

UC-NRLF



B 3 463 169

H. H. Cameron.



XVI
Take

REMAINS
HISTORICAL & LITERARY
CONNECTED WITH THE PALATINE COUNTIES OF
LANCASTER AND CHESTER
PUBLISHED BY
THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.

VOL XV.

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

PRINTED FOR THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.

M.DCCC.XLVIII.

7.11.70
L19C5
v.15

TO THE
ABBOTTLAND

LONDON:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM NICOL, PALL MALL.



Council.

- EDWARD HOLME, Esq., M.D., PRESIDENT.**
REV. RICHARD PARKINSON, B.D., CANON OF MANCHESTER, VICE-PRESIDENT.
THE HON. & VÉRY REV. WILLIAM HERBERT, DEAN OF MANCHESTER.
GEORGE ORMEROD, Esq., D.C.L., F.R.S., F.S.A., F.G.S., SEDBURY PARK.
SAMUEL HIBBERT WARE, Esq., M.D., F.R.S.E., EDINBURGH.
REV. THOMAS CORSER, M.A.
REV. GEORGE DUGARD, M.A.
REV. C. G. HULTON, M.A.
REV. J. PICCOPE, M.A.
REV. F. R. RAINES, M.A., F.S.A., MILNROW PARSONAGE, NEAR ROCHDALE.
JAMES CROSSLEY, Esq.
JAMES HEYWOOD, Esq., F.R.S.
WILLIAM LANGTON, Esq., TREASURER.
WILLIAM FLEMING, Esq., M.D., HON. SECRETARY.



LONDON :
PRINTED BY WILLIAM NICOL, PALL MALL.

INTRODUCTION.

A Society, established for the publication of historical and literary remains connected with the Palatine counties of Lancaster and Chester, could not fail to direct their early attention to the history of a person so illustrious by her birth, so reputed for the sanctity of her life, so memorable for her imputed miracles, and whose name is familiar to every inhabitant of these palatine counties as the patroness saint of the cathedral of the diocese. Amongst the earliest notices issued by the Society was an announcement of their intention to publish a reprint of Henry Bradshaw's *Life and History of St. Werburgh* from the very rare quarto of 1521, printed by Pynson. That intention is now fulfilled by the present volume, containing the poem of which "Harry Braddeshaa, of Chestre Abbay, monke," is partly author, partly translator.

In the "prologue of the translatur," as he calls himself, he says, p. 4.

I purpose to wryte a legende good and true
And translate a lyfe into Englysshe doubtles ;

and at p. 26 gives an account of the work, which he purposes to translate.

For as declareth, the true Passyonary
A boke wherin, her holy lyfe wryten is
Whiche boke remayneth, in Chester monastery

I purpose by helpe of Jhesu kyng of blys
 In any wyse to reherse, any sentence amys
 But folowe the legende, and true hystory
 After an humble style, and from it lytell vary.

These variations, be they "lytell" or much, seem to be founded upon histories and chronicles, which have been published, and are accessible to all who choose to trace the authorities for some of these legendary notices.

Unto this rude werke, myne auctours these shalbe
 Fyrst the true legende, and the venerable Bede
 Mayster Alfrydus, and Wyllyam Malvysburye
 Gyarde Polycronycon, and other mo in deed. p. 5.

The "true legende" is doubtless the "true Passyonary" mentioned above, which is afterwards called the "thrid Passyonary;"

And as the history, of her lyfe doth expresse
 In a boke nominat, the thrid passionary; p. 120.

which also seems to have contained an account of more miracles than the translator was perhaps quite prepared to believe, or at least did not deem it quite expedient to publish at this time.

To expresse all myracles, written in the place
 In a boke nominate, the thrid passionarye
 It wolde require, a longe tyme and space
 To the reders tedious, (no mervayle sothly)
 Where we omytte, to writte of them specially
 But touched in generall, unto your audience. p. 197.

The poem is preceded by a "Prologe in honour and laude

of Sainte Werburge and to the prayse of the translatur by J. T.," whose name and profession we have been as little able to ascertain as was Herbert, when he first noticed this work.

Of the main body of the poem then Bradshaw must be considered as a translator from a work,* in the Latin language, then remaining in the library of Chester monastery, called the true or third Passionary, inserting such additional matter as he was pleased to extract from the various chronicles which he mentions. He was however not merely a translator, but an author, for the "Prologes" to the first and second books, pp. 1 and 134, "A litell orison or prayer to the blessed virgine Saynte Werburge," p. 205, and the "breve conclusion," p. 207, are certainly original compositions of Bradshaw himself, and it is not improbable that he was also author of chapters 21 and 22, in the second book, being "A breve rehersall of the myracles of Saynt Werburge after her translacion to Chestre," and "A charitable

* The author of the original work here translated is not known, nor was Bradshaw himself acquainted with his name, for in "a Balade to the auctour," published with the translation the very year in which it was concluded, is mentioned (p. 210) that "uncertayne was his name."

Warton observes "a great translator of the lives of the Saxon Saints from the Saxon, in which language only they were then extant, into Latin, was Goscelinus, a monk of St. Austin at Canterbury, who passed from France into England about 1058. Among the rest were the lives of St. Werburgh, St. Ethelred and St. Sexburgh, most probably the legends which were Bradshaw's originals." This conjecture can scarcely be reconciled to the above assertion with regard to the original author, that "uncertayne was his name."

mocion and desyre to all the inhabytauntes within the Countie Palatine of Chestre for the monasterie."

The poem is written in stanzas of seven lines each, of which the first and third, the second, fourth and fifth, and the sixth and seventh, rhyme with each other. To this arrangement there are a few exceptions; at p. 153 is a stanza of eight lines, of which the first and third, the second, fourth, fifth and seventh, the sixth and eighth, rhyme with each other. At pp. 115, 116, 126, are three stanzas similarly arranged, in which three cases however the last line is Latin. Chapters 21, 22 and 23, and two balades at pp. 211 and 212 are all written in similar stanzas of eight lines.

Throughout the poem, in order to produce, in reading, anything of rythmical intonation, the accent must be laid strongly upon the very last syllable of the line, even in cases where, according to the modern mode of pronunciation, the last syllable is as little dwelt upon as possible. Every stanza affords instances of this intonation, and it is scarcely necessary to refer to any particular passages, but in p. 125, the following illustrations may be observed, — gostly and remedy, parte and trinite, odour, savour, hour; body, clergy, verily, &c. &c.

The Latin language was probably very familiar to our author, for the reader can scarcely fail to be struck with the frequent introduction of quaint Latinisms. At p. 150 we find "With grace circumfulced and lyghtned was England." In the same page he talks of faith enduring "without recidivation," and in p. 152, of faith being "remanent;" we find "promyttynge," p. 163, 166; "facundious," p. 209,

210 ; “desydery,” 56, and several others may be discovered by consulting the glossary. The greater number of these words it will be perceived were derived directly from the Latin, but not unfrequently, as is most usual in writers of that age, the Latinisms appear to have been introduced under the influence of the French language upon our own, rather than directly from the Latin. At p. 153, he speaks of St. Alban’s monastery being edified, from *edifier* ; p. 115, of this life being *caduce* ; p. 137, of the abbey of Chester envired with walles ; baptism is written baptym, *baptime* ; convent, *covent* ; sautyng, from *assaut* ; and dygne of dutye, from *digne*. The termination of the past tense, derived from the Latin participle, is of almost universal occurrence, as maculate, preparate, coronate, nominat, tumulate, &c. &c.

At pp. 147, 158 and 179 are quotations from Henry of Huntingdon, which contain some errors ; it is as well therefore to reprint them here from Savile’s edition of that author.

p. 147.

Nobilitas innata tibi probitatis honorem
 Armipotens Alfrede dedit, probitasque laborem,
 Perpetuumque labor nomen, cui mixta dolori
 Gaudia semper erant ; spes semper mixta timori.
 Si modo victor eras, ad crastina bella pavebas.
 Si modo victus eras, ad crastina bella parabas.

Jam post transactos vitæ regnique dolores
 Christus ei sit vera quies, sceptrumque perenne.

Henrici Huntingdoniensis, Hist. lib. v.

p. 158.

O Elfreda potens, O terror virgo virorum
 Victrix naturæ, nomine digna viri.
 Tu quo splendidior fieres, natura puellam,
 Te probitas fecit nomen habere viri
 Te mutare decet sed solam, nomina sexus,
 Tu regina potens, rexque trophæa parans.
 Jam nec Cæsarei tantum meruere triumphi
 Cæsare splendidior virgo virago vale. *Ibid.*

p. 179.

Auctor opum, vindex scelerum, largitor honorum,
 Scepstriger Edgarus regna superna petit.
 Hic alter Salomon, legum pater, orbita pacis ;
 Quod caruit bellis claruit inde magis.
 Tempia Deo, templis monachos, monachis dedit agros
 Nequitæ lapsum, justitiæque locum. *Ibid.*

In the quotation from William of Malmsbury, p. 176, in the last line, for " a " read " de."

The first book of this poem contains an account of the descent of St. Werburge from four royal families, her character, the history of her life and those of some of her more immediate relations ; it also relates the principal circumstances of her death and subsequent removal and condition of her body. The second book is chiefly devoted to the circumstances which connected her with the city of Chester, of which she was considered the patron saint. The author at p. 4 calls her prioress and lady of the Abbey of Chester : but she was never so, except under the general appointment of Ethelred, who made her (p. 85)

lady ruler and presydent
 Over all the nonnes, of every monastery
 Within his realme.

Ethelred indeed (p. 86)

Edyfyed a collage chyrche, notable and famous
 In the subbarbes of Chester, pleasaunt and beauteous
 In honour of God, and the Baptyst Saynt Johan,

but it does not appear that she had any authority in this establishment, and indeed this foundation had not any connexion with the Abbey of Chester.

It is probable that he calls her "Pryores" of the Abbey merely because she was enshrined there, and was considered the patroness saint of that monastery and city.

To this imputed patronage of the city and its religious establishments we doubtless owe the existence of this poem; for when the translator felt that as "a relygyous man, losynge of tyme could not him excuse, and that for avoiding such great folyshenes he ressolved

Some small treatyse to wryte brevely" p. 4.

there can be little doubt that he was led to the choice of his subject from a desire to do honour to

Blessed vyrgyn Werburge, my holy patronesse, p. 5.

indeed he acknowledges as much in his "breve conclusion,"

The cause movyng us, this werke to begyn
 It was to avoyde, slouth and idelnes
 And most for the love, of this holy virgin
 Whiche is our sufferayn lady and patrones. p. 209.

The reader will probably not be displeased that this poem should be accompanied by Warton's criticisms and estimate of its character, which are, therefore, here quoted at length.

“ Henry Bradshaw has rather larger pretensions to poetical fame than William of Nassington, although scarcely deserving the name of an original writer in any respect. Before the year 1500 he wrote the *Life of St. Werburge*, a daughter of a King of the Mercians, in English verse. This poem, beside the devout deeds and passion of the poet's patroness saint, comprehends a variety of other subjects ; as a description of the kingdom of the Mercians, the lives of Saint Ethelred and Saint Werburge, the foundation of the city of Chester and a chronicle of our Kings. It is collected from Bede, Alfred of Beverley, Malmesbury, Gerardus Cambrensis, Higden's *Polychronicon*, and the *Passionaries of the female Saints Werburgh, Ethelred and Sexburgh*, which were kept for public edification in the choir of our poet's monastery. Bradshaw is not so fond of relating visions and miracles as his argument seems to promise. Although concerned with three saints, he deals more in plain facts than in the fictions of religious romance ; and, on the whole, his performance is rather historical than legendary. This is remarkable in an age when it was the fashion to turn history into legend.

“ His fabulous origin of Chester is not so much to be imputed to his own want of veracity as to the authority of his voucher, Ranulph Higden, a celebrated chronicler, his countryman, and a monk of his own abbey. He supposes

that Chester, called by the ancient Britons *Caer Lleon*, or, the city of legions was founded by *Leon gaur*, a giant, corrupted from *Leon vaur*, a great legion.

The founder of Chestre, as sayth Policronicon
Was *Lleon Gauer*, a myghty stronge gyaunt
Whiche buylded caves, and dongions many one
No goodly buyldyng, propre ne pleasaunt — p. 148.

he adds with equal attention to etymology,

But the *Kynge Leil*, a Briton sure and valiaunt
Was founder of Chestre, by pleasaunt buyldyng
And of *Caerleil*, also named by the kynge. p. 148.

But a greater degree of credulity would perhaps have afforded him a better claim to the character of a poet; and, at least we should have conceived a more advantageous opinion of his imagination had he been less frugal of those traditionary fables, in which ignorance and superstition had clothed every head of his argument.

“The most splendid passage of this poem is the description of the feast (ch. xvi. pp. 58—65) made by King *Wulfer* in the Hall of the Abbey of *Ely* when his daughter *Werburge* was admitted to the veil in that monastery; among other curious anecdotes of ancient manners, the subjects of the tapestry with which the hall was hung, and of the songs sung by the minstrels on this solemn occasion, are given at large.

“If there be any merit of imagination or invention to which the poet has a claim in this description, it altogether consists in the application. The circumstances themselves

are faithfully copied by Bradshaw from what his own age actually presented. In this respect, I mean as a picture of ancient life, the passage is interesting, and for no other reason. The versification is infinitely inferior to Lydgate's worst manner.

“Bale, a violent reformer, observes that our poet was a person remarkably pious for the times in which he flourished. This is an indirect satire on the monks and on the period which preceded the Reformation. I believe it will readily be granted that our author had more piety than poetry. His prologue contains humble professions of his inability to treat lofty subjects and to please light readers.”

Warton's remarks are too disparaging; Dibdin, who gives an extended account of the poem, forms a higher estimate of Bradshaw's merit. “It is presumed,” he observes, “that his name will stand among the foremost in the list of the poets of the period wherein he wrote. His descriptions are oftentimes happy as well as minute; and there is a tone of moral purity and rational piety in his thoughts, enriched by the legendary lore of romance that renders many passages of his poem exceedingly interesting.”

If it is not allowed to rank Bradshaw, according to Dibdin's estimate, among the foremost in the list of poets of his period, it is unjust to place him in so low a rank among his cotemporaries as the severity of Warton seems to demand. There is a tone of moral principle and devotional piety so unaffectedly pervading the whole volume, and so easily and naturally introduced, as to impress the reader with the conviction that they had an

habitual influence upon his mind and heart, and exhibited themselves without an effort and almost unconsciously in all his expressions. There is much strength and apparent sincerity in his numerous exhortations to piety and devotion. In his "charitable mocion," (ch. xxii. p. 199 et seq.) he urges his readers to benevolence and to the support of the monastery, with great power, and sets before them every variety of motive that could be supposed to influence persons under the peculiar circumstances in which each might be placed. He appeals to the piety of their forefathers, and endeavours to work upon all their passions, affections and emotions, upon their love and fear, gratitude and duty. His familiarity with the Latin language has been already noticed, and the reader can scarcely have failed to observe his intimate acquaintance with the sacred writings, numerous scripture personages are adduced as models and examples of the various virtues, which adorn the christian character; and the language of scripture is constantly apparent in his exhortations and descriptions, especially where the character and acts of St. Werburge are his subjects. Moral maxims and proverbs, the concentrated wisdom of ages, seem to have been familiar to him, and may be detected in many of his pages. If

Manners maketh man .
Quoth William of Wykeham,

Bradshaw observes,

by a proverbe certan
Good maners and conynge maken a man, p. 134.

another of his proverbs is worth pointing out, as it exem-

plifies the use of the word "lad" to signify a person of low degree,

by a proverb auntyent

A lad to wedde a lady is an inconvenyent. p. 38.

The sententious brevity of a proverb is sometimes lost and weakened by adapting it to the metre of his poem ; Man proposes, God disposes, is expanded into

Tho mankynde prepose his mynde to fulfill
Yet God dysposeth all thyng at his wyll. p. 119.

The remark of Warton is probably just, that had he had a greater degree of credulity he would have had a greater chance of being poetical ; credulity indeed does not seem to be his failing, for though he records many miracles of St. Werburge and with some appearance of belief in their reality, it is quite clear that he omits many marvellous tales, which might have been supplied by the original work, but which would be to the "reders tedious (no mervayle sothly)," and to which he was not himself quite prepared to give full credit. It is true that he gives more, many more, than sufficient to satisfy any modern readers ; but the Reformation was approaching, the shadows of coming events were already apparent, and were exerting their almost unobserved influence upon the feelings and opinions of the people, and Bradshaw had evidently less faith in the miraculous legends of his monastery, than had been enjoyed by his predecessors ; in truth there appears to be occasionally a lurking humour in his description, which betrays as much disbelief in his own narrative, as the temper of the times, and the still lingering credulity of his cotemporaries would permit. If his

own good sense and the growing enfranchisement of the period from the bondage of superstition, and papal impositions, checked in him any tendency to imaginative flights and poetic paroxysms; it will not be denied that he frequently exhibits considerable strength of expression in his language, and great powers in his vivid and graphic descriptions. A goodly specimen of railing may be found in Book I. ch. x. where St. Ermenylde, St. Werburge and her brothers severely rebuke Werbode for his "grevous presumpcyon" in aspiring to the hand of St. Werburge. Many of the miraculous cures are described with great force; and it will be difficult to find, in any cotemporary author, so lively, picturesque and humorous a narrative as that of the unhappy geese of Wedon

who went

Mekely as yf they had reason naturall
Unto her presence,

and with

Theyr wynges traylynge entred into the hall. p. 98, 99.

Had his merits as a writer been less than they really are, his meek and humble apology for his defects, which he puts forth in his "breve conclusion," would deprecate all severity of criticism. He had clearly not a musical ear, his versification is not smooth and harmonious, and his naturally defective appreciation of rythmical intonation has been much exaggerated by the awkward and difficult arrangement of the stanza which he has adopted. With an easier metre his lines might have flowed with more ease and grace, and would have better conciliated the favour of his readers.

Rugged however and harsh as his verse may be, and low as may be the estimation of Bradshaw as a poet, the amiable and pious tone of the whole poem cannot but impress the mind with agreeable feelings, and excite admiration and affection towards him as a man and a christian.

^{n/1521}
Of Henry Bradsha, Braddshaa or Bradshaw, who calls himself, p. 3, "a religious man," *i. e.* an ecclesiastic, nothing more is known than what is recorded by Anthony Wood, who says, "he was born in the auncient town of Westchester, commonly called the city of Chester, and being much addicted to religion and learning, when a youth, was received among the Benedictine monks of St. Werburgh's monastery in the said city. Thence at riper years he was sent to Gloucester college in the suburb of Oxon, where after he had passed his course in theology among the novices of his order he returned to his cell at St. Werburge and in his elder years wrote, *De antiquitate et magnificentia urbis Cestriæ chronicon, etc.* and translated from Latin into English a book which he thus entitled, *The life of the glorious Virgin St. Werburge: Also many miracles that God had shewed for her.* London, 1521, 4to. He died in fifteen hundred and thirteen (5 Henry 8) and was buried in his monastery, leaving then behind him other matters to posterity, but the subject of which they treat I know not."—Athen. Oxon. edit. by Dr. Bliss, v. I. p. 18.

The date of his death is expressly stated in "A balade to the auctor," which is appended to the poem, by some unknown friend, and, probably, monk of the same monastery.

He laments the death of Bradshaw,

a floure most riall
 Redolent in cronicles with historicall syght
 Whiche nowe is departed from this temporall lyght
 The present yere of this translacion
 M.D.XIII. of Christis incarnacion
 Cujus anime propicietur deus. p. 210.

Of the works of Bradshaw above mentioned or alluded to, that "De antiquitate et magnificentia," etc., nothing is now known, but it is not improbable that some fragments dispersed in various MSS. descriptive of this city may have been extracted from his chronicle. The life of the glorious virgin St. Werburge is the work which is here reprinted. Of the "other matters to posterity" nothing more is positively known to us than to Wood, but Mr. Herbert was in possession of a poem, "The lyfe of St. Radegunde," also printed by Pynson, of which he says, "although the name of the author or translator of this book does not decidedly appear on the face of it, yet on comparing it with the Life of St. Werburge it may readily be perceived that both were penned by the same person, Henry Bradshaw; but hitherto omitted in every list of his works." *Typographical Antiquities*, p. 294.

Mr Cowper in his Summary of the life of St. Werburgh quotes more than once the Latin life of this lady by Bradshaw, and these extracts he derives from Leland's *Collectanea*, but where this collector discovered his original authority does not appear. Mr. Cowper is probably mistaken in ascribing the work to Bradshaw's own pen; it is much more probable

that the extracts are derived from the original chronicle or passionary, which Bradshaw translated into English verse, for he has himself distinctly stated that his poem was a translation from a Latin history preserved in his monastery; he gives no intimation of his having written it himself, and it is also stated that the name of the original author was unknown.

Although this work is of very great rarity, it is not so much so as was at one time supposed. The earliest mention of the book, which we have discovered, is by Maittaire, who in 1741 inserts it in a list of books not before noticed. In 1749, Ames in his *Typographical Antiquities*, mentions the work, and so describes it as to leave no doubt of his having had a copy before him. Notwithstanding all this, Dr. Foote Gower in his "Sketch of Materials for the History of Cheshire" in 1771, doubts the existence of such a printed volume; and in a subsequent advertisement, arguing upon the evidence for and against the existence of such a work, adds "no possible enquiries of mine have been able to discover the least trace of it, in any private as well as in any public repository," and closes the difficulty with the good humoured expression of Sir Roger de Coverly, "that much may be said on both sides."

There are, however, at least five copies in existence; one is in the Minster Library at York, and my kind friend Mr. Davies informs me that it is in modern binding, that it is imperfect at the beginning, wanting the first 22 pages, the first present leaf being C. 1. on page 23, that it is otherwise

clean and in good preservation. It once belonged to Dr. Marmaduke Fothergill, and in the margin of one of the leaves near the close of the book, appears the name of Gervas Clifton, to whom it had at one time probably belonged.

Two copies are in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, one of which had been purchased at Warwick, July 2, 1730, by Mr. West, at the sale of whose books in 1773, it was bought by Mr. Gough, for £2. 15*s.* and with the other treasures of his collection now reposes in the Bodleian.

The other copy belonging to the same library bears the autographs of former owners "Wylliã. Watson," and "Richard Cartwright," "Homfree," "William Peate," "John, and Mary Seres," and on one margin appears "John .. (cut off.)"

So God me save he is a loute
I put you all out of doute
By me John Beade, draper."

It was subsequently the property of Selden, from whom it passed to the Bodleian.

A fourth copy is in the British Museum. In the sale catalogue of the books of Mr. Marten of Palgrave, in lot 196, was a Life of St. Werburgh, which is supposed to be the same copy which came into the Pearson Library, which was sold in 1788, (lot 2374 the Life of St. Werburgh) and was bought by Isaac Reed for £1. 3*s.* At his sale in 1807 it formed lot 6972, and was purchased by I. L., *i. e.* I. Lochee, the auctioneer in King Street, Covent Garden, for £18. He is supposed to have purchased it for Mr. Parke, the editor and enlarger of Walpole's Royal and Noble Authors, who

afterwards sold it for 28 guineas to Mr. Heber, who inserted in the volume the following note. "This book is of the first order of rarity, not being in the Royal, British Museum, Bodleian, Spencer, Hunter, Blenheim, or Blandford collections, indeed no other copy is known to exist in any repository public or private, except one in Mr. Heber's library. Mr. Heber paid 28 guineas to Mr. P— for his copy 10 years ago, a time when 5*s.* went further in the purchase of a scarce book than a pound sterling does now." This note upon a scrap of paper was probably intended as a communication to some friend, perhaps to Mr. Dibdin, and, after having been copied for that purpose, was pasted into the volume as it now appears. At Mr. Heber's sale in 1834 it was purchased for the British Museum for £19. 5*s.*

The fifth copy is probably the one stated by Herbert, in his edition of Ames' *Typographical Antiquities*, to have been then in his own possession, and which is supposed to have passed into the hands of Mr. Woodhouse, in whose sale in 1803 it was lot 859, and was sold to Mr. Hill, the prototype of Paul Pry, for £31. 10*s.* This gentleman's library, rich in early poetry, was sold to Messrs. Longman, and Co., and was the foundation of their "*Bibliotheca Anglo-poetica*," in which this book was priced £63., and sold to Mr. Midgely, whose library was brought to the hammer in 1818 at Messrs. Saunders, when this rare volume was purchased by Mr. Hibbert for £42. At this gentleman's sale it was purchased by Thorpe for £19. 10*s.*, from whom it passed to the library of Mr. Miller, the present possessor.

It may be remarked that this work is the earliest, in print, which refers to Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, and his dignity in the earldom, see pp. 181, 182. The passage was cited in an affidavit made in 1843 in "the Consistory Court of Chester," and appears in an Appendix to an appeal from "the Chancery Court of York, in the goods of Anne Rothwell Wignall, commonly called Anne Rothwell, Spinster, deceased, in the Judicial Committee of Her Majesty's most honourable Privy Council."

The errors in this reprint that may be chargeable to the press occur at

page 18, line 9, T *read* To,

page 94, line 10, ha *read* had,

page 99, line 15, compassyon *read* compassyon,

and page 112, last line but one, Gorrupte *read* Corrupte ; but it is to be feared that some trifling errors in transcription, such as kingdome for kyndome, befound for befounde, us for vs, would be discovered by an accurate collation. Pynson is not uniform in the use of his i, his y, and the insertion or omission of the final e.

The collation of the book is thus : it commences with the Title-page and Wood-cut of St. Werburge, The prologe of J. T. and the Table of the boke, the second Title-page, with

the Wood-cut repeated and reiterated at the back, and then follows the Poem, commencing with signature **a** and ending on **g iiii.**, the reverse bearing Pynson's device.

a ii containing pages	1 to 14	|	k	..	..	111 to 118
b	.. .. 15 — 22	|	l	..	..	119 — 134
c	.. .. 23 — 38	|	m	..	..	135 — 142
d	.. .. 39 — 46	|	n	..	..	143 — 158
e	.. .. 47 — 62	|	o	..	..	159 — 166
f	.. .. 63 — 70	|	p	..	..	167 — 182
g	.. .. 71 — 86	|	q	..	..	183 — 190
h	.. .. 87 — 94	|	r	..	..	191 — 206
i	.. .. 95 — 110	|	s	..	..	207 — 214

A Glossary and Index are added.

The following genealogical tables are drawn up from the third chapter of the Poem, which professes to trace the descent of St. Werburge from four "Kynges of this lande, and of the riall blodde of Fraunce." Table V. has been compiled from the other four. They do not profess to be correct genealogies, nor has any attempt been made to reconcile the discrepancies which occur in various chronicles, nor even in this history. They are merely intended as aids to the reader by presenting to him, in a tabular form, that which the author gives as narrative.

TABLE I.
 "Regnum Mercie
 ex parte patris," pp.
 10, 11.

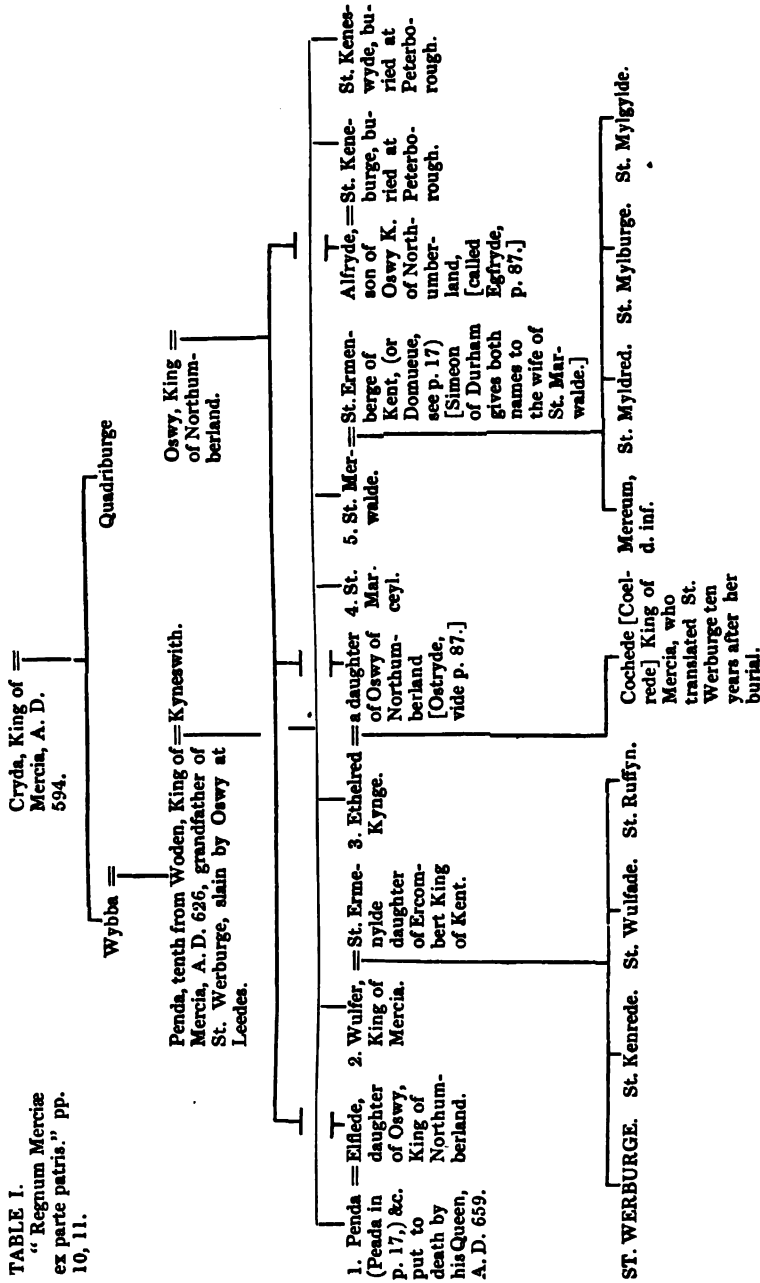
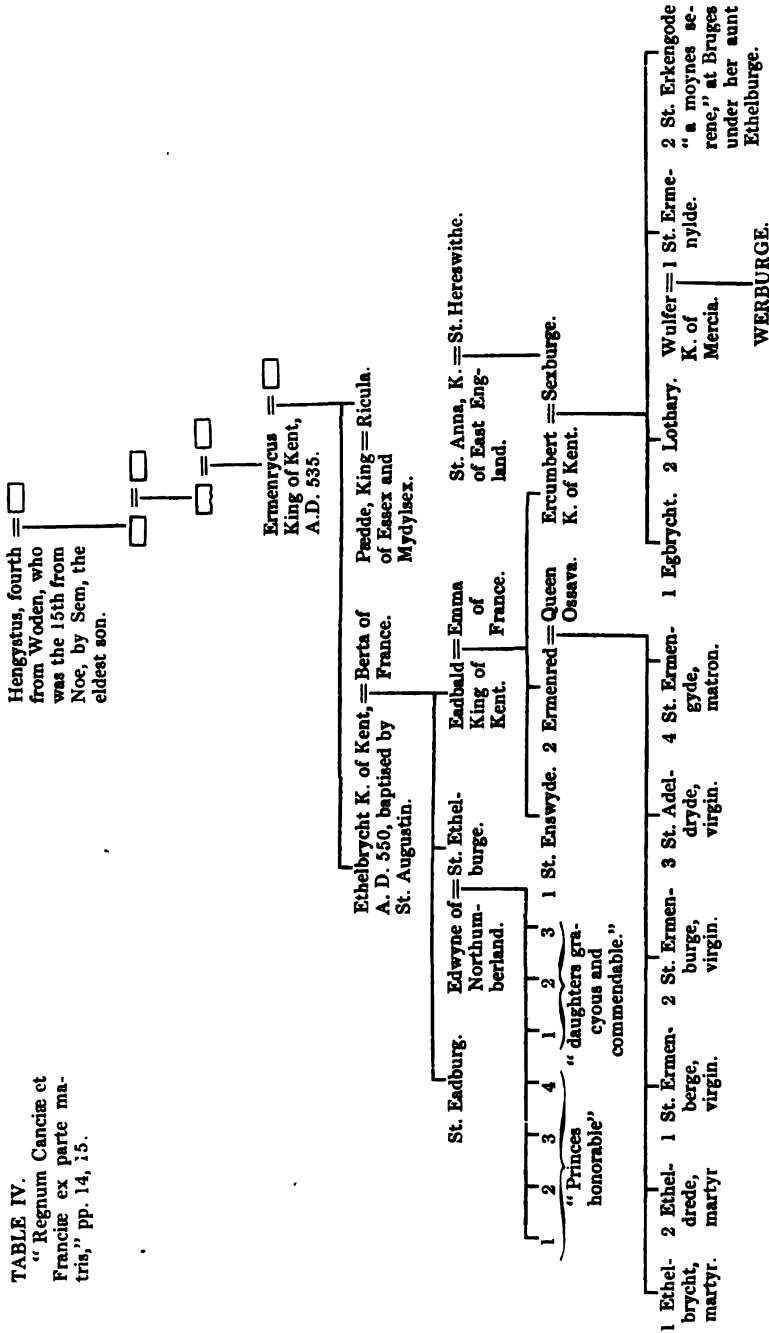


TABLE IV.
 "Regnum Cantiae et
 Francie ex parte ma-
 tris," pp. 14, 15.



**¶ Here begynneth the holy lyfe and history
of saynt werburge / very frutefull
foz all christen people
to rede.**



C The prologe of J.C. in the honour & laude of saint
Uerburge / and to the prayse of y^r translatur
of the legende folowynge.

Honour / ioye / and glorie / the toyne organically
Endeles myrthes wth melodies / prayse ye all y^r princes
Nourished in bertue / intact / as pure as cristall
Relese to all synners / o werburge lady maistres
Jn grace thou passed / all other and in goodnes
Whan thou was present in this mundayne lyfe
None was the lyke / wydowe / mayde / ne wyfe

By diuyn grace / to be a ryche present
Reioyce we may / in Uerburge one and all
A gemme of bertue / a virgin resplendent
Dilect of our lozde (in ioye and blis eternall
Surely she is set) to intercede and call
Her mouth nat cessyng / for them to call and crye
And in her trust / of synne to haue mercy

O good lady maistres / declpne thy syght afer
And graciously beholde / thy seruaunt chaste and pure
Henry Bradsha / sometyme monke in Chester
Whiche only for thy loue / toke the payne and labour
Thy legende to translate / he dyd his busy cure
Out of latine / in Englyshe rude ande and byle
Whiche he hath amended / with many an ornate style

Alas of Chestre / ye monkes haue lost a treasure
Henry Bradsha / the styffe of eloquence
Chestre thou may wayle / the deth of this floure

So may the citezens / alas for his absence
So may many other / for lacke of his sentence
O swete lady Werburge / an holy Abbasse glorious
Remembre Henry Bradsha / thy seruānt most gracio^s

In hym remayned no vice ne presumption
Envy and wrath / from hym were expyled
Slouth ne Aenus in hym had no dominion
Avarice and glotony / he vtterly expelled
No vice in hym reigned / his felowes he excelled
As cleue as cristall / he bare these vertues thre
Chastite / obidience / and wyllfull pouerte

O cruell deth / whiche art the perfitte ende
Of this noble clerke / and euery mortall thyng
Agaynst the / no man may hym defende
Thou causest wo / langour / and anguissyng
And who on this / wolde haue remembryng
Howe from erth / to erth he must agayne
He wolde dispise all thynges that be mundayne. Tale.

The table of this boke.

First the prologue of the translatour of this litell
treatyse Cap.i.

A description of the realme of merciēs of the hoūdes
and commodites of the same Cap.ii.

A description of the geanologie of saynt Werburge
and howe she descended of .iiii. kynges of this lāde / and
of the riall blodde of fraunce Cap.iii.

C ii.

C A playn descripcion of the actz and chivalry of kyng
Pēda graūtfather to saynt Werburge / and of his no-
ble and vertuous progenie. Ca.iiii.

C Howe after the deth of kyng Pēda / and of his prince
Pēda his secōde son Wulfer father of saynt Werburge
was elect to be kyng of merciens. Cap.b.

C A lyttell descripcyon of the noble maryage bytwene
kyng Wulfer and saynt Ermenild, the kyngz daughter
of Kent / and of the solempnite done at the same season
The ixt chapitre.

C A breue declaracion of the holy lyfe and conuersaciō
of saynt Werburge / bled in her tender youth / aboute the
comon cours of nature. Cap.bii.

C Howe this yonge birgin saynt Werburge was des-
red of dukes and erles in mariage / and of the reasona-
ble answeere she gaue to them in auoydyng suche word-
ly pleasures. Cap.iiii.

C Howe the false Wrebode desyred Kyng Wulfer to
haue his daughter Werburge in mariage / and howe he
graunted therunto. Cap.ix.

C Howe the quene saynt Ermenild, wolde nat consent
therto / & how her betherne saynt Wulfade / and Ruffin
were agaynst the sayd mariage. Cap.x.

C How the false Wrebode complayned upon saynt

**Wulfade & Ruffyn to kynge Wulfer / and was the cause
of their deth. Cap.xi.**

**¶ Howe kynge Wulfer was conuerted / and toke great
repentaunce for his offence . and by the counsell of saint
Ceade was a deuout man / and a good benefactour to
holy church / and founder of diuers places Cap.xii.**

**¶ Of the feruent desire & singular deuocion saynt Wer-
burge had to be religious / and of the dayly supplicaci-
ons she made to her father for the same. Cap.xiii.**

**¶ Of the reasonable & meke answere saynt Werburge
gaue to her father / whan he moued her to haue ben ma-
ried. Cap.xiiii.**

**¶ How saint Werburge was made an none at Ely aft
her desire vnder saint Audri lady and abbasse. Ca.xv.**

**¶ Of the great solemnitacion kynge Wulfer made at y^r
goffly mariage of saynt Werburge his dought at Ely /
to all his louers and frendes. Cap.xvi.**

**¶ Of the holy profession and goffly cōuersacion saynt
Werburge bled at Ely i religio vnd^r saint Audri. xvii.**

**A litell treatise of the lyfe of saynt Audrie abbasse of
Ely / & of her holy conuersacion & great deuocion which
Audrie was aunt and colyn to saynt Werburge. xviii.**

**¶ A breue reheral of the lyfe of saint Serburge grafit
C.iii.**

moder to saint werburge / & of her comyng to Ely to her
lyst Audrie thabbasse from Shepay monasterie. c.xix.

¶ Howe saint Ermenild, after dethe of kyngc Wulfer
was made a noune at Ely / vnder her moder Serburge
and Werburge her doughter. Cap.xx.

¶ Howe kyng Ethelrede seyng the holy conuersaciō
of Werburge his nece / made her lady and president at
Medon / Trentā / & Hambury. Also by her example and
countel made hym a monke at Bardeney abbay. c.xxi.

¶ The holy cōuersaciō of kyng Kēred brother to saynt
Werburge / & howe he refused his crowne / & was made
a monke at Rome / & there deptyd a holy cōfessour. xxii.

¶ Of the godly deuociō of saynt Werburge & bertuo'
gouernans of her places / and of the great humilite she
bled to her systers and all creatures. Ca.xxiii.

¶ Howe at Medō wilde gyse were pynned at her cōmā-
dement / and also relefed & put at liberte. Ca.xxiiii.

¶ How a tyrande without pite was punysshed his face
set backward / and by his mekenes was restaured to
helth and prosperite agayne. Cap.xxv.

¶ How deuers princes folowynge sensualite entēdyng
to violate this virgine by power : by myracle were put
to confuson. Cap.xxvi.

¶ How saynt Werburge gaue knowlege to her systers

of her departure / & howe she ordred in vertue her sayd
monasteries after her departure. Cap. xxvii.

¶ Of the godly exortaciō saint Werburge made to her
spiters in her sekenes / and howe deuoutly she receyued
the sacramētes of holy church afoze her deth. c. xxviii.

¶ Of the departure of saynt Werburge at Crētā into
heuen frō this miserable lyfe / & what lamētacion her sp-
iters and subiectes made for her deth. Ca. xxix.

¶ Howe the hāburgenz̄ toke the blessed body of Wer-
burge frō Crētā by myracle & brought it to Hābury /
and of the buriall of this virgin / and manyfolde signes
shewed of god by her merites / the space of .ix. yere afoze
her translacion. Cap. xxx.

¶ A litel breue treatise of her hole lyfe / and how for her
myacles shewed after her deth / the couent of Hamburi
purposed to trāslat her body by helpe of kyng Coelrede
reignyng in mercelandē. Ca. xxxi.

¶ The solempne translacion of this glorious virgine
saynt Werburge . and of the great myacles done at the
same season by the might of god / and merite of this gra-
cious lady. Ca. xxxii.

¶ Howe the body of saynt Werburge continued hole /
& substācial at Hābury after y^r trāslacion by the space
of .CC. yeres / tyll the danes were comon to this lande /
oz it fell & resolued was into powder. Cap. xxxiii.

Here foloweth the lyfe of the glory-
ous virgyn saynt werburge / also
many miracles that god hath
shewed for her / & fyrst the
prologe of the au-
ctour.





C The prologe of the translatur of this lytell werke y^e
lyfe of saynt Werburge.



When Phebus had roſe his cours i ſagittari
And Capricorne entred a ſygne retrograt
Amyddes Decēbre / y^e ayre colde & froſty
And pale Lucyna / the erthe dyd illumynat
I roſe by ſhortly / fro my cubycle preparat
Aboute mydnyght / and caſt in myne intent
How I myght ſpende / the tyme conuenient.

I called vnto mynde / the great buſtedfaſtneſſe
Of this wretched worlde / not by cours of nature
How there be brought / ſome men to buſynes
Oppreſſed with pouerte / langour / and dyſpleaſure
Some other exalted / to felycyte and pleaſure
The maker of mankynde / moſt in maieſte
Ruleth all at his wyll / it may non other be.

Beholde dyſcretly / and ſe the ſyrmament
Conſyder the ſonne / and the mone alſo
With all the planettes / and ſterres reſplendent
How they kepe theyr cours / bothe to and fro
Euer obedyent / theyr creature vnto
And byrdes beſely ſyngynge euery day
Prayſynge theyr prymate all that they may.

The iiii elementes / in lyke condycyon
The fyre / the water / the ayre / and the londe
Obſerben theyr duty / after theyr creacyon
And burum ben / and euer ſo be fonde
Thus euery creature / as we underſtonde
Werburge

a. ii.

Obeyeth to his creature / with humylyte
Except dyssolute man / folowynge sensualyte.

If man wyll remembre / how he was create
To the lykenes and figure / of god almyghty
And set in paradysse / a place moost delycate
To haue the fruytyon / of eternall glory /
If not synne expulsed hym / to the bale of mysery
But that he wolde enclyne / his naturall reason
To serue his maker / truely at due season.

Dyuers people / haue dyuers condicions
Comynly proued / it is euery day
Some set to vertu / and good dysposicions
In penaunce / prayer / all that they may
Some in contemplacyon / the sothe to say
Some in abstaynence / to chastyce the body
And make it subget / to the soule persytely.

Some other reioyce / in synne and ydelnes
Some seruauntes to Venus / both day and nyght
Other to couetyse / and worldly besynes
Some to deceyue / by subtylte in syght
Some vnto marchandysse / a wyngynge full ryght
Some ferefull and tymorous / without audacyte
Some sadde and sobre / and of great grauyte.

Many haue pleasure to speke of rybaudry
Some of syghtynge / braulyng / and actes marcyall
Other to flater / and paynt the company
Some to syt byt wene the cuppe and the wall
Some to blasphemie / and dyssemble withall

To backbyte and slaüder / by malyce and enby
Some to extorcyon / thefte and playne robbery.

Thus after fraylte / and sundry compleccyons
Dyuers men dyuers in luyngge there be
Dysposed by a contrary dyspolycyon
Some vnto bertue / some vnto vanyte
Many maners of people / now we may se
Waueryngge in the worlde / without quyetnes
As a shyp by tempest / is dryuen doubtles.

When I reuolued / with due circumstance
The dyuers maners / and mutabylte
Of worldly people / and the great vanyaunce
And how this lyfe / is of no suerte
Now in great langour / now in prosperyte
Yet after our meryte / we shal be sure
To be rewarded / at our departure.

Chan to bertuous labours / we shulde apply
And spende not our tyme / all in ydlenes
For as a byrde is made / by nature to fly
Ryght so we shulde vble / some good busynes
To our soule helthe / with great mekenes
For tyme euyl spende in labours hayne
Is harde to be well / recouered agayne

But now syth I am / a relygyous man
For losynge of tyme / can not me excuse
Therefore I purpose / to do as I can
All suche ydlenes / whylom to refuse
With the grace of god / the tyme for to vble
Werburge.

a. iii.

Some small treatyse / to wryte breuely
To the comyn bulgares theyr mynde to satysfy.

To descrybe hys hystories / I dare not be so bolde
Syth it is a mater / for clerkes conuenient
As of the. vii. aeges / and of our parentes olde
Or of the. iiii. empyres / whylom moost excellent
Knowynge my lernynge / therto insuffycient
As for bawdy balades / ye shall haue none of me
To excyte lyght hertes / to pleasure and banpte.

But now in auoydnyng / suche great folyshenes
I purpose to wryte / a legende good and true
And translate a lyfe / into Englyshe doubtles
I meane the spouse / of our lorde Ihesu
Blessed saynt Werburge / replete with vertue
A noble prynces borne / & byrgyne pure and gloryous
After an holy monyall / and an abbesse gracypus.

In the abbay of Chestre / she is thryned ryche
Prynces and lady / of that holy place
The chyef protectryce / of the sayd monastery
Longe before the conquest / by deuynne grace
Protectryce of the Cyttee / she is and euer was
Called specyall prymate / and pryncypall presydent
There rulyng bnder / our lorde omnypotent.

And yf I unworthy / begynne this lytell werke
I praye all the reders / mekely of pardon
To correcke and amende / syth I am no clerke
Excuse my ignoraunce / and take the entencion
My mynde is to shewe / her lyfe and deuocyon

That euery man and woman / ensample maye take
At this pure byrgyn / synne to forsake.

And syth that she is in blysse now glorified
It were no reason / her name be had in scyence
But to the people / her name be magnified
To her laude and prayse / honour and reuerence
Her parentes and bretherne / y^e floures of experyence
Haue ben kepte in close / secrete many a day
Wherefore I purpose / somewhat of them to say.

Fyrst I entende / to make playne descripcyon
Of her fathers kyngedome the realme of Mercyens
How longe it endured / under his turyon
Under how many kynges / it had prehemynens
Also of her petygre / the noble excellence
For so many sayntes / of one kynred certayne
Is harde to be founde / in all the worlde agayne.

Unto this rude werke / myne auctours these shalbe
Fyrst the true legende / and the venerable Bede
Mayster Alfydus and Wyllyam Malysburge
Gyrarde / Polycronycon / and other mo in deed
Now glorious god / graunt me to procede
Blessed byrgyn Werburge / my holy patronesse
Helpe me to endyte / I praye the swete maystresse.

¶ A descripcyon of the realme of Mercyens / of bondes
and commodytes of the same.

The yere of our Sauoure / by full cumpulacyon
foure hundred / nyne & fourty frome his natiuite
Werburge.

a. iiii.

As venerable Bede / maketh declaracyon
Duke Hengyst came to this lande in great royalte
With Saxons / Angles / Jutes / thre people myghtye
Desyred by Horthyger / than kynge of Brytons
Came to defende / fro greuous oppressyons.

Also the yeres of our blessed sauyoure
Syxe hundreth foure score and nyne expresse
The Brytons were expelled / so sayth myne auctoure
From Englande to walles / with great wretchydnes
In Englande than ruled / seuen kynges doubtles
Whose names we purpose / to shewe with lycens
But pryncypally / of the kingdome of Mercyens.

The fyrst realme of Saxons / began in Kent
The yere of grace / foure hundreth fyue and fyfty
Where duke Engystus / in honour excellent
With sceptre and crowne / fyrst reygned royally
The seconde was Southsex / sayth the hystory
Where Adla and Ella / reygned full ryght
Whiche realme endured / but short tyme in myght.

The thyrde was West saxons / famous and myghty
Where fyrst reygned kynge Cerdicus
The yere of our lorde / fyue hundreth one and twenty
Whiche realme by processe / and power byctoryous
Subdued all other / to hym full memorous
The pryncypall Cytees / of his regalyte
Were in olde season / Wynchester and Saleburpe.

The fourth was Essex / where duke Erchenwyn
Fyrst reygned kynge / hauynge domynacyon

By the kyng of Merfelande / brought ofte to ruyne
The chiefe Cytee was Colchester / of his domynyon
Also of eest Englande / was the fyfth kyngdome
Where Alfa crowned / had fyrst the sufferaynte
Of Northfolke and Southfolke / knowen in certaynte.

The fyrthe was the kyngdome of Merllande
Where Cryda was crowned fyrst by auctoryte
Hauynge nyne thyres / obeyent to his hande
As after shall appere / more euident to be
The seuenth was Northüberlande / vnder Ida & Alle
Whylom dyuyded / in sondry kyngdomes twayne
The chiefe Cytee was yorke / wher y^e kynges dyd reygne.

The realme of Mercyens / by olde antyquyte
As playnly declareth / Polycronycon
Thre hundreth yeres / endured in auctoryte
Under eyghtene kynges / worthy nomynyon
Greatest of gouernaunce of all this regyon
Where Mulfer reygned / a kynges byctoryous
father to saynt Werburge / byrgyn moost gloruous.

The bouides and lorchyppes / of the sayd Mercyens
As shewen dyuers bokes hystoryall
Were large and myghty / and of great prehemynens
Where the sayd kynges reygned by power impervall
This realme to dyscrybe / begyn we shall
At the Cytee of Chester / and the water of Dec
Bytwene Englande and wales / of the west partye

And so transcendynge / by towarde Shrewysbury
By the water of Sabryne / vnto Brystowe

The Est see mesureth / the Est parte truely
The water of Chamys / the south parte doth she we
flowynge into London / whoso dothe it knowe
The water of Humbre was on the north syde
With the water of Mersee / theyr landes to dryde.

Of the foresayd ryuer / and water of Mersee
The kynge of Mercyens / taketh his name
As moost sure drydent / to be had in memorye
Mesuryng and metynge / the bondes with great fame
Of Mersee and Northumberlande / kynges of the same
Bitwene cheshyr and lacashyr theyr kyngdomes certayne
As auncent Cronycles describen it full playne.

The sayd myghty kyngdome / of Mercyens dyd holde
Many noble Cytees / with townes and burghes royall
Whiche Penda optayned / enlarged manyfolde
As Chester / Stafford / Lytchefeide / Couëtre memorall
Lyncolne and Huntynghon / Northampton withall
Leycester and Derby / Cambrydge and Dronforde
Worcester and Brystowe / with other mo & Herforde

Many royall ryuers / were conteyned in the same
With sundry kyndes of fylthes / swete and delycpous
It were tedpous to she we / of them the dryers name
In ryuers and in pooles / swymmyng full plentuous
Also forestes / parkes / chases large and beauteous
And all beestes of benery / pleasaunt for a kyng
To cours at lyberte / befound there pasturynge

Also this royall realme / holdeth as we fynde
Habundaunce of fruytes / pleasaunt and profytable

Great plente of cornes / and graynes of euery kynde
With hylles / bales / pastures / comly and delectable
The soyle and glebe / is set plentuous and comendable
In all pleasaunt propertes / no part of all this lande
May be compared / to this foresayd Mercelande.

The people of Mercyens / the trowth of we dare saye
Lords / barons / knyghtes / with all the comunete
In musture and in batayle / euer the pryce haue they
The kynges grace to serue / moost balyaunt in artylere
In all actes Marcyall / euer hauryng the byctorye
With herte / mynde and harneys / redy day and nyght
Theyr enemyes to subdue / by power mayne & myght.

If they be well ordred / vnder a sure capytayne
And set to suche busynesse / theyr honour to auance
The triumph they optayne / knowen it is certayne
In Englade and Scotlande / & in the realme of Fraunce
Fewe of them haue coured / by manhode & baleaunce
Great nombre of enemyes / with knyghthode & polycy
We meane them moost specyall / in the West party.

Many other commodytes / pleasures and proprietes
This sayd realme / holdeth of olde antyquyte
In royalties and lordshyppes / landes and lybertes
Honourably dylated / in worthyp and polyce
Flouryng in wysedome / honours and chyualre
Aerfyled by kyng Offa / moost myghty and excellent
Proued in his actes / by playne experyment

This Offa subdued / in hystory as is founde
The kyng of Westsaxons / Northumberlande & Kent

Droue Brytons to wales / out of this lande
And made a depe dytche / for a sure dyuydent
Bytwene Englande and Wales / & to this day presente
Is called dytche Offa / so that no Bryton
On payne of punysshement / shulde entre this regyon.

Kynge Offa trallated / as sayth Polycronycon
By myghty power / the see of Canterbury
Unto Lychefelde chyrche / with famous oblacyon
For euer to contynu / confirmed by auctoryte
Also he founded / saynt Albans monasterye
Fyrst of deuocyon / to Rome gaue Peter pens
Thus royall somtyme / was the realme of Mercyens.

¶ A descrypcyon of the Geanalogy of saynt Werburge
and how she descended of foure kynges of this lande / &
of the royall blode of fraunce.

¶ Regnum Merc. ex pte pris.

This noble prynces / the daughter of Syon
The floure of vertu / and byrgyn gloruous
Blessed Saynt Werburge / full of deuocyon
Descended by auncetry / and tytle famous.
Of foure myghty kynges / noble and byctoryous
Reynynge in this lande / by true successyon
As her lyfe hyfforyall / maketh declaracyon.

The yere of our lorde / frome the natyurte
fyue hundreth.iiii. and also.iiii. score
Alban Austyn was sende / frome saynt Gregorpe
To conuert this regyon / into our sauoure
The noble kinge Cyda / than reygned with honoure

Upon the mercyens / whiche kynge was father
Unto kynge Wybba / and Quadeburge his syster.

This Wybba gate Penda / kynge of mercyens
Whiche Penda subdued / fyue kynges of this regyon
Reygnyng thyrty yere / in worshyp and reuerens
Was grauntsfather to Werburge / by lynyall successyon
By his quene Kynestwith / had a noble generacyon
Fyue baleant prynces / Penda and kynge Wulfer /
Kynge Ethelred / saint Marceyl / saint marwalde i fere.

And two holy daughters / blessed and vertuous
Saynt Keneburge / and saynt Kenelwyde the byrgyn
Whiche ladyes were buryed / full memorous
At peturborowe abbay / and now there lye in thyrne
The sayd kynge Ethelrede / by sufferauce deuyn
Had a prynce Cochede / whiche after reygned kynge
That traslated Werburge / the .x. yere of her buryenge.

Saynt Marwalde specyfyed / vncler to saint Werburge
By his quene saint Ermeberge a paces daughter of ket
Gate.iii. holy byrgyns / saint myldred & saint mylburge
Saynt Maygde the thyde / of vertu equyvalent
With a sone Marcum / whiche frome the holy sacramēt
Of baptyng was taken / by myracle expresse
To the blys of heuen / to reygne there endelesse.

The seconde sone of Penda / we meane kynge Wulfere
A noble balyant prynce / by lynyall dyscent
Reygnyng upon the Mercyens with royalte & power
Maried saynt Ermenylde / y^r kynges daughter of kent
Where throughe the grace of god omnyotent

They had sayre yssue / saynt Werburge / saynt Kenrede
Saynt wulfade / saynt Ruffyn / in story as we rede.

¶ **Regnum Northmbrorum /
Ex parte matris.**

The secōde realme of whō saynt Werburge dyd descēde
Was of saynt Edwyn / kynge of Northumberlande
Whiche maryed Quadyburge / his ryghtes to defende
Doughter of Cryda / kynge of Merlande
Bytwene them descended / as we vnderstande
Two comly prynces / the fyrst we call Eadryde
The secōde sone in batayle slayne was named Offryde

Kynge Eadryde gate Hereryc y^e was kynge of Deiram
This Hereryc by Beotwyde his quene sayre & fre
Had saynt Hylde the abbelle / saynt Bede sayth y^e same
Lady also foundresse / of the abbay of Wythbye
This sayd kynge Hereryc / had another lady
The quene of east Englade / saynt Heryt with the hyght
Mother to saynt Serburge / & thre other ladies byght.

This holy Serburge / full of grace and goodnes
Was maryed to Ercombert / a noble kynge of Kent
Bytwyr them descended / a precyous ryches
The blesyd Ermenylde / humble and payent
Whiche for her bertue / was maryed full excellent
To Wulfer kynge of Merciens / with great solempryte
And mother was to Werburge / a swete floure of chastite

¶ **Regnum Estanglorum /
ex parte matris.**

The thyrde noble kyngedome / of her parentage
Was the realme of eest England / whylom i great degre
Cytillus kyng of the same / byctoryous and sage
Gat Redwald his fyrst sone / a chrysten prynce was he
This Redwalde had.ii. sones / flouryng in chyualye
The fyrst was Kenulherus / a noble man of fame
The seconde Corpwaldus / called by his name.

This foresayd kyng Cytillus / had a seconde sone
Called Egnicius / accepted as a martyre
Whiche sayd Egnicius / by lynnall progressyon
Had.iii. noble prynces / that worthy euer were
The fyrst was called Ethelwod / y^e seconde Adelhere
The thyrde was saynt Anna / a kyng moost vertuous
In batayle slayne vnrlyghtfully / now a martyr glorio^s

This forsayd kyng Anna / maryed as we rede
The holy prynces Herewith / for loue and amyte
They had a noble ysse / to encrease theyr mede
The blessed Serburge / saynt Audy of Elye
Saynt Ethelburge the thyrd / in Byges now lyeth she
Saynt Withburge the.iiii. y^e martyr saynt Jurwyne
And Abdulph after kyng / which reigned a lōge tyme.

The lady saynt Serburge / eldest of them all
A gracypus matrone / enduryng all her lyfe
Was maryed to Ercombert / y^e kyng of Kent royall
They brought fourth a progeny / noble to dyscryue
The blessed Ermenylde / vertuous mayd and wyfe
Whiche lady was mother / by grace of god almyght
Unto blessed Werburge / our confort and our lyght.

¶ Regnum Cantie et francie / ex parte matris.

**The.iiii. myghti kyngdome / of whom this royal pices
Saynt Werburge descended / was the realme of kent
Where reigned fyrst Hengystus / by byctory & prowes
Whiche was the fourth man / by lynnage euident
Procedynge fro Woden / a prynce full prepotent
Of whom our pgenytours / Angles / Jutes / & Saxons
Lynpally succeeded / kynges of dyuers nacjons.**

**This foresayd prynce Wode / as dyuers auctours sayne
Was the .xv. fro Doe / by naturall progressyon
Of his eldest sone Sem / descendynge playne
In saxons tongue Geaf / after ryte and custome
Not of the lynnage of Japhet / by theyr oppnyon
Retourne we to Hengyst / and to his successoures
And speke of theyr royalte / to please the audytoures.**

**Ermenycus kyng of kent / reigned with great power
The yere of our sauoure / fyue hundreth fyue & thyrte
Unto whome Engystus was great graundfather
This sayd kyng Ermenyc / had yllue saye and fre
A doughter called Ricula / which & married was to sledge
Of Estler and M ydylter / gouernoure and kyng
Of whom a myghty kynred / by proces was comynge.**

**This Ermenyc gate Ethelbyct full bertuous
Whiche kyng reigned in kent / the yere of our sauour
fyue hundreth fyue & fyfty / & baptyfed was gracuous
By blessed byshop Austyn / of Englade called doctour
He was fyrst crysten kyng / & pryncypall protectour
Of the fayth within this lande / and founder was also**

Of dyuers holy places / and monasteryes both to w.

**This sayd kynge Ethelbyct / for the great habundaunce
Of ryches and honour / was maryed solemply
To the prynces Berta / the kynges daughter of fraunce
And of them proceded a bertuous progeny
Cadburg & Ethelburg saintes / whiche Ethelburg truly
By Edwyne kyng of North / had.iiii. pyces honorable
And.iii. holy daughters / gracypous and commendable.**

**Also kynge Ethelbyct / had to his successoure
Kynge Cadbalde / in Kent reygnyng a longe space
He maryed lady Emma / of fraunce the cholen flour
And by her had yssue / saynt Enswyde full of grace
Also prynce Ermened his seconde sone / whiche wace
Maryed to quene Osaua / of them dyd procede
Two holy martyrs / Ethelbyct and Etheldrede.**

**This prynce Ermened / had.iiii. ladyes byght
Lyke the.iiii. floodes of Paradyse / thynnyng in vertu
The eldest of the systers / saynt Ermenberge byght
The seconde saynt Ermenburge / the spouses of Jhesu
The thyrde saynt Adeldryde / all byces dyd subdu
The.iiii. saynt Ermegyde / sayth they lyues hystoryall
Thre of them holy byrgyns / the fourth matrone we call**

**This foresayd Cadbalde / a souerayne myghty kynge
By Emma of fraunce / had to his enherytoure
The noble kynge Erumbert / full gracypous in lpyng
Whiche maryed Serburge / with worshyp & honour
The kynges daughter of east England specyfyed afore
This prynce loued vertu / prayer and deuocyon
Serburge b i.**

Commaūdyngē all his realme / to kepe ꝑ fast of Lenton.

**Ercombert. xxx. yere / regnyngē in his regaly
Had a noble progeny / in grace and all goodnes
His prynce hyght Egbyct / his seconde sone Lothary
Whiche prynce reygned but ten yere / kyngē expresse
Lothary succeded hym / raynyngē. xii. yeres doubtesse
Also he had two doughters / saynt Ermenylde ꝑ quene
The other hyght saynt Erhengode / a moynes serene.**

**This lady Ermenylde / was mayed royally
To the aforesayd Aulfer / kyngē of Mercyens
Byt wene them descended / full graciously
A noble Margaryte / of hie magnyfyens
A roole of Paradyse / full of prehemynens
Most blessed Werburge / the gemme of holynes
Our synguler suffrage / and sterre of our clerenes.**

**A descrypcyon of the actes & chyualry of kyngē Penda
graundfather to saynt Werburge / & of his noble and
vertuous yllue and progenye. Ca.iiii.**

**The yere of grace. vi. c. lxx. and twenty
The foresayd prynce Penda / began for to regne
The tenth man frō Woden / a prynce in Saxony
Sone and heyre to Wybbe / sayth myne auctour playne
fifty yeres of aege / that tyme he was certayne
Whan he was fyrst crowned / kyngē of Mercyens
Chyrtly yeres he reygned / with great reuerens.**

**fyue kynges in batayle / this Penda dyd subdue
Saintes Edwyn & Oswald / kynges of Northūberlāde**

With Sygebert / Egnycius / and Anna full of vertu
Thre noble kynges / regnyng in eest Englande
With helpe of Brytones / by Bede we vnderstande
Dylated his regyon / with worshyp and honoures
Moche more than dyd / any of his predecessoures.

He maryed Keneswith / a lady sayre and bygght
And by her had yssue / a goodly generacyon
Peada his prynce / Culfur a noble knyght
Saynt Ethelred / and Aferwalde full of deuocyon
Also saynt Aferseleyn / of holy conuersacyon
Saynt Keneburge / also saynt Keneswyde
Auntes to saynt Werburge / upon the fathers syde.

Thre of his chyldren / as we vnderstande
Prynce Peada / Kyneburge / and Ethelrede
He maryed with Oswy / kyng of Northumberlande
Co. iii. of his yssue / for loue and for mede
Culfur and Aferwalde / the story sayth in dede
Were maryed vnto / the royall blode of Kent
To Ermenylde and Domueue / two ladyes excellent.

Soone after by grace / the myddyll parte of Mercyens
Under prynce Peada / were baptyfed euery chone
Whiche Peada maryed / Elde with reuerens
Doughter vnto Oswy / kyng of the North regyon
Penda therto graunted / without contradycyon
Under a fre lycence / his people were at lyberte
Within all his regyon / baptyfed for to be.

Also prynce Alfryde / sone to kyng Oswy
Maryed saynt Keneburge / syster to prynce Peada
Werburge
b. ii.

Whiche sayd Beda / brought from the north party
foure holy preestes / Ced / Beccy / and Adda
To preche to his people / the fourth was Wynna
Whiche .iiii. selden sealed / day / nyght nor tyme
To conuert the people / bnto chrystes doctryne.

Kynge Beda consented / as afore is sayd
And permytted doctours / to preche in euery place
Throughout his realme / and neuer it denyed
To baptyse his subgetes / by fayth and ghoostly grace
He ayded them with socour / and helpe in that case
That wolde be conuerted / for theyr synguler mede
As fayth myne auctour / the venerable Bede.

But by the temptacyon / of our ghoostly enemy
This sayd kynge Beda / this vyctorious knyght
Of balyaunt men in armure / rayled a great company
And to the North parties went / purpofynge to fyght
And cruelly to see / by power / mayne / and myght
The foresaid kynge Oswy / as he afore had slayne
Sayt Oswalde his brother / kynge and martyr playne.

Shortly was forgotten / the fauour of his affynyte
That fully was cōtracte / bytwene these kynges twayne
Joyned at the maryages / of theyr chyldren thre
Euer to habe endured / in loue by reason playne
yet Oswy offered Beda / many ryche gyftes certayne
To auoyde his malyce / and for to kepe the peas
Whiche Beda refused / replete with wychednes.

Bytwene these .ii. kynges / was a ströge myghty batell
Not ferre from yorke / ny the flood of Wynwed

In the regyon of Leedes / where by fortune cruell
Kynge Penda perished / & carefully was leed
And .xxx. dukes with hym / were slayne and leste deed
The kynge Oswy offered gladly / with good entent
His yonge doughter Edelred / to god omnypotent.

He set her for doctryne / to the abbelle saynt Hylde
Lady of Strengthalt / now called Whytby
And gaue .xii. possessyons / a monastery to buyde
Whiche place is from yorke / myles thyrty
He gaue great landes / to his sone in lawe Peade
But the thyrde yere after / this sayd prynce was slayne
By treason of his wyfe Elfede / for certayne.

¶ How after dethe of Penda & his sone prynce Peada
his seconde sone Uulfer / father to saynt Werburge was
electe to be kynge of all the Mercyens. Ca. b.

After that this Penda / of Mercyens kynge
In batayle by kynge Oswy / cruelly was slayne
And his prynce Peada / after hym thre yeres reygnyng
Was put into deeth / by his quene in certayne
These people of Mercyens / rebelled sore agayne
The foresayd Oswy / kynge of Northumberlande
And hym refused / as ye shall vnderstande.

All the sayd Mercyens / by a generall counsell
fortyfyed themselfe / with power myght and reason
And crowned prynce Uulfer / as Bede doth vs tell
with honour / worshyp / and greate renowne
Whiche prynce to kynge Penda / was the seconde sone
This prynce was preserued / afore tyme secretly
Werburge b. iii.

And saued by his subiectes frome dethe and malady.

This valyaunt pynce / and redoubted knyght
Kynge Aulfer thus crowned / with great prosperyte
Upon the Mercens reigned / by tyle and myght
Whiche realme was dyryded / whylom in partes thre
Fyyst in the West Marches / & in the South parte truely
The thyrde parte was nomynate / mydle Englonde
Duer them all thre / he reygued as is sonde.

This sayd kynge Aulfer / in honour famous
Was deuoutely baptyfed / with great solempnyte
By two holy bysshops / the blessed Finamus
And bysshop Jerumannus / saythe the hystoie
The kynge made a bowe / of hys auctoryte
All temples of ydols / within his regyon
To destroy and chaunge / vnto chrysten relygion.

This Aulfer was polytyke / replete with wysdom
Auctoryous in batayle / proued by his chyualry
His enemyes oppressed / by manhode and reason
Subdued his aduersaryes / and had the byctory
From his realme expelled / all cruell tyranny
Conquered in batayle / at Aldum ryght famous
The kynge of West Saxons / called Kenwalcus.

Also he subdued / vnto his Empyre
The Ilande Vecta / called the yle of wyght
And after that he had / of it his desyre
He gaue the sayd yle / by tyle full ryght
To the kynge of east Englande / to enlarge his myght
Under that condycyon / that he baptyfed wolde be.

And was his godfather / of pure charyte

In lykewyle as this prouynce / of Mercyens
Whylom was greateſt realme / within Englande
Many yeres contynuyng in prehemynēs
Ryght ſo the ſpyrytualte / well known and ſounde
How fyue byſshop ſees / within this ſayd Mercielande
As at Cheſter / at Lychefelde / alſo at Worceſter
The fourth at Lyncolne / the fyfth at Doꝛcheſter.

forthermore after dethe / of Jerumannus
Byſshop of Lychefelde / Kulfer the ſayd kyng
Deſyꝛed the archebyſshop / and pꝛymate Theodorus
To graunt them a byſshop / of holy luyng
To gouerne the people / by ſpyrytuall techyng
To ſhewe to his ſubiectes / the enſample of vertu
And to preche and teche / the ſayth of Chryſt Jheſu

This holy archebyſshop / and pꝛymate Theodorus
Deſyꝛed ſaynt Cedda / of the kyng Oſwo
foꝛ his perfeccyon / and luyng vertuous
To be remoꝛued / to the prouyce of Mercy
Kyng Kulfer was gladdē / of his comyng truly
Ryght ſo were all / the people of his realme
Chankyng therefore / the kyng of Jeruſalem.

Kyng Kulfer graunted / to ſaynt Cedda the cōfeſſoure
Chan byſshop of Lychefelde / moche poſſeſſyon
To edyfy chꝛyches / vnto chꝛyſtes honoure
But namely he gaue a certayne manſyon
In the prouynce of Lyndeſy / ny vnto Lyncolne
Suffꝛyent to ſuffyle / and well foꝛ to content

fifty seruauntes / of good relygious obeyent.

**This noble sayd pynce / and redoubted souerayne
flouryng in manheed / wysedome and polycy
Excelled the peres / of this realme certayne
In person / fortitude / and proued chyualry
Lyberall to his seruauntes / gentyll in company
Gracyous to the poore / and a sure protectour
A founder of chyrches / and a good benefactour.**

**¶ A lytell descrypcyon of the noble maryage bytwene
Kynge Gulfer & saynt Ermenylde y^e kynges daughter
of Kent / & of the solēpryde done at y^e same season. Ca. vi.**

I**n meane whyle the kynge / mynded maryage
By the sufferaunce of our lorde god omnypotent
Issue to encreate / acordynge to his bygnage
After hym to succede / kynge and presydent
He mynded moost / the kynges daughter of Kent
Pynces Ermenylde / nomyuate she was
A beaufefull creature / replete with great grace.**

**Certaynly her father / was called Ercomberte
As afore is specyfyed / the kynge of Kent
Her mother Serburye / humble in her herte
Of whome Ermenylde / a lady excellent
Lynally descended / by tytle full auncyent
Her graundfather / Edbalde kynge Ethelbyctes sone
The fyrst crysten pynce / of Saxons nacyon.**

**Of foure myghty kyngdomes / she is descended
From the royall blode of fraunce / also of Kent**

Upon her fathers party / as afore is notyfyed
And on her mothers syde / by lyne aunceint
From the east Englande / famous and excellent
Also of Northumberlande / flouryng in honour
Conuerted and baptyled / vnto our sauyour.

This sayd Ermenylde / this floure of vertue
Was euer dysposed / from her natyuyte
Vnto the dyscyplnye / of our lorde Ihesu
Enspyed with his grace / and benygnyte
Refused this worlde / ryches and vanyte
He vled the maners / of sadde dyspolycyon
Passyng fragyll youth / and naturall reason.

Suche synguler confort / of vertuouus doctryne
In her so dyd water / a pure perfyte plante
Whiche dayly encreased / by sufferauce deuyne
Aerueploussly growyng / in her freshe and barnaunt
With dyuers propyrtes / of grace eruberaunt
As sobrynes / dyscrecyon / and mekenesse bygynall
Obedyence / grauyte / and wysedome naturall.

Every tree or plante / is proued euident
Whether good or euyl / by experyence full sure
By the budde and fruyte / and pleasaunt descent
A swete tree byngeth forth / by cours of nature
Swete fruyte and delycyous / in tast and verdure
Ryght so Ercombert / by his quene moost mylde
Brought graciously forth / the swete Ermenylde.

She folowed her father / in worshyp and honoure
As her mother Serburge / she toke imytacyon
Herburge

c.i.

To lye in clennes / presentynge in behauiour
Her father in power / her mother in relygion
Humble in herte / hauiynge compassyon
Pyteous and lyberall / where was necessyte
Joyfull to obserue / the dedes of charyte.

Forther of her lyfe / to make declaracyon
As the true legende playnly dothe expresse
Consyder the hystory / with good inspeccyon
Of blessed Serburge / that noble pynnelle
The sayd conuersacyon / and ghostly swetenesse
That is perceyued / in her holy mother
The same perfeccyon / was in the other.

Neuerthelesse Ermenylde / escape ne myght
Worldely honours / ano seculer dygnyte
As requyred so noble a state of ryght
Ryches / possessyon / namely her beauty
But vnto maryage / compelled was she
Of her parentes / contrary to her entent
To whome she was founde / euer obeyent.

This noble lady / by deuyne prouydens
Elected to her / a spouse commendable
A balvaunt pynce / the kynges sone of Mercyens
Called kyng Gulfer / famous and honorable
Repyngynge in Mercelande / with ioy incomparable
Excellynge many other / pynces of this regyon
In ryches / retynu / fortune / honour / and wyldome

At this maryage / was moche solemnyte
Her father Ercomberte / and her frendes all

Tho pynces her vnclcs / Egbyct and Lothary
The kynge of east Englande / Aldulph in speccall
Dukes / erles / barons / and knyghtes in generall
Whiche sayd company / were redy that same day
To worshyp the matrymony / in theyr best aray.

This royall maryage / was solemprysed
With synguler pleasures / ryches and royalte
Theyr frendes colyns / redy on euery syde
To do theyr deuoyre / and shewe humanyte
Nothyng wantynge / euery thyng was plente
Of delycate metes / and myghty wyne & fronge
With mynstrels / melody / and myrthes amonge.

When this saye pynce / resplendent in vertue
Came vnto Mercelande / in the order of matrymony
Than grace with good gouernaunce / byd byce subdue
Vertue was maystres / chiefe ruler and lady
The faythe of holy chyrche / byd growe and multiply
Relygion encreased / honour and prosperyte
In euery place pacyence / true loue and charyte.

At the solempne spousage / of this lady byght
Kynge Aulfer promysed / on his fydelyte
Errours to correcke / by his wysdome and myght
Clere to expell / all sectes of ydolatre
Frome his realme / and fulfill by his auctoryte
The promysse truely made / at the fonte of baptyme
The chyrche to conserue / and saue it from ruyne.

The myghty realme of Mercens / also of Kent
That season were brought / bothe vnto nyte
Merburge c.ii.

And as one kyngedome / ruled full excellent
They subiectes and seruauntes / in tranquyllyte
Kyng Aulfer by his quene / had a noble progenye
Aulfade and Ruffyn / with prynce Kenrede
And Werburge / of whome we purpose to procede.

CA breue declaracon of the holy lyfe and conuersacy-
on of saynt Werburge / bled in her tender youthe / aboue
the comyn cours of nature. Ca. bii.

THis blessed lady / and royall pynces
Descendynge of noble / and hye parentage
Was doughter to Aulfer / the legende dothe rehers
Kyng of Mercelande / and of famous lynage
Her mother Ermenylde / ioynded to hym in maryage
They dwelled somtyme / a lytell frome Stone
At a place in Staffordeshyre / amydde his regyon.

They had bytweene them / other chyldren thre
Aulfade and Ruffyn / martyrs full glorvous
Synt Kenrede his prynce / of greate auctoryte
Cumylate at Rome / a confessor gracypus
The lyues of these thre / we wyl not now dyscus
But speke of the ghostly / and meke conuersacon
Of blessed Werburge / now at this season.

for as declareth / the true Passyonary
A boke wherin / her holy lyfe wyten is
Whiche boke remayneth / in Chester monastery
I purpose by helpe / of Ihesu kyng of blys
In any wyse to reherse / any sentence amys

But folowe the legende / and true hystory
After an humble stile / and from it lytell vary.

This blessed Uerburge / from her natyryte
folowyng the counseyll / of her noble parentes
Dysposed her selfe / euer to humplyte
Obedyent to them / with all reuerens
Loth to dysplease / or make any offens
Or dysquyet any reasonable creature
Thus was her maner / in youthe be ye sure.

Sadde and demure / of her countenaunce
Stable in gesture / proued in euery place
Sobre of her wordes / all vertu to auauunce
Humble / meke / and mylde / replete with grace
Many vertuous maners / in her founde there was
And dyuers gyftes naturall / to her appropriate
As was conuenyent / for so noble a state.

And as she encreased / moore and moze in age
A newe plant of goodnes / in her dayly dyd spryng
Great grace and bertue / were set in her ymage
Wherof her father / had moche merueyllyng
Her mother mused / of this ghoostly thyng
To behold so yonge / and tender a may
From vertu to vertu / to procede euery day.

No merueyll it is / who so taketh hede
In naturall thynges / the dyuers operacyon
Dothe not a royall rose / from a here procede
Passyng the stocke / with pleasaunt dylectacyon
The swete ryuer passeth / by due probacyon
Uerburge c.iii.

His heed and fountayne / ryght so dothe she
Tranſcende her parentes / with great benygnyte.

And tho her bretherne / delyted for to here
For theyr ſoule helthe / ghoffly exortacyon
yet ſhe them paſſed / manyfolde more clere
In loue of our lorde / and meke conuertacyon
And lyke as Phebus / in his heuently regyon
Paſſed other ſtretes / ſhynnyng moost pure
So dothe this byrgyn / aboute the cours of nature.

Lordes / dukes / barons / within the kynges hall
Aerueyled on her maners / and conſtaunte ſobrynes
The plente of wyſedome / and dyſcrecyon withall
In ſo tender age / they neuer knewe expreſſe
Her mynde ſo perfyte / auoydyng all ylnes
But they knewe well / it pretended by all reaſone
Synguler grace and goodnes / to her comynge ſoone.

Aſſymynge on this wyſe / yf ſhe wolde contynu
With ſuche vertuouſ maner / in yeres of hye dyſcrecyon
That ſhe ſholde do honour / by the grace of Iheſu
Unto all her kynrede / and ſynguler conſolacyon
An enſample of vertu / and humylyacyon
Theyr conſorte / theyr treſure / and ſterre full bryght
And cheſe lumynary / ſhynnyng day and nyght.

fyſt in the mornynge / to chyrche ſhe wolde go
ſollowynge her mother / the quene euery day
With her boke and bedes / and departe not them fro
Here all deuyne ſeruyce / and her deuocyns ſay
And to our bleſſed ſauour / mekely on knees pray

Dayly hym desyrynge / for his endeles grace and pyte
To kepe her frome synne / and preferue her in chastyte.

Where youthe is dysposed / of naturall mocyon
To dysportes and pleasures / full of banyte
This mayde was euer / of sadde dysposycyon
Constaunt and dyscrete / styll and womanle
Gladde in her soule / to here speke of chastyte
Clenes and sobrenes / and ioyfull for to here
Ghostly exortacyons / to her herte moost dere.

¶ How this yonge byrgyn saynt Werburge was desy-
red of dukes & erles in maryage / and of the answere she
gawe to the / in auoydngge worldly pleasures. Ca. viii.

AS tender youthe passed / this blessed maydyn
Dayly encreased / more and more in vertue
In ghostly scyence / and vertuouus dyscyplyne
Oblerynge the doctryne / of our lorde Ihesu
Had his commaundmentes / in her herte full tru
So that no creature / more perfyte myght be
In vertuouus gyftes (by grace) than she.

She was replete / with gyftes naturall
Her bylage moost pleasaunt / fayre and amyable
Her goodly eyes / clerer than the crystall
Her countenaunce comly / swete and commendable
Her herte lyberall / her gesture fauourable
She lytell consyderynge / these gyftes transytory
Set her selcyte / in chryst perpetually

She hadde moche worthyp / welthe / and ryches
Werburge c.iiii.

Bestures / honoures / reuerence and royalte
The ryches she dysposed / with great mekenesse
To the poore people / with great charyte
But her sadnes / constaunce / and humylyte
Vertue / gentylnes / so pacyent and colde
Transcended all these other / a thousande folde.

The vertuous maners / and excellent fame
Of this holy byrgyn / redoubted so ferre
In all this regyon / in praylynge her name
That the nobles of this lande / wolde not dysferre
But with ryche apparell / and myghty power
Came for to seke her / lyke as to Salomon
Quene Saba approched / to here of his wysdome.

So lyke wyse some came / to her of her vertue
Some of her sadnesse / and prudent dyscrecyon
Some for her constaunce / so stable and true
Some of her chastyte / and prenaunt reason
Some for her beaute / and famous wysdome
And some that were bozne / of kynges lynnage
Desyred yf they myght / haue her in maryage.

In beaute ampyable / she was equall to Rachell
Comparable to Sara / in fyne fidelyte
In sadnes and wysdom / lyke to Abygaell
Replete as Delbora / with grace of prophesy
Equyvalent to Ruth / she was in humylyte
In pulchrytude Rebecca / lyke Hester in lolynesse
Lyke Judyth in vertue / and proued holynesse.

The prynce of Messarons / a pere of this lande

Wyllynge to haue her by way of maryage
With humble reuerence / as we vnderstande
Sayd to her these wordes / wysely and sage
O souerayne lady / borne of hie lynage
O beautefull creature / and imperpall pynces
This is my full mynde / that I now rehers.

From my fathers realme / hyder I am come
Unto our presence / yf ye be so content
With worshyp and honour / and moche renowne
In all honest maner / aperyng euydent
My mynde is on you set / with loue feruent
To haue you in maryage / all other to forsake
If it be your pleasure / thus me for to take.

ye shalbe asured / a queene for to be
ye shall haue ryches / worshyp / and honour
Royall ryche appareyll / and eke the sufferaynte
Precyous stones in golde / worthy a kynges tresour
Landes / rentes / and lybertees / all at your pleasur
Seruauntes euery houre / your byddyng for to do
With ladyes in your chambre / to wayte on you also.

With these kynde wordes / the byrgyn abasthed fore
And with mylde countenance / answered hym agayne
The playnes of her mynde / to rest for euermore
Sayenge : o noble pynce / I thanke you now certayne
for youre gentyll offer / shewed to me so playne
ye be well worthy / for your regalyte
To haue a better maryage / an hundredth folde than me.

But now I shewe you / playnly my true mynde

My purpose was neuer / marved for to be
A lorde I haue chosen / redemer of mankynde
Ihesu the seconde persone in trynpte
To be my spouse / to Whome my byrgynpte
I haue depely bowed / enduryng all my lyfe
His seruaunt to be / true spouses and wyfe.

Therefore noble prynce / hertfully I you pray
Tempte me no forther / after suche condycyon
Whiche am so stedfast / and wyll be nyght and day
Neuer for to chaunge / nor make alteracyon
Take ye this answer / for a sure conclusyon
The promyse I haue made / and bowe of chastyte
Enduryng my lyfe / shall neuer broken be.

Dyuers other astates / came her for to assaile
Made instaunt requestes / vnto this byrgyn fre
for all theyr busynesse / they myght not preuaile
So constaunt fynde & stable / in herte & mynde was she
A mountayne or hyl / soner leue ye me
Myght be remooued / agaynst the course of nature
Than she for to graunte / to suche worldly pleasure.

She well consydered / the terte of holy scrypture
Who byleueth her chast / for the loue of Ihesu
The temple of god / they be clypped sure
And shalbe rewarded / for that noble vertu
An hundreth folde (by grace) byces to subdu
And heuen for to haue / at theyr departyng
Whiche she remembered wysely / aboue all thyng.

¶ How y^e false Werhode desyred kynge Aulfer to haue

Merburge his daughter in maryage. And how y^r kynge
graunted therto. Ca. ix.

As afore is sayd / whan Penda the kynge
By saynt Oswy kynge / at Leedes was slayne
And Aulfer his sone / the fourth yere folowynge
Was baptyfed and crowned / By bysshop fynane
A solempne boue he made / saythfull and certayne
All temples of ydolles / in his realme to destroy
And chaunge them to chyrches / and newe edyfy.

The same he promysed / as he was true knyght
Whan that he maryed / blessed Ermenylde
Dredynge sore the iustyce / of god almyght
For his fathers demerytes / unreconsyded
On hym to fall sodenly / and so he begged
Promysynge amendes / at his conuersyon
Unto holy chyrche / with humble deuocyon.

Whiche kynge Aulfer / as was the more pyte
By the wycked counseyll / of a fals knyght
Called Merbode / ranne soone in apostasy
For a lytell whyle / wantynge perfyte lyght
The byghtnes of the day / was tourned to nyght
Whan he gaue credence / that creature vnto
Prolongynge the actes / he promysed to do.

Under kynge Aulfer / chefe stewart of his hall
Was this false Merbode / ruler of euery porte
Whome the lady Venus / brought vnto thall
Perled and wounded / so greuouly his harte
Enflammed with loue / and with her fyre darte

Plonget with sorowe / syghynge day and nyght
The beaute of Werburge / moeued so his syght.

The blynde goddes Cuppe / bered so sore his mynde
With interpor loue / and sensuall desyre
Of worldely affeccyon / that reste coude he none fynde
His spyryte was troubled / he brenned as dothe the fyre
Upon this holy byrgyn / his loue was so entyre
To haue her in maryage / was all his intent
That euery houre was a moneth / after his iudgement.

Prouyded in his mynde / how that he well myght
Enforce hym wysely / with boldynesse and polycye
To shewe his full entent / in maner good and ryght
No dyspleasure taken / bpon his lordes partye
By this ymagynacyon / he fell bpon his knee
Afore his lorde and kynge / desyrynge a petycyon
His mynde to declare / with fully grace of pardon.

Excellent prynce he sayd / and moost worthy kynge
That reygnes now within the realme of Englande
flourynge in chualry / in honour encreasynge
Trāscendynge other prynces / of this forsayd lande
My full intencion / now ye shall vnderstande
Requyrynge your grace / in this poore cyrcumstaunce
At my petycyon / to take no greuaunce.

My synguler good lorde / hertfully I you pray
With instaunte request / and humble supplicacyon
Graunte me your doughter Werburge / as ye maye
To haue her in maryage / auoydynge all treason
If your grace deny / this present petycyon

Wethe me behoues / full soone and hastely
My loue is so feruent / there is no remedy.

Stande by Werbode / kynge Gulfer than sayd
Our chyfe champpon / in all our chyualtry
your humble desyre / shall not be denyd
Of Werburge our doughter / now consent wyll we
If ye may optayne / her wyll and mynde truele
Her mothers also / vnder that condycyon
We graunt her to you / at your meke suggestyon.

Of this gracyous answere / a gladd man he was
Reioysynge in his herte / began to conspyre
Castynge in his mynde / craftely by compas
How he myght optayne / to the hye empyre
And reygne after Gulfer / at his owne desyre
But tho man prepose / god dysposed all
Who clymbeth to hye / often hath a fall.

¶ How the quene saynt Ermenylde wolde not cōsente
thereto / & how her betherne saynt Wulfade and Ruffyn
were agaynst the sayd maryage. Ca. x.

¶ Of this busynesse / whan the quene had knowlege
Namely of Werbode / the greuous presumpcyon
How he had moeued / thought his wyched rage
The kynge in suche causes / by synguler petcyon
And how the kynge consented / to his supplicacyon
She was sore greued / at this proude crafty knyght
Called hym in presence / and sayd these wordes ryght.

Thou wyched tyraunt / and unkynde creature

folowynge thyne appetyte / and sensualyte
Thou cruell pagane / presumynge at thy pleasure
Blynded with ygnorance / and infydelyte
Who gaue the lycence / and suche auctoryte
Our doughter Werburge / to desyre of the kynge
Without our counseyll / therto consentynge.

Consyder ryght well / thy kynred and pedegre
It is well known / thou arte comen of nought
Nothor of duke / erle / lorde / by auncetre
But of bylayne people / yf it be well fought
Agaynst our honour / now that thou haste wrought
Whiche consequently / shall be to thy payne
For all thy labour / is spende in bayne.

Thou knowes of a certayne / refused she haste
Many a ryche maryage / within this londe
A thousande tymes better / than euer thou wase
Is now or els shall be / by any maner sonde
Our doughter to the / shall neuer be bonde
Nor suche a caytyfe / shall haue no powere
With kynges blode royall / to approche it nere.

Under my souerayne lorde / and me also
An offycer thou arte / and of great royalte
To be a true seruaunte / now thou arte our foo
Cryed / proued / founde fals / in eche degre
Thou haste well deserued / to be hanged on a tre
For thy mysdede / thou shall scone repent
Thy hye presumpcyon / proude and dytobedyent.

As for our doughter / and dere derlynge

By the grace of god / and our aduysment
Soone shalbe maryed / to the moost myghty kynge
That euer was borne / and in this erth lent
We meane our saupour / lorde omnipotent
Wherefore thy wretchednes / wyll bpon the lyght
Thou taynted traytour / out of our syght.

With that saynt Werburge / came into presence
Afore her mother / and all the company
Doyng her duty / with all due reuerenc
Folowynge her doctryne / full sappyntly
With lycence obtayned / spake euidently
After suche maner / that all the audyence
Reioysed to here / her lusty eloquence

O souerayne lady / and kynges doughter dere
My dere mother / ouer all thyng transytory
O gracyous prynces / and quene to kynge Quisere
To your ghostly counseyll / do me euer apply
As I haue promysed / ryght euidently
To the kynge of kynges / and lorde celestyall
I wyll obserue / enduryng this lyfe mortall.

And thou false Werhode / folowynge sensualyte
I meruayle greatly / thy hye presumpcyon
To moeue our father / with suche audacyte
Knowynge my mynde / set on relyggyon
yet for thy soule helthe / accepte this lesson
Aske mercy and grace / of my spouse eternall
Lest vengeaunce sodeynly / vpon the do fall.

Wherwith her bretherne / Wulfade and Ruffyn

Two noble pynces / manfull sadde and wyse
Soe bered with peyne / they hertes were within
At this false steward / whiche can so deuyle
Agayne they honour / to do suche preudylse
As to attempte they father the kynge
In so great a mater / they not consentynge.

They called Werbode / afore them all
Sayenge thou caytife / who gaue the lycence
To moeue this cause / so by and speccail
Touchynge a lady / of suche prehemynence
A kynges doughter / of moche magnyfyence
None comparable to hym / in all this regyon
In honour / royalte / power / and dyscrecyon.

And as our mother sayd / to the bysorne
Loke well thy progeny / and all thy lynage
A byllayne orels wers / sothly / thou was borne
Now our dere syster / wolde haue in maryage
As semynge for a pynce / of hys parentage
Chan for suche a carle / by a prouerbe auncyent
A lad to wedde a lady / is an inconuenyent.

Therefore we charge the / vpon greuous peyne
Knowe no suche mater / nor speke of it no more
For yf suche mocyon / come to us agayne
Of hys presumpcyon / as is done afore
Thou shalt repent / the cause and dede full sore
Now we commaunde the / no forther to contriue
But cease of suche busynesse / in peyne of thy lyue.

¶ How the false Werbode complayned vpon Aulfade

and fuffyn to kynge Aulfare by malyce and enuy / and
was the cause of theyr dethe. Ca. xi.

This wyched Werreode / the bedyll of Belyall
The minifter of myfchet / a fergeant of fathanas
Confyderynge he was / delpyfed of them all
And foze rebuked / for his outragpous trespas
He breunned in enuy / as a man without grace
Catt in his mynde / how he myght woken be
Upon her betherne / by fome fubtylte.

Euere from that tyme / he lay in wayte
Seking occafions / on them to complayne
Dayly ymagyned / with fubtyll deceyte
Them to fubdue / and cause to be flayne
Attendynge oportunyte / to take them in a trayne
By the falle entyement / of his mayfter Belyall
Prompte to all myfchefe / as dyfcpyle naturall.

In fauour of his prynce / by crafte he hym brought
(As now is in cufrome) with falle flattery
Some please theyr mayfter / and that is ryght nought
So dyd this Werreode / by fubtyll polycy
His vengeable mynde / was hymfelfe to magnify
And utterly to lofe / thefe prynces twayne
Or deftroye hymfelfe / by myffortune playne.

Lyke as Archyphofell / chefe counfelour to abfalon
Sundry tymes moeued hym / vnto baryauce
And with kynge Affuerus / in fauour was Amon
Counfeylynge hym euere / vnto great myfchauce
In lyke caufe Werreode / moeued to vengeaunce
Werburge. d. i.

Was chefe counseler / to Aulfer the kynge
Whiche brought hym selfe to shame / and euyl endynge.

The elder prynce Aulfade / in his dysporte
Used haukyng / huntynge / for a past tyme
But vnto huntynge namely / was his resorte
Euery day in the morowe / longe afore pryme
And as it fortunied / vpon a tyme
A myghty harte reyled was / coursed a longe space
Whome Aulfade pursued / with pleasure and solace.

This harte sore strayned / ranne for his socour
As all deer done / of theyr propre
To a well with water / after his great labour
Hym to reconforte / and the more fresher be
Wherby saynt Cead / had his oratorye
The wyld harte there lay / full secrete and still
And suffered this holy man / to do all his wyll.

This blessed bysshop moeued with pyte
Covered this sayd harte / with bowes and leues also
Put a small corde / aboute his necke trule
And after commaunded hym spedly to go
To the wyld woodes / whens he came fro
His pasture to seke / for saynt Cead knewe truly
It was a sygne folowynge / of some great mysery.

(As Bede wytnesseth) this holy confessor
Was bysshop of Lychefelde / and Couentre
Whiche for the loue of our sauour
In wyldernesse dwelled / all solytarpe
Contented with fruytes / of the wyld tree

With rootes / herbes / water / for his sustentacyon
Endurynge penaunce / with due contemplacyon.

This venerable pynce / ensuyng this great harte
Approched to his cell / with great dylgencce
Tenderly requyryng / where and in what parte
This harte escaped / so ferre out of presence
This holy man answered / with all reuerence
Beestes / byrdes / fowles / I kepe none at all
But I knowe the instructour / of thy helthe eternall.

By this brute beest / thou shall perceyue well
The sacramentes of holy chyrche euerychone
To encrese thy byleue / by our ghostly counsell
And so to be baptyled / and haue remyssyon
By dyuers brute beestes / for mannes saluacyon
Our lorde hath shewed / secretes mystycall
To his electe persones / by grace supernall.

To Noe came conforte / after the great deluge
By a dowre / byngynge a braunche of Olyue
To the prophet Hely / a rauen dyd refuge
Brought hym his sustenance / and saued his lyue
Unto saynt Eustach / full memoratyue
Our lorde appered / in a hartes lyknes
To whome he obeyed / gladly with mekenes.

Of whiche examples / pynce Gulsade gladd was
Thankynge god and saynt Cead / that he thyder come
And sayd holy father / fulfilled with grace
If ye can supply / my instaunte petycon
That the sayd harte / myght retourne hyder soone
Merburge. d.ii.

Whiche is now in wyldernesse / vnto our presence
Than to your doctryne / I wyll gyue fully credence.

Saynt Ceas vnto prayer / deuoutely went
And the wyld harte / frome the wood came hastely
With the corde in his necke / apperynge euydent
And in theyr presence / stode full ryght soberly
Fay sone than he sayd / byleue than stedfastly
Understande ye may / all thyng possible is
To a faythfull persone / that perfytelly byleuys.

Aulfade confortyd / and in the fayth probate
fell downe to his fete / with humble deuocyon
Desyrynge baptyem / to be regenerate
Vnto our sauour / for his soules saluacyon
Saynt Ceas blessed / the well that season
And baptyed this prynce / in name of the trynpte
Was prest and godfather / for want of companye.

This chrysten prynce / tarped with hym all nyght
In fastyng / prayer / and medytacyon
And was refreshed / naturally in syght
With bodyly and ghostly sustentacyon
The next day receyued / the holy comūnyon
With lycence departed / to his father agayne
The harte to the forest / recourfed certayne.

The thyrde day after / his brother Ruffyn
followyng the same harte / by deuynne prouydence
Was well instructed / in ghostly doctryne
Baptyed by saynt Ceas / & communed with reuerence
And as it fortunyd / by playne experyence

Of all the proces done / to the elder brother
All thyng dyd happe / ryght so to the other.

Afore this season / chrystes sayth moost gracypous
Thugh this lande / was preched in euey place
By bysshop fynane / and Jerumannus
Whiche Jeruman of east Englande / fyrst byslop was
And with saynt Ermenylde / came hyder by grace
yet fully conuerted / was not aftersee regyon
Clene frome ydolatry / vnto this season.

These forsayd prynces / conuerted newly
By blessed Cead / to chrysten relygion
Dayly to hym resorted / for counseyll ghostly
To encrease in vertue / and holy perfeccyon
With lycence pretended / they wolde togyder come
Unto his oratory / from the kynges hall
Under colour of Huntynge / as they dyd it call.

And as it is wyrtten / in holy scrypture
Whoso is a sure frende / loueth stedfastly
And who is enemy / putteth dyligent cure
Ayschese to accomplishe / moost studypously
The false Werewode suspectynge / euidently
The newe conuersyon / of these prynces twayne
Prepared hym craftely / to take them in a trayne.

He watched on them / secretly euery day
To knowe theyr resorte / and vnto what place
Lyke as a hounde folowynge / these prynces to bytray
Or a dogge dothe a dere / by sent of the chas
Whan he had perceyued / how all thyng was.

He compassed in mynde / by false inuencion
To complayne to the kynge / for theyr destruccyon.

My synguler goode lorde / and moost pyncypall
Sayd this Wrethode / the fals traytour
Pleaseth your goodnes / and grace specyall
To my supplicacyon / to be a protectour
Ye haue two pynces / myghty in honour
Whiche are my lordes / and euer shalbe
If they wolde be true / to your soueraynte

They haue refused / the more pyte is
your aunyent lawes / and sectes euerychone
And with your lycence / haue done yet more amys
For now they be subiecte / to a newe relygyon
Utterly refusynge / your decrees and olde custome
Folowynge the counseyll / and mynde of a tenyor
Called byllhop Cead / theyr specyall auctor.

your strayte commaundmentes / they dayly despyce
And purpose I tell you / in secretenes
Unto your persone / to do moche preiudyce
To murther or poyson you / shortly doubtles
And so for to reygne / and gouerne your ryches
Bytwene them twayne / to dpyde your lande
By fals conspyracy / as ye shall vnderstande.

With these false tales / and many other mo
The kynge was moeued / to malyce and yre
By his compleccyon / as he was wont to do
More cruell than a best / as feruent as the fyre
Depely affyrmyng / that dethe shulde be theyr hyre

If he myght take them / in any place
They shulde be slayne / and suffer withouten grace.

In the morowe after / whan Phebus began to clere
The kynge toke Merbode / with hym secretly
To try out the truthe / and how it wolde appere
Wheder his prynces / were gone to the oratory
If it were so / he sende hym pryuelly
To gyue them knowlege / of his entent
For to remooue / from his hasty Judgment.

The father had pyte / bpon his chyldren naturall
Wolde not haue slayne them / the sothe to say
Wherfore he sende / the seruaunt of Belyall
To conuay them fro thens / some other way
The kynge knewe hymselfe / not able that day
To refrayne his yre / and cruell hastynesse
Gyuen to hym of nature / in suche great dystresse.

This wycked Merbode / came to the oratory
And saue these prynces / in great deuocyon
Counceyled his message / by malyce and enuy
Retourned to the kynge / hastily and soone
Newly complaynyng / by fals ymagynacyon
A hundreth folde worse / than at the fyrst tyme
With new addycyons / to bynge them to ruyne.

And whan the kynge / approched nygh the cell
Herynge the complayntes / of this fals knyght
The chyldren perceyued / a voyce ryght well
Celled of theyr prayers / and came forth full ryght
On whome whan Aulfere / had ones a syght

He was sore moued / as hote as the fyre
Agaynst her chyldren / that loued hym entyre.

But by the malyce / and wyched temptacyon
Of the deuyll / mannes olde mortall enemy
And what by the false crafty suggestyon
Of Wyched Werobode / fulfyllled with enuy
And by his owne hastynesse / and cruell fury
These prynces were slayne / Gulsade and Kustyn
Now glorpyous martyrs / reygnyng in heuyn.

After whan kynge Gulfer / approached his castell
And bryneth was entred / into his hall
Incontynently a spyryte / the false sene of hell
Entred fals Werobode / after the people all
Inwardly hym bered / with peynes contynual
That his armes and handes / he dyd horrybly tere
Whiche sodayne bengeaunce / all the courte dyd fere.

He rored and yelled / lyke a wylde bull
Shewed all the myschese / malyce and enuy
Done agaynst the martyrs / with a mynde yrefull
So sore constrayned / with peynes greuoussly
The deuyll ceased not / his dolours to multiply
Tyll his fylthy soule / compelled sore was
For to expyre / for his hydeous trespas.

¶ How kynge Gulfer was conuerted & toke great re-
pentaunce for his offences. And by the counseyl of saynt
Ceade was a deuoute man / and a good benefactour to
holy chyche / and a founder of dyuers holy places rely-
gyous. Ca. xii.

Than Culfer consyderynge / with due dyscrecyon
His cruell hastynes / and surpous mynde
How ferre he had / abused his reason
Agaynst his chyldren / by nature and kynde
He sore repented / in hystory as we fynde
His greuous trespas / and homycyde vnnaturall
In consyence greued / for his synnes mortall.

Damely lamentynge / in soule his apostasy
After his baptyme / and ghosly conuersyon
And for the departure / of his prynces truly
Contrary to ryght / kynde and all reason
The losse of his fame / thugh this regyon
A dethe to his quene / and his louers all
Greuous to his kynnesmen / and frendes naturall.

All these consydered / with due circumstaunce
He wayled and weped / sobbynge full sore
Plonged in sorowe / heuynes / and greuaunce
Lamentynge his offence / a thousande tymes therfore
His intoilerable payne / encreased more and more
Wofully he went / to his bed by and by
Supposynge some dethe / withouten any remedy.

Some of his louers / beyng there present
Gave hym theyr counseyll / to hunte in the forest
Some to dysportes / and pleasures euident
Some vnto melody / all thoughtes to degest
But Ermenyde his quene / whiche loued hym best
Counseyled hym truly / to take contrycyon
And mendes make / by due satysfaccyon.

Merburge.

e.i.

Of this ghosly counseyll / the kynge was very glad
And in the morowe after / prepared besyly
With mekenesse to seke / blessed saynt Cead
So whan the kynge came / to his oratory
The bysshop was at masse / and ryght consequently
fro heuen descended / so glorpyous a lyght
That of the mystery / Quiser had no syght.

Whan masse was ended / saynt Cead his vestures caste
Upon the sonne beame / by myracle there hangynge
Supposynge on a forme / and made moche haste
To mete at the doore / mekely the sayd kynge
Whiche laye there prostrate / penaunce desyrnge
With reuerence hym eleuate / and gaue an exortacyon
The kynge was agreable / for to do satysfaccyon.

The bysshop hym enioyned / in parte of penaunce
To destroye all ydolles / and sectes of ydolatry
In all his realme / and the temples of paganes
To translate to the honour / of god almyghty
With preestes and clerkes / to pray and synge deuoutly
Also peas and iustyce / to be kepte contynuall
With the werkes of mercy / to be bled in specyall.

forther he enioyned hym / of his charyte
Monasteryes to make / of great perfecyon
Endowed with landes / possessed in lyberte
Therin for to set / men of relygyon
To pray to our lord / for his saluacyon
Whiche Quiser promyted / to fulfyll gladle
As soone as he myght / by possybylyte.

Then the foresayd kynge / and the holy confessour
Went to theyꝝ prayers / in the oratory
And as the kynge loked up / to our sauyour
The sayd sacrat bestures / he sawe euidently
Hangynge on the sonne beame / full merueylously
His gloues / his gyrdell / the kynge had vpon
Whiche shortly to grounde / falled adowne.

Wherby he perceyued / the great holynesse
Of blessed saynt Cead / and interyꝝ deuocyon
Desyred his prayer / dayly with mekenesse
To almyghty god / for his remysson
Frome thens departed / with his benedyccyon
Joyfull in his soule / towarde his place
Thankynge god mekely / of his great grace.

As the kynge promysed / to our sauyour
Shortly he auoyded / all ydolatry
Bynned theyꝝ ydolles / correcked theyꝝ errour
Translated theyꝝ temples / vnto god almyghty
founded monasteryes / of relygyon many
Of men and women / gaue them possessyons
Landes / rentes / ryches / to encrease deuocyons

Namely he founded / a ryche monastery
for dethe of the prynces / in satysfaccyon
To the honour of god / and saynt Peter truly
Called Peterborowe abbay / in all this regyon
Endowed it with rentes / lybertes / possessyon
A place where many / relyggyous persones be
Seruyng day and nyght / our loꝛde with charyte.

Merburge.

e.ii.

Also there was founded / at Stone a pyore
In the honour of god / and the martyrs twayne
Possessed with landes / rentes and lyberte
Where deuoute chanons / ben inhabyte certayne
Miracles and sygnes / haue ben shewed there playne
To the laude and prayte / of god omnytpotent
And of these holy martyrs / patrones there present.

¶ Of the feruent desyre & great deuocyon y^r saynt Wer-
burge hadde to be relygious / & of y^r dayly supplycacyōs
she made to the kynge her father for the same. Ca. xiii.

As this myghty pynces / encreased in age
So dayly encreased / her good condycyons
That greatly enioyed / her honorable lynage
Consyderynge in her / suche vertuous dysposycyons
In bygyls / prayers / and ghostly medytacyons
Set all her mynde / power / myght / and mayne
To serue our saupour / day and nyght certayne.

She well consydered / with due dyscrecyon
Of this present lyfe / the great wretchydnesse
How dredefull it is / full of barpacyon
Deceuable / peryllous / and of no sykernesse
The tyme vncertayne / to be knownen doubtlesse
For here is no cytee / nor sure dwelypunge place
All thyng is transytory / in short proces and space.

Wherefore this byrgyn / gladde and benyvolent
folowynge the counseyll / of blessed Maathewe
Was on of fyue byrgyns / euer redy present
Had her lampe replete / with oyle full of bertue

Kedy for to mete / her spouse swete Ihesu
With charytable werkes / in her soule contynuall
Therefore she was taken / to his blys eternall.

She well considered / the wordes of the gospell
Who refuses pleasures / and naturall generacyon
for the loue of Ihesu / rewarded shalbe well
With a hundreth folde grace / here for theyr guerdon
And after this lyfe / haue eterne fruytyon
Whiche she remembred / and euer fro that day
On her father wolde call / and mekely to hym say.

Reuerent myghty prynce / and lord honorable
Moost dere byloued father / my synguler helpe & socour
My trust / trefure / and solace / to me moost ampyable
Instauntly I beseeche you / for loue of our sauoure
And of his mother mary / of byrgens the flour
With all the company / that in heuen be
My humble petycyon / now graunt it vnto me.

Well byloued father / this is my fully mynde
My instaunte desyre / and humble supplycacyon
By the grace of god / maker of all mankynde
And by your lyfence / helpe / and turycyon
I purpose to enter / into holy relygyon
And utterly refuse / all pleasures transytory
To be professed / at the house of Ely.

O my dere daughter / sayd this noble kynge
My pleasure / solace / and hope of my gladnesse
Moost dere byloued / and my synguler swete derlynge
I well consyder / your vertue and sadnesse
Werburge. e.iii.

Also there was founded / at Stone a pyore
In the honour of god / and the martyrs twayne
Possessed with landes / rentes and lyberte
Where deuoute chanons / ben inhabyte certayne
Miracles and sygnes / haue ben shewed there playne
To the laude and praye / of god omnipotent
And of these holy martyrs / patrones there present.

C Of the feruent desyre & great deuocyon y^e saynt Wer-
burge hadde to be relygious / & of y^e dayly supplycacyōs
she made to the kynge her father for the same. Ca. xiii.

As this myghty pynces / encreased in age
So dayly encreased / her good condycyōns
That greatly enioyed / her honorable lynage
Consyderynge in her / suche vertuous dysposycyōns
In bygyls / prayers / and ghostly medytacyōns
Set all her mynde / power / myght / and mayne
To serue our sauour / day and nyght certayne.

She well consydered / with due dyscrecyon
Of this present lyfe / the great wretchydnesse
How dredefull it is / full of varyacyon
Deceuable / peryllous / and of no sykernesse
The tyme vncertayne / to be knownen doubtlesse
For here is no cytee / nor sure dwelyngge place
All thyng is transytory / in short proces and space.

Wherefore this bygyn / gladd and benyuolent
folowynge the counseyll / of blessed frathewe
Was on of fyue bygyns / euer redy present
Had her lampe replete / with oyle full of vertue

Redy for to mete / her spouse swete Ihesu
With charytable werkes / in her soule contynuall
Therefore she was taken / to his blys eternall.

She well conyded / the wordes of the gospell
Who refuses pleasures / and naturall generacyon
for the loue of Ihesu / rewarded shalbe well
With a hundreth folde grace / here for theyr guerdon
And after this lyfe / haue eterne fruycon
Whiche she remembred / and euer fro that day
On her father wolde call / and mekely to hym say.

Reuerent myghty prynce / and lorde honoꝛable
Moost dere byloued father / my synguler helpe & socour
My trust / tresure / and solace / to me moost ampyable
Instauntly I beseeche you / for loue of our sauoure
And of his mother mary / of byrgyns the floure
With all the company / that in heuen be
My humble petycyon / now graunt it vnto me.

Well byloued father / this is my fully mynde
My instaunte desyre / and humble supplicacyon
By the grace of god / maker of all mankynde
And by your lysence / helpe / and tycyon
I purpose to enter / into holy relygyon
And utterly refuse / all pleasures transytory
To be professed / at the house of Cely.

O my dere doughter / sayd this noble kynge
My pleasure / solace / and hope of my gladnesse
Moost dere byloued / and my synguler swete derlynge
I well conyder / your vertue and sadnesse
Werburge. e.iii.

your instaunt request / and humble gentylnesse
And of your desyre / inwardly I am gladd
But yet your motyon / makes my herte full sadde.

All my ioye and conforste / now resteth in the
Syth thy dere betherne / from vs ben agone
Thou arte the trusty treasure / to thy mother and me
Our synguler solace / and sure consolacyon
Wherfore swete derlyng / as for my heyre alone
I wolde the mary / and a quene the make
If thou wyll consent / and my counseyll take.

Consyder and beholde / thugh all this lande
Take the a maryage / at thyne owne pleasure
A prynce moost valyaunt / moost noble to be founde
And of helpe and ayde / I shall the assure
With ryches / royalte / welthe / and tresure
Clothes of golde / and royall ryche apparell
And all thynges necessary / as man can of tell.

Remembre also / how after course of kynde
Agee dothe soze greue / thy moder and me also
Therfore naturall loue (swete chylde) dothe me bynde
To gyue the best couseyll / what thou shall do
To honour and worshyp / how thou may come to
Whiche great renowne / and hie affate certayne
To se the a quene / wyll make vs ponge agayne.

God ordeyned matrimony / fyrst in Paradyse
Bytwene man & woman / whan he the worlde dyd make
That mankynde myght encrese / multiply and ryse
Eche persone at pleasure / a spouse for them to take

Now ioyned by holy chyrche / all other to forsake
The chyld of the father / to take his dyscyplene
And after that to teche / his ysue theyr doctryne.

Also man and best / haue dysposycyon naturall
To bynge forth theyr lykenesse / by generacyon
But man hauynge reason / and fre wyll with all
As lawe requyrez / hath his procreacyon
Under true matrymony / by his owne eleccyon
Or els to obserue / and lyue in pure byrgynyte
For the greater meryte / and rewarde of gloye.

And yf all maydens / shulde kepe theyr chastyte
As ye now do / how shulde the worlde encrese
Swete louely creature / ryght ioyfull wolde I be
To kysse a chyld of thyne / hauynge thy lykenesse
And se the also coronate / as a myghty pynceffe
Enclyne dere derlynge / thy mynde to myne entent
And all these sayd honours / wyll folowe consequent.

C Of the meke answerre saynt Werburge gaue to her fa-
ther whan she was moeued to maryage. Ca.riiii.

The holi mayd / whā she knewe her fathers mynde
Her soule was replete / with woo & penyuenesse
And sore began to wepe / after cours of kynde
The salte teeres dystylled / for payne and heurynesse
By her ruddy chekes spynnyng / full fayre doubtlesse
Piteous to beholde / but whan the foresayd mayde
Ceased of her sorowe / thus to hym she sayde.

Most best blyoued father / nexte to god almyght
Werburge. e.iiii.

your kynde gentyll mocyon / wolde moeue inwardely
The mynde of any creature / to folowe you ryght
Or any stony stomake / to relent and apply
And resolute eche harde herte / to waylynge dolefully
Contyderynge on euery parte / with good dyscrecyon
To accepte or refuse / this harde eleccyon.

Father I haue ben to you / meke and obedyent
Euer syth I had / yeres of dyscrecyon
Gladde to obserue / your hye commaūdyment
With loue interyor / and humble intencyon
And so wyll contynue / with lowly submyssyon
In this present lyfe / whyle I do endure
Of my loue and prayer / euer ye shalbe sure.

But moost louely father / I pray you hertfully
Take no dyspleasure / pardon what I shall say
My soule / my herte / and mynde / is set stydfastly
To serue my lorde god / nyght and also day
Neuer to be maryed / by no maner of way
For sothly I haue bowed / my true byrgnyte
Unto Ihesu / the seconde persone in trynnyte.

That is my spouse / and blessed sauour
For whose loue refused / in certaynte haue I
All worldely pleasures / welth / ryches and honour
With all boyde busynesse / and cures transytory
My loue on hym is sette / so sure and feruently
That nothyng shall separate / my hert hym fro
Sekeness nor helthe / pleasure / peyne / ne wo.

Also my full entent / was neuer otherwyle

¶ Than to be handmayde / to my lord Ihesu
And of my soule and body / to make hym sacryfyce
For my ghosly welthe / all byces to subdue
He is my dere spouse / solace / helthe moost true
On hym is all my herte / and hase ben set alway
And euer shalbe / vnto my endynge day.

¶ In this wretched worlde / we can not longe endure
And of this present lyfe / we are in no suerte
As we haue deserued / so we shalbe sure
After this pylgrymage / rewarded for to be
For mercy and grace / therfore mehely call we
Whyle we haue tyme and space / for than it is to late
¶ When dethe with his darte / sayth to us chekemate.

¶ Therfore dere father / I shewe you now agayne
All my hole herte / desyre and entent
¶ Whiche euer hath ben / and so shalbe certayne
For to be relygyous / chaste / and obedyent
¶ Namely at Cely / for theyr vertue excellent
Father I requyre you / for chrystes loue and charyte
¶ My meke supplicacyon / now graunte it vnto me.

¶ The kynge well consydered / his daughters desyre
Her constaunte true mynde / and pure deuocyon
¶ Graunted her petycyon / with synguler loue entyre
Trustynge by her prayer / and dayly supplicacyon
¶ Vnto heuen blysse / the rather for to come
¶ Her mother Ermenyde / was gladd of this tydynge
And lauded full lowly / our lord and heuen kynge.

¶ ¶ How saynt Werburge was made a moyne after her

desyre at the monastery of Ely vnder saynt Audy/lady
and abbesse. Ca. rb.

Than the kyng remēbred / with due cōcōsaūce
The excellent vertue / sadnes / and grauyte
Of his dere doughter / and the perfyte cōstaūce
Her humble petrycon / and pure byrgnyte
He thanked our lorde / with great humylyte
Of his infynyte grace / that so royall a floure
Frome hym descended / to his prayse and honoure.

He sende messages / in all goodly hast
With letters mylkyue / thugh his regyon
Commaūdyng his subiectes / they shulde full fast
By a day assygned / be redy euerychone
In theyr best maner / with hym for to gone
To bynge his doughter / to the hous of Ely
There to be relygyous / after her desydry.

When the day was come / of theyr appoyntment
The nobles of the realme / and lordes were redy
To attende on theyr souerayne / at his commaūdyment
Kynge Gulfer prepared / all thyng pleasauntly
And of his court / had chosen a noble company
In theyr best aray / royalte / and renoune
To offer saynt Werburge / to god and relygyon.

The kyng on his Journey / rode forthe royally
The quene hym folowed / as is the custome
Werburge succeeded them consequently
The peeres and his counseyll / knewe well theyr rowme
Dukes / erles / lordes / and many a worthy barowne

**Knyghtes / squyers / gentyls / of her kynred also
With ladyes and gentyl women / & seruañtes both two.**

**When the kynge approched / the sayd monastery
Saynt Audy than abbelle / toke her holy couent
And mette the sayd kynge / and all his company
With solempne processyon / and gretynge benyuolent
Praylynge our lorde god omnypotent
Whiche of his goodnes / to that congregacyon
Sende them a syster / of suche perfeccyon.**

**Merburge requyred / by the order of charyte
Mekely on her knees / to enter relyggon
Saynt Audy receyued / of her benygnyte
And graunted fre lycence / after her petycyon
Gladde were also / the hole congregacyon
And sange (Te deum) with moche reuerence
Magnyfyenge our lorde / of his prouydence.**

**She was receyued / with moche solempnyte
Into the holy order / after her entent
To proue her sadnes / and humplyte
(As is the custome) and so be obedyent
To lyue euer after / humble / chaff / and contynent
Than dyd they? Joye / merueylously increas
Consyderynge her pacyens / and perfyte holynes.**

**Her royall dyademe / and thynnyng coronall
Was fyrst refuted / for loue of our sauoure
The poore bayle accepted / and the symple pall
The royall ryche purpull / reiected that same houre
With other clothes of golde / sylkes of great honoure**

She toke lowe appareyll / bestures that were blake
All her pleisant garmentes / she clerely dyd forsake.

Also she refused / her fathers realme and royalte
All ryches / rentes / pleasures / possessyon
With all worldely honoures / full of banyte
Lowly submyttyng her / vnder subieccyon
Vertu to encrese / myndyng moost relyggon
She refused yet more her owne proper wyll
Put all to her abbelle / her order to fulfill.

C Of the great solempnyte kynge Gulfer made at the
ghostly maryage of saynt Werburge his daughter / to al
his louers / colyns / and frendes. Ca. xvi.

Kynge Gulfer her father / at this ghostly spouage
Prepared great tryumphes / and solempnyte
Made a royall feest / as custome is of maryage
Sende for his frendes / after good humanyte
Kepte a noble houholde / she wed great lyberalyte
Bothe to ryche and poore / that to this feest wolde come
No man was denyed / euery man was well come.

Her uncles and auntes / were present there all
Ethelred / and Merwalde / and Mercelly also
The blessed kynges / whome sayntes we do call
Saint kenelwyd / sait keneburg / theyr systers both two
And of her noble lygnage / many other mo
Were redy that season / with reuerence and honour
At this noble tryumphe / to do all theyr deuour.

Tho kynges mette them / with theyr company

Egypt kyng of kent / brother to the quene
The seconde was Aldulphe kyng of the east party
Brother to saynt Audry / wyfe and mayde serene
With dyuers of theyr progeny / and nobles as I wene
Dukes / erles / barons / and lordes ferre and nere
In theyr best aray / were present all in fere.

It were full tedpous / to make descripcyon
Of the great tryumphes / and solempne royalte
Belongynge to the feest / the honour and prouysyon
By playne declaracyon / bpon euery partye
But the sothe to say / withouten ambyguyte
All herbes and floures / fragraunt sayre and swete
Were strawed in halles / and layd vnder theyr fete.

Clothes of golde and arras / were hanged in the hall
Depaynted with pcyures / and hystories manyfolde
Well wrought and craftely / with precyous stones all
Glyteryng as Phebus / and the beten golde
Lyke an erthly paradysse / pleasaunt to beholde
As for the sayd moynes / was not them amonge
But prayenge in her cell / as done all nouyce yonge.

The story of Adam / there was goodly wrought
And of his wyfe Eue / bytwene them the serpent
How they were deceyued / and to theyr peynes brought
There was Cayn and Abell / offerynge theyr present
The sacryfyc of Abell / accepte full euydent
Cuball and Cubalcain / were purtrayed in that place
The inuentours of musyke / and craftes by great grace.

Noe and his schyppe / was made there curiously

Sendyng forth a rauen / whiche neuer came agayne
And how the dowre returned / with a braunche hastily
A token of conforste and peace / to man certayne
Abraham there was / standyng upon the mount playne
To offer in sacryfyce / Isaac his dere sone
And how the shepe for hym / was offered in oblacyon.

The twelue sones of Jacob / there were in purtrayture
And how into Egypt / yonge Joseph was solde
There was inprysoned / by a false coniectour
After in all Egypte / was ruler (as is tolde)
There was in pycture / Moyses wyse and holde
Our lord apperyng / in busshes flaminge as fyre
And nothyng therof bent / lefe / tree / nor spyre.

The ten plages of Egypte / were well embost
The chyldren of Israell / passyng the reed see
Kyng Pharoo drowned / with all his proude hoost
And how the two tables / at the mounte of Synaye
Were gyuen to Moyses / and how soone to ydolatre
The people were prone / and punysshed were therfore
How Datan and Abyron / for pryde were lost full yore.

Duke Josue was ioyned / after them in pycture
Ledynge the Irehelytes / to the lande of promysyon
And how the sayd lande / was dryyded by mesure
To the people of god / by equall sundry porcyon
The Judges and bysshops / were there everychone
The noble actes / and tryumphes Marcyall
Freshly were browded / in these clothes royall.

Nerte to hys borde / appered fayre and bryght

kyng Saul and Dauid / and prudent Salomon
Roboas succeedyng / whiche soone lost his myght
The good kyng Elechyas / and his generacyon
And so to the Machabees / and dyuers other nacyon
All these sayd stoyres / so rychely done and wrought
Belögyng to kyng Aulfer / agayn y^e tyme were brought

But ouer the hys desse / in the pryncypall place
Wher the sayd the kynges / late crowned all
The best hallynge hanged / as reason was
Wherin were wrought / the .ix. ordres angelycall
Dyuyded in the Hierarchyles / not cessyng to call
Sanctus / sanctus / sanctus / blessed be the trynyte
Dominus deus sabaoth / the perlones in one deyte.

Herte in ordre supynge / sette in goodly purtrayture
Was our blessed lady / flour of femynyte
With the twelue apostles / echeone in his fygure
And the foure euangelystes / wrought moost curpously
Also the dyscyples / of chryst in they^r degre
Prechyng and techyng / vnto euery nacyon
The faythtes of holy chyrche / for they^r saluacyon.

Martyrs than folowed / ryght manyfessly
The holy innocentes / whome Herode had slayne
Blessed saynt Stephan / the prothomarty^r truly
Saynt Laureçe / saynt Vincēt / sufferyng great payne
With many other mo / than here ben now certayne
Of whiche sayd martyrs / exsample we may take
Pacynce to obserue / in herte for chrystes sake.

Confessours approched / ryght conuenient

freschely embroded / in ryche tyllthe we and tyme
Saynt Nicholas saynt Benedycte / and his couent
Saynt Jeron / Basilys / and saynt Augustyne
Gregory the great doctour / Ambrose and saynt Martyne
All these were sette / in goodly purtrayture
Them to beholde / was a heuenly pleasure.

Argyns them folowed / crowned with the lily
Amonge whome our lady / chese president was
Some crowned with rooses / for they great byctory
Saynt Katheryne / saynt Margarete / saynt Agathas
Saynt Cecyly / saynt Agnes / and saynt Charytas
Saynt Lucye / saynt Wenefryde / and saynt Apolyn
All these were brothered / the clothes of golde within.

Upon the other syde / of the hall sette were
Noble auncyent stoyes / & how the stronge Sampson
Subdued his enemyes / by his myghty power
Of Hector of Troy / slayne by fals treason
Of noble Arthur / kynge of this regyon
With many other mo / whiche it is to longe
Playnly to expresse / this tyme you amonge.

The tables were covered / with clothes of wyaper
Rychely enlarged / with syluer and with golde
The cupborde with plate / byrrynge fayre and clere
Marshalles they offyces / fulfilled manyfolde
Of myghty wyne plenty / bothe newe and olde
All maner kynde / of meetes delycate
(Whan grace was sayd) to them was preparate.

To this noble feest / there was suche ordynaunce

That nothyng wanted / that gotten myght be
On see and on lande / but there was haburdaunce
Of all maner pleasures / to be had for monye
The bordes all charged / full of meet plente
And dyuers subtiltes / prepared sothly were
With cordyall spyces / they? ghestes for to chere.

The Joyfull wordes / and swete communycayon
Spoken at the table / it were harde to tell
Eche man at lyberte / without interrupcyon
Bothe sadnes and mythes / also pryue counsell
Some adulacyon / some the truthe dyd tell
But the great affates / spake of they? regyons
Knyghtes of they? chyualry / of craftes the comons.

Certayne at eche cours / of seruyce in the hall
Trumpettes blewe by / thalmes and claryons
Shewyng they? melody with / toynes musycall
Dyuers other mynstrelles / in crafty proporcyons
Made swete concordance / and lusty dnytyons
An heuenly pleasure / suche armony to here
Reioyfyng the hertes / of the audyence full clere.

A synguler mynstrell / all other ferre passyng
Coyned his instrument / in pleasaunte armony
And sange moost swetely / the company gladyng
Of myghty conquerours / the famous byctory
Wherwith was rauyshed / they? spyrytes and memory
Specyally he sange / of the great Alexandere
Of his tryumphes and honours / enduryng .xii. yere.

Solemply he songe / the state of the Romans
Merburge f.i.

Ruled vnder kyniges / by polycy and wysedome
Of theyꝝ hys iustyce / and ryghtfull ordynauns
Dayly encreasynge / in worshyp and renowne
Cyll Tarquyne y^r proude kynge / with y^r great cōfusyon
Oppressed dame Lucrece / the wyfe of Colatyne
Kyniges neuer reygned in Rome / syth that tyme.

Also how the Romayns / vnder thre dyctatours
Gouerned all regyons / of the worlde ryght wysely
Cyll Julius Cesar / excellynge all conquerours
Subdued Pompeius / and toke the hole monarchy
And the rule of Rome / to hymselfe manfully
But Cassius Brutus / the fals conspyratour
Caused to be slayne / the sayd noble emperour.

After the sayd Julius / succeeded his syster sone
Called Octauianus / in the impervall see
And by his precepte / was made descrepcyon
To euery regyon / lande / shyre / and cytee
A trybute to pay / vnto his dygnyte
That tyme was / vnyuersall peas and honour
In whiche tyme was borne / our blessed sauoure.

All these hystories / noble and auncyent
Reioysynge the audyence / he sange with pleasur
And many other mo / of the newe testamēt
Pleasant and profytable / for theyꝝ soules cure
Whiche he omittet / now not put in vze
The mynysters were redy / theyꝝ offyce to fulfyll
To take by the tables / at theyꝝ lordes wyll.

Whan this noble feest / and great solemnyte.

Dayly endurynge / a longe tyme and space
Was royally ended / with honour and royalte
Eche kyng at other / lyfence taken hace
And so departed from thens / to theyr place
Kynge Gulfer retourned / with worthyp and renowne
Frome the house of Ely / to his owne mansyon.

¶ Of the holy professyon & ghostly conuersacyon saynt
Merburge bled at Ely in relyggon / vnder saynt Audy
her abbelle and colyn. Ca. xvii.

So when this byrgyn / the spouse of Ihesu
Had fully contynued / in holy relyggon
With mekenesse / pacyens / and all vertu
fully the yere / of her probacyon
Than she made instaunce / for her professyon
Unto saynt Audy / her lady and abbelle
Whiche soone was graunted / with great gladnesse.

Ordynauce they made / and great royalte
Her frendes were called / agaynst that season
She was professed / with great humylyte
The obseruauce done / with due deuocyon
She made solempne bowe / of ghostly conuersacyon
Mekely to obserue / obedience and chastyte
Endurynge her lyfe / and wylfull pouerte.

By the ersample / of her perfeccyon
Many dyuers persones / of her noble lynage
Refused this worlde / and entred relyggon
Renouynge bayne pleasures / ryches and maryage
Enclyned to vertue / for theyr ghostly awauntage
Merburge f. ii.

As may be specyfyed / here after folowynge
Theyr names / theyr affate / and theyr good lyuynge.

Now this glorious byrgyn / after her desyre
Is ghosly maryed / to our lorde Ihesu
Accordynge to her entent / and true loue entyre
She dayly encreled / frome vertu to vertu
With more strayter lyfe / byces to subdu
The longer she endured / in relygion
The better she prepared / her herte to deuocyon.

And tho this byrgyn / cleuely dyd forsake
All ryches honours / and pleasures worldly
With all possessyons / for her lordes sake
She thought than she reygned / mooff lyke a lady
Cause that she lyued / in chrystes seruyce dayly
And certayne it is / holy scrypture recordynge
Who serues well god / dothe reygne lyke a kynge.

In prayer / penaunce / and / contemplacyon
Was all her busynesse / and study alway
Compasynge by what maner of medytacyon
She myght best please / our lorde to his pay
Offerynge her persone / a true sacryfyce every day
No labour her greued / loue was so feruent
Her body vpon erthe / her soule in heuen lent.

Swete / comly creatures / ladyes euerychone
Sekynge for pleasures / ryches and arayment
Blynded by your beaute / and synguler affeccyon
Consyder this byrgyn / humble and pacyent
A spectacle of vertue / euer obedyent.

Beholde how she hase / clerely layde away
Her royall ryche clothes / and is in meke aray.

your garmentes now be gay and glozyous
Euery yere made / after a newe inuencion
Of sylke and beluet / costly and pycyous
Brothered full rychely / after the best facyon
Shynynge lyke angels / in your opynyon
Where lesse wolde suffyse / and content as well
As all that great cost / folowynge wylse counsell.

A playne example / now ye may take
Of this myghty kynges doughter dere
Whiche for the loue of god / dyd forsake
All suche vayne pleasures / and garmentes clere
She gaue herselfe / to penaunce and prayere
Wherefore saye ladyes / do waye suche banpte
Prepare yourselfe / to bertue and humylte.

Some of lowe byrthe / excellynge theyr degre
Doe couet to haue / as royall ryche besture
Worldly honours / also the sufferaynte
As they were ladyes / by lyne of nature
Of dreadfull mysery / they bere the fgyure
Prowde as a Pecoche / whelynge full bryght
All is but banpte / contentynge the syght.

B Glozyous byrgyn / replete with synguler grace
Endowed with souerayne gyftes celestyall
Refusynge boide pleasures / whan thou had space
And honours transytory / whiche hath brought in thall
A thousande perlones / in ruyne to fall
Merburge.

f.iii.

A myrrour thou arte / of bygynall clennes
Of true obedyence / and perfyte mekenes.

So Werburge professed / to her rule full ryght
A redolent floure / all vertue to augment
As Lucyfer shynynge / a clere lampe of lyght
for whome her spouse / god lone omnyppotent
Shewed many myracles / to euery pacient
A sygne her loue was / supernaturall
Closed in our lorde / by grace supernall.

The excellent goodnes / of this moynes
And fame of vertue / with humylyte
Tranſcended all other / in perfyte holynes
So that sundry perſones / approached that party
for ghosly conſorte / counsell and remedy
Suche as to her came / penyue / woo / and sadde
Departed ioyfull / in soule mery and gladd.

She dayly prouyded / for ghosly treasure
To buyde her a place / a sure mansyon
Euer to remaine / with ioye and endure
In pleasure perpetuall / without corrupcyon
Whiche she optayned / by her deuocyon
After this departure / to reygne as a presydent
In eterne blys / with god omnyppotent

¶ A lytell treatyse of the lyfe of saynt Audry abbesse of
Ely / and of her holy couersacyon and great deuocyon /
bnder whome saynt Werburge was made nonne / and
professed. Ca. xviii.

The yere of our lorde. vi. C. ix. and thyrty
Regned saynt Anna / kynge of eest Englande
Whiche maryed saynt Herewith / of the North party
They had noble yssue / as we vnderstande
Prynce Aldulph and Jurwyne / in story as is founde
Saynt Serburge the quene / and blessed Audry
Saynt Ethelberge / Withburge / a holy progeny.

This blessed Audry / called Etheldred
Of two great kyngedomes / lynyally descendynge
Was borne in Suffolke / as sayth saynt Bede
In a lytell byllage / called Ermyng
This noble prynces / and dere derlyng
With many great vertues / of grace illumynate
Magnyfyed her parage / and royall estate.

This blessed Audry / from her yonge aeye
Was dysposed euer / vnto sadnes
Obedyent lowly / vnto her parentage
Encreasynge in vertue / and constaunt sobrynes
Worldely pleasures / dysportes / and wantonnes
Lyghtnes of language / and all presumpcyon
In this sayd bygyn / had no domynacyon.

Sad and demure / she was in countenance
Nothyng enclyned / vnto fragylyte
Benyng and pacyent / without perturbaunce
Meke / curteys / gentyll / full of humylyte
Pryde / statelynes / and sensualityte
Were not in her soude / by any condycyon
Curteyle in byhauour / vnto every persone.

No man was greued / nor toke dyspleasure
At this sayd mayden / in her fathers hall
Every honest persone / and reasonable creature
Were pleased with her / bothe one and all
None dyscontent / pryuate nor generall
She was so meke / and full of pacyence
That people desyred / to come to her presence.

She was beauteous / saye and amiable
Pleasaunte to beholde / in gyftes of nature
Her countenaunce comly / swete / louely / and stable
Nothyng dysposed / vnto worldely pleasure
More lyke an angell / by all coniecture
Than a fragyll mayde / of sensuall appetyte
For in bayne pleasures / she had no delyte.

When that she came / to yeres of dyscrecyon
Dyuers her moeued / in way of maryage
Some offered ryches / royalte / and renoune
Some other possessyons / landes and herytage
And some the sufferaynte / her mynde to assuage
All these she refused / for the loue of Ihesu
To whome she auowed / her chastyte full tru.

After that Venus / had her longe assayed
To peruerte her mynde / to worldly affeccyon
And of all nettes and engynes / therof had sayled
Than came to her presence / a prynce of renoune
Called duke Combert / of the east regyon
Whiche longe desyred / to haue her in spousage
At the laste optayned / the wyll of her parentage.

Unto whiche thyng / he wolde neuer enclpne
for all the mocyon / of her hye parentes
Tyll she was assured / by heuenly doctryne
To kepe her bygynnte / clere in conscyens
Than she consented / without concupyscens
And with the sayd duke / she lyued in chastyte
Bothe mayden and wyfe / almost yeres thre.

After whose dethe / she remayned in Ely
In fastyng / prayer / bygyls / and penaunce
Whiche place was gyuen / to her Joynt and dowry
By Combert her husbnde / with great pleasaunce
This yle of Ely / by deuyne purueaunce
With muddy waters / is compased aboute
Theyr enemyes to greue / and strongly to holde out.

Thyder came Egbyrt / kyng of the north parte
To desyre saynt Audry / in matrymony
To whome she wolde neuer / consent in herte
for no maner counseyll / that myght be done truly
Tho her syster Serburge / moeued her tenderly
Tyll the angell of god / assured her to be
Quene / wyfe / and mayde / keepyng bygynnte.

Than Audry graunted / maryed for to be
Unto this foresayd / noble kyng Egryde
And at the maryage / was great solemnyte
Tryptumfes honoures / on euery syde
Great cost and royalte / they dyd prouyde
Frome Ely departed / vnto his owne place
In the North parte dwellynge / with great solace.

Merburge.

G.i.

By the grace of our lorde god / moost of myght
And helpe of his mother / blessed mayd mary
By prayer of Audry / and by myracle ryght
Cogyder they lyued / bothe in pure chastyte
The naturall mocyon / of his lascypte
Was shortly flaked / and feruent desyre
By myracle / as water quencheth the fyre.

When he apperceyued / her assured constauce
Her perfyte holynes / and chast contynence
His herte reioised / of her contynuaunce
Of whome she desyred / with humble reuerence
And synguler supplicacyon / to haue fre lysence
At Canwod abbay / to enter relyggon
Whiche the kynge graunted / for her deuocyon.

Saynt Ebba syster / unto saynt Ofwolde
Was abbesse and ruler / of that congregacyon
Where blessed Audry / ryght as she wolde
Was reuerently receyued / into relyggon
And after the yere / of her probacyon
Professed there was / by bysshop Wylfryde
Where all worldly honours / she set on syde.

Frome thens she departed / to the ple of Ely
More quyetly to lyue / out of busynesse
For dede of the kynge / her husbände truly
Purposynge to take her / frome that holynesse
She toke two maydens / with her doubtlesse
And in theyr Journay / our lorde of his grace
Shewed dyuers myracles / at eche restynge place.

The archebysshop of yorke / Wylfryde her confessour
Was deppued frome his benyfyce / by the kynge cruelly
Observed pacyence / laudynge our saupour
And solowed saynt Audry / to the place of Ely
Whiche (as afore is sayd) was her Joynt and dowry
And electe her abbesse / on that congregacyon
A most worthy to be / for her holy conuersacyon.

Where Audry buryded / a chyrche of our lady
With helpe of kynge Aldulph / her brother naturall
Bystaunt a myle / frome the olde monastery
founded by saynt Austyn / for meryte spyrtyuall
Whiche place all desolate / she edyfyed full specyall
By her prouysson / an other noble monastery
The yere of grace / fyre hundredeth seventy and thye.

When the werke was ended / as her wyll was
She endowed the abbay / with fraunches and lyberte
And gaued the hole yle of Ely / to that place
With all commodytes / profettes / and yllues fre
Frome all exaccyons / exempte clerely to be
Of kynge and bysshop / confyrmmed it at Rome
With all prelates & prynces / consentynge of this regyon.

In short tyme and space / to Audry dyd resorte
Relyggyous men and women / a great company
Professed in that place / for theyr ghostly conforte
Renounsynge bayne pleasures / & honours translytory
Amonge whome saynt Werburge / professed solemply
Promysed in audyence / to lyue a lyfe monestycall
After saynt Benettes rule / for the lyfe eternall.

Werburge

g.ii.

Also the yere of grace / fyft hundredth feventy and nyne
 In the moneth of Julii / in the nyynth kalendas
 To heuen departed / saynt Audry the quene
 Than reygnyng in Kent / kyng Lothary by grace
 Aldulph in eest Englande / her brother whiche was
 Kyng Ostryde her husbände / in Northumberlande
 Also kyng Ethelrede / than reygnyng in Mercelände

CA breue rehearsal of y^r lyfe of saynt Serburge / graūd
 mother to saynt Werburge. And of her comyng to Ely
 to her syster Audry from Shepay monastery. Ca. xix.

THe holy matrone / and quene saynt Serburge
 A kynges doughter / a moder to kynges twayne
 Syster to saynt Audry / a graundmother to Werburge
 Of noble parentage / is comen certayne
 Of two realmes descendyng / lynyally and playne
 By her father / from the realme of eest Englande
 And by her mother / frome Northumberlande.

Her father saynt Anna / as sayth myne auctour
 Was kyng of the eest parte / sone to Egnicius
 Whiche Anna was maryed / with moche honour
 To Hereswith / doughter to kyng Herericus
 And syster to saynt Hylde / the byrgyn gracyous
 To whome saynt Edwyn / the glorpyous marty
 Kyng of Northumberlande / was great graundfather.

This sayd kyng Anna / lyued a longe space
 In welthe / worshyp / honour / and prosperyte
 With his quene Hereswith / by synghuler grace
 Obseruyng Justyce / pacyence / and equitye

Kepte the preceptes / of god almyghte
Mercyfull and lyberall / to the poore in payne
Whiche kynge by Penda / was murdred and slayne.

As the ryuer passeth / oftetymes the heed fountayne
The lytell grasse or ympe / transcendeth the tree
Lyke wyse theyr chyldren / encrested certayne
In mekenes / pacence / and perfyte charyte
Aboue theyr parentes / in vertue and benygnyte
So that theyr name / lynage / and hys affate
By them was magnifyed / prayled and decorate.

Kynge Anna and Hereswith / had a noble ysse
Syre goodly chyldren / pleasaunt to beholde
None sayre in this lande / myndyng all vertue
And to all good maners / dysposed manyfolde
yet was theyr sayrenes / not equall to be tolde
To theyr deuocyon / and synguler goodnes
Whose names expressed / ben afore doubles.

Serburge the eldest / of the systers all
Instructe by her parentes / in vertuous dyscyplene
folowyng thei counsell / in herte full speccall
Prepared her soule / after theyr doctryne
for aboue the age / of so yonge a femynyne
So that euery day / by grace and wysdome
In her dyd growe / some plant of deuocyon.

In all this realme / dylated was her fame
That whan she approached / vnto lawfull aege
Prynces / dukes / erles / herynge of her name
Desyred to haue Serburge / in maryage
Merburge.

g.iii.

And busily laboured / vnto her parentage
This mayd was maryed / with honour full excellent
Vnto Ercombert / the noble kynge of Kent.

To whome kynge Ethelbyct / graundfather was
The fyrst chrysten kynge / of Saxons and chefe floure
Baptysed by saynt Austyn / thurgh heuenly grace
He was to holy chyche / a specyall benefactour
Monasteryes and pyopes / foinded with great honoure
Kynge Cadwalde his sone / exemple of hym toke
Whiche was father to Ercombert / as sayth my boke.

This lady Serburge / circumfulsed with grace
After her desyre / and vertuous entent
Had leuer the monastery / than the sayre palace
The chyche to vsyte / than with maryage be lent
But to her parentes / she was euer obedyent
folowynge theyr counseyll / and of her frendes dere
In lawfull maryage / toke the sayd kynge her sere.

A noble generacyon / she hadde by the kynge
Egbyct and Lothary / two prynces prepotent
And two holy daughters / in vertue shynynge
Ermenylde and Erkengode / by lynyall descent
This Ermenylde maryed / with honour equyualent
Vnto kynge Auifer / had a royall yssue
The glorpyous Werburge / replete with vertue.

Her syster Erkengode / refused vtterly
Honours / worshyp / and worldly possessyon
Ryches / maryage / and pleasures transytory
Went vnto fraunce / with humble deuocyon

At the Cytee of Burges / entred relygion
Where Ethelberge her aunt / was ruler and abbesse
Togyder they lyued / in perfyte holynesse.

This honorable Serburge / and blessed matrone
Refusyng worldly honours / and solemnyte
Preferred mekenesse / and perfyte deuocyon
Above all ryches / power and dygnyte
Auoyned ambycyon / obserued humylyte
Upon poore people / euer had compassyon
And them releued / with due mynystracyon.

She made her palace / many tymes an hospytall
Her pryuate cubyle / a deuoute oratory
As a kynde mother amyable / in courte and in hall
Mekely fulfylled / the seuen werkes of mercy
Oft tymes in the chyrche / selde amonge compainy
yet euer whan she myght / haue tyme and space
Magnyfyed and prayled / our lorde in secrete place.

She instructe her husbände / in ghoostly vertu
To great holynesse / and synguler perfeccyon
So by her counseyll / with the grace of Ihesu
Frome infydelyte / purged was that regyon
Destroyed they? ydolles / they? sectes euerychone
Restoured temples / vnto chrystes honour
founded monasteryes / by her cost and labour.

The kynge by her mocyon / commaunded straitly
All his people and subiectes / vpon sharpe correccyon
To obserue prayer / and penaunce deuoutely
And truly for to fast / the holy tyme of Lenton
Werburge. g.iiii.

The archbysshop Theodosus / and fathers of relygion
Consyderynge her pacyence / and benygnyte
Reioyled in her dedes / and prayed the trynyte.

When the famous Ercombert / the sayd kynge of Kent
foure & twenty yere had reygned / in honour full royall
With blessed Serburge / his quene excellent
Than he departed / frome this lyfe mortall
The quene prepared / the obsequyes funerall
With great lamentacyon / and great royalte
As was conuenient / for his state and degre.

After that Serburge / refused worldely pleasure
Entred relygion / professed chastyte
At Shepay monastery / in Kent full sure
Bylded at her cost / full honorable
After electe Abbesse / and ruler of that comparye
To whome she was / a myrrour of mekenes
And exemple of bertue / and proued holynes.

As she was occupped / in medytacyon
An heuenly messanger / to her was sent
Shewynge how for synne / and transgressyon
Englande shulde suffer / great punyment
And be subdued / with greuous torment
Wherfore she lefte / in good rule that place
And dyd electe to them / an other abbace.

Serburge toke lycence / of her systers all
Commendynge them / vnto the trynyte
And so departed / fro her chyldren spyrtyuall
With labour attayned / to the hous of Elye

There to be subiecte / to Her syster Audye
And to her doctryne / apply her entent
Unto relygion / euer founde obedyent.

Saynt Audy was gladd / of her systers compnye
In lyke maner / were all the hole congregacyon
With mythes and solace / in soule reioysyng
To haue the presence / of so worthy a persone
There lyued togyder / in perfyte deuocyon
Tyll blessed Audy / frome this lyfe mortall
Departed was / to the lyfe eternall.

After whose buryall / Sexburge was electe
To be abbesse and ruler / ouer that couent
Whiche to all vertue / her mynde dyd erecte
And the .xvi. yere after / with labours dyligent
She translate saynt Audy / that noble president
Beynge hole incorrupte / also substancyall
In body and in vesture / by grace supernall.

¶ How saynt Ermenyde after the dethe of kynge Gulfer
her husbade was made a nonne at Ely / vnder her mo
ther saynt Sexburge abbesse / and Werburge her de
uoute daughter. Ca. xx.

¶ Of Mercys the kynge / wha the foresayd Gulfere
Had reigned in honour / worshyp and royalte
With saynt Ermenyde his quene / fully .xvii. yere
Unto euerlastyng blisse / departed than he
And buryed was / with moche solemnyte
In Lychefeld chyrche / after hym there dyd succede
Into the kyngdome / his brother Ethelrede.

The quene for her husbnde / made great lamentacyon
Dolefully lamentynge / nyght and day his departure
As nature enuyred / enduryng a longe season
Remayned in wydohode / and mournynge besture
yet after all heuynesse / penaunce / and dysconfyture
She reioysed in soule / to be at lyberte
Entendynge relygion / by grace of the trynyte.

Soone she departed / to the hous of Ely
Refusynge this worlde / pleasures possessyon
Instauntly requyred / with perfyte humylyte
To be a moynes / accepte in relygion
Gladde was the abbelle / of her conuertyon
And thanked our lord / of his specyall grace
So dyd all the systers / within the sayd place.

Her naturall mother / blessed Serburge
That tyme was lady / and chefe presydent
There was professed / her daughter Werburge
An exemple of mekenes / to all the couent
Ermenyde thanked god / and was obedyent
To her mother Serburge / a myrrour of vertu
Also to her daughter / the spouses of Ihesu.

It passeth mannes reason / playnly to expresse
Her vertuous lyfe / and ghostly conuertacyon
In prayer / penaunce / and proued mekenesse
In perfyte obedyence / and synguler deuocyon
In bygyls / abstynence / and in hys perfectyon
The cotydyane labours / her body to chastyce
That her soule may be / to god true sacryfyce.

By cause that Werburge / in order was sennoure
 Her mother Ermenylde / gaue her the sufferaynte
 Preferrynge her doughter / with mekenes and honoure
 But yet her doughter / of a naturall amyte
 Preferred her mother / with humble sennoyte
 And so bytwene them / was a swete contencion
 Wheder shulde more subiecte be / to other in relygion.

Afore whan Ermenylde / was vnder maryage
 Unto holy matrones / she was comparable
 Sara / Rebecca / Rachell / and Sybell sage
 And saynt Elyzabeth / with other mo honorabile
 Now in relygion / she is moost notable
 Knownen by her bertues / and sadde dysposycyon
 What vnder matrimony / was her intencion.

Ermenylde subdued / by synguler deuyne grace
 All fragyll mocyons / and sensualyte
 Lyke maner as Judyth / Diocernes slayne hace
 She mortyfied all pleasures / lustes and bolupte
 Lykewyse as Jaell / dyd the prynce Sylare
 A duches of bertue / as whylom was Delbora
 Used the oratory / in prayer as dyd Anna.

After the departure / and wofull burypall
 Of Serburge her mother / abbesse and lady
 Her doughter Ermenylde / the blessed monypall
 Was chosen abbesse / and ruler of St. Gales
 As sheweth dan Wyllyam / of Maluyfbury
 How fyrst was Audry / than Serburge her systyr
 Afterwarde was abbesse / Ermenylde her doughter.

The lyfe of Ermenylde / was euer vertuous
Pleasaunt to god / and her syfters eueyrchone
In the syght of god / her dethe was precyous
Playnly notyfyed / by her conuertacyon
She vertuously gouerned / her congregacyon
Frome this lyfe departed / to eternall glory
As sayth her legende / the Idus of February.

And buryed was / with moche lamentacyon
In the holy monastery / and house of Ely
Amonge her parentage / and congregacyon
Where she is thryned / with her aunt saynt Audrey
And with her mother / saynt Serburge ryche
For whome our sauour / of his specciall grace
She weth dayly myracles / in that sayd place.

One of the myracles / we shall now rehers
Our lord for her shewed / at Ely abbay
After her translacyon / the story dothe expres
It fortunied in Whytson weke / bpon a thursday
An Englysshman was bounden / in wofull aray
Fetered with yrons / bothe on handes and fete
Wrongfully accused / as ye may all wete.

By instaunt request / he gate hym lycence
To vlyte the tombe / of saynt Ermenylde
Whome he requyred / with humble reuerence
And meke petcyon / frome the herte full myde
To be delyuered / and fully reconfylde
Whose humble desyre / and synguler supplicacyon
Was fully graunted / to his consolacyon.

At this tyme / whan this holy man was prayenge
 Whan the Deken redde the holy gospell
 By meane of Ermenylde / to our lorde and kyng
 Frome his handes and fete / the yrons done fell
 By grace aboue nature / merueylously to tell
 That the sayd yrons / insyght of all the betherne
 Sprange by sodenly / and lyght vpon the aulter.

¶ Aliud miraculum.

An other myracle / declare now may we
 Done at the sayd Cely / by this holy matrone
 In presence of the pryor / and all the fraternyte
 Whiche pryor of this mater / had best notycon
 Acole mayster of Innocentes / after the custome
 Gaue lyfence / vpon saynt Ermenyldes day
 To all his chyldren / to sport them in play.

Whan the feest / and solempnyte was done
 The yonge tender chyldren / wanton and neckygent
 Dedyngge theyr mayster / for fere of correccyon
 To the holy shyrne / they assembled full dyllygent
 Crustyngge therby of pardon / after theyr entent
 Desyred theyr mayster / for saynt Ermenyldes sake
 To pardon theyr trespas / and no dyspleasure take.

The mayster fulfilled / with hastynes and euny
 Toke them frome the tombe / with great indygnacyon
 Without dyscrecyon / punysshed them greuouly
 Spuyngge no honour / to the saynt ne deuocyon
 Rebuked them sore / sayenge with insultacyon
 Crowe ye to be spared / from punysshment this day
 For saynt Ermenyldes sake / nay nay do way.

After all this done / the nexte nyght folowynge
Whan the sayd mayster / to his bedde was gone
His great unkyndenes / saynt Ermenylde remembrynge
He warned hym Justly / after his guerdon
His handes and his fete / prompte to persecucion
Were sodenly smytten / made lame / contracte also
No power had to ryse / to moeue nor to go.

This sodayne punysshement / langour / confusyon
Cered hym greuouly in all his body
Mooost terryble of all / of helthe desperacyon
Inwardly hym troubled / with peynes horryble
But yet by grace / he thought best remedy
Sende for his chyldren / vpon the other day
Humble asked them pardon / in a wofull aray.

Desyrynge his scolers / for loue and charyte
To cary hym mooost carefull / to her sepulture
To requyre for hym grace / helthe and prosperyte
Of god and saynt Ermenylde / with all theyr cure
They toke hym tenderly / ye may me leue full sure
Amonge them all / with mynde dyligent
And brought to the wyne / this wretched impotent.

They prayed for hym / to our blessed sauour
And to saynt Ermenylde / a longe tyme and space
Knelynge on theyr knees / wepyng full sore
In prayer and psalmody / for his helthe and solace
And so contynuyng / by our lordes great grace
He that afore was lame / bothe on fote and hande
Restored to helthe / departed hole and sounde.

T How kyng Ethelrede seyng the holy conuersacyon
of Werburge his nece / made her lady and abbesse at We
don / Trentam / and Humbery. And by her counseyll and
exsample was made moke at Bardeney abbay. Ca. xxi.

T He famous prynce / and foresayd Ethelrede
Brother to kyng Culfes / as lawfull enherytour
To the sayd kyngedome / dyd nexte hym succede
Electe of his peeres / with worship and honour
Permytted by his chyche / to be theyr gouernour
Bpcause prynce Kenrede / his brother sone
Was yonge and not able / to rule his kyngdome.

This sayd kyng Ethelrede / clerely consyderynge
With due cymmstaunce / the hie perfeccyon
Of Werburge his nece / and vertuous lyuynge
Her great holynesse / and ghosly conuersacyon
Dayly encreasyng / with feruent deuocyon
The excellent fame / and myracles full ryght
Shewed by our sauyour / bothe day and nyght.

These good examplis / grounded in vertu
Achoued kyng Ethelrede / in soule and in mynde
And clerely conuerted / throuwe the grace of Ihesu
To despise this worlde / wretched and blynde
Pyncypally by grace / wyten as we fynde
For her great goodnes / and bertues excellent
He made her lady / ruler / and presydent.

Ouer all the nonnes / of euery monastery
Within his realme / to gouerne and to guyde
To instructe and informe / and to exemplyfy

To encrease deuocyon / vpon euery syde
Vertue to exalte / to subdue hye and pryde
That holy relygion / pleasaunt to chryst Ihesu
A right dayly encrease / frome vertu to vertu.

Also he gaue Werburge / great possessyon
Landes / and rentes / ryches withall
To edify and repayre / places of relygion
After her desyre / with fauour specyall
Wherwith she buyded / famous memoryall
Two fayre monasteryes / Trentam and Dunbury
Possessed with rentes / landes / and lyberte.

Also by sufferaunce / of the sayd kynge truly
She translate the kynges maner of Medon
Whiche was in Hamptonstyre / into a monastery
Of holy women / obseruynge relygion
Suffyciently endowed / with lybertes / possessyon
Of whiche sayd places / she had the gouernaunce
As worthy maystres / all vertu to auance.

The yere of grace / fyre hundredeth foure score and nyen
As sheweth myne auctour / a Byton Giraldus
Kynge Ethelred / myndynge moost the blysse of heuen
Edyfied a collage chyrche / notable and famous
In the subbarbes of Chester / pleasaunt and beauteous
In the honour of god / and the Baptyst saynt Johan
With helpe of bysshop Wulfryce / and good exortacyon.

Also at the humble / and synguler supplicacyon
Of blessed Egwyn / bysshop of worcestur
This kynge gaue a place / for a fundacyon

To buyde a monastery / to relygyous brethur
At Eufam vpon Auen / for heuenly tresur
With a large precynct / to compas all the abbay
More quyetly to serue / our sauour nyght and day.

After this tyme / Ethelrede the kynge
By his counseyll maryed / a beautefull lady
Called quene Dstryde / a woman of good lyuyng
Borne in the North parte / daughter to kynge Oswy
To whome saynt Oswald / was hndle truly
The ysue betwene them / after to succede
Was a noble prynce / nomynate Colrede.

Agaynst his enemyes / the kynge gate byctory
fortunate in batayle / sore oppressed Kent
In all this regyon / famous was his chyualry
Namely he subdued / at the water of Trent
Egryde of Northumberlande / a kynge auncyent
His brother in lawe / whan Egryde agaynst reason
Entred his landes / by subtyll intrusyon.

But after that Dstryde / his quene was slayne
By people of the North parte / moost cruelly
The kynge frome that tyme / by grace certayne
Chaunged his maners / and lyuyng dayly
Frome temporall cares / and busynesse worldly
To ghosly werkes / and contemylacyon
Sekyng for heuen / with pure deuocyon.

Specyally he folowed / saynt Werburge counsell
Alkyng hym after / her swete ghosly doctryne
The clere examplis / as we afore dyd tell
Werburge.

h.i.

Mooued his conscyence / to ghostly dyscyplnye
With suche contrycyon / by specyall grace deuynne
That all bayne pleasures / and honouris transytory
Were clere expulled / and put out of memory.

This kynge refused / his sepre and crowne
Clothes of Cythow / and purpull full royall
With ryches / lybertes / pleasures / possessyon
For the loue of Ihesu / in herte pyncarpall
And for the meryte / of his soule helthe withall
So whan he had reygued / nyne and twenty yere
He chaunged his habyte / sayth the story clere.

At a relyggyous place / nomynate Bardenay
In Lyncolne wyre / brider his domynyon
Singular byloued / of hym alway
Desyred the habyte / with meke supplicacon
And was receyued / professynge relyggon
Euer after to obserue / the essencys the
Obedyence / chastyte / and wylfull pouerte.

He assygned his crowne / and temporall dygnyte
Unto prynce Kenrede / his brother sone
As true enherytour / to haue regalyte
For in pure obedyence / prayer and medytacyon
Ethelrede encreted / with feruent deuocyon
And as declareth / wyllyam of Malurfbury
After was made abbot / of the sayd monastery.

¶ The holy conuersacyon of kynge Kenred brother to
saint Werburge / a how he refused his crowne / and was
made monke at Rome / a ther departed a holy cōfessour.
Ca. rrii.

So when kynge Etheldrede / by heuently grace
At Bardenay abbay / professed relygion
Then prynce Kenrede / his successour was
And toke the Empyre / the septre and the crowne
With moche worthyp / royalte / and renoune
As nexte of inherytaunce / by law naturall
To be kynge of Mercens / by dyscent lynyall.

This noble kynge Kenrede / replete with vertu
Brother to Werburge / obserued truly
The commaundmentes of god / & his lawes moost tru
Obedyent to our sauyour / and lorde almyghty
Loued holy chyrche / moost tenderly
A nyystred Justyce / to his subiectes all
Mercyfull to the poore / pyteous and lyberall.

In all his realme / was no dyuersyte
Malyce was subdued / rancour and debate
Vertue encreased / true loue and charyte
Enuy was exyled / and all pryuy hate
Thefte / murthur / robbery / were founde at no gate
True men myght lyue / without beynyon
Pollers / promoters / had no domynacyon.

He gaue to our sauyour / and bysshop Egwyn
For ghostly meryte / with moche honoure
Of tenementes and landes / playnely to determyne
Within worceturshyre .iiii. score and foure
To maynteyne the monastery / spoken of before
Euesham vpon Auen / byfore lawfull wytnes
As the legende of Egwyn / truly dothe expres.

Werburge.

h.ii.

To the courte of Rome / kynge Kenred went
So dyd Ossa kynge / of the east Saxons
Also bysshop Egwyn / by one assent
Deuoutly to bysytte / all the hole stacyons
Of the cytee of Rome / with humble supplicacyons
Thankynge our lorde / of his mercy
Hath them preserued / and all theyr company.

This holy bysshop / and kynge Kenrede
Offered to our holy father / pope boniface
With mekenes deuocyon / for ghostly mede
Afore his collage / wytnes in that case
The foresayd monastery / and relygyous place
Frome that day euer after / to be clerely exempte
To the popes holynes / immediatly obeyent.

When they had optayned / perfyte expedycon
Of all theyr bulles / after theyr entent
They toke lycence / and had the popes beneson
And towarde Englade / retourned and went
Praylynge our lorde / with herte and loue feruent
For theyr good spede / and prosperous Journay
Preserued in good helthe / all to theyr countray.

After all this done / Kenrede the sayd kynge
Commaunded to be had / a counseyll generall
By letters myssyue / his peeres and lordes cytynge
Shortly to be present / with hym one and all
As well the spyrytualte / as the temporall
The Seyn was kepte / at a place called Alue
And thyder assembled / his prelates of degre.

Berthunaldus / the archebyſhop of Canturbury
The archbyſhop of yorke / called Wylfryde
With byſhops / ſuffreganes / archdekenſ many
Dukes / erles / barons / bypon euery tyde
Knyghtes / eſquyers / and comunes that tyde
Were redy to knowe / the kynges mynde and pleaſure
Well ordred in place / and ſcylence kepte ſure.

This glouryous Kenrede / crowned with golde
Clothed in purpall / roſe by fro his place
After due ſalutacyon / the cauſe mekely he tolde
Why he for them ſende / and wherfore it was
That they ſhulde teſtyfy / with hym in this caſe
What landes he gaue / towarde the fundacyon
Of the ſayd monaſtery / with grete deuocyon.

And how for that abbay / he went to Rome
And made the place ſubiecte / immediatly
To our father boniface / and gate an exempcyon
for euer to remayne / to the ſayd monaſtery
With pardons and pryuyleges / there redde openly
And many other benefytes / of great commoditye
Wryten in theyꝝ grauntes / who lyſt them to ſe.

Requyringe the lordes / ſpyrytuall and temporall
To graunte to the ſame / with good entent
And it to confyrme / and roborate ſpecyall
With charters and dedes / and ſeales patent
To whole petycyon / they dyd all conſent
Made confyrmacions / and grauntes them amonge
With a terryble ſentence / who dothe the place wronge.

Werburge.

h.iii.

Kynge Kenrede confyderynge / the great holynes
Of his noble parentes / his vncles euerychone
They royall progeny / the sufferaunt goodnes
From this lyfe tranlytory / to heuen agone
Namely the vertue / and feruent deuocyon
Of his syster Werburge / and his aunes all
Moued his mynde / to seke for lyfe eternall.

And as saynt Bede sayth / whan this noble kynge
Had reigned fyue yere / in great prosperyte
He forsoke this worlde / and chaunged his lyuynge
Refusyng his crowne / sceptre / and dygnyte
All bayne honours / ryches and regalyte
And made his vncles sone / prynce Coelrede
To take his empyre / after hym to succede.

So with all gentylnes / and humylyte
The kynge of his subiectes / toke leue speycall
Commendynge his people / to the trynitye
Them to conserue / spyrityuall and temporall
Of his departure / dolorous were they all
Thus for the loue / of our sayoure
He refused this worlde / pleasures and honoure.

And went to Rome agayne / the yere of grace
Seuen hundredeth and eyght / by full computacyon
Wytynge the stacyons / frome place to place
There was professed / to saynt Benettes relygion
Used bygylls / fastynges / prayer / medytacyon
Where this holy monke / frome this lyfe tranlytory
With vertu departed / to eternall glory.

T Of y^r feruent & ghostly deuocyon of saynt Werburge
& vertuons gouernance of her places / & of y^r great humi-
lite the bled to her sisters / & al other creatures. Ca. xiiii.

T His venerable Werburge / & moynes gracynous
For her great vertue / and perfyte holynesse
Electe to be gouernour / ouer the nonnes relygeous
By her vnclē kyngē Ethelrede / of his goodnesse
Duer dyuers monasteryes (as is sayd) expresse
Was consecrate abbesse / and lady gracynous
By the bysshop of Lycheselde / nomynat Serwulfus.

And thus she departed / fro the hous of Ely
Wherin she bled / heuenly medytacyon
With lycence optayned / in mynde sad and heuy
So were the systers / and all the congregacyon
Of her departure / knowynge her conuersacyon
But as wolde charyte / they had great gladnes
Knowynge by her vertue / relyggon to encrese.

The spoules of Ihesu / and flourē of benygnyte
Consyderynge her selfe / a lady and presydēt
Ordered her monasteryes : ryght well and wysele
Receyued in systers / chaste / humble / obedyent
Duer them made rulers / vertuons / and pacyent
Her subiectes to instructe / and counseyll day and nyght
Vertue to exalte / and byce depyue aryght.

This noble abbesse / remembrynge her ditty
What charge it is / to rule a congregacyon
Humble requyred the grace of god almyghty
And dyligently prepared / to supple her rowme.

Pryncypally she gaue / to them euerychone
Herfyrte exsample / of vertue in her dede
With vertuous doctryne / the same to procede.

A myrrour of mekenesse / she was to them all
A floure of chastyte / and well of clenness
The fruyte of obedyence / in her was specyall
Refusyng bayne pleasures / honours and ryches
Content with lytell / an exsample of lowlynes
As dothe belonge / vnto wyfull pouerte
Wyde ha no refydence / but all humylyte.

She was a myrryter / rather than a maystres
Her great premyence / caused no presumpcion
She was a handmayd / rather than a pryores
Seruyng her systers / with humble subieccion
Subduyng her body / to penaunce and afflyccion
Subiecte to the soule / as reason wolde shulde be
A true sacryfice / offered to the trynyte.

It was no merueyll / tho all her couent
Under suche a ruler / encreased in vertu
Seyng her exsample / afore them dayly present
Euer augmentyng / throue the helpe of Ihesu
Worldly desyres / she clerely dyd subdue
She neuer ware lynon / by day or by nyght
All ryche bayne vestures / she set by them but lyght.

In prayer medytacyon / the tyme she dyspent
Prayed: for euery nyght / longe afore matyns
She wolde wyple / at an houre conuenient
And deuoutely say / afore our lordes presens

**Dauid spalter holly knelynge / with great reuerence
O that her syfters / came to the oratory
To say dryuene seruyte / fyndyng her all redy.**

**At after matyns / the vled contemplacon
Contynually abydyng / vnto the day lycht
Prostrate on the grounde / or knelyng in deuocyon
Weppynge full tenderly / with teeres downeryght
Many holy oraysons / the sayd day and nyght
Piteous / mercyable / and full of charyte
To the poore people / in theyr necessity.**

**This lady obserued / suche sharpe abstynence
That one dayly repast / wolde her well suffyke
Delycate dyllhe meates / were put out of her presence
So nature were content / in moost humble wyte
The Worde of god / was moost delycate seruyte
Fyndyng moche more / the soule to satysfy
Than please and content / her enemy the body.**

**These sayd exemples / with many other mo
Pleasaunte vnto Ihesu / she taught her couent
Them to preserue / frome theyr mortall fo
By synguler bertue / grace to augment
Her precepte and lyuyng / were euer correspondent
She neuer commaunded syfter / do any thyng
But it was fulfilled / in her owne doynge.**

**She exorted her chyldren / euer to deuocyon
With manyfolde doctrynes / ydlenes to excheuwe
Lyke a tender mother / had pyte and compassyon
She dayly fedde them / and nourysshed in all bertue
Merburge. i.i.**

And delygently prayed / our sauour Ihesu
Them to prelerue / of his infynyte grace
Frome peryll of perthyng / in blyffe to se his face.

Also the .xii. degrees / of humylyte
Pacence / quyetnes / and great perfeccyon
Were well obserued / with true loue and charyte
Amonge her systers / the hole congregacyon
And the thre essencys / of relygion
Wylfull pouerte / chastyte / and obedyence
were truly fulfilled / proued by the consequence.

As for a pastyme / amonge her systers all
She caused to be redde / auoydyng ydlenesse
The swete legendary / for a memoirall
And Citas patrum / the wyng great swetenesse
With other narracyons / of grace and goodnesse
Dittymes to her couent / she had a comyn sayenge
Pleas god and loue hym / and doubte ye nothyng.

All reders excuse me / tho I can not expresse
For lacke of lernyng / the vertues morall
The hye perfeccyon / and proued holynesse
Of this pure bygyn / and sanctymonyall
Wherwith was decorate / her lyfe monestycall
Manyfest With myracles / by meryte of her mekenesse
As the true hystory / playnly dothe expresse.

The worthy myracles / of this bygyn pure
Dylated were / though all this regyon
By deuyne sufferance / aboue nature
Profytable / to euery chrysten synguler persone

In sekeneſſe / trouble / peyne or heracyon
Of her they haue refuge / helpe / and ſocoure
By her merytes / and prayer / that euery honoure.

Her merytes were / moche more commendable
Chan were her myracles / manyfeſt and playne
for why by her merytes / famous and notable
Sygnes and myracles / were ſhewed full playne
In the houſe of Ely / by the grace of our ſufferayne
And in euery place / where ſhe kepte reſydence
Of whome parte ſolowen / in this rude ſentence.

¶ How at Wedon wylde gees were pynned by her com
maundment / & alſo releſhed & put at lyberte. Ca. xxiiii.

This holy byrgyn / whan ſhe dwelled at Wedon
In Northamptonſhyr / with a deuoute couent
Whiche place ſomtyme / was the kynges manſyon
Translated to an abbay / by her commaundment
A myracle was done / by this noble preſdent
As the true legende / playnly dothe vs ſay
And all the inhabytauntes / vnto this preſent day.

A great multytude / ſomtyme of wylde gees
Comunely called Gauntes / made a great deſcrypcyon
Upon her landes / paſtures / waters / and feldeſ
Deuourynge the cornes / and fruytes of Wedon
Greuous to her ſubiectes / within that poſſeſſyon
The people coude fynde / no ſufficyent remedy.
But ſhe wed theyr complainte / to Werburge theyr lady.

¶ Whan Werburge had herde / this greuous complainne
Werburge. l.ii.

How the cornes were wasted / y^e tenants hurte therby
Her herte was moeued / with charyte than certayne
To saue her fruytes / and helpe her company
Wherfore she commaunded a seruaunt go hastely
To dyue those wyde gees / & bynge home to her place
There to be pyuned / and punished for theyr trespase.

The messenger merueyled / and mused in his mynde
Of this straunge message / stode styll in a study
Knowynge it well / it passed course of kynde
Wyde gees for to pyne / by any mannes polycy
Syth nature hath ordeyned / suche bydes to fly
Supposynge his lady / had ben vnrasonable
Commaundyng to do / a thyng vnpossyble.

With wordes of conforste / she sayd to hym agayne
Go in my name / do my commaundymment
The seruaunt went forth / thynkyng all but bayne
Unto the foldes / where the bydes were lent
And sayd his message / with mynde and good entent
My lady commaundes you / bydes euerychone
Afore me to go / vnto her proper mansyone.

A merueylous thyng / transcendynge nature
Unto his wordes / the gees were obedyent
Not one departed / fro thens ye may besure
Of all the nombre / that there were present
Towarde her place / afore hym they went
Stekely / as yf they had reason naturall
Unto her presence / he brought the gauntes all.

Wredefully daryng / comen now they be

They wynges traylynge / entred into the hall
for great confusyon / after they kynde and propre
mournyng in theyr maner / abydyng one and all
Her wyll and Judgment / with mercy specyall
Lamentynge all nyght / there in captiuyte
Tyll the morowe after / withouten lyberte.

All that same nyght / Werburge dyd contynue
In deuoute prayers / and ymynes celestyall
After her olde custome / vsed in all bertue
In the mornynge after / the bydes that were thall
With hie voyces (as yf it were) on her dyd call
for grace and pardon / of theyr offence
And of departure / to haue fre lycence.

Chan the full pyteous / to euery creature
Upon these bydes hauynge compassyon
Delyuered them / frome all daunger and cure
frely to departe / vnder this condycyon
That none of them / vpon the lordshyp of Medon
Shulde make destruccyon / nor lyght by any way
On comes or fruytes / neuer after that day.

Neuertheles a seruaunt / one of the gees dyd take
And pryuelly hydde it / agaynst iustyce and ryght
Unknowynge to Werburge / suche byby to make
The bydes departed / moost glad to take theyr flyght
from theyr tender Judge / but whan they saue in syght
One of theyr felawes / taken frome theyr company
The sayd great nombre / of gees retourned hastely.

They flewe ouer / this blessed byrgyns hall
Werburge.

i.iii.

Mourninge and waylynge / after theyr entent
And wolde not departe / but fast on her dyd call.
yet they durst not lyght / for drede of her comaundment
But in theyr maner & kynde they sayd / o swete president
Why suffer ye suche wychednes / done for to be
Anendes our felawe / agaynst all ryght and charyte.

Merburge went fyrst / to knowe wherfore and why
These byrdes retourned / so hastely certayne
By grace she perceyued / the cause of it truly
And tryed out the truthe / of all the mater playne
She restaured the byrde / to his felyshyp agayne
And gaue them a lesson / or they went her fro
How they shulde prayse / theyr maker and sufferayne
Sayenge (benedicite volucres celi domino)

But as Wyllyam Malurfbury / theweth expresse
The goos that was taken / and stollen afore away
Was rosted and eten / the same nyght doubtlesse
So whan it was asked / for vpon the other day
The bare bones were brough / after this lady beray
And there by the vertue / of her benedyccyon
The byrde was restaured / and flewe away full soone.

Certaynly frome that tyme / vnto this present day
As all the people knowe / dwellynge about Wedon
The foresayd wylde gees / attempten by no way
To hurte theyr fruytes / ne lyght in that possessyon
No merueyll it is / remembrynge the deuocyon
And true loue she had / to god onmypotent
for vnto vertue / all thyng is obedyent.

C How a tyraunt without pyte punysshynge an Inno-
 cent was punysshed / & after made hole. Ca. xrb.

F Orther to declare / the pacynce and humylyte
 And the synguler grace / grounded in this abbas
 As in the true legende / playnly ye may se
 We shall parte rehers / to augment your solas
 Werburge had a seruaunte / whiche named was
 Alnotus a man / of meke conuersacion
 Knownen by his merytes / after due probacion.

Also a baylyfe she had / a cruell tyraunt
 Whiche pyteously punysshed / without reason
 And wounded greuouly / Alnot her seruaunt
 Without any greuance / at the place of Medon
 Werburge for pyte / and great compassyon
 Afore this captyte / kneled on her knee
 Prayenge hym to cease / for loue of the trynyte.

Sayenge why does thou punyssh / this innocent
 Causeles without mercy / whiche I byleue playne
 Is more acceptable / to our lorde omnyotent
 Than many other be / for his mekenesse certayne
 The baylyfe at her prayer / wolde not refrayne
 But punysshed hym styll / in his fury and pryde
 Tyll the vengauce of god / fell on hym that tyde.

Incontynente his heed / his necke / and his face
 Were tourned backwarde / lyke a persone monstruous
 Contrary to nature / for his great trespass
 Crucpate with sorowe / and peynes hyduous
 Contynually encreasyng / to beholde pyteous
 Werburge. i.iiii.

At the last remembered / of the best remedy
Fell prostrate to the fete / of Werburge his lady.

And cryed vpon her / with wofull chere
Weeping / lamentynge / his great iniquyte
O my louely lady / and maystres moost dere
Helpe me swete abbesse / in this necessyte
I haue offended god / now pray for me
And I wyll neuer / endurynge all my lyfe
Byt please no more / man / mayde / ne wyfe.

When Werburge consydered / his great contrycyon
His woofull herte / and lamentable crye
Vpon hym she had / tender compassyon
Beholdynge his greuaunce / and tender agony
Good brother she sayd / who so wyll haue mercy
Must be mercyable / as in prouerbe wyten is
Who is without mercy / of mercy shall mys.

Call vnto mynde / thy owne wyched dede
In punysshynge this poore man / without offence
To se his punysshment / my herte sore dyd blede
I kneeled afore thy fete / desyrynge indulgence
Thou toke no regarde / to my prayer ne presence
Wherefore the Justyce / of god almyghty
Vpon the is fallen / for thy synne todayly.

When she had ended / her ghosly exortacyon
Perceyrynge hym penytent / with great humylte
Gladde to amende / byce and transgressyon
Anone vnto prayer / she went with charyte
Optyened forgyuenesse / of the blessed trynpte

His fynamy / restaured to his kynde agayne
Bothe bodily and ghostly / cured was certayne.

This foresayd Alnotus / by synguler grace
Refused this worlde / pleasures and banys
Went into wyldernesse / and machoryte was
Whome theues martyred / to heuen blyss went he
At Stow belyde Bukbyrge / buried was trule
For whome our lorde / of his infynite goodnes
She wed many myacles / affyrmyng his holynes.

¶ How dyuers prynces solowynge sensualityte inten-
dyng to violate this byrgyn bi power / bi myracle were
put to confusyon. Ca. xxvi.

Another sygne was shewed / by the kyng of blys
Of a wanton prynce / solowynge sensualityte
And his fragyll appetyte / in doynge amys
Entendynge by vyolence / power / and auctoryte
To depyue Werburge / of her byrgynyte
Escyed a season / to fulfill his entent
Whan she was solytary / and no man there present.

By force than he began / this mayd to assaile
But she trustynge in god / to be her protectour
Escapyng his presence / cast her sacrat bayle
For lyghtnesse and ease / to fle from the traytour
The sonne beame receyued it / whiche haged that houre
Whiche myracle sene / the prynce fledde away
The byrgyn was preserued / by grace that day.

¶ Another myracle / was done in Kent

In the byllage of Hoo / yet full memorous
A sensuall prynce / of wyched consent
Purposed to maculate / this bygyn gloypous
Consyderynge her persone / so fayre and beauteous
Carped the season / to fynde her solytary
By power to oppresse / this gracious lady.

When the tyme was comen / he thought conuenient
After her furpously / he ranne a fast pace
She knowynge his mynde / add vnchast entent
Seynge no remedy / by man in that place
Called to our sauoure / for his helpe and grace
Sayenge blessed lorde / for thy endles pyte
Defende .i.e. this daye / and saue my chastyte.

And as she fledde / frome this cruell persone
She ranne for socour / to a great oke tree
By grace the sayd tree / opened that same season
Sufferynge this mayd / to haue sure and fre entree
Wherby she escaped his / wyched tyrannye
Whiche tree to this day / endurynge all the yere
By myracle is bernaunte / freshe / grene / and clere.

Of the sayd oke tree / is a famous oppynyon
That no man may entre / the sayd concaurte
In deedly synne bounden / without contrycyon
But in clene perfyte lyfe / who soeuer he be
May entre the sayd oke / with fre lyberte
And nygh to that place / a chyche is now dedycate
In the honour of god / and werburge immaculate.

¶ Many other myacles / our blessed sauour

Shewed for this byrgyn / of his goodnes
Conforte to the people / in sekenes and langour
That to her wyll seke / in theyr dystresse
Her excellent vertue / and great holynesse
By sygnes and myracles / were dayly manyfest
To many a creature / with peynes opprest.

The same wherof sprange / to fast aboute
Potyfyed playne / in all this regyon
The people approched / withouten doubt
To knowe her blessed / and holy conuersacyon
And of these myracles / to haue probacyon
By the syght wherof / they myght all glorify
With ioy and gladnesse / our lorde god almyghty.

There was no sekenesse / nor infyrmyte
That mankynde had / nor beacyon
But by her prayer / and humylyte
Makynge for them / to our lorde intercessyon
They were restaured / to helthe and saluacyon
All by the meryte / of this byrgyn pure
A synguler refuge / vnto every creature.

To the dombe was gyuen / speche and language
To blynde theyr syght / to dese theyr herynge
To halte and lame people / helthe in every aege
By deuyne grace / and her ghostly lyuynge
The people approchynge / nygh to her in dwellynge
By callyge to her / in the name of Ihesu
Had theyr petycyon / by her synguler vertu.

Some other that were / fully possessed

With wretched spyrytes / berynge the mynde
Of with sekenes incurable / myserably greued
By her dayly prayer / aboute course of kynde
Of theyr displeases / they shulde remedy fynde
And from her departe / in soule with gladnesse
Whiche to her came / soyr in peyne and wretchednes.

¶ How saynt Werburge gauē knowledge to her systers
of her departure & how she ordered i vertue her sayd mo
nasteryes afore her dethe. Ca. xxvii.

This blessed abbesse / and vertuous floure
The well of clenness / and humplyte
Called to mynde / the wordes of our sauyour
Reherled by Mathewe / in his euangely
The byctory all crowne / of eterne glory
Is gyuen to them / that be redy eche houre
Wysely attendynge / whan they be sende fore.

This texte was euer / in her memoryall
Prompte alway redy / as a true spouses
To wayte on her spouse / whan he wyll call
Her lampe replete / with oyle of mekenes
Synguler gyftes / she had of chyftes goodnes
Inspyred with the spyryte / of prophery
Secrete thynges to come / knowynge therby.

She knewe the season / was hastely comynge
Of her departure / fro this lyfe mortall
Wherfore she ordred / sadly euery thyng
Within her monasteryes / and charges spyrytuall
Wyselytynge her couent / with her presence personall

Gaue knowlege to them / that soone and hastely
She shulde departe / frome this lyfe transytory.

Afoze her were called / the systers of yche place
And were apoynted / who shulde succede
After to be gouernour / ruler / and abbesse
To the pleasure of god / and theyz ghosly mede
Specyally commendynge / bertue as we rede
What meryte they shall haue / of god almyghty
In spyrytuall cures / that done well theyz duty.

All other offycers / within eche monastery
Were assygned by Werburge / theyz presydent
And vnder obedyence / charged full depely
Theyz offyce to execute / bertue to augment
for the synguler profyte / of all the couent
She gaue to yche place / landes and possession
Suffyciently to serue / all the congregacyon.

When she had ordeyned / eche place in charyte
Dyschargynge her conscience / chargynge them all
To obserue relygion / with perfyte humylyte
After her exemple / and doctryne princypall
She had perfyte knowlege / by grace supernaturall
Her body shulde rest / in the place of Hamburgens
After her departure / by deuyne prouydens.

Therefore she commaunded / the couent of Hamburg
Wysely to attende / with all theyz dyligence
Upon the ende / of her lyfe transytory
Wheresoeuer it be / to come with benyvolence
And incontynent take / her body with reuerence

And brynge it shortly / vnto theſe monaſtery
There to be tynplate / after her deſydey.

As it pleaſeth our loyde / and celeftyall ſufferayne
To ſende to his ſeruaunte / his byſytacyon
The day was apoynted / the houre incertayne
Of her departure / frome worldly heracyon
The meſſanger of dethe / the ende of trybulacyon
Oppreſſed this lady / moost worthy fame
Ryght at her monaſtery / nomyntat Trentame.

She thanked her maker / ſayenge day and nyght
Well come be the byſytacyon / of god almyghty
She called her ſyſters / preſent afore her ſyght
Her entente reherſynge / to them tenderly
Deſyrynge all them / to folowe dolygently
The lawes of god / with honour and reuerence
And to her counſeyll / to gyue fully credence.

Sayenge dere blyoued ſyſters / in our ſauour
O ſpyrytuall chyldren / my derlynges moost dere
Whiche haue refuſed / all worldly honour
To ſerue our loyde / with herte and mynde clere
Suffer no ſynne / in your ſoule to apere
But waſſhe it away / by bytter contrycyon
With prayer penaunce / and true confeſſyon.

And truſt ye well your true obedyence
your chaſt luyynge / and wyllfull pouerte
your dayly prayers / bygylls / and abſtynece
That ye haue obſerued / her vnder me
Shalbe recompensed / a thouſande folde true

Whan ye shalbe taken / fro this lyfe transytoy
your rewarde shalbe / with immortall glory.

As for my dethe / whiche approches nere
I drede nothyng / tho nature ferefull be
I knowe for certayne / who departeth well here
Is newe borne agayne / to Joye and felycyte
The chrysten man hath / a threholde natyurte
Fyrst of his parentes / by cours of nature
Borne to many troubles / and sowwes sure.

By the seconde byrthe / whiche is more excellent
At fonte of baptyrn / we haue regeneracyon
By fayth professed / to god onnyotent
And made the chyldren / of ghostly saluacyon
To auoyde by grace / all wyched temptacyon
To be inherytours / of Joy perpetuall
folowynge the counseyll / of holy chyche withall.

The thyrde byrthe / moost ferefull and to be drede
Is whan the soule / departeth fro the body
To payne or blyss / and leues the corps dedde
To tourne agayne to erthe / to wast and putryfy
In this thyrde byrthe / by callynge aserre for mercy
Our soule shall lyue in blyss / euerlastynge
Crowned with vctory / for our chass luyrynge.

The swete byrde closed / in a cage a longe season
Gladly entendeth / to fly at lyberte
The prysoner fettered / and cast in depe dongeon
Euer supposes / to be rydde frome capturyte
The soule of mankynde / moost dygne of durtpe

Naturally desyret / proued by reason
To be delyuered / frome bodyly pryson.

C Of y^r ghosly exortacyon saynt Werburge made to her
syfters in her sekenesse / and how deuoutely she receyued
y^r sacramētes of holy chyche byfore her deth. Ca. xxiiii.

The day knowen / to her by reuelacyon
Of her departure / by sygnes euydent
She sende for all / the hole congregacyon
And in presence / of all her holy couent
She called for the blessed sacrament
To whome she sayd / with wordes expresse
With wepyng teeres / and great mekenesse.

Well come my lorde / well come my kyng
Well come my sufferayne / and sauyour
Well come my conforste / and ioy euerlastyng
My trust / my treasure / my helpe and socour
Well come my maker / and my redemptour
The sone of god / moost in maieste
Withouten begynnynge / and endeles shalbe.

I beleue that thou / for all mankynde
Frome heuen descended / of thy charyte
And was incarnate / scrypture dothe mynde
In the bygynall wombe / of blessed marye
And suffered deth / to make vs all fre
Descended to hell / roote the thyde day
Ascended to heuen / and our raunson byd pay.

And I knowlege to the / with pure entent

On Shophthursday / after thy passyon
Thy moost blessed body / in sacrament
Thou gaue to vs / for our communyon
To be our defence / and ghostly turycon
Now present here / in forme of breed
To Judge mankynde / bothe quycke and deed.

O sufferayne sauyour / replete with grace
I the beseeche / haue pyte vpon me
And in my soule / make a dwellynge place
Expulce all byce / synne and mysery
Defende my soule / frome our aduersary
Saue and protecte me / from peynes infernall
And brynge thugh thy mercy / to ioye perpetuall

Thus with reuerence / and great humylyte
She receyued / the blessed sacrament
The seconde persone / in trynite
In perfyte fayth / hope / and loue seruent
With great contrycon / as it was apparent
Her herte lyfte vp / towarde heuen on hye
Abdyng the wyll / of god almyghty.

She exorted / her systers euerychone
That were there present / in companye
Besyrnge them all / with supplicacyon
To remembre her / sayenge with humylyte
My systers in god / now knowe may ye
My dayes ben ferre past / comynge is the houre
Wherfore I betake you / fyrst to our sauyour.

Prayenge you tenderly / for the loue of me
Wierburge. h.i.

In deuyne seruyce / loke ye contynue
Oblerynge pacyence / mekenes / and chastyte
Encresyng in relygyon / by the grace of Ihesu
Who so perceuers / in herte and mynde true
Under obedyence / to the extreme day
Is sure to be saued / scrypture so doth say.

Also remembre / that all worldly royalte
Honour / ryches / pleasure / possessyon
If ye consyder / are but a vanyte
Nothyng assured / to trust therupon
Wherefore dystose you / to vertue alon
Whyle ye endure / in this lyfe mortall
Tyll that ye come / to Joy perpetuall.

Secondly the sayd / systers If you pray
Kept well the order / of perfyte charyte
Neuer declynyng / fro it by no way
As ye haue taken / exemple of me
Iche loue other / and worshyp in theyr degre
So that no murmure / nor dyssymulacyon
Be founde amonge / this holy congregacyon.

Be euer lowly / humble / and obedyent
With due reuerence / worshyp and honoure
Folowe the mynde / of your presydent
Unto your heed / and ghostly gouernoure
Kepe well chastyte / that precyous floure
So that no thought / of sensualityte
Corrupte your mynde / to breke byrgynyte.

Se that ye vse / dyscrete temperaunce

Absteynyng frome bayne superfluyte
Se that amonge you / be founde no varyaunce
Kepe well the degrees / of humylyte
These and many other / examptes of charyte
She taught her couent / of synguler deuocyon
How they shoulde optayne / to hys perfeccyon.

Chydly she prayed / sayenge with mynde delygent
O blessed sauour / I desyre the
Saue and defende / my hole couent
And theyr monasteryes / of thy great pyte
Frome peryll of peryshynge / and frome enmyte
That all the subiectes / of our congregacyon
May well obserue / theyr holy professyon.

And graunt me swete lorde / throwe thy goodnes
Who so in thy name / bypon me dothe call
In langour / mysery / in peyne / or sekenes
Also women with chyld / in peynes thall
May haue remedy / and helpe specyall
And people in pylson / halte / blynde / and lame
By me may magnify / thy glozyous name.

Chan she requyred / with humylyte
The spyrytuall sufferage / of holy bnyccyon
Her soule to conforthe / frome all aduersyte
She toke her leue / and kyssed them ycheon
Alas what herte / myght she we the lamentacyon
The wepyng / waylyng / and wofull heuynes
At the departure / of theyr swete maystres.

¶ Of the departure of saynt Werburge vnto heuē at the
Werburge. k.ii.

abbay of Trentam / fro this myserable lyfe / & what la-
mentacyon her systers made for her dethe. Ca. xxix.

In all her infyrmte / peyne and busynesse
She bled prayer / and medytacyon
Callynge for mercy / by interyor mekenesse
With wepyng eyes / and great lamentacyon
Remembryng in herte / our lordes passyon
Commendynge her couent / vnto our sauour
To be theyr defence / ayde / and protectour.

The peynes encreased / of her infyrmte
The panges doubled / her peyne to augment
Nature decayed / vnto such debylte
That the sygnes of dethe / appered euydent
The houre approched / after all Judgment
Wherefore all thynges / were redy preparate
As was conuenient / for so noble a state.

Her spouse Ihesus / hauryng pyte and cure
Upon his spouses / in extreme dystresse
Wolde not suffer her peyne / longer endure
But sende his angels / with great lychtnesse
To conforte his seruaunt / in peyne and sekenesse
To dyssolue her wo / and great penalte
And byngge by her soule / to eterne selycyte.

There derknes was tourned / all vnto lycht
Langour and trouble / vnto prosperyte
The day was gouernour / ouer the nyght
Whan that she passed / this lyfe transytory
Bondage and thraldome / were brought to lyberte
The tyme of Joye / and euerlastyng pleasure

Was appoehynge to Werburge / euer to endure.

A multytude of angelles / hynnyng moost clere
Were redy to gyde / with humble reuerence
The soule of werburge / as truly dyd apere
And brought it to blys / vnto the hys presence
Of almyghty god / moost of magnyfyence
Clerey releashed / frome pepnes of purgatory
To be rewarded / with euerlastyng glozy.

This blessed byrgyn / glorpyous and pure
In stedfast fayth / hope / loue / and charyte
The thyrde day of february / ye may be sure
Expyred frome this lyfe / caduce and transytory
To eterne blysse / coronate with byctory.
Chaungynge her lyfe / myserable and thral
For infynyte ioye / and glozy eternall.

With moche honour / these spyrytuall mynysters
Conueyed the soule / aboue the firmament
Passynge the seuen planettes / and all the sterres
Vnto the presence / of god omnypotent
Synngynge full swetely / theyr songes eurybalent
Of pleasaunt armony / of conforste and blys
Salutynge her mekely / with wordes reuerent
Aeni dilecta : beni coronabiris.

The thre Jerarcheses / were redy present
With heuenly melody / to receyue this monnyall
The quere of byrgyns / mette her incontynent
With great solemnyte / and processyon royall
Presentynge her soule / with myrthes angelycall
To Ihesu her spouse / to whome he sayd truly
Werburge.

h.iii.

Well come dere doughter / to blyffe celestyall
Intra in gaudium : domui tui.

In meane tyme and space / this venerable body
(The soule departed) lay whyte / streyght and colde
Semyng as on slepe / she had ben verely
With swete odours fragrant / passynge manyfolde
All spyces and herbes / in erth may be tolde
The place was so pleasaunt / full of delyce
Lyke as it had ben / an erthly paradyce.

This forsayd venerable congregacyon
With wepyng teeres / and syghes lamentable
Washed the swete body / after the olde custome
And dressed the corps / with clothes honorable
Prepared all necessaryes / pleasaunt and commendable
To church she was brought / solemply in syght
With feruent deuocyon / to be watched all nyght.

And as they watched / with due mynystracyon
Duer the sayd corps / deuoutly prayenge
They made great mournynge / and lamentacyon
Euerychone to other / for her departynge
Alas they all sayd / with wofull waylynge
Dur solace / our helthe / is clere gone away
Alas for sorowe / what shall we now say.

The sterre of our conforste / is extyncte clere
The lanturne of our lyght / is taken vs fro
The floure of chastyte / is layd vpon a bere
The myrrour of mekenes / now lyeth full loo
The treasure of relygion / from us now is ago
Dur sorowe encreased / wretchednes / and misery

Syth thou arte departed / alas what remedy :

**Our hertes ben plunged / in great wo and peyne
Our myndes are medled / with heuy langour
How shulde we now rest / frome mornynge certayne
Beholdynge now deed / whylom our protectour
Swete lady thou art gone / frome vs for euermore
Our deedly sorowe / replete with bytternes
For waylynge and wepyng / can neuer ceas.**

**With herte mynde and voyce / to the we do call
O blessed Werburge / our moost dere maystres
O sufferayne lady / and ruler of vs all
Why haste thou vs lefte / in suche heuynesse
If thy wyll had ben / it is knowne expresse
Thou myght haue tarped / with vs by petycyon
Alas remedyleffe / is our lamentacyon**

**frome vs thou arte taken / and gone is our solace
The myrrour of vertue / is deed now with the
The tryed flock of truth / and the grounde of grace
Is pyteously decayed / our hope and sufferaynte
O blessed sauyour / bpon vs haue pyte
Sende vs our conforste / by thy great myght agayne
As thou haste reysed many / from dethe to lyfe certayne.**

**O dreadfull dethe / cruell enemy to nature
With dolefull heuynes / on the we may complayne
Takyng our heed frome vs / to our great dysconforture
Hath brought vs to thalldome / wofulnes and peyne
Nothor kynge ne emperour / thy fauour may optayne
But he must departe / arested with thy launce.**

Chanke we god of all / for it is his pleasaunce.

T How the hamburgenses toke the blessed body of Wer-
burge frome Trentam by myracle & brought it to Ham-
bury / & of y^r burypall of werburge / & of manyfolde myra-
cles shewed for her merytes .ix. yere after her trāslacyon.
Ca. xxx.

T His gloruous byrgyn / and moost blessed abbace
Departed from this lyfe / caduce and transytory
(As afore is sayd) the yere and tyme of grace
Almoost seuen hundreth / the thyrde day of february
To celestyall blyse / and infynyte glory
Her subiectes oppressed / with wylfull penyuenesse
With great trybulacyon / care and heuynesse.

But where werburge gaue / in commaundment
To bury her corps / at place of Hamburg
As was the wyl / of our lorde onmypotent
Her subiectes of Trentam / whiche had her body
Purposed her wyl / and entent to deny
Prepared to kepe / the corps by stronge hande
With them to remayne / as ye shall vnderstande.

The sayd people of Trentam / watched full dyligent
Her corps fulfyllynge / the obsequyes funerall
Entendynge to auoyde / and frustrate her testament
Gate a great company / by power Marcyall
Closed fast theyr doores / and gates one and all
Made sure yche place / by theyr prouydens
For to kepe the corps / excludynge Chamburgens.

But as Salomon sayth / sentencyously

There may be no counseyll / power ne prudence
Wysedome of man / nor naturall polycy
To derogate or chaunge / deuyne sentence
Proued euer day / by true experyence
Tho mankynde prepose / his mynde to fulfyll
yet god dyspoeth / all thyng at his wyll.

And as they watched / the same sayd ryght
Aroost busily / to execute they wyll and entent
By deuyne prouydence / passyng mannes myght
Sodeynly on slepe / was all that couent
Theyr company and mynysters / that were there lent
Hauyng no power / for to waken doubtles
God so prouyded / for theyr great maystres.

Chan shortly resembled / unto that sayd place
The people of Hamburgens / a great company
With the mynysters of god / people full of grace
And anone by the wyll / of our lorde almyghty
The lockes and the barres / of that sayd monastery
fell downe to the grounde / by power supernall
Without mannes hande / that enter they myght all.

Whiche myracle proued / the people of Hambury
Entred Trentam abbay / with mynde reuerent
And founde there on slepe / all the other company
Man / woman / and chyld / all that were present
They kneled all downe / and worshypped the sacrament
Praysyng our maker / of theyr good spede
Theyr specyall socour / euer at theyr nede.

Her blessed body / from Trentam they dyd take
Werburge. Li.

Gladly departynge / out of the monastery
Neither man nor woman / had power to wake
Tyll they were passed / all greuous Jeopardy
Magnyfyenge our lozde / of his grace deuoutly
Solemply syngyng their songes celestiaall
With infinite gladnes / and comfort spirituall.

After all this done / this holy congregacion
With reuerence / honour / and solempnite
With wepyngte tearis / for pure affection
With lamentable songes / masse and dirige
Buried the corps / of this blessed ladie
Right in the chauncell / of the sayd abbay
There bodily to rest / as her wyll was alway.

All obsequies ended / therto belongynge
As was agreable for suche a president
The systers departed / with clamour and mournynge
Plonged in heuynes / and to their celles went
To wepe and wayle secretly / their hartis to content
Cryngte alas alas / nowe buried haue we
The exemple of vertu / mekenes / and chastite.

And as the history of her lyfe / doth expresse
In a boke nominat / the thrid Passionary
After the buriaall of this patronesse
The place was decorat / with myracles many
Manifest to the people / of euery progeny
Howe god almyghty of his speciall grace
Hath done for his seruant / in thort tyme and space.

For many people greued with infirmite

Dolorous of hert / and interiour tribulacion
Peynnes of mynde / or other penalite
To her graue resortyng / with feruent deuocion
Sekyng for remedy / with great contricion
Anon by her prayer / vnto our sauour
They were released from peyne and langour.

Also by her merite suffrage and petition
Euery humble creature had helpe and succour
To distract persons / was yelded reason
Wikked spirites expelled . were that same hour
Impotent and feble to helth the dyd restour
Halt and lame had passage / the blynde had pfect syght
The dombe had speche / the desse herynge ryght.

Women with childe / beyng in great ieopardy
Namely in trauelyng / greued with wo and payne
Whan they myght nat come / sendyng to her oratorye
Makyng true oblacion / restaured were certayne
To helth and prosperite / from wo delyuered playne
And if they obteyned a relique from the place
The mother and childe / by it founde speciall grace.

The deuout pilgrym / the perfit maryner
The true laborer / the marchant with richesse
The carefull poze man / the peynfull prisoner
Were sondy tymes delyuered from wo and distresse
Men / women / child, / sekynge with mekenes
This glorious virgyn / with humble supplicacion
Founde soone remedie / helpe and consolacion.

¶ A litle breue reherfall of her lyfe / and howe for her
Merburge. Lii.

miracles shewed y^e couent of Hambury purposed to tra
slate her body / by the helpe of Mercys. Ca.xxri.

This gloryous lady / and gemme of holynesse
Of fyue myghty kynges / descended lynyally
A pynces / an emberytryce / replete with mekenes
Refused all pleasures / pompe / and bayne glory
Entred relyggon / professed at Ely
A spectacle of vertue / dwellynge in that place
And a floure of chastyte / electe by synguler grace.

Her honorable vncler / kyng Ethelede
Contyderynge her vertue / and hys deuocyon
Made her gouernour / for ghostly helthe and mede
ouer all the monasteryes / within his regyon
for the sure encresement / of perfyte relyggon
foure of these monasteryes / we haue in memory
As Wedon / Trentam / Kepton / and Hambury.

When she was ruler / and chiefe presydent
Of these sayd places / vnder god almyghty
Chan vertue and goodnes / dayly dyd augment
By heuenly grace / to the soule helthe of many
And by her exemple / and doctryne ghostly
Kynges / lordes / barons / refusynge theyr royalte
Entred relyggon / with great humylyte.

Her lyfe and doctryne / agreed bothe in one
Proued in effecte / by specyall gyftes of grace
Many she conuerted / vnto contemplacyon
To prayer and penaunce / whyle they had here space
Her couent and subiectes / within euery place
By her excellent vertue / and hys dyscrecyon

Were graciously gouerned / for theyr saluacion.

Her dwellynge was most at the place of Medon
Where many myracles were shewed openly
And at Trentam abbay / of her foundation
From payne she departed to eternall glory
After her entent was buried at Hambury
Of whom it may be sayd / here lyeth nowe present
A pryncesse / a birgin / a nonne / and a president.

The deuout couent of her congregacion
Whiche hath long wayled / with sorowfull payne
Nowe haue great cause to make consolacion
And gyue due honour to our lorde and sufferayne
Knowynge that Werburge / in blysse is nowe certayne
For them all dayly a true mediatrice
In the heuynly trone / afore the hie Justice.

Our sauour Iesus / graunter of all goodnes
Consyderyng the mekenes / and pure birginite
Of Werburge his spouse / and proued holynes
By speciall grace / preserued her body
To his laude and honour / his name to magnifye
Both hole and sounde / from naturall resolucion
As her soule was clere from vice and corruption.

This immaculat mayde / shenyng more bryght
Than radiant phebus in the triumphant trone
With the quere of birgins / prayseth day and nyght
The blessed trinite with due adoracion
Of perpetuall pleasure hauyng the fruycion
A singlar intercessour for her seruauntes all
Werburge.

l.iii.

That here in erth mekely to her wyll call

**And though her body do rest nowe in graue
yet notable signes contynually be done
Some warned in their slepe comfort to haue
By visityng her place / callynge her vpon
With contrite hert makynge true oblacion.
Whiche thynge contynued by space of .ix. yere
With meruailous myracles euydent and clere**

**The couent consyderynge suche great company
from diuers partes / resortynge to theyr place
In pylgrimage to Werburge / for helpe and remedy
Entended to translate this glorious abbasse
To exalte her body replet with great grace
To her great honour / comfort to eche creature
Pite that suche a relique shulde lye in sepulture**

**To the prayes and honour of god omnipotent
And of saint Werburge laude and reuerence
The couent and the people by one assent
Desired Coelrede than kynge of merciens
for aide in this case / helpe and diligence
(Whiche thynge graunted) the day appoynted was
The clergy and the comons reioised with solace**

**¶ Of the solempne translacion of this glorious virgyn
saint Werburge / and of the great myracles done at the
sayd season by the myght of god and merite of this gra-
cious lady. Cap. rrrii.**

At the day appoynted of her translacion

Kynge Coelred and his counsell were redy present
With bysshops and the clergy men of deuocion
Her systers and subiettes a religious couent
The comon people from eche place thider went
With great gladnes / the hole for pleasure godly
The seke and impotent for helth and remedy

The bysshops and clergy stode bpon one parte
Of her holy graue / and her systers echone
Synngynge and prayngynge the blessed trinite
The kynge and his connsell with great deuocion
Stode on the other parte in contemplacion
The graue was opened eleuat was the chest
Wherin her holy corps. ix. yere fully dyd rest

Whan this sayd monument discovered was
Suche a suauite and fragrant odoure
Ascended from the corps by singular grace
Passyng all worldly swetnes and sauour
That all there present that day and hour
Supposed they had ben / in the felicite
Of erthely paradise / without ambiguite.

And as eche man thaught by naturall reason
Nothyng shulde remayn of that blessed body
But the bare boones / all els to resolucion
The couerture remoued by the sayd clergy
The corps hole and sounde was funde berely
Apperyng to them / on slepe as she had ben
Nothyng depaired / that ther coude be seen.

Her vesture appered hole clere and white
Merburge. L.iiii.

No parte consumed / for all the longe space
Fragrant in odoure / repleit with delite
As at the fyrst season whan she buried was
But whan discovered was her swete face
Beautye appered more white than the lile
Fairt with rose colour / moost faire for to se

Her louely countenanne / so comly to beholde
And her swete skynomy / with fairenes decorat
As freshely apparant / moost pleasant to be tolde
As at the fyrst day / whan she was tumulat
No doubt therof / for she with synne nat maculat
Alyng all her lyfe in clemnes and virginite
From bodily corruption / by grace must saued be.

The clergy yet serchyng more diligently
Her precious body / and interiour besture
Elevat the corps full reuerently
With moche worchip honour and cure
Founde nothyng perished in shap nor figure
For all the long space tyme and contynuaunce
She lay in sepulture by diuine ordynaunce.

Whiche famous myracle / notified so clere
The clergy with her systers in ioy and honour
The kyng and his counsell all therat present were
With voice melodious made a great clamour
Praylyng and magnifyng our blessed sauiour
With celestially songes / and hymnes full of blys
Deuoutly reherlyng / with all their deuour
Mirabilis deus in sanctis tuis.

With that the comon rude people euerychone
In the sayd churche yerde standyng without
Heryng the clergy syng with suche deuocion
Towarde heuen they cried / and busely dyd shout
The space of .iii. houres / or nere there about
Worshippyng our lorde / with boice shrill and loude
In hert wyll and mynde / as well as they coude.

After all this done / her blessed body
Was washed and re clothed with vesture precious
By the sayd couent of the place of Hambury
The byshops were reuelshed in pontificalibus
And all the clergy syngyng with boice melodious
Kneled all downe and gaue due reuerence
Honour and worship to her corporall presence.

Thus they receyued with perfit humilite
This sacrat relique hole and substanciall
And layd it in a shyne with great solempnite
Enownded with riches sumptuous and roiall
Prepared by the kyng / and ordeyned inspeciall
Entendyng that this relique and gostly treasure
Perpetually with them shulde remayne and endure

People oppressed with greuous infirmite
Distract persons / halt blynde and lame
Resortynge to her shyne with humilite
Shortly were cured by callynge of her name
Impotent creatures (the legende sayth the same)
Couchyng her tumbe / were cured from payne
Whiche tumbe remayneth at Hambury certayne

After she was translate / knowen it is well
The clergy to procession / went after to mas
Honoryng and prayfynge / the kyng of Israell
And blessed Werburge / with moche solace
When diuine seruike duely ended was
The bisschops gaue theyr holy benedictions
The people departed glad to their mansions

This holy sayd fest of her transacion
Was ordeyned and celebrate with solemnite
As sayeth Kanulphus in his policronicon
About the yere of grace .vii. hundreth and .viii. sothle
The .xi. kalendas of the moneth Julii
Regnyng in mercelande the said kyng Coelrede
Chan bysshop of Lichefeld was Hedda / as we rede

¶ Howe the body of saynt Werburge contynued hole /
and substanciall at Hambury after the trasacion by the
space of two hundreth yeres / tyll the danes were comon
to this lande / or it felle and was resolued into powder
The .xxxiii. Chapitre.

This rutilant gemme and specious flour
Hole and substanciall remayned at Hambury
Two hundreth yeres in beaute and colour
By singular grace / and angelicall custodie
Tyll the danes were comon of malice and misery
Of ire and myschief / as we vnderstande
We meane the comyng of pagans to this lande

Whiche danes by sufferance and dispensacion

Of almyghty god / for synne and iniquite
Punysshed vnpiteously all this region
with a wofull plage of great crudelite
The sharpe swerde of deth / haurynge no pite
Spared no creature / prest nor religious
Long tyme durynge in their malice odious

Chan this bitall glebe by diuine ordinaunce
Voluntary permytted naturall resolution
Lest the cruell gentils / and wiked myscreauntes
With pollute handes full of corrupcion
Shulde touche her body / by indignation
Whiche pagans were enemyes to our lorde Iesu
Rebels to holy church vnfeithfull and vntrue

Howe be it the power of our swete sauyour
Might haue continued the body of his tyruant
All that longe season in worshyp and honour
As he preserued of his grace abundaunt
Many sayntes of this realme hole freshe and bernant
viii. hundreth yeres agon / to this present day
And like so to endure / hole and clere alway.

Sothely to confidre / our lorde omnipotent
Glorious in his sayntes / scripture doth specifie
Of his diuine prouidence / pleasure and intent
Some haue resolved / for the greater glorie
Of their resurrection for the tyme truly
Some other to continue without corrupcion
To the true example of his promission

Many holy martyrs / for Christ haue byn slayne

The hie prestis of god murdred cruelly
Some with wyld beestes deuoured in certayne
Some cast in fiers on cooles to boyle and fry
Upon many other byrdes fedynge openly
Of whom the prophet clerely doth reherce
The more peyne here and wo / the more glory doubles.

The glorious martyr Stephan (as is red)
In this present lyfe dyd myracles many
Newertherles / he raised no people that were deed
But after the resoluyng of his blessed body
He raised deed men to lyfe agayne truely
That the great power of lyfe myght sprynge
From iniurie of deth / by our heuen kynge.

Great was the respect of diuine grace
In the body of Werburge / without resolucion
She wed by her myracles / for mannes helth and solace
But greatt was the hope of the eterne reuouacion
In her body resolved to naturall consumption
Whiche for her merites to this present day
Helpeth all her seruauntes that to her wyll praye

Therefore worshyp we with singular deuocion
The holy luyng of this virgin gracious
for why / all the halowynge of her conuersacion
Belongeth to the honour of our lorde Jesus
Whiche of his grace hath made her so glorious
And graunteth his mercy / and of synne remysion
To all them / for whom / she maketh intercession.

Blessed pure virgin / moines and abbaste

O venerable werburge / mekely we the pray
 Make thou supplicacyon / to the graunter of grace
 After this lyfe present / that all we may
 Come to heuen blysse / whiche lasteth for ay
 There to beholde / the glorious tryumpe
 To whom be laude / worthyp / honour / & endles gloyre.

C The table of the seconde boke of y^r glo-
 ryous byrgyn saynt Werburge.



If the comynge to this lande of paganes / and
 of the trouble of this lande / and how y^r kynge
 of Mercyens for drede departed out of this
 lande / and how longe saynt Werburge con-
 tynued incorrupte and hole at the abbay of
 Hamburg. Ca.i.

C How the people of Hamburg brought the shryne to
 Chester / and of the solempne receyvinge of it / by all the
 inhabytauntes of the countre. Ca.ii.

C A lytell descripcyon of the fundacyon of Chester / and
 of y^r abbay churche within the sayd cytee / where the holy
 shryne remayneth. Ca.iii.

C A breue rehercall / of the fyrst fundacyon of the myn-
 ster of Chester / & of the instytucyon of secular chanons /
 in the tyme of kynge Edwarde tenpor. Ca.iiii.

C Of the notable myracle of saynt Werburge in y^r tyme
 of chanons / and fyrst how she saued Chester from the de-
 struccyon of Walthe men. Ca.v.

¶ Howe saynte Werburge cured and healed a woman the tymes whiche was halt and lame to helthe and prosperite agayne. Cap.vi.

¶ Howe saynt Werburge saued and defended Chester from innumerable barbarik nacions purposynge to de stroye and spoyle the same cite vtterly. Cap.vii.

¶ Howe saynt Werburge by her merite sent fruyte to a barayne Woman by synguler prayer made vnto her. Cap.viii.

¶ Howe a woman with childe by peyne brought out of her mynde & reason by saynt Werburge was restaured to prosperite and helthe agayne. Cap.ix.

¶ Of a nother woman vnlawfully workyng was made blynde and sore punysshed/and by saint Werburge was restored to syght agayne. Cap.x.

¶ Howe saint Werburge restored to helth & prosperite vi. lame & halt persons by singular grace. Ca.xi.

¶ Of a yonge man vnrighfully hanged was thries de lyuered from deth by saynt Werburge to helth and prosperite. Cap.xii.

¶ Howe at the maner of Aptō saynt Werburge refrayned wilde hoyses from distruction of her cornes. Ca.xiii.

¶ Of a chano of Chester haupyng his leg brokē was restored to helth by saint Werburge his prones. Ca.xiiii.

¶ A breue reherfall or cronicle of certayne kyngis / and howe kyng Edgar came to Chester / also howe erle Leofrice repared diuers churches. Ca. xv.

¶ Of the comyng of Wyllyam cōquerour to this lande / & howe Lupe was fonder of Chester monastery. ca. xvi.

¶ Howe saint Werburge taught her monke to kepe patience for the greater merite and glozi to come. ca. xvii.

¶ Howe sandes rose vp within the salt see ayent Hilburghde by saint Werburge at the petition of William constable of Chestre. Ca. xviii.

¶ Howe Matild / countesse of Chestre counsellunge her husband agaynst the monasterie was drowned at Bartflowe with many other mo. Cap. xix.

¶ Howe a great fire like to destroye all Chestre by myracle ceased whan the holy shryne was borne about the towne by the monkes. Ca. xx.

¶ A breue reherfall of the myracles of saynt Werburge after her translacion to Chestre. Ca. xxi.

¶ A charitable mocio / counsel / & desire to al thynhabitatz win the countie palatin of Chest for y^r monastori. ca. xxii.

¶ A litle orison or prayer to y^r blessed virgin saint Werburge by the translatour of this warke. Ca. xxiii.

¶ A short conclusion of this litle werke to the reders by the translatour. Ca. xxiiii.

C The prologe of the translatour of this lytell
treatyse in the seconde boke.

Now whan we consyder / with mynde delygent
The merueylous maners / & synguler condycion
Of the comyn people / symple and neclygent
Whiche without lytterature / and good informacyon
Ben lyke to brute beestes / as in comparyson
Rude / wyld / and boyssous / by a prouerbe certan
Good maners and conynge / maken a man.

Saynt Paule sayth / the wyng to the Romans
How all thyng wyten / in holy scrypture
Is wyten for our doctryne / and ghostly ordynans
For our great conforte / and endeles pleasure
All thyng is knowen playnly / by lytterature
For all vertues / be noted by it full playne
Frome byce and neclygence / to abstayne certayne.

What were mankynde / without lytterature
Full lytell worthy / blynded by ignorance
The way to heuen / it declareth ryght sure
Thugh perfyte luyng / and good perseuerance
By it we may be taught / for to do penaunce
Whan we transgresse / our lordes commaundment
It is a swete cordyall / for mannes entent.

How shulde the seven / scyences lyberall
Haue ben preferued / vnto this day
The wysdome / of the phylosophers all
But alone by lernynge / it is no nay
The notable actes / of our fathers I say

(yf litterature were nat) myght nat nowe be tolde
For auncient histories and cronycles olde

The lawe of ciuile / and of holy canon
By study be preferred with moche honour
To erecute iustice / and for due reformation
The most blessed doctrine of our sauour
The actis of the apostoles / with the doctours four
Be preferred by wytyng / and put in memorie
With the lyues of saintes many a noble storie

Of whiche histories we purpose speciall
To speke of saint Werburge / vnder your protection
Delaryng the ende of her lyfe historiall
As we haue begon / and made playne mencion
In the fyrst volume by herte compilation
There playnly descriuyng her liniall discens
Of .iiii. myghty kyngdomes by true experience

Also we haue shewed in the sayd littel boke
Her goodly maners / and vertuous disposicion
Of her yonge age / who so lyst theron to loke
And howe her betherne suffred martyrdome
Of her fathers realme a litell discripcion
Howe she was professed in the place of Ely
Of her conuersacion within the sayd monastery

After for her vertue / howe she was made abbasse
Of diuers monasteries flouryng in vertue
And of the great miracles whiche there done was
For her great charite / by the grace of Jesu
Howe diuers of her kyrede ded clerely exchewe
Werburge. m.i.

All worldly pleasures and honours transitory
Professynge obedience at the place of Fly

Also we haue shewed vnder your licence
Of her departure from this lyfe mortall
And of her sepulture at the place of Hamburgence
The manyfolde myracles shewed by grace supernall
The wofull lamentacion of her systers all
And howe after .ix. yere of her translation
By diuine ordinaunce miracles were done

We humble require you of your charite
To this seconde abstract to graunt pardon
Consyderynge we omytte whilom the historie
And speke of cronicles / makynge a digression
It is of no ignoraunce / nor presumption
But to enlarge the mater and sentence
To glasse the auditours / and moue their diligence

In our seconde boke expresse nowe wyll we
Under your licence and speciall tuicion
Of this blessed birgin / flourynge in chastite
Why and wherfore she came to Chestre towne
Principally by miracle / and diuine prouision
And howe for synne / vice / and wykednes
Danes oppressed this lande with wretchednes

And howe she was receyued at Chestre citie
Of the first foundation of towne and the place
Of the great myracles there shewed openlie
To chanons and monkes / by singular grace
Unto euery creature in extreme case

Howe Werburge deliuered the towne from enmitte
from dreadfull fire / and plages of miserie

Also enconicled foloweth here expresse
A breste compilation of kynges Edwarde senour
Of kyng Ethelstan / the great worthynes
Of humble kyng Ergar regnyng as emperour
Of his comyng to Chestre / of his great honour
And howe Erle Leofricke repared of his charite
The mynstre of Werburge gyuyng thereto liberte

Of the seconde foundation of the sayd monastery
from secular chanons to monkes religious
Soone after the conquest sayth the hystorie
By the erle of Chestre nominat Hug. Lupus
With counsell and helpe of blessed Anselmus
And of the great compas of the sayd abbay
Enuired with walles myghty to assay

Howe Ric^e erle of Chestre by myracle ryght
Was preserued from daunger of Walthemen
And howe he was drowned about mydnyght
Purposyng to distroye the monastery certen
Celestiall signes were shewed to men and women
To children and innocentes by singular grace
Of blessed Werburge patronesse of the place

These miracles specified / and many other mo
This virgin shewed within Chestre cite
Whiche at this tyme we let ouer go
Lest to the reders tedious it shulde be
Almyghty god both one two and thre
Werburge.

m.ii.

Sende vs theyꝛ grace to make a good ende
Helpe lady Werburge this warke to amende

C Of the comyng of cruell pagans to this lande / and
howe saint Werburge longe lyenge hole and incorrupt
at Hambury. than was resolued to powder. And howe
the kynge of merciens was chased from his lāde. Ca.i.

Afore the comyng of danes to this lande
Merueilous signes were shewed in syght
To conuert the people (as we vnderstande)
Sterres in the heuen shynyng full bryght
Dyuersly mouynge apperyng day and nyght
Kennynge in the ayre dyledfull to beholde
By longe continuauce sayth the story olde

flamyng fire / dragons in the ayre fleyng
Thondryng / and layth / erth quake moost terrible
With many other signes / as cometis blasynge
Were seen in the ayre / to nature horrible
Upon clothyng of people bloody dropes odible
Eydently appered : the yere of grace
vii. hundreth. lxxxvi in many a place

By whiche sayd signes wonderfull to se
Two plages of pestilence folowed incontinent
The first was great derthes hungre and pouerte
The seconde was the greuous and sore punysshement
Of the cruell danes cursed and fraudulent
Whiche trouble began the .iiii. yere of Brictricus
Kynge of west saxon / saith maister Alfridus.

The thyrde yere folowynge these signes in certen
Danes and Norwaies enterprised this lande
In the north partie . an host of armed men
Whiche cruelly spoiled and distroied holy Ilande
With Cynnmouth abbay / and all that myght be soude
Drowned and slewe the people euerychone
Brenned churches / townes / spared no religion

In short tyme after the p̄nominatē pagans
At tamysmouth reentred this realme agayne
Destroyed many cites by their myghty ordynaunce
Oppressed London / Canturbury by power certayne
The kyng of Merciens to escape was fayne
Kyng Adoulfus made the danes a batell
To whiche kyng by grace the victorie befell

yt ye wyll consyde the cause wherfore and why
Our lorde suffred pagans to punyssh the this region
The trowth was this : for synne specially
for in the p̄matuue churche / with great perfection
Kynge / quienes / dukes entred religion
Professed obedient chaste without propurte
Vertue to encrease / true loue and charite

That tyme was iustice ministred with mercy
True loue and amite founde in euery place
Disimulacion / pride and fals enuye
Durst nat appere in halle nor in palace
Extorcion pollynge opteyned no grace
The commaundementes of god were obserued a ryght
Charite was seruent / encreasynge day and nyght
Merburge. m.iii.

By proces of tyme / as sayth myn auctour
Throughe great possession / power / and liberte
Vertue decreased in holy church day and hour
Holy religion decayed pitioullie
Charite was colde / iustice and equite
Extorcion disceyte were bled euery day
Couetise / pride / lechery were ryued alway

Therefore our lorde of his great ryghtwisnes
Suffred cruell people to entre this region
A scourge to correct synne and wykednes
Like a swarme of bees from dyuers nacion
Whiche had no pite mercy nor compassion
Danes Gotes Norwayes and scottes also
Pictes and the wandeles with mony other mo

These foresayd fearfull and cruell nacions
A most cruell pagans dyd great persecucion
From the begynnyng of Adelwlf, kyng of westsaxons /
Tyll the comynge of normans into this region
The space enduryng by full computacion
Two hundreth yeres complet .ccc. also
With the swerde of vengeance fire and moche mo

The yere of our lorde .D.CCC. fyfty and one
At Campsmouth arriued a great hoost of pagans
With .iii. hundreth ships and .l. men of armes echone
Whiche destroyed Doyer / and put the land to greuans
Agayne Bernulphus the kyng of Mercians
The paynymys persayled / and caused his hoost to fle
Whiche fortune enforced them more boldre to be.

But the yere of grace .D. CCC. lxxv. and lxxx.
The greatest nombie of the pagans all
viii. kynges entred this realme by victorie
Norwaies / gootes / Wlandels / danes in especiall
With many other nacions within in generall
Kyng Hingwar and Hubba than came to this lande
Whiche slewe saint Edmund kyng of Estenglande

The cruell paynyms and tyrauntes moost furious
Repleit with malice / pride / and enuye
Seruauntes to satan and ministres malicious
Purposed to defolate holy churche wyckedly
Bynned monasteries and spoiled vtterly
Many churches chapels of a mortall hate
Slewe religious men and nonnes dyd violate

The people were punished in every place
To olde siche and impotent they shewed no mercy
yonge soukyng children coude fynde no grace
Wyddowes and wyues were put to vilany
Maydens were corrupt / and slayne chamfully
So all this realme endurred confusion
Put to greuous peyne / deth / and affliction

After these infidels had ben at London
And there accomplished theyr cruell entent
They soone proceded towarde Lincoln region
from thens directly with hasty iugement
To the realme of Merciens noble and auncient.
Right vnto Repton where the kyng lay
Robbyng and spoilyng all in theyr way

This kynge of Mercelande called Burdredus
Requyng .xxii. yere vpon the merciens
Was clerely expelled by the pagans furious
And went into rome with pure conscience
Where he is buried by diuine prouidence
Whiche kyng was colyn by discent limall
To blessed Werburge so glorious and pudicall

This gracious virgin and preelect abbasse
Buried at Hambury (as is sayd before)
Continued incorrupt and hole in that place
In besture and body .ii. hundreth yere and more
But whan the danes came With suche rigour
To Repton abbay / than she was resouled
And of deuocion full richely shyned

¶ Howe the people of Hambury brought the shyme to
Chestre / and of the solempne receyuyng of it by all the in
habitauntes of Cheshyre. Cap.ii.

In meane tyme the danes pitoussly destroyed
The monasteries of Werburge / Trenta & Medo
As they many other places had euill oppressed
In the north and east part of this region
The kyngdome of Kent suffred lyke punicion
The Isle of Wight endured moche turment
So dyd the Westmarches / for punysshement

The people of Hambury Wysely consydering
The comyng of danes into Repton
And of the departure of Burdred they kyng
Howe all Englande was in great affliction

And howe they were next to endure punicion
Whiche forsayd Kepton was disfaunt from Hamburg
The space of .v. mile sayth the history

The Hamburgent With all the comons and clergy
Pedyng full sore the pagans flagellacions
Of their lyues desperate / but for the shyne specially
To our blessed sauour made dayly inuocacions
With bigds prayers and feruent meditacions
To preserue the countrey / the relique / the shyne
From daunger of enmite and miserable ruyne

As they continued in cotidian prayer
The best remedie sekynng for to fynde
To auoide beracion and all greuous daunger
Of theyr great ennemies cursed and bnhynde
The holy goost inspired theyr mynde
To take the shyne with great humilite
And bynng it to Chestre from perill and emmyte

They toke this riall relique of reuerence
With great mekenes deuocion and feruour
Through the grace of god theyr helpe and defence
Came towarde Chester with diligence and honour
A place preordinat by our sauour
Where her body shulde rest and worshipped be
Magnified with miracles next our ladie

¶ When the clergie of Chestre and the citezens
Herde tell of the comynge of this noble abbasse
They made preparacion and great diligence
In theyr best maner worship and solace
Werburge. n.i.

To mete this relique of singular grace
The great estates / and rulers of the countray
Were redy to honour saint Uerburge that day

First was ordeyned a solemne procession
With crosses / and baners / and surges clere lycht
The belles were tolled for iope and deuocion
The ministres of god in coopes redy dight
With censours of siluer / to encense her body right
All prestis and clerkes redy to say and synge
Proceeded in ordre / this holy birgin prayng

Next to the clergie approached in degree
The lordes of the thyre knyghtes barons all
With feruent deuocion / prayng the trinite
Whiche sent to them suche comfort spirituell
The citezens ensued with gladnes cordiall
With bokes and beades / magnifieng our maker
For this great treasure to kepe them from daunger

Venerable birgins next sette in ordre clere
With lilies in theyr handes / coronate with chastite
Good widowes and wyues appoynted well were
Gyuyng true thankes vnto this birgin fre
Nex them assemble all the commonte
In all goodly maner dyuisid by discrecion
Prayng saynt Uerburge with humiliacion

Whan they approached to her hie presence
And comon were afore this relique most riall
They kneled all downe with mycle reuerence
Salutyng the thyne with honour victoriall

Magnifyng With melodye and tunys muscicall
This glorious birgin / nothyng done amis
Syngeynge Te deum to the kyng of blyffe

The lordes / the citezins / and all the commons
Aekely submytted themselfe to the knyng
With manyfolde prayles and humble supplicacions
With interiour loue / and morall discipline
Trustyng all in her to saue them from ruyne
From greuous daunger / and cruell enmite
By her intercession vnto the trinite

They gaue due thankes vnto this abbasse
Deuoutly sayenge knelyng vpon kne
Welcome swete lady replet with grace
The floure of mekenes / and of chastite
The cristall of clemes and birginite
Welcome thou art to vs euerychone
A speciall comfort for vs to trust vpon

Welcome swete princesse / kynges doughter dere
Welcome faire creature / and rose of merciens
The diamonde of dignite / and gēme of shenyng clere
Birgin and moyniall of mycle excellence
Welcome holy abbasse of hie preeminence
The rutilant saphire of syncerite
Welcome swete patronesse to Chestre cite

Thou art our refuge / and singular succour
Our sure tuicion next to the trinite
Our speciall defence at euery hour
To releue thy seruantes in all necessite
Merburge. n.ii.

**Thou art our solace and helpe in eche degre
Our ioye / trust / and comfort / and goodly treasure
Welcome to this towne for euer to endure**

**¶ Agaynst her comynge into Chestre cite
The stretes were strawed with flours fragrant
The mancions and halles edified rialle
Were hanged with arras precious and pleasaunt
Coches were caried on eche syde flagrant
Also ouer the shryne was prepared a canopy
Of cloth of golde and tissewe riche and costly**

**Thus with great worship decour and dignite
Of all the clergie lordis and citezens
She was receyued with great humilite
Into the cite with humble reuerence
The clergie syngyng with mycle diligence
The comons prayeng with loue feruent
ffollowynge this relique after their entent**

**In procession they passed all in to the towne
With ioye and great gladnes ye may besure
In ordre togyther in charite and deuocion
Praylyng our sauour and this virgin pure
They brought full solemple with goodly peasure
This rialle relique to the moost noble place
Within all the cite as our lordes wyll was**

**This seconde transacion of this virgin bright
from Hambury abbay vnto Chestre cite
Was celebrate with ioye and gladnes full right
The yere of our sauour in his humanite**

**viii. hundreth complet .b. and seuentie
Alured regned than kyng of this region
Victorious and liberall / coronate at London**

**This kyng deuoyded in .iiii. partes his richesse
One parte to the poore the seconde to religion
One thyrde part to scholers / the fourth to bild churches
And of a day naturall / he made triū dibision
viii. houres to rede and praye with seruent deuocion
viii. houres occupied with businesse naturall
And other .viii. houres to rule his realme riall**

henric° .li°.b.

**Nobilitas innata tibi probitas honorem
Armipotens Aluredē dedit / probitasq; laborem :
Perpetuumq; labor nomen : cui mixta dolori
Gaudia semper erant : spes semper mixta timori.
Si modo victus erat / ad crastina bella parabat
Si modo victor erat / ad crastina bella pauebat
Jam post transactos regni viteq; labores /
Christe ei sit vera quies / sceptrumq; perenne.**

**¶ A litel description of the foundacion of Chestre / and
of the abbay churche within the sayd cite / where y^r holy
Myne by grace remayneth. Cap.iii.**

**Two cites of legions in cronicles we fynde
One in south Wales / in the tyme of Claudius
Called Caerulka / by britons had in mynde
Drels Caerleon / buylded by kyng Belinus
¶ There somtyme was a legion of knyghtes chivalrous
This cite of legions was whilom the byshops se
¶ Unto all south wales / nominat Wenedocie
¶ Werburge. n.iii.**

Another cite of legions we may fynde also
In the west part of Englande / by the water of Dee
Called Caerleon of britons longe ago
After named Chestre by great auctorite
Julius the emperour sende to this sayd cite
A legion of knyghtes for to subdue Irelande
Like wyse dyd Claudius (as we vnderstande)

The founder of Chestre / as sayth Policronicon
Was Leon Bauer / a myghty stronge gyant
Whiche buylded caues and dongions many one
So goodly buyldyng / propre ne pleasaunt
But the kynge Leil a briton sure and valiaunt
Was founder of Chestre by pleasaunt buyldyng
And of Caerleil also / named by the kynge

Ranulphus in his cronicle yet doth expresse
The cite of Chestre edified for to be
By the noble romans prudence and richesse
Whan a legion of knyghtes was sende to the cite
Rather than by the wyldome of Britons or policie
Obiectyng clere agaynst the britons fundacion
Whiche auctour resteth in his owne opinion.

A°. gratie. lrb.

Kyng Marius a bryton regnyng in prosperite
In the West partie of this noble region
Ampliat and walled strongly Chestre cite
And myghtyly fortified the sayd fundacion
Thus eche auctour holdeth a singular opinion
This Marius slewe Redric kyng of pictis lande
Callyng the place of his name Westmarilande

This cite of legions so called by the Romans
Howe is nominat in latine of his propete
Cestria quasi castris / of honour and pleasance
Proued by the buyldynge of olde antiquite
In cellers and lowe boultres / and halles of realte
Lyke a comly castell / myghty stronge and sure
Eche house like a toure somtyme of great pleasure

Unto the sayd Chestre all north wales subiect were
for reformation Justice and iugement
They bysshops see also it was many a yere
Enduryng the gouernaunce of brutes auncient
To sarons and britons a place indifferent
The inhabitauntes of it manfull and liberall
Constant sad and bertuous / and gentyll continuall

Of frutes and cornes there is great habundaunce
Woodes / parkes / forettes / and beettis of benare
Pastures / feeldes / comons / the cite to auauce
Waters / pooles / pondes / of fysh the great plente
Most swete holsome aye by the water of dee
There is great marchandise / thypps / and wyynes strang
With all thyng of pleasure the citezens amonge

The yere of our loyde a hundreth fyve and fyfty
Reigned vpon this lande a briton kynge Lucius
Whiche with great desire required instantly
His realme to be baptized of pope Cleutherius
Whose charitable mocion was harde full gratius
The pope enioyed / graunted his petition
And sende .ii. doctours to conuerte this region
Werburge. n.iiii.

The doctours by preaching and singular grace
In short tyme conuerted the greater Britayne
The people confessed their synne and trespase
Baptized all were / forgyuenes dyd attayne
Idolatrie celled through out this lande certayne
With grace circumfulced and lyghtned was Englande
By faith to god professed was all Wales and Scotlande

Kynge Lucius ordeyned / by the doctours mocion
xxviii. bissshops in this realme for to be
And .iii. archebissshops for gossly exhortacion
To reduce the people to vertue and humilite
At London was set the chief archebissshops se
The seconde in south Wales at cite of legions
The thyrde was at yorke all subiect to the britons

Churches were edified in many a place
Here in the more Britayne with diligent labour
Christis faith encreased by speciall grace
Faithfull religion delated euery hour
Diuine seruice was songon & sayd with great honour
True faith and deuocion were dayly encreasyng
Namely in Chestre by grace continuall abidyng.

Certaynly sith baptye came to Chestre cite
Soone after Lucius and afore kynge Arthure
By the grace of god and their humilite
The faith of holy churche dyd ever there endure
Without recidiuacion and infection / sure
Wherfore it is worthy a singular commendacion
Above all the citees and townes of this region

The perfect begynnynge and fyrst foundacion
Of the monasterie within the sayd cite
Was at the same tyme by famous opinion
That baptysm began within this countre
The great lordes of Chestre of landes and auncetre
first edified the church for comfort spirituall
In honour of the apostels Peter and Paule

Whiche church was principall to all the citie
And the murther church called withouten doubt
It was their buriall by great auctorite
To all this sayd cite / and .vii. myle without
The cemiterie was large to compase it about
But what by sufferance and processe of tyme
Many olde customes ben brought now to ruine

In whiche mother church of Peter and Paule
All holy sacramentes ministred dayly were
With great encrease of vertues all
Continuall enduryng more than .CCC. yere
In the britons tyme / of blode noble and clere
Afore the comynge of saxons to this lande
Whiche with apostasie infected all Englande

So after that the Angles / Jutes / and saxons
By fortune of batell / power and policie
Had clerely subdued all the olde britons
And them expelled to wales and wyde countre
The faith of holy church remaind at chestre cite
In the sayd church truely by singular grace alone
Like as the faith of Peter neuer fayled at Rome

What tyme saint Austyn the doctour of Englande
Had baptized Ethelbrut kynge of Kent
And by relacion dyd fully vnderstande
That the faith of Christ most digne and excellent
In the cite of legions was truely remanent
In the church of the apostoles Peter and Paule
He magnified our lorde with thanke speciall

That season there was a noble monasterie
xii. myles from Chestre nominate Bangour
Where religious monkes lyued bertuoussye
Almost .iii. thousande / obedient euery hour
Without possessions / lyuyng by theyr labour
Unto whiche place he sende for helpe at nede
To conuert the saxons (sayth venerable Bede)

Saynt Austyn approched the cite of legions
Where the sayd couent afore hym were present
Whom he required to preche to the saxons
The faith of holy church and baptyng diligent
To whose humble prayer / they were disobedient
Obseryng no charite / yet for theyr great pride
Many of them were slayne by kynge Ethelfride

That season the britons remaind vnder licence
Of Angles and saxons within the sayd cite
Tyll the dayes of Ossa kynge of merciens
Regnyng in the west marche with great victorie
Whiche kynge expelled by power and chivalrie
All brutes and walthemen clere out of his londe
In peyne of punysshement none there to be fonde

When the said church haupnge great liberte
Dayly augmented in vertue and holynes
Prestis and clerkes payted the holy trinite
And the sayd apolloles with great mekenes
The cite encreased in worthyp and ryches
Churches were edified with feruent deuocion
In sondrie places within the sayd towne

This noble kyng Ossa agaynst the pagans
Of .xvii. batels has euer the victorpe
Confederate was with great Charles kyng of fraunce/
And edified saint Albans monasterpe
Of Englande first toke the hole monarchie
Gave Peter pens vnto the court of Rome
Trandlate to Lichefeld, the se of Canturbury
xxxix. yere regned fully in this region.

¶ A breste reherfall of the first foudacion of the mynstre
of Chestre / and of the institucion of secular chanons in
the tyme of kyng Edwardeseniour. Cap.iiii.

The yere of grace .D.C.C. seupnte and syue
Kyng Alured regned vnpon this region
The relique the shryne full memoratpue
Was brought to Chestre for our consolacion
Reuerently receyued set with deuocion
In the mouther church of saint Peter and Paule
(As afore is sayd) a place moost principall.

In whiche holy place vnto this present day
She bodilpe resteth by diuine prouidence
And so by his grace shall continue alway
In honour worthyp / and mycle reuerence

What tyme saint Austyn the doctour of Englande
Had baptized Ethelbut kynge of Kent
And by relacion dyd fully vnderstande
That the faith of Christ most digne and excellent
In the cite of legions was truely remanent
In the church of the apostoles Peter and Paule
He magnified our lorde with thanke speciall

That season there was a noble monasterie
xii. myles from Chestre nominate Bangour
Where religious monkes lyued vertuouslye
Almost .iii. thousande / obedient every hour
Without possessions / lyuyng by theyr labour
Unto whiche place he sende for helpe at nede
To conuert the saxons (sayth venerable Bede)

Saynt Austyn approched the cite of legions
Where the sayd couent afore hym were present
Whom he required to preche to the saxons
The faith of holy church and baptym diligent
To whose humble prayer / they were disobedient
Obleryng no charite / yet for theyr great pride
Many of them were slayne by kynge Ethelfride

That season the britons remayned vnder licence
Of Angles and saxons within the sayd cite
Tyll the dayes of Offa kynge of merciens
Regnyng in the west marche with great victorie
Whiche kynge expelled by power and chivalrie
All brutes and walsmen clere out of his londe
In peyne of punysshement none there to be fonde

When the said church hauinge great libertie
Dayly augmented in vertue and holynes
Prestis and clerkes prayed the holy trinite
And the sayd apostoles with great mekenes
The cite encreased in worshyp and ryches
Churches were edified with feruent deuocion
In sondrie places within the sayd towne

This noble kyng Ossa agaynst the pagans
Of .xvii. batels has euer the victoie
Confederate was with great Charles kyng of Fraunce/
And edified saint Albans monasterie
Of Englande first toke the hole monarchie
Gave Peter pens vnto the court of Rome
Translate to Lichefeld, the se of Canturbury
xxxix. yere reigned fully in this region.

A brefe reherfall of the first foundacion of the mynstre
of Chestre / and of the institucion of secular chanons in
the tyme of kyng Edwardesenior. Cap.iiii.

The yere of grace .D. CCC. seuynte and fyue
Kyng Alured regned vpon this region
The relique the hyne full memoratyue
Was brought to Chestre for our consolacion
Reuerently receyued set with deuocion
In the moucher church of saint Peter and Paule
(As afore is sayd) a place moost principall.

In whiche holy place vnto this present day
She bodily resteth by diuine prouidence
And so by his grace shall continue alway
In honour worshyp / and mycle reuerence

A deuout oratorie of bertue and excellence
Prepared by our lorde / where speciall remedy
Is agayne all greuans in soule and in body

The primatyue gyftes gyuen to the place
Immediatly were after her comyng
Of deuout people replet with grace
In the dayes of the forsayd Alured kyng
Of landes and libertes they made moche offeryng
To god and saint Werburge / after theyr possession
Crispyng to her prayer and sure protection

The people with deuocion and mynde feruent
Gauē diuers enoymentes vnto this place
Some gauē a coope / and some a bestement
Some other a chalice / and some a corporace
Many albes and other clothes offred ther was
Some croses of golde / some bokes / some belles
The pore folke gauē surges / torches / and towelles

The citezens offered to the sayd virgine
For the great miracles amonge them wrought
Many riall gyftes of Jewels to the shrine
Thankyng our lorde that hath vs all bought
And blessed Werburge in worde dede and thought
Women and children she mynded full gracious
As testifieth the archebishop Antoninus

Diuine seruice was obserued deuoutly
Euery day encreasyng with feruent adoration
As the feest required / and the solemnite
To the honour of our lorde and hie glorificacion

**Prestis and clerkes with pure meditacion
Oblerynge their dutie gaue vertuous example
Of great perfection to the comon people**

**C After kyng Alured / reigned his son
Edward, senior by liniall discence
Crowned the yere of grace .ix. hundreth and one
with worldly glorie and great preeminence
Buylded castels townes of myghty defence
Subdued the danes .vii. tymes in batell
Encreased his realme manfully and well.**

**That tyme the realme of merciens was translate
By the kyng / and gyuen to duke Ethelrede
A noble man of auncetre / politicke and fortunate
Whiche married his syster lady Eluede
Doughter to the forsaide valiant kyng Alurede
The sayd gentilman was wyse and vertuous
Sad and discrete pacient and famous**

**This lady Eluede duchesse of merciens
Had speciall loue and singular affection
To blessed Werburge and true confidence
Wherfore she mynded with great dilectacion
To edifie a mynstre a place of deuocion
To this holy birgin for profite of her soule
Enlargynge the church of Peter and of Paule**

**She moued her husbände with great mekenes
To supplie the same dede of his charite
And diuers other nobles of theyr goodnes
For aide in that cause after their degree**

Joyfull was the duke of the mocion gosse
Glad were the nobles within all the shire
To founde a mynstre after her desire

Afoze the holy roode in a table witen is
At saint Johans church without the sayd cite
Howe that prince Edmund, the thyrde son e wis
Of Edward senior true foundour hulde be
To whom lady Elfebe was aunt by auncetre
So betwix twayne was founded in short space
An holy mynstre of bertue full and grace

They sende for masons bpon euery tyde
Counnyng in geometrie / the foundacion to take
For a large mynstre longe hie and wyde
Substantially wrought / the best that they can make
To the honour of god / for saynt Werburge sake
At the est ende taken theyr sure foundacion
Of the apostoles church / ioynyng both as one

Whan it was edified / and curiously wrought
And all thyng ended / in goodly propozcion
Than riche enozmentes were offred and brought
Of the said nobles with great deuocion
Temporall landes / rentes / possession
Were gyuen for euer to mayntayne the place
Of blessed Werburge by singular grace

Spirituall ministres were elect also
Secular chanons of great humilite
To syng and psalmodise our sauour bnto
Within the sayd mynstre haupng a perpetuite

Prebenes were assigned to that fraternite
With townes / bowes / and fredomes manifest
Continually encreasyng vnto the conquest

And the olde churche of Peter and of Paule
By a generall counsell of the spiritualte
With helpe of the duke moost principall
Was translate to the myddes of the sayd cite
Where a paretthe churche was edified truele
In honour of the aforesayd apostoles twayne
Whiche shall for ever by grace diuine remayne

Also we may note holdyng none opinion
This lady Eilde of her charite
Of the sayd mother churche translate the patron
Caused the sayd oratorie reconciled to be
In the honour of the most blessed trinite
And of saynt Oswalde marty? and kyng
For the loue she had to hym continuyng

The yere of our lorde .ix. hundreth and .iiii.
This noble duchesse with mycle royalte
Reedified Chestre / and fortified it full ryght
Churche / house / and wall decayed piteousle
Thus brought vnto ruyne was Chestre cite
First by Ethelfride kyng of Northumberlande
And by danes / norwaies beryng all Englande

Also she enlarged this sayd olde cite
With newe myghty walles stronge all about
Almost by proporcion double in quantite
To the foether byldyng brought without dout

She compassed in the castell enemies to hold out
Within the sayd Wallles to defend, the towne
Agaynst danes and walshemē to deuyte them all downe

After the deth of her husband Ethelrede
She ruled the realme of mercelande manfully
Buylded churches / and townes repaired in dede
As Staford, / Warwike / Chouwort / and Shirisburi
Of newe she edified Kincorn and Edisbury
The body of saynt Oswald, also she translate
From Bardeney to Gloucetur there to be translate

Where she edified a noble monastery
With licence of her brother afore nominate
In honour of saint Peter / ouer the blessed body
Of the sayd saint Oswald, / kyng and marty, coronate
In wiche monastery this lady was translate
The pere of our loyde .ix. hundredeth and nyntene
Whom myn auctour prayseth in this wordes serene
Henric° .li. b.

O Eflēda potens / o terror birgo birorum :
Aictrix nature nomine digna biri.
Te quoq; splēdidior fecit natura puellam
Te probitas fecit nomen habere biri.
Te mutare docet sed solum nomina sexus
Tu regina potens / rerq; trophea parans
Jam nec cesarei tant meruere triumphū
Caesare splēdidior birgo birago . Cale.

¶ Of the notable myracles of saynt Werburge shewed
in the tyme of chanons / and fyrst howe she saued Chest
from distruction of walshemen Cap. b.

This glorious **Merburge** and birgin pure
By singular grace of god omnipotent
Shewed many myracles to euey creature
To blynde / dombe / halt / lame / and impotent
In the cite of **Chestre** / whan her thynne was present
Like wyse as in her lyfe at **Weldon** / at **Hambury**
Witneseth the same her true legende and history

Where to the honour / prayse / and laudacion
Of **Jesu** / the seconde persone in trinite
And of this birgin a speciall commendacion
The purpose to reherse nowe with charite
Under the protection of you that shall the reders be
Parte of the myracles / with mynde diligent
In this humble stile / and sentence consequent

The first myracle / that our blessed sauour
Shewed for his spouses / after her translacion
To **Chestre** : was nye the tyme of **Edwarde** seniour
Son to kyng **Alured** famous of renoune
The Name of britons was chaunged that season
Were named **walshemen** in the montaynes segregate
Euer to the saxons haurynge inwarde hate

The **Walshemen** that tyme had ouer them a kyng
Called **Griffinus** / to be theyr gouernour
Elected by the commons their appetite solowynge
Endurate with malice / couetise and rancour
Enemies to engliffemen / as is said before
This kyng entended by mortall enuy
The cite of **Chestre** to spoyle and distrye
Merburge.

o.i.

A myghty host disceded from the mountans
Well armed and strongly approachyng the cite
Prepared for batell with them great ordinaunce
The sayd Griffinus and all his company
With his power passed ouer the water of Dee
Whiche ryuer adioynneth to the sayd towne
Betwene Englande and Wales a sure diuision

This kyng layd siege vnto Chestre cite
With all his great host / there honour to wyn
By policie of warre / encreasyng myghtyle
for whiche the citezens remainyng within
were sore disconsolate like for to twyn
With wofull heuy hartes they dyd call and crye
vpon blessed Werburge for helpe and remedye

The charitable chanons with great deuocion
Toke the holy thyrne of theyr patrones
Set it on the towne walles for helpe and tuicion
Trustyng on her to be saued from distres
But one of the ennemyes with great wychednes
Smot the sayd thyrne in castyng of a stone
And it empaired / piteous to loke vpon

Anone great punysshement vpon them all lycht
The kyng and his host were smytten with blyndnes
That of the cite / they had no manner of syght
And he that smote the holy thyrne doubleles
Was greuously bered with a spyte of darkenes
And with hidous payne expired miserably
The kyng was sore adred / and all his company

Shortly the kynge remoued his great host
Departed from the cite without any praye
And gaue in commaundement in euery coost
Saynt Werburge landes to meyntheyne alway
Assigned her possessions euer after that day
With the signe of the crosse a token euident
In pleasynge this birgin / for drede of punysshement.

C. Howe saynt Werburge cured and healed a woman
thre tymes (whiche was halte and lame) to helth and p-
prosperite agayne. Cap. vi.

In the cite of Chestre (the legende doth expresse)
An honest matrone dwelled / Egidia nominat
Whiche by continuance / and payne of sickenes
Was made halt and lame / of helth all desperate
yet to saynt Werburge her hart was eleuate
Instantly required with humble supplicacion
This holy birgin for helth / and preseruacion

Anone by the merite of this lady clere
The pacient restored to helth and prosperite
Gaue honour and thankes to Werburge and prayer
Entendynge euer after her true seruaunt to be
And truely continue lyuyng in pure chastite
But shortly she brake her promesse made insyght
folowynge her appetite and carnall lustes full ryght

She had great riches welth and prosperite
And married with pleasure after her entencion
Where thies she endured her olde infirmite
And thies was cured by meke intercession
Werburge. o. ii.

To helth of body from peynfull contraction
Thus by the merite of this virgin pure
She was deliuered from peyne thies to pleasure

This forsayd Gadgide prudently pondering
These notable miracles with her gossly eye
Gawe great cōmendacion and speciall thankyng
To almyghty god / with feruent humilite
And to saynt Uerburge knelynge on kne
Came to her oratorie and gawe an oblacion
To the holy wyne with singular deuocion

C. Howe saynt Uerburge saued Chestre from innume-
rable barbarike nacions / purposynge to dystrope and
spoyle the sayd cite vtterly Cap. vii.

A Nother tyme innumerable barbarike nacions
Came to spoyle Chestre to robbe it and distroy
(Sayth the hystoipe) from diuers regions
Harolde kyng of danes / the kyng of gotes & galwed
Maucolyn of Scotlande and all theyr company
With baners displayed well armed to fyght
Theyr tentes rially in boole heth were pyght

They set theyr ordinaunce agaynst the towne
Upon euery side / timorous for to se
Namely at the northgate they were redy bowne
By myght police to haue entred the cite
The citezens dreyng to be in captiuite
Made intercession vnto this holy abbasse
For theyr deliuerance in suche extreme case

The deuout charyons sette the holy shryne
Agaynst they? enemies at the sayd northgate
Trustyng to Werburge to saue them from ruyne
And shewe some myracle to them disconsolate
For the citezens were of their lyues desperate
Passyng mannes mynde to escape they? daunger
But all only by merite of this virgin clere

As the kynges were sautyng this forsayd cite
Trustyng for a praye to haue it every hour
One of the sayd enemies replet with iniquite
Nat worthyping y^r virgin / nor dyedng our sauiour
Smote this riall relique with a stone in his rancour
Broke therof a corner curiously wrought
Cast all to the grounde : than sorowe came vnsought

The sayd malefactour nat passyng the place
Clered with the deuill for his greuous offence
Roynng and yellyng his outragious trespass
Toke his tonge a sonder in wodely violence
Miserable expired afore them in presence
Satan ceased nat to shewe great punishment
Upon his soule and body / by signes euident

These kynges consideryng this soden vengeance
Amonge them all lyght so soone and hastily
Shortly remoued they? great ordinaunce
Departed from the cite with they? company
Callyng on this virgin fast for grace and mercy
Promyttynge neuer after to retourne agayne
To disquiete her seruauntes and cite in certayne
Werburge a.iii.

C. Howe saynt Werburge by her merite sent frute to a
barrayne woman by syngular praper made unto her
The .iiii. chapitre.

A Noble gentilman / a consul in office
Descendynge of the hie and riall blodde of costly
Elected a spouses at his owne device
A swete faire gentil woman curtes and comly
Dominat Judith / ioynted to hym in matrimony
With whom this lady lyued a longe season
Barrayn and fruteles of generacion

She daily lamented her great wretchednes
As woman infortunate full of miserye
Prayed to saynt Werburge with interiour mekenes
For remedy and helpe agaynst that woful infamye
Desired to haue issue and frute of her bodye
If it pleased god / and this virgin also
Most greattest comfort to bynge her hert from wo

Saynt Werburge appered to her in vison
In white bright vesture / clere as the cristall
Expreslynge wordes of great consolacion
Most ioyfull to Judith to make reherfall
Commaundyng her by the effect speciall
To go to her churche with singular deuocion
And praye our sauour with humble supplicacion

Also for to compasse her holy aulter
With a linen cloth / knelyng on her kne
And after for to take the same cloth in fer^e
And compas her wombe about reuerentle

This Judith was ioyfull / and rose by yerle
And truely fulfilled this godly vision
From thens departed to her propre mancion

Soone after this wyfe afore reherled
Conceyued a childe and had succession
Praylyng this virgin in hart worde and dede
And after the tyme of her purification
Of the same faire cloth she made oblacion
Richely set in syluer / well wrought in compas
With many riche enormentes she sende to this place

After came herselfe vnto the monastery
With many of her neyghbours / ther^e nye dwelling
Praylyng and laudyng this glorious lady
With cordiall thankynges makyng theyr offeryng
Of this great myracles true witnes bearyng
Departed from the place with ioy and deuocion
All the sayd company / eche to theyr mancion.

C. Of a woman great with childe with peyne brought
out of her wytte / by saynt Werburge was restoured to
reason agayne. Cap. ix.

In the prouince of Chestre / knowen it is of olde
A certayne man dwelled / of great honeste
Whiche had a daughter disposed manyfolde
To sondre vertues / clennes / and humilite
This humble mayde ioyned was in matrimonye
To an honest yong man / of whom she conceyued
And was great with childe / openly perceyued

When the tyme approached of her deliuerance
Tered she was with mycle wo and payne
Continually enduryng / with suche hidous greuance
That out of her mynde she went incertayne
All phisike and medicyns were founde to her in bayne
No comfort in erth helpe nor remedye
For her myght be founde in suche extremitie

Her father and mother / and her frendes all
Brought theyr dere doughter with great deuocion
To saynt Werburge church / requiryng speciall
This blessed birgin / with humble incescion
To helpe the pacient from all vexacion
Prompttynge an oblation to this lady bryght
When she into reason were comen a nyght

And as she slepped at the autler ende
Wofully cruciat with peynes hiduous
Passyng mannes cure it for to amende
Anone by the merite of this birgin glorious
She was released from all payne greuous
And fully restored to her reason agayne
Had good deliuerance / and spedde well in certayne

Whiche myracle knowen / her frendes euerychone
And all the good matrons of the sayd cite
Came holly togyther with theyr oblation
To the holy thryne thankyng with hart fre
This blessed birgin of her benignite
Whiche is so redy a mediatrice al way
To helpe her true seruauntes both nyght and day

**C. Howe an other woman vnlawfully wurkyng was
made blynde / and by saynt Werburge restored was to
her syght agayne. Cap. r.**

**Within the same cite afore the abbay gate
Dwelled a woman / which brake the comaundement
Of god and holy churche / hve sabbot day dyd violate
Vnlawfully wurkyng : wherfore great punysshement
fell vpon this woman with peynes equiualent
Sodaynly smytten / wurkyng full busely
With greuous blyndnes / and mycle miserye**

**This woman confyderyng her syght was gone
The pleasure of this worlde her helpe and succour
Hauyng to lyue by / small riches or none
Cried maynly out out alas euery hour
Who is me wretche fulfilled with dolour
Alas I was borne to abyde this wofull day
My maker to displease / alas what shall I say ?**

**She called to memorie with hve discrecion
The myracles that Werburge shewed to mankynde
By grace she repented / with suche contricion
That water distilled from her eyes blynde
Dolefully lamentyng / that she was so vnynde
Ruthfully was brought to Werburge oratory
Trustyng in this birgin to haue remedy**

**As she continued in her supplicacion
Wofully wepyng / abidyng the great grace
Of blessed Werburge / with singular inuocacion
Anone she was cured to helth and solace
Werburge p. i.**

Restored to her eyesight / she passed the place
Prayed our lorde and this virgin pure
Was a holy woman after ye may be sure.

C. How saint Uerburge restored to helth and p[er]sp[er]ite
bi. lame and halt p[er]sons by singular grace. Cap. xi.

The excellent fame of this glorious lady
Dilated was through all this region
Manifest by myracles full honorably
Therefore from diuers partes came many a person
For helth of body and godly conuersacion
Some to be cured from payne intollerable
And some of oldsores that were incurable

Amonge whom there came vnto her place
Sire woofull persones / cured for to be
Halt blynde and lame besekyng her of grace
With humble supplicacion vpon them haue pite
With wepyng teares sayenge / o souerayn ladie
O imperiall princesse / and kynnes doughter dere
Heele our disease by thy instant prayer

O blessed virgin and holy moimiall
O glorious abbasse / and worthy gouernour
O pereles parens and ministre spirituall
O celestiaall gemme resplendent with honour
Praye for vs wretches vnto our sauour
That we may opteyne here mercy and grace
Cured of our sekenes / after to se thy face

Thy name transcendeth this realme swete lady

Thy myracles magnifyen thy great goodnes
Thy worshyp encreaseh with honour and glorie
Daily euermore through thy great holynes
Shewe nowe thy power / cure vs from sekenes
That by the we may praye the kyng of blis
As thou hast cured manyone of this

By these meke prayers / in hert full penitent
And many other orisons sayd priuately
Callyng on this birgin with deuocion feruent
For certayne / or they passed the monastery
They were all cured from peyne and malady
In wytnes wherof / and triall as it was
Theyr staues remainned longe after in the place

¶ Howe a yonge man thries hanged vnlawfully Was
thries deliuered by saynt Werburge from dethe to lyfe
and lyberte. Cap.rii.

A Myghty god gaue in commaundement
By moises lawe / to his people echone
No innocent to flee by wrongfull iudgement
Nor causeles to punyssh by greuous oppression
Also to beware of lyght suspencion
Wherof a myracle we shall nowe expresse
Done in Chestre cite by Werburge theyr patronesse

A certayne yonge man dwelled in the cite
Honest in maners / and of good conuersacion
Disposed to vertue and humilite
Was arrest and taken of a lyght suspicion
By the officers and rules of the sayd towne
Werburge. p.ii.

Gyltles accused most innocently
Condemned and iudged to deth shamfully

After sentence gyuen / ministres were all redy
Upon the iudgement to do execucion
He was fetted and brought to the gebbet by and by
And as a stronge these hanged therpon
His frendes and colyns for hym made great mone
Alas what tongue myght expresse the wo
They made that tyme departynge hym fro

And as this innocent hang in his payne
He called to mynd the manyfolde goodnes
The myracles of Werburge she wed her certayne
Howe she had saued many in great distress
So whan he myght no wordes expresse
In mynde he required her / and humblie dyd pray
From shamfull deth to saue hym that day

Whan all the officers departed were thens
Supposynge the soule seperate from the body
A white doue descended afore them in presence
And lyght vpon the gebbet immediatly
The byrde with his byll brake the rope truely
The prisoner escaped that tyme from deth
Shortly reuiuyng toke naturall bryth

Whiche thyng notified so meruailous in syght
The ministers returned / they labour in bayne
Toke this innocent by power and myght
Upon the sayd gebbet hanged hym agayne
Thus he was deliuered by myracle from payne

The tortuous turmentours celled their tyranny
Permytted the prisoner to go at liberte

Whiche myracle knowen / his frendes and cosyns all
Returned agayne with glad mynde and chere
The prisoner mette them louyng god in speciall
And blessed Werburge in his best manere
The deuout citezens approched them nere
Went all to the thyne the birgin thankyng
The belles were tolled for ioy of this thyng

¶ Howe at the maner place of Upton saint Werburge
restrayned wyld horses from distruction of cornes put
in by theyr ennemys. Cap. xiii.

Alto the thynde season approched to Chestre cite
Many cruell ennemys in the part of Wirall
Purposyng to spoyle / and distroy all the countre
The people and theyr frutes / theyr corne and cattall
The citezens dredyng to be captiue and thall
fortified the cite with men of armes bright
Hauynge sure artillarie for to defende and fight

The husbandes of the countrey about there dwelllyng
Agaynst the sayd ennemys makyng soze prouysion
Brought their corne & cattell / their husoldr remaynyng
In assurance to be / to the parke of Upton
Saynt Werburge landes from all distruction.
Whiche parke from Upton was distaunt a myle space
A prebende to a chanon of her mynstre and place

These Wyched ennemys fulfyllled with malice
Werburge. p. iiii.

Agaynst all conscience and ordre of charite
In no maner wise dredynge the hie iustice
Entred the sayd parke with mycle cruelte
Pulled downe the paale at pleasure and liberte
But in theyr horses made great distruction
Of cornes and catell of a hie presumption

Werburge remembryng the great wychednes
Theyr malice and myschief agaynst her possession
By miracle shewed her power and goodnes
Preseruyng her seruauntes from all veracion
And punysshing her enemies with great affliction
As she hath done many seasons of this
By mean to her spouse our lorde kyng of blis

When the corne sheuys lay broken afore them playne
The horses had no power any part to take
for why? by miracle / theyr heedes all in certayne
Were byholde in the ayre / theyr bodies sore dyd quake
They touched no frutes / wass they dyd none make
Of the principall doers / some raged out of mynde
Some smetyr with palsy / some lepre halt and blynde

Whiche punysshement knowen vnto all the host
The rulers and captens without any delaye
Ryt agayne the sheuys / that none shulde be lost
With tremblinge hartes humbly began to praye
This holy virgin to saue them that daye
Upon a condicion / escapyng from payne
Enduryng theyr lyfe neuer to turne agayne

ffrom that tyme furth ther dar^e no nacion

Consydering the power of this virgin pure
Approchyng Chestre cite to make derogacion
Denmarke Goet noꝝ Galway scot ye may be sure
Cruell danes noꝝ walshemen dare nat procure
Wherfore the citezens haue cause to loue the place
And thanke this virgin foꝝ her helpe and grace

¶ Howe a chanon of Chestre hauyng his leg and the
broken was restaured to helth by saynt Werburge hys
patronesse. Cap. xiii.

Within Chestre mynstre that holy place
Dwelled a chanon nominate Alminus
Sad of disposicion by syngular grace
Humble and pacient / discrete and vertuous
Liberall and honest / gentyll and piteous
And foꝝ a pastyme this was his pleasure
To hunt and to hauke to confort nature

And as this chanon rode foꝝ his solace
On huntynge with other honest company
By fortune unfrendly / the more pite was
Both horse and man fell to grounde soderdly
In perill of theyꝝ lyues standynge in ieoperdye
The horse downe lyeuge oppressed the chanon
Broke his leg a sondre / with blod great effusion

When by his company the chanon was by take
He fell in a swoone foꝝ anguill he wo and payne
All worldly riches redy to forsake
foꝝ one hour of quietnes to be had agayne
Unto his mancion they brought him certayne
Werburge. p. iiii.

Where he continued in mycle wo and langour
Abydyng allonly the mercy of our sauour

Coūnyng surgeans were sought bpon euery syde
To cure this gentylman from penalite
But none of them / by wysdome coude prouyde
Clere to heele hym / and do hym remedye
Thus he remediles / in extreme ieopardye
Prayed to saynt Werburge his patronesse
For helth and remedye / of her great goodnesse

Whose humble prayer with inward loue feruent
Was graciously harde of her charite
For right soone after appered euident
A byde like a doue most clere for to see
Into the chanons chambre the byde flow trule
Among the company / and anone doubties
The place was repleit with odour and swetnes

Soone after the company euerichone
Were sadly on slepe a thyng meruaylous
And afore the pacient by playne vison
Saynt Werburge appered in his syght full glorious
Sayeng : my chaplayne and seruaunt bertuous
Why be ye absent from diuine seruice
Dat doynge your dutie accordyng to iustice

As a dame he sayd / and swete president
It is well knowen to all the cite
Of my myffortune and harmes euident
Howe my horse almost had oppressed me
Wherfore an impotent I endure mylere

It is no feyned cause / that I do expresse
I beseke you of helpe nowe swete maistres

Saynt Werburge euer piteous and merciabie
Upon her seruantes in great distresse
Conforted her chaplayne with wordes delectable
Proued in effect by her excellent goodnes
To his syght and felynge as he dyd expresse
She touched the foote / that sore and broken was
Cured it holly from payne by singular grace

When she had cured thus this impotent
Anone she departed out of his syght
The chanon gaue honour to god omnipotent
And to this virgin and lady bygyht
Of this godly vision comfort and lyght
All peyne was past sekeneys betracion
Helth was come by playne probacion

The chanon rose by the same mydryght
And went to mattens as custome was
His bretherne were glad with all theyr myght
Prayled our lorde of his singular grace
And Werburge patrones of the sayd place
Also with honour reuerence and humilite
The bretherne sange te deum solemle

¶ A brefe rehersall of certayne kynges / and how kyng
Edgar came to Chestre. Also howe Leofrice Erle of
Chestre repared diuers churches. Cap.xv.

After the deceste of kyng Edward seniour
Ethelstan his sonne was coronate at London

**Kyng of this lande requyng in honour
With power regalite by true succession
Waleant in chivalry and actes euerychone
Subdued danes / scottes / norwayes / britons all
Optyned triumphe / and dignite imperiall**

**The fourth yere of his reigne / and the yere of grace
viii. hundreth .ii. and seuenty by full computation
Guy erle of Warwike by fortune slayne hafe
Colbrend the gyaunt / floure of danes nacion
The sayd kyng Ethelstan by power and renowne
Chies subdued danes / and slewe the kyng of Irelande
Dominat prince Anlaf as we vnderstande**

**This noble Ethelstan was good and gracious
To all holy churche / namely to religion
Ryghtfull in iudgement / liberall and piteous
To his true subiectes through his dominion
To mynstres and holy places had great affection
Confirmed theyr foundacions with libertes clere
Whose noble actes be touched a lytell here**

*Regia progenies produxit nobile stemma.
Cum tenebris nostris illuxit splendida gemma
Magnus Ethelstanus patrie decus, orbita recti
Illustris probitas a vero nescia flecti.*

**After Ethelstan reigned Edmunde his brother
foure yeres in honour / hauyng great victory
Princis Ered and Edwyn succided epytherothur
In great busines with scottes and danes truly
Next whom meke Edgar / sayth the history
xvi. yere of age / coronate at Kyngston
With peace and quietnes first ruled this region.**

In whose nativite the blessed Dunstan
Herde angels singe with mycle melody
Peace is now come to Englande certain
Quietnes / and rest / honour / and victorie
Of cornes and frutes that tyme was plentie
Danes / norwaies / scottes / britons in every place
Submytted them selfe to the kynges grace

Science encreased true loue and amite
Vertue was exalted in all this region
Monasteries were edified of his benignite
Endowed with riches / and riall possession
Religious places by famous opinion
Were newly buylded by the sayd noble kyng
In sondry places of this realme standyng

Secular prestes expulled sothely were
From diuers monasteries with great discrecion
Religious persones repleit with bertue clere
Entred their places cause of deuocion
Charite was feruent and holy religion
The lyues of sayntes were soth in eche place
And witten in legendes for our comfort and grace

Many shypps were made vpon the kynges coff
To serche by the se all his lande about
That no alian entre in no maner coff
By policie and manhod to holde all his ennemies out
Danes / norwaies / scottes durst nat ones loke out
Suche drede all nacions had ensuyng the tyme
That kyng Edgar^o reigned by prouidence diuine
In progresse he passed ones in the yere
Eche quarter of the realme with his company

To se that his subiectes well ordred were
And the lawe obserued / iustice with mercy
Chan was none oppression wronges nor iniury
Debate malice rancour myght nat be founde
Truē loue and charite was in all the londe

Kynge Edgar^o approached the cite of legions
Nowe called Chelstre / specified afore
Where .viii. kynges mette of diuers nacion
Kedy to gyue Edgare reuerence and honour
Legiance and fidelite depely sworne full soze
At the same cite : after to be obedient
Promyt at his calling to come to his parliament

From the Castell he went to the water of Dee
By a priue posturne through walles of the towne
The kyng toke his barge with mycle rialte
Rowyng upwarde to the churche of saynt Johū
The forsayd .viii. kynges with hym went alone
Kynge Edgar^o kept the storne / as most principall
Eche prince had an oze to labour withall

When the kyng had done his pylgrimage
And to the holy roode made oblacion
They entred agayne into the sayd barge
Pallynge to his place with great renowne
Chan Edgare spake in praylyng of the crowne
All my successours may glad and ioyfull be
To haue suche homage honour and dignite

Also it is to be had in memory
That this sayd Edgar^o and his princis all

Came with great reuerence vnto the monastery
To worshyp saynt Werburge with mynde liberall
Where he gaue freedoms and priuileges speciall
With singular possessions of his charite
Confirmynge the olde grauntes by hys auctorite

This Edgar^o was nominate in cronicles expresse
The floure of Englade / regnyng as emperour
Lyke wise as Romulus to romains was of prowes
Cyrus to the persis / to the grekes their conquerour
Great Charles to frenchemen / to troians Hector
Famous in victorie preignant in wyldome
Vertuous and pacient / feruent in deuocion
Henric^o. li. b.

Auctor opum vindiſc scelerum / largitor honorum
Sceptryger Edgarus regna superna petit.
Hic alter Solomon / legum pater / orbita pacis
Quod claruit bellis / claruit inde magis.
Templa deo / tēplis monachos / monachis dedit agros :
Requitie lapsum / iusticieq; locum.

Also from the byrthe of our blessed sauour
A thousande fyfty yere / and seyn expresse
In the tyme of saynt Edwarde kyng and confessor
As William Maluesbury beareth wytnes
Chan Leofricus a man of great mekenes
Was erle of Chestre and duke of merciens
Son to duke Leoffwin by liniall descence

This noble Leofric sayth policronicon
Of his deuocion and beningne grace

**Namely by the counsell and bertues mocion
Of his lady Godith countes whiche was
Reedified churches decayed in many a place
Also he founded the monastery of Leonence
By the towne of Herford, / and the place of Wenlece**

**This erle repareled a noble olde monastery
Eueham ypon Auen / gaue them great riches
Also founder was of the abbay in couentre
Made the cite free for loue of his countesse
At the cite of Chestre of his great goodnes
He repared the College church of saynt Johā
Endowed it with riches and enormentes many one**

**This erle of Chestre the sayd Leofricus
Of his charite / and feruent deuocion
To the honour of god / reedified full gracious
The mynstre of Werburge within the sayd towne
Gauē unto it riches and singular possession
Endowed the sayd place with fredoms and liberte
And speciall priuileges confirmed by auctorite**

**So the sayd place encreased in honour
In great possessions / fredoms / and richesse
With singular deuocion vnto our sauour
And prayle to saynt Werburge theyr patronesse
The chanons obserued bertue and clemmes
Daily augmentyng by diuine sufferance
Unto the comyng to this lande of normans**

**¶ Of the comyng of Willjam conquerour to this lāde
and howe Hug. Lupe his syster soune was founder of**

The yere of grace .M. lxxviii. and thescour
 The .xiii. day of the moneth of october
 The duke of Normandy / William conquerour
 Fight a stronge batell / displayed his baner
 Of normans and frenchemen hauynge great power
 Subdued kyng Harold, opteyned all the londe
 Was coronate at London / made saxons all bonde

for diuerse great causes he came to this countre
 first for deth of Alured his nere kynsman
 The proscripcion of Robert archebischop of Cant bury
 The periury of Harold agaynst conscience playne
 The promys of saynt Edward made to hym certayne
 That the sayd William shulde enioye the crowne
 If the kyng departed without succession

A generall counsell was celebrate at London
 That all bysshops sees by helpe of the conquerour
 From borowes shulde be translate to a famous towne
 Within their diocess / to the greater honour
 Ryght so they all were / sayth myn auctour
 Also the see of Lichefeld, was translate to Chester
 By helpe and sufferance of the bysshop Peter

With William conquerour came to this region
 A noble worthy prynce nominate Hug. Lupus
 The dukes son of Britayne / and his syster son
 Flourynge in chivalry bolde and victorious
 Manfull in batell / liberall and bertuous
 To whom the kyng gaue for his enheritaunce

The counte of Cheshire with the appurtinauce

By victorie to wyne the forsayd Erledom
Frely to gouerne it as by conquest right
Made a sure chartre to hym and his succession
By the swerde of dignite to holde it with myght
And to calle a parlement to his wyll and syght
To orde his subiectes after true iustice
As a prepotent prince / and statutes to deuise

This baleant knyght with a myghty host
Descended from London to wyne the sayd counte
But the lordes of Cheshire rose from euery cost
Agaynst hym made batell and had the victorie
Thies they preuayled agaynst the erle trulie
After he optayned to his fame and honour
The erledom of Cheshire entred as a conquerour

He gaue to his knyghtes after theyr desire
Lordshyps and franchises / and great possession
With riche mariages within all Cheshire
Exalted his seruauntes to hys promocion
Unto holy churche had special deuocion
Maynteynge iustice / commending vertue
Deposyng vice by the helpe of Jesu

After the departure of his vncl the conquerour
Chan William Ruff. toke the regalite
Chan blessed Anselme the famous doctour
Wyd viset this lande oft tymes of his charite
Glad to reforme / and bynge into vnite
Where was debate / and mycle diuision

By diligent labour and good exhortacion

This forsayd erle of his benigne
Interiorly louynge holy religion
Repleit with vertue and feruent charite
Sende for saynt Anselme vnto London
To come to Chestre at his petition
And there for to founde a religious place
In honour of Werburge by diuine grace

Blessed Anselme at the erles supplicacion
Came vnto Chestre with gladd chere shortly
Where he founded an abbaye of holy religion
A pleasaunt place and a noble monasterye
In worshyp of god / and saynt Werburge sothely
The yere of grace by full computacion
A thousande .iiii. score .xiii. yere alon

All secular prestes / and chanons also
Within the sayd place afore tyme dwellyng
Were clerely dysmysed / and letten go
Religious monkes perfect in luyng
Receyued were gladly their rule professyng
Saynt Anselme ordeyned Ric^o of Beccents
To be their abbot with great preeminence

Landes / rentes / libertes / and great possession
franches / fredoms / and priuileges riall
Were gyuen mekely to that foundation
Maners / borowes / townes / with the people thall
And many faire churches / chapels withall
Wardes and mariages were gyuen that season
Werburge. q.i.

To god and saynt Werburge cause of deuocion

Kyng Wyllyam Ruf. son to the conquerour
Confirmed the foundacion / with great auctorite
Endowed the monastery with mycle honour
Of freedoms / franchises / also liberte
The place that tyme was made as fre
As the sayd erle was in his castell
Or as hert myght thynke / or tonge myght tell

Saynt Anselme departed thence vnto London
And was made archebischop of Canturbury
To the place he gaue a sure confirmacion
With singular priuileges to be had in memory
Of whom it is written here folowynge truly
Hic bit dum bixit extirpantes maledixit
Werburge iura presentia sine futura.

This noble prince gaue of his charite
Riall riche enormentes vnto the sayd place
Coopes / crosse / Jewels of great rialte
Chales / censures / bestures / and landes dyd purchase
A librarie of bokes to rede and synge there was
Of whiche riall iewels and bokes some remaine
Within the sayd monastery to this day certayne

The founder also buylded within the monasterie
Many myghty places / conuenient for religion
Compased with stronge walles on the west partie
And on the other syde with walles of the towne
Closed at euery ende with a sure postron
In south part the cimiterie inuironed rounde about

for a sure defence enemies to holde out

The .ix. yere aftre this riall foundacion
This noble founder the .xxvii. day of July
Departed towarde the heuently mancion
Next whom his son Richarde succeeded truly
Chan regnyng in honour the first kyng Henry
Also the place had their fraunches and freedom
Afore the sayd cite a hundreth yere and one

¶ Howe saynt Werburge taught her monke and cha-
playne to kepe paciens for his greater merite and glo-
rye to come. Cap. xvii.

After the translacon of Chestre monasterye
From secular chanons to monkes religious
By helpe of Anselme archebissnop of Canturburge
Supportyng therto the founder Hug. Lupus
As afore is specified full memorous
A monke there dwelled of bertuous disposicion
Under obedience / nominate dan Symon

This brother Simon his tyme well byng
Howe in bertuous study / nowe in contemplacion
Howe in deuout prayer / nowe busely wryttinge
Somtyme in solace / and honest recreacion
Observed deuoutly his holy religion
Obedience / pacience / and wylfull pouerte
Akenes / meditacion / with pure chastite
For whiche examles and signes of bertue
Diuers of his betherne repleit with enuy
Were fully confederate entending to subdue
This honest prest by malice and policy
Werburge. q.ii.

They layd to his charge open wronges and iniury
They punysshed & oppressed hym with great affliction
Dayly augmentyng by subtyll collusion

Dan Symon offendyng no brother at all
Observed pacience / euer callynge for grace
Weepyng lamentyng with syghes cordiall
His fortune vnfrendly remediles / in that case
Entended to depart to some other place
Of a scrupulous conscience / seyng no redresse
Was redy to procede plunged in heuynes

Merburge appered to this monke in vison
Bryghter than Phebus in his meridian spere
My seruaunt she sayd callyng hym vpon
Why be ye so sad / and heuy of chere ?
Wheder entende ye ? shewe the mater clere
Alas he sayd ma dame and patronesse
For sorowe I can nat my peynes expresse

Diuers of my brytherne ben greued at me
Teryng me dayly with great tribulacion
Causeles on my part deserued trile
In worde or en dede gnyng none occasion
I can nat be quiet amonge that congregacion
Wherfore swete lady vnder your licence
I purpose to departe in sauynge my conscience

Saynt Merburge pacified his mynde and entent
With wordes of comfort and holy scripture
Made hym be humble in hert and patient
Thy sufferauce halbe great ioye and pleasure

And for thy pacience thou maist be sure
To haue rewarde in blis perpetuall
At thy departure from this lyfe mortall

Wherwith saynt Merburge departed sodeinl
To the blis of heuyn euer enduryng
The monke was meke in hert and mery
Observed her doctrine this lyfe continuyng
Gave good example of perfect lyuyng
Unto his bretherne / and at his departure
For his pacience passed to eternall pleasure

¶ Howe sondes rose vp within the salt see agaynst Hil
burgher by saynt Merburge at the petition of the con-
stable of Chestre. Ca. xviii.

The seconde erle of Chestre after the conquest
Was erle Richard / son to Hug. Lupus
Whiche Richarde entended all thyng to the best
To visite saynt Winifride in hert desirous
Upon his iourney went / myn auctour sayth thus
Deuoutly to holy well in pylgrimage
For his great merite and godly aduantage

When the wicked walsmen herd of his comyng
After a meke maner vnto that party
They made insurrection inwardly gladdying
Descended from the mountaynes most furiously
Agaynst the erle raised a cruell company
Bytwort hym and Chestre lettynge the kyngis way
Purposynge to see or take hym for a praye
Merburge. q.iii.

The erle son perceyued theyr malicious entent
In all hast possible sende to Chestre secretly
To warne his constable by loue and commaundment
Wylliam the son of Digell / to rayle a great army
To mete hym at Balyngwerke right sone and spedely
For his deliuerance from deth and captiuite
Of the wyld walshemen / without humanite

The constable congregate in all goodly hast
A myghty stronge host / in theyr best arraye
Towarde Hilburghie on iourney ridyng fast
Trustyng vpon shippes all them to conuaye
Whiche was a riall rode that tyme nyght and daye
And whan they theder came shyping none there was
To carie all them ouer in conuenient space

Alas what hert may thynke / or tonge well expresse ?
The dolorous greuance / and great lamentacion
That the host made / for loue and tendernes
Knowyng their great maister in suche persecucion
Some wept and wayled without consolacion
Some sighed and sobbed / some were in extasy
Without perfect reason / alas what remedy ?

Wylliam the constable most carefull man on lyue
Of his myffortune in suche extreme necessite
Called to hym a monke there dwellyng contemplatyue
Required hym for counsayle and prayer for his charite
The monke exhorted hym to knele vpon his kne
Humble to beseke Werburge his patronesse
For helpe and remedy in suche great distresse

The constable content anone began to praye
O blessed Merburge and virgin pure
I beseke the mekely helpe me this day
That we may transcende this ryuer safe and sure
To saue and defende my lorde from discomfiture
And here I promytte to god and the alone
To offre to the a gyfte at my comyng whome

Whiche prayer ended with wepyng and langour
Beholde and consyde well with your godly ee
The infinite goodnes of our sauour
For like as to Moyses deuided the redde see
And the water of Jordan obeyed to Josue
Ryght so the depe riuer of Dee made diuision
The sondes dye appered in syght of them echone

The constable consydeyrnge / and all the company
This great myracle transcending nature
Prayled and magnified our lorde god almyghty
And blessed Merburge the virgin pure
They went into wales vpon the sondes sure
Deliuered their lorde from drede and enmite
Brought hym in safe garde agayne to Chestre cite

The sayd Wyllyam constable came to the monasterye
Thanked saynt Merburge with meke supplicacion
Fulpylled his promes made in extremite
Offred to the place the billage of Neuton
Afterwarde he founded the abbay of Norton
And where the host passed / ouer betwix bondes
To this day ben called the constable sondes

T Howe Matild, countesse of Chestre counsellyng her
husband, agaynst the monastery of Chestre was dow-
ned at Barlewe with many other mo. Cap. xix.

After the deceffe of Hug. Lupe prenominate
Richard, his son .vii. yeres of age
Was elect Erle by the kyng and creat
With counsaile gouerned his landes and heritage
At yeres of discrecion he toke in mariage
The lady Matild / nece to the first kyng Henry
Doughter to erle Stephan (sayth the history)

At his begynnynge he was a benefactour
A founder to the place by landes and possession
By franchises and libertes / ayde / helpe / and succour
Gyuen to the abbay / augmentynge the foundacion
Proued by his actes of singular deuocion
Endurynge long tyme / tyll that his lady
By wycked counsaile moued hym the contrarye

It is red in scripture howe quene Iesabell
Ambicious of honour agaynst all ryghtousnes
Peruerted her lorde Ahas / kyng of Israell
To sle Nabath for his vineyard doubtes
Also Athalia / the bible sheweth expresse
Commaunded to sle the kynges children all
That she myght regne sole pryncesse imperiall

Ryght to this Matild, clerely refusynge
The steppes of Sara / Rebecca / and Rachell
And other good matrons : but mutacion takynge
Of these wycked women Athali and Iesabell

Peruerted her husbände by her subtyll counsell
To aske of the abbot the maner place of Salton
With the appurtinaunce by famous opinion

Thabbot by counsell of his betherne all
Denyed to graunt their propre possession
The patrimony of Christ and their landes seuerall
To the sayd erle Richarde and his succession
Gyuen by his father at the first foundacion
For whiche thyng the erle and Matild, his lady
Hated thabbot / his betherne / and the monastery

The erle and his countesse went to Normandy
To viset their frendes and colyns naturall
So dyd the princis / their father kyng Henry
With many estates of the blodde riall
These princis fauored no saxon at all
The erle conominat in malice and hate
Agaynst the monasterie / as a man endureate

Satan sende forth his seruauntes in hast
To enfect the erles hert with venomous poison
The bedyls of Belial attempted full fast
The erle and his countesse / to kepe theyr opinion
Detractours flaterers cause of promocion
Trustyng therby to opteyne fauour and grace
Excited their myndes agaynst the sayd place

The erle sore attempted by his godly enemy
By wycked people callyng hym vpon
Namely by the counsell of Matild, his lady
Entended to alter and chaunge the foundacion
Werburge r. i

T Howe Matild, countesse of Chestre counsellyng her
husband, agaynst the monastery of Chestre was dow-
ned at Barlewe with many other mo. Cap. xix.

After the deceasse of Hug. Lupe prenominate
Richard, his son .iiij. yeres of age
Was elect Erle by the kyng and creat
With counsaile governed his landes and heritage
At yeres of discrecion he toke in mariage
The lady Matild / nece to the first kynge Henry
Doughter to erle Stephan (sayth the history)

At his begynnynge he was a benefactour
A founder to the place by landes and possession
By franchises and libertes / ayde / helpe / and succour
Gyuen to the abbay / augmentynge the foundation
Proued by his actes of singular deuocion
Enduryng long tyme / tyll that his lady
By wyched counsaile moued hym the contrarpe

It is red in scripture howe quene Jeshabell
Ambicious of honour agaynst all ryghtousnes
Peruerted her lorde Achas / kyng of Israell
To sle Nabath for his vineyard doubtes
Also Athalia / the bible she weth expresse
Commaunded to flee the kynges children all
That she myght regne sole princesse imperiall

Ryght so this Matild, clerely refusynge
The steppes of Sara / Rebecca / and Rachell
And other good matrons : but mutacion takynge
Of these wyched women Athali and Jeshab

Perverted her husband's trust: in vain
To aske of the alder the name: ~~of~~
With the appointment: ~~of~~

Chabbot by counsel: ~~of~~
Denyed to grant her: ~~name~~
The patronage of ~~the~~
To the lady's rich husband: ~~and~~
Given by his father: ~~at~~
for which thing the ~~rich~~
Doted thither his ~~rich~~

The rich and his ~~rich~~
To let their friends ~~rich~~
So had the young ~~rich~~
With many ~~rich~~
Their names ~~rich~~
The rich ~~rich~~
Against the ~~rich~~

Satan sende further
To infect the rich
The deeds of ~~rich~~
The rich and his
Detractions: ~~rich~~
Crushing ~~rich~~
Crush their ~~rich~~

The rich
By ~~rich~~
Faintly
Enter

2
iemy

roman
and hour
incertain
at langour
r.ii.

Of the sayd abbay to a nother religion
Confirmed the same sweryng most depely
At his whom comyng to Englande / from Normandy

Chabbot and couent knowyng this great perell
By speciall louers and frendes secretly
Were penyue and sorowfull (it was no meruell)
Their hertes plunged in wo and misery
By naturall reason hauyng no remedy
Consydering his malice encreased more and more
Agaynst the monastery / with wordes of rigour

They had their hope trust and confidence
In blessed Werburge their patronesse
With wepyng eies clere in conscience
They called her vpon in all their distresse
O glorious birgin lady and swete maistres
Mitigate the malice by thy benignite
Of Richarde our lorde / mekely we praye the

Suffre hym neuer to distroye thy place
By wyched consell malice and enuy
founded and dedicate by heuenly grace
In honour of god / and the specially
Protect / defende / and saue thy monastery
Thy landes / thy libertes / and thy seruauntes all
As thou afore tyme hast done continuall

In meane tyme the erle entended spedely
from thens to depart / and retourne agayne
To fulfyll his entent agaynst the monasterye
By the subtyll mocion of his countesse playne

A ship was prepared / all thyng redy certayne
The prince of England / the erle and his lady
Toke shipping at Barlewe and all their comp

Certaynly they sayled but a lytell space
Whan agaynst them roose a contrarie wynde
The mariners to gyde the ship had no grace
The stormes so great hiduous agaynst kynde
On a rocke they ranne / no remedy myght fynde
Incontinently the ship barst all in sondre
The erle and his feliship were turned all undre

No man ne childe scaped from deth that tyme
But one poze seruaunt whiche swamme to the londe
Suche was theyr fortune by sufferaunce diuyn
Many of theyr bedis were neuer fonde
Thus was their power made thrall and bonde
Theyr lyues were lost within a lort space
Whiche were cruell ennemyes vnto her place

On saynt Katharins day at after mydnyght
Whan matens were ended / and betherne gon
Some mournyng waylyng for drede full ryght
Some busie in prayer and contemplacion
Merburge appered to the secriffan alone
Sayenge : ye may be ioyfull in god and mery
Erle Richarde is drowned your mortall enemy

The same glad tidyng she wed an honest woman
Collyng at the churche doze the sayd day and hour
As she was commaunded by Merburge incertan
To thabbot and couent plunged in great langour
Merburge. r.ii.

(Whiche myracle herde) they prayed our sauour
And blessed Werburge / with hert deuoutly
Synngng Te deum full solemply

¶ Howe a great fire like to dystroye all Chestre by my-
racle ceased / whan the holy thyrne was borne about the
towne by the monkes. Cap.xx.

From the incarnation of our sauour
A thousand / a hundreth yere .lxxx. also
On sonday in mydleton / the .iiii. hour^e
Whan euery paretthen theyr church went to
As all christen people of dutie shulde do
A fyre by infortune rose up sodeinly
All flamyng feruent or the people dyd espy

This fearefull fire encreased more and more
Piteously wastynng hous / chambre / and hall
The citezens were redy their cite to succour
Shewed all their diligence / and labour continuall
Some cried for water / and some for hookes dyd call
Some bled other engins by crafte and policy
Some pulled downe howses afore the fire truly

Other that were impotent / mekely gan praye
Our blessed lorde / on them to haue pite
Women and children cried out and waile away
Beholdynng the daunger and perill of the cite
Prestes made half diuine seruike to supple
Redy for to succour their neyghbours in distress
(As charite required) and helpe their heurynes

The fire continued without any cessynge
feruently flamyng euer continuall
from place to place meruaylously rennyng
As it were tynder consuming toure and wall
The citezens sadly laboured in hayne all
By the policie of man was founde no remedy
To cesse the fire so feruent and myghty

Alas great heuynes it was to beholde
The cite of Trope all flamyng as fire
More pite of Rome cite was manyfolde
feruently flagrant / empeiryng the empire
As to the quantite the cite of Chestre
Myght be assembled this tyme in like case
To the sayd citees remedeles alas

Many riall places fell adowne that day
Riche marchauntes houses brought to distruction
Churches and chapels went to great decay
That tyme was bent the more part of the towne
And to this present day is a famous opinion
Howe a myghty churche a mynstre of saynt Michaell
That season was bent and to ruyne fell

When the people sawe their power insufficient
By diligent labour / wysdome and policie
To subdue the fire / but styl dyd augment
To almyghty god they dyd call and crye
And to saynt Werburge the gracious lady
for helpe and suscour in suche wretchednes
Weppynge and waylyng for woo and heuynes
Werburge. r.iii.

**Chabbot and couent of the sayd monasterie
Religiously lyuynge in holy conuersacion
Repleit with mekenes and seruent charite
Toke the holy thynne in prayer and deuocion
Syngyng the letanie bare it in procession
Compassyng the fyre in euery strete and place
Trustyng in Uerburge for helpe aide and grace.**

**When they had ended the holy letanye
From place to place procedyng in stacion
Anone a stremyng sterre appered todaynye
A white doue descended afore the congregacion
Approchyng as to helpe them / a signe of consolacion
The people reioyced of that gossly syght
And prayled saynt Uerburge with power and myght**

**So by the merite of this blessed birgin
The fire began to cesse / a myracle clere
That passyng the place / where the holy thynne
Was borne by the betherne / as playnly dyd appere
The citezens dyd helpe in their best manere
The seruent great fire extincted was in dede
By grace aboue nature / in story we may rede**

**The clergie the burges / and the comons all
Consyderyng the goodnes of this birgin bright
With tendernes of hert and loue in speciall
Magnified and prayled our lorde god almyght
And blessed Uerburge by day also nyght
Whiche hath preserued of her great charite
The stre from distruction in extreme necessite**

Unto her thynne the people all went
 The clergie before in maner of procession
 Thankyng this birgin with loue feruent
 For her mercy and grace shewed them vpon
 Deuoutly knelynge there made oblacion
 Sayeng full sadly / we shall neuer able be
 The place to recompence for this dede of charite

C A breue reherfall of the myracles of saynt Werburge
 after her translation to Chestre. Cap. xxi.

These foresayd myracles and signes celestiaall
 By diuine sufferaunce shewed manifestly
 Magnificen this birgin and blessed moyniaall
 With mycle worthyp honour and victoꝝ
 Playnly declaryng vnto your memoꝝ
 What singular grace / worthyp / and excellence
 Our sauour shewed for his spouse openly
 As is reherled at masse in her sequens

To expresse all myracles witten in the place
 In a boke nominate the thrid passionaꝝ
 It wolde require a longe tyme and space
 To the reders tedious (no meruayle sothly)
 Where we omytte to writte of them specially
 But touched in generall vnto your audience
 To reioyse and comfort your hertes inwardly
 As ye may conside in her sequens

Certaynly it is knowen by bokes expresse
 Sith that saynt Werburge came to Chestre cite
 By the power of god and myracle doutles
Werburge. r.iiii.

She hath defended the towne from ennemite
From barbarike nacions full of crudelite
Of whom we haue shewed with diligence
Preseruyng her seruauntes / and the monastery
As is declared in her true sequence

Also of her goodnes preserued she hath
The sayd towne from fire in extreme necessite
Many diuers tymes to their ioye and solace
Reluyng the citezens in wo and penalite
For it is well known by olde antiquite
Sith the holy thryne came to their presence
It hath ben their comfort and gladnes truly
As playnly appereth in her sequens

Also to blynde men she hath gyuen syght
To dombe men speche right perfectly
To desse men their helyng pleasaunt and right
And helth to sicke men repleit with debilitie
Delyuered prisoners from captiuite
Passage to lame men / to mad men intelligence
Suche myracles shewed this blessed lady
As ye may vnderstande in her sequens

Women with childe by her had good delyuerance
Virgins defended from shame and vilany
Her seruauntes were cured from woofull greuance
Marchantes and mariners delyuered from ieopardye
Other were saued from hangyng shamfully
A speciall comfort succour and defence
To all carefull creatures sekynge for remedy
By singular grace / as sayth the sequens

No wofull person in payne and wretchednes
Man woman childe / who so ever they be
Comynge to the abbay with perfit mekenes
Makynge supplicacion to this ladye free
But they departed ioyful and merie
To theyr dwellynge place by her benivolence
And for their lyuyng had all thyng necessarie
As witten is playnly in her sequens

for whiche great myracles and signes continuall
This blessed Werburge flour of humilite
Of the people is called for grace supernall
Patrones of Chestre / protectrice of the countre
Where next our sauour and his mother Marie
She hath great honour prayle and preeminence
As most condigne to beare the principalite
In witnes wherof recordeth her sequens

This holy abbasse and lady imperiall
Hath ben president in Chestre monasterie
Theyr trust / theyr treasure / and defence speciall
In mycle reuerence .vii. hundred yere trulie
And so shall continue by grace of god almyghty
To the worldes ende in his magnificence
To whom be honour worship and glorie
Euer to endure / as sayth her sequens

¶ A charitable mocion and a desyre to all the inhaby-
tauntes within the countie palatine of Chestre for the
monasterie. Cap. xxii.

Hye worthy nobles of the west partye
Considre in your mynde with hye discrecion
The perfitte goodnes of this swete ladye
We mean saynt Werburge nowe at this season
Whiche hath ben your helpe and singular tuicion
And so euer wylbe / haue this in your mynde
Whan ye to her call with humble supplicacion
Wherfore to the monasterye be neuer unkynde

Remembre / at the foundation of the sayd place
your predeceffours and forefathers redy were
To gyue for their soule helth by singular grace
Parcell of their landes and possessions mere
To our sauour and to saynt Werburge clere
Redy to offre them with humble hert and mynde
In perfit oblation with Hug. Lupe their foundere
Wherfore to the monasterie be neuer unkynde

Many helde their landes of the sayd monasterie
By tenure grand seriant / and some by homage
By tenur^r franke almoigne / other by fealtie
With seruice de chiualer^r / and some by escuage
Some by petit seriant / and by tenur^r burgage
As in their euidentes and grauntes they may fynde
Tres maners de rentes / with tenur^r billenage
Wherfore to the monasterie be neuer unkynde

The place hath speciall franchises and liberte
Hauynge certayne wardes of landes and mariage
Of diuers gentilmen within the sayd counte
All theyr tenauntes and seruauntes haue fre passage
Within all cheshyre without tolle and pillage

Suche auncient freedoms in their dedes they fynde
Gyuen by theyr founders for godly auauntage
Wherfore to the monasterie be neuer bnynde

The erle gabe the place many great freedoms
Within Chestre cite / whiche ben knowen of olde
With singular priuileges and auncient customs
Saynt Werburge faire / with profites manyfolde
That no marchandise shulde be bought ne solde
Enduryng the faire days (in wrytyng as we fynde)
But afore thabbay gate / to haue and to holde
Wherfore to the monasterie be neuer bnynde

Therfore lordes barons / ye rulers of the countre
We you now exhorte in our sauour
Discretly conside with your godlie eie
The myght of this mayden and chaste flour
Shewed by myracles euery day and hour
Whan she was required with true hert and mynde
In all busines she hath ben their protectour
Wherfore to the monasterie be neuer bnynde

Whan your forefathers haue ben in great perell
In ieoperdie of lyfe on see and on londe
Or like to be slayne by ennemies in batell
Or taken by war^e in prision fast bonde
Unto this birgin / as we understonde
Whan they called and cryed with contrite mynde
They escaped all daunger / cam whom safe and sonde
Wherfore to the monasterie be neuer bnynde

Marchauntes passynge with marchandise

From lande to lande truly entending
If they were taken with cruell ennemyse
Dreys were put in perill of perishing
If they to this birgin deuoutly praying
Maade supplicacion with humble hert and mynde
Anone they opteyned theyr humble askyng
Wherfore to the monasterie be neuer unkynde

If any of you be red with infirmite
With sekenes incurable / or other beracion
As wronges iniuries and other maladie
Unto saynt Werburge makyng intercession
And to her place promysyng an oblacion
With contrite hert and penitent mynde
They were soone cured from all affliction
Wherfore to the monasterie be neuer unkynde.

And you honest matrons remembre you all
The goodnes of this birgin full of grace
When ye in trauelyng vpon her do call
Or haue any relique sende from the place
Ye fortune and spede well in short tyme and space
And diuers maydens louyng a chaste mynde
From bilany ben saued by her purchase
Wherfore to the monasterie be neuer unkynde

But eche contray / shire / and congregacion
Some be disposed to bertues generall
And some to the contrarie moued by reason
Following their mynde and appetite sensuall
Haue shewed unkyndnes to the place spirituall
And haue ben soze punysshed / take this in mynde

**To all other folowynge and example speciall
Wherfore to the monastery be neuer bnhynde**

**Ther° was neuer man of high nor lowe degree
Lorde / baron / knyght / marchaunt / and burges
Attemptyng to infringe their rightes and libertie
Remaynyng in the same malice and wyckednes
But if they repent shortly theyr busynes
Askyng absolucion to theyr conscience blynde
Vengeance on them doth lyght doutles
Wherfore to the monastery be neuer bnhynde**

**Diuers malefactours agayne good conscience
Attemptyng to take there seuerall possession
By subtell policy and wrong feyned euidens
By proued periury and fals collusion
Whiche in theyr iniury and wronge mesprisyon
Without repentauns in theyr consciens blynde
Sodenly haue ben drowed a sharpe punycion
Wherfore to the monastery be neuer bnhynde**

**Other haue be glad to alienat the patronage
Of certayne churches by malice and enuy
By a fals enquest for theyr owne auantage
Defraudyng the right of the holy monastery
Suche euill doers remaynyng in theyr tyranny
Without satisfaccion in their consciens blynde
Lyke wretches expired mosse myserably
Wherfore to the monastery be neuer bnhynde**

**Other haue ben besy serching day and nyght
To infringe theyr fraunchis and fridome auncient**

By fals recordes oppugnant to ryght
As hath ben proued by persones indifferent
yet they haue procured and sought wronge iugement
Agaynst their libertes in conscience blynde
Sodayne and euyll deth folowed them consequent
Wherfore to the monasterye be neuer bnynde

Some other haue be parauenture on late
Studious to disquiet the place the company
And diuers libertes haue alienate
Also tolled their franchis fraudulently
from the sayd place well knowen in memory
Suche mysdoers we moue in conscience blynde
To maende their wronges lest payne come sodelynly
Wherfore to the monasterie be neuer bnynde

Suche malefactours confide nat discretly
Howe all suche landes libertes and fredoms
Were gauen to Christ and ben his patrimonye
And nat allonly to religious persons
for all suche fraunches priuileges possessions
Of charite were gauen of pure conscience and mynde
To god and saynt Werburge with great deuocions
Wherfore to the monasterie be neuer bnynde

Nowe for to make a small conclusion
We well perceyue in auncient bokes olde
All suche transgressours / holdyng their opinion
Obstinate in malice indurate and bolde
Some haue ben slayne / some drowned in water colde
Some shamefully hanged rebukynge their kynde
Some wretchedly departed / some cruciat martyrholde
Wherfore to the monasterie be neuer bnynde

C A litell orison or prayer to the blessed birgine saynte
Merburge by the translatour of this werke. Ca.xiii.

Blessed Merburge and birgin glorious
Descended by auncetrie of blod victoriall
Doughter to kynge Gulfer^o / and Dmenild^r vertuous
O sufferayne lady and famous moinall
With hert and true mynde on the I call
Thou art my succour / my helpe in all distress
Defende and saue me from peynes infernall
By thy meke prayer swete patrones

O rutilant gemme clerer than the cristall
O redolent rose repleit with suauite
Whiche for the loue of thy spouse eternall
Refused hast all bayne pleasures transetore
Honours / riches / and secular dignite
Howe regnyng in heuyn as a quene doutles
Praye for thy seruaunt to the lord of mercy
Mekely I beseke the swete patronesse

O sufferayne lady full of singular vertue
Myndyng most religion from thy infancy
Elect to the a spouse our sauour Jesu
Professed obedience at the house of Ely
Where thou obserued the sensuals the
By grace aboue nature playn to expresse
Optyne me power to haue victory
Ageynst myn ennemyes swete patrones

O floure of birgins and comly creature
Syngyng with angels in the heuenly toure

Tranſcendyng the ſaphir and diamounde pure
In worſhip praiſyng beaute and decur
What tong can reherſe thy ioy and honour
Whiche is ineffable for man to expreſſe
Beſeke thy ſpouſe our bleſſyd ſauour
To graunte me mercy ſwete patrones

For thy great vertu and hie diſcrecion
Cholen thou waſt a pyler here to be
Of diuers monaſteryes to encreate religion
By thy goſtly doctryne and humilite
Ex ample thou gaue of perfit charite
Unto thi ſubgettis as a kynde maiſtres
Helpe me thy ſeruaunt of thy benignite
To pleaſe my maker ſwete patrones

No maruell it waſt thought thy ſubgettis all
Were vertuouſ and perfect in contemplacion
Under ſuche a ruler a hed and principall
Whoſe goſtly example and exortacion
Were correſpondent accordyng in one
Thy precept and deed were bñit with mekenes
In this bale miſery be my protection
I humble the require ſwete patrones

Glorious abbaye and floure of chaſtite
Carboncle ſhenyng bothe day and nyght
All this region by thy noble progenie
And by the is decorat vnder god almyght
The preſens of thy bleſſyd body right
Reioiſith thy ſeruauntis in all diſtref
Thou art our refuge and lanterne of light

Succour thy seruantes swete patrones

O perles princes lady imperiall
O gemme of holynes and noble president
Comfort to all creatures in paynes thrall
Relouyng all secke feble and impotent
A myrrour of mekenes to euery pacient
Whose myracles magnificen thy great goodnes
Defende thy seruaint from greuous turment
By thy supplicacion swete patronesse

O noble sufferayne and singular protectrice
Of thy true subiectes by speciall grace
In all necessite a sure mediatrice
From greuous oppression preseruyng thy place
A lanterne of lyght in eche wofull case
To illumine thy people plunged in heuynes
With great consolacion and gostly solace
Nowe lyghten our conscience swete patronesse

Swete louely lady mekely I the praye
For thy great mekenes and perfect charite
Make thou intercession both nyght and day
For thy true seruantes vnto the trinite
That we may opteyne here grace and mercy
And of our synne to haue forgyuenes
Afterwarde to come to eternall glorie
Helpe nowe and euer swete patronesse

¶ A breue cōclusion of this litell werke vnto the reders
by the translatour. Cap. xiiii.
Uerburge f. i.

With trembling penne and hand full of dede
In termes rude translate nowe haue we
The noble hystorie of saynt Werburge in dede
Besekyng all them for their good humanite
Whiche this litell proces shall beholde and se
For to adde and minishe and cause refozmacion
Where nede requireth after your discrecion

At her lyfe historiall exaruple may take
Euery great estate / quene / duches / and lady
To encrease in bertue / and synne to forsake
To obserue mekenes and prayer deuoutly
With pacience of hert / and almedede truly
If thou be widowe / her lyfe well folowynge
Thou mayst be sure in blis to haue a wonnyng

If thou be religious / wearyng blacke besture
Take good exaruple at this holy abbasse
Her lyfe wyll teche the how thou shalt endure
In holy religion / opteynyng mycle grace
With mekenes / meditacion / mesure in eche place
And howe thou shalt kepe thy sensualls thre
Consideryng in heuen thy rewarde to be

If thou be a birgin of hie or low degre
Takyng imitacion of this birgin bryght
Thou mayst well obserue the floure of chastite
And thy spouse shall be the lorde most of myght
On whom if thou attende redy day and nyght
Thou shalt haue merite as recordeth scripture
With .v. wise virgins after thy departure

The cause mouyng vs this werke to begyn
It was to auoyde slouth and idelnes
And most for the loue of this holy virgin
Whiche is our sufferayn lady and patrones
As for bawdy balades full of wretchednes
And wanton wyld geftis / we purpose none to make
For drede of losyng tyme / clothed in besture blake

Go forth litell boke / Jesu be thy spede
And saue the alway from mytreportyng
Whiche art compiled for no clerke in dede
But for marchaunt men / hauyng litell lernyng
And that rude people therby may haue knowyng
Of this holy virgin / and redolent rose
Which hath ben kept full longe tyme in close

To all auncient poetes litell boke submytte the
Whilom flouryng in eloquence facundious
And to all other / whiche present nowe be
fyrst to maister Chaucer / and Ludgate sentencious
Also to preignaunt Barkley / nowe beyng religious
To inuenture Skelton and poet laureate
Praye them all of pardon both erly and late

If there be any thyng within this litell boke
Pleasaunt to the audience / contentyng the mynde
We praye all reders / whan they thereon do loke
To gyue thanks to god maker of mankynde
Nat to the translatour ignoraunt and bynde
For euery good dede / done in any cost
It cometh allonly of the holy gost.

Werburge.

f.ii.

Almyghty god both one two and thre
 We desire the with humble supplicacion
 Saue holy church of thy benigneite
 And all ministres in holy religion
 Preserue the kyngis grace the Peeris the region
 Defende our monasterie and thy seruantes all
 And graunt vs by grace to come to blis eternall
 Finis.

A balade to the auctour.

O thou disciple of Cully most famous
 Nowe flourishyng in the floures of glorious eloquēce
 Like as appereth by your stile sacundius
 Full worthe laude praye and preeminence
 Put forth your werkes full sure of sentence
 Whose auctour / what though vncertayne be his name
 Of all the reders exalted shalbe in fame.

Alas why shulde this delicious werke
 Thus surely sette by pured science
 To be examined by my rudenes all derke
 Whiche knowe full well myn insufficiēce
 Sith I haue lerned by longe experience
 That dulled age in werkes of poetry
 Must nedes gyue to poetes place and victory.

Glorious god and kyng eternal
 We magnifie thy name as is but ryght
 Sith thou gaue to vs a floure most riall
 Redolent in cronicles with historicall syght
 Whiche nowe is departed from this temporall lyght
 The present pere of this translacion
 An. D. riii. of Christis incarnation
 Cuius anime propicietur deus.

An other balade.

**O frutefull hystore / o digne memoriall
Embawmed with doctrine of vertues infinite
With termes exquisite / and sence rectoriall
To spirituall hertes a singular delite
Fragrant and facunde / of englische exquisite
Hollome in doctrine / for those that it desire
Auaunce you to rede it / for it is exquisite
folowynge theeffect to kepe you from hell fire**

**Reioyse Chestre / reioyse ye religious
And thanke your maker of his beniuolence
That hath you gyuen suche treasure precieuse
Aduocatrice / in your most indigence
O virgin werburge / of double excellence
Conserue thy seruantes dayly familier
Preseruyng them from inconuenience
The for tensue / that art theyr lode sterre**

**Amonges the whiche to thyn honour
One of thy clientes / with morall retorique
Hath chaunged newly / o mayde most swete flour
Thy legende latine / to our language publique
Preserue his soule / and make hym domestique
Within the heuyns / in whiche that thou art sonke
With deth prevent / he myght nothyng replique
Harry Bradeshaa of Chestre abbay monke**

**O cruell deth / o thesse vindicatye
To persons vertuuous ennemy mortall
Of this good clerke thou hast abbregeed the lyfe
Preuentynng hym with thy dede stronge fatall**

yet in despite of thy most venomous gall
He hath translate this legende profitable
And left it for holosome memoriaill
To all his sequaces / a gyft most couenable

With polysthed termes / and good sence litterall
No place there boyde / but vertue abundeth
Theffect is manifest : for science ouer all
Rethorically thy sentence groundeth
All vices surely it confoundeth
She wyng the legende of this mayde pure
Her shenyng lyfe eche where redoundeth
Suche steppes solowng / we hope in them tendure

An other balade to saynt werburge
With hert contrite accepte my supplicacion
Apyng my fraylete and lyfe vacillaunt
Renegate and contumace in all obstinacion
Betwapt with all synne / detestable and recreaunt
Troughsafe to supplie Jesu and geat graunt
Remission to haue of my synnes generall
Griuous and thrall / that I may the auaunt
A gentill Werburge / to thy doctrine me call

Wherefore thy father / thy mother Ermenild,
Enclined both to dedes catholique
Ruffine and Kenrede / thy betherne were fulfilld,
Both with great grace / through martyrdome both like
With diuers of thy hymne magnifique
Redact in the catholique papall
Geat me suche grace to boyde all synnes inique
And gentill Werburge to thy doctrine me call

With faithfull clemmes / thy soule was sure preserved
Euer contynuyng in doctrine celicall
Refusyng vanite / from vertue neuer swarued
But in all grace remaynyng principall
Unto thy deth exhortyng great and small
Ruled to be / to the preceptes diuine
Gouerned by grace / were thy disciples all
A gentill Werburge call me to suche doctrine

Wordly felicitye abiect from my courage
Envy and pride / with lustes voluptuous
Rancorous cupidite myn hert soze do aswage
Byng oymntmentes sanatiue for my sozes dolorous
Unclose thy succours / and be beniuolous
Redy to be preferuyng me from pyne
Gouerne my lyfe from all actes daungerous
And gentill Werburge call me to thy doctrine

Be nowe beniuolent / whan I shall on the call
Unto thy slaue / as my trust hath ben sure
Lewe vnto me for a memoriall
Knowlege effectuall of thy lyfe pure
Luyng ther after / and so tendure
Euer in purite my lyfe to contynue
yeldyng thankes for thy most hollosme lurre
Christ ouer vs holde his hande / al vices teschue. Amē.

¶ And thus endeth the lyfe and histoye of saynt Wer-
burge. Imprinted by Richarde Pynson / printer to the
kynges noble grace / With priuilege to hym graunted
by our souerayne lorde the kyng. A. M. D. xxi.



GLOSSARY.



INDEX.

GLOSSARY.

This Glossary is not intended so much to explain, as to exhibit in a tabular form those words now nearly obsolete which were in use at the time the poem was written.

A.

ACCEPTE, accepted, 80.
ADRED, alarmed, 160.
AGO, agone, gone, 116.
ALBE, (tunic?) a white vesture ordered to be worn by the clergy in administering the eucharist, 154.
ALIENAT, alienated, 203, 204.
ALLOONLY, all only, only, 174, 204, 209.
AMPLIAT, enlarged, 148.
ANENDES, anent, in reference to, 100.
AT AFTER, after, 95, 193.
ATTEMPTED, tempted, 191.
ATTEMPTEN, plural of attempt, 100.
AUDACITY, courage, 2.

B.

BEFOUND, found, 8.
BEN, be, are, 1, 75, 111, 117, 134, 151, 186, 189, 202, 204.
BENESON, benediction, 90.
BESKEK, beseech, 189.
BESELY, busily, 1.
BESYNES, business, 2.
BORDE, "high board lord," those seated at the upper table at a feast, 60.
BOTH TWO, both the one and the other, 15, 57, 58.
BOWNE, bent, prepared, 162.
BRENNED, burned, 34, 39, 49, 139, 141.

BRENT, burnt, 60.
BRUTES, uncivilised people, 149, 152.
BROWDED, embroidered, 60.
BUXUM, obedient, 1.
BYFORNE, before, 38.

C.

CADUCE, frail, feeble, 115, 118.
CANABY, canopy, 146.
CARLE, churl, clown, 38.
CELEBRATE, celebrated, 146, 181.
CELICALL, heavenly, 213.
CEMETERIE, 151, 184.
CESSE, to stop, verb act. 195.
CHERE, countenance, 102.
CHEST, coffin, 125.
CIRCUMFULCED, surrounded by brightness, 76, 150, *circumfulgeo*.
CLERKE, educated persons, 4, 209.
CLYPPED, called, 32.
COMEN, plur. of come, 128, 144.
COMPULACYON, computation, 5.
CONDIGNE, worthy, 199.
CONGREGATE, congregated, 188.
CONOMINAT, akin, 191.
CONSECRATE, consecrated, 93.
CONYNGE, skill, 134.
CORONATE, crowned, 115, 144, 147, 158, 175, 176, 181.
CORPORACE, corporate, a linen cloth spread under the chalice and paten at the eucharist, 154.

GLOSSARY.

COST, charge, also, side, 177, 182.
COSTY, a son coté, on his side, 164.
COSYNS, kinsmen generally, 25, 170, 171, 191.
COTIDIAN, daily, 80, 143.
COUNCEYLED, concealed, 45.
COUNTERED, encountered, 9.
COVETISE, covetousness, 2.
CREATE, created, 2, 190.
CREATURE, creator, 1, &c. &c.
CRUCIATE, tormented, 101, 166, 204.
CRUELITY, cruelty, 198.
CUBICLE, bedchamber, 1, 77.
CUP, "to sit between the cup and the wall," probably a common term for a drunkard, 2.
CURE, a care or charge; as of a parish, &c. 54, 87, 107.

D.

DAN. master. 185, 186, from Dominus.
DARING, suffering pain, 98, from dare, pain. *Bailey's Dict.*
 Dredefully daringe, i. e. slinking along for fear, as if they would hide themselves, from view.
 "The dere, in the dellun,
 They droupen and daren."
Anturs of Arthur at the Tarnowathelan.
 "In this dale I droupe and dare.
 For dern dedes that done me dere."—*Minst.*
 "Now or thai darend all for drede,
 That war before so stout and gay."—*Ibid.*
 "Blotir," to squat, skowke, ly close to the ground like a daring lark, or affrighted fowle.—*Cotgrave.*
DECORATE, decorated, 75, 96, 120, 126, 206.
DECAUR, 146, decur, 206, honour.
DEDICATE, dedicated, 104.
DEPAYRED, decayed, 125, deperir, *Fr.* disperdere, *Lat.*

DEROGATION, damage, 173.
DESCRYBEN, plur. of describe, 8.
DESCRYPCYON, for destruction, 97.
DESIDERY, desire, 56, 108.
DESSE, high desse, seat of state, 61.
DEVOYRE, devoir, respect, 25, 58, 126.
DIGHT, clothed, 144.
DOLOUR, grief, 167.
DO WAY, begone, put aside, 67, 83.
DONE, plur. of do, 67.
DYFFERRE, defer, delay, 30.
DYGNE, worthy, 109, 152, 211.
DYLATED, magnified, published, 9, 75, 96, 150, 168.
DYLECTACYON, delight, 27, 155.
DYSPENT, spent, 94.
DYVERSITY, dissension, 89.
DYVYDENT, dividing, 8, 10.

E.

EDIFIED, built, from edifier, *Fr.* 151, 153, 158, 177.
ELECTE, elected, 85, 93, 159, 190.
ELEVATE, raised up, 48, 125, 126, 161.
EMPAIRED, injured, 160.
EMPEIRYNG, inflaming? 195.
ENDURATE, hardened, cruel, 159, 191.
ENFORCE, strengthen, 34.
ENORMENTES, ornaments, 154, 156, 165, 180, 184.
ENOWNED, inurned, environed, 127.
ENQUIRED, for required, 80.
ENSUING, pursuing, 41; during, 177.
EQUIVALENT, of equal power, 11.
EQUIVALENT, proportional, 167.
EXPULSE, expel, 6, 88, 111, 121, 142, 151, 152, 177.
EXTINCTED, extinguished, 196.

F.

FACUNDE, 211.
FACUNDIOUS, eloquent, 209, 210.

GLOSSARY.

FEMINITY, womanhood, 61.
FERE, 76; in *fere*, 11, 59, 164, together in company. See Chaucer, *Cant. Tales*, v. 4748, 4814. Ang. S. *foera, fera, socius*.
FERRE, *far*, 63.
FISNAMY, physiognomy, 103, 126.
FLOURES OF EXPERIENCE, of approved worth, 5.
FLOURYNGE, flourishing, 9, 23, 34, 135, 181, 209.
FOLLOWEN, follow, 97.
FRAGYLL, light, vain, 81, 103.
FRAGYLTE, light conduct, 69.
FRAYLTE, inconstancy of mind, 3.

G.

GALWAY SCOT, Scotch from Galloway, 173.
GALWEDY, Galloway, from mediæval Latin word, Gallovidia, 162.
GATE, road, at no gate, no where, by no means, 89.
 — got, begot, 11, 12, 13, 14, 91, 118.
GAUNTES, Gannets, or any geese, 97, 98.
GEAF, perhaps from gavel, progenies masculine; vide Skinner in *voc. forens*. Geaf therefore seems here to mean male descendant; of his eldest son Shem descending plain, i. e. in Saxon's tongue, *geaf*, 14.
GEAT, get, 212.
GLEBE, earth, soil, 9; vital glebe, mortal body, 129.
GOET, Goths, 173.
GOTES, Goths, 140, 162. Goets and Gotes, being used in connection with Danes, probably means Goths; but as they are also used with Galway and Galwedy, they may refer to the Manxmen, who at one time possessed Galloway.
GRAFFE, graft, shoot, 75.
GUERDON, recompence, deserts, 84.

H.

HAD UPON, placed upon, 49.
HALLYNGE, aulseum, hangings, 61; "An hallynge, auleum, anabatrum, *Versus*. Vela vel aulsea cortinæ sunt anabatra." *Catholicon anglicanum MS.* Dict. indited, dated 1483.
HALL, usually a large tent for warlike uses, seems to mean the complete set of hangings for a chamber. Thus Margery Argentine in 1427 bequeaths "a steyned hall."—*Rokewode's Suffolk*, p. 290.
HARNEYS, armour, 9.
HASE, have or hast, 117, &c.
HE, for she, 23.
HOLLY, holily, 95.
HUMANYTE, courtesy, 25.
HYGHT, named, 15, 16.
HISTORIALL, historical, 10, 15, 208.

I.

ICHE, each, 112.
IERARCHYSES, Hierarchies, 61, 115.
INFORTUNE, misfortune, 194.
INSTRUCTE, instructed, 75.
IN SYGHT, in presence, 83, 161.
INTERIOUSLY, internally, 183.
JUTES, people of Jutland, 6.

K.

KYNDE, course of Kynde, course of nature, 98, 106, 193.

L.

LAD, one of low condition. Lad to wed a lady is inconvenient, 38.
LAYTH, probably lightening, akin to laye, or lowe, a flame, 138.

GLOSSARY.

LEED, laid, buried, 19.
 LENT, dwelling, abiding, Sax. word, Lenge.
 to dwell, 98, 119.
 LETTEN, let, permitted, 183.
 LETTYNGE, obstructing, 187.
 LEVE YE ME, believe me, 32, 84.
 LEVER, rather, preferred, 76.
 LOSE, destroy, 39.
 LOVERS, friends, 47.
 LUSTY eloquence, vigorous, 37.
 LYCENSE, leave, farewell, 65, 78, permis-
 sion, 6, 36, 43, 99; 136, 152, 158, 186.
 LYGHTNESSE, nimble, quick, 114.
 LYST, like, desire, 135.
 LYEN, plur. of lye, 11.

M.

MACHORYTE, anchorite, 103.
 MACULATE, defiled, 104, 126.
 MAGNIFIEN, magnify, 169, 197, 207.
 MAKEN, make, 134.
 MARGARYTE, pearl, or flower, daisy, 16.
 MAY, maiden, young woman, 27.
 MEAN, intercession, 172. "Meene, or me-
 dyatowre, *mediator*."—*Prompt. Parv.*
 "Woman that is meane for any man.
advocatte.—*Palsgrave*.
 MEDE, reward, 13, 17, 18.
 MEDLED, mingled inconveniently, 117.
 MEMORALL, memorable, 8.
 MEMORATIVE, memorable, 41, 153.
 MEMOROUS, memorable, 6, 11, 104, 185.
 MENDES, amends, 47.
 MERCYABLE, pitiful, 95, 102, 175.
 MINISSE, diminish, 208.
 MONYALL, recluse, nun, 4, 81, 115, 145,
 168, 197, 205; monialis, *Lat.* moniale,
Fr.
 MOYNES, nun, 55, 59, 68, 80, 93, 130;
 moinesse, *old Fr.*
 MUTATION, taking the contrary course, 190.
 MYCLE, much, great, 144, 145, 146, 153,
 157, 172, 174, &c.
 MYNISTERS, servants, waiters, 64, 94.

N.

NAT, not, 135, &c. &c.
 NAY, it is no nay, there is no denying it,
 134.
 NE, nor, 54, 83, 100, 102, 117, 148.
 NOMINATE, named, 20, 22, 87, 88, 93,
 &c. &c.
 NOMYNTON, nomination, mention, 7.

O.

OBSERVEN, plur. of observe, 1.
 ODIBLE, odious, 138.
 OE, before, 95, 169, 172, 194.
 ORDINANCE, direction, preparation, 62.
 ORELS, or else, 36, 38, 147, 202.
 OUT OF PRESENCE, out of sight, 41.

P.

PARAGE, parentage, 69.
 PARESSEN, parishioners, 194.
 PASSING, surpassing, 23, 27.
 PAYNYMS, pagans, 140, 141.
 PAYNT, flatter, 2.
 PENALITY, punishment, 174, 198.
 POLLERS, plunderers, 89.
 POLLUTE, defiled, 129.
 POLLYNGE, pillaging, 139.
 POLYTYKE, sagacious, 20.
 PRENOMINATE, forenamed, 139, 190.
 PREORDINATE, predestined, 143.
 PREPARAT, prepared, 1, 62, 114.
 PREPOTENT, very powerful, 14, 76, 182.
 PRETENDED, foreshewed, portended, 28.
 PROGENY, progenitors, 38.
 PROLONGING, postponing, 33.
 PROMISSION, permission, 129.
 PROMYTT or promyt, promise, 178, 189.
 PROMYTTYNGE, 163, 166.
 PROMOTERS, informers, 89.
 PRYCE, prize, preeminence, 9.

GLOSSARY.

PRYME, daybreak, 40.
PRYMATE, supreme governor, 1, 4.
PUDICALL, chaste, modest, 142.
PULCHRYTUDE, 30.
PYGHT, pitched, set up, 162, 181.
PYNE, sorrow, 213.
PYNNE, confine, 98. "Pynnyne, or put yn a pynfold, intrudo, detrudo." *Prompt. parv.* Ang. Sax. pyndan. includere.

R.

RECIDIVATION, relapse, 150.
RECOURSED, ran back again, 42.
REDACT, 212, from redactus, collected; gathered into the general body.
REPUTED, rejected, cast aside, 57.
REGALTY, regality, royalty, 16.
RIQUE, 121, 124, 127, 143, 144, 146, 153, 202.
REMANENT, remaining, 152.
REPAIRED, repaired, 180.
RESEMBLED, reassembled, 119.
RESOLUTION, decay, resolving to original state, 123, 125, 129.
RESOLVE, dissolve, melt, 54, 129, 130, 142.
REVESED, revested, clothed again, 127.
REWARDED, rewarded, 84.
ROBORATE, corroborate, confirm, 91.
ROWME, place, rank, 56.
RUDE, uneducated, 127.
RUTILANT, glittering, brilliant, 128, 145, 205.
RYVED, rife, frequent, 140.
RYDDE, quit, relieved from, 109.

S.

SAD, saad, sayd. Sedate, discrete, 2, 23, 24, 27, 29, 38, 69, 81, 149, 155, 173.
SADNESS, discretion, 51, 57, 69.
SANCTYMONIAL, holy person, 96.
SAPYENTLY, wisely, 37.

SAUTYNGE, assaulting, 163.
SAYNE, plur. of say, 14.
SEGREGATE, separated, 159.
SENDE for sent, 10, 148, 149, 152, 156, 165, 183, 188, 202.
SENSUALS, essentials, 205, 208.
SEQUACES, successors, 212.
SEQUENS, 197. The name of a particular kind of service book. Lat. med. *Sequentarius*, *sequentialis*. "Sequences" were chanted between the lessons at mass.

"Fist mainte sequance et mainte hymne."

SEYN, Sitting, Synod, 90.
SHALMES, musical instrument, 63.
SOTHE, truth, 2.
SPYRE, spike, tendril, 60. Corn spires when the flowers are forming. "Spyre of corne or herbe, hastula."—*Prompt. Parv.* "Spyre of corne, barbe du ble."—*Palsgrave*.
 In the Wickliffe version, Isaiah 35 7. "Grenenesse of rehed and Spier schal growe in denpes in whiche dwelliden dragouns bifor" and Isai. 18. 2. "Papyrus is a kynde of spier so great that bokis mowen be maid thereof." In a curious treatise on herbs, &c. Arund. MS. 42. "Pliny says, c. 81. ther is calamus scriptoris, swuche a stable as scryueners written with, and that is a reed spere; for by olde tyme, ar us of penne were fowndyn men wryten with *reedspyre*, &c. p. 55. 6.
STABLE, steady, firm, 27, 32.
STREETS, the milky way, 28: In German it is termed "die Milch-strasse"—as Phœbus surpassed other planets or stars, so doth, &c. perhaps, however, the word is a misprint for "starres."
STUDY, "stode styll in a study," mused in perplexity, was in a brown study, 98.
SUFFERAUNT, suffering, patient, 92.

GLOSSARY.

- SUING**, ensuing, following, 61.
SUPERNALL, from above, 41.
SUPPLE HER ROWME, supply her place, 93.
SUPPLIE, supplicate, 212.
SURGES, wax tapers, 144, 154, Fr. cierges, "cereus cereolus, serge." Vocab. Lat. Eng. Roy. MS. ix. c. xvii. "Ceroferarius, a bearer of serge." Harl. MS. 2257.
SYKERNES, security, 50.
SYTH, since, 4.
- T.
- TAMYSMOUTH**, mouth of Thames, 139.
THRALL, bondage, 99, 113, 115, 117, 193, 207, 212.
 — v. imprisoned, 115, 183.
THO, those, 25, 58.
TIMOROUS, occasioning alarm, 162.
TOLLYNG, knocking, pulling, 193.
TORTUOUS, torturing, 171.
TOYNES, tunes, (Prologue of J. T.)
TRANSCEND, pass over, 189.
TRANSLACYON, removal, 124, 128, 146, 159, 185.
TRANSLATED, removed, 11, 79, 124, 128, 153, 157, 181. converted, changed, 48, 49, 86, 97.
TRAYNE, trap, 39, 43.
TROW YE, think ye, 83.
TUYCYON, government, 5, 51. protection, 111, 136, 145.
TUMYLATE, buried, 26, 108, 126, 158.
TWYN, tine, loss, sorrow, 160.
- U.
- UKNOWINGE**, unknown, 99.
- UNKYNDE**, unnatural, unhealthy, 167.
UNNETH, scarcely, 46. Saxon adv.
URE, use, 64; Ure for use occurs in writers about the age of Bradshaw.
USING HIM, conducting himself, 87.
- V.
- VALAUNCE**, valour, 9.
VARNAUNT, verdant, 23, 104, 129.
VENARE, **VENERY**, hunting, 8, 149.
VENGEABLE, revengeful, 39.
VERAY, verily, 100.
VIRGINALL, virginlike, 23, 68, 110.
VOLUPTÉ, voluptuousness, 81.
VYLAYNE PEOPLE, of no rank, 36, 38.
- W.
- WANDELES**, Vandals, 140.
WETE, know, 82.
Wis, e wis, I know, 156.
WHOME, home, 189, 192, 201.
WHYLOM, formerly, 3, 4, 20, 21, 117, 136, 147, 209. Idleness whylom, former idleness, 3.
WODELY, madly, 163.
Woo, woe begone, sorrowful, 68.
WROKEN, from wreke, revengeful, 39.
- Y.
- YCHEON**, each one, 113.
YERLE, early, 165.
YLNES, evil, or idleness, 28.
YMPE, graft, scion, 75.
YOURE, yore, long ago, 60.

INDEX.

- Abbey of S. Werburge founded by Anselme, 183: Richard, a monk of Bec, ordained first Abbot, 183: foundation confirmed by Rufus, 184: endowed with many gifts, 184: fortified, 184: secular priests and canons dismissed, 183, 185: replaced by religious monks, 183, 185: exhortation to become benefactors to, 200.
- Abbey gate, fairs to be held there only, 201.
- Abraham and his sacrifice depaynted on arras, 60.
- Adam and Eve depaynted on arras, 59.
- Adda brought by Peada to preach in Mercia, 18.
- Adeldryde of Kent, virgin, 15.
- Adelhere of East England, 13.
- Adelwlf, King of West Saxons, 140.
- Adla, King of Southsex, 6.
- Adoulfus, King, defeated the Danes, 139.
- Agatha, St., in arras, 62.
- Agnes, St., in arras, 62.
- Albans, St., monastery founded by Offa, 10, 153.
- Aldulph, King of East Anglia, great uncle to Werburge, 13, 69: present at marriage of his niece Ermenylde, 25: at feast of Werburge's profession, 59: brother of St. Audry, 59, 73, 74: assists her in building a church of our lady at Ely, 73.
- Alfryde, son of Oswy of Northumberland, 17: married Keneburge, 17.
- Alfrydus, 5, 138. Alfredus, Alredus, Aluredus, see Alredus, Biog. Dict. born at Beverley in Yorkshire, a secular priest, canon and treasurer of St. John's, Beverley. Wrote a History of Britain from the settlement of Brutus! to the year 1126, in which year he died. Hearne published an edition of his History, at Oxford, 1716, with a preface.
- Alle, King of Northumberland, 7.
- Alnot, servant to Werburge at Wedon, 101: cruelly treated by her bailiff, 101: who is miraculously punished by a distortion of his head, but afterwards healed, 101, 102: murdered by thieves, buried at Stow besyde Bukbrydge, miracles displayed on his account, 103. Wilson, in the first edition of his English Martyrology, states that a festival in honor of Alnot was observed on the 24th of February, but in his second fixes the 25th of November as the day of solemnity.
- Alve, 90, Alvechurch in the diocese of Worcester.
- Alured or Alfred, reigned in 875, 153, 154, 155, 159: crowned in London, 147: divided his riches into 4 partes, poor, religion, scholars, church-building, 147: divided his day into 3 parts,

INDEX.

- 8 hours to read and pray, 8 to business naturall, i. e. food and sleep, 8 to government, 147 : descriptive quotation from Henry of Huntingdon, 147 : St. Werburge's shrine brought to Chester in his reign, 153.
- Ambrose, St., in arras, 62.
- Angels, nine orders angelical. Speculative persons in former times divided the angels into nine orders or choirs, but were not always agreed about their precise number or their respective ranks. The titles were Seraphim, Cherubim, Archangels, Angels, Thrones, Principalities, Powers, Dominions, Virtues. These again were divided into three Hierarchies. Represented on arras, 61 : take charge of the soul of St. Werburge, 115 : sung at the birth of King Edgar, 177.
- Anlaf, King of Ireland, slain by Ethelstan, 176.
- Anna, King of East England, A.D. 639 : ancestor to Werburge, 13 : character, 74 : his descendants, 13, 69, 75 : married Hereswith, 13, 69, 74 : subdued by Penda, 17 : slain in battle, 13, 75 : martyr, 13.
- Anselm, 137 : visits Chester, 182 : at the desire of Hugh Lupus, 183 : founds an Abbey there, 1093, in honour of S. Werburge, 183 : expels secular priests and canons, replacing them with religious monks, 137, 183, 185 : ordains Richard, a monk of Bec, in Normandy, to be the Abbot, 183 : returns to London and made Archbishop of Canterbury, 184.
- Antoninus, Archbishop, 154. The Archbishop here intended was Athelredus, who held the See from 871 to 889.
- Apolyn, St., in arras, 62.
- Arras "depaynted with pycles and hystories manyfolde," bought by Wulfer to decorate the Hall at Ely, where he gave a solemn festival upon St. Werburge's Profession, 59 : description of the subjects depaynted, 59 et seq. : subjects peculiarly sacred placed "over the hye desse," 61 : displayed at Chester in honour of Werburge's shrine, 146.
- Arthur, King, 150, in arras, 62.
- Ashdum, Battle at : Kenwalcus, King of West Saxons defeated there by Wulfer King of Mercia, 20.
- Audry, called in some chronicles Edeldri-tha and Etheldreda, Lady Abbess of Ely, great aunt to Werburge, 13, 56, 65, 69, 79 : receives Werburge with great state, 57 : sister of Aldulph King of East England, 59 : history of, 69 : called Etheldred, 69 : born in Suffolk, at Ex-myng, 69 : character and description, 69, 70 : marries Tombert of East England, 71 : living both mayde and wife, 71 : receives Ely as dowry, 71 : retires there as widow, 71 : sued by Egbryct King of Northumberland, 71 : marries him or Egfyde? 71 : lives Queen, wife and maid, 71, 72 : retires to Can-wood Abbey, 72 : and there professes, 72 : retires to Ely, 72 : visited miraculously, 72 : elected Abbess, 73 : built a church there, 73 : founds a new monastery 673, 73 : endows the Abbey, 73 : dies 679, 9th Cal. July, i. e. 23rd June, 74, 79 : succeeded by Sexburge, 79 : translated, i. e. her body removed, after 16 years, whole and incorrupt, 79.
- Austin, or Augustin, sent to England by Pope Gregory, A. D. 594, 10 : baptized Ethelbryct King of Kent, first Christian king of Saxons, 14, 76, 152 : represented in arras, 62 : founds a monastery at Ely, 73 : returns thanks at Chester in Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, 152 : summons the monks at Ban-gor to convert the Saxons, 152.

INDEX.

- Bangor monastery, 152 : contained nearly 3,000 monks, 152 : summoned by Austin to convert the Saxons, 152 : refuse to obey, 152 ; many of them slain by King Ethelfride, 152.
- Baptism ; of Ethelbryct, 14, 152 : introduced into Mercia, 17 : into East England, 20 : of Wulfade, 42.
- Baptismal regeneration, 42, 109.
- Bardenay, Lincolnshire, retirement of Ethelred, King of Mercia, 88. Body of St. Oswald removed from thence to Gloucester, 158.
- Barkley, 209.
- Basilius, St., in arras, 62.
- Basyngrwerke, 188.
- Battle between Penda and Oswy near York, 18.
- Battle at Ashdum, 20 : Wynwed, 18 : Trent, 87.
- Bayliffe of Werburge maltreats Alnot her servant, is punished by her with distortion of his head, &c., afterwards healed by her, 101, 102.
- Beasts, instruments for mannes salvacyon, 41.
- Beccy, brought by Peada to preach in Mercia, 18.
- Bede, venerable, 5, 6, 17, 18, 19, 40, 69, 92, 152.
- Benedict, St., and his convent, in arras, 62 : his rule adopted by St. Werburge, 73.
- Beorswyde, wife of Hereric, King of Deiram, mother of St. Hylda, 12.
- Bernulphus, King of Mercia, defeated by the Danes in 851, 140.
- Berta of France married to Ethelbryct of Kent, 15.
- Berthwaldus, Archbishop of Canterbury, 91 : from 692 to 732.
- Birth. The three births of man. Nativity, Baptism, Burial, 109.
- Bishops' Sees removed from boroughs to " famous towns " by William the Conqueror, 181.
- Boniface, Pope, 90, 91. Constantine, a Syrian, was elected to the chair of St. Peter on the 25th day of March, 708, and died April 9th, 715, he took the name of Boniface.
- Bricticus, King of West Saxons, 138 ; at time of Danish invasion, 138.
- Britons, expelled to Wales in 689, 6 : by Offa, 10, 152 : and confined them there by his Dyke, 10 : first called Welshmen, 159 : their inveterate hate of Saxons 159 : permitted to reside in Chester, till the time of Offa, 152.
- Bryges, Bruges, Saint Ethelburge buried there, 13.
- Brystowe, *Bristol*, 7.
- Buckbridge, 103 : more properly Bugbrook in the deanery of Daventry, Northamptonshire.
- Burdred, King of Mercia, cousin to St. Werburge, 142 : resided at Repton, 141 : reigned 22 years and then expelled by the Danes, 142 : retired to Rome, 142 : buried there, 142.
- Caerleon, built by King Belinus, 147 : a Bishop's See to all South Wales, 147 : called Wenedocie, 147 : made an Archbishop's See, 150.
- Caeruska a name of Caerleon, 147 : built by Belinus.
- Cain and Abel depaynted on arras, 59.
- Canterbury. See removed to Lichfield, 10, 153 : oppressed by the Danes, 139.
- Canwood Abbey, i. e. Coldingham in Berwickshire, 72 : retirement of St. Audry, 72.
- Carlisle founded by King Leil, 148.
- Ced or Cedda, brought by Peada to preach in Mercia, 18 : made Bishop of Lichfield on recommendation of Archbishop Theodorus, 21 : and Coventry, 40 : was Archbishop of York during the absence

INDEX.

- of Archbishop Wilfride, then lived in retirement, 40 : till at the request of Wulfer, King of Mercia, he was made Bishop of Lichfield in 669, he died, 672, protects a hunted deer, 40 : miraculously converts Wulfade and Ruffyn to Christianity and baptises them, 41, 42 : performs a miracle, hangs his vestures on a sunbeam, 48, 49 : reconverts Wulfer to Christianity, 48.
- Cerdicus, first King of West Saxons, A. D. 521, 6.
- Charitas, St., in arras, 62.
- Charlemagne in alliance with Offa, 153.
- Chaucer, 209.
- Cheshire, west part of Mercia, praised for valour, 9.
- Chester, Werburge's body received there, 136 : second foundation of monastery, i. e. secular canons replaced by monks, by Hugh Lupus 137. Shrine of St. Werburge conveyed thither by the Convent of Hambury to escape from the pollution of the Danes, 143 : received, A. D. 875, with great pomp and ceremony and song of welcome, 144 : converted to Christianity at desire of Lucius, A. D. 156, and two doctors sent by Pope Elentherius for that purpose, 149. Daily sacrament administered at Church of St. Peter and Paul for three hundred years, 151.
- Chester: Abbey, p. 4, 131 : extent of, 137 : City, 7, 131, 136 : Bishopric, 21. St. John's Church built by Ethelred King of Mercia, A. D. 689, 86. Shrine of St. Werburge brought to Chester, 131, 136, 143, 153. Abbey church founded, 131. Minster founded, 131, 156 : re-edified by Leofric, 137, 180 : transferred from secular canons to monks, 137 : miracles performed there, 136. Chester miraculously saved from the Welsh, 131, 160 : from fire, 137, 196 : plague, 137 : reception of her shrine, 144 : called Caerleon, 148 : or City of legions, 149, 178 : said to be founded by Leon Gaur, 148 : or rather by King Ieil, 148 : by the Romans, 148 : fortified by Marius, 148 : called city of the legions, now Cestria from Caestria, 149 : the Capital and See of North Wales, 149. Character and description, 149 : commended for its early faith, 150. First church founded in second century dedicated to St. Peter and Paul, 151 : mother church of the city, 151, 153 : was the cemetery for the city and seven miles round, 151. The true faith remained at Chester as the faith of Peter never failed at Rome, 151. Britons permitted to reside in Chester till expelled by Offa, 152. Several churches built in the city, 153. St. Peter and Paul's church enlarged by Elfede, daughter of Alfred, 155 : and made a Minster, 155, 156 : Edmund, her nephew, recorded as founder in St. John's church, 156. Secular canons and prebends established at the Minster, 156. Chester re-edified and fortified, A. D. 908, by Elfede, 157 : Walls enlarged, having been injured by Ethelfrede, King of Northumberland and by the Danes, 157. Castle enclosed, 158 : besieged by Griffinus, King of Britons, 159, 160 : saved by Werburge's shrine, 160 : attacked by Danes and Scots, and again saved by the shrine, 163 : flourished till the coming of the Normans, 180. St. John's church repaired by Earl Leofric, 180 : Minster re-edified and endowed by the same, 180. Bishopric removed from Lichfield to Chester, 181. Great fire, A. D. 1184, (194) : quenched by shrine of St. Werburge, 196.
- Chester, a city of Mercia, 7.
- Christianity preached in Mercia, 18, 43 :

INDEX.

- in Britain, 149, 150 : remained pure at Chester, 151.
- Church. St. John's Chester, curious record there, 156 : built by Ethelred King of Mercia, 689, 86 : repaired by Leofric Earl of Chester, 180. St. Peter and St. Paul's, Chester, founded, 151 : the cemetery of the city and seven miles round, 151 : the mother church, 151, 153 : St. Werburge's shrine placed there, 153 : great offerings made there, 154 : enlarged into a minster by Elfede, daughter of Alfred, 155, 156 : her nephew Edmund recorded in St. John's church as the founder, 156. A new church "in the myrdea of the cite," built instead to the honour of these apostles, 157.
- Church, interference in electing a king, 85.
- Claudius, Emp., sends troops to Chester, 148.
- Cochede, misprint for Coelred, cousin of Werburge translated the body of Werburge from her tomb to a shrine, 11, 124, 125, 128. Colrede or Coelred, 87 : succeeds his cousin Kenred as King of Mercia, 92.
- Colbrond, the giant Dane, killed by Guy, Earl of Warwick, 176.
- Colchester, chief city of Essex, 7.
- College. Pontifical Court, 90.
- Constable's Sands, where the Constable William miraculously passed through the Dee, on the dry sands from Hillbre Island to Wales, 189.
- Corpwaldus, of East England, 13.
- Coventry. Abbey founded by Leofric, 180 : freedom of the city obtained by his lady Godith, 180.
- Council, general, held by Kenred King of Mercia, 90 : description, 91 : at London, 181.
- Cryda, first King of Mercia, 7 : father to Wybba and Quadriburge, 11, 12 : ancestor of Werburge, 11.
- Cup. "Some to sit between the cup and the wall," 2.
- Cyely, St., in arras, 62.
- Danes, invasion by, 128, 131, 136, 138, A. D. 851, with 300 ships, 140 : prognosticated by marvellous signs A. D. 786, 138 : permitted as punishment for sin, 139, 140 : spoil Holy Island, 139 : Tynmouth, 139 : persecuted England 230 years, from Adewulf, King of West Saxons, till the coming of the Normans, 140 : arrive in the Thames A. D. 851, 140 : also in 866 destroy Trentham and Wedon, 142 : oppress Kent, 142 : Isle of Wight, 142 : West marches, 142 : injure Chester, 157 : defeated seven times by Edward the elder, 155 : thrice defeated by Athelstan, 176 : slay St. Edmund, King of East England, 141 : burn monasteries, churches, &c. 141.
- David portrayed in arras, 61.
- Dee river, divides England and Wales, 7, 160 : waters divided for the Cheshire troops to pass through, 189.
- Deer, a wild, miraculously obedient to St. Cead, 42.
- Deiram, south part of Northumberland, between the Humber and Tweed, 12.
- Doctors, four, 135. St. Athanasius, St. Basil, St. Gregory Nazianzen and St. Chrysostom.
- Domveve, wife of Marwalde of Mercia, 17 : Dorchester, Bishopric, 21.
- Dove, and flaming star appear with shrine of St. Werburge to put out a fire at Chester, 196. Dove miraculously breaks a rope and saves a man from hanging, 170 : cures a broken leg, 174.
- Dover destroyed by the Danes in 851, 140.
- Dragons flying in the air forebode the Danish invasion, 786, 138.

INDEX.

- Dress, exhortation against vanity and ex-
pence of, 66.
- Dunstan hears angels sing at the birth of
King Edgar, 177.
- Duyna, brought by Peada to preach in
Mercia, 18: he was consecrated Bishop
of Lichfield, upon its erection into a See,
656: and died, 659.
- Eadbald, King of Kent, 15, 22, 76: mar-
ries Emma of France, ancestor of Wer-
burge, 15.
- Eadburg of Kent, Saint, daughter to Ethel-
bryct, first christian king, 15.
- Eadfyde, son of Edwyn, King of North-
umberland, 12: ancestor to Werburge,
12.
- Eagida thrice cured of lameness by St.
Werburge, 161.
- East England, fifth kingdom of Heptarchy,
Offa first king, 7: account of its princes,
13: Isle of Wight annexed to it by
Wulfer King of Mercia on condition of
the king's baptism, 20.
- East Sea. East of Mercia, 8.
- Ebba, Saint, Abbess of Canwood, 72.
- Edelfed, daughter of Oswy, King of
Northumberland, offered to "God om-
nipotent," 19: sent to St. Hylda at
Whitby for instruction, 19.
- Edgar, crowned at Kyngston aged 16,
176: named meek, 176: angels heard
to sing at his birth, 177: happiness of
his reign, 177: character, 177: builds
forty religious places, 177: expels se-
cular priests from monasteries, 177: es-
tablishes a fleet, 177: annual progress
through the land, 177: visits Chester,
137, 178: rowed on the Dee by eight
kings, 178: visits shrine of St. Wer-
burge, 179: compared to Romulus, Cy-
rus, Charlemagne and Hector, 179.
The Latin eulogy is taken from Henry
of Huntingdon.
- Edisbury, built by Elfede, daughter of
Alfred, 158.
- Edmund, King of East England, slain by
the Danes in 866, 141.
- Edmund, sole monarch, reigned five years,
176.
- Edred, sole monarch, 176.
- Edward the elder, 131, 137, 155, 159,
175: crowned A. D. 901, defeated the
Danes seven times, 155: gives Mercia
to Ethelred (or Ethelbert) his brother-
in-law, 155.
- Edward, confessor, 179.
- Edwyne, King of Northumberland, 15,
74: marries Ethelburg of Kent, 15.
- Edwyn, sole monarch, 176.
- Edwyn, King of Northumberland, marries
Quadriburge of Mercia, ancestors to
Werburge, 12: subdued by Penda, 16.
- Egbryct of Kent, 16, 76: reigned ten
years, 16: uncle to Werburge called by
mistake uncle to Emenylde his sister,
25: at feast of Werburge's profession,
59.
- Egbryct of Northumberland, 71: sues St.
Audry, 71: marries her? 71. Egbryct
is probably a mistake of the author or
printed for Egfyde, who according to
the chronicles was second husband to
St. Audry, who is called Etheldritha
and Etheldreda.
- Egfyde of Northumberland marries St.
Audry, 71: invades Mercia, 87: subdued
by Ethelred of Mercia, 87.
- Egnicius of East England, martyr, 13, 74:
subdued by Penda, 17.
- Egwyn, Bishop of Worcester, 86, 89:
persuades Ethelred to build Evesham
Monastery, 86. Legend of Egwyn, 89:
visits Rome, 90.
- Egypt, plagues of, embost in arras, 60.
- Elentherius, Pope, A. D. 156, sends two
doctors to christianize Britain, 149.
- Elfede, daughter of Oswy, King of Nor-
thumberland, wife of Peada, King of
Mercia, whom she murders, 19.
- Elfede, daughter of Alfred, wife of Ethelred,

INDEX.

155. enlarges St. Peter's and Paul's, Chester, 156: converts it into a minster, and fixes there secular canons and prebends, 156: dedicates an oratory to the Trinity and St. Oswald, 157: re-edifies and fortifies Chester, A.D., 908, 157: enlarges the walls, 157: encloses the Castle, 158; rules Mercia after the death of her husband, 158: repairs, Stafford, Warwick, Thornwort, and Shrewsbury, 158: builds Runcorn and Edisbury, 158: translates St. Oswald from Bardeney to Gloucester, 158; builds St. Peters at Gloucester, and is buried there, A. D. 919, 158. Epitaph from Henry of Huntingdon, 158.
- Elijah, fed by ravens, 41.
- Ella, King of Southsex, 6.
- Ely. 13. Monastery, 51: selected for residence by St. Werburge, 51: her reception there by St. Audry the Abbess 57: given by Tombert as dowry to St. Audry, 71: with muddy waters composed about, 71. Church there built by St. Audry, 73. Monastery founded by St. Austin, 73: new monastery founded by St. Audry, 673, 73. St. Audry, Abbess, 73. Sexburge, her sister, retires to Ely and afterwards is elected Abbess, 79, 80. Ermynylde retires to Ely and succeeds her mother Sexburge as Abbess, 81: miracles performed there, 82, 83.
- Enswyde of Kent, saint, great uncle to Werburge, 15.
- Emma of France, wife of Eadbald, King of Kent, 15.
- Erchenwyn, first King of Essex, oft brought to ruin by King of Mercia, 6, 7.
- Ercombert, King of Kent, grandfather of St. Werburge, 16, 22: marries Sexburge of East England, 12, 13, 15, 76: character, 15: commands Lent to be observed, 16, 77: promotes religion, 77: dies, having reigned 24 years, 78, or 30 years, 16.
- Ergar, for Edgar, visits Chester, 137.
- Erkengode of Kent, aunt of St. Werburge, a nun, 16, 76: professes at Bruges, 77.
- Ermenberge of Kent, virgin, spouse of Jesus, 15.
- Ermenburge of Kent, virgin, spouse of Jesus, sister of preceding, 15.
- Ermengyde of Kent, 15.
- Ermenred of Kent, great uncle to Werburge, married to Ossava, 15.
- Ermenricus, King of Kent, reigned in 535, great grandson of Hengist, 14: father of Ethelbryct first christian King, 14.
- Ermenylde, wife of Wulfer, King of Mercia, 11, 12: mother of St. Werburge, 12, 13, 16, 35, 76: marriage, 16, 22, 24: character, 23, 24, 25, 33, 76, 80, marriage solemnity, 24: pedigree, 22: severely reprimands Werbode for seeking Werburge in marriage. 35, 36, &c. after the death of Wulfer retires to Ely monastery, 80: succeeds her mother Sexburge as Abbess of Ely, 81: dies, Idus, (i. e. 13) feb. 82; buried at Ely, 82: and enshrined, 82: miracle performed at her tomb, 82, 84.
- Essentials of Religion, three; wilful poverty, chastity, obedience, 65, 88, 96, 108, 139, 185, 205.
- Essex, fourth kingdom of the heptarchy; first King, Erchenwyn, 6: oft brought to ruin by King of Mercia, 7: chief city, Colchester, 7.
- Ethelbryct of Kent, 76: reigned in 555, 14: baptized by Austin, 14, 76, 152: first christian King, 14, 22, 76: founder of many religious establishments, 14, 76: married Berta of France, 15.
- Ethelbryct of Kent, great grandson of the preceding, martyr, 15.
- Ethelburge of East England, 13, 69, 77;

INDEX.

- great aunt to Werburge: buried at Bryges, 13. Abbess of Bruges, 77.
- Ethelburg of Kent, Saint, wife of Edwyne King of Northumberland, 15.
- Etheldrede of Kent, martyr, 15.
- Ethelfride, King of Northumberland, alays disobedient monks at Bangor, 152: ruins Chester, 157.
- Ethelrede, 155: husband of Elfede the daughter of Alfred, receives Mercia from his brother-in-law Edward, 155.
- Ethelred, son of Penda, 11, 17, 74: uncle to Werburge, 17: marries Ostryde daughter of Oswy King of Northumberland, 87: present at feast of Werburge's profession, 58: succeeds Wulfer, 79, 85: as Regent, elect of his peeres, permytted by his church, 85: converted by Werburge, 85: made her president of all monasteries, 85, 122: gave her lands, &c. for church building, 86: builds St. John's church, Chester, 689, 86: gave ground for building Evesham monastery, 86: oppresses Kent, 87: subdues Egfryde of Northumberland, 87: after the death of his wife Ostryde, having reigned twenty-nine years, he resigned his crown by the counsell of St. Werburge, 87: and retired to Bardenay and became Monk, 88: afterwards made Abbot, 88.
- Ethelstan, son of Edward the elder, 137: crowned at London, 175. In the fourth year of his reign, A.D. 872, Guy of Warwick kills Colbrond, 176. He thrice defeats the Danes, 176: slays Anlaf King of Ireland, 176: character, 176. A Latin eulogy taken from William of Malmsbury, 176.
- Ethelwod of East England, 13.
- Eusam, *see* Evesham.
- Evesham monastery built on ground given by Ethelred King of Mercia, 87: endowed with eighty-four tenements by Kenred King of Mercia, 89: obedient to the Pope alone, 90, 91: a Council formally confirms this dedication, 91: repaired by Leofric earl of Chester, 180.
- Eustace, St. converted by a Hart, 41: his festival was kept on the 20th day of September.
- Exmynge in Suffolk, birth place of St. Audry, 69.
- Festival on Werburge's profession described, 59: the company, 58, 59. arras described, 59, 60, 61. conversation, 63. music, 63. minstrells, 63.
- Fair of St. Werburge, Chester, merchandise to be sold only before the Abbey-gate, 201.
- Finanus, Bishop, baptizes King Wulfer, 20, 33: preaches Christianity in England, 43.
- Fledde, King of Essex and Middlesex, married Ricula sister to Ethelbryct first christian King, 14.
- Funereal ceremonies, 116.
- Gautes, 97, 98. This name is usually given to Pelecanus Bassanus, Soland Geese, Gannet, but in early authors seems to be applied generally to any description of wild goose. Gantzæ, anseres sylvestres, Ducange. It is somewhat remarkable that St. Milburge is pourtrayed holding a church in her hand and chasing geese.
- Geaf, 14.
- Geese, wild, miraculously impounded by St. Werburge, 97: one, roasted and eaten, restored to life, 100.
- Giraldus, a Briton. Giraldus Cambrensis, 86.
- Gloucester. Body of St. Oswald removed from Bardenay to St. Peter's at Gloucester, 158. Elfede daughter of Alfred buried there in 919, 158.

INDEX.

- Godfather.** Wulfer, godfather to King of East England, 21. St. Cead, priest and godfather to Prince Wulfade "for want of company," 42.
- Godith, or Godiva, wife of Leofric, Earl of Chester, 180: obtains freedom of Coventry, 180.**
- Goet, 173. Danes from Gothland or Jutland.**
- Gregory, the great doctor, in arras, 62.**
- Gregory, Saint, sends St. Austyn to England, A.D. 594, 10.**
- Gregory, Pope, sends Augustin to England, 594, 10.**
- Griffinus, King of the Britons, 159: besieges Chester, 159, 160. One of his soldiers smote with a stone the shrine of St. Werburge which was placed upon the walls for the defence of the city, he immediately expired with hideous pain, 160. Griffinus and his host were smitten with blindness and depart from before the city, 160.**
- Gyrarde, 5. Q. Giraldus Cambrensis?**
- Guy, Earl of Warwick slays Colbrond the giant Dane, A.D. 872, in the fourth year of the reign of Ethelstan, 176.**
- Hambury situated in the northern division of Offlow in the county of Stafford. Monastery built and endowed by Werburge, 86: her residence, 159: under her rule, 122: burial place of Werburge, 107, 120, 123, 131: the recluses ordered to attend at her death and take charge of her body, 107. They remove the body from Trentham, where she died, during a miraculous stupor inflicted on the residents there, 119. The tomb there, 127. The shrine of Werburge removed thence to Chester to escape the Danes, 131, 142. Miracles performed there, 159.**
- Harold, King of Danes, 162: besieges Chester, 163: repelled by the Shrine of St. Werburge, 163.**
- Harold defeated by William the Conqueror, 181.**
- Hector death of, in arras, 62.**
- Hedda or Headda, Bishop of Lichfield at the time of the translation of Werburge's body, 22 July, 708, 128.**
- Hengist, fourth in descent from Woden, 14: accompanied by Saxons, Angles and Jutes, i. e. people of Jutland, came to England, A. D. 449, to the assistance and at the invitation of Vortiger, 6: became first King of Kent, 6, 14.**
- Heptarchy, 6.**
- Hereric, King of Deiram, marries Beorswyde, father to St. Hylda and Heryswith, 12, 74.**
- Hereawyth, daughter of Hereric, King of Deiram, 12: wife of Anna, King of East England, 13, 74: mother of Sexburge, St. Audry, St. Ethelburge, St. Withburge, St. Jurwyne and King Aldulph, 13.**
- Hezechiah, portrayed in arras, 61.**
- Heirarchies, and the threes, 61, 115, see Angels.**
- Helburghec, Island, 188. William Constable of Chester by help of Werburge passes his army dryshod from thence to Wales to rescue Richard Earl of Chester from the Welsh, 189.**
- Hingwur, a northern King invades England in 866, 141.**
- Holy Island, spoiled by the Danes, 139.**
- Hoo, a village in Kent: miracles performed there, 104: an oak-tree opens and receives Werburge to protect her from violence, and remains to this day vernaunt, fresh, green and clere, and a test of purity, 104. Hoo a parish in the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the dio-**

INDEX.

- cese and deanery of Rochester is distinguished from others by the name of Hoo St. Werburgh, as the church was dedicated to that saint. Laurence, Bishop of Rochester, appropriated this church, with the chapel of All Saints, to the prior and convent of Rochester.
- Hoole heth, 162. Harold the Dane and Malcolm of Scotland draw up their army there against Chester, 162.
- Hubba, a northern King invades England in 866, 141.
- Hugh Lupus, nephew to the Conqueror, 181, 190 : receives Cheshire from him, 182 : to hold by the sword, and call parliaments, 182. Conquers Cheshire after three defeats, 182 : government of his Earldom, 182 : invites Anselm to visit Chester and found an Abbey there, 1093, 183 : endows it with many gifts, books, &c. 184, 185 : forms a cemetery in it and protects the whole with strong walls, 184 : dies 27 July, A.D. 1102, 185 : succeeded in the Earldom by his son Richard, 185.
- Humber, North of Mercia, 8 : with the Mersey divides Mercia from Northumberland, 8.
- Humility, twelve degrees of, 96, 113.
- Hylda, Abbess and foundress of the Abbey of Whitby, 12, 74 : daughter of Hereric of Northumberland and Beorswyde, 12.
- Joshua leading the Israelites in pycture on arras, 60.
- Ida, King of Northumberland, 7.
- Idolatry, destroyed, 20, 25, 33, 49.
- Jerom, St. in arras, 62.
- Jerumannus, Bishop of Lichfield, 21 : baptizes Wulfer, 20. He was made Bishop of Lichfield, 664 : and died 669 : first bishop of East England, 43 : preaches Christianity in England, 43.
- Joseph, History of, depaynted on arras, 60.
- Judith, a lady cured of barrenness, 164.
- Julius Cæsar, sends troops to Chester, to subdue Ireland, 148.
- Jurwyne of East England, great uncle to Werburge, martyr, 13, 69.
- Jutes, Danes from Jutland, 14.
- Katherine, St. in arras, 62.
- Keneburge, daughter of Penda, 11, 17 : Aunt to Werburge, 17 : buried at Peterborough, enshrined, 11 : married Alfryde of Northumberland, 17 : at feast of Werburge's profession, 58.
- Kenneswyde, virgin, daughter of Penda, 11, 17. aunt to Werburge, 17 : buried and enshrined at Peterborough, 11 : at feast of Werburge's professoin, 58.
- Kenrede, brother of Werburge, 12, 26, 85 : confessor, 26 : buried at Rome, 26 : King of Mercia, 88, 89 : character of him, and his engagements, 89 : endows Evesham with eighty-four tenements, 89 : visits Rome, 90 : calls a general council to confirm the obedience of Evesham to the Popedom, 90 : resigns his crown to his nephew Coelrede, 92 : revisits Rome, A.D. 708 : becomes Monk, professes the order of St. Benedict, 92 : dies 92.
- Kent, Kingdom of, earliest of the heptarchy, their first King, Hengist, A.D. 455, 6 : account of, 14 : united to Mercia by Wulfer, 25 : oppressed by Ethelred of Mercia, 87 : oppressed by the Danes, 142.
- Kenuherus of East England, a noble man of fame, 13.
- Kenwalcus, King of West Saxons, defeated by Wulfer, at Ashdum, 20.
- Kingston, Edgar crowned at, 176.
- Kyneswith, wife of Penda, King of Mercia, grandmother to Werburge, 11, 17.
- Ladies, exhortation to, 66.
- Laurence, St. in arras, 61.
- Leeds, Battle near, 19, 33.

INDEX.

- Legend. The true legende, 5, 24, 27, 97, 101, of Egwyn, 89.
- Legendary, The sweet, read by Werburge, 96.
- Legions, two cities of, Caerleon in Monmouthshire, 147, and Chester, 148.
- Leil, King, founder of Chester, 148, and Carlisle, 148.
- Lent ordered to be observed, 16.
- Leofric, Earl of Chester, 179: repairs and endows the Minster at Chester, 137, 180: and several churches, 180: founded Leonence monastery, 180: and Wenlence, 180: repaired Evesham, 180: founded Abbey at Coventry, 180: made the city free, 180: repaired college of St. Johns, Chester, 180.
- Leofwin, Duke of Mercia, father of Leofric, 179.
- Leonence, monastery founded by Leofric, Earl of Chester, 180.
- Lichfield. See of Canterbury removed to, 10, 153. Bishopric, 21: removed to Chester, 1075. 181.
- Lillies, used as crowns for Virgins, 62.
- Lincoln. Bishopric, 21: attacked by the Danes, 141.
- Literature, Prologe to the second book, a poem in praise of, 134.
- Lleon gauer, reputed founder of Chester, 148: a giant, builder of caves and dungeons but no goodly buyldyng propre ne pleasaunt, 148.
- London, 8: oppressed by the Danes, 139, 141: made an Archbishop's See 150.
- Lothary of Kent, 16, 74, 76: reigned twelve years, 16: called erroneously uncle to his sister Ermenylde, 25.
- Lucius, King of Britain, A.D. 156, 149: introduces Christianity into Britain, 149: "ordeyned" 28 Bishops and 3 Archbishops, at London, York, and Caerleon in South Wales, 150.
- Lucy, St. in arras, 62.
- Lupus, Hugh, 137: transfers the monastery at Chester from secular canons to Monks, 137.
- Lydgate, 209.
- Lyndesy, monastery for fifty Monks by Wulfer, 21.
- Maccabees, Story of, in arras, 61.
- Marceyl, or Mersellyn, son of Penda, 11, 17: uncle to Werburge, 17: at feast of Werburge's profession, 58.
- Margaryte, 16. Qu. name or quality? Saint, in arras, 62.
- Marius, King of the West partie, fortified Chester, 148: slewe Reodric, King of the Picts, 148: and calls his territory Westmarilande after his own name, 148.
- Marriage commended and enjoined upon Werburge by her father Wulfer, 51.
- Martin, St. in arras, 62.
- Marwalde, or Merwalde, son of Penda, 11, 17: uncle to Werburge, 17: married Ermenberge princess of Kent, 11: or Domvere, 17: father of three holy virgins, Myldred, Mylburge, Mylgyde, at feast of Werberge's profession, 58.
- Matilda, niece to King Henry I. Countess of Chester, 190: wife of Earl Richard, son of Hugh Lupus, 190: compared to Jezabel, and Athaliah, 190: incenses her husband against the monastery of St. Werburge, for refusing to give him the Manor of Sallon, 191. For this iniquity she and her husband were shipwrecked and drowned, at the same time with William, son of Henry I. 193.
- Matrimony commended, 52.
- Maucolyn, King of Scotland, 162: besieges Chester, 163: repelled by the Shrine of St. Werburge, 163.
- Mercia, 5. Mercyens, 5. History of, 5, 11. Sixth kingdom of Heptarchy, Cryda first King, 7: continued 300 years, under *eighteen* Kings, 7: des-

INDEX.

- cription of, 7 : derives its name from Mersey River, 8 : enlarged by Penda, 8. Cities and towns of, 8. Productions of, 8, Valour of the people, especially of the west part, 9 : introduction of Christianity, 17, 18 : rebels against Oswy, King of Northumberland, 19 : crowns Wulfer, 19 : divided originally into three parts, 20 : united under Wulfer, 20 : largest province in England, 21 : account of, 21 : contains five bishoprics, 21 : united to Kent by Wulfer, 25 : invaded by the Danes, 141 : given to Ethelrede by Edward the elder, 155 : after his death governed by his widow Elfrida, 158.
- Mereum**, cousin to Werburge, died in baptism, " taken by miracle expresse to the blys of heven," 11.
- Mersey River**, North of Mercia, 8 : with the Humber, divides Mercia from Northumberland, 8 : the name of Mercia derived from it, 8 : flows between Cheshire and Lancashire, 8,
- Minstrels engaged at high Festivals**, 63.
- Minster at Chester**, originally a Church dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, receives the shrine of St. Werburge, enriched with great offerings and then enlarged and converted into a minster, a new church being built instead in the midst of the city and dedicated to the two above named Saints, 156, 157 : re-edified and endowed by Earl Leofric, 180.
- Miracles**. A Hart obedient to S. Cead, 42 ; a glorious light conceals the mass from Wulfer, 48. St. Cead hangs his vesture on a sunbeam, 48, 49 : performed at Stone, 50. By St. Werburge's sanctity, 68 : by St. Audry's 72. Angel appears to St. Sexburge, 78 : body of St. Audry found incorrupt after 16 years, 79 : at tomb of Ermenylde irons fall from a prisoner and spring up on the altar, 83. Schoolmaster punished and relieved, 84 : shewed towards Werburge, 85 : of Werburge, 96, 97. Wild geese pounded at Wedon, 97 : a roasted and eaten goose restored to life, 100 : the head of her bailiff distorted by her and restored, 101, 102. Her veil hanged on a sunbeam, 103 : miraculous oak at Hoo, 104. Werburge cures all manner of diseases, 105 : miraculous powers after death prayed for by Werburge, 113. Angels take charge of her, 115 : sweet odours rise from her body, 116 : miraculous sleep of the watchers of St. Werburge's body at Trentham, 119. Locks and barras of Trentham Abbey fall down without mans hands, 119. at tomb of Werburge, 120, 121, 153, 159. Werburge after 200 years voluntarily resolves her body to dust, 129. at Chester, 137 : of Werburge, next to those of the Virgin Mary, 143. performed at Wedon, 159. Hambury, 159 : first miracle shewed for Werburge after her translation to Chester, 159. Chester saved by her shrine, 160. Soldier struck it with a stone and is struck dead, 160. British army struck blind, 160 : compelled to return from siege of Chester, 160 : at another time a soldier for similar offence becomes mad and dies, and the enemy retires, 162. Lady cured of barrenness, 164. Pregnant woman cured of insanity, 166. Woman cured of blindness, 167 : six halt, lame and blind and many others cured, 168. A man hanged, twice restored to life, 170. Corn preserved at Upton from horses, 172. Broken leg cured, 173. Dee divided as the Red Sea, 189. Eagida thrice cured of lameness, 161. St. Werburge, and an honest woman, appear at the monastery of

INDEX.

- Chester to announce the death of Earl Richard, 193. Fire at Chester put out by shrine of St. Werburge, 196: of St. Werburge recapitulated, 197.
- Monasteries and Religious houses founded, 10, 15, 49, 50, 77. Peterborough Abbey founded, 49. Stone Priory, 50. Ely, 73. Trentham, Hambury and Wedon, 86. Evesham, 87. St. Albans, 10.
- Moses and busche flammynge depaynted on arras, 60: also receiving the two tables on Mount Synaye, 60.
- Music invented by Tuball and Tubalcain, 59.
- Mylburge, virgin, cousin to Werburge, 11.
- Myldred, virgin, cousin to Werburge, 11.
- Mylgyde, virgin, cousin to Werburge, 11.
- Nicholas, St. in arras, 62.
- Noah, comforted by a dove, 41: and his shyppe depaynted on arras, 59.
- Norfolk, subject to Offa, 7.
- Northumberland, 7th Kingdom of Hephtharchy under Ida and Alle, previously two kingdoms, chief city York, 7. Account of its princes, 12.
- Norton Abbey, founded by William, Constable of Chester, in memory of his miraculous passage dryshod from Hilbree Island to Wales, 189.
- Oak at Hoo, 104: preserves St. Werburge, a test of perfyte lyfe, 104.
- Oblacions required for restoration to health, 121, 124.
- Offa, first King of *East Anglia*. Norfolk and Suffolk, 7: subdued the West Saxons, Northumberland and Kent, 9: drove the Britons into Wales and made the Dyke, named after him, to restrain them, 10: removed the See of Canterbury to Lichfield, 10, 153, founded St. Alban's monastery, 10, 153: gave Peter's Pence to Rome, 10, 153: visits Rome, 90: expels Brutes and Welshmen out of Chester, 152: gains 17 battles against the Pagans, 153: alliance with Charlemagne, 153: first took the whole monarchy, 153: reigned 39 years, 153.
- Offryde, son of Edwyn, King of Northumberland, 12, 74: slain in battle, 12: husband of St. Audry? 74: Offryde is probably a mistake for Egryde.
- Ossava, wife of Ermenred of Kent, 15.
- Ostryde, daughter of Oswy King of Northumberland, wife of Ethelred, King of Mercia. 87: murdered 87: by the people of the north parte, or, by her own people, that is, by the nobility of Mercia, A.D. 697, *vide* Bede B. v. ch. 42.
- Oswald, King of Northumberland, martyr, 16: subdued by Penda, 16: and slain, 18 Oratorie at Chester, i. e. south transept of the cathedral, dedicated to him by Elfede, daughter of Alfred, 157: she translates his body from Bardehay to Gloucester, and builds over it a church dedicated to St. Peter, 158. She founded the priory of St. Oswald, introducing into it secular priests; it was accounted a free chapel royal, exempt from the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Canterbury or Bishop of Worcester.
- Oswolde, Saint, 72: brother of Ebba Abbess of Canwood, 72.
- Oswy, King of Northumberland, 17, 87: invaded by Penda, 18: offers him presents to avoid war, 18: defeats Penda who is slain, 19, 33: offers his daughter Edelfled "to god omnytpotent," 19: sends her for instruction to St. Hylda at Whitby, and gives 12 possessions to build a monastery there, 19: rebelled against by the Mercians, 19.
- Pagans, viz. Danes, Goths, Norwegians,

INDEX.

- Scots, Picts, Vandals, 140, 141: invade England in 851, with 300 shippes, 140: again in 866, 141.
- Passionary. A boke wherein her holy lyfe wryten is, whiche boke remayneth in Chester monastery, 26: The third Passionary, 120, 197.
- Peada, son of Penda, 11, 17: introduced baptism into Mercia, 17: married Elfede, daughter of Oswy, King of Northumberland, 17: brought four priests, Ced, Beccy, Adda and Duyna to preach in Mercia, 18: reigned three years, 19: murdered by his Queen Elfede, 19.
- Peers, elect a King, or Regent, 85.
- Penda, King of Mercia. 8: enlarged it, 8, 17: subdued five kings, 11, 16: Edwyn and Oswald of Northumberland, Sygebert, Egnicius and Anna of East England, 16: married Keneswith, 11, 17: was grandfather to Werburge, 11: history, 16: begun to reign, A.D. 626 aged 50, 16: tenth in descent from Woden, 16: reigned 30 years, 11, 16: permitted introduction of baptism, 17, 18: and the preaching of Christianity, 18: invades Oswy King of Northumberland, 18: slays St. Oswalde, 18: and Anna, 75: slain in battle near York with 30 dukes, 19, 33.
- Peter, Bishop of Lichfield, consecrated 1067, removed his See to Chester, 1075, 181: died 1086: buried at Chester.
- Peterborough Abbey. Saints Keneburge and Keneswyde buried there, 11: founded by Wulfer, in satisfaction for the death of his sons Wulfade and Ruffyn, 49.
- Peter's Pence first paid to Rome by Offa, 10, 153.
- Polycronycon, 5, 7, 128, 148, 179, by Ralph Higden, 128. This is an early chronicle consisting of seven books, comprising a history from the creation to the year 1357. The six first books were compiled by Ralph Higden, with great judgement, and are more relied upon as an authority than most works treating of times so long anterior to those of the author. The seventh book is entirely original and may be consulted with safety. The folio edition of 1642 is generally considered the best.
- Portents of Danish Invasion, 138.
- Profession of St. Werburge, 65.
- Proverbs. Please God and love him and doubt ye nothing, 96. Man proposeth and God disposeth, 119. Good maners and conynge maken a man, 134.
- Purgatory, Werburge exempt from, 115.
- Quadriburge, daughter of Cryda, 11. Wife of Edwyn, King of Northumberland, ancestress to Werburge, 12.
- Ranulphus or Radulphus Higden, author of the Polychronicon, 128, 148. He was an early and faithful chronicler, he died in 1363.
- Redwald, of East England, a chrysten prince, 13.
- Regeneration by Baptism, 42.
- Reliques of St. Werburge, 143, 146: efficacious, 121.
- Repton monastery under the rule of St. Werburge, 122: attacked by the Danes, 141, 142. Burdred, King of Mercia residing there, 141.
- Richard a Monk of Bec in Normandy, first Abbot of St. Werburghe Abbey, 183.
- Richard, 2d Earl of Chester, 137. Son of Hugh Lupus, 185, 187, 190: miraculously preserved from Welshmen, 137. 187: drowned, 137: pilgrimage to St. Winifrede, 187: waylaid by the Welsh, 188: reasscued by his constable

INDEX.

- William and brought safe to Chester, 189 : married Matilda, niece of Henry I. 190 : succeeds to the earldom at seven years of age, 190 : benefactor to religious establishments, 190 : perverted by his wife, asks for the manor of Salton from St. Werburge's Abbey, 191 : enraged at the Abbot's refusal, meditates the destruction of the Abbey, 192. Shipwrecked and drowned off Barfleur for evil intentions against the Abbey, 193, 203. His death announced to the Sacristan by a vision of St. Werburge, 193 : and by a woman to the Abbot and convent by command of St. Werburge, 193.
- Ricula of Kent, sister to Ethelbryct, first Christian king, married to Fledde, King of Essex and Middlesex, 14.
- Roboas, wrought in arras, 61.
- Roman History, or *Lays of Rome* sung by minstrels, 63.
- Roses, emblems of spiritual victories, 62.
- Ruffyn, brother of Werburge, 12, 26, 35, 37 : reproves Werbode for seeking Werburge in marriage, 38 : hunts a hart to St. Cead's Well, 42 : converted by St. Cead, 42 : baptized 42 : betrayed and slandered by Werbode, 44, 45 : slain, as a convert to Christianity by his father Wulfer, 46.
- Runcorn, built by Elfede, daughter of Alfred, 158.
- Sabryne, Sabrina, Severn River, 7.
- St. John, *v.* Churches.
- St. Peter and St. Paul, *v.* Churches.
- Saints represented in arras, 61, 62.
- Salisbury, a principal city of the West Saxons, 6.
- Sampson subduing his enemies, in arras, 62.
- Saul, worked in arras, 61.
- Saxons, infect all Britain with apostacy, 151. Their first realm was Kent, A.D. 455, 6 : their second, Sussex, 6 : their third, Wessex, 6 : their fourth, Essex, 6 : their fifth, East Anglia, 7 : their sixth, Mercia, 7 : their seventh, Northumberland, 7.
- Schoolmaster, miraculously punished with lameness, for maltreating his scholars, and healed at the tomb of St. Ermenylde at Ely, 84.
- Sciences. The seven, 134. There were formerly supposed to be seven liberal sciences. Grammar, Logic, Rhetoric, Arithmetic, Geometry, Astronomy, Music.
- Sea, Red, passage of, worked in arras, 60.
- Secular priests expelled from monasteries, 177 : from Chester monastery, 183, 185.
- Sees removed from boroughs to the chief town of the Diocese, 181.
- Sequens, 197, *et seq.* see Glossary.
- Sexburge, daughter of Anna, King of East England, 13, 69, 74. Wife of Ercombert, King of Kent, 12, 13, 15, 22, 23, 76 : grandmother of St. Werburge, 12, 13, 74 : character, 75, 77 : history of, 74 : sister of St. Audry, 74, instructs her husband, 77 : destroys idols, 77 : founds monasteries, 77 : retires to Shepay monastery, 78 : built by her, 78 : elected Abbess, 78 : warned by an angel, resigns, 78 : removes to Ely, 78 : succeeds Audry as Abbess, 79, 80.
- Sexwulfus or Saxulf, Bp. of Lichfield, 676, 93.
- Shepay monastery, built by Sexburge, 78.
- Shorpthursday, Maundy Thursday, in passion week, 111. This day was also called Shere Thursday because "people would that day shere their hedes." Shorp may therefore perhaps be a misprint of Shorn.

INDEX.

- Shrewsbury, 7 : repaired by Elfdede, daughter of Alfred, 518.
- Shrine of St. Werburge, 143 : brought to Chester, 143 A.D. 875, 153 : ceremony of its reception, 144 : placed in the mother church of St. Peter and St. Paul, 153. Cures performed at it, 154. Offerings made there, 154 : visited by King Edgar, 179 : brought upon the walls to defeat besiegers, 160 : strikethem with blindness, 160 : brought to the north gate to defeat the Danes and Scots, 163 : smites with madness and death a soldier who struck it with a stone, 163. Extinguishes a great fire at Chester, 196.
- Simon, monk of Chester, 185 : high character, 185 : oppressed by his brethren, taught patience by a vision of St. Werburge, 185.
- Skelton, poet laureate, 209.
- Solomon, pourtrayed in arras, 61.
- Southsex, Kingdom of, the second of the Heptarchy, established by Adla and Ella, 6 : endured but short time, 6.
- Stafford repaired by Elfdede, daughter of Alfred, 158.
- Star, a streming sterre and a dove appeared at Chester to put out a great fire, 196.
- Stations, appointed places or chapels to pray at, 90, 92.
- Stephen, St. performed miracles when alive, but raised no dead, till after the resolving of his blessed body, 130 : inferior to St. Werburge, 130.
- Stone in Staffordshire, sometime residence of Wulfer King of Mercia, and probable birth-place of Werburge, 26. Priory founded by Wulfer in honour of his murdered sons, Wulfade and Ruffyn, 50. A mercate towne which having the beginning in the Saxons' time, tooke that of the stones that our ancestors after a solemn sort had cast on a heape to notifie the place where Wolphar that heathenish King of the Mercians most cruelly slew his two sonnes Wulfald and Ruffin, because they had taken upon them the profession of Christianity in which place when Posterity in memorial of them had consecrated a little church, straight wayes there came and grew up a towne, which of those stones had the name of Stone given unto it. Camden.
- Stow, 103. Stowe-nine-churches, near Bugbrook in the deanery of Daventry, Northamptonshire; the name is accounted for by the supposition of its having had so many churches belonging to it.
- Strenyhalt, original name of Whitby, 19.
- Suffolk, subject to Offa, 7.
- Sussex, second kingdom of the Heptarchy, endured but short time, 6.
- Sygeburt, of East England, subdued by Penda, 17.
- Tamysmouth, or, Mouth of the Thames, Danish invasion there, A.D. 851, 139, 140.
- Tenures, statement of various tenures by which land was held under the Abbey of St. Werburge, 200.
- Tapestry, or Arras, pictures upon, described, 59, & seq.
- Thames River. South of Mercia, 8.
- Theodorus, Archbishop, 21, 78 : recommends Cedda to Bishopric of Lichfield, 21.
- Thomwort, repaired by Elfdede daughter of Alfred, 158.
- Thursday before Easter called ShorpThursday, 111.
- Tombert of East England, 70 : marries Audry, 71 : gives Ely as dower, 71.
- Translation of body of St. Werburge, 11, 124 : ceremony of, 125.
- Trentam monastery, 86, 108, 114 : built and endowed by Werburge, 86 : under

INDEX.

- her rule, 122 : she dies there, 108, 123 : destroyed by the Danes, 142. It was of the order of St. Augustin and dedicated to St. Mary and All Saints. The convent watch the body of St. Werburge, and close fast their doors to prevent it being carried as she had desired to Hambury : they are struck with deep sleep while those of Hambury carry away the body, 118, 119.
- Tubal and Tubalcain, inventors of Music, pourtrayed on arras, 59.
- Tynmouth Abbey destroyed by the Danes, 139.
- Tytylus, King of East England, 13 : ancestor to Werburge, 13.
- Ulmilus, canon of Chester, miraculously cured of a broken leg by St. Werburge, 173.
- Uncion, extreme, administered to Werburge, 113.
- Upton, a parke, a prebend of Chester, 171 : horses miraculously prevented from destroying crops there, 172. Upton is a township in that part of St. Mary on the Hill, Chester, which is in the lower division of the hundred of Broxton, and is about two miles from that city.
- Vanity, exhortation against, 67.
- Vecta, see Isle of Wight, subdued by Wulfer, 20.
- Vincent, St., in arras, 61.
- Virgin Mary, in arras, 61 : floure of femynyte, 61 : chief president of virgins, 62.
- Virgins represented in arras, crowned with lilies, 62 : or roses, for their great victory, 62.
- Vita patrum, read by Werburge, 96.
- Vortiger invites Hengist to assist him in his defence, 6.
- Wales, Britons driven thither, A. D. 689, 6 : divided from England by Offa's Dyke, 10.
- Warwick, repaired by Elfede, daughter of Alfred. 158.
- Warwick, Guy, Earl of, kills Colbrond the giant, 176.
- Wedon, the King's mansion in Northamptonshire, 97 : converted into a nunnery by Werburge, 86 : under the authority of Werburge, 122 : her chief residence, 123 : injured by flights of wild geese, which are therefore miraculously pounded there, 97 : protected from their future depredations, 99, 100 : many miracles there, 123, 159 : destroyed by the Danes, 142.
- Weest party of Mercia, i. e. Cheshire, 9.
- Westmarches oppressed by the Danes, 142.
- Wenedocie, name of Caerleon, Bishopric of all South Wales, 147.
- Wenefrede, St., in arras, 62.
- Wenlence founded by Leofric Earl of Chester, 180.
- Werbode, 32, 33 : chief steward of Wulfer, 33 : beguiles Wulfer, 33 : sues him for Werburge, 34 : severely reprovved by Ermenylde, 35 : by Werburge, 37 : by Wulfade and Ruffyn, 38, 39 : plots against them and betrays their conversion to Christianity, 43, 44 : and procures their death, 46 : tormented by remorse his armes and handes he did horribly tere ; till his filthy soul compelled sore was for to expire, 46.
- Werburge, account of, 4 : called, but rather incorrectly, Prioress of Chester Abbey, 4 : protectress of city and Abby of Chester, 4 : shrine of, at Chester, 4 : parentage, 7, 26 : genealogy, 10 : descended from four kings, 10, 135 : her body translated to a shrine, 11 : Mercian descent, 10 : Northumbrian descent, 12 : East An-

INDEX.

glian descent 12 : Kentish descent, 14 : born probably near Stone in Staffordshire, 26 : character in youth, 26, 135 : piety and devotions, 28, 29 : attendance on the daily service, 28 : sought in marriage, 29 : description, 29, 30 : sued by Prince of West Saxons, 30 : refuses him, declaring her preference for a recluse life, 32 : by Werbode, 34 : religious character, 50 : desires permission from her father to become a recluse at Ely, 51, 55, : declines marriage, 32, 51, 54 : proceeds in great state to Ely, 56 : reception there, 57 : full account of the solemn festival upon her "ghostly spouseage," 58 : profession at Ely, 65, 73, 122 : miraculous powers, 68, 135 : professes after St. Benettes rule, 73 : miraculous testimonies of her piety, 85 : made president of all monasteries in the realm, 85, 93, 135 : builds and endows Trentam and Hambury monasteries, 86 : converts Wedon Manor into a nunnery, 86 : consecrated Abbess, 93 : quits Ely, 93 : description of her government, 93 : never wore linnen, 94 : daily devotions, 95 : abstinence, 95 : miracles, 96, 97, 105, 130 : impounds wild geese, 97 : restores to life one already roasted and eaten, 100 : punishes her bailiff for maltreating a servant, but finally recovers him, 101, 102 : hangs her veil on a sunbeam to preserve herself from offered violence, 103 : saves herself in an oak tree, 104 : cures all manner of diseases, 105 : gifted with prophecy, 106 : foreknows her death, 106 : and place of burial, 107 : orders all her monasteries, 107 : directs her body to be buried at Hambury, 108 : prays for miraculous powers after death, 113 : dies at Trentham, 108 : 3 Feb., A. D. 700, 115, 118 : exhorts her sisterhood, 109, 111 : last sacrament and

prayer, 110 : extreme unction, 113 : transported by angels to heaven, 115 : exempt from purgatory, 115 : sweet odours arise from her body, 116, 125, 126 : funeral ceremonies, 116, 118 : lamentations over, 117 : body removed from Trentham to Hambury during miraculous sleep of the watchers, 119 : buried in chancel of Hambury, 120, 138, 142 : miracles performed at her tomb, 120, 124, 127, 159 : resided chiefly at Wedon, 123 : deemed a mediatatrix, 123, 131 : her body kept hole and sound, 123, 125, 131 : for 200 years, 142 : translated, 128 : i. e. removed from her grave to a shrine, 22nd July, 708, nine years after burial, 11, 124, 125, 126, 136 : enshrined, 127 : tomb at Hambury, 127 : her body, 200 years after her death, voluntarily resolved itself to dust to save it from pollution by the Danes, 129, 142 : remission of sin to all for whom she maketh intercession, 130, 145 : shrine brought to Chester, 131, 143, 146, A.D. 875, 147 : saves Chester from enemies, 137 : fire, 137 : plague, 137 : invoked "this warke to amende," 138 : her body magnified with miracles next our Ladie, 143 : received at Chester in great pomp and song of welcome, 144 : Chester Minster founded in her honour, 155, 156, 183 : her shrine placed in the church then called St. Peter and St. Paul, 158 : great offerings made there, 145 : secular canons, prebends, &c. established therein, 156 : cures a woman thrice of lameness, 161 : a lady of barrenness, 164 : a woman of insanity, 165 : another of blindness, 167 : cures six halt blind and lame and many others, 168 : restores twice to life a man hanged unjustly, 170 : preserves corn and fruit from wild horses, 171 : cures a broken leg, 173 : appears

INDEX.

- to an oppressed monk named Simon to preach patience, 186 : parts the Dee, for the army to pass through, 189 : appears at the monastery of Chester to announce the shipwreck of Richard Earl of Chester, 193 : her shrine quenches fire at Chester, 196 : her miracles recapitulated, 199, &c. : next in honour to "our Saviour and his mother Marie," 199 : prayer or hymn, 205.
- Werburge, some of the eulogistic titles ascribed to her. Spouse of our Lord Jhesu, 4 : blessed saint, 4 : noble princess, 4, 10 : virgin pure and glorious, 4, 7, 10 : holy monyall, 4. Abbess gracious, 4. Prioress of Chester, 4. Protectress of the city and monastery, 4 : daughter of Sion, 10. Flower of virtue, 10 : sweet flower of chastity, 12 : noble margarite, 16 : rose of paradise, 16 : gemme of holynes, 16 : star of our clearness. 16.
- Werburge, St., Abbey reorganised A. D. 1093, by Anselm, Abbot of Bec, at the request of Hugh Lupus, secular priests and canons displaced, religious monks substituted, and Richard, a monk of Bec in Normandy, ordained first Abbot, 183, 185. This foundation confirmed by William Rufus, who also endowed it with many privileges, making it as free as the "Earl was in his castle," 184 : presented by Hugh Lupus with many "riall rich enormentes : " and " a librarie of bokes, some remayne within the sayd monastery to this day certayne, 184 : enfranchised 101 years before the city, 185.
- Westmariland, or Westmoreland, so called from Marius, 148 : who took it from Reodric the King, 148.
- West Saxons, third kingdom of heptarchy, first King, Cerdicus, A. D. 521, 6 : chief cities, Winchester and Salisbury, 6 : Prince of, sues in vain the hand of Werburge, 31.
- Whitby Abbey, founded by St. Hylda, 12 : originally called Strenyshalt, 19 : endowed by Oswy, King of Northumberland, with twelve possessions to build a monastery, 19.
- William the Conqueror, fought the battle of Hastings, 13 Oct., 1066, 181 : crowned in London, 181 ; causes of his invasion, 181.
- William Rufus, 182 : confirms foundation of St. Werburge's Abbey, 184 : and endows it with many privileges, 184.
- William, son of Nigell, constable of Chester goes to rescue Earl Richard from the Welch, 188 : marches his troops dryshod through the Dee, 189 : gives the village of Newton to St. Werburge's Monastery, 189 : and founds Norton Abbey as a memorial of the miracle, 189.
- William of Malsbury, 5, 81, 88, 100, 179.
- Winchester, a principal city of the West Saxons, 6.
- Wirall, oppressed by inroads, 171 : miraculously preserved, 172.
- Withburge of East Englande, great aunt to Werburge, 13, 69.
- Woden, common progenitor of many kings, 14, 16 : Fifteenth from Noah, through Shem, 14.
- Worcester, Bishopric, 21.
- Wulfade, brother of Werburge, 12, 26, 35, 37 : martyr, 26 : delighted in hunting, 40 : converted by St. Cead, 41, 42 : baptized, 42 : reprimands Werbode for seeking Werburge in marriage, 38 : betrayed and slandered by Werbode, 44, 45 : slain by his father, Wulfer, as a convert to Christianity, 46.
- Wulfer, father of St. Werburge, King of Mercia, 7 : son of Penda, 11 17 :

INDEX.

- married Ermenylde, princess of Kent, 11, 16, 17, 22, 24: marriage solemnity, 24: his family, 11, 12: secreted for safety by the Mercians, 19: crowned King, 19, 20: baptised by Bishops Finan and Jerumannus, 20, 33: destroys idols, 20, 25, 33: introduces christianity, 20: character, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25: conquers Kenwalrus, King of West Saxons at Ashdum, 20: subdues the Isle of Wyght, 20: gives it to King of East England on condition of baptism, 20. Godfather to him, 21: founded Lyndsey near Lincoln for fifty monks, 21: professes attachment to christianity, 25, 33: unites Mercia and Kent, 25: resided sometime at Stone, 26: for a time apostasized, 33: slays his sons Wulfade and Ruffyn as converts to Christianity, 46: laments his apostacy and cruelty, 47: by advice of his Queen Ermenylde seeks St. Cead, 48: prevented by glorious light from seeing the mass, 48: penance and conversion 49: destroys idols, founded monasteries, 49: founds Peterborow Abbey, 49. Stone Priory, 50: urges Werburge to marry, 51: but accedes to her wish to become a recluse at Ely, 55. Summons his nobles and lords to conduct her in state to Ely, 56. Procession and reception, 56, 57: "made a royal feast as custome is of maryage" at her "ghostly marriage," 58: full description of the feast, company, ceremony, decorations, 58, &c.: dies 79: buried at Lichfield, 79.
- Wybba, King of Mercia, ancestor to Werburge, 11, 16.
- Wyght, Isle of, or Vecta subdued by Wulfer, 20: given to King of East England, 20: oppressed by the Danes, 142.
- Wylfryde, Archbishop of York, 91: professes St. Audry at Canwood, 72: her confessor, 73: deprived 73: removes to Ely, 73: assists in edifying St. John's Church, Chester, 86.
- Wynwed, river near York, Battle at, 18. Penda and 30 dukes slain, 19.
- York, chief city of Northumberland, 7. Battle near, between Penda and Oswy, 18: made an Archbishop's See, 150.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM NICOL,
Shakspeare Press,
FALL MALL.
1848.

Remains, v.15.
Bracshaw. St. Wercurge.

L19C5
v.15

JUL 15 1946

Mending

MAR 5 '47

358668 DA 670
L19C5

Chetham

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY

