OLD FRENCH SERIES · VOLUME 17

The Fabliaux

Recueil général et complet des fabliaux

The Fabliaux

Part Two: The Dapple-Gray Palfrey,
Constant du Hamel, and Ten Other Tales

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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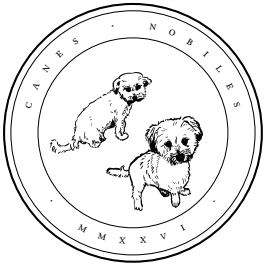

Volume 17 of the Canes Nobiles Old French interlinear texts

The Old French text follows Anatole de Montaiglon and Gaston Raynaud's texts,
Recueil général et complet des fabliaux des XIIIe et XIVe siècles,
in six volumes (Paris, 1872–1890), with their corrections

Translated and composed with AI, edited by Christopher Hench
Artwork by Esther Steves

The spelling is each manuscript's as Montaiglon and Raynaud print it, with their acute on a tonic final e, the grave on à, and the tréma where two vowels do not form a diphthong; the numerals stand between points as they print them. A speech opens on «, a reply on a dash, and » closes the exchange, so a reply inside it closes nothing.

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Des trois boçus

II · THE THREE HUNCHBACKS

In a town the poet calls Douai, a rich and ugly hunchback marries a poor burgher's fair daughter and keeps her shut in. One Christmas he feasts and pays three hunchbacked minstrels, and his wife calls them back while he is out. When he returns she hides them in chests, where they smother. She pays a porter thirty pounds to throw them into the river, each time saying the dead man is back. On his last trip he kills her husband with a pestle and throws him in too. Durand ends: money buys anything.

Seignor, se vous volez atendre
Lords if you wish to-wait
et .I. seul petitet entendre,
and a single little-bit to-attend
jà de mot ne vous mentirai,
ever of word not to-you I-shall-lie
mès tout en rime vous dirai
but all in rhyme to-you I-shall-tell
d'une aventure le fablel.
of-an adventure the fabliau
Jadis avint à .I. chastel,
Formerly it-happened at a castle
mès le non oublié en ai,
but the name forgotten thereof I-have
or soit aussi comme à Douay,
now be-it just as at Douai
.I. borgois i avoit manant,
a burgher there had dwelling
qui du sien vivoit belemant.
who of-the his-own lived softly

Biaus hom ert, et de bons amis,
Fair man he-was and of good friends
des borgois toz li plus eslis,
of-the burghers all the most chosen
mès n'avoit mie grant avoir;
but not-be-had at-all great having
si s'en savoit si bien avoir
so himself-thereby he-knew so well to-conduct
que moult ert créuz par la vile.
that much he-was trusted through the town
Il avoit une bele fille,
He had a fair daughter
si bele que c'ert uns delis,
so fair that it-was a delight
et, se le voir vous en devis,
and if the truth to-you thereof I-tell
je ne cuit qu'ainz féist Nature
I not think that-ever might-have-made Nature
nule plus bele créature.
any more fair creature
De sa biauté n'ai or que fère
Of her beauty not-I-have now what to-do
à raconter ne à retrère,
to recount nor to retell
quar, se je mesler m'en voloie,
for if I to-meddle myself-therewith wished
assez tost mesprendre i porroie;
plenty soon to-misspeak there I-could

si m'en vient miex tère orendroit
so to-me-thence comes better to-be-silent now
que dire chose qui n'i soit.
than to-say thing which not-there may-be
En la vile avoit .I. boçu,
In the town there-had a hunchback
onques ne vi si malostru;
ever not I-saw so misshapen
de teste estoit moult bien garnis
of head he-was very well furnished
je cuit bien que Nature ot mis
I think well that Nature had put
grant entencion à lui fère.
great attention into him to-make
A toute riens estoit contrère;
To every thing he-was contrary
trop estoit de laide faiture;
too he-was of ugly making
grant teste avoit et laide hure,
great head he-had and ugly mane
cort col, et les espaules lées,
short neck and the shoulders broad
et les avoit haut encroées.
and them he-had high hunched
De folie se peneroit
Of folly himself would-take-pains
qui tout raconter vous voudroit
who all to-recount to-you would-wish
sa façon; trop par estoit lais.
his fashion too very he-was ugly

Toute sa vie fu entais
All his life he-was intent
à grant avoir amonceler;
on great having to-heap-up
por voir vous puis dire et conter,
for truth to-you I-can say and tell
trop estoit riches durement,
too he-was rich exceedingly
se li aventure ne ment.
if the adventure not lies
En la vile n'ot si riche homme;
In the town not-had so rich man
que vous diroie? c'est la somme
what to-you would-I-say this-is the sum
du boçu, coment a ouvré.
of-the hunchback how he-has worked
Por l'avoir qu'il ot amassé
For the-having that-he had amassed
li ont donée la pucele
to-him have given the maiden
si ami, qui tant estoit bele;
her friends who so was fair
mès, ainz puis qu'il l'ot espousée
but ever after that-he her-had wedded
ne fu il .I. jor sanz penssée,
not was he a day without care
por la grant biauté qu'ele avoit;
for the great beauty that-she had

li boçus si jalous estoit
the hunchback so jealous was
qu'il ne pooit avoir repos.
that-he not could have rest
Toute jor estoit ses huis clos;
All day was his door closed
jà ne vousist que nus entrast
ever not he-would-wish that anyone might-enter
en sa meson, s'il n'aportast,
into his house if-he not-might-bring
ou s'il emprunter ne vousist:
or if-he to-borrow not might-wish
toute jor à son sueil séist,
all day at his threshold he-sat
tant qu'il avint à un Noel
until that-it happened at a Christmas
que .III. boçu menesterel
that three hunchbacks minstrels
vindrent à lui où il estoit;
came to him where he was
se li dist chascuns qu'il voloit
so to-him said each that-he wished
fere cele feste avoec lui,
to-make that feast with him
quar en la vile n'a nului
for in the town not-has anyone
où le déussent fere miex,
where it they-ought make better
por ce qu'il ert de lor pariex,
for this that-he was of their equals

et boçus ausi come il sont.
and hunchbacked just as they are
Lors les maine li sire amont,
Then them leads the lord upstairs
quar la meson est à degrez;
for the house is with stairs
li mengiers estoit aprestez;
the meal was prepared
tuit se sont au disner assis,
all themselves are at-the dinner seated
et, se le voir vous en devis,
and if the truth to-you thereof I-tell
li disners est et biaus et riches:
the dinner is both fair and rich
li boçus n'ert avers ne chiches,
the hunchback not-was avaricious nor stingy
ainz assist bien ses compaignons;
rather he-seated well his companions
pois au lart orent et chapons.
peas with-the bacon they-had and capons
Et, quant ce vint après disner,
And when this came after dinner
si lor fist li sires doner,
so to-them made the lord give
aus .III. boçus, ce m'est avis,
to-the three hunchbacks this to-me-is seeming
chascun .XX. sols de parisis,
to-each twenty sous of parisis

et après lor a desfendu
and after to-them he-has forbidden
qu'il ne soient jamès véu
that-they not may-be ever seen
en la meson, ne el porpris;
in the house nor in-the enclosure
quar, s'il i estoient repris,
for if-they there were caught-again
il auroient .I. baing cruel
they would-have a bath cruel
de la froide eve du chanel.
of the cold water of-the channel
La meson ert sor la rivière,
The house was on the river
qui moult estoit granz et plenière;
which very was great and full
et, quant li boçu l'ont oï,
and when the hunchbacks it-have heard
tantost sont de l'ostel parti
at-once they-are from the-lodging departed
volentiers, et à chière lie,
willingly and with face glad
quar bien avoient emploïe
for well they-had employed
lor journée, ce lor fu vis.
their day this to-them was seeming
Et li sires s'en est partis,
And the lord himself-thence is departed
puis est deseur le pont venuz.
then he-is above the bridge come

La dame, qui ot les boçuz
The lady who had the hunchbacks
oï chanter et solacier,
heard sing and make-merry
les fist toz .III. mander arrier,
them made all three send-for back
quar oïr les voloit chanter;
for to-hear them she-wished to-sing
si a bien fet les huis fermer.
so she-has well made the doors shut
Ainsi com li boçu chantoient
Just as the hunchbacks sang
et o la dame s'envoisoient,
and with the lady themselves-amused
ez-vous revenu le seignor,
behold-you returned the lord
qui n'ot pas fet trop lonc demor;
who not-had at-all made too long stay
à l'uis apela fierement.
at the-door he-called fiercely
La dame son seignor entent,
The lady her lord hears
à la voiz le conut moult bien;
by the voice him knew very well
ne sot en cest mont terrien
not she-knew in this world earthly
que péust fère des boçuz,
what she-could do with-the hunchbacks
ne comment il soient repus.
nor how they might-be hidden

.I. chaaliz ot lez le fouier.
A bedstead there-was beside the hearth
C'on soloit fère charriier;
Which-one was-wont to-make cart
el chaaliz ot .III. escrins.
in-the bedstead had three chests
Que vous diroie? c'est la fins,
What to-you would-I-say this-is the end
en chascun a mis .I. boçu.
in each she-has put a hunchback
Ez-vous le seignor revenu,
Behold-you the lord returned
si s'est delez la dame assis,
so himself-is beside the lady seated
qui moult par séoit ses delis;
who much very pleased-him his delights
mès il n'i sist pas longuement;
but he not-there sat at-all long
de léenz ist, et si descent
from within-there he-goes-out and so descends
de la meson, et si s'en va.
from the house and so himself-thence goes
A la dame point n'anuia
To the lady at-all not-it-vexed
quant son mari voit avaler.
when her husband she-sees go-down
Les boçus en vout fère aler,
The hunchbacks thence she-wished to-make go
qu'ele avoit repus ès escrins;
whom-she had hidden in-the chests

mès toz .III. les trova estins,
but all three them she-found stifled
quant ele les escrins ouvri.
when she the chests opened
De ce moult forment s'esbahi,
At this very greatly she-was-dismayed
quant les .III. boçus mors trova;
when the three hunchbacks dead she-found
à l'uis vint corant, s'apela
to the-door she-came running so-she-called
.I. porteur qu'ele a avisé;
a porter whom-she has spotted
à soi l'a la dame apelé.
to herself him-has the lady called
Quant li bachelers l'a oie,
When the young-man her-has heard
à li corut; n'atarja mie.
to her he-ran not-he-delayed at-all
«Amis, dist-ele, enten à moi:
Friend said-she attend to me
se tu me veus plevir ta foi
if thou to-me wishest to-pledge thy faith
que tu jà ne m'encuseras
that thou ever not me-wilt-betray
d'une rien que dire m'orras,
of-a thing that to-say me-thou-wilt-hear
moult sera riches tes loiers;
very will-be rich thy reward

.XXX. livres de bons deniers
thirty pounds of good pence
te donrai, quant tu l'auras fet.»
to-thee I-shall-give when thou it-wilt-have done
Quant li portères ot tel plet,
When the porter had such plea
fiancié li a volentiers,
pledged to-her he-has willingly
quar il covoitoit les deniers,
for he coveted the pence
et s'estoit auques entestez;
and so-was somewhat headstrong
le grant cors monta les degrez.
the great course mounted the stairs
La dame ouvri l'un des escrins:
The lady opened one of-the chests
«Amis, ne soiez esbahis,
Friend not be dismayed
cest mort en l'eve me portez,
this dead-man into the-water for-me carry
si m'aurez moult servi à grez.»
so me-you-will-have much served to liking
.I. sac li baille, et cil le prant;
A sack to-him she-hands and that-one it takes
le boçu bouta enz errant,
the hunchback he-thrust in straightway
puis si l'a à son col levé;
then so him-has to his neck lifted
si a les degrez avalé;
so he-has the stairs gone-down

à la riviere vint corant;
to the river he-came running
tout droit sor le grant pont devant,
all straight on the great bridge before
en l'eve geta le boçu;
into the-water he-threw the hunchback
onques n'i a plus atendu,
ever not-there he-has more waited
ainz retorna vers la meson.
rather he-returned toward the house
La dame a ataint du leson
The lady has hauled-out from-the bed
l'un des boçus à moult grant paine;
one of-the hunchbacks with very great pain
à poi ne li failli l'alaine;
for little not to-her failed the-breath
moult fu au lever traveillie;
much she-was at-the lifting wearied
puis s'en est .I. pou esloingnie.
then herself-thence she-is a little removed
Cil revint arrier eslessiez;
That-one came-back back eager
«Dame, dist-il, or me paiez;
Lady said-he now me pay
du nain vous ai bien délivrée.
of-the dwarf you I-have well delivered
— Por quoi m'avez-vous or gabée,
For what me-have-you now mocked
dist cele, sire fols vilains?
said she lord foolish churl

Jà est ci revenuz li nains;
Already is here returned the dwarf
ainz en l'eve ne le getastes;
ever into the-water not him you-threw
ensamble o vous le ramenastes.
together with you him you-brought-back
Véz le là, se ne m'en créez.
See him there if not me-thereof you-believe
— Comment, .C. déables mauféz,
How a-hundred devils accursed
est-il donc revenuz céanz?
is-he then returned within-here
Por lui sui forment merveillanz;
For him I-am greatly marveling
il estoit mors, ce m'est avis;
he was dead this to-me-is seeming
c'est un déables antecris,
this-is a devil antichrist
mais ne li vaut, par saint Remi.»
but not to-him it-avails by saint Remy
A tant l'autre boçu saisi,
At that the-other hunchback he-seized
el sac le mist, puis si le lieve
in-the sack him he-put then so him lifts
à son col, si que poi li grieve;
to his neck so that little to-him it-grieves
de la meson ist vistemant:
from the house he-goes-out quickly

et la dame tout maintenant
and the lady all at-once
de l'escrin tret le tiers boçu;
from the-chest draws the third hunchback
si l'a couchié delez le fu;
so him-has laid beside the fire
atant s'en est vers l'uis venue.
thereupon herself-thence she-is toward the-door come
Li porterres en l'eve rue
The porter into the-water flings
le boçu la teste desouz:
the hunchback the head beneath
«Alez, que honis soiez-vous,
Go that shamed may-be-you
dist-il, se vous ne revenez.»
said-he if you not come-back
Puis est le grant cors retornez,
Then is the great course returned
à la dame dist que li pait.
to the lady he-said that to-him she-may-pay
Et cele, sanz nul autre plait,
And she without any other plea
li dist que bien li paiera.
to-him said that well him she-will-pay
Atant au fouier le mena,
Thereupon to-the hearth him she-led
ausi com se rien ne séust
just as if anything not she-knew
du tiers boçu qui là se jut.
of-the third hunchback who there himself lay

«Voiés, dist-ele, grant merveille.
See said-she great marvel
Qui oï ainc mès la pareille?
Who heard ever before the like
Revéz là le boçu où gist.»
See-again there the hunchback where he-lies
Li bachelers pas ne s'en rist,
The young-man at-all not himself-thereat laughs
quant le voit gesir lès le fu.
when him he-sees lie beside the fire
«Voiz, dist-il, par le saint cueur bu,
See said-he by the holy heart (of-)God
qui ainc mès vit tel menestrel?
who ever before saw such minstrel
Ne ferai-je dont huimès el
Not shall-do-I then from-now-on else
que porter ce vilain boçu?
than carry this churl hunchback
Toz jors le truis ci revenu,
All days him I-find here returned
quant je l'ai en l'eve rué.»
when I him-have into the-water flung
Lors a le tiers ou sac bouté;
Then he-has the third into-the sack thrust
à son col fierement le rue;
to his neck fiercely him he-flings
d'ire et de duel, d'aïr tressue.
with-anger and with grief with-fury he-sweats
A tant s'en torne iréement;
At that himself-thence he-turns angrily

toz les degrez aval descent;
all the stairs down he-descends
le tiers boçu a descarchié;
the third hunchback he-has unloaded
dedenz l'eve l'a balancié:
into the-water him-he-has swung
«Va-t'en, dist-il, au vif maufé,
Go-thee-hence said-he to-the live devil
tant t'averai hui conporté;
so-much thee-I-shall-have today carried
se te voi mès hui revenir,
if thee I-see henceforth today to-come-back
tu vendras tart au repentir.
thou wilt-come late to-the repenting
Je cuit que tu m'as enchanté;
I think that thou me-hast enchanted
mès, par le Dieu qui me fist né,
but by the God who me made born
se tu viens meshui après moi
if thou comest today after me
et je truis baston ou espoi,
and I find stick or spit
tel te donrai el haterel,
such to-thee I-shall-give on-the nape
dont tu auras rouge bendel.»
whereby thou wilt-have red bandage
A icest mot est retornez,
At this word he-is returned
et fust en la meson montez;
and would-be into the house mounted

ainz qu'éust les degrez monté,
before that-he-might-have the stairs mounted
si a derrier lui regardé,
so he-has behind him looked
et voit le seignor qui revient.
and sees the lord who comes-back
Li bons hon pas à geu nel tient;
The good man at-all for game not-it holds
de sa main s'est trois foiz sainiéz,
with his hand himself-he-has three times crossed
nomini Dame Diex aidiéz;
in-the-name Lord God help
moult li anuie en son corage.
much to-him it-vexes in his heart
«Par foi, dist-il, cis a la rage
By faith said-he this-one has the rage
qui si près des talons me siut
who so near of-the heels me follows
que par poi qu'il ne me consiut.
that by little that-he not me overtakes
Par la roele saint Morant,
By the little-wheel (of-)saint Morant
il me tient bien por païsant,
he me holds well for peasant
que je nel puis tant comporter
for I not-him can so-much carry
que jà se vueille deporter
that ever himself he-may-wish to-refrain
d'après moi adès revenir.»
from-after me ever to-come-back

Lors cort à ses deux poins sesir
Then he-runs with his two fists to-seize
.I. pestel qu'à l'uis voit pendant,
a pestle that-at the-door he-sees hanging
puis revint au degré corant.
then he-came-back to-the stair running
Li sires ert jà près montez:
The lord was already near mounted
«Comment, sire boçus, tornez?
How lord hunchback you-return
Or me samble ce enresdie;
Now to-me seems this madness
mès, par le cors sainte Marie,
but by the body (of-)saint Mary
mar retornastes ceste part;
ill you-returned this way
vous me tenez bien por musart.»
you me hold well for fool
Atant a le pestel levé,
Thereupon he-has the pestle lifted
si l'en a .I. tel cop doné
so him-thereof he-has a such blow given
sor la teste, qu'il ot moult grant,
on the head which-he had very great
que la cervele li espant;
that the brain to-him he-spills
mort l'abati sor le degré,
dead him-he-felled on the stair
et puis si l'a ou sac bouté;
and then so him-has into-the sack thrust

d'une corde la bouche loie;
with-a rope the mouth he-ties
le grant cors se met à la voie;
the great course himself puts on the way
si l'a en l'eve balancié
so him-has into the-water swung
à tout le sac qu'il ot lié;
with all the sack that-he had tied
quar paor avoit duremant
for fear he-had greatly
qu'il encor ne l'alast sivant.
that-he still not him-might-go following
«Va jus, dist-il, à maléur;
Go down said-he with ill-luck
or cuit-je estre plus asséur
now think-I to-be more sure
que tu ne doies revenir,
that thou not ought come-back
si verra l'en les bois foillir.»
so will-see one the woods leaf
A la dame s'en vint errant;
To the lady himself-thence he-came straightway
si demande son paiemant,
so he-asks his payment
que moult bien a son comant fet.
for very well he-has her command done
La dame n'ot cure de plet;
The lady not-had care of plea

le bacheler paia moult bien
the young-man she-paid very well
.XXX. livres; n'en falut rien;
thirty pounds not-thereof lacked anything
trestout à son gré l'a paié,
all to his liking him-she-has paid
qui moult fu lie du marchié;
who very was glad of-the bargain
dist que fet a bone jornée,
said that done he-has good day's-work
despuis que il l'a délivrée
since that he her-has delivered
de son mari, qui tant ert lais.
from her husband who so-much was ugly
Bien cuide qu'ele n'ait jamais
Well she-thinks that-she not-may-have ever
anui, nul jor qu'ele puist vivre,
vexation any day that-she may live
quant de son mari est delivre.
when from her husband she-is free
Durans, qui son conte define,
Durand who his tale ends
dist c'onques Diex ne fist meschine
said that-ever God not made girl
c'on ne puist por denier avoir;
that-one not may for penny to-have
ne Diex ne fist si chier avoir,
nor God not made so dear having
tant soit bons ne de grant chierté,
so-much it-may-be good or of great dearness

qui voudroit dire verité,
who would-wish to-say truth
que por deniers ne soit éus.
that for pence not may-be had
Por ses deniers ot li boçus
For his pence had the hunchback
la dame qui tant bele estoit.
the lady who so fair was
Honiz soit li hons, quels qu'il soit,
Shamed be the man whoever that-he may-be
qui trop prise mauvès deniers,
who too-much prizes wicked pence
et qui les fist fère premiers.
and who them made be-made first
Amen.
Amen

Du vair palefroi

III · THE DAPPLE-GRAY PALFREY

William, a brave knight of Champagne, rich in heart and poor in goods, loves the daughter of a rich old lord who will not give her to a poor man. At her urging he begs his rich uncle to sue for her for him, but the uncle asks for her himself and is accepted. William's dapple-gray palfrey is borrowed for the bride. Riding before dawn, it leaves the dozing party for its old path to William's house, where his chaplain marries them. The father must consent; William inherits both old men's lands.

Por remembrer et por retrère
For to-recall and for to-retell
les biens c'on puet de fame trère
the goods that-one can from woman draw
et la douçor et la franchise,
and the sweetness and the nobility
est iceste œuvre en escrit mise;
is this work into writing put
quar l'en doit bien ramentevoir
for one ought well to-remind
les biens c'on i puet parcevoir.
the goods that-one there can perceive
Trop sui dolenz et molt m'en poise
Too-much I-am grieving and much me-thereof weighs
que toz li mons nes loe et proise
that all the world not-them praises and prizes
au fuer qu'eles estre déussent;
at-the rate that-they to-be ought

ha! Diex, s'eles les cuers éussent
ah God if-they the hearts had
entiers et sains, verais et fors,
entire and sound true and strong
ne fust el mont si granz tresors.
not would-be in-the world so great treasure
C'est granz domages et granz dels
This-is great damage and great grief
quant eles ne se gardent miex:
when they not themselves guard better
à poi d'aoite sont changies
for little of-urging they-are changed
et tost muées et plessies.
and soon altered and bent
Lor cuer samblent cochet au vent;
Their heart seem weathercock in-the wind
quar avenir voit-on souvent
for to-happen sees-one often
qu'en poi d'eure sont leur corages
that-in little of-hour are their hearts
muez plus tost que li orages.
changed more soon than the storm
Puis qu'en semonsse m'a l'en mis
Since that-into summons me-has one put
de ce dont me sui entremis,
of this wherein myself I-am engaged
jà ne lerai por les cuivers
ever not I-shall-leave for the knaves
qui les corages ont divers,
who the hearts have diverse

et qui sont envieus sor ceus
and who are envious on those
qui les cuers ont vaillanz et preus,
who the hearts have valiant and brave
que ne parfornisse mon poindre
that not I-may-accomplish my charge
por moi aloser et espoindre.
for myself to-praise and to-spur
En ce lay du Vair Palefroi
In this lay of-the Dappled Palfrey
orrez le sens Huon Leroi
you-will-hear the sense (of-)Huon Le-Roi
auques regnablement descendre;
somewhat reasonably descend
por ce que réson sot entendre,
for this that reason he-knew-how to-understand
il veut de ses dis desploier,
he wishes of his sayings to-unfold
que molt bien les cuide emploier.
for very well them he-thinks to-employ
Or redit c'uns chevaliers preus,
Now tells-again that-a knight brave
cortois et bien chevalereus,
courteous and well knightly
riches de cuer, povres d'avoir,
rich of heart poor of-having
issi com vous porrez savoir,
thus as you will-be-able to-know
mest en la terre de Champaingne;
dwells in the land of Champagne

droiz est que sa bonté empaingne
right is that his goodness I-may-press
et la valeur dont fu espris;
and the worth with-which he-was kindled
en tant mains leus fu de grant pris,
in so many places he-was of great prize
quar sens et honor et hautece
for sense and honor and loftiness
avoit, et cuer de grant proece;
he-had and heart of great prowess
s'autretant fust d'avoir seurpris
if-as-much he-had-been with-having overtaken
comme il estoit de bien espris,
as he was of good kindled
por qu'il n'empirast por l'avoir,
provided that-he not-might-worsen for the-having
l'en ne péust son per savoir,
one not could his peer know
son compaignon ne son pareil;
his companion nor his equal
et au recorder m'apareil,
and to-the recalling myself-I-prepare
por ce que l'uevre d'un preudomme
for this that the-work of-a worthy-man
doit-on conter jusqu'en la somme,
ought-one to-tell until-into the sum
por prendre example bel et gent;
for to-take example fair and comely
cil estoit loez de la gent.
that-one was praised by the folk

Tout là où il estoit venuz
All there where he was come
si estoit son priz connéuz,
so was his prize known
que cil qui ne le connoissoient,
that those who not him knew
por les biens qui de lui nessoient
for the goods which from him were-born
en amoient la renomée.
thereof loved the renown
Quant il avoit la teste armée,
When he had the head armed
quant il ert au tornoiement
when he was at-the tourney
n'avoit soing de dosnoiement,
not-be-had care of courting
ne de jouer à la forclose;
nor of playing at the forclose
là où la presse ert plus enclose
there where the press was most enclosed
se féroit tout de plain eslais.
himself he-struck all at full gallop
Il n'estoit mie aus armes lais,
He not-was at-all at-the arms base
quant sor son cheval ert couvers;
when on his horse he-was covered
ne fust jà si pleniers yvers
not would-be ever so full winter
que il n'éust robe envoisie,
that he not-might-have robe merry

s'en estoit auques achoisie
so-thereby was somewhat discerned
l'envoiséure de son cuer;
the-merriment of his heart
mès terre avoit à petit fuer,
but land he-had at little rate
et molt estoit biaus ses confors.
and very was fair his comfort
Plus de .CC. livres de fors
More than two-hundred pounds of strong-money
ne valoit pas par an sa terre;
not was-worth at-all by year his land
par tout aloit por son pris querre.
through all he-went for his prize to-seek
Adonc estoient li boschage
Then were the woodlands
dedenz Champaingne plus sauvage,
within Champagne more wild
et li païs, que or ne soit.
and the country than now — may-be
Li chevaliers adonc penssoit
The knight then thought
à une amor vaillant et bele
of a love valiant and fair
d'une très haute damoisele,
of-a very high damsel
fille ert à .I. prince vaillant;
daughter she-was to a prince valiant

richece n'alloit pas faillant
richness not-went at-all failing
en lui, ainz ert d'avoir molt riches,
in him rather was of-having very rich
et si avoit dedenz ses liches.
and so he-had within his palisades
.M. livres valoit bien sa terre
A-thousand pounds was-worth well his land
chascun an, et sovent requerre
each year and often to-ask
li venoit on sa fille gente,
to-him came one his daughter comely
quar à tout le mont atalente
for to all the world pleases
la grant biauté qu'en li avoit.
the great beauty that-in her had
Li princes plus d'enfans n'avoit,
The prince more of-children not-had
et de fame n'avoit-il mie:
and of wife not-had-he at-all
usée estoit auques sa vie;
worn was somewhat his life
en .I. bois estoit son recet;
in a wood was his retreat
environ fu granz la forest.
around was great the forest

L'autre chevalier dont je di
The-other knight of-whom I speak
à la damoisele entendi
to the damsel attended
qui fille au chevalier estoit;
who daughter of-the knight was
mès li pères li contrestoit;
but the father to-him opposed
si n'avoit cure que l'amast
so not-he-had care that he-might-love-her
ne que de lui le renomast.
nor that of him her one-might-name
Li jones chevaliers ot non
The young knight had name
messire Guillaume à droit non.
my-lord William by right name
En la forest ert arestanz
In the forest he-was dwelling
là où li anciens mananz
there where the old dweller
avoit la seue forterèce
had the his fortress
de grant terre et de grant richèce;
of great land and of great richness
.II. liues ot de l'un manoir
two leagues there-had from the-one manor
jusqu'à l'autre; mès remanoir
until-to the-other but to-remain
ne pot l'amor d'ambesdeus pars;
not could the-love from-both parts

lor penssé n'erent mie espars
their thoughts not-were at-all scattered
en autre chose maintenir:
in other thing to-maintain
et, quant li chevaliers venir
and when the knight to-come
voloit à cele qu'il amoit,
wished to her whom-he loved
por ce que on l'en renomoit,
for this that one him-thereof named
avoit en la forest parfonde,
he-had in the forest deep
qui granz estoit à la roonde,
which great was in the round
un sentier fet, qui n'estoit mie
a path made which not-was at-all
hantez d'ome qui fust en vie
frequented by-man who might-be in life
se de lui non tant seulement.
if by him not so-much only
Par là aloit celéement
By there he-went secretly
entre lui et son palefroi,
between him and his palfrey
sanz demener noise n'effroi,
without leading noise nor-stir
à la pucele maintes foiz.
to the maiden many times
Mès molt estoit granz li defoiz,
But very was great the barrier

quar n'i pooit parler de près;
for not-there he-could speak from near
si en estoit forment engrès,
so thereof he-was greatly eager
que la cort estoit molt fort close.
for the court was very strongly closed
La pucele n'ert pas si ose
The maiden not-was at-all so bold
qu'ele de la porte issist fors;
that-she from the gate might-go out
mès de tant ert bons ses confors
but by so-much was good his comfort
qu'à lui parloit par mainte foiz
that-to him she-spoke by many-a time
par une planche d'un defoiz.
through a plank of-a barrier
Li fossez est granz par defors,
The ditch is great by outside
li espinois espès et fors;
the thicket thick and strong
ne se pooient aprochier:
not themselves they-could approach
la meson ert sor .I. rochier,
the house was on a rock
qui richement estoit fermée;
which richly was closed
pont levéis ot à l'entrée,
bridge lifting it-had at the-entry
et li chevaliers anciens,
and the knight old

qui engingneus ert de toz sens
who crafty was of all senses
et qui le siècle usé avoit,
and who the world worn had
de son ostel pou se mouvoit,
from his lodging little himself moved
quar ne pooit chevauchier mais,
for not he-could ride more
ainz sejornoit léenz en pais.
rather he-stayed within-there in peace
Sa fille fesoit près gaitier,
His daughter he-made closely watch
et devant lui por rehaitier
and before him for to-cheer
séoit, sovent ce poise li,
she-sat often this weighs her
quar au déduit avoit failli
for at-the delight she-had failed
où son cuer ert enracinez.
where her heart was rooted
Li chevaliers preus et senez
The knight brave and sensible
n'oublioit pas à li la voie;
not-he-forgot at-all to her the way
ne demande mès qu'il la voie.
not he-asks more than-he her may-see
Quant il voit qu'autre ne puet estre,
When he sees that-other not can be
molt revidoit sovent son estre,
much he-revisited often her dwelling

mès ne pooit dedenz entrer.
but not he-could within enter
Cele c'on fesoit enserrer
Her whom-one made shut-up
ne véoit mie de si près
not he-saw at-all from so near
comme son cuer en ert engrès.
as his heart thereof was eager
Sovent la venoit revider,
Often her he-came to-revisit
nel pooit gueres resgarder;
not-her he-could much look-at
el ne se puet en cel lieu traire
she not herself can in that place draw
que li chevaliers son viaire
that the knight her face
péust véoir tout en apert:
could see all in open
chascuns dit bien que son cuer pert.
each-one says well that his heart he-loses
Li chevaliers qui tant devoit
The knight who so-much ought
celi amer, qui tant avoit
her to-love who so-much had
en li de bien à grant merveille
in her of good at great marvel
que on ne savoit sa pareille,
that one not knew her equal
avoit .I. palefroi molt riche,
had a palfrey very rich

ainsi com li contes afiche:
thus as the tale affirms
vairs ert et de riche color;
dappled it-was and of rich color
la sanblance de nule flor
the semblance of any flower
ne color c'on séust descrire
nor color that-one could describe
ne sauroit pas nus hom eslire
not would-know-how at-all any man to-choose
qui si fust propre en grant biauté;
which so might-be fitting in great beauty
sachiez qu'en nule réauté
know that-in any realm
n'en avoit nus à icel tans
not-thereof had anyone at that time
si bon, ne si souef portans.
so good nor so smooth carrying
Li chevaliers l'amoit forment,
The knight it-loved greatly
et si vous di veraiement
and so to-you I-say truly
qu'il nel donast por nul avoir.
that-he not-it would-give for any having
Longuement li virent avoir
Long to-him they-saw it-have
cil du païs et de la terre.
those of-the country and of the land

Dessus le palefroi requerre
Upon the palfrey to-seek
aloit sovent la damoisele
he-went often the damsel
par la forest soutaine et bele,
through the forest lonely and fair
où le sentier batu avoit
where the path beaten he-had
que nus el monde ne savoit
that anyone in-the world not knew
fors que lui et son palefroi.
except that him and his palfrey
Ne menoit pas trop grant effroi
Not he-led at-all too great stir
quant s'amie aloit revider;
when his-friend he-went to-revisit
molt près li couvenoit garder
very closely to-him behooved to-guard
que parcéus ne fust du père,
that perceived not he-might-be by-the father
quar molt li fust la voie amère.
for very to-him would-be the way bitter
Toz jors menoient cele vie
All days they-led that life
que l'uns de l'autre avoit envie:
that the-one of the-other had desire
ne se pooient aaisier
not themselves they-could ease
ne d'acoler ne de baisier.
neither with-embracing nor with kissing

Je vous di bien, se l'une bouche
I to-you say well if the-one mouth
touchast à l'autre, molt fust douce
had-touched to the-other very would-be sweet
de l'acointance de ces .II.
of the-acquaintance of these two
Par estoit molt ardanz li feus
Very was very burning the fire
qu'il ne pooit por riens estaindre;
which-he not could for anything quench
quar, s'il se péussent estraindre
for if themselves they-could clasp
et acoler et embrachier,
and embrace and enfold
et l'uns l'autre ses braz lacier
and the-one the-other his arms lace
entor les cols si doucement,
around the necks so sweetly
com volentez et penssement
as will and thought
avoient et grant desirrier,
they-had and great desire
nus hom ne les péust irier,
any man not them could anger
et fust lor joie auques parfète;
and would-be their joy somewhat perfect

mès de ce ont trop grant souffrète
but of this they-have too great want
qu'il ne se pueent solacier,
that-they not themselves can solace
ne li uns vers l'autre touchier.
nor the one toward the-other touch
Petit se pueent conjoïr
Little themselves they-can rejoice
fors que de parler et d'oïr;
except that of speaking and of-hearing
li uns voit l'autre escharsement,
the one sees the-other sparingly
quar trop cruel devéement
for too cruel forbidding
avoit entre ces deus amanz.
there-was between these two lovers
Ele estoit son père cremanz,
She was her father fearing
quar, s'il lor couvine séust,
for if-he their doings had-known
plus tost mariée l'éust;
more soon married her-he-would-have
et li chevaliers ne volt fère
and the knight not wished to-do
chose par c'on péust desfere
thing by which-one could undo
l'amor qui entr'aus .II. estoit,
the-love which between-them two was
quar l'ancien forment doutoit,
for the-old-man greatly he-feared

qui riches ert à desmesure;
who rich was beyond measure
n'i voloit querre entreprisure.
not-there he-wished to-seek offense
Li chevaliers se porpenssa,
The knight himself bethought
un jor et autre molt penssa
one day and another much he-thought
à la vie qu'il demenoit,
of the life that-he led
quar molt sovent l'en souvenoit.
for very often to-him-thereof remembered
Venu li est en son corage
Come to-him it-is into his heart
ou tort à joie, ou tort à rage,
either it-turns to joy or it-turns to rage
qu'à l'ancien parler ira,
that-to the-old-man to-speak he-will-go
et sa fille li requerra
and his daughter of-him he-will-ask
à moillier, que que il aviegne,
for wife whatever that it may-happen
quar il ne set que il deviengne
for he not knows what he may-become
por la vie que il demaine.
for the life that he leads
Trestoz les jors de la semaine
All the days of the week
ne puet avoir ce qu'il couvoite,
not he-can have that which-he covets

quar trop li est la voie estroite.
for too-much to-him is the way narrow
.I. jor s'apresta de l'aler;
One day himself-he-prepared of the-going
à l'ancien ala parler
to the-old-man he-went to-speak
au leu tout droit où il manoit,
to-the place all straight where he dwelt
là où la damoisele estoit.
there where the damsel was
Assez i fu bien recéus,
Enough there he-was well received
quar molt estoit bien connéus
for very he-was well known
de l'ancien et de ses genz;
by the-old-man and by his folk
et cil, qui ert et preus et genz
and that-one who was both brave and comely
et emparlez comme vaillanz
and well-spoken as valiant
en qui nus biens n'estoit faillanz,
in whom any good not-was failing
lui a dit: «Sire, je sui ci
to-him has said Lord I am here
venus; par la votre merci
come by the your mercy
or entendez à ma reson.
now attend to my reason

Je sui en la vostre meson
I am into the your house
venuz requerre tel afère
come to-ask such business
dont Diex vous lest vers moi don fère.»
of-which God you may-let toward me gift to-make
Li anciens le regarda,
The old-man him looked-at
et puis après li demanda:
and then after of-him asked
«Que est-ce dont? dites le moi;
What is-this then tell it me
je vous en aiderai, par foi,
I you thereof shall-help by faith
se, sauve m'onor, le puis fère.
if saving my-honor it I-can do
— Oïl, Sire, de vostre afère
Yes Lord of your business
sai tant que fère le poez;
I-know so-much that to-do it you-can
or doinst Diex que vous le loez.
now may-grant God that you it may-approve
— Si ferai-je, se il me siet;
So shall-do-I if it me suits
et, se riens nule me messiet,
and if anything any me ill-suits
bien i saurai contredit metre;
well there I-shall-know-how gainsaying to-put

ne du doner ne du prometre
neither of-the giving nor of-the promising
ne vous sauroie losengier,
not you I-would-know-how to-flatter
se bien ne le vueil otroier.
if well not it I-wish to-grant
— Sire, dist-il, je vous dirai
Lord said-he I to-you shall-tell
quel don je vous demanderai.
what gift I of-you shall-ask
Vous savez auques de mon estre;
You know somewhat of my being
bien connéustes mon ancestre
well you-knew my ancestor
et mon recet et ma meson,
and my retreat and my house
et bien savez en quel seson
and well you-know in what season
et en quel point je me déduis;
and in what point I myself amuse
en guerredon, sire, vous ruis
in reward lord of-you I-ask
vostre fille, se il vous plest.
your daughter if it you pleases

Diex doinst que pensser ne vous lest
God may-grant that thinking not you may-let
destorber le vostre corage
trouble the your heart
que vous cest don, par mon outrage
that you this gift by my outrage
que j'ai requis, ne me faciez;
which I-have asked not to-me may-do
et si vueil bien que vous sachiez
and so I-wish well that you may-know
c'onques ne fui jor ses acointes;
that-ever not I-was day her acquaintance
quar molt en fusse baus et cointes
for very thereof I-would-be glad and elegant
se je à li parlé éusse,
if I to her spoken had
et les granz biens aparcéusse
and the great goods perceived
de qoi ele a grant renommée.
of which she has great renown
Molt est en cest païs amée
Much she-is in this country loved
por les granz biens qui en li sont;
for the great goods which in her are
il n'a son pareil en cest mont.
it not-has her equal in this world
Ce me content tuit si acointe,
This to-me tell all her acquaintances
mès à petit de genz s'acointe,
but to little of folk herself-she-acquaints

por ce qu'ele est céenz enclose.
for this that-she is within-here enclosed
La penssée ai éu trop ose
The thought I-have had too bold
quant demander la vous osai,
when to-ask her of-you I-dared
et, se je de vous le los ai
and if I from you the consent have
que m'en daingniez fère le don
that me-thereof you-deign to-make the gift
en service et en guerredon;
in service and in reward
baus et joianz forment en ière.
glad and joyful greatly thereof I-shall-be
Or vous ai dite ma proière,
Now to-you I-have said my prayer
responez m'en vostre plesir.»
answer me-thereof your pleasure
Li anciens, sanz nul loisir
The old-man without any leisure
et sanz conseil qu'en vousist prendre,
and without counsel that-thereof he-might-wish to-take
li respondi: «Bien sai entendre
to-him answered Well I-know-how to-understand
ce que m'avez conté et dit.
that which me-you-have told and said
Il n'i a mie grant mesdit;
It not-there has at-all great slander

ma fille est bele et jone et sage
my daughter is fair and young and wise
et pucele de grant lingnage,
and maiden of great lineage
et je suis riches vavassors,
and I am rich vavasor
estrais de nobles ancissors;
drawn from noble ancestors
si vaut bien ma terre .M. livres
so is-worth well my land a-thousand pounds
chascun an; ne sui pas si yvres
each year not am-I at-all so drunk
que je ma fille doner doie
that I my daughter to-give ought
à chevalier qui vit de proie;
to knight who lives of prey
quar je n'ai plus d'enfanz que li;
for I not-have more of-children than her
si n'a pas à m'amor failli,
so not-she-has at-all at my-love failed
et après moi sera tout sien;
and after me will-be all hers
je la voudrai marier bien;
I her shall-wish to-marry well
ne sai prince dedenz cest raine,
not I-know prince within this realm
ne de ci jusqu'en Loheraine,
nor from here as-far-as-into Lorraine

qui tant soit preudom et senez
who so-much may-be worthy-man and sensible
ne fust en li bien assenez.
that-not might-be in her well settled
Tels le me requist avant ier,
Such-one her of-me asked the-day-before yesterday
n'a pas encore .I. mois entier,
not-has at-all yet a month entire
qui de terre a .Vc. livrées,
who of land has five-hundred pounds'-worth
qui or me fussent delivrées
which now to-me might-be delivered
se je à ce vousisse entendre;
if I to this might-wish to-attend
mès ma fille puet bien atendre,
but my daughter can well wait
que je sui tant d'avoir seurpris,
for I am so-much with-having overtaken
qu'ele ne puet perdre son pris
that-she not can lose her prize
ne le fuer de son mariage.
nor the rate of her marriage
Le plus haut home de lingnage
The most high man of lineage
qui en trestout ces païs maingne,
who in all these countries dwells
ne de ci jusqu'en Alemaingne,
nor from here as-far-as-into Germany
puet bien avoir, fors roi ou conte.»
she-can well have except king or count

Li chevaliers ot molt grant honte
The knight had very great shame
de ce que il ot entendu:
of this that he had heard
il n'i a lors plus atendu,
he not-there has then more waited
ainz prist congié, si s'en repère;
rather he-took leave so himself-thence goes-back
mès il ne set qu'il puisse fère,
but he not knows what-he may do
quar amors le maine et destraint,
for love him leads and constrains
de qoi molt durement se plaint.
of which very hard himself he-complains
La pucele sot l'escondit
The maiden knew the-refusal
et ce que ses pères ot dit;
and that which her father had said
dolente en fu en son corage.
grieving thereof she-was in her heart
S'amor n'estoit mie volage,
Her-love not-was at-all fickle
ainz ert envers celui entire
rather it-was toward him entire
assez plus c'on ne sauroit dire.
much more than-one — would-know-how to-say
Ainz que cil s'en fust reperiez,
Before that that-one himself-thence had returned
qui de grant duel estoit iriez,
who with great grief was angered

parlèrent par defors ensamble;
they-spoke by outside together
chascuns a dit ce qu'il li samble.
each-one has said what that-it to-him seems
Li chevaliers li a conté
The knight to-her has told
la novele qu'il a trové
the news that-he has found
à son père et la descordance:
at her father and the discord
«Damoisele gentil et franche,
Damsel noble and free
dist li chevaliers, que ferai?
said the knight what shall-I-do
La terre, ce cuit, vuiderai;
The land this I-think I-shall-empty
si m'en irai toz estraiers,
so myself-thence I-shall-go all astray
quar alez est mes desirriers;
for gone is my desire
ne porrai à vous avenir,
not I-shall-be-able to you to-attain
ne sai que puisse devenir:
not I-know what I-may become
mar acointai la grant richoise
ill I-came-to-know the great richness
dont vostre pères si se proise;
of-which your father so himself prizes
miex vous amaisse à mains de pris,
better you I-would-love at less of prize

quar vostre père éust bien pris
for your father would-have well taken
en gré ce que je puis avoir,
in good-part that which I can have
s'il ne fust si riches d'avoir.
if-he not had-been so rich of-having
— Certes, fet-ele, je voudroie
Certainly says-she I would-wish
avoir assez mains que ne doie,
to-have much less than — I-ought
s'il fust selonc ma volenté;
if-it were according-to my will
sire, s'à la vostre bonté
lord if-to the your goodness
vousist mon père prendre garde,
had-wished my father to-take heed
par foi, n'éusse point de garde
by faith not-I-would-have at-all of fear
que vous à moi n'avenissiez,
that you to me not-might-attain
et qu'à son acort ne fussiez;
and that-to his accord not you-might-be
s'il contrepesast vo richece
if-he counterweighed your richness
encontre vostre grant proece,
against your great prowess
bien déust graer le marchié.
well he-ought to-grant the bargain
Mès il a de cuer sens chargié;
But he has of heart sense loaded

il ne veut pas ce que je vueil,
he not wishes at-all that which I wish
ne se deut pas où je me dueil.
nor himself grieves at-all where I myself grieve
S'il s'acordast à ma penssée,
If-he himself-accorded to my thought
tost fust la chose créantée;
soon would-be the thing granted
mès cuers qui gist en la viellèce
but heart which lies in the old-age
ne pensse pas à la jonèce
not thinks at-all of the youth
ne au voloir de jone éage;
nor of-the will of young age
grant difference a el corage
great difference has in-the heart
de viel au jone, ce m'est vis.
of old to-the young this to-me-is seeming
Mès, se vous fetes mon devis,
But if you do my device
ne porrez pas faillir à moi.
not you-will-be-able at-all to-fail at me
— Oïl, damoisele, par foi,
Yes damsel by faith
fet li chevaliers, sanz faillance
says the knight without failing
or me dites vostre voillance.
now me tell your will

— Or me sui, fet ele, apenssée
Now myself am-I says she bethought
d'une chose à qoi ma penssée
of-a thing on which my thought
a sejorné molt longuement.
has dwelt very long
Vous savez bien certainement
You know well certainly
c'un oncle avez qui molt est riches;
that-an uncle you-have who very is rich
fort manoir a dedenz ses liches;
strong manor he-has within his palisades
n'est pas mains riches de mon père;
not-be-is at-all less rich than my father
il n'a enfant, fame ne frère,
he not-has child wife nor brother
ne nul plus prochain oir de vous;
nor any more near heir than you
ce set on bien tout à estrous
this knows one well all for certain
que tout ert vostre après sa fin;
that all will-be yours after his end
plus de .LX. mars d'or fin
more than sixty marks of-gold fine
vaut ses tresors avoec sa rente.
is-worth his treasure with his rent
Or i alez sans nule atente;
Now there go without any waiting
viex est et frailes, ce savez;
old he-is and frail this you-know

dites lui bien que vous avez
tell him well that you have
tel parole à mon père prise,
such word with my father taken
que jà ne sera à chief mise
that ever not will-be to end put
se il ne s'en veut entremetre;
if he not himself-thereof wishes to-engage
mès, se il vous voloit prometre
but if he to-you wished to-promise
.CCC. livrées de sa terre,
three-hundred pounds'-worth of his land
et mon père venist requerre
and my father might-come to-ask
icest afère, qui molt l'aime,
this business who much him-loves
li uns l'autre preudomme claime,
the one the-other worthy-man calls
vos oncles tient mon père à sage;
your uncle holds my father for wise
ancien sont, de grant aage,
old they-are of great age
li uns croit l'autre durement,
the one believes the-other greatly

et se voz oncles bonement
and if your uncle kindly
voloit tant por vostre amor fère
wished so-much for your love to-do
qu'à ce le péussiez atrère
that-to this him you-could draw
que tant du sien vous proméist,
that so-much of-the his-own to-you he-might-promise
et qu'il à mon pere déist:
and that-he to my father might-say
«Mon neveu erent delivrées
To-my nephew will-be delivered
«de ma terre .CCC. livrées
from my land three-hundred pounds'-worth
«por vostre fille qu'il aura,»
for your daughter whom-he will-have
li mariages bien sera.
the marriage well will-be
Je croi bien qu'il otrieroit
I believe well that-he would-grant
quant si vostre oncles li diroit;
when so your uncle to-him would-say
et, quant espousée m'aurez,
and when wedded me-you-will-have
toute sa terre li rendrez
all his land to-him you-will-render
qu'il vous auroit ainsi promise.
which-he to-you would-have thus promised

En vostre amor me sui tant mise
Into your love myself am-I so-much put
que molt me pleroit li marchiez.
that much me would-please the bargain
— Bele, fet-il, de voir sachiez
Fair-one says-he of truth know
c'onques riens tant ne desirrai;
that-ever anything so-much not I-desired
droit à mon oncle le dirai.»
straight to my uncle it I-shall-say
Congié a pris, si s'en retorne;
Leave he-has taken so himself-thence he-returns
penssée ot molt obscure et morne
thought he-had very dark and gloomy
por l'escondit c'on li ot fait.
for the-refusal that-one to-him had made
Par la forest chevauchant vait,
Through the forest riding he-goes
et sist sor son vair palefroi.
and sat on his dappled palfrey
Molt est entrez en grant effroi,
Much he-is entered into great fright
mès molt est liéz en son corage
but very he-is glad in his heart
de cest conseil honest et sage
of this counsel honest and wise
que la pucele li a dit.
that the maiden to-him has said

Alez s'en est sanz contredit
Gone himself-thence he-is without gainsaying
à Medet, où son oncle maint.
to Medet where his uncle dwells
Venuz i est, mès molt se plaint
Come there he-is but much himself he-complains
à lui, mès molt se desconforte.
to him but much himself he-distresses
En une loge sor la porte
In a lodge above the gate
s'en sont alé privéement;
themselves-thence they-are gone privately
son oncle conta bonement
to-his uncle he-told kindly
son couvenant et son afère.
his covenant and his business
«Oncles, se tant voliiez fère,
Uncle if so-much you-wished to-do
fet-il, que vous en parlissiez,
says-he that you thereof might-speak
et qu'en couvenant m'éussiez
and that-in covenant me-you-might-have
.CCC. livrées de vo terre,
three-hundred pounds'-worth of your land
je vous créanterai sanz guerre
I to-you shall-pledge without war
et fiancerai maintenant,
and shall-swear at-once
ma main en la vostre tenant,
my hand in the yours holding

que, luès que j'aurai espousée
that as-soon-as that I-shall-have wedded
cele c'on m'a or refusée,
her whom-one me-has now refused
que vous r'aurez vo terre quite
that you in-turn-will-have your land quit
por guerredon et por merite;
for reward and for merit
or fetes ce que vous requiers.
now do that which of-you I-ask
— Niéz, fet li oncles, volentiers,
Nephew says the uncle willingly
quar molt me plest et molt m'agrée;
for much me it-pleases and much me-suits
au miéz de toute la contrée
to-the best of all the country
serez mariez, par mon chief,
you-will-be married by my head
et j'en cuit bien venir à chief.
and I-thereof think well to-come to end
— Oncles, dist-il, or esploitiez
Uncle said-he now accomplish
ma besoigne, et si la coitiez
my business and so it hasten
qu'il n'i ait fors de l'espouser,
that-it not-there may-have but of the-wedding
quar ne vueil plus mon tens user,
for not I-wish more my time to-spend
et g'irai au tournoiement.
and I-shall-go to-the tourneying

Atornez serai richement;
Equipped I-shall-be richly
li tornois ert à Galardon,
the tourney will-be at Galardon
et Diex m'otroit en guerredon
and God me-may-grant in reward
que je le puisse si bien fère
that I it may so well do
que proisiez en soit mon afère;
that prized thereby may-be my business
et vous penssez de l'esploitier,
and you think of the-accomplishing
qu'espouser puisse au repérier.
that-to-wed I-may at-the returning
— Molt volentiers, fet-il, biaus niéz;
Very willingly says-he fair nephew
de la novele sui molt liéz,
of the news I-am very glad
quar ele est molt gentiz et franche.»
for she is very noble and free
Lors s'en torna sanz demorance
Then himself-thence turned without delay
mesires Guillaumes errant;
my-lord William straightway
lors maine joie molt très grant
then he-leads joy very very great
por ce que ses oncles a dit
for this that his uncle has said
que il aura, sanz contredit,
that he will-have without gainsaying

à fame cele qu'il desirre;
for wife her whom-he desires
autre joie ne veut eslire.
other joy not he-wishes to-choose
Espris de joie molt forment
Kindled with joy very greatly
s'en ala au tournoiement
himself-thence he-went to-the tourneying
com cil qui coustumiers en ert.
as that-one who accustomed thereto was
Et lendemain, quand jors apert,
And the-next-day when day appears
monta ses oncles, lui septime,
mounted his uncle himself seventh
et vint devant eure de prime
and came before hour of prime
là où li anciens manoit,
there where the old-man dwelt
qui riches manssions tenoit,
who rich mansions held
et qui pères ert à celi
and who father was to her
qui a biauté n'ot pas failli.
who in beauty not-had at-all failed
Recéus fu molt hautement.
Received he-was very highly
Li anciens l'amoit forment,
The old-man him-loved greatly

quar son per de viellèce estoit
for his peer in old-age he-was
et assez près de lui manoit;
and quite near of him dwelt
riches estoit de grant pooir;
rich he-was of great power
de ce qu'il l'ert venuz véoir
for this that-he him-had come to-see
demaine joie et grant léèce,
he-leads joy and great gladness
quar il estoit de grant hautèce.
for he was of great loftiness
Li anciens li sot bien dire:
The old-man to-him knew-how well to-say
«Bien soiez-vous venuz, biaus sire.»
Well be-you come fair lord
Aprestez fu li mengiers granz.
Prepared was the meal great
Li anciens gentiz et franz
The old-man noble and free
estoit de cuer, et si savoit
was of heart and so he-knew-how
bien honorer ce qu'il devoit.
well to-honor that which-he ought

Quant les tables furent ostées,
When the tables were taken-away
dont furent paroles contées
then were words told
et ancienes acointances
and old acquaintances
d'escuz, d'espées et de lances,
of-shields of-swords and of lances
et de toz les anciens fais
and of all the ancient deeds
fu mains biaus moz iluec retrais.
was many-a fair word there recounted
Li oncles au buen chevalier
The uncle of-the good knight
ne se volt pas trop oublier,
not himself wished at-all too-much to-forget
ainz a son penssé descouvert.
rather he-has his thought uncovered
A l'ancien dist en apert:
To the-old-man he-said in open
«Qu'iroie-je, fet-il, contant?
What-would-I-go says-he telling
Si m'aït Diex, je vous aim tant
So me-may-help God I you love so-much
com vous porrez apercevoir.
as you will-be-able to-perceive
A vous sui venuz por véoir
To you am-I come for to-see
et por enquerre une besoingne;
and for to-inquire a business

Dieu pri que corage vous doingne
God I-pray that heart to-you he-may-give
qu'entendue soit ma proière
that-heard may-be my prayer
en tel point et en tel manière
in such point and in such manner
que j'en puisse venir à chief.»
that I-thereof may come to end
Li anciens dist: «Par mon chief,
The old-man said By my head
je vous pris tant en mon corage
I you prize so-much in my heart
que por souffrir trop grant malage
that for to-suffer too great sickness
ne vous sera chose véée
not to-you will-be thing denied
qui de par vous me soit rouvée,
which on behalf-of you to-me may-be asked
ainz vous en ert graez li dons.
rather to-you thereof will-be granted the gift
— Sire, merciz et guerredons
Lord thanks and rewards
vous en vueil molt volentiers rendre,
to-you thereof I-wish very willingly to-render
fet li viellars, qui plus atendre
says the old-man who more to-wait
ne veut de sa parole dire;
not wishes of his word to-say
venuz sui demander, biaus sire,
come am-I to-ask fair lord

vostre fille, qui molt est sage;
your daughter who very is wise
prendre la vueil par mariage;
to-take her I-wish by marriage
ainçois que je l'aie espousée
before that I her-may-have wedded
ert de ma garison doée,
she-will-be with my wealth dowered
que riches sui à grant pooir.
for rich I-am of great power
Vous savez bien que je n'ai oir
You know well that I not-have heir
nul de ma char, ce poise moi;
any of my flesh this weighs me
je li serai de bone foi,
I to-her shall-be of good faith
quar je sui cil qui molt vous prise.
for I am that-one who much you prizes
Quant je vostre fille aurai prise,
When I your daughter shall-have taken
jà ne me quier de vous partir
ever not myself I-seek from you to-part
ne ma richèce départir
nor my richness to-divide
de la vostre, ainçois soit tout .I.
from the yours rather be-it all one
Ensanble serons de commun
Together we-shall-be in common
de ce que Diex nous a doné.»
of this that God to-us has given

Cil, qui molt ot le cuer sené,
That-one who very had the heart sensible
fu molt joianz; se li a dit:
was very joyful so to-him has said
«Sire, fet-il, sanz contredit
Lord says-he without gainsaying
la vous donrai molt volentiers,
her to-you I-shall-give very willingly
quar preudom estes et entiers.
for worthy-man you-are and entire
Liéz sui quant le m'avez requise;
Glad I-am when her of-me-you-have asked
qui le meillor chastel de Frise
who the best castle of Frisia
me donast, n'éusse tel joie.
to-me might-give not-I-would-have such joy
A nului, Sire, ne tendoie
To nobody Lord not I-tended
si de cuer de son mariage
so from heart of her marriage
comme à vous; quar preudomme et sage
as to you for worthy-man and wise
vous ai en trestoz poins trouvé
you I-have in all points found
que j'ai vostre afère esprové.»
that I-have your business proved
Lors a fiancie et plevie
Then he-has betrothed and plighted
celi qui n'a de lui envie,
her who not-has of him desire

et qui cuidoit autrui avoir.
and who thought another to-have
Quant la pucèle en sot le voir,
When the maiden thereof knew the truth
s'en fu dolente et esmarie;
so-thereof she-was grieving and dismayed
sovent jura Sainte Marie
often she-swore Saint Mary
que jà de lui n'ert espousée.
that ever by him not-she-would-be wedded
Molt ert dolente et esplorée,
Very she-was grieving and in-tears
et molt sovent se desconforte:
and very often herself she-distresses
«Lasse, dolente, com sui morte!
Wretched grieving how am-I dead
Quel trahison a cil viex fète!
What treason has that old-man done
Comme auroit or la mort forfète!
How would-have now the death deserved
Comme a decéu son neveu,
How he-has deceived his nephew
le gentil Chevalier et preu
the noble Knight and brave
qui tant est plains de bonne tèche,
who so-much is full of good quality
et cil viellars par sa richèce
and that old-man by his richness
a jà de moi reçu le don:
has already from me received the gift

Diex l'en rende son guerredon!
God him-thereof may-render his reward
Entremis s'est de grant folie;
Engaged himself-he-has in great folly
jamès nul jor ne serai lie;
ever any day not I-shall-be glad
s'anemie mortel aura
his-enemy mortal he-will-have
le jor que il m'espousera.
the day that he me-will-wed
Comment verrai-je jà le jor!
How shall-see-I ever the day
Naie! jà Diex si lonc sejor
No ever God so long stay
ne me doinst que véir le puisse!
not to-me may-give that to-see it I-may
Or a ci duel et grant anguisse,
Now has here grief and great anguish
ainz mès n'oï tel trahison.
ever before not-I-heard such treason
Se je ne fusse en tel prison,
If I not were in such prison
bien achevaisse cest afere;
well I-would-accomplish this business
mès je ne puis nule rien fère,
but I not can any thing do
ne fors issir de cest manoir;
nor out go from this manor

or me convendra remanoir
now me will-behoove to-remain
et souffrir ce que veut mon père;
and to-suffer that which wishes my father
mès la souffrance est trop amère.
but the suffering is too bitter
Ha! Diex, que porrai devenir,
Ah God what I-shall-be-able to-become
et quant porra çà revenir
and when will-be-able here to-come-back
cil qui trahis est laidement!
that-one who betrayed is foully
Se il savoit certainement
If he knew certainly
comment son oncle l'a bailli
how his uncle him-has handled
et ce qu'il a à moi failli,
and that which-he has at me failed
bien sai que sanz joie morroie
well I-know that without joy I-would-die
et que sanz vie remaindroie;
and that without life I-would-remain
et s'il le séust, par mon chief,
and if-he it knew by my head
je cuit qu'il en venist à chief;
I think that-he thereof might-come to end
mes granz anuis fust achevez.
my great vexations would-be ended
Diex, com mes cuers est agrevez!
God how my heart is grieved

Miex ameroie mort que vie.
Better I-would-love death than life
Quel trahison et quel envie!
What treason and what envy
Comment l'osa cis viex pensser?
How it-dared this old-man to-think
Nus ne me puet vers lui tensser,
Anyone not me can toward him defend
quar mon père aime couvoitise,
for my father loves covetousness
qui trop le semont et atise.
which too-much him urges and stirs
Fi de viellèce, fi d'avoir!
Fie on old-age fie on-having
Jamès ne porra nus avoir
Ever not will-be-able anyone to-have
fame qui soit haute ne riche,
woman who may-be high nor rich
se granz avoirs en lui ne nice.
if great having in him not nests
Haïr doi l'avoir qui me part
To-hate I-ought the-having which me parts
de celui là où je claim part,
from him there where I claim part
et qui me cuide avoir sanz faille;
and who me thinks to-have without fail
mès or m'est vis que je i faille.»
but now to-me-is seeming that I there may-fail

La pucèle se dementoit
The maiden herself lamented
en icel point, quar molt estoit
in that point for very she-was
à grant mesaise, ce sachiez,
at great unease this know
quar son cuer ert si enlaciez
for her heart was so enlaced
en l'amor au bon bacheler
in the-love of-the good bachelor
qu'à grant peine s'en puet celer
that-with great pain herself-thence she-can conceal
ce qu'ele pensse envers nului,
that which-she thinks toward anyone
et autrement rehet celui
and otherwise she-hates him
à cui son père l'a donée.
to whom her father her-has given
Estre cuide mal assenée,
To-be she-thinks ill settled
que molt est viex, de grant aage;
for very he-is old of great age
si a froncié tout le visage,
so he-has wrinkled all the face
et les iex rouges et mauvais;
and the eyes red and bad

de Chaalons dusqu'à Biauvais
from Châlons as-far-as-to Beauvais
n'avoit chevalier en toz sens
not-had knight in all directions
plus viel de lui, ne jusqu'à Sens
more old than him nor as-far-as-to Sens
n'avoit plus riche, ce dist-on;
not-had more rich this says-one
mès à cuivert et à felon
but for wretch and for felon
le tenoit on en la contrée;
him held one in the country
et cele estoit si enflambée
and she was so inflamed
de grant biauté et de valor,
with great beauty and with worth
c'on ne savoit si bele oissor,
that-one not knew so fair wife
ne si cortoise ne si franche
nor so courteous nor so free
dedenz la corone de France.
within the crown of France
Mès diverse ert la partéure,
But diverse was the pairing
d'une part clère, d'autre obscure;
on-one part bright on-other dark
n'a point d'oscur en la clarté,
not-has at-all of-dark in the brightness
ne point de cler en l'oscurté.
nor at-all of bright in the-darkness

Molt s'amast miex en autre point
Much herself-would-love better in other point
cele qui amors grieve et point.
she whom love grieves and stings
Et cil qui plevie l'avoit,
And that-one who plighted her-had
et qui de li grant joie avoit,
and who of her great joy had
a bien devisé son afère
has well arranged his business
et pris terme des noces fère,
and taken term of-the wedding to-make
com cil qui n'ert en soupeçon
as that-one who not-was in suspicion
ne savoit mie la tençon
not knew at-all the quarrel
ne le duel que cele menoit,
nor the grief that she led
qu'amors en tel point la tenoit
for-love in such point her held
com vous m'avez oï conter.
as you me-have heard tell
Ne vous doi mie forconter
Not to-you I-ought at-all to-miscount
le termine du mariage.
the term of-the marriage
Cil, qui furent preudome et sage,
Those who were worthy-men and wise
s'en apresterent richement.
themselves-thereof made-ready richly

Li anciens certainement,
The old-man certainly
ainz que le tiers jor fust venuz,
before that the third day might-be come
manda les anciens chenuz,
sent-for the old-men white-haired
cels que il savoit plus senez,
those whom he knew most sensible
de la terre et du païs nez,
of the land and of-the country born
por estre au riche mariage
for to-be at-the rich marriage
de sa fille, qui son corage
of his daughter who her heart
avoit en autre lieu posé.
had in other place set
Au bon chevalier alosé
On-the good knight renowned
avoit son cuer mis et s'entente;
she-had her heart put and her-intent
mès or voit bien que sanz atente
but now she-sees well that without waiting
est deçéue et engingnie.
she-is deceived and tricked
Assamblé ont grant compaignie
Assembled have great company
li dui chevalier ancien.
the two knights old

Par le païs le sorent bien
Through the country it knew well
tuit li preudome ancienor;
all the worthy-men elder
venu i furent li plusor;
come there were the most
si en i ot bien jusqu'à .XXX.
so thereof there had well as-far-as-to thirty
N'i ot celui ne tenist rente
Not-there was one-who not might-hold rent
de l'ancien et garison,
from the-old-man and provision
venu furent en sa meson.
come they-were into his house
La parole ont si devisée
The word they-have so arranged
que la pucele ert espousée,
that the maiden will-be wedded
ce dient tuit, à l'ajorner.
this say all at-the daybreak
Si la commandent atorner
So her they-command to-adorn
aus damoiseles qui la gardent,
to-the damsels who her guard
et qui le jor et l'eure esgardent,
and who the day and the-hour watch
dont eles sont forment iries;
for-which they are greatly angered
s'en font chières molt esmaïes.
so-thereof they-make faces very dismayed

Li anciens a demandé
The old-man has asked
à celes qu'il ot commandé
of those whom-he had commanded
se sa fille est toute aprestée,
if his daughter is all prepared
et se de rien est esfraée,
and if of anything she-is frightened
et s'il i faut riens qu'avoir doie.
and if-it there lacks anything that-to-have she-ought
«Nenil, biaus sire, que l'en voie,
No fair lord that one may-see
respont une de ses puceles,
answers one of his maidens
s'avions palefrois et seles
if-we-had palfreys and saddles
por nous porter au moustier toutes,
for us to-carry to-the minster all
dont i aura, je cuit, granz routes
whereof there will-have I think great troops
de parentes et de cousines
of kinswomen and of cousins
qui ci nous sont bien près voisines.»
who here to-us are well near neighbors
Cil li respont: «De palefroiz
That-one to-her answers Of palfreys
ne somes pas en granz esfroiz;
not we-are at-all in great fright
je cuit que assez en auron.»
I think that plenty thereof we-shall-have

En la contrée n'a baron
In the country not-has baron
à cui l'en n'ait le sien mandé,
to whom one not-may-have the his sent-for
et cil cui on ot commandé
and that-one to-whom one had commanded
en est alez sanz demorance
thence is gone without delay
à l'ostel celui qui vaillance
to the-lodging of-him who valor
avoit en son cuer enterine;
had in his heart entire
c'est cil qui proesce enlumine.
this-is that-one whom prowess illumines
Guillaume, qui preus fu et sages,
William who brave was and wise
ne cuidoit que li mariages
not thought that the marriage
fust porparlez en itel point;
might-be agreed in such point
mès amors qui au cuer le point
but love which in-the heart him stings
l'avoit hasté de revenir.
him-had hastened to come-back
Ne li pooit del souvenir
Not to-him could of-it remember
se de ce non qui l'angoissoit:
if of this not which him-tormented
amors en son cuer florissoit.
love in his heart flourished

Il fu du tornoi reperiez
He was from-the tourney returned
com cil qui n'estoit mie iriez,
as that-one who not-was at-all angered
quar il cuidoit avoir celi
for he thought to-have her
à cui il a ore failli
in whom he has now failed
de ci atant que Dieu plera
from here till that God will-please
et quant aventure avendra.
and when adventure will-happen
Chascun jor atendoit novele
Each day he-awaited news
qui li venist plesant et bele,
which to-him might-come pleasing and fair
et que son oncle li mandast
and that his uncle to-him might-send
que sa fame espouser alast.
that his wife to-wed he-might-go
Chantant aloit par son ostel,
Singing he-went through his lodging
viéler fet .I. menestrel
play makes a minstrel
en la vièle .I. son novel;
on the viol a tune new
plains est de joie et de revel,
full he-is of joy and of revelry

quar éu ot outréement
for had he-had beyond-measure
tout le pris du tournoiement.
all the prize of-the tourneying
Souvent esgarde vers sa porte
Often he-looks toward his gate
s'aucuns noveles li aporte.
if-any news to-him brings
Molt se merveille quant vendra
Much himself he-marvels when will-come
cele eure c'on li mandera;
that hour that-one to-him will-send
le chanter lest à chief de foiz;
the singing he-leaves at end of times
amors li fet metre en defoiz
love to-him makes put in prohibition
qu'il a aillors mise s'entente.
that-he has elsewhere put his-intent
Atant ez-vos sans plus d'atente
Thereupon behold-you without more of-waiting
un vallet qui en la cort entre.
a valet who into the court enters
Quant il le vit, le cuer du ventre
When he him saw the heart in-the belly
li fremist de joie et tressaut:
to-him shivers with joy and leaps

cil li dist: «Sire, Diex vous saut;
that-one to-him said Lord God you may-save
à grant besoin m'a ci tramis
in great need me-has here sent
li anciens qui voz amis
the old-man who your friend
est de pieça, bien le savez:
is from long-ago well it you-know
.I. riche palefroi avez;
A rich palfrey you-have
n'a plus soef amblant el mont;
not-has more smooth ambling in-the world
mesire vous proie et semont
my-lord you prays and summons
que vous par amors li prestez,
that you by love to-him may-lend
si que anuit li trametez.
so that tonight to-him you-may-send
— Amis, dist-il, por quel mestier?
Friend said-he for what need
— Sire, por mener au moustier
Lord for to-lead to-the minster
sa fille, nostre damoisele,
his daughter our damsel
qui tant est avenant et bele.
who so is comely and fair
— Et ele por quel chose ira?
And she for what thing will-go

— Biaus sire, jà l'espousera
Fair lord soon her-will-wed
vostre oncle, à cui ele est donée,
your uncle to whom she is given
et le matin à l'ajornée
and the morning at-the daybreak
ert menée ma damoisele
will-be led my damsel
là-sus à la gaste chapele
up-there to the waste chapel
qui siet au chief de la forest.
which sits at-the head of the forest
Hastez-vous, Sire: trop arest;
Hasten-you Lord too-much stays
prestez vostre oncle et mon seignor
lend your uncle and my lord
vostre palefroi, le meillor
your palfrey the best
qu'est el roiaume, bien le sai;
which-is in-the kingdom well it I-know
souvent en est mis à l'essai.»
often thereof is put to the-test
Mes sires Guillaume l'oï:
My lord William it-heard
«Diex, fet-il, m'a donques trahi
God says-he me-has then betrayed
mes oncles, en qui me fioie,
my uncle in whom myself I-trusted

à cui si bel proié avoie
to whom so fairly prayed I-had
que il m'aidast de ma besoingne?
that he me-might-help with my business
Jà Dame-Diex ne li pardoingne
Ever Lord-God not to-him may-pardon
la trahison et le meffet;
the treason and the misdeed
à paines croi qu'il l'éust fet;
with pains I-believe that-he it-might-have done
je croi que tu ne dis pas voir.
I believe that thou not sayest at-all true
— Bien le porrez, fet-il, savoir
Well it you-will-be-able says-he to-know
demain ainçois prime sonée,
tomorrow before prime rung
quar jà i est granz l'assamblée
for already there is great the-assembly
des viez chevaliers du païs.
of-the old knights of-the country
— Ha! las, dist-il, com sui trahis
Ah alas said-he how am-I betrayed
et engingniez et decéus!»
and tricked and deceived
Poi s'en faut que il n'est chéus
Little himself-thence it-lacks that he not-is fallen
de duel à la terre pasmez;
with grief to the earth fainted

s'il n'en cuidast estre blasmez
if-he not-thereof thought to-be blamed
de cels qui erent à l'ostel,
by those who were at the-lodging
il féist jà encor tout el;
he would-have-done already still all else
si est espris de duel et d'ire,
so he-is kindled with grief and with-wrath
ne sot que fère ne que dire.
not he-knew what to-do nor what to-say
De grant duel demener ne cesse,
Of great grief to-lead not he-ceases
et cil le semont et reverse
and that-one him summons and urges-again
que qu'il estoit en cel effroi:
while that-he was in that fright
«Sire, en vostre bon palefroi
Lord on your good palfrey
fetes errant metre la sele;
have straightway put the saddle
s'ert portée ma damoisele
so-will-be carried my damsel
sus au moustier, que soef porte.»
up to-the minster for smoothly it-carries
Et cil qui soef se deporte,
And that-one who softly himself bears

quar il entent à son duel faire
for he attends to his grief to-make
entruès que sa tristèce maire
meanwhile that his sadness grows
à porpensser quel le fera,
to ponder how it he-will-do
savoir mon, s'il l'envoiera
to-know forsooth whether-he it-will-send
son vair palefroi à celui
his dappled palfrey to him
qu'il doit haïr plus que nului.
whom-he ought to-hate more than anyone
«Oïl, fet-il, sanz delaiance;
Yes says-he without delay
cèle qui est de grant vaillance,
she who is of great worth
à cui j'ai entresait failli,
to whom I-have utterly failed
n'i a coupes, ce poise mi;
not-there has guilt this weighs me
mon palefroi l'ira servir
my palfrey her-will-go to-serve
et la grant honor deservir
and the great honor to-deserve
que j'ai souvent en li trovée,
which I-have often in her found
quar en toz biens l'ai esprovée;
for in all goods her-I-have proved

jamès n'en porrai plus avoir,
ever not-thereof I-shall-be-able more to-have
ce puis-je bien, de fi, savoir.
this can-I well for certain know
»Or n'ai-je pas dit que senez,
Now not-have-I at-all said as sensible
ainz sui faillis et forsenez,
rather I-am failed and maddened
quant, à la joie et au deport
when to the joy and to-the delight
celui qui m'a trahi et mort,
of-him who me-has betrayed and killed
vueil mon palefroi envoier:
I-wish my palfrey to-send
en ne m'a il fet desvoier
is-it not me-has he made stray
de cele que avoir cuidoie?
from her whom to-have I-thought
Il n'est nus hom qui amer doie
It not-is any man who to-love ought
celui qui trahison li quiert:
him who treason to-him seeks
molt est hardis qui me requiert
very is bold who of-me asks
mon palefroi, ne rien que j'aie
my palfrey nor anything that I-may-have
envoierai li dont je n'aie.
I-shall-send to-him of-which I not-may-have

En ne m'a-il desireté
Is-it not me-has-he disinherited
de la douçor, de la biauté
of the sweetness of the beauty
et de la très grant cortoisie
and of the very great courtesy
dont ma damoisele est proisie?
for-which my damsel is prized
»Or l'ai lonc tens en vain servi;
Now her-I-have long time in vain served
avoir en doi bien deservi
to-have thereof I-ought well deserved
que la très grant souvraine honor
that the very great sovereign honor
en éusse bien le greignor,
thereof I-might-have well the greatest
ne grant joie mès n'en aurai.
nor great joy henceforth not-thereof I-shall-have
Comment celui envoierai
How to-him shall-I-send
chose de qoi puist avoir aise
thing of which he-may have ease
qui me fet estre à tel mesaise?
who me makes be at such unease
»Mès neporquant, s'il m'a cousté,
But nevertheless if-it me-has cost
que cele qui tant a bonté
for she who so-much has goodness
mon palefroi chevauchera;
my palfrey will-ride

bien sai, quant ele le verra,
well I-know when she it will-see
que il li souvendra de moi.
that it to-her will-remember of me
Amée l'ai par bone foi
Loved her-I-have in good faith
et aim et amerai toz tans,
and love and shall-love all times
mès s'amor si m'est trop coustans.
but her-love so to-me-is too costly
Par moi tout seul serai amis,
By myself all alone I-shall-be lover
et si ne sai s'ele aura mis
and so not I-know if-she will-have put
son cuer en la viel acointance
her heart in the old acquaintance
dont j'ai au cuer duel et pesance.
for-which I-have in-the heart grief and heaviness
Je cuit qu'il ne li soit pas bel;
I think that-it not to-her may-be at-all fair
Cayn, qui frères fu d'Abel,
Cain who brother was of-Abel
ne fist pas greignor trahison;
not did at-all greater treason
mis est mon cuer en grant friçon
put is my heart into great shiver
por celi dont je n'ai confort.»
for her for-whom I not-have comfort

Ainsi demaine son duel fort.
Thus he-leads his grief strong
Le palefroi fist enseler,
The palfrey he-had saddled
et l'escuier fist apeler;
and the-squire he-had called
le vair palefroi li envoie,
the dappled palfrey to-him he-sends
et cil s'est lués mis à la voie.
and that-one himself-has at-once put on the way
Mesire Guillaume n'a pas
My-lord William not-has at-all
de sa grant tristrece respas;
from his great sadness respite
dedenz sa chambre s'est muciez,
within his chamber himself-he-has hidden
molt est dolenz et corouciez,
very he-is grieving and angered
et à toz ses serjans a dit
and to all his servants he-has said
que, s'il i a nul si hardit
that if-it there has any so bold
qui s'esmueve de joie fère,
who himself-stir to joy to-make
qu'il le fera pendre ou desfere;
that-he him will-have hanged or undone
n'a mès de joie fère cure,
not-he-has more of joy to-make care
ainz voudra mener vie obscure,
rather he-will-wish to-lead life dark

qu'issir ne li puet à nul fuer
for-to-go-out not from-him can at any rate
la grant pesance de son cuer,
the great heaviness of his heart
ne la dolor ne la grant paine.
nor the sorrow nor the great pain
Et cil le palefroi enmaine
And that-one the palfrey leads-away
à cui il l'avoit fet baillier;
to whom he it-had made hand
revenuz est sanz atargier
come-back he-is without delaying
là où li anciens manoit,
there where the old-man dwelt
qui molt grant joie demenoit.
who very great joy led
La nuis estoit toute serie;
The night was all serene
d'anciene chevalerie
of-old chivalry
avoit grant masse en la meson.
there-was great mass in the house
Quant mengié orent à foison,
When eaten they-had in plenty
li anciens a commandé
the old-man has commanded
à la guete, et dit et mandé
to the watchman both said and sent-word
à trestoz que, sanz nul sejor,
to all that without any delay

une liue devant le jor
a league before the day
soient tuit prest et esveillié,
they-may-be all ready and awakened
enselé et appareillié
saddled and prepared
li cheval et li palefroi
the horses and the palfreys
sanz estormie et sanz desroi,
without commotion and without disorder
puis vont reposer et dormir;
then they-go to-rest and to-sleep
cele qu'amors fesoit fremir
she whom-love made shiver
et souspirer en grant doutance,
and sigh in great fear
n'ot de dormir nule esperance;
not-had of sleeping any hope
onques la nuit ne someilla:
ever the night not she-slept
tuit dormirent; ele veilla.
all slept she watched
Son cuer n'estoit pas endormis,
Her heart not-was at-all asleep
ainz ert à duel fere ententis,
rather it-was on grief to-make intent
et, s'ele péust lieu avoir,
and if-she could place have

n'atendist mie le mouvoir
not-she-would-await at-all the moving
des chevaliers, ne l'ajornée,
of-the knights nor the-daybreak
ainz s'en fust tost par li alée.
rather herself-thence would-be soon by herself gone
Après la mienuit leva
After the midnight rose
la lune, qui bien esclaira
the moon which well lit
tout environ l'air et les ciex;
all around the-air and the heavens
et quant la guete vit aus iex,
and when the watchman saw with-the eyes
qui embéus avoit esté,
who drunk had been
environ lui la grant clarté,
around him the great brightness
cuida que l'aube fust crevée:
he-thought that the-dawn was broken
«Estre déust, fet-il, levée
To-be ought says-he risen
pieça la grant chevalerie.»
long-ago the great knighthood
Il tret le jor et huche et crie;
He draws the day and shouts and cries
«Levez, Seignor, li jors apert,»
Rise Lords the day appears

fet cil, qui toz estordis ert
says that-one who all dazed was
du vin qu'il ot le soir béu.
from-the wine that-he had the evening drunk
Cil qui n'orent gueres géu
Those who not-had much lain
en repos, ne guères dormi,
in rest nor much slept
se sont levé tuit estordi;
themselves are risen all dazed
des seles metre sont engrès
of-the saddles to-put are eager
li escuier, por ce que près
the squires for this that near
cuident estre de l'ajornée;
they-think to-be of the-daybreak
mais, ainz que l'aube fust crevée,
but before that the-dawn might-be broken
porent bien cinc liues errer
they-could well five leagues journey
et tout belement cheminer.
and all softly travel
Li palefroi enselé furent,
The palfreys saddled were
et tuit li ancien qui durent
and all the old-men who were-to
adestrer cele damoisele
escort that damsel
au moustier à la viez chapele,
to-the minster at the old chapel

au chief de la forest sauvage,
at-the head of the forest wild
furent monté, et au plus sage
were mounted and to-the most wise
fu commandée la pucele.
was entrusted the maiden
Au vair palefroi fu la sele
On-the dappled palfrey was the saddle
mise, et, quant on li amena,
put and when one to-him led
adonc plus grant duel demena
then more great grief she-led
qu'ele n'avoit devant mené.
than-she had before led
Li ancien home sené
The old men sensible
ne s'en parçurent de noient,
not themselves-thereof perceived in nothing
ne sorent pas son escient,
nor knew at-all her knowledge
ainz cuidoient qu'ele plorast
rather they-thought that-she wept
por ce que la meson vuidast
for this that the house she-left
son père por aler aillors;
of-her father for to-go elsewhere
ne connoissoient pas ses plors,
not they-knew at-all her tears

ne la tristrèce qu'ele maine.
nor the sadness that-she leads
Montée fu à molt grant paine.
Mounted she-was with very great pain
Acheminé se sont ensamble;
On-the-way themselves they-are together
vers la forest, si com moi samble,
toward the forest so as to-me seems
alèrent cheminant tout droit;
they-went traveling all straight
le chemin truevent si estroit
the road they-find so narrow
que dui ensamble ne pooient
that two together not could
aler, et cil qui adestroient
go and those who escorted
la pucèle par derrière erent,
the maiden from behind were
et li autre devant alèrent.
and the others before went
Li chevaliers qui l'adestroit,
The knight who her-escorted
por le chemin qu'il vit estroit,
for the road which-he saw narrow
la mist devant, il fu derrière
her put before he was behind
por l'estrèce de la quarrière.
for the-narrowness of the track

La route ert longue et granz assez;
The troop was long and great enough
traveilliez les ot et lassez
wearied them had and tired
ce qu'il orent petit dormi;
this that-they had little slept
auques en furent amati;
somewhat thereby they-were overcome
plus pesaument en chevauchoient
more heavily thereof they-rode
que viel et ancien estoient;
for old and aged they-were
tant avoient sommeil greignor,
so-much they-had sleep greater
quar grant piece ot de ci au jor.
for great while there-was from here to-the day
Desus les cols de lor chevaus,
Upon the necks of their horses
et par les mons et par les vaus,
and through the mountains and through the valleys
aloient le plus someillant;
went the most sleeping
et la pucele aloit menant
and the maiden went leading
li plus sages c'on ot eslit.
the most wise whom-one had chosen
Mès cele nuit ot en son lit
But that night he-had in his bed
de repos pou assez éu;
of rest little enough had

le someil l'a si decéu
the sleep him-has so deceived
qu'il a tout mis en oubliance,
that-it has all put in forgetting
quar de dormir a grant voillance.
for of sleeping he-has great will
La pucele se conduisoit
The maiden herself conducted
si que de rien ne li nuisoit
so that in nothing not to-her harmed
fors que l'amor et la tristrèce.
except that the-love and the sadness
Que qu'ele estoit en cele estrèce
While that-she was in that narrowness
de cele voie que je di,
of that way that I say
toute la grant route a sordi
all the great troop has passed-by
des chevaliers et des barons.
of-the knights and of-the barons
Tuit clinoient sor les arçons
All nodded on the saddle-bows
li plusor; li auquant veilloient,
the most the some watched
qui lor penssers aillors avoient
who their thoughts elsewhere had
qu'à la Damoisele adestrer.
than-to the Damsel to-escort

Parmi la grant forest d'errer
Through the great forest of-journeying
ne cessèrent à grant esploit;
not they-ceased with great speed
la pucèle est en grant destroit,
the maiden is in great distress
si com cele qui vousist estre
so as she who would-wish to-be
ou à Londres ou à Vincestre.
either at London or at Winchester
Li vairs palefrois savoit bien
The dappled palfrey knew well
cel estroit chemin ancien,
that narrow road old
quar maintes fois i ot alé.
for many times there it-had gone
.I. grant tertre ont adevalé
A great hill they-have descended
où la forest ert enhermie,
where the forest was wild
c'on ne véoit la clarté mie
that-one not saw the brightness at-all
de la lune; molt ert ombrages
of the moon very was shadowy
en cele part li granz boschages,
in that part the great woodland
que molt parfons estoit li vaus.
for very deep was the valley
Granz ert la friente des chevaus.
Great was the noise of-the horses

De la grant route des Barons
Of the great troop of-the Barons
estoit devant li graindres frons.
was before the greater front
Li .I. sor les autres sommeillent,
The ones on the others sleep
li autre parolent et veillent;
the others speak and watch
ainsi vont chevauchant ensamble.
thus they-go riding together
Li vairs palefrois, ce me samble,
The dappled palfrey this to-me seems
où la damoisele séoit,
where the damsel sat
qui la grant route porsivoit,
which the great troop followed
ne sot pas le chemin avant
not knew at-all the road ahead
où la grant route aloit devant,
where the great troop went before
ainz a choisi par devers destre
rather it-has chosen by toward right
une sentele, qui vers l'estre
a little-path which toward the-dwelling
mon seignor Guillaume aloit droit.
of-my lord William went straight
Li palefrois la sente voit,
The palfrey the path sees
qui molt sovent l'avoit hantée;
which very often it-had frequented

le chemin lest sanz demorée
the road it-leaves without delay
et la grant route des chevaus.
and the great troop of-the horses
Si estoit pris si granz sommaus
So was taken so great sleep
au chevalier qui l'adestroit,
to-the knight who her-escorted
que ses palefrois arrestoit
that his palfrey stopped
d'eures en autres en la voie.
from-hours into others on the way
La damoisele ne convoie
The damsel not escorts
nus, se Diex non; ele abandone
anyone if God not she abandons
le frain au palefroi et done;
the bridle to-the palfrey and gives
il se mist en l'espesse sente.
it itself put into the-thick path
Il n'i a chevalier qui sente
It not-there has knight who may-feel
que la pucele ne le siue;
that the maiden not him may-follow
chevauchié ont plus d'une liue
ridden they-have more than-a league
qu'il ne s'en pristrent onques garde;
that-they not themselves-thereof took ever heed

et cil qui en fu mestre et garde
and that-one who thereof was master and guard
ne l'a mie très bien gardée:
not her-has at-all very well guarded
ele ne se fu pas emblée,
she not herself was at-all stolen-away
ainz s'en ala en tel manière
rather herself-thence she-went in such manner
com cele qui de la charrière
as she who of the track
ne de la sente ne savoit
nor of the path not knew
en quel païs aler devoit.
into what country to-go she-was-to
Li palefrois s'en va la voie
The palfrey itself-thence goes the way
de laquele ne se desvoie,
from which not itself strays
quar maintes foiz i ot esté,
for many times there it-had been
et en yver et en esté.
both in winter and in summer
La pucèle molt adolée,
The maiden very afflicted
qui en la sente estoit entrée
who into the path was entered
sovent se regarde environ,
often herself looks around
ne voit chevalier ne baron,
not she-sees knight nor baron

et la forest fu pereilleuse,
and the forest was perilous
et molt obscure et tenebreuse;
and very dark and gloomy
et ele estoit toute esbahie
and she was all dismayed
que point n'avoit de compaignie.
that at-all not-she-had of company
S'ele a paor n'est pas merveille,
If-she has fear not-it-is at-all marvel
et neporquant molt se merveille
and nevertheless much herself she-marvels
où li chevalier sont alé
where the knights are gone
qui là estoient assamblé.
who there were assembled
Lie estoit de la decevance;
Glad she-was of the deception
mès de ce a duel et pesance
but of this she-has grief and heaviness
que nus, fors Dieu, ne le convoie
that anyone except God not her escorts
et li palefrois, qui la voie
and the palfrey which the way
avoit par maintes foiz hantée.
had by many times frequented
Ele s'est à Dieu commandée,
She herself-has to God commended
et li vairs palefrois l'enporte.
and the dappled palfrey her-carries-off

Cele, qui molt se desconforte,
She who much herself distresses
li a le frain abandoné,
to-it has the bridle abandoned
si n'a .I. tout seul mot soné;
so not-she-has a all single word sounded
ne voloit pas que cil l'oïssent,
not she-wished at-all that those her-might-hear
ne que près de li revenissent;
nor that near of her they-might-come-back
miex aime à morir el boscage
better she-loves to die in-the woodland
que recevoir tel mariage.
than to-receive such marriage
Ainsi s'en va penssant adès,
Thus herself-thence she-goes thinking ever
et li palefrois, qui engrès
and the palfrey which eager
fu d'aler là où il devoit,
was to-go there where it ought
et qui la voie bien savoit,
and which the way well knew
a tant alée s'ambléure
has so-much gone its-amble
que venuz est grant aléure
that come it-is great pace
au chief de cele forest grant.
to-the head of that forest great

Une eve avoit en .I. pendant
A water there-was on a slope
qui là coroit grant et obscure;
which there ran great and dark
li vairs palefrois à droiture
the dappled palfrey with directness
i est alez, qui le gué sot;
there is gone which the ford knew
outre passe plus tost que pot;
across it-passes more soon than it-could
n'ot guères esloingnié le gué
not-it-had much left the ford
qui pou estoit parfont et lé,
which little was deep and wide
quant la pucele oï corner
when the maiden heard horn-blow
cele part où devoit aler
that way where was-to go
li vairs palefrois qui le porte;
the dappled palfrey which her carries
et la guete ert desus la porte,
and the watchman was above the gate
devant le jor corne et fretele.
before the day he-blows and trills
Cele part vait la damoisele;
That way goes the damsel
droit au recet en est venue,
straight to-the retreat thereto she-is come
molt eshabie et esperdue,
very dismayed and distraught

si com cele qui ne set pas
just as she who not knows at-all
ne le chemin ne le trespas,
neither the road nor the passage
ne comment demander la voie.
nor how to-ask the way
Ainz li palefrois de sa voie
Ever the palfrey from its way
n'issi; si vint desus le pont,
not-went so it-came upon the bridge
qui sist sor .I. estanc parfont;
which sat over a pond deep
tout le manoir avironoit;
all the manor it-surrounded
et la guete qui là cornoit
and the watchman who there blew
oï desus le pont l'effroi
heard upon the bridge the-clatter
et la noise du palefroi,
and the noise of-the palfrey
qui maintes foiz i ot esté.
which many times there had been
La guete a .I. pou aresté
The watchman has a little stopped
de corner et de noise fère;
from blowing and from noise making
il descendi de son repère,
he descended from his post
si demanda isnelement:
so asked swiftly

«Qui chevauche si durement
Who rides so hard
à iceste eure sor cest pont?»
at this hour on this bridge
Et la damoisele respont:
And the damsel answers
«Certes, la plus maléurée
Certainly the most ill-starred
qui onque fust de mère née:
who ever was of mother born
por Dieu lai-moi léenz entrer
for God let-me within-there enter
tant que le jor voie ajorner,
until that the day I-may-see dawn
que je ne sai quele part j'aille.
for I not know which way I-may-go
— Damoisele, fet-il, sanz faille,
Damsel says-he without fail
sachiez ne l'oseroie fère,
know not it-I-would-dare do
ne nului metre en cest repère,
nor anyone to-put into this dwelling
fors par le congié mon seignor;
except by the leave (of-)my lord
onques mès hom n'ot duel greignor
ever before man not-had grief greater
qu'il a; forment est deshaitiez,
than-he has greatly he-is dejected
quar vilainement est traitiez.»
for churlishly he-is treated

Que qu'il parle de cel afaire,
While that-he speaks of that business
il met ses iex et son viaire
he puts his eyes and his face
à uns partuis de la posterne;
to a hole of the postern
n'i ot chandoile ne lanterne,
not-there had candle nor lantern
que la lune molt cler luisoit,
for the moon very clear shone
et cil le vair palefroi voit;
and that-one the dappled palfrey sees
bien l'a connut et ravisé,
well it-he-has known and recognized
mès ainz l'ot assez remiré;
but first it-he-had enough looked-at
molt se merveille d'ont il vient,
much himself he-marvels whence it comes
et la pucèle, qui le tient
and the maiden who it holds
par la resne, a molt esgardée,
by the rein he-has much looked-at
qui richement est atornée
who richly is attired
de riches garnemenz noviaus.
in rich garments new

Et cil fu de l'aler isniaus
And that-one was of the-going swift
à son seignor, qui en son lit
to his lord who in his bed
estoit couchiez sans nul delit.
was lying without any delight
«Sire, fet-il, ne vous poist mie,
Lord says-he not you may-weigh at-all
une fame desconseillie,
a woman distressed
jone de samblant et d'aage,
young of semblance and of-age
est issue de cel boscage,
is come-out from that woodland
atornée molt richement:
attired very richly
molt sont riche si garnement;
very are rich her garments
avis m'est que soit afublée
seeming to-me-is that she-may-be cloaked
d'une riche chape forrée;
with-a rich cape furred
si drap me samblent d'escarlate.
her clothes to-me seem of-scarlet
La damoisele, tristre et mate,
The damsel sad and downcast
seur vostre vair palefroi siet;
on your dappled palfrey sits
li parlers pas ne li messiet,
the speaking at-all not her ill-suits

ainz est si avenanz et gente,
rather she-is so comely and graceful
ne sai, Sire, que je vous mente,
not I-know Lord that I to-you may-lie
ne cuit en cest païs pucele
not I-think in this country maiden
qui tant soit avenant ne bele.
who so-much may-be comely nor fair
Mien escient c'est une fée
To-my knowledge this-is a fairy
que Diex vous a ci amenée
whom God to-you has here brought
por restorer vostre domage
for to-restore your damage
dont si avez pesant corage;
for-which so you-have heavy heart
bon restor avez de celi
good restoration you-have from her
à cui vous avez or failli.»
to whom you have now failed
Mesires Guillaume l'entent,
My-lord William it-hears
il sailli sus, plus n'i atent;
he leaped up more not-there he-waits
un sorcot en son dos sanz plus,
a surcoat on his back without more
droit à la porte en est venus:
straight to the gate thither he-is come
ouvrir la fet isnelement;
to-open it he-has swiftly

la damoisele hautement
the damsel loudly
li a huché en souspirant:
to-him has called in sighing
«Ahi! gentiz Chevaliers, tant
Ah noble Knight so-much
ai de travail éu anuit!
I-have of toil had tonight
Sire, por Dieu, ne vous anuit,
Lord for God not you may-vex
lessiez moi en vostre manoir:
let me into your manor
je n'i quier guères remanoir;
I not-there seek much to-remain
d'une suite ai molt grant paor
of-a pursuit I-have very great fear
de chevaliers, qui grant fréor
of knights who great fright
ont or de ce qu'il m'ont perdue;
have now for this that-they me-have lost
por garant sui à vous venue
for protection am-I to you come
si com fortune m'a menée;
just as fortune me-has led
molt sui dolente et esgarée.»
very am-I grieving and bewildered
Mesires Guillaume l'oï,
My-lord William her-heard
molt durement s'en esjoï;
very greatly himself-thereat he-rejoiced

son palefroi a connéu,
his palfrey he-has known
qu'il avoit longuement éu;
which-he had long had
la pucele voit et avise.
the maiden he-sees and perceives
Si vous di bien qu'en nule guise
So to-you I-say well that-in any guise
nus plus liéz hom ne péust estre.
any more glad man not could be
Si la maine dedenz son estre,
So her he-leads within his dwelling
il l'a du palefroi jus mise,
he her-has from-the palfrey down put
si l'a par la destre main prise,
so her-has by the right hand taken
besie l'a plus de .XX. foiz;
kissed her-he-has more than twenty times
el n'i mist onques nul defoiz,
she not-there put ever any refusal
quar molt bien l'a reconnéu.
for very well him-she-has recognized
Quant li uns a l'autre véu,
When the one has the-other seen
molt grant joie entr'aus .II. menèrent,
very great joy between-them two they-led
et toz lor dels entr'oublièrent;
and all their griefs among-themselves-forgot
de sa chape est desafublée,
of her cape she-is uncloaked

sor une coute d'or listée,
on a quilt with-gold bordered
d'un riche drap qui fu de soie,
of-a rich cloth which was of silk
se sont assis par molt grant joie.
themselves they-are seated with very great joy
Chascuns plus de .XX. foiz se saine,
Each more than twenty times himself crosses
quar croire pueent à grant paine
for believe they-can with great pain
que ce soit songes que il voient;
that this may-be dream which they see
et quant serjant iluec ne voient,
and when servant there not they-see
neporquant molt bien aaisier
nevertheless very well to-ease
se sorent d'aus entrebesier;
themselves they-knew-how with themselves-kissing
mès je vous di qu'autre meffet
but I to-you say that-other misdeed
à icele eure n'i ot fet.
at that hour not-there had done
La pucele sanz contredit
The maiden without gainsaying
li a tout son afère dit:
to-him has all her business told
or dist que buer fu ore née
now she-said that happily she-was now born
quant Diex l'a iluec amenée,
when God her-has there brought

et de celui l'a delivrée,
and from him her-has delivered
si com fortune l'a menée,
just as fortune her-has led
qui en cuidoit son bon avoir
who thereby thought his good to-have
por son mueble et por son avoir.
for his goods and for his having
Mesire Guillaume s'atorne
My-lord William makes-ready
à lendemain quant il ajorne;
at-the morrow when it dawns
dedenz sa cort et sa chapele
within his court and his chapel
venir i fet la damoisele;
come there he-makes the damsel
son chapelain sanz arester
his chaplain without stopping
a fet maintenant apeler.
he-has had at-once called
Li Chevaliers sanz trestorner
The Knight without turning-aside
se fet maintenant espouser
himself has at-once wed
et par bon mariage ajoindre:
and by good marriage join
ne sont pas legier à desjoindre.
not they-are at-all light to disjoin
Et quant la messe fu chantée,
And when the mass was sung

grant joie ont el palais menée
great joy have in-the palace led
serjant, pucèles, escuier.
servants maidens squires
Mès il doit molt cels anuier
But it ought much those to-vex
qui perdue l'ont folement:
who lost her-have foolishly
venu furent communement
come they-were together
à la chapele, qui ert gaste;
to the chapel which was waste
assez orent éu de laste
plenty they-had had of weariness
de chevauchier toute la nuit;
from riding all the night
n'i a celui cui il n'anuit.
not-there has one whom it not-vexes
Li anciens a demandée
The old-man has asked
sa fille à cil qui l'ot gardée
his daughter of that-one who her-had guarded
mauvesement; ne sot que dire.
badly not he-knew what to-say
Isnelement respondi: «Sire,
Swiftly he-answered Lord
devant la mis, je fui derrière,
before her I-put I was behind
que molt estroite ert la charrière,
for very narrow was the track

et la forest grant et ombrage;
and the forest great and shadowy
ne sai s'aillors prist son voïage,
not I-know if-elsewhere she-took her journey
quar sor mon arçon sommeilloie;
for on my saddle-bow I-slept
d'eures à autres m'esveilloie,
from-hours to others I-woke
devant moi la cuidai adès,
before me her I-thought ever
mès n'en est ore guères près;
but not-thence she-is now much near
je ne sai qu'ele est devenue;
I not know what-she is become
mauvesement l'avons tenue.»
badly her-we-have held
Li anciens par tout la quiert,
The old-man through all her seeks
et à toz demande et enquiert
and of all asks and inquires
quel part ele est, ne s'il la virent:
which way she is nor if-they her saw
molt durement s'en esbahirent;
very greatly themselves-thereat they-were-dismayed
ne l'en sorent dire novele.
not him-thereof they-knew-how to-tell news
Et li viez qui la damoisele
And the old-man who the damsel
devoit prendre fu plus dolenz;
was-to take was more grieving

de li querre ne fu pas lenz;
of her seeking not he-was at-all slow
c'est por noient que il la chace,
it-is for nothing that he her chases
perdue en a la droite trace;
lost thereof he-has the right track
cil qui avoeques lui estoient
those who with him were
en tel esfroi, el chemin voient
in such fright on-the road see
venir un escuier poingnant;
come a squire spurring
vers l'ancien vient maintenant.
toward the-old-man he-comes at-once
«Sire, fet-il, amistié grande
Lord says-he friendship great
mesire Guillaume vous mande;
my-lord William to-you sends
la vostre fille a espousée
the your daughter he-has wedded
très hui matin à l'ajornée;
very today morning at the-daybreak
forment en est liez et joiant.
greatly thereof he-is glad and joyful
Venez i, sire, maintenant,
Come there lord at-once
et son oncle mande ensement,
and his uncle he-sends-word likewise
qui vers lui ouvra faussement;
who toward him worked falsely

de cest mesfet li fet pardon
of this misdeed to-him he-makes pardon
quant de votre fille a le don.»
when of your daughter he-has the gift
Li anciens ot la merveille,
The old-man hears the marvel
onques mès n'oï sa pareille.
ever before not-he-heard its equal
Toz ses barons huche et assamble,
All his barons he-calls and assembles
et, quant il furent tuit ensamble,
and when they were all together
conseil a pris que il ira,
counsel he-has taken that he will-go
et celui avoec lui menra
and him with him he-will-lead
cui de sa fille avoit don fet.
to-whom of his daughter he-had gift made
Le mariage en voit desfet,
The marriage thereof he-sees undone
nul recouvrier n'i puet avoir.
any recovery not-there he-can have
Cil, qui fu plains de grant savoir,
That-one who was full of great knowledge
i est alez isnelement
there is gone swiftly
et tuit li baron ensement.
and all the barons likewise

Quant à l'ostel furent venu,
When to the-lodging they-were come
richement furent reçéu:
richly they-were received
mesire Guillaume fist joie
my-lord William made joy
molt grant, com cil qui de sa proie
very great as that-one who of his prey
estoit molt liez en son corage.
was very glad in his heart
Graer covint le mariage
To-grant behooved the marriage
à l'ancien, vousist ou non,
to the-old-man he-would or not
et li viex au fronci grenon
and the old-man with-the wrinkled mustache
s'en conforta plus biau qu'il pot.
himself-thereof comforted most fair that-he could
Seignor, ainsi Dame-Dieu plot
Lords thus Lord-God it-pleased
que ces noces furent estables,
that these nuptials were stable
qui à Dieu furent couvenables.
which to God were fitting
Mesire Guillaume fu preus,
My-lord William was brave
cortois et molt chevalereus;
courteous and very knightly
ainz sa proesce ne lessa,
ever his prowess not he-left

mès plus et plus s'en efforça:
but more and more himself-thereby he-strove
bien fu de princes et de contes.
well he-was with princes and with counts
Ainz le tiers an, ce dist li contes,
Before the third year this says the tale
morut li anciens, sanz faille;
died the old-man without fail
tout son avoir li rent et baille;
all his having to-him he-renders and hands
toute sa terre ot en baillie,
all his land he-had in keeping
qui molt ert riche et bien garnie.
which very was rich and well furnished
.M. livrées tint bien de terre.
A-thousand pounds'-worth he-held well of land
Après ala la mort requerre
After went the death to-seek
son oncle, qui molt estoit riches,
his uncle who very was rich
et cil, qui n'estoit mie nices,
and that-one who not-was at-all simple
ne de cuer povres ne frarins,
nor of heart poor nor wretched
ne blastengiers de ses voisins,
nor slanderer of his neighbors

ainz tint la terre toute cuite.
rather held the land all quit
Ceste aventure que j'ai dite 1340
This adventure that I-have told
afine ci en itel guise
ends here in such guise
com la verité vous devise.
as the truth to-you tells

Du chevalier a la robe vermeille

LVII · THE KNIGHT IN THE RED ROBE

In the county of Dammartin a vavasor's wife sends for her lover, a knight, while her husband rides to the pleas at Senlis. The pleas are called off, and he comes home to find a palfrey, a hawk, and a scarlet robe. She says her brother left them for him, and while he sleeps the lover slips away in the robe. When he asks for it, she and the coached servants tell him he is bewitched, and she sends him on a pilgrimage to Saint Arnoul. The moral: a husband should believe his wife over his own eyes.

En la conté de Dant Martin
In the county of Dam Martin
avint entor la saint Martin
it-happened around the saint Martin
le boillant, que gibiers aproche,
the boiling when game approaches
uns chevaliers qui sans reproche
a knight who without reproach
vesqui ou païs son aage.
lived in-the country his age
Molt le tenoient cil à sage
Much him held those for wise
qui de lui estoient acointe.
who with him were acquainted
Une dame mingnote et cointe,
A lady dainty and elegant
fame à .I. riche vavassor,
wife to a rich vavasor
proia cil et requist d'amor,
prayed that-one and asked of-love

et tant qu'ele devint s'amie.
and so-much that-she became his-friend
Entor .II. liues et demie
Around two leagues and half
avoit entre lor .II. osteus.
there-was between their two houses
Li amis à la dame ert teus
The friend of the lady was such
qu'il erroit par toute la terre,
that-he journeyed through all the land
por honor et por pris conquerre,
for honor and for prize to-conquer
tant que tuit le tindrent à preu.
so-much that all him held for valiant
Et li vavassors por son preu
And the vavasor for his profit
entendoit à autre maniere,
attended in other manner
qu'il avoit la langue maniere
for-he had the tongue skilled
à bien parler et sagement,
at well speaking and wisely
et bien savoit .I. jugement
and well he-knew-how a judgment
recorder, c'estoit ses delis.
to-record this-was his delight
Por aler aus plais à Senlis,
For to-go to-the pleas at Senlis
apresta .I. matin son oirre;
prepared one morning his journey

et la dame manda bon oirre
and the lady sent-for good speed
son ami par .I. homme sage,
her friend by a man wise
qui bien sot conter son message;
who well knew-how to-tell his message
et, quant cil oï la novele,
and when that-one heard the news
robe d'escarlate novele
robe of-scarlet new
a vestu, forrée d'ermine.
he-has put-on furred with-ermine
Comme bacheler s'achemine,
As bachelor he-sets-out
qui amors metent en esfroi;
whom loves put in fright
montez est sor son palefroi,
mounted he-is on his palfrey
ses esperons dorez chauciez,
his spurs gilded put-on
mès por le chaut ert deschauciez,
but for the heat he-was unshod
et prist son esprevier mué,
and took his sparrowhawk molted
que il meïsmes ot mué,
which he himself had molted
et maine .II. chienès petiz,
and leads two little-dogs small

qui estoient trestoz fetiz
who were all shapely
por fere aus chans saillir l'aloe.
for to-make in-the fields leap the-lark
Si com fine amor veut et loe,
Just as fine love wishes and praises
s'est atornez; d'iluec s'en part,
himself-is equipped from-there himself-thence he-departs
et est venuz droit cele part
and is come straight that way
où il cuida trover la dame;
where he thought to-find the lady
mès n'i trova homme ne fame,
but not-there he-found man nor woman
qui de nis une rien l'aresne;
who of not-even one thing him-addresses
son palefroi tantost aresne,
his palfrey at-once he-tethers
et mist son esprevier seoir:
and put his sparrowhawk to-sit
en la chambre cort por veoir
into the chamber he-runs for to-see
où il cuidoit trover s'amie.
where he thought to-find his-friend
Et cele ne se dormoit mie,
And she not herself slept at-all
ainçois se gisoit toute nue,
rather herself lay all naked

et si atendoit la venue
and so awaited the coming
de son ami, et il vint là
of her friend and he came there
droit au lit où il la trova.
straight to-the bed where he her found
Il la vit crasse, et blanche et tendre:
He her saw plump and white and tender
sanz demorer et sanz atendre,
without delaying and without waiting
se voloit toz vestuz couchier.
himself he-wished all clothed to-lie-down
Et la dame qui molt l'ot chier,
And the lady who very him-held dear
i mist .I. poi de contredit,
there put a little of gainsaying
debonerement li a dit:
graciously to-him she-has said
«Amis, bien soiez vous venuz;
Friend well be you come
lez moi vous coucherez toz nuz,
beside me you yourself-will-lie all naked
por avoir plus plesant delit.»
for to-have more pleasing delight
Sus une huche aus piez du lit
Upon a chest at-the feet of-the bed
a cil toute sa robe mise;
has that-one all his robe put
ses braies oste et sa chemise,
his breeches he-takes-off and his shirt

et ses esperons a ostez:
and his spurs he-has taken-off
maintenant est el lit entrez;
at-once he-is into-the bed entered
ele le prist entre ses braz,
she him took between her arms
d'autre joie, d'autre solaz
of-other joy of-other solace
ne vous quier fere menssion,
not to-you I-seek to-make mention
quar cil qui ont entencion,
for those who have intention
doivent bien savoir que ce monte;
ought well to-know what this amounts
por ce ne vueil fere lonc conte,
for this not I-wish to-make long tale
mès andui firent liemant
but both did gladly
tel deduit com font li amant
such delight as do the lovers
en ce qu'il se jouent ensamble.
in this that-they themselves play together
Li plet furent, si com moi samble,
The pleas were so as to-me seems
contremandé au vavassor:
countermanded to-the vavasor
ainçois qu'il fust prime de jor,
before that-it was prime of day
est il à l'ostel revenuz.
is he to the-lodging come-back

«Dont est cis palefroiz venuz?»
Whence is this palfrey come
fet il; «cui est cis espreviers?»
says he whose is this sparrowhawk
Lors vousist cil estre à Poitiers,
Then would-wish that-one to-be at Poitiers
qui dedenz la chambre enclos iere:
who within the chamber enclosed was
entre le lit et la mesiere
between the bed and the wall
est coulez, mès tant fu sorpris
he-is slipped but so-much he-was surprised
qu'il n'a point de sa robe pris,
that-he not-has at-all of his robe taken
fors ses braies et sa chemise;
except his breeches and his shirt
assez a robes sor lui mise
plenty has robes on him put
la dame, mautiaus, peliçons.
the lady cloaks pelisses
Li sires ert en granz friçons
The lord was in great shudders
du palefroi que il remire;
at-the palfrey which he looks-at
encore ot au cuer greignor ire
still had-he in-the heart greater wrath
quant il est entrez en sa chambre;
when he is entered into his chamber

quant voit la robe, tuit li membre
when he-sees the robe all the limbs
li fremissent d'ire et d'angoisse,
to-him shiver with-wrath and with-anguish
lors destraint la dame et angoisse,
then he-presses the lady and torments
et dist: «Dame, qui est ceenz?
and said Lady who is within-here
Il a .I. palefroi leenz;
It has a palfrey within-there
cui est il? cui est cele robe?»
whose is it whose is that robe
Et la dame, qui biau le lobe,
And the lady who fairly him tricks
li dist: «Foi que devez saint Pere,
to-him said Faith that you-owe saint Peter
n'avez vous encontré mon frere,
not-have you met my brother
qui orendroit de ci s'en part?
who now from here himself-thence parts
Bien vous a lessié vostre part
Well to-you he-has left your part
de ses joiaus, ce m'est avis;
of his jewels this to-me-is seeming
por tant seulement que je dis
for so-much only that I said
que tel robe vous serroit bien,
that such robe to-you would-sit well
ainc plus ne li dis nule rien,
ever more not to-him I-said any thing

ains despoilla tout maintenant
rather he-took-off all at-once
cele bele robe avenant,
that fair robe comely
et prist la seue à chevaucier;
and took the his to ride
son palefroi qu'il ot tant chier,
his palfrey which-he had so-much dear
son esprevier et ses chienès,
his sparrowhawk and his little-dogs
ses esperons cointes et nès,
his spurs elegant and neat
freschement dorez, vous envoie:
freshly gilded to-you he-sends
par poi que je ne me dervoie,
for little that I not myself went-mad
et juroie trop durement,
and swore too hard
mès onques por mon serement,
but ever for my oath
ne por rien que seüsse dire
nor for anything that I-could say
ne poi je son voloir desdire.
not could I his will gainsay
Dès qu'il li plest, prenez cest don,
Since that-it him pleases take this gift
bien l'en rendrez le gueredon
well to-him-thereof you-will-render the reward
encor, se Diex vous done vie.»
still if God to-you gives life

Et li vavassors, qui envie
And the vavasor who desire
avoit du biau present avoir,
had of-the fair present to-have
li dist: «Dame, vous dites voir;
to-her said Lady you say true
du palefroi m'est il molt bel,
of-the palfrey to-me-is it very fair
et des chienès et de l'oisel,
and of-the little-dogs and of the-bird
mès .I. petit i mespreïtes,
but a little there you-misdid
quant vous sa robe retenistes,
when you his robe kept
quar ce samble estre convoitise.
for this seems to-be covetousness
— Non fet, sire, mès grant franchise,
Not does lord but great nobility
que l'en doit bien, par saint Remi,
for one ought well by saint Remy
prendre .I. biau don de son ami;
to-take a fair gift from his friend
quar qui de prandre n'est hardiz
for who of taking not-is bold
de doner est acouardiz.»
of giving is made-cowardly

Atant lessierent la parole,
Thereupon they-left the word
et la dame, qui biau parole
and the lady who fairly speaks
à son seignor par tel reson,
to her lord by such reason
qu'il n'i puet trover achoison,
that-he not-there can find occasion
par qoi i mete contredit,
by which there he-may-put gainsaying
la dame à son seignor a dit:
the lady to her lord has said
«Sire, vous levastes matin;
Lord you rose early
foi que vous devez saint Martin,
faith that you owe saint Martin
venez vous delez moi gesir?
come you beside me to-lie
Si vous reposez à loisir:
So yourself rest at leisure
l'en appareille le mengier.»
one prepares the meal
Et cil n'en fist onques dangier,
And that-one not-thereof made ever difficulty
ainz s'est toz nus lez li coulez.
rather himself-is all naked beside her slipped
Si vous di qu'il fu acolez,
So to-you I-say that-he was embraced
et besiez .II. tans qu'il ne seut;
and kissed two times than-he — was-wont

la dame à tastoner l'aqueut
the lady to caress him-takes
si souef, que il s'endormi.
so softly that he himself-slept
Lors bouta un poi son ami,
Then she-pushed a little her friend
et cil tout maintenant se drece,
and that-one all at-once himself raises
vers la huche tantost s'adrece
toward the chest at-once himself-he-directs
où il avoit sa robe mise.
where he had his robe put
N'i a pas fete grant devise
Not-there he-has at-all made great device
à lui crespir, ainçois s'atorne,
at him to-curl rather himself-he-dresses
et au plus tost qu'il puet s'en torne,
and at-the most soon that-he can himself-thence turns
et atout son harnois s'en vait,
and with-all his gear himself-thence goes
et le vavassor dormant lait,
and the vavasor sleeping leaves
qui dormi jusques vers midi.
who slept as-far-as toward noon
Quant il s'esveilla, si vous di
When he himself-woke so to-you I-say
qu'à la dame n'anuia point.
that-to the lady not-it-vexed at-all

Li vavassors qui en biau point
The vavasor who in fair point
estoit de son riche presant,
was from his rich present
dist c'on li aportast avant
said that-one to-him might-bring forward
à vestir sa robe vermeille.
to put-on his robe scarlet
Son escuier li apareille
His squire to-him prepares
une robe vert qu'il avoit,
a robe green which-he had
et, quant li vavassors la voit,
and when the vavasor it sees
se li a dit isnel le pas;
so to-him has said swift the pace
«Ceste robe ne vueil je pas,
This robe not wish I at-all
ainz vueil m'autre robe essaier,
rather I-wish my-other robe to-try
dont richement me sot paier
with-which richly me knew-how to-pay
mon serorge, que je molt pris.»
my brother-in-law whom I much prize
Lors fu li vallès entrepris,
Then was the valet perplexed
qui de tout ce riens ne savoit,
who of all this nothing not knew

quar toute jor esté avoit
for all day been he-had
aus chans les soieors garder.
in-the fields the reapers to-watch
Lors prist la dame à regarder
Then took the lady to look-at
son seignor, et se li a dit;
her lord and so to-him has-she said
«Biaus sire, se Diex vous aït,
Fair lord so God you may-help
or me dites, se vous volez,
now me tell if you wish
quele robe vous demandez;
what robe you ask
avez vous donc robe achatée,
have you then robe bought
ou se vous l'avez empruntée
or if you it-have borrowed
de là où vous avez esté?
from there where you have been
Quele est ele? Est ele à esté?
What-sort is it Is it for summer
— Je vueil» fet il, «ma robe chiere,
I wish says he my robe dear
qui hui main sor cele huche iere,
which today morning on that chest was
que vostre frere m'a donée;
which your brother me-has given
bien m'a s'amor abandonée,
well me-he-has his-love given-over

et bien doi estre ses acointes,
and well I-ought to-be his acquaintance
quant veut que du sien soie cointes,
when he-wishes that with-the his-own I-may-be elegant
et de ce l'aim je encore miex,
and for this him-love I still better
qu'il despoilla, voiant voz iex,
that-he took-off seeing your eyes
les garnemenz qu'il m'a lessiez.
the garments that-he me-has left
— Certes forment vous avilliez»,
Certainly greatly yourself you-debase
fet la dame, «ce m'est avis:
says the lady this to-me-is seeming
bien doit estre vavassors vils
well ought to-be vavasor vile
qui veut estre menesterez;
who wishes to-be minstrel
miex voudroie que fussiez rez
better I-would-wish that you-were shaved
sans eve, la teste et le col,
without water the head and the neck
que ja n'i remainsist chevol;
so-that ever not-there might-remain hair
ce n'apartient mie à vostre oes
this not-befits at-all to your use
d'avoir garnement s'il n'est nues;
to-have garment if-it not-is new
ç'apartient à ces jougleors,
this-befits to these jongleurs

et à ces bons enchanteors,
and to these good enchanters
que il aient des chevaliers
that they may-have from-the knights
les robes, que c'est lor mestiers.
the robes for this-is their trade
Devez vous donc robe baillier
Ought you then robe to-hand
s'el n'est à coudre ou à taillier
if-it not-is to sew or to cut
et soit fete à vostre mesure?
and may-be made to your measure
Se je vous di sens et droiture,
If I to-you say sense and right
creez moi; si ferez savoir.»
believe me so you-will-do wisely
Lors ne puet il apercevoir
Then not can he perceive
que cele robe est devenue;
what that robe is become
si cuide il bien qu'en sa venue
so thinks he well that-in his coming
l'eüst veüe sor la huche.
it-be-had seen on the chest
Maintenant son escuier huche,
At-once his squire he-calls
mès tuit furent si enseignié,
but all were so instructed

que ja n'i aura gaaingnié
that ever not-there he-will-have gained
à son oes vaillant une poire;
to his use worth a pear
si cuide il bien et espoire
so thinks he well and hopes
vraies enseignes en orra;
true tokens thereof he-will-hear
mès ja par aus rien n'en saura;
but ever by them nothing not-thereof he-will-know
ainçois sera toz bestornez;
rather he-will-be all turned-upside-down
tels les a la dame atornez,
such them has the lady arranged
que toz les a trez à sa corde;
that all them she-has drawn to her cord
chascuns du tout à li s'acorde.
each of-the all with her agrees
Lors ist li sires de la chambre,
Then goes-out the lord from the chamber
et dist: «Dame, dont ne vous membre,
and said Lady then not to-you remembers
quant je fui hui main arivez,
when I was today morning arrived
c'uns palefroiz fu ci trovez,
that-a palfrey was here found
et .I. esprevier et dui chien,
and a sparrowhawk and two dogs

et disiez que tout estoit mien
and you-said that all was mine
cest present, de par vostre frere.
this present on behalf-of your brother
— Sire», dist ele, «par saint Pere,
Lord said she by saint Peter
il a bien .II. mois et demi,
it has well two months and half
ou plus, que mon frere ne vi;
or more that my brother not I-saw
et, s'il estoit ci orendroit,
and if-he were here now
ne voudroit il en nul endroit
not would-wish he in any place
qu'en vostre dos fust embatue
that-on your back might-be thrust
robe que il eüst vestue;
robe which he might-have put-on
ce deüst dire uns fols, uns yvres.
this ought to-say a fool a drunk
Ja vaut plus de .IIIIxx. livres
Already is-worth more than four-score pounds
la grant rente que vous avez,
the great rent that you have
et la terre que vous tenez:
and the land that you hold
querez robe à vostre talant,
seek robe to your liking
et palefroi bel et amblant,
and palfrey fair and ambling

qui souef vous port l'ambleüre:
which smoothly you may-carry the-amble
de vous ne sai dire mesure,
of you not I-know-how to-say measure
quar vous estes tels atornez
for you are such arranged
que toz les iex avez troublez;
that all the eyes you-have troubled
j'ai paor de mauvès encontre,
I-have fear of bad encounter
qui hui vous venist à l'encontre,
which today you might-come to the-meeting
de fantosme et de mauvès vent:
of phantom and of bad wind
vous muez color molt sovent,
you change color very often
que je m'en esbahiz trestoute;
for I myself-thereat am-dismayed all
ice sachiez vous bien sans doute.
this know you well without doubt
Criez à Dame Dieu merci,
Cry to Lord God mercy
et à monseignor saint Orri
and to my-lord saint Orri
que vostre memoire vous gart:
that your memory to-you he-may-keep
il pert bien à vostre regart
it appears well by your look
que vous estes enfantosmez.
that you are bewitched

Par la rien que vous plus amez,
By the thing that you most love
cuidiez vous ore, au dire voir,
think you now at-the saying true
la robe et le cheval avoir?
the robe and the horse to-have
— Oïl, dame, se Diex me saut.
Yes lady so God me may-save
— Diex», dist la dame, «vous consaut,
God said the lady you may-counsel
et de sa destre main vous saint;
and with his right hand you may-cross
quar vous vouez à .I. bon Saint,
for you vow to a good Saint
et si i portez vostre offrande,
and so there carry your offering
que Diex la memoire vous rande.
that God the memory to-you may-render
— Dame», dist il, «et je me veu
Lady said he and I myself vow
à Dieu et au baron saint Leu,
to God and to-the baron saint Leu
et s'irai au baron saint Jaque,
and so-I-shall-go to-the baron saint James
et saint Eloy, et saint Romacle.
and saint Eloi and saint Romacle
— Sire, Diex penst de vous conduire;
Lord God may-think of you to-guide
revenez vous en par Estuire,
come-back you thence by Asturias

par monseignor saint Sauveor;
by my-lord saint Savior
iluec vont li bon pecheor,
there go the good sinners
et si revenez par la terre
and so come-back through the land
monseignor saint Ernoul requerre:
my-lord saint Arnoul to-seek
vous deüssiez dès l'autre esté
you ought since the-other summer
avoir à son moustier esté
to-have at his minster been
o chandoile de vostre lonc;
with candle of your length
por ce que vous n'i fustes onc,
for this that you not-there were ever
vouez li, sire, à fere droit.
vow to-him lord to do right
— Dame, volentiers, orendroit
Lady willingly now
ferai, se Dieu plest, ceste voie.»
I-shall-make if God pleases this journey
Ainsi la dame l'en envoie,
Thus the lady him-thence sends
qui li a fet de voir mençonge,
who to-him has made of truth lie
et se li a torné à songe
and so to-him has turned to dream
ce qu'il ot veü à ses iex.
that which-he had seen with his eyes

Encore esploita ele miex,
Still accomplished she better
qu'el le fist pelerin à force,
for-she him made pilgrim by force
et tant se paine, et tant s'esforce,
and so-much herself she-takes-pains and so-much herself-strives
qu'el le fet movoir au tiers jor;
that-she him makes move on-the third day
onques n'i quist plus lonc sejor.
ever not-there he-sought more long stay
Cis fabliaus aus maris promet
This fabliau to-the husbands promises
que de folie s'entremet
that in folly himself-meddles
qui croit ce que de ses iex voie;
who believes that which with his eyes he-may-see
mès cil qui vait la droite voie,
but that-one who goes the straight way
doit bien croire sans contredit
ought well to-believe without gainsaying
tout ce que sa fame li dit.
all that which his wife to-him says

Li dis de le vescie a prestre

LXIX · THE PRIEST'S BLADDER

A rich priest near Antwerp, dying of dropsy, has given everything away when two Dominicans arrive and press him to leave something to their house. Angry, he promises a jewel he would not sell for a thousand marks, to be named before witnesses. The friars feast on the promise. The next day, before the mayor and the aldermen, he names the gift: his bladder, cleaned, to keep their pepper in once he is dead. The friars go home in disgrace. Jacques de Baisieux says he rhymed the tale from the Dutch.

En lieu de fable vos dirai
In place of fable to-you I-shall-tell
un voir, ensi k'oï dire ai,
a truth thus as-I-heard say I-have
d'un prestre ki astoit manans
of-a priest who was dwelling
deleis Anwiers; li remanans
beside Antwerp the remainder
estoit mut biaus de son avoir,
was very fair of his having
car plains estoit de grant savoir.
for full he-was of great knowledge
Si n'avoit pas tot despendut,
So not-he-had at-all all spent
à amasser avoit tendut,
to amassing he-had tended
s'estoit riches hons et moblés;
so-he-was rich man and propertied

buez et vaches, brebis et bleiz
oxen and cows ewes and wheat
avoit tant c'on n'en savoit conte,
he-had so-many that-one not-thereof knew count
mais li Mors, qui roi, duc ne conte
but the Death who king duke nor count
n'espargne, l'ot par son message
not-spares him-had by her message
somont al naturel passage:
summoned to-the natural passage
eutropikes ert devenus;
dropsical he-was become
de nul home n'estoit tenus
by any man not-he-was held
ki li promesist longe vie.
who to-him might-promise long life
Li prestes, qui out grant envie
The priest who had great desire
de bien morir et justement,
of well dying and justly
manda tost et isnelement
sent-for quickly and swiftly
son doiien et toz ses amis,
his dean and all his friends

son avoir entre lor main mis
his having between their hands put
por donner et por departir
for to-give and for to-distribute
cant ilh verront que departir
when they will-see that to-part
de son cors estovera l'ame:
from his body will-behoove the-soul
jouuel, cossin, pot ne escame,
jewel cushion pot nor bench
cuete, tuelle, neiz une nape,
quilt towel not-even a cloth
brebis, moutons, buef, ne sa chape
ewes sheep ox nor his cape
ne li remaint que tot ne donne,
not to-him remains that all not he-may-give
et nome chascune persone
and names each person
à qui ilh vuet c'on doinst ses chozes.
to whom he wishes that-one may-give his things
Descovertes, et non pas clozes,
Uncovered and not at-all closed
lettres saeler et escrire
letters to-seal and to-write
en fist, que ne le vos puis dire;
thereof he-had-made that not it to-you I-can say
plus briément, quant que il avoit
more briefly how-much that he had
ilh dona tot quant-qu'il savoit,
he gave all whatever-he knew

con chil qui n'avoit esperance
as that-one who not-had hope
d'avoir de son mal aligance,
of-having of his ill relief
car sa maladie ert amere.
for his sickness was bitter
Atant se sont d'Anwier dui Frere
Thereupon themselves are from-Antwerp two Brothers
de Saint Jake issu por prechier,
of Saint James gone-out for to-preach
qui mut se vuelent estachier
who much themselves wish to-attach
cant aucun desviiet ravoient.
when some stray-one they-bring-back
Cele part tot droit en lor voie
That way all straight on their way
si sont chés le prestre venus.
so they-are to-the-house-of the priest come
I estre quidarent retenus
There to-be they-thought held
al mangier, à joie et à feste
at-the eating with joy and with feast
* * *
(lacuna)
Si c'autrefois esté i furent
So as-another-time been there they-were
mais ne mengierent ne ne burent,
but not they-ate nor not drank
car malade ont trové le prestre.
for sick they-have found the priest

Non porquant li ont de son estre
Not for-that to-him they-have of his being
demandé et de son afaire.
asked and of his business
Ses mains manient, son viaire,
His hands they-handle his face
ses piés, ses jambes regarderent
his feet his legs they-looked-at
et tot son cors mut bien tansterent;
and all his body very well felt
si lor sembla bien par droiture
so to-them seemed well by right
c'awoir ne poist de son mal cure
that-to-have not he-could of his ill cure
ke ne l'en coviengne morir:
that not him-thence it-may-behoove to-die
trop lonc tans l'a laisié norrir,
too long time it-he-has let nourish
si n'est pas legiers à curer.
so not-it-is at-all light to cure
«Mais des or nos covient curer,»
But from now us behooves to-take-care
dist l'uns à l'autre, «c'est passé
said the-one to the-other this-is done
ke de l'avoir k'a amassé
that of the-having that-he-has amassed
doinst à nostre maison .xx. livres
he-may-give to our house twenty pounds
à lé, por refaire nos livres;
at least for to-remake our books

se nos le poons ensi faire,
if we it can thus do
à no Prius devera plaire
to our Prior it-will-have-to please
et si en seront liet no Frere.
and so thereof will-be glad our Brothers
— Vos dites voir, par Dieu no pere,
You say true by God our father
Frere Louuiz; or i para
Brother Louis now there will-appear
liqueis miez à lui parlera
which-of-us better to him will-speak
et mostrera nostre besongne.»
and will-show our business
Al prestre, ki out grant esoingne
To-the priest who had great need
de maladie, ont dit sans faille:
of sickness they-have said without fail
«Sire, chis maus mut vos travaille,
Lord this ill much you troubles
vos nos sambleis mut agreveis,
you to-us seem very stricken
de vostre ame penser deveis;
of your soul to-think you-ought
doneis por Dieu de vostre avoir.»
give for God of your having
Dist li prestes: «Ne puis savoir
Said the priest Not I-can know
k'aie caché sortout ne cote
that-I-may-have hidden surcoat nor coat

neis les linchuès à coi me frote,
not-even the sheets with which me rubs
ke tout n'aie por Dieu doné.
that all not-I-may-have for God given
— Comment aveis vos ordené,»
How have you ordered
dient li Frere, «vo besongne?
say the Brothers your business
Li Escriture nos temongne
The Scripture to-us witnesses
c'on doit garder à cui on done,
that-one ought to-heed to whom one gives
s'emploiiet est à la persone
if-it-is employed on the person
à cui on vuet aumone faire.»
to whom one wishes alms to-make
Li prestes respont, sans contraire:
The priest answers without contrary
«J'ai à mes povres parentiaus
I-have to my poor kinsfolk
doné brebis, vaces et viaus,
given ewes cows and calves
et à povres de cele vilhe
and to poor-folk of that town
ai doné ausi, par saint Gilhe,
I-have given also by saint Giles
de bleis qui vaut plus de .x. livres:
of wheat which is-worth more than ten pounds

por ce ke je soie delivres
for this that I may-be delivered
de ce ke j'ai vers iaus mespris,
of this that I-have toward them misdone
car entor iaus mon vivre ai pris:
for around them my living I-have taken
si ai doné as orfenines,
so I-have given to-the orphan-girls
à orfenins et à beguines
to orphan-boys and to beguines
et à gens de povre puissance,
and to folk of poor power
et si ai laisiet, por pitance,
and so I-have left for pittance
.C. souz as Freres des Cordeles.
a-hundred sous to-the Brothers of-the Cords
— Ces amuenes si sont mut beles;
These alms so are very fair
et as Freres de no maison,
and to-the Brothers of our house
aveis vos fait nule raison?»
have you done any reckoning
Ce dient li doi Frere al prestre.
This say the two Brothers to-the priest
«Naie, voir. — Ce comment peut estre?
No truly This how can be
En maison a tant de preudomes,
In house has so-many of worthy-men
et à vos prochain voisien somes,
and to your nearest neighbors we-are

et si vivons mut sobrement,
and so we-live very soberly
vos ne moreis pas justement
you not die at-all justly
se del vostre ne nos laiiés.»
if of-the yours not to-us you-leave
Li prestes trestous esmaiiés
The priest all dismayed
respont: «Par les oelz de ma teste,
answers By the eyes of my head
à doner n'ai ne bleif ne beste,
to give not-I-have neither wheat nor beast
or ne argent, hanap ne cope.»
gold nor silver goblet nor cup
Chascuns des Freres li rencope
Each of-the Brothers to-him retorts
et li mostre par exemplaire
and to-him shows by example
k'ilh puet un de ses dons retraire
that-he can one of his gifts withdraw
et rapeler por iaus doner:
and recall for to-them to-give
«Nos nos vorimes mut pener
We ourselves would-wish much to-take-pains
ke vostre ame fust adrechie,
that your soul might-be set-right
car chaiens a esté drechie
for in-here has been set-up
soventes fois bien nostre escuele,
oft times well our bowl

et li amuene si est biele
and the alms so is fair
ki est à nostre maison mise.
which is to our house put
Nos ne vestons nule chemise
We not wear any shirt
et si vivomes en pitance.
and so we-live in pittance
Ce sache Dieus, por la valhance
This may-know God for the value
de vostre argent nel disons mie.»
of your silver not-it we-say at-all
Li prestes l'ot, si s'en gramie
The priest it-hears so himself-thereat angers
et pense qu'il s'en vengera,
and thinks that-he himself-thereof will-avenge
s'ilh puet, et k'ilh les trufera,
if-he can and that-he them will-trick
mar le vont or si près tenant.
ill him go-they now so close holding
As Freres respont maintenant:
To-the Brothers he-answers at-once
«Appenseis sui, doner vos voelh
Bethought I-am to-give you I-wish
.I. jouuel ke mut amer suel
a jewel which much to-love I-am-wont
et aime encore. Par saint Piere,
and love still By saint Peter
je n'ai chose gaires plus chiere;
I not-have thing much more dear

milh mars d'argent n'en prenderoie,
thousand marks of-silver not-thereof I-would-take
et, se je bien haitiés estoie,
and if I well hale were
je n'en voroie mie avoir
I not-thereof would-wish at-all to-have
.IIc. marchies d'autre avoir;
two-hundred marks'-worth of-other having
diez vos a chaiiens asseneis.
God you has in-here directed
Vostre Prieus me ramineis;
Your Prior to-me bring-again
si vos en ferai conissanche
so to-you thereof I-shall-make acknowledgment
ains que de vie aie faillance.»
before that of life I-may-have failing
Li Frere, sans duel et sans ire,
The Brothers without grief and without anger
ont respondut: «Dieus le vos mire!
have answered God it to-you may-reward
Cant voleis vos que revenons,
When wish you that we-may-come-back
et nostre Prieuz ramenrons?»
and our Prior we-shall-bring-back
— Demain, je sui ou Dieu plaisir,
Tomorrow I am in God's pleasure
vo promesse deveis saisir
your promise you-ought to-seize
ains que je trop agreveis soie.»
before that I too stricken may-be

Atant ont acueilli lor voie
Thereupon have taken their way
li Frere; à Anwier sont venu,
the Brothers to Antwerp they-are come
si ont lor chapitre tenu.
so they-have their chapter held
Chascuns s'aventure raconte,
Each his-adventure recounts
mais chil n'ont cure de lonc conte,
but those not-have care of long tale
ains ont dit haut en audience:
rather they-have said aloud in audience
«Faites venir bone pitance.
Have come good pittance
.IIc. livres gaangniet avons
Two-hundred pounds won we-have
à .I. prestre ke nos savons
from a priest whom we know
malade chi à une vilhe.»
sick here at a town
Frere Nichole et Frere Gilhe,
Brother Nicholas and Brother Giles
Frere Guilhiame et Frere Ansiaus
Brother William and Brother Anselm
vinrent oïr ces nos nouviauz,
came to-hear these our news
ki mut forment lor abelissent.
which very greatly them please
De ces grans poisons mander fisent,
Of these great fishes to-send-for they-had

viez vin, novel, flons et pasteis.
old wine new flans and pasties
Chil grans mangier fu mut hasteis;
That great eating was very hastened
chascuns de lui bien aisier pense;
each of himself well to-ease thinks
ne burent pas vin de despense,
not they-drank at-all wine of storeroom
de boire et de mangier bien s'aisent,
with drinking and with eating well themselves-they-ease
por le prestre le hanap baisent
for the priest the goblet they-kiss
ki le jouuel lor ot promis.
who the jewel to-them had promised
Cant en lor testes orent mis
When into their heads they-had put
de ce bon vin, grant feste fisent;
of this good wine great feast they-made
lor cloches sovent en bondissent
their bells often thereof ring
ansi con ilh auuist cors saint;
thus as he might-have body holy
n'i a voisin qui ne se saint,
not-there has neighbor who not himself crosses
et se merveillent qui la voient,
and themselves marvel who it see
qui miez miés as preschors s'avoient
who best best to-the preachers themselves-direct
por la grant merveilhe esgarder.
for the great marvel to-behold

Nus d'iauz ne se savoit garder
Anyone of-them not himself knew-how to-guard
de mener vie deshoneste,
from leading life dishonest
car chascuns a serré la teste
for each has tightened the head
de bon vin et de lor pitance.
with good wine and with their pittance
A lor diverse contenance
By their diverse countenance
et al maintieng et à lor estre
and by-the bearing and by their being
semblerent bien hors de sens estre.
they-seemed well out of sense to-be
Chascuns ki les voit s'en merveilhe,
Each who them sees himself-thereat marvels
et Frere Louuis s'aparailhe
and Brother Louis himself-prepares
de demander con faitement
to ask how in-fashion
il poroient plus sagement
they could more wisely
al prestre querre lor promesse.
to-the priest seek their promise
«Demain, auchois c'on chante messe,
Tomorrow before that-one sings mass
se fera bon metre à la voie,»
itself will-make good to-put on the way
dist chascuns, «se Jhesus m'avoie,
said each if Jesus me-guide

anchois ke li Mors le sorprengne,
before that the Death him may-surprise
si comment ke la choze prengne,
so how that the thing may-take
de no don aions conissance;
of our gift let-us-have acknowledgment
nos i arons mainte pitance:
we there shall-have many-a pittance
si s'en doit on mut bien pener.
so himself-thereby ought one very well to-take-pains
Frere Louuis, lesqueis miner
Brother Louis which to-lead
i voreis vos? Or le nos dites.
there will-wish you Now it to-us say
— Frere Guilhiames, li ermites,
Brother William the hermit
en venra et Frere Nichole,
thence will-come and Brother Nicholas
bien saront dire la parole,
well they-will-know-how to-say the word
et si venra Frere Robiers;
and so will-come Brother Robert
çaiens n'a si sage Convers,
in-here not-has so wise Lay-brother
si portera no breviaire;
so he-will-carry our breviary
de no Prieus n'avons ke faire.»
of our Prior not-we-have what to-do
Ensi ont le plait otriiet.
Thus they-have the plan granted

L'endemain se sont avoiiet
The-next-day themselves they-are set-on-the-way
tot droit vers la maison le prestre,
all straight toward the house (of-)the priest
ja n'i cuidierent à tans estre;
ever not-there they-thought in time to-be
mais, ains ke li jors fu passeis,
but before that the day was passed
amassent ilh mieus estre asseis
would-love they better to-be seated
à Anwiers dedens lor maison.
at Antwerp within their house
Atant ont le prestre à raison
Thereupon they-have the priest to reason
mis, et de Deu l'ont salué;
put and from God him-have greeted
puis demandent s'il a mué
then they-ask if-he has changed
son mal en nul aligement.
his ill into any relief
Li prestes mut trés sagement
The priest very very wisely
lor dit: «Bien soiiés vos venu,
to-them says Well be you come
je n'ai mie desconneü
I not-have at-all unrecognized
le don ke promis vos avoie,
the gift that promised to-you I-had
encore en sui je bien en voie;
still thereon am I well on way

faites les eschevins venir
have the aldermen come
et le maieur, si k'awenir
and the mayor so that-to-happen
ne vos puist nule grevance;
not to-you may any grievance
devant iaus la reconissance
before them the acknowledgment
mut volentiers vos en ferai
very willingly to-you thereof I-shall-make
et la choze vos nomerai.
and the thing to-you I-shall-name
Et vos dirai u ele ert prise.»
And to-you I-shall-say where it will-be taken
Entrues que li prestes devise,
Meanwhile that the priest speaks
Freres Robers a tant pené
Brother Robert has so-much toiled
k'ilh a le maieur aminé
that-he has the mayor brought
et toz les eschevins ensemble.
and all the aldermen together
Li .IIII. Frere, ce me samble,
The four Brothers this to-me seems
les ont hautement benvigniés.
them have loftily welcomed
Li prestes ki fu ensigniés,
The priest who was well-taught

si a parlé premierement
so has spoken first
et lor a dit si faitement:
and to-them has said in-such fashion
«Sangnor, vos estes mi ami,
Lords you are my friends
por Dieu, or entendeis à mi;
for God now attend to me
Frere Louuis, Frere Symons
Brother Louis Brother Simon
vinrent ier chi faire sermons,
came yesterday here to-make sermons
k'ilh me cuidoient en santé,
for-they me thought in health
mais Dieus par sa grasce a planté
but God by his grace has planted
en moi maladie si grieve
in me sickness so grievous
c'aparant est ke mais n'en lieve.
that-apparent it-is that more not-thereof I-rise
Il me virent et esgarderent,
They me saw and looked-at
et après si me demanderent
and after so of-me asked
se j'avoie pensé de m'ame,
if I-had thought of my-soul
et je lor dis, par Nostre Dame,
and I to-them said by Our Lady
ke j'avoie trestot donet.
that I-had all given

Ilh demanderent s'ordiné
They asked if-ordained
à lor maison riens née avoie,
to their house thing born I-had
et je dis non; se Dieus m'avoie,
and I said no so God me-guide
il ne m'en estoit sovenu,
it not to-me-thereof was remembered
or estoient trop tart venu;
now they-were too late come
je n'avoie mais que doner.
I not-had more what to-give
«Non,» dissent ilh, «trop malmener
No said they too-much to-ill-treat
vos voi, mavaisement moreis
you I-see badly you-die
s'en cestui propoz demoreis,
if-in this purpose you-remain
se vos ne nos doneis del vostre.»
if you not to-us give of-the yours
Et je, par sainte patenostre,
And I by holy paternoster
ne vuelh pas morir malement.
not wish at-all to-die badly
Si ai pensé si longement
So I-have thought so long
k'apenseis me sui d'une coze
that-bethought myself am-I of-a thing
ke j'ai en mon porpris encloze,
that I-have in my enclosure enclosed

ke j'aime mut et tieng mut chiere,
that I-love much and hold very dear
mais je lor doin en tel maniere
but I to-them give in such manner
k'ilh ne l'aront tant con vivrai,
that-they not it-will-have as-long as I-shall-live
car onkes ne le delivrai
for ever not it I-delivered
en autrui garde k'en la moie.
into other's keeping than-into the mine
Sachiés ke durement l'amoie
Know that hard it-I-loved
et amerai tote ma vie:
and shall-love all my life
sans convoitise et sans envie
without covetousness and without envy
lor done chi en vo presence.
to-them I-give here in your presence
— Et ke nus n'i amene tenche,»
And that anyone not-there may-bring quarrel
dient al prestre li .V. Frere,
say to-the priest the five Brothers
«Dites quel choze c'est, biaz pere.
Say what thing this-is fair father
— Volentiers voir, c'est me vesie.
Willingly truly this-is my bladder
Se la voiiés bien netoiie,
If it you-see well cleaned

mieus ke de corduan varra
better than of cordovan will-be-worth
et plus longement vos dura:
and more long to-you will-last
se poreis ens metre vo poivre.
so you-can into put your pepper
— Nos aveis vos ci por dechoivre
Us have you here for to-deceive
mandeis, foz prestes entesteis?
sent-for foolish priest stubborn
Avoir nos cuidiés ahonteis,
To-have us you-think shamed
mais n'en aveis, par saint Obert,
but not-thereof you-have by saint Obert
bien nos teneis or por bobert.
well us you-hold now for dupe
— Mais vos, por beste me teneis,
But you for beast me hold
cant les dons que je ai doneis
when the gifts that I have given
me voleis faire retolhir.
me you-wish to-make take-back
Bien me faites le sanc bolir
Well to-me you-make the blood boil
ki voleis ke je le rapiele;
who wish that I it may-recall
bien vos dis ke pot ne paele
well to-you I-said that pot nor pan
ne riens née à doner n'avoie;
nor thing born to give not-I-had

or me voleis metre en tel voie
now me you-wish to-put on such way
k'en vos soit mieus l'amouene asise
that-in you may-be better the-alms placed
k'en lieu u je l'euuise mise,
than-in place where I it-might-have put
por ce ke de tos melhor estes.»
for this that than all better you-are
Li Jacobin baisent les testes,
The Jacobins lower the heads
si se sunt retorné arriere
so themselves they-are returned back
vers lor maison à triste chiere,
toward their house with sad face
et tot chil ki là demorerent
and all those who there remained
de ris en aise se pamerent
from laughter in ease themselves fainted
por la trufe de la vesie,
for the trick of the bladder
ke li prestes ot tant prisie
which the priest had so-much prized
as Jacobins, ki bien en burent
to-the Jacobins who well thereof drank
et mangierent et en rechurent
and ate and thereof received

de vin et de poissons pitance.
of wine and of fish pittance
Jakes de Baisiu, sans dotance,
Jacques of Baisieux without doubt
l'a de Tieus en Romanc rimée
it-has from Dutch into Romance rhymed
por la trufe qu'il a amée.
for the trick that-he has loved

De la male Honte

XC · THE BAG OF SHAME

A dying Englishman named Honte (Shame) leaves his bag of goods to the king, as the law requires of a man who dies without an heir. His friend brings it to London and three times calls out to the king that he brings the bag of Shame, and the angry court comes near to killing him. A wise baron advises the king to ask what he means. The king is delighted and gives him the bag, and William, who tells the tale, says the English have kept a great share of shame ever since.

Seignor, oez et entendez
Lords hear and attend
.I. flabel qu'est faiz et rimez,
a fabliau which-is made and rhymed
d'un roi qui Engleterre tint.
of-a king who England held
Toz ce fu voirs et si covint
All this was true and so it-befell
que en Engleterre ert .I. rois.
that in England there-was a king
En icel tens ert us et droiz
In that time was custom and right
que, quant .I. hom moroit sanz oir,
that when a man died without heir
li rois avoit tot son avoir.
the king had all his having
Ce trovon nos avant el conte
This find we before in-the tale
qu'uns preudons morust qu'ot non Honte;
that-a worthy-man died who-had name Shame

Honte ert le preudom apelez,
Shame was the worthy-man called
quant vit que tant fu adolez,
when he-saw that so-much he-was afflicted
et que il vit qu'il ne vivra,
and that he saw that-he not will-live
.I. sien compere en apela:
a his gossip of-him he-called
«Compere,» dit Honte, «prenez
Gossip says Shame take
mon avoir que vos là veez
my having which you there see
en cele male qui là pent;
in that bag which there hangs
por Dieu vos pri omnipotent,
for God you I-pray almighty
se ge muir, portez la lou roi.
if I die carry it to-the king
Si dites que ge li envoi,
So say that I to-him it-send
quar ce est raison et droiture.»
for this is reason and uprightness
Et cil respont, et si li jure
And that-one answers and so to-him swears
que il la portera sanz faille,
that he it will-carry without fail
por ce que du convent ne faille.
for this that from-the covenant not he-may-fail
Honte morut de cel malage:
Shame died of that sickness

si volt garder son comparage;
so he-wished to-keep his gossip's-bond
maintenant prent la male Honte,
at-once he-takes the bag (of-)Shame
de la vile ist, el chemin monte.
from the town he-goes-out on-the road he-mounts
Tant va, tant vient et tant demande,
So-much he-goes so-much he-comes and so-much he-asks
tant a erré par Inguelande,
so-much he-has wandered through England
qu'il a trové, desoz en l'onbre,
that-he has found beneath in the-shade
devant le pin le roi à Londre,
before the pine (of-)the king at London
o lui grant part de son barnaige:
with him great part of his baronage
«Sire,» fait il en son langaige,
Lord says he in his language
«la male Honte vos aport.
the bag (of-)Shame to-you I-bring
Ge li oi covent à sa mort
I to-him had-in covenant at his death
la male Honte vos dorroie:
the bag (of-)Shame to-you I-would-give
prenez la, qu'il la vos envoie;
take it for-he it to-you sends
sire, prenez la male Honte.»
lord take the bag (of-)Shame
Quant li rois l'ot, si a grant honte:
When the king it-hears so he-has great shame

«Vilein,» dit il, «tu me mesdiz,
Churl says he thou me slanderest
mais tu aies honte toz diz!
but thou mayest-have shame all days
De honte me puist Dieus defendre!
From shame me may God defend
Près va que je ne te faz pendre.»
Near it-goes that I not thee have hanged
Encor voloit li vilains dire,
Still wished the churl to-say
mais cil le prenent à grant ire,
but those him take with great wrath
qui environ le roi estoient;
who around the king were
tant le deboutent et desvoient
so-much him they-push and turn-aside
que tart li est, ce m'est avis,
that late to-him it-is this to-me-is seeming
que il se soit de cort partiz;
that he himself may-be from court parted
bien li avint qu'il ne l'ont mort:
well to-him it-befell that-they not him-have killed
«Ha! las,» fait il, «or me recort
Ah alas says he now myself I-recall
que mes comperes me pria,
that my gossip me prayed
quant il morut et defina,
when he died and ended
que cest avoir au roi donasse;
that this having to-the king I-might-give

volentiers encor i pallasse,
willingly still there I-would-speak
et donroie la male Honte;
and would-give the bag (of-)Shame
mais cil chevalier et cil conte
but these knights and these counts
m'avroient ja mort, bien le sai.
me-would-have already killed well it I-know
Mais or sai bien que ge ferai:
But now I-know well what I shall-do
ge gaiterai sempres le roi,
I shall-watch soon the king
quant au mostier ira par soi,
when to-the minster he-will-go by himself
et il verra devant trestoz;
and he will-see before all
encor serai ge si estoz,
still shall-be I so bold
que li donrai la male Honte.»
that to-him I-shall-give the bag (of-)Shame
A ce que ainsi dit et conte,
At this that thus he-says and tells
voit le roi au moutier aler,
he-sees the king to-the minster go
et il le recort saluer.
and he him runs-again to-greet
Si con il entroit el mostier,
Just as he entered into-the minster
li commence haut à huschier,
to-him he-begins loud to shout

que tuit l'oïrent prince et conte:
so-that all him-heard prince and count
«Sire,» fait il, «la male Honte
Lord says he the bag (of-)Shame
vos aport ge encor et offre:
to-you bring I still and offer
d'esterlins i a plein .I. coffre.»
of-sterlings there has full a coffer
Quant li rois l'ot, si a tel raige
When the king it-hears so he-has such rage
avis li est que de duel arge:
seeming to-him it-is that from grief he-burns
ne set que faire ne que dire.
not he-knows what to-do nor what to-say
Du vilein a tel duel et ire
Of-the churl he-has such grief and wrath
que la male Honte li baille,
who the bag (of-)Shame to-him hands
quant il a dit: «Où sont mi baille,
when he has said Where are my bailiffs
et cil qui menjuent mon pain,
and those who eat my bread
quant ne me tuent cel vilain?»
when not for-me they-kill that churl
Quant cil voient irié le roi,
When those see angry the king
sore li corent à desroi,
upon him they-run in disorder
ja fust li preudons malbailliz,
already would-be the worthy-man ill-handled

mais il s'estoit entr'aus quatiz;
but he himself-had among-them crouched
si le perdent entre la gent.
so him they-lose among the folk
Ez vos celui forment dolent,
Behold you him greatly grieving
qui preudom et loiaus estoit,
who worthy-man and loyal was
du roi qui forment s'en iroit
for-the king who greatly himself-thereat angered
quant li offroit la male Honte.
when to-him he-offered the bag (of-)Shame
Cil dit que à lui plus ne monte,
That-one says that to him more not amounts
mais tierce foiz li offerra,
but a-third time to-him he-will-offer-it
et puis enprès si s'en ira;
and then after so himself-thence he-will-go
s'or le devoit li rois ocirre,
if-now him ought the king to-kill
si li era il encor dire
so to-him will-go he still to-say
tierce foiée, quar c'est droiz.
third time for this-is right
Et, quant par ot mengié li rois
And when very had eaten the king
que il fut auques bauz et liez,
so-that he was somewhat merry and glad

li vileins revint toz chargiez
the churl came-back all loaded
de la male Honte qu'il porte.
with the bag (of-)Shame which-he carries
A grant paor o chiere morte
With great fear with face dead
li rehuche haut et reconte:
to-him he-shouts-again loud and recounts
«Sire, sire, la male Honte,»
Lord lord the bag (of-)Shame
fait li preudons, «quar retenez,
says the worthy-man now keep
quar par droit avoir la devez;
for by right to-have it you-ought
la male Honte vos remaigne,
the bag (of-)Shame to-you may-remain
s'en donez à vostre compaigne;
so-thereof give to your company
la male Honte est granz et lée,
the bag (of-)Shame is great and wide
ge la vos ai ci aportée.
I it to-you have here brought
.I. mien compere, ce sachiez,
A my gossip this know
là vos envoie, si l'aiez,
there to-you sends so it-have
quar vos d'Angleterre estes rois;
for you of-England are king
la male Honte aiez, c'est droiz.»
the bag (of-)Shame have this-is right

Quant li rois l'ot et il l'entent,
When the king it-hears and he it-understands
à poi que il d'ire ne fent:
for little that he from-wrath not splits
«Seignor,» fait il, «ge vos commant
Lords says he I to-you command
que vos cel vilain maintenant,
that you that churl at-once
qui ne me velt laissier en pais,
who not me wishes to-leave in peace
que il orendroit soit deffais.»
that he now may-be undone
Li preudons fust ja entrepris,
The worthy-man would-be already seized
quant .I. hauz hom s'est avant mis,
when a high man himself-has forward put
qui saiges ert et entendanz
who wise was and understanding
et de parole molt saichanz:
and in speech very knowing
«Sire,» fait il, «vos avez tort
Lord says he you have wrong
se le vilain aviez mort;
if the churl you-had killed
mais,ençois que li façoiz honte,
but before that to-him you-may-do shame
sachiez que est la male Honte.
know what is the bag (of-)Shame

— Volentiers,» fait li roi, «par foi,
Willingly says the king by faith
vilein,» fait il, «entent à moi;
churl says he attend to me
que dis tu de la male Honte?
what sayest thou of the bag (of-)Shame
Tu m'en as hui fait mainte honte
Thou to-me-thereof hast today done many-a shame
en ma cort et maint grant ennui,
in my court and many-a great vexation
ne sai quantes foiées hui.»
not I-know how-many times today
Dont li conte cil et devise
Then to-him tells that-one and describes
con la male Honte ot emprise,
how the bag (of-)Shame he-had undertaken
et con Honte, son bon compere,
and how Shame his good gossip
li pria par l'ame sa mere
him prayed by the-soul (of-)his mother
qu'après sa mort li aportast.
that-after his death to-him he-might-bring-it
Li rois l'entent, sa cuise bat
The king it-hears his thigh he-beats
de la joie qu'il ot eüe,
with the joy that-he had had
quant la parole ot entendue:
when the word he-had heard

«Vilain,» fait il, «or t'ai plus chier
Churl says he now thee-I-have more dear
que de noient m'as fet irier:
for of nothing me-thou-hast made be-angered
mielz m'as gabé que nus lechiere.
better me-thou-hast mocked than any rascal
Or te doing ge à bele chiere
Now to-thee give I with fair face
la male Honte à ta partie,
the bag (of-)Shame for thy part
quar par droit l'as bien gaaignie.»
for by right it-thou-hast well won
Ainsi ot cil la male Honte.
Thus had that-one the bag (of-)Shame
Ce dit Guillaumes en son conte
This says William in his tale
que li vilains en a portée
that the churl thence has carried
la male Honte en sa contrée.
the bag (of-)Shame into his country
Si l'a as Anglois departie;
So it-he-has to-the English distributed
encor en ont il grant partie;
still thereof have they great part

155 sanz la male ont il assez honte,
without the bag have they plenty shame
et chascun jor lor croist et monte:
and each day to-them it-grows and mounts
par mauvais seignor et par lasche
by wicked lord and by slack
les a honte mis en s'ataiche.
them has shame put into her-bond

De Constant du Hamel

CVI · CONSTANT DU HAMEL

A priest, a provost, and a forester each court Isabel, the wife of the churl Constant du Hamel, and when she refuses, each extorts money from him on a false charge. She makes an appointment with all three, takes their money, and hides each in a cask of feathers when the next one knocks. Constant forces each of their three wives in their sight, then burns the feathers and sets the dogs on them until they swear never to speak ill of the couple. Isabel keeps the money, and his debts are forgiven.

Ma paine vueil metre et ma cure
My pain I-wish to-put and my care
en raconter une aventure
into recounting an adventure
de sire Constant du Hamel;
of lord Constant of-the Hamel
or, en escoutez le fablel,
now thereof hear the fabliau
et de dame Ysabiau sa fame,
and of lady Isabel his wife
qui mout estoit cortoise dame,
who very was courteous lady
et preus, et sage et avenant.
and worthy and wise and comely
El païs n'avoit si vaillant
In-the country not-there-was so valiant
por esgarder ne por veoir.
for to-look-at nor for to-see

Li prestres i mist son pooir
The priest there put his power
à li requerre de s'amor;
at her to-ask of her-love
ensanble o li parla maint jor,
together with her he-spoke many-a day
si la requist de druerie,
so her he-asked of love-affair
et dist, se devenoit s'amie,
and said if she-became his-friend
il li donroit assez joiaus,
he to-her would-give plenty jewels
fermaus, çaintures et aniaus,
brooches girdles and rings
et deniers assez à despendre.
and pence plenty to spend
Mès la dame n'en vout nus prendre,
But the lady not-thereof wished any to-take
ainz dist que ja par covoitise
rather said that ever by covetousness
ne fera au prestre servise,
not she-will-do to-the priest service
por tant qu'ele en doie estre pire.
for so-much that-she thereby ought to-be worse
Puis dist: «Sire, j'ai oï dire
Then said Lord I-have heard say
que, se vostre soingnant estoie,
that if your mistress I-were
l'amor de Dieu en perderoie:
the-love of God thereof I-would-lose

je sui cele qui vous en faut.»
I am she who to-you therein fails
Li prestres sovent la rassaut;
The priest often her assails-again
si la prie bel, et li offre
so her he-prays fairly and to-her offers
.XX. livres qu'il a en son coffre;
twenty pounds that-he has in his coffer
mès il la trueve si repointe,
but he her finds so prim
guetant, et escoutant, et cointe,
watching and listening and shrewd
et felonesse à entamer,
and cruel to attack
que il n'i puet rien conquester.
that he not-there can anything conquer
Mout est dolenz quant il s'en part;
Very he-is grieving when he himself-thence parts
malement est blecié du dart
badly he-is wounded by-the dart
d'amors qui l'a ou cors navré,
of-love which him-has in-the body wounded
et l'a si durement hurté
and him-has so hard struck
que d'angoisse tressue et gient;
that from-anguish he-sweats and groans
à quel que paine à l'ostel vient,
with what that pain to the-lodging he-comes
poi li a value sa guile.
little to-him has availed his trick

Oiez du provost de la vile,
Hear of-the provost of the town
qui les prisons a en baillie.
who the prisons has in keeping
Icil a la dame essaïe;
That-one has the lady tested
se li fet .I. cembel novel,
so to-her makes a skirmish new
por ce qu'ele se porte bel
for this that-she herself bears fair
et qu'il la vit gente et cortoise:
and that-he her saw comely and courteous
«Ha, dame,» fet il, «mout me poise
Ah lady says he much me weighs
que cil vilains vous a en garde.
that that churl you has in keeping
Maus feus et male flambe m'arde,
Ill fire and ill flame me-may-burn
se je estoie comme vous,
if I were as you
se je ne le fesoie cous,
if I not him made cuckold
qu'il est plus aspres c'une ronsce.
for-he is more rough than-a bramble
Mieus vaut de mon solaz une once
More is-worth of my solace an ounce
que du sien ne fet une livre.
than of-the his — does a pound
Mès fetes ami à delivre,
But make friend at liberty

quar il est gros et malostrus;
for he is coarse and misshapen
il n'est sovent rez ne tondus,
he not-is often shaved nor shorn
ainz est et ors et deslavez.
rather is both foul and unwashed
Mès, se vous croire me volez,
But if you believe me wish
je serai voz amis delivres;
I shall-be your friend freely
si vous donrai du mien .x. livres
so to-you I-shall-give of-the mine ten pounds
por consentir ma volenté.»
for to-consent my will
Et la dame l'a regardé,
And the lady him-has looked-at
se li dist: «Sire, ne puet estre:
so to-him said Lord not can be
je voudroie mieus estre à nestre
I would-wish better to-be to be-born
que je feïsse tel outrage.
than I might-do such outrage
Bien avez or el cors la rage,
Well you-have now in-the body the rage
qui me volez issi honir;
who me wish thus to-shame
certes mieus voudroie morir
certainly better I-would-wish to-die
que j'eüsse fet itel saut.
than I-might-have made such leap

Vostre sermon poi vous i vaut
Your sermon little to-you there avails
et voz deniers bien les gardez,
and your pence well them keep
que dans Constans me trueve assez
for sir Constant to-me finds enough
qui mout doucement m'a norrie,
who very sweetly me-has nourished
et je feroie grant folie
and I would-do great folly
se je por bien mal li rendoie.»
if I for good ill to-him rendered
Atant le guerpist en la voie,
Thereupon him she-leaves on the way
et il remest toz trespenssez;
and he remained all pensive
mout fu dolenz et abosmez
very he-was grieving and dejected
quant il ne la puet convertir.
when he not her could convert
Ice l'en fet resouvenir
This him-thereof makes remember
qu'ele a gent cors et avenant,
that-she has comely body and fair
le vis traitis et biau samblant,
the face shapely and fair semblance
les ieus vairs, la bouche petite;
the eyes gray the mouth small

ne porroit pas estre descrite
not could at-all be described
par le provost sa grant biauté:
by the provost her great beauty
«Je sui,» fet il, «musart prové;
I am says he dolt proved
amerai la je dont à force,
shall-love her I then by force
quant je n'en puis percier l'escorce?
when I not-thereof can pierce the-bark
Malement avroie son cuer.
Badly I-would-have her heart
Or me vueil je trop geter puer.
Now myself wish I too-much to-throw away
Amerai la puisqu'el ne m'aime.»
I-shall-love her since-that-she not me-loves
Ainsi a soi son cuer reclaime
Thus to himself his heart he-calls-back
li provos, quant il mieus ne puet;
the provost when he better not can
grant chose à en fere l'estuet.
great thing to thereby do him-behooves
La dame à l'ostel est venue.
The lady to the-lodging is come
A l'endemain s'est esmeüe,
On the-morrow herself-she-is stirred
si est alée à sainte yglise.
so is gone to holy church
Quant ele ot oï le servise,
When she had heard the service

vers son ostel est retornée.
toward her lodging she-is returned
Li forestiers l'a encontrée,
The forester her-has met
qui gardoit le bois au seignor;
who guarded the wood for-the lord
mout fu biaus et de bel ator,
very he-was fair and of fair attire
et bien armez d'arc et d'espée.
and well armed with-bow and with-sword
Il a la dame saluée,
He has the lady greeted
ele li rent salu mout bel;
she to-him renders greeting very fair
il trait esraument .I. anel
he draws at-once a ring
de son doit, bien valoit .I. marc:
from his finger well it-was-worth a mark
«Dame, ne vous doins pas mon arc,»
Lady not to-you I-give at-all my bow
fet il, «mès l'anel vous doins gié,
says he but the-ring to-you give I
por seulement avoir congié
for only to-have leave
de besier cele bele bouche,
of kissing that fair mouth
dont la douçor au cuer me touche.»
of-which the sweetness at-the heart me touches
Ele respont comme cortoise:
She answers as courteous

«Certes, sire, pas ne me poise
Certainly lord at-all not me weighs
se l'arc et l'anel vous remaint,
if the-bow and the-ring to-you remain
quar nul besoing ne me soufraint
for any need not me lacks
par qoi vous m'aiez si sorprise;
by which you me-may-have so surprised
je ne vous ferai ja servise
I not to-you shall-do ever service
par vilonie que je sache.
by churlishness that I may-know
Ja por paor de vostre hache,
Ever for fear of your axe
ne por le don de vostre anel,
nor for the gift of your ring
ne ferai rien dont vous soit bel,
not I-shall-do anything which to-you may-be fair
por tant qu'à mon seignor desplaise.
for so-much that-to my lord it-may-displease
Ralez vous en tout à vostre aise,
Go-back you thence all at your ease
et je m'en irai à l'ostel;
and I myself-thence shall-go to the-lodging
je ne pris pas .I. don de sel
I not prize at-all a gift of salt
homme qui est si garçonier.
man who is so lecherous

Vostre fame se plaint l'autrier
Your wife herself complained the-other-day
qu'el n'avoit o vous se mal non;
that-she not-had with you except ill not
vous en avrez mal guerredon,
you thereof will-have ill reward
quant que ce soit, ou tost ou tart.»
whenever that this may-be either soon or late
A cest mot de li se depart,
At this word from him herself departs
et il remest plus chaut que brese.
and he remained more hot than ember
Qui li eüst la teste rese
Who to-him had the head shaved
sanz eve à .I. coutel d'acier,
without water with a knife of-steel
ou les cheveus fet esrachier,
or the hairs made pluck-out
si l'en fust il assez plus bel.
so to-him-thereof would-be it much more fair
Mesire Constant du Hamel
My-lord Constant of-the Hamel
ne savoit mot de tout cest plet.
not knew word of all this business
Or oiez que la dame a fet.
Now hear what the lady has done
A son ostel en vint errant;
To her lodging thence she-came straightway
s'a fet mengier le païsant,
so-she-has made eat the peasant

puis l'envoia en son labor,
then him-sent to his labor
où il seut aler chascun jor.
where he was-wont to-go each day
Un jor avint, ce dist mon mestre,
One day it-happened this said my master
que le forestier et le prestre
that the forester and the priest
et le provost, si com moi samble,
and the provost so as to-me seems
alerent boivre tuit ensamble.
went to-drink all together
Quant il orent beü assez,
When they had drunk enough
tant qu'il furent toz eschaufez:
so-much that-they were all heated
«Sire,» dist le provost au prestre,
Lord said the provost to-the priest
«dont ne feroit il or bon estre
then not would-make it now good to-be
o la fame sire Constan.
with the wife (of-)lord Constant
On en devroit juner .I. an
One thereof ought to-fast a year
en pain et en eve et en sel
in bread and in water and in salt
et en viande quaresmel,
and in food of-Lent
por avoir en au cuer grant joie.
for to-have thereby in-the heart great joy

— Ci n'a que nous .III. qui nous oie,»
Here not-has but we three who us may-hear
ce respondi le forestier,
this answered the forester
«Qui porroit sa bouche besier,
Who could her mouth kiss
il en devroit souffrir la mort.»
he thereof ought to-suffer the death
Dist li prestres: «Vous avez tort
Said the priest You have wrong
tant jeüner et mort reçoivre;
so-much to-fast and death to-receive
por une tel fame deçoivre,
for a such woman to-deceive
n'est mie bone chose à fere.
not-is at-all good thing to do
Pensser covendroit d'autre afere
To-think would-behoove of-other business
celui qui la voudroit amer,
him who her would-wish to-love
quar nului ne veut escouter.
for anyone not she-wishes to-hear
Qui de li se veuille entremetre,
Who with her himself may-wish to-meddle
de son chastel l'estuet jus metre,
from his chattel him-behooves down to-put
tant que besoing, poverte et fain
so-much that need poverty and hunger
la face venir à reclain.
her may-make come to lure

Ainsi doit on servir vilaine;
Thus ought one to-serve churl-woman
fols est qui autrement s'en paine.»
fool is who otherwise himself-thereof takes-pains
Or oiez du conseil au prestre.
Now hear of-the counsel of-the priest
Por le vin qui le fist fol estre,
For the wine which him made foolish be
a dit à ses .II. compaingnons:
he-has said to his two companions
«Or escoutez que nous ferons.
Now hear what we shall-do
Ne sommes nous assez poissant
Not are we enough powerful
por amaigroier dant Constant?
for to-thin sir Constant
Pelez de là, et je de ça.
Peel from there and I from here
— Dehez ait qui ja i faudra,»
Curse may-have who ever there will-fail
ce respont chascuns endroit soi,
this answers each in-respect-of himself
«Or soions compaignon tuit troi;
Now let-us-be companions all three
bien poons souffrir cest marchié.»
well we-can suffer this bargain
A cest mot se sont destachié,
At this word themselves they-are parted
si departirent de l'escot.
so they-parted from the-reckoning

Messire Constans pas ne sot
My-lord Constant at-all not knew
que l'en li ait tel plet basti.
that one for-him may-have such plot built
.I. diemenche avint issi
A Sunday it-happened thus
que le provoire sermona.
that the priest preached
Aval le moustier regarda;
Down the minster he-looked
si vit dant Constant devant soi.
so saw sir Constant before himself
Il ne li dist pas en reqoi,
He not to-him said at-all in secret
mès si haut que tuit l'entendirent:
but so loud that all it-heard
«Tuit cil qui sainte yglise empirent,
All those who holy church impair
sont de Damedieu dessevrez;
are from Lord-God separated
seignors et dames, escoutez.
lords and ladies hear
Vez là dant Constant du Hamel,
See there sir Constant of-the Hamel
qui est maris dame Ysabel;
who is husband (of-)lady Isabel
il a espousé sa commere:
he has wedded his gossip
si est bien droiz qu'il le compere,
so is well right that-he it may-pay-for

quar cil qui les forfez encerque
for that-one who the misdeeds searches
si l'a conté à l'archevesque.
so it-has told to the-archbishop
Si m'a mandé que je li main
So me-he-has sent-word that I to-him may-lead
lui et sa fame hui ou demain;
him and his wife today or tomorrow
si les fera l'en departir,
so them will-make one part
que la loi ne le puet souffrir.
for the law not it can suffer
Sire Constant, issiez vous ent
Lord Constant go you thence
de cest moustier isnelement;
from this minster swiftly
je vous congi de sainte yglise;
I you dismiss from holy church
il n'i avra chanté servise
it not-there will-have sung service
tant comme vous ceenz serez.»
as-long as you within-here will-be
Dont fu Constans forment irez,
Then was Constant greatly angered
quant li prestres li dist tel conte;
when the priest to-him told such tale
toz fu esbahiz de la honte,
all he-was dismayed by the shame
si qu'il ne set qu'il doie dire;
so that-he not knows what-he ought to-say

pales, descolorez, plains d'ire,
pale discolored full of-wrath
s'en est fors du moustier issuz.
himself-thence he-is out of-the minster gone
A l'ostel le prestre est venuz,
To the-lodging (of-)the priest he-is come
et, quant la messe fu chantée
and when the mass was sung
et la gent en fu toute alée,
and the folk thence was all gone
li prestres vint à son ostel,
the priest came to his lodging
et dans Constans n'atendoit el;
and sir Constant not-awaited else
contre lui est corant venuz:
toward him he-is running come
«Fui de ci, vilains malostruz,»
Flee from here churl misshapen
fet li prestres, «ce ne vaut riens;
says the priest this not is-worth anything
je serai por toi toz raiens,
I shall-be for thee all ruined
que j'ai souffert ton avoltire.
for I-have suffered thy adultery

— Por amor Dieu, biaus trés douz sire,»
For love (of-)God fair very sweet lord
fet dans Constans, «donez du mien
says sir Constant give of-the mine
à l'archevesque et au doien
to the-archbishop and to-the dean
por moi fere cuite clamer.
for me to-make quit declare
— Et que vodroies tu doner?
And what wouldst-wish thou to-give
— Sire, .VII. livres vous otri.
Lord seven pounds to-you I-grant
— A quant paier? — A mercredi.
At when to-pay On Wednesday
— Or te haste de l'aquiter:
Now thee hasten of the-paying
se tu pues por tant eschaper,
if thou canst for so-much to-escape
Dieus t'avra donée sa chape.»
God thee-will-have given his cape
Atant sire Constans eschape,
Thereupon lord Constant escapes
si est à son ostel venu;
so is to his lodging come
et, quant sa fame l'a veü,
and when his wife him-has seen
bien voit qu'il estoit corouciez;
well she-sees that-he was angered
ses braz li a au col ploiez:
her arms to-him has-she around-the neck folded

«Et qu'avez vous,» fet ele, «amis?
And what-have you says she friend
— Dame,» fet il, «mal sui baillis;
Lady says he ill am-I handled
à .VII. livres m'a mis le prestre
at seven pounds me-has put the priest
se nous volons plus ensamble estre,
if we wish more together to-be
moi et vous, où il nous envie,
me and you where he us envies
que demain ert la departie.
for tomorrow will-be the parting
Quel conseil en porrons nous prendre?
What counsel thereof shall-be-able we to-take
Ne sai qui li a fet entendre
Not I-know who to-him has made understand
que vous estiiez ma commere.
that you were my gossip
— Or ne vous chaut,» fet ele, «frere.
Now not to-you it-may-matter says she brother
Toz près les ai, ses paierai;
All ready them I-have so-them I-shall-pay
ja mar en serez en esmai,
ever ill thereof you-will-be in dismay
ne plus que por .I. oef de quaille.
nor more than for an egg of quail
Plus avons nous deniers que paille;
More have we pence than straw
s'en donrons .x. livres ou .xx.
so-thereof we-shall-give ten pounds or twenty

Bien sai dont ceste chose vint:
Well I-know whence this thing came
ne vous en chaille à coroucier,
not to-you thereof it-may-matter to be-angered
mès alons liement mengier.»
but let-us-go gladly to-eat
Atant s'assistrent esraument.
Thereupon they-sat-down at-once
Mès n'orent pas mengié graument,
But not-they-had at-all eaten greatly
estes vous le mès au provost:
behold you the messenger of-the provost
«Levez sus, dant Constant, or tost,»
Rise up sir Constant now quick
fet il, «si venez à la cort.
says he so come to the court
— N'avra il loisir qu'il s'atort?»
Not-will-have he leisure that-he himself-may-dress
dist la dame. «Que ce puet estre?
said the lady What this can be
— Par foi, dame,» fet il, «mon mestre
By faith lady says he my master
l'a mout de tost venir hasté.»
him-has very of quickly to-come hastened
A icest mot s'en est torné.
At this word himself-thence he-is turned
Si vint au provost qui là bée.
So came to-the provost who there gapes
Onques n'i ot reson contée,
Ever not-there had reason told

fors que Constans le salua,
except that Constant him greeted
et li provos le rooilla,
and the provost him chained
sanz plus dire, el cep l'a assis:
without more to-say in-the stocks him-has put
«Dans vilains, encor avrez pis,
Sir churl still you-will-have worse
que vous serez mis au gibet.»
for you will-be put on-the gibbet
Puis dist à Cluingnart son vallet:
Then said to Cluingnart his valet
«Va tost, si di à mon seignor
Go quick so say to my lord
que je ai pris le trahitor
that I have taken the traitor
qui li a son forment emblé,
who from-him has his wheat stolen
et plus d'un mui en a osté,
and more than-a hogshead thereof has taken-away
et par nuit sa grange brisie.»
and by night his barn broken
Or ot dant Constant grant haschie,
Now had sir Constant great torment
quant larrecin s'ot metre seure:
when theft he-heard put upon-him
«Ha, sire, se Dieus me sequeure,»
Ah lord so God me may-succor
fet dans Constans, «je n'i ai coupes.»
says sir Constant I not-there have guilt

Dist li provos: «Ce sont estoupes
Said the provost These are tow-plugs
dont vous me volez estouper;
with-which you me wish to-stop
ausi bien vous venist harper
just-as well to-you might-come to-harp
et hurter vo chief au greïl,
and knock your head on-the grill
que dusqu'au chief de vo cortil
for as-far-as-to-the end of your garden
fu du blé la trace sivie.
was of-the wheat the trail followed
— Sire,» fet il, «c'est par envie
Lord says he this-is through envy
que l'en m'a mis seure tel oevre,
that one me-has put upon such work
mès, ainçois que plus en descuevre,
but before that more thereof he-may-uncover
prenez du mien por pais avoir;
take of-the mine for peace to-have
je n'ai ou mont si chier avoir
I not-have in-the world so dear having
que ne vousisse avoir doné,
that not I-would-wish to-have given
ainz c'on m'eüst ici trové
before that-one me-might-have here found
en cest cep à tel deshonor.
in this stocks with such dishonor

— Que donras tu à mon seignor,
What wilt-give thou to my lord
se je te faz estre delivres?
if I thee make be delivered
— Sire, je li donrai .xx. livres.
Lord I to-him shall-give twenty pounds
— Or t'en reva en ta meson:
Now thee-thence go-back into thy house
je serai por toi champion.»
I shall-be for thee champion
Atant l'a hors du cep osté
Thereupon him-has out of-the stocks taken
et dant Constant s'en est torné
and sir Constant himself-thence is turned
trés par mi l'eur d'une couture.
right through mid the-edge of-a field
Estes vous poingnant à droiture
Behold you spurring with directness
contre lui son bouvier Robet:
toward him his oxherd Robert
«Qu'as tu?» fet il, «qu'as tu, vallet?
What-hast thou says he what-hast thou boy
Qu'as tu?» fet il, «comment vas tu?
What-hast thou says he how goest thou
— Sire, mal vous est avenu:
Lord ill to-you is happened
li forestiers voz bues en maine.
the forester your oxen away leads

Il dist que en l'autre semaine
He said that in the-other week
li emblastes par nuit .III. chesnes
from-him you-stole by night three oaks
qui vous cousteront .IIII. braines,
which you will-cost four barren-cows
et mercredi au soir .I. hestre.
and Wednesday at-the evening a beech
— Dieus,» dist Constans, «ce que puet estre.
God said Constant this that can be
Tant ai hui tret male jornée.»
So-much I-have today drawn ill day
Lors a sa chape desfublée,
Then he-has his cape thrown-off
si cort après le forestier;
so he-runs after the forester
en haut li commence à huchier:
on high to-him he-begins to shout
«Por Dieu, biaus sire, atendez moi.
For God fair lord wait-for me
— Ha, dans vilains de pute foi,
Ah sir churl of whore faith
tant avez or le cul pesant;
so-much you-have now the ass heavy
se vous venez .I. poi avant,
if you come a little forward
je vous ferai du cors domage.
I to-you shall-do of-the body damage

Se m'aportiiez .I. frommage
If to-me-you-brought a cheese
en vostre giron et .V. oes,
in your lap and five eggs
bien cuideriez ravoir voz bues;
well you-would-think to-have-again your oxen
mès voir tout autrement ira:
but truly all otherwise it-will-go
vostre pechié vous encombra,
your sin you encumbered
quant nostre bois nous essartastes,
when our wood for-us you-cleared
et à mienuit l'en portastes.»
and at midnight it-thence you-carried
Or fu dans Constans mout iriez,
Now was sir Constant very angered
mout fu dolenz et corouciez,
very he-was grieving and wroth
et dist: «Sire, vous i mentez;
and said Lord you there lie
si je fusse ausi bien armez
if I were as well armed
comme vous estes parigal,
as you are equally
sor vous en revenist le mal;
on you thereof would-come-back the ill
ou se j'eüsse mon hoel,
or if I-had my hoe
je vous ferisse el haterel.
I you would-strike in-the nape

Nel lessaisse por vous, viellart;
Not-it I-would-leave for you old-man
vous eüssiez chaucié trop tart
you would-have put-on too late
vos .II. brochetes en vos piez.»
your two little-spurs on your feet
Lors fu li forestiers iriez;
Then was the forester angered
si le regarde fierement:
so him he-looks-at fiercely
«Vilains, dont te vient hardement
Churl whence to-thee comes boldness
que tu te veus à moi combatre?
that thou thyself wishest with me to-fight
Por le cuer bieu, veus me tu batre?
By the heart (of-)God wishest me thou to-beat
Tu sambles mieus leu qu'autre beste
Thou seemest more wolf than-other beast
de braz, de jambes et de teste.
of arms of legs and of head
Par les ieus bieu, mar le penssas,
By the eyes (of-)God ill it thou-thoughtest
jamès franc homme n'assaudras:
ever-more free man not-thou-wilt-assail
ta pance t'estuet descarchier,
thy belly thee-behooves to-unload
par li vent l'en les pois si chier;
through it sells one the peas so dear
ja ton hoel ne t'ert garant.»
ever thy hoe not to-thee-will-be warrant

Lors li torne li glaive avant,
Then to-him he-turns the blade forward
dont fu Constans en grant effroi.
whereof was Constant in great fright
Quant il le vit venir vers soi:
When he it saw come toward himself
«Sire,» dist il, «por Dieu merci,
Lord said he for God mercy
acordons nous, je vous en pri.
let-us-agree ourselves I you thereof pray
Ne me devez tenir si cort;
Not me you-ought to-hold so short
se vous me menez à la cort,
if you me lead to the court
n'i avrez mie grant profit.
not-there you-will-have at-all great profit
J'ai en ma chambre lez mon lit
I-have in my chamber beside my bed
.C. sous de deniers à vostre oes,
a-hundred sous of pence for your use
mès que je raie en pès mes bues
but that I may-have-again in peace my oxen
et racordez soie par tant.»
and reconciled may-be by so-much
Et cil qui n'aloit el querant,
And that-one who not-went else seeking
mès qu'il eüst vers lui l'avoir,
but that-he might-have from him the-having
li dist: «Quant les porrai avoir?»
to-him said When them shall-I-be-able to-have

Cil li respont: «Dedenz juesdi.
That-one to-him answers Within Thursday
— Fai m'en seür. — Jel vous afi.
Make me-thereof sure I-it to-you affirm
— Et je la praing, comment qu'il aille;
And I it take how that-it may-go
or en pues remener t'aumaille.»
now thence thou-canst lead-back thy-cattle
Dans Constans à l'ostel repere;
Sir Constant to the-lodging returns
mout est dolenz, ne set que fere:
very he-is grieving not he-knows what to-do
il n'a membre qui ne li faille.
he not-has limb which not to-him may-fail
Aus chans a lessie s'aumaille,
In-the fields he-has left his-cattle
en meson est venuz berçant,
into house he-is come staggering
onques ne dist ne tant ne quant.
ever not he-said neither so-much nor how-much
Sor .I. lit s'est lessiez verser;
On a bed himself-he-has let fall
sa fame li cort demander:
his wife to-him runs to-ask
«Sire Constant, qu'avez trové?
Lord Constant what-have-you found
— Dame, puis l'eure que fui né,
Lady since the-hour that I-was born
n'oi autrestant mal ne dolor,
not-I-had as-much ill nor sorrow

com j'ai eü hui en cest jor.»
as I-have had today in this day
Lors li conte le destorbier
Then to-her he-tells the trouble
du provost et du forestier:
of-the provost and of-the forester
comme il est issus de prison
how he is gone-out of prison
por .xx. livres de raençon;
for twenty pounds of ransom
après li conte le meschief
after to-her he-tells the hardship
du forestier de chief en chief,
of-the forester from end to end
à cui il doit .c. sous paier:
to whom he owes a-hundred sous to-pay
«Dame, mout me doi esmaier,
Lady much myself I-ought to-dismay
que je n'en sai denier ou prendre;
for I not-thereof know penny where to-take
or me covient m'avaine vendre;
now me behooves my-oats to-sell
et le blé que devons mengier.
and the wheat that we-ought to-eat
— Sire, ne vous chaut d'esmaier,»
Lord not to-you it-may-matter to-dismay
fet la dame qui mout fu sage,
says the lady who very was wise

«Ja n'en metrai mantel en gage
Ever not-thereof I-shall-put cloak in pledge
por vous oster de ceste paine,
for you to-take-out from this pain
ja n'en vendrez blé ne avaine:
ever not-thereof you-will-sell wheat nor oats
bien vous metrai hors de la trape,
well you I-shall-put out of the trap
et cil remaindront en la frape,
and those will-remain in the snare
dont vous serez autrestant lié,
whereby you will-be as-much glad
comme avez esté coroucié.»
as you-have been angered
Tant se pena du conforter,
So-much herself took-pains of-the comforting
que il sont assis au souper.
that they are seated at-the supper
Quant Constans ot assez mengié,
When Constant had enough eaten
si l'a dame Ysabiaus couchié.
so him-has lady Isabel put-to-bed
Au matin va à la charrue;
In-the morning he-goes to the plow
la dame ne fu esperdue,
the lady not was distraught
ainz apele sa chamberiere,
rather she-calls her chambermaid
une gorlée pautoniere.
a sly rogue-wench

La garce ot à non Galestrot,
The wench had to name Galestrot
mout sot de fart et de tripot;
much she-knew of paint and of trickery
la dame l'apela à soi:
the lady her-called to herself
«Galestrot, or entent à moi,
Galestrot now attend to me
que Damedieus nous doinst gaaing!
that Lord-God us may-give gain
Va moi appareillier .I. baing.»
Go for-me prepare a bath
Cele se haste, ne puet plus,
She herself hastens not can more
ainz mist la paiele desus,
rather put the pan above
puis mist l'eve chaude en la cuve,
then put the-water hot in the tub
et dras desus por fere estuve.
and cloths above for to-make steam-bath
A sa dame revint errant:
To her lady she-came-back straightway
«Dame, j'ai fet vostre commant.
Lady I-have done your command
— Galestrot, bele douce amie,
Galestrot fair sweet friend
je te commant deseur ta vie
I thee command upon thy life
que tu soies preus et isnele,
that thou mayest-be brave and quick

et si saches de la favele,
and so mayest-know-how of the chatter
tant que nostre preu en traion.
so-much that our profit thereof we-may-draw
Va, si gaaigne .I. peliçon:
Go so win a pelisse
di le prestre, qui tant me prise,
tell the priest who so-much me prizes
que sui preste de son servise,
that I-am ready for his service
se il me tient ma couvenance:
if he to-me keeps my covenant
di qu'il m'aport sanz delaiance
say that-he to-me-may-bring without delay
les .x. livres et les joiaus.»
the ten pounds and the jewels
Cele a escorcié ses trumiaus,
She has tucked-up her shanks
qui sont gros devers les talons;
which are thick toward the heels
onques vache, que point tahons,
ever cow which stings gadfly
ne vi si galoper par chaut
not I-saw so gallop in heat
comme Galestrot va le saut:
as Galestrot goes the leap
mout se paine de tost aler.
much herself she-takes-pains to quickly go
Li prestre ert venuz de chanter,
The priest was come from singing

tantost le tret à une part:
at-once him she-draws to one side
«Sire,» dist ele, «Dieus vous gart!
Lord said she God you may-guard
Je cuit, j'ai ma paine perdue:
I think I-have my pain lost
tant me sui por vous combatue
so-much myself am-I for you fought
que j'ai ma dame convertie.
that I-have my lady converted
Sire, j'ai ma dame trahie:
Lord I-have my lady betrayed
or soiez larges et cortois;
now be generous and courteous
vous n'i avenissiez des mois,
you not-there would-attain in months
se je ne m'en fusse entremise.
if I not myself-thereto had engaged
Ci n'afiert pas longue devise:
Here not-befits at-all long talk
aportez li tost sa promesse,
bring her quickly her promise
et je n'ai point de guimple espesse.»
and I not-have at-all of wimple thick
Le prestre l'acole, si rist:
The priest her-embraces so laughs
«Galestrot, ne te soit petit,
Galestrot not to-thee it-may-be little
tien or .xx. sous à .I. pliçon.
hold now twenty sous for a pelisse

Est or li vilains en meson?
Is now the churl in house
— Nenil, li las, il n'i est mie.
No the wretch he not-there is at-all
Sire, j'ai ma dame trahie,
Lord I-have my lady betrayed
por vostre cors le debonere.»
for your body the gracious
Cele, qui bien sot son preu fere,
She who well knew-how her profit to-make
bouta les .xx. sous en son sain,
thrust the twenty sous in her bosom
puis se parti du chapelain.
then herself parted from-the chaplain
Et il est coruz aus deniers;
And he is run to-the pence
tant en a pris cens et milliers,
so-many thereof he-has taken hundreds and thousands
c'une grant borse en a emplie:
that-a great purse thereof he-has filled
et les joiaus n'oublia mie,
and the jewels not-forgot-he at-all
ainz a tout mis en .I. sachel,
rather has all put in a satchel
puis a affublé .I. mantel
then he-has donned a cloak
vair d'escarlate taint en graine.
vair of-scarlet dyed in grain
Si com fortune le demaine,
Just as fortune him leads

de son ostel s'en ist atant:
from his lodging himself-thence goes-out thereupon
mout se vait sovent soufachant
much himself goes often heaving
que li sachès li poise aval.
for the satchel to-him weighs down
Or oiez com li avint mal:
Now hear how to-him befell ill
en mi sa voie a encontrée
in mid his way he-has met
une geline pielée,
a hen speckled
qui pasturoit en la charriere;
which pastured in the track
à poi ne s'en retorne arriere,
for little not himself-thence he-turns back
por ce qu'il i entendoit sort.
for this that-he thereto attended omen
A ses piez trueve .I. baston tort,
At his feet he-finds a stick crooked
à la geline lest aler,
at the hen he-lets go
et ele s'en prist à voler;
and she herself-thence took to fly
en son langage le maudist:
in her language him she-cursed
honte li viegne, et il si fist.
shame to-him may-come and he so did
Qui donc veïst le prestre aler,
Who then might-see the priest go

le chief bessier et esgarder,
the head to-lower and to-look
tant qu'il entra enz ou hamel,
until that-he entered into the hamlet
contre lui vient dame Ysabel,
toward him comes lady Isabel
qui mout li fet blondete chiere,
who very to-him makes blond face
puis apela sa chamberiere:
then called her chambermaid
«Va tost cel seignor deschaucier,
Go quick that lord to-unshoe
que je le vueil fere baingnier,
for I him wish to-make bathe
et je me baingnerai après;
and I myself shall-bathe after
si nous solacerons huimès,
so ourselves we-shall-solace from-now
si m'embelira plus son estre.
so me-will-please more his being
— Par foi, dame,» ce dist le prestre,
By faith lady this said the priest
«je ne vou osai pas mentir.»
I not to-you dared at-all to-lie
Lors li commence à descouvrir
Then to-her he-begins to uncover
le sachet qui n'ert pas petit,
the satchel which not-was at-all small
et el le gete sus son lit,
and she it throws upon her bed

onques au conter n'i mist paine.
ever at-the counting not-there put-she pain
La dame, qui n'ert pas vilaine,
The lady who not-was at-all churlish
le sot tant de ses diz lober
him knew-how so-much with her sayings to-trick
qu'el le fist enz el baing entrer,
that-she him made in in-the bath enter
puis prist la robe et les deniers,
then took the robe and the pence
ainz n'i lessa nis les chauciers,
ever not-there she-left not-even the shoes
en sa chambre a trestout geté;
into her chamber she-has all thrown
or sont cil mis à sauveté.
now are those put into safety
A Galestrot va conseillier:
To Galestrot she-goes to-counsel
«Va toi bien tost apareillier;
Go thyself very quickly to-prepare
si me fai venir le provost.
so for-me make come the provost
Di li que il m'aport bien tost
Tell him that he me-may-bring very quickly
ce que il m'ot en couvenant.»
that which he me-had in covenant
Et cele i ala esraumant,
And she there went at-once
qu'ele en fet voler les esclas.
so-that-she thereof makes fly the splinters

S'ele puet tenir en ses las
If-she can hold in her snares
le provost, il li rendra conte:
the provost he to-her will-render account
de parler à lui n'a pas honte,
of speaking to him not-she-has at-all shame
ainz le salue hautement:
rather him greets loudly
«J'ai en vous,» dist el, «mal parent,
I-have in you said she ill kinsman
dant provost, por vostre richoise;
sir provost for your richness
mès j'ai vers vous fet que cortoise,
but I-have toward you done as courteous
que, ne me vueil desnaturer,
for not myself I-wish to-unnature
qui me deüst .C. sous doner,
who to-me ought a-hundred sous to-give
ne me fusse plus entremise
not myself would-have more engaged
nuit et jor de vostre servise.
night and day in your service
Tant ai ma dame coru seure
So-much I-have my lady run upon
que ele est maintenant en l'eure
that she is now in the-hour
de fere tout vostre plesir;
of doing all your pleasure
mès hastez vous de tost venir,
but hasten you to quickly come

et si ne devez pas lessier
and so not you-ought at-all to-leave
ce que vous deïstes l'autrier.
that which you said the-other-day
Ma dame a mout d'argent à fere:
My lady has much of-silver to do
ele est si franche et debonere
she is so noble and gracious
que mout bien le vous savra rendre,
that very well it to-you she-will-know-how to-render
mès ele a or mestier de prendre.»
but she has now need to take
Quant li provos ot et entent
When the provost hears and understands
que la chose est à son talent:
that the thing is to his liking
«Galestrot,» dist il, «douce amie,
Galestrot said he sweet friend
je ne te doi oublier mie,
I not thee ought to-forget at-all
que tu m'as servi bien et bel:
for thou me-hast served well and fairly
tien or .XX. sols à .I. mantel.»
hold now twenty sous for a cloak
Il li mist ou giron devant,
He to-her put-them in-the lap before
et ele s'en torna atant,
and she herself-thence turned thereupon
vers sa meson s'en va tout droit.
toward her house herself-thence she-goes all straight

Li provos après li aloit,
The provost after her went
à l'uis est venuz, si apele:
at the-door he-is come so calls
«Lasse! ci a male novele,»
Wretched here has ill news
fet la dame, «c'est mon seignor.
says the lady this-is my lord
— Dame, por Dieu le creator,»
Lady for God the creator
dist le prestre, «que porrai faire?
said the priest what shall-I-be-able to-do
Voz maris est de si put aire,
Your husband is of so base kind
qu'il m'avra ja tout esmié:
that-he me-will-have already all crumbled
il est vers moi forment irié.
he is toward me greatly angered
— Sire,» dit el, «n'aiez paor:
Lord says she not-have fear
je vous metrai en tel destor,
I you shall-put in such hiding-place
où il ne vous savroit ouan;
where he not you would-know this-year
en cel tonnel desoz cel van,
in that cask beneath that winnow
il n'i a riens que plume mole.»
it not-there has anything but feather soft
Li prestres crut bien sa parole:
The priest believed well her word

el tonnel saut de plain eslès;
into-the cask he-leaps with full bound
si le refist couvrir après.
so it she-had-again cover after
Estes vous le provost errant,
Behold you the provost straightway
la dame li fist biau samblant,
the lady to-him made fair semblance
il la vout maintenant besier:
he her wished at-once to-kiss
«Sire,» dist el, «ce n'a mestier,
Lord said she this not-has use
que savez vous qui nous esgarde?
for know you who us watches
Honte m'i fet vers vous couarde;
Shame me-there makes toward you cowardly
mès amors m'i fera hardie,
but love me-there will-make bold
quant je serai de vous sesie.
when I shall-be by you seized
— Dame,» fet il, «c'est verité;
Lady says he this-is truth
mès je vous ai ci aporté
but I to-you have here brought
ne sai quans deniers que j'avoie.»
not I-know how-many pence that I-had
Atant li baille la corroie
Thereupon to-her he-hands the belt
qui mout estoit plaine et farsie.
which very was full and stuffed

La dame n'en refusa mie,
The lady not-thereof refused at-all
ainz l'a en sa chambre portée.
rather it-has into her chamber carried
Je ne vueil fere demorée
I not wish to-make delay
n'aconter chascune parole,
nor-to-recount each word
mès la dame par sa parole
but the lady by her word
li dist tant qu'il entra ou baing.
to-him said so-much that-he entered into-the bath
Or li est doublés son gaaing,
Now to-her is doubled her gain
que sa robe a en sauf portée.
for his robe she-has into safe carried
Puis a Galestrot apelée,
Then she-has Galestrot called
en bas li prist à conseillier:
in low to-her she-took to counsel
«Va moi querre le forestier;
Go for-me to-seek the forester
di li au mieus com tu savras.
tell him at-the best as thou wilt-know-how
Se nous poons metre ses dras
If we can put his clothes
o les autres, ce m'ert mout bel.
with the others this to-me-will-be very fair

Di li que il m'aport l'anel
Tell him that he me-may-bring the-ring
qu'il me vout l'autre jor doner.»
which-he to-me wished the-other day to-give
Qui donc veïst cele troter
Who then might-see her trot
par mi la rue au plus que puet,
through mid the street at-the most that-she can
or sachiez que venir estuet
now know that to-come behooves
le forestier, s'ele l'ataint.
the forester if-she him-reaches
Quant el le vit, pas ne se faint
When she him saw at-all not herself she-feigns
de bien portretier sa parole:
of well portraying her word
«Je sui,» dist el «musarde fole;
I am said she idler foolish
qu'ai je de cest vassal à fere?
what-have I with this fellow to do
Se il ne fust si debonere,
If he not were so gracious
je n'alaisse por lui plain pas.»
I not-would-go for him full step
Puis lui dit souavet en bas:
Then to-him she-says softly in low

«Venez à ma dame parler;
Come to my lady to-speak
el ne fina puis de pensser
she not ceased since of thinking
qu'ele vous geta l'autrier puer.
that-she you threw the-other-day away
Mès je l'ai pointe jusqu'au cuer,
But I her-have stung until-to-the heart
sovent et menu l'ai tastée,
often and small her-I-have sounded
tant que por vous est eschaufée;
so-much that for you she-is heated
vostre anel d'or li aportez:
your ring of-gold to-her bring
el vous donra du suen assez.»
she you will-give of-the hers plenty
Le forestier de joie saut:
The forester with joy leaps
«E! Galestrot, se Dieus me saut,
Ah Galestrot so God me may-save
bon le feïs, se je puis vivre,
good it thou-didst if I can live
que je la tenisse à delivre
that I her might-hold at liberty
ma dame qui tant par est simple:
my lady who so very is simple
tien or .X. sous à une guimple.»
hold now ten sous for a wimple
Cele les a pris come sage;
She them has taken as wise

et celui i lera tel gage
and he there will-leave such pledge
qu'il ne ravra mès de semaine.
that-he not will-have-again more in week
Tant a corut à longue alaine,
So-much she-has run with long breath
qu'ele vint en meson batant,
that-she came into house hastily
la dame trova deschauçant,
the lady she-found unshoeing
que mout le hastoit le provost.
for much her hastened the provost
Es vous le forestier tantost,
Behold you the forester at-once
à la porte vient, si apele:
at the gate he-comes so calls
«Lasse! ci a froide novele,»
Wretched here has cold news
fet la dame, «mon seignor vient.»
says the lady my lord comes
Li provos mout forment le crient,
The provost very greatly him fears
por ce qu'il l'avoit coroucié:
for this that-he him-had angered
«Dame, vous m'avez engingnié,»
Lady you me-have tricked
fet il, «s'or n'en prenez conroi.
says he if-now not-thereof you-take measure

— Sire, ne soiez en effroi,»
Lord not be in fright
fet la dame, «muciez vous ça,
says the lady hide yourselves here
que mon seignor s'en ira ja.»
for my lord himself-thence will-go soon
Atant le tonnel descouvri,
Thereupon the cask she-uncovered
et il i est joinz piez sailli,
and he there is with-joined feet leaped
à poi qu'il ne creva le prestre:
for little that-he not burst the priest
«Hé, las!» dist il, «ce que puet estre,
Ah alas said he this that can be
or sont deable descendu.»
now are devils descended
Quant li provos l'a entendu,
When the provost it-has heard
à poi qu'il n'est du senz mariz:
for little that-he not-is from-the sense distraught
«Ha, laz!» dist il, com sui trahiz!
Ah alas said he how am-I betrayed
— Trahiz, por les angoisses Dé?
Betrayed by the agonies (of-)God
Qui es tu, qui m'as afronté?
Who art thou who me-hast affronted
— Mès tu, qui es? — Je sui le prestre.
But thou who art I am the priest
Li deable te font ci estre,
The devils thee make here be

cil d'enfer qui pas ne sommeillent,
those of-hell who at-all not sleep
qui por la gent engingnier veillent;
who for the folk to-trick watch
hui furent il trop esveillié
today were they too awake
qu'il m'ont trahi et engignié.
for-they me-have betrayed and tricked
Et tu qui es, di le moi tost?
And thou who art tell it me quick
— Ba! je sui le chetif provost.
Bah I am the wretched provost
— Le provost! donques n'ai je mal.»
The provost then not-have I ill
Ainsi s'acontent parigal
Thus themselves-tell equally
l'un à l'autre lor aventure.
the-one to the-other their adventure
Le forestier ne s'asseüre,
The forester not himself-assures
ainz entre en l'ostel bel et cointe.
rather enters into the-lodging fair and elegant
La dame s'est près de lui jointe;
The lady herself-is near of him joined
tant le blandi et tant le lie,
so-much him she-flattered and so-much him binds
qu'ele fu de l'anel sesie,
that-she was of the-ring seized
puis si le fist el baing entrer.
then so him made in-the bath enter

Anuiz seroit à raconter
Vexation would-be to recount
chascun dit et chascun afere,
each saying and each business
mès bien en sot la dame trere
but well thereof knew-how the lady to-draw
l'anel, et ce qu'en pot avoir.
the-ring and that which-thereof she-could have
A son seignor a fet savoir
To her lord she-has made know
qu'il viegne tost, qu'ele a besoing.
that-he may-come quickly for-she has need
La charrue n'ert gueres loing;
The plow not-was much far
es le vous entré en la porte:
behold him you entered into the gate
«Lasse,» dist ele, «or sui je morte,
Wretched said she now am I dead
mes sires vient, oez le là;
my lord comes hear him there
mès bien sai qu'il s'en rira ja:
but well I-know that-he himself-thence will-go-again soon
il n'est pas tens de dosnoier.
it not-is at-all time of courting
— Dame,» ce dist le forestier,
Lady this said the forester
«vostre sire vous het de mort,
your lord you hates to death
se ne prenez de moi confort.»
if not you-take from me comfort

Dist la dame: «Fetes isnel,
Said the lady Make quick
si en entrez en cel tonnel.»
so thereinto enter into that cask
Ele corut le van oster,
She ran the winnow to-take-off
et cil saut enz sanz arester;
and that-one leaps in without stopping
le prestre ataint en la poitrine,
the priest he-hits in the chest
au provost fet ploier l'eschine;
to-the provost he-makes bend the-spine
mès nus d'aus n'en osa groucier:
but any of-them not-thereof dared grumble
«Ha, las!» ce dist le forestier,
Ah alas this said the forester
«com sui folement embatuz.
how am-I foolishly thrust-in
— Qu'est ce? Mal soiez vous venuz,»
What-is this Ill be you come
dist le provost, «traiez vous là;
said the provost draw yourselves there
je cuit que je creverai ja,
I think that I shall-burst soon
se nous sommes ci longuement.
if we are here long
— Ha, las!» dist le prestre dolent,
Ah alas said the priest grieving
«com ci a dolente poitrine!
how here has grieving chest

— Mès je ai brisie l'eschine,»
But I have broken the-spine
dist le provost, «au mien cuidier.
said the provost to-the my thinking
— Ha, las!» ce dist le forestier,
Ah alas this said the forester
«à poi que li oeil ne me saillent.
for little that the eyes not to-me leap
Les vies qui tant nous travaillent,
The lives which so-much us trouble
soient honies hui cest jor,
may-be shamed today this day
que nous vivons à grant dolor!»
for we live with great sorrow
Estes vous dant Constant bruiant,
Behold you sir Constant roaring
une grant hache paumoiant.
a great axe brandishing
Dame Ysabiaus l'a acené,
Lady Isabel him-has beckoned
tout belement li a conté
all softly to-him she-has told
comme el les a mis el tonel:
how she them has put in-the cask
«Por Dieu, sire, or en ouvrez bel;
For God lord now thereof work fairly
fetes en ce que il feïssent
do thereof that which they would-do
se au desus de nous venissent.
if to-the top of us they-came

Il voloient à moi gesir:
They wished with me to-lie
je ferai lor fames venir,
I shall-make their wives come
si ferez samblant, et tout outre
so you-will-make semblance and all outright
la premiere vous covient foutre,
the first you behooves to-fuck
et puis les .II., se vous poez;
and then the two if you can
ses avrez honiz et matez.
so-them you-will-have shamed and checkmated
Je vueil que ainsi le faciez.
I wish that thus it you-may-do
Si les avrez à droit paiez,
So them you-will-have at right paid
et tenez adès ceste hache,
and hold ever this axe
quar ele vaut une manache;
for it is-worth a threat
donez lor en, se nus se muet.
give them thereof if any himself moves
— Dame,» dist il, «fere l'estuet.
Lady said he to-do it-behooves
— Galestrot, vien ça, pute asnesse,
Galestrot come here whore she-ass
va moi tost querre la prestresse:
go for-me quick to-seek the priest's-woman
di li qu'el viegne o moi baingnier,
tell her that-she may-come with me to-bathe

et vous alez appareillier
and you go to-prepare
là dejouste cele grant mait;
there beside that great trough
si soiez toz diz en agait.
so be all days on watch
— Dame, vostre plesir ferai.»
Lady your pleasure I-shall-do
Galestrot s'en va par le tai.
Galestrot herself-thence goes through the mud
Tant a la prestresse hastée
So-much she-has the priest's-woman hastened
que a l'ostel l'a amenée.
that to the-lodging her-she-has brought
La dame l'a fet deschaucier,
The lady her-has made unshoe
et de toz ses dras despoillier,
and of all her clothes strip
fors seulement de sa chemise;
except only of her shift
li vilains a sa hache prise,
the churl has his axe taken
qui mout bien samble espoentail.
who very well seems scarecrow
De sa chambre ist a tout .I. mail:
From his chamber he-goes-out with all a mallet
«Qui est ce là, et qui est ceste?
Who is this there and who is this-one
Ja n'i querrai ore plus preste:
Ever not-there I-shall-seek now more ready

couchiez vous tost, si vous foutrai.»
lie-down you quick so you I-shall-fuck
Cele le vit hideus et lai;
She him saw hideous and ugly
si n'osa parler ne grondir.
so not-she-dared speak nor grumble
Cil la vait aus jambes saisir,
That-one her goes at-the legs to-seize
si l'a couchie toute enverse;
so her-has laid all backward
ne la prist pas à la traverse,
not her he-took at-all at the crosswise
ainz l'a acueillie de bout,
rather her-he-has taken at end
et ele li livra trestout,
and she to-him delivered all
ne li vea jambe ne cuisse.
not to-him refused leg nor thigh
Mès au prestre que ele puisse,
But to-the priest that she may
ne s'en plaindra mès de semaine
not himself-thereof will-complain more for week
qui ou tonnel est à grant paine,
who in-the cask is in great pain
qu'il en fet le vertuel voler.
for-he thereof makes the lid fly
Li provos prist à esgarder;
The provost took to look
si vit le vilain braoillier;
so saw the churl thrash

au prestre moustre sa moillier:
to-the priest he-shows his wife
«Qu'est ce,» dist il, «que je voi là?
What-is this said he that I see there
Or esgardez ce que sera:
Now look-at that which will-be
ce puet bien estre la prestresse,
this can well be the priest's-woman
la connoistriez vous à la fesse
her would-know you by the buttock
et aus estres qui sont entor?
and by-the parts which are around
L'en la demaine à grant dolor.»
One her handles with great sorrow
Lors n'i a nul des .II. ne rie;
Then not-there has any of-the two not may-laugh
au prestre est l'alaine faillie
to-the priest is the-breath failed
du duel qu'il a et de la honte.
from-the grief that-he has and from the shame
Mès ne vueil aloingnier mon conte.
But not I-wish to-lengthen my tale
Quant dant Constant l'ot bien corbée,
When sir Constant her-had well bent
si l'a fors de l'ostel boutée:
so her-he-has out of the-lodging pushed
ele s'en va mout coroucie.
she herself-thence goes very angered

Galestrot ert ja envoie
Galestrot was already sent
por fere venir la provoste.
for to-make come the provost's-wife
Dant Constans d'une part s'acoste,
Sir Constant on-one side himself-sets
tant qu'ele fust leenz venue:
until that-she might-be within-there come
quant ele se fu desvestue,
when she herself was undressed
et el cuida el baing entrer,
and she thought into-the bath to-enter
dant Constans li va demander:
sir Constant to-her goes to-ask
«Que requiert ceste dame ci?
What seeks this lady here
— Avoi, dant Constant, Dieu merci,
Fie sir Constant God thanks
g'i sui venue mainte foiz.
I-there am come many-a time
— Par foi, dame, si est bien droiz
By faith lady so it-is well right
que vous ore i soiez foutue.»
that you now there may-be fucked
La dame fu toute esperdue;
The lady was all distraught
si se poroffri à deffendre,
so herself she-offered to defend
et cil la vait aus jambes prendre:
and that-one her goes at-the legs to-take

se li a levées amont,
so to-her he-has lifted up
les genouz li hurta au front.
the knees to-her he-knocked at-the brow
Por ce qu'ele se deffendoit,
For this that-she herself defended
l'a il corbée si estroit
her-has he bent so tight
c'on i peüst jouer aus dez.
that-one there could play at-the dice
Se li prestres fu eschaufez
If the priest was heated
li provos fu autant ou plus,
the provost was as-much or more
quant il la vit par le pertuis
when he her saw through the hole
demener si vilainement.
handled so churlishly
Le forestier s'en rist forment,
The forester himself-thereat laughs greatly
et le prestre quant il la voit:
and the priest when he her sees
«Or en voi une à grant destroit,
Now thereof I-see one in great distress
provost, connois tu cele là?
provost knowest thou that-one there
Je cuit qu'ele tumbera ja.»
I think that-she will-tumble soon
Ainsi chascuns le contralie;
Thus each him contradicts

li provos ne set que il die
the provost not knows what he may-say
de duel qu'il ne se puet vengier;
from grief that-he not himself can avenge
qui li donast tout Monpellier,
who to-him might-give all Montpellier
n'issist il .I. mot de sa bouche.
not-would-go-out he a word from his mouth
Dant Constans sovent la retouche
Sir Constant often her retouches
d'un fuisil qu'il avoit mout gros;
with-a fire-steel that-he had very thick
lor cul erent plus noir que fros
their asses were more black than frocks
qui mout estoient près à près.
who very were near by near
Cil les esgardent tout adès,
Those them look-at all ever
qui ou tonnel erent mucié.
who in-the cask were hidden
Onques cele ne prist congié;
Ever she not took leave
quant sire Constans l'ot corbée,
when lord Constant her-had bent
hors de son ostel l'a boutée,
out of his lodging her-he-has pushed
ainz n'en porta mantel ne cote.
ever not-thereof carried-she cloak nor coat
Galestrot par la vile trote,
Galestrot through the town trots

si amena la forestiere:
so brought the forester's-wife
cele i vint à poi de proiere.
she there came with little of praying
Quant à l'ostel en fu venue,
When to the-lodging thither she-was come
et ele se fu desvestue,
and she herself was undressed
se li restuet avoir sa paie.
so to-her behooves-again to-have her pay
Dans Constans qui pas ne s'esmaie,
Sir Constant who at-all not himself-dismays
qui mout est d'anieus couvine,
who very is of-vexing look
et plus veluz c'une esclavine,
and more hairy than-a shaggy-cloak
por ce qu'il la vit esbahie:
for this that-he her saw dismayed
«Ceste,» dist il, «sera m'amie,
This-one said he will-be my-friend
je la fouterai jusqu'au pas.
I her shall-fuck until-to-the step
— Avoi, dant Constant, est ce gas?
Fie sir Constant is this jest
— Gas? Vous le verrez ja par tans.»
Jest You it will-see already in time
A poi qu'ele n'issi du sans,
For little that-she not-went-out of-the sense
quar il la prist de tel ravine,
for he her took with such violence

qu'il la fist cheoir sor l'eschine;
that-he her made fall on the-spine
si l'a si durement corbée
so her-he-has so hard bent
c'on i peüst veoir l'entrée
that-one there could see the-entrance
de bien loing, qui s'en preïst garde:
from well far who himself-thereof might-take heed
«Esgarde, forestier, esgarde,»
Look forester look
dist le provost, «ce que puet estre.
said the provost this that can be
— Je le voi bien,» ce dist le prestre:
I it see well this said the priest
«Lor mireor si sont mout orbes,
Their mirrors so are very dim
lor cul erent plus noir que torbes.»
their asses were more black than turfs
Le forestier est si plains d'ire
The forester is so full of-wrath
que il ne set qu'il doie dire;
that he not knows what-he ought to-say
mès ce le fet reconforter
but this him makes comfort-again
que l'un ne puet l'autre gaber;
that the-one not can the-other mock
et bien voient qu'il l'a corbée
and well they-see that-he her-has bent
et rebessie et restupée;
and lowered-again and stopped-again

puis l'i renseigne à l'uis la voie.
then to-her he-shows-again at the-door the way
Si souëf la dame convoie
So softly the lady he-escorts
qu'il l'a fet voler ou putel
that-he her-has made fly into-the puddle
son peliçon et son mantel,
her pelisse and her cloak
et sa cote remest en gage.
and her coat remained in pledge
Mout par fu dame Ysabiaus sage,
Very much was lady Isabel wise
toz diz tint la hache en sa main.
all days she-held the axe in her hand
Or escoutez de son vilain;
Now hear of her churl
au tonnel vint, sel descouvri:
to-the cask he-came so-it uncovered
«Por le cuer bieu, et qu'est ce ci?
By the heart (of-)God and what-is this here
Qui a cest tonnel emplumé,
Who has this cask feathered
là où je doi metre mon blé?
there where I ought to-put my wheat
Par le cuer bieu, je l'ardrai ja.»
By the heart (of-)God I it-shall-burn soon
Lors prent le feu, se li bouta,
Then he-takes the fire so it thrust
et la plume prist à bruller;
and the feather took to burn

le tonnel fist jus roeler,
the cask he-made down roll
fors s'en issent, chascuns s'en fuit,
out themselves-thence they-go each himself-thence flees
mout mainent grant noise et grant bruit.
very they-lead great noise and great clamor
Tuit estoient de plume enclos:
All were with feather enclosed
il n'i paroit ventre ne dos,
it not-there appeared belly nor back
teste, ne jambe, ne costé,
head nor leg nor side
que tuit ne fussent emplumé.
that all not were feathered
Aus chans issent par une rue,
To-the fields they-go-out by a street
et Constans prist une maçue,
and Constant took a club
si s'en vait après eus corant;
so himself-thence goes after them running
toz jors lor vait les chiens huant:
all days to-them he-goes the dogs halloing
«Houre, Gibet! houre, Manssel!
Hoo Gibet hoo Mansel
Par l'ame d'Anquetain Hamel,
By the-soul of-Anquetain Hamel
mon chier pere qui me norri,
my dear father who me nourished
ainz mès puis l'eure que nasqui,
ever more since the-hour that I-was-born

n'oï mès parler de teus bestes;
not-I-heard more speak of such beasts
se j'en peüsse avoir les testes,
if I-thereof could have the heads
jes presentaisse mon seignor.»
I-them would-present to-my lord
Or ot chascuns d'aus grant paor,
Now had each of-them great fear
si s'esploitent de tost fuir.
so themselves-exert of quickly fleeing
Et chien commencent à venir;
And dogs begin to come
Baloufart, le chien au provost,
Baloufart the dog of-the provost
le sesi aus jambes tantost;
him seized at-the legs at-once
si en porta plaine sa goule.
so thereof carried-it full its mouth
Le prestre rest en male foule,
The priest is-in-turn in ill trampling
quar Esmeraude, sa levriere,
for Esmeraude his greyhound-bitch
le sesi aus naces derriere,
him seized at-the buttocks behind
et à la coille merveilleuse;
and at the testicle marvelous
por noient i meïst venteuse.
for nothing there would-one-put cupping-glass
Puisqu'Esmeraude si est prise,
Since-Esmeraude so is taken

por trestout l'or qui est en Frise,
for all the-gold which is in Frisia
n'en partist ele sanz du sanc.
not-thence would-depart she without of-the blood
Li prestres fu las et estanc:
The priest was weary and spent
si se lest cheoir à la terre.
so himself he-lets fall to the earth
Dant Constant l'est alez requerre;
Sir Constant him-is gone to-seek
o toute la hache danoise
with all the axe Danish
tel cop li done en la ventoise
such blow to-him he-gives in the bottom
que .III. tors le fist roeler,
that three turns him he-made roll
vueille ou non, le fist jus verser.
wish-he or not him he-made down tumble
Quant il li ot les chiens ostez,
When he to-him had the dogs taken-away
après les .II. en est alez;
after the two thence he-is gone
li provos avoit .I. levrier
the provost had a greyhound
qui consivi le forestier,
which overtook the forester
des cuisses li tret les braons.
from-the thighs to-him draws the muscles

Estes vous plus de .VII. gaingnons
Behold you more than seven mastiffs
qui vers le provost se hericent;
which toward the provost themselves bristle
sovent le mordent et pelicent.
often him they-bite and fleece
Constans i est venuz corant
Constant there is come running
o tout .I. grant baston pesant,
with all a great stick heavy
qui pesoit plain .I. vessiau d'orge.
which weighed full a measure of-barley
Au provost a sauvé la gorge
For-the provost he-has saved the throat
que li chien orent adenté;
which the dogs had bitten
tantost l'eüssent estranglé,
at-once him-they-would-have strangled
mès il fuient por le baston;
but they flee for the stick
ja li avoient le crespon
already to-him they-had the rump
en plus de .XX. lieus deschiré.
in more than twenty places torn
Le forestier ont adenté,
The forester they-have bitten
et il crie: «Constans, aïe;
and he cries Constant help
por Dieu, le filz sainte Marie,
for God the son of-saint Mary

ne me lesse mie mengier:
not me let at-all eat
jamès ne te toudrai denier.»
ever-more not from-thee I-shall-take penny
Et dans Constans les chiens li oste
And sir Constant the dogs from-him takes-away
qui l'ont et devant et d'encoste
which him-have both before and beside
en plus de .XXX. lieus plaié,
in more than thirty places wounded
et cil se tient à bien paié.
and that-one himself holds for well paid
Quant li chien li furent osté,
When the dogs from-him were taken-away
forment li sainent li costé.
greatly to-him bleed the sides
Es vous la presse qui engroisse,
Behold you the press which thickens
toute la gent de la paroisse
all the folk of the parish
i corurent de toutes pars,
there ran from all parts
et par buissons et par essars:
both through bushes and through clearings
mout i ot grant noise et grant presse,
very there had great noise and great press
et chascuns d'aus veoir s'engresse,
and each of-them to-see himself-strives
por ce que mal atorné erent,
for this that ill arrayed they-were

à poi que li chien nes tuerent
for little that the dogs not-them killed
par lor pechié, par lor envie,
by their sin by their envy
tant qu'il jurerent sor lor vie,
until that-they swore on their life
seur la croiz et seur le sautier,
on the cross and on the psalter
et seur toz les sainz du moustier,
and on all the saints of-the minster
qu'a sire Constant du Hamel
that-to lord Constant of-the Hamel
n'a sa fame dame Ysabel,
nor-to his wife lady Isabel
ne diront mès riens, se bien non.
not they-will-say more anything except good not
Et la dame est en sa meson,
And the lady is in her house
qui deniers a à grant plenté;
who pence has in great plenty
por ce qu'a sagement ouvré,
for this that-she-has wisely worked
les deniers ot et les joiaus;
the pence she-had and the jewels
et si furent quites de ciaus
and so they-were quit of those

que dans Constans avoit promis.
that sir Constant had promised
En cest fabel n'avra plus mis,
In this fabliau not-will-have more put
quar atant en fine le conte;
for thereupon thereof ends the tale
que Dieus nous gart trestoz de honte!
that God us may-guard all from shame

Du vilain de Bailluel

CIX · THE CHURL OF BAILLEUL

At Bailleul a churl comes home hungry just as his wife has a capon and wine ready for the priest. She tells him he is dying and lays him out under a sheet, and he believes her and lies still. She fetches the priest, and after a brief show of mourning they lie together on the straw in his sight. The churl protests from under the sheet; the priest tells him that since he is dead he should shut his eyes, and he obeys. The moral is that a man is a fool who believes his wife more than himself.

Se fabliaus puet veritez estre,
If fabliau can truth be
dont avint il, ce dist mon mestre,
then it-happened it this said my master
c'uns vilains à Bailluel manoit.
that-a churl at Bailleul dwelt
Formenz et terres ahanoit:
Wheat and lands he-toiled
n'estoit useriers ne changiere.
not-he-was usurer nor money-changer
.I. jor, à eure de prangiere,
One day at hour of dinner
vint en meson mult fameilleus:
he-came into house very hungry
il estoit granz et merveilleus
he was great and monstrous
et maufez et de laide hure.
and devilish and of ugly mane
Sa fame n'avoit de lui cure,
His wife not-had of him care

quar fols ert et de lait pelain,
for foolish he-was and of ugly hide
et cele amoit le chapelain.
and she loved the chaplain
S'avoit mis jor d'ensamble à estre
So-she-had put day of-together to be
le jor entre li et le prestre.
the day between her and the priest
Bien avoit fet son appareil.
Well she-had made her preparation
Ja ert li vins enz ou bareil,
Already was the wine in in-the cask
et si avoit le chapon cuit,
and so she-had the capon cooked
et li gastiaus, si com je cuit,
and the cake so as I think
estoit couvers d'une touaille.
was covered with-a towel
Ez vous le vilain qui baaille
Behold you the churl who yawns
et de famine et de mesaise.
both from hunger and from discomfort
Cele li cort ouvrir la haise,
She to-him runs to-open the gate
contre lui est corant venue:
toward him she-is running come
mès n'eüst soing de sa venue;
but not-she-had care of his coming
mieus amast autrui recevoir.
better she-would-love another to-receive

Puis li dist por lui decevoir,
Then to-him said for him to-deceive
si com cele qui sanz ressort
just as she who without recourse
l'amast mieus enfouï que mort:
him-would-love better buried than dead
«Sire,» fet ele, «Dieus me saint!
Lord says she God me may-cross
Con vous voi or desfet et taint!
How you I-see now undone and pale
N'avez que les os et le cuir.
Not-you-have but the bones and the hide
— Erme, j'ai tel fain que je muir,»
Erme I-have such hunger that I die
fet il, «sont boilli li maton?
says he are boiled the curds
— Morez certes, ce fetes mon;
You-die certainly this you-do forsooth
jamès plus voir dire n'orrez:
ever-more more truth to-say not-you-will-hear
couchiez vous tost, quar vous morez.
lie-down yourselves quick for you die
Or m'est il mal, lasse chetive!
Now to-me-is it ill wretched wretched-woman
Après vous n'ai soing que je vive,
After you not-I-have care that I may-live
puisque de moi vous dessamblez.
since from me you-yourselves part
Sire, com vous estes emblez,
Lord how you are stolen-away

vous devierez à cort terme.
you will-die in short term
— Gabez me vous,» fet il, «dame Erme?
Mock me you says he lady Erme
Je oi si bien no vache muire:
I hear so well our cow low
je ne cuit mie que je muire,
I not think at-all that I die
ainz porroie encore bien vivre.
rather I-could still well live
— Sire, la mort qui vous enyvre
Lord the death which you makes-drunk
vous taint si le cuer et encombre
to-you stains so the heart and encumbers
qu'il n'a mès en vous fort que l'ombre:
that-it not-has more in you except that the-shadow
par tens vous tornera au cuer.
in time to-you it-will-turn to-the heart
— Couchiez me donques, bele suer,»
Put-to-bed me then fair sister
fet il, «quant je sui si atains.»
says he since I am so stricken
Cele se haste, ne puet ains,
She herself hastens not can rather
de lui deçoivre par sa jangle.
of him to-deceive by her chatter

D'une part li fist en .I. angle
On-one side to-him she-made in a corner
.I. lit de fuerre et de pesas
a bed of straw and of pease-straw
et de linceus de chanevas;
and of sheets of canvas
puis le despoille, si le couche:
then him she-strips so him she-lays
les ieus li a clos et la bouche,
the eyes to-him she-has closed and the mouth
puis se lest cheoir sor le cors:
then herself she-lets fall on the body
«Frere,» dist ele, «tu es mors:
Brother said she thou art dead
Dieus ait merci de la teue ame!
God may-have mercy on the thy soul
Que fera ta lasse de fame
What will-do thy wretched of wife
qui por toi s'ocirra de duel?»
who for thee herself-will-kill with grief
Li vilains gist souz le linçuel,
The churl lies under the sheet
qui entresait cuide mors estre;
who forthwith thinks dead to-be
et cele s'en va por le prestre
and she herself-thence goes for the priest
qui mout fu viseuse et repointe.
who very was sharp and sly

De son vilain tout li acointe
Of her churl all to-him she-acquaints
et entendre fet la folie.
and understand makes the folly
Cil en fu liez et cele lie
That-one thereof was glad and she glad
de ce qu'ainsi est avenu:
of this that-thus it-is happened
ensamble s'en sont revenu,
together themselves-thence they-are come-back
tout conseillant de lor deduis.
all plotting of their delights
Lues que li prestres entre en l'uis
As-soon as the priest enters in the-door
commença à lire ses saumes,
he-began to read his psalms
et la dame à batre ses paumes;
and the lady to beat her palms
mès si se set faindre dame Erme
but so herself knows-how to-feign lady Erme
qu'ainz de ses ieus ne cheï lerme;
that-ever from her eyes not fell tear
envis le fet et tost le lesse,
unwillingly it she-does and soon it leaves
et li prestre fist corte lesse;
and the priest made short lesson
n'avoit soing de commander l'ame.
not-be-had care of commending the-soul
Par le poing a prise la dame;
By the fist he-has taken the lady

d'une part vont en une açainte,
on-one side they-go into a corner
desloïe l'a et desçainte:
unlaced her-he-has and ungirt
sor le fuerre noviau batu
on the straw newly threshed
se sont andui entrabatu,
themselves are both thrown-down
cil adenz et cele souvine.
that-one face-down and she on-her-back
Li vilains vit tout le couvine,
The churl saw all the doings
qui du linçuel ert acouvers,
who with-the sheet was covered
quar il tenoit ses ieus ouvers.
for he held his eyes open
Si veoit bien l'estrain hocier,
So he-saw well the-straw shake
et vit le chapelain locier;
and saw the chaplain jog
bien sot ce fu li chapelains:
well he-knew this was the chaplain
«Ahï! ahï!» dist li vilains
Ah ah said the churl
au prestre: «Filz à putain ors!
to-the priest Son of whore foul
Certes, se je ne fusse mors,
Certainly if I not were dead
mar vous i fussiez embatuz,
ill you there would-be thrown-in

ainz hom ne fu si bien batuz
ever man not was so well beaten
com vous seriez ja, sire prestre.»
as you would-be already lord priest
— Amis,» fet il, «ce puet bien estre,
Friend says he this can well be
et sachiez se vous fussiez vis
and know if you were alive
g'i venisse mout à envis,
I-there would-come very at unwillingness
tant que l'ame vous fust ou cors;
so-much that the-soul to-you might-be in-the body
mès de ce que vous estes mors,
but for this that you are dead
me doit il bien estre de mieus.
to-me ought it well to-be of better
Gisiez vous cois, cloez vos ieus:
Lie you quiet close your eyes
nes devez mès tenir ouvers.»
not-them you-ought more to-hold open
Dont a cil ses ieus recouvers;
Then has that-one his eyes covered-again
si se recommence à tesir,
so himself begins-again to keep-silent
et li prestres fist son plesir
and the priest did his pleasure
sanz paor et sanz resoingnier.
without fear and without dread

Ce ne vous sai je tesmoingnier
This not to-you know-how I to-witness
s'il l'enfouïrent au matin;
if-they him-buried in-the morning
mès li fabliaus dist en la fin
but the fabliau says in the end
c'on doit por fol tenir celui
that-one ought for fool to-hold him
qui mieus croit sa fame que lui.
who better believes his wife than himself

De Boivin de Provins

CXVI · BOIVIN OF PROVINS

Boivin, a trickster, comes to the Provins fair as a peasant with twelve pence in a large purse, and sits before the procuress Mabile's door counting sums he does not have and mourning a lost niece. She claims him as her uncle and takes him in, and while her girl Ysane lies with him she tries to cut his purse, but he cuts it first, hides it, and cries that it is gone. Mabile beats Ysane, Ysane's bully beats Mabile, and the house brawls while Boivin tells the provost, who gives him ten sous.

Mout bons lechierres fu Boivins;
Very good rascal was Boivin
porpenssa soi que à Prouvins
bethought himself that to Provins
à la foire voudra aler,
to the fair he-will-wish to-go
et si fera de lui parler.
and so he-will-make of him speak
Ainsi le fet con l'a empris:
Thus it he-does as it-he-has undertaken
vestuz se fu d'un burel gris,
clothed himself he-was in-a homespun gray
cote, et sorcot, et chape ensamble,
coat and surcoat and cape together
qui tout fu d'un, si com moi samble;
which all was of-one so as to-me seems
et si ot coiffe de borras;
and so he-had coif of coarse-cloth
ses sollers ne sont mie à las,
his shoes not are at-all with laces

ainz sont de vache dur et fort;
rather are of cowhide hard and strong
et cil, qui mout de barat sot,
and that-one who much of fraud knew
.I. mois et plus estoit remese
a month and more was remained
sa barbe qu'ele ne fu rese;
his beard that-it not was shaved
.I. aguillon prist en sa main,
a goad he-took in his hand
por ce que mieus samblast vilain:
for this that better he-might-seem churl
une borse grant acheta,
a purse great he-bought
.XII. deniers dedenz mis a,
twelve pence within put he-has
que il n'avoit ne plus ne mains;
for he not-had neither more nor less
et vint en la rue aus putains
and came into the street of-the whores
tout droit devant l'ostel Mabile
all straight before the-lodging (of-)Mabile
qui plus savoit barat et guile
who more knew fraud and trick
que fame nule qui i fust.
than woman any who there was
Iluec s'assist desus .I. fust
There he-sat upon a log
qui estoit delez sa meson;
which was beside her house

delez lui mist son aguillon,
beside him he-put his goad
.I. poi torna son dos vers l'uis.
a little he-turned his back toward the-door
Huimès orrez que il fist puis.
From-now you-will-hear what he did then
«Par foi,» fet il, «ce est la voire,
By faith says he this is the truth
puisque je sui hors de la foire,
since I am out of the fair
et en bon leu, et loing de gent,
and in good place and far from folk
deüsse bien de mon argent
I-ought well of my silver
tout seul par moi savoir la somme;
all alone by myself to-know the sum
ainsi le font tuit li sage homme.
thus it do all the wise men
J'oi de Rouget .XXXIX. saus,
I-had for Rouget thirty-nine sous
.XII. deniers en ot Giraus
twelve pence thereof had Giraut
qui mes .II. bues m'aida à vendre.
who my two oxen me-helped to sell
A males forches puist il pendre,
On evil gallows may he hang
por ce qu'il retint mes deniers!
for this that-he kept my pence
.XII. en retint li pautoniers,
Twelve thereof kept the rogue

et se li ai je fet maint bien.
and so to-him have I done many-a good
Or est ainsi, ce ne vaut rien,
Now it-is thus this not is-worth anything
il me vendra mes bues requerre,
he to-me will-come my oxen to-ask
quant il voudra arer sa terre,
when he will-wish to-plow his land
et il devra semer son orge;
and he will-have to-sow his barley
mal dehez ait toute ma gorge,
ill curse may-have all my throat
s'il a jamès de moi nul preu!
if-he has ever from me any profit
Je lui cuit mout bien metre en leu,
I him think very well to-put in place
honiz soit il et toute s'aire!
shamed be he and all his-kin
Or parlerai de mon afaire.
Now I-shall-speak of my business
J'oi de Sorin .XIX. saus;
I-had for Sorin nineteen sous
de ceus ne fui je mie faus,
of those not was I at-all false
quar mon compere dans Gautiers
for my gossip sir Walter
ne m'en donast pas tant deniers
not to-me-thereof would-give at-all so-many pence
con j'ai eü de tout le mendre:
as I-have had for all the least

por ce fet bon au marchié vendre;
for this makes good at-the market to-sell
il vousist ja creance avoir,
he would-wish already credit to-have
et j'ai assamblé mon avoir,
and I-have assembled my having
.XIX. saus et .XXXIX.
nineteen sous and thirty-nine
Itant furent vendu mi buef.
So-much were sold my oxen
Dieus! c'or ne sai que tout ce monte,
God for-now not I-know what all this amounts
si meïsse tout en .I. conte,
if I-put all into one count
je ne le savroie sommer;
I not it would-know-how to-sum
qui me devroit tout assommer,
who me should all to-sum-up
ne le savroie je des mois,
not it would-know I for months
se n'avoie feves ou pois,
if not-I-had beans or peas
que chascun pois feït .I. sout.
so-that each pea might-make a sou
Ainsi le savroie je tout.
Thus it would-know I all
Et neporquant me dist Sirous
And nevertheless to-me said Sirou
que j'oi des bues .L. sous,
that I-had for-the oxen fifty sous

qui les conta, si les reçut;
who them counted so them received
mès je ne sai s'il m'en deçut,
but I not know if-he me-thereof deceived
ne s'il m'en a neant emblé,
nor if-he from-me-thereof has anything stolen
qu'entre .II. sestiere de blé,
for-between two setiers of wheat
et ma jument et mes porciaus,
and my mare and my pigs
et la laine de mes aigniaus
and the wool of my lambs
me rendirent tout autrestant.
to-me rendered all as-much
.II. fois .L., ce sont cent,
Two times fifty these are hundred
ce dist un gars qui fist mon conte;
this said a lad who made my count
.V. livres dist que tout ce monte.
five pounds he-said that all this amounts
Or ne lerai, por nule paine,
Now not I-shall-leave for any pain
que ma borse qu'est toute plaine,
that my purse which-is all full
ne soit vuidie en mon giron.»
not may-be emptied in my lap
Et li houlier de la meson
And the bullies of the house
dient: «Ça vien, Mabile, escoute,
say Here come Mabile listen

cil denier sont nostre sanz doute,
those pence are ours without doubt
se tu mes ceenz ce vilain.
if thou puttest within-here this churl
— Il ne sont mie à son oes sain,»
They not are at-all to his use sound
dist Mabile, «lessiez le en pès,
said Mabile leave him in peace
lessiez le conter tout adès;
let him count all ever
lessiez le conter tout en pès
let him count all in peace
qu'il ne me puet eschaper mès.
for-he not me can escape more
Toz les deniers je les vous doi;
All the pence I them to-you owe
les ieus me crevez, je l'otroi,
the eyes me put-out I it-grant
se il en est à dire uns seus.»
if it thereof is to say one alone
Mès autrement ira li geus
But otherwise will-go the game
qu'ele ne cuide, ce me samble;
than-she — thinks this to-me seems
quar li vilains conte et assamble
for the churl counts and assembles
.XII. deniers, sanz plus, qu'il a.
twelve pence without more which-he has

Tant va contant et ça et là
So-much he-goes counting both here and there
qu'il dist: «Or est .XX. sols .V. foiz,
that-he said Now it-is twenty sous five times
dès ore mès est il bien droiz
from now henceforth is it well right
que je les gart; ce sera sens.
that I them may-keep this will-be sense
Mès d'une chose me porpens:
But of-a thing myself I-bethink
s'or eüsse ma douce niece,
if-now I-had my sweet niece
qui fu fille de ma suer Tiece,
who was daughter of my sister Tiece
dame fust or de mon avoir.
lady she-would-be now of my having
El s'en ala par fol savoir
She herself-thence went by foolish knowledge
hors du païs en autre terre,
out of-the country into other land
et je l'ai fete maint jor querre
and I her-have made many-a day seek
en maint païs, en mainte vile!
in many-a country in many-a town
Ahi! douce niece Mabile,
Ah sweet niece Mabile
tant estiiez de bon lingnage,
so-much you-were of good lineage
dont vous vint ore tel corage?
whence to-you came now such heart

Or sont tuit troi mort mi enfant,
Now are all three dead my children
et ma fame dame Siersant!
and my wife lady Siersant
Jamès en mon cuer n'avrai joie
Ever-more in my heart not-I-shall-have joy
devant cele eure que je voie
before that hour that I may-see
ma douce niece en aucun tans.
my sweet niece in some time
Lors me rendisse moine blans;
Then myself I-would-render monk white
dame fust or de mon avoir,
lady she-would-be now of my having
riche mari peüst avoir.»
rich husband she-could have
Ainsi la plaint, ainsi la pleure,
Thus her he-laments thus her he-weeps
et Mabile saut en cele eure;
and Mabile leaps in that hour
lés lui s'assist et dist: «Preudon,
beside him she-sat and said Worthy-man
dont estes vous et vostre non?
whence are you and your name
— Je ai non Fouchier de la Brouce;
I have name Fouchier of the Brouce
mès vous samblez ma niece douce
but you seem my niece sweet
plus que nule fame qui fust.»
more than any woman who might-be

Cele se pasme sor le fust.
She herself faints on the log
Quant se redrece, si dist tant:
When herself raises so she-said so-much
«Or ai je ce que je demant.»
Now have I that which I ask
Puis si l'acole et si l'embrace,
Then so him-embraces and so him-clasps
et puis li bese bouche et face,
and then to-him kisses mouth and face
que ja n'en samble estre saoule,
so-that ever not-thereof she-seems to-be sated
et celui qui mout sot de boule,
and he who much knew of trickery
estraint les denz et puis souspire:
clenches the teeth and then sighs
«Bele niece, ne vous puis dire
Fair niece not to-you I-can say
la grant joie que j'ai au cuer.
the great joy that I-have in-the heart
Estes vous fille de ma suer?
Are you daughter of my sister
— Oïl, sire, de dame Tiece.
Yes lord of lady Tiece
— Mout ai esté por vous grant piece,»
Much I-have been for you great while
fet li vilains, «sanz avoir aise.»
says the churl without having ease
Estroitement l'acole et baise,
Tightly her-he-embraces and kisses

ainsi aus .II. mainent grant joie.
thus they two lead great joy
Et .II. houliers en mi la voie
And two bullies in mid the way
issirent fors de la meson.
went outside of the house
Font li houlier: «Icist preudon
Say the bullies This worthy-man
est il or nez de vostre vile?
is he now born of your town
— Voir, c'est mon oncle,» dist Mabile,
Truly this-is my uncle said Mabile
«dont vous avoie tant bien dit.»
of-whom to-you I-had so-much good said
Vers aus se retorne .I. petit,
Toward them herself turns a little
et tret la langue et tuert la joe,
and draws-out the tongue and twists the cheek
et li houlier refont la moe.
and the bullies make-in-turn the pout
«Est il donc vostre oncle? — Oïl voir.
Is he then your uncle Yes truly
— Grant honor i poez avoir,
Great honor there you-can have
et il en vous sans nul redout.
and he in you without any doubt
Et vous, preudom, du tout en tout,»
And you worthy-man of-the all in all
font li houlier, «sommes tuit vostre.
say the bullies we-are all yours

Par saint Pierre le bon apostre,
By saint Peter the good apostle
l'ostel avrez saint Julien.
the-lodging you-will-have of-saint Julian
Il n'a homme jusqu'à Gien
It not-has man as-far-as-to Gien
que plus de vous eüssons chier.»
whom more than you we-might-hold dear
Par les braz prenent dant Fouchier,
By the arms they-take sir Fouchier
si l'ont dedenz lor ostel mis.
so him-they-have within their lodging put
«Or tost,» ce dist Mabile, «amis,
Now quick this said Mabile friends
achatez oes et chapons.
buy geese and capons
— Dame,» font il, «venez ça dons,
Lady say they come here then
ja n'avons nous goute d'argent.
ever not-have we drop of-silver
— Tesiez,» fet el, «mauvese gent,
Be-silent says she bad folk
metez houces, metez sorcos,
put cloaks put surcoats
sor le vilain ert li escos.
on the churl will-be the reckoning
Cis escos vous sera bien saus:
This reckoning to-you will-be well saved
sempres avrez plus de .C. saus.»
soon you-will-have more than a-hundred sous

Que vous iroie je contant?
What to-you would-go I telling
Li dui houlier de maintenant,
The two bullies from at-once
comment qu'il aient fet chevance,
however that-they may-have made shift
.II. cras chapons sanz demorance
two fat capons without delay
ont aporté avoec .II. oes;
have brought with two geese
et Boivin lor a fet les moes
and Boivin to-them has made the pouts
en tant comme il se sont tornez.
in so-much as they themselves are turned
Mabile lor dist: «Or soiez
Mabile to-them said Now be
preus et vistes d'appareillier!»
brave and quick of-preparing
Qui donc veïst con li houlier
Who then might-see how the bullies
plument chapons et plument oies,
pluck capons and pluck geese
et Ysane fit toutes voies
and Ysane made all ways
le feu et ce qu'ele ot à fere;
the fire and that which-she had to do
et Mabile ne se pot tere
and Mabile not herself could silence
qu'el ne parlast à son vilain:
that-she not might-speak to her churl

«Biaus oncles, sont ores tuit sain
Fair uncle are now all sound
vostre fame, et mi dui neveu?
your wife and my two nephews
Je cuit qu'il sont ore mout preu.»
I think that-they are now very worthy
Et li vilains si li respont:
And the churl so to-her answers
«Bele niece, tui troi mort sont,
Fair niece all three dead are
par pou de duel n'ai esté mors;
by little from grief not-I-have been dead
or serez vous toz mes confors
now will-be you all my comfort
en mon païs, en nostre vile.
in my country in our town
— Ahi! lasse!» ce dist Mabile,
Ah wretched this said Mabile
«bien deüsse or vive enragier;
well I-ought now alive to-go-mad
lasse! s'il fust après mengier,
wretched if-it were after eating
il n'alast pas si malement.
it not-would-go at-all so badly
Lasse! je vi en mon dormant
Wretched I saw in my sleeping
ceste aventure en ceste nuit.
this adventure in this night
— Dame, li chapon sont tout cuit,
Lady the capons are all cooked

et les .II. oies en .I. haste,»
and the two geese on a spit
ce dist Ysane qui les haste.
this said Ysane who them roasts
«Ma douce dame, alez laver,
My sweet lady go to-wash
et si lessiez vostre plorer.»
and so leave your weeping
Adonc font au vilain le lorgne,
Then they-make at-the churl the leer
et voit li vilains, qui n'ert borgne,
and sees the churl who not-was one-eyed
qu'il le moquent en la meson.
that-they him mock in the house
Font li houlier: «Sire preudon,
Say the bullies Lord worthy-man
n'estes pas sages, ce m'est vis;
not-you-are at-all wise this to-me-is seeming
lessons les mors, prenons les vis.»
let-us-leave the dead let-us-take the living
Adonc sont assis à la table,
Then they-are seated at the table
mès du mengier ne fu pas fable,
but of-the eating not it-was at-all fable
assez en orent à plenté:
plenty thereof they-had in plenty
de bons vins n'orent pas chierté,
of good wines not-they-had at-all dearth

assez en font au vilain boivre
plenty thereof they-make to-the churl drink
por enyvrer et por deçoivre;
for to-make-drunk and for to-deceive
mès il ne les crient, ne ne doute.
but he not them fears nor not doubts
Desouz sa chape sa main boute,
Beneath his cape his hand he-thrusts
et fet semblant de trere argent.
and makes semblance of drawing silver
Dist Mabile: «Qu'alez querant,
Said Mabile What-go-you seeking
biaus douz oncles, dites le moi?
fair sweet uncle tell it me
— Bele niece, bien sai et voi
Fair niece well I-know and see
que mout vous couste cis mengiers:
that much to-you costs this meal
je metrai ci .XII. deniers.»
I shall-put here twelve pence
Mabile jure, et li houlier,
Mabile swears and the bullies
que il ja n'i metra denier.
that he ever not-there will-put penny
La table ostent quant ont mengié;
The table they-take-away when they-have eaten
et Mabile a doné congié
and Mabile has given leave
aux .II. houliers d'aler là hors:
to-the two bullies to-go there outside

«Si vous sera bons li essors,
So to-you will-be good the airing
que bien avez eü disner;
for well you-have had dinner
or prenez garde du souper.»
now take heed of-the supper
Li dui houlier s'en sont torné;
The two bullies themselves-thence are turned
après aus sont li huis fermé.
after them are the doors shut
Mabile prist à demander:
Mabile took to ask
«Biaus douz oncles, ne me celer
Fair sweet uncle not from-me hide
s'eüstes pieça compaignie
if-you-had long-ago company
à fame, nel me celez mie,
with woman not-it from-me hide at-all
puis que vostre fame fu morte:
since that your wife was dead
il est mout fols qui trop sorporte
he is very foolish who too-much endures
talent de fame, c'est folie,
desire of woman this-is folly
autressi comme de famie.
just as of hunger
— Niece, il a bien .VII. ans toz plains.
Niece it has well seven years all full
— Tant a il bien? — A tout le mains,
So-much has it well At all the least

ne de ce n'ai je nul talant.
nor of this not-have I any desire
— Tesiez, oncles, Dieus vous avant!
Be-silent uncle God you may-advance
Mès regardez ceste meschine.»
But look-at this girl
Adonc bat .III. fois sa poitrine:
Then she-beats three times her breast
«Oncles, je ai mout fort pechié,
Uncle I have very strongly sinned
qu'à ses parenz l'ai fort trechié.
for-from her kinsfolk her-I-have strongly tricked
Por seul son pucelage avoir,
For only her maidenhead to-have
eüsse je mout grant avoir;
might-have I very great having
mès vous l'avrez, que je le vueil.»
but you it-will-have for I it wish
A Ysane cluingne de l'ueil,
At Ysane she-winks with the-eye
que la borse li soit copée.
that the purse to-him may-be cut
Li vilains ot bien en penssée
The churl had well in thought
de coper la avant qu'Isane:
of cutting it before that-Ysane
la borse prent et si la trenche
the purse takes and so it cuts
dans Fouchiers, et puis si l'estuie:
sir Fouchier and then so it-stows

en son sain, près de sa char nue,
in his bosom near of his flesh naked
la mist, et puis si s'en retorne.
it he-put and then so himself-thence turns
Vers Ysane sa chiere torne,
Toward Ysane his face he-turns
et s'en vindrent li uns vers l'autre:
and themselves-thence came the one toward the-other
andui se vont couchier el piautre;
both themselves go to-lie on-the straw
Ysane va avant couchier,
Ysane goes before to-lie
et mout pria à dant Fouchier
and much prayed to sir Fouchier
por Dieu que il ne la bleçast.
for God that he not her might-hurt
Adonc covint que il ostast
Then behooved that he might-take-off
la coiffe au cul por fere l'uevre.
the coif from-the ass for to-do the-work
De sa chemise la descuevre,
From her shirt her he-uncovers
puis si commence à arecier,
then so he-begins to stiffen
et cele la borse à cerchier:
and she the purse to search
que qu'ele cerche, et cil l'estraint,
while that-she searches and that-one her-squeezes
de la pointe du vit la point;
with the point of-the prick her he-stings

el con li met jusqu'à la coille,
in-the cunt to-her he-puts as-far-as-to the testicle
dont li bat le cul, et rooille
whereby to-her he-beats the ass and rubs
tant, ce m'est vis, qu'il ot foutu.
so-much this to-me-is seeming that-he had fucked
Ses braies monte; s'a veü
His breeches he-pulls-up so-he-has seen
de sa borse les deux pendanz:
of his purse the two strings
«Hai las!» fet il, «chetiz dolanz,
Ah alas says he wretch grieving
tant ai hui fet male jornée!
so-much I-have today made ill day
Niece, ma borse m'est copée;
Niece my purse to-me-is cut
ceste fame le m'a trenchie.»
this woman it from-me-has cut
Mabile l'ot; s'en fut mout lie,
Mabile it-hears so-thereof she-was very glad
qui bien cuide que ce soit voir,
who well thinks that this may-be true
qu'ele covoitoit mout l'avoir.
for-she coveted much the-having
Maintenant a son huis desclos:
At-once she-has her door unclosed
«Dant vilain,» fet ele, «alez hors.
Sir churl says she go out
— Dont me fetes ma borse rendre.
Then for-me have my purse rendered

— Je vous baudrai la hart à pendre!
I to-you shall-hand the rope to hang
Alez tost hors de ma meson,
Go quick out of my house
ainçois que je praingne .I. baston.»
before that I may-take a stick
Cele .I. tison prent à .II. mains;
She a firebrand takes in two hands
adonc s'en va hors li vilains
then himself-thence goes out the churl
qui n'ot cure d'avoir des cops.
who not-had care of-having of-the blows
Après lui fu tost li huis clos;
After him was quick the door shut
tout entor lui chascuns assamble,
all around him each-one assembles
et il lor monstre à toz ensamble
and he to-them shows to all together
que sa borse li ont copée.
that his purse to-him they-have cut
Et Mabile l'a demandée
And Mabile it-has asked
à Ysane: «Baille ça tost,
of Ysane Hand here quick
que li vilains va au provost.
for the churl goes to-the provost
— Foi que je doi saint Nicholas,»
Faith that I owe saint Nicholas
dist Ysane, «je ne l'ai pas;
said Ysane I not it-have at-all

si l'ai je mout cerchie et quise.
so it-have I much searched and sought
— Par .I. poi que je ne te brise,
By a little that I not thee may-break
pute orde vieus, toutes les danz!
whore filthy old all the teeth
Enne vi je les .II. pendanz
Not saw I the two strings
que tu copas? jel sai de voir;
that thou didst-cut I-it know of truth
cuides les tu par toi avoir?
thinkest them thou by thyself to-have
Se tu m'en fez plus dire mot.....
If thou me-thereof makest more say word
Pute vieille, baille ça tost.
Whore old hand here quick
— Dame, comment vous baillerai,»
Lady how to-you shall-I-hand
dist Ysane, «ce que je n'ai?»
said Ysane that which I not-have
Et Mabile aus cheveus li cort,
And Mabile at-the hair to-her runs
qui n'estoient mie trop cort,
which not-were at-all too short
que jusqu'à la terre l'abat;
so-that as-far-as-to the earth her-fells
aux piez et aus poins la debat,
with-the feet and with-the fists her beats
qu'ele le fet poirre et chier:
so-that-she her makes fart and shit

«Par Dieu, pute, ce n'a mestier.
By God whore this not-has use
— Dame, or lessiez; je les querrai
Lady now let I them shall-seek
tant, se puis, que les troverai,
so-much if I-can that them I-shall-find
se de ci me lessiez torner.
if from here me you-let turn
— Va,» fet ele, «sanz demorer.»
Go says she without delaying
Mès Mabile l'estrain reborse,
But Mabile the-straw turns-over
qu'ele cuide trover la borse:
for-she thinks to-find the purse
«Dame, or entent,» ce dist Ysane;
Lady now hear this said Ysane
«perdre puisse je cors et ame,
lose may I body and soul
s'onques la borse soi ne vi:
if-ever the purse I-knew nor saw
or me poez tuer ici.
now me you-can kill here
— Par Dieu, pute, tu i morras.»
By God whore thou there wilt-die
Par les cheveus et par les dras
By the hair and by the clothes
l'a tirée jusqu'à ses piez;
her-she-has dragged as-far-as-to her feet
et ele crie: «Aidiez! aidiez!»
and she cries Help help

Quant son houlier de hors l'entent,
When her bully from outside it-hears
cele part cort isnelement;
that way he-runs swiftly
l'uis fiert du pié sanz demorer,
the-door he-strikes with-the foot without delaying
si qu'il le fet des gons voler.
so that-he it makes from-the hinges fly
Mabile prist par la chevece,
Mabile he-took by the collar
si qu'il la deront par destrece;
so that-he it tears by force
tant est la robe derompue
so-much is the robe torn
que dusqu'au cul en remest nue.
that as-far-as-to-the ass thereof she-remained naked
Puis l'a prise par les chevols,
Then her-he-has taken by the hair
du poing li done de granz cops
with-the fist to-her he-gives of great blows
par mi le vis, en mi les joes,
through mid the face in mid the cheeks
si qu'eles sont perses et bloes.
so-that they are livid and blue
Mès ele avra par tens secors
But she will-have in time succor
que son ami i vient le cors,
for her friend there comes the run
qui au crier l'a entendue;
who at-the crying her-has heard

tout maintenant, sanz atendue,
all at-once without waiting
s'entreprennent li dui glouton.
themselves-seize the two gluttons
Lors veïssiez emplir meson
Then you-might-see fill house
et de houliers et de putains;
both with bullies and with whores
chascuns i mit adonc les mains.
each there put then the hands
Lors veïssiez cheveus tirer,
Then you-might-see hair pull
tisons voler, draps deschirer,
firebrands fly clothes tear
et l'un desouz l'autre cheïr;
and the-one beneath the-other fall
li marcheant corent veïr
the merchants run to-see
ceus qui orent rouge testée,
those who had red head
que mout i ot dure meslée,
for very there had hard melee
et se s'i mistrent de tel gent
and so themselves-there put of such folk
qui ne s'en partirent pas gent:
who not themselves-thence parted at-all comely
teus i entra à robe vaire
such-one there entered with robe vair
qui la trest rouge et à refaire.
who it drew-out red and to remake

Boivin s'en vint droit au provost:
Boivin himself-thence came straight to-the provost
se li a conté mot à mot
so to-him has told word by word
de chief en chief la verité.
from end to end the truth
Et li provos l'a escouté,
And the provost him-has listened
qui mout ama la lecherie;
who much loved the roguery
sovent li fist conter sa vie
often him made tell his life
à ses parens, à ses amis,
to his kinsmen to his friends
qui mout s'en sont joué et ris.
who much themselves-thereat have played and laughed
Boivin remest .III. jours entiers;
Boivin remained three days entire
se li dona de ses deniers
so to-him gave of his pence
li provos .X. sous à Boivins,
the provost ten sous to Boivin
qui cest fablel fist à Provins.
who this fabliau made at Provins

Du segretain ou du moine

CXXIII · THE SACRISTAN, OR THE MONK

A spendthrift burgher's wife tells her husband that a sacristan offers her a hundred pounds, and on his advice she lets the monk come with the money. The husband kills him and props him in the abbey's privy. The prior thinks he has killed him and leaves him at the burgher's door. Buried in a dungheap where thieves hid a stolen flitch, he is hanged in its place. Armed on the chaplain's colt, he falls dead at the abbey's lintel, and the burgher keeps the hundred pounds and the flitch.

Segnor, je n'ai de mentir cure,
Lords I not-have of lying care
ançois dirai une aventure
rather I-shall-tell an adventure
ki avint si n'a encor gaires.
which happened so not-has yet much
Uns borgois assés deboinaires
A burgher plenty gracious
estoit en une boune vile;
was in a good town
femme avoit tele qu'en .c. mile
wife he-had such that-in a-hundred thousand
ne trouvast on si avenant,
not would-find one so comely
si courtoise ne si vaillant,
so courteous nor so worthy
si sage ne si bien aprise;
so wise nor so well taught
volentiers aloit à l'eglise.
willingly she-went to the-church

Ses maris, qui ert jovenciaus,
Her husband who was young-man
amoit mout et ciens et oisiaus
loved much both dogs and birds
et jus de tables et d'eskas;
and games of tables and of-chess
il ne despendoit mie à gas,
he not spent at-all in jest
ke tos jors voloit cort tenir.
for all days he-wished court to-hold
Tant fist qu'il le couvint venir
So-much he-did that-it him behooved to-come
maugré sien à sa terre vendre,
despite himself to his land to-sell
que il n'avoit mais que despendre
for he not-had more what to-spend
fors que seulement se maison,
except that only his house
mais ains se mesist en prison
but rather himself he-would-put into prison
ne ja fust se maisons vendue.
than ever might-be his house sold
.I. jor fu la dame venue
One day was the lady come
messe oïr à une abeïe,
mass to-hear at an abbey
querre secors Diu et aïe,
to-seek succor (of-)God and aid
et je vous di, ce n'est pas gile,
and I to-you say this not-is at-all trick

qu'entre l'abeïe et la vile
that-between the-abbey and the town
couroit une aige non pas large
ran a water not at-all wide
ki ne portoit ne nef ne barge.
which not carried neither ship nor barge
De çou plus conte ne vous quier:
Of this more tale not to-you I-seek
la dame se siet au moustier;
the lady herself sits at-the minster
en .I. des angles se fu misse
in one of-the corners herself she-was put
con cele qui fu bien aprise;
as she who was well taught
à jointes mains, à eus plourous,
with joined hands with eyes weeping
fu devant le crois à genous,
she-was before the cross on knees
et tint .I. sautier en sa main.
and held a psalter in her hand
Atant es vous le secretain:
Thereupon behold you the sacristan
la dame prist à regarder.
the lady he-took to look-at
Quant il le vit ensi plourer,
When he her saw thus weep
si va vers li tout belement:
so he-goes toward her all softly

«Cil Dius qu fist le firmament
That God who made the firmament
vous doinst bon jor, ma douce dame!
to-you may-give good day my sweet lady
Mout vauroie savoir par m'ame
Much I-would-wish to-know by my-soul
porquoi vous plorrés issi fort.
why you weep thus strongly
— A! sire, jou n'en ai pas tort.
Ah lord I not-thereof have at-all wrong
Se jou pleure, j'ai mout bien droit:
If I weep I-have very well right
j'ai un mari ki despendroit
I-have a husband who would-spend
.I. roiame s'il estoit siens;
a kingdom if-it were his
tant a fait que nous n'avons riens.»
so-much he-has done that we not-have anything
Li secretains la vit mout bele;
The sacristan her saw very fair
au cuer li point une estincele
in-the heart to-him stings a spark
ki li fait muer sa coulor.
which to-him makes change his color
Or est entrés en cele error
Now he-is entered into that error
dont il n'istra pas de legier.
from-which he not-will-go-out at-all with ease
«Dame,» fait il, «por saint Ligier,
Lady says he by saint Leger

se jou puis vostre amor avoir,
if I can your love have
tant vous donrai de mon avoir
so-much to-you I-shall-give of my wealth
ke plus i avra de .c. livres.
that more there will-have than a-hundred pounds
Saciés que je ne sui pas ivres;
Know that I not am at-all drunk
quant jou ai en vous m'amor mise.
since I have in you my-love put
— Li male mors m'eüst ains prise,»
The evil death me-would-have rather taken
fait la dame, «u li male rage
says the lady or the evil rage
ke j'eüsse fait cel folage!
than-that I-might-have done that folly
Je cuit, vous estes desperés
I think you are desperate
ki tel cose me requerrés;
who such thing of-me will-ask
et neporquant tant vous dirai
and nevertheless so-much to-you I-shall-say
ce qu'ennuit m'en consellerai.»
that tonight me-thereof I-shall-counsel
Quant l'entendi li secretains,
When it-heard the sacristan

vers Diu en tent jointes ses mains
toward God thereof he-holds joined his hands
de la joie que il en ot.
for the joy that he thereof had
Lor parlemens faut à cest mot.
Their parley fails at this word
La dame s'en va en maison;
The lady herself-thence goes into house
ses maris le met à raison:
her husband her puts to reason
«Dame,» fait il, «c'or nous dignons!
Lady says he now let-us dine
— Sire, por Diu et por ses nons,
Lord for God and for his names
entendés ains à ma besoigne:
attend rather to my business
le secretains veut que li doingne
the sacristan wishes that to-him I-may-give
m'amor et deviengne s'amie,
my-love and may-become his-friend
et dist que à ceste foïe
and says that at this time
me donra .c. livres d'estrainne.
me will-give a-hundred pounds of-gift
— Dame, ceste oeuvre est trop vilainne,
Lady this work is too churlish
ne ja n'avenra, se Diu plaist.
nor ever not-will-happen if God pleases
— Sire, or ai jou ce que me plaist,»
Lord now have I that which me pleases

fait la dame, «se Dius me gart.
says the lady so God me may-guard
— Dame, or, ouvrons du sens Renart,
Lady now let-us-work with-the sense (of-)Reynard
si vous plaist, si arons l'avoir.
if-it you pleases so we-shall-have the-wealth
Se vous volés m'amor avoir,
If you wish my-love to-have
vous irés au mostier demain,
you will-go to-the minster tomorrow
et si dirés au secretain
and so you-will-say to-the sacristan
ke tost viengne o vous en maison
that quickly he-may-come with you into house
et port deniers à grant fuison,
and may-bring pence in great plenty
ke sa volenté ferés toute,
for his will you-will-do all
et de çou n'aiiés vous ja doute
and of this not-have you ever fear
ke ja ne vous adesera.
that ever not you he-will-touch
— Sire, si con vous plaist sera,
Lord so as you pleases it-will-be
mais gardés vous qu'il ne soit mors,
but guard you that-he not may-be dead
car ce seroit peciés et tors.»
for this would-be sin and wrong

Atant ont laiscié lor afaire
Thereupon they-have left their business
dusqu'au matin que jors esclaire
until-the morning when day brightens
ke la dame se fu levée:
that the lady herself was risen
si s'en est au moustier alée
so herself-thence she-is to-the minster gone
et bien parée et bien vestue,
both well adorned and well clothed
et quant li moinnes l'a veüe,
and when the monk her-has seen
si trés grans joie au cuer l'en sort
so very great joy in-the heart to-him-thence springs
à bien petit qu'il ne li court
for very little that-he not to-her runs
baisier et les eus et la face;
to-kiss both the eyes and the face
esbahis est, ne set que face
dismayed he-is not he-knows what he-may-do
ke trop li est la presse espesse.
for too-much to-him is the press thick
Mout tost a fait canter la messe
Very quickly he-has made sing the mass
por çou que li siecles s'en aut.
for this that the world itself-thence may-go
De Diu ne de sains ne li caut,
Of God nor of saints not to-him matters
mout va tirant son caperon:
much he-goes pulling his hood

à la dame va environ
to the lady he-goes around
comme levriers qui lievre cache,
as greyhound who hare chases
et quant il voit vuide la place
and when he sees empty the place
et que la gens s'en fu alée,
and that the folk themselves-thence was gone
dont a la dame saluée,
then he-has the lady greeted
et ele li rent son salu.
and she to-him renders his greeting
Cil mos li a assés valu;
That word to-him has much availed
grant joie en a en son corage,
great joy thereof he-has in his heart
lors li a dit: «Ma dame sage,
then to-her he-has said My lady wise
dites que vous ferés de moi.
say what you will-do with me
— Sire, par la foi que vous doi,
Lord by the faith that to-you I-owe
vostre volenté ferai toute.
your will I-shall-do all
Venés ent, et si n'aiiés doute,
Come thence and so not-have fear
en maison n'est mie mesire;
in house not-is at-all my-lord
mais une rien vous veul jou dire,
but a thing to-you wish I to-say

et si vous fac bien asavoir,
and so to-you I-make well to-know
ne venés mie sans l'avoir,
not come at-all without the-wealth
ke vous feriés trés grant folie.»
for you would-do very great folly
Et il li dist: «Ma douce amie,
And he to-her said My sweet friend
par mon orde de saint Vincent,
by my order of saint Vincent
livres i ara plus de cent.»
pounds there will-have more than hundred
Atant lor parlement depart,
Thereupon their parley parts
et li moines, cui mout fu tart,
and the monk to-whom very it-was late
va par tut le moustier cerkant
goes through all the minster searching
et tous les auteus reversant.
and all the altars overturning
En son sain met quanqu'il i treuve;
In his bosom he-puts whatever-he there finds
puis vait à une arce, si l'uevre.
then he-goes to a chest so it-opens
Deniers i eut, et que diroie?
Pence there had and what would-I-say
Toute en enplist une coroie,
All thereof he-fills a belt

et saciés bien qu'il i a mis
and know well that-he there has put
assés plus qu'il n'avoit pramis.
much more than-he had promised
Atant s'en va, n'i a plus fait,
Thereupon himself-thence he-goes not-there he-has more done
et le dame a tout çou retrait
and the lady has all this told
son segnor que faire couvient:
to-her lord what to-do behooves
«Par foi, sire, li moines vient,
By faith lord the monk comes
mais une riens vous veul je dire:
but a thing to-you wish I to-say
por Diu, gardés vous de l'ocire!»
for God guard you from him-killing
Et li borgois ne tarda plus:
And the burgher not delayed more
en sa canbre entra par un wis
into his chamber he-entered by a door
à tout une mace quarrée;
with all a mace squared
le cauche fu et grans et lée;
the club was both great and broad
et il se mist en .I. recoi
and he himself put in a nook
entre le lit et le paroi.
between the bed and the wall

Li moines ne fait plus demore:
The monk not makes more delay
venus est en mout petit d'ore,
come he-is in very little of-time
c'or tant haste de sa besoigne
for-now so-much he-hastens of his business
k'il n'a ne honte ne vergongne.
that-he not-has neither shame nor disgrace
Quant il a la dame veüe,
When he has the lady seen
si l'a prise par la main nue,
so her-he-has taken by the hand bare
et puis li baille la coroie:
and then to-her hands the belt
«Dame,» fait il, «se Dius me voie,
Lady says he so God me may-see
plus i a que ne vous ai dit,
more there has than — to-you I-have said
por Diu, alons à vostre lit.»
for God let-us-go to your bed
Atant sont en la canbre mis:
Thereupon they-are into the chamber put
«Dame, je sui li vostre amis.»
Lady I am the your friend
Il l'a deseur le coude mise;
He her-has upon the quilt put
si li souslieve la cemise...
so to-her lifts the shift
Tout maintenant li eüst fait,
All at-once to-her he-would-have done

quant li borgois saut de l'agait;
when the burgher leaps from the-ambush
le mache tint à ses .II. mains,
the club he-held in his two hands
et dist: «Par mon cief, secretains,
and said By my head sacristan
venus estes à vostre jor!»
come you-are to your day
Li moines saut, se li cort sor,
The monk leaps so to-him runs on
si le prent par le ceveçaille
so him takes by the collar
et tel caup sor le col li baille
and such blow on the neck to-him gives
ke li borgois cuide estre mors.
that the burgher thinks to-be dead
Mais il saut, se li est estors,
But he leaps so from-him he-is escaped
ke d'ire et d'angousce fu plains:
for with-wrath and with-anguish he-was full
le mache lieve à ses .II. mains,
the club he-lifts in his two hands
tel cop sor le teste li doune
such blow on the head to-him he-gives
ke toute esmie la couroune
that all he-crumbles the tonsure
se que tous li cerviaus espant:
so that all the brain spills-out
li moines por le mort s'estent.
the monk for the dead himself-stretches

Quant la dame voit cele cose,
When the lady sees that thing
des eus plore, mais crier n'ose,
from-the eyes she-weeps but to-cry not-she-dares
et dit en bas: «Lasse caitive!
and says in low Wretched wretched-woman
Grans peciés est que je sui vive
Great sin it-is that I am alive
et que m'arme remaint u cors
and that my-soul remains in-the body
ke par moi est cis moines mors.
for by me is this monk dead
Or serai jou plus que honnie.
Now shall-be I more than shamed
— Dame,» dist il, «ne doutés mie,
Lady said he not fear at-all
ke vous n'en serés ja blasmée;
for you not-thereof will-be ever blamed
mais or soit la canbre fermée.»
but now may-be the chamber shut
Ensi remest à ceste fois.
Thus it-remained at this time
Or oés que fist li borgois:
Now hear what did the burgher
il atendi par grant voisdie
he waited with great cunning
ke la gens fu toute endormie
that the folk was all asleep
et tout couchié par mi la vile.
and all lying through mid the town

Lors se pensa d'une grant gile,
Then himself he-bethought of-a great trick
ainc nus hon tele ne trouva:
ever any man such not found
le moine enquierque, si s'en va
the monk he-loads so himself-thence goes
tout coiement vers l'abeïe,
all quietly toward the-abbey
mais le portier n'apela mie.
but the porter not-called-he at-all
Venus est as canbres privées
Come he-is to-the chambers privy
ki sor l'iaue estoient fermées;
which over the-water were shut
à .I. des pertruis est venus,
to one of-the holes he-is come
en seant met le moine jus,
in sitting he-puts the monk down
puis a pris un torcon de fain,
then he-has taken a wisp of hay
et se li a mis en la main;
and so to-him he-has put in the hand
bien l'apoia tout environ,
well him-propped-he all around
puis li vesti son caperon.
then to-him put-on his hood
Le moine laise en tel maniere,
The monk he-leaves in such manner
puis vint en son ostel ariere,
then came into his lodging back

et dist: «Dame, soiés en pais
and said Lady be in peace
seür somes, ne plourés mais;
sure we-are not weep more
ce ne puet mais nus hom savoir:
this not can more any man know
couchons nous, se ferons savoir.»
let-us-lie-down ourselves so we-shall-do wisely
Atant se vont coucier ensanble,
Thereupon themselves they-go lie-down together
et li secretains, ce me sanle,
and the sacristan this to-me seems
ne se puet muer ne crouler.
not himself can move nor stir
Mais le prieus couvint aler
But the prior behooved go
maugré sien, qui mal ot u ventre:
despite himself who ill had in-the belly
tout droit en la privée en entre
all straight into the privy thereinto he-enters
u li secretains fu assis.
where the sacristan was seated
Li prieus cuide que soit vis:
The prior thinks that-he may-be alive
si s'est assis à un pertruis.
so himself-he-is seated at a hole
En grant piece ne se mot puis
In great while not himself moved-he then
et tenoit .I. cierge en se main;
and held a candle in his hand

s'a couneü le secretain.
so-he-has known the sacristan
Endormis cuide que il soit
Asleep he-thinks that he may-be
et dist li prieus ce que doit:
and said the prior that which-he ought
«Qui ci dormés en tel maniere,
Who here sleep in such manner
tornés en vostre lit arriere!»
turn into your bed back
Cil ne dist mot ne tant ne quant,
That-one not said word neither so-much nor how-much
et li prieus leva boutant,
and the prior rose pushing
un petit le cuide asener.
a little him he-thinks to-touch
Cius ciet sor le pié du piler,
That-one falls on the foot of-the pillar
se que la teste vint de sos:
so that the head came from beneath
ains de sa bouce n'isci mos.
never from his mouth not-went-out word
Li prieus l'a levé amont,
The prior him-has lifted up
et li voit depecié le front,
and to-him sees broken-up the brow
et ne tira ne pié ne main:
and not drew neither foot nor hand
«E Dius! j'ai mort le secretain,
Ah God I-have killed the sacristan

le pecié n'ert ja espani!
the sin not-will-be ever purged
Volés vous, corpus Domini,
Wish you by-the-body of-the-Lord
biaus dous conpains, parlés à moi!»
fair sweet companion speak to me
Cil ne li dist ne çou ne quoi;
That-one not to-him said neither this nor what
«Dius! con m'a enconbré peciés!
God how me-has encumbered sin
Or sui jou de murdre enteciés.
Now am I of murder tainted
Ke ferai, las! se c'est seü?
What I-shall-do alas if this-is known
Tout mi conpaignon ont veü
All my companions have seen
k'ier matin desmenons l'uns l'autre:
that-yesterday morning we-mauled the-one the-other
or sui jou ceüs en mal faute,
now am I fallen into evil fault
ke mais messe ne canterai.
for more mass not I-shall-sing
Mais par l'ordre Diu si ferai;
But by the-order (of-)God so I-shall-do
ançois m'en cuit aidier mout bien:
rather myself-thereof I-think to-help very well
or i parra se je sai rien.»
now there will-appear if I know anything
Le moine enquierqua à son col,
The monk he-loaded at his neck

anquenuit trouvera plus fol;
tonight he-will-find more foolish
s'a trespassée la riviere,
so-he-has crossed the river
sa pensée est en tel maniere
his thought is in such manner
et dist que il le laisseroit
and said that he him would-leave
à l'uis de celi qu'il savoit
at the-door of her whom-he knew
ki est plus bele et plus cortoise.
who is most fair and most courteous
Et ce fu icele borgoise
And this was that burgher's-wife
por cui li secretains fu mors.
for whom the sacristan was dead
A cel uis aporta le cors
At that door he-brought the body
tout en estant, et puis s'en torne
all in standing and then himself-thence turns
ariere mout dolant et morne.
back very grieving and gloomy
En l'abeïe en est venus;
Into the-abbey thither he-is come
ens ou lit est couchiés tous nus.
into in-the bed he-is lain all naked
Et li borgois gist en sa canbre:
And the burgher lies in his chamber
trestout li vont tranlant li menbre,
all to-him go trembling the limbs

li effrois le fait esvellier;
the fright him makes wake
s'a apelée sa moullier
so-he-has called his wife
et si l'en a à raison mise:
and so her-thereof he-has to reason put
«Dame, bailliés moi ma cemise,
Lady hand me my shirt
s'irai là hors en mi la rue;
so-I-shall-go there outside in mid the street
ne sai quel cose m'est venue
not I-know what thing to-me-is come
au cuer: si m'en irai là hors.
at-the heart so myself-thence I-shall-go there outside
— Sire, Dius me gart vostre cors,»
Lord God for-me may-guard your body
fait la dame, «par sa douçour!»
says the lady by his sweetness
Cil se lieve qui en esrour
That-one himself raises who in haste
estoit, si a l'uis deffremé;
was so has the-door unlocked
mais ançois qu'il l'ait desserré,
but before that-he it-may-have unbarred
li ciet li moines à ses piés:
to-him falls the monk at his feet
«Dame,» dist il, «aidiés, aidiés!»
Lady said he help help

Quant la dame oï son mari,
When the lady heard her husband
cele part vint à cuer mari
that way she-came with heart grieved
et dist: «Sire, avés vous essoine?
and said Lord have you trouble
— Oie, dame, vesci le moine:
Yes lady see-here the monk
à peu ne m'a jeté du sens.
for little not me-he-has thrown from-the sense
Si m'aït Dius, je cuit et pens
So me-may-help God I think and suppose
k'il est venus ses deniers querre,
that-he is come his pence to-seek
mais s'il estoit ficiés en terre,
but if-he were thrust into earth
je cuit qu'il n'en istroit jamais;
I think that-he not-thence would-go-out ever
autrement n'arons nous ja pais.
otherwise not-shall-have we ever peace
Aidiés moi, si le porterai;
Help me so him I-shall-carry
je sai bien où je l'en fourai.»
I know well where I him-thence shall-bury
Le moine enquerquier si s'en va,
The monk he-loads so himself-thence goes

tant que .I. grant fumier trouva
until that-he a great dunghill found
de porretures et d'estrain:
of rubbish and of-straw
iluec metra le secretain.
there he-will-put the sacristan
En ce fumier ot .I. bacon
In this dunghill had a flitch
k'enblé avoient .III. larron;
which-stolen had three thieves
si l'avoient iluec mucié.
so it-they-had there hidden
Li borgois a tant revercié
The burgher has so-much turned-over
k'il est au bacon asenés,
that-he is upon-the flitch come
à peu ke il n'est forsenés;
for little that he not-is maddened
bien cuida que diable fust
well he-thought that devil it-was
ki du sens jeter le deüst.
who from-the sense to-throw him ought
Tous esbahis fu que ce soit
All dismayed he-was what this might-be
quant il vit que bacons estoit.
when he saw that flitch it-was
Hors l'en a trait à grant essoine,
Out it-thence he-has drawn with great trouble
et puis i enfouï le moine.
and then there buried the monk

Le bacon kerke, si s'en va,
The flitch he-loads so himself-thence goes
tant que sa femme retrouva.
until that his wife he-found-again
Si li dist: «Sire, dous amis,
So to-him she-said Lord sweet friend
porquoi n'est il en terre mis?
why not-is he into earth put
A quoi faire l'aportés vous?
For what to-do it-bring you
— Dame, par la foi que doi vous,
Lady by the faith that I-owe you
c'est uns bacons et bons et grans:
this-is a flitch both good and great
assés en avons à .II. ans.»
plenty thereof we-have for two years
De ces .II. atant vous lairons,
Of these two thereupon you we-shall-leave
et vous dirons des .III. larrons
and to-you shall-tell of-the three thieves
ki vellent en une taverne
who watch in a tavern
u maleürtés les gouverne.
where misfortune them governs
«Par foi,» fait li uns, «j'ai grant fain,
By faith says the one I-have great hunger
et il ert venredis demain
and it will-be Friday tomorrow
ke on n'ose de car mengier,
when one not-dares of flesh to-eat

encor se feroit bon vengier
still itself would-make good to-avenge
au mains d'une grant carbonée:
at-the least with-a great grilling
nous avons boune car salée.»
we have good flesh salted
Ensi s'acordent li larron
Thus themselves-agree the thieves
ke li doi aillent au bacon,
that the two may-go to-the flitch
et li tiers remaigne en estages.
and the third may-remain in pledge
«Taverniers,» fait il, «je sui pleges,
Taverner says he I am pledge
et cist iront à la vitaille:
and these will-go to the victuals
il venront maintenant sans faille.»
they will-come at-once without fail
Le gré eurent du tavernier;
The consent they-had of-the taverner
tout droit s'en vont vers le fumier;
all straight themselves-thence they-go toward the dunghill
le bacon coumencent à querre,
the flitch they-begin to seek
le fumier euvrent et la terre.
the dunghill they-open and the earth

Tant cerquierent qu'il asenerent
So-much they-searched that-they came-upon
au moine, et quant il i trouverent
the monk and when they there found
le froc, cascuns s'est mervelliés.
the frock each himself-is marveled
Li uns asenne vers les piés;
The one comes-upon toward the feet
cil desus dist: «De coi redotes?»
that-one above said Of what dreadest-thou
Il respont: «Nos bacons a botes,
He answers Our flitch has boots
et si a bras et mains et ganbes.
and so has arms and hands and legs
— Par les eus Diu,» fait il, tu ganbles.
By the eyes (of-)God says he thou jokest
— A! conpains, ce n'est mie fable,
Ah companion this not-is at-all fable
nous avons pour bacon diable
we have for flitch devil
grant et hideus et contrefait.
great and hideous and misshapen
— Si m'aït Dius, ci a mal plait;
So me-may-help God here has ill plea
di moi que nous en pourrons faire.
tell me what we thereof shall-be-able to-do
— Jou te dirai, par saint Ylaire,»
I to-thee shall-tell by saint Hilary
fait l'autres, «je me veus entendre:
says the-other I myself wish to-attend

je m'acorc que nous l'alons pendre
I myself-agree that we him-go hang
là ù nous l'enblasmes anuit:
there where we it-stole last-night
si en orras demain grant bruit
so thereof thou-wilt-hear tomorrow great noise
ke li vilains en sera pris,
for the churl thereof will-be taken
et puis en la gaiole mis.»
and then into the cage put
Ensi s'accordent li larron:
Thus themselves-agree the thieves
le moine en portent de randon,
the monk thence they-carry at speed
tant qu'il vinrent à le maison
until that-they came to the house
u orent enblé le bacon.
where they-had stolen the flitch
Ileuc l'ont par le col pendu;
There him-they-have by the neck hanged
ensi l'ont au vilain rendu,
thus him-they-have to-the churl rendered
puis s'en tornent vers la taverne
then themselves-thence they-turn toward the tavern
tout sans candelle et sans lanterne.
all without candle and without lantern
Quant lor conpains venir les voit,
When their companion to-come them sees

si lor demande ce que doit
so of-them he-asks that which ought
k'il n'aportoient carbonées:
that-they not-brought grillings
«Folie nous as demandées,
Folly of-us thou-hast asked
ke li bacons est devenus
for the flitch is become
uns moines cauciés et vestus.
a monk shod and clothed
— Et qu'en avés vous donques fait?
And what-thereof have you then done
— Demain en orras autre plait,
Tomorrow thereof thou-wilt-hear other plea
ke nous l'avonmes rependu
for we him-have hanged-again
de là ù l'aviés despendu.»
from there where him-you-had unhanged
Des .III. larrons vous ai voir dit.
Of-the three thieves to-you I-have true said
Mais li vilains gist en son lit,
But the churl lies in his bed
et sa femme d'encoste lui:
and his wife beside him
«Dame,» fait il, «g'irai ancui
Lady says he I-shall-go today
à .I. marchié qui est ci près:
to a market which is here near

je voi tous mes voisins engrès
I see all my neighbors eager
de gaegnier de leur preu faire,
of gaining of their profit to-make
et jou doi bien autretel faire.
and I ought well the-like to-do
— Par foi, sire, vous dites voir,
By faith lord you say true
mais je vous dirai .I. savoir,
but I to-you shall-tell a wisdom
et, s'il vous plaist, si me querrés;
and if-it you pleases so me you-will-believe
ançois vous desjeünerés.
rather you will-break-fast
— Dites donc que je menjerai,
Say then what I shall-eat
kar à mains de coust là serai.
for at less of cost there I-shall-be
— Sire, je vous tieng à bricon:
Lord I you hold for fool
n'avés vous encore .I. bacon?
not-have you still a flitch
Si en faites bones bricaudes.
So thereof make good slices
— Or sus! nous les mengerons caudes,»
Now up we them shall-eat hot
fait li vilains, «encore encui.»
says the churl still today
Atant se sont levé andui:
Thereupon themselves are risen both

la preus femme le fu atise;
the worthy wife the fire stirs
li vilains a l'esquiele prise.
the churl has the-ladder taken
Il apoia à .I. postel:
He propped-it against a post
et tint en sa main un coutel
and held in his hand a knife
ke le bacon veut asalir,
for the flitch he-wishes to-assail
et ne cuide mie falir.
and not thinks at-all to-fail
Quant il a les canbes veües
When he has the legs seen
ki n'estoient pas trop menues,
which not-were at-all too thin
il aperçoit le froc au moine:
he perceives the frock of-the monk
«Aïe Dius et saint Antoine!
Help God and saint Anthony
A! femme, ce n'est mie fable!
Ah wife this not-is at-all fable
Por no bacon avons diable
For our flitch we-have devil
grant et hideus et contrefait!
great and hideous and misshapen
Par le cuer Diu ci a mal plait!»
By the heart (of-)God here has ill plea
Atant a le hardel trenchié;
Thereupon he-has the rope cut

s'a le moine jus trebuchié.
so-he-has the monk down tumbled
Tant l'a visé, tant l'a veü
So-much him-he-has looked-at so-much him-he-has seen
s'a le moine reconneü:
so-he-has the monk recognized
«E! femme,» ce dist li vilains,
Ah wife this said the churl
«je cuit que c'est li secretains.»
I think that this-is the sacristan
Quant la femme ot cele novele,
When the wife hears that news
saciés ne li fu mie bele,
know not to-her was at-all fair
et dist en bas: «Que ferai, lasse?
and said in low What shall-I-do wretched
Bien sai, je serai demain arse,
Well I-know I shall-be tomorrow burned
et vous serés pendus, biaus sire.
and you will-be hanged fair lord
Demain porra li siecles dire
Tomorrow will-be-able the world to-say
k'o moi l'avés trové gisant.
that-with me him-you-have found lying
— Femme, ne te va esmaïant,
Wife not thyself go dismaying
ke jou ferai ja tost tel carne
for I shall-make already soon such charm
ke je t'osterai de cest blasme.
that I thee-shall-take from this blame

Li blans jumens au capelain
The white mare of-the chaplain
gist là hors atout .I. poulain;
lies there outside with a colt
n'est encore gaires dontés,
not-it-is yet much tamed
se li moines est sus montés
if the monk is upon mounted
bien loiiés à une cordele;
well bound with a little-cord
et nous avons une viés sele
and we have an old saddle
ke nous li metrons sus le dos.
which we to-it shall-put upon the back
— Sire, por Diu, car faites tos,
Lord for God now do quickly
car ce me vient mout à plaisir.»
for this to-me comes very at pleasure
Atant va le poulain saisir;
Thereupon he-goes the colt to-seize
si li a la sele sus mise:
so to-it has the saddle upon put
le moine i loient en tel guise
the monk there they-bind in such guise
de ça ne de là ne balance,
from here nor from there not sways
et puis a pris une viés lance:
and then he-has taken an old lance

se li a desous le bras mise
so to-him has beneath the arm put
en tel maniere et en tel guise
in such manner and in such guise
si qu'ele vient trestout à point,
so that-it comes all at point
et .I. escu viés et despoint
and a shield old and unpainted
li mist au col et tout destaint.
to-him he-put at-the neck and all faded
De l'ostel l'a ensi espaint,
From the-lodging him-he-has thus pushed
et li poulains en travers saut
and the colt in across leaps
une eure bas, et autre haut,
one hour low and other high
si que nus ne le puet tenir.
so that anyone not him can hold
Et li jors coumence à venir
And the day begins to come
ke la gens lieve par la vile:
that the folk rises through the town
du pule i ot plus de .XX. mile.
of-the folk there had more than twenty thousand
Du moine s'esmervellent tuit
At-the monk themselves-marvel all
ki ensi vient par si grant bruit:
who thus comes with so great noise
«Fremés les huis! fremés! fremés!
Shut the doors shut shut

Ci vient uns moines trés armés!»
Here comes a monk very armed
Tout le gabent et tout le huent;
All him mock and all him hoot
maint pot et maint torçon li ruent.
many-a pot and many-a wisp at-him they-throw
A l'abé conta uns vilains:
To the-abbot told a churl
«Sire, ci vient li secretains
Lord here comes the sacristan
cui on va huant comme fol;
whom one goes hooting as fool
il a .I. escu à son col
he has a shield at his neck
et porte lance grande et fort:
and carries lance great and strong
il veut mal ne sai cui de mort.»
he wishes ill not I-know to-whom of death
Et quant li prieus l'oï dire,
And when the prior it-heard say
si dist qu'il vient por lui ocire,
so he-said that-he comes for him to-kill
«Mais ci ne l'atendrai je mie.»
But here not him-shall-await I at-all
Atant se fiert en l'abeïe,
Thereupon himself he-strikes into the-abbey
derier le grant autel se muce;
behind the great altar himself he-hides
de son caperon fait aumuce,
of his hood he-makes almuce

à genous et à jointes mains.
on knees and with joined hands
Et saciés que li secretains
And know that the sacristan
fu encor sor le palefroi.
was still on the palfrey
Mais por le noise et por l'effroi
But for the noise and for the-fright
ke la jent aloient menant
that the folk went making
s'en va vers le moustier bruant,
itself-thence goes toward the minster roaring
mais si basse i estoit l'entrée
but so low there was the-entry
si comme i vient de randonée,
so as there it-comes of speed
fiert la teste à lintel desus:
he-strikes the head on-the lintel above
ronpent cordes, et il ciet jus
break cords and he falls down
trestous envers, janbes ouvertes.
all backward legs open
Adonc ceurent li moine acertes,
Then run the monks in-earnest
se se metent tout environ.
so themselves they-put all around
Sanglant treuvent le caperon
Bloody they-find the hood
et lui assés plus froit de glace:
and him much more cold than ice

or n'i a nul ki duel ne face.
now not-there has any who grief not may-make
Quant il virent que il est mors,
When they saw that he is dead
li abes enfoï le cors,
the abbot buried the body
mais, ançois qu'il fust enterrés,
but before that-he was interred
fu assés plains et regretés.
he-was much lamented and mourned
Ensi nus raconte cis livres
Thus to-us recounts this book
que li borgois ot les .c. livres
that the burgher had the hundred pounds
et le bacon en son demoine.
and the flitch in his own-keeping
Ici faut li Fablaus du Moine.
Here ends the Fabliau of-the Monk

Le lai d'Aristote

CXXXVII · THE LAY OF ARISTOTLE

Alexander, having conquered greater India, neglects his barons for love of a foreign girl, and his master Aristotle rebukes him. The girl vows revenge. At dawn she walks singing in the orchard below Aristotle's window, and he falls in love with her. She will love him if he lets her ride him, so he takes a saddle on his back and carries her over the grass while Alexander watches. Aristotle answers that if love can do this to an old man, a young one cannot escape it, and the king forgives him.

De biaus mos conter et retrere
From fair words to-tell and to-recount
ne se doit on mie retrere,
not himself ought one at-all to-withdraw
ainz doit on volentiers entendre
rather ought one willingly to-hear
biaus mos, quar on i puet aprendre
fair words for one thereby can learn
sens et cortoisie en l'oïr,
sense and courtesy in the-hearing
dont bien se doivent esjoïr
whereof well themselves ought to-rejoice
li bon, quar c'est droiz et coustume;
the good for this-is right and custom
mais li mauvès en font l'enfrume
but the wicked thereof make the-sulk
esraument que il dire l'oent,
at-once that they to-say it-hear
qu'ausi com li bon le bien loent,
for-just as the good the good praise

et vont la bone gent prisant,
and go the good folk prizing
les despisent li mesdisant
them despise the slanderers
quant il pis ne lor pueent fere;
when they worse not to-them can do
quar envie est de tel afere
for envy is of such kind
qu'ele maint tout adès el cuer
that-she dwells all ever in-the heart
de ceus qui sont mis à tel fuer
of those who are put at such rate
qu'il n'oent de nului bien dire
that-they not-hear of anyone good say
qu'il ne le vueillent contredire.
that-they not it may-wish to-gainsay
Si me merveil por qoi lor poise.
So myself I-marvel for what to-them it-weighs
Gent felonesse et peu cortoise,
Folk felonious and little courteous
por qoi metez vous sor autrui
for what put you on others
vostre mesdit et vostre anui?
your slander and your vexation
Ci a trop povre escusement;
Here has too poor excuse
vous pechiez .II. fois mortelment:
you sin two times mortally
l'une est de mesdire entremetre,
the-one is of slandering to-engage

et l'autre si rest desus metre
and the-other so is-in-turn upon to-put
vostre mesdit, vo felonie.
your slander your felony
Certes c'est crueus vilonie,
Certainly this-is cruel churlishness
mais envie point ne s'estanche.
but envy at-all not itself-stanches
Je ne vorrai faire arrestance
I not shall-wish to-make stop
ne demorer ici endroit:
nor to-dwell here in-place
ge croi que petit me vaudroit
I believe that little me would-avail
de blasmer les crueus felons
to blame the cruel felons
c'on puet apeler Guenelons,
whom-one can call Ganelons
qui retenir ne se porroient
who to-restrain not themselves could
de mesdire, s'il ne moroient,
from slandering if-they not died
tant i sont mis et afetié.
so-much there they-are set and trained
Or, revendrai à mon tretié
Now I-shall-come-back to my treatise
d'une aventure qu'emprise ai,
of-an adventure that-undertaken I-have

dont la matere mout prisai
of-which the matter much I-prized
quant je oi la novele oïe,
when I had the news heard
qui bien doit estre desploïe
which well ought to-be unfolded
et dite par rime et retraite
and said by rhyme and recounted
sanz vilonie et sanz retraite,
without churlishness and without withdrawal
quar oevre où vilonie cort
for work where churlishness runs
ne doit estre noncie à cort;
not ought to-be announced at court
ne jor que vive en mon ovrer
nor day that I-may-live in my working
ne quier vilonie conter,
not I-seek churlishness to-tell
ne ne l'empris, ne n'emprendrai;
nor not it-undertook nor not-shall-undertake
ja vilain mot n'entreprendrai
ever churlish word not-I-shall-undertake
en oevre n'en dit que je face;
in work nor-in saying that I may-make
quar vilonie si defface
for churlishness so effaces
tote riens et tolt sa savor.
all thing and takes-away its savor

Ne ja ne me ferai trovor
Nor ever not myself I-shall-make finder
de nule riens en mon vivant
of any thing in my living
où vilains moz voist arrivant,
where churlish words may-go arriving
ainz dirai de droit examplere
rather I-shall-tell from right exemplar
chose qui puist valoir et plere;
thing which may avail and please
c'ert en leu de fruit et d'espece.
this-will-be in place of fruit and of-spice
Nous trovons que li rois de Grece
We find that the king of Greece
Alixandres, qui tant fu sire,
Alexander who so-much was lord
et a tant prince moustra s'ire
and to so-many princes showed his-wrath
por aus abessier et donter
for them to-lower and to-tame
et por lui croistre et amonter,
and for himself to-grow and to-mount
ce li fist larguece sa mere
this to-him did largesse his mother
qui a toz avers semble amere
who to all misers seems bitter
et douce a toute large gent;
and sweet to all generous folk
quar tant comme avers aime argent,
for as-much as miser loves silver

le het larges à soustenir,
it hates generous-man to sustain
por ce que biens n'en puet venir
for this that good not-thence can come
por tant qu'il soit mis en estui.
for so-much as-it may-be put in case
Onques n'ot pooir sor cestui
Ever not-had power over this-one
riens qui venist d'argent ne d'or,
thing which might-come of-silver nor of-gold
ainz fist de chevaliers tresor.
rather he-made of knights treasure
Ce ne font pas li autre prince;
This not do at-all the other princes
quar chascuns recoppe et recince
for each clips and clips-again
et muce et repont si le sien,
and hides and conceals so the his-own
hennor n'en a ne autre bien.
honor not-thereof he-has nor other good
Cil que on apele Alixandre
That-one whom one calls Alexander
recuilli por par tot espandre,
gathered for through all to-spread
tot ot, tot prist et tot dona,
all he-had all he-took and all he-gave

quar a largece abandona
for to largesse gave-himself-up
li frans por mielz son pooir faire.
the noble for better his power to-make
Repairier vueil a mon afaire.
To-return I-wish to my business
Li bons rois de Grece et d'Egite
The good king of Greece and of-Egypt
avoit desouz ses piez sougite
had beneath his feet subjected
de novel Ynde la major;
of new India the greater
s'iert là demorez à sejor.
so-he-was there remained at rest
Et, se vous me volez enquerre
And if you me wish to-ask
por qoi demoroit en la terre
for what he-remained in the land
si volentiers, et tenoit qoi,
so willingly and kept quiet
bien vos dirai reson por qoi.
well to-you I-shall-tell reason for what
Amors, qui tout prent et embrace
Love who all takes and embraces
et tout aert et tout enlace,
and all seizes and all enlaces
l'avoit ja si es braies mis
him-had already so into-the breeches put
qu'il ert devenuz fins amis,
that-he was become fine lover

dont il ne se repentoit mie,
whereof he not himself repented at-all
quar il avoit trovée amie
for he had found friend
si bele comme à souhaidier.
so fair as to wish
N'avoit cure d'aillors plaidier
Not-he-had care of-elsewhere to-plead
fors qu'avoec li manoir et estre.
except that-with her to-dwell and to-be
Bien est amors et sire et mestre
Well is love both lord and master
quant du monde le plus poissant
when of-the world the most powerful
fet si humble et obeissant
it-makes so humble and obedient
qu'il ne prent nul conroi de lui,
that-he not takes any care of himself
ainz s'oublie tot por autrui.
rather himself-forgets all for another
C'est droiz, qu'amors est de tel pris
This-is right for-love is of such prize
que, puis qu'ele a .I. home pris,
that since that-she has a man taken
n'i doit avoir nul desroi,
not-there ought to-have any disorder
qu'autant a amors sor un roi
for-as-much has love over a king
de droit pooir, ce est la somme,
of right power this is the sum

comme sor tout le plus povre homme
as over all the most poor man
qui soit en Champaigne n'en France,
who may-be in Champagne or-in France
tant est sa seignorie franche.
so-much is its lordship free
Li rois avoec s'amie maint;
The king with his-friend dwells
s'en parolent maintes et maint,
so-thereof speak many-a-woman and many-a-man
de ce qu'il en tel point s'afole
of this that-he in such point himself-maddens
et qu'il maine vie si fole,
and that-he leads life so foolish
que il d'avoec li ne se muet
that he from-with her not himself moves
com cil qui amender nel puet.
as that-one who amend not-it can
Ainsi le velt amors et cele
Thus it wishes love and she
qui l'a point d'ardant estancele;
who him-has stung with-burning spark
d'ardant estancele l'a point
with-burning spark him-has stung
cele qui si l'a mis à point.
she who so him-has put to point
Por quant ele n'en est pas quite,
For as-much she not-thereof is at-all quit

ainz est si partie la luite
rather is so divided the struggle
que je n'en sai le meillor prandre,
that I not-thereof know the better to-take
car de quanque cuers puet esprandre,
for of whatever heart can kindle
rest la pucele enamorée,
is-in-turn the maiden enamored
et si fait iluec demorée,
and so makes there stay
ce n'est mie molt grant merveille,
this not-is at-all very great marvel
puis que volentez li conseille;
since that will to-him counsels
il li covient, ce n'est pas doute,
it to-him behooves this not-is at-all doubt
parfornir sa volenté tote,
to-accomplish his will all
ou il defferoit le commant
or he would-undo the command
qu'amors commande à fin amant.
that-love commands to fine lover
Molt de sa gent parler n'en osent,
Many of his folk to-speak not-thereof dare
mès tant par derriere l'en chosent
but so-much by behind him-thereof they-blame
que ses mestre Aristotes l'ot.
that his master Aristotle it-hears
S'est bien resons qu'il li deslot;
So-it-is well reason that-he to-him dissuade

belement à conseil l'a mis;
softly in counsel him-he-has put
si dist: «Mar avez deguerpis
so said Ill you-have abandoned
toz les barons de vo roiame
all the barons of your realm
por l'amor d'une estrange fame.»
for the-love of-a foreign woman
Alixandres li respondi
Alexander to-him answered
tantost com dire li oï:
at-once as to-say him he-heard
«Quantes en i covient il donques?
How-many thereof there behooves it then
Je cuit que cil n'amerent onques
I think that those not-loved ever
qui fol m'en vorroient clamer,
who foolish me-thereof would-wish to-call
c'on n'en puet c'une seule amer
for-one not-thereof can but-one only love
ne n'en doit pas droit plere c'une,
nor not-thereof ought at-all rightly to-please but-one
et qui de ce home rancune,
and who for this man bears-grudge
s'il maint là où ses cuers li rueve
if-he dwells there where his heart to-him bids
petit d'amor dedenz li trueve.»
little of-love within him finds

Aristotes, qui tout savoit
Aristotle who all knew
quanques droite clergie avoit,
whatever right learning had
respont au roi, et si li conte
answers to-the king and so to-him tells
c'on li atornoit à grant honte
that-one to-him turned to great shame
de ce qu'en tel point se demaine
of this that-in such point himself he-conducts
que toute entiere la semaine
that all entire the week
est avoec s'amie et arreste,
he-is with his-friend and stays
qu'il ne fet ne solaz ne feste
so-that-he not makes neither solace nor feast
à sa chevalerie toute;
for his knighthood all
«Je cuit que vous ne veez goute,
I think that you not see a-whit
rois,» dist Aristotes ses mestre,
king said Aristotle his master
«or vous puet on bien mener pestre
now you can one well lead to-graze
tout issi comme beste en pré.
all thus as beast in meadow
Trop avez le sens destempré,
Too-much you-have the sense untempered

quant por une meschine estrange
when for a girl foreign
voz cuers si durement se change
your heart so hard itself changes
c'on n'i puet mesure trover.
that-one not-there can measure find
Je vous vueil proier et rouver
I you wish to-pray and to-ask
à deporter de tel usage,
to refrain from such usage
quar trop i paiez le musage.»
for too-much there you-pay the folly
Ainsi chastoie son seignor
Thus chastises his lord
maistre Aristotes por s'amor,
master Aristotle for his-love
et li rois debonnairement
and the king graciously
li repondi honteusement
to-him answered shamefully
qu'il s'en garderoit volentiers
that-he himself-thence would-guard willingly
comme cil qui ert siens entiers.
as that-one who was his entire

Alixandres ainsi demeure,
Alexander thus stays
et atent maint jor et mainte eure
and waits many-a day and many-a hour
qu'à s'amie ne va n'aproche
that-to his-friend not goes nor-approaches
por le dit et por le reproche
for the saying and for the reproach
qu'il oï son mestre reprendre,
that-he heard his master reprove
mès sa volentez n'est pas mendre;
but his will not-is at-all less
encor n'i voist il comme il seut,
still not-there may-go he as he was-wont
mès mieus l'aime ore et mieus li veut
but better her-loves now and better to-her wishes
que il ne fist à nul jor mais.
than he — did on any day more
Paor de mesprendre et esmais
Fear of misdoing and dismay
l'en font estre son gré tenir;
him-thereof make be his liking hold
mais il n'a pas le souvenir
but he not-has at-all the remembering
laissié ensanble avec la voie,
left together with the way

qu'amors li ramenbre et ravoie
for-love to-him recalls and sets-on-the-way
son cler vis, sa bele façon
her clear face her fair fashion
où il n'a nule retraçon
where it not-has any trace
de vilenie ne de mal,
of churlishness nor of ill
front poli plus cler de cristal,
brow polished more clear than crystal
beau cors, bele bouche, blont chief.
fair body fair mouth blond head
«Ha!» fait il, «con à grant meschief
Ah says he how at great hardship
vuelent tote gent que ge vive!
wish all folk that I may-live
Mes maistres velt que ge estrive
My master wishes that I may-strive
vers ce qui enz el cuer me gist.
against that which within in-the heart to-me lies
Tant me destraint, tant me sogist
So-much me constrains so-much me subjects
autrui grez que m'en tieg por fol;
another's liking that me-thereof I-hold for fool
quant por autrui voloir m'afol,
when for another's will myself-I-madden
ce est folie, ce me sanble.
this is folly this to-me seems

Mes maistres et mi home ensanble
My master and my men together
ne sentent pas ce que ge sent,
not feel at-all that which I feel
et se ge plus à aus m'asent,
and if I more to them myself-assent
tot ai perdu, ce m'est avis.
all I-have lost this to-me-is seeming
Vielt amors vivre par devis?
Wishes love to-live by rule
Nenil, mais à sa volenté.»
No but at its will
Ainsi s'est li rois dementé,
Thus himself-has the king lamented
puis s'en torna veoir celi
then himself-thence turned to-see her
qui molt li plot et abeli.
who much him pleased and delighted
La pucele est en piez saillie
The maiden is to feet leaped
qui molt estoit desconseillie
who very was distressed
de la demorée le roi.
at the delay (of-)the king
Lors dist: «De vostre grant desroi
Then she-said Of your great disorder
sui bien aperceüe, sire.
I-am well aware lord

Finz amans comment se consire
Fine lover how himself deprives
de veoir ce que tant li plest?»
of seeing that which so-much to-him pleases
A cest mot pleure, si se test.
At this word she-weeps so herself is-silent
Et li rois li respont: «Amie,
And the king to-her answers Friend
ne vous en esmerveilliez mie,
not yourself thereat marvel at-all
qu'el demorer ot achoison.
for-the delaying had occasion
Mi chevalier et mi baron
My knights and my barons
me blasmoient trop durement
me blamed too hard
de ce que trop escharsement
for this that too sparingly
aloie joer avoec aus;
I-went to-play with them
et mes mestres dist que c'ert maus,
and my master said that it-was ill
qui laidement m'en a repris.
who foully me-thereof has reproved
Ne porquant bien sai qu'ai mespris
Not for-that well I-know that-I-have misdone
qu'onques por lui defis à mi
that-ever for him I-undid to me
la volenté de fin ami;
the will of fine lover

mès je doutai despit et honte.
but I feared scorn and shame
— Sire, je sai bien que ce monte,»
Lord I know well what this amounts
dist la dame, «se Dieus me faut;
said the lady if God me may-fail
mès, s'engins et sens ne me faut,
but if-wit and sense not me fail
par tens m'en voudrai bien vengier,
in time me-thereof I-shall-wish well to-avenge
et mieus le porrez ledengier
and better him you-will-be-able to-insult
et reprendre d'uevre plus male
and to-reprove for-work more evil
vostre mestre chanu et pale,
your master white-haired and pale
se je vif demain jusqu'à nonne
if I live tomorrow until-to nones
et amors sa force m'en donne
and love its strength to-me-thereof gives
qui poissance ja ne faudra;
whose power ever not will-fail
ne ja vers moi ne li vaudra
nor ever against me not to-him will-avail
dialetique ne gramaire;
dialectic nor grammar
se par moi nature nel maire,
if by me nature not-him may-worst

puis que je me sui aramie
since that I myself am pledged
donc savra il molt d'escremie,
then will-know he much of-fencing
et sel perceverez demain.
and so-it you-will-perceive tomorrow
Sire rois, or vous levez main;
Lord king now yourselves raise early
si verroiz nature apointer
so you-will-see nature to-point
au maistre por lui despointer
at-the master for him to-unpoint
de son sens et de sa clergie.
from his sense and from his learning
Ainz de si tranchant escorgie
Ever with so cutting whip
ne fu feruz, ne de si cointe
not he-was struck nor with so neat
con il avra demain acointe,
as he will-have tomorrow acquainted
se je puis ne aler ne estre
if I can either go or be
le matin devant sa fenestre.
the morning before his window
Mar nos a laidi ne gabé!
Ill us he-has insulted nor mocked
Or soiez demain en abé
Now be tomorrow on watch
aus fenestres de cele tor,
at-the windows of that tower

et je porverrai mon ator.»
and I shall-provide my array
Alixandres molt s'esjoï
Alexander much himself-rejoiced
de ce que dire li oï,
at this that to-say her he-heard
puis l'acola estroitement,
then her-embraced tightly
si le dist debonnairement:
so it said graciously
«Molt estes vaillanz, biaus cuers dous,
Very you-are valiant fair heart sweet
et, si je aim autrui que vous,
and if I love another than you
si me doinst Dieus mauvès acueil.
so to-me may-give God evil welcome
Amors ai teles com je veuil,
Love I-have such as I wish
si que en autres ne claim part.»
so that in others not I-claim share
A tant de s'amie se part,
At that from his-friend himself parts
si s'en va, et cele demeure.
so himself-thence goes and she remains
Au matin, quant tens fu et eure,
In-the morning when time was and hour
sans esveillier autrui se lieve,
without waking another herself raises
quar li levers pas ne li grieve.
for the rising at-all not her grieves

Si s'est en pure sa chemise
So herself-she-is in pure her shirt
enz el vergier souz la tor mise,
within in-the orchard beneath the tower put
en .I. bliaut ynde gouté,
in a tunic indigo dotted
quar la matinée ert d'esté
for the morning was of-summer
et li vergiers plains de verdure.
and the orchard full of greenery
Si ne doutoit pas la froidure,
So not she-feared at-all the cold
qu'il faisoit chalt et dolz oré.
for-it made hot and sweet weather
Bien li ot nature enfloré
Well to-her had nature flowered
son cler vis de lis et de rose,
her clear face with lily and with rose
n'en toute sa taille n'ot chose
nor-in all her figure not-she-had thing
qui par droit estre n'i deüst;
which by right to-be not-there ought
et si ne cuidiez qu'ele eüst
and so not think that-she had
loiée ne guimple ne bende.
bound neither wimple nor band
Si l'embellist molt et amende
So her-embellishes much and amends
sa bele tresce longue et blonde;
her fair tress long and blond

n'a pas deservi qu'on la tonde
not-has at-all deserved that-one her may-shear
la dame qui si biau chief porte;
the lady who so fair head bears
par mi le vergier se deporte
through mid the orchard herself amuses
cele, qui nature avoit painte,
she whom nature had painted
nuz piez, desloiée, deschainte,
bare feet unbound ungirt
si va escorçant son bliaut,
so she-goes tucking-up her tunic
et va chantant, non mie haut:
and goes singing not at-all loud
or la voi, la voi, la voi.
now her I-see her I-see her I-see
La fontaine i sort serie.
The fountain there springs serene
Or la voi, la voi, m'amie,
Now her I-see her I-see my-friend
el glaiolai desouz l'aunoi.
in-the gladiolus-bed beneath the-alder-grove
Or la voi, la voi, la voi,
Now her I-see her I-see her I-see
la bele blonde, a li m'otroi.
the fair blond to her myself-I-grant

Li rois la chançoneste entent,
The king the little-song hears
qui son cuer et s'oreille tent
who his heart and his-ear holds-out
à la fenestre por oïr.
at the window for to-hear
Molt l'a fait s'amie esjoïr
Much him-has made his-friend rejoice
de son dit et de son chanter.
with her saying and with her singing
Anqui se porra bien vanter
Today himself will-be-able well to-boast
ses mestre Aristotes d'Ataines
his master Aristotle of-Athens
qu'amors bones leaus lontaines
that-loves good loyal distant
se desirent à aprochier.
themselves desire to approach
Ne mès n'en ira reprochier
Nor henceforth not-thereof will-go to-reproach
le roi, ne ne dira anui,
the king nor not will-say vexation
quar il trovera tant en lui
for he will-find so-much in himself
et ert de volenté si yvres.
and will-be of will so drunk
Levez est, si siet à ses livres,
Risen he-is so sits at his books
voit la dame aler et venir,
he-sees the lady go and come

el cuer li met .I. souvenir
in-the heart to-him puts a remembrance
tel que son livre li fet clore.
such that his book to-him makes close
«Hé, Dieus!» fet il, «quar venist ore
Ah God says he would-that might-come now
cil mireoirs plus près de ci,
that mirror more near from here
si me metroie en sa merci.
so myself I-would-put into her mercy
Comment! si m'i metroie donques?
How so myself-there I-would-put then
Non feroie, ce n'avint onques
Not I-would-do this not-happened ever
que je, qui tant sai et tant puis,
that I who so-much know and so-much can
tant de folie en mon cuer truis
so-much of folly in my heart find
c'uns seuls veoirs tout mon cuer oste.
that-a single seeing all my heart takes-away
Amors veut que le tiengne à oste,
Love wishes that him I-may-hold for guest
mès honors le tient à hontage
but honor it holds for shame
tel sovenir et tel outrage.
such remembrance and such outrage
Avoi! qu'est mes cuers devenuz?
Alas what-is my heart become
Je sui toz vieus et toz chenuz,
I am all old and all white-haired

lais et pales et noirs et maigres,
ugly and pale and black and lean
en filosofie plus aigres
in philosophy more harsh
que nus c'on sache ne ne cuide.
than anyone that-one may-know or — may-think
Molt ai mal emploié m'estuide,
Very I-have ill employed my-study
qui onques ne finai d'aprendre.
who ever not ceased of-learning
Or me desaprent por mieus prendre
Now me unteaches for better to-take
amors, qui maint preudomme a pris.
love who many-a worthy-man has taken
S'ai en aprenant desapris,
So-I-have in learning unlearned
desapris ai en aprenant,
unlearned I-have in learning
puis qu'amors me va si prenant;
since that-love me goes so taking
et dès que ne m'en puis resqueurre,
and since that not myself-thence I-can rescue
au convenir soit et droiz queure,
at-the agreement it-may-be and right may-run
ne ja por moi droiz ne remaigne.
nor ever for me right not may-remain

Viegne amors herbergier, or viegne
May-come love to-lodge now may-come
en moi, ge n'en sai el que dire,
into me I not-thereof know else what to-say
puis que je nel puis contredire.»
since that I not-it can gainsay
Si com li mestre se dementе,
Just as the master himself laments
la dame en .I. rainssel de mente
the lady from a sprig of mint
fist .I. chapel de maintes flors.
made a garland of many flowers
Au fere li sovint d'amors;
At-the making to-her remembered of-love
si chante au cueuillir les floretes:
so she-sings at-the picking the little-flowers
ci me tienent amoretes;
here me hold little-loves
dras i gaoit meschinete.
clothes there washed girl
Douce, trop vous aim!
Sweet too-much you I-love
Ci me tienent amoretes
Here me hold little-loves
où je tieng ma main.
where I hold my hand
Ainsi chante, ainsi s'esbanoie;
Thus she-sings thus herself-she-amuses

mès Aristote molt anoie
but Aristotle much it-vexes
de ce que plus près ne li vient.
for this that more near not to-him she-comes
Ele set bien quanqu'il covient
She knows well whatever it-behooves
à lui eschaufer et atrere.
for him to-heat and to-draw
De tel sajete le veut trere
With such arrow him she-wishes to-shoot
qui cointement soit empenée.
which neatly may-be feathered
Tant s'est traveillie et penée
So-much herself-she-has toiled and taken-pains
qu'à sa volenté l'a atret.
that-to her will him-she-has drawn
Tout belement et tout à tret
All softly and all at leisure
son chapel en son biau chef pose;
her garland on her fair head she-sets
ne fet samblant de nule chose
not she-makes semblance of any thing
que le voie ne aperçoive;
that him she-may-see nor perceive
et por ce que mieus le deçoive
and for this that better him she-may-deceive
et plus bel le voist enchantant,
and more fair him may-go enchanting

vers la fenestre va chantant
toward the window she-goes singing
.I. vers d'une chançon de toile,
a verse of-a song of weaving
quar ne veut que cil plus se çoile
for not she-wishes that that-one more himself may-hide
qui tout a mis en la querele:
who all has put into the quarrel
en .I. vergier, lez une fontenele,
in an orchard beside a little-fountain
dont clere est l'onde et blanche est la gravele,
whose clear is the-wave and white is the gravel
siet fille à roi, sa main à sa maissele;
sits daughter to king her hand to her cheek
en souspirant son douz ami apele:
in sighing her sweet friend she-calls
hé! biaus quens Guis,
ah fair count Guy
la vostre amors me tot solas et ris.
the your love from-me takes solace and laughter
Quant ele ot ce dit, se près passe
When she had this said so near passes
de la large fenestre basse,
to the wide window low
que cil par le bliaut l'aert
that that-one by the tunic her-seizes
qui trop cuidoit avoir souffert,
who too-much thought to-have suffered
tant l'a desirrée à merveille.
so-much her-he-has desired at marvel

A ce coup cheï la chandeille
At this stroke fell the candle
toute jusqu'à terre au viel chat
all as-far-as-to earth to-the old cat
qui priz est sanz point de rachat.
who taken is without at-all of ransom
Et la damoisele s'escrie:
And the damsel herself-cries-out
«Qu'est ce?» fet ele, «Dieus aïe!
What-is this says she God help
Avoi! qui m'a ci detenue?
Alas who me-has here detained
— Dame, bien soiez vous venue,»
Lady well be you come
fet cil qui provos est et maire
says that-one who provost is and mayor
de la folie qui le maire.
of the folly which him worsts
— Mestre,» ce dist la dame, «avoi!
Master this said the lady alas
Estes vous ce que je ci voi?
Are you this that I here see
— Oïl,» dist il, «ma douce dame,
Yes said he my sweet lady
por vous metrai et cors et ame,
for you I-shall-put both body and soul
vie et honor en aventure.
life and honor into hazard

Tant m'a fet amors et nature
So-much me-has done love and nature
que de vous partir ne me puis.
that from you to-part not myself I-can
— Ha! mestre,» fet ele, «despuis
Ah master says she since
qu'ainsi est que vous tant m'amez,
that-thus it-is that you so-much me-love
ja par moi n'en serez blasmez;
ever by me not-thereof you-will-be blamed
mès la chose est molt mal alée.
but the thing is very ill gone
Ne sai qui m'a au roi meslée
Not I-know who me-has with-the king embroiled
et li blasmé de ce que tant
and him blamed for this that so-much
s'aloit avec moi deportant.
he-went with me amusing-himself
— Dame,» dist il, «or vous tesiez,
Lady said he now yourselves be-silent
que par moi sera rapesiez
for by me will-be appeased
et li mautalenz et li cris
both the ill-temper and the outcry
et li blasmes et li estris,
and the blame and the strife
quar li rois m'aime et crient et doute
for the king me-loves and fears and dreads
plus que s'autre maisnie tote.
more than his-other household all

Mès, por Dieu! ceenz vous traiez,
But for God within-here yourselves draw
et mon desir me rapaiez
and my desire for-me appease-again
de vostre cors gent et poli.
with your body comely and polished
— Mestres, ainçois qu'a vous foli,»
Master before that-with you I-play-the-fool
dist la dame, «vous covient fere
said the lady to-you behooves to-do
por moi .I. molt divers afere,
for me a very strange business
se tant estes d'amor souspris;
if so-much you-are with-love seized
quar molt trés granz talenz m'est pris
for very very great desire me-has taken
de vous .I. petit chevauchier
of you a little to-ride
desus ceste herbe en cest vergier.
upon this grass in this orchard
Et si vueil,» dist la damoisele,
And so I-wish said the damsel
«que desor vos ait une sele;
that upon you may-have a saddle
s'irai plus honorablement.»
so-I-shall-go more honorably

Li mestres respont liement
The master answers gladly
que ce fera il volentiers
that this will-do he willingly
comme cil qui ert siens entiers.
as that-one who was hers entire
Bien l'a mis amors en effroi,
Well him-has put love in fright
quant la sele d'un palefroi
when the saddle of-a palfrey
li fet aporter à son col.
to-him she-has bring at his neck
Or, croi qu'il sanblera bien fol
Now believe that-he will-seem well foolish
quant desor le dos li ert mise,
when upon the back to-him it-will-be put
et cele s'en est entremise
and she herself-thereto has engaged
tant qu'ele li met sor le dos.
so-much that-she to-him puts on the back
Bien fait amors d'un viel rados
Well makes love of-an old dotard
puis que nature le semont,
since that nature him summons
quant tout le meillor clerc du mont
when all the best clerk of-the world
fet comme roncin enseler,
it-makes like nag be-saddled

et puis a .IIII. piez aler
and then on four feet to-go
à chatonant par desus l'erbe.
on crawling over above the-grass
Ci vous di example et proverbe,
Here to-you I-say example and proverb
sel savrai bien à point conter.
so-it I-shall-know-how well at point to-tell
La damoisele fet monter
The damsel he-makes mount
sor son dos, et puis si la porte;
on his back and then so her carries
et Alixandre se deporte
and Alexander himself amuses
en veoir et en esgarder
in seeing and in watching
celui qui sens ne pot garder
him who sense not could keep
qu'amors ne l'ait mis à folie.
that-love not him-may-have put to folly
Et la damoisele trop lie
And the damsel very glad
aval le vergier le conduit;
down the orchard him leads
en lui chevauchier se deduit,
in him riding herself she-delights

si chante cler et à vois plaine:
so she-sings clear and with voice full
ainsi va qui amors maine,
thus goes who love leads
bele Doe i ghée laine;
fair Doe there washes wool
mestre musars me soustient.
master dolt me sustains
Ainsi va qui amors maine
Thus goes who love leads
et ainsi qui les maintient.
and thus who them maintains
Alixandres ert en la tor,
Alexander was in the tower
bien ot veü trestout l'ator;
well he-had seen all the-array
qui lui donast trestout l'empire
who to-him might-give all the-empire
ne se tenist il pas de rire:
not himself would-hold he at-all from laughing
«Mestre,» dist il, «por Dieu! que vaut ce?
Master said he for God what is-worth this
Je voi molt bien c'on vous chevauche.
I see very well that-one you rides
Comment! estes vous forsenez
How are you maddened
qui en tel point estes menez?
who in such point are led

Vous me feïstes l'autre fois
You me made the-other time
de li veoir si grant defoïz,
of her seeing so great prohibition
et or vous a mis en tel point
and now you she-has put in such point
qu'il n'a en vous de reson point,
that-it not-has in you of reason at-all
ainz vous tenez à loi de beste.»
rather you yourselves-hold in law of beast
Aristotes drece la teste,
Aristotle raises the head
et la damoisele descent.
and the damsel descends
Lors respondi honteusement:
Then he-answered shamefully
«Sire,» fait il, «vos dites voir;
Lord says he you say true
mais or poez apercevoir,
but now you-can perceive
j'oi droit se je doutai de vous
I-had right if I feared for you
qui en fin jovent ardez touz
who in fine youth burn all
et en feu de droite jonece,
and in fire of right youth
quant je, qui sui plains de viellece,
when I who am full of old-age

ne poi contre amor rendre estal
not could against love render stand
qu'ele ne m'ait torné à mal
that-she not me-may-have turned to ill
si grant com vous avez veü.
so great as you have seen
Quanque j'ai apris et leü
Whatever I-have learned and read
m'a deffet amours en une eure
me-has undone love in one hour
qui toute rien taut et deveure.
who every thing takes-away and devours
Et bien sachiez certainement
And well know certainly
puis qu'il m'estuet apertement
since that-it me-behooves openly
fere folie si aperte,
to-do folly so open
vous n'en poez partir sans perte
you not-thereof can part without loss
ne sanz blasme de vostre gent.»
nor without blame from your folk
Molt s'est rescous et bel et gent
Much himself-he-has rescued both fairly and comely
Aristotes de son meschief,
Aristotle from his hardship
et la dame est venue à chief
and the lady is come to end
de trestout quanques empris a;
of all whatever undertaken she-has

et li rois forment l'en prisa
and the king greatly her-thereof prized
quant de son mestre l'a vengié
when on his master him-she-has avenged
qui l'ot blasmé et laidengié.
who him-had blamed and insulted
Mès tant s'en fu bien escusez
But so-much himself-thence he-was well excused
de ce qu'ainsi fu amusez
of this that-thus he-was fooled
qu'en riant li rois li pardonne,
that-in laughing the king to-him pardons
et ses metres li abandone
and his master to-him gives-over
sa volenté à parfurnir,
his will to accomplish
quar n'a reson au retenir.
for not-he-has reason for-the restraining
Or vueil une demande fere,
Now I-wish a question to-make
en cest dit et en ceste afere
in this poem and in this business
dont je trai Chaton à garant
for-which I draw Cato for warrant
qui fet l'auctorité parant,
who makes the-authority apparent
qui bons clers fu et sages hom:
who good clerk was and wise man
Turpe est doctori, cum culpa redarguit ipsum.
Shameful is to-teacher when fault refutes himself

Chatons dist en cest vers la glose
Cato said in this verse the gloss
que, quant on est repris de chose
that when one is reproved of thing
c'on a blasmé à fere autrui,
that-one has blamed to do another
puis c'on en a blasme et anui,
since that-one thereof has blame and vexation
c'est grant folie qui ce fet;
this-is great folly who this does
son sens amenuise et deffet.
his sense he-diminishes and undoes
Voirs fu qu'Aristotes blasma
True was that-Aristotle blamed
Alixandre et masaesma,
Alexander and bespoke-ill
qui tant s'estoit mis en amer,
who so-much himself-had put into loving
et puis se lessa entamer
and then himself let wound
si en amor à une foiz
so in love at one time
qu'il n'ot en lui point de defoiz;
that-he not-had in him at-all of resistance
et s'il l'ot par force entrepris,
and if-he it-had by force undertaken
en doit il estre en mal repris?
thereby ought he to-be in ill reproved

Nenil, quar amors l'efforça
No for love him-forced
et volentez qui la force a
and will which the force has
sor toz et sor toutes ensamble,
over all-men and over all-women together
dont n'a li mestres, ce me samble,
whereby not-has the master this to-me seems
nule coupe en sa mespresure,
any guilt in his misdeed
ne l'a pas fait par apresure,
not it-he-has at-all done by learning
mès par nature droite et fine.
but by nature right and fine
Henris ceste aventure fine
Henri this adventure ends
qui dist et si moustre en la fin
who says and so shows in the end
c'on ne peut decevoir cuer fin
that-one not can deceive heart fine
ne oster de sa volenté,
nor take-away from its will
puis qu'amors l'a en volenté
since that-love it-has in will
por emprisoner et destraindre;
for to-imprison and to-constrain

et cil qui de ce se veut faindre
and that-one who from this himself wishes to-feign
n'est mie trop loiaus amere
not-is at-all too loyal lover
puis que s'amors li samble amere,
since that his-love to-him seems bitter
quar mieus ne peut on endurer
for better not can one endure
amor que par dessavorer.
love than by unsavoring
Por celui mal bien plere doivent
For that ill well please ought
qu'après les maus les biens reçoivent
that-after the ills the goods receive
par maintes foiz le mal traiant
by many times the ill drawing
qu'aussi amors vont essaiant.
for-also loves go testing
Si set ele rasseürer
So knows-how she to-reassure
qui puet en leauté durer
who can in loyalty endure
s'atende et sueffre son martire,
himself-may-wait and suffers his torment
quar à joie li revient s'ire.
for to joy to-him returns his-wrath

Si puet on par cest dist aprendre
So can one by this poem learn
c'on ne doit blasmer ne reprendre
that-one not ought to-blame nor to-reprove
les amies ne les amanz,
the beloveds nor the lovers
qu'amors a pooir et commanz
for-love has power and commands
par deseur toz et deseur toutes,
over above all-men and above all-women
et d'euls fet ses volentez toutes,
and of-them does its wills all
et tret à honor toz ses fez.
and draws to honor all its deeds
Despuis que cil en soustient fez
Since that that-one thereof sustains burden
qui fu mestre en toute science,
who was master in all science
bien devons prendre sapience
well we-ought to-take wisdom
selonc ce que nous mains savons
according-to this that we less know
le maus que por amor avons;
the ills that for love we-have

quar qui por amor sueffre maus
for who for love suffers ills
bien li set merir ses travaus
well to-him knows-how to-reward his toils
que loiaumant sueffre por li.
which loyally he-suffers for her
Veritez est, et je le di,
Truth it-is and I it say
qu'amors vaint tout et tout vaincra
that-love conquers all and all will-conquer
tant com cis siecles durera.
as-long as this world will-last

Du chevalier qui fist les cons parler

CXLVII · THE KNIGHT WHO MADE CUNTS SPEAK

A poor knight and his squire Huet come on three maidens bathing in a fountain, and Huet steals their clothes, but the knight gives them back. The maidens give him three gifts: to be welcomed everywhere, to make any cunt he addresses answer him, and to make its ass answer when it cannot. He tries the gift on a priest's mare and then at a count's castle. The countess wagers sixty pounds that hers will not speak and stops it with cotton. Her ass explains why, and the knight wins the sixty pounds.

Flabel sont or mout encorsé;
Fabliaux are now very current
maint denier en ont enborsé
many-a penny thereby have pursed
cil qui les content et les portent,
those who them tell and them carry
quar grant confortement raportent
for great comfort they-bring
as enovrez et as oiseus,
to-the busy and to-the idle
quant il n'i a genz trop noiseus,
when it not-there has folk too quarrelsome
et nès à ceus qui sont plain d'ire,
and even to those who are full of-wrath
se il oent bon flabeau dire,
if they hear good fabliau told
si lor fait il grant alegance
so to-them makes it great relief
et oublier duel et pesance,
and forget grief and heaviness

et mauvaitié et pensement.
and wickedness and care
Ce dist Guerins, qui pas ne ment,
This said Guerin who at-all not lies
qui d'un chevalier nos raconte
who of-a knight to-us tells
une aventure en icest conte,
an adventure in this tale
qui avoit merveilleus eür,
who had marvelous luck
et ge vos di tot asseür
and I to-you say all sure
que il faisoit les cons paller,
that he made the cunts speak
quant il les voloit apeler;
when he them wished to-call
li cus qui ert en l'escharpel
the ass which was in the-breeches
respondist bien à son apel.
answered well to his call
Icist eürs li fu donez
This luck to-him was given
en cel an qu'il fu adoubez:
in that year that-he was dubbed
si vos dirai com il avint.
so to-you I-shall-tell how it happened
Li chevaliers povre devint
The knight poor became
ainz que il fust de grant aage;
before that he was of great age

por quant sel tenoit on à saige:
for as-much so-him held one for wise
mais n'avoit ne vigne ne terre.
but not-he-had neither vine nor land
En tornoiement et en guerre
In tourneying and in war
estoit trestote s'atendance,
was all his-expectation
quar bien savoit ferir de lance;
for well he-knew-how to-strike with lance
hardiz estoit et combatanz,
bold he-was and fighting
et au besoig bien secouranz.
and at-the need well succoring
Adonc avint en cel tempoire,
Then it-happened in that time
si com lisant truis en l'estoire,
so as reading I-find in the-story
que les guerres partot failloient;
that the wars everywhere failed
nule gent ne s'entr'assailloient,
any folk not each-other-assailed
et li tornoi sont deffendu.
and the tourneys are forbidden
Si ot tot le sien despendu
So had all the his-own spent
li chevaliers, en cel termine,
the knight in that term

ne li remest mantel d'ermine
not to-him remained cloak of-ermine
ne surcot, ne chape forrée,
nor surcoat nor cape furred
ne d'autre avoir une denrée,
nor of-other having a pennyworth
que trestot n'eüt mis en gaige;
that all not-be-had put in pledge
de ce nel tieg ge mie à saige,
for this not-him hold I at-all for wise
que son hernois a engagié;
that his gear he-has pledged
si a tot beü et mengié.
so he-has all drunk and eaten
A un chastel est sejornans,
At a castle he-is staying
qui mout ert bel et despendanz,
which very was fair and costly
ausin comme seroit Provins;
just as would-be Provins
si bevoit souvent de bons vins.
so he-drank often of good wines
Iluec fu lonc tens à sejor,
There he-was long time at stay
tant que il avint à un jor
until that it happened on a day
c'on cria un tournoiement
that-one cried a tourneying
par le païs communalment,
through the country commonly

que tuit i fussent sanz essoine,
that all there might-be without excuse
tot droit à la Haie en Toraine:
all straight at the Haye in Touraine
là devoit estre granz et fiers.
there it-was-to be great and fierce
Mout en fu liez li chevaliers;
Very thereof was glad the knight
Huet, son escuier, apele,
Huet his squire he-calls
si li a dite la novele
so to-him he-has told the news
du tornoiement qui là ert.
of-the tourneying which there will-be
«Et,» dit Huet, «à vos qu'afiert
And says Huet to you what-befits
à parler de tournoiement,
to speak of tourneying
quar trestuit vostre garnement
for all your garments
sont en gaiges por la despense?
are in pledges for the expense
— Ha! Huez! por Dieu, quar en pense,»
Ah Huet for God now thereof think
fait li chevaliers, «se tu velz,
says the knight if thou wishest
toz tens bien conseillier me seus:
all times well to-counsel me thou-wert-wont
mielz m'en fust se creü t'eüsse!
better to-me-thereof would-be if believed thee-I-had

Or pensse comment ge reüsse
Now think how I may-have-again
mes garnemenz sanz demorance,
my garments without delay
et si fai aucune chevance,
and so make some shift
la meillor que tu porras faire;
the best that thou wilt-be-able to-make
sen toi n'en savroie à chief traire.»
without thee not-thereof I-would-know-how to end to-draw
Huez voit que fere l'estuet,
Huet sees that to-do it-behooves
si se chevist au mielz qu'il puet.
so himself he-manages at-the best that-he can
Le palefroi son signor vent,
The palfrey (of-)his lord he-sells
onques n'i fist autre covent:
ever not-there he-made other covenant
ainz s'en est aquitez trés bien.
rather himself-thereby he-is acquitted very well
A paier n'i falt il de rien;
At paying not-there fails he in anything
toz a les gaiges en sa mein,
all he-has the pledges in his hand
et quant ce vint à l'endemain,
and when this came to the-morrow
andui se mistrent à la voie
both themselves put on the way
que nus nes sieut ne ne convoie,
for anyone not-them follows nor not escorts

et chevauchent par une lande.
and they-ride through a heath
Li chevaliers Huet demande
The knight Huet asks
comment avoit eü ses gaiges.
how he-had had his pledges
Huet li dit, qui mout ert saiges:
Huet to-him says who very was wise
«Beaus sire,» fist Huet, «par foi,
Fair lord said Huet by faith
ge vendi vostre palefroi,
I sold your palfrey
quar autrement ne pooit estre;
for otherwise not could be
n'en merroiz or cheval en destre,
not-thereof you-will-lead now horse at right-hand
ne que vos faciez en avant.
nor that you may-do on forward
— Combien as tu de remanant,
How-much hast thou of remainder
Huet?» ce dit li chevaliers.
Huet this says the knight
— Par foi, sire, douse deniers
By faith lord twelve pence
avon nos, sen plus, à despandre.
have we without more to spend
— Dont n'avon nos mestier d'atendre,»
Then not-have we need of-waiting
fait li chevaliers, «ce me samble.»
says the knight this to-me seems

Atant s'en vont andui ensamble;
Thereupon themselves-thence go both together
et quant il ont grant voie alée,
and when they have great way gone
si entrent en une valée.
so they-enter into a valley
Li chevaliers ala pensant,
The knight went thinking
et Huez chevalcha devant
and Huet rode before
sor son roncin grant aleüre,
on his nag great pace
et tant qu'il vit par aventure
and so-far that-he saw by chance
en une prée une fontaine
in a meadow a fountain
qui bele estoit et clere et saine:
which fair was and clear and wholesome
si en coroit granz li ruisseaus,
so thereof ran great the brook
et entor avoit arbrisseaus,
and around there-were shrubs
vers et foilluz, de grant beauté.
green and leafy of great beauty
Autresi com el mois d'esté,
Just as in-the month of-summer
li arbrissel mout bel estoient.
the shrubs very fair were

En la fontaine se baignoient
In the fountain themselves bathed
trois puceles, preuz et senées,
three maidens worthy and sensible
qui de beauté resanblent fées;
who in beauty resemble fairies
lor robe et totes lor chemises
their robe and all their shifts
orent desoz un arbre mises,
they-had beneath a tree put
qui erent batues à or:
which were embroidered with gold
bien valoient un grant tresor;
well they-were-worth a great treasure
plus riches ne furent veües.
more rich not were seen
Quant Huet vit les femes nues,
When Huet saw the women naked
qui tant avoient les chars blanches,
who so-much had the flesh white
les cors bien faiz, les braz, les hanches,
the bodies well made the arms the hips
cele part vint à esperon,
that way he-came with spur
mais ne lor dist ne o ne non,
but not to-them said neither yes nor no
ençois a lor robes saisies;
rather he-has their robes seized
ses laissa totes esbahies.
so-them he-left all dismayed

Quant voient que lor robe enporte,
When they-see that their robe he-carries-off
la plus maistre se desconforte
the most chief herself distresses
que mout s'en vait grant aleüre
for very himself-thence goes great pace
cil qui de retorner n'a cure.
that-one who of returning not-has care
Les puceles mout se dolosent,
The maidens much themselves grieve
crient et dementent et plorent.
cry and lament and weep
Que qu'eles se vont dementant,
While that-they themselves go lamenting
ez vos le chevalier atant,
behold you the knight thereupon
qui après l'escuier s'en va.
who after the-squire himself-thence goes
L'une des puceles parla,
One of-the maidens spoke
et dit: «Ge voi là chevalchier
and says I see there ride
le seignor au mal escuier
the lord of-the evil squire
qui noz robes nos a tolues,
who our robes from-us has taken
et nos laissiées totes nues.
and us left all naked
Quar li proions, sanz plus atendre,
Now him let-us-pray without more waiting

qu'il nos face noz robes rendre;
that-he for-us may-make our robes be-rendered
s'il est preudom, il le fera.»
if-he is worthy-man he it will-do
Atant l'une d'eles parla;
Thereupon the-one of-them spoke
si li conta lor mesestance.
so to-him told their distress
Li chevaliers en ot pesance;
The knight thereof had grief
des puceles ot grant pitié.
for-the maidens he-had great pity
Lors a le cheval tant coitié
Then he-has the horse so-much urged
que Huet ataint, si li dist:
that Huet he-reaches so to-him said
«Baille ça tost, se Dieu t'aïst,
Hand here quick so God thee-may-help
cez robes, nes enportes mie;
these robes not-them carry-off at-all
ce seroit trop grant vilenie
this would-be too great churlishness
de faire à cez puceles honte.
to do to these maidens shame
— Or tenez d'autre chose conte,»
Now hold of-other thing account
fait Huez, «et ne soiez yvres:
says Huet and not be drunk
les robes valent bien cent livres;
the robes are-worth well hundred pounds

quar onques plus riches ne vi.
for ever more rich not I-saw
Devant quatorse anz et demi
Before fourteen years and half
ne gaaigneroiz vos autant,
not will-win you as-much
tant sachoiz aler tornoiant.
so-much you-may-know-how to-go tourneying
— Par foi,» ce dit li chevaliers,
By faith this says the knight
«ge lor reporterai arriers
I to-them shall-carry back
les robes, comment qu'il en praigne:
the robes however that-it thereof may-take
ge n'ai cure de tel gaaigne;
I not-have care of such gain
ge n'en venrroie ja en pris.
I not-thereby would-come ever into prize
— A bon droit estes vos chetis,»
With good right are you wretched
fait Huet par grant maltalent.
says Huet with great ill-temper
Li chevaliers les robes prant;
The knight the robes takes
à l'ainz qu'il pot vint as puceles,
at-the soonest that-he could he-came to-the maidens
qui mout erent plaisanz et beles;
who very were pleasing and fair
si lor a lor robes rendues,
so to-them he-has their robes rendered

et eles sont tantost vestues,
and they are at-once clothed
car à chascune estoit mout tart.
for to each it-was very late
Atant li chevaliers s'en part,
Thereupon the knight himself-thence parts
par lor congié retorne arriere.
by their leave returns back
L'une des puceles premiere
One of-the maidens first
parole as autres, si lor dist:
speaks to-the others so to-them said
«Damoiseles, se Dieus m'aïst,
Damsels so God me-may-help
cist chevaliers est mout cortois.
this knight is very courteous
Mout en avez veü ainçois
Many thereof you-have seen before
eüst noz robes chier vendues;
would-have our robes dear sold
ainz qu'il les nos eüst rendues,
before that-he them to-us might-have rendered
il en eüst assez deniers.
he thereof would-have-had plenty pence
Et sachiez que cist chevaliers
And know that this knight
a vers nos fait grant cortoisie,
has toward us done great courtesy
et nos avon fait vilenie,
and we have done churlishness

qui riens ne li avons doné
who anything not to-him have given
dont il nos doie savoir gré.
for-which he to-us ought to-know thanks
Rapelons le, sel paions bien,
Let-us-call-back him so-him let-us-pay well
qu'il est si povres qu'il n'a rien.
for-he is so poor that-he not-has anything
Nule n'en soit envers li chiche,
Anyone not-thereof may-be toward him stingy
ainz faison le preudome riche.»
rather let-us-make the worthy-man rich
Les autres li acreanterent.
The others to-her agreed
Le chevalier donc rapelerent,
The knight then they-called-back
et il retorne maintenant.
and he returns at-once
La plus mestre parla avant,
The most chief spoke before
quar des autres en ot l'otroi:
for of-the others thereof she-had the-consent
«Sire chevalier, par ma foi,
Lord knight by my faith
ne volons pas que il est droiz
not we-wish at-all that it is right
que vos ainsi vos en ailloiz:
that you thus yourself thence may-go
richement nos avez servies,
richly us you-have served

rendues nos avez les vies,
rendered to-us you-have the lives
si avez fait comme preudom;
so you-have done as worthy-man
et ge vos donrai riche don,
and I to-you shall-give rich gift
et sachiez que ja n'i faudroiz.
and know that ever not-there you-will-fail
Jamais en cel lieu ne venroiz
Ever-more into that place not you-will-come
que toz li monz ne vos enjoie,
that all the world not you may-welcome
et chascun fera de vos joie;
and each will-make of you joy
et si vos abandoneront
and so to-you will-give-over
la gent trestot quanqu'il aront:
the folk all whatever-they will-have
ne porroiz mais avoir poverte.
not you-will-be-able more to-have poverty
— Dame, ci a riche deserte,»
Lady here has rich reward
fait li chevaliers, «grant merciz.
says the knight great thanks
— Li miens dons ne riert pas petiz,»
The mine gift not will-be at-all small
fait l'autre pucele en après;
says the-other maiden then after
«Ja n'ira mès ne loig ne près,
Ever not-will-go-be more neither far nor near

por qu'il truisse feme ne beste,
for that-he may-find woman nor beast
et qu'el ait deus elz en la teste,
and that-she may-have two eyes in the head
s'il daigne le con apeler,
if-he deigns the cunt to-call
qu'il ne l'escoviegne parler.
that-it not it-may-behoove to-speak
Iteus sera mais ses eürs;
Such will-be henceforth his luck
de ce soit il tot aseürs
of this may-be he all sure
que tel n'en ot ne roi ne conte.»
that such not-thereof had neither king nor count
Adonc ot li chevaliers honte,
Then had the knight shame
si tint la pucele por fole.
so he-held the maiden for foolish
Et la tierce enprès reparole;
And the third after speaks-again
si dit au chevalier: «Beaus sire,
so says to-the knight Fair lord
savez vos que ge vos vieng dire?
know you what I to-you come to-say
Quar bien est raison et droiture,
For well it-is reason and right
que se li cons, par aventure,
that if the cunt by chance

avoit aucun enconbrement
had any encumbrance
qu'il ne respondist maintenant,
that-it not might-answer at-once
li cus si respondroit por lui,
the ass so would-answer for it
qui qu'en eüst duel ne ennui,
who that-thereof might-have grief nor vexation
se l'apelessiez, sanz aloigne.»
if it-you-called without delay
Dont ot li chevaliers vergoigne,
Then had the knight shame
qui bien cuide que gabé l'aient,
who well thinks that mocked him-they-may-have
et que por noient le delaient.
and that for nothing him they-delay
Maintenant au chemin se met.
At-once on-the road himself he-puts
Quant a aconseü Huet,
When he-has overtaken Huet
trestot en riant li aconte
all in laughing to-him he-tells
si con avez oï el conte:
so as you-have heard in-the tale
«Gabé m'ont celes dou prael.»
Mocked me-have those of-the meadow
Et dit Huet: «Ce m'est mout bel:
And says Huet This to-me-is very fair
quar cil est fous, par saint Germain,
for that-one is fool by saint Germain

que ce que il tient en sa main
who that which he holds in his hand
giete à ses piez en nonchaloir.
throws at his feet in disregard
— Huet, ge cuit que tu dis voir,»
Huet I think that thou sayest true
fait li chevaliers, «ce me sanble.»
says the knight this to-me seems
Atant ez voz, si con moi sanble,
Thereupon behold you so as to-me seems
un provoire sanz plus de gent,
a priest without more of folk
qui chevalchoit une jument.
who rode a mare
Li prestres fu poissanz et riches,
The priest was powerful and rich
mais il estoit avers et chiches:
but he was avaricious and stingy
le chemin voloit traverser,
the road he-wished to-cross
et à une autre vile aler,
and to an other town to-go
qui assez près d'iluec estoit.
which quite near from-there was
Li prestres le chevalier voit,
The priest the knight sees
vers lui trestorne sa jument;
toward him he-turns his mare
si descendi isnelement,
so he-dismounted swiftly

et li dit: «Sire, bien vignoiz!
and to-him says Lord well you-may-come
Or vos proi que vos remeignoiz
Now you I-pray that you may-remain
huimais o moi por osteler.
today with me for lodging
De vos servir et hennorer
Of you serving and honoring
ai grant envie et grant talent;
I-have great desire and great will
tot en vostre commandement
all at your command
est quanque j'ai, n'en doutez ja.»
is whatever I-have not-thereof doubt ever
Li chevaliers se merveilla
The knight himself marveled
du prestre qu'il ne connoist mie,
at-the priest whom-he not knows at-all
et si de demorer le prie.
and so of staying him prays
Huez le saiche, si li dist:
Huet him pulls so to-him said
«Sire,» fait il, «se Dieus m'aïst,
Lord says he so God me-may-help
les fées vos distrent tot voir;
the fairies to-you said all true
or le poez apercevoir,
now it you-can perceive

mais apelez delivrement
but call freely
le con de cele grant jument:
the cunt of that great mare
vos l'orroiz ja parler, ce croi.»
you it-will-hear soon speak this I-believe
Dist li chevaliers: «Ge l'otroi.»
Said the knight I it-grant
Maintenant li commence à dire:
At-once to-it he-begins to say
«Sire cons, où va vostre sire?
Lord cunt where goes your lord
Dites le moi, n'en mentez mie.
Tell it me not-thereof lie at-all
— Par foi, il vait veoir sa mie,»
By faith he goes to-see his friend
fait li cons, «sire chevaliers;
says the cunt lord knight
si li porte de bons deniers,
so to-her he-carries of good pence
dis livres de bone monoie,
ten pounds of good money
qu'il a ceinz en une corroie
which-he has girt in a belt
por achater robe mardi.»
for to-buy robe Tuesday
Et quant le prestres entendi
And when the priest heard
le con qui parole si bien,
the cunt which speaks so well

esbahiz fu sor tote rien;
dismayed he-was above all thing
enchantez cuide estre et traïz:
enchanted he-thinks to-be and betrayed
de la poor s'en est foïz,
from the fear himself-thence he-is fled
et por corre delivrement,
and for to-run freely
deffuble sa chape erramment,
he-throws-off his cape at-once
et les deniers et la corroie
and the pence and the belt
gita trestot en mi la voie.
he-threw all in mid the way
Sa jument l'ot, si torne en fuie.
His mare it-hears so turns in flight
Voit le Huet, forment le huie;
Sees it Huet greatly it hoots
et li prestres, sanz mot soner,
and the priest without word to-sound
gaaigne le gieu par aler,
wins the game by going
qui s'enfuit par une charriere;
who himself-flees by a track
por cent mars ne tornast arriere.
for hundred marks not he-would-turn back
Li chevaliers les deniers prent,
The knight the pence takes

et Huet saisi la jument
and Huet seized the mare
qui mout estoit bien affeutrée;
which very was well caparisoned
puis trouse la chape forrée.
then he-packs the cape furred
Mout rient de cele aventure:
Much they-laugh at that adventure
atant s'en vont grant aleüre.
thereupon themselves-thence they-go great pace
Or est toz liez li chevaliers;
Now is all glad the knight
à Huet bailla les deniers,
to Huet he-handed the pence
dont il i avoit bien dis livres.
of-which it there had well ten pounds
Dit à Huet: «Mout fusse or yvres,
Says to Huet Very I-would-be now drunk
se g'eüsse orains retenues
if I-had just-now kept
les robes et laissiées nues
the robes and left naked
les franches puceles senées:
the noble maidens sensible
bien sai de voir, ce furent fées;
well I-know of truth these were fairies
riche guerredon m'ont rendu.
rich reward to-me-they-have rendered

Ainz que nos aions despendu
Before that we may-have spent
cest avoir et trestot gasté,
this having and all wasted
avron nos de l'autre à plenté;
shall-have we of the-other in plenty
quar teus paiera nostre escot
for such-one will-pay our reckoning
qui de tot ce ne sait or mot.
who of all this not knows now word
Huez, cil ne gaaigne mie
Huet that-one not wins at-all
qui fait conquest par vilenie,
who makes conquest by churlishness
ainz pert honor par tot le monde;
rather he-loses honor through all the world
jamais ne beau dit ne beau conte
ever-more neither fair saying nor fair tale
n'en ert de lui à cor retret.
not-thereof will-be of him at court recounted
Mielz vosisse ge estre contret
Better would-wish I to-be crippled
que ge t'eüsse orains creü:
that I thee-might-have just-now believed
mon los eüsse descreü
my praise I-would-have diminished
et avillié au mien senblant.»
and debased to-the my semblance

Ainsi s'en vont andui parlant,
Thus themselves-thence they-go both speaking
tant qu'il vinrent en un chastel
until that-they came into a castle
mout bien seant et fort et bel.
very well seated and strong and fair
Ne sai que feïsse lonc conte:
Not I-know why I-might-make long tale
en cel chastel avoit un conte
in that castle there-was a count
et la contesse avuec, sa feme,
and the countess with-him his wife
qui mout ert bele et vaillant dame:
who very was fair and worthy lady
si ot chevaliers plus de trente.
so he-had knights more than thirty
De maintenant el chastel entre
From at-once into-the castle enters
cil qui faisoit les cons paller.
that-one who made the cunts speak
Tuit le corrurent saluer,
All him ran to-greet
qui mout le vuelent conjoïr,
who much him wish to-welcome
dont il se puet mout esjoïr.
whereof he himself can much rejoice
En mi la vile uns gieus avoit
In mid the town a game there-was
où li pueples trestot estoit:
where the people all was

si ert li quens et la contesse,
so was the count and the countess
qui n'ert fole ne janglerresse,
who not-was foolish nor chattering
serjanz, dames et chevaliers,
servants ladies and knights
et puceles et escuiers.
and maidens and squires
Atant li chevaliers i vint,
Thereupon the knight there came
et Huez qui lez lui se tint.
and Huet who beside him himself held
De si au gieu ne s'arresterent;
From thus-far to-the game not themselves-stopped
et quant les genz les esgarderent,
and when the folk them looked-at
si corut chascun cele part.
so ran each that way
Au conte meïsme fu tart
To-the count himself it-was late
qu'acolé l'ait et enbracié,
that-embraced him-he-may-have and clasped
enz en la bouche l'a baisié.
in in the mouth him-he-has kissed
Ausi l'enbrace la contesse;
Also him-embraces the countess
plus volantiers que n'oïst messe
more willingly than she-might-hear mass
le baisast vint fois près à près,
him would-kiss twenty times near to near

se li contes ne fust si près.
if the count not were so near
Et cil descent contre la gent;
And that-one dismounts toward the folk
n'i a chevalier ne serjant
not-there has knight nor servant
qui de cuer ne l'ait salué:
who from heart not him-may-have greeted
à grant joie l'en ont mené
with great joy him-thence they-have led
tot droit à la sale le conte.
all straight to the hall (of-)the count
Puis ne firent pas lonc aconte,
Then not they-made at-all long account
ainçois asistrent au souper
rather sat-down at-the supper
tuit li chevalier et li per,
all the knights and the peers
qui mout orent lor oste chier.
who very had their host dear
Puis parlerent d'aler couchier,
Then they-spoke of-going to-lie
quar il fu nuiz noire et espesse.
for it was night black and thick
Forment se paine la contesse
Greatly herself takes-pains the countess
de son oste mout aesier.
of her guest much to-ease
Certes mout en fist à proisier:
Certainly much thereof she-did to prize

en une chanbre à grant delit
in a chamber with great delight
li a toz seus fait faire un lit.
for-him has all alone made make a bed
Toz seus se dort et se repose;
All alone himself sleeps and himself rests
et la contesse à chief de pose
and the countess at end of while
apele une seue pucele,
calls a her maiden
la mielz vaillant et la plus bele;
the most worthy and the most fair
à conseil li dist: «Bele amie,
in counsel to-her she-said Fair friend
alez, et si ne vos poist mie,
go and so not you it-may-weigh at-all
avuec le chevalier gesir
with the knight to-lie
tot belement et par loisir,
all softly and at leisure
dont nous aimons mout la venue.
of-whom we love much the coming
Lez lui vos couchiez tote nue,
Beside him yourself lie all naked
qu'il est mout beaus, li chevaliers.
for-he is very fair the knight
G'i allasse mout volentiers,
I-there would-go very willingly
ja nel laissase por la honte,
ever not-it I-would-leave for the shame

ne fust por mon seignor le conte,
not it-were for my lord the count
qui n'est encor pas endormiz.»
who not-is yet at-all asleep
Et cele i vait mout à enviz,
And she there goes very at unwillingness
mais escondire ne l'osoit:
but to-refuse not her-she-dared
en la chanbre où cil se dormoit
into the chamber where that-one himself slept
entra en trenblant comme fueille;
she-entered in trembling as leaf
à l'einz qu'ele pot se despueille,
at-the soonest that-she could herself she-strips
lez lui se couche, si s'estent.
beside him herself lays so herself-stretches
Et quant li chevaliers la sent,
And when the knight her feels
de maintenant s'en esveilla,
from at-once himself-thereat awoke
et durement se merveilla:
and greatly himself marveled
«Qui est ce,» fait il, «delez moi?
Who is this says he beside me
— Sire, nel tenez à desroi,»
Lord not-it hold for disorder
fait cele qui fu simple et quoie,
says she who was simple and quiet
«Quar la contesse m'i envoie.
For the countess me-there sends

Une de ses puceles sui,
One of her maidens am-I
ne vos ferai mal ne ennui,
not to-you I-shall-do ill nor vexation
ainz vos tastonerai le chief.
rather you I-shall-stroke the head
— Par foi, ce ne m'est mie grief,»
By faith this not to-me-is at-all grievous
fait li chevaliers qui l'enbrace,
says the knight who her-embraces
la bouche li baise et la face,
the mouth to-her he-kisses and the face
et li tastone les mameles
and to-her strokes the breasts
qu'el avoit mout blanches et beles;
which-she had very white and fair
et sur le con la mein li mist,
and upon the cunt the hand to-her he-put
et enprès li chevaliers dist:
and after the knight said
«Sire cons, or parlez à moi:
Lord cunt now speak to me
ge vos vueil demander por quoi
I you wish to-ask for what
vostre dame est venue ci?
your lady is come here
— Sire,» ce dit li cons, «merci,
Lord this says the cunt mercy
quar la contesse li envoie,
for the countess her sends

por vos faire soulaz et joie:
for to-you to-make solace and joy
ce ne vos quier ge ja celer.»
this not from-you seek I ever to-hide
Quant cele oï son con paller,
When she heard her cunt speak
estrangement fu esperdue;
strangely she-was distraught
du lit sailli trestote nue,
from-the bed she-leaped all naked
arriers s'est à la voie mise,
back herself-is on the way put
el n'en porta que sa chemise.
she not-thence carried but her shift
Et la contesse l'en apele;
And the countess her-thereof calls
si li demande la nouvele:
so of-her asks the news
por qu'a laissié le chevalier,
for what-she-has left the knight
«Que çaienz herbergames hier?
Whom within-here we-lodged yesterday
— Dame,» fait el, «ge vos dirai,
Lady says she I to-you shall-tell
que ja ne vos en mentirai:
for ever not to-you thereof I-shall-lie
avueques lui couchier m'alai,
with him to-lie I-went
tote nue me despoillai;
all naked myself I-stripped

il prist mon con à apeler;
he took my cunt to call
assez l'a fait à lui paller.
plenty it-he-has made to him speak
Trestot quanqu'il li demanda,
All whatever-he of-it asked
oiant moi, mes cons li conta.»
hearing me my cunt to-him told
Quant la contesse oit la merveille,
When the countess hears the marvel
qu'onques mais n'oï la pareille,
that-ever more not-she-heard the like
si dit ce ne querroit el mie;
so she-says this not would-believe she at-all
et cele li jure et affie
and she to-her swears and affirms
que ce est voirs qu'ele li conte.
that this is true which-she to-her tells
Atant en laissierent le conte
Thereupon thereof they-left the tale
jusqu'au matin qu'il ajorna,
until-the morning that-it dawned
que li chevaliers se leva.
that the knight himself rose
A Huet dit son escuier,
To Huet he-says his squire
qu'il ert bien tens de chevauchier:
that-it was well time of riding
Huet ala metre sa selle.
Huet went to-put his saddle

La contesse c'oi la novele
The countess when-she-heard the news
du chevalier qu'aler s'en velt,
of-the knight that-to-go himself-thence he-wishes
plus matin lieve qu'el ne selt.
more early rises than-she — was-wont
Au chevalier vient, si li dist:
To-the knight she-comes so to-him said
«Sire,» fait el, «se Dieus m'aïst,
Lord says she so God me-may-help
vos n'en poez encor aler
you not-thence can yet go
devant sempres après disner.
before soon after dinner
— Dame,» fait il, «se Dieus me voie,
Lady says he so God me may-see
le disner por rien n'atendroie,
the dinner for anything not-I-would-await
se trop ne vos devoit desplaire,
if too-much not you it-ought to-displease
quar trop grant jornée ai à faire.
for too great day's-journey I-have to do
— Tot ce,» fait ele, «ne valt rien:
All this says she not is-worth anything
vostre jornée feroiz bien.»
your day's-journey you-will-make well
Cil voit qu'il autre estre ne puet:
That-one sees that-it other be not can
si remaint, quant faire l'estuet;
so he-remains when to-do it-behooves

et quant il orent oï messe,
and when they had heard mass
li quens meïsme et la contesse
the count himself and the countess
et tuit li autre chevalier,
and all the other knights
sont tantost asis au mengier.
are at-once seated at-the eating
Et quant ce vint enprès disner,
And when this came after dinner
si comencierent à parler
so began to speak
li chevalier de maint affaire;
the knights of many-a business
mais cele qui ne se pot taire,
but she who not herself could silence
la contesse parla en haut:
the countess spoke on high
«Seignors,» fait el, «se Dieus me salt,
Lords says she so God me may-save
j'ai oï paller chevaliers,
I-have heard speak knights
serganz, borgois et escuiers,
servants burghers and squires
et aventures aconter,
and adventures recount
mais nus ne se porroit vanter
but anyone not himself could boast
d'une aventure qu'oï hier,
of-an adventure that-I-heard yesterday

qu'il a çaienz un chevalier
for-it has within-here a knight
qui tot le mont a sormonté,
who all the world has surpassed
quar il a si grant poesté
for he has so great power
qu'il fait à lui le con paller.
that-he makes to him the cunt speak
Teus hom si fait mout à loer,
Such man so makes much to praise
et sachiez bien, par saint Richier,
and know well by saint Richier
c'est li chevaliers qui vint hier.»
this-is the knight who came yesterday
Quant li chevalier l'entendirent,
When the knights it-heard
de la merveille s'esbahirent;
at the marvel themselves-they-were-dismayed
au chevalier ont demandé
of-the knight they-have asked
se la contesse dit verté:
if the countess says truth
«Oïl,» fait il, «sanz nule doute.»
Yes says he without any doubt
Li quens s'en rist, et la gent tote,
The count himself-thereat laughs and the folk all
et la contesse reparole,
and the countess speaks-again
qui n'estoit vileine ne fole:
who not-was churlish nor foolish

«Dant chevaliers, comment qu'il aille,
Sir knight how that-it may-go
g'en veuil à vos faire fermaille:
I-thereof wish with you to-make wager
si i metrai soissante livres.
so there I-shall-put sixty pounds
Jamès cons n'ert si fous ne yvres,
Ever-more cunt not-will-be so foolish nor drunk
qui por nos parolt un seul mot.»
that for us it-may-speak a single word
Tantost con li chevaliers l'ot:
At-once as the knight it-hears
«Dame,» fait il, «se Deus me voie,
Lady says he so God me may-see
soissante livres pas n'avroie,
sixty pounds at-all not-I-would-have
mais g'i metrai tot demanois
but I-there shall-put all at-once
mon cheval, et tot mon harnois
my horse and all my gear
i metroie de maintenant:
there I-would-put from at-once
metez encontre le vaillant.
put against the value
— Ge ne demant,» fait ele, «plus;
I not ask says she more
mais des deniers ne charra nus
but of-the pence not will-fall any
que soissante livres n'aiez,
that sixty pounds not-you-may-have

se la fermaille gaagniez.
if the wager you-win
Se ge gaaig, vos en iroiz
If I win you thence will-go
à pié, et le harnois larroiz.»
on foot and the gear will-leave
Li chevalier li otroia;
The knight to-her granted
après la chose devisa.
after the thing he-arranged
De ce ne fist il pas que soz:
In this not did he at-all as fool
«Dame,» fist il, «jusqu'à trois moz
Lady said he up-to three words
parlera li con entresait.
will-speak the cunt forthwith
— Ainz en i ait,» fait ele, «set,
Rather thereof there may-have says she seven
des moz, et plus, se vos volez;
of-the words and more if you wish
maisençois que vos l'apelez,
but before that you it-call
irai en ma chanbre un petit.»
I-shall-go into my chamber a little
A cest mot n'ot nul contredit.
At this word not-had any gainsaying
La fermaille fu affiée,
The wager was pledged
et la contesse s'est levée:
and the countess herself-is risen

droit en sa chanbre s'en entra.
straight into her chamber herself-thence she-entered
Oiez de quoi se porpensa:
Hear of what herself she-bethought
plain son poig a pris de coton;
full her fist she-has taken of cotton
si en empli trés bien son con,
so thereof she-filled very well her cunt
bien en estoupa le pertus;
well thereof she-stopped the hole
à son poig destre feri sus.
with her fist right she-struck upon
Bien en i entra une livre:
Well thereof there entered a pound
or n'est mie li con delivre.
now not-is at-all the cunt free
Quant l'ot enpli et entassé
When it-she-had filled and packed
et du coton envelopé,
and with-the cotton wrapped
en la sale arriere s'en vait;
into the hall back herself-thence she-goes
au chevalier dist entresait
to-the knight she-said forthwith
qu'il face au pis que il porra,
that-he may-do at-the worst that he will-be-able
que ja ses cons ne respondra
for ever her cunt not will-answer
ne li recontera nouvele.
nor to-him will-recount news

Li chevaliers le con apele:
The knight the cunt calls
«Sire cons,» fait il, «or me menbre
Lord cunt says he now to-me recall
que quist vostre dame en sa chanbre,
what sought your lady in her chamber
où el ala si tost repondre.»
where she went so soon to-hide
Mais li cons ne li pot respondre,
But the cunt not to-him could answer
qui la gueule avoit enconbrée
which the mouth had encumbered
et du coton bien estoupée
and with-the cotton well stopped
qu'il ne pooit trot ne galot.
so-that-it not could trot nor gallop
Et quant li chevaliers ce ot
And when the knight this hears
qu'il n'a au premier mot pallé,
that-it not-has at-the first word spoken
autre foiz le ra apelé;
another time it in-turn-he-has called
mais li cons ne li pot mot dire.
but the cunt not to-him could word say
Li chevaliers n'ot soig de rire,
The knight not-had care of laughing
quant il oit que il ne palla;
when he hears that it not spoke
à son escuier conseilla,
with his squire he-counseled

et dit or a il tot perdu.
and says now has he all lost
Et Huet li a respondu:
And Huet to-him has answered
«Sire,» fait il, «n'aiez poor;
Lord says he not-have fear
ne savez vos que la menor
not know you that the least
des trois puceles vos premist,
of-the three maidens to-you promised
qu'ele vos otroia et dist,
that-she to-you granted and said
se li cons paller ne pooit,
if the cunt speak not could
que li cus por li respondroit:
that the ass for it would-answer
el ne vos volt pas decevoir.
she not you wished at-all to-deceive
— Par mon chief, Huet, tu diz voir,»
By my head Huet thou sayest true
dist li chevaliers en riant.
said the knight in laughing
Le cul apele maintenant,
The ass he-calls at-once
si le conjure et si li prie
so it he-conjures and so to-it prays
que tost la verité li die
that quickly the truth to-him it-may-tell
du con qui parole ne muet.
of-the cunt which word not moves

Ce dit li cus: «Quar il ne puet,
This says the ass For it not can
qu'il a la gueule tote plaine
for-it has the mouth all full
ne sai de coton ou de laine,
not I-know of cotton or of wool
que ma dame orains i bouta,
which my lady just-now there thrust
quant en sa chanbre s'en entra.
when into her chamber herself-thence she-entered
Mais, se li cotons estoit hors,
But if the cotton were out
sachiez que il parleroit lors.»
know that it would-speak then
Quant li chevaliers ot cest conte,
When the knight hears this tale
de maintenant a dit au conte:
from at-once has said to-the count
«Sire,» fait il, «foi que vos doi,
Lord says he faith that to-you I-owe
la dame a mespris envers moi,
the lady has misdone toward me
quant el a son con enossé;
when she has her cunt stuffed
or sachiez qu'il eüst pallé,
now know that-it would-have spoken
se ce ne fust que el i mist.»
if this not were which she there put

Li quens à la contesse dist
The count to the countess said
qu'il li covient à delivrer.
that-it to-her behooves to deliver
Cele ne l'osa refuser:
She not it-dared refuse
si ala delivrer son con,
so she-went to-deliver her cunt
si en a tret tot le queton,
so thence she-has drawn all the cotton
à un crochet fors l'en gita.
with a hook out it-thence she-threw
Mout se repent quant l'i bouta;
Much herself repents when it-there she-thrust
puis revient arriere sanz faille.
then she-comes back without fail
Bien sait qu'a perdu la fermaille,
Well she-knows that-she-has lost the wager
qu'ele gaja, si fist que fole.
which-she wagered so she-did as foolish
Li chevaliers au con parole;
The knight to-the cunt speaks
si li demande que devoit,
so of-it asks what it-meant
que tost respondu ne l'avoit.
that quickly answered not him-it-had

Ce dit li cons: «Ge ne pooie,
This says the cunt I not could
por ce que enconbrez estoie
for this that encumbered I-was
du coton que ma dame i mist.»
with-the cotton which my lady there put
Quant li quens l'ot, forment s'en rist,
When the count it-hears greatly himself-thereat he-laughs
et tuit li chevalier s'en ristrent;
and all the knights themselves-thereat laughed
à la contesse trés bien distrent
to the countess very well they-said
qu'el a perdu; ne parolt mais,
that-she has lost not she-may-speak more
mais or face au chevalier pais.
but now she-may-make with-the knight peace
Et el si fist, plus n'i tarja:
And she so did more not-there she-delayed
soissante livres li paia,
sixty pounds to-him she-paid
et cil les reçust à grant joie,
and that-one them received with great joy
qui mestier avoit de monoie,
who need had of money
et qui si bon eür avoit
and who so good luck had
que toz li mondes l'ameroit,
that all the world him-would-love

et fist puis tant con il vesqui.
and did then so-much as he lived
De bone eure teus hons nasqui,
In good hour such man was-born
cui si bons eürs fu donez.
to-whom so good luck was given
Atant est li conte finez.
Thereupon is the tale ended

De la dame escolliée

CXLIX · THE GELDED LADY

A knight lets his proud wife rule him; when he refuses a count their daughter, she gives her. The mother tells her to defy her husband, and the count beats her when she first does. When her parents visit, the count sends her father hunting and tells his mother-in-law that her pride comes from testicles like a man's. His men cut her haunches and pretend to draw out a bull's testicles. Terrified, she swears to obey her husband, and the poet curses the woman who despises a man.

Seignor, qui les femes avez,
Lords who the wives have
et qui sor vos trop les levez,
and who above you too-much them raise
ques faites sor vos seignorir,
whom you-make over you lord-it
vos ne faites que vos honir.
you not do but yourselves to-shame
Oez une essanple petite,
Hear an example little
qui por vos est issi escrite:
which for you is thus written
bien i poez prenre essanplaire
well there you-can take example
que vos ne devez mie faire
that you not ought at-all to-do
du tot le bon à voz moilliers,
of-the all the will to your wives
que mains ne vos en tignent chiers.
so-that less not you thereof they-may-hold dear

Les foles devez chastoier,
The foolish you-ought to-chastise
et si les faites ensaignier,
and so them make be-taught
que n'en doivent enorguillir
that not-thereby they-ought to-grow-proud
vers lor seignor ne seignorir,
toward their lord nor to-lord-it
mais chier tenir et bien amer,
but dear to-hold and well to-love
et obeïr et onorer:
and to-obey and to-honor
s'eles ne font, ce est lor honte.
if-they not do this is their shame
Huimais descendrai en mon conte
From-now I-shall-descend into my tale
de l'essanple que doi conter,
of the-example that I-ought to-tell
que cil doivent bien escouter
which those ought well to-hear
qui de lor femes font seignor,
who of their wives make lord
dont il lor avient deshenor.
whereby it to-them happens dishonor
Qu'en dirai, ce poez savoir,
What-thereof I-shall-say this you-can know
n'est si mal gas comme le voir.
not-is so evil jest as the truth

Uns riches hom jadis estoit,
A rich man formerly was
à qui grant richece apendoit;
to whom great richness belonged
chevaliers ert, tint grant hennor,
knight he-was he-held great fief
mais tant avoit amé s'ossor,
but so-much he-had loved his-wife
que desor lui l'avoit levée,
that above himself her-he-had raised
et seignorie abandonée
and lordship given-over
de sa terre, de sa maison,
of his land of his house
et de tot otroié le don;
and of all granted the gift
dont la dame le tint si vill
whereby the lady him held so vile
et tint si bas, que quanque cil
and held so low that whatever that-one
disoit, et ele desdisoit,
said and she gainsaid
et deffaisoit quanqu'il faisoit.
and undid whatever-he did
Une fille avoient mout bele:
A daughter they-had very fair
tant en ala loin la novele
so-much thereof went far the news
de sa beauté et ça et là,
of her beauty both here and there

renomée tant en palla
renown so-much thereof spoke
que uns quens en oï parler:
that a count thereof heard speak
sempres la prist mout à amer,
at-once her he-took much to love
ainz ne la vit, et nequedent
ever not her he-saw and nevertheless
si l'amoit il, c'avient sovent:
so her-loved he as-happens often
et por loer bien aime on
and for praising well loves one
tot sanz veoir, ce sanble bon.
all without seeing this seems good
N'avoit point de feme li quens;
Not-had at-all of wife the count
joenes estoit et de grant sens,
young he-was and of great sense
et si ert plains de grant savoir,
and so was full of great knowledge
qui mielz li valt que nul avoir.
which better to-him is-worth than any having
La pucele dont l'en li dist,
The maiden of-whom one to-him spoke
mout volentiers il la veïst,
very willingly he her would-see
se l'en dit voir ou se l'en ment;
if one says truth or if one lies
puis la vit il, oez comment.
then her saw he hear how

Li quens ala un jor chacier,
The count went one day to-hunt
avesques lui troi chevalier:
with him three knights
les chiens mainent li veneor.
the dogs lead the huntsmen
En la forest ont tote jor
In the forest they-have all day
chacié de si que après none,
hunted from thus until after none
que aive monte, forment tone,
when water rises greatly it-thunders
et esclaire et molt a pleü.
and it-lightens and much it-has rained
Dessevrez sont et deperdu
Separated are and lost
la gent le conte, fors li quart
the folk (of-)the count except the four
qui se traient à une part.
who themselves draw to one side
A escons tornoit li solaus.
To hiding turned the sun
Dit li quens: «Quels ert li consaus?
Says the count What will-be the counsel
Ge ne sai que nos puission faire,
I not know what we may do
nos ne poons en huimais traire
we not can thence from-now draw
à nès une de lor maisons.
to not-even one of their houses

Li solaus s'en vait à escons;
The sun itself-thence goes to hiding
ne ge ne sai où noz genz sont,
nor I not know where our folk are
fors tant que ge cuit qu'il s'en vont.
except so-much that I think that-they themselves-thence go
Nos estuet traire à un ostel
Us behooves to-draw to a lodging
mais ge ne sai où ne à quel.»
but I not know where nor to which
Que que li quens si se demente,
While that the count so himself laments
avalez sont par une sente
gone-down they-are by a path
en un jardin lez un vivier,
into a garden beside a fishpond
à la maison au chevalier,
at the house of-the knight
celui qui la bele fille a.
him who the fair daughter has
Estes les vos chevalchant là:
Behold them you riding there
cel jor plut et ne fist pas bel;
that day it-rained and not made at-all fair
là descendent soz un ormel.
there they-dismount beneath an elm
Sor un perron siet li frans hom,
On a stone sits the noble man
cui devoit estre la maison.
whose ought to-be the house

Ez vos le conte gentement
Behold you the count graciously
le salue, et cil bel li rent
him greets and that-one fairly to-him renders
son salu, et puis se leva.
his greeting and then himself rose
Li quens son ostel li rouva:
The count his lodging of-him asked
«Sire,» ce dit li chevaliers,
Lord this says the knight
«herbergasse vos volentiers,
I-would-lodge you willingly
que mestier avez de repos;
for need you-have of rest
mais herbegier pas ne vos os.
but to-lodge at-all not you I-dare
— N'osez? por quoi? — Por ma mollier,
Not-dare-you for what For my wife
qu'à nul fuer ne velt otroier
for-at any price not she-wishes to-grant
chose que face ne que die.
thing that I-may-do nor that I-may-say
De sor moi a la seignorie,
From over me she-has the lordship
de ma maison a la justise,
of my house she-has the justice
de trestot a la comandise,
of all she-has the command
si ne li chalt s'en ai enuie;
so not to-her matters if-thereof I-have vexation

ge ne li sui fors chape à pluie.
I not to-her am but cape for rain
A son bon fait, noient au mien,
At her will she-does nothing at-the mine
de mon commant ne feroit rien.»
of my command not she-would-do anything
Li quens s'en rist, et si li dist:
The count himself-thereat laughs and so to-him said
«Se fussiez preuz, pas nel feïst.
If you-were valiant at-all not-it she-would-do
— Sire,» dit il, «si l'a apris;
Lord says he so it-she-has learned
sel vorra maintenir toz dis,
so-it she-will-wish to-maintain all days
se Dieus de moi n'en a merci.
if God on me not-thereof has mercy
Mais or soffrez un pou ici:
But now suffer a little here
g'irai lassus, venez après;
I-shall-go up-there come after
l'ostel me querrez à engrès,
the-lodging of-me you-will-ask with insistence
et je vos en escondirai.
and I you thereof shall-refuse
Et s'ele l'ot, trés bien le sai
And if-she it-hears very well it I-know
que vos seroiz bien ostelez,
that you will-be well lodged
por ce que vos avrai veez.»
for this that you I-shall-have refused

Il remainent: il va amont;
They remain he goes upstairs
quant il fu enz, après li vont.
when he was in after him they-go
Dit li quens: «Dieus salt le seignor!
Says the count God may-save the lord
A vos et à nos doint henor!
To you and to us he-may-give honor
— Sire quens, Dieus vos beneïe,
Lord count God you may-bless
et vos et vostre compaignie!»
both you and your company
Après li dit li quens tot el:
After to-him says the count all else
«Sire, mestier avons d'ostel,
Lord need we-have of-lodging
herbergiez nos. — Ge non ferai.
lodge us I not shall-do
— Por quoi, sire? — Ge ne voldrai.
For what lord I not shall-wish
— Si feroiz par vostre franchise.
So you-will-do by your nobility
— Non ferai voir, en nule guise.
Not I-shall-do truly in any guise
— Par guerredon et par amor,
By reward and by love
herbergiez nos de ci au jor.
lodge us from here to-the day
— Non ferai en nule maniere,
Not I-shall-do in any manner

ne par amor ne par proiere.»
neither by love nor by prayer
La dame l'ot, si salt avant,
The lady it-hears so leaps forward
qui fera ja le sien comant:
who will-do already the her-own command
«Sire quens, bien soiez venuz!
Lord count well be come
Liéement seroiz receüz;
Gladly you-will-be received
descendez tost.» Il descendirent,
dismount quickly They dismounted
et li sergant bien les servirent,
and the servants well them served
que la dame l'ot commandé.
for the lady it-had commanded
Dit li sires: «Que par mon gré
Says the lord That by my will
ne mengeront de mes poissons,
not they-will-eat of my fishes
ne de mes bones venoisons,
nor of my good venisons
de mes viez vins, de mes ferrez,
of my old wines of my spiced-wines
ne mes oiseaus, ne mes pastez.»
nor my birds nor my pasties
Dit la dame: «Or vos aesiez;
Says the lady Now yourselves ease
de ses diz ne vos esmaiez,
at his sayings not yourselves dismay

que por ses diz ne plus ne mains,
for for his sayings neither more nor less
par senblant est li sires grains.»
by semblance is the lord grieved
Mout beau li est de cel servise;
Very fair to-him it-is of that service
mout s'en est la dame entremise.
much herself-thereto is the lady engaged
De servir les forment se paine,
In serving them greatly herself she-takes-pains
li cheval ont assez aveine
the horses have plenty oats
à plenté, por ce que li sire
in plenty for this that the lord
l'avoit osé nes contredire.
it-had dared even to-gainsay
La dame haste le mengier;
The lady hastens the eating
mout en a fait apareillier
much thereof she-has made prepare
de venoison, de voleïlle.
of venison of fowl
En la chanbre cela sa fille,
In the chamber she-bid her daughter
ne volt que li quens la veïst,
not she-wished that the count her might-see
mais li sires bien le vosist:
but the lord well it would-wish

«Dame,» dit il, «laissez laiens
Lady says he let within-there
mangier ma fille avuec voz genz
eat my daughter with your folk
en la chambre, non ça defors.
in the chamber not here outside
Tant a beauté, tant a gent cors;
So-much she-has beauty so-much has comely body
li quens est joenes; s'il la voit,
the count is young if-he her sees
tel flor mout tost la covoistroit.»
such flower very soon her would-covet
Ce dit la dame: «Or i venra
This says the lady Now there she-will-come
mengier o nos, si la verra.»
to-eat with us so her he-will-see
La dame mout bien l'apareille;
The lady very well her-adorns
lors fut gente, clere, vermeille;
then she-was comely bright red
el la maine, li quens l'a prise
she her leads the count her-has taken
par la mein, l'a lez lui assise.
by the hand her-has beside him seated
Mout li fu sa beautez loée,
Much to-him was her beauty praised
mais il li a greignor trovée;
but he in-her has greater found
ce li ert vis que mout est bele.
this to-him was seeming that very she-is fair

Amor le fiert soz la mamele,
Love him strikes beneath the breast
qui tant là li fist à amer,
which so-much there to-him made to love
qu'il la vorra avoir à per.
that-he her will-wish to-have for mate
Or ont lavé et sont assis:
Now they-have washed and are seated
li quens, cui amor a souspris,
the count whom love has seized
mengue o la bele meschine.
eats with the fair girl
Mout par fu riche la quisine,
Very very was rich the kitchen
mout ont beüs vins et morez,
much they-have drunk wines and mulberry-wines
et mout fu li quens honorez.
and much was the count honored
Après mengier si sont deduit
After eating so they-are diverted
de paroles, puis si ont fruit.
with words then so they-have fruit
Et après le mangier laverent:
And after the eating they-washed
escuier de l'eve donerent,
squires of the-water gave
puis burent du vin qui fu bons,
then they-drank of-the wine which was good
et après a parlé li quens.
and after has spoken the count

Dit li quens: «Sire, ge vos quier
Says the count Lord I of-you ask
vostre bele fille à moillier:
your fair daughter for wife
plus bele ne virent mi hueil,
more fair not saw my eyes
donez la moi, quar je la vueil.»
give her to-me for I her wish
Dist li peres: «Nel ferai pas,
Said the father Not-it I-shall-do at-all
quar je la vueil doner plus bas;
for I her wish to-give more low
ge la donrai bien endroit lui.»
I her shall-give well in-the-place-of him
La dame l'ot, en piez sailli:
The lady it-hears on feet leaped
«Sire,» dit ele, «vos l'aroiz,
Lord says she you her-will-have
ne ja malgré ne le savroiz,
nor ever ill-will not it you-will-know
que li donners n'est pas à lui;
for the giving not-is at-all to him
ge la vos doins, et avuec lui,
I her to-you give and with her
ai assez, et or et argent;
I-have plenty both gold and silver
si ai maint riche garnement,
so I-have many-a rich garment
donrai la vos, si la prenez.»
I-shall-give her to-you so her take

Li quens respont: «Merciz et grez!
The count answers Thanks and grace
Ge l'aim tant que la vueil avoir
I her-love so-much that her I-wish to-have
por sa beauté, non por avoir:
for her beauty not for having
qui l'avra, n'avra pas petit.»
who her-will-have not-will-have at-all little
Adonc si furent fait li lit;
Then so were made the beds
couchier se vont, dorment li troi.
to-lie themselves go sleep the three
Amors met le conte en effroi.
Love puts the count in fright
Auques dormi, mais plus veilla,
Somewhat he-slept but more he-watched
amors son bon li conseilla.
love his will to-him counseled
Au matin quant levé se sont,
In-the morning when risen themselves they-are
maintenant au mostier en vont;
at-once to-the minster thither they-go
la pucele ont o aus menée;
the maiden they-have with them led
li quens l'a d'argent honorée.
the count her-has with-silver honored
La dame grant avoir li offre,
The lady great having to-him offers
dras et deniers, vaisseaus en coffre.
clothes and pence vessels in coffer

Li quens dit qu'a assez avoir,
The count says that-he-has enough having
le lor aient; si dist por voir:
the theirs they-may-have so he-said for truth
«Molt a qui bone feme prent,
Much has who good wife takes
qui male prent, ne prent nient.»
who evil takes not takes nothing
Dist li peres: «Fille, entendez:
Said the father Daughter hear
se vos honeur avoir volez,
if you honor to-have wish
cremez vostre seignor le conte,
fear your lord the count
se nel faites, c'ert vostre honte.»
if not-it you-do this-will-be your shame
Dist la mere: «Parlez à moi,
Said the mother Speak to me
bele fille, ça en requoi.
fair daughter here in secret
— Volentiers, mere,» dit la fille.
Willingly mother says the daughter
Ele li comande en l'orille:
She to-her commands in the-ear
«Bele fille, levez la chiere,
Fair daughter raise the face
vers vostre seignor soiez fiere;
toward your lord be proud

prenez essample à vostre mere
take example by your mother
qui toz jors desdit vostre pere;
who all days gainsays your father
ainc ne dist riens ne desdeïst
ever not he-said anything not she-gainsaid
ne ne commanda c'on feïst.
nor not commanded that-one might-do
Se vos volez avoir henor,
If you wish to-have honor
si desdites vostre seignor;
so gainsay your lord
metez le arriere et vos avant,
put him behind and you before
petit faites de son coumant.
little do of his command
S'ainsi faites, ma fille estrés;
If-thus you-do my daughter you-will-be
se nel faites, vos comparrez.»
if not-it do you will-pay-for-it
— Gel ferai,» fait ele, «se puis,
I-it shall-do says she if I-can
se ge vers mon seignor le truis.»
if I toward my lord it find
Li peres n'i vost plus tarder,
The father not-there wished more to-delay
ainz vait à sa fille proier:
rather goes to his daughter to-pray
«Ma bele fille,» dit li pere,
My fair daughter says the father

«ne creez les diz vostre mere;
not believe the sayings (of-)your mother
mès je vos pri que me creez:
but I you pray that me you-may-believe
se vos honor avoir volez,
if you honor to-have wish
cremez vostre seignor le conte,
fear your lord the count
si que nus ne vos die honte;
so that anyone not to-you may-say shame
soiez toz jors à son acort.
be all days at his accord
Se nel fetes, vos avrez tort,
If not-it you-do you will-have wrong
et s'en serez par tot blamée.»
and so-thereof you-will-be through all blamed
Plus n'i vot fere demorée
More not-there he-wished to-make delay
li quens, ainçois s'en vot aler,
the count rather himself-thence wished to-go
et li sires prist à parler:
and the lord took to speak
«Sire quens,» dist le riches hom,
Lord count said the rich man
«de ma fille vos ai fet don;
of my daughter to-you I-have made gift
prenez par amors, sire quens,
take by love lord count
cest palefroi qui mout est boens,
this palfrey which very is good

et cez deus levriers qui sont bel,
and these two greyhounds which are fair
et preu et hardi et isnel.»
and worthy and bold and swift
Li quens les prent, si l'en mercie,
The count them takes so him-thereof thanks
le congié prent, sa fame enguie.
the leave he-takes his wife he-escorts
Mout se vait li quens porpenssant
Much himself goes the count pondering
par quel art et par quel senblant
by what art and by what semblance
face sa fame vers lui vraie,
he-may-make his wife toward him true
que à sa mere ne retraie,
that to her mother not she-may-take-after
qui si estoit fiere et grifaigne.
who so was proud and fierce
Lors entrent en une chanpaigne;
Then they-enter into a plain
uns lievres saut devant aus près.
a hare leaps before them near
Dit li quens: «Or, levrier, après!
Says the count Now greyhounds after
Quant vos si preu et isnel estes,
Since you so worthy and swift are
ge vos commant de sur les testes
I you command on pain-of the heads
que vos le lievre tost praignez,
that you the hare quickly may-take

ou les chiés orendroit perdrez.»
or the heads now you-will-lose
Li levrier corent à eslès;
The greyhounds run at speed
nel porent consivir de près:
not-it they-could overtake from near
arriere s'en vont repairié,
back themselves-thence they-go returned
et li sires lor a tranchié
and the lord to-them has cut
les chiés à l'espée tranchant.
the heads with-the sword cutting
Lors a dit à son sor beaucent.
Then he-has said to his sorrel white-blazed
Dit li quens: «Ne teste autre foiz!»
Says the count Not stumble other time
Ne l'entendi li palefroiz;
Not it-heard the palfrey
à chief de pose retesta.
at end of while it-stumbled-again
Li quens descent, si li coupa
The count dismounts so to-it cut
la teste; sor un autre monte.
the head on an other he-mounts

«Sire,» ce dit la dame au conte,
Lord this says the lady to-the count
«cel palefroi et cez levriers
that palfrey and these greyhounds
deüssiez vos avoir mout chiers
ought you to-have very dear
por mon pere, non pas por moi:
for my father not at-all for me
morz les avez, ne sai por coi.»
dead them you-have not I-know for what
Ce dit li quens: «Por seul itant
This says the count For only so-much
que trespasserent mon commant.»
that-they transgressed my command
Va s'en li quens, sa feme enmaine;
Goes himself-thence the count his wife he-leads
de losangier forment se paine,
in flattering greatly himself he-takes-pains
et vient à sa maistre cité.
and comes to his chief city
Iluec estoient assanblé
There were assembled
li baron et li vavassor,
the barons and the vavasors
que mout pesoit de lor seignor
for much it-weighed for their lord
qu'il cuidoient avoir perdu.
whom-they thought to-have lost
Ez le vos au pont descendu;
Behold him you at-the bridge dismounted

encontre vont, joie li font.
toward-him they-go joy to-him they-make
Li auquant demandé li ont
The some asked of-him have
qui cele bele dame estoit:
who that fair lady was
«Seignor, c'est vostre dame à droit.
Lords this-is your lady by right
— Nostre dame! — Voire, par foi,
Our lady Truly by faith
que mis li ai l'enel el doi.
for put to-her I-have the-ring on-the finger
Dame bien soit ele venue!»
Lady well she-may be come
A grant joie l'ont receüe.
With great joy her-they-have received
Li quens ses noces apareille;
The count his wedding prepares
le queu apele et li consaille,
the cook he-calls and to-him counsels
et li commande qu'il li face
and to-him commands that-he to-him may-make
savors teles dont gré li sache,
sauces such that thanks to-him he-may-know
et sauxes mout assavorées,
and sauces very well-seasoned
que nos genz soient honorées
that our folk may-be honored
por l'onor la novele dame,
for the-honor (of-)the new lady

que joie li font tot ensanble.»
since joy to-her they-make all together
Dit li queus: «Ge m'en apareil.»
Says the cook I myself-thereto prepare
La dame li dit à conseil:
The lady to-him says in secret
«Que t'a dit li quens? — Que savors
What to-thee-has said the count That sauces
li face bones et plusors.
to-him I-may-make good and many
— Vielz avoir mon gré? — Dame, aol.
Wilt-thou to-have my favor Lady yes
— Garde que il n'i ait un sol
Take-care that it not-there may-have a single
où il ait savors fors ailliée,
where it may-have sauces except garlic-sauce
mais que bien soit apareilliée.
but that well it-may-be prepared
— Ge n'oseroie. — Si feras,
I not-would-dare So thou-wilt-do
ja de lui mal gré n'en avras,
ever of him ill will not-thereof thou-wilt-have
s'il set que l'aie commandé;
if-he knows that it-I-may-have commanded
et tu doiz bien faire mon gré:
and thou oughtest well to-do my will
ge te puis aidier et nuisir.
I thee can help and harm

— Dame,» dit il, «vostre plaisir
Lady says he your pleasure
ferai, mais que honte n'en aie!
I-shall-do but that shame not-thereof I-may-have
Du tot sui en vostre menaie.»
Of-the all I-am in your power
Li queus s'en va en la quisine;
The cook himself-thence goes into the kitchen
de ses mès atorner ne fine,
of his dishes preparing not he-ceases
s'aillie a li queus atornée.
his-garlic-sauce has the cook prepared
Atant a l'on l'eve cornée.
Thereupon has one the-water horned
Levent, si s'assiéent as dois.
They-wash so themselves-seat at-the high-tables
Li mès vienent mout à esplois
The dishes come very in haste
as barons et à la mesniée,
to-the barons and to the household
à chascun mès si a ailliée;
at each dish so there-has garlic-sauce
mais de bon vin si ot assez.
but of good wine so there-was enough
Toz en fu li quens trespenssez;
All thereof was the count deep-in-thought
ne sot que faire, tant soffri
not he-knew what to-do so-much he-endured
que les genz furent departi.
that the folk were departed

En la chanbre mande son queu;
Into the chamber he-summons his cook
il i vint, non mie à son preu;
he there came not at-all to his profit
il ot poor, si vint tranblant:
he had fear so came trembling
«Vassal,» fist il, «par quel conmant
Vassal said he by what command
avés vos fait tantes ailliées,
have you made so-many garlic-sauces
et les savors avez laissiées,
and the sauces have left
que ge vos commandai à faire?»
that I you commanded to make
Li queus l'entent, ne sait que faire:
The cook it-hears not knows what to-do
«Sire,» fait il, «gel vos dirai:
Lord says he I-it to-you shall-tell
par ma dame, sire, fet l'ai,
by my lady lord done it-I-have
por vostre dame, voire, sire,
for your lady truly lord
que ge ne l'osai contredire.
for I not her-dared to-gainsay
— Par les sainz que on por Dieu quiert,
By the saints whom one for God seeks
que ja garant ne vos en ert
for ever warrant not to-you thereof will-be
de trespasser ma commandise!»
of transgressing my command

Du queu fist li quens la justise:
Of-the cook did the count the justice
l'ueil li crieve et tolt li l'orille
the-eye of-him he-gouges and takes of-him the-ear
et une main, et puis l'essille
and a hand and then him-exiles
de sa terre que n'i remaigne.
from his land that not-there he-may-remain
Puis a parlé à sa conpaigne:
Then has he-spoken to his companion
«Dame,» dit il, «par quel conseil
Lady says he by what counsel
nos avez fait cest apareil?
to-us have-you made this preparation
— Par le mien, sire, si mespris.
By the mine lord so I-erred
— Non feïstes, par seint Denis.
Not you-did by saint Denis
Par le vostre ne fu ce mie.
By the yours not was this at-all
Mais or me dites, douce amie,
But now tell me sweet friend
itel conseil qui vous dona?
such counsel who to-you gave
— Sire, ma mere le loa,
Lord my mother it advised
que ge de li ne forlignasse,
that I from her not might-degenerate
ne voz commanz pas n'otroiasse,
nor your commands at-all not-I-might-grant

mais avant alassent li mien;
but before might-go the mine
si m'en venroit honeur et bien.
so to-me-thereof would-come honor and good
A ceste foiz l'ai fait ainsi:
At this time it-I-have done thus
or m'en repent, por Dieu merci.
now myself-thereof I-repent for God mercy
— Bele,» ce dit li quens, «par Dé,
Fair this says the count by God
ja ne vos sera pardoné,
ever not to-you it-will-be pardoned
sanz le vostre chastiement.»
without the your chastisement
Il saut, par les cheveus la prant,
He leaps by the hairs her takes
à la terre la rue encline;
to the ground her he-throws bowed
tant la bat d'un baston d'espine
so-much her he-beats with-a staff of-thorn
qu'il la laissiée presque morte.
that-he her has-left almost dead
Tote pasmée el lit la porte,
All fainted into-the bed her he-carries
iluec jut ele bien trois mois,
there lay she well three months
qu'ele ne pot seoir as dois:
so-that-she not could sit at-the high-tables

iluec la fist li quens garir,
there her had the count healed
tant li a faite bien servir.
so-much her he-has made well be-served
D'un autre essanple oez la somme.
Of-an other example hear the sum
A la fiere feme au preudome
To the proud wife of-the worthy-man
est pris volentez de veoir
is taken will to see
sa fille: el demain velt movoir.
her daughter on-the morrow she-wishes to-set-out
Sis chevaliers apareilla,
Six knights she-prepared
mout noblement à cort ala;
very nobly to court she-went
son seignor dit come ele sielt,
her lord she-tells as she is-wont
qu'après li viegne se il velt.
that-after her he-may-come if he wishes
Il monta tout sanz contredit,
He mounted all without gainsaying
puis que la dame l'avoit dit;
since that the lady it-had said
si s'en vait après sa moillier,
so himself-thence goes after his wife
n'i maine qu'un seul escuier
not-there he-leads but-a single squire
qui tint de lui un poi de fié,
who held of him a little of fief

et avec un garçon à pié
and with a boy on foot
mena o li, et plus noient.
he-led with him and more nothing
La dame vint trop noblement,
The lady came too nobly
au conte mande qu'ele vient.
to-the count she-sends-word that-she comes
Li quens à fol orgueil le tient
The count to foolish pride it holds
qu'ele le mande et non si sire
that-she it sends-word and not her lord
qui vient lui autre, ce ot dire.
who comes him other this he-heard say
Nequedent bel ator fait faire
Nevertheless fair array he-makes make
de mengier et de luminaire.
of eating and of lights
Ez vos la dame reseüe:
Behold you the lady received
ne fu pas trop bel recuillue;
not she-was at-all too fairly welcomed
li quens li fist baseste chere.
the count to-her made lowly face
Atant ez vos venuz le pere,
Thereupon behold you come the father
à l'encontre li quens li saut:
to the-meeting the count to-him leaps
«Bien viegnoiz!» dit il tot en halt.
Well come-you says he all in loud

Queurt à l'estrier, et cil s'en ire,
Runs to-the stirrup and that-one himself-thereof angers
et dit li quens: «Or soffrez, sire,
and says the count Now suffer lord
que l'en vos serve en vo maison
that one you may-serve in your house
volentiers, quant il vos est bon.»
willingly when it to-you is good
Prist par la mein, lez lui l'assist,
He-took by the hand beside him him-seated
deshueser et servir le fist.
unbooted and served him he-had
La contesse issi de la chanbre,
The countess came-out from the chamber
qui vers sa mere ot le cuer tendre;
who toward her mother had the heart tender
et nequedent le conte crient
and nevertheless the count she-fears
por le baston dont li sovient.
for the staff of-which to-her it-remembers
Primes son pere salua,
First her father she-greeted
et il li rent, puis la baisa;
and he to-her renders then her kissed
puis a sa mere saluée.
then has her mother greeted
Mout volentiers i fust alée,
Very willingly there she-would-be gone

mais li quens l'assist lez son pere;
but the count her-seated beside her father
la mere en fist pesante chere.
the mother thereof made heavy face
Le mengier hasterent li queu:
The eating hastened the cooks
devant les dois ont fait bon feu;
before the high-tables they-have made good fire
levent, s'assiéent au mengier.
they-wash themselves-seat at-the eating
Li quens tint son seignor mout chier:
The count held his lord very dear
de lez lui l'assist hautement;
of beside him him-seated highly
mout furent servi richement.
much they-were served richly
Mout ont bons mès et bons viez vins,
Very they-have good dishes and good old wines
et bons morez et clarez fins.
and good mulberry-wines and spiced-wines fine
La fiere dame et li sien sis
The proud lady and the her-own six
sont en un banc en loig assis:
are on a bench at distance seated
ne furent pas si bien servi.
not they-were at-all so well served
Ce fist li quens tot por celi
This did the count all for her
qui à son seignor ert contraire.
who to her lord was contrary

Mengié ont, les napes font traire,
Eaten they-have the cloths they-make draw
deduit se sont et envoisié,
diverted themselves they-are and amused
le fruit ont, puis se sont coschié.
the fruit they-have then themselves they-are laid-down
La nuit s'en va, li jors apert;
The night itself-thence goes the day appears
li quens lieve qui dolenz ert
the count rises who grieving was
de son seignor, qui feme a male.
for his lord who wife has bad
Il l'en apele en mi la sale:
He him-thereof calls in mid the hall
«Sire, alez chacier en mon parc
Lord go hunt in my park
o chiens, o reseus et o arc;
with dogs with nets and with bow
alez chacier à venoison
go hunt for venison
que à grant plenté en aion;
that in great plenty thereof we-may-have
n'i ait serjant ne chevalier
not-there may-be servant nor knight
ovuec aus ne voisent chacier.
with them who-not may-go to-hunt
Avuec cez dames demorrai,
With these ladies I-shall-remain
li chiés me dielt, grant mal i ai.»
the head to-me aches great pain there I-have

Or sont montez, n'atendent plus,
Now they-are mounted not-they-wait more
tuit vont chacier, n'i remaint nus
all go to-hunt not-there remains none
fors le conte et quatre serjant,
except the count and four servants
fort et menbru et fier et grant.
strong and well-limbed and fierce and big
Il le conseille à un sien mor:
He it counsels to a his-own Moor
«Va querre les coilles d'un tor,
Go seek the testicles of-a bull
les coillons atout le forcel.
the testicles with the scrotum
Si les m'aporte, et un costel,
So them me-bring and a knife
et un rasoir bien afilé:
and a razor well sharpened
si le m'aporte en recelé.»
so it me-bring in secret
Et il si fist sanz demorance;
And he so did without delay
il prist sa dame par la manche,
he took his lady by the sleeve
lez lui l'assist, si li a dit:
beside him her-seated so to-her has said
«Dites moi, se Dieus vos aïst,
Tell me so God you may-help
dites moi ce que vos querrai.
tell me this that you I-shall-ask

— Volentiers, sire, se gel sai.
Willingly lord if I-it know
— Dont avez vous icest orgueil,
Whence have you this pride
mout volentiers savoir le vuel,
very willingly to-know it I-wish
que vos avez en tel despit
that you hold in such contempt
vostre seignor, et quanqu'il dit,
your lord and whatever-he says
vos dites ce que li desplait,
you say that which him displeases
et commandez si sera fait?
and command so it-will-be done
Feme ne fait vilté greignor
Woman not does baseness greater
que de vill tenir son seignor.»
than to vile hold her lord
— Sire, plus sai que il ne set,
Lord more I-know than he — knows
et si ne fait riens qui m'agret.
and so not does anything that me-may-please
— Dame, bien sai dont ce vos vient:
Lady well I-know whence this to-you comes
ceste fiertez es rains vos tient.
this pride in-the loins you holds
Ge l'ai bien veü à vostre hueil
I it-have well seen in your eye
que vos avez de nostre orgueil.
that you have of our pride

Vos avez coilles comme nos,
You have testicles like us
s'en est vostre cuers orgueillous.
so-thereof is your heart proud
Ge vos i vueil faire taster,
I you there wish to-make feel
s'il i sont, ses ferai oster.»
if-they there are them I-shall-make remove
Dit la dame: «Taisiez, beau sire;
Says the lady Be-silent fair lord
gas ne me devriez vos dire.»
jests not to-me ought you to-say
Li quens ne volt plus atargier;
The count not wished more to-delay
ses serjanz commence à huschier:
his servants he-begins to call
«Estendez la bien tost à terre:
Stretch her very soon on ground
as deus estrains li ferai querre.»
at-the two loins her I-shall-make search
Cil estendent la dame encline.
Those stretch the lady bowed
Lors s'escrie: «Lasse! frarine!»
Then herself-cries-out Wretched wretched
Un des serjanz le rasoir prent:
One of-the servants the razor takes
demi pié la nache li fent,
half-a foot the buttock of-her he-splits

son poig i met enz, et tot clos
his fist there he-puts in and all closed
un des coillons au tor mout gros
one of-the testicles of-the bull very big
ça et là tire, et ele brait.
here and there he-pulls and she brays
Semblant fet que du cors li trait,
Semblance he-makes that from-the body of-her he-draws
venant li met en un bacin;
seeing her he-puts into a basin
et cele cuide tot enfin
and she believes all in-the-end
que ce soit voirs; il li repasse.
that this may-be true he to-her sews-up
Et ele dit: «Chaitive! lasse!
And she says Wretched wretched
Com je fui de pute heure née,
How I was in foul hour born
desormès serai plus senée.
from-now I-shall-be more wise
Se de ci eschaper pooie,
If from here to-escape I-could
mon seignor mès ne desdiroie.»
my lord ever-more not I-would-gainsay
Et cil li porfent l'autre nache;
And that-one to-her splits the-other buttock
semblant feit que il li errache;
semblance makes that he of-her tears-out
tot sanglent el bacin le rue.
all bloody into-the basin it he-throws

Cele se pasme qui fu mue.
She herself faints who was mute
Quant ele vint de pasmoison:
When she came from swoon
«Dame,» dit li quens, «or avon
Lady says the count now we-have
l'orgueil dont estiez si ose.
the-pride of-which you-were so bold
Or seroiz mais mout simple chose,
Now you-will-be from-now very simple thing
mais ge dout qu'aucune racine
but I fear that-some root
n'i remaigne se nel quisine:
there may-remain if not-it I-cook
or tost, un costre m'eschaufer,
now quickly a coulter me-heat
por les racines quisinner.»
for the roots to-cook
Dit la dame: «Sire, merci,
Says the lady Lord mercy
certes lealment vos affi,
certainly loyally to-you I-pledge
et sor sainz le vos jurerai,
and on saints it to-you I-shall-swear
que mon seignor ne desdirai:
that my lord not I-shall-gainsay
servirai le si com ge doi;
I-shall-serve him so as I ought
tenez, gel vos affi par foi.
take I-it to-you pledge by faith

— Or atendez donc sa venue,
Now wait then his coming
jurrez li, s'en seroiz creüe.
you-will-swear to-him so-thereof you-will-be believed
— Sire,» dit ele, «et jel creant.»
Lord says she and I-it grant
La contesse ot le cuer dolant;
The countess had the heart grieving
por sa mere mout a ploré.
for her mother much she-has wept
«Ça,» dit li quens, «savez m'en gré
Here says the count know-you me-thereof gratitude
de ce que vostre mere ai fait,
for this that-which your mother I-have done
que son orgueill fors li ai trait;
that her pride out of-her I-have drawn
ge crieng que à lui ne traiez,
I fear that to her — you-may-take-after
et cest orgueil es rains n'aiez;
and this pride in-the loins you-may-have
mais or soffrez, ge tasterai,
but now suffer I shall-feel
et, se ges truis, ges osterai.
and if I-them find I-them shall-remove
— Merci, sire, por Dieu le voir,
Mercy lord for God the truth
sire, bien le devez savoir:
lord well it you-ought to-know

tant i avez sovent tasté
so-much there you-have often felt
se il i sont, nenil, par Dé.
if they there are no by God
Ge ne sui pas de la nature
I not am at-all of the nature
ma mere qui est fiere et dure;
(of-)my mother who is proud and hard
ge retrai plus, sire, à mon pere
I take-after more lord to my father
que ge ne faz voir à ma mere;
than I — do truly to my mother
ainc vostre commant ne desdis
ever your command not I-gainsaid
que une foiz, si m'en fu pis,
except one time so to-me-thereof was worse
si en pristes vostre venjance.
so thereof you-took your vengeance
Ge vos en faiz asseürance
I to-you thereof make assurance
que ge ferai quanque volrez,
that I shall-do whatever you-will-wish
et amerai quanqu'amerez:
and shall-love whatever-you-will-love
se nel faz, le chief me tranchiez.»
if not-it I-do the head of-me cut

Ce dist li quens: «Bele, or sachiez
This said the count Fair now know
qu'or sofferai, mais se ge voi
that-now I-shall-suffer but if I see
que voilliez reveler vers moi,
that you-may-wish to-rebel toward me
ostez vos seront li coillon,
removed from-you will-be the testicles
si com à vostre mere avon;
so as to your mother we-have
que ce sachiez, par ces grenotes
for this know by these kernels
sont les femes fieres et sotes.»
are the women proud and foolish
De chacier vint li riches hom;
From hunting came the rich man
assez a prise venoison.
plenty he-has taken venison
La dame l'a oï, si pleure,
The lady him-has heard so weeps
et il i ala en es l'eure,
and he there went in very the-hour
si li demande que ele a.
so of-her asks what she has
Li quens l'encontre, si parla:
The count him-meets so spoke
«Sire, que ge li ai ostez
Lord that I from-her have removed
ce dont el menoit tel fiertez,
that of-which she bore such pride

cez deus coillons qu'es rains avoit,
these two testicles that-in-the loins she-had
dont ainsi orgueillouse estoit.
whereby thus proud she-was
Vez les coillons en cel bacin,
See the testicles in that basin
n'i meïssiez autrement fin.
not-there you-might-put otherwise end
Les racines vueil quisiner,
The roots I-wish to-cook
mais ele velt sor sainz jurer
but she wishes on saints to-swear
que jamais ne vos desdira
that ever not you she-will-gainsay
et volentiers vos servira.
and willingly you will-serve
Quant avra fet le serement,
When she-will-have made the oath
s'el à mespris vers vos reprent,
if-she in error toward you falls-back
ovrez les plaies à chauz fers,
open the wounds with hot irons
cuisiez les racines et ners.»
cook the roots and sinews
Cil quide que trestot voir soit
That-one thinks that all true it-may-be
por les coillons que iluec voit;
for the testicles which there he-sees

por la dame qu'il voit navrée
for the lady whom-he sees wounded
cuide qu'ele soit amendée.
he-thinks that-she may-be amended
Le soirement et la fiance
The oath and the pledge
fist la dame sanz demorance.
made the lady without delay
Ses plaies li font reloier
Her wounds to-her they-make re-bind
et la letiere apareillier;
and the litter prepare
si l'enportent sor deus chevaus.
so her-they-carry-away on two horses
Ses plaies ne sont pas mortaus;
Her wounds not are at-all mortal
bon mire ot qui bien l'a gari,
good physician she-had who well her-has healed
son seignor ama et servi:
her lord she-loved and served
onques puis nel desdit de rien.
ever afterward not-him she-gainsaid in anything
Mout par esploita li quens bien;
Very indeed acted the count well
benoit soit il, et cil si soient,
blessed may-be he and those so may-be
qui lor males femes chastoient;
who their bad wives chastise
cil sont honi, et il si sont,
those are shamed and they so are

qui lor feme tel dangier ont.
who to-their wife such power have
Les bones devez mout amer
The good you-ought much to-love
et chier tenir et hennorer,
and dear to-hold and to-honor
615 et il otroit mal et contraire
and he may-grant ill and adversity
à ramposneuse deputaire.
to scolding wicked-woman
Teus est de cest flabel la some;
Such is of this fabliau the sum
dahet feme qui despit home!
a-curse-on woman who despises man
