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Text by Lesslie Hall

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BEOWULF

AN ANGLO- SAXON EPIC POEM

TRANSLATED
FROM THE HEYNE-SOCIN TEXT

BY

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TO
My Wife

CONTENTS.

PREFACE

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF TRANSLATIONS

GLOSSARY OF PROPER NAMES

LIST OF WORDS AND PHRASES NOT IN GENERAL USE

THE LIFE AND DEATH OF SCYLD (I.)

SCYLD'S SUCCESSORS (II.)

HROTHGAR'S GREAT MEAD-HALL

GRENDL, THE MURDERER (III.)

BEOWULF GOES TO HROTHGAR'S ASSISTANCE (IV.)

THE GEATS REACH HEOROT (V.)

BEOWULF INTRODUCES HIMSELF AT THE PALACE (VI.)

HROTHGAR AND BEOWULF (VII.)

HROTHGAR AND BEOWULF (CONTINUED) (VIII.)

UNFERTH TAUNTS BEOWULF (IX.)

BEOWULF SILENCES UNFERTH (X.)

GLEE IS HIGH

ALL SLEEP SAVE ONE (XI.)

GRENDL AND BEOWULF (XII.)

GRENDL IS VANQUISHED (XIII.)

REJOICING OF THE DANES (XIV.)

HROTHGAR'S GRATITUDE (XV.)

HROTHGAR LAVISHES GIFTS UPON HIS DELIVERER (XVI.)

BANQUET (CONTINUED) (XVII.)

THE SCOP'S SONG OF FINN AND HNÆF

THE FINN EPISODE (CONTINUED) (XVIII.)

THE BANQUET CONTINUES

BEOWULF RECEIVES FURTHER HONOR (XIX.)

THE MOTHER OF GRENDL (XX.)

HROTHGAR'S ACCOUNT OF THE MONSTERS (XXI.)

BEOWULF SEEKS GRENDL'S MOTHER (XXII.)

BEOWULF'S FIGHT WITH GRENDL'S MOTHER (XXIII.)

BEOWULF IS DOUBLE-CONQUEROR (XXIV.)

BEOWULF BRINGS HIS TROPHIES (XXV.)

HROTHGAR'S GRATITUDE

HROTHGAR MORALIZES (XXVI.)
REST AFTER LABOR
SORROW AT PARTING (XXVII.)
THE HOMEWARD JOURNEY (XXVIII.)
THE TWO QUEENS
BEOWULF AND HIGELAC (XXIX.)
BEOWULF NARRATES HIS ADVENTURES TO HIGELAC (XXX.)
GIFT-GIVING IS MUTUAL (XXXI.)
THE HOARD AND THE DRAGON (XXXII.)
BRAVE THOUGH AGED (XXXIII.)
REMINISCENCES
BEOWULF SEEKS THE DRAGON (XXXIV.)
BEOWULF'S REMINISCENCES
REMINISCENCES (CONTINUED) (XXXV.)
BEOWULF'S LAST BATTLE
WIGLAF THE TRUSTY (XXXVI.)
BEOWULF IS DESERTED BY FRIENDS AND BY SWORD
THE FATAL STRUGGLE (XXXVII.)
BEOWULF'S LAST MOMENTS
WIGLAF PLUNDERS THE DRAGON'S DEN (XXXVIII.)
BEOWULF'S DEATH
THE DEAD FOES (XXXIX.)
WIGLAF'S BITTER TAUNTS
THE MESSENGER OF DEATH (XL.)
THE MESSENGER'S RETROSPECT (XLI.)
WIGLAF'S SAD STORY (XLII.)
THE HOARD CARRIED OFF
THE BURNING OF BEOWULF (XLIII.)
ADDENDA

PREFACE.

THE present work is a modest effort to reproduce approximately, in modern measures, the venerable epic, Beowulf. *Approximately*, I repeat; for a very close reproduction of Anglo-Saxon verse would, to a large extent, be prose to a modern ear.

The Heyne-Socin text and glossary have been closely followed. Occasionally a deviation has been made, but always for what seemed good and sufficient reason. The translator does not aim to be an editor. Once in a while, however, he has added a conjecture of his own to the emendations quoted from the criticisms of other students of the poem.

This work is addressed to two classes of readers. From both of these alike the translator begs sympathy and co-operation. The Anglo-Saxon scholar he hopes to please by adhering faithfully to the original. The student of English literature he aims to interest by giving him, in modern garb, the most ancient epic of our race. This is a bold and venturesome undertaking; and yet there must be some students of the Teutonic past willing to follow even a daring guide, if they may read in modern phrases of the sorrows of Hrothgar, of the prowess of Beowulf, and of the feelings that stirred the hearts of our forefathers in their primeval homes.

In order to please the larger class of readers, a regular cadence has been used, a measure which, while retaining the essential characteristics of the original, permits the reader to see ahead of him in reading.

Perhaps every Anglo-Saxon scholar has his own theory as to how Beowulf should be translated. Some have given us prose versions of what we believe to be a great poem. Is it any reflection on our honored Kemble and Arnold to say that their translations fail to show a layman that Beowulf is justly called our first *epic*? Of those translators who have used verse, several have written from what would seem a mistaken point of view. Is it proper, for instance, that the grave and solemn speeches of Beowulf and Hrothgar be put in ballad measures, tripping lightly and airily along? Or, again, is it fitting that the rough martial music of Anglo-Saxon verse be interpreted to us in the smooth measures of modern blank verse? Do we hear what has been beautifully called "the clanging tread of a warrior in mail"?

Of all English translations of Beowulf, that of Professor Garnett alone gives any adequate idea of the chief characteristics of this great Teutonic epic.

The measure used in the present translation is believed to be as near a reproduction of the original as modern English affords. The cadences closely resemble those used by Browning in some of his

most striking poems. The four stresses of the Anglo-Saxon verse are retained, and as much thesis and anacrusis is allowed as is consistent with a regular cadence. Alliteration has been used to a large extent; but it was thought that modern ears would hardly tolerate it on every line. End-rhyme has been used occasionally; internal rhyme, sporadically. Both have some warrant in Anglo-Saxon poetry. (For end-rhyme, see 1 53, 1 54; for internal rhyme, 2 21, 6 40.)

What Gummere¹ calls the “rime-giver” has been studiously kept; viz., the first accented syllable in the second half-verse always carries the alliteration; and the last accented syllable alliterates only sporadically. Alternate alliteration is occasionally used as in the original. (See 7 61, 8 5.)

No two accented syllables have been brought together, except occasionally after a cæsural pause. (See 2 19 and 12 1.) Or, scientifically speaking, Sievers’s C type has been avoided as not consonant with the plan of translation. Several of his types, however, constantly occur; e.g. A and a variant (/ x | / x) (/ x x | / x); B and a variant (x / | x /) (x x / | x /); a variant of D (/ x | / x x); E (/ x x | /). Anacrusis gives further variety to the types used in the translation.

The parallelisms of the original have been faithfully preserved. (E.g., 1 16 and 1 17: “Lord” and “Wielder of Glory”; 1 30, 1 31, 1 32; 2 12 and 2 13; 2 27 and 2 28; 3 5 and 3 6.) Occasionally, some loss has been sustained; but, on the other hand, a gain has here and there been made.

The effort has been made to give a decided flavor of archaism to the translation. All words not in keeping with the spirit of the poem have been avoided. Again, though many archaic words have been used, there are none, it is believed, which are not found in standard modern poetry.

With these preliminary remarks, it will not be amiss to give an outline of the story of the poem.

THE STORY.

Hrothgar, king of the Danes, or Scyldings, builds a great mead-hall, or palace, in which he hopes to feast his liegemen and to give them presents. The joy of king and retainers is, however, of short duration. Grendel, the monster, is seized with hateful jealousy. He cannot brook the sounds of joyance that reach him down in his fen-dwelling near the hall. Oft and anon he goes to the joyous building, bent on direful mischief. Thane after thane is ruthlessly carried off and devoured, while no one is found strong enough and bold enough to cope with the monster. For twelve years he persecutes Hrothgar

and his vassals.

Over sea, a day's voyage off, Beowulf, of the Geats, nephew of Higelac, king of the Geats, hears of Grendel's doings and of Hrothgar's misery. He resolves to crush the fell monster and relieve the aged king. With fourteen chosen companions, he sets sail for Dane-land. Reaching that country, he soon persuades Hrothgar of his ability to help him. The hours that elapse before night are spent in beer-drinking and conversation. When Hrothgar's bedtime comes he leaves the hall in charge of Beowulf, telling him that never before has he given to another the absolute wardship of his palace. All retire to rest, Beowulf, as it were, sleeping upon his arms.

Grendel comes, the great march-stepper, bearing God's anger. He seizes and kills one of the sleeping warriors. Then he advances towards Beowulf. A fierce and desperate hand-to-hand struggle ensues. No arms are used, both combatants trusting to strength and hand-grip. Beowulf tears Grendel's shoulder from its socket, and the monster retreats to his den, howling and yelling with agony and fury. The wound is fatal.

The next morning, at early dawn, warriors in numbers flock to the hall Heorot, to hear the news. Joy is boundless. Glee runs high. Hrothgar and his retainers are lavish of gratitude and of gifts.

Grendel's mother, however, comes the next night to avenge his death. She is furious and raging. While Beowulf is sleeping in a room somewhat apart from the quarters of the other warriors, she seizes one of Hrothgar's favorite counsellors, and carries him off and devours him. Beowulf is called. Determined to leave Heorot entirely purified, he arms himself, and goes down to look for the female monster. After traveling through the waters many hours, he meets her near the sea-bottom. She drags him to her den. There he sees Grendel lying dead. After a desperate and almost fatal struggle with the woman, he slays her, and swims upward in triumph, taking with him Grendel's head.

Joy is renewed at Heorot. Congratulations crowd upon the victor. Hrothgar literally pours treasures into the lap of Beowulf; and it is agreed among the vassals of the king that Beowulf will be their next liegeland.

Beowulf leaves Dane-land. Hrothgar weeps and laments at his departure.

When the hero arrives in his own land, Higelac treats him as a distinguished guest. He is the hero of the hour.

Beowulf subsequently becomes king of his own people, the Geats. After he has been ruling for fifty years, his own neighborhood is wofully harried by a fire-spewing dragon. Beowulf determines to kill him. In the ensuing struggle both Beowulf and the dragon are slain. The grief of the Geats is inexpressible. They determine, however, to

leave nothing undone to honor the memory of their lord. A great funeral-pyre is built, and his body is burnt. Then a memorial-barrow is made, visible from a great distance, that sailors afar may be constantly reminded of the prowess of the national hero of Geatland.

The poem closes with a glowing tribute to his bravery, his gentleness, his goodness of heart, and his generosity.

It is the devout desire of this translator to hasten the day when the story of Beowulf shall be as familiar to English-speaking peoples as that of the Iliad. Beowulf is our first great epic. It is an epitomized history of the life of the Teutonic races. It brings vividly before us our forefathers of pre-Alfredian eras, in their love of war, of sea, and of adventure.

My special thanks are due to Professors Francis A. March and James A. Harrison, for advice, sympathy, and assistance.

J.L. HALL.

[1] Handbook of Poetics, page 175, 1st edition.

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE NOTES.

B. = Bugge. C. = Cosijn. Gr. = Grein. Grdvtg. = Grundtvig. H. = Heyne. H. and S. = Harrison and Sharp. H.-So. = Heyne-Socin. K. = Kemble. Kl. = Kluge. M. = Müllenhoff. R. = Rieger. S. = Sievers. Sw. = Sweet. t.B. = ten Brink. Th. = Thorpe. W. = Wülcker.

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GLOSSARY OF PROPER NAMES.

[The figures refer to the divisions of the poem in which the respective names occur. The large figures refer to fitts, the small, to lines in the fitts.]

Ælfhere.—A kinsman of Wiglaf.—36 3.

Æschere.—Confidential friend of King Hrothgar. Elder brother of Yrmenlaf. Killed by Grendel.—21 3; 30 89.

Beanstan.—Father of Breca.—9 26.

Beowulf.—Son of Scyld, the founder of the dynasty of Scyldings. Father of Healfdene, and grandfather of Hrothgar.—1 18; 2 1.

Beowulf.—The hero of the poem. Sprung from the stock of Geats, son of Ecgtheow. Brought up by his maternal grandfather Hrethel, and figuring in manhood as a devoted liegeman of his uncle Higelac. A hero from his youth. Has the strength of thirty men. Engages in a swimming-match with Breca. Goes to the help of Hrothgar against the monster Grendel. Vanquishes Grendel and his mother. Afterwards becomes king of the Geats. Late in life attempts to kill a fire-spewing dragon, and is slain. Is buried with great honors. His memorial mound.—6 26; 7 2; 7 9; 9 3; 9 8; 12 28; 12 43; 23 1, etc.

Breca.—Beowulf's opponent in the famous swimming-match.—9 8; 9 19; 9 21; 9 22.

Brondings.—A people ruled by Breca.—9 23.

Brosinga mene.—A famous collar once owned by the Brosings.—19 7.

Cain.—Progenitor of Grendel and other monsters.—2 56; 20 11.

Dæghrefn.—A warrior of the Hugs, killed by Beowulf.—35 40.

Danes.—Subjects of Scyld and his descendants, and hence often called Scyldings. Other names for them are Victory-Scyldings, Honor-Scyldings, Armor-Danes, Bright-Danes, East-Danes, West-Danes, North-Danes, South-Danes, Ingwins, Hrethmen.—1 1; 2 1; 3 2; 5 14; 7 1, etc.

Ecglaf.—Father of Unferth, who taunts Beowulf.—9 1.

Ecgtheow.—Father of Beowulf, the hero of the poem. A widely-known Wægmunding warrior. Marries Hrethel's daughter. After slaying Heatholaf, a Wylfing, he flees his country.—7 3; 5 6; 8 4.

Ecgwela.—A king of the Danes before Scyld.—25 60.

Elan.—Sister of Hrothgar, and probably wife of Ongentheow, king of the Swedes.—2 10.

Eagle Cape.—A promontory in Geat-land, under which took place Beowulf's last encounter.—41 87.

Eadgils.—Son of Ohthere and brother of Eanmund.—34 2.

Eanmund.—Son of Ohthere and brother of Eadgils. The reference to these brothers is vague, and variously understood. Heyne supposes as follows: Raising a revolt against their father, they are obliged to leave Sweden. They go to the land of the Geats; with what intention, is not known, but probably to conquer and plunder. The Geatish king, Heardred, is slain by one of the brothers, probably Eanmund.—36 10; 31 54 to 31 60; 33 66 to 34 6.

Eofor.—A Geatish hero who slays Ongentheow in war, and is rewarded by Hygelac with the hand of his only daughter.—41 18; 41 48.

Eormenric.—A Gothic king, from whom Hama took away the famous Brosinga mene.—19 9.

Eomaer.—Son of Offa and Thrytho, king and queen of the Angles.—28 69.

Finn.—King of the North-Frisians and the Jutes. Marries Hildeburg. At his court takes place the horrible slaughter in which the Danish general, Hnæf, fell. Later on, Finn himself is slain by Danish warriors.—17 18; 17 30; 17 44; 18 4; 18 23.

Fin-land.—The country to which Beowulf was driven by the currents in his swimming-match.—10 22.

Fitela.—Son and nephew of King Sigemund, whose praises are sung in XIV.—14 42; 14 53.

Folcwalda.—Father of Finn.—17 38.

Franks.—Introduced occasionally in referring to the death of Higelac.—19 19; 40 21; 40 24.

Frisians.—A part of them are ruled by Finn. Some of them were engaged in the struggle in which Higelac was slain.—17 20; 17 42; 17 52; 40 21.

Freaware.—Daughter of King Hrothgar. Married to Ingeld, a Heathobard prince.—29 60; 30 32.

Froda.—King of the Heathobards, and father of Ingeld.—29 62.

Garmund.—Father of Offa.—28 71.

Geats, Geatmen.—The race to which the hero of the poem belongs. Also called Weder-Geats, or Weders, War-Geats, Sea-Geats. They are ruled by Hrethel, Hæthcyn, Higelac, and Beowulf.—4 7; 7 4; 10 45; 11 8; 27 14; 28 8.

Gepids.—Named in connection with the Danes and Swedes.—35 34.

Grendel.—A monster of the race of Cain. Dwells in the fens and

moors. Is furiously envious when he hears sounds of joy in Hrothgar's palace. Causes the king untold agony for years. Is finally conquered by Beowulf, and dies of his wound. His hand and arm are hung up in Hrothgar's hall Heorot. His head is cut off by Beowulf when he goes down to fight with Grendel's mother.—2 50; 3 1; 3 13; 8 19; 11 17; 12 2; 13 27; 15 3.

Guthlaf.—A Dane of Hnæf's party.—18 24.

Half-Danes.—Branch of the Danes to which Hnæf belonged.—17 19.

Halga.—Surnamed the Good. Younger brother of Hrothgar.—2 9.

Hama.—Takes the Brosinga mene from Eormenric.—19 7.

Hæreth.—Father of Higelac's queen, Hygd.—28 39; 29 18.

Hæthcyn.—Son of Hrethel and brother of Higelac. Kills his brother Herebeald accidentally. Is slain at Ravenswood, fighting against Ongentheow.—34 43; 35 23; 40 32.

Helmings.—The race to which Queen Wealhtheow belonged.—10 63.

Heming.—A kinsman of Garmund, perhaps nephew.—28 54; 28 70.

Hengest.—A Danish leader. Takes command on the fall of Hnæf.—17 33; 17 41.

Herebeald.—Eldest son of Hrethel, the Geatish king, and brother of Higelac. Killed by his younger brother Hæthcyn.—34 43; 34 47.

Heremod.—A Danish king of a dynasty before the Scylding line. Was a source of great sorrow to his people.—14 64; 25 59.

Hereric.—Referred to as uncle of Heardred, but otherwise unknown.—31 60.

Hetwars.—Another name for the Franks.—33 51.

Healfdene.—Grandson of Scyld and father of Hrothgar. Ruled the Danes long and well.—2 5; 4 1; 8 14.

Heardred.—Son of Higelac and Hygd, king and queen of the Geats. Succeeds his father, with Beowulf as regent. Is slain by the sons of Ohthere.—31 56; 33 63; 33 75.

Heathobards.—Race of Lombards, of which Froda is king. After Froda falls in battle with the Danes, Ingeld, his son, marries Hrothgar's daughter, Freaware, in order to heal the feud.—30 1; 30 6.

Heatholaf.—A Wylfing warrior slain by Beowulf's father.—8 5.

Heathoremes.—The people on whose shores Breca is cast by the waves during his contest with Beowulf.—9 21.

Heorogar.—Elder brother of Hrothgar, and surnamed ‘Weoroda Ræswa,’ Prince of the Troopers.—2 9; 8 12.

Hereward.—Son of the above.—31 17.

Heort, Heorot.—The great mead-hall which King Hrothgar builds. It is invaded by Grendel for twelve years. Finally cleansed by Beowulf, the Geat. It is called Heort on account of the hart-antlers which decorate it.—2 25; 3 32; 3 52.

Hildeburg.—Wife of Finn, daughter of Hoco, and related to Hnæf,—probably his sister.—17 21; 18 34.

Hnæf.—Leader of a branch of the Danes called Half-Danes. Killed in the struggle at Finn’s castle.—17 19; 17 61.

Hondscio.—One of Beowulf’s companions. Killed by Grendel just before Beowulf grappled with that monster.—30 43.

Hoco.—Father of Hildeburg and probably of Hnæf.—17 26.

Hrethel.—King of the Geats, father of Higelac, and grandfather of Beowulf.—7 4; 34 39.

Hrethla.—Once used for Hrethel.—7 82.

Hrethmen.—Another name for the Danes.—7 73.

Hrethric.—Son of Hrothgar.—18 65; 27 19.

Hreosna-beorh.—A promontory in Geat-land, near which Ohthere’s sons made plundering raids.—35 18.

Hrothgar.—The Danish king who built the hall Heort, but was long unable to enjoy it on account of Grendel’s persecutions. Marries Wealhtheow, a Helming lady. Has two sons and a daughter. Is a typical Teutonic king, lavish of gifts. A devoted liegeland, as his lamentations over slain liegemen prove. Also very appreciative of kindness, as is shown by his loving gratitude to Beowulf.—2 9; 2 12; 4 1; 8 10; 15 1; etc., etc.

Hrothmund.—Son of Hrothgar.—18 65.

Hrothulf.—Probably a son of Halga, younger brother of Hrothgar. Certainly on terms of close intimacy in Hrothgar’s palace.—16 26; 18 57.

Hrunting.—Unferth’s sword, lent to Beowulf.—22 71; 25 9.

Hugs.—A race in alliance with the Franks and Frisians at the time of Higelac’s fall.—35 41.

Hun.—A Frisian warrior, probably general of the Hetwars. Gives Hengest a beautiful sword.—18 19.

Hunferth.—Sometimes used for Unferth.

Higelac, Higelac.—King of the Geats, uncle and liegeland of Beowulf, the hero of the poem.—His second wife is the lovely Hygd, daughter of Hæreth. The son of their union is

Heardred. Is slain in a war with the Hugs, Franks, and Frisians combined. Beowulf is regent, and afterwards king of the Geats.—4 6; 5 4; 28 34; 29 9; 29 21; 31 56.

Hygd.—Wife of Higelac, and daughter of Hæreth. There are some indications that she married Beowulf after she became a widow.—28 37.

Ingeld.—Son of the Heathobard king, Froda. Marries Hrothgar's daughter, Freaware, in order to reconcile the two peoples.—29 62; 30 32.

Ingwins.—Another name for the Danes.—16 52; 20 69.

Jutes.—Name sometimes applied to Finn's people.—17 22; 17 38; 18 17.

Lafing.—Name of a famous sword presented to Hengest by Hun.—18 19.

Merewing.—A Frankish king, probably engaged in the war in which Higelac was slain.—40 29.

Nægling.—Beowulf's sword.—36 76.

Offa.—King of the Angles, and son of Garmund. Marries the terrible Thrytho who is so strongly contrasted with Hygd.—28 59; 28 66.

Ohthere.—Son of Ongentheow, king of the Swedes. He is father of Eanmund and Eadgils.—40 35; 40 39.

Onela.—Brother of Ohthere.—36 15; 40 39.

Ongentheow.—King of Sweden, of the Scylding dynasty. Married, perhaps, Elan, daughter of Healfdene.—35 26; 41 16.

Oslaf.—A Dane of Hnæf's party.—18 24.

Ravenswood.—The forest near which Hæthcyn was slain.—40 31; 40 41.

Scefing.—Applied (1 4) to Scyld, and meaning 'son of Scef.'

Scyld.—Founder of the dynasty to which Hrothgar, his father, and grandfather belonged. He dies, and his body is put on a vessel, and set adrift. He goes from Daneland just as he had come to it—in a bark.—1 4; 1 19; 1 27.

Scyldings.—The descendants of Scyld. They are also called Honor-Scyldings, Victory-Scyldings, War-Scyldings, etc. (See 'Danes,' above.)—2 1; 7 1; 8 1.

Scyldings.—A Swedish royal line to which Wiglaf belonged.—36 2.

Sigemund.—Son of Wæls, and uncle and father of Fitela. His struggle with a dragon is related in connection with Beowulf's deeds of prowess.—14 38; 14 47.

Swerting.—Grandfather of Higelac, and father of Hrethel.—19 11.

Swedes.—People of Sweden, ruled by the Scylfings.—35 13.

Thrytho.—Wife of Offa, king of the Angles. Known for her fierce and unwomanly disposition. She is introduced as a contrast to the gentle Hygd, queen of Higelac.—28 42; 28 56.

Unferth.—Son of Ecglaf, and seemingly a confidential courtier of Hrothgar. Taunts Beowulf for having taken part in the swimming-match. Lends Beowulf his sword when he goes to look for Grendel's mother. In the MS. sometimes written *Hunferth*. 9 1; 18 41.

Wæls.—Father of Sigemund.—14 60.

Wægmunding.—A name occasionally applied to Wiglaf and Beowulf, and perhaps derived from a common ancestor, Wægmund.—36 6; 38 61.

Weders.—Another name for Geats or Wedergeats.

Wayland.—A fabulous smith mentioned in this poem and in other old Teutonic literature.—7 83.

Wendels.—The people of Wulfgar, Hrothgar's messenger and retainer. (Perhaps = Vandals.)—6 30.

Wealhtheow.—Wife of Hrothgar. Her queenly courtesy is well shown in the poem.—10 55.

Weohstan, or Wihstan.—A Wægmunding, and father of Wiglaf.—36 1.

Whale's Ness.—A prominent promontory, on which Beowulf's mound was built.—38 52; 42 76.

Wiglaf.—Son of Wihstan, and related to Beowulf. He remains faithful to Beowulf in the fatal struggle with the fire-drake. Would rather die than leave his lord in his dire emergency.—36 1; 36 3; 36 28.

Wonred.—Father of Wulf and Eofor.—41 20; 41 26.

Wulf.—Son of Wonred. Engaged in the battle between Higelac's and Ongentheow's forces, and had a hand-to-hand fight with Ongentheow himself. Ongentheow disables him, and is thereupon slain by Eofor.—41 19; 41 29.

Wulfgar.—Lord of the Wendels, and retainer of Hrothgar.—6 18; 6 30.

Wylfings.—A people to whom belonged Heatholaf, who was slain by Ecgtheow.—8 6; 8 16.

Yrmenlaf.—Younger brother of Æschere, the hero whose death grieved Hrothgar so deeply.—21 4.

LIST OF WORDS AND PHRASES NOT IN GENERAL USE.

ATHELING.—Prince, nobleman.
BAIRN.—Son, child.
BARROW.—Mound, rounded hill, funeral-mound.
BATTLE-SARK.—Armor.
BEAKER.—Cup, drinking-vessel.
BEGEAR.—Prepare.
BIGHT.—Bay, sea.
BILL.—Sword.
BOSS.—Ornamental projection.
BRACTEATE.—A round ornament on a necklace.
BRAND.—Sword.
BURN.—Stream.
BURNIE.—Armor.
CARLE.—Man, hero.
EARL.—Nobleman, any brave man.
EKE.—Also.
EMPRISE.—Enterprise, undertaking.
ERST.—Formerly.
ERST-WORTHY.—Worthy for a long time past.
FAIN.—Glad.
FERRY.—Bear, carry.
FEY.—Fated, doomed.
FLOAT.—Vessel, ship.
FOIN.—To lunge (Shaks.).
GLORY OF KINGS.—God.
GREWSOME.—Cruel, fierce.
HEFT.—Handle, hilt; used by synecdoche for ‘sword.’
HELM.—Helmet, protector.
HENCHMAN.—Retainer, vassal.
HIGHT.—Am (was) named.
HOLM.—Ocean, curved surface of the sea.
HIMSEEMED.—(It) seemed to him.

LIEF.—Dear, valued.
MERE.—Sea; in compounds, ‘mere-ways,’ ‘mere-currents,’ etc.
MICKLE.—Much.
NATHLESS.—Nevertheless.
NAZE.—Edge (nose).
NESS.—Edge.
NICKER.—Sea-beast.
QUIT, QUITE.—Requite.
RATHE.—Quickly.
REAVE.—Bereave, deprive.
SAIL-ROAD.—Sea.
SETTLE.—Seat, bench.
SKINKER.—One who pours.
SOOTHLY.—Truly.
SWINGE.—Stroke, blow.
TARGE, TARGET.—Shield.
THROUGHLY.—Thoroughly.
TOLD.—Counted.
UNCANNY.—Ill-featured, grizzly.
UNNETHE.—Difficult.
WAR-SPEED.—Success in war.
WEB.—Tapestry (that which is ‘woven’).
WEDED.—Clad (cf. widow’s weeds).
WEEN.—Suppose, imagine.
WEIRD.—Fate, Providence.
WHILOM.—At times, formerly, often.
WIELDER.—Ruler. Often used of God; also in compounds, as
 ‘Wielder of Glory,’ ‘Wielder of Worship.’
WIGHT.—Creature.
WOLD.—Plane, extended surface.
WOT.—Knows.
YOUNKER.—Youth.

10/2/17, 9:26 AM

- [1] For the 'Pæt' of verse 15, Sievers suggests 'Pá' (= which). If this be accepted, the sentence 'He had ... afflicted' will read: *He (i.e. God) had perceived the malice-caused sorrow which they, lordless, had formerly long endured.*
- [2] For 'aldor-léase' (15) Gr. suggested 'aldor-ceare': *He perceived their distress, that they formerly had suffered life-sorrow a long while.*
- [3] A very difficult passage. 'Áhte' (31) has no object. H. supplies

‘geweald’ from the context; and our translation is based upon this assumption, though it is far from satisfactory. Kl. suggests ‘lændagas’ for ‘lange’: *And the beloved land-prince enjoyed (had) his transitory days (i.e. lived)*. B. suggests a dislocation; but this is a dangerous doctrine, pushed rather far by that eminent scholar.

- [4] The reading of the H.-So. text has been quite closely followed; but some eminent scholars read ‘séle-rædenne’ for ‘sele-rædende.’ If that be adopted, the passage will read: *Men cannot tell us, indeed, the order of Fate, etc.* ‘Sele-rædende’ has two things to support it: (1) v. 1347; (2) it affords a parallel to ‘men’ in v. 50.

II.

SCYLD’S SUCCESSORS. —HROTHGAR’S GREAT MEAD- HALL.

In the boroughs then Beowulf, bairn of the Scyldings,	Beowulf succeeds his father Scyld
Belovèd land-prince, for long-lasting season Was famed mid the folk (his father departed, The prince from his dwelling), till afterward sprang Great-minded Healfdene; the Danes in his lifetime He graciously governed, grim-mooded, agèd.	
Four bairns of his body born in succession Woke in the world, war-troopers’ leader Heorogar, Hrothgar, and Halga the good; Heard I that Elan was Ongentheow’s consort, The well-beloved bedmate of the War- Scylfing leader.	Healfdene’s birth.
Then glory in battle to Hrothgar was given, Waxing of war-fame, that willingly kinsmen Obeyed his bidding, till the boys grew to manhood,	He has three sons—one of them, Hrothgar—and a daughter named Elan. Hrothgar becomes a mighty king.
A numerous band. It burned in his spirit To urge his folk to found a great building, A mead-hall grander than men of the era Ever had heard of, and in it to share With young and old all of the blessings The Lord had allowed him, save life and retainers.	He is eager to build a great hall in which he may feast his retainers
Then the work I find afar was assigned	

Cain is referred to as a progenitor of Grendel, and of monsters in general.

for,
 Meter of Justice. Thence ill-favored creatures,
 Elves and giants, monsters of ocean,
 Came into being, and the giants that longtime
 Grappled with God; He gave them requital.

[1] R. and t. B. prefer 'ellor-gæst' to 'ellen-gæst' (86): *Then the stranger from afar endured, etc.*

[2] Some authorities would translate 'demon' instead of 'stranger.'

[3] Some authorities arrange differently, and render: *Who dwelt in the moor-fens, the marsh and the fastness, the land of the giant-race.*

III.

GRENDL THE MURDERER.

When the sun was sunken, he set out to visit
 The lofty hall-building, how the Ring-Danes
 had used it
 For beds and benches when the banquet was
 over.

Grendel
 attacks the
 sleeping
 heroes

Then he found there reposing many a noble
 Asleep after supper; sorrow the heroes,¹
 Misery knew not. The monster of evil
 Greedy and cruel tarried but little,
 Fell and frantic, and forced from their
 slumbers

He drags off
 thirty of them,
 and devours
 them

Thirty of thanemen; thence he departed
 Leaping and laughing, his lair to return to,
 With surfeit of slaughter sallying homeward.

In the dusk of the dawning, as the day was just breaking,
 Was Grendel's prowess revealed to the warriors:

Then, his meal-taking finished, a moan was
 uplifted,
 Morning-cry mighty. The man-ruler famous,
 The long-worthy atheling, sat very woful,
 Suffered great sorrow, sighed for his
 liegemen,

A cry of agony
 goes up, when
 Grendel's
 horrible deed
 is fully
 realized.

When they had seen the track of the hateful pursuer,
 The spirit accursèd: too crushing that sorrow,
 Too loathsome and lasting. Not longer he

The monster

tarried, returns the
 But one night after continued his slaughter next night.
 Shameless and shocking, shrinking but little
 From malice and murder; they mastered him fully.
 He was easy to find then who elsewhere looked for
 A pleasanter place of repose in the lodges,
 A bed in the bowers. Then was brought to his notice
 Told him truly by token apparent
 The hall-thane's hatred: he held himself after
 Further and faster who the foeman did baffle.
²So ruled he and strongly strove against justice
 Lone against all men, till empty uptowered
 The choicest of houses. Long was the season: King
 Twelve-winters' time torture suffered Hrothgar's
 The friend of the Scyldings, every affliction, agony and
 Endless agony; hence it after³ became suspense last
 Certainly known to the children of men twelve years.
 Sadly in measures, that long against Hrothgar
 Grendel struggled:—his grudges he cherished,
 Murderous malice, many a winter,
 Strife unremitting, and peacefully wished he
⁴Life-woe to lift from no liegeman at all of
 The men of the Dane-folk, for money to settle,
 No counsellor needed count for a moment
 On handsome amends at the hands of the murderer;
 The monster of evil fiercely did harass, Grendel is
 The ill-planning death-shade, both elder and unremitting in
 younger, his
 Trapping and tricking them. He trod every persecutions.
 night then
 The mist-covered moor-fens; men do not know where
 Witches and wizards wander and ramble.
 So the foe of mankind many of evils
 Grievous injuries, often accomplished,
 Horrible hermit; Heort he frequented,
 Gem-bedecked palace, when night-shades had fallen
 (Since God did oppose him, not the throne God is against
 could he touch,⁵ the monster.
 The light-flashing jewel, love of Him knew not).
 'Twas a fearful affliction to the friend of the Scyldings
 Soul-crushing sorrow. Not seldom in private The king and
 Sat the king in his council; conference held his council
 they deliberate in
 vain.

What the braves should determine 'gainst terrors unlooked
for.

At the shrines of their idols often they promised	They invoke the aid of their gods.
--	--

Gifts and offerings, earnestly prayed they
The devil from hell would help them to lighten
Their people's oppression. Such practice they used then,
Hope of the heathen; hell they remembered
In innermost spirit, God they knew not,
Judge of their actions, All-wielding Ruler,
No praise could they give the Guardian of
Heaven,

The true God
they do not
know.

The Wielder of Glory. Woe will be his who
Through furious hatred his spirit shall drive to
The clutch of the fire, no comfort shall look for,
Wax no wiser; well for the man who,
Living his life-days, his Lord may face
And find defence in his Father's embrace!

- [1] The translation is based on 'weras,' adopted by H.-So.—K. and Th. read 'wera' and, arranging differently, render 119(2)-120: *They knew not sorrow, the wretchedness of man, aught of misfortune.*—For 'unhælo' (120) R. suggests 'unfælo': *The uncanny creature, greedy and cruel, etc.*
- [2] S. rearranges and translates: *So he ruled and struggled unjustly, one against all, till the noblest of buildings stood useless (it was a long while) twelve years' time: the friend of the Scyldings suffered distress, every woe, great sorrows, etc.*
- [3] For 'syððan,' B. suggests 'sárcwidum': *Hence in mournful words it became well known, etc.* Various other words beginning with 's' have been conjectured.
- [4] The H.-So. glossary is very inconsistent in referring to this passage.—'Sibbe' (154), which H.-So. regards as an instr., B. takes as accus., obj. of 'wolde.' Putting a comma after Deniga, he renders: *He did not desire peace with any of the Danes, nor did he wish to remove their life-woe, nor to settle for money.*
- [5] Of this difficult passage the following interpretations among others are given: (1) Though Grendel has frequented Heorot as a demon, he could not become ruler of the Danes, on account of his hostility to God. (2) Hrothgar was much grieved that Grendel had not appeared before his throne to receive presents. (3) He was not permitted to devastate the hall, on account of the Creator; *i.e.* God wished to make his visit fatal to him.—Ne ... wisse (169) W. renders: *Nor had he any desire to do so; 'his' being obj. gen. = danach.*

IV.

distance
 That the sailing-men saw the sloping
 embankments,
 The sea cliffs gleaming, precipitous mountains,
 Nesses enormous: they were nearing the limits
 At the end of the ocean.² Up thence quickly
 The men of the Weders clomb to the mainland,
 Fastened their vessel (battle weeds rattled,
 War burnies clattered), the Wielder they thanked
 That the ways o'er the waters had waxen so gentle.
 Then well from the cliff edge the guard of the
 Scyldings
 Who the sea-cliffs should see to, saw o'er the
 gangway
 Brave ones bearing beauteous targets,
 Armor all ready, anxiously thought he,
 Musing and wondering what men were approaching.
 High on his horse then Hrothgar's retainer
 Turned him to coastward, mightily brandished
 His lance in his hands, questioned with boldness.
 "Who are ye men here, mail-covered warriors
 Clad in your corslets, come thus a-driving
 A high riding ship o'er the shoals of the waters,
³And hither 'neath helmets have hied o'er the ocean?
 I have been strand-guard, standing as warden,
 Lest enemies ever anywise ravage
 Danish dominions with army of war-ships.
 More boldly never have warriors ventured
 Hither to come; of kinsmen's approval,
 Word-leave of warriors, I ween that ye surely
 Nothing have known. Never a greater one
 Of earls o'er the earth have *I* had a sight of
 Than is one of your number, a hero in armor;
 No low-ranking fellow⁴ adorned with his weapons,
 But launching them little, unless looks are deceiving,
 And striking appearance. Ere ye pass on your journey
 As treacherous spies to the land of the Scyldings
 And farther fare, I fully must know now
 What race ye belong to. Ye far-away dwellers,
 Sea-faring sailors, my simple opinion
 Hear ye and hearken: haste is most fitting
 Plainly to tell me what place ye are come from."

- [1] 'From hám' (194) is much disputed. One rendering is: *Beowulf, being away from home, heard of Hrothgar's troubles, etc.* Another, that adopted by S. and endorsed in the H.-So. notes, is: *B. heard from his neighborhood (neighbors), i.e. in his home, etc.* A third is: *B., being at home, heard this as occurring away from home.* The H.-So. glossary and notes conflict.
- [2] 'Eoletes' (224) is marked with a (?) by H.-So.; our rendering simply follows his conjecture.—Other conjectures as to 'eolet' are: (1) *voyage*, (2) *toil, labor*, (3) *hasty journey*.
- [3] The lacuna of the MS at this point has been supplied by various conjectures. The reading adopted by H.-So. has been rendered in the above translation. W., like H.-So., makes 'ic' the beginning of a new sentence, but, for 'helmas bæron,' he reads 'hringed stefnan.' This has the advantage of giving a parallel to 'brontne ceol' instead of a kenning for 'go.'—B puts the (?) after 'holmas', and begins a new sentence at the middle of the line. Translate: *What warriors are ye, clad in armor, who have thus come bringing the foaming vessel over the water way, hither over the seas? For some time on the wall I have been coast guard, etc.* S. endorses most of what B. says, but leaves out 'on the wall' in the last sentence. If W.'s 'hringed stefnan' be accepted, change line 51 above to, *A ring-stemmed vessel hither o'ersea.*
- [4] 'Seld-guma' (249) is variously rendered: (1) *housecarle*; (2) *home-stayer*; (3) *common man*. Dr. H. Wood suggests *a man-at-arms in another's house*.

V.

THE GEATS REACH HEOROT.

The chief of the strangers rendered him answer,	Beowulf courteously
War-troopers' leader, and word-treasure opened:	replies.
"We are sprung from the lineage of the people of Geatland,	We are Geats.
And Higelac's hearth-friends. To heroes unnumbered	
My father was known, a noble head-warrior	My father
Ecgtheow titled; many a winter	Ecgtheow was
He lived with the people, ere he passed on his journey,	well-known in his day.
Old from his dwelling; each of the counsellors	
Widely mid world-folk well remembers him.	
We, kindly of spirit, the lord of thy people,	Our intentions
The son of King Healfdene, have come here to visit,	towards King Hrothgar are of the kindest.

Folk-troop's defender: be free in thy counsels!
 To the noble one bear we a weighty commission,
 The helm of the Danemen; we shall hide, I ween,
 Naught of our message. Thou know'st if it Is it true that a
 happen, monster is
 As we soothly heard say, that some savage slaying Danish
 despoiler, heroes?
 Some hidden pursuer, on nights that are murky
 By deeds very direful 'mid the Danemen exhibits
 Hatred unheard of, horrid destruction
 And the falling of dead. From feelings least selfish
 I am able to render counsel to Hrothgar, I can help your
 How he, wise and worthy, may worst the king to free
 destroyer, himself from
 If the anguish of sorrow should ever be this horrible
 lessened,¹ creature.
 Comfort come to him, and care-waves grow cooler,
 Or ever hereafter he agony suffer
 And troublous distress, while towereth upward
 The handsomest of houses high on the summit."
 Bestriding his stallion, the strand-watchman The coast-
 answered, guard reminds
 The doughty retainer: "The difference surely Beowulf that it
 'Twixt words and works, the warlike shield- is easier to say
 bearer than to do.
 Who judgeth wisely well shall determine.
 This band, I hear, beareth no malice
 To the prince of the Scyldings. Pass ye then I am satisfied
 onward of your good
 With weapons and armor. I shall lead you in intentions, and
 person; shall lead you
 To my war-trusty vassals command I shall to the palace.
 issue
 To keep from all injury your excellent vessel,
 Your fresh-tarred craft, 'gainst every opposer Your boat shall
 Close by the sea-shore, till the curved-neckèd be well cared
 bark shall for during
 your stay here.
 Waft back again the well-beloved hero
 O'er the way of the water to Weder dominions.
 To warrior so great 'twill be granted sure He again
 In the storm of strife to stand secure." compliments
 Beowulf.
 Onward they fared then (the vessel lay quiet,
 The broad-bosomed bark was bound by its cable,
 Firmly at anchor); the boar-signs glistened²

Bright on the visors vivid with gilding,
 Blaze-hardened, brilliant; the boar acted warden.
 The heroes hastened, hurried the liegemen,
 Descended together, till they saw the great The land is
 palace, perhaps
 The well-fashioned wassail-hall wondrous rolling.
 and gleaming:
 'Mid world-folk and kindreds that was widest Heorot flashes
 reputed on their view.
 Of halls under heaven which the hero abode in;
 Its lustre enlightened lands without number.
 Then the battle-brave hero showed them the glittering
 Court of the bold ones, that they easily thither
 Might fare on their journey; the aforementioned warrior
 Turning his courser, quoth as he left them:
 "'Tis time I were faring; Father Almighty The coast-
 Grant you His grace, and give you to journey guard, having
 Safe on your mission! To the sea I will get me discharged his
 'Gainst hostile warriors as warden to stand.'" duty, bids
 them God-
 speed.

- [1] 'Edwendan' (280) B. takes to be the subs. 'edwenden' (cf. 1775); and 'bisigu' he takes as gen. sing., limiting 'edwenden': *If reparation for sorrows is ever to come*. This is supported by t.B.
- [2] Combining the emendations of B. and t.B., we may read: *The boar-images glistened ... brilliant, protected the life of the war-mooded man*. They read 'ferh-wearde' (305) and 'gúðmódgum men' (306).

VI.

BEOWULF INTRODUCES HIMSELF AT THE PALACE.

The highway glistened with many-hued pebble,
 A by-path led the liegemen together.
¹Firm and hand-locked the war-burnie glistened,
 The ring-sword radiant rang 'mid the armor
 As the party was approaching the palace together
 In warlike equipments. 'Gainst the wall of the They set their
 building arms and
 Their wide-fashioned war-shields they weary armor against
 did set then, the wall.

Battle-shields sturdy; benchward they turned then;
 Their battle-sarks rattled, the gear of the heroes;
 The lances stood up then, all in a cluster,
 The arms of the seamen, ashen-shafts mounted
 With edges of iron: the armor-clad troopers
 Were decked with weapons. Then a proud-
 mooded hero A Danish hero
 asks them
 Asked of the champions questions of lineage: whence and
 “From what borders bear ye your battle- why they are
 shields plated, come.
 Gilded and gleaming, your gray-colored burnies,
 Helmets with visors and heap of war-lances?—
 To Hrothgar the king I am servant and liegeman.
 ’Mong folk from far-lands found I have never
 Men so many of mien more courageous. He expresses
 I ween that from valor, nowise as outlaws, no little
 But from greatness of soul ye sought for King admiration for
 Hrothgar.” the strangers.
 Then the strength-famous earlman answer Beowulf
 rendered, replies.
 The proud-mooded Wederchief replied to his question,
 Hardy ’neath helmet: “Higelac’s mates are We are
 we; Higelac’s
 Beowulf hight I. To the bairn of Healfdene, table-
 The famous folk-leader, I freely will tell companions,
 To thy prince my commission, if pleasantly and bear an
 hearing important
 He’ll grant we may greet him so gracious to commission to
 all men.” your prince.
 Wulfgar replied then (he was prince of the Wendels,
 His boldness of spirit was known unto many,
 His prowess and prudence): “The prince of the Scyldings,
 The friend-lord of Danemen, I will ask of thy Wulfgar, the
 journey, thane, says
 The giver of rings, as thou urgest me do it, that he will go
 The folk-chief famous, and inform thee early and ask
 What answer the good one mindeth to render Hrothgar
 me.” whether he
 He turned then hurriedly where Hrothgar was will see the
 sitting, strangers.
²Old and hoary, his earlmen attending him;
 The strength-famous went till he stood at the shoulder
 Of the lord of the Danemen, of courteous thanemen
 The custom he minded. Wulfgar addressed then

[1] Instead of the punctuation given by H.-So, S. proposed to insert a comma after ‘scír’ (322), and to take ‘hring-fren’ as meaning ‘ring-mail’ and as parallel with ‘gúð-byrne.’ The passage would then read: *The firm and hand-locked war-burnie shone, bright ring-mail, rang ’mid the armor, etc.*

[2] Gr. and others translate ‘unhár’ by ‘bald’; *old and bald*.

Hrothgar answered, helm of the Scyldings:	Hrothgar
“I remember this man as the merest of	remembers
striplings.	Beowulf as a
His father long dead now was Ecgtheow	youth, and also
titled,	remembers his
Him Hrethel the Geatman granted at home his	father.
One only daughter; his battle-brave son	
Is come but now, sought a trustworthy friend.	
Seafaring sailors asserted it then,	
Who valuable gift-gems of the Geatmen ¹	Beowulf is
carried	reported to
As peace-offering thither, that he thirty men’s	have the
grapple	strength of
Has in his hand, the hero-in-battle.	thirty men.
The holy Creator usward sent him,	God hath sent
To West-Dane warriors, I ween, for to render	him to our
’Gainst Grendel’s grimness gracious	rescue.
assistance:	

Wulfgar
invites the
strangers in.

Beowulf
salutes
Hrothgar, and
then proceeds
to boast of his
youthful
achievements.

His fight with
the nickers.

He intends to fight Grendel unaided.

<p>Beg of thy bounty, Bright-Danish chieftain, Lord of the Scyldings, this single petition: Not to refuse me, defender of warriors, Friend-lord of folks, so far have I sought thee, That <i>I</i> may unaided, my earlmen assisting me, This brave-mooded war-band, purify Heorot. I have heard on inquiry, the horrible creature From veriest rashness recks not for weapons; I this do scorn then, so be Higelac gracious, My liegelord beloved, lenient of spirit, To bear a blade or a broad-fashioned target, A shield to the onset; only with hand-grip The foe I must grapple, fight for my life then, Foeman with foeman; he fain must rely on The doom of the Lord whom death layeth hold of.</p> <p>I ween he will wish, if he win in the struggle, To eat in the war-hall earls of the Geat-folk, Boldly to swallow⁴ them, as of yore he did often The best of the Hrethmen! Thou needest not trouble</p> <p>A head-watch to give me;⁵ he will have me dripping And dreary with gore, if death overtake me,⁶ Will bear me off bleeding, biting and mouthing me, The hermit will eat me, heedless of pity, Marking the moor-fens; no more wilt thou need then Find me my food.⁷ If I fall in the battle, Send to Higelac the armor that serveth To shield my bosom, the best of equipments, Richest of ring-mails; 'tis the relic of Hrethla, The work of Wayland. Goes Weird as she must go!"</p>	<p>Since the monster uses no weapons,</p> <p>I, too, shall disdain to use any.</p> <p>Should he crush me, he will eat my companions as he has eaten thy thanes.</p> <p>In case of my defeat, thou wilt not have the trouble of burying me.</p> <p>Should I fall, send my armor to my lord, King Higelac.</p> <p>Weird is supreme</p>
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[1] Some render 'gif-sceattas' by 'tribute.'—'Géata' B. and Th. emended to 'Géatum.' If this be accepted, change 'of the Geatmen' to 'to the Geatmen.'

[2] If t.B.'s emendation of vv. 386, 387 be accepted, the two lines, 'Hasten ... kinsmen' will read: *Hasten thou, bid the throng of kinsmen go into the hall together.*

[3] For 420 (b) and 421 (a), B. suggests: *Ʒær ic (on) fifelgeban ýðde eotena cyn = where I in the ocean destroyed the eoten-race.*—t.B. accepts B.'s "brilliant" 'fifelgeban,' omits 'on,' emends 'cyn' to 'hám,' arranging: *Ʒær ic fifelgeban ýðde, eotena hám =*

where I desolated the ocean, the home of the eotens.—This would be better but for changing ‘cyn’ to ‘hám.’—I suggest: Pær ic fifelgeband (cf. nhd. Bande) ýðde, eotena cyn = *where I conquered the monster band, the race of the eotens*. This makes no change except to read ‘fifel’ for ‘fife.’

- [4] ‘Unforhte’ (444) is much disputed.—H.-So. wavers between adj. and adv. Gr. and B. take it as an adv. modifying *etan*: *Will eat the Geats fearlessly*.—Kl. considers this reading absurd, and proposes ‘anforhte’ = timid.—Understanding ‘unforhte’ as an adj. has this advantage, viz. that it gives a parallel to ‘Geátena leóde’: but to take it as an adv. is more natural. Furthermore, to call the Geats ‘brave’ might, at this point, seem like an implied thrust at the Danes, so long helpless; while to call his own men ‘timid’ would be befouling his own nest.
- [5] For ‘head-watch,’ cf. H.-So. notes and cf. v. 2910.—Th. translates: *Thou wilt not need my head to hide* (i.e., thou wilt have no occasion to bury me, as Grendel will devour me whole).—Simrock imagines a kind of dead-watch.—Dr. H. Wood suggests: *Thou wilt not have to bury so much as my head* (for Grendel will be a thorough undertaker),—grim humor.
- [6] S. proposes a colon after ‘nimeð’ (l. 447). This would make no essential change in the translation.
- [7] Owing to the vagueness of ‘feorme’ (451), this passage is variously translated. In our translation, H.-So.’s glossary has been quite closely followed. This agrees substantially with B.’s translation (P. and B. XII. 87). R. translates: *Thou needst not take care longer as to the consumption of my dead body*. ‘Líc’ is also a crux here, as it may mean living body or dead body.

VIII.

HROTHGAR AND BEOWULF. —Continued.

Hrothgar discoursed, helm of the Scyldings:	Hrothgar
“To defend our folk and to furnish	responds.
assistance, ¹	
Thou soughtest us hither, good friend Beowulf.	
The fiercest of feuds thy father engaged in,	Reminiscences
Heatholaf killed he in hand-to-hand conflict	of Beowulf’s
’Mid Wilfingish warriors; then the Wederish	father,
people	Ecgtheow.
For fear of a feud were forced to disown him.	
Thence flying he fled to the folk of the South-Danes,	
The race of the Scyldings, o’er the roll of the waters;	
I had lately begun then to govern the Danemen,	
The hoard-seat of heroes held in my youth,	

[1] B. and S. reject the reading given in H.-So., and suggested by Grtvg. B. suggests for 457-458:

10/2/17, 9:26 AM

This means: *From the obligations of clientage, my friend Beowulf, and for assistance thou hast sought us.*—This gives coherence to Hrothgar's opening remarks in VIII., and also introduces a new motive for Beowulf's coming to Hrothgar's aid.

IX.

Unferth spoke up, Ecglaf his son,
Who sat at the feet of the lord of the
Scyldings,
Opened the jousting (the journey¹ of
Beowulf,
Sea-farer doughty, gave sorrow to Unferth
And greatest chagrin, too, for granted he never
That any man else on earth should attain to,
Gain under heaven, more glory than he):
“Art thou that Beowulf with Breca did
struggle,
On the wide sea-currents at swimming
contended,
Where to humor your pride the ocean ye
tried,
From vainest vaunting adventured your
bodies
In care of the waters? And no one was able
Nor lief nor loth one, in the least to dissuade
you
Your difficult voyage; then ye ventured a-swim
Where your arms outstretching the streams ye
The mere-ways measured, mixing and stirring
Glided the ocean; angry the waves were,
With the weltering of winter. In the water’s pos

'Twas mere
folly that
actuated you
both to risk
your lives on
the ocean.

Ye toiled for a seven-night; he at swimming outdid thee,
 In strength excelled thee. Then early at morning
 On the Heathoremes' shore the holm-currents tossed him,
 Sought he thenceward the home of his fathers,
 Beloved of his liegemen, the land of the Brondings,
 The peace-castle pleasant, where a people he wielded,
 Had borough and jewels. The pledge that he made thee
 The son of Beanstan hath soothly accomplished. Breca outdid
 you entirely.

Then I ween thou wilt find thee less fortunate issue,
 Though ever triumphant in onset of battle,
 A grim grappling, if Grendel thou darrest
 For the space of a night near-by to wait for!"
 Beowulf answered, offspring of Ecgtheow:
 "My good friend Unferth, sure freely and
 wildly,
 Thou fuddled with beer of Breca hast spoken,
 Hast told of his journey! A fact I allege it,
 That greater strength in the waters I had then,
 Ills in the ocean, than any man else had.
 We made agreement as the merest of
 striplings

Much more
 will Grendel
 outdo you, if
 you vie with
 him in
 prowess.
 Beowulf
 retaliates.
 O friend
 Unferth, you
 are fuddled
 with beer, and
 cannot talk
 coherently.

Promised each other (both of us then were
 Youngers in years) that we yet would
 adventure
 Out on the ocean; it all we accomplished.
 While swimming the sea-floods, sword-blade
 unscabbarded
 Boldly we brandished, our bodies expected
 To shield from the sharks. He sure was unable
 To swim on the waters further than I could,
 More swift on the waves, nor *would* I from
 him go.

We simply
 kept an
 engagement
 made in early
 life.
 He *could* not
 excel me, and
 I *would* not
 excel him.

Then we two companions stayed in the ocean
 Five nights together, till the currents did part
 us,
 The weltering waters, weathers the bleakest,
 And nethermost night, and the north-wind whistled
 Fierce in our faces; fell were the billows.
 The mere fishes' mood was mightily ruffled:
 And there against foemen my firm-knotted corslet,
 Hand-jointed, hardy, help did afford me;
 My battle-sark braided, brilliantly gilded,
 Lay on my bosom. To the bottom then

After five days
 the currents
 separated us.
 A horrible sea-
 beast attacked

[1] It has been plausibly suggested that ‘sīð’ (in 501 and in 353) means ‘arrival.’ If so, translate the bracket: (*the arrival of Beowulf, the brave seafarer, was a source of great chagrin to Unferth, etc.*).

**BEOWULF SILENCES
UNFERTH.—GLEE IS HIGH.**

10/2/17, 9:26 AM

Weary from travel. Then the waters bare me To the land of the Finns, the flood with the current, The weltering waves. Not a word hath been told me Of deeds so daring done by thee, Unferth, And of sword-terror none; never hath Breca At the play of the battle, nor either of you two, Feat so fearless performed with weapons Glinting and gleaming I utter no boasting; Though with cold-blooded cruelty thou killedst thy brothers, Thy nearest of kin; thou needs must in hell get Direful damnation, though doughty thy wisdom. I tell thee in earnest, offspring of Ecglaf, Never had Grendel such numberless horrors, The direful demon, done to thy liegelord, Harrying in Heorot, if thy heart were as sturdy, Thy mood as ferocious as thou dost describe them. He hath found out fully that the fierce- burning hatred, The edge-battle eager, of all of your kindred, Of the Victory-Scyldings, need little dismay him: Oaths he exacteth, not any he spares Of the folk of the Danemen, but fighteth with pleasure, Killeth and feasteth, no contest expecteth From Spear-Danish people. But the prowess and valor Of the earls of the Geatmen early shall venture To give him a grapple. He shall go who is able Bravely to banquet, when the bright-light of morning Which the second day bringeth, the sun in its ether-robes, O'er children of men shines from the southward!" Then the gray-haired, war-famed giver of treasure Was blithesome and joyous, the Bright-	After that escape I drifted to Finland. I have never heard of your doing any such bold deeds. You are a slayer of brothers, and will suffer damnation, wise as you may be. Had your acts been as brave as your words, Grendel had not ravaged your land so long. The monster is not afraid of the Danes, but he will soon learn to dread the Geats. On the second day, any warrior may go unmolested to the mead- banquet. Hrothgar's
---	--

Danish ruler	spirits are revived.
Expected assistance; the people's protector	
Heard from Beowulf his bold resolution.	The old king trusts
There was laughter of heroes; loud was the clatter,	Beowulf. The heroes are joyful.
The words were winsome. Wealhtheow advanced then,	
Consort of Hrothgar, of courtesy mindful,	Queen Wealhtheow plays the hostess.
Gold-decked saluted the men in the building,	
And the freeborn woman the beaker presented	She offers the cup to her husband first.
To the lord of the kingdom, first of the East-Danes,	
Bade him be blithesome when beer was a-flowing,	
Lief to his liegemen; he lustily tasted	
Of banquet and beaker, battle-famed ruler.	
The Helmingish lady then graciously circled	
'Mid all the liegemen lesser and greater:	
Treasure-cups tendered, till time was afforded	She gives presents to the heroes.
That the decorous-mooded, diademed folk-queen	
Might bear to Beowulf the bumper o'errunning;	Then she offers the cup to Beowulf, thanking God that aid has come.
She greeted the Geat-prince, God she did thank,	
Most wise in her words, that her wish was accomplished,	
That in any of earlmen she ever should look for	
Solace in sorrow. He accepted the beaker,	
Battle-bold warrior, at Wealhtheow's giving,	
Then equipped for combat quoth he in measures,	Beowulf states to the queen the object of his visit.
Beowulf spake, offspring of Ecgtheow:	
"I purposed in spirit when I mounted the ocean,	
When I boarded my boat with a band of my liegemen,	I determined to do or die.
I would work to the fullest the will of your people	
Or in foe's-clutches fastened fall in the battle.	
Deeds I shall do of daring and prowess,	
Or the last of my life-days live in this mead-hall."	
These words to the lady were welcome and pleasing,	
The boast of the Geatman; with gold trappings brodered	
Went the freeborn folk-queen her fond-lord to sit by.	
Then again as of yore was heard in the	Glee is high.

building

Courtly discussion, conquerors' shouting,
 Heroes were happy, till Healfdene's son would
 Go to his slumber to seek for refreshing;
 For the horrid hell-monster in the hall-building knew he
 A fight was determined,² since the light of the sun they
 No longer could see, and lowering darkness
 O'er all had descended, and dark under heaven
 Shadowy shapes came shying around them.

The liegemen all rose then. One saluted the
 other,

Hrothgar
 retires, leaving
 Beowulf in
 charge of the
 hall.

Hrothgar Beowulf, in rhythmical measures,
 Wishing him well, and, the wassail-hall
 giving

To his care and keeping, quoth he departing:
 "Not to any one else have I ever entrusted,
 But thee and thee only, the hall of the Danemen,
 Since high I could heave my hand and my buckler.
 Take thou in charge now the noblest of houses;
 Be mindful of honor, exhibiting prowess,
 Watch 'gainst the foeman! Thou shalt want no enjoyments,
 Survive thou safely adventure so glorious!"

[1] The repetition of 'hwæðere' (574 and 578) is regarded by some scholars as a defect. B. suggests 'swá Pær' for the first: *So there it befell me, etc.* Another suggestion is to change the second 'hwæðere' into 'swá Pær': *So there I escaped with my life, etc.*

[2] Kl. suggests a period after 'determined.' This would give the passage as follows: *Since they no longer could see the light of the sun, and lowering darkness was down over all, dire under the heavens shadowy beings came going around them.*

XI.

ALL SLEEP SAVE ONE.

Then Hrothgar departed, his earl-throng
 attending him,

Hrothgar
 retires.

Folk-lord of Scyldings, forth from the building;
 The war-chieftain wished then Wealhtheow to look for,
 The queen for a bedmate. To keep away Grendel
 The Glory of Kings had given a hall-watch,

God has
 provided a

But God raised
up a deliverer.

By one man's war-might they worsted and vanquished,
 By the might of himself; the truth is God rules the
 established world.
 That God Almighty hath governed for ages
 Kindreds and nations. A night very lurid
 The trav'ler-at-twilight came tramping and Grendel comes
 striding. to Heorot.
 The warriors were sleeping who should watch the horned-
 building,
 One only excepted. 'Mid earthmen 'twas Only one
 'stablished, warrior is
 awake.
 Th' implacable foeman was powerless to hurl
 them
 To the land of shadows, if the Lord were unwilling;
 But serving as warder, in terror to foemen,
 He angrily bided the issue of battle.²

[1] Gr. understood 'gódra' as meaning 'advantages in battle.' This rendering H.-So. rejects. The latter takes the passage as meaning that Grendel, though mighty and formidable, has no skill in the art of war.

[2] B. in his masterly articles on Beowulf (P. and B. XII.) rejects the division usually made at this point, 'Pá.' (711), usually rendered 'then,' he translates 'when,' and connects its clause with the foregoing sentence. These changes he makes to reduce the number of 'cóm's' as principal verbs. (Cf. 703, 711, 721.) With all deference to this acute scholar, I must say that it seems to me that the poet is exhausting his resources to bring out clearly the supreme event on which the whole subsequent action turns. First, he (Grendel) came *in the wan night*; second, he came *from the moor*; third, he came *to the hall*. Time, place from which, place to which, are all given.

XII.

GRENDL AND BEOWULF.

'Neath the cloudy cliffs came from the moor Grendel comes
 then from the fens.
 Grendel going, God's anger bare he.
 The monster intended some one of earthmen
 In the hall-building grand to entrap and make way with:
 He went under welkin where well he knew of He goes
 The wine-joyous building, brilliant with towards the
 joyous

plating,	building.
Gold-hall of earthmen. Not the earliest occasion	
He the home and manor of Hrothgar had	This was not
sought:	his first visit
Ne'er found he in life-days later nor earlier	there.
Hardier hero, hall-thanes ¹ more sturdy!	
Then came to the building the warrior marching,	
Bereft of his joyance. The door quickly	His horrid
opened	fingers tear the
On fire-hinges fastened, when his fingers had	door open.
touched it;	
The fell one had flung then—his fury so bitter—	
Open the entrance. Early thereafter	
The foeman trod the shining hall-pavement,	
Strode he angrily; from the eyes of him	He strides
glimmered	furiously into
A lustre unlovely likest to fire.	the hall.
He beheld in the hall the heroes in numbers,	
A circle of kinsmen sleeping together,	
A throng of thanemen: then his thoughts were	He exults over
exultant,	his supposed
He minded to sunder from each of the	prey.
thanemen	
The life from his body, horrible demon,	
Ere morning came, since fate had allowed him	
The prospect of plenty. Providence willed not	Fate has
To permit him any more of men under heaven	decreed that he
To eat in the night-time. Higelac's kinsman	shall devour
Great sorrow endured how the dire-mooded	no more
creature	heroes.
In unlooked-for assaults were likely to bear	Beowulf
him.	suffers from
	suspense.
No thought had the monster of deferring the matter,	
But on earliest occasion he quickly laid hold	Grendel
of	immediately
A soldier asleep, suddenly tore him,	seizes a
Bit his bone-prison, the blood drank in	sleeping
currents,	warrior, and
	devours him.
Swallowed in mouthfuls: he soon had the dead man's	
Feet and hands, too, eaten entirely.	
Nearer he strode then, the stout-hearted warrior	
Snatched as he slumbered, seizing with hand-	Beowulf and
grip,	Grendel
Forward the foeman foined with his hand;	grapple.
Caught he quickly the cunning deviser,	

On his elbow he rested. This early discovered
 The master of malice, that in middle-earth's regions,
 'Neath the whole of the heavens, no hand-grapple greater
 In any man else had he ever encountered: The monster is
 Fearful in spirit, faint-mooded waxed he, amazed at
 Not off could betake him; death he was Beowulf's
 pondering, strength.
 Would fly to his covert, seek the devils' He is anxious
 assembly: to flee.
 His calling no more was the same he had followed
 Long in his lifetime. The liege-kinsman worthy
 Of Higelac minded his speech of the evening, Beowulf
 Stood he up straight and stoutly did seize recalls his
 him. boast of the
 His fingers crackled; the giant was outward, evening, and
 The earl stepped farther. The famous one determines to
 minded fulfil it.
 To flee away farther, if he found an occasion,
 And off and away, avoiding delay,
 To fly to the fen-moors; he fully was ware of
 The strength of his grapple in the grip of the foeman.
 'Twas an ill-taken journey that the injury- 'Twas a
 bringing, luckless day
 Harrying harmer to Heorot wandered: for Grendel.
 The palace re-echoed; to all of the Danemen, The hall
 Dwellers in castles, to each of the bold ones, groans.
 Earlmén, was terror. Angry they both were,
 Archwarders raging.² Rattled the building;
 'Twas a marvellous wonder that the wine-hall withstood then
 The bold-in-battle, bent not to earthward,
 Excellent earth-hall; but within and without it
 Was fastened so firmly in fetters of iron,
 By the art of the armorer. Off from the sill there
 Bent mead-benches many, as men have informed me,
 Adorned with gold-work, where the grim ones did struggle.
 The Scylding wise men weened ne'er before
 That by might and main-strength a man under heaven
 Might break it in pieces, bone-decked, resplendent,
 Crush it by cunning, unless clutch of the fire
 In smoke should consume it. The sound mounted upward
 Novel enough; on the North Danes fastened Grendel's cries
 A terror of anguish, on all of the men there terrify the
 Who heard from the wall the weeping and Danes.
 plaining,

The song of defeat from the foeman of heaven,
 Heard him hymns of horror howl, and his sorrow
 Hell-bound bewailing. He held him too firmly
 Who was strongest of main-strength of men of that era.

- [1] B. and t.B. emend so as to make lines 9 and 10 read: *Never in his life, earlier or later, had he, the hell-thane, found a braver hero.*—They argue that Beowulf's companions had done nothing to merit such encomiums as the usual readings allow them.
- [2] For 'réðe rén-weardas' (771), t.B. suggests 'réðe, rénhearde.' Translate: *They were both angry, raging and mighty.*

XIII.

GRENDL IS VANQUISHED.

For no cause whatever would the earlmen's defender	Beowulf has no idea of letting Grendel live.
Leave in life-joys the loathsome newcomer, He deemed his existence utterly useless To men under heaven. Many a noble Of Beowulf brandished his battle-sword old, Would guard the life of his lord and protector, The far-famous chieftain, if able to do so; While waging the warfare, this wist they but little, Brave battle-thanes, while his body intending To slit into slivers, and seeking his spirit:	No weapon would harm Grendel; he bore a charmed life.
That the relentless foeman nor finest of weapons Of all on the earth, nor any of war-bills Was willing to injure; but weapons of victory Swords and suchlike he had sworn to dispense with. His death at that time must prove to be wretched, And the far-away spirit widely should journey Into enemies' power. This plainly he saw then Who with mirth ¹ of mood malice no little Had wrought in the past on the race of the earthmen (To God he was hostile), that his body would fail him, But Higelac's hardy henchman and kinsman Held him by the hand; hateful to other Was each one if living. A body-wound suffered	Grendel is sorely

The direful demon, damage incurable	wounded.
Was seen on his shoulder, his sinews were	His body
shivered,	bursts.
His body did burst. To Beowulf was given	
Glory in battle; Grendel from thenceward	
Must flee and hide him in the fen-cliffs and marshes,	
Sick unto death, his dwelling must look for	
Unwinsome and woful; he wist the more fully	
The end of his earthly existence was nearing,	The monster
His life-days' limits. At last for the Danemen,	flees away to
When the slaughter was over, their wish was	hide in the
accomplished.	moors.
The comer-from-far-land had cleansed then of evil,	
Wise and valiant, the war-hall of Hrothgar,	
Saved it from violence. He joyed in the night-work,	
In repute for prowess; the prince of the Geatmen	
For the East-Danish people his boast had accomplished,	
Bettered their burdensome bale-sorrows fully,	
The craft-begot evil they erstwhile had suffered	
And were forced to endure from crushing oppression,	
Their manifold misery. 'Twas a manifest token,	
When the hero-in-battle the hand suspended,	Beowulf
The arm and the shoulder (there was all of the	suspends
claw	Grendel's hand
Of Grendel together) 'neath great-stretching	and arm in
hall-roof.	Heorot.

[1] It has been proposed to translate 'myrðe' by *with sorrow*; but there seems no authority for such a rendering. To the present translator, the phrase 'módes myrðe' seems a mere padding for *gladly*; i.e., *he who gladly harassed mankind*.

XIV.

REJOICING OF THE DANES.

In the mist of the morning many a warrior	At early dawn,
Stood round the gift-hall, as the story is told	warriors from
me:	far and near
Folk-princes fared then from far and from	come together
near	to hear of the
Through long-stretching journeys to look at	night's
	adventures.

Also of
Sigemund,

who has slain
a great fire-
dragon.

Sigemund was
widely famed.

Heremod, an
unfortunate
Danish king, is
introduced by
way of
contrast.

Unlike
Sigemund and
Beowulf,
Heremod was
a burden to his
people.

Beowulf is an
honor to his
race.

- [1] S. emends, suggesting ‘déop’ for ‘déog,’ and removing semicolon after ‘wéol.’ The two half-lines ‘welling ... hid him’ would then read: *The bloody deep welled with sword-gore*. B. accepts ‘déop’ for ‘déog,’ but reads ‘déað-fæges’: *The deep boiled with the sword-gore of the death-doomed one*.
- [2] Another and quite different rendering of this passage is as follows: *Oft a liegeman of the king, a fame-covered man mindful of songs, who very many ancient traditions remembered (he found other word-groups accurately bound together) began afterward to tell of Beowulf’s adventure, skilfully to narrate it, etc.*
- [3] Might ‘guma gilp-hladen’ mean ‘a man laden with boasts of the deeds of others’?
- [4] t.B. accepts B.’s ‘hé þæs áron páh,’ as given by H.-So., but puts a comma after ‘páh,’ and takes ‘siððan’ as introducing a dependent clause: *He throve in honor since Heremod’s strength ... had decreased.*

HROTHGAR'S GRATITUDE.

10/2/17, 9:26 AM

Comfort to gain me for any of sorrows, While the handsomest of houses horrid with bloodstain	all hope, when this brave liegeman came to our aid.
Gory uptowered; grief had offfrightened ³ Each of the wise ones who weened not that ever The folk-troop's defences 'gainst foes they should strengthen, 'Gainst sprites and monsters. Through the might of the Wielder	
A doughty retainer hath a deed now accomplished Which erstwhile we all with our excellent wisdom Failed to perform. May affirm very truly What woman soever in all of the nations Gave birth to the child, if yet she surviveth, That the long-ruling Lord was lavish to herward	If his mother yet liveth, well may she thank God for this son.
In the birth of the bairn. Now, Beowulf dear, Most excellent hero, I'll love thee in spirit As bairn of my body; bear well henceforward The relationship new. No lack shall befall thee	Hereafter, Beowulf, thou shalt be my son.
Of earth-joys any I ever can give thee. Full often for lesser service I've given Hero less hardy hoard-treasure precious, To a weaker in war-strife. By works of distinction	Thou hast won immortal distinction.
Thou hast gained for thyself now that thy glory shall flourish Forever and ever. The All-Ruler quite thee With good from His hand as He hitherto did thee!"	
Beowulf answered, Ecgtheow's offspring: "That labor of glory most gladly achieved we, The combat accomplished, unquailing we ventured	Beowulf replies: I was most happy to render thee this service.
The enemy's grapple; I would grant it much rather	
Thou wert able to look at the creature in person, Faint unto falling, the foe in his trappings! On murder-bed quickly I minded to bind him, With firm-holding fetters, that forced by my grapple Low he should lie in life-and-death struggle 'Less his body escape; I was wholly unable, Since God did not will it, to keep him from going,	I could not keep the monster from escaping, as
Not held him that firmly, hated opposer;	

Too swift was the foeman. Yet safety regarding	God did not will that I should.
He suffered his hand behind him to linger, His arm and shoulder, to act as watcher;	
No shadow of solace the woe-begone creature Found him there nathless: the hated destroyer	He left his hand and arm behind.
Liveth no longer, lashed for his evils, But sorrow hath seized him, in snare-meshes hath him Close in its clutches, keepeth him writhing In baleful bonds: there banished for evil The man shall wait for the mighty tribunal, How the God of glory shall give him his earnings."	God will give him his deserts.
Then the soldier kept silent, son of old Ecglaf, From boasting and bragging of battle- achievements,	Unferth has nothing more to say, for Beowulf's actions speak louder than words.
Since the princes beheld there the hand that depended 'Neath the lofty hall-timbers by the might of the nobleman,	
Each one before him, the enemy's fingers; Each finger-nail strong steel most resembled, The heathen one's hand-spur, the hero-in-battle's Claw most uncanny; quoth they agreeing, That not any excellent edges of brave ones Was willing to touch him, the terrible creature's	No sword will harm the monster.
Battle-hand bloody to bear away from him.	

[1] B. and t.B. read 'stapole,' and translate *stood on the floor*.

[2] For 'snaring from Grendel,' 'sorrows at Grendel's hands' has been suggested. This gives a parallel to 'láðes.' 'Grynna' may well be gen. pl. of 'gryn,' by a scribal slip.

[3] The H.-So punctuation has been followed; but B. has been followed in understanding 'gehwylcne' as object of 'wíd-scofen (hæfde).' Gr. construes 'wéa' as nom abs.

XVI.

HROTHGAR LAVISHES GIFTS UPON HIS DELIVERER.

Then straight was ordered that Heorot inside¹ Heorot is
 With hands be embellished: a host of them adorned with
 gathered, hands.

Of men and women, who the wassailing-building
 The guest-hall begeared. Gold-flashing sparkled
 Webs on the walls then, of wonders a many
 To each of the heroes that look on such objects.

The beautiful building was broken to pieces The hall is
 Which all within with irons was fastened, defaced,
 Its hinges torn off: only the roof was however.

Whole and uninjured when the horrible creature
 Outlawed for evil off had betaken him,
 Hopeless of living. 'Tis hard to avoid it
 (Whoever will do it!); but he doubtless must [A vague
 come to² passage of five
 verses.]

The place awaiting, as Wyrð hath appointed,
 Soul-bearers, earth-dwellers, earls under heaven,
 Where bound on its bed his body shall slumber
 When feasting is finished. Full was the time Hrothgar goes
 then to the banquet.

That the son of Healfdene went to the building;
 The excellent atheling would eat of the banquet.
 Ne'er heard I that people with hero-band larger
 Bare them better tow'rds their bracelet-bestower.
 The laden-with-glory stooped to the bench then
 (Their kinsmen-companions in plenty were joyful,
 Many a cupful quaffing complaisantly),
 Doughty of spirit in the high-tow'ring palace,
 Hrothgar and Hrothulf. Heorot then inside Hrothgar's
 Was filled with friendly ones; falsehood and nephew,
 treachery Hrothulf, is
 present.

The Folk-Scyldings now nowise did practise.
 Then the offspring of Healfdene offered to Hrothgar
 Beowulf lavishes gifts
 upon Beowulf.

A golden standard, as reward for the victory,
 A banner embossed, burnie and helmet;
 Many men saw then a song-famous weapon
 Borne 'fore the hero. Beowulf drank of
 The cup in the building; that treasure-bestowing
 He needed not blush for in battle-men's presence.

Ne'er heard I that many men on the ale-bench Four
 In friendlier fashion to their fellows presented handsomer
 Four bright jewels with gold-work gifts were
 embellished. never
 presented.

[1] Kl. suggests 'hroden' for 'hátén,' and renders: *Then quickly was Heorot adorned within, with hands bedecked.*—B. suggests 'gefrætwon' instead of 'gefrætwod,' and renders: *Then was it commanded to adorn Heorot within quickly with hands.*—The former has the advantage of affording a parallel to 'gefrætwod': both have the disadvantage of altering the text.

[2] The passage 1005-1009 seems to be hopeless. One difficult point is to find a subject for 'gesacan.' Some say 'he'; others supply 'each,' *i.e., every soul-bearer ... must gain the inevitable place.* The genitives in this case are partitive.—If 'he' be subj., the genitives are dependent on 'gearwe' (= prepared).—The 'he' itself is disputed, some referring it to Grendel; but B. takes it as involved in the parenthesis.

**BANQUET (*continued*).—THE
SCOP'S SONG OF FINN AND
HNÆF.**

10/2/17, 9:26 AM

Beowulf's companions receives a costly gift.

The warrior killed by Grendel is to be paid for in gold.

nt

her

Hrothgar's scop recalls events in the reign of his lord's father.

hem:

Hnaef, the Danish general, is treacherously attacked while staying at Finn's castle.

rely,

Queen Hildeburg is not only wife of Finn, but a kinswoman of the murdered Hnaef.

came and

uction

arth-joys

Finn's force is almost exterminated.

Hengest

battle,	succeeds Hnæf
Nor the wretched remnant to rescue in war	as Danish
from	general.
The earl of the atheling; but they offered conditions,	
Another great building to fully make ready,	Compact
A hall and a high-seat, that half they might	between the
rule with	Frisians and
	the Danes.
The sons of the Jutemen, and that Folcwalda's	
son would	
Day after day the Danemen honor	
When gifts were giving, and grant of his ring-store	
To Hengest's earl-troop ever so freely,	
Of his gold-plated jewels, as he encouraged the Frisians	
On the bench of the beer-hall. On both sides	Equality of
they swore then	gifts agreed
A fast-binding compact; Finn unto Hengest	on.
With no thought of revoking vowed then most solemnly	
The woe-begone remnant well to take charge of,	
His Witan advising; the agreement should no one	
By words or works weaken and shatter,	
By artifice ever injure its value,	
Though reaved of their ruler their ring-giver's slayer	
They followed as vassals, Fate so requiring:	
Then if one of the Frisians the quarrel should	No one shall
speak of	refer to old
In tones that were taunting, terrible edges	grudges.
Should cut in requital. Accomplished the oath was,	
And treasure of gold from the hoard was uplifted.	
The best of the Scylding braves was then	Danish
fully	warriors are
Prepared for the pile; at the pyre was seen	burned on a
clearly	funeral-pyre.
The blood-gory burnie, the boar with his gilding,	
The iron-hard swine, athelings many	
Fatally wounded; no few had been slaughtered.	
Hildeburg bade then, at the burning of Hnæf,	
The bairn of her bosom to bear to the fire,	Queen
That his body be burned and borne to the	Hildeburg has
pyre.	her son burnt
The woe-stricken woman wept on his	along with
shoulder, ²	Hnæf.
In measures lamented; upmounted the hero. ³	
The greatest of dead-fires curled to the welkin,	
On the hill's-front crackled; heads were a-melting,	

Wound-doors bursting, while the blood was a-coursing
 From body-bite fierce. The fire devoured them,
 Greediest of spirits, whom war had offcarried
 From both of the peoples; their bravest were fallen.

[1] For 1084, R. suggests 'wiht Hengeste wið gefeohtan.'—K. suggests 'wið Hengeste wiht gefeohtan.' Neither emendation would make any essential change in the translation.

[2] The separation of adjective and noun by a phrase (cf. v. 1118) being very unusual, some scholars have put 'earme on eaxe' with the foregoing lines, inserting a semicolon after 'eaxe.' In this case 'on eaxe' (*i.e.*, on the ashes, cinders) is sometimes read, and this affords a parallel to 'on bæl.' Let us hope that a satisfactory rendering shall yet be reached without resorting to any tampering with the text, such as Lichtenheld proposed: 'earme ides on eaxe gnornode.'

[3] For 'gúð-rinc,' 'gúð-réc,' *battle-smoke*, has been suggested.

XVIII.

THE FINN EPISODE (*continued*).— THE BANQUET CONTINUES.

"Then the warriors departed to go to their dwellings,	The survivors go to
Reaved of their friends, Friesland to visit,	Friesland, the home of Finn.
Their homes and high-city. Hengest continued	
Biding with Finn the blood-tainted winter,	Hengest
Wholly unsundered; ¹ of fatherland thought he	remains there
Though unable to drive the ring-stemmèd vessel	all winter, unable to get away.
O'er the ways of the waters; the wave-deeps were tossing,	
Fought with the wind; winter in ice-bonds	
Closed up the currents, till there came to the dwelling	
A year in its course, as yet it revolveth,	
If season propitious one alway regardeth,	
World-cheering weathers. Then winter was gone,	
Earth's bosom was lovely; the exile would get him,	
The guest from the palace; on grewsoonest vengeance	He devises schemes of vengeance.
He brooded more eager than on oversea journeys,	
Whe'r onset-of-anger he were able to 'complish,	

Guthlaf and
Oslaf revenge
Hnæf's
slaughter.

The jewels of
Finn, and his
queen are
carried away
by the Danes.

The lay is concluded, and the main story is resumed.

Skinkers carry
round the
beaker.

Queen
Wealhtheow
greet
s
Hrothgar, as
he sits beside
Hrothulf, his
nephew.

Be generous to
the Geats.

[1] For 1130 (1) R. and Gr. suggest 'elne unflitme' as 1098 (1) reads. The latter verse is undisputed; and, for the former, 'elne' would be as possible as 'ealles,' and 'unflitme' is well supported. Accepting 'elne unflitme' for both, I would suggest 'very peaceably' for both places: (1) *Finn to Hengest very peaceably vowed with oaths*, etc. (2) *Hengest then still the slaughter-stained winter remained there with Finn very peaceably*. The two passages become thus correlatives, the second a sequel of the first. 'Elne,' in the sense of very (swiðe), needs no argument; and 'unflitme' (from 'flitan') can, it seems to me, be more plausibly rendered 'peaceful,' 'peaceable,' than 'contestable,' or 'conquerable.'

[2] Some scholars have proposed 'roden'; the line would then read: *Then the building was reddened, etc.*, instead of 'covered.' The 'h' may have been carried over from the three alliterating 'h's.'

BEOWULF RECEIVES FURTHER HONOR.

May gifts
never fail thee

- [1] C. suggests a semicolon after 'city,' with 'he' as supplied subject of 'fled' and 'chose.'
- [2] For 'feorh' S. suggests 'feoh': 'corpse' in the translation would then be changed to '*possessions*,' '*belongings*.' This is a better reading than one joining, in such intimate syntactical relations, things so unlike as 'corpse' and 'jewels.'
- [3] S. suggests '*wine-joyous heroes*,' '*warriors elated with wine*.'
- [4] I believe this translation brings out the meaning of the poet, without departing seriously from the H.-So. text. 'Ofť' frequently means 'constantly,' 'continually,' not always 'often.' — Why 'an (on) wġ gearwe' should be written 'ánwġ-gearwe' (= ready for single combat), I cannot see. 'Gearwe' occurs quite frequently with 'on'; cf. B. 1110 (*ready for the pyre*), El. 222 (*ready for the glad journey*). Moreover, what has the idea of single combat to do with B. 1247 ff.? The poet is giving an inventory of the arms and armor which they lay aside on retiring, and he closes his narration by saying that they were *always prepared for battle both at home and on the march*.

THE MOTHER OF GRENDEL.

Grendel's mother comes to avenge her son.

- [1] Several eminent authorities either read or emend the MS. so as to make this verse read, *While Grendel was wasting the gold-bedecked palace*. So 20 15 below: *ravaged the desert*.
- [2] For 'sóna' (1281), t.B. suggests 'sára,' limiting 'edhwyrft.' Read then: *Return of sorrows to the nobles, etc.* This emendation supplies the syntactical gap after 'edhwyrft.'
- [3] Some authorities follow Grein's lexicon in treating 'heard ecg' as

an adj. limiting 'sweord': H.-So. renders it as a subst. (So v. 1491.) The sense of the translation would be the same.

- [4] B. suggests 'under hróf genam' (v. 1303). This emendation, as well as an emendation with (?) to v. 739, he offers, because 'under' baffles him in both passages. All we need is to take 'under' in its secondary meaning of 'in,' which, though not given by Grein, occurs in the literature. Cf. Chron. 876 (March's A.-S. Gram. § 355) and Oro. Amaz. I. 10, where 'under' = *in the midst of*. Cf. modern Eng. 'in such circumstances,' which interchanges in good usage with 'under such circumstances.'
- [5] For 'néod-laðu' (1321) C. suggests 'néad-láðum,' and translates: *asked whether the night had been pleasant to him after crushing-hostility*.

XXI.

HROTHGAR'S ACCOUNT OF THE MONSTERS.

Hrothgar rejoined, helm of the Scyldings: "Ask not of joyance! Grief is renewed to The folk of the Danemen. Dead is Æschere, Yrmenlaf's brother, older than he, My true-hearted counsellor, trusty adviser, Shoulder-companion, when fighting in battle Our heads we protected, when troopers were clashing, And heroes were dashing; such an earl should be ever,	Hrothgar laments the death of Æschere, his shoulder- companion. He was my ideal hero.
An erst-worthy atheling, as Æschere proved him. The flickering death-spirit became in Heorot His hand-to-hand murderer; I can not tell whither The cruel one turned in the carcass exulting, By cramming discovered. ¹ The quarrel she wreaked then, That last night igone Grendel thou killedst In grewsomest manner, with grim-holding clutches,	This horrible creature came to avenge Grendel's death.
Since too long he had lessened my liege-troop and wasted My folk-men so foully. He fell in the battle With forfeit of life, and another has followed, A mighty crime-worker, her kinsman avenging, And henceforth hath 'stablished her hatred unyielding, ² As it well may appear to many a liegeman,	

Who mourneth in spirit the treasure-bestower,
 Her heavy heart-sorrow; the hand is now lifeless
 Which³ availed you in every wish that you cherished.
 Land-people heard I, liegemen, this saying, I have heard
 Dwellers in halls, they had seen very often my vassals
 A pair of such mighty march-striding speak of these
 creatures, two uncanny
 Far-dwelling spirits, holding the moorlands: monsters who
 One of them wore, as well they might notice, lived in the
 The image of woman, the other one wretched moors.
 In guise of a man wandered in exile,
 Except he was huger than any of earthmen;
 Earth-dwelling people entitled him Grendel
 In days of yore: they know not their father,
 Whe'r ill-going spirits any were borne him
 Ever before. They guard the wolf-coverts, The inhabit the
 Lands inaccessible, wind-beaten nesses, most desolate
 Fearfullest fen-deeps, where a flood from the and horrible
 mountains places.
 'Neath mists of the nesses netherward rattles,
 The stream under earth: not far is it henceward
 Measured by mile-lengths that the mere-water standeth,
 Which forests hang over, with frost-whiting covered,⁴
 A firm-rooted forest, the floods overshadow.
 There ever at night one an ill-meaning portent
 A fire-flood may see; 'mong children of men
 None liveth so wise that wot of the bottom;
 Though harassed by hounds the heath-stepper seek for,
 Fly to the forest, firm-antlered he-deer, Even the
 Spurred from afar, his spirit he yieldeth, hounded deer
 His life on the shore, ere in he will venture will not seek
 To cover his head. Uncanny the place is: refuge in these
 Thence upward ascendeth the surging of uncanny
 waters, regions.
 Wan to the welkin, when the wind is stirring
 The weathers unpleasing, till the air groweth gloomy,
 And the heavens lower. Now is help to be To thee only
 gotten can I look for
 From thee and thee only! The abode thou assistance.
 know'st not,
 The dangerous place where thou'rt able to meet with
 The sin-laden hero: seek if thou darest!
 For the feud I will fully fee thee with money,
 With old-time treasure, as erstwhile I did thee,

With well-twisted jewels, if away thou shalt get thee.”

- [1] For ‘gefægnod’ (1334), K. and t.B. suggest ‘gefægnod,’ rendering ‘*rejoicing in her fill.*’ This gives a parallel to ‘æse wlanc’ (1333).
- [2] The line ‘And ... yielding,’ B. renders: *And she has performed a deed of blood-vengeance whose effect is far-reaching.*
- [3] ‘Sé þe’ (1345) is an instance of masc. rel. with fem. antecedent. So v. 1888, where ‘sé þe’ refers to ‘ylde.’
- [4] For ‘hrímge’ in the H.-So. edition, Gr. and others read ‘hrinde’ (=hrínende), and translate: *which rustling forests overhang.*

XXII.

BEOWULF SEEKS GRENDEL’S MOTHER.

Beowulf answered, Ecgtheow’s son:

“Grieve not, O wise one! for each it is better,
His friend to avenge than with vehemence
wail him;

Beowulf
exhorts the old
king to arouse
himself for
action.

Each of us must the end-day abide of
His earthly existence; who is able accomplish
Glory ere death! To battle-thane noble
Lifeless lying, ’tis at last most fitting.

Arise, O king, quick let us hasten
To look at the footprint of the kinsman of Grendel!

I promise thee this now: to his place he’ll escape not,
To embrace of the earth, nor to mountainous forest,
Nor to depths of the ocean, wherever he wanders.

Practice thou now patient endurance
Of each of thy sorrows, as I hope for thee soothly!”

Then up sprang the old one, the All-Wielder
thanked he,

Hrothgar
rouses himself.
His horse is
brought.

Ruler Almighty, that the man had outspoken.
Then for Hrothgar a war-horse was decked
with a bridle,

Curly-maned courser. The clever folk-leader
Stately proceeded: stepped then an earl-troop
Of linden-wood bearers. Her footprints were
seen then

They start on
the track of the
female
monster.

Widely in wood-paths, her way o’er the

The dead beast
is a poor
swimmer

The hand-woven corslet which could cover the monster.
 his body,
 Must the wave-deeps explore, that war might be powerless
 To harm the great hero, and the hating one's grasp might
 Not peril his safety; his head was protected
 By the light-flashing helmet that should mix with the
 bottoms,
 Trying the eddies, treasure-emblazoned,
 Encircled with jewels, as in seasons long past
 The weapon-smith worked it, wondrously made it,
 With swine-bodies fashioned it, that thenceforward no longer
 Brand might bite it, and battle-sword hurt it.
 And that was not least of helpers in prowess
 That Hrothgar's spokesman had lent him He has
 when straitened; Unferth's
 And the hilted hand-sword was Hrunting sword in his
 entitled, hand.
 Old and most excellent 'mong all of the treasures;
 Its blade was of iron, blotted with poison,
 Hardened with gore; it failed not in battle
 Any hero under heaven in hand who it brandished,
 Who ventured to take the terrible journeys,
 The battle-field sought; not the earliest occasion
 That deeds of daring 'twas destined to 'comply.
 Ecglaf's kinsman minded not soothly, Unferth has
 Exulting in strength, what erst he had spoken little use for
 Drunken with wine, when the weapon he lent swords.
 to
 A sword-hero bolder; himself did not venture
 'Neath the strife of the currents his life to endanger,
 To fame-deeds perform; there he forfeited glory,
 Repute for his strength. Not so with the other
 When he clad in his corslet had equipped him for battle.

XXIII.

BEOWULF'S FIGHT WITH GRENDL'S MOTHER.

Beowulf spake, Ecgtheow's son:	Beowulf
"Recall now, oh, famous kinsman of	makes a
	parting speech

Healfdene,	to Hrothgar.
Prince very prudent, now to part I am ready,	
Gold-friend of earlmen, what erst we agreed on,	
Should I lay down my life in lending thee	If I fail, act as
assistance,	a kind
When my earth-joys were over, thou wouldst	liegelord to
evermore serve me	my thanes,
In stead of a father; my faithful thanemen,	
My trusty retainers, protect thou and care for,	
Fall I in battle: and, Hrothgar beloved,	
Send unto Higelac the high-valued jewels	and send
Thou to me hast allotted. The lord of the	Higelac the
Geatmen	jewels thou
May perceive from the gold, the Hrethling	hast given me
may see it	
When he looks on the jewels, that a gem-	I should like
giver found I	my king to
Good over-measure, enjoyed him while able.	know how
And the ancient heirloom Unferth permit	generous a
thou,	lord I found
	thee to be.
The famed one to have, the heavy-sword splendid ¹	
The hard-edged weapon; with Hrunting to aid me,	
I shall gain me glory, or grim-death shall take me."	
The atheling of Geatmen uttered these words	Beowulf is
and	eager for the
Heroic did hasten, not any rejoinder	fray.
Was willing to wait for; the wave-current swallowed	
The doughty-in-battle. Then a day's-length	He is a whole
elapsed ere	day reaching
He was able to see the sea at its bottom.	the bottom of
Early she found then who fifty of winters	the sea.
The course of the currents kept in her fury,	
Grisly and greedy, that the grim one's dominion	
Some one of men from above was exploring.	Grendel's
Forth did she grab them, grappled the warrior	mother knows
With horrible clutches; yet no sooner she	that some one
injured	has reached
	her domains.
His body unscathed: the burnie out-guarded,	
That she proved but powerless to pierce through the armor,	
The limb-mail locked, with loath-grabbing fingers.	
The sea-wolf bare then, when bottomward came she,	
The ring-prince homeward, that he after was	She grabs him,
powerless	and bears him
(He had daring to do it) to deal with his	to her den.
weapons,	

flashing,
 For her son would take vengeance, her one only bairn.
 His breast-armor woven bode on his shoulder; His armor
 It guarded his life, the entrance defended saves his life.
 'Gainst sword-point and edges. Ecgtheow's son there
 Had fatally journeyed, champion of Geatmen,
 In the arms of the ocean, had the armor not given,
 Close-woven corslet, comfort and succor,
 And had God most holy not awarded the God arranged
 victory, for his escape.
 All-knowing Lord; easily did heaven's
 Ruler most righteous arrange it with justice;⁴
 Uprose he erect ready for battle.

[1] Kl. emends 'wæl-sweord.' The half-line would then read, '*the battle-sword splendid.*'—For 'heard-ecg' in next half-verse, see note to 20 39 above.

[2] Sw., R., and t.B. suggest 'feaxe' for 'eaxe' (1538) and render: *Seized by the hair.*

[3] If 'hand-léan' be accepted (as the MS. has it), the line will read: *She hand-reward gave him early thereafter.*

[4] Sw. and S. change H.-So.'s semicolon (v. 1557) to a comma, and translate: *The Ruler of Heaven arranged it in justice easily, after he arose again.*

XXIV.

BEOWULF IS DOUBLE- CONQUEROR.

Then he saw mid the war-gems a weapon of	Beowulf
victory,	grasps a giant-
An ancient giant-sword, of edges a-doughty,	sword,
Glory of warriors: of weapons 'twas choicest,	
Only 'twas larger than any man else was	
Able to bear to the battle-encounter,	
The good and splendid work of the giants.	
He grasped then the sword-hilt, knight of the Scyldings,	
Bold and battle-grim, brandished his ring-sword,	
Hopeless of living, hotly he smote her,	
That the fiend-woman's neck firmly it grappled,	
Broke through her bone-joints, the bill fully	and fells the

pierced her female
 Fate-cursèd body, she fell to the ground then: monster.
 The hand-sword was bloody, the hero exulted.
 The brand was brilliant, brightly it glimmered,
 Just as from heaven gemlike shineth
 The torch of the firmament. He glanced 'long the building,
 And turned by the wall then, Higelac's vassal
 Raging and wrathful raised his battle-sword
 Strong by the handle. The edge was not useless
 To the hero-in-battle, but he speedily wished to
 Give Grendel requital for the many assaults he
 Had worked on the West-Danes not once, but often,
 When he slew in slumber the subjects of Hrothgar,
 Swallowed down fifteen sleeping retainers
 Of the folk of the Danemen, and fully as many
 Carried away, a horrible prey.
 He gave him requital, grim-raging champion,
 When he saw on his rest-place weary of conflict Beowulf sees
 Grendel lying, of life-joys bereavèd, the body of
 As the battle at Heorot erstwhile had scathed Grendel, and
 him; cuts off his
 His body far bounded, a blow when he suffered, head.
 Death having seized him, sword-smiting heavy,
 And he cut off his head then. Early this noticed
 The clever carles who as comrades of Hrothgar
 Gazed on the sea-deeps, that the surging The waters are
 wave-currents gory.
 Were mightily mingled, the mere-flood was gory:
 Of the good one the gray-haired together held converse,
 The hoary of head, that they hoped not to see Beowulf is
 again given up for
 The atheling ever, that exulting in victory dead.
 He'd return there to visit the distinguished folk-ruler:
 Then many concluded the mere-wolf had killed him.¹
 The ninth hour came then. From the ness-edge departed
 The bold-mooded Scyldings; the gold-friend of heroes
 Homeward betook him. The strangers sat down then
 Soul-sick, sorrowful, the sea-waves regarding:
 They wished and yet weened not their well-loved friend-lord
 To see any more. The sword-blade began The giant-
 then, sword melts.
 The blood having touched it, contracting and shriveling
 With battle-icicles; 'twas a wonderful marvel

That it melted entirely, likest to ice when
 The Father unbindeth the bond of the frost and
 Unwindeth the wave-bands, He who wieldeth dominion
 Of times and of tides: a truth-firm Creator.
 Nor took he of jewels more in the dwelling,
 Lord of the Weders, though they lay all around him,
 Than the head and the handle handsome with jewels;
 The brand early melted, burnt was the weapon:²
 So hot was the blood, the strange-spirit poisonous
 That in it did perish. He early swam off then The hero
 Who had bided in combat the carnage of swims back to
 haters, the realms of
 Went up through the ocean; the eddies were day.
 cleansèd,
 The spacious expanses, when the spirit from farland
 His life put aside and this short-lived existence.
 The seamen's defender came swimming to land then
 Doughty of spirit, rejoiced in his sea-gift,
 The bulky burden which he bore in his keeping.
 The excellent vassals advanced then to meet him,
 To God they were grateful, were glad in their chieftain,
 That to see him safe and sound was granted them.
 From the high-minded hero, then, helmet and burnie
 Were speedily loosened: the ocean was putrid,
 The water 'neath welkin weltered with gore.
 Forth did they fare, then, their footsteps retracing,
 Merry and mirthful, measured the earth-way,
 The highway familiar: men very daring³
 Bare then the head from the sea-cliff, burdening
 Each of the earlmen, excellent-valiant.
 Four of them had to carry with labor It takes four
 The head of Grendel to the high towering men to carry
 gold-hall Grendel's head
 Upstuck on the spear, till fourteen most- on a spear.
 valiant
 And battle-brave Geatmen came there going
 Straight to the palace: the prince of the people
 Measured the mead-ways, their mood-brave companion.
 The atheling of earlmen entered the building,
 Deed-valiant man, adorned with distinction,
 Doughty shield-warrior, to address King Hrothgar:
 Then hung by the hair, the head of Grendel
 Was borne to the building, where beer-thanes were drinking,
 Loth before earlmen and eke 'fore the lady:

The warriors beheld then a wonderful sight.

- [1] ‘Pæs monige gewearð’ (1599) and ‘hafað þæs geworden’ (2027).—In a paper published some years ago in one of the Johns Hopkins University circulars, I tried to throw upon these two long-doubtful passages some light derived from a study of like passages in Alfred’s prose.—The impersonal verb ‘geweorðan,’ with an accus. of the person, and a þæt-clause is used several times with the meaning ‘agree.’ See Orosius (Sweet’s ed.) 178₇; 204₃₄; 208₂₈; 210₁₅; 280₂₀. In the two Beowulf passages, the þæt-clause is anticipated by ‘pæs,’ which is clearly a gen. of the thing agreed on.

The first passage (v. 1599 (b)-1600) I translate literally: *Then many agreed upon this (namely), that the sea-wolf had killed him.*

The second passage (v. 2025 (b)-2027): *She is promised ...; to this the friend of the Scyldings has agreed, etc.* By emending ‘is’ instead of ‘wæs’ (2025), the tenses will be brought into perfect harmony.

In v. 1997 ff. this same idiom occurs, and was noticed in B.’s great article on Beowulf, which appeared about the time I published my reading of 1599 and 2027. Translate 1997 then: *Wouldst let the South-Danes themselves decide about their struggle with Grendel.* Here ‘Súð-Dene’ is accus. of person, and ‘gúðe’ is gen. of thing agreed on.

With such collateral support as that afforded by B. (P. and B. XII. 97), I have no hesitation in departing from H.-So., my usual guide.

The idiom above treated runs through A.-S., Old Saxon, and other Teutonic languages, and should be noticed in the lexicons.

- [2] ‘Bróden-mæl’ is regarded by most scholars as meaning a damaskened sword. Translate: *The damaskened sword burned up.* Cf. 25 16 and note.
- [3] ‘Cyning-balde’ (1635) is the much-disputed reading of K. and Th. To render this, “*nobly bold*,” “*excellently bold*,” have been suggested. B. would read ‘cyning-holde’ (cf. 290), and render: *Men well-disposed towards the king carried the head, etc.* ‘Cynebealde,’ says t.B., endorsing Gr.

XXV.

BEOWULF BRINGS HIS TROPHIES.—HROTHGAR’S GRATITUDE.

Beowulf spake, offspring of Ecgtheow:

“Lo! we blithely have brought thee, bairn of

Beowulf

relates his last

Healfdene, exploit.
 Prince of the Scyldings, these presents from ocean
 Which thine eye looketh on, for an emblem of glory.
 I came off alive from this, narrowly 'scaping:
 In war 'neath the water the work with great pains I
 Performed, and the fight had been finished quite nearly,
 Had God not defended me. I failed in the battle
 Aught to accomplish, aided by Hrunting,
 Though that weapon was worthy, but the Wielder of earth-
 folk
 Gave me willingly to see on the wall a God was
 Heavy old hand-sword hanging in splendor fighting with
 (He guided most often the lorn and the me.
 friendless),
 That I swung as a weapon. The wards of the house then
 I killed in the conflict (when occasion was given me).
 Then the battle-sword burned, the brand that was lifted,¹
 As the blood-current sprang, hottest of war-sweats;
 Seizing the hilt, from my foes I offbore it;
 I avenged as I ought to their acts of malignity,
 The murder of Danemen. I then make thee this promise,
 Thou'lt be able in Heorot careless to slumber Heorot is freed
 With thy throng of heroes and the thanes of from monsters.
 thy people
 Every and each, of greater and lesser,
 And thou needest not fear for them from the selfsame
 direction
 As thou formerly fearedst, oh, folk-lord of Scyldings,
 End-day for earlmen." To the age-hoary man then,
 The gray-haired chieftain, the gold-fashioned The famous
 sword-hilt, sword is
 Old-work of giants, was thereupon given; presented to
 Since the fall of the fiends, it fell to the Hrothgar.
 keeping
 Of the wielder of Danemen, the wonder-smith's labor,
 And the bad-mooded being abandoned this world then,
 Opponent of God, victim of murder,
 And also his mother; it went to the keeping
 Of the best of the world-kings, where waters encircle,
 Who the scot divided in Scylding dominion.
 Hrothgar discoursed, the hilt he regarded, Hrothgar looks
 The ancient heirloom where an old-time closely at the
 contention's old sword.
 Beginning was graven: the gurgling currents,

Hrothgar
moralizes.

Manor and earlship: all things He ruleth.
 He often permitteth the mood-thought of man of
 The illustrious lineage to lean to possessions,
 Allows him earthly delights at his manor,
 A high-burg of heroes to hold in his keeping,
 Maketh portions of earth-folk hear him,
 And a wide-reaching kingdom so that, wisdom failing him,
 He himself is unable to reckon its boundaries;
 He liveth in luxury, little debars him,
 Nor sickness nor age, no treachery-sorrow
 Becloudeth his spirit, conflict nowhere,
 No sword-hate, appeareth, but all of the world doth
 Wend as he wisheth; the worse he knoweth not,
 Till arrant arrogance inward pervading,
 Waxeth and springeth, when the warder is sleeping,
 The guard of the soul: with sorrows encompassed,
 Too sound is his slumber, the slayer is near him,
 Who with bow and arrow aimeth in malice.

[1] Or rather, perhaps, '*the inlaid, or damaskeened weapon.*' Cf.
 24 57 and note.

XXVI.

HROTHGAR MORALIZES.—REST AFTER LABOR.

<p>“Then bruised in his bosom he with bitter- toothed missile Is hurt 'neath his helmet: from harmful pollution He is powerless to shield him by the wonderful mandates Of the loath-cursèd spirit; what too long he hath holden Him seemeth too small, savage he hoardeth, Nor boastfully giveth gold-plated rings,¹ The fate of the future flouts and forgetteth Since God had erst given him greatness no little, Wielder of Glory. His end-day anear, It afterward happens that the bodily-dwelling Fleetingly fadeth, falls into ruins; Another lays hold who doleth the ornaments, The nobleman's jewels, nothing lamenting,</p>	<p>A wounded spirit.</p>
--	---------------------------------------

Beowulf is
fagged, and
seeks rest.

The Geats
prepare to
leave Dane-
land.

Unferth asks
Beowulf to
accept his
sword as a
gift. Beowulf
thanks him.

- 10/2/17, 9:26 AM

To seek King Higelac. Here have we fitly Been welcomed and feasted, as heart would desire it; Good was the greeting. If greater affection I am anywise able ever on earth to Gain at thy hands, ruler of heroes, Than yet I have done, I shall quickly be ready For combat and conflict. O'er the course of the waters	I shall be ever ready to aid thee.
Learn I that neighbors alarm thee with terror, As haters did whilom, I hither will bring thee For help unto heroes henchmen by thousands. I know as to Higelac, the lord of the Geatmen, Though young in years, he yet will permit me,	My liegelord will encourage me in aiding thee.
By words and by works, ward of the people, Fully to furnish thee forces and bear thee My lance to relieve thee, if liegemen shall fail thee, And help of my hand-strength; if Hrethric be treating, Bairn of the king, at the court of the Geatmen, He thereat may find him friends in abundance: Faraway countries he were better to seek for Who trusts in himself." Hrothgar discoursed then, Making rejoinder: "These words thou hast uttered All-knowing God hath given thy spirit! Ne'er heard I an earlman thus early in life More clever in speaking: thou'rt cautious of spirit, Mighty of muscle, in mouth-answers prudent. I count on the hope that, happen it ever That missile shall rob thee of Hrethel's descendant, Edge-horrid battle, and illness or weapon Deprive thee of prince, of people's protector, And life thou yet holdest, the Sea-Geats will never Find a more fitting folk-lord to choose them, Gem-ward of heroes, than <i>thou</i> mightest prove thee, If the kingdom of kinsmen thou carest to govern.	O Beowulf, thou art wise beyond thy years.
Thy mood-spirit likes me the longer the better, Beowulf dear: thou hast brought it to pass that To both these peoples peace shall be common, To Geat-folk and Danemen, the strife be	Should Higelac die, the Geats could find no better successor than thou wouldst make. Thou hast healed the

suspended,
The secret assailings they suffered in yore-
days;
And also that jewels be shared while I govern
The wide-stretching kingdom, and that many shall visit
Others o'er the ocean with excellent gift-gems:
The ring-adorned bark shall bring o'er the currents
Presents and love-gifts. This people I know
Tow'rd foeman and friend firmly established,¹
After ancient etiquette everywise blameless."
Then the warden of earlmen gave him still farther,
Kinsman of Healfdene, a dozen of jewels, Parting gifts
Bade him safely seek with the presents
His well-beloved people, early returning.
Then the noble-born king kissed the Hrothgar
distinguished, kisses
Dear-lovèd liegeman, the Dane-prince saluted Beowulf, and
him, weeps.
And claspèd his neck; tears from him fell,
From the gray-headed man: he two things expected,
Agèd and reverend, but rather the second,
²That bold in council they'd meet thereafter.
The man was so dear that he failed to suppress the
Emotions that moved him, but in mood-fetters fastened
The long-famous hero longeth in secret The old king is
Deep in his spirit for the dear-beloved man deeply grieved
Though not a blood-kinsman. Beowulf to part with his
thenceward, benefactor.
Gold-splendid warrior, walked o'er the meadows
Exulting in treasure: the sea-going vessel
Riding at anchor awaited its owner.
As they pressed on their way then, the present of Hrothgar
Was frequently referred to: a folk-king indeed Giving
that liberally is the
Everyway blameless, till age did debar him true proof of
The joys of his might, which hath many oft kingship.
injured.

[1] For 'geworhte,' the crux of this passage, B. proposes 'geþóhte,' rendering: *I know this people with firm thought every way blameless towards foe and friends.*

[2] S. and B. emend so as to negative the verb 'meet.' "Why should Hrothgar weep if he expects to meet Beowulf again?" both these scholars ask. But the weeping is mentioned before the 'expectations': the tears may have been due to many emotions,

THE HOMEWARD JOURNEY.— THE TWO QUEENS.

The band of very valiant retainers
Came to the current; they were clad all in armor,
In link-woven burnies. The land-warder The coast-
noticed guard again.
The return of the earlmen, as he erstwhile had seen them;
Nowise with insult he greeted the strangers
From the naze of the cliff, but rode on to meet them;
Said the bright-armored visitors¹ vesselward traveled
Welcome to Weders. The wide-bosomed craft then
Lay on the sand, laden with armor,
With horses and jewels, the ring-stemmèd sailer:
The mast uptowered o'er the treasure of Hrothgar.
To the boat-ward a gold-bound brand he Beowulf gives
presented, the guard a
That he was afterwards honored on the ale- handsome
bench more highly sword.
As the heirloom's owner. ²Set he out on his vessel,
To drive on the deep, Dane-country left he.
Along by the mast then a sea-garment fluttered,
A rope-fastened sail. The sea-boat resounded,
The wind o'er the waters the wave-floater nowise
Kept from its journey; the sea-goer traveled,
The foamy-necked floated forth o'er the currents,
The well-fashioned vessel o'er the ways of the ocean,
Till they came within sight of the cliffs of the The Geats see
Geatmen, their own land
The well-known headlands. The wave-goer again.
hastened
Driven by breezes, stood on the shore.
Prompt at the ocean, the port-ward was ready, The port-
Who long in the past outlooked in the warden is
distance,³ anxiously
At water's-edge waiting well-lovèd heroes; looking for
He bound to the bank then the broad-bosomed vessel them.

She is a terror
to all save her
husband.

- [1] For ‘scawan’ (1896), ‘scaðan’ has been proposed. Accepting this, we may render: *He said the bright-armored warriors were going to their vessel, welcome, etc.* (Cf. 1804.)
- [2] R. suggests, ‘Gewát him on naca,’ and renders: *The vessel set out, to drive on the sea, the Dane-country left.* ‘On’ bears the alliteration; cf. ‘on hafu’ (2524). This has some advantages over the H.-So. reading; viz. (1) It adds nothing to the text; (2) it makes ‘naca’ the subject, and thus brings the passage into keeping with the context, where the poet has exhausted his vocabulary in detailing the actions of the vessel.—B.’s emendation (cf. P. and B. XII. 97) is violent.
- [3] B. translates: *Who for a long time, ready at the coast, had looked out into the distance eagerly for the dear men.* This changes the syntax of ‘léofra manna.’
- [4] For ‘wunað’ (v. 1924) several eminent critics suggest ‘wunade’ (=remained). This makes the passage much clearer.
- [5] Why should such a woman be described as an ‘excellent’ queen? C. suggests ‘frécnu’ = dangerous, bold.
- [6] For ‘an dæges’ various readings have been offered. If ‘and-éges’ be accepted, the sentence will read: *No hero ... dared look upon her, eye to eye.* If ‘án-dæges’ be adopted, translate: *Dared look upon her the whole day.*

BEOWULF AND HIGELAC.

10/2/17, 9:26 AM

The building was early inward made ready For the foot-going guests as the good one had ordered. He sat by the man then who had lived through the struggle, Kinsman by kinsman, when the king of the people Had in lordly language saluted the dear one, In words that were formal. The daughter of Hæreth Coursed through the building, carrying mead- cups: ¹ She loved the retainers, tendered the beakers To the high-minded Geatmen. Higelac 'gan then Pleasantly plying his companion with questions In the high-towering palace. A curious interest Tormented his spirit, what meaning to see in The Sea-Geats' adventures: "Beowulf worthy, How throve your journeying, when thou thoughtest suddenly Far o'er the salt-streams to seek an encounter, A battle at Heorot? Hast bettered for Hrothgar, The famous folk-leader, his far-published sorrows Any at all? In agony-billows I mused upon torture, distrusted the journey Of the belovèd liegeman; I long time did pray thee By no means to seek out the murderous spirit, To suffer the South-Danes themselves to decide on ² Grappling with Grendel. To God I am thankful To be suffered to see thee safe from thy journey." Beowulf answered, bairn of old Ecgtheow: "Tis hidden by no means, Higelac chieftain, From many of men, the meeting so famous, What mournful moments of me and of Grendel Were passed in the place where he pressing affliction On the Victory-Scyldings scathefully brought, Anguish forever; that all I avengèd, So that any under heaven of the kinsmen of Grendel Needeth not boast of that cry-in-the-morning, Who longest liveth of the loth-going kindred, ³	Beowulf sits by his liegelord. Queen Hygd receives the heroes. Higelac is greatly interested in Beowulf's adventures. Give an account of thy adventures, Beowulf dear. My suspense has been great. Beowulf narrates his adventures. Grendel's kindred have no cause to boast.
--	--

Encompassed by moorland. I came in my journey
 To the royal ring-hall, Hrothgar to greet there:
 Soon did the famous scion of Healfdene, Hrothgar
 When he understood fully the spirit that led received me
 me, very cordially.
 Assign me a seat with the son of his bosom.
 The troop was in joyance; mead-glee greater
 'Neath arch of the ether not ever beheld I
 'Mid hall-building holders. The highly-famed The queen also
 queen, showed up no
 Peace-tie of peoples, oft passed through the little honor.
 building,
 Cheered the young troopers; she oft tendered a hero
 A beautiful ring-band, ere she went to her sitting.
 Oft the daughter of Hrothgar in view of the Hrothgar's
 courtiers lovely
 To the earls at the end the ale-vessel carried, daughter.
 Whom Freaware I heard then hall-sitters title,
 When nail-adorned jewels she gave to the heroes:
 Gold-bedecked, youthful, to the glad son of She is
 Froda betrothed to
 Her faith has been plighted; the friend of the Ingeld, in
 Scyldings, order to unite
 The guard of the kingdom, hath given his the Danes and
 sanction,⁴ Heathobards.
 And counts it a vantage, for a part of the quarrels,
 A portion of hatred, to pay with the woman.
⁵Somewhere not rarely, when the ruler has fallen,
 The life-taking lance relaxeth its fury
 For a brief breathing-spell, though the bride be charming!

[1] 'Meodu-scencum' (1981) some would render 'with mead-pourers.' Translate then: *The daughter of Hareth went through the building accompanied by mead-pourers.*

[2] See my note to 1599, supra, and B. in P. and B. XII. 97.

[3] For 'fenne,' supplied by Grdtvg., B. suggests 'fácne' (cf. Jul. 350). Accepting this, translate: *Who longest lives of the hated race, steeped in treachery.*

[4] See note to v. 1599 above.

[5] This is perhaps the least understood sentence in the poem, almost every word being open to dispute. (1) The 'nó' of our text is an emendation, and is rejected by many scholars. (2) 'Seldan' is by some taken as an adv. (= *seldom*), and by others as a noun (= *page, companion*). (3) 'Léod-hryre,' some render '*fall of the people*'; others, '*fall of the prince*.' (4) 'Búgeð,' most scholars regard as the intrans. verb meaning '*bend*,' '*rest*'; but one great

Having made these preliminary statements, I will now tell thee of Grendel, the monster.

She suffered
not his body to
be burned, but
ate it.

seething

With gore that was clotted, and Grendel's fierce mother's
 Head I offhacked in the hall at the bottom and hewed her
 With huge-reaching sword-edge, hardly I head off.
 wrested

My life from her clutches; not doomed was I then,
 But the warden of earlmen afterward gave me Jewels were
 Jewels in quantity, kinsman of Healfdene. freely
 bestowed upon
 me.

[1] For 'lifigende' (2063), a mere conjecture, 'wígende' has been suggested. The line would then read: *Escapeth by fighting, knows the land thoroughly.*

[2] For 'fæðmum,' Gr.'s conjecture, B. proposes 'færunga.' These three half-verses would then read: *She bore off the corpse of her foe suddenly under the mountain-torrent.*

[3] The phrase 'þíne lýfe' (2132) was long rendered 'with thy (presupposed) permission.' The verse would read: *The land-prince then sadly besought me, with thy (presupposed) permission, etc.*

XXXI.

GIFT-GIVING IS MUTUAL.

"So the beloved land-prince lived in decorum;
 I had missed no rewards, no meeds of my prowess,
 But he gave me jewels, regarding my wishes,
 Healfdene his bairn; I'll bring them to thee, then,
 Atheling of earlmen, offer them gladly. All my gifts I
 And still unto thee is all my affection:¹ lay at thy feet.
 But few of my folk-kin find I surviving
 But thee, dear Higelac!" Bade he in then to carry²
 The boar-image, banner, battle-high helmet,
 Iron-gray armor, the excellent weapon,
 In song-measures said: "This suit-for-the- This armor I
 battle have belonged
 Hrothgar presented me, bade me expressly, of yore to
 Heregar.
 Wise-mooded atheling, thereafter to tell thee³
 The whole of its history, said King Heregar owned it,
 Dane-prince for long: yet he wished not to give then
 The mail to his son, though dearly he loved him,
 Hereward the hardy. Hold all in joyance!"

I heard that there followed hard on the jewels
 Two braces of stallions of striking resemblance,
 Dappled and yellow; he granted him usance
 Of horses and treasures. So a kinsman should bear him,
 No web of treachery weave for another,
 Nor by cunning craftiness cause the destruction
 Of trusty companion. Most precious to
 Higelac,
 The bold one in battle, was the bairn of his
 sister,
 And each unto other mindful of favors.
 I am told that to Hygd he proffered the
 necklace,
 Wonder-gem rare that Wealhtheow gave him,
 The troop-leader's daughter, a trio of horses
 Slender and saddle-bright; soon did the jewel
 Embellish her bosom, when the beer-feast was over.
 So Ecgtheow's bairn brave did prove him,
 War-famous man, by deeds that were valiant,
 He lived in honor, beloved companions
 Slew not carousing; his mood was not cruel,
 But by hand-strength hugest of heroes then living
 The brave one retained the bountiful gift that
 The Lord had allowed him. Long was he wretched,
 So that sons of the Geatmen accounted him worthless,
 And the lord of the liegemen loth was to do him
 Mickle of honor, when mead-cups were passing;
 They fully believed him idle and sluggish,
 An indolent atheling: to the honor-blest man
 there
 Came requital for the cuts he had suffered.
 The folk-troop's defender bade fetch to the
 building
 The heirloom of Hrethel, embellished with gold,
 So the brave one enjoined it; there was jewel
 no richer
 In the form of a weapon 'mong Geats of that
 era;
 In Beowulf's keeping he placed it and gave him
 Seven of thousands, manor and lordship.
 Common to both was land 'mong the people,
 Estate and inherited rights and possessions,
 To the second one specially spacious dominions,
 To the one who was better. It afterward happened

Higelac loves
his nephew
Beowulf.

Beowulf gives
Hygd the
necklace that
Wealhtheow
had given him.

Beowulf is
famous.

He is requited
for the slights
suffered in
earlier days.

Higelac
overwhelms
the conqueror
with gifts.

- [1] This verse B. renders, ‘*Now serve I again thee alone as my gracious king.*’
- [2] For ‘eafor’ (2153), Kl. suggests ‘ealdor.’ Translate then: *Bade the prince then to bear in the banner, battle-high helmet, etc.* On the other hand, W. takes ‘eaforhéafodsegn’ as a compound, meaning ‘helmet’: *He bade them bear in the helmet, battle-high helm, gray armor, etc.*
- [3] The H.-So. rendering (ærest = *history, origin*; ‘eft’ for ‘est’), though liable to objection, is perhaps the best offered. ‘That I should very early tell thee of his favor, kindness’ sounds well; but ‘his’ is badly placed to limit ‘ést.’ — Perhaps, ‘eft’ with verbs of saying may have the force of Lat. prefix ‘re,’ and the H.-So. reading mean, ‘that I should its origin rehearse to thee.’

THE HOARD AND THE DRAGON.

* * * * *

He sought of himself who sorely did harm him,
But, for need very pressing, the servant of one of
The sons of the heroes hate-blows evaded,
Seeking for shelter and the sin-driven warrior
Took refuge within there. He early looked in it,

* * * * *

* * * * *

* * * * * when the onset surprised him,
He a gem-vessel saw there: many of suchlike The hoard.
Ancient ornaments in the earth-cave were lying,
As in days of yore some one of men of
Illustrious lineage, as a legacy monstrous,
There had secreted them, careful and thoughtful,
Dear-valued jewels. Death had offsnatched them,
In the days of the past, and the one man moreover
Of the flower of the folk who fared there the longest,
Was fain to defer it, friend-mourning warder,
A little longer to be left in enjoyment

Of long-lasting treasure.¹ A barrow all-ready
Stood on the plain the stream-currents nigh to,
New by the ness-edge, unnethe of approaching:
The keeper of rings carried within a

²Ponderous deal of the treasure of nobles,
Of gold that was beaten, briefly he spake then:³

<p>“Hold thou, O Earth, now heroes no more may, The earnings of earlmen. Lo! erst in thy bosom</p>	<p>The ring-giver bewails the loss of retainers.</p>
--	--

Worthy men won them; war-death hath ravished,
Perilous life-bale, all my warriors,
Liegemen belovèd, who this life have forsaken,
Who hall-pleasures saw. No sword-bearer have I,
And no one to burnish the gold-plated vessel,
The high-valued beaker: my heroes are vanished.
The hardy helmet behung with gilding
Shall be reaved of its riches: the ring-cleansers slumber
Who were charged to have ready visors-for-battle,
And the burnie that bided in battle-encounter
O’er breaking of war-shields the bite of the edges
Moulds with the hero. The ring-twisted armor,
Its lord being lifeless, no longer may journey
Hanging by heroes; harp-joy is vanished,

The fire-
dragon

The dragon
meets his
match.

The hero
plunders the
dragon's den

The famous folk-treasure. Not fain did the disturbed his
 hoard-ward treasure.
 Wait until evening; then the ward of the barrow
 Was angry in spirit, the loathèd one wished to
 Pay for the dear-valued drink-cup with fire.
 Then the day was done as the dragon would have it,
 He no longer would wait on the wall, but departed
 Fire-impelled, flaming. Fearful the start was The dragon is
 To earls in the land, as it early thereafter infuriated.
 To their giver-of-gold was grievously ended.

- [1] For 'long-gestréona,' B. suggests 'láengestréona,' and renders, *Of fleeting treasures*. S. accepts H.'s 'long-gestréona,' but renders, *The treasure long in accumulating*.
- [2] For 'hard-fyrdne' (2246), B. first suggested 'hard-fyndne,' rendering: *A heap of treasures ... so great that its equal would be hard to find*. The same scholar suggests later 'hord-wynne dæl' = *A deal of treasure-joy*.
- [3] Some read 'fec-word' (2247), and render: *Banning words uttered*.
- [4] An earlier reading of H.'s gave the following meaning to this passage: *He is said to inhabit a mound under the earth, where he, etc*. The translation in the text is more authentic.
- [5] The repetition of 'hord' in this passage has led some scholars to suggest new readings to avoid the second 'hord.' This, however, is not under the main stress, and, it seems to me, might easily be accepted.
- [6] The reading of H.-So. is well defended in the notes to that volume. B. emends and renders: *Nor was there any man in that desert who rejoiced in conflict, in battle-work*. That is, the hoard-ward could not find any one who had disturbed his slumbers, for no warrior was there, t.B.'s emendation would give substantially the same translation.
- [7] 'Sinc-fæt' (2301): this word both here and in v. 2232, t.B. renders 'treasure.'

XXXIII.

BRAVE THOUGH AGED.— REMINISCENCES.

The stranger began then to vomit forth fire, The dragon
 To burn the great manor; the blaze then spits fire.
 glimmered
 For anguish to earlmen, not anything living

Beowulf's
early triumphs
referred to

Higelac's
death recalled.

Heardred's
lack of
capacity to
rule.

Beowulf's tact
and delicacy
recalled.

Reference is here made to a visit which Beowulf receives from Eanmund and Eadgils, why they come is not known.

10/2/17, 9:26 AM

[2] For 'lāðan cynnes' (2355), t.B. suggests 'lāðan cynne,' apposition to 'mægum.' From syntactical and other considerations, this is a most excellent emendation.

[3] Gr. read 'on feorme' (2386), rendering: *He there at the banquet a fatal wound received by blows of the sword.*

BEOWULF SEEKS THE DRAGON. —BEOWULF'S REMINISCENCES.

Beowulf has
been preserved
through many
perils.

With eleven
comrades, he
seeks the
dragon.

A guide leads
the way, but

very
reluctantly.

Old under earth; no easy possession
 For any of earth-folk access to get to.
 Then the battle-brave atheling sat on the naze-edge,
 While the gold-friend of Geatmen gracious saluted
 His fireside-companions: woe was his spirit,
 Death-boding, wav'ring; Weird very near him,
 Who must seize the old hero, his soul-treasure look for,
 Dragging aloof his life from his body:
 Not flesh-hidden long was the folk-leader's spirit.
 Beowulf spake, Ecgtheow's son:
 "I survived in my youth-days many a conflict, Beowulf's
 Hours of onset: that all I remember. retrospect.
 I was seven-winters old when the jewel-prince took me,
 High-lord of heroes, at the hands of my father,
 Hrethel the hero-king had me in keeping,
 Gave me treasure and feasting, our kinship Hrethel took
 remembered; me when I was
 Not ever was I *any* less dear to him seven.
 Knight in the boroughs, than the bairns of his He treated me
 household, as a son.
 Herebald and Hæthcyn and Higelac mine.
 To the eldest unjustly by acts of a kinsman
 Was murder-bed strewn, since him Hæthcyn from horn-bow
 His sheltering chieftain shot with an arrow, One of the
 Erred in his aim and injured his kinsman, brothers
 One brother the other, with blood-sprinkled accidentally
 spear: kills another.
 'Twas a feeless fight, finished in malice, No fee could
 Sad to his spirit; the folk-prince however compound for
 Had to part from existence with vengeance such a
 untaken. calamity.
 So to hoar-headed hero 'tis heavily crushing¹ [A parallel
 To live to see his son as he rideth case is
 Young on the gallows: then measures he supposed.]
 chanteth,
 A song of sorrow, when his son is hanging
 For the raven's delight, and aged and hoary
 He is unable to offer any assistance.
 Every morning his offspring's departure
 Is constant recalled: he cares not to wait for
 The birth of an heir in his borough-enclosures,
 Since that one through death-pain the deeds hath experienced.
 He heart-grieved beholds in the house of his son the
 Wine-building wasted, the wind-lodging places

Reaved of their roaring; the riders are sleeping,
 The knights in the grave; there's no sound of the harp-wood,
 Joy in the yards, as of yore were familiar.

[1] 'Gomelum ceorle' (2445).—H. takes these words as referring to Hrethel; but the translator here departs from his editor by understanding the poet to refer to a hypothetical old man, introduced as an illustration of a father's sorrow.

Hrethrel had certainly never seen a son of his ride on the gallows to feed the crows.

The passage beginning 'swá bið géomorlic' seems to be an effort to reach a full simile, 'as ... so.' 'As it is mournful for an old man, etc. ... so the defence of the Weders (2463) bore heart-sorrow, etc.' The verses 2451 to 2463½ would be parenthetical, the poet's feelings being so strong as to interrupt the simile. The punctuation of the fourth edition would be better—a comma after 'galgan' (2447). The translation may be indicated as follows: *(Just) as it is sad for an old man to see his son ride young on the gallows when he himself is uttering mournful measures, a sorrowful song, while his son hangs for a comfort to the raven, and he, old and infirm, cannot render him any kelp—(he is constantly reminded, etc., 2451-2463)—so the defence of the Weders, etc.*

XXXV.

REMINISCENCES (*continued*). —BEOWULF'S LAST BATTLE.

"He seeks then his chamber, singeth a woe-song
 One for the other; all too extensive
 Seemed homesteads and plains. So the helm of the Weders
 Mindful of Herebald heart-sorrow carried, Hrethel
 Stirred with emotion, nowise was able grieves for
 Herebald.
 To wreak his ruin on the ruthless destroyer:
 He was unable to follow the warrior with hatred,
 With deeds that were direful, though dear he not held him.
 Then pressed by the pang this pain occasioned him,
 He gave up glee, God-light elected;
 He left to his sons, as the man that is rich does,
 His land and fortress, when from life he departed.
 Then was crime and hostility 'twixt Swedes Strife between
 and Geatmen, Swedes and
 Geats.
 O'er wide-stretching water warring was
 mutual,

He boasts of
his youthful
prowess, and
declares
himself still
fearless.

Seeketh me out!" Each of the heroes,
 Helm-bearers sturdy, he thereupon greeted
 Belovèd co-liegemmen—his last salutation: His last
 "No brand would I bear, no blade for the salutations.
 dragon,

Wist I a way my word-boast to 'complish¹
 Else with the monster, as with Grendel I did it;
 But fire in the battle hot I expect there,
 Furious flame-burning: so I fixed on my body
 Target and war-mail. The ward of the barrow²
 I'll not flee from a foot-length, the foeman uncanny.

At the wall 'twill befall us as Fate decreeth,
 Each one's Creator. I am eager in spirit, Let Fate
 With the wingèd war-hero to away with all decide
 boasting. between us.

Bide on the barrow with burnies protected,
 Earls in armor, which of *us* two may better Wait ye here
 Bear his disaster, when the battle is over. till the battle is
 'Tis no matter of yours, and man cannot do it, over.

But me and me only, to measure his strength with
 The monster of malice, might-deeds to 'complish.
 I with prowess shall gain the gold, or the battle,
 Direful death-woe will drag off your ruler!"

The mighty champion rose by his shield then,
 Brave under helmet, in battle-mail went he
 'Neath steep-rising stone-cliffs, the strength he relied on
 Of one man alone: no work for a coward.

Then he saw by the wall who a great many battles
 Had lived through, most worthy, when foot-troops collided,
 Stone-arches standing, stout-hearted The place of
 champion, strife is
 described.

Saw a brook from the barrow bubbling out
 thenceward:

The flood of the fountain was fuming with war-flame:
 Not nigh to the hoard, for season the briefest
 Could he brave, without burning, the abyss that was yawning,
 The drake was so fiery. The prince of the Weders
 Caused then that words came from his bosom,
 So fierce was his fury; the firm-hearted shouted:
 His battle-clear voice came in resounding

'Neath the gray-colored stone. Stirred was his hatred,
 The hoard-ward distinguished the speech of a Beowulf calls
 man; out under the
 Time was no longer to look out for friendship. stone arches.

The great hero
is reduced to
extremities.

- [1] The clause 2520(2)-2522(1), rendered by ‘Wist I ... monster,’ Gr., followed by S., translates substantially as follows: *If I knew how else I might combat the boastful defiance of the monster.*—The translation turns upon ‘wiðgrípan,’ a word not understood.
- [2] B. emends and translates: *I will not flee the space of a foot from the guard of the barrow, but there shall be to us a fight at the wall, as fate decrees, each one’s Creator.*
- [3] The translation of this passage is based on ‘unsláw’ (2565), accepted by H.-So., in lieu of the long-standing ‘ungléaw.’ The former is taken as an adj. limiting ‘sweord’; the latter as an adj. c. ‘gúð-cyning’: *The good war-king, rash with edges, brandished his sword, his old relic.* The latter gives a more rhetorical Anglo-Saxon (poetical) sentence.

XXXVI.

**WIGLAF THE TRUSTY.
—BEOWULF IS DESERTED BY
FRIENDS AND BY SWORD.**

The son of Weohstan was Wiglaf entitled,	Wiglaf
Shield-warrior precious, prince of the	remains true—
Scylfings,	the ideal
Ælfhere's kinsman: he saw his dear liegelord	Teutonic
Enduring the heat 'neath helmet and visor.	liegeman.
Then he minded the holding that erst he had given him,	
The Wægmunding warriors' wealth-blessèd	Wiglaf recalls
homestead,	Beowulf's
Each of the folk-rights his father had wielded;	generosity.
He was hot for the battle, his hand seized the target,	
The yellow-bark shield, he unsheathed his old weapon,	
Which was known among earthmen as the relic of Eanmund,	
Ohthere's offspring, whom, exiled and friendless,	
Weohstan did slay with sword-edge in battle,	
And carried his kinsman the clear-shining helmet,	

The ring-made burnie, the old giant-weapon That Onela gave him, his boon-fellow's armor, Ready war-trappings: he the feud did not mention, Though he'd fatally smitten the son of his brother. Many a half-year held he the treasures, The bill and the burnie, till his bairn became able, Like his father before him, fame-deeds to 'complish; Then he gave him 'mong Geatmen a goodly array of Weeds for his warfare; he went from life then Old on his journey. 'Twas the earliest time then That the youthful champion might charge in the battle Aiding his liegeland; his spirit was dauntless. Nor did kinsman's bequest quail at the battle: This the dragon discovered on their coming together. Wiglaf uttered many a right-saying, Said to his fellows, sad was his spirit: "I remember the time when, tasting the mead- cup, We promised in the hall the lord of us all Who gave us these ring-treasures, that this battle-equipment, Swords and helmets, we'd certainly quite him, Should need of such aid ever befall him: In the war-band he chose us for this journey spontaneously, Stirred us to glory and gave me these jewels, Since he held and esteemed us trust-worthy spearmen, Hardy helm-bearers, though this hero-achievement Our lord intended alone to accomplish, Ward of his people, for most of achievements, Doings audacious, he did among earth-folk. The day is now come when the ruler of earthmen Needeth the vigor of valiant heroes: Let us wend us towards him, the war-prince to succor, While the heat yet rageth, horrible fire-fight. God wot in me, 'tis mickle the liefer The blaze should embrace my body and eat it With my treasure-bestower. Meseemeth not proper To bear our battle-shields back to our country, 'Less first we are able to fell and destroy the	<p>This is Wiglaf's first battle as liegeman of Beowulf.</p> <p>Wiglaf appeals to the pride of the cowards.</p> <p>How we have forfeited our liegeland's confidence!</p> <p>Our lord is in sore need of us.</p> <p>I would rather die than go home with out my suzerain.</p>
--	--

Long-hating foeman, to defend the life of
 The prince of the Weders. Well do I know
 'tisn't
 Earned by his exploits, he only of Geatmen
 Sorrow should suffer, sink in the battle:
 Brand and helmet to us both shall be common,
¹Shield-cover, burnie." Through the bale-smoke he stalked
 then,
 Went under helmet to the help of his chieftain,
 Briefly discoursing: "Beowulf dear,
 Perform thou all fully, as thou formerly
 saidst,
 In thy youthful years, that while yet thou
 livedst
 Thou wouldst let thine honor not ever be lessened.
 Thy life thou shalt save, mighty in actions,
 Atheling undaunted, with all of thy vigor;
 I'll give thee assistance." The dragon came
 raging,
 Wild-mooded stranger, when these words had
 been uttered
 ('Twas the second occasion), seeking his enemies,
 Men that were hated, with hot-gleaming fire-waves;
 With blaze-billows burned the board to its edges:
 The fight-armor failed then to furnish assistance
 To the youthful spear-hero: but the young-aged stripling
 Quickly advanced 'neath his kinsman's war-target,
 Since his own had been ground in the grip of the fire.
 Then the warrior-king was careful of glory,
 He soundly smote with sword-for-the-battle,
 That it stood in the head by hatred driven;
 Nægling was shivered, the old and iron-made
 Brand of Beowulf in battle deceived him.
 'Twas denied him that edges of irons were
 able
 To help in the battle; the hand was too mighty
²Which every weapon, as I heard on inquiry,
 Outstruck in its stroke, when to struggle he carried
 The wonderful war-sword: it waxed him no better.
 Then the people-despoiler—third of his
 onsets—
 Fierce-raging fire-drake, of feud-hate was
 mindful,
 Charged on the strong one, when chance was afforded,

Surely he does
 not deserve to
 die alone.

Wiglaf
 reminds
 Beowulf of his
 youthful
 boasts.

The monster
 advances on
 them.

Beowulf
 strikes at the
 dragon.

His sword fails
 him.

The dragon
 advances on
 Beowulf
 again.

[1] The passage '*Brand ... burnie,*' is much disputed. In the first place, some eminent critics assume a gap of at least two half-verses.—'Úrum' (2660), being a peculiar form, has been much discussed. 'Byrdu-scrúd' is also a crux. B. suggests 'býwdu-scrúd' = *splendid vestments*. Nor is 'bám' accepted by all, 'béon' being suggested. Whatever the individual words, the passage must mean, "*I intend to share with him my equipments of defence.*"

[2] B. would render: *Which, as I heard, excelled in stroke every sword that he carried to the strife, even the strongest (sword).* For 'Ponne' he reads 'Pone,' rel. pr.

THE FATAL STRUGGLE. —BEOWULF'S LAST MOMENTS.

10/2/17, 9:26 AM

He sits down
exhausted.

Wiglaf bathes
his lord's head.

Beowulf
regrets that he
has no son.

I can rejoice in
a well-spent
life.

Bring me the
hoard, Wiglaf,
that my dying
eyes may be
refreshed by a
sight of it.

- [1] B. renders: *He (W.) did not regard his (the dragon's) head* (since Beowulf had struck it without effect), *but struck the dragon a little lower down.*—One crux is to find out *whose head* is meant; another is to bring out the antithesis between 'head' and 'hand.'
- [2] 'Pæt pæt fyr' (2702), S. emends to 'þá pæt fyr' = *when the fire began to grow less intense afterward*. This emendation relieves the passage of a plethora of conjunctive *pæt*'s.
- [3] For 'gefylðan' (2707), S. proposes 'gefylde.' The passage would read: *He felled the foe (life drove out strength), and they then both had destroyed him, chieftains related*. This gives Beowulf the credit of having felled the dragon; then they combine to annihilate him.—For 'ellen' (2707), Kl. suggests 'e(a)llne.'—The reading '*life drove out strength*' is very unsatisfactory and very peculiar. I would suggest as follows: Adopt S.'s emendation, remove H.'s parenthesis, read 'ferh-ellen wræc,' and translate: *He felled the foe, drove out his life-strength* (that is, made him *hors de combat*), *and then they both, etc.*

XXXVIII.

WIGLAF PLUNDERS THE DRAGON'S DEN.—BEOWULF'S DEATH.

Then heard I that Wihstan's son very quickly,	Wiglaf fulfils
These words being uttered, heeded his	his lord's
liegelord	behest.

Wounded and war-sick, went in his armor,
His well-woven ring-mail, 'neath the roof of the barrow.
Then the trusty retainer treasure-gems many
Victorious saw, when the seat he came near The dragon's
 to, den.

Gold-treasure sparkling spread on the bottom,
Wonder on the wall, and the worm-creature's cavern,
The ancient dawn-flier's, vessels a-standing,
Cups of the ancients of cleansers bereaved,
Robbed of their ornaments: there were helmets in numbers,
Old and rust-eaten, arm-bracelets many,
Artfully woven. Wealth can easily,
Gold on the sea-bottom, turn into vanity¹
Each one of earthmen, arm him who pleaseth!
And he saw there lying an all-golden banner
High o'er the hoard, of hand-wonders greatest,
Linkèd with lacets: a light from it sparkled,

That the floor of the cavern he was able to look on,
 To examine the jewels. Sight of the dragon The dragon is
 Not any was offered, but edge offcarried him. not there.
 Then I heard that the hero the hoard-treasure Wiglaf bears
 plundered, the hoard
 The giant-work ancient reaved in the cavern, away.
 Bare on his bosom the beakers and platters,
 As himself would fain have it, and took off the standard,
 The brightest of beacons;² the bill had erst injured
 (Its edge was of iron), the old-ruler's weapon,
 Him who long had watched as ward of the jewels,
 Who fire-terror carried hot for the treasure,
 Rolling in battle, in middlemost darkness,
 Till murdered he perished. The messenger hastened,
 Not loth to return, hurried by jewels:
 Curiosity urged him if, excellent-mooded,
 Alive he should find the lord of the Weders
 Mortally wounded, at the place where he left him.
 'Mid the jewels he found then the famous old chieftain,
 His liegelord belovèd, at his life's-end gory:
 He thereupon 'gan to lave him with water,
 Till the point of his word piercèd his breast-hoard.
 Beowulf spake (the gold-gems he noticed),
 The old one in sorrow: "For the jewels I look Beowulf is
 on rejoiced to see
 the jewels.
 Thanks do I utter for all to the Ruler,
 Wielder of Worship, with words of devotion,
 The Lord everlasting, that He let me such treasures
 Gain for my people ere death overtook me.
 Since I've bartered the agèd life to me granted
 For treasure of jewels, attend ye henceforward
 The wants of the war-thanes; I can wait here He desires to
 no longer. be held in
 The battle-famed bid ye to build them a memory by his
 grave-hill, people.
 Bright when I'm burned, at the brim-current's limit;
 As a memory-mark to the men I have governed,
 Aloft it shall tower on Whale's-Ness uprising,
 That earls of the ocean hereafter may call it
 Beowulf's barrow, those who barks ever-dashing
 From a distance shall drive o'er the darkness of waters."
 The bold-mooded troop-lord took from his The hero's last
 neck then gift
 The ring that was golden, gave to his liegeman,

The youthful war-hero, his gold-flashing helmet,
 His collar and war-mail, bade him well to enjoy them:
 "Thou art latest left of the line of our kindred, and last words.
 Of Wægmunding people: Weird hath offcarried
 All of my kinsmen to the Creator's glory,
 Earls in their vigor: I shall after them fare."
 'Twas the aged liegelord's last-spoken word in
 His musings of spirit, ere he mounted the fire,
 The battle-waves burning: from his bosom departed
 His soul to seek the sainted ones' glory.

- [1] The word 'oferhígian' (2767) being vague and little understood, two quite distinct translations of this passage have arisen. One takes 'oferhígian' as meaning 'to exceed,' and, inserting 'hord' after 'gehwone,' renders: *The treasure may easily, the gold in the ground, exceed in value every hoard of man, hide it who will.* The other takes 'oferhígian' as meaning 'to render arrogant,' and, giving the sentence a moralizing tone, renders substantially as in the body of this work. (Cf. 28 13 et seq.)
- [2] The passage beginning here is very much disputed. 'The bill of the old lord' is by some regarded as Beowulf's sword; by others, as that of the ancient possessor of the hoard. 'Ær gescód' (2778), translated in this work as verb and adverb, is by some regarded as a compound participial adj. = *sheathed in brass.*

XXXIX.

THE DEAD FOES.—WIGLAF'S BITTER TAUNTS.

It had wofully chanced then the youthful
 retainer
 To behold on earth the most ardent-belovèd
 At his life-days' limit, lying there helpless.
 The slayer too lay there, of life all bereavèd,
 Horrible earth-drake, harassed with sorrow:
 The round-twisted monster was permitted no
 longer
 To govern the ring-hoards, but edges of war-
 swords
 Mightily seized him, battle-sharp, sturdy
 Leavings of hammers, that still from his wounds
 The flier-from-farland fell to the earth
 Hard by his hoard-house, hopped he at midnight

Wiglaf is
 sorely grieved
 to see his lord
 look so un-
 warlike.

The dragon
 has plundered
 his last hoard.

Not e'er through the air, nor exulting in jewels
 Suffered them to see him: but he sank then to earthward
 Through the hero-chief's handwork. I heard sure it throve
 then

But few in the land of liegemen of valor, Though of every achievement bold he had proved him,	Few warriors dared to face the monster.
---	---

To run 'gainst the breath of the venomous scather,
 Or the hall of the treasure to trouble with hand-blows,
 If he watching had found the ward of the hoard-hall

On the barrow abiding. Beowulf's part of
 The treasure of jewels was paid for with death;
 Each of the twain had attained to the end of
 Life so unlasting. Not long was the time till

The tardy-at-battle returned from the thicket, The timid truce-breakers ten all together, Who durst not before play with the lances In the prince of the people's pressing emergency;	The cowardly thanes come out of the thicket.
---	---

But blushing with shame, with shields they betook them, With arms and armor where the old one was lying:	They are ashamed of their desertion.
---	--

They gazed upon Wiglaf. He was sitting exhausted,
 Foot-going fighter, not far from the shoulders
 Of the lord of the people, would rouse him with water;
 No whit did it help him; though he hoped for it keenly,
 He was able on earth not at all in the leader
 Life to retain, and nowise to alter

The will of the Wielder; the World-Ruler's power¹

Would govern the actions of each one of heroes,

As yet He is doing. From the young one forthwith then Could grim-worded greeting be got for him quickly	Wiglaf is ready to excoriate them.
--	---

Whose courage had failed him. Wiglaf discoursed then,
 Weohstan his son, sad-mooded hero,

Looked on the hated: "He who soothness will utter	He begins to taunt them.
--	-----------------------------

Can say that the liegelord who gave you the jewels,
 The ornament-armor wherein ye are standing,
 When on ale-bench often he offered to hall-men
 Helmet and burnie, the prince to his liegemen,
 As best upon earth he was able to find him,—

That he wildly wasted his war-gear undoubtedly	Surely our lord wasted his armor on poltroons.
When battle o'ertook him. ² The troop-king no need had	
To glory in comrades; yet God permitted him, Victory-Wielder, with weapon unaided	He, however, got along without you
Himself to avenge, when vigor was needed. I life-protection but little was able	
To give him in battle, and I 'gan, notwithstanding, Helping my kinsman (my strength overtaxing):	With some aid, I could have saved our liegelord
He waxed the weaker when with weapon I smote on	
My mortal opponent, the fire less strongly Flamed from his bosom. Too few of protectors Came round the king at the critical moment.	
Now must ornament-taking and weapon- bestowing,	Gift-giving is over with your people: the ring-lord is dead.
Home-joyance all, cease for your kindred, Food for the people; each of your warriors Must needs be bereavèd of rights that he holdeth	
In landed possessions, when faraway nobles Shall learn of your leaving your lord so basely, The dastardly deed. Death is more pleasant	What is life without honor?
To every earlman than infamous life is!"	

[1] For 'dædum rædan' (2859) B. suggests 'déað árædan,' and renders: *The might (or judgment) of God would determine death for every man, as he still does.*

[2] Some critics, H. himself in earlier editions, put the clause, 'When ... him' (A.-S. 'þá ... beget') with the following sentence; that is, they make it dependent upon 'þorfte' (2875) instead of upon 'forwurpe' (2873).

XL.

THE MESSENGER OF DEATH.

Then he charged that the battle be announced at the hedge	Wiglaf sends the news of Beowulf's death to
Up o'er the cliff-edge, where the earl-troopers bided	

The whole of the morning, mood-wretched liegemen near
 sat them, by.
 Bearers of battle-shields, both things expecting,
 The end of his lifetime and the coming again of
 The liegelord beloved. Little reserved he
 Of news that was known, who the ness-cliff did travel,
 But he truly discoursed to all that could hear him:
 “Now the free-giving friend-lord of the folk The messenger
 of the Weders, speaks.
 The folk-prince of Geatmen, is fast in his death-bed,
 By the deeds of the dragon in death-bed abideth;
 Along with him lieth his life-taking foeman
 Slain with knife-wounds: he was wholly unable
 To injure at all the ill-planning monster
 With bite of his sword-edge. Wiglaf is sitting, Wiglaf sits by
 Offspring of Wihstan, up over Beowulf, our dead lord.
 Earl o’er another whose end-day hath reached him,
 Head-watch holdeth o’er heroes unliving,¹
 For friend and for foeman. The folk now Our lord’s
 expecteth death will lead
 A season of strife when the death of the folk- to attacks from
 king our old foes.
 To Frankmen and Frisians in far-lands is published.
 The war-hatred waxed warm ’gainst the Hugmen,
 When Higelac came with an army of vessels Higelac’s
 Faring to Friesland, where the Frankmen in death recalled.
 battle
 Humbled him and bravely with overmight ’complished
 That the mail-clad warrior must sink in the battle,
 Fell ’mid his folk-troop: no fret-gems presented
 The atheling to earlmen; aye was denied us
 Merewing’s mercy. The men of the Swedelands
 For truce or for truth trust I but little;
 But widely ’twas known that near Ravenswood Ongentheow
 Sundered Hæthcyn the Hrethling from life- Hæthcyn’s fall
 joys, referred to.
 When for pride overweening the War-Scylfings first did
 Seek the Geatmen with savage intentions.
 Early did Ohthere’s age-laden father,
 Old and terrible, give blow in requital,
 Killing the sea-king, the queen-mother rescued,
 The old one his consort deprived of her gold,
 Onela’s mother and Ohthere’s also,
 And then followed the feud-nursing foemen till hardly,

Reaved of their ruler, they Ravenswood entered.
 Then with vast-numbered forces he assaulted the remnant,
 Weary with wounds, woe often promised
 The livelong night to the sad-hearted war-troop:
 Said he at morning would kill them with edges of weapons,
 Some on the gallows for glee to the fowls.
 Aid came after to the anxious-in-spirit
 At dawn of the day, after Higelac's bugle
 And trumpet-sound heard they, when the good one proceeded
 And faring followed the flower of the troopers.

[1] 'Hige-méðum' (2910) is glossed by H. as dat. plu. (= for the dead). S. proposes 'hige-méðe,' nom. sing. limiting Wigláf; i.e. *W., mood-weary, holds head-watch o'er friend and foe.*—B. suggests taking the word as dat. inst. plu. of an abstract noun in -'u.' The translation would be substantially the same as S.'s.

XLI.

THE MESSENGER'S RETROSPECT.

<p>"The blood-stained trace of Swedes and Geatmen, The death-rush of warmen, widely was noticed, How the folks with each other feud did awaken.</p>	<p>The messenger continues, and refers to the feuds of Swedes and Geats.</p>
--	---

The worthy one went then¹ with well-beloved comrades,
 Old and dejected to go to the fastness,
 Ongentheo earl upward then turned him;
 Of Higelac's battle he'd heard on inquiry,
 The exultant one's prowess, despaired of resistance,
 With earls of the ocean to be able to struggle,
 'Gainst sea-going sailors to save the hoard-treasure,
 His wife and his children; he fled after thenceward
 Old 'neath the earth-wall. Then was offered pursuance
 To the braves of the Swedemen, the banner² to Higelac.
 They fared then forth o'er the field-of-protection,
 When the Hrethling heroes hedgeward had thronged them.
 Then with edges of irons was Ongentheow driven,
 The gray-haired to tarry, that the troop-ruler had to

Suffer the power solely of Eofor:

Wulf then wildly with weapon assaulted him, Wulf wounds
Wonred his son, that for swinge of the edges Ongentheow.

The blood from his body burst out in currents,
Forth 'neath his hair. He feared not however,
Gray-headed Scylfing, but speedily quited

The wasting wound-stroke with worse Ongentheow
exchange, gives a stout
When the king of thethane-troop thither did blow in return.
turn him:

The wise-mooded son of Wonred was powerless
To give a return-blow to the age-hoary man,
But his head-shielding helmet first hewed he to pieces,
That flecked with gore perforce he did totter,
Fell to the earth; not fey was he yet then,
But up did he spring though an edge-wound had reached him.

Then Higelac's vassal, valiant and dauntless, Eofor smites
When his brother lay dead, made his broad- Ongentheow
bladed weapon, fiercely.

Giant-sword ancient, defence of the giants,
Bound o'er the shield-wall; the folk-prince succumbed then,
Shepherd of people, was pierced to the vitals. Ongentheow is
There were many attendants who bound up slain.
his kinsman,

Carried him quickly when occasion was granted
That the place of the slain they were suffered to manage.
This pending, one hero plundered the other,
His armor of iron from Ongentheow ravished,
His hard-sword hilted and helmet together;

The old one's equipments he carried to Eofor takes the
Higelac. old king's war-
He the jewels received, and rewards 'mid the gear to
troopers Higelac.

Graciously promised, and so did accomplish:
The king of the Weders requited the war-rush,
Hrethel's descendant, when home he repaired him,
To Eofor and Wulf with wide-lavished
treasures,
To each of them granted a hundred of
thousands

Higelac
rewards the
brothers.

In land and rings wrought out of wire:
None upon mid-earth needed to twit him³
With the gifts he gave them, when glory they
conquered;

His gifts were
beyond cavil.

To Eofor he
also gives his
only daughter
in marriage.

It is time for
us to pay the
last marks of
respect to our
lord.

The warriors
go sadly to
look at
Beowulf's
lifeless body.

In days that were done; then the death-bringing moment
 Was come to the good one, that the king very warlike,
 Wielder of Weders, with wonder-death perished.
 First they beheld there a creature more wondrous,
 The worm on the field, in front of them lying, They also see
 The foeman before them: the fire-spewing the dragon.
 dragon,
 Ghostly and grisly guest in his terrors,
 Was scorched in the fire; as he lay there he measured
 Fifty of feet; came forth in the night-time⁵
 To rejoice in the air, thereafter departing
 To visit his den; he in death was then fastened,
 He would joy in no other earth-hollowed caverns.
 There stood round about him beakers and vessels,
 Dishes were lying and dear-valued weapons,
 With iron-rust eaten, as in earth's mighty bosom
 A thousand of winters there they had rested:
 That mighty bequest then with magic was The hoard was
 guarded, under a magic
 spell.
 Gold of the ancients, that earlman not any
 The ring-hall could touch, save Ruling-God only,
 Sooth-king of Vict'ries gave whom He wished to
⁶(He is earth-folk's protector) to open the God alone
 treasure, could give
 access to it.
 E'en to such among mortals as seemed to
 Him proper.

[1] For 'góða,' which seems a surprising epithet for a Geat to apply to the "terrible" Ongentheow, B. suggests 'gomela.' The passage would then stand: *'The old one went then,' etc.*

[2] For 'segn Higeláce,' K., Th., and B. propose 'segn Higeláces,' meaning: *Higelac's banner followed the Swedes (in pursuit).*—S. suggests 'sæcc Higeláces,' and renders: *Higelac's pursuit.*—The H.-So. reading, as translated in our text, means that the banner of the enemy was captured and brought to Higelac as a trophy.

[3] The rendering given in this translation represents the king as being generous beyond the possibility of reproach; but some authorities construe 'him' (2996) as plu., and understand the passage to mean that no one reproached the two brothers with having received more reward than they were entitled to.

[4] The name 'Scyldingas' here (3006) has caused much discussion, and given rise to several theories, the most important of which are as follows: (1) After the downfall of Hrothgar's family, Beowulf was king of the Danes, or Scyldings. (2) For 'Scyldingas' read 'Scylfingas'—that is, after killing Eadgils, the Scylfing prince, Beowulf conquered his land, and held it in subjection. (3) M. considers 3006 a thoughtless repetition of 2053. (Cf. H.-So.)

- Wiglaf
addresses his
comrades.

Wiglaf charges
them to build a
funeral-pyre.

- [1] For ‘gehýdde,’ B. suggests ‘gehýðde’: the passage would stand as above except the change of ‘hidden’ (v. 2) to ‘plundered.’ The reference, however, would be to the thief, not to the dragon.
- [2] The passage ‘Wundur ... búan’ (3063-3066), M. took to be a question asking whether it was strange that a man should die when his appointed time had come.—B. sees a corruption, and makes emendations introducing the idea that a brave man should not die from sickness or from old age, but should find death in the performance of some deed of daring.—S. sees an indirect question introduced by ‘hwár’ and dependent upon ‘wundur’: *A secret is it when the hero is to die, etc.*—Why may the two clauses not be parallel, and the whole passage an Old English cry of ‘*How wonderful is death!*’?—S.’s is the best yet offered, if ‘wundur’ means ‘mystery.’
- [3] For ‘strude’ in H.-So., S. suggests ‘stride.’ This would require ‘ravage’ (v. 16) to be changed to ‘tread.’
- [4] ‘He cared ... sight of’ (17, 18), S. emends so as to read as follows: *He (Beowulf) had not before seen the favor of the avaricious possessor.*
- [5] B. renders: *That which drew the king thither (i.e. the treasure) was granted us, but in such a way that it overcomes us.*
- [6] ‘Folc-ágende’ (3114) B. takes as dat. sing. with ‘góðum,’ and refers it to Beowulf; that is, *Should bring fire-wood to the place where the good folk-ruler lay.*
- [7] C. proposes to take ‘weaxan’ = L. ‘vescor,’ and translate *devour*. This gives a parallel to ‘fretan’ above. The parenthesis would be discarded and the passage read: *Now shall the fire consume, the wan-flame devour, the prince of warriors, etc.*

THE BURNING OF BEOWULF.

The folk of the Geatmen got him then ready Beowulf's
 A pile on the earth strong for the burning, pyre.
 Behung with helmets, hero-knights' targets,
 And bright-shining burnies, as he begged they should have
 them;

Then wailing war-heroes their world-famous chieftain,
 Their liegelord beloved, laid in the middle.
 Soldiers began then to make on the barrow The funeral-
 The largest of dead-fires: dark o'er the vapor flame.
 The smoke-cloud ascended, the sad-roaring fire,
 Mingled with weeping (the wind-roar subsided)
 Till the building of bone it had broken to pieces,
 Hot in the heart. Heavy in spirit
 They mood-sad lamented the men-leader's ruin;
 And mournful measures the much-grieving widow

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The men of the Weders made accordingly The Weders
 A hill on the height, high and extensive, carry out their
 Of sea-going sailors to be seen from a lord's last
 distance, request.

And the brave one's beacon built where the fire was,
 In ten-days' space, with a wall surrounded it,
 As wisest of world-folk could most worthily plan it.
 They placed in the barrow rings and jewels,

All such ornaments as erst in the treasure Rings and
 War-mooded men had won in possession: gems are laid
 The earnings of earlmen to earth they in the barrow.
 entrusted,

The gold to the dust, where yet it remaineth
 As useless to mortals as in foregoing eras.
 'Round the dead-mound rode then the doughty-in-battle,
 Bairns of all twelve of the chiefs of the people,
 More would they mourn, lament for their They mourn
 ruler, for their lord,

Speak in measure, mention him with pleasure, and sing his
 Weighed his worth, and his warlike praises.
 achievements

Mightily commended, as 'tis meet one praise his
 Liegelord in words and love him in spirit,

When forth from his body he fares to destruction.
 So lamented mourning the men of the Geats,
 Fond-loving vassals, the fall of their lord,
 Said he was kindest of kings under heaven, An ideal king.
 Gentlest of men, most winning of manner,
 Friendliest to folk-troops and fondest of honor.

ADDENDA.

SEVERAL discrepancies and other oversights have been noticed in the H.-So. glossary. Of these a good part were avoided by Harrison and Sharp, the American editors of Beowulf, in their last edition, 1888. The rest will, I hope, be noticed in their fourth edition. As, however, this book may fall into the hands of some who have no copy of the American edition, it seems best to notice all the principal oversights of the German editors.

From hámm (194).—Notes and glossary conflict; the latter not having been altered to suit the conclusions accepted in the former.

Þær gelyfan sceal dryhtnes dóme (440).—Under ‘dóm’ H. says ‘the might of the Lord’; while under ‘gelyfan’ he says ‘the judgment of the Lord.’

Eal bencþelu (486).—Under ‘benc-þelu’ H. says *nom. plu.*; while under ‘eal’ he says *nom. sing.*

Heatho-ræmas (519).—Under ‘ætberan’ H. translates ‘to the Heathoremes’; while under ‘Heatho-ræmas’ he says ‘Heathoræmas reaches Breca in the swimming-match with Beowulf.’ Harrison and Sharp (3d edition, 1888) avoid the discrepancy.

Fáh féond-scaða (554).—Under ‘féond-scaða’ H. says ‘a gleaming sea-monster’; under ‘fáh’ he says ‘hostile.’

Onfeng hraðe inwit-þancum (749).—Under ‘onfón’ H. says ‘he received the maliciously-disposed one’; under ‘inwit-þanc’ he says ‘he grasped,’ etc.

Níð-wundor séon (1366).—Under ‘níð-wundor’ H. calls this word itself *nom. sing.*; under ‘séon’ he translates it as *accus. sing.*, understanding ‘man’ as subject of ‘séon.’ H. and S. (3d edition) make the correction.

Forgeaf hilde-bille (1521).—H., under the second word, calls it *instr. dat.*; while under ‘forgifan’ he makes it the *dat. of indir. obj.* H. and S. (3d edition) make the change.

Brád and brún-ecg (1547).—Under ‘brád’ H. says ‘das breite Hüftmesser mit bronzener Klinge’; under ‘brún-ecg’ he says ‘ihr

breites Hüftmesser mit blitzender Klinge.’

Yðelíce (1557).—Under this word H. makes it modify ‘ástód.’ If this be right, the punctuation of the fifth edition is wrong. See H. and S., appendix.

Sélran gesóhte (1840).—Under ‘sél’ and ‘gesécan’ H. calls these two words accus. plu.; but this is clearly an error, as both are nom. plu., pred. nom. H. and S. correct under ‘sél.’

Wið sylfne (1978).—Under ‘wið’ and ‘gesittan’ H. says ‘wið = near, by’; under ‘self’ he says ‘opposite.’

þéow (2225) is omitted from the glossary.

For duguðum (2502).—Under ‘duguð’ H. translates this phrase, ‘in Tüchtigkeit’; under ‘for,’ by ‘vor der edlen Kriegerschaar.’

þær (2574).—Under ‘wealdan’ H. translates *þær* by ‘wo’; under ‘mótan,’ by ‘da.’ H. and S. suggest ‘if’ in both passages.

Wunde (2726).—Under ‘wund’ H. says ‘dative,’ and under ‘wæl-bléate’ he says ‘accus.’ It is without doubt accus., parallel with ‘benne.’

Strengum gebæded (3118).—Under ‘strengo’ H. says ‘Strengum’ = mit Macht; under ‘gebæded’ he translates ‘von den Sehnen.’ H. and S. correct this discrepancy by rejecting the second reading.

Bronda be láfe (3162).—A recent emendation. The fourth edition had ‘bronda betost.’ In the fifth edition the editor neglects to change the glossary to suit the new emendation. See ‘bewyrca.’

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