-twenty shillings let-amend to-the surety
Gif hwa his wæpnes oðrum onlæne, þæt he mon mid ófslea, 19
If any his weapon to-other lend that he man with slay
hie moton hie gesomnian, gif hie willað, to þam were.
they may themselves unite if they will for the wergild
Gif hi hie ne gesamnien, gielde se ðæs wæpnes onlah 19, 1
If they themselves not unite let-pay he-who the weapon lent
þæs weres ðriddan dæl ⁊ þæs wites ðriddan dæl.
of-the wergild third part and of-the fine third part

19, 2 Gif he hine triewan wille, þæt he to ðære læne facn ne
If he himself clear will that he to the loan fraud not
wiste, þæt he mot.
knew that he may

19, 3 Gif sweordhwita oðres monnes wæpn to feormunge onfó,
If sword-polisher of-other man weapon for furbishing receive
oððe smið monnes andweorc, hie hit gesund begen agifan,
or smith of-man material they it sound both let-give-back
swa hit hwæðer hiora ǽr onfenge, buton hiora hwæðer
as it either of-them before received unless of-them either
ǽr þingode, þæt he hit angylde healdan ne ðorfte.
before stipulated that he it single-value hold not needed

20 Gif mon oðres monnes munuce feoh oðfæste butan ðæs
If one of-other man to-monk property entrust without of-the
munuces hlafordes lefnesse, ⁊ hit him losige, þolige his
monk lord leave and it to-him be-lost let-forfeit it
se ðe hit ǽr ahte.
he who it before owned

21 Gif preost oðerne mon ófslea, weorpe mon to handa ⁊
If priest other man slay let-deliver one to hand and
eall ðæt he him hames bohte, ⁊ hine biscep onhadige,
all that he for-himself of-home bought and him bishop let-unordain
þonne hine mon of ðam mynstre agife, buton se hlaford
when him one from the minster give-up unless the lord
þone wer forðingian wille.
the wergild pay-off will

22 Gif mon on folces gemote cyninges gerefan geyppe eofot,
If one in of-folk assembly of-king to-reeve reveal crime
⁊ his eft geswican wille, gestæle on ryhtran hand, gif
and it afterward abandon will let-charge on righter hand if
he mæge; gif he ne mæge, ðolie his angyldes.
he can if he not can let-forfeit his single-value

Gif hund mon toslite oððe abite, æt forman misdæde geselle 23
If dog man tear or bite at first misdeed let-give
VI scill., gif he him mete selle, æt æfteran cerre XII
six shillings if he to-him food give at second time twelve
scill., æt ðriddan XXX scill.
shillings at third thirty shillings

Gif æt ðissa misdæda hwelcere se hund losige, ga ðeos 23, 1
If at of-these misdeeds any the dog be-lost let-go this
bót hwæðre forð.
compensation nevertheless forth

Gif se hund ma misdæda gewyrce, ȝ he hine hæbbe, 23, 2
If the dog more misdeeds commit and he him have
bete be fullan were swa dolgbote swa he wyrce.
let-amend by full wergild so wound-compensation as he commit

Gif neat mon gewundige, weorpe ðæt neat to honda oððe 24
If beast man wound let-deliver the beast to hand or
foreðingie.
let-settle

Gif mon ceorles mennen to nedhæmde geðreatað, mid V 25
If one of-churl bondwoman to rape forces with five
scill. gebete þam ceorle; ȝ LX scill. to wite.
shillings let-amend to-the churl and sixty shillings as fine

Gif ðeowmon þeowne to nedhæmde genede, bete mid 25, 1
If slave-man slave-woman to rape force let-amend with
his eowende.
his member

Gif mon twyhyndne mon unsynnigne mid hloðe ofslea, 29
If one two-hundred man guiltless with band slay
gielde se ðæs sleges andetta sie wer ȝ wite; ȝ æghwelc
let-pay he-who of-the slaying confessor be wergild and fine and each
mon ðe on siðe wære geselle XXX scill. to hloðbote.
man who on expedition were let-give thirty shillings as band-compensation

30 Gif hit sie syxhynde mon, ælc mon to hloðbote LX
If it be six-hundred man each man as band-compensation sixty
scill., ⁊ se slaga wer ⁊ fulwite.
shillings and the slayer wergild and full-fine

31 Gif he sie twelfhynde, ælc hiora hundtwelftig scill., se slaga
If he be twelve-hundred each of-them hundred-twenty shillings the slayer
wer ⁊ wite.
wergild and fine

31, 1 Gif hloð ðis gedó ⁊ eft oðswerian wille, tio hie
If band this do and afterward deny-on-oath will let-accuse them
ealle; ⁊ þonne ealle forgielden þone wer gemænum
all and then all let-pay the wergild with-common
hondum ⁊ ealle án wite, swa to ðam were belimpe.
hands and all one fine as to the wergild belongs

26 Gif mon ungewintrædne wifmon to niedhæmde geðreatige,
If one under-age woman to rape force
sie ðæt swa ðæs gewintredan monnes bot.
let-be that as of-the adult man compensation

27 Gif fædrenmæga mægleas mon gefeohte ⁊ mon ófslea, ⁊
If of-paternal-kinsmen kinless man fight and man slay and
þonne gif medrenmægas hæbbe, gielden ða þæs weres ðriddan
then if maternal-kinsmen have let-pay they of-the wergild third
dæl [⁊ ðriddan dæl þa gegildan, for ðriddan dæl] he fleo.
part and third part the guild-brothers for third part he let-flee

27, 1 Gif he medrenmægas nage, gielden þa gegildan healfne,
If he maternal-kinsmen owns-not let-pay the guild-brothers half
for healfne he fleo.
for half he let-flee

28 Gif mon swa geradne mon ofslea, gif he mægas nage,
If one so situated man slay if he kinsmen owns-not
gielde mon healfne cyninge, healfne þam gegildan.
let-pay one half to-king half to-the guild-brothers

Gif mon folcleasunge gewyrce, ⁊ hio on hine geresp 32
If one public-slander commit and it on him proven
weorðe, mid nanum leohtran ðinge gebete þonne him
become with no lighter thing let-amend than from-him
mon aceorfe þa tungon óf, þæt hie mon na undeorran
one cut the tongue off that it one not cheaper
weorðe moste lesan, ðonne hie mon be þam were geeahtige.
price might redeem than it one by the wergild assess

VIII · THE LAWS OF ALFRED: FEUD, HOLY DAYS, AND WOUNDS

A God-pledge is proved in four churches and denied in twelve; merchants declare their men to the king's reeve. A churl bound, flogged, or shaved is compensated, and fighting at an assembly or breaking into a fortress is priced, double in Lent. A man asks justice before he fights his foe, and fights without feud only for his lord, his kin, or the women of his house. Holidays and a wound tariff follow.

Gif hwa oðerne godborges oncunne ⁊ tion wille, þæt he 33
If any other of-God-pledge accuse and charge will that he
hwelcne ne gelæste ðara ðe he him gesealde, agife þone
any not fulfilled of-those which he to-him gave let-give the
foreað on feower ciricum, ⁊ se oðer, gif he hine treowan
fore-oath in four churches and the other if he himself clear
wille, in XII ciricum dó he ðæt.
will in twelve churches let-do he that
Éac is ciepemonnum gereht: ða men ðe hie up mid him 34
Also is to-merchants directed the men whom they up with them
læden, gebrengen beforan kyninges gerefan on folcgemote,
lead let-bring before of-king reeve at folk-assembly
⁊ gerecce hu manige þara sien; ⁊ hie nimen þa men
and let-declare how many of-them be and they let-take the men

mid him þe hie mægen eft to folcgemote to ryhte
with them whom they can afterward to folk-assembly to justice
brengan; ȝ þonne him ðearf sie ma manna úp mid him
bring and when to-them need be more men up with them
to habbanne on hiora fore, gecyðe symle, swa óft swa
to have on their journey let-declare ever so often as
him ðearf sie, in gemotes gewitnesse cyninges gerefan.
to-them need be in of-assembly witness of-king to-reeve

35 Gif mon cierliscne mon gebinde unsynnigne, gebete mid X
If one churlish man bind guiltless let-amend with ten
scill.
shillings

35, 1 Gif hine mon beswinge, mid XX scill. gebete.
If him one flog with twenty shillings let-amend

35, 2 Gif he hine on hengenne alecgge, mid XXX scill. gebete.
If he him in confinement lay with thirty shillings let-amend

35, 3 Gif he hine on bismor to homolan bescire, mid X scill.
If he him in insult as shorn-one shave with ten shillings
gebete.
let-amend

35, 4 Gif he hine to preoste bescire unbundenne, mid XXX scill.
If he him as priest shave unbound with thirty shillings
gebete.
let-amend

35, 5 Gif he ðone beard ófascire, mid XX scill. gebete.
If he the beard shave-off with twenty shillings let-amend

35, 6 Gif he hine gebinde ȝ þonne to preoste bescire, mid LX
If he him bind and then as priest shave with sixty
scill. gebete.
shillings let-amend

Eac is funden: gif mon hafað spere ofer eaxle, ȝ hine 36
Also is found if one has spear over shoulder and him
mon on asnaseð, gielde þone wer butan wite.
one on impales let-pay the wergild without fine
Gif beforan eagum asnase, gielde þone wer; gif hine mon 36, 1
If before eyes impale let-pay the wergild if him one
tio gewealdes on ðære dæde, getriowe hine be þam wite
accuse of-intent in the deed let-clear himself by the fine
ȝ mid ðy þæt wite afelle,
and with that the fine let-quash
gif se ord sie ufor þonne hindeweard sceaft. Gif hie sien 36, 2
if the point be higher than back shaft If they be
bu gelic, ord ȝ hindeweard sceaft, þæt sie butan pleo.
both alike point and back shaft that let-be without danger
Gif mon wille of boldgetale in oðer boldgetæl hlaford 37
If one will from district into other district lord
secan, do ðæt mid ðæs ealdormonnes gewitnesse, þe he
seek let-do that with of-the ealdorman witness whom he
ær in his scire folgode.
before in his shire followed
Gif he hit butan his gewitnesse do, geselle se þe hine 37, 1
If he it without his witness do let-give he who him
to men feormie CXX scill. to wite: dæle he hwæðre
as man harbors hundred-twenty shillings as fine let-divide he however
ðæt, healf cyninge in ða scire ðe he ǽr folgode, healf
that half to-king in the shire which he before followed half
in þa ðe he oncymð.
in that which he comes-into

37, 2 Gif he hwæt yfla gedon hæbbe ðær he ær wæs, bete
If he aught of-evils done have where he before was let-amend
ðæt se ðe hine ðonne to men onfo, ⁊ cyninge CXX
that he who him then as man receives and to-king hundred-twenty
scill. to wite.
shillings as fine

38 Gif mon beforan cyninges ealdormen on gemote gefeohte,
If one before of-king ealdorman in assembly fight
bete wer ⁊ wite, swa hit ryht sie, ⁊ beforan þam
let-amend wergild and fine as it right be and before that
CXX scill. ðam ealdormen to wite.
hundred-twenty shillings to-the ealdorman as fine

38, 1 Gif he folcgemot mid wæpnes bryde áræreˊ, ðam ealdormen
If he folk-assembly with of-weapon drawing disturb to-the ealdorman
hundtwelftig scill. to wite.
hundred-twenty shillings as fine

38, 2 Gif ðises hwæt beforan cyninges ealdormonnes gingran
If of-this aught before of-king ealdorman deputy
gelimpe oððe cyninges preoste, XXX scill. to wite.
happen or of-king priest thirty shillings as fine

39 Gif hwa on cierlisces monnes flette gefeohte, mid syx scill.
If any in of-churlish man hall fight with six shillings
gebete ðam ceorle.
let-amend to-the churl

39, 1 Gif he wæpne gebrede ⁊ no feohte, sie be healfum ðam.
If he weapon draw and not fight let-be by half that

39, 2 Gif syxhyndum þissa hwæðer gelimpe, ðriefealdlice [arise be
If to-six-hundred of-these either happen threefold let-rise by
ðære cierliscan bote, twelfhyndum men twyfealdlice] be
the churlish compensation to-twelve-hundred man twofold by
þæs syxhyndan bote.
of-the six-hundred compensation

Cyninges burgbryce bið CXX scill., ærcebiscepes 40
Of-king fortress-breach is hundred-twenty shillings of-archbishop
hundnigontig scill., oðres biscepes ⁊ ealdormonnes LX
ninety shillings of-other bishop and ealdorman sixty
scill., twelfhyndes monnes XXX scill., syxhyndes monnes
shillings of-twelve-hundred man thirty shillings of-six-hundred man
XV scill.; ceorles edorbryce V scill.
fifteen shillings of-churl fence-breach five shillings
Gif ðisses hwæt gelimpe, ðenden fyrd ute sie, oððe in 40, 1
If of-this aught happen while army out be or in
lenctenfæsten, hit sie twybote.
Lent-fast it let-be double-compensation
Gif mon in lenctenne halig ryht in folce butan leafe 40, 2
If one in Lent holy law among people without leave
alecgge, gebete mid CXX scill.
set-aside let-amend with hundred-twenty shillings
Se mon se ðe bocland hæbbe, ⁊ him his mægas læfden, 41
The man he who bookland have and to-him his kinsmen left
þonne setton we, þæt he hit ne moste sellan of his
then established we that he it not might sell from his
mægburge, gif þær bið gewrit oððe gewitnes, ðæt hit ðara
kindred if there is writing or witness that it of-those
manna forbod wære þe hit on fruman gestríndon ⁊ þara
men prohibition were who it at first acquired and of-those
þe hit him sealdon, þæt he swa ne mote; ⁊ þæt þonne on
who it to-him gave that he so not may and that then in
cyninges ⁊ on biscopes gewitnesse gerecce beforan his mægum.
of-king and in of-bishop witness let-declare before his kinsmen
Eac we beodað: se mon se ðe his gefan hamsittendne wite, 42
Also we command the man he who his foe home-sitting knows
þæt he ne feohte, ær ðam he him ryhtes bidde.
that he not fight before that he him for-right ask

42, 1 Gif he mægnes hæbbe, þæt he his gefán beride ⁊ inne
If he strength have that he his foe ride-down and inside
besitte, gehealde hine VII niht inne ⁊ hine ón ne feohte, gif
besiege let-keep him seven nights inside and him on not fight if
he inne geðolian wille; ⁊ þonne ymb VII niht, gif he wille
he inside endure will and then after seven nights if he will
on hand gan ⁊ wæpenu sellan, gehealde hine XXX nihta
into hand go and weapons give let-keep him thirty nights
gesundne ⁊ hine his mægum gebodie ⁊ his friondum.
unharmed and him to-his kinsmen let-announce and to-his friends

42, 2 Gif he ðonne cirican geierne, sie ðonne be ðære cirican
If he then church run-to let-be then by of-the church
are, swa we ær bufan cwædon.
honor as we before above said

42, 3 Gif he ðonne þæs mægenes ne hæbbe, þæt he hine inne
If he then the strength not have that he him inside
besitte, ride to þam ealdormen, bidde hine fultumes; gif
besiege let-ride to the ealdorman let-ask him for-help if
he him fultuman ne wille, ride to cyninge, ær he feohte.
he him help not will let-ride to king before he fight

42, 4 Eac swelce, gif mon becume on his gefán, ⁊ he hine ǽr
Also likewise if one come on his foe and he him before
hamfæstne ne wite, gif he wille his wæpen sellan, hine mon
home-staying not knows if he will his weapon give him one
gehealde XXX nihta ⁊ hine his freondum gecyðe; gif
let-keep thirty nights and him to-his friends let-announce if
he ne wille his wæpenu sellan, þonne mot he feohtan on
he not will his weapons give then may he fight on
hine. Gif he wille on hond gan ⁊ his wæpenu sellan, ⁊
him If he will into hand go and his weapons give and

hwa ofer ðæt on him feohte, gielde swa wer swa wunde
any over that on him fight let-pay so wergild so wound
swa he gewyrce, ȝ wite ȝ hæbbe his mæg forworht.
as he commit and fine and let-have his kinsman forfeited
Eac we cweðað, þæt mon mote mid his hlaforde feohtan 42, 5
Also we say that one may with his lord fight
orwige, gif mon on ðone hlaford fiohte; swa mót se
without-feud if one on the lord fight so may the
hlaford mid þy men feohtan.
lord with the man fight
Æfter þære ilcan wisan mon mot feohtan mid his geborene 42, 6
After the same manner one may fight with his born
mæge, gif hine mon on woh onfeohteð, buton wið his
kinsman if him one in wrong attacks except against his
hlaforde: þæt we ne liefað.
lord that we not allow
ȝ mon mot feohtan órwige, gif he gemeteð oþerne æt his 42, 7
and one may fight without-feud if he finds other with his
æwum wife, betynedum durum oððe under anre réon, oððe æt
lawful wife closed doors or under one blanket or with
his dehter æwumborenre (oððe æt his swistær borenre) oððe
his daughter lawful-born or with his sister born or
æt his medder ðe wære to æwum wife forgifen his fæder.
with his mother who were to lawful wife given to-his father
Eallum frioum monnum ðas dagas sien forgifene, butan 43
To-all free men these days let-be given except
þeowum monnum ȝ esnewyrhtan: XII dagas on gehhol ȝ
slave men and hired-workers twelve days at Yule and
ðone dæg þe Crist ðone deofol oferswiðde ȝ scs. Gregorius
the day which Christ the devil overcame and of-saint Gregory
gemynddæg ȝ VII dagas to eastron ȝ VII ofer ȝ an dæg
memorial-day and seven days before Easter and seven after and one day

æt sce. Petres tide ȝ sce. Paules ȝ on hærfeste ða fullan
at of-saint Peter time and of-saint Paul and in harvest the full
wican ǽr sca. Marian mæssan ȝ æt Eallra haligra weorðunge
week before of-saint Mary mass and at of-All saints celebration
anne dæg; ȝ IIII Wodnesdagas on IIII ymbrenwicum ðeowum
one day and four Wednesdays in four Ember-weeks to-slave
monnum eallum sien forgifen, þam þe him leofost sie to
men all let-be given to-him whom to-them dearest be to
sellanne æghwæt ðæs ðe him ænig mon for Godes noman
sell anything of-that which to-them any man for of-God name
geselle oððe hie on ænegum hiora hwilsticcum geearnian mægen.
give or they in any of-their spare-moments earn can

44 Heafodwunde to bote, gif ða ban beoð butu ðyrel, XXX
For-a-head-wound as compensation if the bones are both pierced thirty
scill. geselle him mon.
shillings let-give to-him one

44, 1 Gif ðæt uterre ban bið þyrel, geselle XV scill. to bote.
If the outer bone is pierced let-give fifteen shillings as compensation

45 Gif in feaxe bið wund inces lang, geselle anne scill. to
If in hair is wound of-inch long let-give one shilling as
bote.
compensation

45, 1 Gif beforan feaxe bið wund inces lang, twegen scill. to
If before hair is wound of-inch long two shillings as
bote.
compensation

46 Gif him mon áslea oþer eare of, geselle XXX scill. to
If from-him one strike one ear off let-give thirty shillings as
bote.
compensation

Gif se hlyst oðstande, þæt he ne mæge gehieran, geselle 46, 1
If the hearing stop that he not can hear let-give
LX scill. to bote.
sixty shillings as compensation

Gif mon men eage ofáslea, geselle him mon LX scill' 47
If one from-man eye strike-out let-give to-him one sixty shillings
ȝ VI scill' ȝ VI pæningas ȝ ðriddan dæl pæninges to
and six shillings and six pennies and third part of-penny as
bote.
compensation

Gif hit in ðam heafde sie, ȝ he noht geseon ne mæge 47, 1
If it in the head be and he naught see — can
mid, stande ðriddan dæl þære bote inne.
with let-stand third part of-the compensation inside

Gif mon oðrum þæt neb ófaslea, gebete him mid LX 48
If one from-other the nose strike-off let-amend to-him with sixty
scill'.
shillings

Gif mon oðrum ðone toð onforan heafde ófaslea, gebete 49
If one from-other the tooth in-front-of head strike-out let-amend
þæt mid VIII scill.
that with eight shillings

Gif hit sie se wongtoð, geselle IIII scill. to bote. 49, 1
If it be the cheek-tooth let-give four shillings as compensation

Monnes tux bið XV scill. weorð. 49, 2
Of-man canine is fifteen shillings worth

Gif monnes ceacan mon forslihð, þæt hie beoð forode, 50
If of-man jaws one smashes that they are broken
gebete mid XV scill.
let-amend with fifteen shillings

50, 1 Monnes cinban, gif hit bið toclofen, geselle mon XII scill.
Of-man jaw-bone if it is cloven let-give one twelve shillings
to bote.
as compensation

51 Gif monnes ðrotbolla bið þyrel, gebete mid XII scill.
If of-man windpipe is pierced let-amend with twelve shillings

52 Gif monnes tunge bið of heafde oþres monnes dædum
If of-man tongue is from head of-other man with-deeds
dón, þæt biþ gelic ȝ eagan bot.
done that is alike and of-eye compensation

53 Gif mon bið on eaxle wund, þæt þæt liðseaw útflowe,
If man is in shoulder wounded that the joint-fluid out-flow
gebete mid XXX scill.
let-amend with thirty shillings

54 Gif se earm bið forad bufan elmbogan, þær sculon XV
If the arm is broken above elbow there shall fifteen
scill. to bote.
shillings as compensation

55 Gif ða earmscancan beoð begen forade, sio bot bið
If the arm-bones are both broken the compensation is
XXX scill.
thirty shillings

56 Gif se ðuma bið ófaslægen, þam sceal XXX scill. to
If the thumb is struck-off to-that shall thirty shillings as
bote.
compensation

56, 1 Gif se nægl bið ófaslegen, ðam sculon V scill. to bote.
If the nail is struck-off to-that shall five shillings as compensation

57 Gif se scytefinger bið ófaslegen, sio bót bið XV scill.;
If the shooting-finger is struck-off the compensation is fifteen shillings
his nægles bið III scill.
of-its nail is three shillings

Gif se midlesta finger sie ófaslegen, sio bot bið XII 58
If the middle finger be struck-off the compensation is twelve
scill.; ȝ his nægles bot bið II scill.
shillings and of-its nail compensation is two shillings
Gif se goldfinger sie ófaslegen, to þam sculon XVII scill. 59
If the gold-finger be struck-off to that shall seventeen shillings
to bote; ȝ his nægles IIII scill. to bote.
as compensation and of-its nail four shillings as compensation
Gif se lytla finger bið ófaslegen, ðam sceal to bote 60
If the little finger is struck-off to-that shall as compensation
VIIII scill., ȝ an scill. his nægles, gif se sie ófaslegen.
nine shillings and one shilling of-its nail if that be struck-off
Gif mon bið on hrif wund, geselle him mon XXX scill. 61
If man is in belly wounded let-give to-him one thirty shillings
to bote.
as compensation
Gif he ðurhwund bið, æt gehweðerum muðe XX scill. 61, 1
If he through-wounded is at either opening twenty shillings
Gif monnes ðeoh bið þyrel, geselle him mon XXX scill. 62
If of-man thigh is pierced let-give to-him one thirty shillings
to bote.
as compensation
Gif hit forad sie, sio bot eac bið XXX scill. 62, 1
If it broken be the compensation also is thirty shillings
Gif se sconca bið þyrel beneoðan cneowe, ðær sculon XII 63
If the shank is pierced beneath knee there shall twelve
scill. to bote.
shillings as compensation
Gif he forad sie beneoðan cneowe, geselle him XXX scill. 63, 1
If it broken be beneath knee let-give to-him thirty shillings
to bote.
as compensation

64 Gif sio micle ta bið ófaslegen, geselle him XX scill. to
If the big toe is struck-off let-give to-him twenty shillings as
bote.
compensation

64, 1 Gif hit sie sio æfterre ta, XV scill. to bote geselle
If it be the second toe fifteen shillings as compensation let-give
him mon.
to-him one

64, 2 Gif seo midleste ta sie ófaslegen, þær sculon VIIII scill. to
If the middle toe be struck-off there shall nine shillings as
bote.
compensation

64, 3 Gif hit bið sio feorþe ta, ðær sculon VI scill. to bote.
If it is the fourth toe there shall six shillings as compensation

64, 4 Gif sio lytle ta sie ófaslegen, geselle him V scill.
If the little toe be struck-off let-give to-him five shillings

65 Gif mon sie on þa herðan to ðam swiðe wund, þæt he ne
If man be in the testicles to that much wounded that he not
mæge bearn [gestrienan], gebete him ðæt mid LXXX scill.
can child beget let-amend to-him that with eighty shillings

66 Gif men sie se earm mid honda mid ealle ofácorfen
If from-man be the arm with hand with all cut-off
beforan elmbogan, gebete ðæt mid LXXX scill.
before elbow let-amend that with eighty shillings

66, 1 Æghwelcere wunde beforan feaxe ȝ beforan sliefan ȝ
For-each wound before hair and before sleeve and
beneoðan cneowe sio bot bið twysceatte mare.
beneath knee the compensation is twofold greater

67 Gif sio lendenbræde bið forslegen, þær sceal LX scill. to
If the loin is broken there shall sixty shillings as
bote.
compensation

Gif hio bið onbestungen, geselle XV scill. to bote. 67, 1

If it is stabbed let-give fifteen shillings as compensation

Gif hio bið ðurhðyrel, ðonne sceal ðær XXX scill. to 67, 2

If it is pierced-through then shall there thirty shillings as

bote.

compensation

Gif mon bið in eaxle wund, gebete mid LXXX scill., gif 68

If man is in shoulder wounded let-amend with eighty shillings if

se mon cwic sie.

the man living be

Gif mon oðrum ða hond utan forslea, geselle him XX 69

If one from-other the hand outside smash let-give to-him twenty

scill. to bote, gif hine mon gelacnian mæge.

shillings as compensation if him one heal can

Gif hio healf onweg fleoge, þonne sceal XL scill. to 69, 1

If it half away fly then shall forty shillings as

bote.

compensation

Gif mon oþrum rib forslea binnan gehaldre hyde, geselle 70

If one from-other rib break within whole skin let-give

X scill. to bote.

ten shillings as compensation

Gif sio hyd sie tobrocen, ȝ mon ban ófádo, geselle XV 70, 1

If the skin be broken and one bone take-out let-give fifteen

scill. to bote.

shillings as compensation

Gif monnes eage him mon ófaslea oððe his hand oððe 71

If of-man eye from-him one strike-out or his hand or

his fot, ðær gæð gelic bot to eallum: VI pæningas

his foot there goes like compensation to all six pennies

ȝ VI scill. ȝ LX scill. ȝ ðriddan dæl pæninges.

and six shillings and sixty shillings and third part of-penny

72 Gif monnes sconca bið ófaslegen wið ðæt cneou, ðær sceal
If of-man shank is struck-off at the knee there shall
LXXX scill. to bote.
eighty shillings as compensation

73 Gif mon oðrum ða sculdru forslea, geselle him mon XX
If one from-other the shoulder break let-give to-him one twenty
scill. to bote.
shillings as compensation

74 Gif hie mon inbeslea ⁊ mon ban ófado, geselle mon ðæs
If it one strike-in and one bone take-out let-give one of-that
to bote XV scill.
as compensation fifteen shillings

75 Gif mon ða greatan sinwe forslea, gif hie mon gelacnian
If one the great sinew sever if it one heal
mæge, þæt hio hal sie, geselle XII scill. to bote.
can that it whole be let-give twelve shillings as compensation

75, 1 Gif se mon healt sie for þære sinwe wunde, ⁊ hine mon
If the man lame be for of-the sinew wound and him one
gelacnian ne mæge, geselle XXX scill. to bote.
heal not can let-give thirty shillings as compensation

76 Gif ða smalan sinwe mon forslea, geselle him mon VI
If the small sinew one sever let-give to-him one six
scill. to bote.
shillings as compensation

77 Gif mon oðrum ða geweald forslea uppe on þam sweoran
If one from-other the tendons sever up on the neck
⁊ forwundie to þam swiðe, þæt he nage þære geweald,
and wound to that much that he owns-not of-them control
⁊ hwæðre lifie swa gescended, geselle him mon C scill.
and yet live so injured let-give to-him one hundred shillings
to bote, buton him witan ryhtre ⁊ mare gereccan.
as compensation unless to-him councilors juster and more assign

Ine, king of the West Saxons, with his bishops and councilors, sets laws for his people's souls and kingdom. A child is baptized within thirty days; Sunday work is fined; church-scot is paid at Martinmas. Sanctuary saves the guilty from death; fighting is fined by the house it happens in; a thief's household that knew is enslaved; bands and armies are defined by number; and Welshmen, merchants, and strangers have their own rules.

Ic Ine, mid Godes gife Wesseaxna kyning, mid geðeahte Prol.
I Ine with of-God grace of-West-Saxons king with counsel
ȝ mid lare Cenredes mines fæder ȝ Heddes mines
and with teaching of-Cenred my father and of-Hedde my
biscepes ȝ Eorcenwoldes mines biscepes, mid eallum minum
bishop and of-Erconwald my bishop with all my
ealdormonnum ȝ þæm ieldstan witum minre ðeode ȝ éac
ealdormen and the eldest councilors of-my people and also
micelre gesomnunge Godes ðeowa, wæs smeagende be ðære
great assembly of-God servants was considering about the
hælo urra sawla ȝ be ðam staþole ures rices, þætte
salvation of-our souls and about the foundation of-our kingdom that
ryht æw ȝ ryhte cynedomas ðurh ure folc gefæstnode
right law and right royal-judgments through our people established
ȝ getrymede wæron, þætte nænig ealdormonna ne us
and confirmed were that no of-ealdormen nor to-us
undergeðeodedra æfter þam wære awendende ðas ure dómas.
of-subjects after that were overturning these our judgments
Ærest we bebeodað, þætte Godes ðeowas hiora ryhtregol on 1
First we command that of-God servants their right-rule by
ryht healdan.
right keep

1, 1 Æfter þam we bebeodað, þætte ealles folces æw ⁊ domas
After that we command that of-all people law and judgments
ðus sien gehealdene:
thus be kept

2 Cild binnan ðritegum nihta sie gefulwad; gif hit swa ne
Child within thirty nights let-be baptized if it so not
sie, XXX scill. gebete.
be thirty shillings let-amend

2, 1 Gif hit ðonne sie dead butan fulwihte, gebete he hit mid
If it then be dead without baptism let-amend he it with
eallum ðam ðe he age.
all that which he owns

3 Gif ðeowmon wyrce on Sunnandæg be his hlafordes hæse,
If slave-man work on Sunday by of-his lord command
sie he frioh, ⁊ se hlaford geselle XXX scill. to wite.
let-be he free and the lord let-give thirty shillings as fine

3, 1 Gif þonne se ðeowa butan his gewitnesse wyrce, þolie his
If then the slave without his knowledge work let-forfeit his
hyde.
hide

3, 2 Gif ðonne se frigea ðy dæge wyrce butan his hlafordes
If then the freeman on-that day work without of-his lord
hæse, ðolie his freotes.
command let-forfeit his freedom

4 Ciricsceattas sín agifene be sce Martines mæssan; gif hwa
Church-scots let-be given by of-saint Martin mass if any
ðæt ne gelæste, sie he scyldig LX scill. ⁊ be XIIfealdum
that not perform let-be he liable sixty shillings and by twelvefold
agife þone ciricsceat.
let-give the church-scot

Gif hwa sie deaðes scyldig ⁊ he cirican geierne, hæbbe 5
If any be of-death guilty and he church run-to let-have
his feorh ⁊ bete, swa him ryht wisige.
his life and let-amend as to-him right directs
Gif hwa his hyde forwyrce ⁊ cirican geierne, sie him sio 5, 1
If any his hide forfeit and church run-to let-be to-him the
swingelle forgifen.
scourging forgiven
Gif hwa gefeohte on cyninges huse, sie he scyldig ealles 6
If any fight in of-king house let-be he liable of-all
his ierfes, ⁊ sie on cyninges dome, hwæðer he líf age
his property and let-be in of-king judgment whether he life owns
þe nage.
or owns-not
Gif hwa on mynster gefeohte, CXX scill. gebete. 6, 1
If any in minster fight hundred-twenty shillings let-amend
Gif hwa on ealdormonnes huse gefeohte oððe on oðres 6, 2
If any in of-ealdorman house fight or in of-other
geðungenes witan, LX scill. gebete he ⁊ oþer LX geselle
distinguished councilor sixty shillings let-amend he and other sixty let-give
to wite.
as fine
Gif ðonne on gafolgeldan huse oððe on gebures gefeohte, 6, 3
If then in of-tax-payer house or in of-peasant fight
CXX scill. to wite geselle ⁊ þam gebure VI scill.
hundred-twenty shillings as fine let-give and to-the peasant six shillings
⁊ þeah hit sie on middum felda gefohten, CXX scill. 6, 4
and though it be in middle field fought hundred-twenty shillings
to wite sie agifen.
as fine let-be given

6, 5 Gif ðonne on gebeorscipe hie geciden, ⁊ oðer hiora mid
If then at drinking-feast they quarrel and one of-them with
geðylde hit forbere, geselle se oðer XXX scill. to wite.
patience it endure let-give the other thirty shillings as fine

7 Gif hwa stalie, swa his wíf nyte ⁊ his bearn, geselle
If any steal so his wife knows-not and his children let-give
LX scill. to wite.
sixty shillings as fine

7, 1 Gif he ðonne stalie on gewitnesse ealles his hiredes, gongen
If he then steal in knowledge of-all his household let-go
hie ealle on ðeowot.
they all into slavery

7, 2 Xwintre cniht mæg bion ðiefðe gewita.
Ten-winter boy can be of-theft accessory

8 Gif hwa him ryhtes bidde beforan hwelcum scírmen oððe
If any for-himself for-right ask before any shire-man or
oþrum deman ⁊ ábiddan ne mæge, ⁊ him wedd sellan
other judge and obtain not can and to-him pledge give
nelle, gebete XXX scill. ⁊ binnan VII nihton gedó hine
will-not let-amend thirty shillings and within seven nights let-make him
ryhtes wierðne.
of-right worthy

9 Gif hwa wrace dó, ærðon he him ryhtes bidde, þæt he
If any vengeance do before he him for-right ask that he
him onnime agife ⁊ forgielde ⁊ gebete mid XXX
from-him takes let-give-back and let-repay and let-amend with thirty
scill.
shillings

Gif hwa binnan þam gemærum ures rices reaflác ȝ 10
If any within the boundaries of-our kingdom robbery and
niednæme dó, agife he ðone reaflac ȝ geselle LX scill.
seizure do let-give-back he the plunder and let-give sixty shillings
to wite.
as fine

Gif hwa his agenne geleod bebycgge, ðeowne oððe frigne, 11
If any his own countryman sell slave or free
ðeah he scyldig sie, ofer sæ, forgielde hine his were.
though he guilty be over sea let-pay-for him with-his wergild

Gif ðeof sie gefongen, swelte he deaðe, oððe his lif be his 12
If thief be seized let-die he by-death or his life by his
were man aliese.
wergild one let-redeem

Gif hwa beforan biscepe his gewitnesse ȝ his wed aleoge, 13
If any before bishop his witness and his pledge belie
gebete mid CXX scill.
let-amend with hundred-twenty shillings

Ðeofas we hatað oð VII men; from VII hloð oð XXXV; 13, 1
Thieves we call up-to seven men from seven band up-to thirty-five
siððan bið here.
afterward is army

Se ðe hloþe betygen sie, geswicne se hine be CXX 14
He who of-band accused be let-clear he himself by hundred-twenty
hida oððe swa bete.
hides or so let-amend

Se ðe hereteama betygen sie, he hine be his wergilde 15
He who of-army-raid accused be he himself by his wergild
áliese oððe be his were geswicne.
let-redeem or by his wergild let-clear

Se að sceal bion healf be huslgengum. 15, 1
The oath shall be half by communicants

15, 2 Þeof, siððan he bið on cyninges bende, nah he þa swicne.
Thief after he is in of-king bond owns-not he the clearing

16 Se ðe ðeof ofslihð, se mot gecyðan mid aðe, þæt he hine
He who thief slays he may declare with oath that he him
synnigne ofsloge, nalles ða gegildan.
guilty slew not-at-all the guild-brothers

17 Se ðe forstolen flæsc findeð ⁊ gedyrneð, gif he dear, he
He who stolen meat finds and hides if he dares he
mot mid aðe gecyðan, þæt he hit age; se ðe hit ofspyreð,
may with oath declare that he it owns he who it tracks
he ah ðæt meldfeoh.
he owns the informer's-fee

18 Cierlisc mon gif he óft betygen wære, gif he æt siðestan
Churlish man if he often accused were if he at last
sie gefongen, slea mon hond oððe fot.
be seized let-strike one hand or foot

19 Cyninges geneat, gif his wer bið twelfhund scill., he mot
Of-king retainer if his wergild is twelve-hundred shillings he may
swerian for syxtig hida, gif he bið huslgengea.
swear for sixty hides if he is communicant

20 Gif feorcund mon oððe fremde butan wege geond wudu
If from-afar man or stranger without road through wood
gonge ⁊ ne hrieme ne horn blawe, for ðeof he bið to
go and not shout nor horn blow for thief he is to
profianne: oððe to sleanne oððe to áliesanne.
prove or to slay or to redeem

21 Gif mon ðonne þæs ófslægenan weres bidde, he mot
If one then of-the slain for-wergild ask he may
gecyþan, þæt he hine for ðeof ofsloge, nalles þæs ofslegenan
declare that he him for thief slew not-at-all of-the slain
gegildan ne his hlaford.
guild-brothers nor his lord

Gif he hit ðonne dierneð, ȝ weorðeð ymb long yppe, 21, 1
If he it then conceals and becomes after long revealed
ðonne rymeð he ðam deadan to ðam aðe, þæt hine moton
then clears he for-the dead to the oath that him may
his mægas unsyngian.
his kinsmen exculpate
Gif ðin geneat stalie ȝ losie ðe, gif ðu hæbbe byrgean, 22
If thy retainer steal and escape from-thee if thou have surety
mana þone þæs angyldes; gif he næbbe, gyld ðu þæt
claim him the single-value if he have-not pay thou the
angylde, ȝ ne sie him no ðy ðingodre.
single-value and not let-be to-him — the better-settled
Gif mon elðeodigne ófslea, se cyning ah twædne dǽl weres, 23
If one foreigner slay the king owns two parts of-wergild
þriddan dæl sunu oððe mægas.
third part son or kinsmen
Gif he ðonne mægleas sie, healf kyninge, healf se gesið. 23, 1
If he then kinless be half to-king half the companion
Gif hit ðonne abbod sie oððe abbodesse, dælen on þa ilcan 23, 2
If it then abbot be or abbess let-divide in the same
wisan wið þone kyning.
manner with the king
Wealh gafolgelda CXX scill., his sunu C, ðeowne 23, 3
Welshman tax-payer hundred-twenty shillings his son hundred slave
LX, somhwelcne fiftegum; Weales hyd twelfum.
sixty some with-fifty of-Welshman hide with-twelve
Gif witeðeow Engliscmon hine forstalie, hó hine mon ȝ 24
If penal-slave Englishman himself steal-away let-hang him one and
ne gylde his hlaforde.
not let-pay to-his lord

24, 1 Gif hine mon ofsléa, ne gylde hine mon his mægum, gif
If him one slay not let-pay him one to-his kinsmen if
hie hine on XII monðum ne áliesden.
they him in twelve months not redeemed

24, 2 Wealh, gif he hafað V hida, he bið syxhynde.
Welshman if he has five hides he is six-hundred

25 Gif ciepemon uppe on folce ceapie, do þæt beforan
If merchant up among people trade let-do that before
gewitnessum.
witnesses

25, 1 Gif ðiefefioh mon æt ciepan befo, ȝ he hit næbbe beforan
If stolen-property one at merchant attach and he it have-not before
godum weotum geceapod, gecyðe hit be wite, þæt he ne
good witnesses bought let-declare it by fine that he not
gewita ne gestala nære, oððe gielde to wite VI ȝ XXX scill.
accessory nor fellow-thief were or let-pay as fine six and thirty shillings

X · THE LAWS OF INE: FOUNDLINGS, THIEVES, AND WIDOWS

A foundling's fostering is paid year by year. A thief's captor takes ten shillings and pays his wergild if he frees him; a lender pays a third, half, or all of a runaway servant he armed or horsed; a bride-price is returned when the marriage does not go forward; a Welshman's wergild follows his land; a churl often accused loses a hand or foot; and a widow keeps her child on an allowance.

26 To fundes cildes fostre, ðy forman geare geselle VI scill.,
For of-found child fostering in-the first year let-give six shillings
ðy æfterran XII, ðy ðriddan XXX, siððan be his wlite.
the second twelve the third thirty afterward by his appearance

Se ðe dearnenga bearn gestrieneð ⁊ gehileð, nah se his 27
He who secretly child begets and hides owns-not he of-its
deaðes wer, ac his hlaford ⁊ se cyning.
death wergild but his lord and the king
Se ðeof gefehð, ah X scill., ⁊ se cyning ðone ðeof; 28
He-who thief seizes owns ten shillings and the king the thief
⁊ þa mægas him swerian aðas unfæhða.
and the kinsmen to-him let-swear oaths of-no-feud
Gif he ðonne oðierne ⁊ orige weorðe, þonne bið he wites 28, 1
If he then escape and unseen become then is he of-fine
scyldig.
liable
Gif he onsacan wille, do he ðæt be ðam féo ⁊ be 28, 2
If he deny will let-do he that by the property and by
ðam wite.
the fine
Gif mon sweordes onlæne oðres esne, ⁊ he losie, gielde 29
If one sword lend of-other to-servant and he escape let-pay
he hine ðriddan dæle; gif mon spere selle, healfne; gif he
he him with-third part if one spear give half if he
horses onlæne, ealne he hine gylde.
horse lend whole he him let-pay
Gif mon cierliscne monnan fliemanfeorme teo, be his agnum 30
If one churlish man of-fugitive-harboring accuse by his own
were geladige he hine; gif he ne mæge, gielde hine his
wergild let-clear he himself if he not can let-pay him with-his
agne were; ⁊ se gesiðmon swa be his were.
own wergild and the noble-man so by his wergild

31 Gif mon wíf gebyccge, ⁊ sio gyft forð ne cume, agife
If one wife buy and the marriage forth not come let-give-back
þæt feoh ⁊ forgielde ⁊ gebete þam byrgean, swa his
the money and let-repay and let-amend to-the surety as his
borgbryce sie.
surety-breach be

32 Gif Wilisc mon hæbbe hide londes, his wer bið CXX
If Welsh man have hide of-land his wergild is hundred-twenty
scill.; gif he þonne healfes hæbbe, LXXX scill.; gif he
shillings if he then half have eighty shillings if he
nænig hæbbe, LX scillinga.
none have sixty shillings

33 Cyninges horswealh, se ðe him mæge geærendian, ðæs
Of-king horse-Welshman he who for-him can carry-messages his
wergield bið CC scill.
wergild is two-hundred shillings

34 Se ðe on ðære fore wære, þæt mon monnan ofsloge,
He who on the expedition were that one man slew
getriewe hine ðæs sleges ⁊ ða fore gebete be ðæs
let-clear himself of-the slaying and the expedition let-amend by of-the
ofslegenan wergielde:
slain wergild

34, 1 Gif his wergield sie CC scill., gebete mid L scill.,
If his wergild be two-hundred shillings let-amend with fifty shillings
⁊ ðy ilcan ryhte do man be ðam deorborenran.
and by-the same right let-do one concerning the higher-born

35 Se ðe ðeof slihð, he mot aðe gecyðan, þæt he hine
He who thief slays he may with-oath declare that he him
fleondne for ðeof sloge, ⁊ þæs deadan mægas him swerian
fleeing for thief slew and of-the dead kinsmen to-him let-swear

unceases áð. Gif he hit þonne dierne, ȝ sie eft yppe,
of-no-quarrel oath If he it then conceal and be afterward revealed
þonne forgielde he hine.
then let-pay-for he him
Gif mon to þam men feoh geteme, ðe his ær oðswaren 35, 1
If one to the man property vouch who it before denied-on-oath
hæfde ȝ eft oðswerian wille, oðswerige be ðam wite ȝ
had and again deny will let-deny by the fine and
be ðæs feos weorðe; gif he oðswerian nylle, gebete þone
by of-the property value if he deny will-not let-amend the
mænan að twybote.
perjured oath double-compensation
Se ðe ðeof gefehð, oððe him mon gefongenne agifð, ȝ he 36
He who thief seizes or to-him one seized gives and he
hine þonne álæte, oððe þa ðiefðe gedierne, forgielde þone
him then release or the theft conceal let-pay-for the
þeof his were.
thief with-his wergild
Gif he ealdormon sie, ðolie his scire, buton him kyning 36, 1
If he ealdorman be let-forfeit his shire unless him king
arian wille.
spare will
Se cirlisca mon, se ðe oft betygen wære ðiefðe, ȝ þonne 37
The churlish man he who often accused were of-theft and then
æt siðestan synnigne gefó in ceape oððe elles æt openre
at last guilty seize in goods or else at open
scylde, slea him mon hond óf oððe fót.
guilt let-strike from-him one hand off or foot
Gif ceorl ȝ his wif bearn hæbben gemæne, ȝ fere se 38
If husband and his wife child have common and go the
ceorl forð, hæbbe sio modor hire bearn ȝ fede: agife hire
husband forth let-have the mother her child and let-feed let-give to-her

mon VI scill. to fostre, cu on sumera, oxan on wintra;
one six shillings for fostering cow in summer ox in winter
healden þa mægas þone frumstol, oð ðæt hit gewintred sie.
let-keep the kinsmen the homestead until that it grown-up be
39 Gif hwa fare unáliefed fram his hlaforde oððe on oðre
If any go unpermitted from his lord or into other
scire hine bestele, ⁊ hine mon geahsige, fare þær he ær
shire himself steal and him one discover let-go where he before
wæs ⁊ geselle his hlaforde LX scill.
was and let-give to-his lord sixty shillings

XI · THE LAWS OF INE: FIELDS, WOODS, AND WERGILDS

A churl fences his homestead and his share of the meadow or bears the damage; burning a tree costs the full fine, and felling many is paid for three at most, since the axe is an informer, not a thief. Fortress-breach, oaths, and army-fines go by rank; a departing noble takes his reeve, smith, and nurse but shows settled land; and the food-rent of ten hides is listed.

40 Ceorles worðig sceal beon wintres ⁊ sumeres betyned; gif
Of-churl homestead shall be of-winter and of-summer fenced if
he bið untyneð, ⁊ recð his neahgebures ceap in on
he is unfenced and gets of-his neighbor cattle in through
his agen geat, nah he æt þam ceape nan wuht: adrife
his own gate owns-not he at the cattle any thing let-drive
hine ut ⁊ ðolie æfwerdlan.
it out and let-bear damage
41 Borges mon mót oðsacan, gif he wát, þæt he ryht ded.
Of-surety one may deny if he knows that he right does

Gif ceorlas gærstun hæbben gemænne oððe oþer gedálland to 42
If churls meadow have common or other shared-land to
tynanne, ȝ hæbben sume getyned hiora dæl, sume næbben,
fence and have some fenced their part some have-not
ȝ etten hiora gemænan æceras oððe gærs, gán þa þonne,
and eat their common fields or grass let-go those then
þe ðæt geat agan, ȝ gebete þam oðrum, þe hiora dæl
who the gate own and let-amend to-the others who their part
getynedne hæbben, þone æwerdlan þe ðær gedon sie; abidden
fenced have the damage which there done be let-demand
him æt þam ceape swylc ryht swylce hit kyn sie.
for-themselves at the cattle such right as it fitting be
Gif þonne hryðera hwelc sie þe hegas brece ȝ ga in 42, 1
If then of-cattle any be which hedges break and go in
gehwær, ȝ se hit nolde gehealdan, se hit age oððe ne
anywhere and he it would-not keep who it owns or not
mæge, nime se hit on his ærere mete ȝ ófslea; ȝ
can let-take he-who it on his field finds and let-slay and
nime se agenfrigea his fel ȝ flæsc ȝ þolie þæs oðres.
let-take the owner its hide and flesh and let-forfeit the other
Ðonne mon beam on wuda forbærne, ȝ weorðe yppe 43
When one tree in wood burns and become revealed
on þone ðe hit dyde, gielde he fulwite: geselle LX scill.;
on him who it did let-pay he full-fine let-give sixty shillings
forþamþe fýr bið þeof.
because fire is thief
Gif mon afelle on wuda wel monega treowa, ȝ wyrð 43, 1
If one fell in wood well many trees and becomes
eft undierne, forgielde III treowu ælc mid XXX scill.;
afterward revealed let-pay-for three trees each with thirty shillings

ne ðearf he hiora má geldan, wære hiora swa fela swa
not needs he of-them more pay were of-them so many as
hiora wære: forþon sio æsc bið melda, nalles ðeof.
of-them were because the axe is informer not-at-all thief
44 Gif mon þonne aceorfe an treow, þæt mæge XXX swina
If one then cut-down one tree that can thirty swine
undergestandan, ⁊ wyrð undierne, geselle LX scill.
stand-under and becomes revealed let-give sixty shillings
44, 1 Gafolhwitel sceal bion æt hiwisce VI pæninga weorð.
Tax-blanket shall be at household six pennies worth
45 Burgbryce mon sceal betan CXX scill. kyninges ⁊
Fortress-breach one shall amend hundred-twenty shillings of-king and
biscepes, þær his rice bið; ealdormonnes LXXX scill.;
of-bishop where his rule is of-ealdorman eighty shillings
cyninges ðegnes LX scill.; gesiðcundes monnes landhæbbendes
of-king thane sixty shillings of-noble man land-holding
XXXV; ⁊ bi ðon ansacan.
thirty-five and by that deny
46 Ðonne mon monnan betyhð, þæt he ceap forstele oððe
When one man accuses that he cattle steal or
forstolenne gefeormie, þonne sceal he be LX hida onsacan
stolen harbor then shall he by sixty hides deny
þære þiefðe, gif he aðwyrðe bið.
the theft if he oath-worthy is
46, 1 Gif ðonne Englisc onstal ga forð, onsace þonne be
If then English accuser go forth let-deny then by
twyfealdum; gif hit ðonne bið Wilisc onstal, ne bið se að
twofold if it then is Welsh accuser not is the oath
na ðy mara.
— the greater

Ælc mon mot onsacan frymþe ȝ werfæhðe, gif he mæg 46, 2
Each man may deny instigation and man-feud if he can
oððe dear.
or dares
Gif mon forstolenne ceap befehð, ne mot hine mon tieman 47
If one stolen cattle attaches not may it one vouch
to ðeowum men.
to slave man
Gif hwelc mon bið witeðeow niwan geðeowad, ȝ hine 48
If any man is penal-slave newly enslaved and him
mon betyhð, þæt he hæbbe ǽr geðiefed, ær hine mon
one accuses that he have before stolen before him one
geðeowode, þonne ah se teond ane swingellan æt him:
enslaved then owns the accuser one scourging from him
bedrife hine to swingum be his ceape.
let-drive him to stripes by his cattle
Gif mon on his mæstenne unaliefed swín gemete, genime 49
If one in his mast-pasture unpermitted swine find let-take
þonne VI scill. weorð wed.
then six shillings worth pledge
Gif hie þonne þær næren oftor þonne æne, geselle scill. 49, 1
If they then there not-were oftener than once let-give shilling
se agenfrigea ȝ gecyðe, þæt hie þær oftor ne comen, be
the owner and let-declare that they there oftener not came by
þæs ceapes weorðe.
of-the cattle value
Gif hi ðær tuwa wæren, geselle twegen scill. 49, 2
If they there twice were let-give two shillings
Gif mon nime æfesne on swynum: æt þryfingrum þæt 49, 3
If one take pannage-due in swine at three-fingers the
ðridde, æt twyfingrum þæt feorðe, æt þymelum þæt fifte.
third at two-fingers the fourth at thumbs the fifth

50 Gif gesiðcund mon þingað wið cyning oððe wið kyninges
If noble man intercedes with king or with of-king
ealdormonnan for his inhiwan oððe wið his hlaford for
ealdorman for his household or with his lord for
ðeowe oððe for frige, nah he þær nane witerædenne, se
slave or for free owns-not he there any fine-share the
gesið, forðon he him nolde ær yfles gestieran æt ham.
noble because he them would-not before from-evil restrain at home
51 Gif gesiðcund mon landagende forsitte fierd, geselle
If noble man land-owning neglect army-service let-give
CXX scill. ⁊ ðolie his landes; unlandagende LX
hundred-twenty shillings and let-forfeit his land landless sixty
scill.; cierlisc XXX scill. to fierdwite.
shillings churlish thirty shillings as army-fine
52 Se ðe diernum geðingum betygen sie, geswicne hine be
He who of-secret dealings accused be let-clear himself by
CXX hida þara geðingea oððe CXX scill. geselle.
hundred-twenty hides of-the dealings or hundred-twenty shillings let-give
53 Gif mon forstolenne man befo æt oþrum, ⁊ sie sio hand
If one stolen man attach from other and be the hand
oðcwolen, sio hine sealde þam men þe hine mon
dead which him sold to-the man from-whom him one
ætbefeng, tieme þonne þone mon to þæs deadan byrgelse, swa
attached let-vouch then the man to of-the dead grave so
oðer fioh swa hit sie, ⁊ cyðe on þam aðe be LX hida,
other property as it be and let-declare in the oath by sixty hides
þæt sio deade hond hine him sealde; þonne hæfð he þæt
that the dead hand him to-him sold then has he the
wite afylled mid þy aðe, agife þam agendfrio þone monnan.
fine quashed with the oath let-give to-the owner the man

Gif he þonne wite, hwa ðæs deadan ierfe hæbbe, tieme 53, 1
If he then know who of-the dead property have let-vouch
þonne to þam ierfe ȝ bidde ða hond þe þæt ierfe
then to the property and let-ask the hand which the property
hafað, þæt he him gedó þone ceap unbeceasne oþþe
has that he for-him make the goods unchallenged or
gecyðe, þæt se deada næfre þæt ierfe ahte.
declare that the dead never the property owned
Se þe bið werfæhðe betogen ȝ he onsacan wille þæs 54
He who is of-man-feud accused and he deny will the
sleges mid aðe, þonne sceal bion on þære hyndenne an
slaying with oath then shall be in the hundred one
kyningæde be XXX hida, swa be gesiðcundum men swa
king's-oath by thirty hides so for noble man so
be cierliscum, swa hwæþer swa hit sie.
for churlish so which so it be
Gif hine mon gilt, þonne mot he gesellan on þara 54, 1
If him one pays-for then may he give in of-the
hyndenna gehwelcere monnan ȝ byrnan ȝ sweord on
hundreds each man and mail-coat and sword toward
þæt wergild, gif he ðyrfe.
the wergild if he need
Witeðeowne monnan Wyliscne mon sceal bedrifan be XII 54, 2
Penal-slave man Welsh one shall drive by twelve
hidum swa ðeowne to swingum, Engliscne be feower ȝ
hides as slave to stripes English by four and
XXX hida.
thirty hides
Ewo bið mid hire giunge sceape scill. weorð oþþæt XII 55
Ewe is with her young sheep shilling worth until twelve
niht ofer eastran.
nights after Easter

56 Gif mon hwelcne ceap gebygð ⁊ he ðonne onfinde him
If one any cattle buys and he then find in-it
hwelc unhælo on binnan XXX nihta, þonne weorpe þone
any unsoundness in within thirty nights then let-throw the
ceap to honda; oððe swerie, þæt he him nan facn on
cattle to hand or let-swear that he in-it no fraud in
nyste, þa he hine him sealde.
knew when he it to-him sold

57 Gif ceorl ceap forstilð ⁊ bireð into his ærne, ⁊ befehð þærinne
If churl cattle steals and carries into his house and attaches therein
mon, þonne bið se his dǽl synnig butan þam wife anum, forðon
one then is the his share guilty except the wife alone because
hio sceal hire ealdore hieran: gif hio dear mid aðe gecyðan,
she shall her lord obey if she dares with oath declare
þæt hio þæs forstolenan ne onbite, nime hire ðriddan sceat.
that she the stolen not taste let-take her third share

58 Oxan horn bið X pæninga weorð.
Of-ox horn is ten pennies worth

59 Cuuhorn bið twegea pæninga; oxan tægl bið scill. weorð,
Cow-horn is of-two pennies of-ox tail is shilling worth
cus bið fifa; oxan eage bið V p. weorð, cus bið scill.
of-cow is of-five of-ox eye is five pennies worth of-cow is shilling
weorþ.
worth

59, 1 Mon sceal simle to beregafole agifan æt anum wyrhtan VI
One shall always as barley-rent give at one laborer six
wæga.
weys

Se ceorl se ðe hæfð oðres geoht ahyrod, gif he hæbbe 60
The churl he who has of-other yoke hired if he have
ealle on foðre to agifanne, gesceawige mon, agife ealle; gif
all in fodder to give let-see one let-give all if
he næbbe, agife healf on fodre, healfe on oþrum ceape.
he have-not let-give half in fodder half in other goods
Ciricsceat mon sceal agifan to þam healme ⁊ to þam 61
Church-scot one shall give to the haulm and to the
heorðe, þe se mon on bið to middum wintra.
hearth which the man on is at mid winter
Þonne mon bið tyhtlan betygen, ⁊ hine mon bedrifeð to ceape, 62
When one is of-charge accused and him one drives to payment
nah þonne self nane wiht to gesellanne beforan ceape: þonne
owns-not then self any thing to give before payment then
gæð oðer mon, seleð his ceap fore, swa he þonne geþingian
goes other man gives his goods for-him as he then arrange
mæge, on ða rædenne, þe he him ga to honda, oð ðæt he
can on the condition that he to-him go into hand until that he
his ceap him geinnian mæge: þonne betyhð hine mon eft
his goods to-him restore can then accuses him one again
oþre siðe ⁊ bedrifð to ceape: gif hine forð nele forstandan
other time and drives to payment if him further will-not stand-for
se ðe him ær ceap foresealde, ⁊ he hine þonne forfehð,
he who for-him before goods paid and he him then seizes
þolige þonne his ceapes se, ðe he him ær foresealde.
let-forfeit then his goods which that he for-him before paid
Gif gesiðcund mon fare, þonne mot he habban his gerefan 63
If noble man go then may he have his reeve
mid him ⁊ his smið ⁊ his cildfestran.
with him and his smith and his child-nurse

64 Se ðe hæfð XX hida, se sceal tæcnan XII hida gesettes
He who has twenty hides he shall show twelve hides of-settled
landes, þonne he faran wille.
land when he go will

65 Se ðe hæfð X hida, se sceal tæcnan VI hida gesettes
He who has ten hides he shall show six hides of-settled
landes.
land

66 Se ðe hæbbe þreora hida, tæcne oþres healfes.
He who have of-three hides let-show of-second half

67 Gif mon geþingað gyrde landes oþþe mare to rædegafole
If one contracts yard of-land or more for fixed-rent
�sy geereð, gif se hlaford him wile þæt land aræran to
and plows if the lord for-him will the land raise to
weorce ꝺ to gafole, ne þearf he him onfón, gif he him
work and to rent not needs he it accept if he to-him
nan botl ne selð, ꝺ þolie þara ærca.
no dwelling — gives and let-forfeit the fields

68 Gif mon gesiðcundne monnan adrife, fordrife þy botle,
If one noble man drive-out let-drive-out from-the dwelling
næs þære setene.
not-at-all the crops

69 Sceap sceal gongan mid his fliese oð midne sumor; oððe
Sheep shall go with its fleece until mid summer or
gilde þæt flies mid twam pæningum.
let-pay the fleece with two pennies

70 Æt twyhyndum were mon sceal sellan to monbote XXX
At two-hundred wergild one shall give as man-compensation thirty
scill., æt VIhyndum LXXX scill., æt XIIhyndum CXX
shillings at six-hundred eighty shillings at twelve-hundred hundred-twenty
scill.
shillings

Æt X hidum to fostre X fata hunies, CCC hlafa, XII 70, 1
At ten hides as food-rent ten vats of-honey three-hundred loaves twelve
ambra Wilisc ealað, XXX hluttres, tu eald hriðeru oðde X
ambers Welsh ale thirty of-clear two old oxen or ten
weðeras, X gees, XX henna, X cesas, amber fulne buteran,
wethers ten geese twenty hens ten cheeses amber full of-butter
V leaxas, XX pundwæga foðres ⁊ hundteontig æla.
five salmon twenty pound-weights of-fodder and hundred eels
Gif mon sie wertyhtlan betogen ⁊ he hit þonne geondette 71
If one be of-wergild-charge accused and he it then confess
beforan aðe ⁊ onsace ár, bide mon mid þære witerædenne,
before oath and deny before let-wait one with the fine
oð ðæt se wer gegolden sie.
until that the wergild paid be
Gif mon wergildðeof gefehð, ⁊ he losige ðy dæge þam 72
If one wergild-thief seizes and he escape on-that day from-the
monnum ðe hine gefoð, þeah hine mon gefó ymb niht,
men who him seize though him one seize after night
nah him mon mare æt ðonne fulwite.
owns-not from-him one more at than full-fine
Gif hit bið niht eald þiefð, gebeten þa þone gylt þe hine 73
If it is night old theft let-amend those the offense who him
gefengon, swa hie geþingian mægen wið cyning ⁊ his
seized as they arrange can with king and his
gerefan.
reeve
Gif ðeowwealh Engliscne monnan ofslihð, þonne sceal se 74
If slave-Welshman English man slays then shall he
ðe hine ah weorpan hine to honda hlaforde ⁊ mægum
who him owns throw him to hand to-lord and to-kinsmen
oðde LX scill. gesellan wið his feore.
or sixty shillings give for his life

74, 1 Gif he þonne þone ceap nelle foregesellan, þonne mot hine
If he then the payment will-not give-for then may him
se hlaford gefreogean; gielden siððan his mægas þone wer, gif
the lord free let-pay afterward his kinsmen the wergild if
he mægburg hæbbe freo; gif he næbbe, heden his þa gefan.
he kindred have free if he have-not let-heed him the foes

74, 2 Ne þearf se frige mid þam þeowan mæg gieldan, buton he
Not needs the free with the slave kinsman pay unless he
him wille fæhðe ófaceapian, ne se þeowa mid þy frigean.
for-him will feud buy-off nor the slave with the free

75 Gif mon ceap befehþ forstolenne, ȝ sio hond tiemð þonne,
If one cattle attaches stolen and the hand vouches then
sio hine mon ætbefehþ, to oþrum men, gif se mon hine
which it one attaches-from to other man if the man it
þonne onfon ne wille ȝ sægþ, þæt he him næfre þæt ne
then receive not will and says that he to-him never that —
sealde, ac sealde oþer, þonne mot se gecyðan, se ðe hit tiemþ
sold but sold other then may he declare he who it vouches
to þære honda, þæt he him nan oðer ne sealde buton þæt ilce.
to the hand that he to-him no other — sold except the same

76 Gif hwa oðres godsunu slea oððe his godfæder, sie sio
If any of-other godson slay or his godfather let-be the
mægbot ȝ sio manbot gelíc; weaxe sio bot
kin-compensation and the man-compensation alike let-grow the compensation
be ðam were, swa ilce swa sio manbot deð þe þam
by the wergild so same as the man-compensation does which to-the
hlaforde sceal.
lord shall

76, 1 Gif hit þonne kyninges godsunu sie, bete be his were
If it then of-king godson be let-amend by his wergild
þam cyninge swa ilce swa þære mægþe.
to-the king so same as to-the kindred

Gif he þonne on þone geonbyrde þe hine slog, þonne 76, 2
If he then against him resist who him slew then
ætfealle sio bót þæm godfæder, swa ilce swa þæt
let-fall-away the compensation from-the godfather so same as the
wite þam hlaforde deð.
fine from-the lord does
Gif hit biscepsunu sie, sie be healfum þam. 76, 3
If it bishop-son be let-be by half that

XII · ALFRED AND GUTHRUM

The peace Alfred and Guthrum swore for the English and the Danes. The boundary runs up the Thames and the Lea to Bedford and up the Ouse to Watling Street. English and Danes are valued alike, a churl on tribute-land and a freedman at two hundred shillings; a king's thane clears himself with twelve king's thanes; every man knows his warrantor; and no one crosses to the other army without leave.

Ðis is ðæt frið, ðæt Ælfred cyninc ⁊ Gyðrum cyning ⁊ Prol.
This is the peace which Alfred king and Guthrum king and
ealles Angelcynnes witan ⁊ eal seo ðeod ðe on Eastænglum
of-all English-race councilors and all the people who in East-Anglia
beoð ealle gecweden habbað ⁊ mid aðum gefeostnod for
are all agreed have and with oaths confirmed for
hy sylfe ⁊ for heora gingran, ge for geborene ge for
them selves and for their juniors both for born and for
ungeborene, ðe Godes miltse recce oððe ure.
unborn who of-God mercy care or ours

1 Ærest ymb ure landgemæra: up on Temese, ⁊ ðonne up
First about our boundaries up on Thames and then up
on Ligan, ⁊ andlang Ligan oð hire æwylm, ðonne on
on Lea and along Lea to its source then in
gerihte to Bedanforda, ðonne up on Usan oð Wætlingastræt.
straight to Bedford then up on Ouse to Watling-Street
2 Ðæt is ðonne, gif man ofslægen weorðe, ealle we lætað efen
That is then if man slain become all we account equally
dyrne Engliscne ⁊ Deniscne, to VIII healfmearcum asodenes
dear English and Danish at eight half-marks of-refined
goldes, buton ðam ceorle ðe on gafollande sit ⁊ heora
gold except the churl who on tribute-land sits and their
liesengum, ða syndan eac efen dyre: ægðer to CC scill.
freedmen who are also equally dear each at two-hundred shillings
3 ⁊ gif man cyninges ðegn beteo manslihtes, gif he hine ladian
and if one of-king thane accuse of-manslaughter if he himself clear
dyrre, do he þæt mid XII cininges ðegnum; gif ma ðone man
dare let-do he that with twelve of-king thanes if one the man
betyhð, ðe bið læssa maga ðone se cyninges ðegn, ladige he
accuses who is less powerful than the of-king thane let-clear he
hine mid XI his gelicena ⁊ mid anum cyninges ðægne —
himself with eleven of-his equals and with one of-king thane
⁊ swa ægehwilcre spræce ðe mare sy ðone IIII mancussas—;
and so in-each suit which more be than four mancuses
⁊ gyf he ne dyrre, gylde hit ðrygylde, swa hit man gewyrðe.
and if he not dare let-pay it threefold as it one values
4 ⁊ þæt ælc man wite his getyman be mannum ⁊
and that each man know his warrantor concerning men and
be horsum ⁊ be oxum.
concerning horses and concerning oxen

ȝ ealle we cwædon on ða dæge ðe mon ða aðas swor, 5
and all we said on the day when one the oaths swore
þæt ne ðeowe ne freo ne moton in ðone here faran butan
that not slaves nor free — may into the army go without
leafe, ne heora nan ðe ma to us. Gif ðonne gebyrige, þæt
leave nor of-them any the more to us If then happen that
for neode heora hwylc wið ure bige habban wille oððe
for need of-them any with us trade have will or
we wið heora mid yrfe ȝ mid æhtum, ðæt is to ðafianne
we with them with cattle and with goods that is to allow
on ða wisan, þæt man gislas sylle friðe to wedde ȝ to
in the manner that one hostages give to-peace as pledge and as
swutulunge, þæt man wite, ðæt man clæne bæc hæbbe.
evidence that one know that one clean back has

XIII · EDWARD AND GUTHRUM

The church's ordinance agreed by Alfred, Guthrum, and Edward when the English and the Danes made peace: one God and no heathendom, and church-peace inviolate. Priests' offenses, withheld dues, and Sunday trading are fined in English or Danish money; witches and perjurers are driven out; and king and bishop protect clergy and strangers.

Þis syndon þa domas ðe Ælfred cyncg ȝ Guþrum cyncg Inscr.
These are the judgments which Alfred king and Guthrum king
gecuron.
chose
And þis is seo gerædnis eac, þe Ælfred cyng ȝ Guðrum Prol.
And this is the ordinance also which Alfred king and Guthrum
cyng ȝ eft Eadward cyng (ȝ Guðrum cyng) gecuran ȝ
king and afterward Edward king and Guthrum king chose and

gecwædon, þa þa Engle ⁊ Dene to friþe ⁊ to freondscipe
agreed then when English and Danes to peace and to friendship
fullice fengon; ⁊ þa witan eac, þe syððan wæron, oft
fully took and the councilors also who afterward were often
⁊ unseldan þæt seolfe geniwodon ⁊ mid gode gehihtan.
and not-seldom the same renewed and with good increased
Prol., 1 Ðis ærest, þæt hig gecwædon, þæt hí ænne God lufian
This first that they declared that they one God love
woldon ⁊ ælcne hæþendom georne aworpen.
would and each heathendom eagerly cast-off
Prol., 2 ⁊ hig gesetton woruldlice stéora eac, for ðam þingum þe
and they established worldly penalties also for the things that
hig wistan, þæt hig elles ne mihton manegum gesteoran,
they knew that they otherwise not could many restrain
ne fela manna nolde to godcundre bote elles gebugan,
nor many men would to divine penance otherwise submit
swa hy sceolde; ⁊ þa woruldbote hig gesetton gemæne
as they should and the worldly-compensation they established common
Criste ⁊ cynge, swa hwár swa man nolde godcunde
to-Christ and to-king so where so one would-not divine
bote gebugan mid rihte to bisceopa dihte.
penance submit-to with right to of-bishops direction
1 ⁊ þæt is þonon ærest, þæt hig gecwædon, þæt cyricgrið
and that is then first that they declared that church-peace
binnan wagum ⁊ cyninges handgrið stande efne unwemme.
within walls and of-king hand-peace stand equally inviolate
2 ⁊ gif hwá Cristendom wyrde oððe hæþendom weorþige
and if any Christendom damage or heathendom honor
wordes oððe weorces, gylde swa wer swa wite swa lahslitte,
of-word or of-deed let-pay so wergild so fine so law-breach
be þam þe syo dæde sy.
by that which the deed be

⁊ gyf gehadod man gestalie oððe gefehte oððe forswerige 3
and if ordained man steal or fight or perjure
oððe forlicge, gebete þæt be þam [þe] seo dæde sy, swa be
or fornicate let-amend that by that which the deed be so by
were swa be wite swa be lahslitte, ⁊ for Gode huru bete,
wergild so by fine so by law-breach and before God at-least let-amend
swa canon tæce, ⁊ þæs borh finde oððe carcern gebuge.
as canon teach and of-that surety let-find or prison let-submit-to
⁊ gif mæssepreost folc miswyssige æt freolse oððe æt 3, 1
and if mass-priest people misdirect at festival or at
fæstene, gylde XXX scill' mid Englum ⁊ mid Denum
fast let-pay thirty shillings among English and among Danes
þreo healfmare.
three half-marks
Gif preost to rihtandagan crisman ne fecce, oððe fulluhtes 3, 2
If priest at right-day chrism not fetch or baptism
forwyrne þam þe þæs þearf sy, gylde wíte mid Englum
refuse to-him who of-it need be let-pay fine among English
⁊ mid Denum lahslit, þæt is twelf oran.
and among Danes law-breach that is twelve ores
⁊ æt syblegerum þa witan geræddan, þæt cyng ah þone uferan 4
and at incests the councilors decreed that king owns the upper
⁊ bisceop þone nyþeran, butan hit man gebete for Gode ⁊
and bishop the lower unless it one amend before God and
for worulde, be þam þe seo dæde sy, swa bisceop getæce.
before world by that which the deed be as bishop prescribe
Gif twegen gebroðra oððe twegen genyhe magas wið an 4, 1
If two brothers or two near kinsmen with one
wif forlicgan, beten swyþe georne, swa swa man geþafige,
woman fornicate let-amend very eagerly so as one allow
swa be wíte swa be lahslitte, be þam þe seo dæde sy.
so by fine so by law-breach by that which the deed be

4, 2 Gif gehadod man hine forwyrce mid deaþscylde, gewilde
If ordained man himself forfeit with capital-crime let-seize
hine man ⁊ healde to bisceopes dome.
him one and let-keep for of-bishop judgment
5 ⁊ gif deaþscyldig man scriftspræce gyrne, ne him man
and if death-guilty man confession desire not him one
næfre ne wyrne.
ever — refuse
5, 1 ⁊ ealle Godes gerihto forðige man georne be Godes mildse
and all of-God dues let-further one eagerly by of-God mercy
⁊ be þam wítan þe witan toledan.
and by the fines which councilors assigned
6 Gif hwa teoþunge forhealde, gylde lahslit mid Denum,
If any tithe withhold let-pay law-breach among Danes
wíte mid Englum.
fine among English
6, 1 Gif hwa Rómfeoh forhealde, gylde lahslit mid Denum,
If any Rome-money withhold let-pay law-breach among Danes
wíte mid Englum.
fine among English
6, 2 Gif hwa leohtgesceot ne gelæste, gylde lahslit mid Denum,
If any light-scot not perform let-pay law-breach among Danes
wíte mid Englum.
fine among English
6, 3 Gif hwa sulhælmyssan ne sylle, gylde lahslit mid Denum,
If any plow-alms not give let-pay law-breach among Danes
wíte mid Englum.
fine among English
6, 4 Gif hwá ænigra godcundra gerihto forwyrne, gylde lahslit
If any of-any divine dues refuse let-pay law-breach
mid Denum, wíte mid Englum.
among Danes fine among English

ȝ gif he wigie ȝ man gewundie, beo his weres scyldig. 6, 5
and if he fight and man wound let-be of-his wergild liable
Gif he man to deaþe gefylle, beo he þonne útlah, ȝ his 6, 6
If he man to death fell let-be he then outlaw and him
hente mid hearme ælc þara þe riht wille.
let-pursue with harm each of-those who right will
ȝ gif he gewyrce, þæt hine man afylle, þurh þæt hine 6, 7
and if he bring-about that him one fell through that him
man gean Godes ryht oððe þæs cynges geonbyrde, gif man
one against of-God right or of-the king resists if one
þæt gesoðige, licge ǽgylde.
that prove let-lie unpaid-for
Sunnandæges cypinge gif hwa agynne, þolie þæs ceapes ȝ 7
Of-Sunday trading if any begin let-forfeit the goods and
twelf orena mid Denum ȝ XXX scll' mid Englum.
twelve ores among Danes and thirty shillings among English
Gif frigman freolsdæge wyrce, þolie his freotes oððe gylde 7, 1
If freeman on-feast-day work let-forfeit his freedom or let-pay
wíte, lahslite. Ðeowman þolie his hyde oððe hydgyldes.
fine law-breach Slave-man let-forfeit his hide or hide-payment
Gif hlaford his þeowan freolsdæge nyde to weorce, gylde 7, 2
If lord his slave on-feast-day force to work let-pay
lahslitte inne on Deone lage ȝ wíte mid Englum.
law-breach within in of-Danes law and fine among English
Gif frigman rihtfæsten abrece, gylde wíte oððe lahslite. Gif 8
If freeman right-fast break let-pay fine or law-breach If
hit þeowman gedó, ðolie his hyde oððe hydgyldes.
it slave-man do let-forfeit his hide or hide-payment

9 Ordel ⁊ aðas syndan tocwedene freolsdagum ⁊
Ordeal and oaths are forbidden on-feast-days and
rihtfæstendagum; ⁊ se ðe þæt abrece, gylde lahslit mid
on-right-fast-days and he who that break let-pay law-breach among
Denum, wíte mid Englum.
Danes fine among English

9, 1 Gif man wealdan mage, ne dyde man næfre on
If one control can not let-execute one ever on
Sunnandæges freolse ænigne forwyrhtne, ac wylde ⁊ healde,
of-Sunday festival any condemned but let-seize and let-keep
þæt se freolsdæg agan sy.
that the feast-day passed be

10 Gif limlæweo lama, þe forworht wære, weorþe forlæten, ⁊
If maimed cripple who condemned were become abandoned and
he æfter þam ðreo niht alibbe, siððan man mot hylpan
he after that three nights survive afterward one may help
be bisceopes leafe, se ðe wylle beorgan sare ⁊ saule.
by of-bishop leave he who will tend sore and soul

11 Gif wiccan oððe wigleras, mansworan oððe morðwyrhtan
If witches or sorcerers perjurers or murderers
oððe fule, afylede, æbære horcwenan ahwar on lande wurðan
or foul defiled notorious whores anywhere in land become
agytene, ðonne fyse hi man of earde ⁊ clænsie þa
discovered then let-drive them one from country and let-cleanse the
ðeode, oððe on earde forfare hy mid ealle, buton hig
nation or in country let-destroy them with all unless they
geswican ⁊ þe deoppor gebetan.
cease and the deeper amend

12 Gif man gehadodne oððe ælðeodigne þurh enig ðing forræde
If one ordained or foreigner through any thing defraud
æt féo oððe æt feore, þonne sceal him cyng beon —
at property or at life then shall to-him king be

oððan eorl ðær on lande — ⁊ bisceop ðere þeode for
or earl there in land and bishop of-the nation for
mæg ⁊ for mundboran, buton he elles oðerne hæbbe;
kinsman and for protector unless he otherwise other have
⁊ bete man georne be ðam þe seo dæde sy Christe
and let-amend one eagerly by that which the deed be to-Christ
⁊ cyninge, swa hit gebyrige; oððe þa dæde wrece swiðe
and to-king as it befits or the deed let-avenge very
deope þe cyning sy on ðeode.
deeply who king be in nation

XIV · I EDWARD

Edward commands his reeves to judge rightly by the law-book and set each suit a day. Every man has a warrantor, and no one trades outside a town but before the town-reeve or other truthful witnesses, on pain of the king's fine. Ownership is proved by witness or oath; one who refuses justice pays thirty shillings, then 120; and a proven perjurer may go only to the ordeal.

Eadwerdes gerænesse. Inscr.
Of-Edward ordinance
Eadwerd cyning byt ðam gerefum eallum, ðæt ge deman Prol.
Edward king commands the reeves all that ye judge
swa rihte domas swa ge rihtoste cunnon, ⁊ hit on ðære
so right judgments as ye rightest know and it in the
dombec stande. Ne wandiað for nanum ðingum folcriht to
law-book stand Not hesitate for any things folk-right to
geregceanne; ⁊ ðæt gehwilc spræce habbe andagan, hwænne
declare and that each suit have term when
heo gelæst sy, þæt ge ðonne gereccan.
it fulfilled be that ye then declare

1 ȝ ic wille, ðæt gehwilc man hæbbe his geteaman; ȝ nan man
and I will that each man have his warrantor and no man
ne ceapige butan porte, ac hæbbe þæs portgerefan gewitnesse
— trade outside town but have of-the town-reeve witness
oððe oþera ungeligenra manna, ðe man· gelyfan mæge.
or of-other unlying men whom one believe can

1, 1 ȝ gif hwa butan porte ceapige, ðonne sy he cyninges
and if any outside town trade then let-be he of-king
oferhyrnesse scyldig; ȝ gange se team þeah forð, oð
disobedience liable and let-go the vouching nevertheless forth until
þæt man wite, hwær he oðstande.
that one know where it stops

1, 2 Eac we cwædon: se ðe tyman scolde, þæt he hæfde
Also we said he who vouch should that he had
ungeligene gewitnesse ðæs ðæt he hit on riht tymde, oððe
unlying witness of-that that he it in right vouched or
þone að funde, ðe se gelyfan mihte ðe onsprece.
the oath found which he believe could who claims

1, 3 Swa we cwædon be þære agnunge ðæt ylce, þæt he
So we said concerning the ownership the same that he
gelædde ungeligene gewitnesse ðæs, oððe ðone aþ funde, gif
produced unlying witness of-that or the oath found if
he mæhte, ungecorenne, ðe se onspeca on gehealden wære.
he could unchosen which the claimant in held were

1, 4 Gif he ðonne ne mehte, ðonne namede him man VI men on
If he then not could then named for-him one six men in
ðam ylcan geburhscipe, þe he on hamfæst wære, ȝ begete þara
the same district which he in resident were and obtained of-the
syxa ænne æt anum hryðere, oððe æt þam orfe þe ðæs weorð
six one at one ox or at the cattle which of-that worth
sy; ȝ syððan wexe be ðæs ceapes æhte, gif þær ma to scyle.
be and afterward increase by of-the cattle value if there more to must

Eac we cwædon: gif enig yfelra manna wære ðe wolde oðres 1, 5
Also we said if any of-evil men were who would of-other
yrfe to borge settan for wiðertihtlan, ðæt he gecyþe ðonne mid
cattle as surety set for counter-charge that he declare then with
aðe, ðæt he hit for nanum facne ne dyde, ac mid fulryhte butan
oath that he it for no fraud — did but with full-right without
brede ⁊ bigswice; ⁊ se dyde þonne swa ðer he dorste,
deceit and trickery and he did then so whichever he dared
ðe hit man ætfenge: swa he hit agnode swa he hit tymde.
whom it one attached so he it owned so he it vouched
Eac we cwædon, hwæs se wyrðe wære þe oðrum ryhtes 2
Also we said of-what he worthy were who to-other right
wyrnde aðor oððe on boclande oððe on folclande; ⁊ ðæt
refused either or in bookland or in folkland and that
he him geandágode of þam folclande, hwonne he
he for-him set-a-day concerning the folkland when he
him riht worhte beforan ðam gerefan.
for-him right did before the reeve
Gif he ðonne nan riht næfde ne on boclande ne on folclande, 2, 1
If he then no right had nor in bookland nor in folkland
þæt se wære þe rihtes wyrnde scyldig XXX scll' wið þone
that he were who right refused liable thirty shillings toward the
cyning, ⁊ æt oðrum cyrre eac swa, æt ðriddan cyrre cyninges
king and at second time also so at third time of-king
oferhyrnesse, ðæt is CXX scll., buton he ær geswice.
disobedience that is hundred-twenty shillings unless he before cease
Eac we cwædon be þam mannum ðe mánsworan wæran, 3
Also we said concerning the men who perjurers were
gif ðæt geswutelod wære, oððe him að burste oððe ofercyðed
if that revealed were or for-them oath failed or proven
wære, þæt hy siððan aðwyrðe næran, ac ordales wyrðe.
were that they afterward oath-worthy not-were but of-ordeal worthy

At Exeter Edward asks his councilors how the peace might be better kept. No man may refuse another justice, and a slack reeve pays the king's fine. A man accused of theft is taken on surety or kept for judgment; every landholder keeps men ready to guide those tracking stolen goods; harboring a fugitive is fined; no one takes another's man without leave; and the reeve holds an assembly every four weeks.

1 Eadweard cyning myngode his wytan, þa hy æt Exanceastre
Edward king exhorted his councilors when they at Exeter
wæron, þæt hy smeadon ealle, hu heora frið betere beon mæhte,
were that they considered all how their peace better be might
þonne hit ær ðam wæs; forðam him þuhte, þæt hit mæctor
than it before that was because to-him seemed that it more-weakly
gelæst wære, þonne hit scolde, þæt he ær beboden hæfde.
fulfilled were than it should what he before commanded had

1, 1 He agsode hy þa, hwa to ðære bote cyrran wolde ⁊ on ðære
He asked them then who to the amends turn would and in the
geferræddenne beon ðe he wære, ⁊ þæt lufian ðæt he lufode,
fellowship be which he were and that love that he loved
⁊ ðæt ascunian ðæt he ascunode, ægðer ge on sæ ge on lande.
and that shun that he shunned each both on sea and on land

1, 2 Ðæt is ðonne, ðæt nan man oðrum ryhtes ne wyrne.
That is then that no man to-other right — refuse

1, 3 Gif hit hwa dó, bete swa hit beforan awriten is: æt
If it any do let-amend as it before written is at
forman cyrre XXX scll. ⁊ æt oðran cyrre ealswa ⁊ æt
first time thirty shillings and at second time likewise and at
þriddan mid CXX scll. ðam cyninge.
third with hundred-twenty shillings to-the king

ȝ gif hit se gerefa ne amanige mid rihte on ðara manna 2
and if it the reeve not exact with right in of-the men
gewitnesse, ðe him to gewitnesse getealde syndon, þonne
witness who to-him as witness assigned are then
bete mine oferhyrnesse mid CXX scll'.
let-amend my disobedience with hundred-twenty shillings
Gif hwa ðifþe betógen sy, þonne niman hine on borh ða 3
If any of-theft accused be then let-take him in surety those
þe hine hlaforde befæston, þæt he hine þæs getrywsige;
who him to-lord commended that he himself of-that clear
oððe oþere frynd, gif he hæbbe, don þæt sylfe.
or other friends if he have let-do the same
Gif he nyte, hwa hine on borh nime, þonne niman þa 3, 1
If he knows-not who him in surety take then let-take those
ðe hit togebyreð on his æhtan inborh.
whom it befits on his possessions security
Gif he naðor næbbe ne æhta ne oðerne borh, ðonne 3, 2
If he neither have nor possessions nor other surety then
healde hine man to dome.
let-keep him one for judgment
Eac ic wylle, þæt ælc man hæbbe symle þa men gearowe 4
Also I will that each man have ever the men ready
on his lande, ðe lǽden ða men ðe heora ágen secan
on his land who lead the men who their own seek
willen, ȝ hy for nanum medsceattum ne werian, ne fúl
will and they for no bribes — protect nor foul
náwar friðian ne feormian willes ne gewealdes.
anywhere shelter nor harbor willingly nor deliberately
Gif hwa ðis oferhebbe ȝ his að ȝ his wæd brece, ðe 5
If any this neglect and his oath and his pledge break which
eal ðeod geseald hæfð, bete swa dómboc tæce.
all nation given has let-amend as law-book teach

5, 1 Gif he ðonne nelle, ðolige ure ealra freonscipes ⁊ ealles
If he then will-not let-forfeit of-us all friendship and all
ðæs ðe he age.
that which he owns

5, 2 Gif hine hwa feormige syððan, bete swa seo domboc
If him any harbor afterward let-amend as the law-book
sæcge, ⁊ se scyle ðe flyman feormige, gif hit sy herinne;
say and he shall who fugitive harbors if it be herein
gif hit sy east inne, gif hit sy norð inne, bete be ðam
if it be east within if it be north within let-amend by that
þe þa friðgehwritu sæcgan.
which the peace-writings say

6 Gif hwa þurh stæltihtlan freot forwyrce ⁊ his hand on
If any through theft-charge freedom forfeit and his hand in
hand sylle, ⁊ hine his magas forlætan, ⁊ he nyte, hwa
hand give and him his kinsmen abandon and he knows-not who
him forebete, ðonne sy he ðæs ðeowweorces wyrðe,
for-him pay-compensation then let-be he of-the servile-work worthy
ðe ðærto gebyrige; ⁊ oðfealle se wer ðam magum.
which thereto belongs and let-fall-away the wergild from-the kinsmen

7 Ne underfó nan man oðres mannes man butan þæs leafe
Not let-receive any man of-other man man without of-him leave
ðe he ær fyligde, ⁊ hær he syl laðleas wið ælce hand.
whom he before followed and before he be guiltless toward each hand
Gif hit hwa dó, bete mine oferhyrnesse.
If it any do let-amend my disobedience

8 Ic wille, þæt ælc gerefa hæbbe gemot á ymbe feower
I will that each reeve have assembly ever about four
wucan; ⁊ gedon, ðæt ælc man sy folcrihtes wyrðe, ⁊ ðæt
weeks and bring-about that each man be of-folk-right worthy and that

ælc spræc hæbbe ende ȝ andagan, hwænne hit forðcume.
each suit have end and term when it come-forth
Gif hit hwa oferhebbe, bete swa we ær cwædon.
If it any neglect let-amend as we before said

XVI · I ÆTHELSTAN

Æthelstan, with Archbishop Wulfhelm and his bishops, commands his reeves to pay the tithe from his own goods first, of cattle and the year's crops, and the bishops, ealdormen, and reeves to do the same. Jacob and Moses are cited, and the warning that God takes the nine parts from those who withhold the tenth. Church-scot, soul-scot, and plow-alms go to their places, and the king wants nothing got for him by wrong.

Æðelstanes cinyncges gerædnes. Inscr.
Of-Æthelstan king ordinance
Æðelstan cyningc, mid geþeahte Wulfhelm arcebiscop ȝ Prol.
Æthelstan king with counsel of-Wulfhelm archbishop and
eac minra oðera biscopa, cyð ðam gerefan to hwilcere
also of-my other bishops makes-known to-the reeve in each
birig ȝ eow bidde on Godes naman ȝ on eallum his
borough and you pray in of-God name and in all of-his
haligra ȝ eac be minum freondscipe, þæt ge ærest of
saints and also by my friendship that ye first from
minum agenum gode agifan ða teoðunga, ægðer ge on
my own goods give the tithes each both in
cwicum ceape ge on ðæs geares eorðwæstmum, swa man
living cattle and in of-the year earth-fruits as one
rihtost mage oððe gemetan oððe getellan oððe awegan; ȝ
rightest can or measure or count or weigh and

þa biscopas þonne þæt ilce don on heora agenum gode,
the bishops then the same do in their own goods
ȝ mine ealdormen ȝ mine gerefan þæt silfe.
and my ealdormen and my reeves the same
1 ȝ ic wille, þæt biscopas ȝ þa gerefan hit beodan eallum þam
and I will that bishops and the reeves it command all those
þe him hiran sculon, þæt hit to ðam rihtan andagan gelæst sy.
who them obey must that it at the right term performed be
2 Uton geþencan, hu Iacob cwæð se heahfæder: 'Decimas et
Let-us consider how Jacob said the patriarch Tenths and
hostias pacificas offeram tibi'; and hu Moyses cwæð on Godes
offerings peaceful I-will-offer to-thee and how Moses said in of-God
lage: 'Decimas et primitias non tardabis offerre Domino'.
law Tenths and first-fruits not thou-shalt-delay to-offer to-Lord
3 Us is to ðencanne, hu ondrislic hit on bocum gecweden
To-us is to consider how dreadful it in books said
is: 'Gif we þa teoðunga Gode gelæstan nellað, þæt he
is If we the tithes to-God perform will-not that he
us benimað þara nigon dæla, þonne we læst wenað, ȝ
from-us takes the nine parts when we least expect and
eac we habbað þa synne to eacan'.
also we have the sin in addition
4 ȝ ic wille eac, þæt mine gerefan gedon, þæt man agife þa
and I will also that my reeves bring-about that one give the
ciricsceattas ȝ þa sawlsceattas to ðam stowum þe hit mid
church-scots and the soul-scots to the places which it with
rihte togebirige ȝ sulhælmessan on geare, on ða gerad þæt
right belongs-to and plow-alms in year on the condition that
þa his brucan æt ðam haligum stowum, þe heora cirican
those it enjoy at the holy places who their churches

began willað ⁊ to Gode ⁊ to me gééarnian willað. Se
attend will and to God and to me earn will He
þe þonne nelle, þolige þare are oððe eft to rihte gecirre.
who then will-not let-forfeit the benefice or again to right let-turn
Nu ge gehirað, cwæð se cyngc, hwæs ic Gode ann, ⁊ hwæt ge 5
Now ye hear said the king what I to-God grant and what ye
gelæstan sculon be mynre ofer[hy]rnesse. ⁊ gedoð eac, þæt
perform must by my disobedience and bring-about also that
ge me geunnon mines agenes, þe ge me mid rihte gestrinan
ye to-me grant my own which ye for-me with right acquire
magon. Nelle ic, þæt ge me mid unrihte ahwar aht gestrynan;
can Will-not I that ye for-me with wrong anywhere aught acquire
ac ic wille eowres geunnan eow rihtlice, on þa gerad þe ge
but I will yours grant to-you rightly on the condition that ye
me geunnan mines; ⁊ beorgað ægðer ge eow ge þam þe
to-me grant mine and protect each both yourselves and those whom
ge mingian sculon wið Godes irre ⁊ wið mine oferhirnesse.
ye admonish must against of-God anger and against my disobedience

XVII · ÆTHELSTAN'S ORDINANCE ON CHARITIES

For the forgiveness of his sins Æthelstan commands his reeves to feed one poor Englishman from every two of his farms, with a measure of meal and a shank of bacon or a ram each month and clothing for the year, and to free one penal slave, all under the bishop's witness. A reeve who neglects it pays thirty shillings, which are divided among the poor of that estate.

Ic Æþelstane cyning eallum minum gerefum binnon mine Prol.
I Æthelstan king to-all my reeves within my
rice gecyþe, mid geþeahte Wulfhelmes mines ærcebisceopes
kingdom make-known with counsel of-Wulfhelm my archbishop

ȝ ealra mina oþra bisceopa ȝ Godes ðeowa, for mina
and of-all my other bishops and of-God servants for of-my
sinna forgyfenesse, þæt ic wille, þæt ge fedaþ ealle wæga án
sins forgiveness that I will that ye feed all ways one
earm Engliscmon, gif ge him habbaþ, oþþe oþerne gefindaþ.
poor Englishman if ye him have or other find
1 Fram twam minra feorma agyfe mon hine elce monaþ ane ambra
From two of-my farms let-give one him each month one amber
meles ȝ án sconc spices oþþe án rám weorþe IIII peningas ȝ
of-meal and one shank of-bacon or one ram worth four pennies and
scrud for twelf monþa ælc gear. ȝ þæt ge alysaþ an witeðeowne.
clothing for twelve months each year and that ye redeem one penal-slave
ȝ ðæs ealle sie gedón for Drihtenesse mildheortnesse ȝ
and of-this all let-be done for of-Lord mercy and
mine lufu under þæs bisceopes gewitnesse, on ðæs rice it sie.
my love under of-the bishop witness in whose diocese it be
2 ȝ gif se gereafa ðis oferheald, gebete XXX scill., ȝ sie
and if the reeve this neglect let-amend thirty shillings and let-be
þæt feoh gedæled ðæm ðearfum ðe on ða tun synd, ðe
the money divided to-the poor who in the estate are where
ðis ungefremed wunie, on ðæs bisceopes gewitnesse.
this unperformed remains in of-the bishop witness

At the great synod of Grately Æthelstan's council orders that no thief over twelve, caught with more than eightpence, be spared. Lordless men must find a lord; treachery, witchcraft, and arson go to the threefold ordeal; goods over twenty pence are bought only in a town; and one coinage runs through the realm.

Æþelstanes gerænesse. Inscr.

Of-Æthelstan ordinance

Ærest þæt mon ne sparige nænne þeof þe æt hæbbendre 1

First that one not spare any thief who at having

honda gefongen sy, ofer XII winter ⁊ ofer eahta peningas.

hand seized be over twelve winters and over eight pennies

⁊ gif hit hwa do, forgylde ðone þeof be his were — ⁊ ne beo 1, 1

and if it any do let-pay-for the thief by his wergild and not let-be

þam þeofe no ðe geþingodre — oþþe hine be þ[am] geladie.

to-the thief — the better-settled or himself by that let-clear

Gif he hine þonne werian wille oððe oðfleo, ðonne ne 1, 2

If he himself then defend will or flee then not

sparige hine mon.

let-spare him one

Gif mon ðeof on carcerne gebringe, ðæt he beo XL nihta 1, 3

If one thief in prison bring that he be forty nights

on carcerne, ⁊ hine mon ðonne lyse út mid CXX

in prison and him one then redeem out with hundred-twenty

scll'; ⁊ ga sio mægþ him on borh, ðæt he æfre geswice.

shillings and let-go the kindred for-him into surety that he ever cease

⁊ gif he ofer ðæt stalige, forgildon hy hine be his were 1, 4

and if he after that steal let-pay-for they him by his wergild

oþþe hine eft ðær inne gebringan.

or him again there in let-bring

1, 5 ⁊ gif hine hwa forstonde, forgilde hine be his were,
and if him any defend let-pay-for him by his wergild
swa þam cyninge swa ðam ðe hit mid ryhte togebyrige;
so to-the king so to-him whom it with right belongs-to
⁊ ælc man ðara ðe þær midstande gesylle ðam cyninge
and each man of-those who there stands-with let-give to-the king
CXX scll' to wite.
hundred-twenty shillings as fine

2 Ond we cwædon be þam hlafordleasan mannum, ðe
And we said concerning the lordless men from-whom
mon nán ryht ætbegytan ne mæg, þæt mon beode ðære
one no right obtain — can that one command the
mægþe, ðæt hi hine to folcryhte gehamette ⁊ him
kindred that they him to folk-right domicile and for-him
hlaford finden on folcgemote.
lord find at folk-assembly

2, 1 ⁊ gif hi hine ðonne begytan nyllen oððe ne mægen
and if they him then get will-not or not can
to þam andagan, ðonne beo he syþþan flyma, ⁊ hine
by the term then let-be he afterward fugitive and him
lecge for ðeof se þe him tocume.
let-strike-down for thief he who to-him comes

2, 2 ⁊ se ðe hine ofer ðæt feormige, forgylde hine be his
and he who him after that harbor let-pay-for him by his
were oþþe he hine be ðam ladige.
wergild or he himself by that let-clear

3 Be ryhtes wærnunge. Se hlaford se ryhtes wyrne ond
Concerning of-justice refusal The lord who justice refuse and
for his yfelan mon licge: ⁊ mon ðone cing foresece,
for his evil man intercede and one the king approach
forgilde þæt ceapgild ⁊ gesylle þam cynge CXX
let-repay the goods-payment and let-give to-the king hundred-twenty

scll'. ⁊ se ðe ðone cyng sece, ær he him ryhtes bidde
shillings and he who the king approach before he him for-justice ask
swa oft swa him togebyrie, gilde ðæt ilce wite þe se
so often as him befits let-pay the same fine which the
oþer sceolde, gif he him ryhtes wyrnde.
other should if he him justice refused
⁊ se hlaford þe his ðeowan æt þyfþe gewita sy, ⁊ hit him 3, 1
and the lord who of-his slave in theft accessory be and it to-him
on open wurðe, ðolige ðæs þeowan ⁊ beo his weres scyldig æt
in open become let-forfeit the slave and let-be of-his wergild liable at
frumcyrre; gif he hit oftor dó, beo he ealles scyldig þæs he age.
first-time if he it oftener do let-be he of-all liable that he owns
⁊ eac swilce cynges hordera oððe ure gerefena, swilc ðære 3, 2
and also likewise of-king treasurer or of-our reeves such of-the
ðeofa gewita wære ðe staledon, beo he be ðam ilcan.
thieves accessory were who stole let-be he by the same
Be hlafordsearwum. Ond we cwædon be hlafordsearwe, 4
Concerning lord-treacheries And we said concerning lord-treachery
ðæt he beo his feores scyldig, gif he his ætsacan ne mihte
that he be of-his life liable if he it deny not could
oþþe eft on þam þrimfealdum ordale ful wære.
or again in the threefold ordeal foul were
⁊ we cwædon be ciricbryce: gif he ful wære on ðam 5
and we said concerning church-breach if he foul were in the
ðryfealdan ordale, bete be þam þe sio dómboc secge.
threefold ordeal let-amend by that which the law-book say
Be wiccecræftum. Ond we cwædon be þam 6
Concerning witchcrafts And we said concerning the
wiccecræftum ⁊ be liblacum ⁊ be morðdædum,
witchcrafts and concerning sorceries and concerning murder-deeds

gif mon þær acweald wære, ⁊ he his ætsacan ne mihte,
if man thereby killed were and he it deny not could
þæt he beo his feores scyldig.
that he be of-his life liable

6, 1 Gif he þonne ætsacan wille ⁊ on ðam þrimfealdum ordale
If he then deny will and in the threefold ordeal
fúl weorðe, þæt he beo CXX nihta on carcerne; ⁊
foul become that he be hundred-twenty nights in prison and
nimen þa magas hine siððan ut ⁊ gesyllan þam cynge
let-take the kinsmen him afterward out and let-give to-the king
CXX scll' ⁊ forgildon ðone wer his magum ⁊
hundred-twenty shillings and let-repay the wergild to-his kinsmen and
gongon him on borh, ðæt he æfre swylces geswice.
let-go for-him into surety that he ever such cease

6, 2 Be blæserum. Ða blysieras ond þa ðe ðeof wrecen,
Concerning incendiaries The incendiaries and those who thief avenge
beon þæs ilcan ryhtes wyrðe.
let-be of-the same right worthy

6, 3 ⁊ se þe ðeof wrecan wille ⁊ nanne mon ne gewundige,
and he who thief avenge will and no man — wound
gesylle þam cyninge CXX scll' (to wite) for ðan
let-give to-the king hundred-twenty shillings as fine for the
æhlype.
assault

7 ⁊ we cwædon be ðam anfealdum ordale æt þam
and we said concerning the single ordeal for the
monnum þe oft betihtlede wæron: ⁊ hy fule wurdon ⁊
men who often accused were and they foul became and
hy niten, hwa hy on borh nime, gebringe man hy on
they know-not who them in surety take let-bring one them into
carcerne ⁊ man hy don út, swa hit her beforan cweden is.
prison and one them let-take out as it here before said is

Be landleasum mannum. Ond we cwædon, gif hwylc 8
Concerning landless men And we said if any
londleas mon folgode on oþre scire ⁊ eft his mægas
landless man served in other shire and again his kinsmen
gesece, þæt he hine on þa gerad feormige, ðæt he hine
seek that he him on the condition harbor that he him
to folcryhte læde, gif he þær gylt gewyrce, oþþe forebete.
to folk-right lead if he there offense commit or amend-for
Be yrfes ætfenge. Se ðe yrfe befó, nemne him mon 9
Concerning of-cattle attachment He who cattle attach let-name for-him one
V men his neahgebura, ⁊ begite ðara V: I, ðæt him
five men of-his neighbors and let-get of-the five one that with-him
midswerige, þæt he hit on folcryht him toteo; ⁊ se
swear that he it by folk-right to-himself claims and he
þe hit him geagnian wille, nemne him mon X men,
who it for-himself prove-own will let-name for-him one ten men
⁊ begite þara twegen ⁊ sylle þone að, þæt hit on his
and let-get of-them two and let-give the oath that it in his
æhte geboren wære, buton þam rimaðe; ⁊ stonde þes
possession born were without the counted-oath and let-stand this
cyreoþ ofer XX penega.
chosen-oath over twenty pennies
Be hwearfe. ⁊ nan mon ne hwyrfe nanes yrfes 10
Concerning exchange and no man — let-exchange any cattle
buton ðæs gerefan gewitnesse oððe þæs mæssepreostes oððe
without of-the reeve witness or of-the mass-priest or
þæs londhlafordes oþþe þæs horderes oððe oþres ungelygnes
of-the landlord or of-the treasurer or of-other unlying
monnes. Gif hit hwa dó, gesylle XXX scll' to wite, ⁊
man If it any do let-give thirty shillings as fine and
fó se londhlaford to þam hwearfe.
let-take the landlord to the exchange

10, 1 Be wore gewitnesse. Gif mon þonne afinde, þæt heora
Concerning false witness If one then find that of-them
ænig on wore gewitnesse wære, þæt næfre his gewitnes eft
any in false witness were that never his witness again
noht ne forstonde; ⁊ eac gesylle XXX scll' to wite.
aught — avail and also let-give thirty shillings as fine

11 Ond we cwædon: se ðe scyldunga bæde æt ofslagenum þeofe,
And we said he who exculpation asked for slain thief
ðæt he eode ðreora sum to, twegen on fæderanmaga ⁊ þridda
that he went of-three one to two on paternal-kin and third
on medren, ⁊ þone aþ syllen, ðæt hy on heora mæge nane
on maternal and the oath give that they in their kinsman no
þyfðe nysten, ðæt he his feores wyrðe nære for ðon gilte;
theft knew that he of-his life worthy not-were for that offense
⁊ hy gán siððan XII sume ⁊ gescyldigen hine, swa hit ær
and they go afterward twelve some and prove-guilty him as it before
gecweden wæs; ⁊ gif ðæs deadan mægas ðider cuman noldon
said was and if of-the dead kinsmen thither come would-not
to ðam andagan, gilde ælc ðe hit ær sprece CXX scll'.
at the term let-pay each who it before spoke hundred-twenty shillings

12 Ond we cwædon, þæt mon nænne ceap ne geceapige buton
And we said that one no goods — buy outside
porte ofer XX penega; ac ceapige ðær binnon on þæs
town over twenty pennies but let-buy there within in of-the
portgerefan gewitnesse oððe on oþres unlygnes monnes,
town-reeve witness or in of-other unlying man
oððe eft on þara gerefena gewitnesse on folcgemote.
or again in of-the reeves witness at folk-assembly

13 Ond we cweðaþ, ðæt ælc burh sy gebet XIIII niht ofer
And we say that each borough be repaired fourteen nights after
gongdagas.
Rogation-days

Oþer: þæt ælc ceaping sy binnon port. 13, 1

Second that each trading be within town

Be myneterum. Þridda: þæt an mynet sy ofer eall ðæs 14

Concerning moneyers Third that one coinage be over all of-the

cynges onweald; ⁊ nan mon ne mynetige buton (on) port.

king dominion and no man — mint except in town

⁊ gif se mynetere fúl wurðe, slea mon of þa hond, ðe he 14, 1

and if the moneyer foul become let-strike one off the hand which he

ðæt fúl mid worhte, ⁊ sette up on ða mynetsmiððan; ⁊

the foul-deed with did and let-set up on the mint-smithy and

gif hit þonne tyhtle sy, ⁊ he hine ladian wille, ðonne ga

if it then accusation be and he himself clear will then let-go

he to þam hatum isene ⁊ ladige þa hond, mid ðe mon

he to the hot iron and let-clear the hand with which one

tyhð, ðæt he þæt facen mid worhte; ⁊ gif he on þam ordale

accuses that he the fraud with did and if he in the ordeal

ful wurðe, dó mon þæt ilce, swa hit ær beforan cwæð.

foul become let-do one the same as it before above said

On Cantwarabyrig VII myneteras: IIII ðæs cynges ⁊ II 14, 2

In Canterbury seven moneyers four of-the king and two

(þæs) biscopes, I ðæs abbodes; to Hrofeceastre: II cynges

of-the bishop one of-the abbot at Rochester two of-king

⁊ I (þæs) biscopes; to Lundenbyrig VIII; to Wintaceastre

and one of-the bishop at London eight at Winchester

VI; to Læwe II; to Hæstingaceastre I; oþer to Cisseceastre;

six at Lewes two at Hastings one other at Chichester

to Hamtune II; to Wærham II; to Execeastre II; to

at Southampton two at Wareham two at Exeter two at

Sceaftesbyrig II; elles to þam oþrum burgum I.

Shaftesbury two else at the other boroughs one

15 Feorðe: þæt nan scyldwyrhta ne lecge nan scepes fel on
Fourth that no shield-maker — lay any of-sheep skin on
scyld; ȝ gif he hit dó, gilde XXX scll'.
shield and if he it do let-pay thirty shillings
16 Fifte: ðæt ælc mon hæbbe æt þære syhl II gehorsede men.
Fifth that each man have at the plow two horsed men
17 Syxte: Gif hwa æt þeofe medsceat nime ȝ oþres ryht
Sixth If any from thief bribe take and of-other right
afylle, beo (he) his weres scyldig.
quash let-be he of-his wergild liable
18 Seofoðe: þæt nan mon ne sylle nan hors ofer sǽ, buton
Seventh that no man — sell any horse over sea unless
he hit gifan wille.
he it give will
19 Ond we cwædon be þeowan men, gif he fúl wurþe
And we said concerning slave man if he foul become
æt þam ordale, þæt mon gulde þæt ceapgild ȝ swinge
at the ordeal that one paid the goods-payment and let-scourge
hine (man) ðriwa oððe þæt oþer gild sealde; ȝ sy þæt
him one thrice or the second payment gave and let-be the
wite be healfum wurðe æt þam ðeowum.
fine by half worth for the slaves
20 Gif hwa gemot forsitte þriwa, gilde ðæs cynges oferhyrnesse;
If any assembly neglect thrice let-pay of-the king disobedience
ȝ hit beo seofon nihtum ær geboden, ær ðæt gemot sy.
and it let-be seven nights before announced before the assembly be
20, 1 Gif he þonne ryht wyrcan nylle ne þa oferhyrnesse syllan,
If he then right do will-not nor the disobedience give
þonne ridan þa yldestan men to, ealle þe to þære byrig
then let-ride the eldest men to all who to the borough
hiron, ȝ nímon eall ðæt he age ȝ setton hine on borh.
belong and let-take all that he owns and let-set him in surety

Gif hwa þonne nylle ridan mid his geferan, gilde cynges 20, 2
If any then will-not ride with his companions let-pay of-king
oferhyrnesse.
disobedience
Ond beode mon on þam gemote, ðæt mon eal friþige, 20, 3
And let-proclaim one at the assembly that one all protect
þæt se cyng friþian wille; ⁊ forgá þyfðe be his feore
that the king protect will and let-forgo theft by his life
⁊ be eallum þam þe he age.
and by all that which he owns
⁊ se þe be witum geswican nylle, ðonne ridon þa yldestan 20, 4
and he who by fines cease will-not then let-ride the eldest
men to, ealle þe to þære byrig hyron, ⁊ nimon eall ðæt
men to all who to the borough belong and let-take all that
he age — ⁊ fó se cyng to healfum, to healfum ða
he owns and let-take the king to half to half the
men ðe on þære rade beon — ⁊ setton hine on borh.
men who on the riding be and let-set him in surety
Gif he nite, hwa hine aborgie, hæfton hine. 20, 5
If he knows-not who him go-surety-for let-keep him
Gif he nylle hit geþafian, leton hine licgan, buton he 20, 6
If he will-not it allow let-leave him lie unless he
oþwinde.
escape
Gif hwa hine wrecan wille oððe hine fælæce, þonne beo 20, 7
If any him avenge will or him feud-pursue then let-be
he fah wið ðone cyng ⁊ wið ealle his freond.
he foe toward the king and toward all his friends

20, 8 Gif he ætwinde, ȝ hine hwa feormige, sy he his weres
If he escape and him any harbor let-be he of-his wergild
scyldig, buton he hine ladian durre be þæs flyman were,
liable unless he himself clear dare by of-the fugitive wergild
þæt he hine flyman nyste.
that he him fugitive knew-not

21 Gif hwa þingie for ordal, ðingie on ðam ceapgilde þæt
If any compound for ordeal let-compound in the goods-payment what
he mæge, ȝ noht on ðam wite, buton hit se gifan wille
he can and naught in the fine unless it he give will
þe hit togebyrige.
whom it belongs-to

22 ȝ ne underfó nan mon oþres monnes mon, buton his
and not let-receive any man of-other man man without his
leafe þe he ær folgode.
leave whom he before followed

22, 1 Gif hit hwa dó, agife þone mon ȝ bete cynges
If it any do let-give-back the man and let-amend of-king
oferhyrnesse.
disobedience

22, 2 ȝ non mon ne tæce his getihtledan mon from him,
and no man — let-dismiss his accused man from him
ær he hæbbe ryht geworht.
before he have right done

23 Gif hwa ordales weddige, ðonne cume he þrim nihtum ær to
If any ordeal pledge then let-come he three nights before to
þam mæssepreoste þe hit halgian scyle, ond fede hine sylfne
the mass-priest who it hallow must and let-feed him self
mid hlafe ȝ mid wætre ȝ sealte ȝ wyrtum, ær he togan
with bread and with water and salt and herbs before he go-to
scyle, ȝ gestonde him mæssan þæra þreora daga ælcne,
must and let-attend for-him mass of-the three days each

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offrige to ꝗ gá to husle ðy dæge þe he to ðam
and let-offer to and let-go to communion on-the day which he to the
ordale gan scyle, ꝗ swerige ðonne þone að, þæt he sy mid
ordeal go must and let-swear then the oath that he be by
folcryhte unscyldig ðære tihtlan, ær he to þam ordale gá.
folk-right guiltless of-the charge before he to the ordeal go
ꝗ gif hit sy wæter, ðæt he gedufe oþre healfe elne on þam rape; 23, 1
and if it be water that he sink second half ell on the rope
gif hit sy ysenordal, beon ðreo niht, ær mon þa hond undó.
if it be iron-ordeal let-be three nights before one the hand unbind
ꝗ ofga ælc mon his tihtlan mid foreaðe, swa we ær 23, 2
and let-pursue each man his charge with fore-oath as we before
cwædon; ꝗ beo þæra ælc fæstende on ægþera hond se
said and let-be of-those each fasting on either hand who
ðær mid sy, (on) Godes bebode ꝗ ðæs ærcebiscopes; ꝗ ne
there with be by of-God command and of-the archbishop and not
beo ðær on naþre healf (na) ma monna þonne XII. Gif se
let-be there on either side — more of-men than twelve If the
getihtloda mon ðonne maran werude beo þonne twelfa sum,
accused man then with-greater company be than of-twelve one
þonne beo þæt ordal forod, buton hy him from gan willon.
then let-be the ordeal void unless they from-him away go will
Ond se þe yrfe bycge on gewitnesse ꝗ hit eft tymon 24
And he who cattle buy in witness and it again vouch
scyle, þonne onfó se his þe he hit ǽr ætbohte,
must then let-receive he it from-whom he it before bought
beo he swa freoh swa ðeow, swa hweðer he sy.
let-be he so free so slave so whichever he be
ꝗ ðæt nan cyping ne sy Sunnondagum; gif hit ðonne hwa 24, 1
and that no trading — be on-Sundays if it then any
dó, þolige ðæs ceapes ꝗ gesylle XXX scll’ (to wite).
do let-forfeit the goods and let-give thirty shillings as fine

25 Gif minra gerefena hwylc (þonne) þis don nylle �sl læs
If of-my reeves any then this do will-not and less
ymbe beo þonne we gecweden habbað, þonne gylde he
concerned be than we said have then let-pay he
mine oferhyrnesse; �sl ic finde oþerne ðe wile.
my disobedience and I find other who will

25, 1 Ond se biscop amonige þa oferhyrnesse æt þam gerefan,
And the bishop let-exact the disobedience from the reeve
þe hit on his folgoþe sy.
who it in his district be

25, 2 Se ðe of ðissa gerædnesse gá, gilde æt frumcirre V pund,
He who from these ordinance go let-pay at first-time five pounds
æt oþrum cirre his wer, æt þriddan cirre ðolige ealles þæs
at second time his wergild at third time let-forfeit all that
(þe) he age �sl ure ealra freondscipes.
which he owns and of-us all friendship

26 Ond se ðe manað swerige, �sl hit him on open wurþe, ðæt
And he who false-oath swear and it to-him in open become that
he næfre eft aðwyrþe ne sy, ne binnon nanum gehalgodum
he never again oath-worthy — be nor within any hallowed
lictune ne licge, þeah he forðfore, buton he hæbbe ðæs
cemetery — lie though he die unless he have of-the
biscopes gewitnesse, ðe he on his scriftscire sy, þæt he
bishop witness whom he in his confession-district be that he
hit swa gebet hæbbe, swa him his scrift scrife.
it so amended have as to-him his confessor prescribe

26, 1 �sl his scrift hit gecyþe þam biscope binnon XXX
and his confessor it let-make-known to-the bishop within thirty
nihta, hweþer he to þære bote cirran wolde. Gif he swa
nights whether he to the amends turn would If he so
ne dó, bete be þam þe se biscop him forgifan wille.
not do let-amend by that which the bishop to-him grant will

Ealle ðis wæs gesetted on ðam miclan synoþ æt Greatanleage; Epil.
All this was established at the great synod at Grately
on þam wæs se ærcebisceop Wulfhelme mid eallum þæm
at which was the archbishop Wulfhelm with all the
æþelum mannum ⁊ wiotan, ðe Æþelstan cyning gegadrian.
noble men and councilors whom Æthelstan king gather

XIX · V ÆTHELSTAN

Finding the Grately peace badly kept, Æthelstan rules at Exeter that offenders go with their households wherever he wills, never to return, and whoever harbors them forfeits life and goods. A man who takes in another's man dismissed for misconduct pays the former lord and the king; bribed reeves and thanes pay the king's fine; trustworthy witnesses are named in each district; and each minster sings for the king on Fridays.

Æðelstan cyng cyþ: þæt ic hæbbe geahsod, þæt ure frið Prol.
Æthelstan king makes-known that I have learned that our peace
is wyrs gehealden, ðonne me lyste oþþe hit æt Greatanlea
is worse kept than to-me pleases or it at Grately
gecweden wære; ⁊ mina witan secgað, þæt ic hit to
declared were and my councilors say that I it too
lange forboren hæbbe.
long endured have
Nu hæbbe ic funden mid ðæm witum, þe mid me wæron æt Prol., 1
Now have I devised with the councilors who with me were at
Eaxanceastre to middanwintre, ðæt þa ealle beon gearwe mid
Exeter at midwinter that they all be ready with
him silfum ⁊ mid wife ⁊ mid ærfe ⁊ mid eallum þingum
them selves and with wife and with property and with all things

to farenne ðider ic wille — buton hy ofer þis geswican
to go whither I will unless they after this cease
willan—, on þa gerad þæt hy næfre eft on eard ne cuman.
will on the condition that they never again into country — come
Prol., 2 ⁊ gif heo man æfre eft on earde gemete, ðæt hy sýn
and if them one ever again in country find that they be
swa scyldige, swa se ðe æt hæbbendre handa gefongen sy.
so guilty as he who at having hand seized be
Prol., 3 ⁊ se þe hy feormige oþþe hyra manna ænigne, oððe
and he who them harbor or of-their men any or
ænigne man tosænde, sy he scyldig his sylfes ⁊ ealles
any man send-to let-be he liable of-his self and of-all
þæs (þe) he age: ðæt is ðonne forþon ðe ða aþas ⁊ þa
that which he owns that is then because that the oaths and the
wedd ⁊ þa borgas synt ealle oferhafene ⁊ abrocene, ðe
pledges and the sureties are all disregarded and broken which
þær gesealde wæron. ⁊ we nytan nanum oþrum þingum
there given were and we know-not any other things
to getruwianne, butan hit ðis sy.
to trust unless it this be
1 ⁊ se ðe oþres monnes man underfó, ðe he for his yfele him
and he who of-other man man receive whom be for his evil him
from ðó, ⁊ him getruwian ne mæge his yfeles, gylde hine
from drive and him trust not can of-his evil let-pay-for him
ðæm þe he ær folgode, ⁊ gesylle þam cynge CXX scll.
to-him whom he before followed and let-give to-the king hundred-twenty shillings
1, 1 Gif se hlaford þonne wille ðone man mid wo(h) fordon,
If the lord then will the man with wrong destroy
berecce hine þonne, gif he mage, on folcgemote; ⁊ gif he
let-clear himself then if he can at folk-assembly and if he
ladleas beo, sece swylcne hlaford on þa gewitnesse swylcne
cleared be let-seek such lord in the witness as

he wille; forðy þe ic an, ðæt ælc ðara þe ladleas beo,
he will because that I grant that each of-those who cleared be
folgie swilcum hlaforde swylcum he wille.
follow such lord as he will
ȝ swylc gerefa swylc ðis forgemeleasie ȝ ymbe beon nylle, 1, 2
and such reeve as this neglect and about be will-not
gesylle ðam cinge his oferhyrnesse, gif hit man him
let-give to-the king his disobedience if it one against-him
ongerecce mid soþe.
prove with truth
ȝ swylc gerefa swylc medsceat nime ȝ oþres ryht ðurh 1, 3
and such reeve as bribe take and of-other right through
þæt alecge, gylde þæs cinges oferhyrnesse ȝ wege eac ða
that set-aside let-pay of-the king disobedience and let-bear also the
ungerisnu, swa swa we gecweden habbað.
disgrace so as we said have
ȝ gif hit sy ðegen ðe hit dó, sy þæt ilce. 1, 4
and if it be thane who it do let-be the same
ȝ nemne man on ælces gerefan manunge swa fela manna 1, 5
and let-name one in of-each reeve district so many men
swa man wite, þæt ungelygne syn, þæt hy beon to
as one know that unlying be that they be as
gewitnesse gehwylcere spræce. ȝ sien heora aþas ungelygenra
witness of-each suit and let-be their oaths of-unlying
manna be þæs feos wyrðe butan cyre.
men by of-the property worth without choice
ȝ se þe bespirige yrfe innan oþres land: aspirige hit ut 2
and be who track cattle into of-other land let-track it out
se þæt lond age, gif he mæge; gif he ne mæge, stande
he-who the land owns if he can if he not can let-stand
þæt spor for þone foraþ, gif he ðærinne hwæne teo.
the track for the fore-oath if he therein any-one accuse

3 ⁊ man singe ælc Frigdæge æt ælcum mynstre ealle þa
and one let-sing each Friday at each minster all the
Godes þeowan an fiftig for þone cyng ⁊ for ealle þe
of-God servants a fifty for the king and for all who
willaþ ðæt he wile ⁊ for þa oþre, swa hy geearnian.
will what he wills and for the others as they deserve

XX · VI ÆTHELSTAN

The bishops and reeves of London set down the rules of their peace-guilds. A thief over twelve pence and twelve years is slain; each member pays fourpence a year into a fund for stolen cattle; the men are counted in tithings and hundreds; all ride after a trail across shire borders; and the guild meets monthly and sings for its dead. The king later rules that no one under fifteen be slain.

Prol. Ðis is seo gerǽdnes, þe þa biscopas ⁊ þa gerefan, þe
This is the ordinance which the bishops and the reeves who
to Lundenbyrig hyrað, gecweden habbað ⁊ mid weddum
to London belong declared have and with pledges
gefæstnod on urum friðgegyldum, ægðer ge eorlisce ge
confirmed in our peace-guilds each both noble and
ceorlisce, to ecan þam domum, þe æt Gréatanléa ⁊ æt
churlish to increase the judgments which at Grately and at
Exanceastre gesette wæron ⁊ æt Þunresfelda.
Exeter established were and at Thundersfield

1, 1 Ðæt is þonne ærest: þæt man ne sparige nánan þe[of] ofer XII
That is then first that one not spare any thief over twelve
pæningas ⁊ ofer XII wintre mán, þone þe wé on folcriht
pennies and over twelve winter man him whom we by folk-right
geáxian, þæt ful sý ⁊ to nánán andsæce ne mæge; þæt wé hine
find that foul be and to no denial — can that we him

ofslean ⁊ niman eall þæt he áge; ⁊ niman ærest þæt ceapgyld
slay and take all that he owns and take first the goods-payment
of ðam yrfe, ⁊ dæle man syððan þone ofereácan on III:
from the property and let-divide one afterward the surplus in three
ænne dǽl þam wife, gif heo clæne sy ⁊ þæs fácnes gewita
one part to-the wife if she clean be and of-the crime accessory
nære, ⁊ þæt oðer on II: to healfum fó se cyng, to healfum
not-were and the other in two to half let-take the king to half
se ferscipe. Gif hit bocland sy oððe bisceopa land, þonne ah
the fellowship If it bookland be or of-bishops land then owns
se landhlaford þone healfan dǽl wið þone ge[fer]scipe gemæne.
the landlord the half part with the fellowship common
⁊ se þe ðeof dearnunga feormige ⁊ þæs facnes ⁊ þæs 1, 2
and he who thief secretly harbor and of-the crime and of-the
fúles gewita sy, do him man þæt ilce.
foulness accessory be let-do to-him one the same
⁊ se ðe mid þeofe stánde ⁊ midfeohte, lecge hine man 1, 3
and he who with thief stand and fight-with let-lay-low him one
mid þam þeofe.
with the thief
⁊ se ðe þyfðe oft ǽr forworht wære openlice ⁊ to órdale gá 1, 4
and he who by-theft often before forfeited were openly and to ordeal go
⁊ þar fúl weorðe, þæt hine man slea, buton þa magas oððe se
and there foul become that him one slay unless the kinsmen or the
hlaford hine útniman willan be his were ⁊ be fullan ceapgilde
lord him take-out will by his wergild and by full goods-payment
⁊ eac hine on borh gehabban syððan, þæt he ælces yfeles
and also him in surety have afterward that he each evil
geswice. Gif he eft ofer þæt stalie, agifan þa mágas þonne
cease If he again after that steal let-give the kinsmen then
hine, swa gewyld swa hine ær út æt þam ordale namon, þam
him so controlled as him before out at the ordeal took to-the

gerefan þe þar togebyrige, ⁊ slea man hine on þa þeofwráce.
reeve whom there it-concerns and let-slay one him in the thief-vengeance
Gif hine þonne hwa forene forstande ⁊ hine geniman wille,
If him then any before defend and him take will
⁊ he wære fúl æt þam ordale, þæt hine man lecgan ne moste,
and he were foul at the ordeal that him one lay-low not might
þæt he wære his feores scyldig, buton he cyng gesohte, ⁊ he
that he were of-his life liable unless he king sought and he
him his féorh forgifan wolde, eall swa hit ær æt Gréatanléa
to-him his life grant would all as it before at Grately
⁊ æt Exanceastre ⁊ æt Þunresfelda gecweden wæs.
and at Exeter and at Thundersfield said was
1, 5 ⁊ se ðe þeof wrecan wille ⁊ áhlip gewyrce oððe on stræte
and he who thief avenge will and assault commit or on road
togeliht, beo CXX scll' scildig wið þone cing. Gif he
attacks let-be hundred-twenty shillings liable toward the king If he
þonne mann ofslea on þa wrace, beo hé his feores scyldig
then man slay in the vengeance let-be he of-his life liable
⁊ ealles þæs þe he áge, buton se cing him árian wille.
and of-all that which he owns unless the king him spare will
2 Oðer: þæt we cwædon, þæt ure ælc scute IIII pænḡ to ure
Second that we said that of-us each contribute four pennies to our
gemæne þearfe binnan XII monðum; ⁊ forgyldon þæt yrfe,
common need within twelve months and paid-for the cattle
þe syððan genumen wǽre, þe we þæt feoh scuton; ⁊
which after taken were that we the money contributed and
hæfdon us ealle þa ǽscean gemǽne; ⁊ scute ælc man his
had for-us all the search common and contribute each man his
scll', þe hæfde þæt yrfe þæt wǽre XXX pænig̃ wurð, buton
shilling who had the cattle that were thirty pennies worth except
earmre wúdewan, þe nænne forwyrhtan næfde ne nán láND.
poor widow who no forworker had nor any land

Đridde: þæt we tellan á X menn togædere (ȝ se ýldesta 3
Third that we count ever ten men together and the eldest
bewiste þa nígene to ælcum þara gelaste þara þe we
direct the nine to each of-those performance of-those which we
ealle gecwǽdon) ȝ syððan þa hyndena heora tógædere,
all agreed and afterward the hundreds of-them together
ȝ ænne hyndenman, þe þa X men mynige to ure ealre
and one hundred-man who the ten men admonish to of-our all
gemǽne þearfe; ȝ hig XI healdan þære hyndene feoh ȝ
common need and they eleven keep of-the hundred money and
wítan, hwæt hig forðsyllan, þonne man gildan sceole, ȝ
know what they pay-out when one pay must and
hwæt hig eft niman, gif us feoh arise ǽt urum gemǽnum
what they again take if to-us money arise at our common
spræce; ȝ witon eac, þæt ælc gelast forðcume þara þe
suit and know also that each performance come-forth of-those which
we ealle gecweden habbað to ure ealra þearfe be XXX pæñ
we all agreed have to of-us all need by thirty pennies
oððe be anum hryðere, þæt eall gelæst sy, þæt we on urum
or by one ox that all performed be that we in our
gerædnessum gecweden habbað ȝ on ure forespæce stænt.
ordinances said have and in our agreement stands
Feorðe: þæt ælc man wære oðrum gelastfull ge æt spore 4
Fourth that each man were to-other helpful both at track
ge ǽt midráde þara þe þa gebodu gehyrde, swa lánge swa
and at riding-with of-those who the summons heard so long as
þe man spor wiste. ȝ syððan him spór burste, þæt man
that one track knew and after to-him track burst that one
funde ænne man, þær mare folc sig, swa of anre teoðunge,
found one man where more people be so from one tithing

þær læsse folc sy, to ráde oððe to gánge, buton má þurfe,
where less people be to riding or to going unless more need
þider þonne mæst þearf sy, ⁊ hig ealle gecwædon.
thither then most need be and they all agreed
5 Fifte: þæt man ne forláete náne æscan naðer ne be norðan
Fifth that one not abandon any search either nor by north
mearce ne be suðan, ær ælc man hæbbe áne ráde geríden
border nor by south before each man have one riding ridden
þe hors habbe; ⁊ se þe hors nabbe, wyrce þam hlaforde
who horse have and he who horse has-not let-work for-the lord
þe him fore ríde oððe gánge, oðð he ham cúme, buton
who him for rides or goes until he home come unless
man ær to rihte cuman mæge.
one before to right come can
6, 1 Syxte, émban urne ceapgild: hors to healfan punde, gif
Sixth concerning our goods-payment horse at half pound if
hit swa gód sy; ⁊ gif hit mætre sy, gilde be his wlites
it so good be and if it poorer be let-pay by its appearance
wyrðe ⁊ be þam þe se man hit weorðige þe hit áge,
worth and by that which the man it values who it owns
buton he gewitnesse habbe, þæt hit swa god wære swa
unless he witness have that it so good were as
he secge; ⁊ habbe þone oferéacan, þe we þar abiddan.
he say and let-have the surplus which we there obtain
6, 2 ⁊ oxan to mancuse ⁊ cú to XX ⁊ swyn to X ⁊
and ox at mancus and cow at twenty and swine at ten and
sceap to scll'.
sheep at shilling
6, 3 ⁊ we cwædon be urum þeowum mannum [þam] þa
and we said concerning our slave men those which
men hæfdon: gif hine man forstæle, þæt hine man forgulde
men had if him one steal that him one paid-for

mid healfan punde; gif we ðonne gyld arærdon, þæt him
with half pound if we then payment raised that to-him
man yhte ufon on þæt be his wlites weorðe; ⁊ hæfdon
one add above on that by his appearance worth and had
us þone oferéacan þe we þær abædon. Gif he hine þonne
for-us the surplus which we there obtained If he himself then
forstalede, þæt hine man lædde to þære torfunge, swa hit
stole-away that him one led to the stoning as it
ær gecwedan wæs; ⁊ scute ælc man þ[e] man hæfde swa
before said was and contribute each man who man had so
pænig swa healfne be þæs geferscípes mænio, swa man þæt
penny so half by of-the fellowship number as one the
weorð úparæran mihte. Gif he þonne oðseoce, þæt hine man
value raise could If he then escape that him one
forgulde be his wlites weorðe; ⁊ we ealle hine áxodan. Gif
paid-for by his appearance worth and we all him sought If
we him þonne tócuman moston, þæt him man dyde þæt ylce
we him then come-to might that to-him one did the same
þe man þam Wyliscean þeofe dyde, oððe hine man anhó.
which one to-the Welsh thief did or him one hang
⁊ þæt ceapgild aríse a ofer XXX pæn̄ oð healf 6, 4
and the goods-payment let-rise ever over thirty pennies up-to half
pund, syððan we hit æscað, furðor, gif we þæt ceapgild
pound after we it raise further if we the goods-payment
arærað be fullan angylde; ⁊ beo sy æsce forð, swa hit
raise by full single-value and let-be the search forth as it
ær gecweden wæs, þeah heo læsse sy.
before said was though it less be
Seofoðe, þæt we cwædon: dyde dæda se þe dyde, þ[e] 7
Seventh that we said let-do deeds he who did who
úre ealra téonan wræce, þæt we wǽron ealle swa on ánum
of-us all injury avenged that we were all so in one

freondscype swa on ánum feondscype, swa hwæðer hit þonne
friendship so in one enmity so whichever it then
wære. ⁊ se þe þeof fylle beforan oðrum mannum, þæt he
were and he who thief fell before other men that he
wære of úre ealra feo XII pænḡ þe bétera for þære dæda
were from of-us all money twelve pennies the better for the deed
⁊ þon anginne. ⁊ se þe ahte þæt yrfe þe we foregildað,
and the undertaking and he who owned the cattle which we pay-for
ne forlǽte he þa ǽscan be ure oferhyrnesse ⁊ þa mynegúnge
not let-abandon he the search by our disobedience and the claim
þar mid, oð þæt we to þam gilde cuman; ⁊ we þonne eac
there with until that we to the payment come and we then also
him his geswinces geþancedon of urum gemænan feo, be
him for-his labor thanked from our common money by
þam þe seo fare wurðe wære, þy læs seo mynugung forlǽge.
that which the journey worth were the less the claim lapse

8, 1 Eahtoðe, þæt we us gegaderian á emban ænne monað,
Eighth that we ourselves gather ever about one month
gif we mágon ⁊ ǽmton habban, þa hyndenmenn ⁊ þa
if we can and leisure have the hundred-men and those
þe ða teoþunge bewítan, swa mid byttfyllinge swa elles swa
who the tithing direct so with butt-filling so else as
us tóanhágie, ⁊ witen, hwæt ure gecwydræddene gelæst
to-us suits and know what our agreement performed
sy; ⁊ habban þa XII menn heora metscype tógædere ⁊
be and let-have the twelve men their meal together and
fedan hig swa swa hig sylfe wyrðe múnon, ⁊ dælon
let-feed them so as they selves worthy think and let-distribute
ealle þa metelafe Godes þances.
all the leftovers of-God thanks

ȝ gif þonne þæt gebyrige, þæt ænig mægð to þan strang 8, 2
and if then that happen that any kindred to that strong
sy and to þam mycel, innon landes oððe uton landes,
be and to that great within land or outside land
XIIhynde oððe twyhynde, þæt us ures rihtes wyrnen
twelve-hundred or two-hundred that to-us our right refuse
ȝ þone þeof foren forstande, þæt we rídan be eallum
and the thief before defend that we ride with all
mannum tó mid þam gerefan þe hit on his mónunge sy.
men to with the reeve who it in his district be
ȝ eac sendan on twa healfa to þam gerefum ȝ wilnian tó 8, 3
and also send on two sides to the reeves and desire from
heom fultum be swa manegum mannum, swa us þonne cínelic
them help by so many men as to-us then fitting
þince æt swa micelre spræce, þæt þam forworhtum mannum
seem at so great suit that to-the guilty men
beo þe mara ége for ure gesomnunge; ȝ we ridan ealle to
be the more fear for our assembly and we ride all to
ȝ urne téonan wrécan ȝ þone þeof lecgean ȝ þa þe him
and our injury avenge and the thief lay-low and those who him
midfeohtan ȝ standan, buton hig him framgán willan.
fight-with and stand unless they from-him go-away will
ȝ gif man spór gespirige of scyre on oðre, fon þa menn 8, 4
and if one track follow from shire into other let-take the men
tó þe þar nycst syndon ȝ drifan þæt spór, oð hit man þam
to who there nearest are and let-drive the track until it one to-the
gerefan gecyðe: fó hé syððan tó mid his monunge ȝ
reeve make-known let-take he afterward to with his district and
adrife þæt spór út of his scíre, gif he mage; gif he þonne ne
let-drive the track out of his shire if he can if he then not
mæge, forgylde þæt yrfe angylde. ȝ habban þa gerefscypas
can let-pay-for the cattle single-value and let-have the reeveships

begen þa fullan spæce gemæne, si swa hwær swa hit sy, swa
both the full suit common be-it so where so it be so
be norðan mearce swa be suðan: á of scire on oðre þæt ælc
by north border so by south ever from shire into other that each
gerefa fylste oðrum to ure ealra friðe, be cynges oferhyrnesse.
reeve help other for of-our all peace by of-king disobedience
8, 5 ⁊ eac þæt ælc oðrum fylste, swa hit gecweden ís ⁊
and also that each other help as it said is and
mid weddum gefæstnod; ⁊ swilc mann swilce hit ofer
with pledges confirmed and such man as it beyond
þa mearce forsitte, beo XXX pæñ scyldig oððe anes óxan,
the border neglect let-be thirty pennies liable or of-one ox
gif he aht þæs oferhæbbe, þe on urum gewritum stent
if he aught of-that neglect which in our writings stands
⁊ we mid urum weddum gefæstnod habbað.
and we with our pledges confirmed have
8, 6 ⁊ we cwedon eac be ælcum þara manna, þe on urum
and we said also concerning each of-those men who in our
gegyldscipum his wédd geseald hæfð, gif him forðsið gebyrige,
guildships his pledge given has if to-him departure befall
þæt ælc gegílda gesylle ænne gesúfelne hláf for þære sáule ⁊
that each guild-brother give one relish loaf for the soul and
gesinge án fiftig oððe begíte gesungen binnan XXX nihtan.
sing a fifty or get sung within thirty nights
8, 7 ⁊ we beodaþ eac urum hiremannum, þæt ælc mann wite,
and we command also our dependents that each man know
hwænne he his yrfe hæbbe oððe hwænne he næbbe, on
when he his cattle have or when he have-not in
his nehebura gewitnesse, ⁊ us spór tæce, gif he hit
of-his neighbors witness and to-us track show if he it
findan ne mæg, binnon þrim nihton; forðam we wenað,
find not can within three nights because we think

þæt mænige gimeléase menn ne reccean, hú heora yrfe fare,
that many careless men not care how their cattle fare
for þam ofertruan on þam friðe.
for the over-confidence in the peace
Đonne beode we, þæt binnan III nihtum he his necheburan 8, 8
Then command we that within three nights he to-his neighbors
gecyðe, gif he þæs ceapgildes biddan wille — ȝ beo se æsce
make-known if he for-the goods-payment ask will and let-be the search
þeah forð, swa hit ǽr gecweden wæs—; forþan we nellan
nevertheless forth as it before said was because we will-not
nán gymeleas yrfe forgyldan, buton hit forstolen sy: mænige
any careless cattle pay-for unless it stolen be many
men specað gemáhlice spræce. Gyf he nyte spór to tæcenne,
men speak shameless suits If he knows-not track to show
gecyðe mid aðe mid his III necheburan, þæt hit binnan
let-declare with oath with his three neighbors that it within
III nihtum wære forstolen, ȝ bidde syððan his ceapgildes.
three nights were stolen and let-ask afterward for-his goods-payment
ȝ ne sy forspécen ne forswígod, gif ure hlaford oððe ure 8, 9
and not let-be spoken-against nor kept-silent if our lord or of-our
gerefana enig ús ænigne éacan geþæncean mǽge to urum
reeves any for-us any addition devise can to our
friðgildum, þæt we þærtó lustlice fón, swa hit us eallum
peace-guilds that we thereto gladly take as it to-us all
gerise ȝ us þearflic sy. Đonne gelyfe we to Gode ȝ to
befits and to-us needful be Then believe we in God and in
urum cynehlaforde, gif we hit eall þus gelæstan willað, þæt
our royal-lord if we it all thus perform will that
ealles folces þing byð þe bétere æt þam þyfðum þonne
of-all people affair is the better concerning the thefts than
hit ær wære. Gif we þonne aslaciað þæs friðes ȝ þæs
it before were If we then slacken the peace and the

weddes, þe we seald habbað ⁊ se cyng us beboden hafað,
pledge which we given have and the king us commanded has
þonne mage we wénan oððe georne witan, þæt þas þeofas
then may we expect or eagerly know that these thieves
willað ríxian gýta swyðor, þonne hig ær dydon. Ac úton
will rule yet more than they before did But let-us
healdan ure wedd ⁊ þæt frið, swa hit urum hlaforde lícige;
keep our pledge and the peace as it our lord please
us is micel þearf, þæt we arédian þæt he wile; ⁊ gif
to-us is great need that we carry-out what he wills and if
he us mare hát ⁊ tæcð, we beoð eadmodlice gearawe.
he us more commands and teaches we are humbly ready
9 Nígoðe, þæt we cwædon be þisum þeofum þe man
Ninth that we said concerning these thieves whom one
on hrædinge fule geaxian ne mæg: ⁊ man eft geaxað,
in haste foul find not can and one afterward finds
þæt he fúl bið ⁊ scildig, þæt se hlaford hine oððe þa
that he foul is and guilty that the lord him or the
magas on þæt ilce gerád útniman, þe man þa menn
kinsmen on the same condition take-out on-which one the men
útnimð, þe æt ordale fule weorðað.
takes-out who at ordeal foul become
10 Teoðe, þæt þa witan ealle sealdan heora wedd ealle togædere
Tenth that the councilors all gave their pledge all together
þam arcebiscope æt Þunresfelda, þa Ælfeah Stybb ⁊
to-the archbishop at Thundersfield when Ælfheah Stybb and
Brihtnoð Oddan sunu cóman togeanes þam gemote þæs cinges
Brihtnoth of-Odda son came toward the assembly of-the king
worde, þæt ælc gerefa náme þæt wedd on his agenre scire,
by-word that each reeve took the pledge in his own shire
þæt hi ealle þæt frið swa healdan woldan, swa Æþelstan
that they all the peace so keep would as Æthelstan

cyng hit geræd hæfð ⁊ his witan ærest æt Gréatanléa
king it decreed has and his councilors first at Grately
⁊ eft æt Exanceastre ⁊ syððan æt Fæfresham ⁊ feorðan
and again at Exeter and afterward at Faversham and fourth
syððe æt Þunresfelda beforan þam arcebiscope ⁊ eallum
time at Thundersfield before the archbishop and all
þam bisceopan ⁊ his witum, þe se cyng silf namode, þe
the bishops and his councilors whom the king self named who
þæron wæron, þæt man þas domas healdan sceoldan, þe
therein were that one these judgments keep should which
on þissum gemote gesette wæron, buton þam þe þær ær
at this assembly established were except those which there before
ofadóne wæron: þæt wæs Sunnandæges cyping, ⁊ þæt man
removed were that was of-Sunday trading and that one
mid fulre gewitnesse ⁊ getreowre moste ceapian butan porte.
with full witness and trustworthy might trade outside town
Endlyfte, þæt Æþelstan béot his bisceopum ⁊ his 11
Eleventh that Æthelstan commanded his bishops and his
ealdormannum ⁊ his gerefum eallum ofer ealne minne
ealdormen and his reeves all over all my
ánweald, þæt ge þone frið swa healdan swa ic hine geræddd
dominion that ye the peace so keep as I it decreed
habbe ⁊ mine witan. Gif eower hwilc forgymeleasað ⁊
have and my councilors If of-you any neglects and
me hyran nelle ⁊ þæt wedd æt his hyremannum níman
me obey will-not and the pledge from his dependents take
nelle ⁊ he geþafað þa dyrnan geþingo ⁊ emban þa
will-not and he allows the secret compacts and about the
stéoran swa beon nelle, swa ic beboden hæbbe, ⁊ on urum
penalties so be will-not as I commanded have and in our
gewritum stent, þonne beo se gerefa buton his folgoðe ⁊
writings stands then let-be the reeve without his office and

buton minum freondscipe ȝ gesylle me CXX scll',
without my friendship and let-give to-me hundred-twenty shillings
ȝ be healfum þam ælc minra þegna, þe gelandod sy ȝ
and by half that each of-my thanes who landed be and
þa stéore swa healdan nelle, swa ic beboden habbe.
the penalty so keep will-not as I commanded have

12, 1 Twelfte, þæt se cyng cwæð nú eft æt Witlanbyrig to his
Twelfth that the king said now again at Whittlebury to his
witan ȝ het cyðan þam arcebiscope be Þeodrede
councilors and commanded make-known to-the archbishop by Theodred
biscop, þæt him to hreowlic þuhte, þæt man swa geongne man
bishop that to-him too pitiful seemed that one so young man
cwealde oððe eft for swa lytlan, swa he geáxod hæfde, þæt
killed or again for so little as he learned had that
man gehwær dyde. Cwæð þa, þæt him þuhte ȝ þam þe he
one everywhere did Said then that to-him seemed and to-those who he
hit wiðrædde, þæt man nænne gingran mann ne sloge þonne
it discussed-with that one no younger man — slay than
XV wintre man, buton he hine werian wolde oððe fleoge ȝ
fifteen winter man unless he himself defend would or flee and
on hand gán nolde: þæt hine man þonne lede swa æt maran
into hand go would-not that him one then lay-low so at greater
swa æt læssan, swa hwæðer hit þonne wære. ȝ gif he þonne
so at lesser so whichever it then were and if he then
on hand gán wille, þonne dó hine man on cárcern, swa hit
into hand go will then let-put him one into prison as it
æt Gréatanléa gecweden wæs, ȝ hine be þam ylcan lysige.
at Grately said was and him by the same let-redeem

12, 2 Oððe gif he in cárcern ne cume, ȝ man nán næbbe,
Or if he into prison not come and one none have
þæt hi hine niman be his fullan were on borh, þæt he
that they him take by his full wergild in surety that he

æfre má ælces yfeles geswice. Gif seo mægð him útniman
ever more each evil cease If the kindred him take-out
nelle ne him on borh gán, þonne swerige he, swa him
will-not nor for-him in surety go then let-swear he as to-him
bisceop tæce, þæt he ælces yfeles geswycan wille, ⁊ stande
bishop teach that he each evil cease will and let-stand
on þeówete be his were. Gif he þonne ofer þæt stalie,
in slavery by his wergild If he then after that steal
slea man hine oððe hó, swa man þa yldran ær dyde.
let-slay one him or let-hang as one the elder before did
⁊ se cyng cwæð eac, þæt man nænne ne sloge for læssan 12, 3
and the king said also that one none — slay for less
yrfe þonne XII pæniğ weorð, buton he fleon wille oððe
cattle than twelve pennies worth unless he flee will or
hine werian, þæt man ne wándode þonne, þeah hit læsse
himself defend that one not hesitated then though it less
wære. Gif we hit þus gehealdað, þonne gelyfe ic to Gode,
were If we it thus keep then believe I in God
þæt ure frið bið betera, þonne hit æror wæs.
that our peace is better than it before was

At an Easter synod in London, Edmund and his archbishops and bishops consider the good of their souls. Those in holy orders keep chastity or forfeit goods and hallowed burial; every Christian pays tithe on pain of excommunication; a man who sheds Christian blood may not come before the king until he does penance; and sorcerers are cast out.

Inscr. Her onginneð Eadmundes gerædnes.
Here begins of-Edmund ordinance

Prol. Eadmund cyngc gesamnode micelne sinoð to Lundenbirig
Edmund king assembled great synod at London
on ða halgan easterlican tíd ægðer ge godcundra háda ge
at the holy Easter time each both of-divine orders and
worldcundra: ðar wæs Óda arcebiscop ⁊ Wulfstan arcebiscop
of-worldly there was Oda archbishop and Wulfstan archbishop
⁊ manega oðre biscopas smeagende ymbon heora sawla
and many other bishops considering about of-their souls
ræd ⁊ þara þe him underþeodde wæron.
counsel and of-those who to-them subject were

1 Ðæt is æres[t] þæt hi budon, þæt þa halgan hadas, þe
That is first that they commanded that the holy orders who
Godes folc læron sculon lifes bisne, ðæt hi heora clænnesse
of-God people teach must of-life example that they their chastity
healdan be heora hade, swa werhades swa wifhades, swa
keep by their order so male-order so female-order so
hwaðer swa hit sy. ⁊ gif hi swa ne don, þonne syn hi
whichever so it be and if they so not do then be they
þæs wyrðe þe on ðam canone cweð, and þæt hi þolian
of-that worthy which in the canon says and that they forfeit
worldæhta ⁊ gehalgodre legerstowe, buton hi gebetan.
worldly-goods and hallowed burial unless they amend

Teoðunge we bebeodað ælcum Cristene men be his 2
Tithe we command each Christian man by his
Cristendóme and ciricsceat ⁊ Romfeoh ⁊ sulhælmessan.
Christianity and church-scot and Rome-money and plow-alms
And gif hit hwá don nelle, si he amansumod.
And if it any do will-not let-be he excommunicated
Gif hwa Cristenes mannes blód ageote, ne cume he na 3
If any of-Christian man blood shed not let-come he —
on ðæs cyninges neawiste, ær he on dædbote ga, swa
into of-the king presence before he into penance go as
him biscop tæce ⁊ his scrift him wisige.
to-him bishop teach and his confessor him direct
Se þe wið nunnan hæme, gehalgodre legerstowe ne sy 4
He who with nun lie of-hallowed burial not let-be
he wyrðe — buton he gebete — þe ma þe manslaga;
he worthy unless he amend the more than manslayer
þæt ilce we cwædon be æwbrice.
the same we said concerning adultery
Eac we gecwædon, þæt ælc biscop béte Godes hus on his 5
Also we decreed that each bishop repair of-God house on his
agenum ⁊ eac þone cyningc minegige, þæt ealle Godes
own and also the king admonish that all of-God
circan syn wel behworfene, swa us micel þearf is.
churches be well ordered as to-us great need is
Ða ðe mansweriað ⁊ liblac wyrcað, beon hi a fram 6
Those who perjure and sorcery work let-be they ever from
ælcum Godes dæle aworpene, buton hi to rihtre dædbote
each of-God part cast-out unless they to right penance
gecirran þe geornor.
turn the more-eagerly

Edmund is grieved by the fights among his people. A slayer bears the feud unless he and his friends pay the full wergild within a year; a kindred that abandons him is free of it, and vengeance on anyone but the slayer makes the avenger the king's foe. Breach of protection and home-invasion cost all a man owns; and the steps of a settlement, from the advocate's pledge to the first wergild payment, are set out.

Prol. Eadmund cyning cyð eallum folce, ge yldrum ge
Edmund king makes-known to-all people both elder and
gingrum, ðe on his anwealde synd, ðæt ic smeade mid
younger who in his dominion are that I considered with
minra witena geðeahte, ge hadedra ge læwedra, ærest, hu
of-my councilors counsel both of-ordained and of-lay first how
ic mæhte Cristendomes mæst aræran.
I might of-Christianity most raise

Prol., 1 Ðonne ðuhte us ærest mæst ðearf, ðæt we ure gesibsumnesse
Then seemed to-us first most need that we our peace
ȝ geðwærnesse fæstlicost us betweonan heoldan gynd
and concord most-firmly us between kept throughout
ealne minne anwald.
all my dominion

Prol., 2 Me eleð swyðe ȝ us eallum ða unrihtlican ȝ mænigfealdan
Me ails greatly and us all the unrighteous and manifold
gefeoht, ðe betwux us sylfum syndan; þonne cwæde we:
fights which among us selves are then said we

1 Gif hwa heonanforð ænigne man ofslea, ðæt he wege sylf
If any henceforth any man slay that he bear self
ða fæhþe, butan he hy mid freonda fylste binnan twelf
the feud unless he it with of-friends help within twelve
monðum forgylde be fullan were, sy swa boren swa he sy.
months pay-for by full wergild be so born as he be

Gif hine þonne seo mægð forlete, ȝ him foregyldan nellen, 1, 1
If him then the kindred abandon and for-him pay will-not
ðonne wille ic, ðæt eall seo mægð sy unfah, butan ðam
then will I that all the kindred be unfeuded except the
handdædan, gif hy him syððan ne doð mete ne munde.
hand-doer if they to-him afterward not give food nor protection
Gif ðonne syððan hwilc his maga hine feormige, ðonne beo 1, 2
If then afterward any of-his kinsmen him harbor then let-be
he scyldig ealles ðæs ðe he age wið þone cyning ȝ wege
he liable of-all that which he owns toward the king and let-bear
ða fæhðe wið þa mægðe, forðam hi hine forsocan ǽr.
the feud toward the kindred because they him forsook before
Gif þonne of ðære oðre mægðe hwa wrace dó on ænigum 1, 3
If then of the other kindred any vengeance do on any
oðrum men butan on ðam rihthanddædan, sy he gefah wið
other man except on the right-hand-doer let-be he foe toward
þone cyning ȝ wið ealle his frind ȝ ðolige ealles ðæs he age.
the king and toward all his friends and let-forfeit all that he owns
Gif hwa cyrican gesece oððe mine burh, ȝ hine man ðær 2
If any church seek or my borough and him one there
sece oððe yflyge: ða þe ðæt doð, syn ðæs ylcon scyldige,
attack or harm those who that do let-be of-the same liable
ðe hit her beforan cwæð.
which it here before said
ȝ ic nelle, þæt ænig fyhtewite oððe manbot forgifen 3
and I will-not that any fight-fine or man-compensation forgiven
sy.
be
Eac ic cyðe, þæt ic nelle socne habban to minum 4
Also I make-known that I will-not access have to my
hirede, ær he hæbbe godcunde bote underfangen ȝ wið
court before he have divine penance undertaken and toward

Þa mægðer gebet on bote befangen ȝ to ælcum rihte
the kindred amended in compensation engaged and to each right
gebogen, swa biscop him tæce, ðe hit on his scyre sy.
submitted as bishop him teach who it in his shire be
5 Eac ic ðancige Gode ȝ eow eallum, ðe me wel fylston,
Also I thank God and you all who me well helped
ȝ þæs friðes, ðe we nu habbað æt ðam þyfðam; ðonne
and for-the peace which we now have from the thefts then
gelyfe ic to eow, þæt ge willan fylstan to ðissum swa miccle
believe I in you that ye will help to this so much
bet, swa us is eallum mare ðærf, ðæt hit gehealden sy.
better as to-us is all more need that it kept be
6 Eac we cwædon be mundbrice ȝ be hamsocnum:
Also we said concerning protection-breach and concerning home-invasions
se ðe hit ofer ðis dó, ðæt he þolige ealles ðæs he age,
he who it after this do that he forfeit all that he owns
ȝ si on cyninges dome, hwæðer he lif age.
and be in of-king judgment whether he life own
7 Witan scylan fæhðe sectan: ærest æfter folcrihte slaga
Councilors must feud settle first according-to folk-right slayer
sceal his forspecan on hand syllan, ȝ se forspeca magum,
shall his advocate into hand give and the advocate to-kinsmen
þæt se slaga wylle betan wið mægðe.
that the slayer will amend toward kindred
7, 1 Ðonne syððan gebyreð, þæt man sylle ðæs slagan forspecan
Then afterward befits that one give of-the slayer to-advocate
on hand, ðæt se slaga mote mid griðe nyr ȝ sylf wæres
into hand that the slayer may with protection near and self wergild
weddian.
pledge

Đonne he ðæs beweddad hæbbe, ðonne finde he ðærto 7, 2
When he that pledged have then let-find he thereto
wærborh.
wergild-surety
Đonne ðæt gedon sy, ðonne rære man cyninges munde; 7, 3
When that done be then let-raise one of-king protection
of ðam dæge on XXI nihton gylde man healsfang;
from that day in twenty-one nights let-pay one neck-ransom
ðæs on XXI niht manbote; ðæs on XXI niht
from-that in twenty-one nights man-compensation from-that in twenty-one nights
ðæs weres ðæt frumgyld.
of-the wergild the first-payment

XXIII · THE HUNDRED ORDINANCE

The hundred meets every four weeks and every man does right to the other. When a theft is reported the hundred-man and the tithing-men ride after the thief; the owner is paid and the rest of the thief's goods is shared between the hundred and the lord. A man who neglects the hundred's judgment is fined, rising to outlawry; unknown cattle need witness; and the ordeal iron weighs three pounds.

Þis is seo gerædnyss, hu mon þæt hundred haldan sceal. Inscr.
This is the ordinance how one the hundred hold shall
Ærest þæt hi heo gegaderian á ymb feower wucan, ⁊ 1
First that they themselves gather ever about four weeks and
wyrce ælc man oðrum riht.
do each man to-other right
(Đæt men faran on ryd æfter ðeofan.) Gyf neod on handa 2
That men go on riding after thieves If need at hand
stande, cyðe hit man ðam hundredesmen, ⁊ he
stand let-make-known it one to-the hundred-man and he

syððan ðam teoðingmannum; ⁊ faran ealle forð, ðær him
afterward to-the tithing-men and let-go all forth where them
God wisig[e], þæt hi tocuman moton; do ðam ðeofe his
God guide that they come-to may let-do to-the thief his
riht, swa hit ær Eadmundes cwide wæs.
right as it before of-Edmund decree was

2, 1 ⁊ sylle mon þæt ceapgyld ðam ðe þæt yrfe age; ⁊
and let-give one the goods-payment to-him who the cattle owns and
dǽle man þæt oðer on twa: healf ðam hundrede, healf
let-divide one the other in two half to-the hundred half
ðam hlaforde — butan mannum; ⁊ fo se hlaford to
to-the lord except men and let-take the lord to
ðam mannum.
the men

3 And se man ðe ðis forsitte ⁊ ðæs hundredes dóm
And the man who this neglect and of-the hundred judgment
forsace, ⁊ him mon eft þæt illce gerecce, gesylle
refuse and against-him one afterward the same prove let-give
man ðam hundrede XXX peninga ⁊ æt ðam æftran cyrre
one to-the hundred thirty pennies and at the second time
syxtig penega, half ðam hundrede, half ðam hlaforde.
sixty pennies half to-the hundred half to-the lord

3, 1 Gyf hit ðriddan siðe dó, sylle healf pund; æt ðam feorðan
If it third time do let-give half pound at the fourth
cyrre ðolie ealles ðæs ðe he age ⁊ beo útlah, buton
time let-forfeit all that which he owns and let-be outlaw unless
him se cyng eard alyfe.
him the king land allow

And we cwǽdon be uncuðum yrfe, þæt nan man 4
And we said concerning unknown cattle that no man
nǽfde, buton hé hæbbe ðæs hundredesmanna gewitnyssa
had unless he have of-the hundred-man witness
oððe ðæs teoðingmannes, ⁊ se sy wel getrýwe.
or of-the tithing-man and he be well trustworthy
⁊ buton þara oðer hæbbe, nele him mon nænne team 4, 1
and unless of-these one have will-not him one any vouching
geþafian.
allow
Eac we cwædon, gyf him hundred bedrife tród on oðer 5
Also we said if him hundred drive track into other
hundred, þæt mon cyðe ðam hundredesmen, ⁊ he
hundred that one make-known to-the hundred-man and he
ðonne ðær midfare.
then there go-with
Gyf he hit forsitte, gesylle ðam cynge ðrittig scill'. 5, 1
If he it neglect let-give to-the king thirty shillings
Gyf hwá riht forbuge ⁊ uthleape, forgylde þæt angylde se 6
If any right evade and escape let-repay the single-value he
ðe hine to ðam hearme geheold.
who him to the harm kept
And gyf hine man teó, þæt he hine utsceóte, geladige hine 6, 1
And if him one accuse that he him help-escape let-clear himself
swa hit on lande stande.
as it in land stands
On hundrede swa on oðer gemote we wyllað, þæt mon 7
In hundred as in other assembly we will that one
folcriht getæce æt ælcere spǽce, ⁊ andagie, hwænne man
folk-right teach at each suit and set-a-day when one
þæt gelæste.
that perform

7, 1 ⁊ se ðe ðone andagan brece — buton hit sy ðurh
and he who the term break unless it be through
hlafordes geban—, gebete mid XXX scill', ⁊ to gesetton
of-lord summons let-amend with thirty shillings and at appointed
dæge gelæste þæt he ær sceolde.
day let-perform what he before should

8 Hryðeres belle, hundes hoppe, blæshorn: ðissa ðreora ælc
Of-ox bell of-dog collar blast-born of-these three each
bið anes scill' weorð; ⁊ ælc is melda geteald.
is of-one shilling worth and each is informer counted

9 Ðæt isen, ðe bið to ðrimfealdum ordale, þæt wege III
The iron which is for threefold ordeal that let-weigh three
pund.
pounds

XXIV · II EDGAR

Edgar's ordinance for God's praise, his own dignity, and his people's good. Every tithe goes to the old minster of the parish, though a thane with a church and graveyard on his bookland gives it a third, and withheld tithe is taken by force. Young stock is tithed at Pentecost, crops at the equinox, church-scot at Martinmas; a man late with his hearth-penny takes it to Rome himself; and Sunday runs from Saturday noon to Monday dawn.

Prol. Ðis is seo gerædnys, þe Eadgar cyng mid his witena
This is the ordinance which Edgar king with of-his councilors
geðeahte gerædde, Gode to lofe ⁊ him sylfum to cynescipe
counsel decreed to-God as praise and to-him self as royal-dignity
⁊ eallum his leodscipe to þearfe.
and to-all his people as benefit

Þæt syndon þonne ærest, þæt Godes cyrican syn rihtes 1
That are then first that of-God churches be of-right
wyrðe.
worthy
�sc man agífe ælce teoðunge to þam ealdan mynstre, þe seo 1, 1
and one let-give each tithe to the old minster which the
hernes tohyrð; �sc þæt sy þonne swa gelæst, ægðer ge of
parish belongs-to and that let-be then so performed each both from
þegnes inlande ge of geneatlande, swa swa his sulh gega.
of-thane demesne-land and from tenant-land so as his plow go-over
Gyf hwa þonne ðegna sý, ðe on his bóclande cyrican 2
If any then of-thanes be who on his bookland church
habbe, þe legerstow on sy, gesylle he þane þriddan dæl
have which burial-place in be let-give he the third part
his agenre teoðunge into his cyrican.
of-his own tithe into his church
Gyf hwa cyrican habbe, þe legerstow on ne sie, ðonne 2, 1
If any church have which burial-place in not be then
do he of þam nigan dælum his preoste þæt þæt he
let-give he from the nine parts to-his priest that which he
wille.
will
�sc ga ælc cyricsceat into þam ealdan mynstre be ælcum 2, 2
and let-go each church-scot into the old minster by each
frigan eorðe.
free hearth
�sc síe ælcre geoguðe teoðung gelæst be pentecosten �sc 3
and let-be of-each young-livestock tithe performed by Pentecost and
þara eorðwæstma be emnihte; �sc ælc cyricsceat sy gelæst be
of-the earth-fruits by equinox and each church-scot let-be performed by
Martinus mæssan, be þam fullon wite, þe seo domboc tæcð.
of-Martin mass by the full fine which the law-book teaches

3, 1 ⁊ gyf hwa þonne ða teoðunge gelæstan nelle, swa we
and if any then the tithe perform will-not as we
gecwedan habbað, fare þæs cynges gerefa tó ⁊ þæs biscopes
said have let-go of-the king reeve to and of-the bishop
⁊ þæs mynstres mæssepreost, ⁊ niman unþances þæne
and of-the minster mass-priest and let-take forcibly the
teoðan dæl to þam mynstre, þe hit togebyrige, ⁊ tæcan
tenth part to the minster which it belongs-to and let-assign
him to ðam nigeðan dæle; ⁊ todæle man þa eahta dælas
him to the ninth part and let-divide one the eight parts
on twá, ⁊ fó se landhlaford to ealfan, to ealfan se
in two and let-take the landlord to half to half the
biscop, sy hit cynges man, sy hit þegnes.
bishop be it of-king man be it of-thane

4 ⁊ sy ælc heorðpæning agyfen be Petres mæssedæg.
and let-be each hearth-penny given by of-Peter mass-day

4, 1 ⁊ se ðe þonne to ðam andagan gelæst næbbe, læde hine
and he who then by the term performed have-not let-take it
to Rome ⁊ þærto eacan XXX pænega, ⁊ bringe þonne
to Rome and thereto in-addition thirty pennies and let-bring then
þanon swytolinga, þæt he þær swa micel betæht hæbbe; ⁊
thence evidence that he there so much delivered have and
þonne he ham cume, gylde þam cynge hundtwelftig scill.'
when he home come let-pay to-the king hundred-twenty shillings

4, 2 ⁊ gyf he hine eft syllan nylle, læde hine eft to Róme
and if he it again give will-not let-take it again to Rome
⁊ oðre swylce bote; ⁊ þonne he ham cume, gylde
and other such compensation and when he home come let-pay
þam cynge twahund scill.'
to-the king two-hundred shillings

Æt þam þriddan cyrre gyf he þonne git nelle, þolie ealles 4, 3
At the third time if he then yet will-not let-forfeit all
þæs ðe he áge.
that which he owns
ȝ healde man ælces Sunnandæges freols fram nóntide þæs 5
and let-keep one of-each Sunday festival from noon of-the
Sæternesdæges oð ðæs Monandæges lihtinge, be þam wite, þe
Saturday until of-the Monday dawning by the fine which
domboc tæcð, ȝ ælcne oðerne mæssedæg, swa he bebodan beo.
law-book teaches and each other mass-day as it commanded be
ȝ man beboden fæsten healde mid ælcre geornfulnesse. 5, 1
and one commanded fast let-keep with all zeal

XXV · III EDGAR

The secular ordinance: every man, poor or rich, is worthy of folk-right and right judgment, with mercy in compensation. No one goes to the king unless denied justice at home; a judge who judges wrongly loses his thaneship; a false accuser forfeits his tongue. The hundred meets as before, the borough three times a year and the shire twice; every man finds a surety; and one coinage and Winchester's measure run through the realm.

Ðis is þonne seo woruldcunde gerædnes, þe ic wille, þæt 1
This is then the secular ordinance which I will that
man ealde.
one keep
Þæt is þonne, þæt ic wille, ðæt ælc man sy folcrihtes 1, 1
That is then that I will that each man be of-folk-right
wyrðe, ge earm ge eadig, ȝ him man rihte domas déme.
worthy both poor and rich and to-him one right judgments judge

1, 2 ⁊ sý on þære bote swylc forgifnes, swylce hit for
and let-be in the compensation such remission as it before
Gode gebeorglic sy ⁊ for worulde aberendlic.
God justifiable be and before world bearable

2 ⁊ ne gesece nán man þone cyng for nanre spræce, butan he
and not let-seek any man the king for any suit unless he
æt ham rihtes wyrðe beon ne mote oððe riht abiddan ne mæge.
at home of-right worthy be not may or right obtain not can

2, 1 Gyf þæt riht to hefig sy, sece siþþan ða lihtinge to þam
If the right too heavy be let-seek afterward the relief to the
cynge.
king

2, 2 ⁊ æt nanum botwyrðum gylte ne forwyrce man mare þane
and at no compensable offense — let-forfeit one more than
his wer.
his wergild

3 ⁊ se dema, se ðe oðrum on woh gedeme, gesylle þam
and the judge he who other in wrong judges let-give to-the
cynge hundtwelfti scill' to bote — butan he mid
king hundred-twenty shillings as compensation unless he with
aðe gecyðan durre, þæt he hit na rihtor ne cuðe —
oath declare dare that he it not more-rightly — knew
⁊ þolige á his þegnscipes, butan he hine eft æt þam
and let-forfeit ever his thaneship unless he it again from the
cynge gebigge, swa he him geðafian wille; ⁊ ámanige þære
king buy as he him allow will and let-exact of-the
scyr biscop þa bote to ðæs cynges handa.
shire bishop the compensation to of-the king hands

4 ⁊ se þe oðerne mid wóge forseggan wille, þæt he aþor
and he who other with wrong accuse will that he either
oððe feo oððe feore þe wyrsa sý, gyf þonne se oðer
or in-property or in-life the worse be if then the other

geunsoðian mæge, þæt him man onsecgan wolde, si he
disprove can what him one accuse would let-be he
his tungan scyldig, butan he hine mid his were forgylde.
of-his tongue liable unless he it with his wergild redeem
ȝ sece man hundredgemót, swa hit ǽr geset wæs. 5
and let-attend one hundred-assembly as it before established was
ȝ habbe man þriwa on geare burhgemot ȝ tuwa scirgemot. 5, 1
and let-have one thrice in year borough-assembly and twice shire-assembly
ȝ þær beo on ðære scire biscop ȝ se ealdorman, ȝ þær 5, 2
and there let-be in the shire bishop and the ealdorman and there
ægðer tæcan ge Godes riht ge woruldriht.
each let-teach both of-God right and worldly-right
ȝ finde him ælc man, þæt he borh hæbbe; ȝ se borh 6
and let-find for-himself each man that he surety have and the surety
hine þonne to ælcum rihte gelæde ȝ geealde.
him then to each right let-lead and let-keep
ȝ gyf hwa þonne woh wyrce ȝ utoðberste, abere se borh 6, 1
and if any then wrong do and escape let-bear the surety
þæt he aberan scolde.
what he bear should
Gyf hit þyfð beo, ȝ gyf he hine binnan twelf monðum 6, 2
If it theft be and if he him within twelve months
gelangian mæge, agyfe hine to rihte, ȝ him man agyfe
recover can let-give him to justice and to-him one let-give-back
þæt he ǽr sealde.
what he before paid
ȝ se ðe tyhtbysig sý ȝ folce ungetriwe ȝ þas 7
and he who accusation-burdened be and to-people untrustworthy and these
gemot forbuge, þonne sceawie man of ðam gemote þa þe
assemblies shun then let-choose one from the assembly those who
him toridan, ȝ finde him þonne gyt borh, gyf he mæge.
him ride-to and let-find for-himself then yet surety if he can

7, 1 Gyf he þonne ne mæge, gewylde man hine swaðor man
If he then not can let-seize one him whichever one
mæge, swa cwicne swa deadne; ⁊ nime man eal þæt he
can so living so dead and let-take one all that he
age ⁊ gylde man þam teonde his ceapgyld ángeldes, ⁊
owns and let-pay one to-the accuser his goods-payment of-single-value and
fo se landhlaford to healfan, to healfan þæt hundred.
let-take the landlord to half to half the hundred

7, 2 ⁊ gyf aðor oððe mæg oþþe fremde þa rade forsace, gylde
and if either or kinsman or stranger the riding refuse let-pay
þam cynge hundtwelftig scill'.
to-the king hundred-twenty shillings

7, 3 ⁊ geséce se æbæra ðeof ðæt þæt he gesece, oþþe se ðe
and let-seek the notorious thief that which he seek or he who
on hlafordsearwe gemet sie, þæt hi næfre feorh ne gesecen.
in lord-treachery found be that they never life — seek

8 ⁊ ga an mynet ofer ealne þæs cynges anweald, ⁊ þane
and let-go one coinage over all of-the king dominion and it
nan man ne forsace;
no man — let-refuse

8, 1 ⁊ gemet, swylce man on Wintancestre healde.
and measure such one in Winchester keeps

8, 2 ⁊ ga seo wæg wulle to ealfan punde, ⁊ hie nan man
and let-go the wey of-wool at half pound and it no man
ná deoror ne sylle.
— dearer — let-sell

Edgar seeks a remedy for a pestilence that has wasted his people and judges it earned by withholding tithes: as a lord grows angry with a tenant who keeps back his rent, so does God. Tithes are paid everywhere alike and the reeves punish default. The Danes keep their own secular laws; for all peoples, every man is under surety, sworn witnesses attest every sale, and undeclared cattle are forfeited.

Her is geswutelod on þisum gewrite, hu Eadgar cyningc wæs Prol.
Here is shown in this writing how Edgar king was
smeagende, hwæt to bote mihte æt ðæm færcwealme, ðe his
considering what as remedy might against the sudden-pestilence which his
leodscipe swyðe drehte ȝ wanode wide gynd his anweald.
people greatly afflicted and diminished widely throughout his dominion
Ðæt is þonne ærest, þæt him þuhte ȝ his witum, þæt 1
That is then first that to-him seemed and to-his councilors that
þus gerad ungelimp mid synnum ȝ mid oferhyrnysse Godes
thus such misfortune with sins and with disobedience of-God
beboda geearnod wære, ȝ swyþost mid þam oftige þæs
commands earned were and most with the withholding of-the
neadgafoles, þe Cristene men Gode gelæstan scoldon on
compulsory-tribute which Christian men to-God render should in
heora teoðingcsceattum.
their tithe-payments
He beþohte ȝ asmeade þæt godcunde be woruldgewunan: 1a
He thought and considered the divine by worldly-custom
Gif geneatmanna hwylc forgymeleasað his hlafordes gafol 1, 1
If of-tenants any neglects of-his lord rent
ȝ hit him to ðæm rihtandagan ne gelæst, wen is,
and it to-him at the right-term not performs expectation is

gif se hlaford mildheort bið, þæt he þa gymeleaste to
if the lord merciful is that he the neglect to
forgyfnysse læte ȝ to his gafole buton witnunge fó;
forgiveness let and to his rent without punishment take
1, 2 gif he þonne gelomlice þurh his bydelas his gafoles myngað,
if he then frequently through his messengers of-his rent reminds
ȝ he þonne aheardað ȝ hit þencð to ætstrengenne,
and he then hardens and it thinks to withhold
wen is, þæt þæs hlafordes grama to ðan swiðe weaxe,
expectation is that of-the lord anger to that greatly grow
þæt he him ne unne naðer ne æhta ne lifes:
that he to-him not grant either nor possessions nor life
1, 3 Swa is wén, þæt ure Drihten dó þurh þa gedyrstignysse,
So is expectation that our Lord do through the presumption
þe folces men wiðhæfton þære gelomlican myngunge, þe
which of-folk men resisted the frequent reminding which
ure láreowas dydon ymbe þæt neadgafol ures Drihtnes:
our teachers made about the compulsory-tribute of-our Lord
þæt syn ure teoþunga ȝ cyricsceattas.
that are our tithes and church-scots
1, 4 Đonne beode ic ȝ se ærcebisceop, þæt ge God ne
Then command I and the archbishop that ye God not
grymman, ne naþer ne geearnian ne þone fǽrlican deað
anger nor either — earn nor the sudden death
þises andweardan lifes, ne huru þone toweardan écere
of-this present life nor at-least the future of-eternal
helle mid ænegum oftige Godes gerihta; ac ægðer ge
hell with any withholding of-God dues but each both
earm ge eadig, þe ænige tylunge hæbbe, gelæste Gode his
poor and rich who any tillage have let-render to-God his
teoðunga mid ealre blisse ȝ mid eallum unnan, swa seo
tithes with all joy and with all willingness as the

gerædnys tæce, þe mine witan æt Andeferan geræddon
ordinance teach which my councilors at Andover decreed
ȝ nu eft æt Wihtbordesstane mid wedde gefæstnodon.
and now again at Wihtbordesstan with pledge confirmed
Þonne beode ic minum gerefan, be minum freondscipe 1, 5
Then command I my reeves by my friendship
ȝ be eallum þam þe hy ágon, þæt hy styran ælcum
and by all that which they own that they punish each
þara þe þis ne gelæste ȝ minra witena wed abrecan mid
of-those who this not perform and of-my councilors pledge break with
ænegum wacscipe wille, swa swa him seo foresæde geradnes
any slackness will so as to-him the aforesaid ordinance
tæce; ȝ on þære steore ne sy nan forgifnes.
teach and in the punishment not be any forgiveness
Gif he swa earm bið, þæt he aðer deð oððe þa Godes 1, 5a
If he so wretched is that he either does or the of-God
wanað, his saula to forwyrde, oððe waccor mid modes
diminishes his soul to destruction or more-weakly with of-mind
graman hy behwyrfð þonne þæt he him to agenum teleð,
anger them turns than that he him to own reckons
ðonne him micele agenre is, þæt him æfre on écnysse
when to-him much more-own is what to-him ever in eternity
gelæst, gif he hit mid unnan ȝ mid fulre blisse dón wolde.
lasts if he it with willingness and with full joy do would
Ðonne wille ic, þæt þás Godes gerihta standan æghwær 1, 6
Then will I that these of-God dues stand everywhere
gelice on minum anwealde.
alike in my dominion

1, 7 ȝ þa Godes þeowas, þe þa sceattas underfoð, þe we
and the of-God servants who the payments receive which we
Gode syllað, libban clænan life, þæt hy þurh þa clænnysse
to-God give let-live clean life that they through the chastity
ús to Gode þingian mægen.
for-us to God intercede can

1, 8 ȝ ic ȝ mine þegnas wyldan ure preostas to ðan þe
and I and my thanes let-compel our priests to that which
ure saula hyrdas us tæcað, þæt syndon ure bisceopas, þe
our of-souls shepherds us teach that are our bishops whom
we næfre mishyran ne scylon on nan þara þinga, þe hy
we never disobey — must in any of-those things which they
us for Gode tæcað, þæt we þurh þa hyrsomnysse, þe we
us for God teach that we through the obedience which we
heom for Gode hyrsomiað, þæt éce lif geearnian, þe hy
them for God obey the eternal life earn which they
us towemað mid lare ȝ mid bysene goddra weorca.
us urge-to with teaching and with example of-good works

2 Woruldgerihta ic wille þæt standen on ælcum leodscipe
Secular-rights I will that stand in each people
swa gode swa hy mon betste aredian mæge, Gode to
so good as they one best devise can to-God as
gecwemnysse ȝ me to fullum cynescipe ȝ earmum ȝ
satisfaction and to-me as full royal-dignity and to-poor and
eadegum to ðearfe ȝ to friðe.
to-rich as benefit and as peace

2a ȝ to ælcere byrig ȝ on ælcere scire hæbbe ic mines cynescipes
and at each borough and in each shire have I of-my royal-dignity
gerihta, swa min fæder hæfde; ȝ mine þegnas hæbben heora
rights as my father had and my thanes let-have their
scipe on minum timan, swa hy hæfdon on mines fæder.
dignity in my time as they had in of-my father

ȝ ic wille, þæt woruldgerihta mid Denum standan be swa 2, 1
and I will that secular-rights among Danes stand by so
godum lagum, swa hy betste geceosan mægen.
good laws as they best choose can
Stande þonne mid Anglum þæt ic ȝ mine witan to 2, 1a
Let-stand then among English what I and my councilors to
minra yldrena domum geyhton, eallum leodscipe to þearfe.
of-my ancestors judgments added to-all people as benefit
Sy þeahhwæðere þes ræd gemæne eallum leodscipe, ægðer 2, 2
Let-be nevertheless this counsel common to-all people each
ge Anglum ge Denum ge Bryttum, on ælcum ende mines
both to-English and to-Danes and to-Britons in each end of-my
anwealdes, to ðy þæt earm ȝ eadig mote ágan þæt hy
dominion to that that poor and rich may own what they
mid rihte gestrynað, ȝ þeof nyte, hwær he þyfþe befæste,
with right acquire and thief know-not where he theft deposit
þeah he hwæt stele, ȝ him swa geborgen sy heora
though he aught steal and for-them so protected be of-their
unwilles, þæt heora to fela ne losigen.
unwill that of-them too many not perish
Ðæt is þonne, þæt ic wille, þæt ælc mon sy under borge 3
That is then that I will that each man be under surety
ge binnan burgum ge buton burgum.
both within boroughs and outside boroughs
ȝ gewitnes sý geset to ælcere byrig ȝ to ælcum 3, 1
and witness let-be appointed to each borough and to each
hundrode:
hundred
To ælcere byrig XXXVI syn gecorone to gewitnesse; 4
To each borough thirty-six be chosen as witness

5 to smalum burgum ⁊ to ælcum hundrode XII, buton ge
to small boroughs and to each hundred twelve unless ye
má willan.
more will

6 ⁊ ælc mon mid heora gewitnysse bigcge ⁊ sylle ælc þara
and each man with their witness let-buy and let-sell each of-the
ceapa, þe he bigcge oððe sylle aþer oððe burge oððe on
goods which he buy or sell either or borough or in
wæpengetace.
wapentake

6, 1 ⁊ heora ælc, þonne hine man ærest to gewitnysse gecysð,
and of-them each when him one first to witness chooses
sylle þæne að, þæt he næfre, ne for feo ne for lufe ne
let-give the oath that he never nor for money nor for love nor
for ege, ne ætsace nanes þara þinga, þe he to gewitnysse
for fear — deny any of-those things which he as witness
wæs, ⁊ nán oðer þingc on gewitnysse ne cyðe buton þæt
was and no other thing in witness — declare except that
án, þæt he geseah oððe gehyrde.
one that he saw or heard

6, 2 ⁊ swa geæþdera manna sýn on ælcum ceape twegen oððe
and so of-sworn men be in each purchase two or
þry to gewitnysse.
three as witness

7 ⁊ se ðe æfter ænegum ceape ride, cyðe his
and he who after any goods ride let-make-known to-his
nehgeburum, ymbe hwæt he ride; ⁊ þonne he ham cume,
neighbors about what he ride and when he home come
cyðe eác, on hwæs gewitnysse he þone ceap gebohte.
let-make-known also in whose witness he the goods bought

Gif he þonne unmyndlunge ceap áredige ut on hwylcere 8
If he then unexpectedly goods acquire out on any
fare, buton he hit ǽr cydde, þa he utrád, cyðe hit
journey unless he it before declared when he out-rode let-declare it
þonne he hám cume; ⁊ gif hit cuce orf bið, mid his
when he home come and if it live cattle is with of-his
tunscipes gewitnysse on gemænre læse gebringe.
township witness to common pasture let-bring
Gif he swa ne deð ǽr fif nihtum, cyðan hit þæs tunes 8, 1
If he so not does before five nights let-make-known it of-the township
men þam hundrodes ealdre, ⁊ beon buton wite ægðer ge
men to-the hundred elder and let-be without fine each both
hy sylfe ge heora hyrdas; ⁊ þolige þæs orfes þe hit þider
they selves and their herdsmen and let-forfeit the cattle who it thither
brohte, for þy þe he hit his neahgeburum cyðan nolde;
brought for that that he it to-his neighbors make-known would-not
⁊ fó se landrica to healfon ⁊ to healfan þæt hundred.
and let-take the landholder to half and to half the hundred
Gif hit þonne ofer fif niht ungecyd on gemænre læse 9
If it then over five nights undeclared on common pasture
wunað, þolige þæs orfes, swa we ǽr cwædon, ⁊ þara
remains let-forfeit the cattle as we before said and of-the
hyrda ælc þolige þære hyde; ⁊ þæs ne sy nán forgifnes,
herdsmen each let-forfeit the hide and of-that not let-be any forgiveness
gesecen þæt hy gesecen; ⁊ he þeahhwæðere cyðe, on
let-seek what they seek and he nevertheless let-declare in
hwæs gewitnysse he þæt orf bohte.
whose witness he the cattle bought
Gif he þonne cenð, þæt he hit mid gewitnysse bohte þara 10
If he then claims that he it with witness bought of-the
manna, þe to gewitnesse genamode synt, aðer oððe on byrig
men who as witness named are either or in borough

oððe on hundrode, ⁊ se hundredes ealdor þæt geácsoð,
or in hundred and the hundred elder that finds
þæt hit soð is, þolige þeah þæs orfes, for þy þe he
that it true is let-forfeit nevertheless the cattle for that that he
hit his neahgeburum cyþan nolde ne his hundrodes
it to-his neighbors make-known would-not nor to-his hundred
ealdre, ⁊ næbbe his na maran hearm.
elder and let-have-not his — more harm

11 Gif he þonne cynne, þæt he hit mid gewitnesse bohte, ⁊
If he then claims that he it with witness bought and
þæt leas bið, sy he þeof ⁊ þolige heafdes ⁊ ealles þæs
that false is let-be he thief and let-forfeit head and all that
þe he áge; ⁊ healde se landhlaford þæt forstolone orf
which he owns and let-keep the landlord the stolen cattle
⁊ þæs orfes ceapgyld, oð þæt se ágenfrigea þæt geacsige
and of-the cattle goods-payment until that the owner that learns
⁊ mid gewitnesse him þæt orf geahnige.
and with witness for-himself the cattle prove-own

12 Þonne wille ic, þæt stande mid Denum swa gode laga swa
Then will I that stand among Danes so good laws as
hy betste geceosen, ⁊ ic heom á geþafode ⁊ geþafian
they best choose and I them ever allowed and allow
wille, swa lange swa me lif gelæst, for eowrum hyldum,
will so long as to-me life lasts for your loyalties
þe ge me symble cyddon.
which ye to-me ever showed

12, 1 ⁊ þæs wilnige, þæt þes án dóm on swylcere smeagunge
and that desire that this one judgment in such investigation
sy ús eallon gemæne, to gebeorge ⁊ to friðe eallum
be to-us all common as protection and as peace to-all
leodscipe.
people

ȝ ic wille, þæt tunesmen ȝ heora hyrdas habban þás 13
and I will that townsmen and their herdsmen have this
ylcan smeagunge on minum cucum orfe ȝ on minra
same investigation on my living cattle and on of-my
þegena, ealswa hy habbað on heora ágenum.
thanes as they have on their own
Gif hit þonne min gerefa oððe ænig oðer man, riccre 13, 1
If it then my reeve or any other man more-powerful
oððe unriccre, onscunað ȝ ungerysena gebyt aðer oððe
or less-powerful shuns and indignity offers either or
tunesmannum oððe heora hyrdon, ceose Dene be lagum,
townsmen or their herdsmen let-choose Danes by laws
hwylce steore hy be þan healdan willað.
what punishment they by that keep will
Mid Anglum ic hæbbe gecoren ȝ mine witan, hwæt 14
Among English I have chosen and my councilors what
seo steor beon mæge, gif ænig man mid ánbyrdnesse
the punishment be may if any man with resistance
beginð oþþe mid ealle ofslyhð ænigne þara þe ymbe þás
begins or with all slays any of-those who about this
smeagunge bið ȝ þæt dyrne orf ámeldað, oþþe þara
investigation is and the secret cattle discloses or of-those
ænigne þe on soðre gewitnesse bið ȝ mid his soðe þæne
any who in true witness is and with his truth the
unscyldigean ahret ȝ þæne scyldigean rihtlice fordeð.
innocent rescues and the guilty rightly destroys
Þonne wille ic, þæt symble mid eow gehealden sý þæt ge 14, 1
Then will I that ever among you kept be what ye
to friþes bote gecoren hæfdon mid miclum wisdome ȝ
for of-peace remedy chosen had with great wisdom and
me swyðe gecwemlice.
to-me very pleasingly

14, 2 ⁊ þes eaca sy ús eallum gemæne, þe on þissum
and this addition let-be to-us all common who in these
íglandum wuniað.
islands dwell
15 Þonne fyrþrige Oslác eorl ⁊ éal here, þe on his
Then let-further Oslac earl and all army which in his
ealdor[do]me wunað, þæt þis stande, Gode to lofe ⁊ ure
ealdordom dwells that this stand to-God as praise and of-our
ealra saula to þearfe ⁊ eallum folce to friðe.
all souls as benefit and to-all people as peace
15, 1 ⁊ write man manega gewrita be þisum ⁊ sende ægþer
and let-write one many writings about this and let-send each
ge to Ælfhere ealdormen ge to Æþelwine ealdormen, ⁊ hy
both to Ælfhere ealdorman and to Æthelwine ealdorman and they
gehwider, þæt þes ræd cuð sy ægþer ge earmum ge eadigum.
everywhere that this counsel known be each both to-poor and to-rich
16 Ic beo eow swyðe hold hlaford þa hwile þe me lif
I am to-you very gracious lord the while that to-me life
gelæst, ⁊ eow eallum swyðe bliðe eom, for þý þe ge
lasts and to-you all very glad am for that that ye
swa georne ymbe frið syndon.
so eagerly about peace are

Copied letter by letter from the document that Archbishop Dunstan gave the king at Kingston on the day of his consecration, forbidding him every pledge but this one, laid on Christ's altar. In the name of the Trinity the king promises his people three things: true peace for God's church and all Christians, a ban on robbery and every wrong, and justice and mercy in all judgments.

Đis gewrit is gewriten stæf be stæfe be þam gewrite, þe Prol.
This writing is written letter by letter after the writing which
Dunstan arcebisceop sealde urum hlaforde æt Cingestune,
Dunstan archbishop gave to-our lord at Kingston
þa on dæg þa hine man halgode to cinge, ⁊ forbead
then on day when him one consecrated as king and forbade
him ælc wedd to syllanne, butan þysan wedde, þe he
him each pledge to give except this pledge which he
up on Cristes weofod léde, swa se bisceop him dihte:
up on of-Christ altar laid as the bishop him directed
'On þære halgan þrinnesse naman! Ic þreo þing beháte 1
In of-the holy trinity name I three things promise
Cristenum folce ⁊ me underðeoddum:
to-Christian people and to-me subject
án ærest, þæt Godes cyrice ⁊ eall Cristen folc minra 1, 1
one first that of-God church and all Christian people of-my
gewealda soðe sibbe healde;
dominions true peace keep
oðer is, þæt ic reaflac ⁊ ealle unrihte þing eallum hádum 1, 2
second is that I robbery and all wrong things all ranks
forbeode;
forbid

1, 3 þridde, þæt ic beháte ⁊ bebeode on eallum dómum riht
third that I promise and command in all judgments justice
⁊ mildheortnisse, þæt us eallum arfæst ⁊ mildheort God
and mercy that to-us all merciful and kind God
þurh þæt his ecean miltse forgife, se lifað ⁊ rixað'.
through that his eternal mercy grant who lives and reigns

XXVIII · I ÆTHELRED

Æthelred's ordinance at Woodstock, in Mercia, under English law. Every free man has a trustworthy surety. An accused man goes to the threefold ordeal unless his lord and two trustworthy thanes swear to his record; if he fails he pays the accuser double and the lord his wergild, and at a second failure loses his head. A slave who fails is branded, and no one buys without surety and witness.

Inscr. Æþelredes cyninges gerædnisse.
Of-Æthelred king ordinance
Prol. Ðis is seo gerædnys, ðe Æþelred cyning ⁊ his witan
This is the ordinance which Æthelred king and his councilors
geræddon, eallon folce to friþes bote, æt Wudestoce on
decreed to-all people as of-peace remedy at Woodstock in
Myrcena lande, æfter Engla lage.
of-Mercians land according-to of-English law
1 Þæt is, þæt ælc freoman getreowne borh hæbbe, þæt se
That is that each freeman trustworthy surety have that the
borh hine to ælcon rihte gehealde, gif he betyhtlad wurðe.
surety him to each right hold if he accused become
1, 1 Gyf he ðonne tyhtbysig sy, gange to þam þryfealdan
If he then accusation-burdened be let-go to the threefold
ordale.
ordeal

Gif se hlaford sæcge, þæt him naðer ne burste ne að ne ordal, 1, 2
If the lord say that to-him neither — failed nor oath nor ordeal
syððan þæt gemot wæs æt Bromdune, nime se hlaford him
after the assembly was at Bromdun let-take the lord for-himself
twegen getreowe þegenas innan þam hundrede, ⁊ swerian, þæt
two trustworthy thanes within the hundred and let-swear that
him næfre að ne burste, ne he þeofgyld ne gulde — butan
to-him never oath — failed nor he thief-payment — paid unless
he þone gerefan hæbbe, þe þæs wyrðe sy, þe þæt don mæge.
he the reeve have who of-that worthy be who that do can
Gif se að þonne forðcume, ceose se man þonne, þe þær 1, 3
If the oath then come-forth let-choose the man then who there
betyhtlet sy, swa hweðer he wylle swa anfeald ordal swa pundes
accused be so whichever he will so single ordeal so of-pound
wurþne að innan þam þrim hundredan, ofer þrittig peninga.
worth oath within the three hundreds over thirty pennies
Gif hy þonne aþ syllan ne durron, gange to þam þryfealdan 1, 4
If they then oath give not dare let-go to the threefold
ordale.
ordeal
Gif he þonne ful wurðe, æt þam forman cyrre bete 1, 5
If he then foul become at the first time let-amend
þam teonde twygylde ⁊ þam hlaforde his were ⁊ sette
to-the accuser twofold and to-the lord his wergild and let-set
getreowe borgas, þæt he ælces yfeles geswice eft.
trustworthy sureties that he each evil cease afterward
⁊ æt þam oþran cyrre ne sy þær nan oðer bot 1, 6
and at the second time not let-be there any other compensation
butan þæt hlaford.
except the head

1, 7 Gif he þonne uthleape ⁊ þæt ordal forbuge, gylde se borh
If he then escape and the ordeal avoid let-pay the surety
þam teonde his ceapgyld ⁊ þam hlaforde his were, þe
to-the accuser his goods-payment and to-the lord his wergild who
his wites wyrðe sy.
of-his fine worthy be

1, 8 ⁊ gyf mon þone hlaford teo, þæt he be his ræde utthleope
and if one the lord accuse that he by his counsel escaped
⁊ ær unriht worhte, nime him fif þegnas to ⁊ beo
and before wrong did let-take for-himself five thanes to and let-be
him sylf sixta ⁊ ladie hine þæs.
him self sixth and let-clear himself of-that

1, 9 ⁊ gif seo lad forðcume, beo he þæs weres wurðe.
and if the clearing come-forth let-be he of-the wergild worthy

1, 9a ⁊ gif heo forð ne cume, fo se cyning to þam were,
and if it forth not come let-take the king to the wergild
⁊ beo se þeof utlah wið eall folc.
and let-be the thief outlaw toward all people

1, 10 ⁊ hæbbe ælc hlaford his hiredmen on his agenon borge.
and let-have each lord his household-men in his own surety

1, 11 Gif he ðonne betyhtled wurðe ⁊ he utt oþhleape, gylde
If he then accused become and he out escape let-pay
se hlaford þæs mannes were þam cyninge.
the lord of-the man wergild to-the king

1, 12 ⁊ gif man þone hlaford teo, þæt he be his ræde úthleope,
and if one the lord accuse that he by his counsel escaped
ladie hine mid fif þegnum ⁊ beo him sylf sixta.
let-clear himself with five thanes and let-be him self sixth

1, 13 Gif him seo lad byrste, gylde þam cynge his were, ⁊
If to-him the clearing fail let-pay to-the king his wergild and
sy se man útlah.
let-be the man outlaw

ȝ beo se cyng ælc þæra wita wyrðe, þe þa men gewyrcen 1, 14
and let-be the king each of-the fines worthy which the men commit
þe bocland habban; ȝ ne bete nan man for nanre
who bookland have and not let-amend any man for any
tyhtlan, butan hit sy þæs cynges gerefan gewitnesse.
charge unless it be of-the king reeve witness
ȝ gif þeowman fúl wurðe æt þam ordale, mearcie man 2
and if slave-man foul become at the ordeal let-brand one
hine æt ðam forman cyrre.
him at the first time
ȝ æt ðam oðrum cyrre ne sy þær nan oþer bot 2, 1
and at the second time not let-be there any other compensation
buton þæt heafod.
except the head
ȝ þæt nan man ne dó naþor: ne ne bycge ne ne hwirfe, 3
and that no man — do either nor — buy nor — exchange
buton he borh hæbbe ȝ gewitnesse.
unless he surety have and witness
Gif hit þonne hwa dó, fo se landhlaford to ȝ healde 3, 1
If it then any do let-take the landlord to and let-keep
þæt orf, oð þæt man wite, hwa hit age mid rihte.
the cattle until that one know who it owns with right
ȝ gif hwylc man sy, þe eallon folce ungetrywe sy, fare 4
and if any man be who to-all people untrustworthy be let-go
þæs cynges gerefa to ȝ gebringe hine under borge, þæt
of-the king reeve to and let-bring him under surety that
hine man tó rihte gelæde þam þe him onspræcon.
him one to right lead to-those who him accused
Gif he ðonne borh næbbe, slea mon hine ȝ on ful lecge. 4, 1
If he then surety have-not let-slay one him and in foul let-lay

4, 2 ⁊ gif hwa hine forenne forstande, beon hy begen anes
and if any him before defend let-be they both of-one
rihtes wyrðe.
right worthy

4, 3 ⁊ se þe þys forsytte ⁊ hit geforðian nylle, swa ure ealra
and he who this neglect and it further will-not as of-us all
cwide is, sylle þam cynge CXX scll.'.
decree is let-give to-the king hundred-twenty shillings

XXIX · II ÆTHELRED

The truce Æthelred and his councilors made with the army of Olaf, Justin, and Guthmund, bought with twenty-two thousand pounds. The army helps against other raiders; merchant ships and the king's own peace-men have peace; one of the English who kills a free Dane pays twenty-five pounds, and a Dane likewise; past harryings are forgotten. Then the vouching of attached goods to warranty is set out, shire by shire.

Prol. Ðis synd ða friðmal ⁊ ða forword, ðe Æthelred cyng
These are the truce-terms and the agreements which Æthelred king
⁊ ealle his witan wið ðone here gedon habbað, ðe
and all his councilors with the army made have which
Anlaf ⁊ Iustin ⁊ Guðmund Stegitan sunu mid wæron.
Olaf and Justin and Guthmund of-Stegita son with were

1 Ðæt ærost, þæt woroldfrið stande betweox Æthelrede cynge
That first that world-peace stand between Æthelred king
⁊ eallum his leodscipe ⁊ eallum ðam here, ðe se cyng
and all his people and all the army to-which the king
þæt feoh sealde, æfter ðam formalan, ðe Sigeric arcebiscop
the money gave according-to the truce which Sigeric archbishop
⁊ Æðelwerd ealdormann ⁊ Ælfric ealdorman worhton, ða
and Æthelweard ealdorman and Ælfric ealdorman made when

hu abædon æt ðam cynge, þæt hy mostan ðam læppan
they asked from the king that they might for-the district
frið gebicgean, ðe hy under cynge hand ofer hæfdon.
peace buy which they under king hand over had
ȝ gif ænig sciphere on Englaland hergie, þæt we habban 1, 1
and if any ship-army in England harry that we have
heora ealra fultum; ȝ we him sculon mete findon, ða
of-them all help and we for-them must food find the
hwile ðe hy mid us beoð.
while that they with us are
ȝ ælc ðæra landa ðe ænigne friðige ðæra ðe Ænglaland 1, 2
and each of-the lands which any harbor of-those who England
hergie, beo hit utlah wið us ȝ wið ealne here.
harry let-be it outlaw toward us and toward all army
ȝ ælc ceapscip frið hæbbe, ðe binnan muðan cuman, 2
and each merchant-ship peace let-have which within estuary come
ðeh hit unfriðscyp sy, gyf hit undrifen bið.
though it hostile-ship be if it not-driven is
ȝ ðeh hit gedriuen beo ȝ hit ætfleo to hwilcre friðbyrig, 2, 1
and though it driven be and it escape to any peace-borough
ȝ ða menn up ætberstan into ðære byrig, ðonne habban
and the men up escape into the borough then let-have
ða men frið ȝ þæt hy him mid bringað.
the men peace and what they them with bring
ȝ ælc agenra friðmanna frið hæbbe, ge on lande ge on 3
and each of-own peace-men peace let-have both on land and on
wætere, ge binnan muðan ge butan.
water both within estuary and outside
Gyf Æðelredes cynges friðman cume on unfriðland, ȝ se 3, 1
If of-Æthelred king peace-man come into hostile-land and the
here ðærto cume, hæbbe frið his scip ȝ ealle his æhta.
army thereto come let-have peace his ship and all his goods

3, 2 Gyf he his scip upp getogen hæbbe oððon hulc geworhtne
If he his ship up drawn have or hut built
oððon geteld geslagen: þæt he ðær frið hæbbe ⁊ ealle his
or tent pitched that he there peace have and all his
æhta.
goods

3, 3 Gyf he his æhta bere geman ðara unfriðmanna æhta into huse,
If he his goods carry among of-the hostile-men goods into house
ðolie his æhta ⁊ æbbe sylf frið ⁊ feorh, gif he hine cyðe.
let-forfeit his goods and let-have self peace and life if he himself declare

3, 4 Gyf se friðman fleo oððon feohte ⁊ nelle hine cyðan: gif
If the peace-man flee or fight and will-not himself declare if
hine man ofslea, licge ungylde.
him one slay let-lie unpaid-for

4 Gyf man beo æt his æhtan bereafod, ⁊ he wite of
If one be of his goods robbed and he know from
hwilcum scipe, agyfe steoresman ða æhta oððon gange
which ship let-give-back steersman the goods or let-go
feowra sum tó ⁊ oðsace — ⁊ beo him sylf fifta—, þæt
of-four one to and let-deny and let-be him self fifth that
he hit ariht name, swa hit ær geforword wæs.
he it rightly took as it before agreed was

5 Gyf Ænglisc man Deniscne ofsleo, frigman frigne, gylde hine
If English man Danish slay freeman free let-pay him
mid XXV pundum, oððon man ðone handdædan agyfe;
with twenty-five pounds or one the hand-doer give-up
⁊ do se Denisca ðone Engliscan ealswa, gif hine ofslea.
and let-do the Danish the English likewise if him slay

5, 1 Gyf Englisc man Deniscne ðræl ofslea, gylde hine mid
If English man Danish thrall slay let-pay him with
punde, ⁊ se Denisca Engliscne ealswa, gif he hine ofslea.
pound and the Danish English likewise if he him slay

Gyf eahta men beon ofslagene, ðonne is þæt friðbrec, binnan 5, 2
If eight men be slain then is that peace-breach within
byrig oððon buto[n]. Binnan eahta mannum bete man
borough or outside Within eight men let-amend one
þæt fullum were.
that with-full wergild
Gyf hit binnan byrig gedon bið, seo friðbræc, fare seo 6
If it within borough done is the peace-breach let-go the
buruhwaru sylf to ȝ begyte ða banan, cuce oððe deade,
borough-dwellers self to and let-get the slayers living or dead
heora nyh[s]tan magas, heafod wið heafde. Gyf hy nellan,
their nearest kinsmen head for head If they will-not
fare se ealdorman to; gif he nelle, fare se cyning to; gif
let-go the ealdorman to if he will-not let-go the king to if
he nelle, licge se ealdordóm on unfriðe.
he will-not let-lie the ealdordom in hostility
Æt eallum slyht ȝ æt ealre ðære hergunge ȝ æt eallum 6, 1
At all slaughter and at all the harrying and at all
ðam hearmum, ðe ær ðam gedon wære, ær ðæt frið
the harms which before that done were before the peace
geset wære, man eall onweig læte, ȝ nan man þæt ne
established were one all away let-go and no man that —
rece ne bote ne bidde.
care-for nor compensation — ask
ȝ þæt naðor ne hy ne we ne underfon oðres wealh ne 6, 2
and that neither — they nor we — receive of-other slave nor
oðres ðeof ne oðres gefan.
of-other thief nor of-other foe

7 ⁊ gif man secge on landesmann, þæt he orf stæle oððon
and if one say against countryman that he cattle stole or
man sloge, ⁊ hit secge an sceiðman ⁊ an landesman,
man slew and it say one shipman and one countryman
ðonne ne beo he nane[s] andsæces wyrðe.
then not let-be he of-any denial worthy

7, 1 ⁊ gif heora menn slean ure eahta, ðonne beoð hy utlage
and if their men slay of-ours eight then are they outlaws
ge wið hy ge wið us ⁊ ne beo nanre bote weorðe.
both toward them and toward us and not let-be of-any compensation worthy

7, 2 Twa and twentig ðuse[n]d punda goldes ⁊ seolfres man
Two and twenty thousand pounds of-gold and of-silver one
gesealde ðam here of Ænglalande wið friðe.
gave to-the army from England for peace

8 Gyf hwa befo þæt him losod wæs, cenne se, ðe he hit
If any attach what from-him lost was let-declare he whom he it
æt befo, hwanon hit him come; sylle on hand ⁊ sette
from attaches whence it to-him came let-give into hand and let-set
borh, þæt he bringe his geteaman in, ðær hit besprecen bið.
surety that he bring his warrantor in where it claimed is

8, 1 Gif he liuiendre handa team gecenne, ⁊ sy on oðere
If he of-living hand vouching declare and be in other
scire se, ðe he to tymð, hæbbe swa la[n]gne fyrst, swa
shire he whom he to vouches let-have so long respite as
ðærto gebyrige. Sette on ða hand, ðe hit him sealde,
thereto belongs Let-set into the hand which it to-him sold
⁊ bidde, þæt he clænsie, gif he mæge.
and let-ask that he clear if he can

8, 2 Gif he tofeóht, ðonne clænsnoð he ðene, ðe hit ær æt
If he resists then clears he him who it before from
befangen wæs. Cenne he syððan, hwanan hit him come.
attached was Let-declare he afterward whence it to-him came

Gif he cenne ofer I scira, hæbbe I wucena fyrst; gif 8, 3
If he declare over one shire let-have one week respite if
he cenne ofer II scira, hæbbé II wucena fyrst; gyf he
he declare over two shires let-have two weeks respite if he
cenna ofer III scira, hæbbe III wucena fyrst: ofor eallswa
declare over three shires let-have three weeks respite over just-as
fela scira swa he cenne, hæbbe swa fela wycena fyrst.
many shires as he declare let-have so many weeks respite
ȝ cume hit mon æure, ðær hit ærost befangen beo. 8, 4
and let-come it one ever there it first attached be
Hwilon stod, þæt man sceolde ðrywa tyman, ðær hit ærest 9
Formerly stood that one should thrice vouch where it first
befangen wære, ȝ syððan fylgean teame, swa hwær swa
attached were and afterward follow vouching so where so
man to cende. Ða geræddan witan, þæt hit betere wære,
one to declared Then decided councilors that it better were
þæt man æure tymde, ðær hit ærest befangen wære, swa
that one ever vouched where it first attached were so
longe þæt man wiste, hwær hit ætstandan wolde, ðy læs
long that one knew where it stop would the less
ðe mon unmihtigne man to feor ȝ to lange for his
that one powerless man too far and too long for his
agenan swencte: swunce mare se, ðe þæt unriht gestreon
own harassed labored more he who the wrong gain
on his handa stode, ȝ læsse se ðe ðær ariht onspræce.
in his hands stood and less he who there rightly claimed
Warige eac hine se ðe his hagen befoð: he to ælcan teame 9, 1
Let-beware also himself he who his own attaches he for each vouching
hæbbe getrywne borh ȝ beorge, þæt he awoh ne befo,
let-have trustworthy surety and let-guard that he wrongly not attach
ðy les ðe hine mon swence, swa he oðerne man ðohte.
the less that him one harass as he other man thought

9, 2 Gyf hwa to deadan tyme — buton he yruenoman hæbbe,
If any to dead vouch unless he heir have
ðe hit clænsie—, geswutelie mid gewitnysse, gif he mæge,
who it clear let-prove with witness if he can
þæt he riht cenne, se ðe hit tyme; ⁊ clænsnige hine
that he right declare he who it vouches and let-clear him
sylfne mid ðam. Ðonne bið se deada besmiten, buton he
self with that Then is the dead defiled unless he
frind hæbbe, ðe hine mid rihte clænsnian, swa he sylf
friends have who him with right clear as he self
scolde, gif he mehte oðð liues wære.
should if he could or of-life were

9, 3 Gif he ðonne ðære freonda hæfð, ðe þæt don durron,
If he then of-the friends has who that do dare
ðonne berst se team, swa wel swa he liues wære ⁊ sylf
then fails the vouching as well as he of-life were and self
andsæc worhte; stent ðonne ðeofscyldig se ðe hit on handa
denial made stands then theft-guilty he who it in hands
hæfð: forðam a bið andsæc swiðere ðonne onsagu.
has because ever is denial stronger than accusation

9, 4 Eac betweox teame, gif hwa tofehð ⁊ na furðor team
Also between vouching if any resists and not further vouching
ne cenð, ac agnian wile, ne mæg mon ðæs wyrnan, gif
— declares but prove-own will not can one that refuse if
getrywe gewitnes him to agenunge rymð: forðam agnung
trustworthy witness him to ownership makes-room because ownership
bið ner ðam ðe hæfð ðonne ðam ðe æftersprecð.
is nearer to-him who has than to-him who claims-after

The laws Æthelred and his councilors made at Wantage as a remedy for peace. The king's peace stands as of old, and a breach of the peace given in the assembly of the Five Boroughs, a borough, a wapentake, or an alehouse is atoned for by its place. In each wapentake the twelve eldest thanes swear to accuse no innocent man; accused men go to the threefold ordeal; and false moneyers are slain.

Ðis syndon þa lága, þe Æðelred cyng ⁊ his witan Prol.
These are the laws which Æthelred king and his councilors
gerædd habbað æt Wánetingc to friðes bóte.
decreed have at Wantage as of-peace remedy
Ðæt is: þæt his grið stande swa forð, swa hit fyrmest 1
That is that his peace stand so forth as it foremost
stód on his yldrena dagum, þæt þæt sy bótléas, þæt he
stood in of-his ancestors days that that be unatonable which he
mid his agenre hánd sylð.
with his own hand gives
⁊ þæt grið, þæt se ealdormann ⁊ kinges geréfa on Fif 1, 1
and the peace which the ealdorman and of-king reeve in of-Five
burga geþincða sylle, bete man þæt mid XII hund'.
boroughs assembly give let-amend one that with twelve hundred
And þæt grið, þæt man sylleð on I burhgaþinðe, bete 1, 2
And the peace which one gives in one borough-assembly let-amend
man þæt mid VI hundr̄; and þær man sylle on wǽpentáke,
one that with six hundred and where one give in wapentake
bete man þæt mid hundr̄, gif hit man brecð; and þæt
let-amend one that with hundred if it one breaks and which
man sylle on éalahuse, bete man þæt æt deadum menn
one give in alehouse let-amend one that for dead man
mid VI healfmarce ⁊ æt cwicon mid XII óran.
with six half-marks and for living with twelve ores

2 And þæt, þæt man cyðe mid gewitnesse, þæt nan man
And that which one declare with witness that no man
þæt ne awende æt cwícon þe ma þe æt déadon.
that — overturn for living the more than for dead

2, 1 ⁊ gange ælc man þæs to gewitnesse, þe he durre on
and let-go each man of-that as witness which he dare on
þam haligdóme swerian, þe him man on hand sylð.
the relic swear which to-him one into hand gives

3 And lándcóp ⁊ hlafordes gifu, þe he on riht age to
And land-purchase and of-lord gift which he by right has to
gifanne, ⁊ lahcóp ⁊ witword ⁊ gewítnes, þæt þæt
give and law-purchase and testimony and witness that that
stande, þæt hit nan man ne awénde.
stand that it no man — overturn

3, 1 ⁊ þæt man habbe gemót on ælcum wæpenkace; ⁊ gán út
and that one have assembly in each wapentake and go out
þa yldestan XII þegnas ⁊ se gerefa mid, ⁊ swerian on
the eldest twelve thanes and the reeve with and swear on
þam haligdome, þe heom man on hand sylle, þæt hig nellan
the relic which to-them one into hand give that they will-not
nænne sacleasan man forsecgean ne nænne sacne forhélan.
any guiltless man accuse nor any guilty conceal

3, 2 ⁊ niman þonne þa tihtbysian men, þe mid þam
and take then the accusation-burdened men who with the
gerefan habbað, ⁊ heora ælc sylle VI healfmarc wedd,
reeve have and of-them each let-give six half-marks pledge
healf landrícan ⁊ healf wǽpentake.
half to-landholder and half to-wapentake

3, 3 ⁊ ælc bicge him lage mid XII óran, healf landrican,
and each let-buy for-himself law with twelve ores half to-landholder
healf wæpentake.
half to-wapentake

ȝ ælc tihtbysig man gange to þryfeldan órdale oððe 3, 4
and each accusation-burdened man let-go to threefold ordeal or
gilde feowergilde.
let-pay fourfold
Gif se hlaford þonne hine ladian wylle mid twam godum 4
If the lord then him clear will with two good
þegenum, þæt he næfre þeofgild né gúlde, siððan þæt
thanes that he never thief-payment — paid after the
gemót wæs on Brómdune, ne he betihlod nære, gange tó
assembly was at Bromdun nor be accused were let-go to
anfealdum órdale oððe gilde IIIgilde.
single ordeal or let-pay threefold
Gif he þonne ful beo, slea man hine, þæt him forberste se 4, 1
If he then foul be let-strike one him that to-him break the
swéora; ȝ gif he þæt ordal forbuge, gilde angylde þam agenan
neck and if he the ordeal avoid let-pay single-value to-the own
frian ȝ landrícan XX óran ȝ gá eft to þam órdale.
owner and to-landholder twenty ores and let-go again to the ordeal
And gif se ágena frígia nelle þæt ordal gesecean, gilde 4, 2
And if the own owner will-not the ordeal seek let-pay
XX óran, ȝ sy his spæce forlóren; ȝ he þeah gange
twenty ores and let-be his suit lost and he nevertheless let-go
þam landrícan to ordale oððe agife twygilde.
to-the landholder to ordeal or let-give twofold
And gif hwa borhleas órf habbe ȝ landrícan hit befón, 5
And if any suretyless cattle have and landholders it attach
agife þæt órf ȝ gilde XX oran.
let-give-up the cattle and let-pay twenty ores
ȝ ælc tíond áge geweald, swa hwæðer he wille swa 6
and each accuser let-have choice so whichever he will so
wæter swa ísen.
water so iron

6, 1 ⁊ ælc téam ⁊ ælc ordal beo on þæs kyninges byrig.
and each vouching and each ordeal let-be in of-the king borough

6, 2 ⁊ gif he þæt ordal forfleo, gilde se borh hine be his were.
and if he the ordeal flee let-pay the surety him by his wergild

7 And gif hwa þeof clænsian wylle, lecge an C to wedde,
And if any thief clear will let-lay one hundred as pledge
healf landrican ⁊ healf cinges gerefan binnan port, ⁊
half to-landholder and half of-king to-reeve within town and
gange to þrimfealdan ordale.
let-go to threefold ordeal

7, 1 Gif he clæne beo æt þam ordale, nime úpp his mǽg; gif
If he clean be at the ordeal let-take up his kinsman if
he þonne ful beo, licge þar he lǽg, ⁊ gilde an C.
he then foul be let-lie where he lay and let-pay one hundred

8 And ælc mynetére, þe man tihð, þæt fals feoh sloge,
And each moneyer whom one accuses that false money struck
syððan hit forboden wæs, gange to þrimfealdan ordale; gif
after it forbidden was let-go to threefold ordeal if
he ful beo, slea hine man.
he foul be let-slay him one

8, 1 And nan mann ne áge nænne mynetere buton cyng.
And no man — let-own any moneyer except king

8, 2 ⁊ ælc mynetere þe betihtlad sí, bicge him láh mid XII
and each moneyer who accused be let-buy for-himself law with twelve
oran.
ores

9 ⁊ nan mann hryðer ne sléa, buton he habbe twégra
and no man ox — let-slay unless he have of-two
trywra manna gewitnesse, ⁊ he healde III niht hyde ⁊
trustworthy men witness and he let-keep three nights hide and
heafod; ⁊ sceapes eallswa.
head and of-sheep likewise

⁊ gif he þa hyde ǽr þam awég sylle, gilde XX oran. 9, 1
and if he the hide before that away give let-pay twenty ores
⁊ ælc flyma beo flyma on ælcum lande, þe on ánum sy. 10
and each fugitive let-be fugitive in each land who in one be
⁊ nan man náge náne socne ofer cynges þegen buton 11
and no man owns any jurisdiction over of-king thane except
cyng sylf.
king self
And æt cynges spǽce lecge man VI healfmarc wedd ⁊ æt eorles 12
And at of-king suit let-lay one six half-marks pledge and at of-earl
⁊ biscopes XII óran wedd ⁊ æt ælcum þegene VI óran wedd.
and of-bishop twelve ores pledge and at each thane six ores pledge
⁊ gif man hwilcne man téo, þæt he þone man féde, þe 13
and if one any man accuse that he the man feed who
ures hlafordes grið tóbrocen habbe, ladige hine mid þrinna
of-our lord peace broken have let-clear himself with of-three
XII; ⁊ se geréfa namige þa lade.
twelve and the reeve let-name the clearing
And gif hine man mid him befare, béon hig begen ánes 13, 1
And if him one with him find let-be they both of-one
rihtes weorðe.
right worthy
⁊ þæt dóm stande, þar þegenas sámmǽle beon; gif 13, 2
and that judgment let-stand where thanes unanimous be if
hig sacan, stande þæt hig VIII secgað; ⁊ þa þe ðær
they disagree let-stand what they eight say and those who there
oferdrífene beoð, gilde heora ælc VI healfmarc.
outvoted are let-pay of-them each six half-marks
⁊ þar þegen ágе twegen costas, lufe oððe lage, ⁊ he 13, 3
and where thane has two choices love or law and he
þonne lufe geceose, stande þæt swa fæst swa sé dom.
then love choose let-stand that so firm as the judgment

13, 4 ⁊ se ðe ofer ðæt láde geþafie oððe se þe hy sylle, gilde
and he who after that clearing allow or he who it give let-pay
VI healfmarc.
six half-marks

14 And se þe sitte úncwydd ⁊ uncrafod on his áre on life,
And he who sit unchallenged and unclaimed in his estate in life
þæt nan mann on his yrfenuman ne spéce æfter his dæge.
that no man against his heir — sue after his day

15 And se þe reafað man leohtan dæge, ⁊ he hit kyþe to
And he who robs man in-light day and he it declare to
þrim túnan, þæt he ne beo nanes fryðes weorðe.
three townships that he not be of-any peace worthy

16 ⁊ þa myneteras þe inne wuda wyrceð oððe elles hwær,
and the moneyers who in wood work or else where
þæt þa bion heora feores scyldig, buton se cyning heom
that they be of-their life liable unless the king them
arian wille.
spare will

XXXI · V ÆTHELRED

The ordinance of the king of the English and his councilors, ordained and lay: one God and one Christianity under one kingdom, right laws raised and unlaws felled. Christians are not sold abroad nor put to death for little; monks and priests keep their rule; dues, feasts, and fasts are kept; every vice is shunned; army and fleet are readied; and the unlaws of the west and the north are abolished.

Prol. Ðis is seo gerædnes, þe Engla cyng ⁊ ægðer ge gehadode
This is the ordinance which of-English king and each both ordained
ge læwede witan gecuran and geræddan.
and lay councilors chose and decreed

Ðæt is þonne ærest, þæt we ealle ænne God lufian ⁊ 1
That is then first that we all one God love and
weorðian ⁊ ænne Cristendom georne healdan ⁊ ælcne
honor and one Christianity eagerly hold and each
hæðendom mid ealle aweorpan; ⁊ þæt we habbað ealle
heathendom with all cast-away and that we have all
ægþer ge mid worde ge mid wedde gefæstnod, þæt we
each both with word and with pledge confirmed that we
under anum cynedome ænne Cristendom healdan willað.
under one kingship one Christianity hold will
⁊ ures hlafordes gerædnes ⁊ his witena is, þæt man 1, 1
and of-our lord ordinance and of-his councilors is that one
rihte laga up aráre ⁊ ælce unlaga georne afylle, ⁊ þæt
right laws up raise and each unlaw eagerly fell and that
man læte beon æghwylcne man rihtes wyrþe,
one let be each man of-right worthy
⁊ þæt man frið ⁊ freondscype rihtlice healde innan þysan 1, 2
and that one peace and friendship rightly keep within this
earde for Gode ⁊ for worolde.
land before God and before world
⁊ ures hlafordes gerædnes ⁊ his witena is, þæt man 2
and of-our lord ordinance and of-his councilors is that one
Cristene menn ⁊ unforworhte of earde ne sylle, ne huru
Christian men and innocent from land not sell nor especially
on hæþene leode, ac beorge man georne, þæt man þa
into heathen people but let-guard one eagerly that one the
sawla ne forfare, þe Crist mid his agenum life gebohte.
souls not destroy which Christ with his own life bought
⁊ ures hlafordes gerædnes ⁊ his witena is, þæt man 3
and of-our lord ordinance and of-his councilors is that one
Cristene men for ealles to lytlum to deaðe ne fordeme.
Christian men for altogether too little to death not condemn

3, 1 Ac elles geræde man friðlice steora folce to þearfe ⁊
But else let-decree one peaceable punishments to-people as benefit and
ne forspille for lytlum Godes handgeweorc ⁊ his agenne
not let-destroy for little of-God handiwork and his own
ceap, þe he deore gebohte.
purchase which he dearly bought

4 ⁊ ures hlafordes gerædnes ⁊ his witena is, þæt ælces
and of-our lord ordinance and of-his councilors is that of-each
hades menn georne gebugan for Gode ⁊ for worolde,
order men eagerly turn before God and before world
ælc to þam rihte, þe him to gebyrige.
each to the right which him to belongs

4, 1 ⁊ huruþinga Godes þeowas — biscopas ⁊ abbudas, munecas
and especially of-God servants bishops and abbots monks
⁊ mynecena, preostas ⁊ nunnan — to rihte gebugan ⁊
and minchens priests and nuns to right turn and
regollice libban ⁊ for eall Cristen folc þingian georne.
by-rule live and for all Christian folk intercede eagerly

5 ⁊ ures hlafordes gerædnes ⁊ his witena is, þæt muneca
and of-our lord ordinance and of-his councilors is that of-monks
gehwylc, þe ute sy of mynstre ⁊ regoles ne gyme, do
each who outside is from monastery and rule not heed do
swa him þearf is: gebuge georne into mynstre mid eallum
as to-him need is turn eagerly into monastery with all
eadmettum ⁊ misdæda geswice ⁊ bete swyþe georne þæt he
humility and misdeeds cease and amend very eagerly what he
abrocen hæbbe; geðence word ⁊ wedd, þe he Gode betæhte.
broken has consider word and pledge which he to-God committed

6 ⁊ se munuc, þe mynster næbbe, cume scirebiscope ⁊ trywsie
and the monk who monastery has-not let-come to-shire-bishop and let-pledge
hine sylfne wið God ⁊ wið men, ⁊ he huru þreo þing
him self with God and with men and he at-least three things

þanan forð healdan wille, þæt is his clænnese ⁊ munuclice
thence forth hold will that is his chastity and monkish
scrudware ⁊ þeowian his Drihtne, swa wel swa he betst mæge.
garb and serve his Lord as well as he best may
⁊ gyf he þæt gelæste, þonne bið he wyrðe, þæt hine man 6, 1
and if he that performs then is he worthy that him one
þe bet healde, wunige þær he wunige.
the better keep let-dwell where he dwell
⁊ canónicas, þær seo ár sy, þæt hy beoddern ⁊ 7
and canons where the property be that they refectory and
slæpern habban magan, healdan heora mynster mid rihte
dormitory have may let-keep their minster with right
⁊ mid clænnesse, swa heora regol tæce; oððon riht is,
and with chastity as their rule teaches or right is
þæt þolige þære are se ðe þæt nelle.
that forfeit the property he who that will-not
⁊ ealle mæssepreostas we biddað ⁊ lærað, þæt hy beorgan 8
and all mass-priests we pray and teach that they guard
heom sylfum wið Godes yrre.
them selves against of-God anger
Fulgeorne hy witan, þæt hy nagon mid rihte þurh 9
Full-well they know that they own-not with right through
hæmedþing wifes gemanan.
intercourse of-woman fellowship
⁊ se ðe þæs geswican wille ⁊ clænnesse healdan, hæbbe he 9, 1
and he who that cease will and chastity keep let-have he
Godes miltse, ⁊ þær to eacan to woroldweorðscype, þæt he
of-God mercy and there to addition as world-honor that he
sy þegenweres ⁊ þegenrihtes wyrðe, ge on life ge on legere.
be of-thane-wergild and of-thane-right worthy both in life and in grave

9, 2 ⁊ se þe þæt nelle þæt his hade gebyrige: wanige his
and he who that will-not which to-his order befits let-lessen his
weorðscype ge for Gode ge for worolde.
honor both before God and before world
10 ⁊ æghwylc Cristen man eac unriht hæmed georne forbuge
and each Christian man also unlawful intercourse eagerly let-shun
⁊ godcunde laga rihtlice healde.
and divine laws rightly let-keep
10, 1 ⁊ sy ælc cyrice on Godes griðe ⁊ on ðæs cynges ⁊
and let-be each church in of-God peace and in of-the king and
on ealles Cristenes folces.
in of-all Christian folk
10, 2 ⁊ ænig man heonan forð cyrican ne ðeowige, ne
and any man hence forth church not let-enslave nor
cyricmagunge mid unriht ne macie, ne cyricþen ne utige
church-trading with wrong — let-make nor church-servant — let-expel
butan biscopes geþehte.
without of-bishop counsel
11 ⁊ gelæste man Godes gerihta georne æghwylce geare.
and let-pay one of-God dues eagerly each year
11, 1 Ðæt is sulhælmessan XV niht onufan eastran ⁊ geogoðe
That is plow-alms fifteen nights upon Easter and of-young-livestock
teoðunge be pentecosten ⁊ eorðwæstma be ealra halgena
tithe by Pentecost and of-earth-fruits by of-all saints
mæssan ⁊ Romfeoh be Petres mæssan ⁊ leohtgescot þriwa
mass and Rome-money by of-Peter mass and light-scot thrice
on geare.
in year
12 ⁊ saulsceat is rihtast, þæt man symle gelæste æt openum
and soul-scot is rightest that one ever pay at open
græfe.
grave

ȝ gyf man ænig lic of rihtscriftscire elles hwar lecge, 12, 1
and if one any body from proper-shrift-district else where lay
gelæste man saulsceat swa þeh into þam mynstre, þe hit
let-pay one soul-scot so though into the minster which it
to hyrde.
to belonged
ȝ ealle Godes gerihta fyrðrige man georne, ealswa hit 12, 2
and all of-God dues let-further one eagerly just-as it
þearf is.
need is
ȝ freolsa ȝ fæstena healde man rihtlice. 12, 3
and festivals and fasts let-keep one rightly
Sunnandæges freols healde man georne, swa þærto gebyrige. 13
Of-Sunday festival let-keep one eagerly as thereto belongs
ȝ cypinga ȝ folcgemota on ðam halgan dæge geswice 13, 1
and tradings and folk-moots on the holy day let-cease
man georne.
one eagerly
ȝ sancte Marian freolstida ealle weorðie man georne ærest 14
and of-saint Mary feast-tides all let-honor one eagerly first
mid fæstene ȝ syððan mid freolse.
with fast and afterward with festival
ȝ to æghwylces apostoles heahtide fæste man ȝ freolsige; 14, 1
and at of-each apostle high-tide let-fast one and let-celebrate
buton to Philippus ȝ Iacobus freolse ne beode wé nan
except at of-Philip and James feast not command we any
fæsten for þam eastorlican freolse.
fast for the Easter feast
Elles oðre freolsa ȝ fæstena healde man georne, swa swa 15
Else other festivals and fasts let-keep one eagerly so as
þa heoldan þa ðe betst heoldan.
them kept those who best kept

16 ⁊ sancte Eadwerdes mæssedæg witan habbað gecoren, þæt
and of-saint Edward mass-day councilors have chosen that
man freolsian sceal ofer eal Englaland on XV kl. Aprilis,
one celebrate shall over all England on fifteen calends of-April
17 ⁊ fæstan ælce Frigedæg, butan hit freols sy.
and fast each Friday unless it festival be
18 ⁊ ordal ⁊ aðas syndan tocweðen freolsdagum ⁊
and ordeal and oaths are forbidden on-feast-days and
rihtymbrendagum ⁊ fram Adventum Domini oð octabas
on-proper-ember-days and from Advent of-the-Lord until octave
Epiphanię ⁊ fram Septuagessimam oð XV niht ofer eastran.
of-Epiphany and from Septuagesima until fifteen nights after Easter
19 ⁊ beo ðam halgum tidan, ealswa hit riht is, eallum
and let-be at-the holy tides just-as it right is to-all
Cristenum mannum sib ⁊ som gemæne, ⁊ ælc sacu
Christian men peace and concord common and each dispute
getwæmed.
settled
20 ⁊ gyf hwa oðrum scyle borh oððon bote æt woroldlican
and if anyone to-another owe surety or compensation in worldly
þingan, gelæste hit georne ǽr oððon æfter.
things let-pay it eagerly before or after
21 ⁊ sy ælc wydewe, þe hy sylfe mid rihte gehealde, on
and let-be each widow who her self with right keeps in
Godes griðe ⁊ on þæs cynges.
of-God peace and in of-the king
21, 1 ⁊ sitte ælc XII monað werleas; ceose syððan þæt heo
and let-sit each twelve months husbandless let-choose afterward what she
sylf wille.
self will

ȝ ælchwylc Cristen man do, swa him þearf is: gyme his 22
and each Christian man let-do as to-him need is let-heed his
Cristendomes georne ȝ gewunige gelomlice to scrifte ȝ
Christianity eagerly and let-be-accustomed frequently to confession and
únforwandodlice his synna gecyðe ȝ geornlice bete, swa
unhesitatingly his sins let-declare and eagerly let-amend so
swa him man tæce.
as to-him one teaches
ȝ gearwige eac to huslgange oft ȝ gelome gehwa hine 22, 1
and let-prepare also for communion often and frequently each him
sylfne,
self
ȝ word ȝ weorc fadige mid rihte ȝ að ȝ wedd wærlice 22, 2
and word and work let-order with right and oath and pledge warily
healde.
let-keep
ȝ ælchwylc unriht aweorpe man georne of þysan earde, 23
and each wrong let-cast-away one eagerly from this land
þæs þe man gedon mæge.
as-far as one do can
ȝ swicollice dæda ȝ laðlice unlaga ascunige man swyðe, 24
and treacherous deeds and hateful unlaws let-shun one greatly
þæt is: false gewihta ȝ woge gemeta ȝ lease gewitnessa
that is false weights and crooked measures and false witnesses
ȝ fracodlice ficunga,
and shameful frauds
ȝ egeslice mánswara ȝ deoflice dæda on morðweorcan ȝ 25
and dreadful perjuries and devilish deeds in murder-works and
on manslihtan, on stalan ȝ on strudungan, on gitsungan
in manslaughters in thefts and in robberies in avarice
ȝ on gifernessan, on ofermettan ȝ on oferfyllan, on
and in gluttony in pride and in surfeit in

swiccræftan ⁊ on mistlican lahbrycan, on hadbrycan ⁊
treacheries and in various law-breaches in order-breaches and
on æwbrican ⁊ on mæniges cynnes misdædan.
in adulteries and in of-many kind misdeeds
26 Ac lufige man Godes riht heonan forð georne wordes ⁊
But let-love one of-God law hence forth eagerly of-word and
dæde; þonne wyrð þysse þeode sona God milde.
deed then becomes to-this people at-once God mild
26, 1 ⁊ beo man georne ymbe friðes bote ⁊ ymbe feos bote
and let-be one eagerly about of-peace remedy and about of-money remedy
æghwar on earde, ⁊ ymbe burhbota on æghwylcan ende ⁊
everywhere in land and about fortress-repairs in each quarter and
ymbe fyrdunga eac, be ðam þe man geræde, áá þonne neod sy.
about army-services also by that which one decree ever when need be
27 ⁊ ymbe scipfyrðunga, swa man geornost mæge, þæt æghwylc
and about ship-services as one most-eagerly may that each
geset sy sona ofer eastran æghwylce geare.
set be at-once after Easter each year
28 ⁊ gyf hwa butan leafe of fyrde gewende, þe se cyning
and if anyone without leave from army turn which the king
sylf on sy, plihte him sylfum ⁊ ealre his are.
self in be let-imperil him self and all his property
28, 1 ⁊ se þe elles of fyrde gewende, beo se CXX scill'
and he who else from army turns let-be he hundred-twenty shillings
scyldig.
liable
29 ⁊ gyf ænig amánsumad man, butan hit friðbena sy,
and if any excommunicated man unless it peace-suppliant be
on þæs cynges neaweste ahwar gewunige, ær ðam þe he
in of-the king presence anywhere dwell before that that he

hæbbe godcunde bote georne gebogene, þonne plihte he
have divine amends eagerly turned-to then let-imperil he
him sylfum ⁊ eallan his æhtan.
him self and all his possessions
⁊ gyf hwa ymb cyninges feorh syrwe, sy he his feores 30
and if anyone about of-king life plot let-be he of-his life
scyldig; ⁊ gif he ladian wille, do þæt be ðæs cynges
liable and if he clear-himself will let-do that by of-the king
wergylde oððe mid þryfealdan ordale on Engla lage.
wergild or with threefold ordeal in of-English law
⁊ gyf hwa forsteal oððon openne wiþercwyde ongean 31
and if anyone ambush or open opposition against
lahriht Christes oððe cyninges ahwar gewyrce, gylde swa
law-right of-Christ or of-king anywhere make let-pay so
wer swa wite swa lahslite, áá be ðam þe seo dæd sy.
wergild so fine so law-breach ever by that which the deed be
⁊ gyf he ongean riht þurh æhlyp geonbyrde ⁊ swa 31, 1
and if he against right through assault resist and so
gewyrce, þæt hine man afylle, licge ægylde eallan his
act that him one fell let-lie unpaid-for to-all his
freondan.
friends
⁊ æfre alicgan heonan forð þa unlaga, þe ær þysan 32
and ever let-lapse hence forth the unlaws which before this
wæran to gewunelice wide.
were too customary widely
Ðæt is þonne án ærest æt ðam ætfengan, þe swicigende 32, 1
That is then one first at the attachments which deceiving
manswican lufedan be westan, þe mænigne man geswænctan
traitors loved in west which many-a man afflicted
⁊ on unriht gedrehtan.
and in wrong oppressed

32, 2 ⁊ oðer is, þæt gewitnessa ne moston standan, þeah hi
and second is that testimonies not might stand though they
fulgetreowe wæron ⁊ hi swa sædan, swa hi to woldon
fully-trustworthy were and they so said as they to would
swerian.
swear

32, 3 Đridde is æt swigean, þæt man wolde sweogian ⁊ on
Third is at silence that one would keep-silent and against
æftergængan eft siððan sprecan, þæt man on forgængan
successor again afterward speak what one against predecessor
næfre becliopode,
never claimed

32, 4 ⁊ be norðan stod seo unlagu, þæt man moste banweorc
and in north stood the unlaw that one might bone-work
on unsacne secgan; ⁊ þæt scolde standan, gif hit wurde
on innocent say and that should stand if it were
swa gecyðed ydæges sona.
so declared the-same-day at-once

32, 5 Ac þæt unriht alegde ure hlaford; þæt he ma mote.
But that wrong put-down our lord that he more may

33 ⁊ æghwylce unlaga alecge man georne.
and each unlaw let-put-down one eagerly

33, 1 Forþam þurh þæt hit sceal on earde godian to ahte, þe
Therefore through that it shall in land improve to aught that
man unriht alecge ⁊ rihtwisnesse lufie for Gode ⁊ for
one wrong put-down and righteousness love before God and before
worolde.
world

34 Ealle we scylan ænne God lufian ⁊ weorðian ⁊ ælcne
All we shall one God love and honor and each
hæðendom mid ealle aweorpan.
heathendom with all cast-away

ȝ utan ænne cynehlaford holdlice healdan ȝ lif ȝ land 35
and let-us one royal-lord loyally hold and life and land
samod ealle werian, swa wel swa we betst magan, ȝ God
together all defend as well as we best may and God
ealmihtigne inwerdre heortan fultumes biddan.
almighty with-inward heart for-help ask

XXXII · VI ÆTHELRED: THE CHURCH

The councilors' ordinances, the bishops' first counsel: turn from sin, love one God, keep one Christianity, and obey one king. Monks, canons, and priests live by their rule and in chastity; witches and perjurers are driven out; Christians are not sold abroad nor slain for little. No Christian marries within six degrees of kinship, a nun, or a divorced woman, nor has more than one wife; and every church stands in God's peace.

Be witena gerædnessan. Inscr.
About of-councilors ordinances
Þis syndan þa gerædnessa, þe Engla rædgifan gecuran ȝ Prol.
These are the ordinances which of-English councilors chose and
gecwædan ȝ georнlice lærdan, þæt man scolde healdan.
declared and eagerly taught that one should keep
ȝ þæt is þonne ærest þæra biscpa frumræd, þæt we ealle 1
and that is then first of-the bishops first-counsel that we all
fram synnum georne gecyrran, þæs þe we don magan, ȝ ure
from sins eagerly turn as-far as we do can and our
misdæda andettan georne ȝ georнlice betan, ȝ ænne God
misdeeds confess eagerly and eagerly amend and one God
rihtlice lufian ȝ weorðian ȝ ænne Christendom anrædlice
rightly love and honor and one Christianity steadfastly

healdan ⁊ ælcne hæþendom georne forbugan, ⁊ gebedrædene
hold and each heathendom eagerly shun and prayer
aræran georne us betweonan, ⁊ sibbe ⁊ some lufian georne,
raise eagerly us between and peace and concord love eagerly
1, 1 ⁊ anum cynehlaforde holdlice hyran ⁊ georne hine healdan
and one royal-lord loyally obey and eagerly him hold
mid rihtan getrywðan.
with right loyalty
2 ⁊ witena gerædnes is, þæt abbodas ⁊ abbodissan heora
and of-councilors ordinance is that abbots and abbesses their
agen lif rihtlice fadian ⁊ eac heora heorda wislice healdan,
own life rightly order and also their flocks wisely keep
2, 1 ⁊ þæt ælces hades men georne gebugan for Gode ⁊ for
and that of-each order men eagerly turn before God and before
worolde, ælc to þam rihte þe him to gebyrige,
world each to the right which him to belongs
2, 2 ⁊ huruþinga Godes þeowas — biscpas ⁊ abbodas, munecas
and especially of-God servants bishops and abbots monks
⁊ mynecena, canonicas ⁊ nunnan — to rihte gecyrran
and minchens canons and nuns to right turn
⁊ regollice libban ⁊ for eall Christen folc þingian georne.
and by-rule live and for all Christian folk intercede eagerly
3 ⁊ witena gerædnes is, þæt muneca gehwilc, þe ute of
and of-councilors ordinance is that of-monks each who outside from
mynstre sy, ⁊ regoles ne gyme, do swa him þearf is:
monastery is and rule not heed do as to-him need is
3a gebuge georne into mynstre mid eallum eaðmettum ⁊
turn eagerly into monastery with all humility and
misdæda geswice ⁊ bete swyþe georne þæt he abrocen
misdeeds cease and amend very eagerly what he broken
hæbbe; geþence word ⁊ wedd, þe he Gode betæhte.
has consider word and pledge which he to-God committed

ȝ se munuc, þe mynster næbbe, cume to scirebiscop ȝ 3, 1
and the monk who monastery has-not let-come to shire-bishop and
trywsige hine sylfne wið God ȝ wið men, þæt he huru
let-pledge him self with God and with men that he at-least
þreo þing þanon forð healdan wille, þæt is: his clænnesse
three things thence forth hold will that is his chastity
ȝ munuclice scrudware ȝ þeowian his Drihtne, swa wel
and monkish garb and serve his Lord as well
swa he betst mæge.
as he best may
ȝ gif he þæt gelæste, þonne bið he weorðe, þæt hine 3, 2
and if he that performs then is he worthy that him
man þe bet healde, wunige þær he wunige.
one the better keep let-dwell where he dwell
ȝ canonicas, þær seo ar sy, þæt hy beodern ȝ slæpern 4
and canons where the property be that they refectory and dormitory
habban magan, healdan heora mynster mid clænnesse, swa heora
have may let-keep their minster with chastity as their
regol tæce; oþþon riht is, þæt þolige þære are se þe þæt nelle.
rule teaches or right is that forfeit the property he who that will-not
ȝ ealle Godes þeowas, ȝ huruþinga sacerdas, we biddað 5
and all of-God servants and especially priests we pray
ȝ lærað, þæt hy Gode hyran ȝ clænnesse lufian ȝ
and teach that they God obey and chastity love and
beorhgan him sylfum wið Godes yrre.
guard them selves against of-God anger
Fulgeorne hi witan, þæt hy nagon mid rihte þurh ænig 5, 1
Full-well they know that they own-not with right through any
hæmedþing wifes gemanan.
intercourse of-woman fellowship

5, 2 Ac hit is þe wyrse, þe sume habbað twa oððe ma, ȝ sum,
But it is the worse that some have two or more and one
þeh he forlæte þa he ær hæfde, he be lifiendre þære eft
though he forsake her-whom he before had he by living her again
oþere nimð, swa ænigan Cristenan mæn ne gedafenað to donne.
another takes as to-any Christian man not befits to do
5, 3 ȝ se ðe þæs geswican wille ȝ clænnesse healdan, hæbbe he
and he who that cease will and chastity keep let-have he
Godes miltse, ȝ þær to eacan to woroldweorðscipe, þæt he
of-God mercy and there to addition as world-honor that he
sy þegenweres ȝ þegenrihtes wyrþe ge on life ge on legere.
be of-thane-wergild and of-thane-right worthy both in life and in grave
5, 4 ȝ se þe þæt nelle, þæt his hade gebyrige, wanige his
and he who that will-not which to-his order befits let-lessen his
weorðscipe ægðer ge for Gode ge for worolde.
honor each both before God and before world
6 ȝ la gyt we willað biddan freonda gehwylcne ȝ eal folc
and lo yet we will pray of-friends each and all folk
eac læran georne, þæt hy inwerdre heortan ænne God lufian
also teach eagerly that they with-inward heart one God love
ȝ ælcne hæþendom georne ascunian.
and each heathendom eagerly shun
7 ȝ gif wiccan oððe wigeleras, scincræftcan oððe horcwenan,
and if witches or diviners sorcerers or whores
morðwyrhtan oððe mánsworan ahwar on earde wurðan
murderers or perjurers anywhere in land become
agytene, fyse hy man georne ut of þysan earde ȝ
discovered let-drive them one eagerly out of this land and
clæ[n]sige þas þeode, oþþe on earde forfare hy mid ealle,
let-cleanse this people or in land let-destroy them with all
butan hy geswican ȝ þe deoppor gebetan.
unless they cease and the more-deeply amend

⁊ witena gerædnes is, þæt man rihte laga up aræ̆re for 8
and of-councilors ordinance is that one right laws up raise before
Gode ⁊ for worolde ⁊ æghwilce unlaga georne afylle,
God and before world and each unlaw eagerly fell
⁊ þæt man heonan forð læte manna gehwylcne, ge earmne 8, 1
and that one hence forth let of-men each both poor
ge eadigne, folcrihtes wyrðe,
and rich of-folk-right worthy
⁊ þæt man frið ⁊ freondscipe rihtlice healde innan þysan 8, 2
and that one peace and friendship rightly keep within this
earde for Gode ⁊ for worolde.
land before God and before world
⁊ witena gerædnes is, þæt man Christene men ⁊ 9
and of-councilors ordinance is that one Christian men and
unforworhte of earde ne sylle, ne huru on hæþene þeode;
innocent from land not sell nor especially into heathen people
ac beorge man georne, þæt man þa sawla ne forfare, þe
but guard one eagerly that one the souls not destroy which
Crist mid his agenum life gebohte.
Christ with his own life bought
⁊ witena gerædnes is, þæt man Christene men for ealles 10
and of-councilors ordinance is that one Christian men for altogether
to lytlan to deaðe ne forræde.
too little to death not condemn
Ac elles geræde man friðlice steora, folce to þearfe, ⁊ 10, 1
But else let-decree one peaceable punishments to-people as benefit and
ne forspille for lytlum Godes agen handgeweorc ⁊ his
not let-destroy for little of-God own handiwork and his
agenne ceap, þe he deore gebohte.
own purchase which he dearly bought

10, 2 Ac ælchwilce dæde toscade man wærlice ⁊ dom æfter
But each deed let-distinguish one warily and judgment after
dæde medemige be mæþe, swa for Gode sy gebeorhlic ⁊
deed let-measure by measure as before God be defensible and
for worolde aberendlic.
before world bearable

10, 3 ⁊ geþence swyþe georne se þe oþrum deme, hwæs he
and let-consider very eagerly he who another judges what he
sylf gyrne, þonne he þus cweðe: 'Et dimitte nobis debita
self desires when he thus says And forgive to-us debts
nostra' et reliqua.
our and the-rest

11 ⁊ we lærað swyþe georнlice, þæt ælchwilc Christen man
and we teach very eagerly that each Christian man
unriht hæmed georne forbuge ⁊ Christene lage rihtlice
unlawful intercourse eagerly shun and Christian law rightly
healde.
keep

12 ⁊ æfre ne geweorðe, þæt Christen man gewifige in VI manna
and ever not let-happen that Christian man marry within six of-men
sibfæce on his agenum cynne, þæt is binnan þam feorþan
kinship in his own kin that is within the fourth
cneowe, ne on þæs lafe, þe swa neah wære on woroldcundre
knee nor with of-him widow who so near were in worldly
sibbe, ne on þæs wifes nydmagan, þe he ær hæfde.
kinship nor with of-the wife near-kinswoman whom he before had

12, 1 Ne on gehalgodre ænigre nunnan, ne on his gefæderan, ne
Nor with consecrated any nun nor with his godmother nor
on ælætan ænig Cristen man ne gewifige æfre;
with divorced-woman any Christian man — let-marry ever

ne na ma wifa þonne án hæbbe; ac beo be þære anre, 12, 2
nor — more wives than one let-have but let-be by the one
þa hwile þe heo libbe, se þe wille Godes lage gyman mid
the while that she live be who will of-God law heed with
rihte ⁊ wiþ hellebryne beorgan his sawle.
right and against hell-fire guard his soul
⁊ sy ælc cyrice on Godes griþe ⁊ on þæs cynges ⁊ 13
and let-be each church in of-God peace and in of-the king and
on ealles Cristenes folces.
in of-all Christian folk
⁊ sy ælc cyricgrið binnan wagum ⁊ cyninges handgrið 14
and let-be each church-peace within walls and of-king hand-peace
efen unwemme.
equally inviolate
⁊ ænig man heonan forð cyrican ne þowige, ne 15
and any man hence forth church not let-enslave nor
cyricmangunge mid unrihte ne macige,
church-trading with wrong — let-make
ne cyricþén ne utige butan biscopes geþehte. 15, 1
nor church-servant — let-expel without of-bishop counsel
⁊ gelæste man Godes gerihta æghwilce geare rihtlice georne, 16
and let-pay one of-God dues each year rightly eagerly
þæt is sulhælmessan huru XV niht ofer eastron
that is plow-alms at-least fifteen nights after Easter
⁊ geogoðe teoþunge be pentecosten ⁊ eorðwæstma be 17
and of-young-livestock tithe by Pentecost and of-earth-fruits by
ealra halgena mæssan
of-all saints mass
⁊ Romfeoh be Petres mæssan 18
and Rome-money by of-Peter mass
⁊ cyricsceat to Martinus mæssan 18, 1
and church-scot at of-Martin mass

19 ⁊ leohtgescot þriwa on geare.
and light-scot thrice in year

20 ⁊ saulsceat is rihtast, þæt man symble gelæste aa æt openum græfe.
and soul-scot is rightest that one ever pay ever at open grave

21 ⁊ gif man ænig lic of rihtscire elles hwar lecge, gelæste man þone saulsceat swa þeh into þam mynstre, þe hit to hyrde.
and if one any body from proper-district else where lay let-pay one the soul-scot so though into the minster which it to belonged

21, 1 ⁊ ealle Godes gerihta fyrþrige man georne, ealswa hit þearf is.
and all of-God dues let-further one eagerly just-as it need is

22 ⁊ freolsa ⁊ fæstena healde man rihtlice.
and festivals and fasts let-keep one rightly

22, 1 Sunnandæges freols healde man georne, swa þærto gebyrige; ⁊ cypinga ⁊ folcgemota ⁊ huntaðfara ⁊ woroldlicra weorca on þam halgan dæge geswice man georne.
Of-Sunday festival let-keep one eagerly as thereto belongs and tradings and folk-moots and hunting-journeys and worldly works on the holy day let-cease one eagerly

22, 2 ⁊ sancta Marian heahfreolstida ealle weorðige man georne, ærest mid fæstene ⁊ syþþan mid freolse.
and of-saint Mary high-feast-tides all let-honor one eagerly first with fast and afterward with festival

22, 3 ⁊ to ægwilces apostoles heahtide fæste man georne, butan to Philippus ⁊ Iacobus freolse ne beode we nan fæsten for þam
and at of-each apostle high-tide let-fast one eagerly except at of-Philip and James feast not command we any fast for the

easterlican freolse, butan hwa wille; elles oþre freolsa ⁊ fæstena
Easter feast unless anyone will else other festivals and fasts
healde man georne, swa swa þa heoldan þa þe betst heoldan,
let-keep one eagerly so as them kept those who best kept
⁊ ymbren ⁊ fæstena, swa swa sanctus Gregorius Angelcynne 23
and ember-days and fasts so as saint Gregory to-English-race
sylf hit gedihte.
self it appointed
⁊ fæste man ælce Frigedæge, butan hit freols sy. 24
and let-fast one each Friday unless it festival be

XXXIII · VI ÆTHELRED: PEACE AND PENANCE

Ordeals, oaths, and marriages are forbidden on feasts and holy seasons, and sins of every kind are named and shunned. One coinage, right weights, the repair of boroughs and bridges, and the readying of ships are commanded. Plotting against the king and desertion are punished; money paid as penance goes to the church and the poor; and the mighty atone more deeply than the weak, the unwilling more lightly than the willful.

⁊ ordal ⁊ aþas ⁊ wifunga æfre syndan tocwedene 25
and ordeal and oaths and marriages ever are forbidden
[heah]freolsdagum ⁊ rihtymbrenum ⁊ fram Aduentum
on-high-feast-days and on-proper-ember-days and from Advent
Domini oð octabas Epiphanige ⁊ fram Septuagessima oð
of-the-Lord until octave of-Epiphany and from Septuagesima until
XV niht ofer eastran.
fifteen nights after Easter

25, 1 ⁊ beo þam halgan tidan, ealswa hit [riht] is, eallum
and let-be at-the holy tides just-as it right is to-all
Cristenum mannum sibb ⁊ som gemæne, ⁊ ælc sacu
Christian men peace and concord common and each dispute
totwæmed.
settled

25, 2 ⁊ gif hwa oðrum scyle borh oððe bote æt woroldlican
and if anyone to-another owe surety or compensation in worldly
þingan, gelæste hit him georne ær oððon æfter.
things let-pay it to-him eagerly before or after

26 ⁊ sy ælc wydewe, þe hy sylfe mid rihte gehealde, on
and let-be each widow who her self with right keeps in
Godes griðe ⁊ on þæs cynges.
of-God peace and in of-the king

26, 1 ⁊ sitte ælc XII monað werleas; ceose syþþan þæt heo
and let-sit each twelve months husbandless let-choose afterward what she
sylf wille.
self will

27 ⁊ æghwilc Christen man do, swa him þearf is: gyme his
and each Christian man let-do as to-him need is let-heed his
Christendomes georne ⁊ gewunige gelomlice to scrifte
Christianity eagerly and let-be-accustomed frequently to confession
⁊ unforwandodlice his synna gecyðe ⁊ georнlice bete,
and unhesitatingly his sins let-declare and eagerly let-amend
swa swa him man tæce.
so as to-him one teaches

27, 1 ⁊ gearwige eac to huslgange huru þriwa on geare gehwa
and let-prepare also for communion at-least thrice in year each
hine sylfne, þe his agene þearfe wille understandan, swa
him self who his own need will understand so
swa him þearf is.
as to-him need is

ȝ word ȝ weorc freonda gehwilc fadige mid rihte ȝ að 28
and word and work of-friends each let-order with right and oath
ȝ wedd wærlice healde.
and pledge warily let-keep
ȝ æghwilc unriht aweorpe man georne of þysan earde, 28, 1
and each wrong let-cast-away one eagerly from this land
þæs þe man don mæge.
as-far as one do can
ȝ swicollice dæda ȝ laðlice unlaga ascunige man swyðe, 28, 2
and treacherous deeds and hateful unlaws let-shun one greatly
þæt is false gewihta ȝ woge gemeta ȝ lease gewitnessa
that is false weights and crooked measures and false witnesses
ȝ fracodlice ficunga ȝ fule forligra ȝ egeslice mánswara
and shameful frauds and foul fornications and dreadful perjuries
ȝ deoflice dæda on morðweorcum ȝ on manslihtan, on 28, 3
and devilish deeds in murder-works and in manslaughters in
stalan ȝ on strudungan, on gitsungan ȝ on gifernessan, on
thefts and in robberies in avarice and in gluttony in
ofermettan ȝ on oferfyllan, on swiccræftan ȝ on mistlican
pride and in surfeit in treacheries and in various
lahbrican, on æwbrican ȝ on hadbrican, on freolsbricon ȝ on
law-breaches in adulteries and in order-breaches in festival-breaches and in
fæstenbricon, on cyricrénan ȝ on mæniges cynnes misdædan.
fast-breaches in church-robberies and in of-many kind misdeeds
ȝ la understande man georne, þæt eal swylc is to leanne 29
and lo let-understand one eagerly that all such is to blame
ȝ næfre to lufianne.
and never to love
Ac lufige man Godes riht heonan forþ georne wordes ȝ 30
But let-love one of-God law hence forth eagerly of-word and
weorces; þonne wyrð þysse þeode sona God milde.
work then becomes to-this people at-once God mild

31 Wutan eac ealle ymbe friþes bote ⁊ ymbe feos bote
Let-us also all about of-peace remedy and about of-money remedy
smeagean swyðe georne:
consider very eagerly

32 swa ymbe friþes bote, swa þam bondan sy selost ⁊ þam
so about of-peace remedy as to-the householder be best and to-the
þeofan sy laþost,
thief be most-hateful

32, 1 ⁊ swa ymbe feos bote, þæt an mynet gange ofer ealle
and so about of-money remedy that one coinage go over all
þas þeode butan ælcon false.
this people without each falsehood

32, 2 ⁊ gemeta ⁊ gewihta rihte man georne, ⁊ ælces unrihtes
and measures and weights let-correct one eagerly and each wrong
heonan forð geswice.
hence forth let-cease

32, 3 ⁊ burhbota ⁊ bricbota aginne man georne on æghwilcon
and fortress-repairs and bridge-repairs let-begin one eagerly in each
ende, ⁊ fyrdunga eac ⁊ scipfyrdunga ealswa, a þonne
quarter and army-services also and ship-services likewise ever when
neod sy, swa swa man geræde for gemænelicre neode.
need be so as one decree for common need

33 ⁊ wærlic bið, þæt man æghwilce geare sona æfter eastron
and prudent is that one each year at-once after Easter
fyrdscipa gearwige.
army-ships prepare

34 ⁊ gyf hwa folces fyrdscip awyrde, gebete þæt georne, ⁊
and if anyone of-people army-ship damage let-amend that eagerly and
cyninge þa munde; ⁊ gif hit man amyrre, þæt hit ænote
to-king the protection and if it one destroy that it useless
weorðe, forgylde hit fullice, ⁊ cyninge þone mundbrice.
become let-pay-for it fully and to-king the protection-breach

ȝ gif hwa of fyrde butan leafe gewende, þe cyning 35
and if anyone from army without leave turn which king
[sylf on] sy, plihte his are.
self in be let-imperil his property
ȝ gif morðwyrhtan oððe mansworan oððe æbære manslagan 36
and if murderers or perjurers or manifest manslayers
to þam geþristian, þæt hy on þæs cyninges neaweste
to that dare that they in of-the king presence
gewunian, ær þam þe hy habban bote agunnen for
dwell before that that they have amends begun before
Gode ȝ for worolde, þonne plihton hy heora are ȝ
God and before world then let-imperil they their property and
eallon heora æhtan, butan hit friðbenan syndan.
all their possessions unless it peace-suppliants are
ȝ gyf hwa ymbe cyninges feorh syrwe, sy he his feores 37
and if anyone about of-king life plot let-be he of-his life
scyldig ȝ ealles þæs þe he age, gif hit him ongesoþod
liable and of-all that which he owns if it on-him proved
weorðe; ȝ gif he hine ladian wille ȝ mage, do þæt be
become and if he himself clear will and can let-do that by
þam deopestan aðe oþþe mid þryfealdan ordale on Ængla
the deepest oath or with threefold ordeal in of-English
lage, ȝ on Dena lage be þam þe heora lagu sy.
law and in of-Danes law by that which their law be
ȝ gif hwa forsteal ongean lahriht Cristes oþþe cyninges ahwar 38
and if anyone ambush against law-right of-Christ or of-king anywhere
gewyrce, gylde wer oþþe wite be þam þe seo dæd sy; ȝ gif
make let-pay wergild or fine by that which the deed be and if
he geonbyrde ȝ sylf gewyrce, þæt hine man afylle, licge ægylde.
he resist and self act that him one fell let-lie unpaid-for

39 ⁊ gif hwa nunnan gewemme oþþe wydewan nydnæme,
and if anyone nun defile or widow rape
gebete þæt deope for Gode ⁊ for worolde.
let-amend that deeply before God and before world

40 ⁊ smeage man symle on æghwilce wisan, hu man fyrmest
and let-consider one ever in each way how one foremost
mæge ræd aredian, þeode to þearfe, ⁊ rihtne Christendom
may counsel devise to-people as benefit and right Christianity
swyþost aræran ⁊ æghwilce unlaga geornost afyllan.
most raise and each unlaw most-eagerly fell

40, 1 Forþam þurh þæt hit sceal on earde godian to ahte, þe
Therefore through that it shall in land improve to aught that
man unriht alecge ⁊ rihtwisnesse lufige for Gode ⁊ for
one wrong put-down and righteousness love before God and before
worolde.
world

41 Nu wille we [eac] læran Godes þeowas georne, þæt hy
Now will we also teach of-God servants eagerly that they
huru hy sylfe wærlice beþencan ⁊ þurh Godes fultum
at-least them selves warily consider and through of-God help
clænnesse lufian ⁊ georne heora bocum ⁊ gebedum fylgean
chastity love and eagerly their books and prayers follow
⁊ dæges ⁊ nihtes oft ⁊ gelome clypian to Christe ⁊
and by-day and by-night often and frequently call to Christ and
for eal Christen folc þingian georne.
for all Christian folk intercede eagerly

42 Eac we [gyt] willað myngian [georne] freonda gehwilcne,
Also we yet will exhort eagerly of-friends each
ealswa us neod is gelome to donne, þæt gehwa hine sylfne
just-as to-us need is frequently to do that each him self
georne beþence,
eagerly consider

⁊ þæt he fram synnan georne gecyrre ⁊ oþrum mannum 42, 1
and that he from sins eagerly turn and other men
unrihtes styre,
wrong restrain
⁊ þæt he oft ⁊ gelome hæbbe on gemynde, þæt mannum 42, 2
and that he often and frequently have in mind what to-men
is mæst þearf oftost to gemunene, þæt is þæt hy rihtne
is most need oftenest to remember that is that they right
geleafan anrædlice habban on þone soþan God, þe is
faith steadfastly have in the true God who is
wealdend ⁊ wyrhta ealra gesceafta, ⁊ þæt hy rihtne
ruler and maker of-all creatures and that they right
Christendom rihtlice healdan ⁊ þæt hy godcundan lareawan
Christianity rightly hold and that they divine teachers
georнlice hyran ⁊ Godes larum ⁊ lagum georнlice fylgean,
eagerly obey and of-God teachings and laws eagerly follow
⁊ þæt hy Godes cyrican æghwar georne griðian ⁊ friþian 42, 3
and that they of-God churches everywhere eagerly protect and shelter
⁊ mid leohte ⁊ lacum hi gelome gegretan, ⁊ hy sylfe
and with light and offerings them frequently visit and them selves
þær georne to Christe gebiddan.
there eagerly to Christ pray
⁊ þæt hy Godes gerihta æghwylce geare mid rihte gelæstan 43
and that they of-God dues each year with right perform
⁊ freolsa ⁊ fæstena rihtlice healdan. 43, 1
and festivals and fasts rightly keep
⁊ þæt hy Sunnandaga cypinga ⁊ folciscra gemota georne 44
and that they of-Sundays tradings and public moots eagerly
geswican.
cease
⁊ þæt hy Godes þeowas symle werian ⁊ weorðian. 45
and that they of-God servants ever defend and honor

46 ȝ þæt hy Godes þearfan frefrian ȝ fedan.
and that they of-God poor comfort and feed

47 ȝ þæt hy wydewan ȝ steopcild to oft ne ahwænan, ac
and that they widows and orphans too often not afflict but
georne hy gladian.
eagerly them gladden

48 ȝ þæt hy ælþeodige men ȝ feorran cumene ne tyrian ne
and that they foreign men and from-afar come not vex nor
ne tynan.
— *annoy*

49 ȝ þæt hy oþrum mannum unriht ne beodan ealles to swyþe;
and that they other men wrong not offer altogether too greatly
ac manna gehwylc oþrum beode þæt riht, þæt he wille, þæt man
but of-men each another offer that right which he will that one
him beode, be þam þe hit mæð sy; ȝ þæt is swyþe riht lagu.
him offer by that which it measure be and that is very right law

50 ȝ se þe ahwar heonan forð rihte laga wyrde, Godes oþþon
and he who anywhere hence forth right laws violate of-God or
manna, gebete hit georne, swa hwæþer swa hit gebyrige,
of-men let-amend it eagerly so whichever so it befits
swa mid godcundre bote swa mid woroldcundre steore.
so with divine amends so with worldly punishment

51 ȝ gif for godbotan feohbot ariseð, swa swa wise
and if for divine-amends money-compensation arises so as wise
woroldwitan to steore gesettan, þæt gebyreð rihtlice, be
world-councilors for punishment established that belongs rightly by
biscpa dihte, to gebedbigene ȝ to þearfena hyþþe ȝ to
of-bishops direction to prayer-buying and to of-poor benefit and to
cyricbote ȝ to lardome ȝ to wæde ȝ to wiste þam þe
church-repair and to teaching and to clothing and to food to-those who
Gode þeowian ȝ to bocan ȝ to bellan ȝ to cyricwædan,
God serve and to books and to bells and to church-vestments

ȝ næfre to woroldlican idelan glengan, ac for woroldsteoran
and never to worldly idle adornments but for world-punishments
to godcundan neodan, hwilum be wite, hwilum be wergylde,
to divine needs sometimes by fine sometimes by wergild
hwilum be halsfange, hwilum be lahslite, hwilum be are,
sometimes by neck-ransom sometimes by law-breach sometimes by property
hwilum be æhte, ȝ hwilum be maran, hwilum be læssan.
sometimes by possessions and sometimes by more sometimes by less
ȝ á swa man bið mihtigra her nu for worulde oþþon þurh 52
and ever as one is mightier here now before world or through
geþingða hearra on hade, swa sceal he deoppor synna gebetan
dignities higher in order so shall he more-deeply sins amend
ȝ ælce misdæda deoror agyldan, for þam þe se maga ȝ
and each misdeed more-dearly pay-for for that that the strong and
se unmaga ne beoð na gelice, ne ne magon na gelice byrþene
the weak not are — alike nor — can — alike burden
ahebban, ne se unhala þe ma þam halum gelice; ȝ þy
lift nor the sick the more to-the healthy alike and therefore
man sceal medmian ȝ gescadlice toscadan, ge on godcundan
one shall measure and discerningly distinguish both in divine
scriftan ge on woroldcundan steoran, ylde ȝ geogoþe,
penances and in worldly punishments age and youth
welan ȝ wædle, hæle ȝ unhæle, ȝ hada gehwilcne.
wealth and poverty health and sickness and of-orders each
ȝ gif hit geweorþeð, þæt man unwilles oþþe ungewealdes 52, 1
and if it happens that one unwillingly or involuntarily
ænig þing misdeð, na bið þæt na gelic þam þe willes ȝ
any thing misdoes not is that — like to-him who willingly and
gewealdes sylfwilles misdeð; ȝ eac se þe nydwyrhta bið þæs
deliberately of-own-will misdoes and also he who compelled-doer is of-that

þe he misdeð, se bið gebeorhges ⁊ þy beteran domes
which he misdoes he is of-protection and of-the better judgment
symle wyrðe, þe he nydwyrhta wæs þæs þe he worhte.
ever worthy that he compelled-doer was of-that which he wrought
53 Ælce dæde toscade man wærlice ⁊ a dom be dæde fadige
Each deed let-distinguish one warily and ever judgment by deed let-order
mid rihte ⁊ medemige be mæþe for Gode ⁊ for worolde;
with right and let-measure by measure before God and before world
⁊ miltsige man for Godes ege ⁊ liþige man georne ⁊
and let-pity one for of-God fear and let-be-lenient one eagerly and
beorge be dæle þam, þe þæs þearf sy; forþam ealle we beþurfan,
let-spare by part him who of-it need be because all we need
þæt us ure Drihten oft ⁊ gelome his miltse geunne. Amen.
that to-us our Lord often and frequently his mercy grant Amen

XXXIV · VIII ÆTHELRED

Every church of God is worthy of full peace; a manslayer within church walls lives only if he reaches deep sanctuary and pays his wergild to the king and to Christ, for a Christian king is Christ's deputy. Church-peace is paid by the church's rank and tithe divided in three; clerics clear themselves by oath, at communion, or by the morsel-ordeal; and the laws, waned since Edgar, are to be restored.

Prol. Þis is an ðara gerædnessa, þe Engla cyningc gedihte mid
This is one of-the ordinances which of-English king composed with
his witena geþeahte.
of-his councilors counsel
1 Þæt is ærest, þæt he wile, þæt ealle Godes circan beon
That is first that he wills that all of-God churches be
fulles griðes wurðe.
of-full peace worthy

And gif æfre ænig man heonan forð Godes ciricgrið swa 1, 1
And if ever any man hence forth of-God church-peace so
abrece, þæt he binnon ciricwagum mansleaga wurðe, þonne
break that he within church-walls manslayer become then
sy þæt botleas, ⁊ ehte his ælc þara þe Godes freond
let-be that unatonable and let-pursue him each of-those who of-God friend
sy, buton þæt gewurðe, þæt he þanon ætberste ⁊ swa
be unless that happen that he thence escape and so
deope friðsocne gesece, þæt se cyningc him þurh þæt feores
deep sanctuary seek that the king to-him through that life
geunne, wið fulre bote ge wið God ge wið men.
grant against full compensation both with God and with men
And þæt is þonne ærest, þæt he his agenne wer gesille 2
And that is then first that he his own wergild give
þam cyninge ⁊ Christe ⁊ mid þam hine silfne inlagige
to-the king and Christ and with that him self inlaw
to bote.
for compensation
Forðam Cristen cyning is Cristes gespelia on Cristenre 2, 1
Because Christian king is of-Christ deputy in Christian
þeode; and he sceal Cristes abilgðe wrecan swiðe georne.
people and he shall of-Christ offense avenge very eagerly
And gif hit þonne to bote gega, ⁊ se cyngc þæt 3
And if it then to compensation come and the king that
geþafige, þonne bete man þæt ciricgrið into ðare circan
allow then let-amend one the church-peace into the church
be þæs cyninges fullan mundbryce ⁊ þa mynsterclænsunge
by of-the king full protection-breach and the minster-cleansing
begite, swa þarto gebirige, ⁊ wið God huru þingian georne.
let-obtain as thereto belongs and with God at-least intercede eagerly

4 And gif be cwicum mannum ciricgrið abrocen beo, betan man
And if by living men church-peace broken be let-amend one
georne be þam þe seo dæd sy, sy hit þurh feohtlac, si hit
eagerly by that which the deed be be it through fighting be it
þurh reaflac, si hit þurh unriht hæmed, si þurh þæt þæt hit sy:
through robbery be it through unlawful intercourse be through that which it be
4, 1 bete man æfre ærest þone griðbryce into ðare circan, be
let-amend one ever first the peace-breach into the church by
þam þe seo dæd sy ⁊ be þam þe þare circan mæð sy.
that which the deed be and by that which of-the church rank be
5 Ne syn ealle cyrcan na gelicre mæðe worldlice wirðe, þeah
Not are all churches — of-like rank worldly worthy though
hi godcundlice habban halgunge gelice.
they divinely have consecration alike
5, 1 Heafodmynstres griðbryce æt botwurðan þingan bete man
Of-head-minster peace-breach in atonable things let-amend one
be cyninges munde, þæt is mid V pundum on Engla
by of-king protection that is with five pounds in of-English
lage, and medemran mynstres mid hundtwelftigan scill', þæt
law and of-lesser minster with hundred-twenty shillings that
is be cyninges wite, and þonne git læssan mid sixtigan
is by of-king fine and then yet of-smaller with sixty
scill'; and æt feldcircan mid XXX scill'.
shillings and at field-church with thirty shillings
5, 2 A sceal mid rihte dom æfter dæde ⁊ medmung be
Ever shall with right judgment after deed and measuring by
mæþe.
rank
6 And be teoðunge se cyng ⁊ his witan habbað gecoren ⁊
And about tithe the king and his councilors have chosen and
gecweden, ealswa hit riht is, þæt ðriddan dæl þare teoðunge,
declared just-as it right is that third part of-the tithe

þe to circan gebyrge, ga to ciricbote ⁊ oðer dæl þam Godes
which to church belongs go to church-repair and second part to-the of-God
þeowum, þridde Godes þearfum ⁊ earman þeowetlingan.
servants third of-God to-poor and to-poor slaves
And wite Cristenra manna gehwilc, þæt he his Drihtene 7
And let-know of-Christian men each that he to-his Lord
his teoþunge, a swa seo sulh þone teoðan æcer gegá,
his tithe ever as the plow the tenth acre traverses
rihtlice gelæste be Godes miltse ⁊ be þam fullan wite,
rightly pay by of-God mercy and by the full fine
þe Eadgar cyningc gelagode.
which Edgar king ordained
Ðæt is: 'Gif hwa teoþunge rihtlice gelæstan nelle, þonne fare 8
That is If anyone tithe rightly pay will-not then let-go
tó þæs cyninges gerefa ⁊ þæs mynstres mæssepreost — oððe
to of-the king reeve and of-the minster mass-priest or
þæs landrican ⁊ þæs biscopes gerefa—, ⁊ niman unþances
of-the landholder and of-the bishop reeve and let-take unwillingly
ðone teoðan dæl to ðam mynstre, þe hit to gebirige,
the tenth part to the minster which it to belongs
⁊ tæcan him to ðam nigoðan dæle; ⁊ todæle man ða
and let-assign to-him to the ninth part and let-divide one the
eahta dælas on twá ⁊ fó se landhlaford to healfum,
eight parts in two and let-take the landlord to half
to healfum se biscop, si hit cyninges man, sy hit þegnes.
to half the bishop be it of-king man be it of-thane
And sy ælc geoguðe teoðung gelæst be pentecosten be 9
And let-be each of-young-livestock tithe paid by Pentecost by
wite;
fine

9, 1 and eorðwestma be emnihte oððe huru be ealra halgena
and of-earth-fruits by equinox or at-least by of-all saints
mæssan.
mass

10 And Romfeoh gelæste man æghwilce geare be Petres mæssan.
And Rome-money let-pay one each year by of-Peter mass

10, 1 ⁊ se þe þæt nelle gelæstan, sille þar to eacan XXX p'
and he who that will-not pay let-give there to addition thirty pence
⁊ gilde þam cyninge CXX scill'.
and let-pay to-the king hundred-twenty shillings

11 And ciricsceat gelæste man be Martinus mæssan.
And church-scot let-pay one by of-Martin mass

11, 1 ⁊ se þe ðæt ne gelæste, forgilde hine mid twelffealdan,
and he who that not pays let-pay-for it with twelvefold
⁊ þam cyninge CXX scill'.
and to-the king hundred-twenty shillings

12 Sulhælmessan gebireð þæt man gelæste be wite æghwilce
Plow-alms befits that one pay by fine each
geare, þonne XV niht beoð agan ofer eastertid.
year when fifteen nights are passed after Easter-tide

12, 1 ⁊ leohtgescot gelæste man to candelmæssan; dó oftor se
and light-scot let-pay one at Candlemas let-do oftener he
ðe wille.
who will

13 And sawlsceat is rihtast, þæt man symle gelæste a æt
And soul-scot is rightest that one ever pay ever at
openum græfe.
open grave

14 And ealle Godes gerihta firðrige man georne, ealswa hit
And all of-God dues let-further one eagerly just-as it
þearf is.
need is

And gif hwa þæt nelle, gewilde man hine to rihte mid 15
And if anyone that will-not let-compel one him to right with
worldlicre steore; ȝ þæt si gemæne Criste ȝ cyninge,
worldly punishment and that let-be common to-Christ and king
ealswa hit iu wæs.
just-as it formerly was
And freolsa ȝ fæstena be wite healde man rihtlice. 16
And festivals and fasts by fine let-keep one rightly
And Sunnondaga cypinga forbeode man georne be fullan 17
And of-Sundays tradings let-forbid one eagerly by full
worldwite.
world-fine
And weofodþéna mæðe medemige man for Godes ege. 18
And of-altar-servants rank let-measure one for of-God fear
Gif man mæssepreost tihtlige, þe regollice libbe, andfealdre 19
If one mass-priest accuse who by-rule lives with-single
spræce, mæssige, gif he durre, ȝ ladige hine on ðam
charge let-say-mass if he dare and let-clear him on the
husle silf hine silfne;
communion self him self
and æt þrífealdre spræce ladige, gif he durre, eac on 19, 1
and at threefold charge let-clear-himself if he dare also on
ðam husle mid twam his gehádan.
the communion with two his fellow-clerics
Gif man diacon tihtlige, þe regollice libbe, andfealdre spræce, 20
If one deacon accuse who by-rule lives with-single charge
nime twegen his gehádan ȝ ladige hine mid þam.
let-take two his fellow-clerics and let-clear him with them
And gif man hine tihtlige þryfealdre spræce, nime six his 20, 1
And if one him accuse with-threefold charge let-take six his
gehadan ȝ ladige mid þam ȝ beo he silf seofoða.
fellow-clerics and let-clear-himself with them and let-be he self seventh

21 Gif man folciscne mæssepreost mid tihtlan belecge, þe
If one secular mass-priest with accusation charge who
regollif næbbe, ladige hine swa swa diacon, þe regollife
rule-life has-not let-clear him so as deacon who by-rule-life
libbe.
lives

22 Gif man freondleasne weofodþén mid tihtlan belecge, þe
If one friendless altar-servant with accusation charge who
adfultum næbbe, gá to corsnæde, ⁊ þar þonne æt gefare
oath-help has-not let-go to morsel-ordeal and there then at let-fare
þæt þæt God wille, buton he on husle ladian mote.
that which God will unless he on communion clear-himself may

23 And gif man gehadodne mid fæhðe belecge ⁊ secge, þæt
And if one ordained-man with feud charge and say that
he wære dǽdbana oððe rædbana, ladige mid his magan,
he were deed-slayer or counsel-slayer let-clear-himself with his kinsmen
þe fæhðe moton mid beran oððe forebetan.
who feud must with bear or compensate

24 And gif he sý mægleas, ladige mid geferan oððe fæste
And if he be kinless let-clear-himself with companions or let-fast
to corsnæde, ⁊ þaræt gefare þæt þæt God ræde.
to morsel-ordeal and there-at let-fare that which God decree

25 And ne þearf ænig mynstermunuc ahwar mid rihte
And not needs any minster-monk anywhere with right
fæhðbote biddan ne fæhðbote betan: he gæð of his
feud-compensation ask nor feud-compensation pay he goes from his
mæglage, þonne he gebihð to regollage.
kin-law when he submits to rule-law

Gif mæssepreost manslaga wurðe oððe elles mánweorc to swiðe 26
If mass-priest manslayer become or else crime too greatly
gewurce, þonne þolige he ægðres ge hádes gé éardes ȝ
work then let-forfeit he each both order and land and
wræcnige swa wíde swa papa him scrife ȝ dædbete georne.
let-wander as widely as pope to-him prescribe and let-do-penance eagerly
Gif mæssepreost ahwar stande on leasre gewitnesse oððe on 27
If mass-priest anywhere stand in false witness or in
mánan aðe oððe þeofa gewita ȝ geweorhta beo, þonne sy he
false oath or of-thieves accomplice and fellow-worker be then let-be he
aworpen of gehadodra gemanan ȝ þolige ægðer ge geferscipes
cast-out from of-ordained fellowship and let-forfeit each both fellowship
ge freondscipes ge æghwilces wurðscipes, buton he wið God
and friendship and each honor unless he with God
ȝ wið men þe deoplicor gebete, fullice swa biscop him tæce,
and with men the more-deeply amend fully as bishop to-him prescribes
ȝ him borh finde, þæt he þanan forð æfre swilces geswice.
and him surety find that he thence forth ever such cease
And gif he ladian wille, geladige be dæde mæðe swa 27, 1
And if he clear-himself will let-clear-himself by of-deed measure so
mid þryfealdre lade, be þam þe seo dǽd sy.
with threefold clearing by that which the deed be
Gif weofodþen be boca tæcincge his agen lif rihtlice fadige, 28
If altar-servant by of-books teaching his own life rightly order
þonne sy he fulles þegnweres ȝ weorðscipes wurðe ge
then let-be he of-full thane-wergild and honor worthy both
on life ge on legere.
in life and in grave
And gif he his lif misfadige, wanige his weorðscipe, be 29
And if he his life misorder let-lessen his honor by
þam þe seo dæd sy.
that which the deed be

30 Wite, gif he wille: ne gebirað him nan þingc ne to wife
Let-know if he will not befits to-him any thing nor to wife
ne to worldwige, gif he Gode wile rihtlice hyran ⁊ Godes
nor to world-war if he God will rightly obey and of-God
laga healdan, swa swa his hade gedafenað mid rihte.
laws keep so as to-his order befits with right
31 Ac we lærað georne ⁊ luflice biddað, þæt ælces hades men
But we teach eagerly and lovingly pray that of-each order men
þam life libban, þe heom to gebirige.
the life live which them to belongs
31, 1 ⁊ heonan forð we willað, þæt abbodas ⁊ munecas regollicor
and hence forth we will that abbots and monks more-by-rule
libban, þonne hi nu ær ðisan on gewunan hæfdon.
live than they now before this in custom had
32 And se cyngc beodeð eallum his gerefan on æghwilcere
And the king commands all his reeves in each
stowe, þæt ge þam abbodan æt eallum worldneodum beorgan,
place that you the abbots in all world-needs protect
swa ge betst magon, ⁊ be þam þe ge willan Godes oððe
as you best may and by that which you will of-God or
minne freondscipe habban, filstan heora wícneran æghwar
my friendship have help their stewards everywhere
to rihte, þæt heo sylfe magan þe oftor on mynstrum fæste
to right that they selves may the oftener in minsters firmly
gewunian ⁊ regollice libban.
dwell and by-rule live
33 And gif man gehadodne oððe ælþeodigne man þurh ænig þinc
And if one ordained or foreign man through any thing
forræde æt feo oððe æt feore, oððe hine bænde oððe hine
betray in money or in life or him bind or him

beate oððe gebismrige on ǽnige wisan, þonne sceal him cyngc
beat or insult in any way then shall to-him king
beon for mæg ȝ for mundboran, buton he elles oðerne hæbbe.
be for kinsman and for protector unless he else another have
And bete man ægðer ge him ge þam cynge, swa swa 34
And let-amend one each both to-him and to-the king so as
hit gebirige, be þam þe séo dæd sy, oððe he ða dæde
it befits by that which the deed be or he the deed
wrece swiðe deope.
avenge very deeply
Cristenum mannum gebirað swiðe rihte, þæt he Godes 35
To-Christian men befits very rightly that he of-God
abilgðe wrece swiðe georne.
offense avenge very eagerly
And wise wæran worldwitan, þe to godcundan rihtlagan 36
And wise were world-councilors who to divine right-laws
woroldlaga settan, folce to steore, ȝ Criste ȝ cyninge
world-laws set to-people for correction and to-Christ and king
gerihtan þa bote, þar man swa scolde manega for neode
directed the compensation where one so should many for need
gewildan to rihte.
compel to right
Ac on þam gemotan, þeah rædlice wurðan on namcuðan 37
But in the moots though prudently took-place in renowned
stowan, æfter Eadgares lifdagum, Cristes lage wanodan, ȝ
places after of-Edgar life-days of-Christ laws waned and
cyninges laga litledon.
of-king laws dwindled

38 And þa man getwæmde þæt ær wæs gemæne Criste ⁊
And when one separated what before was common to-Christ and
cyningce on worldlicre steore; ⁊ a hit wearð þe wirse for
king in worldly punishment and ever it became the worse before
Gode ⁊ for worlde; cume nu to bote, gif hit God wille.
God and before world let-come now to remedy if it God will
39 And git mæg ðeah bot cuman, wille hit man georne on
And yet may though remedy come will it one eagerly in
eornost aginnan.
earnest begin
40 And gif man eard wille rihtlice clænsian, þonne mot man
And if one land will rightly cleanse then must one
smeagan ⁊ geornlice spirian, hwar ða manfullan wununge
consider and eagerly track where the wicked dwelling
habban, þe nellað geswican ne for Gode betan; ac swa
have who will-not cease nor before God amend but so
hwar swa hi man finde, gewilde hi to rihte þances oððe
where so them one find let-compel them to right willingly or
unðances, oððe hi afirsige mid ealle of earde, buton hi
unwillingly or them let-remove with all from land unless they
gebugan ⁊ to rihte gewændan.
submit and to right turn
41 Gif munuc oððe mæssepreost wiðersaca wurðe mid ealle, he
If monk or mass-priest apostate become with all he
sy amansumod æfre, buton he þe rædlicor gebuge to his
let-be excommunicated ever unless he the more-readily submit to his
þearfe.
need
42 And se þe Godes utlagan ofer þone andagan, þe se
And he who of-God outlaw beyond the term which the
cyngc sette, hæbbe on gewealde, plihte to him sylfum ⁊
king set has in power let-imperil to him self and

ealre his are wið Cristes gespelian, þe Cristendom ȝ
all his property against of-Christ deputy who Christianity and
cynedom healdað ȝ wealdað, þa hwile þe þæs God geann.
kingship holds and rules the while that it God grants
Ac uton don, swa us þea[r]f is: uton niman us to bisnan þæt 43
But let-us do as to-us need is let-us take us as example what
ærran worldwitan to ræde geræddon, Æþelstan ȝ Eadmund
former world-councilors for counsel decreed Æthelstan and Edmund
ȝ Eadgar, þe nihst wæs, hu hi God weorðodon ȝ Godes
and Edgar who nearest was how they God honored and of-God
lage heoldon ȝ Godes gafel læstan, þa hwile þe hi leofodon.
law kept and of-God tribute paid the while that they lived
ȝ utan God lufian innewerdre heortan ȝ Godes laga 43, 1
and let-us God love with-inward heart and of-God laws
gíman, swa wel swa we betst magon.
heed as well as we best may
And uton rihtne Cristendom geornlice wurðian ȝ ælcne 44
And let-us right Christianity eagerly honor and each
hæðendom mid ealle oferhogian.
heathendom with all despise
And uton ænne cynehlaford holdlice healdan; ȝ freonda 44, 1
And let-us one royal-lord loyally hold and of-friends
gehwilc mid rihtan getriwðan oðerne lufige ȝ healde mid
each with right loyalty another let-love and let-keep with
rihte.
right

Two fragments. The first, made at Woodstock, breaks off after its opening clauses: turn to God, keep his commandments, honor one God and one Christianity, and hold to one royal lord. In the second, Æthelred reflects that divine teaching and wise worldly laws further Christianity and the kingdom, resolves to keep the laws and cast down unlaw, and begins to repeat the ordinance agreed at Enham.

Prol. Ðis is sio gerædnes, þe Æþelred cyning and ealle his
This is the ordinance which Æthelred king and all his
pitan æt Ƿudustoce geræddan.
councilors at Woodstock decreed

1 An ærest þæt þe ealle to Gode ælmihtigan georne gebugan
One first that we all to God almighty eagerly turn
ȝ his bebodu healdan and unrihtes ealle gespican …
and his commandments keep and wrong all cease (lacuna)

Expl. An uton ænne God lufian and peorðian and ænne Cristendom
One let-us one God love and honor and one Christianity
ealle healde ȝ ælcne hæþendom mid ealle apeorpan. Uton
all hold and each heathendom with all cast-away Let-us
ænne cynehlaford holdliche
one royal-lord loyally

Prol. An is ece Godd wealdend ȝ wyrhta ealra gesceafta; ȝ
One is eternal God ruler and maker of-all creatures and
on þæs naman weorðunge ic Æðelred cyning ærest smeade,
in of-his name honor I Æthelred king first considered
hu ic Cristendom æfre mihte ȝ rihtne cynedom fyrmest
how I Christianity ever might and right kingship foremost
aræran, ȝ hu ic mihte þearflicast me sylfum gerædan
raise and how I might most-profitably to-me self counsel

for Gode ȝ for worolde, ȝ eallum minum leodscype
before God and before world and to-all my people
rihtlicast lagian þa þing to þearfe, þe we scýlan healdan.
most-rightly ordain the things as benefit which we shall keep
Mearn to gemynde oft ȝ gelome, þe godcunde lara ȝ Prol., 1
Me-ran to mind often and frequently that divine teachings and
wislice woroldlaga Cristendom fyrðriað ȝ cynedom micliað,
wise world-laws Christianity further and kingship increase
folce gefremiað ȝ weorðscypes wealdað, sibbiað ȝ sehtað
to-people benefit and honor wield reconcile and settle
ȝ sace twæmað ȝ þeode þeawas ealle gebetað.
and disputes end and of-people customs all amend
Nu wille ic georne æfter þam spyrian, hu we lara ȝ laga Prol., 2
Now will I eagerly after that track how we teachings and laws
betst magan healdan ȝ æghwylce unlaga swyþost aweorpan.
best may keep and each unlaw most cast-away
ȝ þis is seo gerædnes, þe we willað healdan, swa swa Prol., 3
and this is the ordinance which we will keep so as
we æt Eanham fæste gecwædon.
we at Enham firmly declared
Ðæt is þonne ærest, þæt we ealle fram synnan georne 1
That is then first that we all from sins eagerly
gecyrran ȝ ure misdæda georнlice betan ȝ ænne God æfre
turn and our misdeeds eagerly amend and one God ever
lufian ȝ weorðian ȝ ænne Christendom georne healdan
love and honor and one Christianity eagerly hold
ȝ ælcne hæðendom mid ealle aweorpan.
and each heathendom with all cast-away

2 ⁊ witena gerædnes is, þæt man rihte laga upp arære⁊
and of-councilors ordinance is that one right laws up raise and
ælce unlaga georne afylle, ⁊ þæt man læte beon æghwylcne
each unlaw eagerly fell and that one let be each
man rihtes wyrðe.
man of-right worthy
2, 1 ⁊ þæt man frið⁊ freondscype rihtlice healde for Gode
and that one peace and friendship rightly keep before God
⁊ for worolde.
and before world

XXXVI · CNUT'S LETTER OF 1020

Cnut greets his archbishops, bishops, Earl Thorkell, and all his people, and promises to be a gracious lord. He has spent his treasure to end the hostility that threatened them and gone to Denmark to stop it at its source. He charges his bishops and reeves with God's dues and just judgments, confirms Edgar's law as sworn at Oxford, and orders Sunday kept from Saturday noon to Monday dawn.

1 Cnut cyning gret his arcebiscopas ⁊ his leodbiscopas ⁊ Þurcyl
Cnut king greets his archbishops and his diocesan-bishops and Thorkell
eorl ⁊ ealle his eorlas ⁊ ealne his þeodscype, twelfhynde
earl and all his earls and all his people twelve-hundred
⁊ twyhynde, gehadode ⁊ læwede, on Englalande freondlice.
and two-hundred ordained and lay in England friendly
2 ⁊ ic cyðe eow, þæt ic wylle beon hold hlaford ⁊
and I make-known to-you that I will be gracious lord and
unswicende to Godes gerihtum ⁊ to rihtre woroldlage.
unfailing to of-God dues and to right world-law

Ic nam me to gemynde þa gewritu ȝ þa word, þe se 3
I took me to mind the writings and the words which the
arcebiscop Lyfing me fram þam papan brohte of Rome, þæt
archbishop Lyfing to-me from the pope brought from Rome that
ic scolde æghwær Godes lof upp aræran ȝ unriht alecgan ȝ
I should everywhere of-God praise up raise and wrong put-down and
full frið wyrcean be ðære mihte, þe me God syllan wolde.
full peace work by the might which to-me God give would
Nu ne wandode ic na minum sceattum, þa hwile þe eow 4
Now not spared I — my treasures the while that to-you
unfrið on handa stod; nu ic mid Godes fultume þæt
hostility on hand stood now I with of-God help that
totwæmde mid minum scattum.
ended with my treasures
Þa cydde man me, þæt us mara hearm to fundode, 5
Then made-known one to-me that us more harm toward tended
þonne us wel licode; ȝ þa for ic me sylf mid þam
than to-us well pleased and then went I me self with the
mannum þe me mid foron into Denmearcon, þe eow mæst
men who me with went into Denmark which to-you most
hearm of com; ȝ þæt hæbbe mid Godes fultume forene
harm from came and that have with of-God help beforehand
forfangen, þæt eow næfre heonon forð þanon nan unfrið to
forestalled that you never hence forth thence any hostility to
ne cymð, þa hwile þe ge mé rihtlice healdað ȝ min lif byð.
— comes the while that you me rightly hold and my life is
Nu ðancige ic Gode ælmihtigum his fultumes ȝ his 6
Now thank I God almighty for-his help and his
mildheortnesse, þæt ic þa myclan hearmas, þe us to
mercy that I the great harms which us toward
fundedon, swa gelogod hæbbe, þæt we ne þurfon þanon
tended so settled have that we not need thence

nenes hearmes us asittan, ac us to fullan fultume ⁊ to
any harm us dread but us for full help and for
ahreddingge, gyf us neod byð.
rescue if to-us need is

7 Nu wylle ic, þæt we ealle eadmodlice Gode ælmihtigum
Now will I that we all humbly God almighty
þancian þære mildheortnesse, þe he us to fultume gedon
thank for-the mercy which he to-us as help done
hæfð.
has

8 Nu bidde ic mine arcebiscopas ⁊ ealle mine leodbiscopas,
Now pray I my archbishops and all my diocesan-bishops
þæt hy ealle neodfulle beon ymbe Godes gerihta, ælc on his
that they all zealous be about of-God dues each in his
ende, þe heom betæht is; ⁊ eac minum ealdormannum
district which to-them committed is and also my ealdormen
ic beode, þæt hy fylstan þam biscopum to Godes gerihtum
I command that they help the bishops to of-God dues
⁊ to minum kynescype ⁊ to ealles folces þearfe.
and to my kingship and to of-all people benefit

9 Gif hwa swa dyrstig sy, gehadod oððe læwede, Denisc oððe
If anyone so bold be ordained or lay Danish or
Englisc, þæt ongean Godes lage ga ⁊ ongean minne cynescype
English that against of-God law go and against my kingship
oððe ongean woroldriht, ⁊ nelle betan ⁊ geswican æfter
or against world-right and will-not amend and cease after
minra biscopa tæcinge, þonne bidde ic Þurcyl eorl ⁊ eac
of-my bishops teaching then pray I Thorkell earl and also
beode, þæt he ðæne unrihtwisan to rihte gebige, gyf he mæge.
command that he the unrighteous to right bend if he can

Gyf he ne mæge, þonne wille ic, mid uncer begra cræfte 10
If he not can then will I with of-us-two both power
þæt he hine on earde adwæsce oððe ut of earde adræfe,
that he him in land extinguish or out of land drive
sy he betera sy he wyrsa.
be he better be he worse
ȝ eac ic beode eallum minum gerefum, be minum 11
and also I command all my reeves by my
freondscype ȝ be eallum þam þe hi agon ȝ be heora
friendship and by all that which they own and by their
agenum life, þæt hy æghwær min folc rihtlice healdan ȝ
own life that they everywhere my people rightly hold and
rihte domas deman be ðæra scira biscopa gewitnesse ȝ
right judgments judge by of-the shires bishops witness and
swylce mildheortnesse þæron don, swylce þære scire biscope
such mercy therein do as of-the shire to-bishop
riht þince ȝ se man acuman mæge.
right seem and the man bear can
ȝ gyf hwa þeof friðige oððe forena forlicge, sy he 12
and if anyone thief harbor or beforehand obstruct let-be he
emscyldig wið me þam ðe þeof scolde, buton he hine mid
equally-guilty with me him who thief should unless he himself with
fulre lade wið me geclænsian mæge.
full clearing with me cleanse can
ȝ ic wylle, þæt eal þeodscype, gehadode ȝ læwede, fæstlice 13
and I will that all people ordained and lay firmly
Eadgares lage healde, þe ealle men habbað gecoren ȝ to
of-Edgar law keep which all men have chosen and to
gesworen on Oxenaforda;
sworn at Oxford

14 for ðam þe ealle biscopas secgað, þæt hit swyþe deop wið
for that that all bishops say that it very deep with
God to betanne, þæt man aðas oððe wedd tobrece.
God to amend that one oaths or pledges break

15 ȝ eac hy us furðor lærað, þæt we sceolon eallan magene
and also they us further teach that we shall with-all strength
ȝ eallon myhton þone ecan mildan God inlice secan,
and with-all might the eternal merciful God inwardly seek
lufian ȝ weorðian ȝ ælc unriht ascunian, ðæt synd
love and honor and each wrong shun that are
mægslagan ȝ morðslagan ȝ mansworan ȝ wiccean ȝ
kin-slayers and murderers and perjurers and witches and
wælcyrian ȝ æwbrecan ȝ syblegeru.
valkyries and adulterers and incests

16 ȝ eac we beodað on Godes ælmihtiges naman ȝ on
and also we command in of-God almighty name and in
ealra his haligra, þæt nan man swa dyrstig ne sy, þæt
of-all his saints that no man so bold — be that
on gehadodre nunnan oððe on mynecenan gewifige;
with consecrated nun or with minchen marry

17 ȝ gyf hit hwa gedon hæbbe, beo he utlah wið God ȝ
and if it anyone done have let-be he outlaw with God and
amansumod fram eallum Cristendome ȝ wið þone cyning
excommunicated from all Christendom and with the king
scyldig ealles þæs þe he age, buton he ðe raðor geswice
liable of-all that which he owns unless he the sooner cease
ȝ þe deopplicor gebete wið God.
and the more-deeply amend with God

18 ȝ gyt we furðor maniað, þæt man Sunnandæges freols
and yet we further exhort that one of-Sunday festival
mid eallum mægene healde ȝ weorðige fram Sæternesdæges
with all strength keep and honor from of-Saturday

none oð Monandæges lyhtinge, ⁊ nan man swa dyrstig
noon until of-Monday dawn and no man so bold
ne sy, þæt he aðor oððe cypinge wyrce oððe ænig mot
— be that he either or trading do or any moot
gesæce þam halgan dæge.
seek on-the holy day
⁊ ealle men, earme ⁊ eadige, heora cyrcan secean ⁊ for heora 19
and all men poor and rich their church seek and for their
synnum þingian ⁊ ælc beboden fæstan georнlice healdan ⁊ þa
sins intercede and each commanded fast eagerly keep and the
halgan georne weorðian, þe us mæssepreostas beodan sceolan,
saints eagerly honor whom us mass-priests command shall
þæt we magan ⁊ moton ealle samod þurh þæs ecean 20
that we can and may all together through of-the eternal
Godes mildheortnesse ⁊ his halgena þingrædene to heofena
God mercy and of-his saints intercession to of-heavens
rices myrhðe becuman ⁊ mid him wunian, þe leofað ⁊
kingdom joy come and with him dwell who lives and
rihxað a butan ende. Amen.
reigns ever without end Amen

Ordinances and Tracts

The ordinance the English councilors and the Welsh counselors set for the Dunsæte on either bank of the river. A trail of stolen cattle is handed over at the bank, and the landowner pays within nine nights or gives a pledge. Twelve lawmen, six English and six Welsh, declare the law; neither people crosses without a landsman; a man slain across the border is paid at half wergild; and the Wentsæte now belong to Wessex.

Ðis is seo gerædnes, ðe Angelcynnes witan ⁊ Wealhðeode Prol.
This is the ordinance which of-English-race councilors and of-Welsh-people
rædboran betweox Dunsetan gesetton.
counselors among Dunsæte established
Ðæt is: gif man trode bedrifð forstolenes yrfes of stæðe 1
That is if one track follows of-stolen cattle from bank
on oðer, ðonne befæste man þæt spo[r] landesmannum oððe
to other then let-commit one the trail to-the-landsmen or
mid mearce gecyðe, þæt man riht drife.
with mark let-show that one rightly drive
Fo se syððan to ðe þæt land age ⁊ hæbbe him ða 1, 1
Let-take he afterward to who the land owns and let-have for-himself the
æscan; ⁊ ðæs on IX nihton gylde þæt yrfe oððe to ðam
search and of-that in nine nights let-pay the cattle or by the
dæge underwed lecge, þæt sy ðæs orfes oðer healf weorð,
day pledge let-lay that be of-the cattle second half worth
⁊ ðæs on IX nihton þæt wed undo mid rihtan gylde.
and of-that in nine nights the pledge let-redeem with right payment
Gif man secge, þæt man þæt trod awoh drife, ðonne mot se 1, 2
If one say that one the track wrongly drive then may he
ðe þæt yrfe ah trod [o]ð to stæðe lædan ⁊ ðær syxa sum
who the cattle owns track until to bank lead and there of-six one

ungecorenra, ðe getrywe syn, ðone að syllan, þæt he mid
unchosen who trustworthy be the oath give that he with
folcrihte on þæt land sprece, swa his [orf] ðær up eode.
folk-right on that land claims as his cattle there up went

2 Æfre ymb IX niht gebyreð betweox ðam stæðum, þæt man
Ever after nine nights befits between the banks that one
oðrum riht wyrce ge æt lade ge æt ælcere spræce, þe
to-another right do both at clearing and at each suit which
him betweox bið.
them between is

2, 1 Ne stent nan oðer lad æt tihtlan bute ordal betweox
Not stands any other clearing at accusation except ordeal between
Wealan ⁊ Ænglan, bute man ðafian wille.
Welsh and English unless one allow will

2, 2 Of ægðran stæðe on oðer man mot badian, bute man elles
From either bank to other one may distrain unless one else
riht begytan mæge.
right obtain can

3 Gif bad genumen sy on mannes orfe for oðres mannes
If distress taken be on of-man cattle for of-other man
ðingum, ðonne begyte ða bade ham se, ðe heo fore genumen
affairs then let-obtain the distress home he who it for taken
sy, oððe of his agenum ðone gehalde, ðe þæt orf age:
be or from his own him let-indemnify who the cattle owns

3, 1 Sceal syððan nede riht wyrcean se ðe ær nolde.
Shall afterward perforce right do he who before would-not

3, 2 XII lahmen scylon riht tæcean Wealan ⁊ Ænglan: VI
Twelve law-men shall right teach to-Welsh and English six
Englisce ⁊ VI Wylisce.
English and six Welsh

Ðolien ealles ðæs hy agon, gyf hi woh tæcen; oððe 3, 3
Let-forfeit all that they own if they wrong teach or
geladian hi, þæt hi bet ne cuðon.
let-clear they that they better not knew
Ðeah æt stæltyhtlan lad teorie Ængliscan oððe Wiliscan, 4
Though at theft-accusation clearing fail to-English or Welsh
gylde angyldes þæt he mid beléd wæs: ðæs oðres gyldes
let-pay single-value what he with charged was of-the other payment
nan ðing ne ðæs wites ðe ma.
no thing nor of-the fine the more
Gyf Wealh Ænglisne man ofslea, ne ðearf he hine hide[r] ofer 5
If Welshman English man slay not needs he him hither over
buton be healfan were gyldan, ne Ænglisc Wylisne geon ofer ðe
except by half wergild pay nor English Welsh yonder over the
ma, sy he ðegenboren, sy he ceorlboren: healf wer ðær ætfealð.
more be he thane-born be he churl-born half wergild there falls-away
Nah naðer to farenne ne Wilisc man on Ænglisc land ne 6
Owns-not either to go nor Welsh man into English land nor
Ænglisc on Wylisc ðe ma, butan gesettan landmen, se hine
English into Welsh the more without appointed landsman who him
sceal æt stæðe underfon ⁊ eft ðær butan facne gebringan.
shall at bank receive and again there without fraud bring
Gyf se landman æniges facnes gewita sy, ðonne sy he 6, 1
If the landsman of-any fraud accomplice be then let-be he
wites scyldig, buton he hine ðære gewitnesse geladie.
of-fine liable unless he himself of-the complicity clear
Swa eac ælc ðe gewita oððe gewyrhta sy, ðær utlendisc 6, 2
So also each who accomplice or accessory be where foreign
man inlendiscan derie, geladie ðære midwiste be ðes
man native harm let-clear-himself of-the complicity by of-the

orfes weorðe; ⁊ þæt sy cyreað; ⁊ se ðe hyne belecge,
cattle worth and that let-be chosen-oath and he who him charges
ofga his spræce mid foraðe.
let-begin his suit with fore-oath

6, 3 Gif ðeos lad teorie, gylde twygylde ⁊ hlaforde his wite.
If this clearing fail let-pay twofold and to-lord his fine

7 Hors man sceal gyldan mid XXX scill.' oððe be ðam
Horse one shall pay with thirty shillings or by that
ladian; myran mid XX scill.' oððe be ðam, ⁊ wintersteal
clear-himself mare with twenty shillings or by that and winter-stallion
ealswa; wilde weorf mid XII scill.' oððe be ðam; oxan
likewise wild beast with twelve shillings or by that ox
mid XXX p.', cu mid XXIIII p.', swyn mid VIII p.',
with thirty pence cow with twenty-four pence swine with eight pence
man mid punde, sceap mid scill.', gat mid II p.'
man with pound sheep with shilling goat with two pence

7, 1 Oðre ungesawene ðing man mot mid aðe gewyrðan, ⁊
Other unseen things one may with oath value and
syððan be ðam gyldan.
afterward by that pay

8 Gif man orf befo, ⁊ man ofer stream hit tyman wylle,
If one cattle attach and one over stream it vouch will
ðonne sette man inborh oððe underwed lecge, þæt seo sprec
then let-set one security or pledge let-lay that the suit
ende hæbbe.
end have

8, 1 Se ðe hit him to teo, sylle sixa sum ðone að, þæt he
He who it him to claims let-give of-six one the oath that he
hit him swa to teo, swa hit him ðeofstolen wære.
it him so to claims as it from-him theft-stolen were

ȝ se ðe hit tyme, sylle ana ðone að, þæt he hit to 8, 2
and he who it vouches let-give alone the oath that he it to
ðære handa tyme, þe him sealde.
the hand vouches which to-him gave
Gif hit man begeondan str[e]ame agnian wylle, ðone sceal 8, 3
If it one beyond stream claim will then shall
þæt beon mid ordale.
that be with ordeal
Gelice ðam Ænglisc sceal Wyliscan riht wyrcean. 8, 4
Likewise to-that English shall to-Welsh right do
Hwilan Wentsæte hyrdan into Dunsætan; ac hit gebyreð 9
Formerly Wentsæte belonged into Dunsæte but it belongs
rihtor into Westsexan: ðyder hy scylan gafol ȝ gislas
more-rightly into West-Saxons thither they shall tribute and hostages
syllan.
give
Eac Dunsæte beþyrfan, gif heom se cyning an, þæt man 9, 1
Also Dunsæte need if to-them the king grants that one
huru friðgislas to heom læte.
at-least peace-hostages to them let

If anyone wrongs a priest, all his fellows help him to amends. A priest may not buy another's church, say mass against his bishop, or refuse baptism or confession, each fined in ores, and a long list of priestly faults must be amended. Laymen are fined by rank for heathen practice, Sunday trading, and withheld dues, and a man who marries within the forbidden degrees has no mercy from God unless he amends.

Inscr. Norðhymbra preosta lagu.
Of-Northumbrian priests law

1 Gyf hwa ænigum preoste ænig woh beode, beon ealle geferan
If anyone any priest any wrong offer let-be all companions
mid biscopes filste georne ymbe þa bote ⁊ beon to ælcan
with of-bishop help eagerly about the remedy and let-be to each
rihte, swa swa hit awriten is, quasi cor unum et anima una.
right so as it written is as-if heart one and soul one

2 And Godes forboda we forbeodað, þæt ænig preost oðre cirican
And of-God prohibition we forbid that any priest other church
naðer ne gebicgæ ne geþicgæ, buton hine hwa mid heafodgilte
neither — buy nor receive unless him anyone with capital-crime
forwyrce, þæt he weofodþenunge þanon forð wyrðe ne sy.
ruin that he of-altar-service thence forth worthy not be

2, 1 ⁊ gif hit ænig preost elles gedó, þolige his wurðscipes
and if it any priest else do let-forfeit his honor
⁊ geferena freondscipes ⁊ he nahwar ne mæssige, ær
and of-companions friendship and he nowhere — let-say-mass before
hig hæbbe se þe hi mid rihte age.
it have he who it with right owns

2, 2 ⁊ gilde se þe woh dide XX ór þam biscope, XII ór
and let-pay he who wrong did twenty ores to-the bishop twelve ores
þam preoste, þe he of his circan asette, XII ór eallum
to-the priest whom he from his church removed twelve ores to-all

geferan, ⁊ þolige þæs feos eac, gif he on unriht ænig
companions and let-forfeit the money also if he in wrong any
for oðres preostes circan sealde.
for of-other priest church gave
⁊ ælc preost finde him XII festermen, þæt he preostlage 2, 3
and each priest let-find for-himself twelve sureties that he priest-law
wille healdan mid rihte.
will keep with right
And gif hwilc preost agilte ⁊ he ofer biscopes gebod 3
And if any priest offend and he against of-bishop command
mæssige, gilde for ðam gebode XX ór, ⁊ þar to eacan
say-mass let-pay for the command twenty ores and there to addition
þone gilt gebete, ðe hit ær geworhte.
the guilt let-amend which it before wrought
Gif preost biscopes agen geban forbuge, gilde XX ór. 4
If priest of-bishop own summons disregard let-pay twenty ores
Gif preost dom to læwedum sceote, þe he to gehadedum 5
If priest judgment to laymen refer which he to clerics
scolde, gilde XX ór.
should let-pay twenty ores
Gif preost arcediacones geban forbuge, gilde XII ór. 6
If priest of-archdeacon summons disregard let-pay twelve ores
Gif preost scildig sy ⁊ he ofer arcediacones gebod 7
If priest guilty be and he against of-archdeacon command
mæssige, gilde XII ór.
say-mass let-pay twelve ores
Gif preost fulluhtes oððe scriftes forwyrne, gebete þæt mid 8
If priest baptism or confession refuse let-amend that with
XII ór ⁊ huru wið God þingige georne.
twelve ores and at-least with God let-intercede eagerly
Gif preost to rihtes timan crisman ne fecce, gilde XII ór. 9
If priest at right time chrism not fetch let-pay twelve ores

10 Æghwilc cild sy, we lærað, gefullod binnon nigon nihton,
Each child let-be we teach baptized within nine nights
be wite VI ór.
by fine six ores

10, 1 ȝ gif hæþen cild binnon IX nihton þurh gimeliste forfaren
and if heathen child within nine nights through negligence perished
sy, betan for Gode buton worldwite; ȝ gif hit ofer
be let-amend before God without world-fine and if it after
nigan niht gewurðe, betan for Gode, ȝ gilde XII ór
nine nights happen let-amend before God and let-pay twelve ores
for ðare heorde, þe he wæs hæþen swa lange.
for the custody that he was heathen so long

11 Gif preost folce miswissige æt freolse oððe fæstene, bete
If priest people misdirect at festival or fast let-amend
wið God ȝ gilde XII ór.
with God and let-pay twelve ores

12 Gif preost on unriht ut of scire had begite, gilde XII
If priest in wrong out of shire orders obtain let-pay twelve
ór, ȝ diacon VI ór; ȝ þolian his hades, buton scirebiscop
ores and deacon six ores and let-forfeit his orders unless shire-bishop
heom hades geunne.
to-them orders grant

13 Gif preost on unhalgodon huse mæssige, gilde XII ór.
If priest in unhallowed house say-mass let-pay twelve ores

14 Gif preost buton gehalgedon weofode mæssige, gilde XII ór.
If priest without consecrated altar say-mass let-pay twelve ores

15 Gif preost on treowenan calice husl gehalgige, XII ór.
If priest in wooden chalice communion consecrate twelve ores

16 Gif preost buton wine mæssige, gilde XII ór.
If priest without wine say-mass let-pay twelve ores

17 Gif preost husl forgime, gilde XII ór.
If priest communion neglect let-pay twelve ores

Gif preost anes dæges mæssige oftor þonne ðríwa, gilde 18
If priest of-one day say-mass oftener than thrice let-pay
XII ór.
twelve ores

Gif man ciricgrið abrece, bete be circan mæðe ȝ be 19
If one church-peace break let-amend by of-church rank and by
þam þe hire mund sy.
that which its protection be

Gif man mid cirican mangie, bete be lahslite. 20
If one with church traffic let-amend by law-breach

Gif man cirican nydþeowige, gebete þæt be lahslihte. 21
If one church enslave let-amend that by law-breach

Gif man preost of circan on unriht utige, bete þæt be 22
If one priest from church in wrong expel let-amend that by
lahslite.
law-breach

Gif man preost gewundige, gebete man þa wyndlan ȝ 23
If one priest wound let-amend one the wound and
[biscope] to weofodbote for his hade sille XII ór; æt
to-bishop as altar-compensation for his order let-give twelve ores at
diacone VI ór to weofodbote.
deacon six ores as altar-compensation

Gif man preost ofslea, forgilde man hine be fullan were 24
If one priest slay let-pay-for one him by full wergild
ȝ biscope feower ȝ XX ór to weofodbote; æt diacone
and to-bishop four and twenty ores as altar-compensation at deacon
XII ór to weofodbote.
twelve ores as altar-compensation

Gif preost circan miswurðige, þe eal his wurðscipe of 25
If priest church dishonor which all his honor from
sceal arisan, gebete þæt.
shall arise let-amend that

26 Gif preost on circan ungedafenlice þingc gelogige, gebete
If priest in church unbecoming thing store let-amend
þæt.
that

27 Gif preost ciricþingc utige, gebete þæt.
If priest church-thing remove let-amend that

28 Gif preost silfwilles þa circan forlæte, ðe he to gehadod
If priest of-own-will the church forsake which he to ordained
wæs, gebete þæt.
was let-amend that

29 Gif preost oðerne forseo oððe gebismrige mid worde oððe
If priest another despise or insult with word or
mid weorce, gebete þæt.
with deed let-amend that

30 Gif preost wið oðerne gefeohte, bete him ȝ biscope.
If priest with another fight let-amend to-him and to-bishop

31 Gif preost oðrum on unriht on fultume beo, gebete þæt.
If priest to-another in wrong as help be let-amend that

32 Gif preost oðrum rihtes fultumes forwyrne, gebete þæt.
If priest to-another right help refuse let-amend that

33 Gif preost oðerne unwarnode læte þæs, þe he wite, þæt
If priest another unwarned let of-that which he knows that
him hearmian wille, gebete þæt.
him harm will let-amend that

34 Gif preost sceare misgime beardes oððe feaxes, gebete þæt.
If priest tonsure neglect of-beard or of-hair let-amend that

35 Gif preost cwenan forlæte ȝ oðre nime, anathema sit!
If priest woman forsake and another take anathema let-be

36 Gif preost on gesetne timan tída ne ringe oððe tida ne
If priest at appointed time hours not ring or hours not
singe, gebete þæt.
sing let-amend that

Gif preost mid wæpnum innan circan cume, gebete þæt. 37
If priest with weapons into church come let-amend that
Gif preost misendebirde ciriclice gearþenunga, dæges oððe 38
If priest misorder church year-services by-day or
nihtes, gebete þæt.
by-night let-amend that
Gif preost ordol misfadige, gebete þæt. 39
If priest ordeal misorder let-amend that
Gif preost searwað bewínde, gebete þæt. 40
If priest deceives at-wrapping let-amend that
Gif preost oferdruncen lufige oððe gliman oððe ealascop 41
If priest drunkenness love or gleeman or ale-poet
wurðe, gebete þæt.
become let-amend that
Gif preost forhele, hwæt on his scriftscire betweox mannum 42
If priest conceal what in his shrift-district between men
to unrihte rixige, gebete þæt.
to wrong prevail let-amend that
Gif preost geargerihta unmynegode læte, gebete þæt. 43
If priest year-dues unreminded let let-amend that
Gif preost sinoð forbuge, gebete þæt. 44
If priest synod shun let-amend that
Gif preost to rihte gebugan nelle, ac ongean biscopes 45
If priest to right submit will-not but against of-bishop
gerædnesse wiðerige, gebete þæt oððe beo he asyndred
ordinance resist let-amend that or let-be he separated
of gehadodra gemanan ⁊ þolige ægðer ge geferscipes ge
from of-ordained fellowship and let-forfeit each both fellowship and
æghwilces wurðscipes, buton he gebuge ⁊ ðe deoppor gebete.
each honor unless he submit and the more-deeply amend
Gif hwa Godes lage oððe folclage wirde, gebete hit georne. 46
If anyone of-God law or folk-law violate let-amend it eagerly

47 Ealle we sculon ænne God wurðian ȝ lufian ȝ ænne
All we shall one God honor and love and one
Cristendom georne healdan ȝ ælcne hæþendom mid ealle
Christianity eagerly hold and each heathendom with all
awurpan.
cast-away

48 Gif þonne æni man agiten wurðe, þæt ænigne hæðenscipe
If then any man discovered become that any heathenship
heonan forð dreoge oððe on blot oððe on firhte oððe on
hence forth practice or in sacrifice or in divination or in
ænig wiccecræft lufige oððe idola wurðinge, gif he sy cynges
any witchcraft love or of-idols worship if he be of-king
þegn, gilde X healfmarc, healf Criste, healf þam cynge.
thane let-pay ten half-marks half to-Christ half to-the king

49 Gif hit sy elles landagende man, gilde VIte healfmarc, healf
If it be else landholding man let-pay six half-marks half
Criste ȝ healf landrican.
to-Christ and half to-landholder

50 Gif hit si færbena, gilde XII ór.
If it be commoner let-pay twelve ores

51 Gif cyninges þegn ætsace, þonne nemne man him XII,
If of-king thane deny then let-name one to-him twelve
and nime his maga XII ȝ XII wallerwente; ȝ gif his
and let-take of-his kinsmen twelve and twelve outsiders and if of-it
berste, þonne gilde he lahsliht: X healfmarc.
fail then let-pay he law-breach ten half-marks

52 Gif landagende man ætsace, þonne nemne man him his
If landholding man deny then let-name one to-him his
gelican ealswa micel wente swa cyninges þegne; gif him
equals just-as much set as of-king to-thane if him
þæt berste, gilde lahsliht: VI healfmarc.
that fail let-pay law-breach six half-marks

Gif cyrlisc man ætsæce, þonne nemne man him his 53
If churl man deny then let-name one to-him of-his
gelicena ealswa micel wente swa ðam oðrum; gif him þæt
equals just-as much set as to-the others if him that
berste, þonne gilde he lahsliht: XII ór.
fail then let-pay he law-breach twelve ores
Gif friðgeard sy on hwæs lande abuton stan oððe treow 54
If frith-yard be in of-anyone land about stone or tree
oððe wille oððe swilces ænigge fleard, þonne gilde se ðe
or well or of-such any nonsense then let-pay he who
hit worhte lahsliht, healf Criste healf landrican.
it made law-breach half to-Christ half to-landholder
ȝ gif se landrica nelle to steore filstan, þonne habbe 54, 1
and if the landholder will-not to punishment help then let-have
Crist ȝ cyningc þa bote.
Christ and king the compensation
Sunnandæges cypingc we forbeodað æghwar ȝ ælc folcgemot 55
Of-Sunday trading we forbid everywhere and each folk-moot
ȝ ælc weorc ȝ ælce lade ægðer ge on wæne ge on
and each work and each carrying each both in wagon and on
horse ge on byrdene.
horse and as burden
Se þe ænig þissa do, gilde wite: friman XII ór, ðeowman 56
He who any of-these does let-pay fine freeman twelve ores slave
ða hyde; — buton wegferende, þa moton for neode
the hide except wayfarers they may for need
meteneade ferian; ȝ for unfriðe man mot freolsæfenan
food-needs carry and for hostility one may on-festival-eve
nide fulfaran betweonan Eferwic ȝ six mila gemete.
perforce travel between York and six of-miles measure
Se þe freols oððe riht fæsten brece, gilde wite XII ór. 57
He who festival or right fast break let-pay fine twelve ores

57, 1 ⁊ we willað, þæt ælc Rompæni beo gelæst be Petres
and we will that each Rome-penny be paid by of-Peter
mæssan to ðam bisceopstole.
mass to the bishop-see

57, 2 ⁊ we willað, þæt man namige on ælcon wæpengetace II
and we will that one name in each wapentake two
triwe þegnas ⁊ ænne mæssepreost, þæt hi hit gegaderian
true thanes and one mass-priest that they it gather
⁊ eft agifan, swa hi durran to swerian.
and again render as they dare to swear

58 Gif cyninges þegn oððe ænig landrica hit forhæbbe, gilde
If of-king thane or any landholder it withhold let-pay
X healfmarc, healf Criste healf cynge.
ten half-marks half to-Christ half to-king

59 Gif hwilc tunesman ænigne pænig forhele oððe forhæbbe,
If any townsman any penny conceal or withhold
gilde se landrica þone pænig ⁊ nime ænne oxan æt ðam
let-pay the landholder the penny and let-take one ox from the
men; ⁊ gif landrica þæt forgime, þonne fo Crist ⁊
man and if landholder that neglect then let-take Christ and
cyningc to fulre bote: XII ór.
king to full compensation twelve ores

60 Gif hwa teoðinge forhealde ⁊ he sy cyninges þegn, gilde
If anyone tithe withhold and he be of-king thane let-pay
X healfmarc, landagende VI healfmarc, ceorl XII ór.
ten half-marks landholder six half-marks churl twelve ores

61 And we forbeodað on Godes forbode, þæt nan man na ma
And we forbid in of-God prohibition that no man — more
wifa næbbe buton I; ⁊ seo beo mid rihte beweddod ⁊
wives have except one and she be with right betrothed and
forgifen;
given

ȝ þæt nan man ne wifige on neahsibban men þonne 61, 1
and that no man — marry with near-related person than
wiðutan þam IIII. cneowe; ne nan man on his godsibbe
outside the fourth knee nor any man with his godparent-kin
ne wifige.
— *marry*
ȝ gif hit hwa gedo, nabbe he Godes mildse, buton he 61, 2
and if it anyone do let-have-not he of-God mercy unless he
geswice ȝ bete, swa biscop getæce.
cease and amend as bishop prescribe
Gif he þonne on ðam unrihte géendige, þolige he clænes 62
If he then in the wrong end let-forfeit he clean
legeres ȝ Godes mildse.
grave and of-God mercy
Gif hwa wið nunnan forlicge, sy ægðer his weres scildig, 63
If anyone with nun fornicate let-be each of-his wergild liable
ge he ge héo.
both he and she
ȝ gif hi on ðam geéndigan buton geswicennesse, þolian 63, 1
and if they in that end without cessation let-forfeit
clænes legeres ȝ Godes mildse.
clean grave and of-God mercy
Gif hwa his rihtæwe lifigende forlæte ȝ on oðran wife 64
If anyone his lawful-wife living forsake and with other woman
on unriht gewifige, næbbe he Godes myldse, buton he hit
in wrong marry let-have-not he of-God mercy unless he it
gebete.
amend

65 Ac healde gehwa mid rihte his æwe þa hwile þe heo libbe;
But let-keep each with right his wife the while that she lives
buton þæt gewurðe, þæt hi buta geceosan be biscopes geþeahte,
unless that happen that they both choose by of-bishop counsel
þæt hi getwæman ⁊ þanon forð willan clænnesse healdan.
that they separate and thence forth will chastity keep

66 Gif ænig man heonan forð rihte laga wyrde, gebete hit
If any man hence forth right laws violate let-amend it
georne.
eagerly

67 Ealle we sculon ænne God lufian ⁊ wurðian ⁊ ænne
All we shall one God love and honor and one
Cristendom georne healdan ⁊ ælcne hæðendom mid ealle
Christianity eagerly hold and each heathendom with all
awurpan.
cast-away

67, 1 ⁊ we willað, þæt landceap ⁊ lahceap ⁊ witword ⁊
and we will that land-purchase and law-purchase and testimony and
getrywe gewitnes ⁊ riht dom ⁊ fulloc ⁊ frumtalu
true witness and right judgment and settlement and first-claim
fæste stande ⁊ dryncelean ⁊ hlafordes rihtgifu, ⁊ huru
firmly stand and drink-reward and of-lord right-gift and at-least
an Cristendom ⁊ an cynedom æfre on ðeode.
one Christianity and one kingship ever in people

No one but the priest and the accused enters the church once the fire that heats the ordeal is carried in; the distance, the water, the iron, the fasting witnesses, and the sealing of the hand for three days are prescribed. For arson and murder the oath is threefold and the iron three pounds. The fee for recovering stolen goods is fifteen pence for a man or a horse, less for goods found hidden.

Dom be haten ísene an[d] wætre. Inscr.
Judgment about hot iron and water

And of þam órdale we [be]beodað Godes bebodum ⁊ þæs 1
And about the ordeal we command of-God commandments and of-the

arcebiscopes ⁊ ealra biscopa, þæt nán mann ne cúme innon
archbishop and of-all bishops that no man — come into

þære ciricean, siððan man þæt fýr inbyrð, þe man þæt órdal
the church after one the fire carries-in which one the ordeal

mid hátan sceal, buton se mæssepreost ⁊ se ðe þartó gán sceal.
with heat shall except the mass-priest and he who thereto go shall

⁊ béo þǽr gemeten nygon fét of þam stácan to þære 1a
and let-be there measured nine feet from the stake to the

mearce be þæs mannes fótan, þe þártó gæð.
mark by of-the man feet who thereto goes

⁊ gif hit þonne wæter sy, hǽte man hit, oð hit hleope to 1b
and if it then water be let-heat one it until it leap to

wylme; ⁊ sy þæt álfæt ísen oððe æren, léaden oððe lǽmen.
boiling and let-be the vessel iron or brass lead or clay

⁊ gif hit anfeald tyhle sy, dúfe seo hand æfter þam stane 2
and if it single charge be let-dive the hand after the stone

oð þa wríste, ⁊ gif hit þryfeald sy, oð þæne élbogan.
until the wrist and if it threefold be until the elbow

3 ⁊ þonne þæt ordal géara sy, þonne gan twegen menn
and when the ordeal ready be then let-go two men
inn of ægðre healfe, ⁊ beon híg ánráde, þæt hit swa
in from either side and let-be they agreed that it so
hát sy, swa wé ær cwædon.
hot be as we before said

4 ⁊ gan inn emfela manna of ægðre healfe ⁊ stande[n]
and let-go in equally-many of-men from either side and let-stand
on twa healfe þæs órdales andlang þære cyricean; ⁊ þa beon
on two sides of-the ordeal along the church and they let-be
ealle fæstende ⁊ fram heora wífe gehealdene þære nyhte.
all fasting and from their wife kept the night

4, 1 ⁊ sprænge se mæssepreost haligwæter ofer hig ealle —
and let-sprinkle the mass-priest holy-water over them all
⁊ heora ælc abyrige þæs haligwæteres — ⁊ sylle heom
and of-them each let-taste of-the holy-water and let-give to-them
eallum cyssan bóc ⁊ Cristes rode tacn.
all to-kiss book and of-Christ cross sign

4, 2 ⁊ na béte nán man þæt fýr na læng, þonne man þa
and not let-tend any man the fire — longer than one the
halgunge ongínne; ac licge þæt isen uppan þam gledan oðþæt
hallowing begins but let-lie the iron upon the coals until
þa æftemestan coll'; lecge hit man syððan uppan þam stápelan.
the last collect let-lay it one afterward upon the stand

4, 3 ⁊ ne sy þær nan oðer spǽc inne, buton þæt hig biddan
and not let-be there any other speech inside except that they ask
God ælmihtig georne, þæt he þæt soðeste geswytelie.
God almighty eagerly that he the truest reveal

5 … ⁊ gá he tó.
(lacuna) and let-go he to

ȝ inseglige man þa hand, ȝ sé[c]e man ófer þæne 5, 2
and let-seal one the hand and let-examine one after the
þriddan dæg, swa hwæðer swa heo béo ful swa clæne
third day so whether so it be foul so clean
binnan þam insegle.
within the seal
ȝ se þe þás lage abréce, beo þæt órdal on him forad, ȝ 6
and he who this law breaks let-be the ordeal on him void and
gilde þam cyninge CXX scill' to wíte.
let-pay to-the king hundred-twenty shillings as fine
(Be blaserum ȝ be morðslihtum.) Inscr.
About incendiaries and about murders
We cwædon be þam blaserum ȝ be þam morþslyhtum, 1
We said about the incendiaries and about the murders
þæt man dypte þone aþ be þryfealdum ȝ myclade þæt
that one deepened the oath by threefold and enlarged the
ordalysen, þæt hit gewege þry pund, ȝ eode se man sylf
ordeal-iron that it weighed three pounds and went the man self
to, þe man tuge.
to whom one accused
ȝ hæbbe se teond cyre swa wæterordal swa ysenordal, swa 2
and let-have the accuser choice so water-ordeal so iron-ordeal so
hwæþer him leofra sy.
whichever to-him dearer be
Gif he ðone að forþbringan ne mæg ȝ he þonne fúl 3
If he the oath forth-bring not can and he then foul
sy, stande on þæra yldesta manna dome, hweþer he lif
be let-stand in of-the eldest men judgment whether he life
áge þe nage, þe to ðære byrig hyran.
own or own-not who to the borough belong

1 Forfang ofer eall, sy hit on anre sci[r]e, sy hit on má,
Rescue-fee over all be it in one shire be it in more
fiftyne peningas; ⁊ æt ælcon smalon orfe æfre æt scyll'
fifteen pence and at each small cattle ever at shilling
penig.
penny

2 Be forfencge. Embe forfang witan habbað geræddd, þæt
About rescue About rescue-fee councilors have decreed that
man ofer eall [Engle]land gelíc[n]e dom healde: þæt is
one over all England like judgment keep that is
æt men fiftene peningas ⁊ æt horse healswá, sy hit ofer
at man fifteen pence and at horse likewise be it over
ane scire, sy hit ofer má, ðe læs ðe unmihtig man feorr
one shire be it over more the less that powerless man far
for his agenon swince ⁊ eac to feola sylle.
for his own travail and also too much give

3 Hwilon stod, þæt man ...
Formerly stood that one (lacuna)

3, 1 ... æt ælcon ðeofstolenan orfe ⁊ be his ... forfange
(lacuna) at each theft-stolen cattle and by his (lacuna) rescue
sylle, þæt is æt ælcon scill' penig, sy ðæs cynnes orf ðe
give that is at each shilling penny be of-the kind cattle which
hit sy, gyf hit man æt ðeofes handa ahret.
it be if it one at of-thief hand rescues

3, 2 Gyf hit ðonne elles on hydelse funden sy, ðonne mæg þæt
If it then else in hiding found be then may the
forfangfeoh leohtre beon, forðam bið on læsse plihte begytan.
rescue-money lighter be because is in less peril to-obtain

The king's peace reaches three miles, three furlongs, three acre-breadths, nine feet, nine hand-breadths, and nine barleycorns from his gate. Robbing a corpse is a villain's deed. A twelve-hundred man's wergild is twelve hundred shillings; the slayer finds twelve sureties, eight from his father's kin and four from his mother's, and pays the neck-ransom, the man-compensation, the fight-fine, and the first wergild payment twenty-one nights apart.

Đus feor sceal beon þæs cinges grið fram his burhgeate,
Thus far shall be of-the king peace from his borough-gate
þær he is sittende, on feower healfe his, ðæt is III mila
where he is sitting on four sides his that is three miles
⁊ III furlang ⁊ III æcera bræde ⁊ IX fóta ⁊ IX
and three furlongs and three of-acres breadth and nine feet and nine
scæftamunda ⁊ IX berecorna.
hand-breadths and nine barleycorns
Walreaf is niðinges dæde: gif hwá ofsacen wille, do þæt
Corpse-robbery is of-villain deed if anyone deny will let-do that
mid eahta ⁊ feowertig fulbórenra þegena.
with eight and forty full-born thanes
Twelfhyndes mannes wer is twelf hund scyllinga. 1
Of-twelve-hundred man wergild is twelve hundred shillings
Twyhyndes mannes wer is twa hund scill'. 1, 1
Of-two-hundred man wergild is two hundred shillings
Gif man ofslægen weorðe, gylde hine man swa he geboren 2
If one slain become let-pay-for him one as he born
sy.
be
⁊ riht is, ðæt se slaga, siððan he weres beweddod hæbbe, 3
and right is that the slayer after he wergild pledged has
finde ðærto wærborh, be þam ðe ðærto gebyrige: ðæt is
let-find thereto wergild-surety by that which thereto belongs that is

æt twelfhyndum were gebyriað twelf men to werborge, VIII
at twelve-hundred wergild belong twelve men as wergild-surety eight
fæderenmægðe ⁊ IIII medrenmægðe.
paternal-kin and four maternal-kin

4 Đonne þæt gedon sy, ðonne ræreman cyninges munde, ðæt
When that done be then let-raise one of-king protection that
is ðæt hy ealle gemænum handum of ægðere mægðe on
is that they all with-common hands from each kin on
anum wæpne ðam semende syllan, ðæt cyninges mund stande.
one weapon to-the mediator give that of-king protection stand

4, 1 Of ðam dæge on XXI nihtan gylde man CXX
From the day in twenty-one nights let-pay one hundred-twenty
scll' to healsfange æt twelfhyndum were.
shillings as neck-ransom at twelve-hundred wergild

5 Healsfang gebyreð bearnum, broðrum ⁊ fæderan; ne
Neck-ransom belongs to-children brothers and paternal-uncles not
gebyreð nanum mæge ðæt feoð bute ðam ðe sy binnan
belongs to-any kinsman that money except to-him who be within
cneowe.
knee

6 Of ðam dæge, ðe ðæt healsfang agolden sy, on XXI
From the day that the neck-ransom paid be in twenty-one
nihtan gylde man ða manbote; ðæs on XXI nihtan ðæt
nights let-pay one the man-compensation of-that in twenty-one nights the
fyhtewite; ðæs on XXI nihtan ðæs weres ðæt frumgyld; ⁊
fight-fine of-that in twenty-one nights of-the wergild the first-payment and
swa forð, þæt fulgolden sy on ðam fyrste, ðe witan geræden.
so forth that fully-paid be in the term which councilors decree

6, 1 Siððan man mot mid lufe ofgan, gif man hwile fulle
Afterward one may with love obtain if one while full
freondrædne habban.
friendship have

Eal man sceal æt cyrliscum were be þære mæðe don, ðe 7
All one shall at churl wergild by the measure do which
him to gebyreð, swa we be twelfhyndum tealdan.
him to belongs as we about twelve-hundred reckoned

V · THE FORMS OF OATH

The oaths of the court, each sworn by the Lord before whom the relic is holy or in God's name: a man's oath of fealty to his lord; the accuser's oath that he sues without deceit; the oaths of the man who vouches goods to warranty or claims them as home-bred; the accused's oath that he is guiltless; a witness's oath; and the oaths of seller and buyer that goods were sound and paid for.

Hu se man sceal swerie. On ðone Drihten, þe ðes haligdom 1
How the man shall swear By the Lord whom this relic
is fore halig, ic wille beon N. hold ȝ getriwe ȝ eal lufian ðæt
is before holy I will be N loyal and faithful and all love that
he lufað ȝ eal ascunian ðæt he ascunað, æfter Godes rihte
he loves and all shun that he shuns according-to of-God right
ȝ æfter woroldgerysnum, ȝ næfre willes ne gewealdes,
and according-to world-customs and never willingly nor deliberately
wordes ne weorces owiht don ðæs him laðre bið, wið þam
of-word nor of-deed aught do of-that to-him more-hateful is against that
ðe he me healde, swa ic earnian wille, ȝ eall þæt læste, þæt
that he me hold as I earn will and all that perform which
uncer formæl wæs, þa ic to him gebeah ȝ his willan geceas.
of-us-two agreement was when I to him submitted and his will chose
On ðone Drihten, þe ðes haligdom is fore halig, swa ic 2
By the Lord whom this relic is before holy so I
spæce drife mid fullan folcrihte, butan bræde ȝ butan swice
suit pursue with full folk-right without deceit and without fraud

ȝ butan æghwylcum facne, swa me forstolen wæs ðæt
and without any treachery as from-me stolen was the
orf N., ðæt ic onspece ȝ þæt ic mid N. befangen hæbbe.
cattle N that I claim and that I with N attached have
3 On ðone Drihten, næs ic æt ræde ne æt dæde, ne gewita
By the Lord not-was I at counsel nor at deed nor accomplice
ne gewyrhta, ðær man mid unrihte Ñ orf ætferede.
nor accessory where one with wrong of-N cattle carried-off
3, 1 Ac swa ic orf hæbbe, swa ic hit mid rihte begeat.
But as I cattle have so I it with right obtained
3, 2 ȝ swa ic hit tyme, swa hit me se sealde, ðe ic hit nu
and as I it vouch so it to-me he gave whom I it now
on hand sette.
in hand set
3, 3 ȝ swa ic orf hæbbe, swa hit me se sealde, ðe hit to
and as I cattle have so it to-me he gave who it to
syllanne agte.
give owned
3, 4 ȝ swa ic orf hæbbe, swa hit of minum agnum ðingum com,
and as I cattle have so it from my own things came
ȝ swa hit on folcriht min agen æht is ȝ min infoster.
and so it by folk-right my own possession is and my home-bred
4 On ðone Drihten, ne teo ic N. ne for hete ne for hole
By the Lord not accuse I N nor for hate nor for malice
ne for unrihtre feohgyrnesse, ne ic nan soðre nat, bute
nor for unjust money-greed nor I any truer know except
swa min secga me sæde, ȝ ic sylf to soðe talige, ðæt
as my informant to-me said and I self as truth reckon that
he mines orfes þeof wære.
he of-my cattle thief were

On ðone Drihten, ic eom unscyldig ægðer ge dæde ge
By the Lord I am guiltless each both of-deed and
dihtes æt þære tihtlan, ðe N. me tihð.
of-instigation at the accusation which N me accuses
On ðone Drihten, se að is clæne ⁊ unmæne, ðe N. swor.
By the Lord the oath is clean and unfalse which N swore
On ælmihtiges Godes naman, ðu me behete hal ⁊ clæne
In of-almighty God name you to-me promised sound and clean
þæt, þæt ðu me sealdest, ⁊ fulle ware wið æfterspræce,
that which you to-me sold and full warranty against after-claim
on ða gewitennesse, ðe unc ða mid wæs: N.
on the witness who us-two then with was N
On ælmihtiges Godes naman, swa ic her N. on soðre gewitnesse
In of-almighty God name so I here N in true witness
stande, unabeden ⁊ ungeboht to, swa ic hit minum egum
stand unbidden and unbought thereto as I it with-my eyes
oferseah ⁊ minum earum oferhyrde, ðæt ðæt ic him mid sæge.
saw and with-my ears heard that which I him with say
On ælmihtiges Godes naman, nyste ic on ðam ðingum,
In of-almighty God name knew-not I in the things
þe þu ymbe specst, ful ne facn, ne wac ne wom,
which you about speak foulness nor fraud nor weakness nor blemish
to ðære dæityde, ðe ic hit þe sealde; ac hit ægðer wæs
at the day-time that I it to-you sold but it each was
ge hal ge clæne buton ælcon facne.
both sound and clean without any fraud
On lifiendes Godes naman, swa ic feos bidde, swa ic
In of-living God name so I for-money ask as I
gywanan hæbbe ðæs, þe me N. behet, ða ic him min
claim have of-that which to-me N promised when I to-him mine
sealde.
sold

11 On lifiendes Godes naman, ne ðearf ic N. sceatt ne scylling,
In of-living God name not owe I N sceat nor shilling
ne penig ne peniges weorð, ac eal ic him gelæste ðæt ðæt ic
nor penny nor of-penny worth but all I to-him paid that which I
him scolde, swa forð swa uncre wordgecwydu fyrmest wæron.
to-him owed so forth as of-us-two agreements foremost were

VI · A PLEA FOR LAND

The fragment of a defendant's speech in a suit for land. The land was bequeathed by its lawful owner and given by one who had the right to give it. The speaker claims it as his own and will yield no plot, plow, turf, or furrow while he lives, since no one ever challenged its holder in hundred, moot, market, or church: let the other keep his own and leave him his.

1 ... Hit becwæð ȝ becwæl sé ðe hit ahte mid fullan
(lacuna) It bequeathed and died he who it owned with full
folcrihte, swa swa hit his yldran mid feo ȝ mid feore rihte
folk-right so as it his ancestors with money and with life rightly
begeatan ȝ letan ȝ læfdan ðam to gewealde, ðe hy wel uðan.
obtained and let and left to-him as control whom they well granted
2 ȝ: swa ic hit hæbbe, swa hit se sealde, ðe to syllanne
and as I it have so it he gave who to give
ahte, unbryde ȝ unforboden.
owned unchallenged and unforbidden
3 ȝ: ic agnian wylle to agenre æhte ðæt ðæt ic hæbbe ȝ
and I claim will as own possession that which I have and
næfre ð[e m]yntan ne plot ne ploh, ne turf ne toft, ne furh
never to-you intend nor plot nor plow nor turf nor toft nor furrow

ne fotmæl, ne land ne læse, ne fersc ne mersc, ne ruh ne
nor foot-measure nor land nor pasture nor fresh nor marsh nor rough nor
rum, wudes ne feldes, landes ne strandes, wealtes ne wæteres;
open of-wood nor of-field of-land nor of-shore of-wold nor of-water
butan ðæt læste ða hwile ðe ic libbe; forðam ni[s æni 3, 1
but that let-last the while that I live because not-is any
m]an on life, ðe æfre gehyrde, ðæt man cwydde oððon
man in life who ever heard that one challenged or
crafode hine on hundrede oððon ahwar on gemote, on
claimed-from him in hundred or anywhere in moot in
ceapstowe oþþe on cyricware, ða hwile þe he lifde:
market-place or in church-congregation the while that he lived
unsac he wæs on life; beo on legere, swa swa he mote!
unchallenged he was in life let-be in grave so as he may
Do, swa ic lære: beo ðe be þinum ⁊ læt [m]e be minum; 3, 2
Do as I teach be you by yours and let me by mine
ne gyrne ic ðines, ne læðes ne landes, ne sace ne socne;
not desire I yours nor lathe nor land nor suit nor soke
ne ðu mines ne ðærft, ne mynte ic ðe nan ðing.
nor you mine — need nor intend I to-you any thing

When a man would wed a woman and she and her friends agree, the bridegroom pledges to keep her as a husband should, and his friends stand surety. If she outlives him she has half the goods, or all if they have a child, unless she marries again. A priest blesses the union, and care is taken that they are not too closely related.

Inscr. Be wifmannes beweddunge.
About of-woman betrothal

1 Gif man mædan oððe wif weddian wille, ⁊ hit swa hire
If one maiden or woman wed will and it so her
⁊ freondan gelicige, ðonne is riht, ðæt se brydguma æfter
and friends please then is right that the bridegroom according-to
Godes rihte ⁊ æfter woroldgerysnum ærest behate ⁊ on
of-God right and according-to world-customs first promise and in
wedde sylle ðam, ðe hire forsprecan synd, þæt he on ða
pledge give to-those who her advocates are that he in the
wisan hire geornige, ðet he hy æfter Godes rihte healdan
way her desires that he her according-to of-God right keep
wille, swa wær his wif sceal; ⁊ aborgian his frind ðæt.
will as husband his wife shall and let-guarantee his friends that

2 Æfter ðam is witanne, hwam ðæt fosterlean gebyrige;
After that is to-know to-whom the foster-payment belongs
weddige se brydguma eft þæs; ⁊ hit aborgian his frynd.
let-pledge the bridegroom again for-that and it let-guarantee his friends

3 Ðonne syððan cyþe se brydguma, hwæs he hire
Then afterward let-make-known the bridegroom what he to-her
geunge, wið þam ðet heo his willan geceose, ⁊ hwæs he
grants for that that she his will choose and what he
hire geunge, gif heo læng sy ðonne he.
to-her grants if she longer be than he

Gif hit swa geforword bið, þonne is riht, ðæt heo sy 4
If it so agreed is then is right that she be
healfes yrfes wyrðe — ȝ ealles, gif hy cild gemæne
of-half inheritance worthy and of-all if they child common
habban—, bute heo eft wær ceose.
have unless she again husband choose
Trymme he eal mid wedde þæt þæt he behate; ȝ aborgian 5
Let-confirm he all with pledge that which he promises and let-guarantee
frynd þæt.
friends that
Gif hy þonne ælces þinges sammæle beon, ðonne fon magas 6
If they then of-each thing agreed be then let-take kinsmen
to ȝ weddian heora magan to wife ȝ to rihtlife ðam ðe hire
to and let-betroth their kinswoman as wife and to right-life to-him who her
girnde; ȝ fo to þam borge se ðe ðæs weddes waldend sy.
sought and let-take to the surety he who of-the pledge controller be
Gif hy man ðonne ut of lande lædan wille on oðres þegnes 7
If her one then out of land lead will into of-other thane
land, ðonne bið hire ræd, ðæt frynd ða forword habban, ðæt
land then is to-her advisable that friends the agreement have that
hire man nan woh to ne do, ȝ gif heo gylt gewyrce, ðæt hy
her one no wrong to — do and if she offense commit that they
moton beon bote nyhst, gif heo næfð, of hwam heo bete.
may be to-compensation nearest if she has-not from what she amend
Æt þam giftan sceal mæssepreost beon mid rihte, se sceal 8
At the wedding shall mass-priest be with right who shall
mid Godes bletsunge heora gesomnunge gederian an ealre
with of-God blessing their union join in all
gesundfulnesse.
prosperity

9 Wel is eac to warnianne, ðæt man wite, ðæt hy ðurh
Well is also to beware that one know that they through
mægsibbe to gelænge ne beon, ðe læs ðe man eft twæme,
kinship too closely-related not be the less that one again separate
ðæt man ær awoh tosomne gedydan.
what one before wrongly together put

VIII · THE RIGHTS AND RANKS OF PEOPLE

The duties and rights of each rank on an estate. The thane owes army service and the repair of boroughs and bridges; the geneat pays rent, rides, and carries; the cottager works each Monday; the boor works two days a week, pays rent in money, barley, and hens, and is given his stock and tools. The bee-keeper, swineherds, herdsmen, cheese-maker, beadle, woodward, and hayward each have their dues, which vary by estate.

1 Ðegenes lagu. Ðegenlagu is, þæt he sy his bocrihtes wyrðe
Of-thane law Thane-law is that he be of-his book-right worthy
ȝ þæt he ðreo ðinc of his lande do: fyrdfæreld ȝ
and that he three things from his land do army-service and
burhbote ȝ brycgeweorc.
fortress-repair and bridge-work

1, 1 Eac of manegum landum mare landriht arist to cyniges
Also from many lands more land-duty arises at of-king
gebanne, swilce is deorhege to cyniges hame ȝ scorp
command such is deer-fence at of-king residence and equipment
to friðscipe ȝ sæweard ȝ heafodweard ȝ fyrdweard,
for guard-ship and sea-ward and head-ward and army-ward
ælmesfeoh ȝ cyricsceat ȝ mænige oðere mistlice ðingc.
alms-money and church-scot and many other various things

Geneates riht. Geneatriht is mistlic be ðam ðe on lande stænt: 2
Of-geneat right Geneat-right is various by that which on land stands
on sumon he sceal landgafol syllan ⁊ gærsswyn on geare ⁊
on some he shall land-rent give and grass-swine in year and
ridan ⁊ auerian ⁊ lade lædan, wyrcan ⁊ hlaford feormian,
ride and carry and load lead work and lord feast
ripan ⁊ mawan, deorhege heawan ⁊ sæte haldan,
reap and mow deer-fence cut and hunting-post keep
bytlian ⁊ burh hegegian, nigefaran to tune feccan, cyricsceat
build and borough hedge newcomers to estate fetch church-scot
syllan ⁊ ælmesfeoh, heafodwearde healdan ⁊ horswearde,
give and alms-money head-ward keep and horse-ward
ærendian fyr swa nyr, swa hwyder swa him mon to tæcð.
go-on-errands far so near so whither so him one to directs
Kotsetlan riht. Kotesetlan riht be ðam ðe on lande stent: 3
Of-cottager right Of-cottager right by that which on land stands
on sumon he sceal ælce Mondæge ofe[r] geares fyrst his
on some he shall each Monday over of-year term for-his
laforde wyrcan oðð III dagas ælcre wucan on hærfest.
lord work or three days each week in harvest
Ne ðearf he landgafol syllan. 3, 2
Not needs he land-rent give
Him gebyriað V æceres to habbanne; mare, gyf hit on 3, 3
To-him belong five acres to have more if it on
lande ðea[w] sy; ⁊ to lytel hit bið, beo hit a læsse;
land custom be and too little it is be it ever less
forðan his weorc sceal beon oftræde.
because his work shall be constant
Sylle his heorðpænig on halgan Ðunresdæg, ealswa ælcan 3, 4
Let-give his hearth-penny on holy Thursday just-as to-each
frigean men gebyreð, ⁊ werige his hlafordes inland, gif
free man befits and let-defend of-his lord inland if

him man beode, æt sæwearde ⁊ æt cyniges deorhege ⁊
him one command at sea-ward and at of-king deer-fence and
æt swilcan ðingan, swilc his mæð sy, ⁊ sylle his cyricsceat
at such things as his rank be and let-give his church-scot
to Martinus mæssan.
at of-Martin mass

4 Gebures gerihte. Geburgerihta syn mislice: gehwar hy syn
Of-boor dues Boor-dues are various somewhere they are
hefige, gehwar eac medeme.
heavy somewhere also moderate

4a On sumen lande is, þæt he sceal wyrcan to wicweorce II
In some land is that he shall work as week-work two
dagas swilc weorc, swilc him man tæcð, ofer geares fyrst
days such work as him one directs over of-year term
ælcre wucan, ⁊ on hærfest III dagas to wicweorce ⁊
each week and in harvest three days as week-work and
of Candelmæsse oð Eastran III; gif he aferað, ne ðearf
from Candlemas until Easter three if he carries not needs
he wyrcan ða hwile ðe his hors ute bið.
he work the while that his horse out is

4, 1 He sceal syllan on Michaeles mæssedæig X gafolp'. ⁊ on
He shall give on of-Michael mass-day ten rent-pence and on
Martinus mæssedæg XXIII systra beres ⁊ II henfugelas,
of-Martin mass-day twenty-three sesters of-barley and two hens
on Eastran an geong sceap oððe II p.
at Easter one young sheep or two pence

4, 1a ⁊ he sceal licgan of Martinus mæssan oð Eastran æt
and he shall lie from of-Martin mass until Easter at
hlafordes falde, swa oft swa him to begæð.
of-lord fold as often as him to falls

ȝ of ðam timan, ðe man ærest ered, oð Martinus 4, 1b
and from the time that one first plows until of-Martin
mæssan he sceal ælcre wucan erian I æcer ȝ ræcan sylf
mass he shall each week plow one acre and furnish self
þæt sæd on hlafordes berne;
the seed in of-lord barn
toeacan ðam III æceras to bene ȝ II to gærsyrðe; 4, 1c
in-addition-to that three acres as boon-work and two for grass-plowing
gyf he maran gærses beðyrfe, ðonne earnige ðæs, swa him
if he more grass need then let-earn it as him
man ðafige;
one allows
his gauolyrðe III æceras erige ȝ sawe of his aganum 4, 2
his rent-plowing three acres let-plow and let-sow from his own
berne.
barn
ȝ sylle his heorðpænig. 4, 2a
and let-give his hearth-penny
ȝ twegen ȝ twegen fedan ænne headorhund. 4, 2b
and two and two let-feed one hunting-hound
ȝ ælc gebur sylle VI hlafas ðam inswa[ne], ðonne he 4, 2c
and each boor let-give six loaves to-the demesne-swineherd when he
his heorde to mæstene drife.
his herd to mast drive
On ðam sylfum lande, ðe ðeos ræden on stænt, gebure 4, 3
On the same land which this arrangement on stands to-boor
gebyreð, þæt him man to landsetene sylle II oxan ȝ I cu
befits that to-him one for land-stocking give two oxen and one cow
ȝ VI sceap ȝ VII æceras gesawene on his gyrde landes.
and six sheep and seven acres sown on his yard of-land
Forðige ofer þæt gear ealle gerihtu, ðe him to gebyrigean. 4, 3a
Let-perform after that year all dues which him to belong

4, 3b ⁊ sylle him man tol to his weorce ⁊ andlaman to his
and let-give to-him one tools for his work and utensils for his
huse.
house

4, 3c Đonne him forðsi[ð] gebyrige, gyme his hlaford ðæs
When to-him departure befalls let-take-charge his lord what
he læfe.
he leaves

4, 4 Deos landlagu stænt on suman lande; gehwar hit is, swa
This land-law stands on some land somewhere it is as
ic ær cwæð, hefigre, gehwar ea[c] leohtre; forðam ealle
I before said heavier somewhere also lighter because all
landsida ne syn gelice.
land-customs not are alike

4, 5 On sumen landa gebur sceal syllan huniggafol, on suman
In some land boor shall give honey-rent in some
metegafol, on suman ealugafol.
food-rent in some ale-rent

4, 6 Hede se ðe scire healde, þæt he wite á, hwæt ealdlandræden
Let-heed he who district holds that he know ever what old-land-custom
sy ⁊ hwæt ðeode ðeaw.
be and what of-people custom

5 Be ðam ðe beon bewitað. Beoceorle gebyreð, gif he
About those who bees keep To-bee-keeper befits if he
gafolheorde healt, þæt he sylle ðoñ lande geræd beo.
rent-swarm holds that he give then land arranged be

5, 1 Mid us is geræd, þæt he sylle V sustras huniges to gafole;
With us is arranged that he give five sesters of-honey as rent
on suman landum gebyreð mare gafolræden.
in some lands belongs more rent-arrangement

Eac he sceal hwiltidum geara beon on manegum weorcum 5, 2
Also he shall at-times ready be in many works
to hlafordes willan, toeacan benyrðe ȝ bedripe ȝ
at of-lord will in-addition-to boon-plowing and boon-reaping and
mædmæwecte.
meadow-mowing
ȝ gyf he wel gelend bið, he sceal beon gehorsad, þæt 5, 3
and if he well landed is he shall be horsed that
he mæge to hlafordes seame þæt syllan oððe sylf lædan,
he may for of-lord pack-load that give or self lead
swæðer him man tæce.
whichever him one directs
ȝ fela ðinga swa gerad man sceal don; eal ic nu atellan 5, 4
and many things so arranged one shall do all I now recount
ne mæig.
not can
Ðonne him forðsið gebyrige, hede se hlaford ðæs he læfe, 5, 5
When to-him departure befalls let-heed the lord what he leaves
bute hwet friges sy.
except what of-free be
Gafolswane. Gafolswane gebyreð, þæt he sylle his slyht, be 6
Rent-swineherd To-rent-swineherd befits that he give his slaughter by
ðam ðe on lande stent.
that which on land stands
On manegum landum stent, þæt he sylle ælce geare XV swyn 6, 1
On many lands stands that he give each year fifteen swine
to sticunge, X ealde ȝ V gynge — hæbbe sylf, þæt he ofer
for sticking ten old and five young let-have self what he beyond
þæt aræreᅳ; on manegum landum gebyreð deopre swanriht.
that rears on many lands belongs deeper swineherd-right

6, 2 Gyme eac swan, þæt he æfter sticunge his slyhtswyn wel
Let-heed also swineherd that he after sticking his slaughter-swine well
behweorfe [ȝ] sæncge: ðonne bið he ful wel gewyrces wyrðe.
prepare and singe then is he full well of-perquisite worthy

6, 3 Eac he sceal beon — swa ic ær be beocere cwæð —
Also he shall be as I before about bee-keeper said
oftræde to gehwilcon weorce ȝ gehorsad to hlafordes neode.
constant for each work and horsed for of-lord need

6, 4 Ðeow swan ȝ ðeow beocere æfter forðsiðe be anre lage
Slave swineherd and slave bee-keeper after departure by one law
wyrðe.
worthy

7 Be æhteswane. Æhteswane, ðe inhe[or]de healt, gebyreð
About slave-swineherd To-slave-swineherd who demesne-herd holds belongs
stifearh ȝ his gewirce, ðonne he s[p]ic behworfen hæfð,
sty-pig and his perquisite when he bacon prepared has
ȝ elles ða gerihtu, ðe ðeowan men to gebyriað.
and else the dues which slave men to belong

8 Be manna metsunge. Anan esne gebyreð to metsunge XII
About of-men provisioning To-one servant belongs as provisioning twelve
pund godes cornes ȝ II scipæteras ȝ I god metecu,
pounds of-good corn and two sheep-carcasses and one good food-cow
wuduræden be landside.
wood-right by land-custom

9 Be wifmonna metsunge. Ðeowan wifmen: VIII pund cornes
About of-women provisioning To-slave women eight pounds of-corn
to mete, I sceap oðða III p.’ to wintersufle, I syster
for food one sheep or three pence for winter-relish one sester
beana to længtensufle, hwæig on sumera oðða I p.’
of-beans for spring-relish whey in summer or one penny

Eallum æhtemannum gebyreð Midwintres feorm ⁊ 9, 1
To-all serfs belongs of-Midwinter feast and
Eastorfeorm, sulhæcer ⁊ hærfesthand[f]ul toeacan heora
Easter-feast plow-acre and harvest-handful in-addition-to their
nydrihte.
due
Be folgeran. Folgere gebyreð, þæt he on twelf monðum II 10
About follower To-follower befits that he in twelve months two
æceras geearnige, oðerne gesawene ⁊ oðerne unsawene; sædige
acres earn one sown and other unsown let-sow
sylf ðæne; ⁊ his mete ⁊ scoung ⁊ glofung him gebyreð.
self that and his food and shoes and gloves to-him belongs
Gyf he mare geearnian mæig, him bið sylfum fremu. 10, 1
If he more earn can to-him is self profit
Be sædere. Sædere gebyreð, þæt he hæbbe ælces sædcynnes 11
About sower To-sower befits that he have of-each seed-kind
ænne leap fulne, ðonne he ælc sæd wel gesawen hæbbe
one basket full when he each seed well sown has
ofer geares fyrst.
over of-year term
Be oxanhyrde. Oxanhyrde mot læswian II oxan oððe ma 12
About oxherd Oxherd may pasture two oxen or more
mid hlafordes heorde on gemænre læse be his ealdormannes
with of-lord herd in common pasture by of-his ealdorman
gewitnesse; earnian mid ðam scos ⁊ glofa him sylfum.
witness earn with that shoes and gloves for-him self
⁊ his metecu mot gan mid hlafordes oxan. 12, 1
and his food-cow may go with of-lord oxen

13 Be kuhyrde. Cuhyrde gebyreð, þæt he hæbbe ealdre cu
About cowherd To-cowherd befits that he have of-old cow
meolc VII niht, syððan heo nige cealfod hæfð, ⁊ frymetlinge
milk seven nights after she newly calved has and of-first-calver
bystinge XIIII niht.
beestings fourteen nights

13, 1 ⁊ ga his metecu mid hlafordes cu.
and let-go his food-cow with of-lord cow

14 Be sceaphyrdan. Sceaphyrdes riht is, þæt he hæbbe twelf
About shepherd Of-shepherd right is that he have twelve
nihta [d]ingan to Middanwintra ⁊ I lamb of geares geogeðe
nights dung at Midwinter and one lamb from of-year young
⁊ I belflys ⁊ his heorde meolc VII niht æfter emnihtes
and one bell-fleece and of-his herd milk seven nights after of-equinox
dæge ⁊ blede fulle hweges oððe syringe ealne sumor.
day and bowl full of-whey or buttermilk all summer

15 Be gathyrde. Gathyrde gebyreð his heorde meolc ofer
About goatherd To-goatherd belongs of-his herd milk after
Martinus mæssedæig, ⁊ ær ðam his dæl hwæges ⁊ I
of-Martin mass-day and before that his share of-whey and one
ticcen of geares geogoðe, gif he his heorde wel begymeð.
kid from of-year young if he his herd well tends

16 Be cyswyrhte. Cyswyrhtan gebyreð hundred cyse, ⁊ þæt
About cheese-maker To-cheese-maker belongs hundred cheeses and that
heo of wringhwæge buteran macige to hlafordes beode;
she from wring-whey butter make for of-lord table
⁊ hæbbe hire ða syringe ealle butan ðæs hyrdes dæle.
and let-have her the buttermilk all except of-the herdsman share

Be berebrytte. Berebryttan gebyreð corngebrot on hærfeste 17
About granary-keeper To-granary-keeper belongs corn-spillings in harvest
æt bernes dure, gif him his ealdorman ann, ⁊ he hit
at of-barn door if to-him his ealdorman grants and he it
mid getryw[ð]an geearnoð.
with loyalty earns
Be bydele. Bydele gebyrað, þæt he for his wycan sy weorces 18
About beadle To-beadle befits that he for his office be of-work
frigra ðonne oðer man; forðan he sceal beon oftræde.
freer than other man because he shall be constant
Eac him gebyreð sum landsticce for his geswince. 18, 1
Also to-him belongs some land-piece for his toil
Be wudewarde. Wuduwearde gebyreð ælc windfylled treow. 19
About woodward To-woodward belongs each wind-felled tree
Hæigwerde gebyreð, þæt man his geswinces lean gecnawe 20
To-hayward befits that one of-his toil reward recognize
on ðam endum, ðe to etenlæse licgan; forðam he mæig
in the ends which to grazing-land lie because he may
wenan, gyf he þæt ær forgymð, þæt him man …
expect if he that before neglects that him one (lacuna)
… hwilces landsticces geann, þæt sceal beon mid folcrihte 20, 1
(lacuna) some land-piece grants that shall be with folk-right
nyhst etenlæse; forðam gyf he for slæwðe his hlafordes forgymð,
nearest grazing-land because if he for sloth his lord neglects
ne bið his agnum wel geborgen, gif hit bið ðus funden.
not is his own well protected if it is thus found
Gyf he ðonne eal wel gefriðað, he healdan sceal, ðonne bið 20, 2
If he then all well protects he keep shall then is
he godes leanes ful wel wyrðe.
he of-good reward full well worthy
Landlaga syn mistlice, swa ic ær beforan sæde. 21
Land-laws are various as I before earlier said

21, 1 Ne sette we na ðas gerihtu ofer ealle ðeoda, ðe we ær
Not set we — these dues over all peoples which we before
beforan ymbe spræcon; ac we cyðað, hwæt ðeaw is ðær
earlier about spoke but we make-known what custom is there
ðær us cuð is.
where to-us known is

21, 2 Gyf we selre geleorniað, þæt we willað georne lufian ⁊
If we better learn that we will eagerly love and
healdon, be ðære ðede ðeawe, ðe we ðænne onwuniað.
keep by of-the people custom which we then dwell-among

21, 3 Forðam laga sceal on leode luflice leornian, lof se ðe on
Therefore laws shall among people lovingly learn praise he who in
lande sylf nele leosan.
land self will-not lose

21, 4 Feola syndon folcgerihtu: on sumre ðeode gebyreð winterfeorm,
Many are folk-dues in some people belongs winter-feast
Easterfeorm, bendform for ripe, gytfeorm for yrðe, mæðmed,
Easter-feast binding-feast for reaping drinking-feast for plowing mowing-reward
hreacmete, æt wudulade wæntreow, æt cornlade hreaccopp
rick-food at wood-carrying wagon-tree at corn-carrying rick-top
⁊ fela ðinga, ðe ic getellan ne mæig.
and many things which I count not can

21, 5 Ðis is ðeah myngung manna biwiste ⁊ eal þæt ic ær
This is though reminder of-men subsistence and all that I before
beforan ymberehte.
earlier recounted

The discerning reeve knows his lord's land-rights, the people's dues, and the time of every work, which varies from land to land. He must be neither slack nor proud, watch over everything great and small, spur and reward his men, and never let them rule him. The work of each season is listed, then the tools and vessels of the estate, from axe and plowshare to churn and mousetrap.

Be gesceadwisan gerefan. Inscr.

About discerning reeve

Se scadwis gerefa sceal ægðær witan ge hlafordes landriht 1

The discerning reeve shall each know both of-lord land-right

ge folces gerihtu, be ðam ðe hit of ealddagum witan

and of-people dues by that which it from old-days councilors

geræddan, ⁊ ælcre tilðan timan, ðe to tune belimpð;

decreed and of-each tillage time which to estate belongs

forðam on manegum landum tilð bið redre ðonne on 1, 1

because in many lands tillage is earlier than in

oðrum: ge yrðe tima hrædra, ge mæda rædran, ge

others both of-plowing time earlier and mowings earlier and

winterdún eac swa, ge gehwilc oðer tilð.

winter-down also so and each other tillage

Hede se ðe scire healde, þæt he friðige ⁊ forðige ælce be ðam 2

Let-heed he who office holds that he protect and advance each by that

ðe hit selest sy; ⁊ be ðam he eac mot, ðe hine weder wisað.

which it best be and by that he also may which him weather directs

He sceal snotorlice smeagean ⁊ georne ðurhsmugan ealle 2, 1

He shall shrewdly consider and eagerly search-through all

ða ðing, ðe hlaforde magan to ræde.

the things which to-lord may as advantage

3 Gyf he wel aginnan wile, ne mæig he sleac beon ne to oferhydig;
If he well begin will not may he slack be nor too proud
ac he mot ægðer witan ge læsse ge mare, ge betere ge mætre
but he must each know both less and more and better and poorer
ðæs ðe to tune belimpð, ge on tune ge on dune, ge on
of-that which to estate belongs both in estate and on down and in
wuda ge on wætere, ge on felda ge on falde, ge inne ge ute.
wood and in water and in field and in fold and inside and outside
3, 1 Forðam to soðe ic secge: oferhogie he oððe forgyme ða ðing
Because for truth I say despise he or neglect the things
to beganne ȝ to bewitanne, ðe to scipene oððe to odene
to undertake and to oversee which to cattle-shed or to threshing-floor
belimpað, sona hit wyrð on berne þæt to ðam belimpað.
belong at-once it becomes in barn what to them belongs
4 Ac ic lære, þæt he do, swa ic ær cwæð: gyme ægðer ge
But I teach that he do as I before said let-heed each both
ðæs selran ge þæs sæmran, þæt naðor ne misfare, gyf he
the better and the worse that neither — go-wrong if he
wealdan mæge, ne corn ne sceaf, ne flæsc ne flotsmeru, ne
control can nor corn nor sheaf nor meat nor skimmings nor
cyse ne cyslyb, ne nan ðera ðinga ðe æfra to note mæge.
cheese nor rennet nor any of-the things which ever to use may
5 Swa sceal god scyrman his hlafordes healdan, do ymbe
So shall good steward of-his lord keep let-do about
his agen, swa swa he wylle.
his own so as he will
5, 1 A swa he gecneordra swa bið he weorðra, gyf he wið
Ever so he more-diligent so is he worthier if he with
witan hafoð his wisan gemæne.
wise-men has his ways common

Symle he sceal his hyrmen scyrpan mid manunge to 6
Always he shall his hirelings spur with admonition to
hlafordes neode ȝ him eac leanian be ðam ðe hy earnian.
of-lord need and them also reward by that which they earn
Ne læte he næfre his hyrmen hyne oferwealdan, ac wille he 7
Not let he ever his hirelings him overrule but will he
ælcne mid hlafordes creafte ȝ mid folcrihte: selre him his
each with of-lord power and with folk-right better to-him is
æfre of folgoðe ðonne on, gyf hine magan wyldan ða ðe he
ever out-of office than in if him can control those who he
scolde wealdan; ne bið hit hlaforde ræd, þæt he þæt ðafige.
should control not is it to-lord advisable that he that allow
Æfre he mæig findan, on ðam he mæig nyt beon ȝ ða nytte 8
Ever he can find in what he can useful be and the profits
don, ðe him fylstan scylan; huru is mæst neod, þæt he
do which him help shall at-least is most need that he
asece, hu he yrde mæge fyrme geforðian, ðonne ðæs tima sy.
seek how he plowing may farm-work advance when of-it time be
Me mæig in Maio ȝ Iunio ȝ Iulio on sumera fealgian, 9
One may in May and June and July in summer fallow
myxendincgan ut dragan, lochyrdla tilian, sceap scyran,
dung out draw hurdle-folds make sheep shear
bytlian, boteatan, tynan, tymbrian, wudian, weodian, faldian,
build repair fence timber cut-wood weed fold
fiscwer ȝ mylne macian;
fish-weir and mill make
on hærfeste ripan, in Agusto ȝ Septembri ȝ Octobri 10
in harvest reap in August and September and October
mawan, wad spittan, fela tilða ham gæderian, ðacian, ðecgan
mow woad dig many crops home gather thatch cover

ȝ fald weoxian, scipena behweorfan ȝ hlosan eac swa, ær
and fold clean cattle-sheds prepare and pigsties also so before
to tune to stið winter cume, ȝ eac yrðe georne forðian;
to estate too severe winter come and also plowing eagerly advance
11 on wintra erian ȝ in miclum gefyrstum timber cleofan, orceard
in winter plow and in great frosts timber split orchard
ræran ȝ mænige inweorc wyrcean, ðerhsan, wudu cleofan,
raise and many indoor-works work thresh wood split
hryðeran styllan, swyn stigian, on odene cylne macian —
cattle stall swine sty on threshing-floor kiln make
ofn ȝ aste ȝ fela ðinga sceal to tune — ge eac henna hrost;
oven and oast and many things shall for estate and also of-hens roost
12 on længtene eregian ȝ impian, beana sawan, wingeard
in spring harrow and graft beans sow vineyard
settan, dician, deorhege heawan ȝ raðe æfter ðam, gif hit
set ditch deer-fence cut and soon after that if it
mot gewiderian, mederan settan, linsed sawan, wadsæd eac
may be-fair-weather madder set flax-seed sow woad-seed also
swa, wyrtun plantian ȝ fela ðinga; ic eal geteallan ne
so herb-garden plant and many things I all count not
mæig, þæt god scirman bycgan sceal.
can that good steward buy shall
13 A he mæig findan, hwæt he mæig on byrig betan — ne
Ever he can find what he can in enclosure amend not
ðearf he na unnyt beon, ðonne he ðær binnan bið—: oððe
needs he — useless be when he there within is or
hus godian, rihtan ȝ weoxian ȝ grep hegian, dicsceard
house improve straighten and clean and drain hedge ditch-gap
betan, hegas godian, weod wyrtwalian, betweox husan
mend hedges improve weeds root-out between houses

bricgian, beoddian, bencian, horsan styllan, flor feormian
bridge table bench horses stall floor clean
oððe synnes sum ðing ðe to nyte mæge.
or of-kind some thing which to use may
He sceal fela tola to tune tilian ⁊ fela andlomena to 14
He shall many tools for estate provide and many utensils for
husan habban:
houses have
Æcse, adsan, bil, byrse, scafan, sage, cimbiren, tigehoc, 15
Axe adze bill awl plane saw clamp-iron tie-hook
næfebor, mattuc, ippingiren, scear, culter ⁊ eac gadiren, siðe,
auger mattock crowbar plowshare coulter and also goad-iron scythe
sicol, weodhoc, spade, scofle, wadspitel, bærwan, besman, bytel,
sickle weed-hook spade shovel woad-dibble barrow broom mallet
race, geafle, hlædre, horscamb ⁊ sceara, fyrtange, wæipundern;
rake fork ladder curry-comb and shears fire-tongs steelyard
⁊ fela towtola: flexlinan, spinle, reol, gearnwindan, stodlan, 15, 1
and many spinning-tools flax-lines spindle reel yarn-winder uprights
lorgas, presse, pihten, timplean, wifte, wefle, wulcamb, cip,
beams press comb temple weft woof wool-comb roller
amb, crancstæf, sceaðele, seamsticcan, scearra, nædle, slic.
frame crank-staff shuttle seam-stick shears needle beater
And gif he smeawyrhtan hæfð, ðam he sceal to tolan 16
And if he craftsmen has them he shall with tools
fylstan: mylewerde, sutere, leodgotan ⁊ oðran wyrhtan —
help miller shoemaker lead-caster and other workmen
ælc weorc sylf wisað, hwæt him to gebyreð; nis ænig
each work self shows what him to belongs not-is any
man, þæt atellan mæge ða tol ealle, ðe man habban sceal.
man that recount can the tools all which one have shall

17 Man sceal habban wængewædu, sulhgesidu, egeðgetigu ⁊
One shall have wagon-gear plow-tackle harrow-tackle and
fela ðinga, ðe ic nu genæmnian ne can, ge eac mete, áwel
many things which I now name not can and also meat hook
⁊ to odene fligel ⁊ andlamena fela: hwer, lead, cytel,
and for threshing-floor flail and utensils many pot lead-vat kettle
hlædel, pannan, crocca, brandiren, dixas, stelmelas, cyfa, cyflas,
ladle pans crocks firedog dishes handled-vessels tubs buckets
cyrne, cysfæt, ceodan, wilian, windlas, systras, syfa, sædleap,
churn cheese-vat bags baskets hampers sesters sieves seed-basket
hriddel, hersyfe, tæmespilan, fanna, trogas, æscena, hyfa,
riddle hair-sieve sieve-frames winnowing-fans troughs ash-pails hives
hunigbinna, beorbydene, bæðfæt, beodas, butas, bleda, melas,
honey-bins beer-barrel bath-tub tables flagons bowls basins
cuppan, seohhan, candelstafas, sealtfæt, sticfodder, piperhorn,
cups strainers candlesticks salt-cellar spoon-case pepper-horn
cyste, mydercan, bearmteage, hlydan, sceamelas, stolas, læflas,
chest coffers yeast-box lockers benches chairs ladles
leohtfæt, blacern, cyllan, sapbox, camb, yrsebinne, fodderhec,
lamp lantern leather-bottles soap-box comb manger fodder-rack
fyrgebeorh, meluhudern, ælhyde, ofnrace, mexscofle.
fire-guard meal-ark oil-flask oven-rake dung-shovel

18 Hit is earfoðe eall to gesecganne, þæt se beðencan sceal,
It is hard all to say what he consider shall
ðe scire healt.
who office holds

18, 1 Ne sceolde he nan ðing forgyman, ðe æfre to note mehte:
Not should he any thing neglect which ever to use might
ne forða musfellan ne, þæt git læsse is, to hæpsan pinn.
nor even mousetrap nor what yet less is for hasp pin

Fela sceal to holdan hames gerefan ȝ to gemetfæstan 18, 2
Much shall to loyal of-home reeve and to temperate
manna hyrde.
of-men keeper
Ic gecende be ðam ðe ic cuðe; se ðe bet cunne, 19
I declared by that which I knew he who better knows
gecyðe his mare.
let-make-known of-it more

X · OF RANKS AND WERGILDS

Once the people went by ranks: a churl with five hides of his own land, a bell, a gate, and an office in the king's hall became worthy of a thane's right, and a scholar in orders had his order's honor. The law of the North people sets the king's payment at thirty thousand thrymsas, half wergild and half for the kingship, and the lower ranks' down to the churl's; the Mercian law sets the churl at two hundred shillings and the thane at six times that.

Be wergildum ȝ be geðinðum. Inscr.
About wergilds and about ranks
Hwilum wæs ..., þæt leod ȝ lagu fór be geþingðum; 1
Formerly was (lacuna) that people and law went by ranks
ȝ þá wæron þeodwitan wurðscipes wurðe, ælc be his
and then were people's-councilors of-honor worthy each by his
mæðe, ge eorl ge ceorl, ge þegen ge þeoden.
rank both noble and churl and thane and prince
And gif ceorl geþeah, þæt he hæfde V hida fullice agenes 2
And if churl prospered that he had five hides fully of-own
landes, ... bellan ȝ burhgeat, setl ȝ sundornote on
land (lacuna) bell and borough-gate seat and special-office in
cynges healle, þonne wæs he þanon forð þegenrihtes wyrðe.
of-king hall then was he thence forth of-thane-right worthy

3 And se þegen þe geþeah, þæt he þenode cynge ⁊ his
And the thane who prospered that he served king and his
rádstæfne rád on his hirede, gif se þonne hæfde þegn, þe him
riding-summons rode in his household if he then had thane who him
filigde, þe to cynges … V hída hæfde ⁊ on cyninges sele
followed who to of-king (lacuna) five hides had and in of-king hall
his hlaforde þenode ⁊ þriwa mid his ærendan gefore to cynge,
his lord served and thrice with his errand went to king
se moste siððan mid his foraðe his hlaford aspelian …
he might afterward with his fore-oath his lord represent (lacuna)
⁊ his onspæce geræcan mid rihte, swa hwar swa he þorfte.
and his suit pursue with right so where so he needed
4 And se ðe swa geþogene forwyrhtan næfde, swore for silfne
And he who so prospered representative had-not swore for self
æfter his rihte, oððe his þolode.
according-to his right or it forfeited
7 And gif leornere wære, þe þurh lare geþuge, þæt he
And if scholar were who through learning prospered that he
had hæfde ⁊ þenode Criste, wǽre se siððan mæðe ⁊
orders had and served Christ were he afterward of-rank and
munde swa micelre wyrðe, swa ðonne þam hade gebirede
protection so much worthy as then to-the order belonged
mid rihte, gif he hine heolde, swa swa he scolde.
with right if he himself kept so as he should
8 And gif man gehádedum oððe ælþeodigum ahwar gederede
And if one ordained or foreigner anywhere harmed
wórdes oððe weorces, þonne gebyrede biscpe ⁊ cynge, þæt
of-word or of-deed then befitted to-bishop and king that
hi þæt betan, swa hi raðost mihton.
they that amend as they soonest might

Norðleoda laga. Inscr.

Of-Northpeople laws

Norðleoda cynges gild is XXX þusend þrymsa: fiftene 1

Of-Northpeople king payment is thirty thousand thrymsas fifteen

þusend þrymsa bið þæs wergildes, XV þusend þæs cynedomes;

thousand thrymsas is of-the wergild fifteen thousand of-the kingship

se wer gebirað magum ⁊ seo cynebot þam leodum.

the wergild belongs to-kinsmen and the king-compensation to-the people

Arc[ebiscop]es ⁊ æþelinges wergild is XV þusend þrymsa. 2

Of-archbishop and of-atheling wergild is fifteen thousand thrymsas

Biscopes ⁊ ealdormannes VIII þusend ðrymsa. 3

Of-bishop and of-ealdorman eight thousand thrymsas

Holdes ⁊ cyninges heahgerefan IIII þusend þrimsa. 4

Of-hold and of-king high-reeve four thousand thrymsas

Mæsseþegnes ⁊ worldþegnes II þusend þrimsa. 5

Of-mass-thane and of-world-thane two thousand thrymsas

Ceorles wergild is CC ⁊ LXVI þrimsa, þæt bið II 6

Of-churl wergild is two-hundred and sixty-six thrymsas that is two

hund scill'. be Myrcna lage.

hundred shillings by of-Mercians law

And gif Wilisman geþeo, þæt he hæbbe hiwisc landes ⁊ 7

And if Welshman prosper that he have hide of-land and

mæge cyninges gafol forðbringan, þonne bið his wergild

can of-king tribute bring-forth then is his wergild

CXX scill'.

hundred-twenty shillings

And gif he ne geþeo buton to healfre hide, þonne si his 7, 1

And if he not prosper except to half hide then let-be his

wer LXXX scill'.

wergild eighty shillings

8 And gif he ænig land næbbe ⁊ þeah freoh sy, forgilde
And if he any land has-not and yet free be let-pay-for
hine man mid LXX scill'.
him one with seventy shillings

9 And gif ceorlisc man geþeo, þæt he hæbbe V hida landes
And if churl man prosper that he have five hides of-land
to cynges utware, ⁊ hine man ofslea, forgilde man hine
for of-king military-service and him one slay let-pay-for one him
mid twam þusend þrimsa.
with two thousand thrymsas

10 And þeah he geþeo, þæt he hæbbe helm ⁊ byrnan ⁊ golde
And though he prosper that he have helmet and mail-coat and with-gold
fæted sweord, gif he þæt land nafað, he bið ceorl swa þeah.
plated sword if he the land has-not he is churl so though

11 And gif his sunu ⁊ his sunu sunu þæt geþeoð, þæt hi
And if his son and of-his son son that prosper that they
swa micel landes habban, siððan bið se ofsprinc gesiðcundes
so much of-land have afterward is the offspring of-noble-born
cynnes be twam þusendum.
kin by two thousands

12 And gif hi þæt nabbað, ne to ðam geþeon ne magon,
And if they that have-not nor to that prosper — can
gilde man cirlisce.
let-pay one churl-wise

Inscr. Be Mircna laga.
About of-Mercians law

1 Ceorles wergild is on Myrcna lage CC scill'.
Of-churl wergild is in of-Mercians law two-hundred shillings

1, 1 Ðegnes wergild is syx swa micel, þæt bið twelf hund scill'.
Of-thane wergild is six so much that is twelve hundred shillings

Đonne bið cynges anfeald wergild six þegna wer be 2
Then is of-king single wergild six of-thanes wergild by
Myrcna laga, þæt is XXX þusend sceatta, ⁊ þæt bið ealles
of-Mercians law that is thirty thousand sceattas and that is in-all
CXX punda.
hundred-twenty pounds
Swa micel is þæs wergildes on folces folcriht be Myrcna 3
So much is of-the wergild in of-people folk-right by of-Mercians
laga.
law
⁊ for ðam cynedóme gebireð oðer swilc to bote on 3, 1
and for the kingship belongs another such as compensation in
cynegilde.
king-payment
Se wer gebirað magum ⁊ seo cynebot þam leodum. 4
The wergild belongs to-kinsmen and the king-compensation to-the people
Be Mirciscan aðe. Twelfhendes mannes að forstent VI 1
About Mercian oath Of-twelve-hundred man oath stands-for six
ceorla að; forðam, gif man þone twelfhendan man wrecan
of-churls oath because if one the twelve-hundred man avenge
scolde, he bið fulwrecen on six ceorlan, ⁊ his wergild
should be is fully-avenged on six churls and his wergild
bið six ceorla wergild.
is six of-churls wergild
Be gehadodra manna aðe; ⁊ be hadbote. Mæssepreostes 2
About of-ordained men oath and about order-compensation Of-mass-priest
að ⁊ worldþegnes is on Engla lage geteald efen dire
oath and of-world-thane is in of-English law reckoned equally dear
for ðam seofon cirichadan, þe se preost þurh Godes gife
for the seven church-orders which the priest through of-God grace
geþéah, þæt he hæfde.
attained that he had

The Holy Spirit's gifts are sevenfold, and so are the steps of holy orders. Whoever harms God's servants pays sevenfold compensation. Where a cleric is slain or his order fully breached, the order-compensation, beyond the wergild, goes by his step, one pound for the first rising to seven for the seventh, with penance; it is divided among the bishop, the altar, and the fellowship.

1 Seofonfealde gifa sind Haliges gastes; and seofon stapas
Sevenfold gifts are of-Holy spirit and seven steps
sindon ciriclicra gráda ȝ haligra háda; and sifon siðan
are of-church grades and of-holy orders and seven times
Godes þeowas sculon ... hergan dæghwamlice on circan
of-God servants shall (lacuna) praise daily in church
ȝ for eal Cristen folc þingian georne.
and for all Christian folk intercede eagerly

1, 1 And eallum Godes freondum gebirað swiðe rihte, þæt hi
And to-all of-God friends befits very rightly that they
Godes cirican lufian ȝ wurðian ȝ Godes þeowas friðian
of-God church love and honor and of-God servants protect
ȝ nerian.
and save

1, 2 And se þe heom gederige mid worde oððe weorce,
And he who them harm with word or deed
seofonfealdre bote gebete hit georne be þam þe seo
with-sevenfold compensation let-amend it eagerly by that which the
dæd sy ..., gif he Godes miltse geearnian wille.
deed be (lacuna) if he of-God mercy earn will

1, 3 Forðam halidom ȝ hádas ȝ gehalgode Godes hus a
Because relics and orders and hallowed of-God houses ever
man sceal for Godes ege wurðian georne.
one shall for of-God fear honor eagerly

And to hádbote, gif liflire wurðe, toeacan þam 2
And for order-compensation if life-loss become in-addition-to the
rihtwere, þone forman stæpe bete man mid punde ⁊
right-wergild the first step let-amend one with pound and
mid godcundre bote þingige georne.
with divine compensation let-intercede eagerly
And to hádbote, gif feorhlira wurðe, toeacan þam 3
And for order-compensation if life-loss become in-addition-to the
rihtwere, æt þam oðrum stæpe twa pund to bóte mid
right-wergild at the second step two pounds as compensation with
godcundran scrifte.
more-divine penance
And to hadbote, gif fulbrice wyrðe, toeacan þam 4
And for order-compensation if full-breach become in-addition-to the
rihtwere, æt þam þriddan stæpe þreo pund to bote mid
right-wergild at the third step three pounds as compensation with
godcundan scrifte.
divine penance
And to hadbote, gif fulbryce wyrðe, toeacan þam 5
And for order-compensation if full-breach become in-addition-to the
rihtwere, æt þam feorðan stæpe feower pund to bote,
right-wergild at the fourth step four pounds as compensation
mid godcundan scrifte.
with divine penance
And to hadbote, gif fulbrice wyrðe …, æt þam V. 6
And for order-compensation if full-breach become (lacuna) at the fifth
stæpe V pund to bote, mid godcundan scrifte.
step five pounds as compensation with divine penance

7 And to hadbote, gif fulbrice wurðe, toeacan þam
And for order-compensation if full-breach become in-addition-to the
rihtwere, æt þam VI. stæpe VI pund to bote, mid
right-wergild at the sixth step six pounds as compensation with
godcundan scrifte.
divine penance

8 And to hadbote, gif fulbrice wurðe, toeacan þam
And for order-compensation if full-breach become in-addition-to the
rihtwere, æt þam seofoðan stæpe VII pund to bote, mid
right-wergild at the seventh step seven pounds as compensation with
godcundan scrifte.
divine penance

9 And to hadbote, þar sambryce wyrðe, bete man
And for order-compensation where partial-breach become let-amend one
georne be ðam þe seo dǽd sy.
eagerly by that which the deed be

9, 1 And hadbot mid rihte án dæl þam biscope, oðer þam
And order-compensation with right one part to-the bishop second to-the
wibede ⁊ þridde geferscipe.
altar and third to-fellowship

10 Áá sceal mid rihte dóm æfter dǽde ⁊ medemung be
Ever shall with right judgment after deed and measuring by
mæðe for Gode ⁊ for worlde.
measure before God and before world

11 And wise wæran worldwitan, þe to godcundan rihtlagan
And wise were world-councilors who to divine right-laws
þas laga setton, folce for steore, ⁊ halidóm ⁊ hadas
these laws set to-people for correction and relics and orders
for Godes lufan wurðodon ⁊ Godes hus ⁊ Godes þeowas
for of-God love honored and of-God houses and of-God servants
deoplice griðedon.
deeply protected

God's peace is the best to earn and the king's is next. Of old a life-forfeit man who reached the king, an archbishop, or an atheling had nine nights' peace, and one who reached a bishop or ealdorman seven; fighting or slaying in church costs goods, life, or hand. Bishops are God's heralds, and the proud forget that God raises a slave to a thane and a churl to a noble.

Be griðe ⁊ be munde. Inscr.
About peace and about protection

Godes grið is ealra griða selast to geearnianne ⁊ georgnost 1
Of-God peace is of-all peaces best to earn and most-eagerly
to healdanne ⁊ þær nehst þæs cynges.
to keep and there next of-the king

Đonne is rihtlic, þæt Godes cyricgrið binnan wagum ⁊ 2
Then is right that of-God church-peace within walls and
Cristenes cyninges handgrið stande efen unwemme.
of-Christian king hand-peace stand equally inviolate

⁊ hwilum wæran heafodstedas ⁊ healice hadas micelre mæðe 3
and at-times were head-places and high orders of-great rank
⁊ munde wyrðe ⁊ griðian mihton þa, þe þæs beðorf[ton]
and protection worthy and protect could those who it needed
⁊ þærto sohtan, áá be ðære mæðe, þe þærto gebyrede.
and thereto sought ever by the rank which thereto belonged

⁊ þus hit stod on ðam dagum inne mid Englum, ðæt, 4
and thus it stood in the days within among English that
gyf feorhscyldig man cyning gesohte, arcebiscop oððon
if life-forfeit man king sought archbishop or
æþeling, þonne ahte he nigon nihta grið feore to gebeorge,
atheling then owned he nine nights peace to-life for protection
butan him se cyng rumran fyrstes geunnan wolde.
unless to-him the king longer term grant would

5 ⁊ gyf he gesohte leodbiscop oððe ealdorman oððon healicne
and if he sought diocesan-bishop or ealdorman or high
heafodstede, þonne ahte he VII nihta grið, butan man leng
head-place then owned he seven nights peace unless one longer
geunnan wolde.
grant would

6 ⁊ on Cantwara lage cyning ⁊ arcebiscop agan gelicne and
and in of-Kentishmen law king and archbishop own like and
efen dyrne mundbryce.
equally dear protection-breach

7 ⁊ on þam lagum is arcebiscopes feoh endlyfangylde ⁊
and in those laws is of-archbishop property elevenfold and
cynges is nigongylde.
of-king is ninefold

8 ⁊ Christes cyrican mundbyrd is efne swa cynges.
and of-Christ church protection is even as of-king

9 ⁊ on Suðengla lage griðlagu þus stent, ðæt, gif hwa
and in of-Southern-English law peace-law thus stands that if anyone
gefeohteð on cyrican oððon on cynges huse, þonne sy
fights in church or in of-king house then be
forworht eal þæt he age, ⁊ sy on cynges dome, hwæðer
forfeited all that he owns and be in of-king judgment whether
he lif age þe nage.
he life own or own-not

10 ⁊ gif hwa gefeohteð on mynstre butan cyrcean, gebete eall
and if anyone fights in minster outside church let-amend all
mid fulre bote þæt þærto gebyrige be mynstres mæðe.
with full compensation that thereto belongs by of-minster rank

11 ⁊ gyf hwa cynges mundbrice elles gewyrce, gebete
and if anyone of-king protection-breach else commit let-amend
þæt mid V pundum on Engla lage, arcebiscopes ⁊
that with five pounds in of-English law of-archbishop and

æþelinges mundbrice mid þrim pundum, oðres biscpæs ⁊
of-atheling protection-breach with three pounds of-other bishop and
ealdormannes mid II pundum.
of-ealdorman with two pounds
⁊ gyf man beforan æðelinge oððe arcebiscpe gefeoht 12
and if one before atheling or archbishop fight
agynneð, mid CL scillinga gebete; gyf beforan oðran
begins with hundred-fifty shillings let-amend if before other
biscpe oððe ealdormen þis gelimpe, mid C scill' gebete.
bishop or ealdorman this happen with hundred shillings let-amend
⁊ on Norðengla lage stent, þæt se ðe ofslehð man 13
and in of-Northern-English law stands that he who slays man
binnan cyricwagum, he bið feorhscyldig;
within church-walls he is life-forfeit
⁊ se ðe gewundað, se bið handscyldig. 13, 1
and he who wounds he is hand-forfeit
⁊ se þe man ofslehð binnan cyricderum, sylle þære cyrican 13, 2
and he who man slays within church-doors let-give to-the church
CXX scill' be Norðengla lage.
hundred-twenty shillings by of-Northern-English law
⁊ frigman se ðe cwicne on þære mundbyrde geyfelige, 14
and freeman he who living in the protection harms
sylle XXX scill'.
let-give thirty shillings
⁊ se þe in cynges byrig oððon on his neaweste feohteð 15
and he who in of-king borough or in his presence fights
oððe steleð, he bið feorhscyldig, nimþe se cyng alyfan wille,
or steals he is life-forfeit unless the king allow will
þæt man wergy[lde] alysan mote.
that one with-wergild redeem may

16 ȝ gyf forworht man friðstol gesece ȝ þurh þæt feorh
and if forfeited man sanctuary-seat seek and through that life
geyrne, þonne sy þreora án for his feore, bute man bet
obtain then let-be of-three one for his life unless one better
gearian wylle: wergyld, ece þeowet, hengenwitnuncg.
grant will wergild perpetual slavery imprisonment

17 ȝ beo þæra þreora swylc hit beo (gylde he, þeowige he
and let-be of-the three such it be pay he serve he
ȝ þolige he), finde borh, gyf he mæge; ȝ gyf he ne
and suffer he let-find surety if he can and if he not
mæge, þonne swerie he, þæt he æfre ne stele ne feoh
can then let-swear he that he ever not steal nor property
ne ætbere ne witnunge ne wrece.
— carry-off nor punishment — avenge

18 ȝ gyf he þyssa ænig aleoge, nahwar he eft his feorh
and if he of-these any belies nowhere he again his life
gefare ne geyrne.
obtain nor gain

19 Hælnesgrið ȝ hadgrið healde man mid rihte æfre swyþe
Sanctuary-peace and order-peace let-keep one with right ever very
georne ȝ Godes lagum fylge ȝ lareowum hlyste, swa
eagerly and of-God laws let-follow and teachers let-listen as
þærto gebyrige.
thereto befits

19, 1 Biscpas syndan bydelas ȝ Godes lage lareowas ȝ hy
Bishops are heralds and of-God law teachers and they
scylan georne oft ȝ gelome clypian to Christe ȝ for
shall eagerly often and frequently call to Christ and for
eal Christen folc þingian geornlice ȝ hy scylan bodian
all Christian folk intercede eagerly and they shall preach
ȝ bysnian georne godcunde ðearfe Christenre þeode.
and exemplify eagerly divine need of-Christian people

Se þe oferhogie þæt he heom hlyste, hæbbe him gemæne 20
He who scorns that he them listen let-have for-himself in-common
þæt wið God sylfne.
that with God self
Ac sume men syndan, þe for heora prytan ȝ eac for 21
But some men are who for their pride and also for
gebyrdan forhogiað þæt hy hyran godcundan ealdran, swa swa
birth scorn that they obey divine elders so as
hy sceoldan, gif hy riht woldan, ȝ agynnað oft hyrwan þæt
they should if they right would and begin often despise what
hy scoldan herian, ȝ taliað þe wyrsan for heanan gebyrdan
they should praise and reckon the worse for low birth
þa ðe heora yldran on worolde ne wurdan welige ne wlance
those who their ancestors in world not became wealthy nor proud
þurh woroldglenge ne on lænan liffæce rance ne rice.
through world-pomp nor in transitory life-span haughty nor powerful
Ac þa ne beoð na wise ne fullice gescade, þe Gode nellað 21, 1
But they not are — wise nor fully discerning who God will-not
hyran ne bet understandan, hu oft he of lytlan arærde
obey nor better understand how often he from little raised
to miclan þa þe him hyrdan ȝ mid rihte gecwemdon.
to great those who him obeyed and with right pleased
We witan, þæt þurh Godes gyfe þræl wearð to ðegene ȝ 21, 2
We know that through of-God grace slave became to thane and
ceorl wearð to eorle, sangere to sacerde ȝ bocere to biscpe.
churl became to noble singer to priest and scribe to bishop
ȝ hwilum wearð geworden, swa swa God wolde, sceaphyrde 22
and at-times was brought-about so as God willed shepherd
to cynge ȝ se wearð swyþe mære; eac wearð geworden,
to king and he became very famous also was brought-about

swa swa God wolde, fiscere to biscope ȝ se wæs swyþe
so as God willed fisher to bishop and he was very
dyre ȝ Christe gecweme.
dear and to-Christ pleasing

23 Swilce syndan Godes gyfa, þe eaþe mæg of lytlan aræran to
Such are of-God gifts who easily can from little raise to
miclan eall þæt he sylf wile, eal swa se sealmscop soðlice sæde,
great all that he self wills all so the psalmist truly said
þa ða he þus sang: 'Quis sicut dominus Deus noster' et rl.,
then when he thus sang Who as lord God our and the-rest
'suscitans a terra inopem et de stercore erigens pauperem,
raising from earth needy and from dung lifting poor
ut collocet eum cum principibus, cum principibus populi sui'.
that he-may-set him with princes with princes of-people his

23, 1 Swylc understandað þa ðe Godes ege habbað ȝ wisdomes
Such understand those who of-God fear have and wisdom
gymað.
heed

24 ȝ wise eac wæron on geardagum woroldwitan, þe ærest
and wise also were in yore-days world-councilors who first
gesettan to godcundan rihtlagan woroldlaga biscpan ȝ
established to divine right-laws world-laws bishops and
gehalgedan heapan ȝ haligdom ȝ hadas for Godes lufan
hallowed companies and relics and orders for of-God love
weorðedan ȝ Godes hus ȝ Godes þeowas deoplice griðedan.
honored and of-God house and of-God servants deeply protected

25 ȝ on hwam mæg huru æfre ænig man on worolde swyðor
and in what can at-least ever any man in world more
God wurðian þonne on cyrcan ȝ on hælnessan ȝ eft
God honor than in church and in sanctuaries and again
on gehalgedan healican hadan?
in hallowed high orders

ȝ la, hwilcan geþance mæg ænig man æfre huruþinga þæt 26
and lo with-what thought can any man ever especially that
don, þæt he hine on cyrican georne gebiddæ ȝ to Godes
do that he himself in church eagerly pray and to of-God
weofedan geornlice gebuge, ȝ ær oððon æfter, inne oððe ute,
altars eagerly bow and before or after inside or outside
cyrican berype ȝ wyrde oððe wanige þæt to cyrcan gebyrige?
church rob and violate or diminish what to church belongs
Oððon hwilcan geþance mæg ænig man æfre geþencan on 27
Or with-what thought can any man ever think in
his mode, þæt he to sacerdan heafod ahylde ȝ bletsunge
his mind that he to priests head bow and blessing
gyrne ȝ heora mæssan on cyrcan gestande ȝ æt hlafgange
desire and their mass in church attend and at communion
heora hand cysse, ȝ sona þær æfter hy hrædlice syððan
their hand kiss and at-once there after them quickly afterward
scyrde oððe scynde mid worde oððe weorce?
harm or shame with word or deed
Ac haligdom ȝ hadas ȝ gehalgode Godes hus a man 28
But relics and orders and hallowed of-God houses ever one
sceal for Godes ege weorðian georne ȝ inwerdre heortan
shall for of-God fear honor eagerly and with-inward heart
æfre God lufian.
ever God love
ȝ eac is mycel nydþearf manna gehwylcum, þæt he oðrum 29
and also is great necessity of-men to-each that he another
beode þæt riht, þæt he wille þæt man him beode, be þam
offer that right which he will that one him offer by that
þe his mæð sy.
which his rank be

30 Ealle we habbað ænne heofonlicne fæder ⁊ ane gastlice
All we have one heavenly father and one spiritual
modor, seo is 'ecclesia' genamod, þæt is Godes cyrice; ⁊
mother who is ecclesia named that is of-God church and
þy we syn gebroðra.
therefore we are brothers
31 ⁊ þonne is rihtlic eac, þæt ure ælce oðerne healde mid
and then is right also that of-us each another keep with
rihte, ⁊ þæt ælc cyrice sy æfre on Godes ealmihtiges
right and that each church be ever in of-God almighty
griðe ⁊ on ealles Cristenes folces.
peace and in of-all Christian folk
31, 1 Forðam ælc cyricgrið is Cristenes agen grið; ⁊ ælc Cristen
Because each church-peace is of-Christian own peace and each Christian
man ah micle þearfe, þæt he on ðam griðe mycle mæþe
man owns great need that he in the peace great respect
wite.
observe

XIII · OF CHURCH SANCTUARY IN NORTHUMBRIA AND PETER'S PENCE

In Northumbrian law the church-peace of St. Peter, St. Wilfrid, and St. John is three hundred for the living and beyond compensation for the dead. Women and weapons are forbidden the priest's church. Rome-scot is paid on St. Peter's day, and whoever neglects it pays sixty shillings and the penny twelvefold.

1 ⁊ on Norðhymbra lage is sanctus Petrus [cyric]frið ⁊
and in of-Northumbrians law is of-saint Peter church-peace and
sanctus Wilfriðus ⁊ sanctus [Iohann]es binnan cyricwagum
of-saint Wilfrid and of-saint John within church-walls
þreo [hundr]ed æt cwicum men, ⁊ æt deadum [botlea]s.
three hundred at living man and at dead unatonable

ȝ oðera stowa grið is læsse [mæ]r[þ]e áá be stowe mæþe. 2
and of-other places peace is of-less glory ever by of-place rank
[ȝ] [ʔpreost]e cyricgangas syndan forbodene wifum ȝ 3
and priest church-goings are forbidden women and
wæpnum.
weapons
ȝ cyricgrið dyre æghwar be mæðe ofer ealle ðam rice. 4
and church-peace dear everywhere by rank over all the realm
Romgescot sý agifen on sanctus Petrus mæssedæg ǽr 1
Rome-scot let-be paid on of-saint Peter mass-day before
undern æfter middesumera.
mid-morning after midsummer
Gif hit hwa forgumie, gylde LX scill' ȝ be twelffealdan 2
If it anyone neglect let-pay sixty shillings and by twelvefold
agife þene Rómpenincg.
let-pay the Rome-penny

XIV · OF THE JUDGE

A just judge holds scales with righteousness in one pan and mercy in the other. Judgments must be without respect of persons; nothing is more wicked than bribes, which blind the wise. The unjust judge robs the poor worse than an army, for an army may be fled; a judge answers for his deputies' robbery; anger dims his sight; and those who judge rightly in the fear of God receive eternal reward.

Ælc man, þe riht demeð, he hæfð wæga on handa; ȝ on 1
Each man who right judges he has scales in hand and on
ægðere sceale he byrþ rihtwisnesse ȝ mildheortnesse: ærest
each pan he bears righteousness and mercy first

for ðære rihtwisnesse he gereceð ðæs gyltes bote ⁊
for the righteousness he decrees of-the guilt compensation and
þonne for ðære mildheortnesse he gemetegað þære scylde wíte.
then for the mercy he moderates of-the crime fine

2 Sume gyltas beoð fram þam godan deman þurh riht to
Some guilts are by the good judge through right to
betanne, sume þurh mildheortnesse tó forgyfanne.
amend some through mercy to forgive

3 Domas sceolon beon butan ælcere hadarunge: þæt ys, þæt
Judgments shall be without any respect-of-persons that is that
he ne murne naðer ne rycum ne heanum, ne leofum ne
he not care either — rich nor poor nor loved nor
laðum folcriht to recceanne.
hated folk-right to expound

4 Nys nanwiht unrihtlycre ðonne ys þæt man medsceattas onfó
Not-is anything more-unrighteous than is that one bribes receive
for domum: for ðan þe ða medsceattas ablendað þæra wisra
for judgments for that that the bribes blind of-the wise
manna heortan ⁊ hi forcyrrað ðæra rihtwisra manna word.
men hearts and they pervert of-the righteous men words

5 Drihten cwæð: ‘Be ðam ylcan dome, ðe ge nú mannum
Lord said By the same judgment which you now men
demað, eow byð eft gedemed’.
judge to-you is again judged

6 Forðon þonne ondræde he him God, his deman, ðy læs
Therefore then let-fear he himself God his judge the less
he eft on domes dæge beforan Godes eagum weorðe dumb
he again on of-doom day before of-God eyes become dumb
⁊ genyðerad.
and condemned

Se þe þam unscyldigan sceððeþ, oððe þam scyldegan scyldeþ 7
He who the guiltless harms or the guilty shields
for metsceattum oðð for æniges mannes lufan oððe feonge,
for bribes or for of-any man love or hatred
he biþ eft geniðerad fram ðam ecan deman.
he is again condemned by the eternal judge
Ne sceal him nan ealdorman settan dysige deman ne 8
Not shall him any ealdorman set foolish judges nor
unrihtwise to geongrum: se dysega for his unwisdome ne
unrighteous as deputies the foolish for his unwisdom not
can þæt riht; ȝ se unrihtwisa for his gitsunge forcyrreþ
knows the right and the unrighteous for his greed perverts
þæt riht, ðe he geleornode.
the right which he learned
Forneah ða earman men beoð wyrs bereafode fram þam 9
Almost the poor men are worse robbed by the
unrihtwisan deman þonne fram þam wælgrimmestan here:
unrighteous judge than by the most-cruel army
ne bið nan heretoga swa gifre on fræmdrea manna yrfe
not is any army-leader so greedy on of-foreign men inheritance
swa se unrihtwisa dema byþ on his hyremanna.
as the unrighteous judge is on of-his subjects
Þa unrihtwisan deman hí beoð wyrsan þonne herigende 9, 1
The unrighteous judges they are worse than ravaging
here: here man mæg foroft befleon; ac þa deman for
army army one can very-often flee but the judges for
hira anwealde man ne mæg befleon, ðonne he him
their power one not can flee when they for-themselves
of hira ceastrewarena forðrycnesse gestreon gaderiað.
from of-their citizens oppression wealth gather

10 Oft eac þa godan deman habbað yfele gingran ⁊ reafgende,
Often also the good judges have evil deputies and robbing
mid ðæra scylde þa deman habbað hí besmitene; ⁊ gyf
with of-whose guilt the judges have them defiled and if
heo hym hyra reaflaces ne gestyrað, þonne forweorðaþ
they them from-their robbery not restrain then perish
hí, ða deman, ðurh hyra gyngrena synna.
they the judges through of-their deputies sins

10, 1 Forðan se æðela middangeardes lareow cwæð: 'Na ða áne
Therefore the noble of-world teacher said Not those alone
ðe yfel doþ, ac ælc þara þe hit ðam dondum geðafiað,
who evil do but each of-those who it to-the doers consent
beoð wyrþe ðas ecean deaðes'.
are worthy of-the eternal death

11 Oft eac ða ðwyran deman for heora gitsungae þone dom
Often also the perverse judges for their greed the judgment
geuferiað oððe hyne awendað ⁊ ne geendiað ná þa spæce,
put-off or it turn and not end — the suit
ær heora seod bið afylled; ⁊ þan þonne hy demað, ne
before their purse is filled and then when they judge not
scewiað hy ná þa spæce, ac þa medsceatas.
regard they — the suit but the bribes

12 Þa únrihtwisan deman, æfter witegan cwyde, swa swa
The unrighteous judges according-to of-prophet saying so as
wulfas on æfne, ne læfað náwiht oð morgen: þæt ys,
wolves in evening not leave anything until morning that is
þæt hi be þisses anweardan lifes ongehyðnesse ðenceað
that they about of-this present life convenience think
⁊ nawiht be þæs towerdan.
and nothing about the future

Yfelra gerefena þeaw ýs, þæt hí nymað ælcwiht ȝ uneaðe 13
Of-evil reeves custom is that they take everything and hardly
hí þam þearfiendum lytles hwæt læfa[ð].
they to-the needy of-little something leave
Se hatheorta dema ne mæg he behealdan ðas domes riht, 14
The hot-hearted judge not can he behold of-the judgment right
for ðan þe for ðæs yrres dimnesse he ne mæg geseon
for that that for of-the anger dimness he not can see
ðas rihtes beorhtnesse.
of-the right brightness
In dóme ne sceal man æniges mannes mæð sceawian, ac 15
In judgment not shall one of-any man rank regard but
þa spæce.
the suit
Hyt ys awriten: ‘Ne onfoh ðu nænigne had on dome; né 15, 1
It is written Not accept you any person in judgment nor
ne ara ðú for nanum, þæt þu þæt riht ne deme’.
— spare you for any that you the right not judge
Þa unrihtwisan deman hí dweliað on ðare soðfæstnesse cwyde, 16
The unrighteous judges they err in of-the truthfulness saying
þonne hí behealdaþ þa geðincþo ðas mannes; ȝ oft heo
when they behold the dignities of-the man and often they
scaðað þam unrihtwisum, ðonne hí scyldað þam arleasum.
harm the unrighteous when they shield the impious
Seo anfengnes medsceata on domum ys soðfæstnesse forlætnes. 17
The acceptance of-bribes in judgments is of-truthfulness abandonment
ȝ þa ðe him God ondrædende riht demeð, hí onfoð 17, 1
and those who themselves God fearing right judge they receive
æt Gode éce endlean.
from God eternal reward

The bishop directs things divine and worldly. He teaches the clergy their duties, makes peace and settles disputes, oversees the clearing of accusations, and sees that every measure and weight is just, so that no one wrongs another. He shields Christians from sin and the devil, and he and his priests see that the strong do not oppress the weak nor lords their slaves, for all are God's slaves, and he judges us as we judge.

1 Bisceope gebyreð ælc rihting, ge on godcundan þingan ge
To-bishop befits each direction both in divine things and
on woruldcundan.
in worldly

2 He sceall gehadode men ærest gewissian, þæt
He shall ordained men first direct that
heora ælc wite, hwæt him mid rihte gebyrige to
of-them each know what him with right befits to
donne, ȝ eac hwæt hy woruldmannum agan to
do and also what they worldly-men owe to
beodanne.
command

3 He sceal beon symle ymbe some ȝ ymbe sibbe, swa he
He shall be ever about concord and about peace as he
geornost mæg.
most-eagerly can

4 He sceall georne saca sehtan ȝ frið wyrcan mid þam
He shall eagerly disputes settle and peace make with the
worulddeman, þe riht lufian.
world-judges who right love

He sceall æt tihtlan ladunge gedihtan, þæt ænig man oðrum 5
He shall at accusation clearing arrange that any man another
ænig woh beodan ne mæge aðor oððe on aþe oððe on
any wrong offer not can either or in oath or in
ordale.
ordeal

Ne sceall he geþafian ænig unriht ne woh gemet ne 6
Not shall he allow any wrong nor crooked measure nor
fals gewihte; ac hit gebyreð, þæt [b]e his ræde fare
false weight but it befits that by his counsel go
ȝ be his gewitnesse æghwylc lahriht, ge burhriht
and by his witness each law-right both borough-right
ge landriht; ȝ ælc burhgemet ȝ ælc wægpundern
and land-right and each borough-measure and each weighing-scale
beo be his dihte gescift swiðe rihte, þe læs ænig
be by his direction arranged very rightly the less any
man oðrum misbeode ȝ ðurh þæt syngige ealles to
man another mistreat and through that sin altogether too
swyþe.
greatly

A he sceal scyldan Cristenum mannum wið ælc 7
Ever he shall shield Christian men against each
þæra þinga þe synlic bið; ȝ þy he sceal
of-the things which sinful is and therefore he shall
on æghwæt hine þe swyðor teon, þæt he þe
in everything himself the more draw that he the
georнor wite, hu seo heord fare, þe he to Godes
more-eagerly know how the flock fares which he to of-God
handa gehealdan sceall, þæt deofol to swyðe þæron
hand keep shall that devil too greatly therein

na sceaþige, ne his falses to fela ongemang ne
not harm nor of-his falsehood too much among —
gesawe.
sow

8 Ne wyrð næfre folces wise wel geræde ne wið God
Not becomes ever of-people condition well ordered nor with God
well geborgen on þam earde, þe man wohgestreon
well protected in the land where one wrongful-gain
ȝ mæst falses lufað; þy sculan Godes freond ælc
and most of-falsehood loves therefore shall of-God friends each
unriht alecgan ȝ riht aræran ȝ na geþafian, þæt ðurh
wrong put-down and right raise and not allow that through
fals ȝ ðurh wohgestreon men to swyðe forwyrcean
falsehood and through wrongful-gain men too greatly ruin
hi sylfe wið þæne rihtwisan God, þe ælc unriht
them selves with the righteous God who each wrong
ascunaþ.
shuns

9 Eallum Cristenum mannum gebyreð, þæt hi riht lufian
To-all Christian men befits that they right love
ȝ unriht ascunian; ȝ huru gehadode men scylon á
and wrong shun and especially ordained men shall ever
riht reran ȝ unriht alecgan; þy sculon bisceopas
right raise and wrong put-down therefore shall bishops
mid worulddeman domas dihtan, þæt hi ne geþafian,
with world-judges judgments arrange that they not allow
gyf his waldan magan, þæt ðær ænig unriht up
if it control can that there any wrong up
aspringe.
spring

ȝ sacerdum gebyreþ eac on heora scriftscirum, þæt 10
and to-priests befits also in their shrift-districts that
hi georne to rihte æthwam fylstan ȝ na geþafian,
they eagerly to right everyone help and not allow
gif hi hit gebetan magan, þæt ænig Cristen man
if they it amend can that any Christian man
oðrum derige ealles to swyðe, ne se maga þam
another harm altogether too greatly nor the strong the
unmagan, ne se hearra þam heanran, ne se scirman
weak nor the higher the lower nor the shire-man
his gingran, ne se hlaford his mannum, ne forðan his
his deputies nor the lord his men nor even his
nydþeowan.
slaves
Be þæs scriftes dihte ȝ be his sylfes gemete gebyreþ mid 11
By of-the confessor direction and by his own measure befits with
rihte, þæt ða nydþeowan hlaferdum wyrcan ofer ealle þa
right that the slaves for-lords work over all the
scire, þe he on scrife.
district which he in shrives
And riht is, þæt ne beo ænig metegyrd lengre þonne oðer, 12
And right is that not be any measuring-rod longer than other
ac be þæs scriftes gemete ealle gescyfte; ȝ ælc gemet
but by of-the confessor measure all arranged and each measure
on his scriftscire ȝ æghwylc gewihte beo be his dihte
in his shrift-district and each weight be by his direction
gescyft swiðe rihte; ȝ gif ðær hwæt bisæces sy, séme se
arranged very rightly and if there anything of-dispute be let-settle the
biscop.
bishop

13 Hit bið ælces hlafordes agen þearf, þæt he his
It is of-each lord own need that he his
nydþeowum byrge, swa he betst mæge, for ðam
slaves protect as he best can for that
þe hy syn Gode efen leofe ȝ þa ðe syndon
that they are to-God equally dear and those who are
freolse, ȝ us ealle he gebohte mid gelican
free and us all he bought with like
weorðe.
price

14 Ealle we syndon Godes ágene nydþeowan; ȝ swa he
All we are of-God own slaves and so he
gedemð ús, swa we her demað þam þe we on eorðan
judges us as we here judge those who we on earth
dom ofer ágan.
judgment over own

15 [Þ]y we agan þearfe, þæt we ðam beorgan þe us scylan
Therefore we own need that we those protect who us shall
hyran; þonne gebide we þe mare gebeorh æt Godes agenum
obey then await we the more protection at of-God own
dome.
judgment