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The Tudor Facsimile Texts

A Play of Love

MADE BY JOHN HEYWOOD

Date of the Earliest Known Editions, 1533-4

[St. John's College and Magdalene College Libraries, Cambridge]

Reproduced in Facsimile, 1909

Play of Love

The Tudor Facsimile Texts

Under the Supervision and Editorship of

JOHN S. FARMER

A Play of Love

MADE BY JOHN HEYWOOD

1534



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GENERAL



A Play of Love

MADE BY JOHN HEYWOOD

"*A Play of Love*" completes the list of interludes known to be written by, and also those attributed to, John Heywood. All are included in "*The Tudor Facsimile Texts*." When Hazlitt compiled his "*Bibliography of Old English Literature*," only one copy of this play was scheduled as extant. It was, moreover, imperfect; and of a later edition than the present one, having been printed by Waley between 1547-58. Since then earlier impressions, printed in 1533 and 1534 by the brother-in-law of the author, Wm. Rastell, have been discovered. Of these, two copies, one of each date, are at present known.

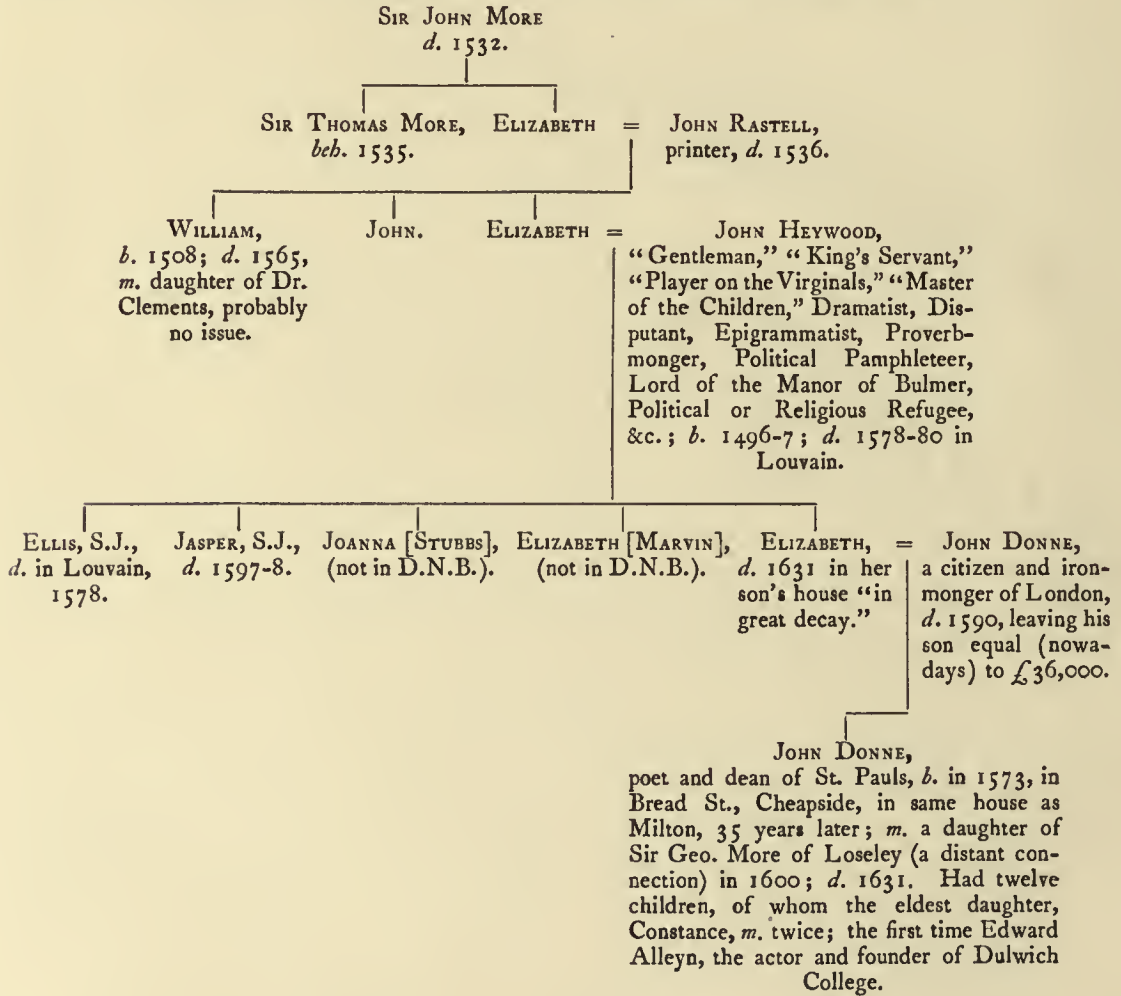
I am again indebted to the courtesy of the Pepysian Library authorities at Magdalene College, Cambridge, for permission to reproduce their unique example of this early interlude.

Pasted in the Magdalene original on *A. i. verso* (back of title-page) is a portrait engraving of Samuel Pepys: otherwise the page is blank. As one of the special features of this series is to show originals as thoroughly as may be as they actually exist to-day, the portrait is retained. In truth, as we are indebted to the jovial secretary to the Admiralty and the president of the Royal Society of his day for a uniquely dated copy of "*A Play of Love*," it is not unfitting that his industry and taste as a collector, and his consequent connection with the early and later developments of English literature, indirect though this be, should be thus perpetuated.

Mr. R. B. Fleming, contrasting this facsimile with the original copy, says that "taking the book generally the result is very good; the only real 'fault' is the blurred patches, and these are trifling in any page. There is a stain on the lower half of all pages, most pronounced on the outside edges; this occurs all through the book." Particular criticism is as follows:—

- (1) Title-page, this is much discoloured, specially the edges.
- (2) [*A. j.*] verso, the portrait is a very good reproduction of the original.
- (3) *B. iiij.* and [*iiij.*] verso, are somewhat blurred, particularly the latter. The same "fault" occurs on lower half of [*C. iiij.*] verso and [*D. iiij.*] verso.
- (4) *C. j.* and *C. ij.* verso, [*C. iiij.*] recto and verso, and on *E. iiij.* recto, the type shows through very much in the original, which is very "foxey" in places.

I have more than once referred to the fresh light recent research has thrown on the career and social status of John Heywood. Hitherto little indeed has been known, though conjecture was rife. Naturally, in the very circumscribed space now at my disposal, I can supply little more than the baldest sketch of some of the lines of recent inquiry; and I must perforce omit all detail, with many points also altogether untouched. I trust what follows will be of interest; and, for the rest, I can only refer to my forthcoming volume on the subject.



Two points I must premise: in the first place when I approached the subject nearly four years ago I was struck by the slavish fashion in which many writers on English literature followed the same track, copying from and quoting one another. This, combined with the utter paucity, apparently, of original research led me, in the second place, to jot down the known facts of Heywood's record. With these as my starting-point I planned the assault and sack of every possible source of additional knowledge of the man, his times, his circle, and his work; whether from documents, associations, chance references, or any

other likely quarry. In this connection Heywood's flight and residence in the Low Countries obviously suggested inquiry abroad. Seeking advice of Professor Bang of Louvain University as to some one competent to undertake such research, I was astonished to be informed that the work had "already been done" in Malines, Louvain, and Antwerp; that the result would be related in "*Englische Studien*"; and that I was welcome to the use of the new material. I am, therefore, indebted to this source for somewhat that follows (Band 38, 2, 234).

The most important discovery is that Heywood's social status was much superior and more assured than is generally supposed. The evidence of actual descent is not yet complete; but, as regards the social standing of his relatives and connections, his known and probable friends and acquaintances, his children and his grandchildren, the Table on page vi is suggestive. I must, however, leave many interesting side-lights unremarked for the time being, with one exception: Heywood and his wife were of sufficient standing and close enough intimates of the Mores to be specially mentioned as informed of the comment of the Emperor Charles on Sir Thomas More's execution.

Other points of particular interest on which new light has been thrown, or in respect to which inquiry is still in progress, relate to his place of birth, his university career (he probably went as early as fourteen—as did Wolsey and Udall; while his grandson, John Donne, went to Oxford when only eleven), his going to Court, his actual position there (it would appear he was musical tutor to the Princess Mary—a fact which explains much—and afterwards was associated with the Princess Elizabeth), the period of his literary activity, his advancement under Queen Mary, the connection between "*The Spider and the Fly*" and the Queen's grant of Bulmer (of which the Duke of Leeds is the present lord of the Manor), the probable date and companions of his flight to the Low Countries in the early days of Elizabeth, Wm. Rastell's will (in which Heywood's children chiefly benefited) and its connection with the family property in England, his children, grandchildren, and other descendants, &c.

I can only find further space to briefly narrate the newly discovered facts concerning his declining years. It was already known that in 1575 (April 8) he wrote to Burghley from Malines ("where I have been despoiled by Spanish and German soldiers of the little I had"), thanking him for ordering his arrears from his land at Romney to be paid to him, and speaking of himself as "an old man of seventy-eight"; also that in a list of refugees (dated Jan. 29, 1576) he is mentioned—"John Heywood, Gent. of Kent" (Egerton Papers, 63-5). This is supplemented by the following extracts from a contemporary manuscript (in French) by Father Droueshout, S. J., entitled "*History of the Society of Jesus at Antwerp.*" I omit for the present all but the most salient facts:

"In 1573 Elizæus [Heywood] S. J., proceeded from England to Antwerp to discuss matters with the magistrate of the city. The General of the Company (Society of Jesus) allowed him to continue to reside in Antwerp, where his knowledge of several languages made him very useful. [D. N. B. says he became spiritual father and preacher in the house at Antwerp.] Elizæus' father then lived at Malines; persecuted for the faith,

he had come from England and settled himself there. *His son, the Jesuit, went to see him and console him. That, however, interfered with his work, and it was for this reason that Father Mercurian, General of the Society [of Jesuits], authorised the fathers in residence at Antwerp to admit to the College, with lodging and separate table, Elizæus' father, 'that worthy old man,' 'your venerable father.'* This admission took place in 1576.

"When the troubles broke out at Antwerp in 1578, the Jesuits decided to send to Cologne 'those of us who would find it most difficult to save themselves by flight. We despatched to begin with John Heywood, the old octogenarian, with one of our number [un de nos religieux] to accompany him and conduct him to that town,' but he was stopped at the gates of the city, and the partisans of Mathias and the States compelled him to return to the College, whence 'none might go out before they were all alike chased out.' [April 1578.]

"The criminal oath, which it was sought to impose on all the religieux (to acknowledge the Pacification of Ghent and to fight against the Spaniards), being refused by the Jesuits, on the day of Pentecost their College was broken into and sacked, all the Fathers being made prisoners, including John and Elizæus [Heywood]. They were conducted together to the Bierhofd gate to be sent by water to Malines. Mathias and [the Prince of] Orange held different views as to violence.

"[The Prince of] Orange sent a courier to Malines so that the magistrates might keep the prisoners outside the gates, and secretly sent sixty horsemen to await them and kill them. The Jesuit prisoners, while on the water, addressed themselves to Mathias, who, desirous of saving them, sent beforehand to the commandant at Lierre to proceed to Malines, with a sufficient escort, to render assistance to the prisoners, and to send a courier to Louvain to Don Juan [the Spanish commander] for him to do the same, to meet the Fathers midway between Malines and Louvain.

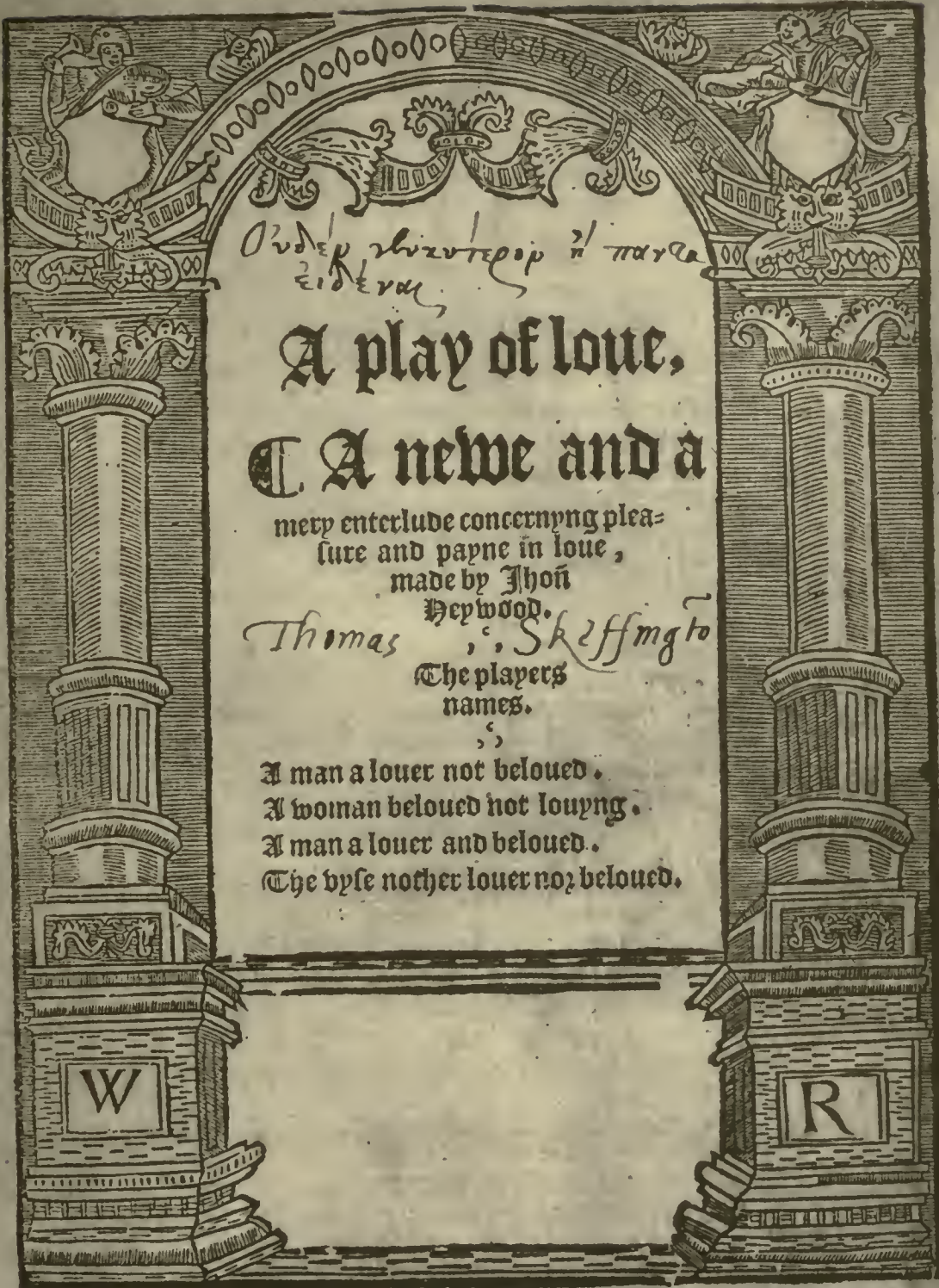
"The prisoners arrived at Malines, and were forthwith condemned to be expelled. At half-past six in the evening, a few minutes before their expulsion, the escort arrived from Lierre. They met the Franciscans, also driven out of Antwerp. The escort of Don Juan was at its post, and all triumphantly entered Louvain on the 26th May 1578.

"The two Heywoods were benefactors of the Society [of Jesus]."

The year 1578 probably saw the end of Heywood's earthly pilgrimage, an old man of eighty-one: his son Ellis died the same year, as also did William Roper, his life-long friend. His son, Jasper, survived till 1597-8, whilst Elizabeth Donne lived well into the next century, till 1631, dying only about three months before her celebrated son, the poet and Dean of St. Pauls.

This inquiry once reopened has already proved fruitful of results, and there are many signs that before long the materials for a really satisfactory biography will be available. Here, as I have already insisted, I can but barely refer to a small portion of the new evidence even now to hand, and reiterate that research is proceeding actively in several directions.

JOHN S. FARMER.



Ἰνδὲξ τῆς ἐπιγραφῆς τῆς παλαιᾶς
εἰδήσεως

A play of loue,

A newe and a

mery enterlude concerning plea-
sure and payne in loue,

made by Iohn
Heywood.

Thomas Skiffingto

The players
names.

- A man a louer not beloued .
- A woman beloued not louyng .
- A man a louer and beloued .
- The byse nother louer noz beloued .

W

R



The louer not beloued.

Lo sye, who so that loketh here for curtesy
And seeth me seme as one pretending none
But as vnthought vpon thus sodenly
Approcheth the myddys amonge you euerychone
And of you all seyth nought to any one.
May thynke me reuolde perceyving of what soyte
ye seme to be, and of what stately po:te.

But I beseeche you in most humble wyse
To dympte dyspleasure and pardon me
My maner is to muse and to deuyse
So that some tyme my selfe may cary me
My selfe knowyth not where, and I asure ye
So hath my selfe done nowe, for our lorde wot
where I am, or what ye be, I knowe not.

O: whence I cam, or whyther I shall
All this in maner as vnknowen to me
But euyne as fortune gyrdeth my fote to sale
So wander I, yet where so euer I be
And whom o: howe many so euer I se
As one person to me is euerychone
So euery place to me but as one

And for that one persone euery place seke I
which one ones founde I fynde of all the rest
Not one myssyng, and in the contrary
That one absent, though that there were hcre prest
All the creatures lyuyng most and lest
yet lackyng her I shulde and euer shall
Be as alone syns she to me is all

And alone is she without comparyson
Concernyng the gyftys gyuyn by nature
In fauour faynes and po:te as of person
No lyfe beryth the lyke of that creature
No: no tonge can attayne to put in bye
Her to dyscryue, for howe can wo:des expres
That thyng the full wherof no thought can ges.

And as it is thyng inestymable
To make repo:te of her bewty fully
So is my loue towarde her vnable
To be repo:tyd as who seyth ryghtly

For my soole seruyce and loue to that lady
Is gyuen vnder such haboundant fashyon
That no tonge therof can make ryght relashyon.

wherin I suppose this well supposed
Unto you all, that syns she perceyuyng
As much of my loue as can be dysclosed
Euyng of very ryght in recompensyng
She ought for my loue agayne to be louyng
For what moze ryght to graunt when loue loue requireth
Then loue for loue, when leue nought els desyretth

But euyng as farre wors as otherwylse then so
Stande I in case in maner desperate
No tyme can tyme my sewt to ease my wo
Befoze none to erely and all tynes els to late
Thus tyme out of tyme mystymeth my rate
For tyme to byyng tyme to hope of any grace
That tyme tymyth no tyme in any tyme or place.

wherby tyll tyme haue tyme so farre extyncte
That deth may determyne my lyfe thus dedly
No tyme can I reste alas I am so lyncete
To greues both so greate and also many
That by the same I say and wyl be verysy
Of all paynes the moste incomparable payne
Is to be a louer not louyd agayne.

The woman belouyd not lo-
uyng entreth.

Belouyd not louyng.

Syn as touchyng those wordes of comparyson
whiche ye haue seyde and wolde seme to verysy
If it may please you to stande therupon
Hearyng and answeryng me paciently
I doubt not by the same incontynently
your selfe to see by wordes that shall ensue
The contrary of your wordes verysyed for true.

Louer not loued

Fayre lady pleaseth it you to repayre nere
And in this cause to shewe cause reasonable
wherby cause of refozmacyon may appere
Of reason I muste and wyl be refoznable

Louyd not louyng

well syns ye pzetende to be confyrmable
To reason, in auoydyng circumstance
Byrefely by reason I shall the truthe auance.

ye be

pe be a louet no whyt louyd agayne
And I am louyd of whom I loue nothyng
Then standyth our question betwene these twayne
Of louyng not louyd, or louyd not louyng
which is the case moſte paynfull in ſufferyng
wherto I ſaye that the moſte payne doth moue
To thoſe belouyd of whome they can not loue

Louet not louyd. Thoſe wordes approued lo, myght make a chaunge
Of myne opynion / but verely
The caſe as ye put it I thynke moze ſtraunge
Then true, for though the belouyd party
Can not loue agayne, yet poſſybly
Can I not thynke, nor I thynke neuer ſhall
That to be louyd can be any payne at all.

Belouyd not louyng. That reaſon perceuyd and receuyd for trouthy
From proper comparyſon ſholde clere confounde me
Betwene payne & no payne, no ſuch comparyſon growth
Then or I can on comparyſon grounde me
To proue my caſe paynefull ye haue fyrſt bounde me
To which ſyns ye dyue me by your denyall
Marke what enſueth befoze ferther tryall.

I ſaye I am louyd of a certayne man
whom for no ſewt I can fauour agayne
And that haue I tolde hym ſyns his ſewt began
A thouſand tymes but euery tyme in bayne
For neuer ſeaſeth his tonge to complayne
And euery one tale whiche I neuer can flee
For euery in maner where I am is he.

Howe if you to here one thyng euery where
Contrary to your appetyte ſholde be led
were it but a mouſe lo ſholde pepe in your ere
Or allway to harpe on a cruſt of byed
Howe coulde you lyke ſuch harpyng at your hed

Louyng not louyd. Somewhat dyspleaſant it were I not deny
Louyd not louyng. Then ſomewhat payneful as well ſeyd ſay I

Dyspleaſure and payne be thynges toyntly anert
For as it is dyspleaſant in payne to be
So it is paynefull in dyspleaſure to be bert
Thus by dyspleaſure in payne ye confeſ me
wherby ſyns ye part of my payne do ſee
In my ferther payne I ſhall nowe declare

That payne by whyche with your payne I compare.

Smale were the quantyte of my paynfull smerte
yf hys tangelynge perceyd no further then myne erys
But thozough myne erys dyrectly to myne harte
percyth his wordys eyn lyke as many sperys
By whyche I haue spent so many and suche terys
That were they all red as they be all whyte
The blood of my harte had be gone oꝝ thys quyte

And almoste in case as though it were gone
Am I except hys sewt take end thortely
foꝝ it doth lyke me eyn lyke as one
Shold offer me seruyce most humbly
wyth an axe in hys hande, contynually
Besechyng me gentylly that thys myght be sped
To graunte hym my good wyll to stryke of my hed

I alledge foꝝ generall thys one symplytude
Auoydyng rehersale of paynes partyculer
To abreueate the tyme and to exclude
Surplusage of wordes in thys our mater
By whyche ensauple yf ye consydere
Ryghtly my case at lest wyse ye may see
My payne as paynfull as your payne can bee.

And yet foꝝ thortet end put case that your payne
were oft tymes moze sharpe and soze in degre
Then myne ys at any tyme yet wyll I proue playne
My payne at lenght suffycient to match ye
whiche profe to be true your selfe shall agre
yf your affeccyon in that I shall resyght
May suffer your reason to vnderstande ryght

you stand in plesure haupng your loue in syght
And in her absens hope of syght agayne
Keppth moste tymes possessyon of some delyght
Thus haue you oft tymes some way ease of payne
And I neuer no way foꝝ when I do remayne
In hys presens, in dedly payne I soloyne
And absent, halfe ded in feare of hys retourne

Spys presens doꝝ absens absenteth my payne
But alway the same to me is present
And that by presens and hope of presens agayne
Ther doth appere myche of your tyme spente

Out of

Out of payne, me thynke this consequent
That my payne may well by meane of the length
Compare with your shorter payne of moze strength

Louer not loued.

My mistres if your long payne be no stronger
Then is your longe reason agaynst my shorter payne
ye lacke no lyklyhod to lyue much longer
Then he that wolde stryke of your hed so fayne
yet lest ye wolde note me your wordes to dysdayne
I am content to agree for a season
To graunt and enlarge your latter reason

Amptte by her presens halfe my tyme pleasaunt
And all your tyme as paynefull as in case can be
yet your payne to be most, reason wyl not graunt
And for ensample I put case that ye
Stood in colde water all a day to the kne
And I halfe the same day to myd leg in the fyre
wolde ye chaunge places with me for the dysre

Loued not loupng.
Louer not loued.

May that wolde I not be ye assuered
Forsoth and my payne aboue yours is as yll
As fyre aboue water thus to be endewred
Came my payne but at tymes and yours contynue styll
yet shold myne many weys to whome can skyll
Shewe yours, in comparyson betwene the twayne
Skantly able for a shadowe to my payne

Felt ye but one pang such as I fele many
One pang of dyspayre, or one pang of desyre
One pang of one dyspleasaunt loke of her eye
One pang of one worde of her mouth as in yre
Or in restraynt of her loue which I requyre
One pang of all these felt ones in all your lyfe
Sholde quayle your dysnyon and quench all our stryfe

which panges I say admittted short as ye lyst
And all my tyme besyde pleasaunt as ye please
yet coulde not the shorynes the sharpnes so resyst
The Percyng of my harte in the lest of all these
But much it ouermacheth all your dysleafe
For no whyt in effecte is your case dyspleasaunt
But to deny a thyng which ye lyst not to graunt

Or to here a fewter by dayly peticyon
In humble maner as wyl can deuyse

Requyre

Requyre a thyng so standyng in condylyon
As no porcyon of all his enterpyse
Without your consent can spede in any wyse
This lewt thus attempted neuer so long
Doubt ye no deth tyll your payne be moze strong

Howe syng in this mater betwene vs dysputed
Myne admittance of your wordes notwithstanding
I haue thus fully your part confuted
What can ye say nowe I come to denyng
Your pynnyple, graunted in my foresayeng
Which was this, by the presens of my lady
I graunted you halfe my tyme spent pleasauntly

Although myne affecyon ledyth me to consent
That her selde presens is my relese onely
yet as in reason appereth all my torment
Byed by her presens and marke this cause why
Befoze I sawe her I felt no malydy
And syngs I sawe her I neuer was fre
From twayne the greatest paynes that in loue be

Delyze is the fyrst vpon my fyrst syght
And despayze the nexte vpon my fyrst lewt
For vpon her fyrst answeze hope was put to flyght
And neuer came syngs in place to dyspewt
Howe bynggeth then her presens to me any frewt
For hopeles and helpeles in flames of delyze
And droppes of despayze I smolder in fyze

These twayne beyng endeles syngs they began
And both by the presens of her wholly
Begon and contynued, I wonder if ye can
Speke any worde moze, but yelde ymmedyately
For had I no mo paynes but these, yet clerely
A thousande tymes moze is my grefe in these twayne
Then yours in all the case by which ye complayne

Loued not louyng.

That is as ye say but not as I suppose
For as the treuth is, which your selve myght se
By reasons that I coulde and wolde dysclose
Saying that I see such parcalyte
On your parte, that we shall neuer agre
Unlesse ye wyll admyt some man indyfferent
Indyfferently to heare vs, and so gyue iudgement.

Agred,

Louer not loued: Agred, For though the knowledge of all my payne
Eale my payne no whyt yet shall it declare
Great cause of abasement in you to complayne
In counterfet paynes with my payne to conipare
But here is no iudge mete, we must seke elles where
Louyd not louyng. I holde me content the same to condyscende
Please it you to set forth and I shall attend.

Here they go both out and the louer be-
louyd entreth with a songe.

Louer belouyd: By comen experyence who can deny
Inpossiblyte for man to shoue
His inward entent, but by sygnes outwardly
As wytyng, speche, or countenaunce, wherby doth growe
Outwarde percepyng in wardly to knowe
Of euery secrecy in mans brest wrought
Fro man vnto man the effecte of eche thought

These thynges well weyd in many thynges shewe nede
In our outwarde sygnes to shewe vs so that playne
Accoꝝdyng to our thoughtes/wordes and sygnes procede
For in outwarde sygnes where men are sene to fayne
what credence in man to man may remayne
Mans inwarde mynde with outward sygnes to fable
May sone be moꝝe comen than comendable.

Much are we louers then to be commendyd
For loue his apparence dyssembleth in no wyse
But as the harte felyth lyke sygnes alway pretendyd
who fayne in apparence are loues moꝝtall enmyes
As in dyspayꝝ of spede who that can myꝝth deuyse
Or hauyng graunt of grace can shewe them as moꝝners
Such be no louers but euyꝝ very skorners.

The true louers harte that can not obteyne
Is so toꝝmentyd that all the body
Is euer moꝝe so compelde to complayne
That soner may the sufferer hyde the fury
Of a feruent feuer, then of that malady
By any power humayne he possyble may
Hyde the lesse payne of a thousande I dare say.

And he who in louyng hath lot to suche lucke.
That loue for loue of his loue be founde
Shalbe of power euyꝝ as easely to plucke
The mone in a mamet with a synger to grounde

B. i. As of

As of his ioy to enclose the rebounde
But that the reflexion therof from his harte
To his beholders shall shyne in eche parte

Thus be a loue in ioy oꝛ in care
All though wyl and wyt his estate wolde hyde
yet shall his semblaunce as a dyale declare
Howe the clocke goeth which may be well applyed
In abygement of circumstaunce foꝛ a guyed
To leade you in fewe wordes by my byhauour
To knowe me in grace of my lades fauour.

Foꝛ being a loue as I am in dede
And therto dysposyd thus pleasauntly
Is a playne apparence of my such speede
As I in loue could wylsh and vndoubtedly
My loue is requyted so louyngly
That in euery thyng that may delyght my mynde.
My wylt can not wylsh it so well as I synde

which thyng at full consydyed, I suppose
That all the whole woꝛlde must agree in one voyce
I being beloued as I nowe dysclose
Of one being chefe of all the hole choyce
Must haue incomparable cause to reioyce
Foꝛ the hyst pleasure that man may obtayne
Is to be a loue beloued agayne

Another loue noꝛ loued entreth

No loue noꝛ loued. Howe god you good euy n mayster woodcock
Loue loued. Cometh of rudenesse oꝛ lewdenesse that mock
No loue noꝛ loued. Come wherof it shall ye come of such stock
 That god you good euy n mayster woodcock.
Loue loued. This losell by lyke hath lost his wylt
No loue noꝛ loued. Nay nay mayster woodcock not a whyt
 I haue knowen you foꝛ a woodcock oꝛ this
 Oꝛ els lyke a woodcock I take you a mys
 But though foꝛ a woodcock ye deny the same
 yet shall your wylt wytnes you mete foꝛ that name.
Loue loued. Howe so?
No loue noꝛ loued. Thus lo.
 I do perceyue by your foꝛmare proces.
 That ye be a loue wherto ye confes
 your selfe beloued in as louyng wylse
 As by wylt and wyl ye can wylsh to deuple

Conclu-



Concludyng therein determinately
 That of all pleasures pleasaunt to the body
 The hyest pleasure that man may obtayne
 Is to be a louer beloued agayne
 In which conclusyon before all this flock
 I shall proue you playne as wyse as a woodcock
Louer loued. And me thynke this woodcock is toznd on thy syde
 Contrary to curtsy and reason to vse
 Thus rudely to rayle oz any worde be tryed
 In proufe of thy parte, wherby I do refuse
 To answer the same, thou canst not excuse
 Thy folly in this, but if thou wilt say ought
 Assay to say better for this seyng is nought
No louer noz loued. Well syngs it is so that ye be dyscontent
 To be called sole oz further matter be spent
 Wyl ye gyue me leaue to call ye sole anone
 When your selse perceyueth that I haue proued you one
Louer loued. ye by my soule and wyl take it in good worth
No louer noz loued. Nowe by my fathers soule then wyl we euyng forth
 That parte reherced of your seyng oz this
 Of all our debate the onely cause is
 For where ye afore haue fastly affirmed
 That such as be louers agayne beloued
 Stande in most pleasure that to man may moue
 That tale to be false truthe shal truly proue
Louer loued. What folke aboue those lyue more pleasauntly
No louer noz loued. What folke mary euyng such folke as am I
Louer loued. Beyng no louer what man may ye be
No louer noz loued. No louer no by god I warraunt ye
 I am no louer in such maner ment
 As doth appere in this purpose present
 For as touchyng women go where I shall
 I am at one poynt with women all.
 The smothest the synykest the smallest
 The trestest / the tryrest / the tallest
 The wylest / the wyldest / the wyldest /
 The merrest / the manerlyest / the myldest /
 The strangest / the strayghtest / the strongest /
 The lustyest / the lest / oz the longest /
 The rassyest / the ruddyest / the roundest /
 The sagest / the salowest / the soundest /
 The coyest / the curtest / the coldest /
 The bylyest / the bygghtest / the boldest /
 The thankfullest / the thynest / the thypkest /
 The sayntlyest / the sewyest / the syckest /
 Take these with all the reste and of euerychone
 B.ii. So god

Louer loued. So god be my helpe I loue neuer one.
 Then I beseeche the this one thyng tell me
 Howe many women thynkest thou doth loue the
 No louer no; loued. Sy; as I be saued by ought I can proue
 I am beloued eyn lyke as I loue
 Louer loued. Then as appereth by those wordes reherced
 Thou art nother louer no; beloued
 No louer no; loued. Nother louer no; beloued that is euen true
 Louer loued. Syns that is true I merueyll what can ensue
 Fo; proue of thy parte in that thou madest auaunt
 Of both our estates to proue thyne most plesaunt
 No louer no; loued. My parte fo; most plesaunt may sone be gest
 By my contynuall quyetyd rest
 Louer loued. Beyng no louer who may quyet be?
 No louer no; loued. Say beyng a louer what man is he
 That is quyet
 Louer loued. Mary I
 No louer no; loued. Mary ye lye
 Louer loued. what pacyens my frende ye are to hasty
 If ye wyl patiently marke what I shall say
 your selfe shall perceyue me in quyet alway
 No louer no; loued. Say what thou wyl and I therein protest
 To beleue no worde thou sayst most no; lest
 Louer loued. Than we twayne shall talke both in vayne I see
 Except our mater awarded may be
 By iudgement of some indifferent heter
 No louer no; loued. Mary go thou and be an inquerer
 And if thou canst byng one any thyng lykly
 He shalbe admytted fo; my parte quykly
 Louer loued. Howe by the good god I graunt to agree
 Fo; be thou asswred it scorneth me
 That thou shuldest compare in pleasure to be
 Lyke me, and surely I promyse the
 One way o; other I wyl fynde redres
 No louer no; loued. Fynde the best and next way thy wyt can ges
 And except your nob; fo; malous do nede ye
 Make byese returne a felyshyp spede ye.

The louer loued goth out.

No louer no; loued. My merueyll is no more then my care is small
 what knaue this foole shall byng beyng not perciall
 And yet be he false and a folythe knaue to
 So that it be not to much a do
 To byng a daw to here and speke ryght
 I foyle fo; no man the worth of a myte
 And syns my doubt is so small in good spede

what

what shulde my studye be moze then my nede
Tyll tyme I perceyue this woodcock commyng
My parte hereof shulde pas euyn in mummyng
Saying for pastyme syns I consyder
He beyng a louet and all his mater
To depende on loue and contrary I
No louet, by which all such standyng by
As fauour my parte, may feare me to wepke
Agaynst the loupng of this louet to speyke
I shall for your confozt declare suche a stoze
As shall perfectly plant in your memozy
That I haue knowledge in louers laws
As depe as some dosyn of those dotyng dawes
which tolde all ye whose fancies styck nere me
Shall knowe it causeles in this case to feare me
For though as I shewe I am no louet now
No; neuer haue ben yet shall I shewe yow
How that I ones chaunced to take in hande
To sayne my selve a louet ye shall vnderstande
Toward such a swetyng as by swete sent sauour
I knowe not the lyke in fashyon and fauour
And to begyn
At settyng in
Fyrst was her skyn
whyt smoth & thyn
And euery bayne
So blewe sene playne
Her golden heate
To see her weare
Her weyng gere
Alas I fere
To tell all to you
I shall vndo you
Her eye so rollyng
Ech hart cottrollyng
Her nose not long
No; stode not wryng
Her synger tyss
So clene the dypys
Her rosy lypys
Her chekes gossypys
So fayre so cuddy
It areth studdy
The hole to tell
It dyd excell
It was so made

B. iii. That

That eyn the shap
At euery glade
wolde hartes. inuade
The paps so small
And rounde with all
The wast not myckyll
But it was tyckyll
The thygh the kne
As they wolde be
But suche a leg
A louer wolde beg
To set eye on
But it is gon
Then syght of the fote
Kyst hartes to the rote
And last of all sent katheryns whele
was neuer so round pas was her hele
Alawt her harte and who coude wynne it
As for her hele no holde in it
yet ouer that her beauty was so muche
In pleasaunt qualytes her graces were such
For dalpaunt pastaunce pas where she holde
No greater dyfference betwene lede and golde
Then betwene the rest and her, and suche a wyt
That no wight I wene myght matche her in it
If she had not wyt to set wyle men to scole
Then shall my tale prouie me a starke sole
But in this matter to make you mete to ges
ye shall vnderstand that I with this maystres
Iyll late acquaynted and for loue no whyt
But for my pleasure to approue my wyt
Howe I coude loue to this trycker dyslymble
who in dyslymelyng was perfyte and nymble
For where or whan she lyst to gyue a mock
She coude and wolde do it beyonde the nock
wherin I thought that if I tryfed her
I shulde therby lyke my wyt the better
And if she chaunced to trypp or tryse me
It holde to learne wyt a good lesson be
Thus for my past tyme I dyd determyne
To mock or be mocht of this mockyng berymyn
For which her presens I dyd fyrst obtayne
And that obtayned forthwith fell we twayne
In great acquayntaunce and made as good chere
As we had ben acquaynted twenty yere
And I throughe sayre flatteryng behauiour

Semyd

Semed anon: so depe in her fauour
That though the tyme then so farre passed was
That tyme requyred vs asonder to pas
yet could I no paspozt get of my swettyng
Tyll I was full woed fo: the next dayes metynge
Fo: seuauns wherof I muste as she had
Gyue her in gage best uell I there had
And after mych myrth as our wyttes coulde deuple
we parted and I the nexte mozne dyd aryse
In tyme not to tymely suche tyme as I coulde
I alowe no loue where slepe is not alowde
I was o: I entred this iorney bowd
Deckt very clenly but not very prouwd
But trym must I be, fo: slouenly lobers
Haue ye wot well no place amonge louers
But I thus deckt at all poyntes poynt deuyce
At doze were this trull was I was at a tryce
wherat I knocked her presens to wyn
wherwith it was opened and I was let yn
And at my fyrste comyng my mynyon semed
Uery mery, but anone she mysdemed
That I was not meryly dysposed
And so myght she thynke, fo: I disclosed
No worde noz loke, but such as shewed as sadly
As I in dede inwardly thought madly
And so must I shewe fo: louers be in rate
Somytmes mery but most tymes passyionate
In geuyng thanks to her of ouer nyght
we set vs downe an heuy couple in syght
And therewithall I set a sygh such one
As made the foyme shake which we both sat on
wherupon she without moze wordes spoken
fell in wepyng as her harte shulde haue broken
And I in secret laughyng so hartely
That from myne eyes cam water plenteously
Anone I turned with loke sadly that she
My wepyng as watery as hers myght se
which done these wordes anone to me she spake
Alas dere harte what wyght myght vndertake
To shewe one so sad as you this moznyng
Beyng so mery as you last euenyng
I so farre then the meryer fo: you
And without desert thus farre the sadder now.
The selfe thyng quoth I which made me then gladd
The selfe same is thyng that maketh me nowe sadde
The loue that I owe you is origynale

Grounde

Grounde of my late ioy and present payne all
And by this meane, loue is euermoze lad
Betwene two angels one good and one bad
Hope and drede which two be alway at stryfe
which one of them both with loue shall reuole most ryse
And hope that good angell fyrst parte of last nyght
Draue drede that bad angell out of place qupght
Hope sware I sholde strepght haue your loue at ones
And drede this bad angell swarc bloud and bones
That if I wan your loue all in one howze
I sholde lose it all agayne in thye oz fowze
wherin this good angell hath lost the mastry
And I by this bad angell won this agony
And be ye sewer I stande nowe in such case
That if I lacke your contynued grace
In heuyn/hell/oz yerth / there is not that he
Saue onely god that knoweth what shall come on me
I loue not in rate all the common flock
I am no fayner noz I can not mock
wherfoze I besече you that your rewarde
May wpticelle that ye do my truthe regarde
Sy; as touchyng mockyng quoth she I am sewer
ye be to wylse to put that here in bye
Foz nother gyue I cause why ye so shulde do
Noz nought coulde ye wyne that way wurth an old sho
Foz who so that mocketh shall surely stur
This olde prouerbe mockum moccabitur
But as foz you I thynke my selfe allewzed
That very loue hath you hyther alewzed
Foz which quoth she let hope hop by agayne
And baynquyly dzed so that it be in bayne
To dzed oz to doubt but I in euery thyng
As cause gyueth cause wylbe your owne derlyng
Swete harte quoth I after stozmy colde smertes
warm wordes i warm louers byyng louers warm hartes
And so haue your wordes warmed my harte eyn nowe
That dzedles and doubtles now must I loue you
Anone there was I loue you and I loue you
Louely we louers loue eche other
I loue you and I foz loue loue you
My louely loupng loued byother
Loueme, loue the, loue we, loue he, loue she,
Depper loue apparent in no twayne can be
Duyte ouer the eares in loue and felt no ground
Had not swymmyng holpe in loue I had byn dround
But I swam by the shoze the vauntage to kepe
To mock

To mock her in loue seynng to Dwyne more depe
Thus contynued we day by day
Tyll tyme that a moneth was passed away
In all the which tyme such a wayt she toke
That by no meane I myght ones set one loke
Upon any woman in company
But streyght way she set the spynge in the eye
And by that same aptnes in ielousy
I thought sewer she loued me perfectly
And I to shewe my selfe in lyke lounng
Dyssembled lyke chere in all her lyke lokyng
By this and other lyke thynges then in hande
I gaue her mockes me thought aboute a thousand
Wherby I thought her owne tale lyke a but
Stack to her owne back mockum moccabitur
And vpon this I fell in deuyng
To bynng to ende this ydell dysgyslyng
Wherupon sodaynly I stole away
And when I had ben absent halfe a day
My harte mys gaue me by god that bought me
That if she myst me where I thought she sought me
She sewer wolde be madde by loue that she ought me
Wherin not loue but pety so wrought me
That to returne anone I bethought me
And so returned tyll chaunce had brought me
To her chamber doze and hard I knocked
Knock softe quoth one who the same vnlocked
An auncyent wyle woman who was neuer
From this sayd swetyng but about her euer
Mother quoth I howe doth my dere darlyng
Deede wretch cryed she euen by thyne absentynng
And without mo wordes the doze to her she shyt
I standyng without halfe out of my wyt
In that this woman shold be dye in my faute
But syne I coulde be there by none allawte
To her chamber wyndow I gat about
To see at the lest way the cors layd out
And there lokyng in by godes blessed mother
I sawe her naked a bed with an other
And with her bedfelows laught me to scoyne
As meryly as euer she laught befoze
The which when I saw and then remembryd
The terryble wordes that mother B rendryd
And also bethought me of euery thyng
Shewed in this woman true loue betokenyng
My selfe to see serued thus prately

To my selfe I laughed eyn hattely
with my selfe consydering to haue had lyke spede
If my selfe had ben a louer in dede.
But nowe to make som matter wherby
I may take my leue of my loue honestly
Swete hart quoth I ye take to much vpon ye
No moze then becomes me knowe thou well quoth she
But thou hast takyn to much vpon the
In takyng that thou toke in hande to mock me
wherin from begynnyng I haue sene the let
Lyke as a foole myght haue iettyd in a net
Beleuyng hymselfe saue of hym selfe onely
To be perceyued of no lyuyng body
But well saw I thyn entent at begynnyng
was to bestow a mock on me at endyng
when thou laughedest dyspulyng a wepyng hart
Then I with wepyng eyes played eyn the lyke part
wherwith I brought in moccum moccabitur
And yet thou beyng a long snowted cur
Coude no whyt smell that all my meanyng was
To gyue mock for mock as now is come to pas
which now thus passed if thy wyt be handsome
May defende the from mockes in tyme to come
By clappng fast to thy snowt every day
Moccum moccabitur for a nosegay
wherwith she start by and shyt her wyndowe to
which done I had no moze to say no; do
But thynke my selfe oz any man elles a foole
In mockes oz wyles to set women to scoole
But howe to purpose wherfose I began
All though I were made a sole by this woman
Concernyng mockyng yet both this tale approue
That I am well sene in the arte of loue
of I entenyng no loue but to mock
yet coude no louer of all the hole flock
Circumstaunce of loue by selde moze no; better
Then by I the substance beyng no greater
And by this tale afoze pr all may see
All though a louer as well loued be
As loue can deuyse hym for pleasaunt spede
yet tho dyspleasures telously and dyede
Is myxt with loue wherby loue is a dynk mete
To gyue babes for wormes for it dynkth bytter swete
And as for this babe our louet in whose hed
By a scantyk womne his opinton is bred
After one dynght of this medlyn mynystred

In to

In to his brayne by my brayne apopntyd
Reason shall so temper his opinion
That he shall see it not worth an onyon
And if he haue any other thyng to ley
I haue to conuynse hym euery way
And syns my parte nowe doth thus well appere
Be ye my parteners now all of good chere
But sylence euery man vpon a payne
For mayster woodcock is nowe come agayne.

The louer loued entreteth

Louer loued. The olde seying seyth he that seketh shall fynde
whiche after long sekynge true haue I founde
But for suche a fyndynge my selfe to bynde
To such a sekynge as I was now bounde
I wolde rather seke to lesse twenty punde
Howe be it: I haue sought so farre to my payne
That at the last I haue founde and brought twayne

The louer not loued, and loued
hot louynge entreteth.

No louer noz loued. Come they a horse backe

Louer loued. Nay they come a fote

No louer noz loued. which thou myght see here; but for this great myst

No louer noz loued. By: yes and yet see I thois blynde balde cote

That one of those twayne myght ryde if he lyst

Louer loued. Howe

No louer noz loued. Nay for he ledyth a nag on his his fyst

Wapstres ye are welcome, and welcome ye be

Loued not louynge. Nay welcome be ye, for we were here before ye

No louer noz loued. ye haue ben here before me before now

And nowe I am here before you

And nowe I am here behynde ye

And nowe ye be here behynde me

And nowe we be here eyn both to gether

And nowe be we welcome eyn both hyther

Syns nowe ye fynde me here with curtsly I may

Byd you welcome hyther as I may say

But setting this asyde, let vs set a broche

The mater wherfore ye hyther appoche

wherin I haue hope that ye both wyll be

Good vnto me, and especyally ye

For I haue a mynde that euery good face

Hath euer some pyte of a poze mans case:

Byng as myne is a mater so ryght

That a sole may iudge it ryght at fyist syght

Louer not loued. Sye ye may well doubt howe my wyll wyll serue

But my wyll from ryght shall neuer swaue

Loued not louyng. No; myne, and as ye sew for helpe to me
 Lyke sewt haue I to sewe for helpe to ye
No louer no; loued. For as much nede haue I of helpe as yow
 I thynke well that dere hart but tell me how
Loued not louyng. The case is this, ye twayn seme in pleasure
 And we twayn in payne which payne doth procure
 By comparyson betwene hym and me
 As great a conflict which of vs twayn be
 In greatest payne, as is betwene ye twayne
 whiche of you twayne in most pleasure doth remayne
 wherin we somewhat haue here debated
 And both to tell truely so gredeply grated
 Upon affection eche to our owne syde
 That in conclusion we must nedes prouyde
 Some such as wolde and coulde be indyfferent
 And we both to stande vnto that iudgement
 wherupon for lacke of a iudge in this place
 we sought many places and yet in this case
 No man coulde we mete that medyll wyll or can
 Tyll tyme that we met with this gentylman
 whome in lyke errand for lyke lacke of ayd
 was dnyen to desyre our iudgement he sayd
Louer loued Forsoth it is so I promysyng playne
 They twayn betwene vs twayn geuyng iudgemēt playne
 we twayn betwene them twayn shuld iudge ryght agayne
No louer no; loued. That promysse to performe I not dysdayne
 For touchyng ryght as I am a ryghteous man
 I wyll geue you as muche ryght as I can
Loued not louyng. Nothyng but ryght desyre I you among
 I wyllnyngly wyll nother geue nor take wronge
No louer no; loued. Nay in my conscyens I thynke by this boke
 your conscyens wyll take nothyng that cometh a croke
 For as in conscyens what euer ye do
 ye nothyng do but as ye wolde be done to
 O hope of good ende, o Mary mother
 Maystres one of vs may nowe helpe a nother
 But sy; I pray you some mater declare
 wherby I may knowe in what grefe ye arre
Louer not loued. I am a louer not loued which playne
 Is dayly not dolefull but my dedly payne
No louer no; loued. A louer not loued haue ye knyght that knot
Louer not loued. ye forsoth
No louer no; loued. Forsoth ye be the moze sot
 Nowe maystres I hartely besech ye
 Tell me what maner case your case may be
Loued not louyng. I am beloued not louyng wherby
 I am not in payne but in tormenty



No louer no; loued. Is this your toimentour god turne hym to good
Loued not louyng. Nay there is another man one me as wood
No louer no; loued. As this man on a nother woman is
 ye thynke them both mad and so do I by iys
 So mot I thypue but who that lyst to marke
 Shall perceyue here a praty peyce of warke
 Let vs fall somewhat in these partes to skannyng
 Louyng not loued, loued not louyng
 Loued and louyng, not louyng no; loued
 wyl ye see these foure partes well ioynd
 Louyng not loued, and loued not louyng
 Those partes can ioyne in no maner rekenyng
 Louyng and loued, loued no; louer
 These partes in ioynyng in lykewyse dyffer
 But in that ye loue ye twayne ioynd be
 And beyng not loued ye ioyne with me
 And beyng no louer with me ioyne the
 And beyng beloued with her ioyne ye
 Had I a ioyner with me ioynd ioyntly
 we ioyners shulde ioyne ioynt to ioynt quykly
 For fyrst I wolde parte these partes in fleses
 And ones departed these parted peses
 Parte and parte with parte I wolde so partlyke parte
 That eche part shulde parte with quyet harte
Louer not loued. Syr syngs it passeth your power that part to play
 Let passe, and let vs partly nowe assay
 To byngge some parte of that purpose to ende
 For which all partyes yet in bayne attende
Loued not louyng. I do desyre the same and that wetwayne
Louer loued. Nay fyrst be harde that I may knowe my payne
 I graunt for my parte by fayth of my body
 why where the deuyll is this hore son noddy
No louer no; loued. I neuer syt in iustyce but euer moze
 I vse to be shypuen a lyttell befoze
 And nowe syngs that my confessyon is done
 I wyl depart and come take penaunce sone
 when cōscyens prycketh conscyens must be sercht by god
 In dyscharyng of conscyens or els gods forbod
 which maketh me mete when conscyēs must come in place
 To be a iudge in euery comen case
 But who may lyke me his auausement auaunt
 Nowe am I a iudge and neuer was serlaunt
 which ye regarde not much by ought that I see
 By any reuerence that ye do to me
 Nay yet I prayse women when great men go by
 They crouch to the grounde loke here how they ly

They shall haue a beck by saynt Antony
 But alas good maystres I crye you mercy
 That you are vnanswered but ye may see
 Though two tales at ones by two eares hard may be
 yet can not one mouth two tales at ones answer
 which maketh you tary but in your mater
 Syns ye by hast in haupng ferdest home
 wolde fyrst be sped of that for which ye come
 I graunt as he graunted your wyl to fulfyll
 you twayne to be harde fyrst, begyn when you wyl
Louet not loued. As these twayne vs tweyn nowe graunt fyrst to bryke
 Syns twayne to be harde, at ones can not speke
 I now desyre your graunt, that I may open
 fyrst tale which nowe is at poynt to be spoken
 which I craue no whyt my parte to auauuncē
 But with the pyth to auoyde circumstance
Loued not louyng. Speke what and whan so euer it please you
Louet not loued. Till reason wyl me, I wyl not dyscase you
 Syns other here is a very weyke bryayne
 O she hath if any a very weyke payne
 For I put case that my loue I her gaue
 And that for my loue, her loue I dyd craue
 For which though I dayly few day by day
 what losse or payne to her if she say nay
No louet no; loued. yes by saynt Mary so the case may stande
 That some woman had leuer take in hande
 To ryde on your errand on hundreth myle
 Then to say nay one Water noster whyle
Louet not loued. If ye on her parte any payne desyre
No louet no; loued. which is the more paynefull her payne or myne
 your payne is most if she say nay and take it
 But if that she say nay and forsake it
Loued not louyng. Then is her payne a great way the greater
 Syn ye alledge this nay in this mater
 As though my denyal my sweter to loue
 where all or the most payne that to me doth moue
 wherin the treuth is a contrary playne
 For though to ofte spekyng one thyng be a payne
 yet is that one worde the full of my hoppyng
 To byng his hoppyng to dyspayre at endyng
 Thus is this nay which ye take my most grefe
 Though it be paynefull yet my most relese
 But my most payne is all an other thyng
 which though ye forget or hyde by dyslymplyng
 I partely shewed you, but all I coude no; can
 But maysters to you with payne of this man

That

That payne that I compare is partely this
I am loued of one whome the treuth is
I can not loue, and so it is with me
That from hym in maner I neuer can flet
And euery one woꝛde in seruit of his parte
Flyps through myne eares and rons through my harte
His gasfull loke so pale that bnneth I
Dare foꝛ myne eares cast towarde hym an eye
And whan I do that eye my thought presenty
Streight to my hart and thus my payne augmenty
One tale so ofte alas and so importune
His exclamacions somtyme on fortune
Some tyme on hym selfe some tyme vpon me
And foꝛ that thyng that if my deeth sholde be
Brought streight in place except I were content
To graunt the same; yet coulde I not assent
And he seyrng this yet sealyth not to craue
what deeth coulde be worse then this lyfe that I haue

Louer not loued.

This tale to purpose purpoyteth no more
But syght and hearpyng complaynt of his toꝛe
Is onely the grefe that ye do susteyne
Alas tender hart. syng. ye dye in payne
This payne to perceyue by syght and hearpyng
Howe coulde you lyue to knowe our payne by sepyng
Marke well this question and answer as ye can
A man that is hanged oꝛ that mans hangman
whych man of those twoayne suffereth most payne

Loued not louyng.

He that is hanged

No louer not loued.

By the masse it is so playne

Louer not loued.

As well sayd foꝛ me, foꝛ I am the sufferer

And ye the hangman vnderstande as it were

These cases vary in no maner a thyng

Haupyng this serues for this mannes hangyng

Comenly is done agaynst the hangmans wyll

And ye be delyghtfull wyll, yout louer kyl

Loued not louyng.

Of delyghtfull wyll, nay that is not so

As ye shall perfectly perceyue oꝛ we go

But of those at whose hangyng haue hangmen be

Howe many haue ye knowen hang wylllyngly

No louer not loued.

Nay neuer vne in his lyfe by lady

Loued not louyng.

In this is your case from our case doth vary

For ye that loue where loue wyll take no place

Your owne wyll is your owne leder a playne case

And not onely vncompelled without aledyng

But foꝛ agaynst her wyll your selfe ye endewyng

Howe syng your wyll to loue dyd you procure

And with that wyll, ye put that loue in bye
 And no we that wyll, by wyt seth loue such payne
 As wytty wyll wolde wyll loue to refrayne
 And ye by wyll that loue in eche condicion
 To extyngt, may be your owne phelicion
 Except ye be a foole or wolde make me one
 what seyng cowd set a good ground to spt on
 To make any man thynke your payne thus strong
 Makyng your owne salue, your owne soze thus long
Louer not louyd. Maystres much parte of this proces purposed
 Is matter of truth truely dysclosed
 My wyll without her wyll brought me in loue
 which wyll without her, wyll doth make me houe
 Upon her grace to see what grace wyll proue
 But where ye say my wyll may me remoue
 As wel from her loue, as wyll brought me to it
 That is false my wyll can not wyll to do it
 My wyl as farre therin out weyth my power
 As a sow of led out weyth a safo, me flowre
Loued not louyng. your wyl out weyth your power the where is your wyl
Louer loued. I merueyll that euer ye wyll speke it
Louer loued. Nay merueyll ye maystres therat no whyt
 For as farre as this poynt may stretch in verdyt
 I am clerely of this mans opinon
No loue no; loued. And I contrary with this mynion
Louer loued. Then be we come to a demurrer in lawe
No loue no; loued. Then be ye come from a woodcock to a date
 And by god it is no small connyng brother
 For me to turne one wylde foole to a nother
Louer not loued. Nay maysters I hartely pray you both
 Banyshe contencion tyll ye see howe this goth
 I wyll repet and answere her tale forthwith
 The pyth for your part wherof pretendyth
 I prose for your payne to be more then myne
 In that my wyll not onely dyd me enclpne
 To the same, but in the same by the same wyll
 I wyllyngly wyll to contynue styll
 And as wyll brought me and kepeth in this bey
 when I wyll ye say, wyll wyll byng me a wey
 Concludyng thereby that if my payne were
 As great as yours that I holde suerly bere
 As great and good wyll to flee, my loue thus ment
 As do ye, your selwters presens to absent
Loued not louyng. This tale sheweth my tale persepued euey dell
Louer not loued. Then for entre to answere it as well
 Answere this put case ye, as depely nowe,

Dyd loue your louet as he doth loue you
 Shulde not that louyng suppose ye redyes
 That payne whiche lack of louyng doth posses
 yes

Loued not louyng. Syns loue gyuyn to hyme gyueth your selfe ease, than
Louer not loued. Except ye loue payne, why loue ye not this man
Loued not louyng. Loue hym nay as I sayd must I streyght chose
 To loue hym or els my hed here to lose
 I knowe well I coulde not my lyfe to saue
 with louyng wyll graunt hym my loue to haue
Louer not loued. I thynke ye speke truely for wyll wyll not be
 forced in loue wherfore the same to ye
 Syns this is to you such dyspulte
 why not a thyng as dyspult to me
 To wyll the let of loue where wyll my loue hath set
Loued not louyng. As you to wyll to set loue where wyll is your let
 well sayd and put case it as harde nowe be
 for you to wyll to leue her, as for me
 To loue hym, yet haue ye aboue me a meane
 To learne you at length to wyll to leue loue cleane
 which meane many thousandes of louers hath brought
 from ryght feruent louyng to loue ryght nought
 which long and oft approued meane is absens
 wherto when ye wyll ye may haue lycens
 whiche I craue and wyshe and can not obtayne
 for he wyll neuer my presens refrayne
Louer not loued. This is a medsyn lyke as ye wolde wyll me
 for thyng to keure me the thyng that wolde kyll me
 for presens of her, though I selde whan may haue
 As soole the medsyn that my lyfe doth saue
 Her absens can I with as yll wyll wyll
 As I can wyll to leue to loue her styll
 Thus is this wyll brought in insydently
 No ayde in your purpose worth taylor of a styll
 And as concernyng our pryncypall mater
 All that ye lay may be layd eyn a water
 I wonder that shame suffereth you to compare
 with my payne, syns ye are dyuen to declare
 That all your payne is but syght and hearpyng
 Of hym that as I do dyeth in payne selyng
 O payne vpon payne what paynes I sustayne
 No crafte of the deuyll can expresse all my payne
 In this body no lyn/oynt/serow/noz beyne/
 But martreth eche other, and this brayne
 These enemy of all by the inuentyng
 Myne vnlauey seute to her dyscontentyng

My speakyng, my hearyng, my lokyng, my thynkyng
In syttyng, in standyng, in wakyng, or wyntyng,
what euer I do, or where euer I go
My brayne and myshap in all these do me wo
As for my senses eche one of all fyue
wondreth as it can to fele it selfe a lyue
And than hath loue gotten all in one bed
Hym selfe and his seruauntes to lodge in this hed
Wayne hope, dyspayre, dyede, and audacite,
Hast, wast, lust without lpyng or lyberte
Dyligence, humyltye, trust, and telousy,
Delyre, pacyent sufferance, and constansy,
These with other in this hed lyke swarmes of bees
Stryng in debatyng theyr contrapyetes
The venym wherof from this hed dystylleth
Downe to this brest and this hart it killeth
All tymes in all places of this body
By this dystemperaunce thus dystempored am I
Sheueryng in colde and yet in hete I dye
Drowned in moysture parched perchement dye
No louer nor loued, Colde hote mooste dye all in all places at ones
Marry sye this is an age for the nones
But or we gyue iudgement I must serch to bew
whether this eydens be false or trew
Say stande still your part shall proue neuer the wars
So by saynt sauour here is a whot ars
Let me fele your nose, nay fere not man be holde
well though this ars be warme and this nose colde
yet these twayne by attomey brought in one place
Are as he seyth colde and whot both in lyke case
O what payne brought is see how his drye lyps
Smake for more moyster of his warme moyst hypps
Breath out, these eyes are dull but this nose is quycker
Here is most moyster, your breath smelleth of lycker
Loued not louyng, well syns ye haue opened in this tale tellyng
The full of your payne for spede to endyng
I shall in fewe wordes such one question dysclose
As if your answer gyue cause to suppose
The hole of the same to be answered at full
we nede no iudgement for yelde my selfe I wull
But case this man loued a woman such one
who were in his lpyng the thyng alone
And that his lone to her were not so myckyll
But her fancy towarde hym were as lyttyll
And that she byd her selfe so day and nyght
That selde tyme what he myght come in her syght

And

And then put case that one to you loue dyd bere
 A woman that other so vgly were
 That eche kys of her mouth called you to gybbes fest
 Or that your fancy abhorred her so at lest
 That her p̄sens were as swete to suppose
 As one shulde p̄sent

No louer noꝝ loued. A toꝛde to his nose
Loued not louyng. ye in good fayth, wherto the case is this
 That her spytfull p̄sens absent neuer is
 Of these two cases if chaunce shulde dyꝛue you
 To chose one, which wolde ye chuse tell trowth now
 what ye study

No louer noꝝ loued. Cary ye be to gredy
Louer not loued. Men be not lyke women alway redy
Loued not louyng. In good soth to tell treuth of these cases twayne
 which case is the wurst is to me vncertayne
 Fyꝛst case of these twayne I put foꝝ your parte
 And by the last case apereth myne owne smarte
 If they p̄ced with this fyꝛst case of ours
 Then is our mater vndoubtedly yours
 And if iudgement passe with this last case in fyne
 Then is the mater asewredly myne
 Syns by these cases our partes so do seme
 That which is most paynesfull your selfe can not deme.
 If ye nowe wyl all circumstaunce eschew
 Make this question in these cases our yslew
 And the payne of these men to abreyate
 Set all our other mater as frustrate

Louer not-loued. Agreed
Loued not louyng. Then further to abredge your payne
 Syns this our yslew apereth thus playne
 As folke not doubtynꝝ your consciens noꝝ connyng
 we shall in the same let passe all resonyng
 yeloyng to your iudgement the hole of my parte
Louer not loued. And I lykewyse myne with wyl and good harte
No louer noꝝ loued So to make you low curtsy to me now
 And streyght I wyl make as lowe curtsy to you
 Nay stande ye nere the vpper ende I pray ye
 foꝝ the neyther ende is good ynough foꝝ me
 your cases which enclude your grefe eche whyt
 Shall dwell in this hed
Louer loued. And in myne but yet
 Or that we heretn our iudgement publysh
 I shall desyre you that we twayne may synlysh
 As farre in our mater towarde iudgement
 As ye haue done in yours to the entent

That we our partes brought to gether thyther
 May come to iudgement fro thens to gythes
 By; lady sy; and I desyre the same
No louer no; loued I wolde ye began
Loued not louyng. Begyn then in goddes name
Louer not loued. Shall I begyn
Louer loued. Syns I loke but fo; wyynyng
 Gyue me the ende and take you the begynnyng
 who shall wyne the ende, the ende at ende shall try
No louer no; loued. Fo; my parte wherof nowe thus begyn I
 I am as I sayd a beloued louer
 And he no louer no; beloued nother
 In which two cases he maketh his awaunt
 Of both our partes to proue his most pleasaunt
 But be ye assuered by ought I yet se
 In his estate no maner pleasure can be
Louer loued. Yes two maner pleasures ye must nedes confes
 First I haue the pleasure of quyetnes
 And the secounde is I am contented
No louer no; loued. That secounde pleasure now secondly inuented
 To compare with pleasure by contentashyon
 Is a very secounde ymagynashyon
Louer loued. Then shewe your wpt fo; proufe of this in hande
 Howe may pleasure without contentacyon stande
No louer no; loued. Pleasure without contentacyon can not be
 But contentacyon without pleasure we se
 In thynges innumerable euery day
 Of all which marke these which I shall nowe ley
 But case that I fo; pleasure of some frende
 Or some thyng which I longed to se at ende
 wolde be content to ryde thre sco;e myle this nyght
 And neuer wolde hayte no; neuer alyght
 I myght be ryght well content to do this
 And yet in this doyng no pleasure there is
 Howeouer ye by pacpent sufferauce
 May be contented with any myschaunce
 The losse of your chylde frende or any thyng
 That in this worlde to you can be longyng
 wherin ye contented neuer so well
 yet is your contentacyon pleasure no dell
No louer no; loued. These two exsamples by ought that I se
 Be no thyng the thynges that any thyng touch me
 with deth of my chylde my beyng contented
 Or payne with my frende wyllyngly assented
 Is not contentacyon voluntary
 Fo; that contentacyon cometh fo;ceably

But

Louer loued.

But my contentacion standeth in such thyng
As I wolde fyyst wyshe if it went by wysyng
Syr be ye contented euen as ye tell
yet your contentacyon can nother excell
No; be compared egall to myne estate
For touchyng contentacyon I am in rate
As byely contented to loue as ye se
As ye to forbere loue can wyshe to be
Had I no moze to say in this argument
But that I am as well as you content
yet hath my parte nowe good approbacyon
To match with yours euen by contentacyon
But contentacion is not all the thyng
That I for my loue haue in recompencyng
Aboue contentacyon pleasures felyng
Haue I so many, that no wyght lyuyng
Can by any wyt or tonge the same reporte
O the pleasaunt pleasures in our resorte
After my beyng from her any whyther
what pleasures haue we in comyng to gyther
Eche tap on the grounde towarde me with her fote
Doth bathe in delyght my very harte rote
Euery twynke of her alurynge eye
Reuyueth my spirites euen thowoutly
Eche worde of her mouth not a preparatyue
But the ryght medicyne of preferuatyue
we be so toconde and ioyfully ioyned
Her loue for my loue so currantly coynd
That all pleasures yerthly the treuth to declare
Are pleasures not able with ours to compare
This mouth in maner receyueth no food
Loue is the fedynge that doth this body good
And this hed dyspyseth all these eyes wyntyng
Longer then loue doth kepe this harte thynkyng
To dreame on my swete harte, loue is my leader
Loue is my lord, and loue is my leader
Of all myne affayres in thought, worde, and dede,
Loue is the Chrysts crosse that must be my spede

No louer no; loued.

Louer loued.
No louer no; loued.

By this I perceyue wel ye make rekenyng
That loue is a goodly and a good thyng
Loue good what yll in loue canst thou make apere
yes I shal proue this loue at this tyme ment here
In this mans case as yll as is the deuyll
And in your case I shall proue loue moze euill
what tormentry coulde all the deuylls in hell
Deuyse to his payne that he doth not tell

D.iii. wha

what payne byngeth that body those deuyls in that hed
which mynysters alway by loue are led
He fryyth in fyre he drowneeth in drought
Eche parte of his body loue hath brought abought
where eche to helpe other shulde be dyligent
They marter eche other the man to torment
without stynt of rage his paynes be so soze
That no fende may torment man in hell moze
And as in your case to proue that loue is
wurs than the deuyl my nieanyng is this
Loue dystempereth hym by torment in payne
And loue dystempereth you as farre in ioy playne
your owne confession declareth that ye
Eate, drynke, or slepe eyn as lyttell as he
And he that lacketh any one of those thre
Be it by ioy or by payne clere ye see
Deth must be sequell howe euer it be
And thus are ye both brought by loues induccyon
By payne or by ioy to lyke poynt of dystruccyon
which poynt aproueth loue in this case past
Beyonde the deuyl in turmentry to haue a cast
For I trowe ye fynde not that the deuyl can fynde
To turment man in hell by any pleasauit mynde
wherby as I sayd I say of loue styll
Of the deuyl and loue, loue is the moze pll
And at begynnynge I may say to you
If godd had sene as much as I say now
Loue had ben Lucyfer and doubt ye no whyt
But experyens nowe hath taught god such wyt
That if ought come at Lucyfer other then good
To whyp soules on the brych loue shalbe the blood
And swete he is one that can not lye long
For aged folke ye wot well can not be strong
And an other thynge his phisic you doth ges
That he is infecte with the blak iawndes
No fetther then ye be infecte with folye
For in all these wordes no worde can I espye
Such as for your parte any proufe auoucheth
For proufe of my parte, no but it toucheth
The dysproufe of yours for where you alledged
your parte aboue myne to be compared
By pleasures in which your dyspleasures are such
That ye eate, drynke, nor slepe, or at most not much
In lacke wherof my tale proueth playnly
Eche parte of your pleasure a turmentry
wherby your good loue I haue proued so euill

Louer loued.

No louer nor loued.

That

That loue is appaunthly woys then the deuyll
 And as touchyng my parte there can aryse
 No maner dyspleasures no; tomentryes
 In that I loie not, no; am not loued
 I moue no dyspleasures no; none to me moued
 But all dyspleasures of loue fro me absent
 By absens wherof I quyetly content
Louer loued. Syr where ye sayd and thynke ye haue sayd wel
 That my ioy by loue shall byyng deth in sequell
 In that by the same in maner I dysdayne
 Fode and slepe, this prouerbe answereth you playne
 Loke not on the meat, but loke on the man
 Howe loke ye on me and say what ye can
No louer no; loued Ray for a tyme loue may pufte by a thyng
 But lackyng fode and slepe deth is the endyng
Louer loued well sy; tyll such tyme as deth approue it
 This part of your tale may slepe euery whyt
 And where ye by absent dyspleasure wolde
 Watch with my present pleasure ye seme moze bolde
 Then wylse, for those twayne be farre dyfferent sewer
No louer no; loued. Is not absens of dyspleasure a pleasure
Louer loued. yes in lyke rate as a post is pleased
 which as by no meane it can be dysleasid
 By dyspleasure present so is it trew
 That no pleasure present in it can enfew
 Pleasures or dyspleasures felyng sensyibly
 A post ye knowe well can not fele possyibly
 And as a post in this case I take you
 Concernyng the effecte of pleasure in hande now
 For any felyng ye in pleasure indure
 More then ye say ye fele in dyspleasure
No louer no; loued. Syr though the effecte of your pleasure present
 Be moze pleasaunt then dyspleasure absent
 yet howe compare ye with myne absent payne
 By present dyspleasures in which ye remaine
Louer loued. My present dyspleasures I knowe none such
No louer no; loued. knowe ye no payne by loue ytell no; much
Louer loued. No
No louer no; loued. Then shall I shewe such a thyng in this purs
 As shortly shall shewe herein your parte the wurs
 Howe I pray god the deuyll in hell blynde me
 By the masse I haue lefte my boke behynde me
 I beleche our loyde I neuer go hens
 If I wolde not rather haue spent forty pens
 But syns it is thus I must go fetch it
 I wyl not tary, a sy; the deuyll stretch it

Louer loued. Farewell dawcock
 No louer no; loued. Farewell woodcock
 Louer loued. He is gone
 Loued not louyng. Gone ye but he wyll come agayne anone
 Louer loued. Nay this nyght he wyll no more dyssease you
 Gyue iudgement hardely euen whan it please you
 which done syth he is gone my selfe streyght shall
 Ryghtoulsly betwene you gyue iudgement fynall
 But lo;de what a face this sole hath set here
 Tyll shame defaced his foly so clere
 That shame hath shamfully in syght of you all
 with shame dysuen hym hens to his shamefull fall
 wherin all though I nought gayne by wyunnyng
 That ought may augment my pleasure in louyng
 yet shall I wyn therby a pleasure to see
 That ye all shall see the mater pas with me
 what though the profyte may iightly be lodyn
 It greueth a man to be ouer trobyn
 Nay whan I saw that his wyunnyng must growe
 By payne pretending in my parte to thewe
 Then wyll I well the nody must cum
 To do as he dyd or stande and play mumi
 No man/no woman/no chylde in this place
 But I durst for iudgement trust in this case
 All doubt of my payne by his prose by any meane
 His ronnyng away hath nowe scrapt out cleane
 werfore gyue iudgement and I shall returne
 In place hereby where my vere hart doth soiuerne
 And after salutacion betwene vs had
 Such as is mete to make louers hartes glade
 I shall to reioyce her in mery tydynges
 Declare the hole rable of this fooles lesynges

Here the hyle cometh in ronnyng sodenly aboute
 the place among the audpens with a hyle co-
 pynt tank on his hed full of squybs fyred
 crypeng water. water / fyre fyre / fyre / wa-
 ter / water / fyre / tyll the fyre in the
 squybs be spent.

Louer loued. water and fyre
 No louer no; loued. Nay water for fyre I meane
 Louer loued. well thanked be god it is out nowe cleane
 Howe cam it there
 No louer no; loued. Syr as I was goyng
 To fet my boke for which was my departyng
 There chaunced in my way a house hereby

To fyre

To fyre which is burned pyteously
But mercieously the people do mone
For a woman they say a goodly one
A colouer whome in this house burned is
And thoutyng of the people for helpe in this
Habe me runne thither to haue done some good
And at a wyndowe therof as I stood
I thrust in my hed and eyn at a flush
Fyre flashyt in my face and so toke my busly

Louer loued. what house?

No louer no; loued. A house paynted with red oker

Louer loued. The owner wherof they say is a broker

Then byck hart alas why lyue I this day
My dere harte is dystroyd lyfe and walth away

No louer no; loued. what man syt downe and be of good chere

Gods body mayster woodcock is gone clere
O mayster woodcock say; mot be fall ye

Of ryght mayster woodcock I must nowe call ye

Maystres stande you here afore and rubbe hym

And I wyll stande here behynde and dubbe hym

Ray the chylde is a slepe ye nede not rock

Mayster woodcock mayster wood wood woodcock

where folke be farre within a man must knock

Is not this a pang trow ye beyonde the nock

Speke mayster woodcock, speke parot I pray ye

My leman your lady ey wyll ye see

My lady your leman one vntertakes

To be safe from fyre by slypppyng through a takes

Louer loued. That worde I harde but yet I see her not

No louer no; loued. No moze do I mayster woodcock our lorde wot

Louer loued. Unto that house where I dyd see her last

I wyll seke to see her and if she be past

So that to apere there I can not make her

Then wyll I burne after and ouertake her

The louer loued goeth out.

No louer no; loued. well ye may burne to gyther for all this

And do well ynough for ought that is yet anys

for gods sake one romne after and bast hym

It were great ppte the fyre shulde wast hym

for beyng fatte your knowledg must recozde

A woodcock well rost is a dyshe for a lorde

And for a woodcock ye all must nowe knowe hym

By mater of recozde that so doth shewe hym

And breuely to byng you all out of dowt

All this haue I seyned to byngige abowt

hym selfe to conuynce hym selfe euen by acte
 As he hath done here in doyng this facte
 He taketh moze thought for this one woman nowe
 Then coulde I for all in the worlde I make auowe
 which hath so shamefully defaced his parte
 That to returne nother hath he face no: harte
 which sene, whyles he and she lese tyme in kyslyng
 Gyue ye with me iudgement a godes blessing
Louer loued. The pzofo of my sayeng at my fyrst entre
 That wretch byngeth now in place in that I leyde
 Dylsymblyng mans mynde by apparence, to be
 Thyng inconuenient, which thyng as I seyde
 Is pzooued nowe true, howe was I dylmeyd
 By his false sayng the deeth of my darlyng
 whome I thanke god is in helth and eyleth nothyng
No louer no: loued Sy: I beseeche you of all your dylsmayng
 what other cause can ye ley then your louyng
Louer loued. My louyng, nay all the cause was your lye
No louer no: loued. what had my lye done if ye had not loued
Louer loued. what dyd my loue tyll your lye was moued
No louer no: loued. By these two questions it semeth we may make
 your loue and my lye to parte euenly the stake
 Louyng and lyeing haue we brought nowe hyther
 Louers and lyers to ley both to gyther
 But put ease my lye of her deeth were true
 what excuse for your loue coulde then ensue
Louer loued. If fortune god saue her dyd byng her to it
 The faute were in fortune and in loue no whyt
No louer no: loued. The hole faute in fortune by my thetch well yt
 God sende your fortune better then your wyt
Louer loued. well sy: at extremyte I can pzooue
 The faute in fortune as much as in loue
No louer no: loued. Then fortune in lyke case with loue nowe ioyne you
 As I with louyng ioyned lyeing euen now
 And well they may ioyne all by ought that I se
 For eche of all thye I take lyke vanyte
 But syns ye confesse that your part of such payne
 Cometh halfe by loue, and that it is certayne
 That certayne paynes to loued louers do moue
 In whiche the faute in nothyng saue onely loue
 As dyed and ielousy eche of which with mo
 To your estate of loue is a dayly fo
 And I clere out of loue declaryng such how
 As in my case no payne to me can grow
 I say this conspyred hath pyth suffycient
 In pzofo of my parte to dyue you to iudgement

Louer loued.

May sayst a fewe wordes, for though I confesse
That loue byngeth some payne and your case paynes
By meane of your contented quietnes
Yet thactuall pleasures that I possesse
Are as farre about the case that ye profess
As is my payne in your ymagynacion
Under the pleasures of contentacion
Thus wade how ye wyll one way or other
If ye wyne one way ye shall lese another
But if ye intende for ende to be bryse
Foine with me herein for indifferent prefe
A tree ye knowe wel is a thinge that hath life
And such a thinge as neuer feleth payne or strife
But eyer quiet and alway contented
And as there can no way be inuented
To bynge a tree dyspleasure by felinge paine
So no felinge pleasure in it can remayne
A hors is a thinge that hath life also
And he oy felinge felth both welth and wo
By dryuinge or drawinge al day in the miter
Many paynefull tozneys hath he in hie
But after al those he hath alway at night
These pleasures folowing to his great dellyght
Fyrt saye washt at a riuer or a weyre
And straight brought to a stable warme and fayre
Dy rubbyd and chafed from hed to hele
And corpd tyll he be styke as an ele
Then he is litted in maner nose hie
And hey as much as will in his belse
Then prouender hath he otes pese benes or bredde
Which feding in felinge as pleasaunt to his hede
As to a couetous man to beholde
Of his owne westminster hall full of golde
After which feding he slepeth in quiet rest
Deryng such time as his meat may degest
Al this considered a hors or a tree
If ye must chose the tone which woude ye be
When the hors must to labour by our lady
I had leuer be a tree then a hors I.
But howe when he resteth and fylleth his gorge
Then wolde I be a hors and no tree by saint George
But what if he must nedes strike to the tone
Which were the n best by the masse I can name none
The first case is yours and the next is for me
In case lyke a tree I may liken ye
For as a tree hath lyfe within feling

No louer nor loued.

Louer loued.

No louer nor loued.

Louer loued.

No louer nor loued.

Louer loued.

E.ii.

whereby

wherby it felith pleasing not displeasing
And can not be but contented quietly
Euen the like case is yours now presently
And as the hozs feleth paine and not the tree
Lpke wylse I haue paine and no paine haue ye
And as a hozs about a tree felyth pleasure
So fele I pleasure aboute you in rate sure
And as the tre felith nother and the hozs both
Euen so pleasure and paine betwene vs twatue goeth
Sins these two cases so indifferently fall
That your selfe can iudge nother for perciall
For indifferent ende I thinke this way best
Of all our reasoning to debarre the rest
And in these two cases this one question
To be the issue that we shal toyne on

No louer nor loued.
Louer loued.

Be it so
Howe are these issues couched so nie
That both sides I trust shall take ende shortly

Louer not loued.

I hope and desire the same and syns we
were fyrst harde, we both humbly beseeche ye
That we in like wise maye haue iudgement furth

Louer loued.
No louer nor loued.

I graunt
By the masse and I come best oz wurst

Louer loued.

Though nature force man styfly to encline
To his owne parte in ech particuler thing!
yet reason wolde man whan man shal determine
Other mens partes by indifferent awarding
Indifferent to be in al his reasoning
wherfore in this parte cut out of affection
So that indifferency be direction

No louer nor loued.

Contented with that and by ought I espye
we may in this mater take ende quickly
Scan we theyr cases as she did apply them
That we may perceiue what is ment by them
He loueth vnloued a goodly one
She is loued not louinge of an vgly one
Or in his eye his louer semeth goodly
And in her eye her lover semeth as vgly
Her most desyred angels face he can not see
His most lothely hell houndes face she can not see
He loueth, she abhorreth wherby presents is
His life, her deth, wherby I say euen this
Be his feling paines in euery degre
As great and as many as he sayth they be
yet in my iudgement by these cases hath she
As great and as many feling paines as he

wher

Louer loued. When mater at full is indifferently leyd
 As ye in this iudgement haue leyd this now
 What reason the tyme by me shulde be deleyd
 Ye haue spoken my thought wherfoze to you
 In peylsing your paines my consciens doth allowe
 A lust counterpasse and thus your paynes be
 I iudged by vs twaine one paine in degre
Louer not loued. Well sirs your conscriens driueth you thus to iudge
 I receiue this iudgement without greife or grudge
Loued not louing. And I in like rate, yelding vnto you twaine
 Partly thanks for this your vnderstand paine
Louer not loued. Howe maisters may it please you to declare
 As touching their partes of what minde ye are
Loued not louing. With right good will sir, and sure I suppose
 Their partes in fewe wordes mate come to pointe well
 The two examples which he did disclose
 All errors or doubtles do clerly expell
 The estate of a tre his estate doth tell
 And of the hozs his tale wel vnderstande
 Declareth as well his case nowe in hande

For as nothing can please or displease a tre
 By any pleasure or displeasur feling
 For neuer bying a tre discontent to be
 So like case to him not loued nor louing
 Loue can no way bying pleasing or displeasing
 True women, die women, strike women, or swin,
 In all he content, for al is due to him

And as a hozse hath many painefull toznes
 A loue best loued hath paines in like wise
 As here hath apered by sondry weys
 Which sheweth his case in worst part to rise
 But then as the hozse feleth pleasure in life
 At night in the stable aboue the tre
 So feleth he some pleasure as farre aboue ye

In some case he feleth much moze pleasure then he
 And in some case he feleth euen as muche lesse
 Betwene the moze and the lesse it semeth to me
 That betwene their pleasures no chosse is to gesse
 Wherfoze I giue iudgement in hozs processe
 Set the one pleasure euen to the tother

No loue nor loued. Womanly spoken maisters by the goodes mother

Louer not loued. Who heareth this tale wyth in different minde

E.iii.

And

And seeth of these twaine eche one so full bent
To his owne parte that nother in harte can finde
To chaunge pleasures with other must nedes assent
That he in these woꝝdes hath gyuen ryght iudgement
In affirmance wherof I iudge and awarde
Both these pleasures of yours as one in regarde

Louer loued. Well syns I thinke ye both without corruption
I shall moue no mater of interrupcion
No louer noꝝ loued. Noꝝ I but maysters though I say nought in this
May I not thinke my pleasure more than his
Loued not louing. Affeccion vnbryled may make vs al thynke
That eche of vs hath done other wꝝonge
But where reason taketh place it can not sinke
Syns cause to be percial here is none vs amonge
That one hed that wolde thinke his owne wit so strong
That on his iudges he myght iudgement deuise
what iudge in so iudging coulde iudge hym wyse
Louer loued. well myne estate ryght wel contenteth me
No louer noꝝ loued. And I with myne as well content as ye

Louer not loued. So shulde ye both likewise be contented
Eche other to see content in such degree
As on your partes our iugement hath awarded
your ueyghbour in pleasure lyke your selfe to be
Gladly to wilke Chyistes precept doth bynde ye
Thus contentacion shulde alway prefer
One man to ioy the pleasure of an other

Louer loued. True and contencion may be in like case
All though no helth yet helpe and greate relefe
In both your paynes for ye hauing such grace
To be contented in sufferance of grefe
Shall by contentacion auoide much myschiefe
Such as the contracy shall suerly bying you
Payne to paine as paineful as your paine is now

Thus not we. foure but al the woꝝlde beside
Knowledge them selfe or other in ioy or payne
Hath ne de of contentacion for a gyde
Hauinge ioy or payne content let vs remayne
In ioy or payne of other see we daꝝdaine
Be we content welth or woo, and eche for other
Reioyse in the tone and pyte the tother

Louer not loued. Syns such contencion may hardly acoꝝde

In such

In such kynde of loue as here hath ben ment
Let vs seke the loue of that loupng loꝛde
who to suffer passion foꝛ loue was content
wherby his louers that loue foꝛ loue assent.
Shall haue in tyme aboue contentacyon
The felypng pleasure of eternall saluacyon

which loꝛde of loꝛdes whose ioyfull and blessed byꝛth
Is now remembꝛed by tyme pꝛesentpꝛng
This accustomed tyme of honest myꝛth
That loꝛde we beseeche in most humble meanyng
That it may please hym by mercypfull hearyng
The state of this audpꝛens longe to endure
In myꝛth, helth, and welth, to graunt his pleasure

A M C R.

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