This document contains transcription of fols. 1r-21vb43 (Book I.120-5551: Prologue, Adam and Eve, Nimrod and Noah’s Flood, Cadmus and Other Kings, Jove, Aeëtes, Minos, Sisera, Jocasta and Oedipus, Thyestes, Exhortation to Princes on Morals, Althea and Hercules), fols. 26rb-27vb12 (Books I.6833-II.161: Canace and Macareus, Book II Prologue), fols. 34rb58-36ra37 (Book II.1899-2338: Dido, Sardanapalus), and fols. 122ra64-122vb69 (Book IX.2511-2727: Dante’s Appearance to Boccaccio, Duke Gaultier).

Credits:
Transcription and textual notes were completed by University of Victoria undergraduate and graduate students as part of coursework for manuscript studies classes with Dr. Adrienne Williams Boyarin, as follows:

- Merida Zeindler, Book I.120-424 (1ra-2ra), December 2015
- Hayden Hayer, Book I.470-866 (2rb-3rb), December 2015
- Justin Head, Book I.867-1001 (4ra-4va), December 2015
- Ashley Augustus, Book I.1002-3122 (4va-12rb), plus additional editing and textual notes for Book I.120-1001, April 2015 and April 2016
- Mahsa Ebadpour, Book I.3158-3843 (12rb-14vb), December 2016
- Quinton Yates, Book I.3844-4242 (14vb-16rb), December 2016
- Duncan Calveley, Book I.4558-5037 (17va-19rb), December 2016
- Catriona Duncan, Book II.1899-2338 (34rb-36ra), April 2016
- Megan Kazakoff, Book IX.2511-2727 (122ra-vb, end of manuscript), December 2016

Transcription conventions follow those set out by Kathryn Kerby-Fulton, “How to Transcribe Middle English,” in Opening Up Middle English Manuscripts: Literary and Visual Approaches, edited by Kathryn Kerby-Fulton, Maidie Hilmo, and Linda Olson (Ithaca, 2012), pp. 2-5 and xxxi-xxxii (including the “Note on Transcriptions and Transcription Symbols”). Work has been checked throughout by Dr. Adrienne Williams Boyarin.

Line numbers and text lost through damage are supplied from Henry Bergen, ed., Lydgate’s Fall of Princes, 4 vols., Early English Text Society e.s. 121-24 (London, 1924-27).

Textual notes follow the transcription and are keyed to Bergen’s line numbers. Differences between this manuscript’s text and that of Bergen are compiled there, privileging differences that affect the sense of the text, explain scribal errors, or may allow collation with other manuscripts; orthographical difference, common synonyms, and slight alterations in word order are not noted. Manuscript features—such as marginalia, annotations, and deletion methods—are also catalogued in the textual notes.
Emonge theis Bochas writeth of swetnes
And of matiers þat lusty been and gladde
And som while he writeth of wrecchidnes
And hough fortune can flour and aftyr fade
[I]oy undre cloude prosperite in the shade
[E]nterchaungyng of euery maner thyng
[W]hich men fele her in this worlde lyuyng

Of all estates of high and low degre

And of princes both yong and olde
[ffr]o the begynnyng which in þis worlde haue ben
[L]yvyng in ioy or in aduersite
ffro the firste he descendeth doune
[O]f þeir fort[un]e by playn descripicion
[Of] the m[ost] noble he ne spareth noon
[B]ut sett[eth] them in ordre seriuslie
[G]ynneth at Adam and endeth at kyng Iohn
[The]ir auentures rehersyng bie and bie
[Of] this kyng Iohn concludyng finallie
[Hou]gh þat he was for all grette puissance
Of prince Edwarde tak prisoner in ffraunce

This said Bochas auctor of this booke
Which of stories hadde grete intelligence
Som he left and some also he toke
Such as he left was of no negligence
Supposing and demyng of credence
All the stories which þat comyn be
Other knewe them also well as he

And lest þat folk wolde haue hadde disdeigne
Thynges comyn to put in memorie
Therfor Bochas thought it was but veyne
To his name non increce of glorie
To remembre no cronicle nor storie
But þeis þat ben for þeir merite notable
Auctorized famose and commendable

In his labour hauyng a delite
That the maitier gretele myght availe
Do plesaunce to the comyn profite
Of notable stories to make rehersall
Shewyng a myrour hough all þe world shall fayle
And hough fortune for all þeir high renoune
Hath vpon princes Iurisdiccioun

The which thyng in ful sobre wyse
He considred in his inwarde intente
In his reson began to aduertise
Seyng of princes þe blynd intendent
With wordlie worshipes hough þei be blent
As þei shuld euer þeire estatez kepe
And as fortune wer layde on slepe
¶As thei hadde of fortune the maistrie
Hyr enchauntid with þeir pacience
By sum crafte of new sorcerie
Or by power [o]f incantanciou
To make stable þeir dominaciou
With Iren cheynes for to laste longe
Lokked to Rokkes of adamaunt stones
¶Supposyng in theire surquedie
Theire estatez shulde be durable
But fortune began frowardlie denie
Pleinelie preve þat þei be chaunceable
And to princes for thei be not stable

[1r, col. b]
ffortune full oft for all theire grete estate
Vnwarlie chaungeth and seith to them chekmate
¶ffor lordes sume in theire magnificence
Of Roiall power set of godde right nowght
They wyl not considre his longe pacience
No[r] aduertiseth his power in theire thought
Bu[t] in theire hertes if it were well sought
Hough he is meke and pacient to abide
They wolde of reson þeire pompe ley on syde
¶But for their taryng and þeir negligence
That þei to [hym] wyl not resort agayn
Yit of his m[erci]e and his beneuolence
Withoute veng[eu]nce rigour or disdeigne
As a meke fadre in all his werkes pleine
Assaieth his yerde of castigacioun
So for to bringe them to correciou
¶Som he can ful fadrelie chastise
Where he loveth by punysshynge of seknes
And of his mercy many a sonire ^another^ wyse
Bathuertise of som wordlie distresse
And he not asketh for his kyndnes
^of^ High ne lowe · who so can aduerte
Noon othyr tresour · but oonly a mannies hert
¶And as myn auctour liste to comprehende
This John Bochas by grete auctorite
It is almes to correcte and amende
The vicius folke of euery comenalte
And by examples which þat notable be
Of princes holde *hat* whilom did fall
The lowere peple from *them* ^theire^ error calle

 ¶By smale whelpes ∙ as som clerkys write
Chastysed is the myghty force lio[un]
And when the sworde of vengeaunce eke doth bite
Upon princes for theire transgressioun
The comyn peple in theire opinion
ffor verray drede tremble doon *and* quake
And by suche meanes þeir vices doon forsake
 ¶And such also ∙ as haue ben defoiled
In theire vices by longe continuance
Or in theire synnes rustid and emoulyde
By good example may com to temperance
Who hym repenteth the lorde wil hym avaunce
And hym acethe in high and lowe estate
The meke preferre þe punyssh the obstinate

¶This said matier touchyng such thynges
Myn auctour Bochas here aftyr shall declare
By example of princes and of myghty kynges
What was þeir fine ∙ and not the truthe spare
And thof my stile naked be and bare
In rethorik myn auctour for [to] sewe
Yit for the truthe shal I not remewe
¶But on the substance by goode leysir [abide]
Aftyr myn auctour lyk as I may attein[e]
And for my parte set eloquence [aside]
And on his booke bewepen and [compleyne]
Thassaut of fortune frowarde and [sodeyne]
Hough she in princes hath kid h[ir variaunce]
And of hir malice þe dedelie mortall ch[aunce]
¶But · o · alas ∙ Who shal be muse

[1v, col. a]
Or vnto whom shal I for helpe calle
Calliope my callying wyl refuse
And on Pernaso hyr worthi sustren all
Thei wyl theire sugre tempre with no gall
ffor then swetnes *and* lusty fressh syngyng
fful ferre discordeth fro matiers compleynyng
¶My maistre Chauncer with his fresh comedies
Is dede alas chefe poete of Britaine
That whilom made ful pietus tragedies
The fall of princes he did also compleine
As he *hat* was of makyng souereigne
Whom all this londe shuld of right preferre
Sith of oure language he was þe lode sterre
Senec in Rome · thirgh his high prudence
Wrote tragedies of grete moralite
And Tullius of Retorik þe chefe welle
Made in his tyme many a fressh dite
ffrancise petrark of fflorence þe cite
Made a boke as I can reherce
Of · two fortunes wylfull and peruerse ·
Agayn both wrote ij · remedies
In bokes tweine made a diuisioun
Among rehersyng many fressh shorries
The fyrste boke is thus conveyed dovne
A dialoge · betwene gladnes and resoun
The secund can bere me wele witnes
Made betwen reson and worldlie hevines ·
The matier is right wondre delectable
Though wo with ioye haue an Interesse
And John Bochas wrote matiers commendable
The fall of princes where he doth expresse
Hough from þeire ioye they fell in grete distres
And all other writers thirgh þer famus renoune
Grete worship did vnto this nacioun
And sembleablie as I haue tolde toforne
My maistre Chaucer did his besynes
And in his dayes hath so well hym borne
Oute of oure tonge to avoide all rudnes
And to reforme it with colours of swetnes
Wherefor let vs yeve hym laude and glorie
And put his name with poetes in memorie
Of whos labour to make mencion
Wherethurgh he shuld of right commendid be
In youth he made a translacioun
Of a booke which called is Trophe
In lumbarde tonge as men may rede and se
And in oure vulgare longe or þat he diede
Gafe it the name of Troilus and Cresseide
Which for to rede lovers them delite
Thei have þerin so grete deuocion
And this poet also hym self to quite
Of Boeces booke the consolacion
Made in his tyme an hole translacion
[A]nd to his sonne þat called was lowys
[He] made a tretis full noble and of grete price
[V]pon this booke in ful notable forme
[S]et them in ordre with theire diuisions
[M]en wittes to applie and conforme
[To un]drestand by expert reso[ns]
[Be do]myfyyng of sundrie mansiones
[Th]e rote oute sought at þe ascendent
[To]forne or he gave eny iugement
¶[He] wrote also many days agon

[1v, col. b]
In englissh hym self so doth expresse
The pietus story of Ceyx and Alcion
And the deth eke of Blonche the duchesse
And notable did hys bysynes
By grete avice his wittes to dispose
To translate þe romanes of the rose
¶Thus in vertu he set all his intent
Idlenes and vices for to fle
Of foules also he wrote the parlement
Therin remembryng of royall egles thre
Hough in their chase þei felt aduersite
to forn nature proferd þe bataile
Eche for his partie yef it [w]olde availe
¶He did also his diligence and þ[eyne]
In oure vulgare to translate an[d] endite
Origene vpon the magdalene
And of the lion a booke he did write
Of Armelida ο and of fals Arcite
He made a compleint dolefull and piet[us]
And of the broche which þat Vulganous
¶At Thebes wrought full diuerse of nature
Ovide writeth who þeroft hadde a sight
ffor high desire he shuld not indure
But he it hadde neuer be gladde ne light
And yf he hadde it onys in his myght
Lyke as my maistire saith and writeth in dede
It to conseure · he shulde ay lyve in drede
¶This poet wrote at request of the quene
Of goode women to fynde oute nyntene
That did excelle in beaute and feyrrnes
But for his labour and bysynes
Was importable his wittes to encombre
In all this worlde to fynd oute so grete a noumbe
A legend of parfite holynes
¶He made a booke of Cantrebury tales
When the pilgrimes rode on pilgrimage
Thurghoute kent by hylles and by vales
And all the stories tolde in their passage
Endited them full well in oure language
Summe of knyghthode summe of gentillez
And summe of love and summe of parfitnes
And summe also of grete moralitie
Summe of disorte includyng grete centence
In prose he wrote þe tale of Melibe
And of his wyf þat called was Prudence
And of Grysilides of parfite pacience
And hough þe monk of stories newe and olde
Pitevous tragedies by the way told

This saide poet my maistre in his dayes
Made and compiled ful many a fresh dite
Compleintez ballades Roundell and virrelayes
fful delectable to here and to se
ffor which men shuld of right and equite
Sey he of english in makyng was þe beste
Pray we vnto godde to yeve his soule gode reste

And theis poet I make of mencion
That were be olde tyme hadde grete deyn deynte
With kynges princes in euery region
Gretely preferrede after their degre

[2r, col. a]
ffor lordes hadde plesaunce for to se
To studie emonge and to caste their lokes
At goode leyser vpon wyse bookes
ffor in the tyme of Cesar Iulius
[W]han he the triumpe wann in Rome town
[H]e entre wolde þe Scole of Tullius
[A]nd here his lecture of grete affecciou
[A]nd notwithstandyng his conquest and renoune
[Vn]to bookes he gave grete attendaunce
[An]d had in secon stories ioy and grete plesaunce
[Ek]e in this lande I dare afferme a thyng
[Ther] is a prince ful myghty of puisaunce
[A] kynge son and vncle vnto the kyng
[Hen]ri the Sexte which is now in ffraunce
[An]d is lewetenaunt and hath the gouernaunce
[Of] oure Breteine thurgh whos discrecioun
[He h]ath conserved in this Region
[Dury]ng his tyme of full high prudence
[Pes] and quiete and susteineth right
[Yit] not withstandyng his noble prouidence
He is in deede preved a goode knyght
Iede as Argus with reson and foresight
Of high lecture I dare of hym eke telle
And trulie deme þat he doth excelle

In undrestondyng all oþer of his age
And hath grete ioye with clerkes to comyn
And no man is more experte of language
Stable in studie all way he doth continue
Settyng on syde all chaunges of fortune
And where he loveth yf I shal not tarie
Withoute cause ful loth he is to varie
Duk of Gloucestre men this duke ^prince^ calle
And not withstanding his state his dignite
His corage neuer doth appalle
To studie in bookes of antiquite
Therin he hath so grete felicite
Vertueslie hym to occupie
Of vicius slouth he hath the maistrie
And with his prudence and his manhode
Trouth to susteine · he favoure set asyde
And holy chyrch maintenyng in dede
¶ Duk of Gloucestre men this duke ^prince^ calle
And not withstanding his state his dignite
His corage neuer doth appalle
To studie in bookes of antiquite
Therin he hath so grete felicite
Vertueslie hym to occupie
Of vicius slouth he hath the maistrie

The noble boke of this Iohn Bochas
Was acordyng in his opinion

[2r, col. b]
Of grete nobles and reputacion
And to princes greteli necessarie
To yeve example hough his world doth varie
¶ And for this cause in his intente
To shew the vntruste of all worldlie þinges
He gave me in commandment
As it hym semyd it was right wel sittyng
That I shuld aftyr my cunning
This booke translate hym to do plesaunce
To shewe the chaunge of worldlie variance
And with the supporte of his magnificence
Vndre the wynges of his correccioun
Thof þat I haue lake of high eloquenc
I shal procede in this translacion
ffro me avoidyng all presumpcion
Loully submittyng eueryoure and space
My rude language to my lordes grace
And as I haue oon þing well in mynde
He bad I shulde in especiall
ffolow myn auctour writen as I fynde
And for no fauour be nothyng partiall
Thus I mene to speke in generall
And noon estate singlerlie depraue
But þe sentence of myn auctour saue
All this conceived I gan my stile dresse
Thof I wolde in my matier procede
And for the matier obreyed on heynes
Off fresh colours I toke no maner heede
But my processe pleinlie for to leede
As me semyd it was to me moste neede
To set apart of rethorikes swete
Dites of mornyng and of compleynyng
Not apparteine vnto Calliope
Nor to the Muses þat on Parnaso syng
Which be remembred in noumbré thrys thre
And vnto matiers of aduersite
With theire sugred aureate liquour
They be not wylly for to do fauour
But of disdeigne me setting ferre abak
To hyndre me of þat I wolde endite
Havyng no coloures but onlie whit and blak
To the tragedies which I shal write
And for I can my selfe no bettyr aquite
Vndre supporte of all þat shall it rede
Vpon Bochas right þus I wyll procede
Explicit prologus · Et incipit prima Tragedia
de Casu Adam Prothoparentis
Whan Iohn Bochas considred had and sought
The woful fall of myghty conqueros
A remembrance entred in his thought
Reknyng the noumbré of oure predecessoures
And fyrste to mynd com the progenitoure
Of all mankynd ferre Ironne in age
And towarde hym holdyng þeir passage
¶As hym thought in his inward sight
In their coming full pitevouslie tremb[lyng]
Quakyng for age and lak of myght
There grete febles by signes and shewyn[g]
And oon of them first at þere commyn[g]
Our fadre Adam sodenlie abrayed
And to myn auctor eue euen thus [he sayed]
¶Cosyn Bochas I wyl well þat þu lere
þu þat arte bysy to serche onto ouer a[ll]

[2v, col. a]
Of infortune the maner to inquire
Hyr soden chaungyn turnyng as a ball
Of erthlie princes from the estate royall
It is moste fittyng or we asondre twynn
At vs tweine þi processe þer beginne
¶Considre fyrst þe lorde in his advice
When he vs made vnto his lyknes
He put vs both into paradise
Ther to haue lyuen in parfite stablenes
Tyl the serpent did hys bysynes
Of fals envie to make vs leseoure grace
Perpetuuell to exile vs from þat place
¶And when Iohn Bochas naked them beheld
Withoute þe hande maked of nature
Of slyme of the erth in damascene þe felde
Godde made them feyrest aboue iche creature
And for thei shuld perpetuallie indure
By discrcion for a prerogitiue
He induede them with a soule of lyfe
¶Perfite of age as men of xxxi yere
Put them aftyr in possession
Of paradise a place moste entiere
And of delicez a chosen mansion
Wher Adam made an imposition
To ffyssh and foule and to bestes all
Of verrey reson · what men shuld them call
¶Oute of a ribbe while þat Adam slepe
Eue was drawe ful fayre of hyr visage
All sodenlie or þat he toke kepe
Aftyr to hym ioyned in mariaje
ffor his disporte and for his avauntage
So as the lorde fyreste vyues did ordeiynge
Outhir for helpe or for increce of peine
Godde onto them yaue the souereiynete
Of paradise and dominacion
A place fulfilled of all felicite
The frutez all in there subiecction
Saue þat of oon was made excepcion
Which godd badde þe Bible can devise
þat thei shuld touche it in no wyse
All delicez of þat heuenlie place
God gaue to them and put in their kepyng
To vse them in enyoure and space
To þeire moste ese as was to þem lykynge
^[Bloomys] blossomes þer fayrnes ay kepyng^  
And the frute all way of oon freshnes
ffor wyntr stornes might do them no duresse
The soile enbrowded ful of somyr floures
Ther wedes wekked hadde noon interesse
ffor godd and kynde with freshnes of coloures
And with their tapitez and motleis of gladnes
Had made þat place habounde in all swetnes
And fresh flora · which us of floures quene
Hyr liste made of a perpetuel grene
The trees raughten almoste to the heuyn
Which caste aboute a ful plesaunt shade
þat stornem ne reyne thondre wynde ne levyn
No powere hadde þeer leves for to fade
ffor euer þei were eliche fressh and glade
[A]nd when þei þer þei might see
Mydde of þere gardenie of lyfe þe holsom tre
[¶]Which vertu hadde agayn all maladie
ffolke to preserue of youth in þeir freshnes
[W]ho eþe þerof shulde neuer die
[But] euer lyve in ioy and gladnes
[An]d nethir feele trouble ne seknes
[But] in þat place haue all weye hertes ese
[And su]ffisaunce of all þat might þen plese ·

[2v, col. b]
Euer endure and neuer falle in age
ffor which it was called the tre of lyf
But when Adam was fallen in dotage
And ageyn godde gan holden stryfe
Thurgh þe excityng of hyr þat was his wyfe
And wyfully gaue to hyr assent
To breke þe precepte and commaundment
Of godde the lorde thurgh wyfull negligence
To approche the tre þat bare no name
ffor of the frute who did atame
He sothelie shulde the bible seith þe same
Of goode and evyll haue cunnyng in hi[s thought]
The tre of cunnyng e and also of science
Wher as beforn of evyl [he] knew right no[wght]
¶Thus hadde thei fyrste of euyll experienc[e]
Where as beforn þei knewe no wykkyde[s]
Presumpcion and Inobedience
Brought them from ioy in to wretchedn[es]
ffor aforn tyme myn aucto ur bereth w[itnes]
Helthe and goodnes were called verre[y lyf]
Euel named seknes fyrst rote of all oure [stryf]
¶In paradise myn auctour seith certeine
The ryuers were so orient and fyne
Lyk quyksyluer vpboylung on the pleyne
And in their rennyng verrey cristalline
Which from a well heuenlie and diuine
In theire vpspryngyng and þeire avalyng down
Of all pleasaunce gaue so swete a sown
¶That it wold rauissh a corage
Whos bawmy liquour endewed all þe place
And with the freshnes and cours of his passage
The holsum e aer hertes did embrace
Ther was such plente of plesaunce and of grace
That every spice herbe greine and rote
Were founde growyng in þat gardenn soote
¶Ther was also a delectable sown
Of songe of byrdes in theire armonie
The aer was clene frome all corrupcioun
ffor þerin engendred was no maladie
Ther was all myrh þer was all melodie
Of ioye and blys soueaigne suffisaunce
With all þat may to hertes do plesaunce
¶And of clerkys lyk as it is tolde
In theire bookes lyke as thei determi[ne]
Hough in his spere the sunne manynfolde
Was of more vertu and more clere did shyne
Then it doth nowe in his mydday lyne
The mone whitter with hyr bemys clere
And euery sterre bryghter did appere
¶Euery thynge was þer more vertuus
Þan þei be now who can beholde and se
ffor in þat place þer was no thynge noyus
But þarðite gladnes knytte vnþo surte
Perpetuel pes ioy and prosperite
And in þat blys to maken more stronge
To þeire comfort godde spake with þem among

Shewyng vnto them his gracies presence
Aungels also þeir state to magnifie
Amonge to serve them did þeir diligence
In diuerse officz with humble reuerence
And nature wrought for þe none

Of ryall purple and of Ryall rych stones ·
Tyssues ^of^ golde · and oþer ^ornamentes^ dinat ordinaunce

[S]hapyng to þem such manner of garnementes
As anngels vse in theire felicite

[N]akede thei were fayrest on to se
[f]or while thei stode in state of Innocence
[Th]ey hadde of clothynge noon experience
[¶]d of theire blys to mak mencion
[And] of theire ioyes þat were celestiall
[Ther] may be made no comparison
[Of] noo ioy which is temporall
[Whic]h shoulde haue bien lastyng and imortall
[Euer ] to haue lyved in myrth and gladnes
[Sauff] agayn reson of verrey wylfulnes

[¶]Thei banished them self out of þat blysful lyfe
[Whan] Adam gave credence to a snake
[And w]recched[li]e gan truste to his wyfe
[Which g]an an appil of the serpent take
[And pl]esauntlie did a present make
[Onto] Adam as she þat fyrste began
[Deth ] to devise a poyson un to man

[¶]Bu[t] as þere ioye was incomparable
[Gre]ttest þeir lordeship above al erthly þing
So þeire fall was to them importable

ffor he þat was ^ouer^ ouer all ^ouer suremountyng
In paradise reignyng as a kyng
Was it not a dedelic mortall peine
ffro þat place to haue a fall sodeine

ffor þat sorowe surmountith all sorowe
Which nexte foloweth aftyr felicite ·
No wo more grevous at euen ne at morowe
As is in dede soden aduersite
Which comyth vnwarlie aftyr prosperite
Nor no thyng more may hertys disavaunce

Then of olde ioye newe remembranuance

¶ Taketh example of Adam and of Eue
Maketh of them a mirrour in youre mynde
Where of reson it dide them gretlie greve
ffor to be put allas so ferre behynde
Oute of þat blys þei and all þei kynde
Chaungyng þei state of immortalite
And become subiecte to deth and pouerte ·
¶Theiresodenchaungeandþervnwarmyschefe
And þeir vnhappy transmutacioun
660
It was to them full vncouth and vnlefe
ffor to departe from þat mansion
That was so ful of delectacion
ffro such delicez sodenlie to go
In to this worlde · which is so full of woo
¶Therisdeliteandhereissorrowandcare
Therisioyandhereisheuynes
Therisplenteandhereiseuyl fare
Therishelthandhereisgreteseknes
Hereistroubleaymentwithoureunsuregladnes
670
Therisaybly[s]andeternallglorie
And here is no myrth but fals and transitorie
¶Allashoughwereþeiblyndidinþeirsight
Thurghveineglorieandfalsambicion
Theiwe[n]twrongeþeiokydnotaryght
ffalscouetisewasþeireconfusion
Wherthurghþei lostþedominacion
Ofparadise · and wex both pore and and thrall
Theierefredamlefteandbecomemortall
¶On togoddeþeiwoldehauebensemblable
680
[3r, col. b]
Lyke vnto hym godde and evyll knowe
And in theireshare for þei were not stable
ffrom þei restate þei wer brought ful lowe
And þus þe seede was fyrste isowe
The rote plantid of disobeisaunce
Which brought our lineage to sorrow and mischaunce
¶Thuscaminfyrstebyinobedience
As by agate pouertte and nede
And at þeirkak folowed indigence
Sorowseknesmaladieanddrede
690
Exilebanashyngandseruituteinde
de Which caused man longe to continue
Vndre þe lordeshyp and daunger of fortune
¶Thuscamineke maladie and deth
To dispoile man of his beaute
Longe seknes and pestilence þat sleth
By soden stroke which no man may fle
ffor vnto Adam and his posterite
Deth was annexed by succession
ffor his offence · and so conveied dovne
¶ffro man to man and euery maner age
ffor who liste knowe syn brought in shame
Man to be feble and feint in his passage
And so by processe to wex halt and lame
Vn to Adam ðis was an vncouth game
To be constraine from riche apparaile
In baren erth s to seeke his vitaile
¶In hungre and thyrste here he ledde his lyfe
With swete and labour and tribulacions
Endured also many mortall stryfe
Of hote and colde right stronge passiones
Of elementes soden mutacions
Wynde hayle and reine ferfully fallyng
And vnware strokes of thondir and lightnyng
¶Thei stoode also in daunger and in drede
Of cruell bestys Tigres and lions
Of Tusschie bores who so taketh hede
And in grete fere of theys fell Dragons
Thasaut of serpentis and of Scorpions
ffor theo bestis þat afforn wyrde wylde
Aftyr þeire synnyng · ful rage were and wylde
¶And wher þei stoode fyrste in sicurnes
Of ioye and blys euer in on lastyng
Oute of theire reste þei fell in vnsurnes
In sorowe and sighyng and dolourus pleynynge
And from ies continually wepyng
The bittyr terys dayly didde styllle
In this desert for wantyng of theire wyll
¶And whethir were þei sorowfull or fayn
Longe tyme aftyr þeire desolacion
When þei founde Abel þeire own son slayn
By cruel Caym to his confusion
The same Caym as made is mencion
Aftyr þat tyme wylde was and vagabunþe
tyl blynde Lamech gaue hym his Dethes þe wonde
¶Adam nor Eve afforn þat ylke tyme
Hadde neuer seen no feste funerall
It was to þem a chaung of newe priþe
ffor to beholde a thyng dysnaturall
Brethyrn of o wombe by hatered frþaturent
That on of hate so for hym selfe devid[e]
Of fals malice to be an homicide ·
And was it not a peine when they stode
ffor to beholde þeire son pale and dede
Lygge on the grounde bathid in his bloode
And all the soile where he lay was rede
That when Adam and Eue token heede
It was to them grete aduersite
The newe slauthyr to beholde and se

And euer emonge þeire sighes harde and soore
Theire bittyr wepyng and sorowes to avaunce
Or thei were ware · theire herys we xen hoore
And age began þeire beaute disavaunce
Theire youth also by ful grete displesaunce
Began to appall · or thei it couth espie
By cruell constreinte and force of maladie

And when of youth fall was þeire floure
By the processe of many hundred yerys
And by the Duress of many grete laboure
They wex vnlustye · and outhlie of þeire cherys
Of age and deth theis been the daungers
To sey chekmate in nature it is couthe
Vn to beaute and grene lusty youth

ffor when the yerys fully passyd be
Of flouryng age lastyng a ceson
By processe at ie men may se
Beaute declineth · his blossoms fallen down
And lite and litle by succession
Commyth crokyd elde vnwarlie crepyng
With his potent ful poerlie manasshyng

Thus to oure fadre þat callyd was Adam
Of creatures faryest of all fayre
Aftyr grete age þro by processe deth in cam
And began vnwarlie ascende vpon þe steyre
With his potente · and caste hym to repayre
With Antropos · which afforn shal goon
ffor to vntwyn hys lyves threde anon

And in hebron was made his sepulcure
Ther aftyr belde amyghty grete cite
By whos story and recorde of nature
I may conclude who so liste to se
That neuer man had liberte
Sithen þat Adam oure lorde gan disobeie
Agayns deth · but þat he muste dey

In compleynyng myn auctour Iohn Bochas
fful pitevouslie in his aduerence
Bewepith wayleth and eft saith alas
In an Apple per was so grete offence
That for a taste of inobedience
Adam alas shuld haue so grete a fall
So sodenlie to deth · and be mortall
¶Which example ought enowgh suffice
In all this worlde thof per were no mo
Exemplifie to folkes pat ben wyse
Hough pis worlde is a thurgh fare ful of wo
Lyke fals fortune which turnyth to and fro
To make folkys when thei most clerlie shyne
In theire estatys onwarlie to decline
¶ffor thof pat þey þeire hedys lyft alofte
Hygh as phebus shyneth in hys spere
Thynketh þem self as it fallyth ofte
Theyre renoune rechith above þe sterrys clere
And hough þeire fame surmountyth euery spere

[3v, col. b]

The truste corrupte hath a soden fall
ffor to declare hough þei be mortall
¶O worldie folke aduertith and take intent
What vegeaunce and what punission
Godde shal take in his lugement
ffor youre trespas and youre transgression
Which breke his trespas perceptis ageyn a[l resoun]
Ye haue forgetin hough with his preeus blood
Yow for to saue · he starve on the rode
¶ffor yf Adam for his disobeisaunce
Was by þe lorde as he liste ordeigne
Made first and formyd with euery circ[umstaunce]
Of creatures to be m[o]st[e] soueringne
Yf þat he was inbraced in the cheyne
Of seruitute · with thraldam ouers[eyn]
What shal I then of othir folkys [seyn]
¶That lyuen here in this deserte [of sorowe]
And in þis worlde at even and at [morwe]
Of erthlie ioy stande disconsolat[e]
All destitute and eke infortunat[e]
And forpossid with woo and wordlie trou[ble]
In this exile of plesaunce desolate
Ay variable and ful of chaunges double ·
¶Ye not intende but to fals couetise
To fraude baret and extorcion
Agayn godde and trouth in many diuerse wyse
Agayn youre neyghburgh by fals collusion
To do hym wronge and oppression
And wers of all to reche not by synne
To sle youre soule · worldlie goode to wyn
¶And yf it fall youre power to be small
To complissh in youre Auarice in dede
Youre synfull wyll assentith ouer all
Thyng to desyre of which ye may not spede
And þus fals luste doth your bridyll lede
Trust in hauyng so sore yow doth assayle
ffalsly afferde · þe worlde wold yow fayle
¶And yf þat godde benigne and debonaire
With his yerde of casigacion
Chastise yowe but esylie and fayre
Ye gruge agayn his correccion
No thyn aduertyng in youre discrecion
Hough godde not badde vs whas can tak hede
Not for to strieu nor to wrastill in dede
¶Nouthiroure strength noroure myght · ^to· applie
Vpon þe beste monstruus and sauage
Which is called þe Chemer of liey
Specially when he is in his rage
Which monstre hath to his avauntage
Hede of lion as bokys determyn
Wombe of gote and tayle serpentine
¶Which was outraide of Belloforon
As olde poetis make mencion
Nor godde badde þat men shulde goon
In to Colchos to Conquire with Iason
The flees of gold which in þat region
With fyry booles of metall made and brasse
And by a dragon streitlie kepte was ·
¶Godde bad vs notoure entres for to lete
To vndrefonge thyngis impossible
The Minotaure for to sle in Crete
Half man half bole and yf it be credible
Which was a monstre hateful and odible ·

[4r, col. a]
Whilom brought forth in bokys ye may se
By Minos wyfe callyd passy passiphe
¶Whos storie techith yf ye lyste to liere
This outhlie beste cruell and moustruus
[T]hurgh Adeian the kyngis doughter dere
[W]has whilom slayn by duk Theseus
[W]ithin a Caue made by Dedalus
[G]odde bidde not vs plenilie for his sake
[S]o grete emprises for to vndretake
[He] bidde vs not to be so rechles
[In] perilus dedys þat be Merciall
[He] put vs in partie as dide Hercules
[Whi]ch by the bydding in especiall
[Of] Euristeus the myghty kyng royall
[Lor]de of Athenes to make his honour shyne
[Ler]nyd of armys the famus discipline
[Of] his precept ys we haue a syght
[And] remembre of hys high bonite
[He vs] comaundith thyngs þat bien light
[ffor to] complissh with all humilite
[fro]moure courage to avoide all vanite
[And] from our hertys to exclude idilnes
And þe fals chaunge of all worldlie gladnes ·
[ffor to] complissh with all humilite
to avoide all vanite
And from our hertys to exclude idilnes
And þe fals chaunge of all worldlie gladnes ·
[ffor to] complissh with all humilite
to avoide all vanite
And from our hertys to exclude idilnes
And þe fals chaunge of all worldlie gladnes ·
[ffor to] complissh with all humilite
to avoide all vanite
And from our hertys to exclude idilnes
And þe fals chaunge of all worldlie gladnes ·
[ffor to] complissh with all humilite
to avoide all vanite
And from our hertys to exclude idilnes
And þe fals chaunge of all worldlie gladnes ·
[ffor to] complissh with all humilite
to avoide all vanite
And from our hertys to exclude idilnes
And þe fals chaunge of all worldlie gladnes ·
Agayn vites do almez and penaunce
And to haue moste soveraignelie plesaunce
To su the pathys of oure lorde Ihesu
True exemplarie of grace and of vertu
¶Which for oure sake and oure redempcion
And for oure loue was naylyd on a tre
Suffyrd peine and cruel passion
And nothyng askith of high ne lowe degre
Recompensid agaynwarde for to be
But þat we set all holy oure intentes
ffor to fulfill his commaundmentis
¶And of his grace here in this mortall lyfe
As we precelle in wysdome and reson

[4r, col. b]
And of hys gyfys haue aprerogatyue
Beforn all bestys by discretion
Ther for lete vs of hoole intencion
As we of reson bestys ferre excede
Let vs afforn them by worde example and dede
¶Grounde vs fyrste vpou humilite
Oure pompus ien meklie to vnclose
Incline oure hedys and to conceine and se
All worldlie welth shal fade as a rose ·
And of meke herte let vs oure selfe dispose
By this Tragedie to haue knoulegyng
Of oure myscheue hough þe rote and begynnynge
¶Was þe vice of Inobedience
Surquedie and fals disb disobeisaunce
As myn Auctour hath shewed in sentence
Inprinte it well in youre remembraunce
Se wher þe serpent with hys deceyvaunce
The flesh · þe weol worlde your enemies all thre
Thurgh þeire treines þat ye not deceiued be
¶Youre best shelde to make resistance
Agayn þeire powere sothlie is meknes
Youre haburyon most myghty of defence
The fendys myght to venquisssh and expresse
Is to remembre deuoutlie with lownes
Hough mekelie criste to paye oure ravnesum
Suffyrd on a crosse · deth and passion
¶Wherby men may þat prudent be and wyse
The ioyes clayme which been eternall
And entre agayn in to paradise
ffro wheine sol somtyme Adam hadde a fall
To which place aboue celestiall
O criste Ihesu þu bring vs to þat glorie ·
Which by thy deth hadyst þe victorie ·
¶ Soden departynge oute of felicite
In to miserie · of mortall heynesse
Onware depriuyng of our prosperite
Chaung of gladnes in to wrecchyndnes
Longe languisshyng in wo and bittynes
Continuall sorowe drede dole and pestiленce ·
Were fyrste inbrought by Inobedience
¶ Adam and Eue loste þeire liberte
Theire fraunches and þeire blessidnes
Put in to exile and captiuite
To lyve in laboure wo and pensiuenes ·
Thurgh fals desyres and pompus wylfulnes
To þe serpent when he yauue credence
Theire lorde mystrustyng thorugh Inobedience
¶ But O alas wher as þei were fre
Of ioy eternall stoode in syc’urnes
They were to blynde alas it was pite
To leve þeire reste and lyve in werynes
All þeire ofsprynge to bryng in distres
Drawynge fro godde his du reuence
Thurgh fals consentyng to Inobedience
¶ Wher for princes avyslie doth se
As this Tragedie in man berith witnes
Where as wantith in any comynte
Subieccion for lakkyng of meknes
And with powere pride hath an l[nteresse]
Thor foloweth afyr thurgh frowarde [insolence]
Amonge þe peple fals inobedience
¶ And noble princes which haue þe s[ouereynte]
To governe þe peple in rightuesness
Lyke as ye cherish þem in pes an [vnyte]
Or frowardlie destreue them or op[presse]

[4v, col. a]

So agaynwarde þeire corages þei wyll dresse
Lowlie to obey þ to youre magnificence
Or disobeie by Inobedience
De casu Nemroth · et De fluuiio Noe
Myn auctour Bochas as he þat vndrestode
The vengeauncez and mishevyys huge
Which þat godde toke with Noes floode
When he sent an vniuersall deluge
Agayn the which þer was no refuge
Saue viii persones in that mortall woo
Within a shippe were saued and no moo
¶Wherfore myn auctour lightlie ouergoth
Makith of þat age no speciall remembraunce 1010
But passith ouer from Adam to Nembroth
Considerying hough þat in þat dedelie chaunce
The lorde for synne tok so grete vengeaunce
That by writynge or storie nor victorie
Of high ne lowe was left no memorie
¶ffor þer was non lefte · cronicle nor no booke
Aftyr the floode þat made mencion
Of noon auctour whoso liste to loke
ffor all was brought destruccion
With deluge withoute excepcion
ffor which myn auctour transportid hath his stile
And of þat tyme liste no thyng compile ·
¶He hadde no matier wheron he myght founde
Nor set his fote by noon auctorite
Nor no trouthe his purpos vnto grounde
Of olde writynge þat he couth see
ffor which hym thought of necessite
The surplusage of myght lete
And aftyr Adam with Nembroth to mete ·
¶And certis lyk as Bochas in his booke
Remembreth fyrste of Adam þe storie
So nexte in ordre he the storie toke
To speke of Nembroth and his surquedye
Which here fyrste as bookes specifie
Aftyr the floode his waves gan aswage
Was made a lorde to gouerne in þat age
¶ffor when þe floode gan disincrece
And gon his vengeaunce began to modifie
Withdrawe his hande þe watir þan gan cese
Vpon þe montenis high of Ermenie
The Shippe gan reste the bible cant not lie
¶And in þat age called þe secunde
Linage of man · began fyrste to habounde ·
¶He made a maner coniuracion
This frowarde geaunt and a conspiracie
Toke his counsell by false collusion
Hys myght his powere for to multiplie
And his estate for to glorifie
Thof he wolde of his intente not fayle
Godde and the hevyn proudlie to assaile
¶¶That maugre godde which governeth all
[H]e thought he wolde proudlie tak on hande
[A]gyn deluges yf eny fall shall
[O]f prouidence plenilie them to withstonde
[Hym]selfe to assure and make place on londe
[That] shuld hym kepe and be to hym defence
[Bothe] agayn godde and wатris violence ·
¶[And that] þei myght accomplissh þeire entente
[Lich thei]re desyre þei did þeire laboure
[Took] þeire counsell all by on assent
[Chose] Nembroth þeire duke þeire gouernoure
[Ham to] conveie and to do them socoure · 1090

[4v, col. b]
To be þeire guyde afforn as þei were ware
Towarde a cuntre which callyd is Sennar 1092
¶Thus of Nembroth increce began the nam[e]
And in his peuples reputacion
Of golde and riches he hadde so grete a f[ame]
They callid hym godde in theire opinion
Most worthi moste myghty of renoune
The worlde eke hole vndre his obeisan[ce]
As godde and lorde he toke þe gouernaunc[e]
¶Vndre whos myght the peple gan proce[de]
He as a lorde havyng inspeccion
Persyng the bowell of the erthe in de[de]
To make myghty þei[re] fundacion
And of fals glorie and fals ambicion
This proude Nembroth in his appetite
To se the werke hadde ful grete delite 1110
¶Hys ioy was and his inware gladn[e][s]
To beholde so grete a companie
Percen the erth by so grete depnes
To make the grounde stronge by mas[ounrie]
The werke vpwarde to fortifie
With many a stone huge and large of wei[ght]
They haue it reysyd up in the aer of hyght ·
¶And finallie by mediacion
Of his grete werke Nembroth waxed famus
Takyng in hert grete consolation
That by report he was so glorius
Of so grete myght and of aport so pompus
That he was so myghty so wyde large and longe · riche and stronge
To reys[e] a toure so wyde large and longe
¶ffor to this day touchyng the grete myght
Of this toure which men Babel call
Men from full ferre may haue þerof a syght
It suremountith oper tourys all
Of which werke it is befall
Of serpente and many a grete dragon
It is nowe callide chef habitacion
¶That no man dare as ferre as þei it se
ffor wykkyd aer and from ^for^ corrupcion
By a grete space and by a grete cuntre
Approche so nere þat ðat mervelus dungeon
So venyamus is þat mansion
And so venyamus þat no man dare approche
Lyke to a mounteine belldid on craggy roche
¶And as men sayn þat haue hadde þer to repaire
This toure attenieth vnto þe sterrys clere
And transcendent the Regiou of þe aier
The stone the syment were made of such matier
Thof fyre or watyr both it did assaile
But litil or nought þeire power shuld avayle
¶It was made so myghty to indure
So well assured by disposicion
Þat in this worlde no lyuyng creature
Sawe neuer non lyk in comparison
Whos resyng vp was chef occasion
And the riches of masonrie
Wherthurgh Nembroth of pride and surquedie
¶Demyd proudlie as in his advis
He transcendid all oper of nobles
Thof hym selfe/moste myghty and mooste wys
ffelow to godde as by liknes
But godde þat can all worldlie pride oppresse
And make princes eclipsen in þeire glorie

[Sr, col. a]
Such as truste in thyngys transitorie :
¶The same lorde of his eternall myght
This toure which Nembroth liste to edyfie
He made with thondir and with leven light
Therof to fall a ful grete partie
The boistes wyndes and þe rage skye
And goddes power on þat oper syde
Began this abate a parcell of his pride
¶And in descent and fallyng of toure stonys
Of the werkmen ful many a man was dede
And oppressid þeire bak and breke þeire bonys
The masonrie wi[t]h the blode was rede
Yit proude Nembroth þat of this werk was hede
With all his signes his lorde he list not knowe
ffor hys pompe aftyr was brought full lowe
¶B]ut in his errour procedeth forth of newe
Thof [h]e wyld gete hymselfe a name
Of malencolie gan chaunge lok and chere
And gan also attempte and atame
ffor to encrece and magnifie his name
Anew toure to edifie agayn
Lyke as godde hadde be blynd and nothyng seyn
¶ He wolde haue raught vp to þe sterrys sevyn
By assent of them þat gan hym fyrst counsail
Robbyd godde and from hym take þe heuyn
But who presumyth þe lorde aboue to assaile
It were no reson þat he shuld availe
Princes may well agayn hym crye lowde
¶ fфор in þe myddes of hys grete empryses
Thys proude Nembroth makynghys masons
ffor to compas and to caste þeire devises
1190
Geometries and þeire diuisiones
But godde þat hath his inspeccions
Seyng the intents of euery erthly man
As he þat is moste myghty and beste can
¶ Agayn þeire [ma]lice make resistance
Theire worldlie power þeire dominacion
Of hys vengeable and moste magnificence
He can chastysye and ouerwhelom don
The pryde of princes in euery region
By example of Nembroth anon ye shal here
Whos pompe raught aboue þe sterrys clere
¶ fфор when hys werkmen stode at avantage
And most wexed bisy to hys intencioun
And to fortyme speke all oon language
All sodenlie by transmutacion
There was of tongys made a diuision
That in þeire wyrkyng as þei gan abrayde
No man wyste what þat oþer sayde
¶ And it is lyklie acordingy with reson
So as þeire chaunge was made of þer langages
So of þeire hertys wer made diuision
Both of þeire wylle and of þeire corages
And in descendyng of þer werkyng stages
Þere was such chaunge of broþer vnto broþer
Lyke straungers non knewe þe intente of oþer
¶ Myn auctour troweth þat þis diuersite
Was for þeire gylte causyd by vengeaunce

[5р, col. b]
Of els godde of ryght and equite
Disposid hath in his ordinance
to be among them so great variance
That their world they should themselves divide
And from Nembroth Disseuer and not abide
\[\text{They gan anon among themselves disdaine}\]
to accept their Nembroth for their king
Yet among them forsooth there were no twaine
On an other hadde clene knowyn
Nor of their speech that knewe them pleine menyng
For which they cunte of Sennar they forsoke
And ychon of them a divers cunte toke
\[\text{They departid and made no length space}\]
followynge their fortune of their diuision
And to these them newe dwellying places
In their parties of many a Region
And his Nembroth was partid and put adoun
And of Babel their myghty famous toure
He was no length callyd possessoure
\[\text{For again they pride of his Nembroth}\]
forwarde fortune gan his course to vari/e
And godde also was in man wroth
Of surquedie that he was so contrarie
And for their place was wylde and solitarie
Of his Sennar furious and sauje
Nembroth gan feble and fall in great age
\[\text{And yit sume bokys of hym specific}\]
Hough he was forwarde of his condition
And was fyrste foundar of ydolatrie
And fynder vp of fals religion
Causyng peple to holde opinion
Goddys to worship in paganysme wyse
ffounder of rightes and of fals sacrifice
\[\text{Towarde Perce he chese his dwellying place}\]
The which cunte is in the orient
That his lordshippes shuld strecke a great space
He boundid hym into his occidente
\[\text{For perce londe hath his extente}\]
towarde the parties of that reede see
And his londe perce who that list to se
\[\text{As bookys olde remembre and put in mynde}\]
Hough that perce castith environ
Septemtrion and the greater Inde
And many an other myghty region
Where Nembroth hadde fyrste dominacion
Which extendeth as bookys specific
Oute of Mede into Germanie
But in lordeshippes as myn auctour seith
Without þat vertu be þeir true guyde
In them is suraunce noon nor feith
Thyng þat passith may no while abide
Wherfor Bochas in despite of pryde
And in rebukyng of all follys proude
Makyng his compleint creith to þem ful lowde
1280
Ye all proude most royll in your flourys
Which moste truste for to reigne longe
Dressith vp youre rochis and your tourys
And agayn godde make yourself stronge
And youre power proudelie/vndirfonge
Yourselfe with pride for to magnifie

[5v, col. a]
Agayn the heuyn to holde chanpartie
Belde youre castells reyse þem vp on hyght
Of Adamaunt with yrne stronge bounde
With 4 square stonys large and hoge of weight
Reyse vp youre wallys most myghty and profounde
And shit youre Dongeons with myghty cheynes rounde
Let men of armys who euer wake or slepe
Night and day your so streythe the kepe
As godde ne man in youre opinions
Your fortresse ne myght not assayle
Your castels nor youre stronge dongeons
Stuffid with men and vitall
Lyk to stond euer and neuer to fayle
As godde not myght agayn your fals puissaunce
When euer hym liste of right do vengeaunce
Settith afforn youre ien þat be blynde
The monstruus werke of the grete Babilon
The pryde of Nembroth þer was put behynde
Maugre hys myght and hys toure smyt doun
ffor all the crafe of werkmen or mason
Destruede was with a soden leven
To avenge hys pride sent doun from heuyn
ffor þof youre strenkithes so assured be
That non ingine may þerto atteine
Gunn nor bumbard by no subtilitie
Shot or Arblaste nor no shot of dondeyne
Yit godde þat is lorde and souereigne
Which lyk desertez can both spyll and saue
May all confounde with an erthquaue
Myn auctour askith what castell or what toure
May be so stonge made in eny wyse

¶
But ſat by meene of summe fals traitour
Or by summe wey ſat he can devyse
It may be loste or solde for couetyse
And deliuerde for all the stronge bondys
Into the power of ennemyes handys
Or by othir soden aventure
Castells Cites and many a riche town
Haue ben ſat per myght not ſem assure
ſför to resiste agayne fals treson
Summe haue be loste eke by rebellion
And all ſei mens ſe trouth to begynne
Is punisshyng which godde sent for synne

Godde hath a mille handys to chastyse
A mille ſ† darys of punisshion
A mille bowes made in diuerse wyse
A mille Arblastres bent in hys dongeon
Ordeigned ichon for castagcion
But whoſo fynde in meknes and repentaunce
Mercy is maistres and hys ordinaunce
Ye ſat be wyse considir hough ſe rote
Of vices all is pride ye may wel se
Pullith hym doune · put hym vndir fote
And take youre counsel of hımilitié
And yf ye liste to stande in surte
Beldeſt in hert for more sicurnes
A toure of vertue groundid in meknes
Whos masunrie is of no castage
Of vertuus grounde and souereigne
Blastys of wyndes and weddyrs rage
Nor no tempest hasty nor sodeine
Pompe nor boste ſof ſei do ſeiere peine
This vertu meknes for to vndirmyne
They be to feble to make hyr to incline

[5v, col. b]
Thof she sumtyme fele aduersite
He passeth on and suffirth pacientlie
And venquesshy al maner enmyte
The assault also of contrariete
Of infortune and of worldlie trouble
And of victorie conquerith a palme double
And thof meknes amyddes ſe floode flowe
Of worldlie myscheſe and perseuqucion
While pacience in hyr bote doth rowe
Thow frowarde wawes pos vp and doun
A calme shal folowe of consolacion
When stormy wyndes þeir blaste haue leyd l[owe]
The name of Meknes shal shew and be wel k[nowe]
¶She may be troubild but ouercome nevir
And for a tyme she may suffre werre
But at the ende she venquissheth euer
On londe on se where she be nere or fer[e]
To the haven of lyfe she was sure lodeste[re] 1370
I take recorde of the humilite
Of Marie so blessid myght she be
¶The rote of meknes floureth vp so fayre
Whos beaute dredith no tribulacions
In Somer · wyntyr hys flourys not appayre ·
And hir rote laste in al maner of cesons
Pryde may assayle with hys bosoful sownies
But finalli for hir increce of glorie
With humbles she wynnyth the victorie
¶O folkys þat this Tragedie do rede 1380
Haue vnto meknes amonge your aduertence
Of proude Nembroth also takith hede
Hough þat he fell from hys magnificence
Only for he by sturdie violence
Liste of malice the myghty lorde assaile
But in such case what myght hys pride availe
¶Noble princes which þis worlde doth possed
Ye þat be famus of wysdom and prudence
And haue so many senectes in youre drede
In gouernaunce vndir your excellence 1390
Let your power with meknes so dispens
Þat false pride oppresse not þe poraile
Which to youre nobles so mych may availe
¶Pride of Nembroth did the bridil lede
Which hym conveide to grete Insolence
Pride perteineth nothyng to manhode
Saue in 1 armys to shewe hys presence
Wherfore honour laude and reuerence
Be to meknes þat hath the gouernaile
Of all virtues · which may most availe 1400
De casu Cadmi Regis Egipti et aliorum regnum
Theis olde poets with þer sawes swete
fful couertlie in þeir verses do feine
Hough olde Saturne was sumtyme kyng of Crete
And of custum did hys bysy peyn
Of hys godhede liste for to ordeiyne
That he should os of hys nature
Ichon devour as by hys ingendure
In this matier shortlie to soiourne
To vndirstond of poets þe processe
They mene pleunilie at þis worde Saturne
Doth in itself nothyng but tyme expresse
And philosophirs also bere witnes
Þat as in tyme althyng is forth brought
Somtyme aynwarde bryngith althyng to nowght
Clerkys recorde eke in their writyng
ffýnde of fortune no mutabilite
Nor of hyr chaunge þei tok no hede
But from Adam þei reknyd bine indede
Vnto Nembroth by turnyng of þe heuyn
A mìlle yere · D · CC · and · xj ·
¶In which space who þat considreth will
Thei be nothyng writ in especiall
Signe of memorie nor spok of neuer a dele
Which iche þat be notable nor historiall 1460
But fro tyme Nemroth hadde a fall
Vnto Cadmus þe yerys to conteine
They were mìlle · CCCC · and · xiiij ·
¶Touchyng as Cadmus as Bochas liste indite
It is rehersed by Rethoricions
Hough on vixoses in bokys as þei write
Was made kyng fyrsste of Egipcions
Wher philosophers and Nigromancions
Began fyrsste to habounde þer renoun to avaunce
Nachor þat tyme hauyng the governaunce 1470
¶Of the hebrues as made is mencion
Aftyr Nembroth by true rehersaile
CCC · yere by computacion
iiiijx · and xij · Which tyme it is no fayle
þat vixoses gan werre and begynne bataile
Of volunt e againe straunge nacions
And to coque rites borowes and townys
¶By force onlie without title or right
He wanne all Egipte to increce his name
But for all þat who liste to haue a sight 1480
þer is nowe lefte no reporte of his fame
Saue Bochas writith hough he fyrsste did ataine
His myghty conquist of intencion
Ascribed were vnto hys worthy dome

[6r, col. b]
¶And þe residue and þe surplusage
Of golde of tresure of goode and of riches
þat ascribed were to hys avauntage
Turne shulde to comyn profite and besynes
ffor hym semyd as to hys worthines
Reporte myght it and was to hym more nerre 1490
Boue singlerte hys comynte to preferre
¶Eke Thanaus of Cithe fyrsste kyng
When Saruch was duke and souereigne
Ouer þe Iewes by record of writyng
CC · yere · lxxi · and eke tweine
Aftyr nembroth this Thanaus gan ordeigne
A myghtie power and a stronge bataile
Them of Cithie proudlie to assaile

\[\text{Conquering from thens in to þe Ile}\]
Callyd Ponto · in full cruel wyse
And þof his lordeship laste not but a while
All þat he wan it was Coutise
And as Bochas doth of these folk devise
Processe of yerly for all þeir grete puissance
Hath put þeir namys out of remembraunce

\[\text{Zorastes eke for all hys grete myght}\]
Of Vactrians kynge and possessoure
Lorde of Trace and a ful manlie knyght
Of all hys dedys and hys grete labour
Ne of þis ^hys^ conquest ne of hys grete honour
Is nothyng lefte of writyng vs beforne
Saue þat he laughed þe oure þat he was born

\[\text{He gan ful sone for to be myrie}\]
With soden laughter at hys natuuite
And worthy Nynus þat was of Assure
Expounde hys laughter to grete felicite
The which Nynus wan many a stronge cite
And day be day his power gan to increce
ffor which he wolde of his power not cese

\[\text{ffor þis is þe maner of þeis conqueroures}\]
Whan þei haue hadde in armys a victorie
Thei doon þeir myght þeir peine and þeir labours
With newe emprises to be put in memorie
ffor þeir corages supprised with veine glorie
Can not be still content in þeir astate
Tyl þeir paradie sey to them chekmate

\[\text{ffortune of armys in bokys ye may rede}\]
With a fals laughter on folkys doth she smyle
She frowarde euer or thei can take heede
Of hyr nature wyll falslie them begyle
Conquest be werre · las[tith] but awhyle
ffor who by deth doth st[urdi] violence
Godde wyl by deth hys ven[ge]aunce recompons

\[\text{This worthye Ninus hath so well hym boore ^gan myghtily preuaile^}\]
Agayn Zorastes of whom I spa[ke] before
ffor he with hym faught laste [in] bataile
ffor which Ninus hath so well hym bore
That Zorastes hath þe felde lore
And he was Auctour as bokys specifie
Of fals Magik and Nigromauncye

\[\text{He founde þe nature of euery element}\]
Theire kyndlie werkyng in their mutacions
The course of sterrys and of þe firmament
Theire influences þeire disposicions
Theire Aspectes and þeire coniuncctions
Wrote in pillers devised of metall
The · vii · sciences calld liberall
Eke in pylers of brique full harde bake
Which were vpset longe large and hoge

[6v, col. a]
He gan eke write them and also vndirtake
To make them sure as for þeire refuge
That þei shuld by floode nor no deluge
Diffacide ben as of þeire scripture
But in theire gravyng perpetuelle indure
But þof Zorastes þeis craftys fyrste outhe founde
ffull litle or nought to hym it myght availe
And thof he were a goode knyght of hys hande
He was of Ninus slayn in bataile
Loste hys realme and royall apparaile
And Ninus died within a litill throwe
But in what wyse þe storie is not knowe
Eke of Moydes kyng of Sodome
I fynde of hym no memorie by writying
Saue in a storie · men may rede and se
He and his peple were fre in their lyvyng
But he þat was of Assyryens kyng
Thurgh fals fortune þat can so oft varie
To Babilonye made them tributarie
We haue eke seyn and redde also
The vengeaunce and the pestilence
Doon in Egipte to kyng Pharao
ffor þat he make a maner of resistance
Agayns godde of wylfull negligence
Therfore hys peple vpon a day and he
Were drenchyd ichon in ny ^mydde^ of þe reede se
The peples of Egipte ^godde^ ledde by Moyses
Withoute trouble of eny maner wawe
Went ychon saue in quiete and pees
And pharao as he can aftyr drawe
Them to pursu by a full mortal lawe
In hys pursute frowarde and atteinte
Amonge þe wawes with hys oste was dreinte
In Exodo ben the mencions
Cereuslie put in remembraunce
The xii · plages and persecucions
In Egipte don by full grete vengeaunce
And of þeire tresoure and þeire grete substaunce
They wer dispoyled by hebrues it is tolde
Of þeire vesels of syluer and of golde

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AND oute of Egipte ful grete tresour þat he ledde</th>
<th>1590</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Such as hym thought þat myght hym most availe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And Pharao I fynde þat he hadde</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC · Chares inarmyd for bataile</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel to pursu and proudlie to assaile</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And · 1 · mille · in whom was no lak</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of men of armys folowyng on horsbakke</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|AND of Egipte all hys Chyuallrie                   | 1600 |
|And pharao with all hys grete route               |     |
|Began Israel pursu of envie                       |     |
|But for hys pride and fals surquedie               |     |
|He and hys peple were drownyd euerychon           |     |
|Of all hys noumbir þer was left not oon           |     |

|Hys frowarde hert agayn godde inaniate            |     |
|ffulfyllyd of malice and obstinacie                |     |
|And hys purpose proude and obstinate              |     |
|Theys foule vices or he couthe them aspie         |     |
|ffrom hys glorie and hys regallie                  |     |
|He was caste doune þof he beforwn was coroned     |     |
|And amydde þe se among his peple drounyd          | 1610 |

|An oþer prince callid Oggigus                      |     |
|Kynge of Thebes os bokys determyne                 |     |
|And founder was þis bookys tellith vs              |     |

[6v, col. b]

|Of a Cite callid Elleusine                         |     |
|Which stand in Greece whos power to decline       |     |
|Ther fell a floode in þat region                   |     |
|Which ouerflowed many a riche town                 |     |

|And in Achaia it did meste damage                  | 1620 |
|In tyme of Iacob þe patriak notable               |     |
|And þis deluge · with hys wawes rage              |     |
|Slewe lordes many and princes honorable            |     |
|ffor dame fortune is so deceiueable                |     |
|That she sumwhile when she liste disdeigne         |     |
|Can folke assaile with a flode sodeine             |     |

|This floode also where it did assaile              |     |
|Wastid cornys both croppe and rote                 |     |
|Causid also scarite of vitaile                     |     |
|That many a man felt ful vnsote                     |     |
|The poore not wyste · wher to fynde bo[te]          |     |
ffor ðeire princes suppresid were with [drede] 1630
Thurgh lak of vitaile in ðat gret[e] nede
¶An oþer floode ðat was in Thessalie
In the tyme whan ðat kyng Amphioun
Helde ðe sceptre and ðe regallie
Vpon Thebes ðe myghty stronge toune
Besyde ðe kyngdom of
The same tyme ðei fell Doubles
Whan god dys peple was ledde by Moyses
¶With ðis floode ðe londe hadde be devourid
Of Thesalie and of ðat region 1640
But by on Pernaso ðe peple was socourid
And on ðe rochis ðat stode environ
ffounde ðeire refute and ðeire sauacion
And grete socoure tyl ðe floode rage
Gan to discrees withdraw and aswage
¶In olde stories also ye may rede
When Cicrops hadde fyrste possession
Of Athene ðe myghty stronge cite
And heete fell on ðat region
By influence ðat descendid doune
ffrom ðe bodies aboue celestiall
Which lyklye was to devoure all
¶And ðis hete ingendred with the sunne
In diuere cuntres both in length and brede
Hath hys course so myghtyly begynn
That many many folkes fell in grete drede
Ryvers welles who ðat liste to rede
Consumyd were and driede vp ichon
The hete callid ðe imbracyng of pheton
¶We haue eke redde in stories here beforne 1650
Hough ðat Isys to Egipte toke hyr flyght
Oute of Greece ðe true doughter born
Of Prometheus a ful manlie knyght
And ðis Isys in euery mannes syght
So fressh so goodlie weddid by hyr lyve
To worthy Apis ðat was kyng of Agyve
¶The which Isis excellent of beaute
Aftyr tyme hyr fadre was Igraue
She was put for more surte
Vndir hyr vnce ðat shulde kepe and saue
Thys saide mayde ðat no man shuld hyr haue
And hyr vnce in Ouide ye may se
Lyke as he write was callid Epimethe
¶And flouryng vp in hyr tendre age
The saide maide so plesaunt was and mete
Of semblenes loke and of visage
\[7r, \text{col. a}\]
\(\Phi\)at Iubiter \(\Phi\)e myghty kynge of Crete
Was enamoured with hym for to mete
And she excite de of femynite
Inclined hyr herte vnto hys deite
[\(\Phi\)]And for she was of hir intent so clene
Obeyying hym in the moste louly wyse
Of Argivois he made hyr to be plene
Be cause \(\Phi\)at she was smyt with couetise
Agayn Argus averre she gan devyse
And for he was onweldie of his age
\(\Phi\)e Hyr to wist withstond he found non avauntage
[\(\Phi\)]But yit fortune began on hyr torowne
And kyng Argus s thurgh hys subtilite
With hys counsaille so prudentlie gan rowne
[\(\Phi\)]That she was take by full grete cruelte
And hir soldioures were eke made to sle
[\(\Phi\)And b]\y Argus \(\Phi\)er gayned no raunsom
\[\Phi\]She] fet[ri]d was and put in strenge prison
[\(\Phi\)]B]ut hyr son goode Mercurius
\[\Phi\]R]ght fresh right lusty and ful of hardynes
\[\Phi\]And of hys hert Inlie coragus
Agayn Argus gan his power dresse
And so intierlie did hys bysynes
That he was slayn in conclusion
\[\Phi\]And Isis aftyr deliuerde from prison
\[\Phi\]Of hyr sleightes aftyrwarde not feinte
She toke a shippe and into Egipte wente
In which ship \(\Phi\)er was a cough depeinte
And Thourye whom Iubiter eke sent
Is goon with hyr both of oon intente
To make a mariage aftyr anon right
Betwen hir and apis a prinçe of ful grete myght
\[\Phi\]She was right wyse above all creatures
Secret of cunynyg well expert in science
\[\Phi\]She taught fyreste lîtres and figures
To Egipciens by pleine experience
Gafe them cunynyg and intelligence
To tylle \(\Phi\)eir londe · taught \(\Phi\)eir laborers
To sowe \(\Phi\)eir grayne and multiplie be yerlys
\[\Phi\]And in Egipte hir fame and hir renoun
Gan day be day wex and hir worthines
Holde of cunynyg and reputacion
By signes shewed not oonlie a prinçe
But she was holde amonde them a goddesse
And with worshippes which ṭat were diuine
And sacrifices to hyr ṭei did incline
¶But to declare pleynlie at a worde
Amyddes of all grete prosperite
Myghty Apis hyr husband and hir lorde
Prince of Egipte and duke of ṭat cuntre
Son to Iubit er and of Nyobe
Which Niobe by large descendyng
The daughter was of pheroneus ṭe kynge
¶And phoroneus fyrste ṭe lawes founde
To which all Grece stode vndre obeisaunce
And the statutes of ṭat myghty londe
Were establed by hys ordinaunce
But for to write ṭe onhappy chaunce
Of kynge Apis ṭat is remembred
He slayn was and pitevouleslye dismembred
¶By hys brotheyr callyd Tipheus
Somwhat of hatred but more for couetise
ffor Tipheus was Inlie desirus

[7r, col. b]
To reioyse in full mortall wyse
The myghty kyngdome as he haue her devyse
Of Argyvoys to haue possession
Proferred by mordir and fals successiouu
¶And when thys Isis founde hyr lorde so dede
Of intent ṭat he was magnifiiede
ffyrste of wysdome she gan to take hede
Ordeigned a mene ṭat he were deifiede
And ṭat als he myghte be stellifiiede
In Egipte templis made hym to be stalllid
And godde Serapus aftyr he was callyd
¶What shall I write of the case horrible
Of Erisiton with hungre so constreynyd
That his lyf was to hysmelf odible
In Thesalie with indigence^indigence^ fynyd
¶When he shulde hys doughtyr in servaige
Lyriope which was but yong of age
¶By chaunge of golde to purvey hym vitall
Of verrey nede he was so wobegon
He hadde nothyng ṭat myght hys thyrste availe
Nor staunch hungre with go gnawying on a bone
Wherfore he iete his membres Ichon
O folkys all was it not grete pite
To se hym dye in such aduersite
We haue eke redde full many day beforn
Of grete banasshyng and proscripcion
Of Argyvois hough kyng Glanor
Was cruellie put from his region
And his lieges of indignacion
In his place þei set on Danus
Sonn and eke heire to kyng Belus

The peple of malice did hym so encombre
To incre hys sorowe and his aduersite
And 1 · doughtres also in noumbré
And Egistus his broþer eke parde pardie
Hath 1 · sunys · þe story ye may se
Betwen þe which by surte of hande
In marnage þer was made a bonde

Vndre which compassid was treson
Coutertlie thought þei did e þi hyde
But yf ye liste haue clere inspectio
Of this storye xpon euery syde
Redith þe legendes of Martris of Cupide
Which þat Chauncer in ordre as þei stode
Compilyd of women þat were callid goode

Touchyng the storie of kyng Pandion
And of his goode doyghtris tweine
Hough Tereus fals of Condicion
Them to deceyue did his bysy peine
They both namyde of beaute souereigne
Goodlie Progne and yonge philomene
Both Innocentes and of intent ful cleane

Their pitevous fate in open to expresse
It were to me but a presumpcion
Sith þat Chauncer did his bysynes
In his legend as made þis mencion
Their Martirdom and þeir passion
ffor to reherse þem he did his bysy peine
As chefe poete callyd of Bretaigne

Of goode women Chauncer a book did write
The noumbré incomplète fully of xix
And þer the storie pleinlie dide indite
Of Thereus Progne and Philomene
Wher ye may se þeir legend þis I mene
Doth them worship · and forth þeir lyf doth sh[ewe]

[7v, col. a]
ffor a clere meroure bycause þer be so fewe
¶I wyll passe ouer and speke of them no more
And vnto Cadmus forth my stile dresse
This Tragedie berith yow witnes
Hough Saturnus by disposicion
Maliciouslie of his frowardnes
Causeth in Iuno full grete infeccion
He of nature conveith þe venome doune
The aer infecte which may no man socoure
Comyth deth anon and all thyng doth devoure

De casu Louis filij Saturni
BE rehersaile of many an olde poete
By descente þe line conveied doune
Next Saturnus þe myghty kyng of Crete
Iove was crownyd by succession
And next his heire by procreacion
Aftyr his fadyr þe londe to inherit
Reignyd in Crete as poetis liste to write

And of the linage as I yow tolde beforne
Of the goddes moste souereigne and entiere
Yit thof he was of bloode so hygh born
He chose Europa for to be hys fere
And doune descendid from his heuynlie spere
As he ṣat was for all his deite
Suprisid in hert for all hys grete beaute
¶ And she was daughter to þe myghty kyng
Callid Agenor by lineall descent
Whos myghty kyngdome and roiall fayre dwellyng
Was in Phenice towarde the oriente
And to Arabie his londe was adiacent 1860
fferre be south as ye may reede and se
Toward þe parties of þe rede see ·
¶ But Iubit er when he dide aduerte
Of Europa the grete semblenes
[H]ym thought he was woundid thurgh þe herte
[V]nto þe deth beholdyng hyr fayrnes
And for his constreinte and his mortall distres
[Sey]ng she was so fayre founde in his sight
[He] reuesshid hyr of verrey force and myght
¶[Bu]t Agenor hyr own fadir dere 1870
[Gan] in this case full pitevouslie compleine
[W]hen she alas moste goodlie and entiere
[Wa]s hym beraught which doubled all his peine ·

[7v, col. b]
Recure was noon thof he did his peine
Tyl he remembred in his regalie
Thof he wold send and espye
¶ Hys sunne Cadmus hyr to recure agayn
ffor to serche hir in many a region
Toward Grece with mych peine 1896?
Of Apollo for to desire a bone 1897?
Vnto what partie ṣat he myght hym drawe d[on] 1898?
Or ṣat he wolde gracioslie hym leede 1902
Vnto what lle ṣat he myght hym spede 1901
¶ He tok his shypys by grete avisnes
And saylyd by many a straunge see
Did his labour and his bysynes
With many a worthye ṣat with hym pryve
But when ṣat he of reso[n] did see
Þer was no mene for such as he was sent
ffor to accomplissh þe fyne of his intent 1890
¶ With gladde herte devoide of all grugyng
Seyng þe case frowarde and contrarie 1892
And of manhoode liste not hym self dispair[e]
¶M Humble of his toke his exilyng 1893
But with his meny knightlie gan repaire · 1895
Toward Grece and proudlie þer to londe
Of Apollo for vndrestonde
To what partie þat he myght drawe
He prayed þe godde to vysen hym or rede

**Summary tokyn shewe or summe maner lawe** 1900
Vnto what Ile þat he myght hym spede 1901
Wher as he myght bed belde a Cite 1903
That were acordyng for hym and his meny
Or þat he wolde gracieslie hym leede 1902

And to Apollo he didde sacrifice 1905
And made to hym his oblacion
In the Temple of Delpho in this wyse 1914?
And þis was his answere in conclusion 1919
To go and serche cuntres environ 1921
A bolle þat were excellyng of fayrnes 1923
Which in yokke hadde neuer doon no bysynes 1922

And wher þat euer sekyng þat he founde 1926
A Bulle stoud still in hys pasture
Apollo badde vpon þe same londe
Wher as he saught þis sight of aventure ·
That he should doon hys bysy cure 1930
To belde a city and his folkys all
And Boea Boecia aftyr þe Bulle call

And when þat Cadmus þe precepte vndirstode 1940
An in serchyng did his bysy cure bysynes
He founde a place where a Bulle stooode
ffedyng hymself which as by lyknes
Was a place ful plesaunt of largenes
Wher as he stynte and gan a Cite reys
Which þat poetis gretilie commend and preyse

And þat hys beldyng myght þe more availle
All þe forens þat did abought hym dwelle
fful lyke a knyght by force and by bataile
Oute of þat cuntre he did þem expell
Reysyng a Cite which þat did excell
And as Ouide recordith eke þe same
In to þis day Thebes berith þe name

And ho was not oonlie glorified
ffor reryng vp of þis Cite
But he was also gretilie magnified
ffor his manhoode and magnanimithe

And moste commendid yf ye liste to se
ffor the surmountyng famus excellence
Which þat he hadde in wysdome and science

ffor as myn Auctour of hym liste indite
Thurgh his noble prudent purviaunce
He taught figures and lettres for to write
And made lawes of full grete ordinaunce
Amonge þe Grekes and set governaunce
Ther vicius lyfe by vertu to restreine
And who outerayed · was punysshed with peine 1960
¶And of intente to increce his linage
And his Cite also Thebes to multiplie
[H]e toke a wyfe þat yong was of age
And she was callid as bookys specific
Ermyon and touchyng hir allie
Thoþ þat she wer born of roiall bloode
She was also both inlie fayre and goode ·
¶¶And þis was doon as writyth myn auctour
Aftyr þe deth of worthie Isuie
[Go]thonyle beyng [h]is successoure 1970
[Ha]uyng þe ledyng and þe souereignete
[O]f Israel whan Thebes þe Cite
[W]as foundid fyrste in þe dayes olde
[By] Kyng Cadmus befor as I yow tolde
¶¶ffoure] doughtyrs he hadde by hys lyve
[ffu]l fayre ylkon and goodlie on to see
And þeir names to reherse blyve
Semele was oldiste and next Autonode
The thyrde in ordre was callid Inoe
And Agave was yongest of them all 1980
Of which doughtres þus it is befall
¶They were ilkon of porte and of maner
ffull well fauourde in euery mannys sighte
Ryghte womanlie and hevenlie of þeir chere
And for þeir beaute þeir fadir anon right
As it was fittyng with all he ful myght
Lyke þeir estates þeir byrth and eke þeir age
Made them be weddyd and ioynyd in mariage
¶To worthy princis his linage to avaunce
And þis incresid by procreacion 1990
Wherof þe kyng hadde ful grete plesaunce
And grete reioysyng in his opinion
To see his line by generacion
With his Neveus and Cosyns of allie
ffro day to day to wex and multiplie
¶¶And þis incresid his felicite
When he considyrd verrelie in dede
The riche beldyng of his roiall Cite
And hough fortune dide his brydyl ledé
To grete riches in bookys as I fynde rede 2000
And to grete nobles hauyng residence
In his cite of moste magnificence
¶His doughtre Semele recorde of myn Auctour
Thof she descendid were of þe bloode roiall
To Jupiter she was paramoure
And by his power above celestiall
She conseyvid in especiall
As poetis liste of hyr to indite
Hym þati is godde of grapys rede and white
¶Callid Bachus which hath þe gouernaunce 2010
Of wynys all and all þe hoole ^the^ regallie
Wherof þeraftyr fel a ful grete vengeaunce
ffor when luno did fyrste espie
Of Jupiter þe grete Avoerie
Of grete hatrede and Envius desyre
He made Semele be brenet with soden fyre
¶By descendyng of a soden leven
Wherthurgh his place was into askys brenet
The onware stroke cam doune from þe heuyn
And on Semele þe vengeaunce is doun went 2020
And or þe flame consumyd was and spent
Ther was of hyr left no remembraunce

[8r, col. b]
But of hyr ende þe woful mortall chaunce
¶Also Acteon þe son of Actonoe
To grete myscche and infortune born
Whos fadir callid was Eristee
Com of þe kynred þat I yow tolde beforne
With crucell houndys alas he was to torne
ffor þat he sawe as bookys of hym tell
Diane naked bathe hyr in a well · 2030
¶And as poetis remembre at þe leste ·
When þe ladies of Thebes the cite
Helde of Bachus solemnely þe feste
The youngest Sistre callid Agave
Doughter to Cadmus alas it was pite
Agayn hyr own son dere
She wex so woode and mortall of hyr chere
¶Mordrying hym in full crucell wyse
In hyr rage she was so furius
ffor he laughyd at þe Sacrifice 2040
In Thebes don of women to Bachus
The which son was callyd Pantheus
Whome þat she slough with a ful sharp darte
In hir wodnes as she hym founde aparte · 2044
¶And amonge Cadmus sorowes euerychon 2073
To rehers pleinlie as it was
I dare afferme hough þat þer was on
Moste horribill and most dredeful in such case
ffór Cadmus son callid Adamas
Hys son in lawe thurgh fals melancolie
ffell soudenlie into a frenesie
\[Of whome þe wyf was callyd Inoe \]
Cadmus doughter as ye haue herde expresse
Which thurgh þe constreinte of hys infirmite
In hys rage and furius wodnes
Thought þat hys wyf was a lionsse
And his wylde imaginacions
Thought his · ij · Chyldyrn were also · ij · lones
\[And vpon them full lowde he gan to crye \]
Toward hys wyf in haste he ranne anon
And from hyr armes þer was no remedie
The chylde he hent · and on a Craggie stone
He gan to braste it and breke it euery bone
The which chyld Bochas writyth þus
ffull tendir and yong was callid Leuchus
\[And of þis woofull soden aventure \]
Of hys rage whan she toke heede
As moste sorryfull of any creature
Hyr othir chylde anon she hent for drede ·
ffór of socoure she knewe no bettyr speede
Sone as she myght gon haste ought of his syght
But welaway as she toke hyr to flyght
\[And hyr husbond came aftyr pursuyng \]
Lyke a woode lion in hys cruelte
Down from a mounten which was dependyng
She and hyr chylde fell into þe see
Was it not ruth · was it not pite
A kynges doughter hyr lorde in Thebes crownyd
He to be woode · and she for ferde so drownyd
\[The grete myscheve fell in the lyne \]
Of kyng Cadmus þurgh his onhappy chaunce
ffortune his so nobles gan to vndirmyte vnd[irmyne]
And thought she wolde hys glorie disa[uaunce]
All worldlie gladnes is medlit with grevaunce
Experience of Cadmus · ye may se ·
So importable was his aduersite ·

[8v, col. a]
\[ffór while he sat most hyghest in his glorie \]
No parte eclipsyd of his prosperite
Hys bright renoun and his riall memorie
In Realmes spredde and many a ferre cuntre
And he moste wyllfull in hys hygh see
Sat with hys linage moste hygh in his nobles
Then cam fortune þe fals enchaunteresse

¶Of wyllfulness · and fonde occasion
Agayn þis Cadmus and made his renoun dull
Of his kynred by fals collusion
She gan away the bryghtest feddyrs pull
And when his shynyng was wex vp to þe full
Aftyr the chaunge of fortunes lawe
Hys glorie gan withere and withdrawe
¶It was more grevous to hys dignite ·
A soden fall from his high nobles
Then yf he neuer hadde be
Set in þe astate · of so grete worthynes
ffor the furius mortall heynes

Of hys kynred withoutyn eny more
Wolde haue grevyd a pore man ful sore

¶Lo here the ende of Cadmus euery dele
Hys chyldren slayn and hys allyes all
And he hymself from fortunes whele
When he leste wenyd · ful sodenlie is fall
Hys litill sugre tempyrd with mykyll gall
ffor amonge all his mortall peynes
This liegemen of Thebe Citesyns

¶Made agayn hym a conspiracion
Put hym in Exile and his wyf also
Hys sonnes his doughtres brought to destruccion
And to þe newe reysyng of his mortall wo
He and his wyfe compellid both two
ffor werray pouerte and verrey indigence
In þeir laste age to purchas þeire dispence

¶But þe goddys of mercy and of pite
When þet them sawe by fortune so cast down
ffrom þeire estates into grete pouerte
Hauyng of þem ful grete compassion
They made of them a transformacion
Of both tweine þem yevyn a liknes
Of Serpentes to lyve in wyldyrnes

¶Thus of Cadmus þe sorowes to descriue
And his myschef to put in remembraunce
He banysshid was twys by hys lyue
ffyrst by his fadyrs cruell ordinaunce
Of his Sistre to make inguraunce
And aldirlast of in his onweldie age
He was compellid to holde his passage
Oute of Thebes his wyf and he allon
In sorowe and wepyng to complish vp þer dayes 2130
Into Illiry togyddyr be þei goone
Theyr pacience put at full assayes
Whos bittynes felt not allayes
Eke þ of þeire ende nor þeire onhappy fate
Nor of þeire deth I fynde noon oþer fate ·
Saue þat Ouide makith mencion
And John Bochas þe poet excellent
Seith þat þij þ brethyrn · Zeto and Amphion
Oute of Thebes both by on assent
Haue Cadmus into exile sent 2140
His wyf also aftyr þeire high nobles
To ende þeire lyf in sorow and wrecchidnes 2142
O what astate may hymself assure
ffor to consere his lyf in sicurnes
What worldlie ioy may here longe indure ·

[8v, col. b]
Or where shall men now fynde stable
Sith kinges princis from þeir high nobles
Reorde of Cadmus be sodenlie brouht lowe
And frome the whele of fortune ouerthrowe
Who may susteine the pitevus auenture
Of this Tragedie by wrytyng expresse
Is it not lyke vnto the chauntuplure
Begynnyng with ioye endyng w in wrec[chidnes] 2160
All worldlie blys is meint with bittirn[es]
The soden chaunge þerof may no man knowe
ffor who sitte highest is sonest ouerthrowe
Was in this worlde yit neuer creature
Rekyn vp princis for all þeir grete hig[h nobles]
ffortune couth reclyne them to hir lure
And them inpersh thurgh hyr frowardn[es]
Wherfor ye lordys with all your grete ric[hes]
Beth ware affore or ye daunce on the [rowe]
Suche as fortune from hyr whole th[rowe] 2170

De casu Oetis Regis Colchos ciuit[atis]
When John Bochas was most diligen[t]
To conside þe successiones
Of linage with all hys intente
In his wrytyng and descriptios
To compile ^the^ generaciones
Of many noble famus of estate
I mene of such os were infortunate
In his serchynge he founde not oute a fewe
That were vnhappy founde in theire lyvyng
to his presentence anon þer gan hym shewe 2180
A multitude full pitevouslie wepyng
among which full doolfull pleynyng
Cam fyrst Oetes and hath his pleint beguine
Kyng of Colchos and some ^son^ vnto þe Sunne
ffor of phebus which is so fresh and clere
Poetis write þat he is son and heyre
Because he was so myghty of powere
So fresh so lusty manlie and right fayre
But of fortune he fell in grete dispayre
Cursyng his fate and his destynye 2190
Whan Iason firste entred his cuntre
By pelleus sent from Thesalie
Ther for to complissh by diligent labour
The grete emprises thurgh hys cheualrie
Yf godde and fortune liste to don hym fauour
That he myght wynne the tresoure
That is to mene þat he were so bolde
The rome ^Ramme^ to assaile þat bare þe fles of golde
This said Iason thurgh þe counsell of Mede
By sorcery and incarnacion 2200
The Bullys sought horrible for to se
And venquisshed the venemus dragon
The kyng dispoiled of his possession
Accomplisshed with dragons carectes and figures
Of Colchos þe dredfull aventures
And afyrwarde when he his purpos hadde
He lefte Oetis in full grete dispayre
And Medea forth with hym he ledde
And hir broðer which was þe kynges heire
But os I fynde hough in hys repayre
Oute of Colchos when þei can remewe
Kyng Oetis aftyr them can sewe
Upon Iason avengid for to be
Withoute taryying he solued prowdlie

[9r, col. a]
[T]he which thyng when Iason did se
[T]his Medea can shape a remedie
[S]he toke hyr broðer and slough cruellie
[A]nd hym dismembered as bokys make mynde
[An]d Pecemel she caste in a felde behynde
[¶][Sh]e gan hym caste all besprent with bloode 2220
[W]hereof hyr fadre when he had a sight
[fful] pale of chere stille in the felde he stode
While she and Iason to them vnto flight
[That] was alyve when he did knowe
[Hys] chylde dismembred and abrode sowe
[Wh]ich cause was alas and welaway
[Tha]t he so stinte as man disconsolate
[While] þat Iason fro Colchos went away
[And M]edea moste infortunate
[Was] grounde and rote of þis mortall debate
[ffor who] sawe eu er or redde of such an oþer
[To sa]ue a straunger and liste to sle hyr broþer
[ffor]sake hyr fadir hyr cuntre and kynred
[The londe enporished thurgh hyr robberie
Of hyr worship she toke non oþir hede
Loue had hir brought in such a fantasie
And while þat she bode in Thesalie
And with Iason did þer soiourne
She made Esan to youth to retourne · 2230
· A yerde she toke þat was drye and olde
And hir herbes and commixtions
She made it boile in Ouide it is tolde
And by carectes and incantacions
And with crafte of hir coniuracions
The yerde began to budde and blossom newe
And to bere frute and levys fresh of hue
· And semblable with hir confeccions
Hys olde humeus she hath depurid clene
And with hyr lusty fresh pocions 2250
Hys emptie skynne tremblyng and right lene
Pale and wanne þat no bloode was sene ·
But as it was a dedelic creature
All this hath she transformyd by nature
· Made hym lusty and fresh of his corage
Gladde of hert he lovelie of chere and sight
Ryght well hewyd and cler of hys visage
Wondir deliuer both of force and myght
In all his membres and wedy and as lyght
As eu er he was and in the same astate 2260
By crafte of Mede he was so alleuate
· Aftyr all þis agayn kyng Pelieus
She gan maligne vnclu vnto Iason
And of Envie she procedith þus
The kinges doughtres she drowe to hyr anon
Them counselling þat þei shuld gon
Vnto þeire fadir and playnly to them sayn
Yf he desyred to be yong agayn
ffull restorid his to recure
And þerwithall in lusty age floure
She behight to do hyr besy cure
Lyk his desire to helpe and socoure
And þis matier so craftilie laboure
ffinallie stonde in the same case
To be made yonge as hir broþer was
Touchyng such thyng for more evidence
This Medea hath to the doughtres tolde
Of intente to yeve more credence

[9r, col. b]
She bad hym take a Ramme þat was right olde
And with a knyf for to be so bolde
To sle þis beste aforn them þer he stode
And in a vesell drewe oute his olde bloode
ffully affermyng lyke as it wer true
That he should be a lambe agayne
ffor she by crafte wolde his bloode renewe
In such wyse by euydencez playn
Þat of olde tokyn shulde be seyn
In all his membres as lusty and intiere
As was a lambe eyued of o yere
And here vpon in full sleyghty wyse
She began a processe of full fals treson
The sistres made vpon þat lambe practise
Drewe oute his bloode lyke hir intencion
And she by crafte of fals illusion
Blent hyr ien by apparence in veine
The olde Ramme to seme a lambe agayn
Thus Medea by sleight compassyng
Of Envie and venemus hatrede
Excited hath þe sistrez in werkyng
Agayn þeir fadir mortallie procede
With sharpe knyvys þei made þeir fadir blede
In myddys of þe hert thurghhoute euery veine
Supposyng þe sely sistres tweine
That Pelleus renued shuld be
To youth agayn as force and of substante
But finallie by treson of Mede
He loste his lyfe such was his woful chaunçe
ffor she it wrought onlie of vengeaunce
As rote and grounde of þis cruell dede
Againe þe nature of all womanhede
Supposyng in hir opinion
Hough þat þe deth gretly shuld plese
Of Peleus vnto hir lorde Iason
Thurgh grete increce set his hert at ese
But it reboundid vnto hir disese
Þat finallie Iason hir forsooke
ffor hir offence and he his wey toke
¶Into Corinthe toward þe kyng Creon
Whos doughtre Creusa for hir grete beaute
Was aftyr weddyd vnto Iason
But when þis weddyng was knowen to Mede
Caste she wolde þervpon avengid be
Began to conspire of malice and Envie
And þurgh hir magyk and hir sorcorie
¶In a full grete haste gan ordeigne
A lityl cofyr oonlie of intente
And by hir fayre yonge sonnes tweine
With oþer jewels she hath þe cofyr sent
Vnto Creusa makyng a present
Which of malice she liste so dispose
¶at when Creusa þe cofir did unclose
¶The fyre braste oute a ful large space
And bren Creusa by a ful grete violence
Set on fyre pleynlie all þe place
By inchauntement þer was no resistence
All went on fyre þat was in hir presence
The vengeaunce did full grete damage
But when Iason þe fyre sawe in his rage
¶And considred þe malice of Mede
Withoute routh or womanlie pite
She falsly mordred þe chyldren þat she bar[e]

[9v, col. a]
Lyke a stepemodre avengid for to be
Lut þeire throtys or þei were ware or se
But for hatred she hadde vnto Iason
Aftyr þis mordre she fledde away anon
¶So escapyng his indignacion
By crafte of magyk she went at liberte
To Athens in þat Region
She weddyd was into the kyng Egee
Not longe aftyr a son by hym hadde she
þe which Child myn auctour telleth þus
Aftyr Medea callid was Meded
¶|Aftyr whos name þe famus Region
Namyd was which callid is mede
But folowyng ay hir olde condicion
This Medea voide of fame and drede
Compassid hath of wylful fals hatrede
Þat Theseus þe son of kynge Egee
With newe poyson shall devourid be
But Theseus ful like a manlie knyght
In repeyryng home to his cuntre
Of high prudence espyed anon right
Þe mortall vengeaunce þe grete cruelte
Of his Stepmodir the which of Enmite
Concludid hath hir intencion
Hym to destreue vnwarlie with poyson
Hyr hert of malice cruell and horribil
As she þat was with treson euere alliede
But Theseus ful like a manlie knyght
In repeyryng home to his cuntre
Of high prudence espyed anon right
E mortall vengeaunce þe grete cruelte
Of his Stepmodir the which of Enmite
Concludid hath hir intencion
Hym to destreue vnwarlie with poyson
Hyr hert of malice cruell and horribil
As she þat was with treson euere alliede
When þat she sawe hir purpose moste odibil
By kyng Egeus fully was espyed
She hath hyr hert and wittys now applied
As in þis boke poetis haue compiled
Agayn to Iason restorid to be and reconcilid
She fledde away for fere of Theseus
Leste þat he hadde don omn hir vengeaunce
And finalli as writeth Ouidius
And morall Senec conclusith in substaunce
In his Tragedies makyng remembraunce
Hough Medea lyke as poetis seyn
Vnto Iason restorid was agayn
Touchyng the ende saue fullillyng hir purpos
Myn auctour tellith þat Iason and Medee
Reuokyd haue agayn vnto Ko Colchos
His fadre Oetis and from his pouerte
Brought hym agayn vnto his roiall see
And to his crown by force þei did hym restore
Touchyng his ende of hym I fynde no more
This his fortune hath turnyd to and fro
ffyrste lyke a kyng hauyng ful grete riches
Aftyr lyvyng in pouerte and in wo
[S]ithen restorid to his worthines
Thus ay is sorow meddylde with gladnes
Who can adurte in all worldlie thyng
Reorde of Minos þe noble worthi kyng
De casu Minois Regis Crete
TO whom I muste nowe my stile dresse
ffolowyng þe traces of Bocacius
The which Minos Bochas doth expresse
Touchyng his birth he writith pleynlie þus
That he was manlie wyse and vertuus
Son by descent of Iubit þe grete
And Europa born to be eyre in Crete
And of his person wondir delectable
ful renomid of wisdom and science
By diuerse titles of laude commendable
Of byrth of bloode of knyghthode and prudens

[9v, col. b]
ffor by his studie and entier diligence
He founde fyrste lawes groundid on reson
Whereby Crete þe famus region
Governde was and set in stabilnes
All Injuriies and wronge to reforme
Made statutes extorcions to represse
Of righthuesnes þei toke þei fryste forme
And þat iche man shuld hymself conforme
Lyke þei degres subjecte and souereigne
þat no man had matier to complayn
He made his lieges to ligge in quiete
Clere shynyng in his roiall nobles
With swerde and spere sittynge in his se[e]
And while he floured in his worthines
He toke a wyfe of excellent fayrnes
Doughter to phebus in Bochas ye may [se]
And she was callid fayre Paciphe
And hir fadre by record of writyng
In his tyme was holdyn ful famus
Of þe Ile of Rodys he was lorde and kyng
And his dayes of porte ful glorius
Ryght proude in armys and victorius
Takyng witnes of Methamorphosios
Hys doughter hadde · iij · children by Minos
The fyrste a son callid Mandroge
And aftywarde full fayre doughtres tweyne
Ryght womanlie and goodlie on to se
But as fortune for them did ordeigne
They fest þeire liue with trouble and grete peyne
Callid Adriana and Phedra was þat oþer
ffolowyng þeir fate his myght be noon oþer
Androgeus by kyng Minos was sent
ffor he shuld profit in clergy
To Athens of vertuus intent
Ther to studie in Philosophie
And for he began to treason and multiplie
And passe all oþer by studie in lernynge
And to excell his fellowys in connyng
They of Envie and fals malice alas
Made agayn hym a conspiracion
And from a pynnacle sacred to Pallas
Of full grete hight · þei made hym tomble doun
ffor which injurie Bochas makith mencion
His fadir Minos avengid for to be
Leyde a grete powere abought þe cite

He caste hym fully þat no man shuld hym lete
But þat he wolde do cruellie vengeaunce
[A]nd rownde aboute so sore he hem besette
With men of armes and with his ordinaunce
þat finallie he broughte þem to outraunce
And he constreyned within a little space
Theire lyf þeire deth submitted to his grace

But while þei made agayn hym resistance
Supposyng his power to withstonde
Nisus þat was kyng of Magarence
Agayn Minos þo þeire party tok on hande
And oft tymes as ye skal vndrestonde
When kyng Minos þe Cite did assaile
Nisus within with myghty apparaile

Vpon þe walle stode in his defens
When þat Minos ful lyk a manly knyght

[10r, col. a]
[ffa]ught without with sturdie violence
[Li]k Mars hymself in stele armyd bright
[W]herof when Scilla ones had a sight
[Do]ughter to Nisus aduertyng his prowes
[An]on for loue she fell in grete destres
[¶She] was supprised with his high nobles ·
[Hys] manlie force experte manyfolde
[Se]t Scilla in grete heynes
[ffor] loue of Minos in poetis it is tolde
[Ma]de hir hert presumen and be bolde
[ffir]ste hirself to put in parti
[Hir] fadyrs lyf · þe cite þe clergie
[¶For] loue hath set hir hert osyde
[Agajyn nature hir blode and hir kynred
[And] all frenship fro hir she gan devide
[And] of hir worship she toke no maner hede
[Loue] made hir cruell agayn all womanhede
[ffirst]e hir herte ^so^ sore set afyre
[Hir] fadyrs deth falslie to conspire
[¶ffor] kyng Minos beyng a straunger
[Was s]o imprintid in hir opinion
[Of c]eatures þer stode non so nere
An[d] for his sake by ful fals treson
She compassid the destruccion
tfyrste of hir fadre and of þe cite
So straunge a thyng alas hough myght it be
¶That a woman of yerys yong and tendir
Couthe ymagin so mervelus a thyng
But of it fallith þat creatures of splendir
Vndir a face of Angelik lokyng
Ben verrey volues volues outeward in wyryng
Eke vndir colour of porte femynyne
Som be founde verrey serpentine
¶Lambes in shewyng shadewyd with meknes
Crueull as Tygys who doth þem offfence
Of humble chere pretendyng a lyknes
But o þ alas what harme doth apparenys
What damage doth countrefet Innocence
Vndir a mantell shrowdid of womanhed
When feynyd falsnes doth þeir bridil lede
¶ffor this Scilla þe kynges doughter dere
In whome he set his hoole affecion
His hertys ioy his plesaunce most intiere
His worldlie blys and his consolacion
But she all turmyd to his confusion
Not lyke a doughter but lyke a sorceresse
His deth compassid þe story bereth witnes
¶Hir fadir had a fatall heere þat shone
Brghter þen golde in which he did assure
Manlie to fight agayn his mortall fone
ffor on his heede while it did indure
He shuld venquyssh by manhode and recure
And thurgh his knyghthode to his incres and glorie
In euery querele wynne þe victorie
¶But when king Nisus hir fadir lay aslepe
Vpon a nyght a parcell afforn þe day
ffull priuelie or he toke kepe
The here of golde þis Scilla kut away
And vnto Minos armyd þer he lay
She hym presentid thurgh hir ordinaunce
Of fals intent hym for to do plesaunce
¶But in þis matier lyke as write Ouide
Methamorphosios who so taketh hede
Hir fadir slepyng she knelyng by hys side

[10r, col. b]
Toke a sharpe knyfe withoute fere or drede
While he lay nakyd she kerue on twoo his hede
Stale hir way of full fals intente
And to kyng Minos þe hede she doth present.

And in hir comyng to hys presence
Hir fadirs hede when she afforn hym leyde
Nothyng asshamyd of hir grete offence
Vnto Minos þus she did abrayde
And with bolde chere euyn þus she sayde
My lorde quod she with supporte of youre grace
Yevith to my tale leyser tyme and space.

Certys my lorde loue hath excitid me
And constreynyd to this cruel dede
To sle my fadir · destrue my Cite
ffor to gete me worship forsake womanhede
And made me hardy to make my fadir blede
Thyng horrible þus I haue vndirtake
ffor to accomplissh onlie for youre sake

Myself disheretid for loue of your persone
Callid in my cunte a fals traitoresse
Disconsolate stale away allon
Of new defamid and namyd a maistres
Of fals mordre of fals I bryng a grete witnes
My fadirs heede and his dedlie visage
Agayn nature to forthir youre viage

Wherfor I pray þat ye liste aduertise
And considir lyke a gentil knyght
Hough I for loue towarde your grete emprise
Vnto grete forthering also of right
Haue fyrste my fadir depriuyd of his myght
Refte hym his lyfe despoiled his riches
To do plesaunce to youre high nobles

And nothyng aske to my guerdon
Nor to my rewarde þat myght me availe
But þat I myght haue full possession
Of youre person moste worthie in bataile
ffor þer is no tresoure þat may countervaile
To my desire as þat ye wolde in dede
Goodelie acyte me and my maydynhedde

Ye may me saue and spyll with a worde
Make me moste gladde moste dolorous
I not require of yow my souereigne lorde
But þat ye wolde be to me gracius
ffor bloode and kynne and my fadirs hous
All I lefte behynde yf ye liste aduerte
And vndepartid yeve me youre herte

Which to youre hignes ought not suffice
All þing considred in youre roiall estate
Conceyveth also in hough vncouth wyse
ffor youre love I stond desolate
Saue of youre mercy fully disconsolate
Here is all and summe youre love I by so sore
But yf ye do grace I can sey to yow no more
¶And when she had hir tale tolde knelyng
With a maner pretens of womanhede
Of all hir treson a pointe not conceal
The kyng astodied of hyr horrible dede
By grete advise peysyd and take hede
It was not fittyng to prince nor kyng
To do fauour to so frowarde a thynge
¶With trouble hert and a face pale
His loooke vpcaste and saide godde forbed
That eu er in cronicle in storie or in tale
That eny man shuld of Minos [r]ede

[10v, col. a]
Hough he supportid so venemus a dede
ffavour a woman alas and weleaway
Which slough hir fadir when in bedde lay
¶But for youre hatefull and vnkynd rage
I pray pe goddes ichon and Saturne
To take vengeaunce on your fals outerage
ffor euer wher as ye soiourne
Þat al thynge may agayn yow turne
Londe and see shortlie to expresse
Þei ben infecte with youre cursidnes
¶Your own mouth youre outrage doth accuse
And your actez ben so abominable
That youre gyflys I fully do refuse
Thei be so frowarde and so repreueable
That youre persone vengeable and vnstable
Within my courte it were a thynge not fayre
That ye shuld abide or haue repaire
¶Ye ben so hatefull vpon euery syde
And contraius of condicion
I pray Tellus which of pe erth is guyde
And to Neptunus I make þis orison
As ferre as strecchith þe dominacion
Vndre þe boundes of þe regallie
And duellyng place þat þei to yow denye
¶When Minos hadde his answere þus devysed
On reason groundid and of equite
And Scilla sawe hough she was despiside
Knewe no partie passage nor cuntre
To fynde socour whidir she myght fle
But dispeired as a Traytoresse
towarde þe see anon she gan hir dresse
¶To entre þe water pleinele yf she myght fo þor verrey shame hyrself for to shrowde
And when þe goddys þero of had a sight
They turnyd hir as þei myght or coude
Into a quayle for to syng lowde
Hir fadir Nisus also þei did transmue
Into a sperhauke þe quaile to pursu
¶This was þe ende of Nisus and of Scilla
And afyrwarde of Athens þe town
Was yoldin vp to standen at wyll
Of kyng Minos withoute condicion
Euery thirde yeere by reuolucion
They of the cite shulde not delay
ix · of þeir children a tribute for to pay
¶This was of Minos þe Imposicion
Vpon Athens and of verrey drede
Thei obeyed as made is mencion
And þeir children yere by yere þei did lede
Into Crete þe Minotaure to fede
Vnto þis monstre ordeigned for repaste
Which at þeir commyng devoured wer in haste
¶But or I ferther do procede
In this matier I wyl do my cure
To declare yf ye liste take hede
Of þis monstre to telle þe engendir
Vncouth to here and agayn nature
þor by þe writyng of Ouidius
This outhlie beste was engendird þus
¶Methamorphoseos þe maner ye may se
Mynos hadde a bull of grete fayrnes
Whyte as mylke and þe quene Paciphe
Lovid hym so hote þe storie berith witnes
And Dedalus did his besynes
[B]y subtile crafte and made his gynnys so ·

[10v, col. b]
That agayn kynde with hir he hadde to do
¶And conceived a beste monstruus
þat was departid half Bull and half man
And as poetis by wrytyng techith vs
Of Minotaure þus the name began
And Dedalus not long afyr · when
This monstre was by þe quene forth broug[ht]
This subtile werkman hath an hous wroug[ht]
Callid laborintus diuerse and vncoth
ffull of wrynclis and of straungnes
Outhlie to knowe which is northe or south
Or to what partie a man shulde hym dress[e]
ffolks wer þer blint with furius derknes
Who þat entred his t returne was in vein[e]
Without a clewe for to resorte ageyn

Of Minotaurus þis was þe habitacle
Lyk a prison made for turmentrie
ffor dampnyd folk a peyneful tabernacle
ffor all þat lay þerin in partie
The Monstre moste muste deuour þem and defie
And specially was ordeigned þis turment
ffor all þat were doun from Athens sent

But in þis matier summe bookys varie
And afferme hough quene Paciphe
Of kynge Minos louyd a secretarie
Callyd Taurus in Bochas ye may se
And þus þe kyng for all his royalte
Decevyd was · for who may eny while
Hymself þerseuer whe women list begyle

ffor by this Taurus Bochas berith witnesses
Quene Pacife hadde a childe ful fayre
Mynos not knowyn by no liknes
But þat þe child was born to be his heire
His truste was goode he fell in no dispare
ffor summe husbondes as poetis haue compilid
Which moste truste in them · ar sonyst begylyd

Innocentes can not deme amys
Namelie of wyues þat be founde true
Clerkys may write but doules þus it is
Of þeir nature þei loue no thyn new
Stedfast of hert þei chauge not þer hew
Haukys best previd somwhile a chek make
Yit for a fawt þe foule is not forsake

Of þis matier write I wyl no more
But ay þe tribute and seruage of þe town
Procedith forth þei constreynyd were so sore
Lyke as þeir lot turnyd up ·and^ seo doun
ffor þer was made non excepcon
Of high ne lowe · nor soure nor swete

But as it fell þei were sent into Crete
The statute was so inlie rigure
They toke þeir sorow as it cam abought
Til at þe laste it fell to oon Theseus
That he muste go forth emonge þe route
Kyng Eges sun beyng in grete doute
Touchyng his lyf which myght not be soiourid
But þat he muste with oþer be devourid
Which Theseus for his worthines
And of his knygthode for þe grete increce
Þurgh manlie force and for his high prowess
Somtyme was callid þe secund Hercules
Mong Amozanes he put hymself in prece
Weddid Ipolita as bookys specifie
The hardy quene callid of femin feminy

[11r, col. a]
¶And after to Thebes he is gon
Halpe þe þe ladies euerychon oute of thrall
Which þat compleynyd vpon þe kyng Creon
Which þem distroubild like þeir estates roiall
To holde and halow þe festes funerall
Of þe lordes as Quenys and princesses
Of wyuelie trouth to shewe þeir kyndnes
¶ffor when þe Duke þe maner hadde seen
And of Creon þe grete iniquite
To þe ladies he made deliuer agayn
The lordes bony bones of routhe and of pite
Yit in his youth oute of his cite
He was deliuerde by statute full odibil
To be deue devourid of this beste horribil
¶[H]e goth to prison for all his semlines
As þe statute felly did ordeigne
But of routhe and of get gentilnes
Hym to preserue from þat dedlie peine
Of kyng Minos þe goodlie doughtres tweine
Adriane shope a remedie
And fayre Phedra þat he shul not die
¶Thurgh þeire helpe he hath þe monstre slayn
Þat wes dredefull and and outhlie for to se
By them he eskapid wherof he was ful fayn
Ledde þem with hym toward his cuntre
And by the way deuoyde of all pite
Adriane s he falslie hath forsake
Agayn his suraunce and Phedra he getake
¶In mydde þe se he lefte hir in an Ile
Towarde no partie she knewe no decline
She crieth she wepith alas þe harde while
ffor of hir fate þis was þe mortall fine
Þat for pite Bachus þe godde of wyne
Toke hir to his wyfe whos crown of stones · fine
Doth in hevyn now with · ix · sterres shine
¶ Thus of Theseus ye may beholde and se
To Adriane the grete vnstedfastnes
The grete ontruth þe mutabilite
The broke assurance and newfangilnes
But sely women kepe þeir stedfastnes
Ay ondefylid som þo þer while of þeir kynde
Thei muste þem purvey when me bende found vnkynd
¶ Of Theseus I can no more yow seyn
In this matier to make of hym memorie ·
But to kyng Minos I wyl resort ageyn
To tell though fortune ay fals and transitoie
In what poyntes defacyd hath his glorie
ffyrste of ichon Bochas doth specifie
Of Paciphe þe foule avoutrie ·
¶ Which was his wyf and stooed wel on his grace
To his plesaunce she was moste souereigne
But a cloude of ful small trespas
Made hyr lorde at hir disdeigne
But he of wysdom bare pruelie his peine
ffro such case · þis is my sentence
Let prudent husbondes take þem to pacience ·
¶ An oþer thynge eke Minos gan eke compleyn
Hauynge in hert þeroft ful grete grevaunce
That he loste his feyre doughtris vtwene
And Minotaurus slayn with mischaunce
Eke vnto hym it was a grete penaunce
¶at Theseus was goon at liberte ·
And from all tribute deliuerde þe Cite ·

[11r, col. b]
¶ It grevid hym eke in countenaunce and charite
That Theseus Adrian forsoke
It likyd hym not also þe maner
Vnto his wyf þat he Phedra toke
And yit þis Phedra lyke as seith þe booke
Haddë · ij · sunnys · by þis Theseus
ffyrste Demophon and next Antilocus
¶Eke Theseus aftyr gan hym drawe
Towarde Cecill in stele armyd clene ·
With Pirotheus in armys his felowe
ffor to ravish Proserpina the quene ·
But of intente ful onclene ·
Lovid hir stepson callid Ipolitus
But for he was to hir daungerus
¶ And to hir luste froward and contrarie
In his apport not goodelie and benigne
Of fals intent anon she gan to varie
And againe hym self full felly to maligne
With a pretens of many toky and signe
Of womanhed she gan hym accuse
Hir avoutrie falslie to excuse

¶ She hath accusid yong Ipolitus
Of fals avoutrie in his tendir age
Tolde and affermyd to Duke Theseus
With ful bolde chere and playn visage
Hough he purposid ones ^oonlie^ in his rage
Onlie by force hir beaute to oppresse
Hir lorde besechyng to reforme and redresse
¶ A grete iniurie don vnto his wyf
While he was absent for þinges þat bare charge
Wyues of talez ben sumtyme inuentiue
To suffre þeir tonges falslie flen at large
But folk þat liste of daunger þem discharge
Of such accusyng ne take þei no heede
Tyl þe trouth be tried oute in dede
¶ Who sey þat women can not Imagine
In þeir defence talez full vntrue
To þeir desyre yf men liste not incline
Nor on þeir fyned fals wo to rue
Anon þei cam compasse thynges newe
ffysh and fynd oute in their intencion
A couerte cloude to shadow þeir treson
¶ I mene no thyng of wyues þat be goode
Nor of women þat floure in Innocence
ffor godde forbede and the holy rode
But men shuld do due reuerence
To þeir nobles and þeir excellens
Declare þeir beaute and þeir vertu shewe
And more þem cherish because þer be £ but fewe
¶ Touchyng the accusing agayn Ipolitus
Thof it so were þat it was fals in dede
Yit he for shame and fere of Theseus
As in storie ye may beholde and rede
In his hert he caught a maner drede
Þat he alas þis seli yong knyght
ffled and withdraw hym out of his fadirs sight
¶ His Indignacion pleinlie to eschewe
Thof by s desert in him was no lake
Of hasty drede as he can remewe
Outhir in a chare or vpon hors bak
His hors affrayed þer fell a soden wra[k]
Doune from a roche pendaunt as ye shal lere
He and his chare were drowned both in fere

Thus vngilti · most lusty in his youth
He was conveyed to his destruccion
The sclaundir conspired as it is wel cou[th]
By fals Phedra but in conclusion

[11v, col. a]
The sclaundir turnyd to hir confusion
ffor when she wyuste Ipolitus weddid
Thurgh hir defaute anon for shame and drede

¶ She toke a swerd ful sharpe whet and grounde
And þerwithall she rofe hir here in tweine
Lo hough þat vengeaunce wyl ay agayn rebounde
On them þat falslie don þer þy bysy peine
To sclaundir folke for like os þei ordeigne
With þei defautes oþer folke to aquyte atwite
God at þe laste þei malice can aquyte ·
¶ Yit som bokys of Phedra do recorde
That she ashamyd and confusid of þis dede
Hyng hirself vp ful high with a corde
Lo hough fals sclaundir can folk quyte þer mede
Wherfor I counsel euery man take hede
In such matiers as stond in no certein
ffrom hasty language þei tonges to restraine

De casu Cizaris ducis Regis Iabyn
Among oþer stories woful for to rede
Al besprent with terys in his face
fful sodenlie Iohn Bochas can tak hede
Amyddys of þe prece Zizara cam to place
And hough þat fortune can eke to mansse
This proude duke ful myghty and notable
Of King Iabin callid þe constable
¶ Of his oft leder and governere
To Israel verrey mortall foo ·
With peple he roode lyke a Conqueroure
And wher þat euuer his meny did go
The erth quoke þe peple dre hym so
ffledde from his face wher he came aferre
ix · hundird waynes he hadde for þe werre
¶ Stronglie enarmyd for þe werres
Who þat approchid to mayme hym and to wound
ffor þis Tiranne of custom oft sithis
Hadde grete delite þe jews to confound
^[And al] þe þat his swerd hath founde^©
Kyng Iabin badde þe prince of Chanaan

2870
2880
2890
2900
In Israel spare chylde nor man

¶This Cizara was sent for to be þeir scourge
By god dys sufferaunce þeir synnez ^to^ chastys:e
Their olde offencez to punish and to pourge
As a flagel in many sondrie wyse
But whan of resoun þe gan þen better advise
And for þeir trespasez to fall in repentance
Godde gan withdrawe þe hand of his vengeuance
¶ffor þeir mischeþe gan þeir lorde to knowe
ffelyng þe prykke of his punicion
And mercy then hath onbent þe bowe
Of his full Ire and castigacion
To godde þei made þei Inuocacion
And he them herd in þeir mortal drede
In Iudicum þe storie ye may rede
¶Hough in þe while þat þis Cizara
Shape ^hym^ of newe þe Iewys to oppresse
In þeir defens godde sent þem oon Delbora
A prophetisse þe story berith witnes
To yeve them counsail þeir harmys to redresse
And by þe spirit of hir prophecie
ffor to withstond þe grete tirannie
¶Of Cizara which was descendid doune
With a grete oste into þe felde repeyrid
But Delbora of high discrecien
And for to fight þeir corages sore apeyrid
When þat she sawe þe Iewys dispeirid
She made þem fyrste deuoutlie in þer drede

[11v, col. b]

To crye to godde to helpe them in þeir nede
¶And when she herde and knewe of þe commyng
Of Cisara full grete puisaunce
That was cunstable vnto þe myghty kyng
Callid labin with al his ordinaunce
Vpon Iewes for to take vengeuance
Þis Delbora can prudentlie intende
Þe Iewes partie by wysdom to defende ·
¶She badde barath hir husband anon right
Of Neptalim X · mille with hym take
Agayn Cisara to fight for þeir right
And þat he shuld a grete inarmen make
But he for drede þis iourney hath forsak[e]
And durst not agayn hym to werry
But she were present and liste hym to conv[e]
¶Well well quod she sith it stondeth so
Then of wantrust ye haue a maner drede
I wyl myself with yow go
Yow to supporte in this grete nede
But trustith fully as ye shall fynde in[dede]
Þat a woman with laude honour and glorie
Shal fro yow wynne þe prys of this victorie
¶It folowyd after sothlie as she sayde
And wyselie she made hir ordinaunce
And þe chefe charge on hirselfe she layde
As princesse of Iewes gouernaunce
And prudentlie gan hirselfe avaunce
With godde conveied and support of his grace
With Cizara to mete in his ^the^ face
¶And speciallie touchyng þis viage
Godde toke away þe spirit and myght
ffro Cizara his force and his corage
That he was fereful to entre into fight
Kepte his chare and toke hym onto flight
Knowyng no place surelie in to byde
Tyll þat Iahell a woman did hym hyde
¶Within hir tente almoste dede for drede
Vndir a mantel desirous for to drynk
She gaue hym mylk þe slepe fell in his hede
And while þat he for hevyes gan wynk
And sadlie slepte she gan hir bethynk
Thof she wold for Cizara so shape
þat with his lyfe he shoulde not ascape ·
¶She toke a nayle þat was sharpe and longe
And couertlie gan hirselfe avaunce
With an hambir myghty rounde and stronge
She draue a nayle · lo þis was his vengeaunce
Thurghoute his hede · se here þe soden chaunce
Of tirannez þat trust in fortune
Which wyl not longe to suffre continue
¶In þeir fals vsurpyng tirannie
To holde peples in longe subieccion
She can them blandish with hir flatrie
Vndir coloure of fals collusioun
And with a soden transmutacion
ffortune them can þat pore folke trouble
Reuerse þeir pride with hir face double
¶What shuld I lengar in þis matier tarie
Thurgh þat lordeshipe be myghty famus
Let Cizara be youre exemplarie
Conquest victorie þof þei be victorius ·
It not indureth · but it be vertuus
Vnto þe worlde yf vertu be h behyn
Men not reioyse to haue þeir name in mynde [end of quire 1]

[12r, col. a]
¶ffor fortune thurgh hir frowardnes
Hath kynes put outh of Regiones
And she hath also thurgh hir doublenes
[D]estruyd linages with their successions
Made she not sometyme hir translacions
Of the kynge dom callid Argivois
To be transportid to Lacedemoniys 3010
¶The same tyme when Cisare the proud
Began goddys peple to put vndir fote
ffamus trompe blewe hir name vp loude
With sugrid sowyns semyng wondir swete
But all his pride was rent vp by þe rote
When þat his glorie was outward most shewyng
But who may truste euery wolde þing
¶ffo[lk]ys haue afforne seen þe fundacion
By remembraunce of olde antiquite
[Of] myghty Troy and ^of^ Ilion 3020
[Af]tyr destruyd ðe^by^ Grekys þe Cite
[T]o vs declaryng the mutabilite
[Of] fals fortune whos fauour laste but awhile
Shewyng ay truest whan she wyl begyle
¶So variable she is in hir delites
Hur whele vntrusty and frowardlie moving
Reorde I take of Madianitez
Their vnwar fall full doolefully pleynyng
Which shewyd themself piteuouslie wepyng
To Iohn Bochas as he in writyng sought 3030
Hough þat fortune agayn þeir princys wrought
¶Which þat governd þe land of Madian
Trustying of ^in^ pride of þeir grete puissaunce
Agayn ðeys a werre þei began
Purposing to bryng them to outraunce
But þat godde þat holdith of werre þe balaunce
And can of princis oppresse the veine glorie
Yevith where hym liste þe conquest and victorie
¶Not to grete noumbre nor to grete multitude
But to þat partie wher he seth þe right 3040
His dredfull hande shortlie to conclude
So holde vp by grace and sendith his myght
The higher hand where he caste his sight
And liste his power and his fauour showe
Be it to many or be it to fewe
The wronge partie gladlie hath a fall
Thof þer be Millions many mo þan oon
I take witnes of Ieroboall
Which is callid also Gedeon
þat with · CCCC faught agayn þe foon
Of Israhel þe bible can deuyse
Whan he to godde hadde made his sacrifice
þShowyng to hym a thyng mervelus
When þe flees with siluer dewe full shene
Was sprent and wete þe storie tellith þus
And rounde aboute þe soile and all þe grene
Was founde drie and no droppe seen ·
In tokyne oonlie þis Duke þis knyghtly man
Shulde haue victorie of all Madian
þThis Gedeon take with hym but a fewe
CCC · chosin which lappid þe ryver
Godde vnto such tokyns did shewe
And euidences afforn þat were ful clere
That he shuld be of right goode chere
And in wys his aduersaries drede
ffor no prowess nor manhode
þWhere godde aboue holdith champarty
Ther may agayn hym be made no defence ·

[12r, col. b]
ffor to strength wysdom ne chyualrie
Agayn his might is feble of resistance
This was well previd in experience
When · CCC · with Gedeon in nombre
So many thousandes by grace did encombe
þThis saide peple diuide into · iij ·
With theire trumpis vpon þe derke nyght
By Gedeon þat hadde þe souereignete
With voide pottes and laumpis þerin light
And þus arayed þei entrid into fight
But vnto þem þis tokyne was Þyrst knowe
When Gedeon his trumpe did blowe
þThei blewe ichon and lowd gan to crie
Brake þeire pottes and shewed anon right
As þe storie doth pleynlie specifie
Their lampis shewyd with a ful soden light
Wherfor þeir ennemies astonyed in þeir sight
Were so troublid vpon euery syde ·
That in the felde þei durst not abide
þThe crie was þus of them euerychon
Thank to þe lorde moste noble and glorius
Prys to þe swerde of myghty Gedeon
Which hath vs causid to be victorius
Made our enemies moste malicius
Thurgh influence onlie of his grace
ffor verrey fere to fle afforeoure face
¶Thus can þe lorde of magnificence
The meke exalte and the proude oppresse
Like as he fynd in hertes difference
So of his power he can his domus dresse
Mercy mengyd with his rightuesnes
His iugementes with longe delay differed
And ar he punish pite is ay preferryd ·
¶Myghty princis remembre þat youre powere
Is transitorie and no while abydyng
Has þis tragedie hath rehersid here
By euidences notable in shewyng
And by examples in substauence witnessyng
Þat all tirannes platlie to termine
Muste from þeir astate sodenlie decline
¶Phebus fresshe from his mydday spere
His bemys brightest and hottest oute spredyng
But cloudie skyes ful oft approche nere
To eclipse his light with þeir vnware commyng
Non erthly ioy longe here abydyng
Recorede of Titan which stondmele doth shyne
Yit towarde nyght þis bemys decline
¶Whan þat fortune is fayrest of hir chere
By apparence and moste blandisshyng
Then is she falsest iche ceson of þe yere
Hir soden chaunges now vp now down turnyng
The nyghtyngale in may doth freshely syng
But a bakwynter can somyr vndirmyne
And all his freshnes he can sodenlie decline ·

De Casu Iocaste Regine Ciuitatis Thebes
Of quene Iocasta Bocchas doth eke indite
Princes of Thebes a myghty grete cite
Of hir vnhappes he dolfully doth write
Ymagenyng hough he hir did se
To hym appere in grete aduersite
Lyke a woman þat wolde in terys reigne
For þat fortune can at hir so disdeigne
¶And thof she were defacyd of figure
Ther shewyd in hir a maner mageste
Of quenlie honour pleynlie to discure ·
His fortunes and infelicite
And to declare pleinlie hough þat she
Of all princesse þ which þat stode in estate
She was hir self moste infortuniate

Which gave to Bochas ful grete occasion
When he sawe hir pitevus apparaile
fór to make a lamentacion
Of vncouth sorowes which did hir assaile

With a tragedie to wepe and to wayle
Hir importable and hir dedlie stryfe
Which þat she hadde duryng all hir lyf

He write of hir a storie large and pleine
And of hir birth fyrst he doth difline
She was descendid of a noble line
In flouryng age eke when she did shyne
She weddyd was for hir grete beaute
Vnto þe kyng of Thebes þe Cite ·
Which in his tyme was callid laius
And when hir wombe by processe gan arise
The kyng was gladde and also desirus
The childis fate to knowe in som wyse
And thought he wolde go do sacrifice
Vnto Apollo to haue knowlegyng befor

Touchyng þe childe when þat it were born
What shulde folowe in conclusion
He was desirus hasty for to se
ffyrst by the heuyntie disposicion
And by the fauoure yf it wold be
Of Apollos myghty deite
To haue answere among his rites all
Of his chylde what fate shuld fall

His answere thought ^thof^ it wer contrarie
To his desire · yit what it is indeede
Apollo tolde hym · and liste no lengar tarie
That þis childe shuld verrelie in dede
Shende his fadir and make his sydys blede
And with his handes þer was non óber wey
But on his swerd he must nedys dey

The kyng was hevy and trusted on þis sentence
Sorowful in hert godde wote and nothyng fayn
He caste afforn thurgh his prouidence
That in all haste his son shuld be slayn
And þat he wolde not onoure delayn
Aftyr his birth þ but bad his men to gon
In to a forest and sle þe chylde anon
Lyke his biddyng þe minstres wroute in dede
Takyng the chyld tendre and yong of age
And in to a forest with þem þei can it lede
To be devourid of bestes moste sauage
The modir alas fell almoste in a rage
Seyng hir chyld so younglie fayre of face
Shal þis be dede and did neuer no trespas
Litill wondir thof she felt smert
To all women I reporte me
And vnto modirs þat be tendir of hert
In this matier Iuges for to be
Was it not routh Was it not pite
That a princesse and a quene alas
Shuld knowe hir chyld devourid in such a case
Afyr his byrth laius toke goode kepe
Withouthe mercy respite or delay
That vnto on which þat kepte his shepe
This yong chylde vpon a certen day
Shal be deliuerd in all þe haste he may
To þis intent it myght not be socured

[12v, col. b]
But þat she shulde of bestys be devourid ·
This said shepherd goth forth anon right
The childe beholdyng of loke and face
Thought in his hert and in his invard sight
He shuld do vnto godde a grete trespas
To sle this chylde wherefor he did hym grace
toke fyrste a knyf and did his bysy peyn
Thurghoute his fete to make in holys two[ne]
He toke a small rodde and a young osyere
Percyd þe fete alas it was pite
Bounde hym faste and by goode leyser
The yong chylde he hynge vpon a tre
Of intent þat it s ne shuld be
Thurgh wylde bestes cruell and sauage
Be sodenlie devourid in þeire rage
Vpon a tre while he hynge thus bounde
Of aventure by som occasioun
A straunge shephird hath þe chyld founde
Which of pite and routh toke hym doun
Bare it with hym home vnto his town
Made his wyfe for to do hir peine
To fostir þis chylde with hir pappes tweine
And when he was brought forth and recured
And ful made hole of his woundis sore
This yonge childe which all his hath indurid
When he in age gan to wex more
And hat nature gan hym restore
The said shepherd hat loued hym best of all
Aftyr his hurtes Edippus did hym call
ffor Edippus is no more to seyn
Who hat conceivith he exposicion
But fete percid thrughhoute both tweine
In hat language as made his mencione
And to Meropa he wyf of kyng Polibon
The shephird of full humble intente
Gan he chyld ful louly to present
¶And for hat she was baren of nature
She and he kyng of oon affeccion
Toke Edippus both into heir cure
As sun and heire by adpcion
To reigne in Corinthis by successioun
The kyng he Quene off Corinthis he cunte
Had he chylde in so grete charite
¶Let men considir in heir discrecioun
Soden chaunge of euery maner thyng
His chylde send oute for his destruccioun
And now prouided for to be a kynge
And thrugh fortune ay double in hir werkyng
He hat was reffris to bestes moste sauage
Is now receyvid to kynglie heritage
¶And prouided to be a kynges ayere
Of hym hat stode in deth of venture
ffortune can shewe hirself both foule and fayre
ffolkys brought low full well recure
And liste not gruge agayn heir chastysyng
Godde oute of myschefe can sodenlie he bryng
And such as can pacientlie indure
¶But whan Eddippus was grow vnto good age
Lyke a yonge prince incresyng in nobles
Lusty and stronge and fresh of his corage
Of aventure it fell so in sothnes
Ober by stryf or by sum frowardnes
Or by sum contec he had knoulechyng
How he was not sun to he kyng
¶As by descent but a ferre foreine
Where vpon ful sore he gan to muse ·
Thought he wold sum maner practik vse
And to þe kynge he gan hymself excuse
ffor a tyme fordraw his presence
Tyl þat he knew by sum experience
[¶]Or by sum signe hough þe matier stode
Thought he wolde do his diligence
To know his fadir and also of what bloode
He was descendid · and haue sum euidence
[¶]Or by sum signe hough in stode in sentence
And þevpon to be certified
[¶]Which in Cirra worshippid was þat tyme
[An]d gaue answers aftyr his deite
[¶]As Edippus fallyng on his kne
[¶]Aftyr his offering had an answer anon
[¶]Aftyr Grece þat he shuld goon
[¶]Vn to mounteine þat Phocis bare þe name
And þer he shuld of his kynred here
Eke like his fete þe answere was þe same
He shuld sle his oone fadir dere
And aftyr þat to Thebes drawe hym nere
Wedde his modir of verrei ignoraunce
Callid Iocasta thurgh his onhappy chaunce
[¶]He liste no lengar tarie ne abide
þis saide Edippus · but forth in haste goth he
And on his way he gan anon to ryde
tyll he þe mountein off Phocis did se
Vndir the which stode a grete cunte
Callid Citoyns which þat tyme in certeine
Werryd them þat were on þe mounteine
[¶]His fadir Laius þurgh his chyualrie
With Citoyns is entrid in to bataile
And Edippus cam with þe partie
Of þe hylles armyd in plate and maile
And as þei can iche oþer to asaile
Amonge þe prees at þeir encontring
Of aventure Edippus slough þe kyng
[¶]Onknown to hym þat he his fadir was
Hauyng þerof no suspicione
Passid his way platlie þus þe case
And eke vnknown he cam vnto þe towne
Of myghty Thebes wherfor his high renoun
He was receivid with ful grete reverence
By cause he slough þe kyng in þeir defence
Spinx þe serpent horrible for to se
Whilom ordeigned by incantacions
ffor ro destrue þe town and þe cuntre
By his compassid sleghty questions
Slough man and chylde in all þe regions
Such as not couth by wysdom nor reson
Make of his probleme playn exposicion

Who passid by he couth not not hym excuse
But þe Serpent hym felly wolde assaile
With a probleme make hym ^to^ muse
Callid of sume þe vncothe diuinale
Which for to expoun who it did faile
Þer was non help · but þat he muste die
By þe statute þer was non oper remedie

And for all folk^ haue no knowlegyng
Of þis demaund what it was in dede
I wyl rehece her of in my wrytyng
Compendiuslie þat men may it rede
ffyrst þis Serpent who þat list tak hede
Was monstruus and spake agayn nature

[13r, col. b]
And yf it fell þat eny creature
Man or woman shuld forth by passe
High or low of all þat regioun
As I said arste þer was noon oþer grace
But yf he made an exposicion
Of this Serpentes frowarde question
He muste die and make no defens
The which demaund was þis in sentence

The Serpent askyd what may it be
Beste or foule whan it is forth brought
þat hath power to stond go or fle
And aftyrward yf it be well sought
Goth fyrste on foure or els goth he nought
Aftyr by processe on thre and then on tweine
And eftes agayn as nature doth ordeigne

He goth on .iiij. and eftes on .ij. agayn
Eke kyndlie nature disposith it so
And in awhile it foloweth in certeine
To þe matier which he cam frome
He muste of kynde resorte agayn þerto
And who can not þe menyng clerlie se
He of þe Serpent shall deuourid be ·
Which Eddipus sobir in his intent
Not to rakkyll nor hasty of language
But in his herte of gret aduisment
And full demure of looke and visage
Considerith firste þe perilus ^and^ fell passage
Saw wel beforþ þat it was no lape
And full prouyded þat no worde ascape
¶At goode leyser with hole mynde and memorie
Seyng þe cruelnes of his mortall emprise
His lyfe dependyng betwen deth and victorie
This beste quod he pleynlie to deuyse
Is fyrste a chyld which may not suffice
When it is born þe truth is all day seene
Withoutyn helpe hymselfe to susteine ·
¶Aftyr on .iiij. he naturallie doth crepe
ffor impotencie and grene tendirnes
Norices can tell which don þem kepe
But aftyrwarde vp he doth hym dresse
With his .ij. fete þe third to expresse
His hande on bench or support of sum wall
To holde hym vp · lest he cach a fall
¶And aftyrwarde incresyng his myght
To getter age when he doth atteine
Of his nature þen he goth vpright
Myghtilie vppon his þe leggys tweine
Then commyth age his power to restreine
Crokyd and lame lyke as men may se
With a staffe impotent to make vp leggys .iiij.
¶But when febilnes or seknes don assaile
On handes and fete he muste bowe and lought
ffor crokyd potentes may not þen availe
When lusty age is banneshid and shit oute
Then eft agayn herof may be no doughte
With .iiiij. fete to erthe he doth returne
ffro whence he com þerto to soiourne ·
¶All cam fro erth · and all to erth shall
Agayn nature is no proteccion
Worldlie estates ichon þei be mortall
Þer may no tresour make redempcion
Who elime clymeth highest his fall is lowe ·
A mene estate is beste whos couth it kno[we]
Betwene high presumyng and bowyng do[un to lowe]
¶ffor whoso sitte highest · standith in partie iep[artie]

[13v, col. a]
Vndir daunger of ffortune lyk to fall
Myschef and pouerte as for þeire partie ·
Be lowest brought amongst þe pepeles all
Summe folke taste sugre summe tast gall
Salomon þeð for mirrour offf sapience
Betwen grette riches and betwen indigence
Axid a mene callid suffisaunce
To holde hym contente of competent expence
Not to reioyse of to grette habundaunce
And ay in pouer to stand in pacience
Sobre with his plente in scarfste not noon offence
As of gruyng but betwen ioy and smert
Thank godde of all and euer be glê glad in herte
Erth is þe ende of euery maner of man
fþr þe riche with grette possession
Dieþ als son as I reherse can
As doth the pore in tribulacion
fþr deth ne maketh no diuision
By singler fauour but betwen both elich
Of þe porest and hym þat is moste riche
This saide probleme concludith in this case
Which þe Serpent gan sleightlie purpose
That when a chyld is fyrste born alas
Kynde to his dethwarde anon doth hym dispose
Iche day a journey þer is noon oþer glose
Experience can tell in euery age
Hough þis worlde is here but a pilgremage
This said Edyppus fyrst in Thebes born
Send to a forest devourid for to be
ffounde and broute forth as ye haue herde beforne
And aftyr drawynge home to his cuntre
Slough his fadir so infortunat was he
Of froward hoppys fowlowyng all his liue
As þis Tragedie his fortune shall descriue
But for þat he thurgh his prudence
Vnto þe Serpent declarid euery dele
He slough hym aftyr by myghty violence
More by wysdom þan armure made of stele
Stace of Thebes can tell yow full well
Which was o cause yf ye liste to seen
Wherthurgh Edyppus weddid hath þe quene
Callid locasta princes of þe cite
His own modir vnknownen to þem both
And þof she were right fayre vpon to se
With this mariage the goddes were right wrothe
ftor þeire alliaunce nature gan to lothe
Shuld take hir sunn to be hir husbonde
There was þerin noon conuenience
To be supportid be kynde nor by reson
But yf so be the heuynlie influence
Disposid it by the inclinacion
Of summ fals froward constellacion
Causid by Saturne Saturne or Mars þe froward sterre
To engendir debate or summe mortall were
¶In this matier pleynlie ^this^ I deme
Off no cunyng but of opinion
Thof he were crownyd with sceptre and diademe
To reigne in Thebes þe strange myghty toun
That summe aspecte com from hevyn adoune
Infortunate þe froward and full of rage
Which agayn kynde denyed his mariadge
¶He crownyd was by assent of þe town
fflouryng a ceson by souereignete of pece
And while he helde þer possession
[Su]nnes and doughtres he hadde doutles

[13v, col. b]
The fyrste sun callid Êthio Ethiocles
Pollicenes was callid þat othir
As seith Bochas þe secund broþer
¶Alþo he hadde goodlie douthres tweine
The eldist callid was Antigonie
The secund namyd was Imenie
And both þei were right fayre vpon to se
The Quene Iocasta myght no gladder be
Than to remembre whan þei wex in age
Hough goddys hadde encrecid þeiR linage
¶It was hir joy and hir felicite
To sen hir chyldren þat were semeli and fayre
But oft in ioy it cometh aduersite
And hope vnsuryd whan hope doth oft appeyre
Contrarius truste wyl gladlie þer repayre
Where fals wenyng in hertes is conceyvid
Thurgh ignorance which fele folke haue dece[yued]
¶What þing in erth is more deceyvuable
Then when a man supposith verelie
And from his ioy is remevid sodenlie
¶ffor where fortune is founde to hasty
In prosperite for to stonde stable
To trice folke theyre grevys tendir
ffor soden chaungis be hatefull to nature
¶Vnware wo þat comyth of gladnes
Is vnto hertes right passyng encombrus
And who hath felte his parte of wyfulnes
Sorow suyng on is to hym odius
And worst of all and moste contrarius
Is when estates highest off renoun
Ben from þeir noblesse sodenlie brought doun
¶Ther is no glorie which þat sewth hir
That fals fortune can so magnifie
But when his laude brightest is and clere
She can eclipse it with som cloudie sky
With vnware sorow oonlie off Envie 3540
Seth of Edippus anopyn evidence
Which by his lyve had experience
¶Of high noblesse and þer with also ·
Parte importable of grete aduersite
His ioy ay meynt with full mortall woo
ﬀor while he reigned in Thebes his cite
And Iocasta with full grete roialte
Within þe cuntre þer fell a pestilence
The peple infectyng with all his violence
¶Thurghoute all þe lande and region 3550
In eueri age but moste grevuslie
Of them ichon þat were of þe town
The infeccion spreadde most speciallli
And of vengeaunce þe swerd moste rigoroulsie
Day by day gan to bite and kerve
Of yche estate causyng folke to sterve ·
¶Thus gan increce þe mortalite
That euery man stode in partie
Of þeire lyves thurghoute þe cuntre
So importable was þeire maledie 3560
þat men myght here þe peple clepe and crye
Dispeyrid so were þei of þeire lyvys ·
Voyde of all socoure and presueratvyys
¶They sought oute herbys and spices in þer cofyrs
And gan to seke for help and socourys
The cause inquirid of prudent philosophirs
And of þeir moste experte diuinoures
Whi þat þe goddyss with so sharpe shoures
Of pestilience and in so cruell wyse
Lyste þem alas so mortally chastysye · 3570

[14r, col. a]
¶But among all soth is þis case
[þer] was founde on full prudent and right wyse
A prophete callid Tyresias
Of prophecie hauyng a souereigne prise
Which þat afferyd and sayde in his advise
As vnto hym was shewyd by miracle
Phebus hym self declaryng þe article

[C]ause of this seknes and þeis maledies

[A]s þe goddys pleylnie haue disposid

And Senec eke in his tragedies

[T]hof þe cause be secure and closid

[V]nto the tyme þer be a kyng deposid

[W]hich slough his fadir and refte of his lyfe

[An]d hath eke take his modre to his wife

¶[T]yll þis be don and execute in dede

[þer] may be made no redempcion

[B]ut pestilence shal multiplie and sprede

[Ay] more and more thurghoute þat region

[V]nto the tyme þat he be put adoun

¶[F]rom his crown which not longe agon

[HH]is fadir slough among his mortall foon

¶[T]yll vnto tyme þat he be put adoun

¶[H]is fadir slough among his mortall foon

¶And hath his modre weddyd eke also

Agayn þe lawe agayn all right

Tyll þis vengeaunce on þis cryme be do

Ther shall be werre pestilence and fyght

Sorow and stryf and euery maner wyght

Of vengeaunce his neibourgh shal hate

Broþer with broþer and bloode with bloode debate

¶This is all and summe þer may be no socoure

Which brought þe peple in grete hevynes

ffor Tiresia the grete diuinoure

By prophecie tolde þem thus expresse

And at þe laste by tokyns and witnes

Men vndrestode by signes oue shewyng

This pestilence was brought in by þe kyng

¶And thof þe peple gaue no grete credence

To Tiresia nor to his prophecie

The Quene Iocasta caught an evidence

And in hert a grete fantasie

Specially when she did espie

Of kyng Edippus þe fete when she sawe woundid

Hough þis tale vpon truth is groundid

¶Because also þer was a diuinoure ·

Which tolde afforn Edippus shuld be

To laius in Thebes successoure

Wherby þe kyng · þe Quene and þe Cite

ffell in grete trouble and grete aduersite

Wel more þen I by writyng can reporte

ffor þer was no thyng þat myght þem recomfort

¶ffull oft on þe day Iocasta gan to swoun

Kyng Edippus sobbe sobbe crye also and wepe

In salte terys as þei wold þem drown
Deth crampisshyng into þeir breste gan crepe
On day compleynynge on nyght þei may not slepe
Cursyng þe houre of þeir natuite
þat þei shuld abide for to se
Their mortall chaunge þeir dedlie aventure
Their fortune eke which can on them frown
Impacient and doolefull to indure
Their froward fate with þeir lokkys brown
They kyng for Ire caste away his crowne
And gan to rase for constreint of his peine
Oute of his hede his wofull ien tweine
Day and nyght he cryed aftyr deth
Hatefull to com in any mannes sight
Moste desirus to yelde vp the breth
Wofull in hert to com in any light

[14r, col. b]
Corvid for sorowe feble to stond vp right
And specially in his dedlie distresse
ffor drede off shame he daryd in derknes
The cruel constreint off his moste grevaunce
Was in his sonnes þat hadde hym in despite
Which can his sorow gretlie to avaunce
ffor hym to scorne was set all þeir delite
Was þer neuer man þat stode in werre plught
ffor þus liggyng and destitute of chere
Vnto his goddis he made his prayer
Besechyng them with a dooleful hert
Vpon his wo to haue summe compassion
And þat þei wolde for to avenge his smerte
Betwen his sonnys make a diusion
Yche to bryng oþer to destruction
This was his prayer in substaunce
That iche vpon oþer take may vengeaunce
Besechyng them with a dooleful hert
Vpon his wo to haue summe compassion
And þat þei wolde for to avenge his smerte
Betwen his sonnys make a diusion
Yche to bryng oþer to destruction
This was his prayer in substaunce
That iche vpon oþer take may vengeaunce
In yerys fewe for þeir vnkyndnes
Thei herde his prayer as ye haue herde devise
The brëpern .ij. thurgh þeir cursidnes
Eueryche can oþer mortallie to despise
ffor lak of grace and for fals couetise
Ych for his partie desyrys in dede
Be þori forn oþer to reigne and succede
And þus theis breþer pear moste infortunate
Betwen þemself fell at disce dissencion
And finallie þis vnkyndlie debate
Brought all Thebes vnto destruccion
Yit was þer fyrste made a connuencion
By interchaungyng · þat iche shuld reigne a yere ·
þat ogle absent to pley and com no nere

¶This was concluid by þeir both assent
And by accord of all þe region
Pollicenes rode forth and was absent
Ethiocles toke fyrst possession
But when þe yere by reuolucion
Was com abought he fals of his intent
Vnto þe accorde denied his consent

¶This was a cause of þeir both strives
Pollicenes þus put oute of his right
Tyl Adrastus þat kyng was off Argives
Which thurgh all Grece grettest was of myght
Sent vnto Thebes þe myghty town
Vnto his broþer · which absent was withoute
Now þat his yere was fully com aboute

¶But he was fals and frowardlie gan varie
Ethiocles from his conuencion
ffor which Adrastus no lenger wold tarie
When Tide Tideus had made relacion
But callid anoon thurghoute his regioun
All þe worthy both nye and ferre
Agayn Thebes for to begynne a werre ·
§ffor þis cause lyke as ye shal here
Pollicenes to inforce his partie
Weddie hadde þe kynges daughter dere
I mene Adrastus floure of Chyualrie
When Tideus did to hym certifie
Touchyng the answere of Ethiocles
And of his trouth hough he was recles

§ffals off his promises and cursidlie forsworn
ffor to his trouth non aduertyng had be
Nor to þe accord þat was made befor
Touchyng þe deliuance deliueraunce of Thebes þe [cite]
But who þat liste þis storie clerlie se
Of þeis .ij. breþern þe dissencion
And hough Adrastus lay befor þe town

[14v, col. a]
¶And Tideus þurgh his high promisse
ffauht by the way goyng on message
And hough of Grece all the worthines
With kyng Adrastus went in this viage
And of þe mischeff þat fell in their passage
ffor lak of watyr · tyll þat Isiphille
Norice to ligurgus so fayre vpon to se
Taught Tydeus to fynde oute a ryver
She þat did in fayrnenes so excelle
And hough þe Serpent moste outhlie of his chere
Of kyng ligurgus þe chyld slewe at a welle
And hough Amphiorax fel doune to helle
All to declare me seme it is no nede
ffor in the Sege of Thebes ye may it clerlie rede
The storie hole as made is mencion
Of outhir partie their puissaunce and þeir myght
And Adrastus lay beforne þe toune
And hough þei met euery day in fight ·
And Tideus þe noble famus knyttg
So renownyd in actes merciall
Was slayn alas as he fought at þe walle
And hough þe breþern met among þe prece
Lyke þe Tigris or lions þat were woode
With sherpe sperys þis is doutles
Eueriche of outhir shed oþer hert blode
This was þe fyne · and þus of þem it stode
Saue at þeir festys callid funerall
Þer fell a grete mervaile which reherce I shall
When þei were into brent ^into^ askys dede
Of þeir envie þer fell a ful grete wondir
Among þe brondys and the coles rede
High in the ayre þe smoke went asondir
Þat oon on partie · and þat oþer yondir
To declare · þe storie liste not feyne
The grete hatred þat was betwix þem tweine
Thus for þeir ire and fals dissencion
All þe lordes all þe chyuallrie
Wer slayn of Grece and also of þe town
And rote of all myn auctor wyl not lie
Was fals alliaunce of fraternall envie
And the chefe grounde with al þe surplusage
Who so serche aright was vnkyndlie mariagé ·
The Quene Iocasta felt hir parte of þeine
To se hir chylde þe lele þat oþer
Hir son hir lorde blynde of his ien tweyne
Which to his sonnes was fadir and eke broþer
ffortune wolde it shuld be non oþer
Eke þarclas sistres which be in noumbre .iij.
Spanne so the threde at þeir natiuite ·
Eke when Iocasta stode þus disconsolate
And sawe of Thebes þe subuerson
The cuntre destryued was and desolate
The gentil blode shed of þat region
Withoute comfort or consolacion
Thof she myght no more be appeyrid
But of all hope fully despaired

¶Triste and hevy · pensyue and spake no worde
Hir sorow olde · and newe she can aduerte
Toke þe swerd of hym þat was hir lorde
With which Edippus smote Laius to þe herte

She to finish all hir peynys smerte
And fro the bodie hir soule to diuide

[R]ove hirself þurgh outhe oþer syde
¶She wery was of hir woful lyfe
Seyng of fortune þe grete frowardnes
Hough hir faame and sclaundir was so ryfe ·

[14v, col. b]
And of Edippus þe grete wrechidnes
Eke of hir sonnes þe grete vnkyndnes
All þeis thynge weyed on hir so sore
ffor distresse þat she liste lyve no more

¶Thus deth deuoureth with his bittyr gall
Ioy and sorowe avoide of all mercy
And with his darte he makith doun to fall
Riche and pore þem merkyng sodenlie
His vnware stroke smert indifferentlie
ffrom hym refusyng fauour and all mede
Of all estat es so lityl he takith hede

¶Bettyr is to die þen lyfe in wrechidnes
Bettyr is to die þen euer to lyve in peyn
Bettyr is an ende þen dedlie hevynes
Bettyr is to die þen euer in wo compleine
And wher as myschef doth at folkys disd[eyne]
By woful constreint of longe continu[n]ce
Better is to die þen lyve in such grevau[n]ce

¶Taketh example her of and a preve
Of kyng Edippus þat was so lange ago
Of Quene Iocasta þat felt so grete myschefe
And of þeir chyldren remembre eke also
Which euer lyved in Envie sorow and wo
ffortune alas duryng all þeir dayes
Was founde so frowarde to þem at all assayes

¶Touchyng Edippus processe fynde I noon
Whate ende he made in conclusiou
Saue Bochas writith hough þe kyng Creon
Cosyn and ayre by succession
Exilid hym cheynyd ferre oute of þe town
Wher he indurid in sorow myschef and drede
Tyll Antrapos \^Antrapos^ vntwynyd hys lyves threde
¶In this tragedie .iiiij. thynges ye may se
The pride of Iabin and fals presumpcion
Of Quene Iocasta the grete aduersite
Of kyng Edippus \pe inclinacion
To vices all and \pe diuision
Off the .ij. brethern pleyne vs assure
Kyngdoms diuidid may no while indure
¶ffor who sawe euer kyngdom or cuntre ·
Stonde in quiete of \peir possession
But yf \per were · right pees and equite
And iuste acorde withoute dissension
Voide of vntruth and fals collusion
Pleylynly declaryng by example of scripture
Kyngdamez diuided may no while indure ·
¶Princis princesses which haue \pe souereignete
Ouer \pe peele and dominacion
If ye list lyue longe in felicite
Cherish youre subiectes doth non extorcion
And aduertiseth of wysdom and \t reson
As his Tragedie doth in yow discure
Kyngdamez diuided may no while indure ·

De casu Thiestes filij philistenes Regis
BOchas \pe poet auctor of his booke
Hym purposyng togydyr to compile
Diuerse stories anon his penne he toke
Hym remembryng within a lityl while
In this Chapitle can directe his stile
To write \pe storie and began compendius

[15r, col. a]
[A]fforn all \per of Duke Theseus
¶[L]orde of Athenes a famus grete Cite
[R]ight stronge and myghty on euery syde
[B]ut at his bak Bochas did oon see
[W]ich cryed lowde and bad he shuld abide
[B]ochas \quod he fro \pe me liste not hyde
[M]y woful caas nor in no wyse spare
[M]y pitevus compleinte to \pe to declare
¶I am Thiestes besprende all with wepyng
[D]rownyd in teris as \hu maiste well se
[W]hilom son of the myghty kynge 3860
[P]hilistenes and borne also \par dieu
Of Quene Pellopia excellyng of beaut\e
[A]nd for \hu arte desy desirus for to write
Of peple vnhappie and \peire wo to indite
Then is alas my mortal adventure
Incomparable be sorrow shremounting
Of Quene Iocasta most wofull creature
Or of Edippus his fate ay compleynynge
ffor my compleinte hath noon endyng
But lastith euer and berith me witnes
No wo resemblre vnto myn heavynes

Alas my brother rote of vnkyndnes
Attrues · callid of treson sours and well
And founder oute of treson and falsnes
And all oher in fraude he doth precell
Who couert his hate more then I can tell
I supposyng of verrei Innocencie
In hym no malice deceit ne non offence

But as a brother shuld a brother truste
I trustyd hym of herte wyll and thought
By apparence non oher cause I wyste
ffor in his person’ I supposid nought
That euere he couth of fals a thync haue wrought
But who may sonner another man deceyve
Then he in whome no malice doth conceyve

I dempte of hym as of my true brother
Wenyng he hadde feithfull ben to me
I sawe no signe nor I know noon oher
In hym supposing no duplicate
But O alas who myght it euere be
Or who did euere in eny storie fynde
Bloode vnto bloode to be so vnkynd

I wyl passe ouer and tell the worthines
Touchynge the astates of oure progenitoures
Of oure kynred and the grete nobles
I telle no thing nor of oure predecessoures
Nor of my youth hough passid ben þe floures
I leue all þis and vnto mynde call
The wrechidnes þat am in fall
¶My broþer founde as fals occasion
Agayn me and gan a cause feine

[15r, col. b]
To banysh me oute ofoure region
And at me of hatred so disdeigne
Vpon me affermyng in certeine
In oure Kyngdam which callid is Missene
I shuld haue leyn by his wyf þe quene 3920
¶Thus he compassid falslie of malice
Hymself knowyng wele þat it was not so
Ay founde vnkynd and in his advise
Not lyke my broþer but my dedelie foo
And to incree grete parcell of my wo
By longe processe in his intencion
He imagenyd my destrucc
¶And his chefe cause was fals couetise
Touchyng þis thyng which he did on me feyne
And yit this Kyngdam trulie to devise
Shuld haue be departid of right betwen vs tweine
But agayn truthe he did so ordeigne
Me to imbesile oute of þat region
Hymself allon to haue possession
¶Yit in his hert he caste anoþer wyle
To myn vndoyng and desolacion
To þe place where he did me exile
Vndir a shadow of his fals collusion
To make a maner reuocacion
Of broþerhede shewyng a pretence 3930
Me to resorte agayn to his presence
¶To be acceptid as a broþer shulde
With full acorde styl with hym to byde
All Iniuarius of which afforn I tolde
On eyther forgete and set aside
That nothyng aftyr shuld oure loue diuide
But of oon wyll and oon intencioun
Lede all oure lyfe withoute diuisiou
¶Wher þe peple was ful gladde and light
Thurghoute Missene þe myghty region
And my resortyng foundyng euery wyght
Redy of hert and hole affeccioun
Me to receyve into þat noble town
And noon so redy by signes oute shewyng
To make me chere in soth as was þe kyng
¶Ther is no damage in comparisoun
That may be lykenyd by no resemblbaunce
To feynyd trouth and simulacioun
When fraude is hid with a fayre countenaunce
Pretendyng trouth outward by des deceyvaunce
And vndirneth of most fals intente
Of doublenes dare þe Serpent ·
¶Also vndir floures is shadowyd þe dragon
ffor to betraish by soden violence
Such folke as haue no suspicion
But trulie mene in þe pore Innocencie
Tyl they be caught dispurveid of defence
As is a fysh with baite of fals plesaunc[e]
The hoke not seen to bryng þem to mis[chaunce]
¶This sembleablie at myn home commyng
I was receyvid with euery circumstaunce
Lyk as halfe eire and broþer to þe kyng
And þe pretendyng as by countenaunce
That he hadde an inlie so grete plesaunc[ce]
Of my repayre of trouth he told s[o]
ffor reioysyng sayde he wolde go
¶Vnto his goddes to do summ obseruaunc[e]
ffor þis acord and humble sacrifice

[15v, col. a]
Made his ministers with faithfull intendaunce
To waite on me in all þeire beste wyse
Hit nedith not to tell or devise
Nor in bokys in writyng for te set
Halfe þe ioy he made when me met
¶ffirst hough frendlie he did me enbrace
Of hertlie gladnes within his h armys tweine
And hough for ioy þe terys on his face
fful entierlie gan down distill and e reyne
þat for my partie I couth me not restreyne
But þat I muste of freenship fraterioll
Wepe as did he in his estate royall
¶The wylde wolfe þat caste hym to devoure
The selie lambe which can no defens
Nor no helpe his selfe to socoure
So feble he his to make resistens
Which demith trouth of fals apparence
What wondir is it · þe fraude not conceivd
Thof such lambes vnwarlie be deceyvid
¶Thof þat roses at mydsomer be ful swet
\textit{Dat} vndirneth is hidde a ful sharpe spine
Som fresh floses haue a ful bittyr rote
And lothisom galle can sugir eke vndirmyne
In dredefull stormys \textit{pe} sunne emong doth shyne
And vndir a shadow of feynyd frenzied
\textit{Per} is no frenship so perilus for to drede ·
\textit{¶}Thus remembryng \textit{pe} faithful wordes stable
Of my bro\textit{her} \textit{hus} shewyd vnto me
At oure metyng \textit{pe} kyssyng amiable
The assyryng countenaunce of oure fraternite
But of\textit{t}yme men may beholde and se
That lillies grow emong \textit{pis} netlis thyk
And floure delice emong \textit{pe} wedys wyk
\textit{¶}This while I restyd in \textit{pe} kynes house
No\thityng coniectyng his dedlie cruelte
His old hatred was so venemus
And so odible to destroie me
Hymselfe to avenge he toke my chyldre the
And secretlie is it not a wondir
He cut \textit{peir} throttes with a knyfe asondre
\textit{¶}ffor he thought \textit{dat} it did hym goode
\textit{Det}em to dismembre into pecys small
And a vesel to gadyr \textit{in} \textit{peir} bloode
While \textit{pei} lay styll and lokyd on hym ful pale
This was his dede in a deserte vale
Within a cave \textit{dat} no man hym shuld aspie
Treson conspired of his fals innocencie
\textit{¶}This was \textit{pe} substance of his sacrifice
To sle my chyldren and do \textit{peir} throttes blede
I trowe \textit{pe} goddys \textit{perof} did agrise
Of his fals offryng when \textit{pei} toke hede
He did \textit{peir} membris a\textit{fter} roste and sethe
And with \textit{pis} viande moste abominable
He made me be served at \textit{pe} table ·
\textit{¶}In covert confis also \textit{hus} hit stode
To staunch my thirste \textit{burgh} his cruel vengeaunce
He made me vnknowe drynk \textit{peir} blode
Was not this thyng to goddes displesaunce
This dare I sey for demonstraunce
Vpon this dede withoute more obstacle
The sunne in hevyn shewyd a miracle
\textit{¶}Which sor agrisid myght not beholde
With his bemyss \textit{pe}ron to caste his sight
\textit{¶}for displesaunce his clerenes gan withholde
[A]nd for vengeaunce to withdrawe his light
[The] day turnyng for erroure into nyght
When I he shon brightist in his myd spere
Shrowyd his face and wold not appere

But alas vpon þis case horrible
That couth not imagine nor oþer thynk
On eny matier þat was so odible
Ete of þeir flesh þeir blood ek did I dryn[k]
Which so sore doth to myn hert synk

The circumstance for constreint discure

¶It nedith not to make rehersaile
Touchyng myn exile of all maner thyng
Of diuerse sorowys þat me did assaile
My wofull sighes my dolorus wakyng
My pouer nor I · hough I stode in drede
To lese my lyfe wher Bochas take hede ·

¶And remembre þall þe circumstancez
If euer þu sawe of high or lawe degre
More contrarie or more vnhappy chauncez
¶Pen þu herd remembred her of me
Wey in balaunce my sorowes and let se
If eny sorowe and mischefe vnrecurid
May countrepeyse I to þat I haue indurid
¶Myn vnfortunes I fonde þem ay so fell
Withoute fauour and socoure dispurveide
My broþer euer on me so cruell

¶Þat I ful ofte desyred to haue died
ffor to þis day my spirit hath ben coverid
With sorow and wo devoide of all refuge
Wherfor I pray O Bachas to be my luge ·
¶And þis writyng leve me not behynd
Nor in þi boke þu not disdeigne
Amonge þoo folke þat þu haue me in mynde
Which þat for sorow wepe waile and playne
And thus Thiestes rehersyng of all his peyn
Lyke as he wolde hymself on pecis rende
Made vnto Bochas of his tale an ende

¶Attreus aftyr with a ful pale chere
And of Enuy ful dede in his visage
Vnto Iohn Bochas he gan approche nere
Lyke as he hadde be fallen in a rage
And furiuslie all voyde in his language
Hough may this be þat lyke a man were wode
Thiestes hath his venom sowe abrode
¶And like a Rybaude falslie me accusid
Notwithstoundyng þat I full ee clerlie se
My infortunes which may not be refusid
So sor alas þei werke agayn me
And thof Thiestes fals and vntrue be
And vnto þe Bochas with a face pale
Agayn me hath forged her a tale ·
¶Which in effecte shal be found vntrue
If I haue space my compleint to declare
ffor I purpose to tell a tale newe
ffro poynte to poynte and for no man to spare
Hough he was rote of all my mortal care
And euen lyke as it is befall
Reherse þe begynnynge of my sorowez all
¶Whilom whan I reigned in Myssene
Of age lusty flouryng in my freshnes
With my wyfe Europa þat was Quene
Moste renomed þat tyme of fayrnes
Thiestes þen as ground of all falsnes
As a traytour his tyme did espie
Thurgh his false fraude and his flaterie ·
¶Compassyd a mene within my Cite
By sleight · wylez þat were incomparable
To corrupte my wyvys chastite ·

[16r, col. a]

[M]y bedde defylyng a thynge intollerable
[A]nd to þe goddys verrey abhominable
[V]syng the Quene þat by continuance
¶[S]he by hym hadde sonnes þ ij. or thre
[Ich]on brought forth in fals avoutre
[D]emyng þat þei hadde be
[My]n own children tyll þat I dide espie
[Ho]ugh þat þis swyne thurgh his fals lecherie
[Th]is Thiestes aftyr Europa
[La]y by his doughtyr callid Pellopia
¶[A]nd by processe forth a chylde she brought
[C]allid Egistus which when he com to age
[A]s saith Bochas ful grete treson he wrought
[F]or by his malice and his grete outrage
[D]estruyd was all holy þe linage
[O]f Tantalus which by his lyvyng
[In] Phrigia reignyd as lorde and Kynge
¶[B]ut þis Egistus of whom I spake beforne
[Fa]lslie bygethe · myn auctour writeth þe same
[O]f Pellopia anon as he was born
To hyde þe sclaundir and also þe defame
Of Thiestes and for to saue his name
When þat he was but a day of age
He was outhe caste to bestys ful savage
To be devourid þe storie is wel couth
A mylche goote godde liste for hym provide
To fostre hym in his tendir youth
He nyght nor day lyggyng by hir syde
Vnto þe tyme he did abyde þat `he` did growe in age
Þen to þe courte he holdith his passage
Within þe forest þus he did abide
As vnknown to euery maner wyght
Where he herde abydyng in howsholde
Of his kynred and agayn all right
Thiestes was presumtuous and bolde
By his kynred and agayn all right
Thiestes was presumtuous and bolde
By his deceites compassid manyfolde
With Europa my wyfe to haue ado
And on Pellopia begate a child also
Which was hymself as he did vndirstond
By euidencez · many mo þen oon
Wherfore of malice falslie toke on holde
On me his vnclle to avengid be anon
ffor Thiestes chefest of all my foon
Myn own broþer made Egistus blinde blieue
To make a swerde thurghoute my hert deyne
Thus by this mordre conspired by þe treson
Vn Attreus liggyng pale and dede
Cam Thiestes to haue possession
And set a crown vniustlie on his hede
He nethir hadde conscience nor drede
Routhles to se my woundes blede
With this þat he myght in my lande sucede
This same Egistus ful falslie in his lyfe
As a yonge braunch sponghe outhe of treson
Lay by Chimestra which was þe wyfe
Of the noble worthi Kyng Agamenon
Leyyng a Seege to noble Troye þe town
And þis Egistus which is a thyng no feyre
Mordred hym also in Grece at his repyre
Werfor O bochas of hert I pray þe
Whiez of þis stories is now moste terrible
Of Edippus Iocasta · or of me
Tell on anon yf it be possible
Which of theis sorowes is founde moste peynible
Of þeban breþern moste full of wo and tene
Or of vs tweine breþerne of Missene
I am a know as for my partie
Of vengeaufch I did a cruell dede
I slowe his childyrn of malice and Envie
And rostyd them when þat þei were dede
Onlie bycause yf þu list take heede
That he begate þem as rote of all þis stryfe
Vpon Europa which þat was my wyfe

Such hatefull thynges yche man shuld lothe
Thus may I sse we be vnhappy bothe
He fyrste by trespas of fornicacion
Doon by the Quene within my region
And I disclaundird on the òper syde
Of hasty vengeaunce to be an homicide

My bedde he fyllyd by his avoutrie
To godde and man a thyng moste detestable
This interchaungyng yf it be commendable
Eche was desirus thurgh oure vnhappy chaunce
And ¿f I of malice and fals melancolie
Slough his chyldren and seruyd þem at þe table
Vpon òper for to do vengeaunce

Oure grete hatered moste odius found at all
Oure cruell dedys wrought on ethir syde
Senec rehersith þem in especiall
In his Tragedies and þer he doth diuide
Oure compleyntes and malice and oure pride
Oure fatall ende in sorow and myschef endid
When Antropos oure lyvys threde hath twynyd

When Iohn Bochas fully hadde espyed
Of þeis iij. bre ðern þe accusacius accusacions
And hough þei hadde maliciuslie replied
Iche agayn òper in þeir dissencions
He gan to dulle to here þeir mocions
Put vp his penne ìnd wrote no more a worde
Of þeir furie nor of þeir fals discorde

This Tragedie sheweth a figure
A maner Image and also a liknes
Hough contrarie it is vnto nature
Bloode vnto bloode to shewe vnkyndnes
This woffull storie can bere full well witnes
All such debates ben as ye shal fynde
Hatfull to godde and contrarie to kynde

ffor þer is no more dreedeful aventure
Then in kynred to fynde frowardnes
ffor ^Nor^ no damage ñ more perilus to endure
Then in frenships when þer is straungenes
A maner ex parte by example I dare expresse expresse
To se the tre · debate agayn the rynde
To godde were hatfull and contrarie to kynde

|Euery beste and euery creature
Loveth his semblable of kynd right as I gesse
And when vntrouth tweine herties insure
Ondepartid of verrey parfitnes
It were a vicius froward ouersidnes
Their love to vnknyt to louse or vnbynde
Hateful to godde and contrarie to kynde

|Princes princesse doth youre bysys curefor yowe to avoide stryfe fraude and doublenes
Remembre yow vpon þe vnhappy eure
Of þeis .ij. brethim and of þeir wrecchidnes
And of þeir both malicius wylfulnes
And þeir stryves · haue þis well in mynde
To godde was hatfull and contrarie vnto kynd[e]

[17v, col. a43]
Exhortacio moralis ad principes ·
All þat so be in euery maner age
ffolkys ben diuere of þeir condicions
To turne · plie · and chaunge in þeir corage
On oþer partie with soden mocions
And for to bowe by transmutacions
With euery wynd as doon þe vnstable levys
Which hange on trees in forestes and in grevez

|But off all chaunges is moste to drede
And moste ferfull is þat variance
When þat princes which may þe peple lede
Be founde vnstable in þeir governaunce
ffor þeir nobles and þeire puissaunce
Assureth hem by a maner forme
Whateuer þem liste to accomplissh and perfornce

|To comyn profite þei may moste avayle
When þei be rulid by wisdom and reson
And to þe peple þei may moste disavaile
When þei lake wit and discretion
Þus betwen tweine in euery region
þe peple drawith who þat can discern
To goode or badde as princes þem gouerne

|þei may not be hasty nor soden
But do all þing by gode advisment
[Ke]þei þem from tonges þat partid be on tweine
[Na]þe be to rakill to yeue no judgement
[A]nd of no folkys when þey be absent
[Le]ue no talez nor yeue no credence
[Tyll] þat þe partie may com to audience

[17v, col. b]

Somwhile hath happid hough þat slowe credence
Hath in som cas be founde full noyus
But hasty credence I dare say in sentence
A thousand folde is more perilus
ffor vnavised all haste is odius
ffor haste full oft for lakkyng of resoun
Of mych peple hath be destruccioun

Ther is no damage þat men can purpose
More to be dredee nor more lamentable
Þen a prince his eres to onclose
To euery tale and to euery fable
It is a token þeire hertes be not stable
When þei to flaterers þeieres so applie
Namlie to such þat can well forge and lie
ffolkes ben diuerse · som fals som trewe
In diuers studies do þeire bysynes
Som can labour to fynde oute talez newe
And som for lucre can maintene well falsnes
And holde vp querels againe rightuesnes
Pretendyng trouth vn dir a fals intent ·
To hyndre folkes which þat ben Innocent

Men to suppose it were a grete folie
þat folkes shuld in their opinion
Speke or pronounce all on o partie
Or holde o wey in þeir entencioun
ffor sembleablie as þer is diuisioun
Of corages of high and lowe degre
So is þer trulie a grete diuersite

In rehersaile or reporte of a thyng
ffor to his parte yche man is favoruable
Som man can say well in his rehersysng
Som man is double and som deceyvable
Som men say trouth and som be variable
Wherfore a prince of right as it doth seme
Shuld well examine afforn or þat he deme

ffor þer is no more dredeful pestilence
Þen is a tonge þat can flater and fäge
ffor with his cursid crokid violence
He infectith folke of euery maner age
Woo to tonges froward of þeir language
And woo to tonges · fals · furius and woode ·
Which of no persone neuer sey goode
¶Bochas rehersith it is well sittynge
¶at euer man othir do commend
And say ye best alway in reportying
ffor in wele sayyng no man may offende
Wher men say well godde wyll his grace sende
Afyr men be · men muste þeir pris vpreyse
Afyr þeir merites allow[e] þem or dispreise
¶But wher a thyng is v[ty]rlye vnknowe
Lete no man þer be hasty of sentence
ffor rightful Iuges sittynge on a rowe
Of þeir wysdome and of þeir high prudence
Wyl of trouth haue fyrste som evidence
I mene such as governd be by grace
Or eny dome forth by þeir lyppys passe
¶A prince shulde assemble thynges tweyne
Within hymself afforn ful prudentlie
Sett hys domes faste with a myghty cheyne
On of þe soule reson for þat partie
Prudence choos outhe and right for þe bodie
And between both or he yeve a sentence
To counsel call trouth and goode conscience
¶ffyrste to considre with euery circumstance
And diligentie do þeron his laboure
Off discrecion to take þe balaunce
And fyrste wey outhe who is þe accuser

[18r, col. a]
And whedir he for falsnes or fauour
In his processe liste to procede
Hereof a prince muste of right take hede
¶He muste also considre by and bye
What þat he is which to hym is accusid
And whedir þe accuser be frende or enimie
Or whedir he shall be acceptid or refusid
In his actes þis muste afforn be musid
And whedir he be by reporte of his name
A man wele noysid or sclaundyrd by diffame
¶Yf Theseus hadde þus ben advisid
And considred of reson þe maner
He had not so hastylie devisid
His sonnes deth lyke as ye shall leere
ffor yf þer hadde assemblid ben in fere
In his persone prudence and reson
He shulde haue seen in his discrecion
¶By knowlegyng of longe experience
Of his wyfe þe grete vnstedfastnes
Which thurgh his frowarde compassid eloquence
Was redy euer to bryng folke to distresse
And in his wrytyng Bochas berith witnes
Of þeir nature women can flater and fage
And be somwhile to copius of þeir langage
¶ Also of wysdome þis duke Theseus
Shulde haue considird aforn his intente
Hough þat his son callid Ipolitus
Of all onclennes was founde ay Innocent
And hough þat he of custome made his went
Into forestes duryng his yonge age
To hunte at bestes which þat were sauage
¶ Rennyng on foote as shal vndistonde
On hylles valeis to eschewe idilnes
Modir of vices with his bowe in hand
Diane to serve of huntyng chefe goddes
Somtyme to haue he did his bysynes
Eke vnto fysshynge he gretlie was applied
So þat his youth was neuer vnoccupied
¶ Thus he lyvyd in wodys solitarilie
And of Venus despysid the seruise
Among women he wolde neuer tary
Theire feleship he did allwey despise
ffor he dempte by sentence of þe wyse
Who touchith pycyb by assay men may wel se
It fayleth not he shal defylid be
¶ Ipolitus sawe well þis thynge beforne
Kepte at large from such contrariuste
His grene youth he wold no wey haue lorne
To be defowlid for lak of chastite
ffor he levyd euer in virginite
And neuer did Bochas wyl not varie
Nothyng þat was vnto godde contrarie
¶ Thus of intent he kepte his bodie clene
Duryng his lyfe both in thought and dede
Whos modir was Ipolita þe Quene
Of Amazones in Ouide ye may rede
But o alas þat Theseus toke hede
ffor a tale of phedra ful of gyle
Withoute gylt his son to exhile
¶ Aftyr whos deth som poettis seyn
Hough þat diana for his chastite
Restorid hym vnto lyve agayn
By Esculapius and gaue hym liberte
In hir forestes to hunte and to go fre
ffor which restoryng as write Ouidius
As twys a man men calle hym virbius

[18r, col. b]

But Bochas here I not what he doth mene
Maketh in his booke an exclamacion
Agayns women þat pite is to seene
Seith hough þeir lyfe þeir generacion
Bene of nature double of condicion
And callith þem eke diuerse and vnstable
Bestis resembling þat been insaciable

He menyth of women þat been born in Crete
Nothyng of them þat dwelle in þis cuntre
ffor women here all doublenes þei lete
And haue no tache of mutabilite
þei loue no chaunages nor no duplicite
ffor þeir husbondes in causes small or grete
Whateuer þei seyn þei can not counturplete

Blessid be godde þat hath þem made so meke
So humble and feithfull of þeir condicions
ffor þof men wolde cause and matier seke
Agayn þeir paciens to fynd occasions
They haue refusd all contradiccions
And them submittyd þurgh þeir gouernaunce
Onlie to meknss and womanlie suffraunce

I speke off all · I speke not off oon
þat ben professid vnto lowlines
þey may haue Mouthes but langage haue þei noon
All true husbondes can bere herof wites
ffor weddid men I dare right well expresse
þat haue assayed and haue experience
Best can recorde of wyfelie paciens

ffor as it longeth to men to be sturdie
And somwhat frowarde as of þeir nature
Ryght so can women suffre pacientlie
And all wronges humble endure
Men shuld attempte no maner creature
And namelie women þeir meknes to repreve
Which may well suffre while no man þem greve

Euerych þing resortith to his kynde
As Bochas writeth somtyme of þe eyre
And yit who serchith by process he shall fynde
þat trouth and vertue may neuer fade of chere
ffor rightuesnes wyl allway shyne clere
Throuth falsnes in what þey haue to doon
They may no while assemble in oon person
ffeyth and flattery þei be contrarie
They may togyddyr holde no soioure
Nor simples chiche þat can not varie
May neuer acorde with a baratoure
ffor Innocence with a losenger
Nor chastite can not hirself applie
Hir to conforme vnto no ribaudie

Crafte and nature sewe þe profession
By þe ordnaunce seet in þeir corage
And yche man foloweth his condicion
As of stokke þe frute hath his tarage
Pylgrymes may go full ferre in þeir passage
But I dare sey hough ferre þat euer þeir goon
þer bide som tarage of þat þeir com frome

Bochas maketh an Introduccion
In this Chapitl of the high nobles
That princes haue in þeir possession
And by a maner lawghyng doth expresse
Hough for to sette þem in grete surnes
They haue seruauntes vpon them abydyng
And day and nyght men of armes wayty[n]

That no man may entre but yf he haue l[icence]
The froward portes stondying at þe gat[e]
Put men abake by sturdie violence
It were full harde agayn to debate
Ther wache is kepte both erly and late ·

[18v, col. a]
And þem to assure on nyghtes when þei slepe
The chaumbirleyns þeir dores streytlie kepe

Men assigned þeir metes to assay
To taste þeir wynes leste þer were tresoun
Such mortall dedes þeis lordes doth affray
So is þeir surnes meynt with suspccion
Who fedith þem gladlie þat fereth þem of poysn
But pore folke fraunchysid f[om] from such drede
Such as godde send with myrth þe þem fede

But poetis þat write tragedies
Their compleyng is all of high estates
Rehersyng euer þeir pitevus lopardies
Their soden chaunges and þeir wylfull fates
Their diuision and þeir mortall debates
And ay conclude þeir dites who can rede
Highest astates stonde moste in drede

And grownd and rote of all þis mortal trouble
As writeth Bochas and berith pleynlie witnes
Be þeis liers with þeir tonges double
Þemself ay inforsyng to oppresse
With whome flaterie is a chef maistres
And werste of all to þeir dreful sentence
Is when princes ben hasty of credence

Hasty credence is rote of all erroure
A frowarde stepmodre of all goode counsaile
Grounde of grete hyndryng a dreful deceyver
ffayre oft of face · with a foule perilus tayle
Gladlie concludyng with ful grete disavaile
Next neighbour vnto repentance
To all þat truste and haue in þeir plesaunce

Princis considreth hough in euery age
ffolkes be diuerse of þeir condicion
To plie and turne and chaunge in þeir corage
Yit is þer noon to myn opinion
So dredefull chaunge and transmutacion
As chaunge of princes to yeve a lugement
Or hasty credence without avisement

It is well founde a passyng grete damage
Knowe and experte in euery region
Thof a tale haue a fayre visage
It may include ful grete decepcioun
Hid vndir sugre gall and foule poysnon
With a fresh face of double intendiouse
Yit yeveþ no credence without avisement

Lete folkes all be ware of þeir langage
Kepe þeir tonges from oblocucion
To hyndre or hurte by no maner of outerage
Preserue youre lippes from all detraccioun
ffro chaumpartie and contradiccion
ffor lest þat fraude were founde in their entente
Ne yeveþ no credence without avisement

Princis princesses of noble and high parage
Which haue lordship and dominacion
Voide them aside þat can flater and fage
ffro tonges þat haue a tarage of treson
Stopeth youre erys from þeir bitter sown
Beth circumspecte not hasty but prudent
And yeveþ no credence without avisement

De casu Alitheee Regine Callidonia
When Bochas had shewyd his sentence
And declarid his opinion
Agayn them þat wer hasty of credence
[H]e gan anon make a digression
[ff]ro þat matier and of intencioun
[To] serche oute mo his purpos to continue

[18v, col. b]
That were doun caste and hyndird by fortune
And as hym thought he sawe a companie
Of many worthie whiche to hym did appere
And amponge all fyrste he did espye
Quene Alithea as she cam hym nere
Al bedewyd hir face · and eke hir chiere
With salt teres þat pite was to seene
Which whilom was Callidonie the quene

She was þe doughter of kyng Thesteus
Weddid to oon Callidonie þe kyng
Of chere and face apperyng ful pite
And as write Bochas wherof he toke hede
Blak was hir habite and al torent hir wede

A son she hadde Melleaug he hight
In erthe þer noon fayrere for to se
Ryght wel fauoured in euery manys sight
And as I fynde at his natuiute
Present were þe fatal sistres · iij ·
With þeir rokkes and gan to spynne faste
And toke a bronde and into fyre it caste

And in þat oure þis was hir langage
Touchyng þis chylde we ful acordid be
And haue disposid þe terme eke of his age
The space eke concluid of his destynye
As longe tyme whoso liste to see
Tyl this bronde emonge þe colys rede
Be ful consumid into ashes dede

But when Alithea aspyed þeir entente
And conceyvid þe fyne of þeire sentence
She rose hir vp and þe bronde she hente
Oute of þe fyre with ful grete diligence
Squenchid anon þe fyres violence ·
The dome of Parchas she gan þer disobeie
The bronde reseruyng vndir lok and kay

Touchyng þe fader of þis Melleauger
Oeneus þus of hym I rede
Hough he went and sought nye and ferre
Goddes and Goddessez whoso liste take hede
In hope oonlie to haue grete nede
ffor to þem all poetis þus devyse
Saue to diane he did sacrifice
Wherof she myght in Indignacioun
Caste she wolde on hymn avengid be
Sent a bore into his region
fful sausage and ful of crueltie
Which devourid þe frute of many a tre
And destroyed his cornys and his vynes
That such scarste of vitale and of wynes
4900
| Was in his lande vpon euery syde |
| Þat þe peple of necessite |
| Compellid were amonge to prouide |
| Som mene wey to saue þe cunte |
| And at þe laste þei condescendid be |
| Þat Melleaugor lusty of his corage |
| Shuld chese with hymself fresh and yong of age |
This dredful bore myghtly to inchake
And forth þei went ichonn devoyde of drede
With rounde spers þei gan hym to manace
But Melleauger made fyrrst his sidys rede
And with a swerð þen smote of his hede
Wherof þe cunte was glad faynn
And in þis wyse þe tusky bore was slaynn

[19r, col. a]
Somme bookys tell of þis huntying
[þ]at a ladie which was born in Arge
[Cl]allid Athlanta douther to þe kyng
[To] sle þe boore toke on hyr þe charge
[An]d with an arowe þag made his woundes large
[Ek]e in Ouide like as it is founde
[Be]cause þat she gave þe fyrrste wounde
[M]elleaug an for a memorie
[As] he þat was hir own chose knyght
[Ge]afe hir þe hede in tokyn of þe victorie
[Bu]t his tweine vncles agayn all skyl and right
[R]aft þe hede of verrey force and myght
[Ha]vng despite þat she in hir advise
[O]f þis victorie shulde bere away þe pric
[With] which Iniurie Melleauger was wroth
[Ag]ayn þem prouldie gan disdeigne
[Pu]lled oute a swerð and vpon þem he goth
[An]d þurgh his manhode he slough his vncles tweine
[And] aftyr þat he did his bysy peyne
To take þe hede and with ful humble intent
To Athlanta agayn it to presente
[Oon] of his vncles was callid flexippus
A manlie knyght and but yonge of age
That o\pen er bro\pen er named Theseus
But when \pen \peir Sistre herd of \pen s outrage
Hough \pen ei were slayn she gan in hir visage
Wex dede pale alas for lakke of bloode
When she aspyed \pen cause hough \pen it stode
\¶ She hadde no matier godde to be fayn
Quene Althea to stonde and to beholde
Hir brethern tweine of hir son slayn
At \pen huntyng of which be forn
I tolde ffyrste thyng es tweine she gan peyse and vnfolde
Of hir brethern \pen loue and nygh kynred
And of hir son \pen hasty cruel dede
\¶ And remembryng she castith in a balaunce
Of hertlie wo \pen she did indure
Thought yf she dide vpon \pen deth vengeau
To sle hir son it were agayn nature
Thus longe in a dwere she did indure
Hir dedlie sorowe peysyng eu er ydeel
e
Whedir \pen at she shal be tendre or cruell
\¶ This tendir y mene hir son for to spare
Or punish \pen deth of hir bre\pen ern tweine
\pen counfortles all destitute and bare
In languishyng she indureth forth hir peyn
And remedie can she non ordeigne
Saue fayn she wolde avenge hir yf she may
But \pen cam nature forth and sayde nay
\¶ It was hir son all kyndlie right
On whom caste avengid for to be
To women all an outhlie straunge sight
\pen a modir devoide of all pite
Shulde sle hir chylde so merciles pardie
Nay nay not so nature wyl not assent
ffor yf she did ful sore shuld she repent
\¶ But oallas all fatall purveaunce
Kepith his course as sunme clerkys sayn
But \pen wrytyng of doctours in substance
And \pen diuines replie \pen er agayn
And afferme \pen \pen opinion is veine
Of \pen \pen truste on fate or destynye
ffor godde above hath \pen souereignete
\¶ And of fortune \pen power may restreyne
To saue or spyllyke as folke discerue
Agayn his wyll \pen ei may nothyng ordeigne
Of necessite what course \pen concerue
But \pen matier all holy I reserue
Vnto diuines to termine and conclude
Which nat perteineth vnto folkys rude ·

[19r, col. b]
But Althea of Callidonie quene
Gan sore muse and hyng in a balaunce
 Hir breñern deth · when she did þem seene
þen was she mevid anon to do vengeaunce
Vpon hir son by ful grete displesaunce
But as poetis liste to compile
Nature made hir withdrawe hir hande a while

¶Thus atwen Ire and atwen affeccion
She helde hir longe on nowthir partie stable
Tyl þat she caught in hir opinioun
A sodein rancure which made hir be vengeable
And hasty wrath is not commendable
Agayn hir son with hir cursid hande
Oute of þe chest to take þe fatal bronde
¶And sodenlie she caste it in þe fyre ·
And cruel wex agayn all womanhede
To execute hir venemus desire
The fatal bronde among þe flames brode
Consumid was into asshes dede
And furiuslie in hir melancolie
The vengeaunce doon þus she can to crie

¶O ye parchas froward sistres thre
Which of yow kepen þe librarie
And of children at þeir natiuite
Waite þe sentence which þat must varie
Wherso it be · welful or contrarie
Vpon his domes takyng allwey hede
Hough þat ye shal dispose þat fatall threde ·
¶Thow Cloto takys þi rokke on hand
And aftyr lachesis aftyr doth begynne
By grete advise who can vndrestond
The threde on length to drawe and to spynne
But when þe spirit shal fro þe body twynne
þu Autropos deste þi cruell peyne
fful frowardlie to parte þe threde in tweynn
¶I may wel pleyn on such departison
Not for a day but alas foreuer
Ye haue vntwynyd and made diuision
Of my þij þe breñern and causid them disseeuer
þat þem alyve I shal se neuer
And I of haste alas why did I so
To avenge þeir deth haue slayn my son also

¶O ye þe thre doughtres of herebus þe fell
Whos outhlie modre was þe blak nyght
And all youre kynred and linage lie in helle
And for to avenge þe wronge and grete vnright
Which þat I haue acompassid in youre sight
I wyl with yow perpetuellie compleynn
Lyke my deserte endure sorow and peyne ·
And while she gan with hirself þus stryfe
Vpon hir sorowes þurghoute hir herte ryve
She made a swerd þurghhoute hir herte ryve
Of hirself · her she was so recles
And Bochas aftyr among all þe pres
Saw as hym thought with a full hidduous chere
Dede of visage Hercules appere
¶ Whos fadre was lubiter þe grete
His modir daughter of kyng Amphitrian
Callid Alcumena somtyme born in Crete
And as poetis rehersen on by on
So excellent was þere neuer noon
To speke of conquest of victorie and fame
Her in þis worlde þat hadde so grete a n[ame]
¶ Dredful of loke he was and right terrib[e]
His berde eke blake which hyng ful low ad[on]
And of his here as bristill was horrible
His roobe also ful mervelus of faccion
Was of a skynne of a fers lion
Which from his bak of verrey force h[e rente]
Within a forest allon whan he wen[te]
¶ In his hande he bare a mace of stel[e]
Which to beholde was wondir large [and huge]

[19v, col. a]
By apparence as Bochas felt well
Dempte of reson as a rightful Iuge
That Hercules hadde to his refuge
Wysdom with force for to increce his fame
All bestys wylde for to make þem tame
¶ And vnto Bochas he gan lowde crie
Take right gode hede for it is no fable
I for my merites to speke of Chyualrie
And nobles triumphes and moste commendable
To be preferrid moste worthy and moste able
Which haue accomplishid all þat may excell
Thurgh hygh prowes þat eny tonge can tell
¶ Eke of my byrth in heuyn ful yore age
ffully coneyvid my constellation
Myghty Ioue saide vnto Iuno
On such a day in such a regioun
On shal be born most mighty of renown
Noblest of nobles both in were and pess
Of whom þe name shal be Hercules

The which dome when Iuno vndirstode
Of Iubiter conceyvyng þe entent
And knewe my fate shulde be so goode
To lucina hir messanger she sente
But som say hough doun hirself she wente
To þis Goddes · Goddes of chyldyng
And hir besought to graunte hir · hir asking

That she wolde frome Hercules translate
The influence of his natiuite
Helpe to reforne his fame and eke his fate
And graunte it holy to yonge Euriste
And þat lucina present wolde be
The same oure by Jupiter providid
It p to possede all hoole and vnveided

Thus to þe modre of þis Euriste
Iuno þe Goddes grauntid his fauoure
Therbe disposing þat he should be
Myghty of puissance lyke an Emperoure
But of his nobles þe conquest and labour
And of his manhode þe proves and pursute
By Hercules was fully execute

This Hercules hadde þe travaile
And Euristeus bare away þe name
Eke Ercules faught in plate and mayle
And hygh emprisez proudlie did ataine
But þe reporte of his noble fame
To Euristeus was finallie ascribed
Thus of his thanke was Hercules depryved

fful ofte in armes som doth right well
And oft causith þat þe felde is wonne
And of anoþer þat þe neueradele
The pryse outespredith like as shene sonne
And oft it happith þat he which best hath ronne
Dothe not þe spere lyke his desert possede
Where fals fauour yevith ylke man his mede

ffame in hir palace haue trompes mo þan oonn
Som of golde þat yeveth a ful fresh sown
Som hath laude þat deseueth noon
And som haue ben full worthie of renoun
Nothyng preferres be to commendacion
As by reporte of states high and lowe
So frowardlie ffame hir trompe hath Iblowe
Touchyng armes þe pore nor the riche
Be not ichon of hert coragiōs
Nor all men may not be elyke
Nor of þer name egal or gracius
[And þof þe pore haue victoriōs
[Of] aventure to do full wele som day
[Of]hir haue pynchid to take his thank away
[Sum sl]eth þe deere with an hoked arowe
[Whos] parte is noon yit of þe venison

[19v, col. b]
On beete þe busk anoþer hath þe sparow
And all þe byrdes in his possession
Oon draweth his nette vpe in ryvers vp and do[n]
With sondrie baytes caste oute lyne and hook
And hath no parte of all þat euere he toke
[And euidence her of ye may se
fful notable to be put in memorie
Of Hercules and of Euriste
ffor Hercules gate ay þe victorie
And Euristeus receyvid hath þe glorie
Thus þeir palme partid was on tweine
That on reyoysyd þat oþer þ bare þe payne
Euristeus was prince of Athene
Sone and eyre by descent of line
Vnto þe kyng þat callid was Cici[ne]
Vndir whos might as Bochas doth deter[mine]
Hercules thurgh knyghtlie discipline
Profited so ^moste^ manlie and moste wyse
þat from all oþer he bare away þe pryse
[But o alas þat euere it shulde befall
So noble a knight so manlie so notable
þat eny spot shuld his prise apalle
Or cause his corage for to be vnsable
Which is a thyng doolful and lamentable
ffrom his knyghthode which is a thyge to straunge
þat euere a woman shuld his hert change
[I wyl excuse bycause þeir nature
Is to change hertes and corages
Agayn þeir nature no force may indure
ffor þeir flaterie and sugred fayre language
Lyke Sirens fresh of þeir visages
ffor to enchaunte of princis þe nobles
Mo þen Hercules can þeirof witnes
[This Hercules astonyd and ashamyd
Vnto Bochas shewyd his presence
Sayd alas my knyghthode is defamyd
By a ful fals amorus pestilence
So sore constreynyd by a mortall violence
Wherby alas my manhode was applied
By sleight of woman oppressid and maistred

\[ To take þeir habit and cloth me in þeir wede \\
To shaue my berde · and force my visage \\
With oynementes agayn all manhode \\
To make it sowple and chaunge my langage \\
And to compleyn more of myn outerage \\
Vpon my fyngyrs fyve twys tolde \\
I hadde rynges richelie wrought o[f] golde \\

\[ Thus was my corage chaungid feminyne \\
ffor loue of oon callid Iole \\
Of condicions þof she were serpentine \\
Me þought she was so fayre onn to se \\
þat all my ioy was with hir for to be \\
And þat þe non shuld aperceyve my trespas \\
I chaungid both habit looke and face \\

\[ And was a woman outewarde in apparence \\
Of intente to haue more liberte \\
To vse my lustes and haue experience \\
Of appetites þe which þat vnlawful be \\
Wherof þe selaundir reboundith vpon me \\
þat I dare say myn outeragius trespas \\
Doth all my knyghthode and prowes deface · \\

\[ Wherfor o bachas I pray þe take hede \\
ffor to descriye in termys pleynlie and clere \\
Myn infortune right as it was in dede \\
þat when òper conceyven in maner \\
On myn onhappes contagius for to here \\
They may be example of me do þeir peyn \\
ffrom vicius lyfe þeir hertes to restreyne \\
ffor þeis foolys þat all wisdom diffyse

[20r, col. a]

\[ And be contrarius to vertuus discipline \\
May yeve example to folkys þat ben wyse \\
[A]nd be to þem a lanterne of doctrine \\
[V]ices to eschewe and prudentlie decline \\
[ff]ro fleshlie lustys for it is taught in scolis \\
[B]at wyse men ben al day ware by foles \\

\[ When Bochas hadde conceyvid þe compleint \\
Of Hercules in his apperyng \\
And hough nobles by women was atteinte \\
[T]hurgh his pitevus disordinat lyvyng
He thought anon hymself remembryng
His vices all and vertues lefte behynde

Considre also it was impertinent
Outhir by langage to write agayn al right

The fame amenissh of so noble a knyght
Or to distres many maner sight

His glorius prowes sith poetis for his werres
Reyson his renoun so high aboue þe sterres

ffor he was both knight and philosophir
And for his strength callid a geaunte
ffor comyn profite he gan eke proudlie profer
Of manlie corage yf þerto felle graunte
To entre into Egipte to sle þer þe Geaunt
Callid Busiris which of full fals intent
Slough all straungers þat thurgh his kyngdam went

ffor vndir a colour of liberalite
Vnto his place he gladlie wold call
Straungers ichon þat com þurgh his cuntrre
And solemnelie receyve them oon and all
And lyke a kynge both in chambr and hall
Make þem such chere in al maner thyng
As perteynyd to a worthy kyng

But while his gestys lay onyght in slepe
This fals Tiranne in ful cruel wyse
Mordrid them ichon or þei toke kepe
And aftar þat þis was eke his gyse
With þeir blode to make a sacrifice
To Iupiter godde of þat cuntrre
Of holo hole intente to ples his deite

Pat in his kingdam of frutes and of greyne
He laude þat increce by grete habundaunce
Doun from hevyn he wolde send þem reyne
This mene he made and þis fals chevesaunce
To mordir and sle he had so grete plesaunce
ffor all þing hym thought it did hymm goode
To mordir his gestes þe and to shede þer blode

But when þis mordir of Burises was couth
Þat no straunger myght passe his lande in pees
This manlie knyght yit flourying in his youth
This noble famus þis worthy hercules
Amonge þer put hymself in prees
And lyke a geste outward in shewyng
Cam to þe place of Burises þe kynge

Rebukyd hym of his grete outerage
Don to his gestys by grete violence
And for to make pesible þat passage
And for to avenge his importable offence
And of his mordre to make a recompence
This Hercules slough Burises in dede
And toke þe blode which he did blede
¶Offyrd it vp toDate Jupiter to plese
ffor his victorie hym to magnifie
And all Egipte þus was set in ese 5260
þeir lande þeir frutes gan also to multiplie 5261
And to habound by influence of reyne 5263
Which affortyme of vitaile was barenn 5264
Theire greyne encrece aboute on ichte partie 5262

[20r, col. b]
¶Anoþer Geaunt callid Antheus
Kyng of libie and governde all þat lande
Whom Hercules moste strong and coragius
Whilom outerayed and slough hym with his hand
ffor as þei wrastlid by experience he fonde
Touchyng the erthe  þis geaunt it is true 5270
His force his myght did allway renewe
¶But when hercules þe maner did aspye
Hough his strength renuyd agayn so ofte
Þer agayns he shope a remedie
High in the eyre he peysid hym vp alofte
And with his armes harde and nothyng softe
Bak and boon so sore he did enbrace
Þat he fell dede befor hym in þat place 5280
¶But som bookys of þis geaunt tell
Within his kyngdom who did hym assaile
He wolde of newe his chiualries compell
Ofte agayn to mede hym in bataile bataile
And in þis wyse ful selde he did faile
To afforce of newe as folkys shal vnrestonde
His strength his myght all enmys to withstonde 5290
¶But Hercules of high discrecioun
The felde on hym manlie to recure
Hadde hym be so sleight oute of his region
And as þei met þer of aventure
þe sayde Athens Antheus myght not indure
But was discomfitid by Hercules anon
Maugre his myght he and his men ichonn
¶Aftyr þis conquest Hercules is goonn
ffor exercise his prowes for to vse
Agayn þe myghty stronge Gereonn
Kyng of ffayn of Mellege and Ebuse
The which tiraune myght hym not excuse
That all his laboure as poetis do compile
Was fro þis realmes his peples to exile
His tirannie ne myght not longe indure
ffor Hercules þe noble worthi knyght
Made vpon hym a grete discomfitoure
And slough þe tiraune as þei met in fight
And aftyr þat he thurgh his grete myght
Of high prowesse and magnanimite
Slough Cerberus with his hedyes thre
The famus Bulle of þe lande of crete
Which þat destroyed all þat regioun
He slough also when þei did mete
And in Nemea he slough also a fers lioun
And for a record of his high renoun
Of manlie force his skyn awey he toke
And to his bodie a cote þerof he shope
To all his ennemies to shew hym moste dredefull
þerfor he werid þat hiduus garment
And for he was neuer in armes founde dull
But euer elike fresh in his intente
Into a mounten he made anon his wente
Callid Erimantus and þer in his passage
He slough a bore moste wylde and most savage
Besyde a ryuer callid Stiphaus
Of furius byrdes he slough a ful grete n[oumbre]
Within þe kyngdom of kyng Phineus
All þe cuntre for þei did encombe
ffor with þeir shadowe and contagius vmb[re]
On sedes or frutes whereuere þei alight
All was deuourid in euery mannes si[ght]
Vpon þe mountein callid Auentine
Which is not ferre from Rome þe c[ite]

Which is not ferre from Rome þe Cite
þer is a woode as chronicles determine
Ryght fresh of sight and goodlie on to see
And Hercules passyng by þat cuntre
ffro Spaynewarde passyng by Italie
Oathus þe Geaunt did hym þer assaile
While Hercules among þe levys grene
Layde hym to slepe of soden aventure
And his bestes agayn þe sonne shyne
While þat he slepte wente in þeir pasture
Cam Cachus forth full haiduus of stature
Thought he wolde þeis bestes with hym haue
Stale þem ichon and did þem in a caue

¶And like a thefe he made them go bakwarde
That no man shuld þe traces of þem knowe
Nor of þeir passage haue no rewarde
ffor by þeire tayles he had þem on a rowe
Into his caue which þat stoode ful lowe
And for þei were of excellent fayrnes
To kepe þem clos he did his bysyynes

¶Oute of his slepe when Hercules awoke
And he perceyvid his oxen were away
He rose hym vp and caste aboute his loke
Began to espie in all þe haste he may
To what partie þe trace of them lay
And while he stode þus musyng in the shade
He harde lowyng þat his oxen made

¶And by þeir lowyng he gan anon aproche
Toward þe parys wher þei were kepte ful clos
ffonde þe euer cave vndir a myghty roche
And prowd Cachus which had þem in depose
Agayn Hercules he sturyly arose
But for al þat he myght hymself not save
ffor he hym slough at þe entrie of þe cave

¶And þus his bestys he hath agayn recurid
Þat semyd afforn irrecuperable
Aftyr þe mountaine befor he hath assured
Which for þer brigantes afforn was ful doutable
But þe ^by^ his manhode it was made habitable
Þat men myght for drede of eny foo
When euer þei wolde frely com and go ·

¶Touchyng his conquest vpon femynye
Agayn Amazones thurgh his chyualrie
ffor his pray anon to hym she wente
And Ipolita of full true intente
Gave vnto hym in tokyn of victorie
Of golde of a gyrdyl to haue hir in memorie

¶Aftyr þat ^to^ Affryk he wente a ful grete pase
Oonly of purpos þe gardey for to se
Which aperteynyd to þe kyng Athas
Þat broþer was to kyng Promothie
In Astrologie full expert was he
And in his garden of which I have yow tolde
The riche braunchis and appyls wer of golde

¶Coruz Magik made by grete avisment
fful streite kepte · and closid environ
And wecchid with a fell Serpent
That no man entrid þat riche mansioun
But Hercules moste myghty of renoun
The serpent slough þurgh his manly pursue
And wecchid with a fell Serpent
That no man entrid þat riche mansioun
But Hercules moste myghty of renoun
The serpent slough þurgh his manly pursue

[20v, col. b]
He was connyng in astronomie
And þerin dede ful gretlie hym delite
And many a boke he made and did write
With grete labour and grete diligence
In his tyme of þat Science ·
The which were more precius þen golde
And more riche in his opinioun
But Hercules in soth as it is tolde
Gate all þe bokys þurgh his grete renoun
Bare þem by force oute of þat regiou
And into Grece lyke a conqueroure
With hym he brought for a grete tresour
Of Trace he slough þe tiraune outragius
Þat sometyme callid Diomeded
Which mordred all þat cam into his regiou
And with þeir flesh his horse he did fed[e]
And þe thought his wit laboure and manh[ode]
Of Achillaus which was a grete wond[e]
He made þe stremys for to parte insonde
And by his wysdomm dyd þem diuide
In .ij. parties dissequeryng his passage
ffor beforetyne no man myght abyde
Turnyng vpwarde þer was noon oþer bote
Whereuer it flowyd of trees crop and rote
A grete empris he did eke vndirtake
When þat þe wormes hiduus and horrible
Of his course þe furius fell outerage
ffor in cuntres s it did so grete damage
Turnyng vpward þer was non oþer bote
Whereuer it flowyd of trees croppe and rote ·
A grete empris he did eke vndirtake
When þat þe wormes hiduus and horrible
Aryved vp of Archadien þe lake
Which with þeir teth and mouth ful terrible
Callid ferre þe bestes full odible
ffrute greyne and corne did mortally devour
But Hercules did þe cuntre so secoure
Cam lyk a knyght þeir malice for to let
And by his prudence destruyd þem ichonn
Within þe lake þe wormes vp he shet
Saue among all behynd was left oonn
And agayn hym Hercules anonn 5430
Of knyghthode caught so grete avantage
That to þe cuntre he did no more damage
This all þat euer may richer sede be
Touchyng knyghthode prowesse and prudence
Of glorius fame of longe felicite
This knyghtlie man had moste excellence
And in armes lengest experience
And for his triumphes and actes merciall
He set vp pilers for a memoriall
Which remembred his conquestes moste notable 5440
And his dedes by gravyng did expresse
Beyonde which no lande is habitable
So ferre abrode spred his high nobles
But as þe sonne lenyth his brightnes
Somwhile when he is freest in his spere
With vnware cloudes þat sodenlie appere
Sembleablie þe nobles and þe glorie
Of Hercules in þis vnstable lyfe
Eclipsid was and shadowed his memorie

[21r, col. a]

With ^Be^ deianira þat somtyme was his wyfe 5450
ffor by hir fraude comm in þe mortall stryfe
[A]s ye shall here þe maner and þe case
[W]herby þat he loste his lyfe alas
[Y]t for hir sake þis moste manlie man
[ffau]ught as I fynde a singler bataile
[Wi]th Achelus son of Òe þe Oceean 5457
[Lyk]e as poetis make rehersaile
[Thi]s Hercules of knyghthode soueraigne 5459
[Ren]te from his hede on of armys tweeine 5460
[A]nd as eche oþer proudlie did assaile 5458
[O]f kyng Oene she was þe doughter dere 5461
[To] Hercules ioynyd by mariaghe 5455
[A]nd as þei comm to a grete riuere
[W]ith sturdie wawes where was no passage
[N]essus þe Geaunt outhlie of visage
[To] Hercules profyrd he seruise
[An]d ful falslie agayn hym can devise
[M]ade his promis He to Hercules in dede
[T]o put his lyfe in grete aventure
Ouer þe streame Dianyre to leede
Because his was large of his stature
And for she was a right fayre creature
When þei were passid and com to þe lande
Nessus falslie volde vpon þe stronde
¶Haue knowe hir fleshlie like as writith Ouide
Hercules havyng þerof a sight
As he abode vpon þat oþer syde
And for to avenge hym of his grete vnright
Toke his bowe and bent it anon riht
And with an arowe fylid sharpe and grounde
5470
Gafe to Nessus his dedlie fatall wounde
¶Lyke as ða condite gusshid outh þe blode
And when he sawe þat he muste dye
To Dianyre befor hym þer she stode
With all his hert hir he gan to þa pray
That in oon thyng his luste she wolde obey
To take his shert and be not rekles
With bloode disteynd send it Hercules
¶Therwith to hym to be reconslilid
And she to hym þe shert anon to hym hath sent
5480
Thurgh whos venome allas he was begylt
ffor what by touchyng and by inchauntment
His flessh his bones furiuslie were brennt
And among his dedly peynys all
Into a rage sodenlie is fall
¶As a beste furiuslie he ranne
On valez · hillez among þe craggy stonys
Sembleable as doth a woode mann
Pullid vp trees and rotes all at onys
Brake bestes horns and all toknewe þeir bones
Was it not pite þat a knyght so goode
Shulde among bestes renne saugte and wode
¶Thus ouerwhelmyd was all his worthines
And to decline went his prosperite
O cause and rote of all his wrecchidnes
Was for þat he set all his felicite
5506
Of þeis women which erly late and sone
To trust so myche þe mutabilitie
5507
Of þeir nature brayd vpon þe mone
5509
¶Alas alas all nobles and prudence
Prowes of nature force and chiuallrie
fforsight of wysdom discrecion and science
Vertuus studie profityng and clerky
And þe clere shynyng of all philosophie
Hath thurgh fals lustes ben hereafor manacid
By sleight of women derkyd and defamyd

[21r, col. b]

O Hercules my penne I fele quake
Myn ynke fulfyllyd with bitter terys salte
This pitevus tragedie to write for þi sake
Whome all poetis glorifie and exalte
But fraude of women made þi renoun halte
And frowarde muses þi triumphes all torende
ffor to describe alas þi fatal ende
The swete venome þe savery fals poyson
The dredeful ioy þe dolorus plesaunce
The woful gladnes ay stable in with variaunce with furius reson
ffeyth dispeyrid wher luste hath gouer
Thurgh fals luxurie defacen all nobles
As þis Tragedie can bere ful well witnes
Wher froward venus hath dominacioun
And blynde Cupide his subiectes doth avaunce
And wyful luste thurgh indiscrecioun
Is chosen luge to holde þe balaunce
Theire choys vnlefull hath þurgh onhappy chaunce
Derkyd of princis þe famus high prowes
As þis Tragedie can ber ful wele witnes
O þu Hercules for all þin high renoun
ffor all þi conquest and myghty suffisaunce
þu were thurgh women brought to confusion
And thurgh þeir fraude þi renomyd puissauence
Disclaundyrd was and brought vnto mischaunce
I were ashamyd to write it or expresse
Excepte þis Tragedie can bere me well witnes
Princis · Princessis of high discretion
This thyng inprintith in youre remembraunce
Of þers fallnyg make yow protection
Yeve to preserue youre purviaunce
Afforn providid þat youre perseuerance
Be not perturbid by no fals Sorceresse
As þis Tragedie þer berith witnes

[26r, col. b]
De casu Canacie et Machaire · et de inordi
/ nato amore in eos ·
Aftyr Pirrus cam Canace the fayre
Teris distillyng from hiree tweyne
And hir brother · hat callid was Machaire
And both began pitevuslie compleine
That ffortune gan agayn them so disseigne
Hyndryng þeir fate by woful aventure
Touchyng þeire loue which was agayn nature
¶ He was hir brother · and hir loue also
As þe storie plainlie doth declare
And in o bedde þei lay eke both two
Reason was non · why þei shulde spare
But loue þat causith wo · and eke welfare
Gan agayn Kynde so strongelie devise
That he hir wombe · made sodenlie aryse
¶ And finallie myn auctour berith witnes
A chylde she hadde by hir own brother
Which excellid in fauour and fayrnes
ffor lyke to hym of beaute was non ðoper
But of þeir loue · so so guyes was þe rothir
That caribdis twenene wynds full contrarie
Hath Canace destruede and Makarie
¶ ffor wher þeire fadre the maner gan espie
Of þeir werkyng which was so odible
ffor he fell almoste in frenesie
Which for to pece was impossible
ffor þe matiere was frowarde and horrible
ffor which devoide pleynlie of all pite
Vpon þeire trespass · he wolde avengid be ·
¶ The cause knewe þeire fadre anon right
Cast for þeir deth of rigour to provide
ffor which Macharie fledde out of his sight
And from his presence · his presence gan to hide
But o allas · his sistre muste abide
Merciles · for þeire hatefull trespass
Sufre deth þer was non ðoper grace
¶ ffyrste hir fadre a sharpe swerde to hir sent
In tokyn of deth · for a remembraunce
And when she wyste · pleynlie what it ment
And conceuyd his rigorous ordinaunce
With holo purpos to beyen his plesaunce
She gruchid not but lowlie of intente
Lyk a meke doughter to his desire assent
¶ But or she diede · she caste for to write
A little lettre to hir brother dere
A dedlie compleint · compile and endite
With a pale face and a mortall chere
The salte teres from hir ien clere
With pitevus sobbyng fet from hir hertes brynk
Distillyng down to tempre with hir ynk
¶ Oute of hir swownyng when she did abrayd
Knowyng no mene but deth in hir distres
To hir brother ful piteuslie she saide
Cause of my sorowe rote of myn hevynes
That whilom wel were chef·sours of my gl[ades]
When both oure ioyes by wyll were dis[posid]
Vndre a kay·oure hertes to be inclosid
¶ Somtyme þu were·supporte and sicurn[es]
Chefe reioysyng of my wordlie plesaunce
But nowe þu arte grownde of my sekn[es]
Wele and wanhope of my dedlie penaun[ce]
Which haue of sorowe grettest habun[daunce]
That euer yit hadde any creature·
Which muste for loue· þe deth allas i[ndure]

[26v, col. a]
¶ þu were somtyme my blys and all my truste
Souereigne comfort my sourys to appese
Spryng and well of all my hertes luste
And new allas chefe rote of my disese
But yf my deth myght do þe eny ese
O brother myn in remembrance of tweyn
Deth shal to me be plesaunce and no payn
¶ My cruell fadre moste vnmercieable
Ordeigned hath · it nedes muste be so
In his rigour he is vntreteable
All merciles he wyl þat it be do
Þat we algate shall die both two
But I am gladde sith it may be non oþer
Þu art escapid my beste belovid brother
¶ This is myn ende · I may it not starte
O brother myn þer is no more to say
Louly besechyng with all myn hoole herte
ffor to rememble specialli þis pray I
If it befall my little son to die
That þu maiste sum mynde vpon vs haue
Suffre vs both· · to be buried both in o graue
¶ I holde hym streythe atwyn myn armes tweyn
Þu and nature layde on me þis charge
He gyltles · with me muste suffre peyn
And sith þu arte at fredam and at large
Lete kyndnes oure loue so discharge
But haue a mynde whereuer þat þu be
Onys of þe day of þis chylde and me
¶ On þe and me dependith þe trespas
Touchyng oure gylte and oure greate outrence
But welaway · most angelik of face
Oure yonge childe in his pore innocence
Shal agayn right suffre dethis violence
Tendre of lymmes · godde wot ful giltles
The goodlie fayre childe · which lieth her spechles

[A mouth he hath but wordes hath he noun
Can not compleine alas for non outrage
Nor gruchid not · but lieth here alloun
Stille as a lombe moste meke of his visage
What hert of stele couth do to hym damage
Or suffre hym die · beholdyng þe maner
And looke benigne of his · ij · ien clere ·

O þu my fadre · to cruell is þi wrec
Harder of herte · þan Tigre or lioun
To sle a childe þat lieth without spech
Voyde of all mercy and remission
And on his modre haste no compassioun
His youth considre · with lippes soft as sylk
Which at my brest lith stil and soukith mylke

Is eny sorow remembred by writyng
Vnto my ferful sighes comparable
Or was þer euer creature lyvyng
Þat felt of doole a thyng more lamentable
ffor comfortsles and vnrecuperable
Are þes hepid sorowes full of rage
Which haue with wo oppressid my corage

Rekyn all myschevys in especiall
And on my myschefe remembre and haue goode mynd
My lorde my fadre · is myn ennemy motrall
[Ex]perience enough þer of I fynde
ffor in his pursue · he hath lefte behynde
[In] destruccion of my chylde and me
[Ro]uth and all mercy · and fadrelie pite

[An]d þe my broþer · avoidid from his sight
[Whi]ch in no wyse · his grace maiste atteine

[26v, col. b]
Allas þat rigour vengeaunce and cruell right
Shall aboue mercie be ladie souereigne
But cruelte doth at me so disdeigne
That þu my broþer my childe and also I
Shal die · exilid allas from all mercie

My fadre somtyme by many a sondrie signe
Was my socoure and supportacion
To þe and me · moste gracius and benigne
Oure worldie gladnes oure consolacioun
But loue and fortune haue turnyd vpsodoun 6970
Oure grace allas oure welfare and oure fame
Harde to recure so sclaudred is oure name
Spot of diffamyng is harde to wash away
When noyse and rumour abrode do folke manace
To hyndre a man · ther may be no delay
ffor hateful fame · flieth ferre in ful short space
But of vs tweyn ther is noon other grace
Saue oonlie deth · and after deth allas
Eternal sclaudre of vs · þus standeth þe cas
¶Whom shal we blame or shal we atwite 6980
Oure grete offence · sith we may it hide
ffor our excuse · reportes to respite
Meene is ther noon · excepte þe godde Cupide
And þof þat he wolde · for vs provide
In this matier to beoure chef refuge
Poetis seyn · he is blynde to be a luge
¶He depicte like a blynd Archer
To make aright faylyng discrecion
Holdyng no mesure · nouther ferre ne nere
But lyke fortunes disposicion 6990
All vpon happe · voide of all reason
As a blynde archer · with arrowes sharpe grounde
Of aventure yevith many a mortall wounde
¶At þe and me · he wronglie did marke
ffelly to hyndre our fatall aventure
As ferre os phebus shynyth in þe ark
To make vs refuse · to all creatures
Callid vs tweyn vnto þe woofull lures
Of diffame which wyl departe neuer
By newe reporte · þe noyse reporting increyng euer 7000
¶Odious fame · with swyft wynges flieth
But all þe goode fame · at Envie doth restreyne
Iche man other þe difautes seeth
Yit on his own no man wyll compleyn
But all þe worlde oute crieth on vs tweyn
Whos hateful Ire by vs may not be queymyd
ffor I muste die · my fadre hath so demyd
¶Now fare weele broper to me it doth suffise
To die allon for oure both sake
And in my moste faithfull humble wyse
Vnto my dethwarde þof I tremble and quake
Of þe for euer my leue nowe I take
Yit ones ayere forgete not but take hede
My fatall day · þis lettre for to rede ·
So shalt þu haue of me som remembrance
My name impryntid in þi kalender
By rehersaile of my dedelie grevaunce
Were blak þat day · and make a doolful chere
And whan þu commyst and shalt approche nere
My sepulcure · I pray þe not disdeigne 7020
Vpon my graue · som teres for to reyne
Writynge hir lettre awhappid and adrede
In hir right hand hir penne began to quake
And a sharpe swerde to make hir hert blede
In hir lifte hand · hir fadre hath hir take
And hir moste sorowe was for hir chylde sake
Vpon whos face in hir barme slepyng
fful many a tere she wepte compleynyng

[27r, col. a]
Aftyr all þis · so as she toke and quoke
His chylde beholdyng · myd of hir peynes smerte 7030
The swerde in hir right hand she toke
And rofe hirsylf even to þe herte
Hir f childe fel doun which myght not asterte
Hauyng noon helpe to socour’ hym nor saue
But in hir bloode hysselfe began to bathe
And þan hir fadre moste cruel of intente
Badde þat þe chylde shuld anon be take
Of cruell houndes in haste for to be rente
And be devourid for his modre sake
Of þis Tragedie þus an ende I make 7040
Proces of which as men may rede and se
Concludith on myschefe and furius cruelte
Remembryng firste as made is mencion
Hough þat Pirrus delite hym in dede
Whan Troie was brought to destruccion
With cruell swerde · Troian bloode to shede
But of which slaughter · seeth here þe cruel mede
As right requirith by vnware violence
Bloode shedde for bloode · is small recompence
When surquedie · oppressed hath pite 7050
And meknes is with tirannie bore doun
And agayn right hasty cruelte
To be vengeable makith no delacion
What foloweth þerof by clere inscription
Seth in example hough Pirrus in his tene
Of hateful Ire slough yonge Polixene
Kyng Eolus to rigorus was parde
And to vengeable in his intencion
Agayn his children Macharie and Canace
So importable was his puniss punicion
Of haste procedyng to þeir destruction
Wers in his Ire as it was weele sene
Then cruel Pirrus which slough polixene

Noble princes prudent and attempre
Differreth vengeaunce of high discrecion
Tyll youre ire sumwhate aswagid be
Doth neuer of dome · non execucion
ffor hate of rancour · perturbeth youre reson
Of hasty luges more of intente vnclene

Thən cruel pirrus · which slough polixene

Thus Iohn Bochas procedyng in his boke
Which in noumbrə · is callid þe secund
Gan for to write and his purpos tok
To set in stories such as ye hadde founde
Of intent all vyses to confounde
By example which he did expresse
And at þe begynnyng of his bysynesse

Myghty Saul to hym did appere
Kyng of Israel pitevuslie wepyng
Dedlie of face and with an hidius chere
His voice broken · by many a sobbyng
And to myn auctor · his sorowes compleynyng
Requiryng hym togyddir when þei met
ffryst in his booke his woful fall to set

Anon aftyr · of on intencion
With penne in hande faste gan me spede
And as I couth in my translacion
In þis labour ferþer to procede
My lorde cam forth by · and gan to take hede
This myghty prince right manlie and right wyse
Gafe me charge · in his prudent advise ·

That I shuld in euery Tragedie
Aftyr þe procsesse make intencion
At þe ende set a remedie

With a lenovie Lenvoie · conveyed by reson
And aftyr þat with humble affeccion
To noble princes lowlie it directe
By opers fallying · þei myght þemself correcte

And I obeied his byddying and plesaunce
Vndre supporte of his magnificence
As I couth · I can my penne inhaunce
Al be I was baren of eloquence

[27r, col. b]

With a lenovie Lenvoie · conveyed by reson
And aftyr þat with humble affeccion
To noble princes lowlie it directe
By opers fallying · þei myght þemself correcte

And I obeied his byddying and plesaunce
Vndre supporte of his magnificence
As I couth · I can my penne inhaunce
Al be I was baren of eloquence
ffolowyng myn auctor in substance of sentence
ffor it suffised pleynlie vn to me
So þat my lord my makyn toke at gre ·

**Incipit secundus liber**

¶TO sumne folk þarcs it wolde seme
Touchyng þe chaunges and mutabilites
By me rehersid þat þei myght deme
Of fortunes straunge aduersites
To princis shewyd · pullid doun from þeir sees ·
The Tragedies ought not suffice ·
In compleynyng which ye harde devise
¶The storie pitevus · þe processe lamentable
Voide of ioy · gladnes and plesaunce
A thynge to grevus and to importable
Wheras no myrth medlid is with grevaunce
All vpon compleint · stondith þe alliance
Most whan fortune · who þat hir course well knewe
Chaungith olde ioye · into sorowes newe ·
¶ffor vnto hym þat neuer wyst of woo
Remembrance of his olde gladnes
When his welfare and plesaunce is go
And neuer afforn knewe of noon hevyynes
Suche vnware chaunge such vncouth wrechidnes
Causith in princes · þurgh newe dedlie trouble
Aftyr þat fallying · þeir sorowes to be double
¶Olde example of princes þat haue fall
Þeire remembrance of newe brought to mynde
May be a mirrour · to estates all
Hough þei in ver tu shal remedies fynde
To esche che vicis of such as were made blynde
ffro sodeine fallying · þeirself to preserue
Longe to continue and thank of godde deserue
¶The fall of oon is a clere Lanterne
To teche anoþer what he shal eschewe
Perill of oon · is · who can discerne
Scole and doctrine from perill to remewe
As men discerne ^deserue^ · suche guerdon þer muste sewe
In vice nor ver tu · no man may godde deceyve
Lyke þeire deserted · þeire mede þei receyve ·
¶Who þat folowe ver tu lengest doth perseuer
Be it in riches · be it in pouerte
Light of trouth · his clernes kepith euer
Agayn þassautes of all aduersite
Ver tu is cause of longe prosperite
And when princes from ver tu do decline
Their fame is shrowded and eclipsed by false fortune which turns as a ball
Of unwar changes: of men hire whole atwite
It is not she that princes change, but vice
But vice is the pleasure to indulge
Of godde above ful of of doth their [respite]
Longe abideeth and doth his grace sende
To his intent, this should their life
 mon[de]

For their welfare and their abiding long

Who advertiseth dependith not on chance
Goode lyfe and vertu makith them to be strong
And them assureth in longe perseverance
Vertu on fortune makith a difference
That fortune hath no dominacion

But such as list not correctid be
By example of other vice gives naunce
And from other vice list not for to fle
If they be troublid in their high puissance
They are arreste it fortunes variaunce
Touching they gyfts that they did use
They demerits ful falslie to excuse

Vertu conserveth princes in glorie
And conserveth their dominacions
And vicis putten be their proper out of memorie
For their trespass and their transgressiones
And in all such sudden mutations
They can not refute nor no bettyr socoure
But again fortune to make their clamour

Make and oute crie on hir doublenes
As no gylt were in their own dide
Thus vntrulie they calle hir a goddes
Which little or nought may helpe at such a nede
But if they hadde godde in loue and drede
Trustith his lordeship in hert and thought
Then shall fortune be playnlie set at nought

Euidencis ful expert and palpable
Beforn rehersid tolde of diuere ages
Worldlie glories, veyne and ful vnstable
With deceit double of their visages
Shewyng to princes forme of their corages
By their examples hough in what wyse
Both theys falling they shall themself chastysse

Signes shewyd and tokyns in the heuyn

[27v, col. a]
Who advertiseth dependith not on chance
Goode lyfe and vertu makith them to be strong
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Shewyng to princes forme of their corages
By their examples hough in what wyse
Both theys falling they shall themself chastysse

Signes shewyd and tokyns in the heuyn
Diuerse cometes and constellacions
Dredeful thundrynges · fereful fyry levyn
Rumor in erth and grete dissenciones
Disobeisauence in sondrie regiones
Shewe examples · ful well afferme I dare
To myghti princes · þem biddying to be ware
¶Theire lyfe to amend · or þe lorde do smyte ·
Thurgh negligence · or it be to late
And or þe swerde of vengeaunce do bite
Into vertuus vertuus · þeir vicius lyf to change translate
Cherish rightwesnes all agayn all wronge debate
With drede of godde · make þemself stronge
¶Who is not ware · by oþer chastysyng
Opir by hym shal chastisised be
Harde is þat herte which for no wriyng
ffor no doctrine nor non auctorite
ffor non example wyl from his vicis fle
[To] indurate is · his frowarde entente
[W]hich wyl not suffre his hardnes to relente
¶[The]rownde dropys of þe smoth reyne
[Whi]ch þat descende and fall from alofte
[On] stones harde · at ie as it is scene
[Per]çiþ þe hardnes · with þeire fallyng ofte
[Al be] in touchyng water is but softe
[The] percyng causid by force nor puissance
[But] of fallyng by longe continuauence
¶[Sembl]eablie of right · I dare reherc
[Oft re]dyng of bookes fructuus

[27v, col. b]
The hertis shulde of prudent princes perce
Synk in þeir mynd and make þem vertuus
To eschew all þing þat is vicius
ffor what avaylith · þe examples þat þei rede
To þeire redyng · yf contrarie be þe dede
¶Connynge and dede · who can comprehende
In clere conceites · þei be þinges tweyn
And yf cunningyng doth þe dede amende
Þen betwen þem is maade a myghty cheyne
A noble þing and right souereyne
eþor þen of cunningyng · þe labour is well spent
Whan dede folowith · and both ben of assent
[34r, col. b58]

De casu Didonis Regine · que fundauit Cartaginem

Now must I put my rude stile in pres
To quene Dido make my passag[e]
Hir lorde Siche · was preste to h[ercules]
Hir fadre Belas fall into grete ag[e]
Kynge of Tyre and she quene of C[artage]
And it is redde in bookes ṭhat be t[rew]e

[34v, col. a]

Hough fyrste in Tyre was founde purpel hewe
¶ Cadmus founde fyrste lettres for to write
Gafe þem to Grekes as made is mencion
Whos broþer þfenix as clerkes eke indite
ffounde fyrste þe colour of vermylon
And of Cartage þo famus myghty town
This saide Dido hyr storie doth expresse
¶ Hough she was both quene and founderesse
¶ But hir husbond was chefe lorde and sire
Callid Cicheus ful famus of renoun
Of þis noble cite namyd Tire
Hadde grete tresoure and grete possession
And for envie kynge Pigmalion
Broþer to Dido þus she slough in dede
Of fals intent his riches to possee
dido þis slaughter toke greteli at hert
Sore compleynyng þis vnhappy chaunce
fflein oute of Tire and hirselfe avaunce
With all þe tresoure and all þ habundaunce
Behynd lefte whan hir lorde was dede
Hir shippes entryng went away for drede
¶ She knewe and dredd þe gredie avarice
Of hir broþer kynge pigmalion
Ḥ And hough þat hateful and vnstable vice
Was grounde and rote and chefe occasioun
Why þat hir lorde was slayn in þat townn
ffor whom ful oft she cried welaway
Whos deth was cause whi þat she fled away
¶ She hadde also þis opinion
Which causid moste hir hertlie hevynesse
That she hir broþer Kyng Pigmalion
Hadde sle hir lorde for his grete richesse
Yf she abode þat she wolde hym dresse
Parcel for malice · parcel for couetyse
To haue hir tresoure som treson to practise
¶ And for to eschewe his malice and his tresoun
ffor hir naveie she makith ordinaunce
Boldest of þem in whom as by resoun
She shulde of right set hir affiaunce
And ful redy for to do plesaunce
By on assent for nòping wolde faile
With fayre Dido oute of þat lande to assaile
¶In cipre fyrst was hir aryvaile
And þer she fonde by a ryuersyde
Of yong maydyns with ful rich apperaile
Sixti and tenn · in þe same tyde
Which in þe temple of venus did abyde
Aftyr þe custom as I can reporte
Of Cipriens straungers to disporte
¶In þeir moste feithful humble wyse
Aftyr þe rites of Cipre þe cunte
Vnto venus ich day do sacrifice
Them to conserve in þeire virginite
Duryng þe lyfe to lyve in chastite
Neuer to be ioynd in mariage
[Å]nd with Quene Dido þei went forth to Cartage
¶(In) þeire passage fell a grete miracle
[As] Seruius maketh mencioun
[For] Dido toke of Iuno þis oracle
[Øher] by apperying or by a vision
[Of] Cartage to belde þat myghty town
[And at] reuerence of þat grete goddess
[She to] parties fast gan hir dresse
¶(The) saide cite statelie for to founde
[And hir] workmen as þei þiddyr sought
[An oxes he]de of aventure þei founde
[And to Qu]ene Dido þe hede anon þei brought

[34v, col. b]
Menyng wherof to serche oute she thought
And in clerkes in þeire diuinaile
Tolde it was tokyn of seruage and travaile ·
¶ffor which she lefte to belde in þat place
And gan remove as she ought of right
And from þens but a little space
A soile she founde ful delectable of sight
And as hir werkmen with þeir ful myght
Þe grounde gan serche anon or þei toke hede
The storie tellith þei founde an horse hede ·
¶And by expounyng of hir diuinacions
ffonde þis beste gretilie myght availe
Vnto princes and myghty conquorouses
Necessarie in werre and in bataile
And for no wight hir nobles shuld assaile
Cartage she beldid of so grete excellence
Agayne all ennemies to stonde at defence

Som bookes declare and specifie
Dido did as mich londe purches
As a skyn in rownde myght occupie
Of an ox · ðeron to belde a place
ðe grounde compasside toke a ful large space ·
Which stronglie beldid · þus it is befall
Aftyr þe skynne · men did B it Birsa calle

And when þis cite myghtilie was wallid
Aftyr a skyn wrought by good corraie
The name toke · “take” · Carta it was callid
Leddyr of Birsa · pleynlie þis is no nay
Toke eke it his name duryng many a day
Carta and Birsa knyt in þeir language
As mych to say as þis worde Cartage ·

With grete worship she reigned in þat town
Euuer of purpos to lyue in chastite
And rownde aboute flourid þe renoun
Of hir prudence and hir honeste ·
Tyl þe reporte of hir famous beaute
Cam to þe eris · which gladlie wyl not hyde
Of a kyng þat dwellyd þer besyde ·

×With musitans he was lorde and syre
As poetis playnlie liste descriyve
Which in his herte gretelie gan desire
The quene dido by hir assent to lyue
Vnto hir grace yf he myght aryve
But for she hadde avowed chastite
She neuer caste wowed · “maried” · for to be ·

×The kyng supprisid with loue in his corage
flor hir wysdam and hir grete beaute
Sent to þe princes of all Cartage
Of þis matier to haue a grete trete
To condescende yf it myght be
Lyke his desire in all þeire best intente
Don þeir deuer · to make her to consent
With his request he gan eke manace\(^{\text{manace}}\)
If he faylid of his intencioun
Lyke his desire to stonde in his grace
Sayde he wolde lyue be enmye to þe town
To ordeigne by force for þeire destruccioun
Not fully sobre nor fully a in a rage

[35r, col. a]
This was to þem pleynlie his language
But for þei knewe hir grete stedfastnesse
And hir hert verrie immutable
They were afferde any worde to expresse
[L]est þeire answere were not acceptable
[T]o his highnesse for þei were no tretable
[E]ke in þeire conceit þei gan also recorde
[T]o his desire · þe quene wolde not accorde
[W]ith good advise an answere þei purveide
To his purpos in partie fauvorable
[A]fferde he wolde þeire noble town verrey
[A]nd of disdeigne vpon þem be vengeable
[Bu]t quene Dido in hir intente ay stable
[Ca]ste she wolde · whateuer þei hir tolde
[H]ir chaste avowe feithfullie to holde
She set aside of þis cruel kyng
[H]is fell manaces and his wordes grete
[And to hir princes for þeir consentyng
Which stode in fere of þat he did þem threte
She vnto þem gaue a manner hete
þefor þei were bold attemp or tame
To trete of matier rebowndyng to hir shame
Nay raper quod she þan to assent
To þis desyre which þing godde forbede
Or fro þo cuntre of my chaste intente
þefor to remove ouþer in þought or dede
Which were disclaundre to all womanhed
To condescende for eny manacyng
To breke my vowe for plesaunce of a kynge
Touchyng manaces made to þis cite
þefor to destrue it þurgh his grete myght
Withoute cause or title of equite
To grownde hym a querel agayn right
Onlie for he is blyndyd in his sight
With frowarde luste my chaste vowe to assaille
Beth right wele sure · hough ^he^ þero of shal fayle
If ye were bolde and manlie of corage
þefor comyn profit youre cite to defende
And to withstonde youre vicius outrage
To trete with hym ye wolde not condescende
But myn intent pleyntlie comprehende
Whether it to yow be ioy or dispesaunce
In my promisse shal be no variance
¶ My lorde Sitheus which allas is dede
Vn to þe wel worlde whoso list aduerte
Trustith right well for manacyng or drede
Þat he shal neuer die in myn herte
Nor ye shal neuer myn avowe peruerte
Thus advisid while þat I stonde fre
Queene of Cartage to governe þis cite ·
¶ Myn hasty answere I pray yow not disdeigne
But þat ye liste to yeve me liberte
With youre supporte þat I may atteine
To haue a space grauntid vn to me
This is to mene þe space of monethes thre
My lordes wyll to accomplishe of intente
Which he whilom made in his testament
¶ Vndre colour to hir avauntage
She toke þis space bookes specifie
Þat she myght hir cite of Cartage
In þe mene while stronglie fortifie
Agayn hir enemies þat for no slogardrie
Of þem þat wolde hir high estate confounde
Vnpuvreide hir Cite þat þei founde
¶ When · iiij · monethes passid were and goon
She aftyr wolde for hir hertlie plesaunce
With sundrie rites many mo þan oon
To all hir goddes doon som observaunce ·

[35r, col. b]
ffor a special ^and^ singler remembraunce
Of hym þat was as folk shal vndrestond
Whilom hir lorde and best belouid husbond
¶ And nere to exalte his glorie and his honour
Holde his exequies by du reuereence
Of all Cartage in þe highest toure
With brennyng fyre fumys and incense
Hir princes all beyng in presence
To which she gan declare in compleynyng
Hir dedelie sorowe down from hir toure loking
¶ ffare wele my frende fare wel for euermore
Vnto my lorde my husband I muste goon
To hym I mene þat was my lorde of yore
ffor of husbondes godde wote I haue but oon
Prayng yow to reporte euerychonn
Aftyr my deth hough Dido of Cartage
Ioynyd was but onys in mariage ·
¶ Sey to þe kyng which haue yow manacid
My chaste beaute þat he wolde assaile
And telle hym hough þat I am passid
And of his purpos hough þat he shal fayle
His manacyng shal not hym availe
And say hough dido died for þe nones
ffor she not wolde be weddyd more þan ones ·
¶ Leuer I haue my lyfe as now to lese
Råper þan saile my wydowes chastite
Lete hym go forth som oþer for to chese
ffor in such case he shal not spede of me ·
And with þe tresour’ of myn honeste
Which I haue trulie observuyd all my lyve ·
I wyl departe out of þis worlde now blyve ·
¶ And into fyre þat brent clere and bright
She ranne in haste þer is no more to seyn
Saue with a knyfe in euery mannes sight
fful sodenlie she rafe hir hert in tweyn
Whos pitevus deth þe cite gan compleyn
Sore wepyng for wondur and for routh
In a woman to fynde so grete a trouth
¶ Aftyr hir deth þei did þeire bysynesse
To holde an halow a feste funerall
Worshippid hir like a chaste goddesse
And hir commendyng in especiall
To heuenlie goddes and goddes infernall
And wedowys all in þeire cloþis blake
At þis feste wepte for hir sake
¶ Touchyng Dido · lete þer be no stryfe
Þof þat she be accusid of Ovide
Aftyr Bochas I wrote hir chaste lyfe
And þe contrarie I haue set it asyde
ffor me þought it was better to abyde
On hir goodnesse þan þing reherse in dede ·
Which myght resown agayn hir womanhede
¶ To Eneas þof she was fauorable
To Italie makyng his passage
All þat she did it was full commendable
Hym to receyve commyng by Cartage
Thof al som folke were large of þeire lang[uage]
Ones to expown by reporte to expresse
Thyng doon to hym oonlie of gentilnesse
¶ Ther shal for me be made no rehersaile
But as I fynde writen in Bochas
ffor to say well may mych more availe
Than frowarde speche in many diuurse case
But al Cartage oft saide allas
Hir deth compleynyng þurghoute þeir [cite]
Which slough hirsельfe to observe hir chas[ite]

[35v, col. a]

\[O\] Oayre Dido moste stable in þi constaunce
Quene of Carta · mirrour of high noblesse
Reignynge in glorie and vertuus habundance
Callid in þi tyme chefe sourss of gentilnesse
In whom was neuer founde doublenesse
Ay of oon herte and so þu didiste fyne
With light of trouth all wedowes to illumine
\[Chaste and vnchaungid in þi perseuerance
And immutable founde in þi goodnesse
Which neuer þoughtist vpon variance
fforce and prudence wardens of þi fayrnesse
I haue no language þi vertues to expresse
By newe reporte so socreteli þei do shyne
With light of trouth all widowes to illumine
\[O\] O loodesterre of all goode gouernaunce
All vicious lustes by wysdam to represse
Thy grene youth flouryng with all plesaunce
Þu dedist it bridill with vertuus sobrenesse
Diane demenyd so chastlie þi clenennesse
While þu were sole pleynlie to termyne
With lyght of trouth all wydowes to illumine
\[Thy\] Thy famus beaute to put in remembraunce
Þu slough þiselfe of innocent purnesse
Leste þi surenes were hangyde in a balance
Of such as caste þi chastite to oppresse
Deth was enough to bere þerof witnesse
Causyng þi beaute to clennes to incline
With light of trouth all wydowes to illumine
\[O\] O noble matrones which haue of suffisaunce
Of womanhede your wittes doth vp dresse
Hough þat fortune lyste to turne hir chaunce
Beth not to racle of soden hastynesse
But ay providith in youre stablenesse
Þat no such folly entre youre corage
To folow Dido þat was quene of Cartage
\[With\] With hyr maners haue non aqueyntyance
Put oute of my 'mynde' such foltish wyylfulnesse
To sle youreselfe were a grete penaunce
Godde of his grace defende yow and blysse
And preserue youre varyng britynesse

Þat youre trought fall in non outrage
To folow Dido Þat was quene of Cartage
With couerte coloure and sobre contenaunce
Of feithful menyng pretendith a liknesse
Countrefetith in speche and daliaunce
All þing Þat sowndith into stedfastnesse
Of prudence by grete avisenesse
Youreselue restrynyth yonge and olde of age
To folow Dido Þat was quene of Cartage

Let all youre porte be voide of displesaunce
To gete in frendes doth youre bysynesse
And bethe neuer withoute purveiaunce
So shall ye beste incresse in richesse
In oon allon may be no sicurnesse
To youre hertes be diuerse of language
Contrarie to Dido Þat was quene of Cartage

Holdith your’ servantes vndre obeisaunce
Lete þem nouþer haue fredam nor largesse
But vndre daunger don þeire observaunce
Dauntith þeir pride · þem brydil with lownesse
And whan þe serpent of newfanglesse
Assaileth yow · doth youre avauntage
Contrarie to Dido Þat was quene of Cartage

De casu Sardinopalli Regis Assiriorum et de eius feminea ei condicione

[35v, col. b]
Of Assirie to rekyn kynges all
Which hadde Þat londe vndre subieccion
Laste of ichon was Sardinapall
Moste feminine of condicion
Wherfor fortune hath hym prowde down
And compleynynge moste outhlie of maner
Nexte aftyr Dido to Bochas did appere ·
To vicius luste his lyfe he did incline
Among disers when he his reigne began
Of fals vsage he was so feminine
Þat among women vpon þe rokke he span
In þeire habit disguysid from a man
And of froward fleshlie insolence
Of all men he fledde þe presence
ffyrste þis kynges ches to be his guyde
Modre of vices callide Idlenesse
Which of custom ich vertu set asyde
In iche courte wher she is maistresse  
Of sorow and mischefe þe fyrste founedresse  
Which causid oonlie in þis Sardanapall  
Þat to all goodness his wittes did appall  
¶He founde vp fyrste riot and dronknesse  
Callid a fadre of luste and lecherie  
Hateful of harte he was to sobrenesse  
Cherisshyng surefetes wache and glutonye  
Callid in his tyme a prince of baudrie  
ffounde rere soppers and feddyr beddes softe  
Drynke late and chaunge his wynes ofte  
¶The eyre of mete metes · and of baudie cookes  
Which of custom all day roste and sede  
Savours of spites ladil and fleshhokes  
He lovid well and toke of þem goode heede  
And folke þat dranke more þan it was nede  
Smellyng of wyne for þeir grete excesse  
With þem to abide was holy his gladnesse  
¶He þung bough also þat it did hym goode  
To haue abought hym agayn al skyll and right  
Boristous bochers all besprent with bloode  
And wattie fysshers abrode eu in his sight  
Þeire cootes powdrid with scales syluer white  
Demp þeir odour duryng all his lyfe  
Was to his corage beste persruatife  
¶ffor þer was herbe spice nor rote  
To hym so lusty as was þe bordelhouse  
Nor garden non so holsom and so sote  
To his plesaunce nor non so delicius  
As þe presence of folkes lecherus  
And euer gladde to speke of ribaudie  
And folke to cherish þat couth flatere and lie  
¶Til at þe laste godde of verrey right  
Displesid was with his condicions  
Because he was in euery mannys sight  
So feminine in his affeccions  
And holy gaue his inclinacions  
Duryng his lyfe to euery vicius þing  
Terrible for to here and namelic of a kynge  
¶But as Bochas liste to put in mynde  
Whan Arbachus a prince of grete renown  
Sawe of þis kyng þe fleshlie lustes blynde  
Made with þe peple of þat region  
Agayn hym an ordinaunce  
And to hym sent for his mysgouvernaunce  
Of high disdeigne a ful pleyn diffaunce
Badde hym beware and prowdelie to hym tolde
Þat he hym caste his vicius lyfe to assaile
And in all haste also þat he wolde
Within a felde mete hym in bataile
Wherof astonyd his hert gan to fayle [end of quire 3]

[36r, col. a]
Where among women he sat and made gaudes
No wyght aboute but flaterers and baudes
And vp he rose and gan hymselfe avaunce
No stuffe with hym but surefetoures
Toke þe felde withoute governaunce
No men abought but fooles and riotoures
Whos aduersarie callid Arbachus
Made hym prowdelie þe felde to forsake
That lyke a Cowarde his castell ha hath take
And for his herte frowardlie gan fayle
Not lyke a knyght but lyke a losengeoure
[H]is riche perre · his roiall apperaile
[H]is golde his Iuelles vesels and tresoure
Was brought afforn hym down out of a toure
In myddes of his pales and gaue his men in charge
Of coole and faget to make a fyre full large ·
In which he caste his tresoure and Iewellis
More bestiall þan Þ like a manlie man
And into þe fyre furiuslie he ranne
This triumphe Sardanapal wanne
With fyre consumyd for his finall mede
Brent all to asshis amonge þe coles rede
Beforn his deth badde men shuld write
Vpon his Grave ðe booke doth specifie
With lettres large þis reson for to indite
My cursid lyf my froward Tirannie
Myn idlenesse myn hateful lecherie
Haue causid me with many false desyre
In my laste dayes to be consumid with fyree
This Epitaphie on his Grave he set
To shewe hough he was in all his lyve
Besy euer to hyndre and to lette
Al maner vertu and þeragayn to stryve
Who followeth þe traces is neuer lyke to thryve
ffor which ye princes seth for youre availe
Vengeaunce euer foloweth vices at þe tayle ·
And in his studie wip ful heuy chere
While Iohn Bochas abode still in his sete
To hym apperid and approche nere
Daunte of fflorence þe laureat poete
Wip his dites and Retorikes swete
Demure of loke fullilliid wip pacience

With a visage notable of reuerence
Whan Bochas sawe hym vpon his fete he stode
And to mete hym he toke his pase ful right
Wip grete reuerence avalid cappe and hoode
And to hym saide wip humble chere and sight
O clerest sonne o verrey soþfaste light
Ofoure cite which callid is fflorence
Laude vnto þe honour and reuerence

Pu haste illumyn Itaile and lumbardie
Wip laureat dites in þi flouryng dayes
Grounde and begynner of proudest policie
Among fflorentynes suffridest grete affrayes
As golde purid and previd at all assayes
In trouþ madiste mekelie þiselfe stronge
ffor comyn profit to suffre peyn and wronge

O noble poete touchyng þis matiere
Hough fflorentynes were to þe vnkynde
I wyll remembre and write wip goode chere
Þi pitevous exile and put here in mynde
Nay quod Daunte but here stand oon behynde
Duke of Athens turne toward hym þi stile
His vncontre storie brefelie to compile

And yf þu liste to do me þis plesaunce
To descrive his knyghtlie excellence
I wyll þu put his lyfe in remembrance
Hough he oppressid by myghty violence
Þis famus cite callid fflorence
Be which storie ful pleynlie þu shalt se
Which were frendes and fone to þe cite

And which were able for to be excusid
Yf þe troupe be clerlie perceyvied
And which were worþi for to be rehersid
Be whom þe cite full falslie was deceyvied
Of circumstances notablie conceyvied

To rekyn in ordre vpon euery side
Which shuld be chasid and which shuld abide
And whan Bochas knew all þe intencion
Of þe saide Daunte he caste hym anon right
To obey his maistre as it was reson
Toke his penne and as he caste his sight
A litel asyde he sawe no maner wyght
Save duke Galtere brevelie to procede of all þat longe day
ffor Daunte vnwarlie vanysshed was his way

| Pis saide Galtere brevelie to procede |
Like as it is put in remembraunce
Touchyng his lyne and his roial kynred
He was descendid of þe brode of ffraunce
By longe processe and knyghtlie purviaunce
His fadre fyrste by diligent laboure
Of Athenes was lorde and governoure

| Stode but a while in clere possession |
Grekes to hym hadde ful grete envie
Caste of assent for to put hym doun
And depreve hym of his famus duche
To þer intent a leyser did espie
Toke hym at myschefe and quakyng in his [drede]
Of high despite in haste smot of his hed[e]

Vpon whos deþ avengyd for to be
Þe sayd Gaultere wiþ myghty apparail[e]
Caste he wolde asege þat cite
But of his purpose longe he did fayl[e]
And in þis while with many stran[ge bataile]
ij · myghty princes cam doun of pys[e]
Leyde a sege to luke in knyghtlie wy[se]

fflorentynes to luke were fauorab[le]
And to delyuer þe sege fro þe toun
Wip multitude almost inumerable
Made ordinaunce and knyghtlie þei cam doun]
Which turnyd after to þeir d[estr]uccioun

[122v, col. a]
ffor it fell so of mortall aventure
On fflorentynes fell þe discomfiture

| Þe noys and fame of þis grete bataile |
Gan sprede ferre by reporte of language
In lumbardie and þurgh all lumbardie
Amonge soudeieours lusty of corage
And among oþer feynyng a pilgremage
Þe said Gaultere by vnware violence
Cam fro Naplis doun into fflorence

| Þe fflorentynes helde fyrst a parlement |
ffor þe saluacion and garde of þe cite
By grete prudence and grete avisment
Of such as were highest of degre
By oonn assent þei gave þe souereignete
Þem to governe hopyng to þeir increce
Wîþ statutes made boþe for werre and pees
\\Pe grete estates and rulers of þe town
Callid magnates þoo dayes in soþnesse
To Gaulter gave þis dominacioun
Of intent þe comyns to oppresse
And merchantes to spoile of þeir richesse
Streyn men of crafte by froward violence
Agayn þe libertes vsid in fflorrence
\\Pe peple allway in awayte liggyng
To be restorid vnþo þeir liberte
Gan gruge sore among þemself þe pleynyng
ffor grete extorcions donn to þeir cite
Þe grete also of moste auctorite
Hadde lever to suffre Gaultere reigne
Þan þeir exaccions to modifie or restreyne
\\Þe saide Gaulter in ful subtile wyse
By a fals maner of simulacion
Envie in hert vnþo þeir fraunchise
All þat he wrought for shorte conclusion
Was don oonlie þo þeir destrucccon
Wîþ a pretence feynyd of frendliede
To his promisse ay contrarie was þe dede
\\Clambe vp by processe to full hie estate
By feynyd speche and subtil flaterie
In his hert wex pompus and elate
His wyrkying outwarde no man couþ espie
Lîtle or little drough to his partie
Þat to conclude shortelie for to sey
All fflorrence hys lustes did obey
\\Gan subtille þe comyns for to plese þe comynte
ffor to accomplish falslie his desyris
Made promisse to increce þeir libertes
To such as were froward of maners
Made an of þe to destre þeir officers
But þe wolde of þeir fre volunte
Graunte vnþo þem larger libertes
\\Gretter power and dominacion
To increce his myght vpon euer syde
Gan manace þe grettest of þe town
And day be day increce in his pride
ffelly began and felly did abide
Þerþpon kepte close in þeir entraile
De fflorentynes gretelie gan mervaile

In pis while was per oon Reynere
Of grete auctorite and of grete reuerence
A myghty seruaunt and a grete officere
[To] whos byddyng obeyed all fflorraine
[Which wip] Gaultre acordid in sentence
[Wiþ] soudeieours hadd stuffid iche hostrie
ffor to susten of Gauther þe parte

[And] traytourslie for to fortefie
[þe i]ntent of Gauuter fell and ambisius
To haue þe estate onlie by tirannie
[As þeir] chefe lordes froward and surquedus
To [reigne] in fflorraine þe case was perilus
Whan .ij. [tiran]nes ben boþ of on assent
Wiþ [multitude to] accomplish þeir intent

[122v, col. b]

Which þing considrid by þeir governours
And magnates callid in þe Cite
Whan þat þei founde among[þe þem no] soco[urs]
To remedie þeir grete aduer[site]
fell to acorde of necessite
Gave þeir assent wiþoute [variaunce]
þat Gautere shuld haue all þe goyer[n]aunce
[And condescendid þei were t[o] þis [i]ssue
þat Gauletter shuld in all his best wyse
Vpon þe bodi be sworn of criste ihesu
Vsid of olde and for no covetyse
ffrom þeir promisse for lyfe nor deþ decly[ne]
As by conuencion liste to determyne

Hervpon was blown a trumpet
ffor to assemble þe estates of þe town
A parlement holde Gauletter fyrst was set
And to pronounce þe conuencion
Wiþ euery parcell entitled by resoun
Like þeir acorde declaryng anon right
Stode vp a vocate in þe peples sight
Wiþ men of armes in stele armyd bright
Vnto þeir pales chefe and principall
De seyde Gauletter conveid anon right
Set in a sete most statelie and roiall
And þe peple wiþ voice memoriall
Gan crie lowde concludyng þis sentence
Gaulter for euery was chefe lorde of fflorraine

So to persever duryng all his lyfe
Toke in þe pales ful possessioun
Þer durste non agayn hym make no stryfe
Grauntid to hym þe dominacioun
Of all þe Castellis aboute enviroun
Tuscané and Arech and Castell fflorentyne
Wiþ all lordeships to mount appenyne ·
¶As ye haue herd Gaulter þus began
By his own furius diuinaile
Seyd he was born to be lorde of Tuscané
Wiþ a grete partie also of Itaile
Tolde he was lorde conveide by a quaile
Sayd ouermore were it right or wrong
Þat was þe sentence of þe byrdes som songe
¶Þe same byrde brought hym fyrste to fflorrence
All þe wey afforn hym tok his flight
Wiþ swet syngyng did hym reuere
High in þe eire of corage and gladde and light
Wolde neuer parte oute of his sight
Gave hym tokyns to sette his hert afyre
Þat of fflorrence he shulde be lorde and syre
¶Þe same byrde he bare in his devysys
ffull richelie enbroudid wyth ferre
Toke vpon hym many grete emprisis
As chefe lorde of fflorrence þe cite
Sat in iugement and governyd þe cuntre
Drough to hym fflaterers and folke þat couþ lie
Baudes and rebaudes where he myght þem spie
¶Of þat cite tok mervelus truages
Incroychyd to hym richesse of þe town
Of lecherie vsyd grete outragis
Of maydyns wyvys made non excepcion
Voide of mercy grace and remission
ffounde querels for to be vengeable
Þat to reherce it is abominable ·
¶Where he hatid mercyles he sleþ
Brake franchisises and olde libertes
þe peple pleynyd desyryng sore his deþe
Cried vengeaunce aboute in þeir cites
ffor tirannie don in þeir cuntres
Which was cause of grete dissencion
And of þeir citi almost subuersion
[end of manuscript – four leaves (901 lines) missing]
TEXTUAL NOTES (by book and line number, collated with Bergen)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book I</th>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>176</td>
<td></td>
<td>Annotation at left margin (two dots with flourish on top); this mark is similar to those used elsewhere to indicate misordered lines, though nothing is out of order here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>190-211</td>
<td></td>
<td>Right margin has several (early modern?) washed notes or pen trials, now illegible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>247-248</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marginal note at left (partially lost due to trimming): [?Not]at I. Lydgate famosos librorum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>255</td>
<td></td>
<td>For <em>Retorik pe chefe welle</em>, Bergen prints <em>the cheeff welle off eloquence</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>260-261</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marginal note at left (partially lost due to trimming): [*Fra]nisco petrarcha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>274-275</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marginal note at left (partially lost due to trimming): [*Cha]uncer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>283</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marginal note at left (partially lost due to trimming): [?De libr]is Chauncer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>295</td>
<td></td>
<td>For <em>this booke</em>, Bergen prints <em>thastlabre</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>303</td>
<td></td>
<td>For <em>In englissh</em>, Bergen prints <em>Dante in Inglissh</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>330-337</td>
<td></td>
<td>Line 331 is out of place, following line 336 (per Bergen); a bracket in the inner margin (red ink over brown, so seemingly scribal), indicates the proper position of the line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>362</td>
<td></td>
<td>Faint letters (illegible) above this line, in top margin; perhaps dry-point or very faded brown-ink pen trail or letter practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>428-435</td>
<td></td>
<td>Annotation in right margin (partially lost due to trimming): <em>Hic habuit iste ... Lidgate in mandatis a ... ad transferendum librum ... linguam Anglicanam</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>469-470</td>
<td></td>
<td>Annotation in right margin (partially lost due to trimming), apparently a guide for the rubric: <em>Explicit prologus ... Incipit ... Tragedia de Ad[am] ...</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>470</td>
<td></td>
<td>Line begins with large blue initial <em>W</em> (three lines in height)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>530</td>
<td></td>
<td>Line was originally omitted but is copied in the left margin (by scribe) near line 528; a signes-de-renvoi marks the correct insertion point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>562-567</td>
<td></td>
<td>Line 563 is out of place here; annotations in the inner margin indicate the error: a small signum (three dots with flourish at bottom) marks line 563 (at its current location, after 566) and the place where it should be (between 562 and 564)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>563</td>
<td></td>
<td>For <em>no name</em>, Bergen prints <em>the name</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>673</td>
<td></td>
<td>Light brown (scribal) slash mark indicates separation of <em>were</em> and <em>pei</em>, which are otherwise written continuously</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>782-791</td>
<td></td>
<td>Light brown-ink line in left margin (faded) highlights these lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>820-826</td>
<td></td>
<td>Line 821 is out of place, set after 825 (per Bergen); a bracket in the inner margin (red ink over brown, so seemingly scribal) indicates the proper position of the line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>823</td>
<td></td>
<td>For <em>erthlie</em>, Bergen prints <em>hertili</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>833-834</td>
<td></td>
<td>Faint brown-ink bracket in the right margin (faded with mold damage) connects these lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>905-909</td>
<td></td>
<td>Line 906 is out of place, set after 908 (per Bergen); a bracket in the outer margin (red ink over brown, so seemingly scribal) indicates the proper position of the line</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Otiose stroke above the u in sycurnes, similar to standard –er abbreviation

Cropped note in outer margin: [Tra]gedia 2a de Nembrth, perhaps a guide for the rubric

Line begins with large blue initial M (three lines in height)

Strikethrough in red ink

Lines 1044-1071 (per Bergen) not present in MS

Lines 1093-1106 (per Bergen) not present in MS

Line 1153 (per Bergen) not present in MS, resulting in short stanza

Slash between selfe and moste is scribal

The name Vixoses is repeated in brown ink in outer margin

In Bergen this line reads: That the glory and the hih renoun, and the next stanza (at line 1485) begins with Ascryued were onto hys worthynesse

These lines in Bergen read: Turne sholde to comoun auantage / Off al his peele that every maner age

The name Thanaus repeated in brown ink in outer margin

The name Zorastes repeated in brown ink in outer margin

Strikethrough in red ink

The name Nimus repeated in brown ink in outer margin

Strikethough in red ink; gan myghtyli p(re)uaile written again in outer margin

Strikethrough in red; Pharao written in brown ink in outer margin

Bergen supplies Semalioun, but the name of kingdom is not present in this MS

Bergen prints Mercury instead of Thourye

First strikethrough in red ink; corrected word indigence repeated in brown ink in outer margin

Line 1755 (per Bergen) is not present in MS, resulting in short stanza

Nota bene mark and French notation Lenvoie p(our) le femme in outer margin, in hand different from main scribe’s

The name Iubit appears in the outer left margin

Many lines are altered, repeated, or out of order here, such that the sense of the text and prosody is affected; consecutive labelling of line numbers through this section clarifies positions in MS as compared to Bergen

Lines 1893 and 1894 are reversed; a brown-ink bracket in the inner margin indicates the error

For humble of his toke Bergen prints Humble off his cheere took

Line 1902 is out of place; a bracket in the inner margin (a red-ink line over a brown-ink line) indicates its proper position

These lines not present in MS, though part of line 1914 (And in the temple of Delphos stille a-bod, per Bergen) seems to be maintained

The word bulle is written in the outer right margin, apparently in the hand of the main scribe

For hoole the regallie Bergen prints the regalie

For his place Bergen prints hir paleis

Lines 2045-2072 (4 stanzas) and lines 2073-2107 (5 stanzas) are reversed, so that the story of Athamas who thought his wife was a lion comes before the stanzas lamenting Cadmus’ ill fortune

For Cadmus sorowes Bergen prints his sorwes
The word *lones* should be *leones* or *liones*

For *hent* Bergen prints *rente*

Lines 2143-2149 (1 stanza) and 2122-2142 (3 stanzas) are reversed

For *inguraunce* (sic), Bergen prints *enqueraunce*

For *sought* Bergen prints *slouh*

The word *sould* appears to be an error for *folued* (compare Bergen’s *folwid*)

The word *humues* should be *humurs* or *humours* (per Bergen)

For *alleuate* (from *elevaten?*) Bergen prints *alterat*

This stanza collapses two stanzas (per Bergen), so that rhyme scheme and sense are affected; lines 2340-2345 and line 2350 are omitted in MS

Pen trials in MS just under this line (bottom right margin of fol. 9v)

*Lut* is an error for *Cut* (per Bergen); for *were ware or se* Bergen prints only *wer war* (i.e., *or se* is an addition) – three dots (.:) next to this line seem to indicate awareness of the errors

For *fame* Bergen prints *shame*

Washed notes or pen trials (early modern) at outer margin her, now illegible

For *fere* Bergen prints *dreed*

Scribe combines lines 2388 and 2395 (*Touchyng the eende off ther furious discord* and *Sauff whan she hadde fullfild hir purpos*, per Bergen) and omits lines 2389-2394

For *Reuokyd* Bergen prints *Resorted*

For *His* Bergen prints *Hir*

For *This* Bergen prints *Thus*

Ink blot over capital *S* in *Sithen*, perhaps a correction

Large blue capital *T* (three lines tall) at start of line

For *Bochas* Bergen prints *Ouide*

For *ligge* Bergen prints *liuen*

For *fest* Bergen prints *felt*

For *in parti* Bergen prints *in iupartie*

Two slash marks in the outer margin here, similar to those that often act as guides for rubricated paragraph marks

For *and glorie* Bergen prints *off glory*

For *priuelie* Bergen prints *secretie*

For *hym* Bergen prints *it*

For *ffor to gete me* Bergen prints *Forgete my*

The word *me* omitted in Bergen

The word *I* omitted in Bergen

For *yeue me youre* Bergen prints *youe to you myn*

For *ought not* Bergen prints *auhte inouh*

For *so sore* Bergen prints *to sore*

For *astodied* Bergen prints *astonyd*

Bergen prints *look* (as the word should be), but there is an extra *o* in MS

Scribe likely missed the second *r* in *contraius*; Bergen prints *contrarious*

Bergen’s lines are different here: *For every-whoer, wher ye do returne, / And euerti place wher-as ye soiourne*
For actez ben Bergen prints accus is
For vengeable Bergen prints disnaturel
For þe (before both dominacio and regallie) Bergen prints ther
For outhlie (here and elsewhere in this section) Bergen prints ouglie
For poetis Bergen prints the poete
For perin in partie Bergen prints ther in iuapartie
Strike-through correction in red ink
For liknes Bergen prints liklynesse
For truste in them ar sonyes Bergen prints assure hem rathest been
Paraph mark is misplaced here (should be at line 2724)
For þe Bergen prints ther in iupartie
Strike-through correction in red ink
For everychon oute of thrall Bergen prints in especiall
Double and is a scribal error
For ix sterres Bergen prints the sterris
For ðe booke Bergen prints my book
For charite Bergen prints cheer
For þe booke Bergen prints my book
For intent ful on克莱 Bergen prints entent Phedra ful oncleene
Stanzas are out of order here: Bergen’s lines 2829-2842 follow line 2821 in MS
Red paraph mark and Latin notation (partially lost due to trimming) in outer margin: Nota de mulieribus inuenientibus / falsas fabulas ad decipiendum mar[es]
The word cam is an error for can
For in fere Bergen prints Ifeere
For weddid (which does not make sense here) Bergen prints was ded
For here Bergen prints herte
For language Bergen prints doomys
Blue capital A (three lines in height) begins line
For mansse Bergen prints manace
For drie Bergen prints drad
For for the werres Bergen prints with hookes made lyk sithes
Missing line written in the outer margin (partially lost due to trimming); a line (red-ink over brown ink) connects it to its correct position in the stanza
Lines are out of order in one stanza (2929-2933) and one stanza is omitted (2934-2940, per Bergen)
For And wyeslie Bergen prints Auysili
For his Bergen prints hir
For longe to suffre Bergen prints suffre hem longe to
Thurgh should be Thof or Though
End of the first quire: the bottom margin contains the signature Wyllham Fermer and the catchwords (bottom right) ffor fortune
For hir Bergen prints his
For euer eny wodlie Bergen prints on any worldli
For sendith his myght Bergen prints yeueth liht
For CCCC (four hundred) Bergen prints thre hundrid; the scribe correctly writes CCC in instances below this (see 3061 and 3072)
For thyng Bergen prints signe
For in wys Bergen prints in no parti
For ffor to (surely an error) Bergen prints Force
For fresshe from Bergen prints is fresshest in
For bemys Bergen prints stremys doun
Lines 3123-3157 (5 stanzas: the end of the envoy for Gideon and the fall of Jabin) do not appear in the MS
A brown-ink rhyming brace brackets these lines on the right margin.
His is a scribal error; Bergen prints (correctly) Hir instead of His.
A brown-ink line in the left margin highlights these lines.
Bergen prints he instead of it.
Bergen prints brestis instead of pappes.
The word refris appears to be an error for reffus (per Bergen); lines 3283-3291 (per Bergen) are not present in the manuscript.
Lines 3295 and 3297 are reversed (per Bergen), and a red-ink bracket on the inner margin, connected to reversed lines, seems to indicate awareness of the error.
The doubled word (not not) is a scribal error.
Two half-lines are reversed here. Bergen prints: There was noon helpe nor other remedie, / Bi the statut but that he must deie.
forll is deleted by red-ink strikethrough and brown-ink subpunction; the correction is in the left outer margin.
Cropped note in outer right margin: Spinx volucris penna pede ser[pentis] / fronte puella
For go or fle, Bergen prints go nor fle.
Note in outer right margin: ¶Problema Serpentis.
For .ij., Bergen prints four.
For staffe impotent, Bergen prints staff or potent.
For crokyd, Bergen prints crossid.
Bergen prints dispence instead of expence.
A blot of brown ink before the word conuenience indicates that a (now unreadable) letter was deleted.
Lines 3524 and 3526 are reversed (per Bergen); and a red-ink bracket (over an earlier brown-ink one) on the inner margin, connected to reversed lines, seems to indicate awareness of the error.
The words in partie should read in iuapartie (as in Bergen).
For article, Bergen prints oracle.
For tale, Bergen prints rumor.
For Corvid, Bergen prints *croked*.

Lines 3680-3686 (per Bergen) are not present in the manuscript, but the missing stanza seems to be the result of eyeskip: the first half of line 3680 is present (*Sent vnto Thebes*), but the line is completed by the second half of 3687 (*Thebes pe myghty town*); eyeskip is on the word *Thebes*, and affects the text’s sense.

The words *had be* are an error for *had he*.

For *promisse*, Bergen prints *prowesse*.

For *And*, Bergen prints *Nor*.

*Sege of Thebes* refers to Lydgate’s earlier authored work (ca. 1420) of the same name.

Deletion here is with both red-ink strikethrough and brown-ink subpunction; correction is interline.

A *nota* mark is in the outer left margin at this line.

For *oper syde*, Bergen prints *everi side*.

For *fame*, Bergen prints *diffame*.

Lines 3781-3787 (per Bergen) are not present in the manuscript.

For *ever to lyve in peyne*, Bergen prints *ever endure peyne*.

For *by example of scripture*, Bergen prints *bexaumple & bi scripture*.

Lines 3830-3836 (per Bergen) are not present in the manuscript.

Large blue capital *B* (three lines in height) at start of this line

For *began* Bergen prints *be*

For *par dieu* Bergen prints *pard*.

For *to write* Bergen prints *tendite*.

For *to indite* Bergen prints *to write*.

For *more pitevous* Bergen prints *mor froward nor pitous*.

For *resembler* Bergen prints *rassemblith*.

For *Who* Bergen prints *Whos*.

For the second instance of *a* Bergen prints *his*.

For *duplicate* Bergen prints * duplicite*.

For *who* Bergen prints *how*.

For *pat am* Bergen prints *that I am*.

For *as* Bergen prints *a*.

For *Thus* Bergen prints *This*.

For *departid* Bergen prints *partid*.

For *imbesile* Bergen prints *exile*.

Bergen omits *his*.

For *Iniurius* Bergen prints *injuries*.

For *eyther forgete* Bergen prints *outher part forgete*.

For *Wher* Bergen prints *Wheroff*.

For *shadowyd* Bergen prints *shroudid*.

For *þe pore* Bergen prints *ther peur*.

For *þe* Bergen prints *he*.

For *wylde* Bergen prints *wili*.

Bergen omits *bus*.

For *þe* Bergen prints *these*.
4012 For This Bergen prints Thus
4013 For coniectyng Bergen prints aduertyng
4025 For innocencie Bergen prints tirannye
4033 For confis Bergen prints cruses
4037 For This dar I sey for Bergen prints Yis I dar seyen for bi
4044 For erroure Bergen prints horour
4046 For Shrowyd Bergen prints Shrowded
4047 For But alas Bergen prints But I allas
4048 For no oþ Bergen prints nouthre
4050 For peir blood ek did I drynk Bergen prints & off ther blood dede dryinke
4051 For to Bergen prints in
4052 For I not Bergen prints I may nat
4057/4058 Scribe combines two lines here, copying the a-verse of line 4057 and the b-verse of 4058; this results in a short stanza
4060 For wher Bergen prints wheroff
4072 For coverid Bergen prints conveied
4086 For all voyde Bergen prints abraid
4100 For rote of all my mortal Bergen prints roote & ground off al my
4107 Bergen omits as
4115/4116 Scribe combines two lines here, copying the a-verse of line 4115 and the b-verse of 4116; this results in a short stanza
4119 For Demyng Bergen prints Deemyng euer
4141-4145 Lines are out of order here and several correcting annotations appear: deletion in line 4143 is by subpunction, and the word he is added both in the left margin and interline with a caret; a bracket-style line in the left margin (written in red ink over brown ink) then connects line 4142 (currently at the end of the stanza) to its correct position after line 4141
4147 For agayn Bergen prints how ageyn
4147-4148 Scribe copies these lines twice (result of eyeskip with Of his and By his) and deletes the second instance, where a brown-ink curved line is visible beneath a red-ink cross out
4154 For falslie Bergen prints he
4158 For deyne Bergen prints ryue
4160 For Vn (which likely should be Vnto) Bergen prints On me
4174 For Whiez (which makes little sense here) Bergen prints Which
4177 For theis Bergen prints ther
4187-4189 Line 4188 does not appear in MS, resulting in short stanza
4195-4200 Lines are out of order here; a line at the left of the stanza (red ink over brown ink) connects lines 4196-4197 to their correct position after 4195; a small tick mark next to 4196 (in brown) also visible
4198 For This Bergen prints Thus
4206 For endid Bergen prints fyned
4224 Deletion by strikethrough with red ink over brown ink
4231 For vntrouth Bergen prints on trouth; for insure Bergen prints assure
4233 For ouersidnes (?) Bergen prints cursidnesse
4234 For to vnknyt Bergen prints so knet
Large blue capital A (three lines in height) at start of line; for all pat Bergen prints

Althouh

For is moste Bergen prints that chaung is most

For puissaunce Bergen prints hih puissaunce

For so Bergen prints do

For labour Bergen prints studie

For and Bergen prints or

For crokid Bergen prints crabbid

Annotation in right outer margin (brown ink with red-ink paraph): ¶Nota de lingua / bona et mala / et de adulatoribus

For well Bergen prints riht weel

For Aftyr Bergen prints Lich

In Bergen this line reads: Shet up his doomys betwixe lokkis tweyne

Bergen omits And

Bergen omits peir

For his Bergen prints in his

For shal Bergen prints ye shal

Bergen omits wel

For Kepte Bergen prints Kept hym

For no wey haue Bergen prints nat haue it

For lyfe Bergen prints lyne

Annotation in outer right margin: notate mulieres

Brown-ink X mark appears in right margin here

For repreve Bergen prints preue

For contrarie Bergen prints so contrarie

For chiche (scribal error) Bergen prints which

For ffor Bergen prints Nor

For seruauntes Bergen prints sergauntis

Bergen omits may

For portes Bergen prints porteris

For agayn Bergen prints ageyn hem

For with myrth Bergen prints meryly

For wyfyll Bergen prints woful

For moste Bergen prints ay most

For ay inforsyng Bergen prints affercyng ay trouthe

For peir Bergen prints hir

For and Bergen prints nor

For foule Bergen prints fell

For intendaunce Bergen prints entendement

For youre Bergen prints ther

Large blue capital W (three lines in height) at start of line

For cam Bergen prints gan neihhe

For oon Bergen prints Oene off

For to torne Bergen prints to-forn
For Squenchid Bergen prints Queynt
For þer Bergen prints thus
For nede Bergen prints mede
For myght in Bergen prints cauhte an
For amonge Bergen prints a-mong hem
For hymself Bergen prints hym folk
For glad faynn Bergen prints ful glad & fayn
For hir Bergen prints ther
For godde Bergen prints God wot
For dwere Bergen prints weer
For all Bergen prints a-gyn al
For outhlie Bergen prints ougli
For þus Bergen prints these
For þat Bergen prints that thei
For nat perteineth vnto Bergen prints apparteneth to no
For is Bergen prints which is
For with hir cursid hande Bergen prints maad hire with hir hond
An annotation in outer right margin, partially lost to trimming: ¶
[Nota de tribus sororibus fat[alibus]
For yow Bergen prints loue
For must Bergen prints may nat
For alyve Bergen prints heer a-lyue
For outhlie Bergen prints ougli
Bust of a figure in profile sketched in right outer margin, very faint (possibly dry point, damaged by mold) – likely medieval, unclear whether male or female
For hirself Bergen prints hir liff
For somtyme Bergen prints whilom
For nobles Bergen prints noble
For age Bergen prints ago
For reforme Bergen prints reuere
For Som Bergen prints Sum man
For preferres be to Bergen prints preferrid bi
For flame hir Bergen prints Famys
For haue Bergen prints haue be
For Ciciline Bergen prints Stillene
For nature Bergen prints power
For This Bergen prints Thus
For hede Bergen prints good heede
For diffyse Bergen prints despise
Extra paraph at the beginning of this line, though it is not the beginning of stanza
For nobles Bergen prints his noblesse
For insentente Bergen prints sholde in sentement
For distres many maner Bergen prints discrete in ony manyes
For yf Bergen prints yaff
For Geaunt Bergen prints tiraunt
For of (both instances) Bergen prints on
For He laude pat in crece Bergen prints The land ten crece
For morbir his gestes Bergen prints slayen straungers
For his Bergen prints this
Line 5262 out of place here (mistakenly copied at the end of the stanza); a line in the left margin (red ink over brown ink) connects it to its correct place after 5261
For peysid Bergen prints reised
For ffayyn (surely a scribal error) Bergen prints Spaigne
For contagius Bergen prints outraious
Line is repeated and appears both at bottom of fol. 20rb and top of fol. 20va
For passyng Bergen prints goyng
For Oathus Bergen prints Cachus, and the scribe here notes the error as well: in the left margin is a brown-ink annotation: Cachus
For befor Bergen prints be force
Deletion is by both brown-ink subpunction and red-ink strikethrough
For pray Bergen prints parti; for wente Bergen prints hente
For gardey (missing a macron) Bergen prints gardeyn
For Coruz (copying error for Thoruȝ?) Bergen prints Thoruh
For connyng Bergen prints ful cunnyng
For grete Bergen prints hih
For sometyme Bergen prints whilom was
For regioun Bergen prints hous
For thought Bergen prints thoruh
Scribe initially skipped two lines (5415-5416) but corrected the error: four lines are deleted (5417-5420) with a brown-ink cross out and a red-ink wavy line; missing lines are then added, and the deleted lines are copied again in the correct position
Line 5422 out of place here, though there is no indication that the scribe realized the error
For pe Bergen prints in the
For ferre (serre?) Bergen prints Lerne
Bergen omits did and prints to for so
For of Bergen prints or
For lenyth Bergen prints lesith
Deletion is with red-ink strikethrough; for sometyme Bergen prints whilom
Line 5458 is out of place here (copied at end of stanza, between 5460 and 5461); red-ink line in left margin connects it to correct placement after 5457
For armys Bergen prints hornys
For outhlie Bergen prints ougli
For the first instance of his Bergen prints he
For toknewe Bergen prints tognew
Lines 5507 and 5508 are reversed here; red-ink and brown-ink lines in the left margin mark the problem
For and Bergen prints in
Bergen omits all
Deletion with red-ink strikethrough
Strikethroughs in both brown ink and red ink
For mighty Bergen prints knyhtli
For Yeve Bergen prints You; for youre Bergen prints thoruh prudent
For oper Bergen prints off other

Large red capital A (three lines in height) at start of line
Faded bracket at right margin (in brownish-green ink) marks these two lines
For stronglie Bergen prints straungeli
For wher Bergen prints whan
For odible Bergen prints horrible
For ffor he fell almoste Bergen prints For ire almost he fill
For horrible Bergen prints odible
For the first instance of presence Bergen prints face
For it Bergen prints he
For holo Bergen prints hool
For compile Bergen prints compleyne
For swownyng Bergen prints swouhe
For Somtyme Bergen prints Whilom
For Wele and wanhope Bergen prints Welle off wanhope
For somtyme Bergen prints whilom
For sours Bergen prints sorwes
Line in brownish-green ink marks these lines at left outer margin
For maiste sum Bergen prints maist afftir sum
For so Bergen prints nat so
For outrence Bergen prints offence
For pore Bergen prints pure
For ferful Bergen prints sorweful
For peis Bergen prints thilke
For ladie Bergen prints lord
For somtyme Bergen prints whilom
For it hide Bergen prints it nat hide
For make Bergen prints marke
For pe Bergen prints his
Erasure by subpunction and red-ink strikethrough; correction interline
Bergen omits at
For and Bergen prints al in
For hir Bergen prints his
For toke Bergen prints stood
For The swerde in hir right hand Bergen prints Withoute abood the sharpe suerd
For hymselfe Bergen prints the silff
For which Bergen prints such
For small Bergen prints fynal
For And agayn right hasty Bergen prints Ageyn al riht & hasti
For perturbeth youre Bergen prints perturben the
Book II

127-61 These lines (5 stanzas) are out of place; they appear in this MS immediately after the final line of Book I (per Bergen) and before the marked (i.e., rubricated) beginning of Book II

130 For ye Bergen prints he

137 For many a Bergen prints manyfold

140 For fall Bergen prints fate

149 For make intencion Bergen prints made mencion

157 For inhaunce Bergen prints auaunce

159 For of sentence Bergen prints & sentence

161-1 Start of Book II’s prologue (per Bergen) begins after lines 127-161 in this MS; there is a line space between the Incipit rubric and line 1

1 Large blue capital T (four lines in height) at start of line

6 For not Bergen prints inouh

7-21 Line with a loop at the top (in dark, brownish-green ink) marks these lines at the inner margin

9 For gladnes Bergen prints al gladnesse

21 For hat Bergen prints ther

33 The word deserue is written above the word discerne, in a hand different from the main scribe’s

42 For eclipsid Bergen prints cliptik

59 For oper Bergen prints ther

61 Three dots (⋯) appear next to this line at the left margin, seemingly to mark the correction or awareness of errors in this (and this next?) line

62 For gyftys Bergen prints giltes

65 For conseruith Bergen prints confermeth

71 For and oue criе Bergen prints an outcri

76 For hert and thought Bergen prints herte, will & thouht

82 For forme Bergen prints ferme

83 For Both peis (surely an error) Bergen prints By othris

94 For do bite Bergen prints kerue & bite

95 First correction by subpunction (in brown ink), second by red-ink over brown-ink strikethrough (correct word is written with brown ink)

126 Book II prologue ends here in this MS’s arrangement; remaining stanzas (lines 127-161) are placed earlier, at end of Book I

1898 Large blue capital (three lines in height) at start of line

1917 For hus she Bergen prints this Siche

1920-1922 Line 1921 (per Bergen) not present in MS, resulting in short stanza

1924-1925 Rhyming brace in light brown ink connects these lines (inner margin)

1928 For vnstable Bergen prints onstaunchable

1935 For she Bergen prints sithe

1942 For Boldest Bergen prints Bauys

1972 For in Bergen prints hir

1982 For diuinacions Bergen prints dyuynours
1998 Deletion with brown-ink subpunction and red-ink strikethrough
2019 For lyue Bergen prints wyue
2023 Deletion with brown-ink subpunction and red-ink strikethrough
2032 For his Bergen prints hir
2042 For pei were no Bergen prints for he was nat
2057 For attempt or tame Bergen prints tattemten or tatame
2059 For raper Bergen prints rather deie
2061 For cuntre Bergen prints centre
2075 For youre Bergen prints his
2078 For Wheber Bergen prints Wher
2084 For pat pei Bergen prints nat be
2108 For nere Bergen prints mor
2123 For And Bergen prints Go
2130 For saile Bergen prints soile
2139-2140 Rhyming brace in light brown ink on outer margin connects these two lines
2141-2142 Rhyming brace in light brown ink on outer margin connects these two lines
2148-2149 Rhyming brace in light brown ink on outer margin connects these two lines
2156-2170 Long bracket in light brown ink on outer margin marks these fourteen lines
2159 Bergen omits full
2162 For Ones Bergen prints Amysse
2171 Annotation in left outer margin (in brown ink): Lenvoie
2191 For screteli Bergen prints cleerli
2192 For beaute Bergen prints boute
2198 For trouth Bergen prints vertu
2199 Annotation in left outer margin (in brown ink with red paraph): ¶Alia lenvoie
2221 For gete in frendes Bergen prints gete frendes
2223 Below rubricated title for Sardanapalus section, scribe leaves last three available lines of this column blank
2234 Large blue initial (three lines in height) at start of line
2239 For outhlie Bergen prints ougli
2242 For disers Bergen prints Assiriens
2265 For goode Bergen prints gret
2270 Bergen omits al
2273 For syluer white Bergen prints siluer-briht
2276 For was Bergen prints nas
2289 First two letters of Terrible show evidence of erasure by scraping (correct letters written over the scraped parchment)
2294 For an ordinaunce Bergen prints a coniuracioun
2301 End of the third quire: bottom right margin shows catchwords, slightly cropped at lower edge: Wher among women
2305 For surefetoures Bergen prints sergaunts riotous
2309 For abought but fooles and rioutoures Bergen prints off armys but folkis vicious
2320 For in myddes of his riches Bergen prints myd his riche
2321 Bergen omits And
2326 For specifie Bergen prints certefie
2328 For Tirannie Bergen prints glotenye
Bergen omits In
For pe traces Bergen prints his tras
For euer Bergen prints ay

Book IX
Rubricated title for this section is inserted at inner margin (alongside end of previous section)
Line begins with blue capital A (three lines in height)
For o verrey sopfaste light Bergen prints daysterre and souereyn liht (though he notes several other manuscripts that show the variant)
For rehersid Bergen prints refusi
d
For brode Bergen prints blood
For strange Bergen prints gret
For þurgh all lumbardie Bergen prints thorhout al Itaile
Strikethrough in red ink over brown ink
For þem Bergen prints hym
For þervpon Bergen prints Wherupon
Line 2668 (per Bergen) not present in MS, creating a short stanza here
For lorde Bergen prints lad
The word sore is repeated (in lighter brown ink) in the outer margin