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*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK ARTHUR ***

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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

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Editor of De Borron's and Lonelich's "History of the Holy Graal," Walter Map's "Queste Del Saint Graal," Etc. Etc.

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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 Geoffry 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, *yeh* 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;	
How Arthur was begotten	And furst how he was bygete, As þat we in bokis do rede.	4
by Pendragon on Ygerne.	Vther pendragone was hys fader, And ygerne was hys Moder. Pendragone ys in walysche	
Pendragon (<i>t.i.</i> Dragon's Head) made two painted dragons,	'Dragonnes heed' on Englysche; He maked ypeynted dragones two; Oon schold byfore him goo Whan he went to batayle, Whan he wold hys foes sayle;	8 12
and thence had his name.	That other abood at wynchester, Euermore styлле there. Bretones ʒaf 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	20 24
and begat Arthur in adultery.	In þe counltre of Cornewelle: In þe Castel of Tyntagelle, Thus vther, yf y schalle nat lye, Bygat Arthour in avowtrye.	28
Arthur is crowned,	Whan vther Pendragone was deed, Arthour anon was y-crowned; He was courteys, large, & Gent to alle puple verrament;	32
is loved of all,	Beaute, Myʒt, amyable chere To alle Men ferre and neere; Hys port (;) hys ʒyftes gentyлле Maked hym y-loved wylle;	36
is strong	Ech mon was glad of hys presence, And drade to do hym dysplesauuce; A stronger Man of hys honde was neuer founde on any londe,	40
and courteous.	As courteys as any Mayde:— þus wryteþ of hym þat hym a-sayde.	
[Fol. 42 <i>b</i> . col. 2.]	At Cayrlyone, wyt <h>o</h> ute fable, he let make þe Rounde table:	44
He makes the Round Table,	And why þat he maked hyt þus, þis was þe resoun y-wyss,— þat no man schulde sytt aboue other, ne haue indignacioun of hys broþer;	48
that all at it might be equal.	And alle hadde (.)oo(.) seruyse, For no pryde scholde aryse For any degree of syttynge, Oþer for any seruynge:—	52
After his first conquests	þus he kept þe table Rounde Whyle he leuyd on þe grounde. After he hadde conquered skotlond yrland & Gotland,	56
he lives twelve years in peace,	þan leuyd he at þe best twelf ʒeeris on alle reste	

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

[pg 3 - He Fights

	Wyþoute werre (:)	tylle at þe laste		Frollo for
	he þou3t to make (.)	a(.) nywe <i>conqueste</i> .	60	France.]
and then invades France.		Into <i>Fraunce</i> wyþ gode <i>counceyle</i> he wolde weende (:)		
		& hyt assayle, þat Rome þo kept vnder Myght, Vnder Frollo (:)	64	
		a worthy knyght þat <i>fraunce</i> hadde þo to kepe, To rywle, defende, & to lede.		
He beats Frollo back to Paris,		Arthour and Frollo fou3t in feld; þere deyde many vnder scheld. Frollo in-to Paryss fly,	68	
		Wyth strenkthe kept hyt wysely: Arthour byseged þat Syte & town Tylle þeire vytayl was y-doon.	72	
and there besieges him, till		Frollo þat worthy knyght Proferyd wyth Arthour for to fyght Vnder þis wyse & condicioun,— "Ho hadde þe Maystrie (:)	76	
Frollo challenges him to single combat.		haue þe crown; And no mo men but þey two." þe day Was sett (:)		
		to-geder þey go: Fayr hyt was to byholde In suche two kny3ghte3 bolde:	80	
		þer was no word y-spoke, But eche hadde other by þe þrote; þey smote wyth <i>trounchoun</i> & wyth <i>sword</i> ;		
They fight:		þat hyt seye were a-ferd; Frollo fou3t wyþ hys ax (:)	84	
[Fol. 43.] (Frollo with his axe)		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 (.)	88	
		<i>souez</i> ¹ þerfore. thus they hyw on helmes hye, And schatered on wyþ scheldes.		
		þe puple by-gan to crye þat stood on þe feldes;	92	
		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 <i>brounsteelle</i> and to Frollo gothe	96	[pg 4 - Arthur Returns Victorious to Britain,]
<i>Caliburnus Arthuri Gladius</i> [with a sketch thereof in the MS.]		<i>Brounstelle</i> was heuy & also kene; Fram þe schulder(:)		
		to þe syde went bytwene Off frollo and þan he fell to þe grounde Ry3t as he moste deed(.)	100	
and strikes Frollo dead.		in lyte stounde. Frensche men made doelle & wept fulle faste; þeir Crowne of <i>fraunce</i> 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 þat þus 3eueþ fortune(:)		
		and worschup to þe Reme; Thanke 3e hym alle þat beþ on þis place, And seyþ a Pater noster wythout any Beeme.	108	
Say ye a Pater Noster therefore.				
	Pater noster.			
		Arthour fram paryse went wyth hys Rowte, And <i>conquered</i> þe Countre on euery syde aboute; Angeoy ² , Peytow, Berry, & Gaskoyne, Nauerne, Burgone Loreyn & Toreyne;	112	
Arthur conquers the countries around,		He dauhted þe proude & hawted þe poure; He dwelt long in Paryss after in honoure; He was drad and loued in <i>countreis</i> abowte; Heyest & lowest hym Loved & alowte;	116	

distributes them among his knights,	And vpon an <i>Estour</i> tyme sone afterward He fested hys knyghtis & ʒaf ham gret reward; To hys styward he ʒaf Angers & <i>Aungeye</i> ; To Bedewer hys botyler he ʒaf <i>Normandy</i> ;	120	
	He ʒaf to Holdyne flaudrys parde; To Borel hys Cosyn, Boloynes þe cyte; And eche man, after þe astat þat he was, He rewarded hem alle, boþe More & lasse,	124	
and returns to Britain. [Fol. 43 <i>b</i> , col. 1.] Arthur gives an Easter Feast	And turned to Breteyn, to Carlyone ayhe. <i>Arthour</i> wolde of honour Hold a fest at <i>Eestour</i> Of regalye & worthynesse, And feede alle hys frendess; And sende Messanger To kynges ferre & neer	128	[pg 5 - And Then Holds a Great Feast.]
	þat were to hym Omager, to come to þis Dyner. And alle at oo certeyn day They come þyder in gode aray,	132	
	And kept þeire <i>Cesone</i> At þe <i>Castelle</i> Cayrlyone. Thys fest was Muche Moore þan euere <i>Arthour</i> made a-fore;	136	
at Carlyon, greater than ere before.	For þere was Vrweyn þe kyng Of scottes at þat dynynge, Stater þe kyng of south wales, <i>Cadwelle</i> þe kyng of north wales,	140	
Ten kings were there,	<i>Gwylmar</i> þe kyng of yrland, <i>Dolmad</i> þe kyng of guthland, <i>Malgan</i> of yselond also, <i>Archyl</i> of <i>Denmarch</i> þerto, <i>Alothe</i> þe kyng of Norway, <i>Souenas</i> þe kyng of Orkenye, Of Breteyn þe kyng <i>Hoel</i> ,	144	
	<i>Cador</i> Erl of <i>Cornewelle</i> , <i>Morice</i> þe Erl of <i>Gloucestre</i> , <i>Marran</i> Erl of <i>Wynchestre</i> , <i>Gwergound</i> Erl of herford, <i>Booʒ</i> Erl of Oxenford,	148	
and thirteen earls	Of bathe vngent þe Erl also, <i>Cursal</i> of <i>Chestre</i> þer-to, <i>Euerad</i> Erl of salesbury, ³ <i>Kynmar</i> Erl of Canterbury, <i>Jonas</i> þe Erl of <i>Dorcestre</i> , <i>Valence</i> þe Erl of <i>sylchestre</i> ,	152	
(including him of Bath),	<i>Jugeyn</i> of <i>Leyccer</i> [?] þerto, <i>Argal</i> of warwyk also,— Kynges & Erles Echon þes were; & many anoþer goom Gret of astaate, & þe beste,	156	
	þes were at þe Feste. Other also gentyls grete Were þere at þat Meete, <i>Sauer</i> appon <i>Donand</i> , <i>Regeym</i> & <i>Alard</i> ,	160	
with many other gentles great,	<i>Reyneʒ</i> fitʒ <i>Colys</i> , <i>Tadeus</i> fitʒ <i>Reis</i> , <i>Delyn</i> fitʒ <i>Dauid</i> , <i>Kymbelyn</i> le fitʒ <i>Gryffith</i> ,	164	[pg 6 - Arthur's Guests at Cayrlyone.]
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kill the messengers, but Arthur forbids it,	And wolde þe messenger scle:— "Nay," seyde 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." And after Mete sanz fayl Wyþ hys lordes he hadde counsayl; And alle asented þer to,	236	Answer to Lucius.]
and resolves to invade Rome.	Arthour to Rome scholde go; And þey ne wolde in hys trauayle Wyþ strenkþ & good neuer fayle. Than Arthour wroot to Rome a <i>lettre</i> , Was sentence was <i>somm</i> -what byttere, And sayde <i>in</i> þis manere As ʒe may hure here:—	244	
<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.	þis <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, And toke hym þes letterys. þey seyde to þe Emperour "We have be wyþ kyng Arthour; But such anoþer as he ys oon, Say neuer no Man. He ys serued on hys howshold Wyþ kynges, Erles, worthy & bold; Hys worthynesse, sur Emperour, Passeþ Muche alle ʒowre; He seyde he wolde hyder come And take trywage of alle Rome, 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 Sey a Pater noster	256	
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Lucius's messengers return to him.		276	
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and give him Arthur's message.		288	
		292	

[pg 9 - The
Messenger's
Report of
Arthur.]

And ave wyþ gode chere; Amen.

Pater noster

Ave Maria.

[Fol. 44 <i>b</i> .]	Now stureth hym self Arthour þenkyng 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 syzt 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 & of Orkenye, þis was worthy Maynye;	304	[pg 10 - The Number of Arthur's Host.]
	The kyng of Denmark also was þere, þis was a worthy chere: Eche of þese vyve at her venyw Brouzt zyx þousand at har retenyw;	308	
with 30,000 men,	xxx ^{ti} þowsand, ych vnderstand, þes vyf kyngis hadde on honde. Than hadde he out of Normandye, Of Angeoy & of Almanye,	312	
80,000 Normans and	Boloyne(.) Peytow & flaudres Fowre skore þowsand harneys— Geryn of Chartez .xij. þowsand þat went wyþ Artour euer at honde;	316	
12,000 from Chartres,	Hoel of bretayn, þowsandez ten Of hardy & welle fyghtyng Men; Out of Bretaygne hys owne land	320	
10,000 Bretons.	He passed fourty þowsand 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	
and 40,000 British:	Two hunderd þousand Went wyþ hym out of lond, And Many moo sykerly That y can ⁴ not nombrye.	328	
	Arthour toke þan þe lond To Moddredes owne hond; He kept al oþer þyng Saue þo Corowne weryng;	332	
Britain is left in Mordred's charge.	But he was [fals] of hys keypyng, As 3e schalle hure here folewyng. Now thanne ys Artour y-Come And hys Ost to Sowthampton:	336	
Arthur ships at Southampton,	Ther was Many a Man of Myghte Strong & bold also to fyghte. Eche man hath take his schuppyng, And ys at hys loghyng.	340	[pg 11 - The Giant that Ravished Fair Elayne.]
	Vp gob þe sayl(:) þey sayleþ faste: Arthour owt of syzt ys paste. þe ferst lond þat he gan Meete, Forsoþe hyt was Bareflete;	344	
and lands at Barfleet.	Ther he gan vp furst aryve. Now welle Mote Arthour spede & thryve; And þat hys saule spede þe better, Lat eche man sey a Pater noster.	348	

	Hors & steedes gan to grent, And deyde wyþ strokis þat þey hente;		
[Fol. 45b.]	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; Gret rywthe hyt was to seyn Þe feltes fulle of men y-scleyn;	472	
Lucius is slain,	Lucy þe Emperour also was dede; But ho hym sclowh, y can nat rede; He, for alle hys grete Renoun,		
not able to stand against Arthur.	Aʒenst Arthour hadde no fusoun, No more þan haue twenty schep Aʒenst vyve wolfez greet. To god be euere alle honourez! The falde was hys & Arthourez.	476	[pg 15 - Arthur Wins, and Buries the Dead.]
Arthur sends Lucius's body to Rome,	Arthour, as he scholde done, Sende lucyes body to Rome; Whan þe Romeynes say þis, Þo þey dradde Arthour & hys.	484	
buries Bedwere and others	Also he buryed Bedwere Hys frend and hys Botyler, And so he dude other Echon In Abbeys of Relygyoun	488	
in Abbeys,	Þat were cristien of name; He dude to alle þe same; And dude for ham Masse synge wyth solempne song & offrynge,	492	
and stays the winter,	And bood þere for to rest, Tylle þat wynter was past, Boþe he (.) hys Men echone Seruyd god in deuocione,	496	
thanking God	Þankyng god of hys Myʒt Þat kepeþ hys seruauntez ryʒt, And suffreþ noon for to spylle Þat hym loueþ & tryste wylle:	500	
for His honour to England [Of the difference between More (or Great) Britain and Little Britain.]	Þus worschup god dude certeyn To Englond, þat þo was Bretayn; Þe More Breteyn Englond ys— As men may rede on Cronyclys— Byʒend þe See Bretayne þer ys, Þat haþ hys name forsoþe of þis, For þe kyng Maxymyan,— Þe next after Octauyan,—	504	
<i>Armorica.</i>	He conquered alle Armoryk, And to þe Reme named hyt lyk: 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;	512	[pg 16 - Of the Welsh and Stinking Saxons.]
Little Britain is called after Great Britain.	For perpetuelle Mynde of grete Bretayne He called hyt lyte Bretayne, Þat Men schulde kepe in Mynde & wytt How þis lond conqueryd hytt; For Walsche Men beþ Bretouzs of kynde— Know þat welle fast on Mynde— Englische men beþ Saxoynes, Þat beþ of Engistes Soones; There-fore þe walsch man Bretoun Seyþ & clepeþ vs "Sayson" ²	516	
		520	
		524	

How the Welshmen call the English "stinking Saxons."	And seyþ (.) "taw or (.) peyd Sayson brount" ⁸ Whan he ys wroth (;) or ellys drounke; Hauyng Mynde of Engystis Men Þat wyth gyle sclow þeyre kyn: 528 At þe place of þe Stonehenge ʒut þey þenkeþ for to venge: And þat hyt neuere be so, Seyþ a Pater noster more to. 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, 536 And spak of Passage & hys wey Forth ouer Mounȝt Ioye. And sone after vpon an owr He horde of Mordred the tretour 540 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? 544 Þer ys no man wel nye, y tryste, Þat can be waar of hadde wyste.— Mordred þis falss Man Muche sorw þo bygan; 548 He stuffed alle castelle Wyþ armyre & vytelle, And strenghted hym on eche syde Wyth Men of countreys ferre & wyde: 552	
when he hears of Mordred's treachery;	He toke þe qwene, Arthoures wyff, Aʒenst goddes lawe & gode lyff, And putte heore to soioune þo At Euerwyk: god ʒyf hym wo. 556 Yhork ys Euerwyk: & so me calleþ hyt. Arthour aryved at Whytsond Wyth gret Myght & strong hond, 560 And Mordred sainz fayl ʒaf hym þo a strong batayl; Many a man, as y rede, Þat day was þere dede; 564 Arthoures newew Waweyn Þat day was þere y-sclayn, And oþer knyȝtes Many moo: Þan Arthour was heuy & woo. 568	
how the traitor had seized the queen, his (Arthur's) wife, and put her at York.	Mordred fly toward Londoun; He most not come in þe touȝn: Þan fled he to wynchester And wyth hys Maynee kep [?] hym þere; 572 And Arthour on gret haste Pursywed after hym faste. Mordred wythoute fayle Fled in-to Cornewayle. 576 The qwene wyþoute lesyng Hurde of þis tydyng, And how Mordred was flow, And how to Cornewale he hym drow. 580 Heo of Mercy hadde noon hoope, Ther-for he dude on a Russet cote,	[pg 17 - Of Mordred's Treachery and Arthur's Return.]
Arthur then comes home, fights Mordred, and Gawain is slain.		
Mordred flies to London,		
and then to Cornwall.		
The Queen turns nun at		[pg 18 - Arthur's Last Battle with Mordred.]

Carlyon.	And to Carlyoun ys preuily Roume, And made heore self þo a Noume; Fro þat place neuer heo wende, But of heore lyf þere made an ende.	584
Gawain is buried in Scotland.	Waweynes body, as y reede, And other lordes þat weere deede, Arthur sente in-to skotlonde, And buryed ham þere, y vnderstonde. Muche folke þerhenne he toke þo,	588
Northern men and others come to Arthur.	Of Northumber-lond also Fram dyverse places to Arthour come Hys wyllē to werk & to done: Thus he sembled a fullē gret Ost; To Cornewayle he draweþ hym fast After þat Mordred þe traytour Þat 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 douȝn bloode As a(.) Ryver or (.)a(.) flood;	592 596 600 604
<i>Bellum arthuri apud Camelertonum in Cornubia.</i>	Þey 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, Þat 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, "Þat he leuyth ȝut parde, And schalle come & be a kyng aȝe." At Glastyngbury on þe qweer Þey made Artourez toumbe þere, And wrote wyth latyn vers þus, Hic iacet Arthurus rex quondam rex que futurus. Thys was þus forsoþe ydone Þe yheer after þe Incarnacione, Vyf hundred (.) fourty & two. Now saue vs alle fra woo Ihesu cryst, heuenly kyng, & graunt vs alle hys blessyng; And þat hyt Moote so be, Seyeþ alle Pater & Aue.	608 612 616 620 624 628
Mordred is slain: Arthur wounded, and carried to Avelon, or <i>Auelona .i. insula pomorum Glastonia.</i> Glastonbury, where he dies, and is buried A.D. 542.		
<i>Anno domini quingentesimo quadragesimo secundo.</i>		

[pg 19 - Arthur Is
Buried at
Glastonbury.]

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. 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;	636 640
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And ho þat wolle þeyre gestes loke,
Reed on þe Frensche boke. Amen fiat.

Words

a, he, l. 370.

asp̄ye, *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 bringes care and smart."

hawted, exalted, l. 113.

he, she, l. 582.

helyth, cover, l. 407.

last, lest, l. 289.

loghynḡe, 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.

souez (?), 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.

verram̄ent, 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.

Notes

1. ? sone3 [\(return\)](#)
2. ? MS. perhaps *Angecye*. [\(return\)](#)
3. The *s* is rubbed: the word may be "onlesbury." [\(return\)](#)
4. ? MS. y-tan. [\(return\)](#)
5. tombe [\(return\)](#)
6. *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*. [\(return\)](#)
7. Pat ys to seye vpon a reess,
"Stynking Saxoun, be on pees." [\(return\)](#)
8. 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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