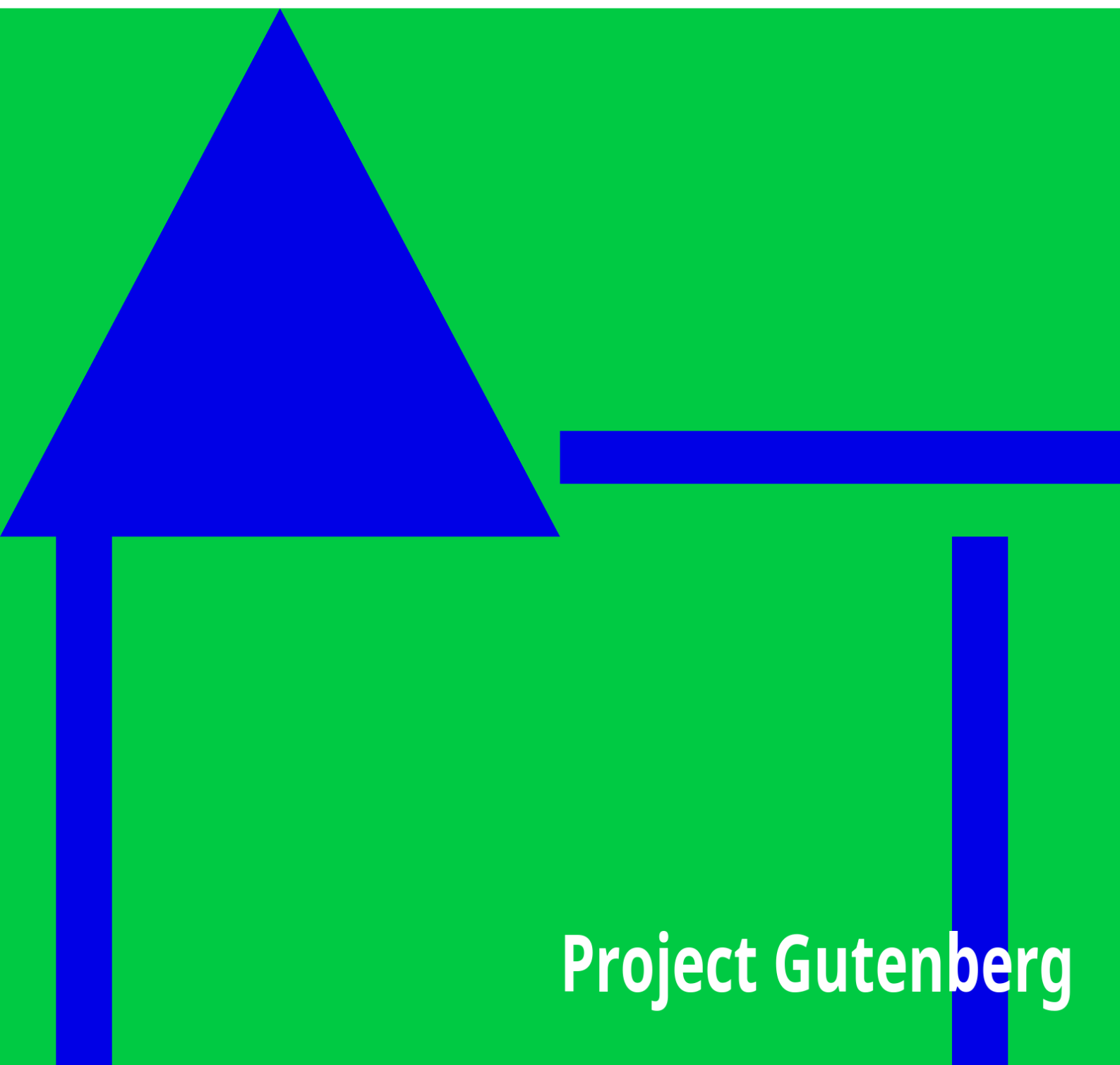


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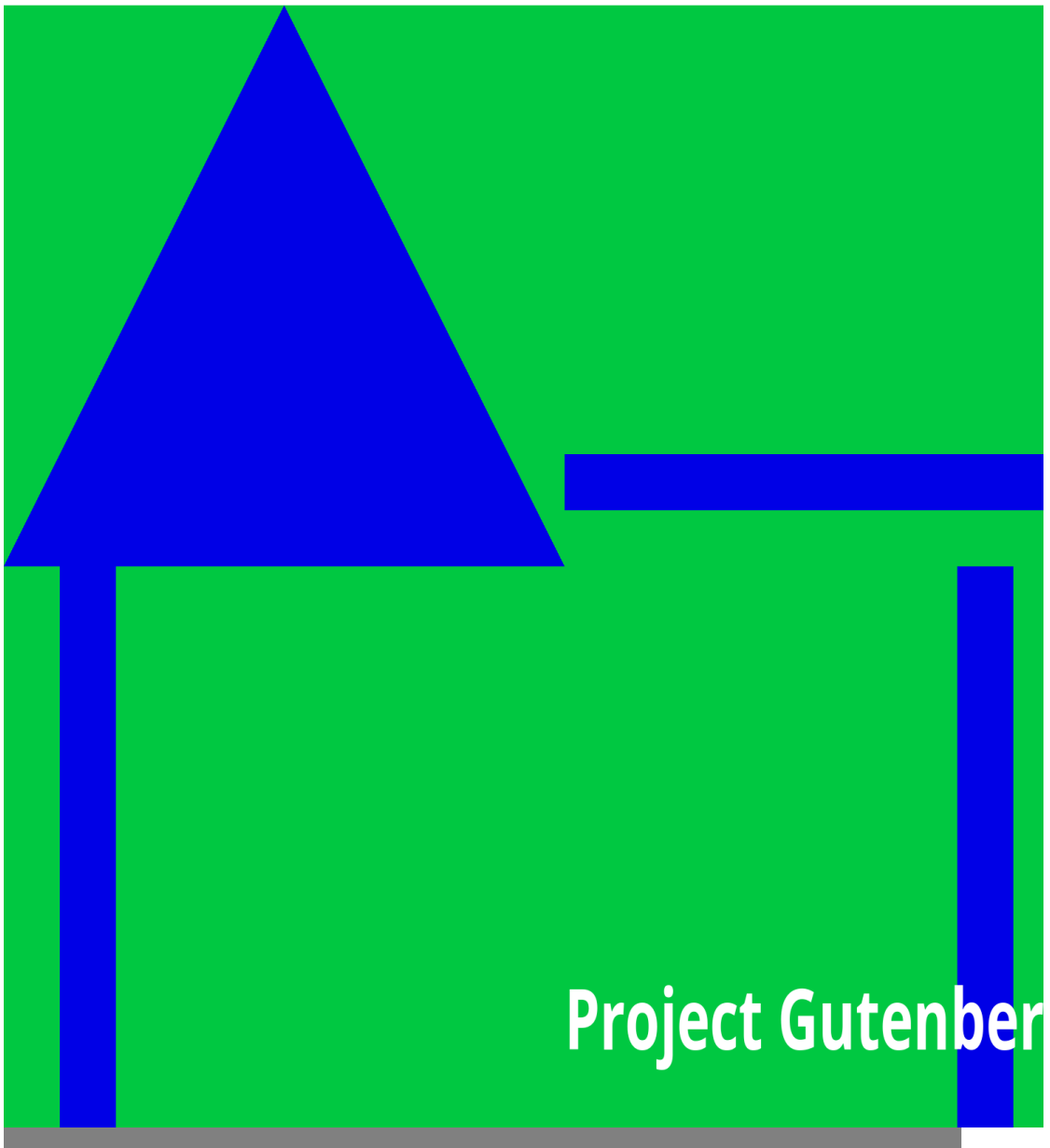
Frederick James Furnivall



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Arthur

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Arthur

**A Short Sketch of His Life and History in English
Verse of the First Half of the Fifteenth Century**

Copied and Edited From the Marquis of Bath's MS.

by

Frederick J. Furnivall, M.A., Camb.

Editor of De Borron's and Lonelich's "History of the Holy
Graal," Walter Map's "Queste Del Saint Graal," Etc. Etc.

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Preface

As one of the chief objects of the Early English Text Society is to print every Early English Text relating to Arthur, the Committee have decided that this short sketch of the British hero's life shall form one of the first issue of the Society's publications. The six hundred and forty-two English lines here printed occur in an incomplete Latin Chronicle of the Kings of Britain, bound up with many other valuable pieces in a MS. belonging to the Marquis of Bath. The old chronicler has dealt with Uther Pendragon, and Brounsteele (Excalibur), and is narrating Arthur's deeds, when, as if feeling that Latin prose was no fit vehicle for telling of Arthur, king of men, he breaks out into English verse,

"Herkenep, þat louep honour,
Of kyng Arthour & hys labour."

The story he tells is an abstract, with omissions, of the earlier version of Geoffry of Monmouth, before the love of Guinevere for Lancelot was introduced by the French-writing English romancers of the Lionheart's time (so far as I know), into the Arthur tales. The fact of Mordred's being Arthur's son, begotten by him on his sister, King Lot's wife, is also omitted; so that the story is just that of a British king founding the Round Table, conquering Scotland, Ireland, Gothland, and divers parts of France, killing a giant from Spain, beating Lucius the Emperor of Rome, and returning home to lose his own life, after the battle in which the traitor whom he had trusted, and who has seized his queen and his land, was slain.

[pg vi]

"He that will more look,
Read on the French book,"

says our verse-writer: and to that the modern reader must still be referred, or to the translations of parts of it, which we hope to print or reprint, and that most pleasantly jumbled abstract of its parts by Sir Thomas Maleor, Knight, which has long been the delight of many a reader,—though despised by the stern old Ascham, whose Scholemaster was to turn it out of the land.—There the glory of the Holy Grail will be revealed to him; there the Knight of God made known; there the only true lovers in the world will tell their loves and kiss their kisses before him; and the Fates which of old enforced the penalty of sin will show that their arm is not shortened, and that though the brave and guilty king fights well and gathers all the glory of the world around him, yet still the sword is over his head, and, for the evil that he has done, his life and vain imaginings must pass away in dust and confusion.

Of the language of the Poem there is little to say: its dialect is Southern, as shown by the verbal plural *th*, the *vyve* for five, *zyx* for six, *ych* for I, *har* (their), *ham* (them), for *her*, *hem*; *hulle*, *dude*, *zut*, for hill, did, yet, the infinitive in *y* (*rekeny*), etc. Of its poetical merits, every reader will judge for himself; but that it has power in some parts I hope few will deny. Arthur's answer to Lucius, and two lines in the duel with Frollo,

"There was no word y-spoke,
But eche had other by the throte,"

are to be noted. Parts of the MS. have very much faded since it was written some ten or twenty years before 1450, so that a few of the words are queried in the print. The MS. contains a few metrical points and stops, which I have here printed between parentheses (). The expansions of the contractions are printed in italics, but the ordinary doubt whether the final lined *n* or *u*—for they are often undistinguishable—is to be printed *ne*, *nne*, or *un*, exists here too. [pg vii]

I am indebted to Mr. Sims, of the Manuscript Department of the British Museum, for pointing out the Poem to me, and to

the Marquis of Bath for his kind permission to copy it for printing.

*3, Old Square, Lincoln's Inn,
London, W.C., August 30, 1864.*

Arthur

[pg 1]

From the Marquis of Bath's MS.

BEF. 1450 A.D.

[The Latin side notes in italics, and the stops of the text in parentheses (), are those of the MS.]

Herkenþ, þat loueþ honour, [Fol. 42b.]

Of kyng Arthour & hys labour;

And furst how he was bygete, How Arthur was begotten

As þat we in bokis do rede. 4

Vther pendragone was hys fader, by Pendragon on Ygerne.

And ygerne was hys Moder.

Pendragone ys in walysche

'Dragones heed' on Englysche; Pendragon (*t.i.* Dragon's Head) made two
painted dragons, 8

He maked ypeynted dragones two;

Oon schold byfore him goo

Whan he went to batayle,

Whan he wold hys foes sayle; 12

That other abood at wynchester,

Euermore styll there.

Bretones 3af hym þat Name, and thence had his name.

Vther Pendragone þe same, 16

For þat skyle fer & nere

Euer-more hyt to here.

The Erles wyff of Cornewayle How Uther loved the Earl of Cornwall's
wife,

He loued to Muche sanz fayle; 20

Merlyn wyþ hys sotelnesse
 Turned vtheris lyknesse,
 And maked hym lyche þe Erl anone,
 And wyþ hys wyff (:) his wylle to done 24
 In þe countre of Cornewelle:
 In þe Castel of Tyntagelle,
 Thus vther, yf y schalle nat lye,
 Bygat Arthour in avowtrye. 28 and begat Arthour in adultery.
 Whan vther Pendragone was deed,
 Arthour anon was y-crowned; Arthour is crowned,
 He was courteys, large, & Gent
 to alle puple verrament; 32
 Beaute, Myzt, amyable chere
 To alle Men ferre and neere;
 Hys port (;) hys zyftes gentylle
 Maked hym y-loved wylle; 36 is loved of all,
 Ech mon was glad of hys *presence*,
 And drade to do hym dysplesaunce;
 A stronger Man of hys honde is strong
 was neuer founde on any londe, 40
 As courteys as any Mayde:— and courteous.
 Þus wryteþ of hym þat hym a-sayde. [Fol. 42*b*. col. 2.]
 At Cayrlyone, wythoute fable,
 he let make þe Rounde table: 44 He makes the Round Table,
 And why þat he maked hyt þus,
 Þis was þe resoun y-wyss,—
 Þat no man schulde sytt aboue other, that all at it might be equal.
 ne haue indignacioun of hys broþer; 48
 And alle hadde (.)oo(.) seruyse,
 For no pryde scholde aryse
 For any degree of syttynge,
 Oþer for any seruynge:— 52

[pg 2 - Arthur
Has the Round
Table Made.]

þus he kept þe table Rounde
 Whyle he leuyd on þe grounde.
 After he hadde conquered skotlond After his first conquests
 yrland & Gotland, 56
þan leuyd he at þe best he lives twelve years in peace,
 twelf 3eeris on alle reste
 Wypoute werre (:) tyll at þe laste
 he þou3t to make (.)a(.) nywe *conqueste*. 60
 Into Fraunce wyþ gode counceyle and then invades France.
 he wolde weende (:) & hyt assayle,
 þat Rome þo kept vnder Myght,
 Vnder Frollo (:) a worthy knyght 64
 þat fraunce hadde þo to kepe,
 To rywle, defende, & to lede.
 Arthour and Frollo fou3t in feld; He beats Frollo back to Paris,
 þere deyde many vnder scheld. 68
 Frollo in-to Paryss fly,
 Wyth strenkthe kept hyt wysely:
 Arthour byseged þat Syte & town and there besieges him, till
 Tylle þeire vytayl was y-doon. 72
 Frollo þat worthy knyght Frollo challenges him to single combat.
 Proferyd wyth Arthour for to fyght
 Vnder þis wyse & condicioun,—
 "Ho hadde þe Maystrie (:) haue þe crown; 76
 And no mo men but þey two."
 þe day Was sett (:) to-geder þey go: They fight:
 Fayr hyt was to byholde
 In suche two kny3ghte3 bolde: 80
 þer was no word y-spoke,
 But eche hadde other by þe þrote;
 þey smote wyth trouchoun & wyth swerd;
 þat hyt seye were a-ferd; 84 [Fol. 43.]

[pg 3 - He
Fights Frollo
for France.]

Frollo fouzt wyþ hys ax (:) as men dude se; (Frollo with his axe)
 He hytt Arthour (:) so sore (:) þat he felle on kne.
 He ros vp raply (:) and smot hym fulle sore;
 He dude hym to grent a (.) souez¹ þerfore. 88
 thus they hyw on helmes hye,
 And schatered on wyþ scheldes.
 Þe puple by-gan to crye
 Þat stood on þe feldes; 92
 ther ne wyst no man, as y can lere,
 Who of ham two was þe bettere þere. [pg 4 - Arthur
Returns
Victorious to
Britain,]
 Arthour was chafed & wexed wrothe, till Arthour in
 wrath takes Brownsteel,
 He hente brounstelle | and to Frollo gothe 96
 Brounstelle was heuy & also kene; *Caliburnus Arthuri Gladius* [with a
 sketch thereof in the MS.]
 Fram þe schulder(:) to þe syde went bytwene
 Off frolo | and þan he fell to þe grounde
 Ryzt as he moste | deed(.) in lyte stounde. 100 and strikes Frollo dead.
 Frensche men made doelle & wept fulle faste;
 Þeir Crowne of fraunce þere þey loste.
 Than wente Arthour in-to paryse Arthur takes Paris.
 And toke þe castelle & þe town at hys avyse. 104
 Worschuped be god of hys grete grace Glory to God.
 Þat þus zeueþ fortune(:) and worschup to þe Reme;
 Thanke ze hym alle þat beþ on þis place,
 And seyep a Pater noster wythout any Beeme. 108 Say ye a Pater
 Noster therefore.

Pater noster.

Arthour fram paryse went wyth hys Rowte,
 And conquered þe Countre on euery syde aboute; Arthur conquers
 the countries around,
 Angeoy², Peytow, Berry, & Gaskoyne,

Nauerne, Burgone | Loreyn & Toreyne; 112
He daunted þe proude | & hawted þe poure;
He dwelt long in Paryss after in honoure;
He was drad and loued in countreis abowte;
Heyest & lowest hym Loved & alowte; 116
And vpon an *Estour* tyme sone afterward
He fested hys knyghtis & ʒaf ham gret reward; distributes them
among his knights,

To hys styward he ʒaf Angers & Aungeye;
To Bedewer hys botyler he ʒaf Normandy; 120
He ʒaf to Holdyne flaundrys parde;
To Borel hys Cosyn, Boloyne þe cyte;
And eche man, after þe astat þat he was,
He rewarded hem alle, boþe More & lasse, 124
And ʒaf hem reward, boþe lond and Fee,
And turned to Breteyn, to Carlyone ayhe. and returns to Britain.

Arthour wolde of honour [Fol. 43b, col. 1.]

Hold a fest at Eestour 128 Arthur gives an Easter Feast

[pg 5 - And
Then Holds a
Great Feast.]

Of regalye & worthynesse,
And feede alle hys frendess;
And sende Messanger

To kynges ferre & neer 132

þat were to hym Omager,
to come to þis Dyner.

And alle at oo certeyn day

They come þyder in gode aray, 136

And kept þeire Cesone

At þe Castelle Cayrlyone. at Carlyon, greater than ere before.

Thys fest was Muche Moore

þan euere Arthour made a-fore; 140

For þere was Vrweyn þe kynge Ten kings were there,

Of scottes at þat dynynge,

Stater þe kyng of south wales,
 Cadwelle þe kyng of north wale³, 144
 Gwylmar þe kyng of yrland,
 Dolmad þe kyng of guthland,
 Malgan of yselond also,
 Archyl of Denmark þerto, 148
 Alothe þe kyng of Norway,
 Souenas þe kyng of Orkenye,
 Of Breteyn þe kyng Hoel,
 Cador Erl of Cornewelle, 152 and thirteen earls
 Morice þe Erl of Gloucestre,
 Marran Erl of Wynchestre,
 Gwergound Erl of herford,
 Boo³ Erl of Oxenford, 156
 Of bathe vngent þe Erl also, (including him of Bath),
 Cursal of Chestre þer-to,
 Euerad Erl of salesbury,³
 Kynmar Erl of Canterbury, 160
 Jonas þe Erl of Dorcestre,
 Valence þe Erl of sylchestre,
 Jugeyn of Leyccer [?] þerto,
 Argal of warwyk also,— 164
 Kynges & Erles Echon
 Þes were; & many anoper goom with many other gentles great,
 Gret of astaat, & þe beste,
 Þes were at þe Feste. 168
 Other also gentylys grete
 Were þere at þat Meete,
 Sauer appon Donand,
 Regeym & Alard, 172
 Reyne³ fit³ Colys,
 Tadeus fit³ Reis,

[pg 6 - Arthur's
 Guests at
 Cayrlyone.]

Delyn fitz Dauid,
 Kymbelyn le fitz Gryffith, 176
 Gryffitȝ þe Sone of Nagand,
 Þes were þere also theoband:
 Alle þes were þere wythoute fable,
 Wythoute ham of þe rounde table. 180 besides the Round Tablers,
 Thre archebusschopes þer were also, Archbishops,
 And other busschopes many mo— Bishops,
 Alle þis mayne were nat al-oone;
 Wyth ham com many a Goome. 184
 Þis feste dured dayes þre
 In reuelle & solempnite.
 Of by ȝonde þe See also and many from beyond the sea.
 Many lordez[?] were þere þo. 188
 Now restep alle wyþ Me,
 And say a Pater & Ave.

Pater noster.

The þrydde day folowyng
 Then coom nywe tydyng, 192
 Þe whyle þey sete at þe Mete
 Messagers were In ylete; To the feasters came messengers from the Roman
 Emperor,
 Welle arayd forsoþe þey come,
 & send fram cite of Rome 196
 Wyþ *lettres* of þe Emperoures
 Whas name was Lucies. *lucius*.
 Þes *lettres* were opened & vnfold,
 And þe tydyng to alle men told, 200
 Whas sentence, yf y ne lye,
 Was after þat y can aspye:

[pg 7 - Lucius's
 Message to
 Arthur.]

¶ Lucius þe grete Emperour *Litera Lucii imperatoris*.

To hys Enemy Arthour:— 204
 We woundereþ of þi wodeness
 And also of þy Madnesse!
 How darst þow any wyse
 Aʒenst the Emperour þus aryse, 208 saying, that to have invaded France,
 etc., and made kings, Arthur must be mad in his noll;
 And ryde on Remes on eche wey,
 And make kyngeʒ to þe obey?
 Þu art wood on þe Nolle!
 Þu hast scley owre cosyn frolle; 212
 Þu schalt be tawʒt at a schort day [Fol. 44, col. 1.]
 for to make suche aray.
 Oure cosyn Iulius cesar
 Somme tyme conquered þar; 216
 To Rome þu owest hys trybut; that he must pay his tribute,
 We chargeþ þe to paye vs hyt.
 Thy pryde we wolle alaye
 Þat makest so gret aray: 220
 We commandeþ þe on haste
 To paye owre trybut faste;
 Þu hast scley frolle in fraunce
 Þat hadde vnder vs þere gouernaunce, 224
 And wyþholdest oure tribute þerto:
 Þu schalt be tawʒt þu hast mysdo:
 We commandeþ þe in haste soone
 Þat þu come to vs at Rome 228 and come to Rome to be punished for his
 disobedience.
 To vnderfang oure ordynaunce
 For þy dysobediaunce;
 As þu wold nat leze þy lyf,
 Fulfyll þys wythoute stryff." 232
 When þis *lettre* was open & rad;

Þe bretouns & alle men were mad, The Britons

purpose to kill the messengers,

[pg 8 - Arthur's
Answer to
Lucius.]

And wolde þe messenger scle:—

"Nay," seyð Arthour, "per de, 236 but Arthur forbids it,

That were aʒenst alle kynde,

A messenger to bete or bynde;

y charge alle men here

for to make ham good chere." 240

And after Mete sanz fayl

Wyþ hys lordes he hadde counsayl;

And alle asented þer to,

Arthour to Rome scholde go; 244 and resolves to invade Rome.

And þey ne wolde in hys *trauayle*

Wyþ strenkþ & good neuer fayle.

Than Arthour wroot to Rome a *lettre*,

Was sentence was *somm-what byttere*, 248

And sayde in þis manere

As ʒe may hure here:—

"Knoweþ welle ʒe of Romaine, *Litera Regis Arthuri*.

Y am kyng Arthour of Bretayne. 252 Arthur's answer to the Emperor

Lucius,

Fraunce, y haue conquered hyt,

Y schalle defende & kepe hyt ʒut, [Fol. 44, col. 2.]

Y come to Rome, as y am tryw,

To take my trybut (.) to me dywe, 256 claiming tribute from him.

But noon þere-for to paye,

By my werk ʒe schalle asay;

For þe Emperour Constantyne

Pat was þe Soone of Elyne, 260

Pat was a Bretone of þis lond,

Conquered Rome wyth hys hond,

And so ʒe oweþ me tribut:

Y charge 3ow þat 3e pay me hyt. 264
Also Maximian kyng of Bretaigne
Co[n]quered al fraunce & Almayne,
Lombardye Rome & ytalye—
By 3oure bokis 3e may a-spye. 268
Y am þeir Eyr & þeyre lynage,
Y aske 3ow my trywage."

[pg 9 - The
Messenger's
Report of
Arthur.]

Þis *lettre* was celyd fast,
Y-take the Messagerez on hast; 272
Arthour 3af ham 3yftez grete,
And chered ham wyþ drynk and Mete.
Þey hasted ham to come hoom; Lucius's messengers return to him.
Byfor þe *Emperour* þey beþ coom; 276
Saluted hym as *resoun* ys,
And toke hym þes letterys.
Þey seyde to þe *Emperour*
"We have be wyþ kyng Arthour; 280
But such anoþer as he ys oon,
Say neuer no Man.
He ys *serued* on hys howshold
Wyþ kynges, Erles, worthy & bold; 284
Hys worthynesse, sur *Emperour*,
Passeþ *Muche* alle 3owre;
He seyde he wolde hyder come and give him Arthur's message.
And take trywage of alle Rome, 288
We dowteþ last he wel do soo,
For he ys Myghty ynow þer-too."
Now, erst þan we goo ferþer,
Every man þat ys here 292
Sey a Pater noster
And ave wyþ gode chere; *Amen*.

Pater noster

Ave Maria.

Now stureth hym self *Arthour* [Fol. 44b.]

Penkyng on hys labour, 296

And gaderyþ to hym strength aboute, Arthur prepares for his
expedition to Rome.

Hys kynges & Erles on a rowte—

A fayr syȝt to Mannes ye

to see suche a cheualrye,— 300

The kyng of Gotland, Has five kings,

Also þe kyng of Irland,

the kyng of ysland | & of Orkenye,

Pis was worthy Maynye; 304

The kyng of Denmark also was þere,

Pis was a worthy chere:

Eche of þese vyve at her venyw

Brouȝt zyx þousand at har retenyw; 308

xxx^{ti} þowsand, ych vnderstand, with 30,000 men,

Þes vyf kyngis hadde on honde.

Than hadde he out of Normandye,

Of Angeoy & of Almanye, 312 80,000 Normans and

Boloyne(.) Peytow & flaundres

Fowre skore þowsand harneys—

Geryn of Chartez .xij. þowsand 12,000 from Chartres,

þat went wyþ *Artour* euer at honde; 316

Hoel of bretayn, þowsandez ten 10,000 Bretons.

Of hardy & welle fyghtyng Men;

Out of Bretaygne hys owne land

He passed fourty þowsand 320 and 40,000 British:

Of Archerys & off Arblastere

Þat Cowþ welle þe craft of werre.

[pg 10 - The
Number of
Arthur's Host.]

¶ In Foot other Many a Man Moo
 Able to feyght(:) as welle as þo: 324
 Two hunderd þousand in all 200,000.
 Went wyþ hym out of lond,
 And Many moo sykerly
 That y can⁴ not nombrye. 328
 Arthour toke þan þe lond
 To Moddredes owne hond; Britain is left in Mordred's charge.
 He kept al oþer þyng
 Saue þo Corowne weryng; 332
 But he was [fals] of hys kepyng,
 As 3e schalle hure here folewyng.
 Now thanne ys Artour y-Come
 And hys Ost to Sowthamptone: 336 Arthur ships at Southampton,
 Ther was Many a Man of Myghte
 Strong & bold also to fyghte.
 Eche man hath take his schuppyng,
 And ys at hys loghyng. 340
 Vp goþ þe sayl(:) þey sayleþ faste:
 Arthour owt of sy3t ys paste.
 Þe ferst lond þat he gan Meete,
 Forsoþe hyt was Bareflete; 344 and lands at Barfleet.
 Ther he gan vp furst aryve.
 Now welle Mote Arthour spede & thryve;
 And þat hys saule spede þe better, God speed him!
 Lat eche man sey a Pater noster. 348

[pg 11 - The
 Giant that
 Ravished Fair
 Elayne.]

Pater noster.

Now god spede Artour welle!
 hym ys comyng a nyw batelle. A new foe appears, a Spanish Giant,
 Ther coom a gyant out of spayne,
 And rauasched had fayr Elayne; 352

He had brouzt heore vp on an hulle—
 Mornyng hyt ys to hure or telle—
 Cosyn heo was to kyng hoell,
 A damesel fayr and gentelle; 356
 And 3ut ferþermore to,
 He rauasehed heore Moder also. who has slain fair Elayne.
 He dude þe damesel for to dye
 for he myght not lygge heor bye. 360
 Whan þis was told to Artour,
 He maked Much dolour,
 And send Bedewer for to spye Arthur sends Bedwere first as a spy,
 How he myght come hym bye; 364
 And he was nat sclowh,
 But to þe hulle hym drowh
 þat Closed was wyþ water stronge,
 þe hulle a-Mydde gret & longe; 368
 He went ouer to þe hulle syde,
 And þere a fonde a wommane byde
 þat sorwedd & wept Mornynge
 For Eleynes dep & departynge, 372
 And bad Bedewer to fle also
 Last he were ded more to;
 "For yf þe Gyant fynde þe,
 Wythoute dowte he wyll þe scle." 376
 Bedwer wyþ alle hastyng
 Tolde Arthour alle þis þynge.
 Amorwe whan þat hyt was day
 Arthour toke þyder hys way, 380 and then (with Bedwere and Key) starts
 on his adventure.
 Bedewer wyþ hym went, & keye,—
 Men þat cowþe welle þe weye,— [Fol. 45.]
 And broute Arthour Meyntenaunt,

[pg 12 -
 Arthur's Fight
 with the Giant.]

Euen byfore þe Gyant. 384
 Arthour fow3t wyþ þat wyght;
 He had almost ylost hys Myght:
 Wyþ Muche peyne, þru3 goddez grace
 He sclowh þe Geant in þat place, 388 He kills the Giant,
 And þan he made Bedewere
 To smyte of hys heed þere.
 To þe Ost he dude hyt brynge,
 And þeron was gret woundrynge, 392
 Hyt was so oryble & so greet, whose horrible head is shown to the host,
 More þan any Horse heed.
 Than hadde hoel Ioye ynowh
 For þat Arthour so hym sclowh; 396
 And for a *perpetuel* Memorie
 He Made a chapelle of seynt Marye and St. Mary's Chapel is built in
 honour of the victory.
 In þe hulle vpon þe pleyne,
 Wyþ-Inne þat (:)
 þe *tumbe*⁵ of Eleyne; 400 tombe
 And þat name wyþoute nay
 Hyt bereþ 3ut in-to þis day.
 Now ys an ende of þis þynge,
 And Artour haþ nyw tydynges,— 404 News of Lucius's approach is
 brought,
 Lucy þe Emperour wyþ hys host
 Comeþ fast in gret bost;
 Þey helyþ ouer alle þe lond,
 Fowre hundred þowsand 408 with an army of 400,124
 men.
 An hunderd and foure & twenty,—
 Thus herawdes dude ham rekeny;
 Thus he hadde gadered to hym
 Of cristien and of Sarasyn, 412

[pg 13 -
 Arthur's Men
 Pray to God.]

Auaunt Baner, & be Goo." 444
Now frendes alle, for goddes loue,
Rereþ 3owre hertes to god aboue,
And seyep 3owre prayeris faste,
Þat we welle spede furst & laste. 448

[pg 14 - The
Battle Between
Arthur and
Lucius.]

Pater noster.

The emperour tryst on hys men,
And þat haþ bygyled hym;
Forsothe hyt most nedez be so,
For þey beþ cursed þat welle hyt do, 452
Suche alle myght comeþ of god; *Maledictus qui confidet in homine.*
To tryst on hym, y hold hyt good.
Lucye haþ pyght his paeloun
And sprad wyþ pryde his gunfanoun; 456
His claryouns blastes fulle grete blywe,
Archeris schot(:) Men ouer-thrywe;
Bowes, arwes, & arblastere The battle begins.
Schot sore alle y-vere; 460
Quarels, arwes, þey fly smerte;
Þe fyched Men þru3 heed & herte;
Axes, sperys, and gysarmes gret,
Clefte Many a prowte Mannes heed: 464
Hors & steedes gan to grent,
And deyde wyþ strokis þat þey hente;
Many a man þere lost hys lyf, [Fol. 45b.]
Many on was wedyw þat was wyff; 468
Þere men were wetschoede Men are wetshod with brains and blood.
Alle of Brayn & of blode;
Gret rywthe hyt was to seyn
Þe feltes fulle of men y-scleyn; 472
Lucy þe Emperour also was dede; Lucius is slain,

But ho hym sclowh, y can nat rede;

He, for alle hys grete Renoun,

A3enst Arthour hadde no fusoun, 476 not able to
stand against Arthur.

[pg 15 - Arthur
Wins, and
Buries the
Dead.]

No more þan haue twenty schep

A3enst vyve wolfez greet.

To god be euere alle honourez!

The falde was hys & Arthourez. 480

Arthour, as he scholde done, Arthur sends Lucius's body to Rome,

Sende lucyes body to Rome;

Whan þe Romeynes say þis,

Þo þey dradde Arthour & hys. 484

Also he buryed Bedewere buries Bedwere and others

Hys frend and | hys Botyler,

And so he dude other Echon

In Abbeys of Relygyoun 488 in Abbeys,

Þat were cristien of name;

He dude to alle þe same;

And dude for ham Masse synge

wyth solempne song & offrynge, 492

And bood þere for to rest,

Tylle þat wynter was past, and stays the winter,

Boþe he (.) hys Men echone

Seruyd god in deuocione, 496

Þankyng god of hys My3t thanking God

Þat kepeþ hys seruauntez ry3t,

And suffreþ noon for to spylle

Þat hym loueþ & tryste wylle: 500

Þus worschup god dude certeyn for His honour to England.

To Englund, þat þo was Bretayn; [Of the difference between More (or
Great) Britain and Little Britain.]

Þe More Breteyn Englund ys—

As men may rede on Cronyclys— 504
 Byzend þe See Bretayne þer ys,
 Þat haþ hys name forsoþe of þis,
 For þe kyng Maxymyan,—
 Þe next after Octauyan,— 508
 He conquered alle Armoryk,
 And to þe Reme named hyt lyk:
 Amoriga on latyn me cl[e]ped þat lond, *Armorica*.
 Tyl Maxymyan co[n]queryd hyt wyth honde, 512
 And called hyt lyte bretayne þan,
 So hyzt þis lond þat he coom fram;
 For *perpetuelle* Mynde of grete Bretayne Little

[pg 16 - Of the
 Welsh and
 Stinking
 Saxons.]

Britain is called after Great Britain.

He called hyt lyte Bretayne, 516
 Þat Men schulde kepe in Mynde & wytt
 How þis lond conqueryd hytt;
 For Walsche Men beþ Bretouns of kynde—
 Know þat welle fast on Mynde— 520
 Engliche men beþ Saxoynes,
 Þat beþ of Engistes Soones;
 There-fore þe walsch man Bretoun
 Seyþ & clepeþ vs "Sayson"⁷ 524
 And seyþ (.) "taw or (.) peyd Sayson brount"⁸ How the Welshmen
 call the English "stinking Saxons."
 Whan he ys wroth (;) or ellys drounke;
 Hauyng Mynde of Engystis Men
 Þat wyth gyle sclow þeyre kyn: 528
 At þe place of þe Stonehenge
 3ut þey þenkeþ for to venge:
 And þat hyt neuere be so,
 Seyþ a Pater noster more to. 532

Pater noster.

Now turne we to oure labour Arthur is preparing to cross the mountains to
Rome,

And lat vs speke of Arthour:

He cast on herte sone

After þat to go to Rome, 536

And spak of Passage & hys wey

Forth ouer Mount Ioye.

And sone after vpon an ovr when he hears of Mordred's treachery;

He horde of Mordred the tretour 540

That hadde alle þis loud on warde—

Euylle moot suche fare, and harde.

Who may best bygyle a man

But suche as he tryst vpon? 544

Per ys no man wel nye, y tryste,

þat can be waar of hadde wyste.—

Mordred þis falss Man

Muche sorw þo bygan; 548

He stuffed alle castelle

Wyþ armyre & vytelle,

And strengthed hym on eche syde

Wyth Men of countreys ferre & wyde: 552

He toke þe qwene, Arthoures wyff, how the traitor had seized the queen,
his (Arthur's) wife,

A3enst goddes lawe & gode lyff,

And putte heore to soioune þo

At Euerwyk: god 3yf hym wo. 556 and put her at York.

Yhork ys Euerwyk:

& so me calleþ hyt.

Arthur aryved at Whytsond Arthur then comes home,

Wyth gret Myght & strong hond, 560

And Mordred sainz fayl fights Mordred,

3af hym þo a strong batayl;

[pg 17 - Of
Mordred's
Treachery and
Arthur's
Return.]

Many a man, as y rede,
 Þat day was þere dede; 564
 Arthoures nevew Waweyn
 Þat day was þere y-sclayn, and Gawain is slain.
 And oþer knyȝtes Many moo:
 Þan Arthour was heuy & woo. 568
 Mordred fly toward Londoun; Mordred flies to London,
 He most not come in þe toun:
 Þan fled he to wynchester
 And wyth hys Maynee kep [?] hym þere; 572
 And Arthour on gret haste
 Pursywed after hym faste.
 Mordred wythoute fayle
 Fled in-to Cornewayle. 576 and then to Cornwall.
 The qwene wyþoute lesyng
 Hurde of þis tydyng,
 And how Mordred was flow,
 And how to Cornewale he hym drow. 580
 Heo of Mercy hadde noon hoope,
 Ther-for he dude on a Russet cote, The Queen turns nun at Carlyon.
 And to Carlyoun ys preuyly Rounne,
 And made heore self þo a Nounne; 584
 Fro þat place neuer heo wende,
 But of heore lyf þere made an ende.
 Waweynes body, as y reede, Gawain
 And other lordes þat weere deede, 588
 Arthour sente in-to skotlonde, is buried in Scotland.
 And buryed ham þere, y vnderstonde.
 Muche folke þerhenne he toke þo,
 Of Northumber-lond also 592 Northern men and others come to Arthour.
 Fram dyverse places to Arthour come
 Hys wylle to werk & to done:

[pg 18 -
 Arthur's Last
 Battle with
 Mordred.]

Thus he sembled a fulle gret Ost;
 To Cornewayle he draweþ hym fast 596
 After þat Mordred þe traytour
 Þat hadde do hym Muche dyshonour.
 That tretour hadde gret strength
 And fulled þat lond on brede & lengthe, 600
 Suche a batelle as þere was redy þo He gives Mordred battle.
 Hadde neuer Arthour byfore y-doo:
 They fow3t tyl þer come doun bloode
 As a(.) Ryver or (.)a(.) flood; 604
 Þey fow3t euer sorest sadde; *Bellum arthuri apud Camelertonum in
 Cornubia.*
 Men nyst ho þe betere hadde;
 But at þe last Certeyn
 Was Mordred & alle hys y-sclayn; 608 Mordred is slain:
 And Arthour y-bete wyþ wounde, Arthur wounded,
 He Myght not stonde on grounde;
 But on lyter ry3t anon and carried to Avelon, or *Auelona .i. insula pomorum
 Glastonia.*
 Was brow3t to Auelone, 612
 Þat was a place fayr & Mury;
 Now hyt hooteþ Glastyngbury. Glastonbury, where he
 dies, [pg 19 - Arthur
 Is Buried at
 Glastonbury.]
 Ther Arthour þat worthy kyng
 Maked hys lyues endyng; 616
 But for he skaped þat batelle y-wys,
 Bretouns & Cornysch sayeþ þus,
 "Þat he leuyth 3ut parde,
 And schalle come & be a kyng a3e." 620
 At Glastyngbury on þe qweer
 Þey made Artourez toumbe þere, and is buried A.D. 542.
 And wrote wyth latyn vers þus,

Hic iacet Arthurus rex quondam rex que futurus. 624
Thys was þus forsoþe ydone
Þe yheer after þe Incarnacione, *Anno domini quingentesimo
quadragesimo secundo.*
Vyf hundred (.) fourty & two.
Now saue vs alle fra woo 628
Ihesu cryst, heuenly kyng,
& graunt vs alle hys blessyng;
And þat hyt Moote so be,
Seyþ alle Pater & Aue. 632

Pater noster. Aue.

Ho þat wolle more loke,
Reed on þe frensch boke, Read the French Book for the rest.
And he schalle fynde þere
Þynges þat y leete here. 636
But yf þat god wolle graunte grace,
y schalle rehercy in þis place
Alle þe kynges þat after were,
And what names [þ]at þey bere; 640
And ho þat wolle þeyre gestes loke,
Reed on þe Frensche boke. Amen fiat.

Words

a, he, l. 370.

aspwe, *sb.* espial, l. 416.

ayhe, again, l. 126.

beeme, *sb.* ? noise, display, from A.S. *béme*, a trumpet, l. 108.

falde, l. 480, felt, l. 472; field.

fusoun, gain, victory, l. 476. L. *fusio*, outpouring, plenty.

fyched, pierced, l. 462.

goom, man, l. 166.

gysarme, l. 463. *Hallebarde, pique, hache*. Roquefort.

hadde wyste, l. 546, had I known (how it would have turned out). See Nares, and the Poem "Beware of had-I-wyst," that he quotes. "Beware of *had-I-wyst*, whose fine bringes care and smart."

hawted, exalted, l. 113.

he, she, l. 582.

helyth, cover, l. 407.

last, lest, l. 289.

loghyng, lodging, l. 344.

lynage, descendant, l. 269.

muchelnesse, *sb.* muchness, number and power, l. 439.

mynde, remembrance, l. 527.

oo, one, l. 49.

sayle, assail, attack, l. 12.

scley, slain, l. 212.

skyle, *sb.* reason, l. 17.

souez (?), sough, moan, l. 88.

that, ye who, l. 1; those who, l. 42, 84.

theoband (l. 178), is, I expect, miswritten for *theodand*; A.S. *þeodan*, to join; *ge-þeod-an*, to join, associate.

therhenne, thence, l. 591.

toke, gave, l. 329.

venge, have revenge, take vengeance, l. 530.

verrament, truly, l. 32.

was, whose, l. 248.

wood, wild, mad, l. 211.

ydoon, done, spent, l. 72.

ylete, let, l. 194.

ytake, taken to, given to, l. 272.

y-vere, together, l. 460.

ywyss, certainly, l. 46.

Notes

1. ? sone3 [\(return\)](#)
2. ? MS. perhaps *Angecye*. [\(return\)](#)
3. The *s* is rubbed: the word may be "onlesbury." [\(return\)](#)
4. ? MS. y-tan. [\(return\)](#)
5. tombe [\(return\)](#)
6. *sepe*, ? for *seue*, seven. It is *p* not *x* (six) in the MS. But as Arthur had 200,000, and Lucius only 400,124, *sepe* should mean *two*. [\(return\)](#)
7. Pat ys to seye vpon a reess,
"Stynking Saxoun, be on pees." [\(return\)](#)
8. Pughe's abridged Dictionary gives *tau*, *v.a.* be still; *taw*, *s.m.* and *adj.* quiet, silence, silent; *paid*, *s.m.* a cessation, quiet; *bront*, *a.* nasty, filthy, surly. *Or*, says Dr. Benj. Davies, you must take as equal to the modern Welsh *wr*, man, if it is not English; *peyd* is cease, pause; *taw*, be silent. [\(return\)](#)

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