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of the First Half of the Fifteenth Century

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## Arthur

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

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

by

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

Editor of De Borron's and Lonelich's "History of the Holy Graal," Walter Map's "Queste Del  
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## Preface

[pg v]

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

"Herkeneþ, þat loueþ honour,  
Of kyng Arthour & hys labour."

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

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

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

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

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

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

I am indebted to Mr. Sims, of the Manuscript Department of the British Museum, for pointing out the Poem to me, and to the Marquis of Bath for his kind permission to copy it for printing.

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

## Arthur

[pg 1]

### From the Marquis of Bath's MS.

BEF. 1450 A.D.

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

[Fol. 42 <i>b</i> .]	Herkenep, þat louep honour, Of kyng Arthour & hys labour; And furst how he was bygete, As þat we in bokis do rede.	4
How Arthur was begotten by Pendragon on Ygerne.	Vther pendragone was hys fader, And ygerne was hys Moder. Pendragone ys in walysche 'Dragones heed' on Englysche; He maked ypeynted dragones two; Oon schold byfore him goo Whan he went to batayle, Whan he wold hys foes sayle; That other abood at wynchester, Euermore styлле there.	8 12
and thence had his name.	Bretones 3af hym þat Name, Vther Pendragone þe same, For þat skyle fer & nere Euer-more hyt to here.	16
How Uther loved the Earl of Cornwall's wife,	The Erles wyff of Cornewayle He loued to Muche sanz fayle; Merlyn wyþ hys sotelnesse Turned vtheris lyknesse, And maked hym lyche þe Erl anone, And wyþ hys wyff (:) his wylle to done In þe countre of Cornewelle: In þe Castel of Tyntagelle, Thus vther, yf y schalle nat lye, Bygat Arthour in avowtrye. Whan vther Pendragone was deed, Arthour anon was y-crowned; He was courteys, large, & Gent to alle puple verrament;	20 24 28
Arthur is crowned,		32

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

	Beaute, Myȝt, amiable chere To alle Men ferre and neere; Hys port (;) hys ȝyftes gentylle Maked hym y-loved wylle;	36	
is loved of all,	Ech mon was glad of hys <i>presence</i> , And drade to do hym dysplesaunce;		
is strong	A stronger Man of hys honde was neuer founde on any londe,	40	
and courteous.	As courteys as any Mayde:— [Fol. 42b. col. 2.] Pus wryteþ of hym þat hym a-sayde.		
He makes the Round Table,	At Cayrlyone, wythoute fable, he let make þe Rounde table:	44	
	And why þat he maked hyt þus, Þis was þe resoun y-wyss,—		
that all at it might be equal.	Pat no man schulde sytt aboue other, ne haue indignacioun of hys broþer;	48	
	And alle hadde (.)oo(.) seruyse, For no pryde scholde aryse For any degree of syttynge, Oþer for any seruynge:—	52	
	Þus he kept þe table Rounde Whyle he leuyd on þe grounde.		
After his first conquests	After he hadde conquered skotlond yrland & Gotland,	56	
he lives twelve years in peace,	Þan leuyd he at þe best twelf ȝeeris on alle reste Wypoute werre (;) tylle at þe laste		[pg 3 - He Fights Frollo for France.]
	he þouȝt to make (.)a(.) nywe <i>conqueste</i> .	60	
and then invades France.	Into Fraunce wyþ gode counceyle he wolde weende (;) & hyt assayle, Pat Rome þo kept vnder Myght, Vnder Frollo (;) a worthy knyght	64	
	Pat fraunce hadde þo to kepe, To rywle, defende, & to lede.		
He beats Frollo back to Paris,	Arthour and Frollo fouȝt in feld; Pere deyde many vnder scheld.	68	
	Frollo in-to Paryss fly, Wyth strenkthe kept hyt wysely:		
and there besieges him, till	Arthour byseged þat Syte & town Tylle þeire vytayl was y-doon.	72	
Frollo challenges him to single combat.	Frollo þat worthy knyght Proferyd wyth Arthour for to fyght Vnder þis wyse & condicioun,— "Ho hadde þe Maystrie (;) haue þe crown; And no mo men but þey two."	76	
They fight:	Þe day Was sett (;) to-geder þey go: Fayr hyt was to byholde In suche two knyȝhteȝ bolde:	80	
	Þer was no word y-spoke, But eche hadde other by þe prote;		

[Fol. 43.]	Pey smote <i>wyth</i> trounchoun & <i>wyth</i> swerd;		[pg 4 - Arthur Returns Victorious to Britain,]
(Frollo with his axe)	Pat hyt seye were a-ferd;	84	
	Frollo fouȝt wyȝ hys ax (:) as men dude se; He hytt Arthour (:) so sore (:) þat he felle on kne. He ros vp raply (:) and smot hym fulle sore;		
	He dude hym to grent a (.) soueȝ <sup>1</sup> þerfore.	88	
	thus they hyw on helmes hye, And schatered on wyȝ scheldes.		
	Þe puple by-gan to crye	92	
	Pat stood on þe felde;		
	ther ne wyst no man, as y can lere,		
	Who of ham two was þe bettere þere.		
till Arthur in wrath takes Brownsteel,	Arthour was chafed & wexed wrothe, He hente brounsteele l and to Frollo gothe	96	
<i>Caliburnus Arthuri Gladius</i> [with a sketch thereof in the MS.]	Brounstelle was heuy & also kene; Fram þe schulder(:) to þe syde went bytwene Off frollo l and þan he fell to þe grounde		
and strikes Frollo dead.	Ryȝt as he moste l deed(.) in lyte stounde. Frensche men made doelle & wept fulle faste;	100	
	Peir Crowne of fraunce þere þey loste.		
Arthur takes Paris.	Than wente Arthour in-to paryse And toke þe castelle & þe town at hys avyse.	104	
Glory to God.	Worschuped be god of hys grete grace Pat þus ȝeueþ fortune(:) and worschup to þe Reme;		
Say ye a Pater Noster therefore.	Thanke ȝe hym alle þat beþ on þis place, And seyep a Pater noster wythout any Beeme.	108	
<b>Pater noster.</b>			
Arthur conquers the countries around,	Arthour fram paryse went <i>wyth</i> hys Rowte, And conquered þe Countre on euery syde aboute; Angeoy <sup>2</sup> , Peytow, Berry, & Gaskoyne, Nauerne, Burgone l Loreyn & Toreyne;	112	
	He daunted þe proude l & hawted þe poure; He dwelt long in Paryss after in honoure; He was drad and loued in countreis abowte;		
	Heyest & lowest hym Loved & alowte; And vpon an Estour tyme sone afterward	116	
distributes them among his knights,	He fested hys knyghtis & ȝaf ham gret reward; To hys styward he ȝaf Angers & Aungeye;		
	To Bedewer hys botyler he ȝaf Normandye; He ȝaf to Holdyne flaundrys parde;	120	
	To Borel hys Cosyn, Boloyne þe cyte; And eche man, after þe astat þat he was,		
	He rewarded hem alle, boþe More & lasse, And ȝaf hem reward, boþe lond and Fee,	124	
and returns to Britain.	And turned to Breteyn, to Carlyone ayhe.		
[Fol. 43b, col. 1.]	Arthour wolde of honour	128	[pg 5 - And Then Holds a Great Feast.]
Arthur gives an Easter Feast	Hold a fest at Eestour Of regalye & worthynesse, And feede alle hys frendess;		

	And sende Messenger		
	To kynges ferre & neer	132	
	Pat were to hym Omager,		
	to come to þis Dyner.		
	And alle at oo certeyn day		
	They come þyder in gode aray,	136	
	And kept þeire Cesone		
at Carlyon, greater than ere before.	At þe Castelle Cayrlyone.		
	Thys fest was Muche Moore		
	þan euere Arthour made a-fore;	140	
Ten kings were there,	For þere was Vrweyn þe kyng		
	Of scottes at þat dynynge,		
	Stater þe kyng of south wales,		
	Cadwelle þe kyng of north waleȝ,	144	
	Gwylmar þe kyng of yrland,		
	Dolmad þe kyng of guthland,		
	Malgan of yselond also,		
	Archyl of Denmarch þerto,	148	
	Alothe þe kyng of Norway,		
	Souenas þe kyng of Orkenye,		
	Of Breteyn þe kyng Hoel,		
and thirteen earls	Cador Erl of Cornewelle,	152	
	Morice þe Erl of Gloucestre,		
	Marran Erl of Wynchestre,		
	Gwergound Erl of herford,		
	Booȝ Erl of Oxenford,	156	
(including him of Bath),	Of bathe vngent þe Erl also,		
	Cursal of Chestre þer-to,		
	Euerad Erl of salesbury, <sup>3</sup>		
	Kynmar Erl of Canterbury,	160	
	Jonas þe Erl of Dorcestre,		
	Valence þe Erl of sylchestre,		
	Jugeyn of Leyccer [?] þerto,		
	Argal of warwyk also,—	164	
	Kynges & Erles Echon		
with many other gentles great,	þes were; & many anoper goom		
	Gret of astaate, & þe beste,		
	þes were at þe Feste.	168	
	Other also gentylys grete		
	Were þere at þat Meete,		
	Sauer appon Donand,		
	Regeym & Alard,	172	
	Reyneȝ fitȝ Colys,		
	Tadeus fitȝ Reis,		
	Delyn fitȝ Dauid,		
	Kymbelyn le fitȝ Gryffith,	176	
	Gryffitȝ þe Sone of Nagand,		
	þes were þere also theoband:		
	Alle þes were þere wythoute fable,		
besides the Round Tablers,	Wythoute ham of þe rounde table.	180	

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

Archbishops,	Thre archebusschopes þer were also,	
Bishops,	And other busschopes many mo—	
	Alle þis mayne were nat al-oone;	
	Wyth ham com many a Goome.	184
	Þis feste dured dayes þre	
	In reuelle & solempnite.	
and many from beyond the sea.	Of by ʒonde þe See also	
	Many lordez[?] were þere þo.	188
	Now restep alle wyþ Me,	
	And say a Pater & Ave.	

**Pater noster.**

	The þrydde day folowyng	
	Then coom nywe tydyng,	192
	Þe whyle þey sete at þe Mete	
To the feasters came messengers from the Roman Emperor,	Messagers were In ylete;	
	Welle arayd forsoþe þey come,	
	& send fram cite of Rome	196
	Wyþ <i>lettres</i> of þe Emperoures	
<i>lucius.</i>	Whas name was Lucies.	
	Þes <i>lettres</i> were opened & vnfold,	
	And þe tydyng to alle men told,	200
	Whas sentence, yf y ne lye,	
	Was after þat y can aspye:	
<i>Litera Lucii imperatoris.</i>	¶ Lucius þe grete Emperour	
	To hys Enemy Arthour: —	204
	We woundereþ of þi wodeness	
	And also of þy Madnesse!	
	How darst þow any wyse	
saying, that to have invaded France, etc., and made kings, Arthur must be mad in his noll;	Aʒenst the Emperour þus aryse,	208
	And ryde on Remes on eche wey,	
	And make kynges to þe obey?	
	Þu art wood on þe Nolle!	
	Þu hast scley owre cosyn frolle;	212
[Fol. 44, col. 1.]	Þu schalt be tawʒt at a schort day	
	for to make suche aray.	
	Oure cosyn Iulius cesar	
	Somme tyme conquered þar;	216
that he must pay his tribute,	To Rome þu owest hys trybut;	
	We chargeþ þe to paye vs hyt.	
	Thy pryde we wolle alaye	
	Pat makest so gret aray:	220
	We <i>commandeþ</i> þe on haste	
	To paye owre trybut faste;	
	Þu hast scley frolle in fraunce	
	Pat hadde vnder vs þere gouernaunce,	224
	And wypholdest oure tribute þerto:	
	Þu schalt be tawʒt þu hast mysdo:	
	We <i>commandeþ</i> þe in haste soone	
and come to Rome to be punished for his	Pat þu come to vs at Rome	228

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

disobedience.	To vnderfang oure ordynaunce For þy dysobediaunce; As þu wold nat leze þy lyf, Fulfylle þys wythoute stryff."	232	
The Britons purpose to kill the messengers,	When þis <i>lettre</i> was open & rad; Pe bretouns & alle men were mad, And wolde þe messenger scle: —		[pg 8 - Arthur's Answer to Lucius.]
but Arthur forbids it,	"Nay," seyð Arthour, "per de, That were aʒenst alle kynde, A messenger to bete or bynde; y charge alle men here for to make ham good chere."	236	
	And after Mete sanz fayl Wyþ hys lordes he hadde counsayl; And alle asented þer to,	240	
and resolves to invade Rome.	Arthour to Rome scholde go; And þey ne wolde in hys <i>trauayle</i> Wyþ strenkþ & good neuer fayle. Than Arthour wroot to Rome a <i>lettre</i> , Was sentence was somm-what byttere,	244	
	And sayde in þis manere As ʒe may hure here: —	248	
<i>Litera Regis Arthuri.</i> Arthur's answer to the Emperor Lucius, [Fol. 44, col. 2.]	"Knoweþ welle ʒe of Romaine, Y am kyng Arthour of Bretayne. Fraunce, y haue conquered hyt, Y schalle defende & kepe hyt ʒut, Y come to Rome, as y am tryw, To take my trybut (.) to me dywe, But noon þere-for to paye, By my werk ʒe schalle asay; For þe Emperour Constantyne þat was þe Soone of Elyne, þat was a Bretone of þis lond, Conquered Rome wyth hys hond, And so ʒe oweþ me tribut: Y charge ʒow þat ʒe pay me hyt. Also Maximian kyng of Bretagne Co[n]quered al fraunce & Almayne, Lombardye Rome & ytalye — By ʒoure bokis ʒe may a-spye. Y am þeir Eyr & þeyre lynage, Y aske ʒow my trywage."	252	
claiming tribute from him.	Pis <i>lettre</i> was celyd fast, Y-take the Messagerez on hast; Arthour ʒaf ham ʒyftez grete, And chered ham wyþ drynk and Mete. Þey hasted ham to come hoom; Byfor þe Emperour þey beþ coom; Saluted hym as resoun ys,	256	
		260	
		264	
		268	
			[pg 9 - The Messenger's Report of Arthur.]
Lucius's messengers return to him.		272	
		276	



	And toke hym þes letterys.	
	Þey seyde to þe Emperour	
	"We have be wyþ kyng Arthour;	280
	But such anoþer as he ys oon,	
	Say neuer no Man.	
	He ys serued on hys howshold	
	Wyþ kynges, Erles, worthy & bold;	284
	Hys worthynesse, sur Emperour,	
	Passeþ Muche alle ȝowre;	
and give him Arthur's message.	He seyde he wolde hyder come	
	And take trywage of alle Rome,	288
	We dowteþ last he wel do soo,	
	For he ys Myghty ynow þer-too."	
	Now, erst þan we goo ferþer,	
	Every man þat ys here	292
	Sey a Pater noster	
	And ave wyþ gode chere; Amen.	

### **Pater noster**

### **Ave Maria.**

[Fol. 44b.]	Now stureth hym self Arthour	
	Penkyng on hys labour,	296
Arthur prepares for his expedition to Rome.	And gaderyþ to hym strength aboute,	
	Hys kynges & Erles on a rowte —	
	A fayr syȝt to Mannes ye	
	to see suche a cheualrye,—	300
Has five kings,	The kyng of Gotland,	
	Also þe kyng of Irland,	
	the kyng of ysland l & of Orkenye,	
	Þis was worthy Maynye;	304
	The kyng of Denmark also was þere,	
	Þis was a worthy chere:	
	Eche of þese vyve at her venyw	
	Brouȝt ȝyx þousand at har retenyw;	308
with 30,000 men,	xxx <sup>ti</sup> þowsand, ych vnderstand,	
	Þes vyf kyngis hadde on honde.	
	Than hadde he out of Normandye,	
80,000 Normans and	Of Angeoy & of Almanye,	312
	Boloyne(.) Peytow & flaundres	
	Fowre skore þowsand harneys—	
12,000 from Chartres,	Geryn of Charteȝ .xij. þowsand	
	þat went wyþ Artour euer at honde;	316
10,000 Bretons.	Hoel of bretayn, þowsandez ten	
	Of hardy & welle fyghtyng Men;	
	Out of Bretaygne hys owne land	
and 40,000 British:	He passed fourty þowsand	320
	Of Archerys & off Arblastere	
	Þat Cowþ welle þe craft of werre.	
	¶ In Foot other Many a Man Moo	
	Able to feyght(:) as welle as þo:	324

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

in all 200,000.	Two hunderd þousand Went wyþ hym out of lond, And Many moo sykerly That y can <sup>4</sup> not nombrye.	328	
Britain is left in Mordred's charge.	Arthour toke þan þe lond To Moddredes owne hond; He kept al oþer þyng Saue þo Corowne weryng; But he was [fals] of hys kepyng, As 3e schalle hure here folewyng.	332	
Arthur ships at Southampton,	Now thanne ys Artour y-Come And hys Ost to Sowthamptone: Ther was Many a Man of Myghte Strong & bold also to fyghte.	336	
	Eche man hath take his schuppyng, And ys at hys loghyng. Vp goþ þe sayl(:) þey sayleþ faste: Arthour owt of syȝt ys paste.	340	[pg 11 - The Giant that Ravished Fair Elayne.]
and lands at Barfleet.	þe ferst lond þat he gan Meete, Forsoþe hyt was Bareflete; Ther he gan vp furst aryve.	344	
God speed him!	Now welle Mote Arthour spede & thryve; And þat hys saule spede þe better, Lat eche man sey a Pater noster.	348	
<b>Pater noster.</b>			
A new foe appears, a Spanish Giant,	Now god spede Artour welle! hym ys comyng a nyw batelle. Ther coom a gyant out of spayne, And rauasched had fayr Elayne;	352	
	He had brouȝt heore vp on an hulle— Mornyng hyt ys to hure or telle— Cosyn heo was to kyng hoell, A damesel fayr and gentelle;	356	
who has slain fair Elayne.	And ȝut ferþermore to, He rauasched heore Moder also. He dude þe damesel for to dye for he myght not lygge heor bye.	360	
Arthur sends Bedwere first as a spy,	Whan þis was told to Artour, He maked Much dolour, And send Bedewer for to spye How he myght come hym bye;	364	
	And he was nat sclowh, But to þe hulle hym drowh Pat Closed was wyþ water stronge, þe hulle a-Mydde gret & longe;	368	
	He went ouer to þe hulle syde, And þere a fonde a wommane byde Pat sorwedd & wept Mornyng For Eleyne dep & departyng,	372	

	And bad Bedewer to fle also		[pg 12 - Arthur's Fight with the Giant.]
	Last he were ded more to;		
	"For yf þe Gyant fynde þe,		
	Wythoute dowte he wylle þe scle."	376	
	Bedwer wyþ alle hastyng		
	Tolde Arthour alle þis þyng.		
	Amorwe whan þat hyt was day		
and then (with Bedwere and Key) starts on his adventure.	Arthour toke þyder hys way,	380	
	Bedewer wyþ hym went, & keye,—		
[Fol. 45.]	Men þat cowþe welle þe weye,—		
	And broute Arthour Meyntenaunt,		
	Euen byfore þe Gyant.	384	
	Arthour fowȝt wyþ þat wyght;		
	He had almost ylost hys Myght:		
	Wyþ Muche peyne, þruȝ goddez grace		
He kills the Giant,	He sclowh þe Geant in þat place,	388	
	And þan he made Bedewere		
	To smyte of hys heed þere.		
	To þe Ost he dude hyt brynge,		
	And þeron was gret woundrynge,	392	
whose horrible head is shown to the host,	Hyt was so oryble & so greet,		
	More þan any Horse heed.		
	Than hadde hoel Ioye ynowh		
	For þat Arthour so hym sclowh;	396	
	And for a <i>perpetuel</i> Memorie		
and St. Mary's Chapel is built in honour of the victory. tombe	He Made a chapelle of seynt Marye		
	In þe hulle vpon þe pleyne,		
	Wyþ-Inne þat (:) þe <i>tumbe</i> <sup>5</sup> of Eleyne;	400	
	And þat name wyþoute nay		
	Hyt bereþ ȝut in-to þis day.		
	Now ys an ende of þis þyng,		
News of Lucius's approach is brought,	And Artour haþ nyw tydyng,—	404	
	Lucy þe Emperour wyþ hys host		
	Comeþ fast in gret bost;		
	Þey helyþ ouer alle þe lond,		
with an army of 400,124 men.	Fowre hundred þowsand	408	
	An hunderd and foure & twenty,—		
	Thus herawdes dude ham rekeny;		
	Thus he hadde gadered to hym		
	Of cristien and of Sarasyn,	412	
	Wyþ alle hys wytt & labour		
	To destroyen Arthour.		
	Arthour dude wyselye,		
	And hadde euer gode aspye	416	
	Of lucyes gouernynge		
	And of hys þyder comynge;		
Some advise Arthur to turn and flee,	But <i>somme</i> seyde hyt were folye		
	To fyght aȝenst Emperour lucie,	420	
	For he hadde sepe <sup>6</sup> aȝenst oon,		
	& counceyled Arthour to fle & goon.		[pg 13 - Arthur's Men Pray to God.]

	Wyþ þe Emperour come kynges Many oon, And alle þeire power hoolle & soom;	424	
	Stronger men Myȝt no man see, As fulle of drede as þey myght be; But Arthour was not dysmayd, He tryst on god, & was wel payd,	428	
but he trusts in God,	And prayd þe hye trynyte Euer hys help forto be; And alle hys Men wyþ oo voyse Cryde to god wyþ Oo noyse,	432	
to whom his soldiers pray	"Fader in heuene, þy wylle be doon; Defende þy puple fram þeire foon, And lat not þe heþone Men Destroye þe puple crystien:	436	
to keep them from the heathen's hands.	Haue Mercy on þy se[r]uantis bonde, And kepe ham fram þe heþone honde; Þe Muchelnesse of Men sainfayle Ys nat victorie in Batayle;	440	
Arthur's "Forward!"	But after þe wylle þat in heuene ys, So þe victorie falleþ y-wys." Than seyð Arthour, "hyt ys so: Auaunt Baner, & be Goo."	444	[pg 14 - The Battle Between Arthur and Lucius.]
	Now frendes alle, for goddes loue, Rereþ ȝowre hertes to god aboue, And seyep ȝowre prayeris faste, Þat we welle spede furst & laste.	448	
<b>Pater noster.</b>			
	The emperour tryst on hys men, And þat haþ bygyled hym; Forsothe hyt most nedeȝ be so, For þey beþ cursed þat welle hyt do,	452	
<i>Maledictus qui confidet in homine.</i>	Suche alle myght comeþ of god; To tryst on hym, y hold hyt good. Lucye haþ pyght his paeloun And sprad wyþ pryde his gunfanoun;	456	
The battle begins.	His claryouns blastes fulle grete blywe, Archeris schot(:) Men ouer-thrywe; Bowes, arwes, & arblastere Schot sore alle y-vere;	460	
	Quarels, arwes, þey fly smerte; Þe fyched Men þruȝ heed & herte; Axes, sperys, and gysarmes gret, Clefte Many a prowȝ Mannes heed:	464	
[Fol. 45b.]	Hors & steedes gan to grent, And deyde wyþ strokis þat þey hente; Many a man þere lost hys lyf, Many on was wedyw þat was wyff;	468	
Men are wetshod with brains and blood.	Þere men were wetschoede Alle of Brayn & of blode;		

Lucius is slain,	<p>Gret rywthe hyt was to seyn  Pe feltes fulle of men y-scleyn;  Lucy þe Emperour also was dede;  But ho hym sclowh, y can nat rede;  He, for alle hys grete Renoun,</p>	472	[pg 15 - Arthur Wins, and Buries the Dead.]
not able to stand against Arthur.	<p>Aʒenst Arthour hadde no fusoun,  No more þan haue twenty schep  Aʒenst vyve wolfez greet.  To god be euere alle honourez!</p>	476	
Arthur sends Lucius's body to Rome,	<p>The falde was hys &amp; Arthourez.  Arthour, as he scholde done,  Sende lucyes body to Rome;  Whan þe Romeynes say þis,</p>	480	
buries Bedwere and others	<p>Po þey dradde Arthour &amp; hys.  Also he buried Bedwere  Hys frend and l hys Botyler,  And so he dude other Echon</p>	484	
in Abbeys,	<p>In Abbeys of Relygyoun  Þat were cristien of name;  He dude to alle þe same;  And dude for ham Masse synge  wyth solempne song &amp; offrynge,</p>	488	
and stays the winter,	<p>And bood þere for to rest,  Tylle þat wynter was past,  Boþe he (.) hys Men echone  Seruyd god in deuocione,</p>	492	
thanking God	<p>Pankyng god of hys Myʒt  Þat kepeþ hys seruauntez ryʒt,  And suffreþ noon for to spylle  Þat hym loueþ &amp; tryste wylle:</p>	496	
for His honour to England. [Of the difference between More (or Great) Britain and Little Britain.]	<p>Pus worschup god dude certeyn  To Englund, þat þo was Bretayn;  Pe More Breteyn Englund ys—  As men may rede on Cronyclys—</p>	500	
	<p>Byʒend þe See Bretayne þer ys,  Pat haþ hys name forsoþe of þis,  For þe kyng Maxymyan,—  Pe next after Octauyan,—  He conquered alle Armoryk,  And to þe Reme named hyt lyk:</p>	504	
Armorica.	<p>Amorica on latyn me cl[e]ped þat lond,  Tyl Maxymyan co[n]queryd hyt wyth honde,  And called hyt lyte bretayne þan,  So hyʒt þis lond þat he coom fram;</p>	508	
Little Britain is called after Great Britain.	<p>For perpetuelle Mynde of grete Bretayne  He called hyt lyte Bretayne,  Pat Men schulde kepe in Mynde &amp; wytt  How þis lond conqueryd hytt;</p>	512	
	<p>For Walsche Men beþ Bretounis of kynde—  Know þat welle fast on Mynde—</p>	516	
		520	[pg 16 - Of the Welsh and Stinking Saxons.]

	Englische men beþ Saxoynes, Pat beþ of Engistes Soones; There-fore þe walsch man Bretoun Seyþ & clepeþ vs "Sayson" <sup>7</sup>	524
How the Welshmen call the English "stinking Saxons."	And seyþ (.) "taw or (.) peyd Sayson brount" <sup>8</sup> Whan he ys wroth (;) or ellys drounke; Hauyng Mynde of Engystis Men Pat wyth gyle sclow þeyre kyn: At þe place of þe Stonehenge 3ut þey þenkeþ for to venge: And þat hyt neuere be so, Seyþ a Pater noster more to.	528      532

### **Pater noster.**

Arthur is preparing to cross the mountains to Rome,	Now turne we to oure labour And lat vs speke of Arthour: He cast on herte sone After þat to go to Rome, And spak of Passage & hys wey Forth ouer Mount Ioye.	536
when he hears of Mordred's treachery;	And sone after vpon an owr He horde of Mordred the tretour That hadde alle þis loud on warde— Euylle moot suche fare, and harde. Who may best bygyle a man But suche as he tryst vpon? Per ys no man wel nye, y tryste, Pat can be waar of hadde wyste.— Mordred þis falss Man Muche sorw þo bygan; He stuffed alle castelle Wyþ armyre & vytelle, And strenghthed hym on eche syde Wyth Men of countreys ferre & wyde:	540            552
how the traitor had seized the queen, his (Arthur's) wife, and put her at York.	He toke þe qwene, Arthoure3 wyff, A3enst goddes lawe & gode lyff, And putte heore to soioune þo At Euerwyk: god 3yf hym wo. Yhork ys Euerwyk: & so me calleþ hyt.	556
Arthur then comes home, fights Mordred,	Arthour aryved at Whytsond Wyth gret Myght & strong hond, And Mordred sainz fayl 3af hym þo a strong batayl; Many a man, as y rede, Pat day was þere dede; Arthoures newew Waweyn Pat day was þere y-sclayn, And oper kny3tes Many moo: Pan Arthour was heuy & woo.	560         564  568

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

Mordred flies to London,	Mordred fly toward Londoun; He most not come in þe toum: Pan fled he to wynchester And wyth hys Maynee kep [?] hym þere; And Arthour on gret haste Pursywed after hym faste. Mordred wythoute fayle	572	
and then to Cornwall.	Fled in-to Cornewayle. The qwene wyþoute lesyng Hurde of þis tydyng, And how Mordred was flow, And how to Cornewale he hym drow. Heo of Mercy hadde noon hoope, Ther-for he dude on a Russet cote, And to Carlyoun ys preuyly Rounne, And made heore self þo a Nounne; Fro þat place neuer heo wende, But of heore lyf þere made an ende.	576 580	[pg 18 - Arthur's Last Battle with Mordred.]
The Queen turns nun at Carlyon.	Waweynes body, as y reede, And other lordes þat weere deede, Arthour sente in-to skotlonde, And buryed ham þere, y vnderstonde. Muche folke þerhenne he toke þo, Of Northumber-lond also Fram dyverse places to Arthour come Hys wylle to werk & to done: Thus he sembled a fulle gret Ost; To Cornewayle he draweþ hym fast After þat Mordred þe traytour Pat hadde do hym Muche dyshonour. That tretour hadde gret strength And fulled þat lond on brede & lengthe, Suche a batelle as þere was redy þo Hadde neuer Arthour byfore y-doo: They fowȝt tyl þer come doun bloode As a(.) Ryver or (.)a(.) flood; Pey fowȝt euer sorest sadde; Men nyst ho þe betere hadde; But at þe last Certeyn Was Mordred & alle hys y-sclayn; And Arthour y-bete wyþ wounde, He Myght not stonde on grounde; But on lyter ryȝt anon Was browȝt to Auelone, Pat was a place fayr & Mury; Now hyt hooteþ Glastyngbury. Ther Arthour þat worthy kyng Maked hys lyues endyng; But for he skaped þat batelle y-wys, Bretouns & Cornysch sayeþ þus,	584 588 592 596 600 604	
Gawain is buried in Scotland.			
Northern men and others come to Arthur.			
He gives Mordred battle.			
<i>Bellum arthuri apud Camelertonum in Cornubia.</i>			
Mordred is slain: Arthur wounded,			
and carried to Avelon, or <i>Auelona .i. insula pomorum Glastonia.</i>			
Glastonbury, where he dies,			
			[pg 19 - Arthur Is Buried at Glastonbury.]

and is buried A.D. 542.	"Pat he leuyth 3ut parde, And schalle come & be a kyng a3e."	620
	At Glastyngbury on þe qweer Þey made Artourez toumbe þere, And wrote wyth latyn vers þus, Hic iacet Arthurus rex quondam rex que futurus.	624
	Thys was þus forsoþe ydone Pe yheer after þe Incarnacione, Vyf hundred (.) fourty & two. Now saue vs alle fra woo	628
	Ihesu cryst, heuenly kyng, & graunt vs alle hys blessyng; And þat hyt Moote so be, Seyþ alle Pater & Aue.	632

Anno domini quingentesimo  
quadragesimo secundo.

#### **Pater noster. Aue.**

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

## **Words**

a, he, l. 370.

aspye, *sb.* espial, l. 416.

ayhe, again, l. 126.

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

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

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

fyched, pierced, l. 462.

goom, man, l. 166.

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

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



hawted, exalted, l. 113.

he, she, l. 582.

helyth, cover, l. 407.

last, lest, l. 289.

loghyng, lodging, l. 344.

lynage, descendant, l. 269.

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

mynde, remembrance, l. 527.

oo, one, l. 49.

sayle, assail, attack, l. 12.

scley, slain, l. 212.

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

soueȝ (?), sough, moan, l. 88.

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

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

therhenne, thence, l. 591.

toke, gave, l. 329.

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

verrament, truly, l. 32.

was, whose, l. 248.

wood, wild, mad, l. 211.

ydoon, done, spent, l. 72.

ylete, let, l. 194.

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

y-vere, together, l. 460.

ywyss, certainly, l. 46.

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## Notes

- 1.
2. ? soneȝ ([return](#))
3. ? MS. perhaps *Angecyȝe*. ([return](#))

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

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