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LIFE OF MERLIN

Geoffrey of Monmouth

VITA MERLINI

Edited with Introduction, facing
translation, textual commentary,
name notes index and translations
of the *Lailoken* tales

by

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<i>Relevant Welsh name</i>	<i>Latin of VM</i>	<i>English translation</i>
Gwenddydd	Ganieda ¹	Ganieda
—	Guendoloena ²	Guendoloena
Gwenddolau	Guennolous ³	Gwenddolau ⁴
—	Maeldinus ²	Maeldin
Myrddin ⁵	Merlinus ⁶	Merlin
—	Morgen ²	Morgen ⁴
Peredur	Peredurus	Peredur
Rhydderch ^{7 8}	Rodarc(h)us ¹	Rodarch ⁴
Taliesin	T(h)elgesinus	Taliesin

¹ Latin name not apparently known earlier.

² New name for substantially new character.

³ Probably from Latin form of Guennolé.

⁴ See Name Note.

⁵ Earlier, *Merdin*.

⁶ As in *HRB*.

⁷ *Riderch* in early Welsh.

⁸ *Rodercus* in 7th century (Adamnán's Latin).

VITA MERLINI

Text

LIFE OF MERLIN

Facing Translation

Gaufridi de Monemuta
VITA MERLINI

Geoffrey of Monmouth
LIFE OF MERLIN

Fatidici vatis rabiem musamque jocosam
Merlini cantare paro. Tu corrige carmen,
gloria pontificum calamos moderando Roberte.
Scimus enim quia te perfudit nectare sacro
5 Philosophia suo fecitque per omnia doctum
ut documenta dares dux et preceptor in orbe.
Ergo meis ceptis faveas vatemque tueri
auspicio meliore velis quam fecerit alter
cui modo succedis merito promotus honori.
10 Sic etenim mores sic vita probata genusque
utilitasque loci clerus populusque petebant,
unde modo felix Lincolnia fertur ad astra.
Ergo te cuperem complecti carmine digno,
sed non sufficio, licet Orpheus et Camerinus
15 et Macer et Marius magnique Rabirius oris
meo canerent Musis comitantibus omnes.
At vos consuete mecum cantare Camene
propositum cantemus opus cytharamque sonate.
Ergo peragratis sub multis regibus annis
20 clarus habebatur Merlinus in orbe Britannus.
Rex erat et vates Demetarumque superbis
jura dabat populis ducibusque futura canebat.
Contigit interea plures certamen habere
inter se regni proceres belloque feroci
25 insontes populos devastavisse per urbes.
Dux Venedotorum Peredurus bella gerebat
contra Guennoloum Scocie qui regna regebat,
jamque dies aderat bello prefixa ducesque
astabant campo decertabantque caterve

(N.B. A bar over a letter or letters denotes expanded abbreviation.)

Headings H: Circa hec tempōra: floruit merlinūs siluestris. siue calidonūs. qui p̄phetauit in huñc modum. No heading in R and J. T (not in a MS of the *Polychronicon*) has: flata Mērlini Siluestre Sēcūndūm historiām policronicañ que contigebant añño gratie. 525.

I set myself to sing of the madness of the bard of prophecy, an entertaining tale of Merlin.

Guide my pen, Robert, glory of the bishops; for we know that Philosophy has filled you with its holy nectar and made you universally learned, so that you might prove yourself the foremost teacher in the world.

Approve, then, my project, and be ready to be more indulgent to this poet than was that other whom you have just succeeded, attaining an honour well-deserved.

Everything conspired to win that honour for you—your principles, your upright way of life, your birth, your fitness for the place: clergy and people alike supported you. That is why lucky Lincoln is now in the seventh heaven.

Indeed, it might well have been yourself whom I would wish to embrace in a noble poem. But I am not the man for it: no, not even if Orpheus and Camerinus and Macer and Marius and Rabirius of the great voice were all to sing through my mouth and the Muses were my accompanists. But, Sisters, you are used to singing with me; so let us to the song before us. Sound the lyre!

19 Now, many years and many kings had come and gone. Merlin the Briton was famous throughout the world as king and prophet. He was law-giver to the proud South Welsh, and he foretold the future to their leaders.

A time came when it happened that a quarrel arose among several of the princes of the realm. In a savage war they had ravaged the unoffending populace in city after city.

Peredur, prince of the North Welsh, was campaigning against Gwenddolau, who ruled the kingdom of Scotland. The day fixed for battle had arrived, and the commanders had taken the field. Their

1 fastidici R, uatidici T.

2 Merlini cantare paro s H, which then stops until line 19.

14 Camerinus SM.

15 rabirius CV, Rabiriūs R, J, T, B, Mi, JJP tr, F; orbis R, J, T.

17 Ad CV, At R, J, T, B, Mi, SM, JJP tr, F.

30 amborum pariter miseranda cede ruentes.
 Venerat ad bellum Merlinus cum Pereduro
 rex quoque Cumbrorum Rodarcus sevus uterque.
 Cedunt obstantes invisus ensibus hostes,
 tresque ducis fratres fratrem per bella secuti
 35 usque rebellantes cedunt perimuntque phalanges.
 Inde per infestas cum tali munere turmas
 acriter irruerant subito cecidere perempti.
 Hoc viso, Merline, doles tristisque per agmen
 commisceat planctus tali quoque voce remugis.
 40 'Ergo ne sic potuit sors importuna nocere
 ut michi surriperet tantos talesque sodales
 quos modo tot reges tot regna remota timebant?
 O dubios hominum casus mortemque propinquam
 que penes est illos semper stimuloque latenti
 45 percutit et miseram pellit de corpore vitam!
 O juvenile decus, quis nunc astabit in armis
 nunc michi pone latus mecumque repellat euntes
 in mea dampna duces incumbentesque catervas?
 Audaces juvenes, vobis audacia vestra
 50 eripuit dulces annos dulcemque juventam.
 Qui modo per cuneos discurreratis in armis
 obstantesque viros prosternebatis ubique
 nunc pulsatis humum rubeoque cruore rubetis!'
 Sic inter turmas lacrimis plangebatur abortis
 55 deflebatque viros. Nec cessant prelia dira,
 concurrunt acies, sternuntur ab hostibus hostes.
 Sanguis ubique fluit, populi moriuntur utrinque.
 At tandem Britones revocatis undique turmis
 conveniunt pariter pariterque per arma ruentes
 60 invadunt Scotos prosternunt vulnera dantes,
 nec requieverunt donec sua terga dederunt
 hostiles turme per devia diffugientes.
 Evocat e bello socios Merlinus et illis
 precipit in varia fratres sepelire capella,
 65 deplangitque viros nec cessat fundere fletus.
 Pulveribus crines spargit vestesque rescindit

32 quorūm T; cambrorum CV, cūmbrorūm H, J, T, B, Mi, JJP tr, F; rodarthus PP.

46 qui CV, quis PP, B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

47 metuūquē CV, mecuūquē PP, B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

50 annos, CV, F, animos B, Mi.

54 abortis CV, abortis Mi, JJP tr, F.

30 troops had begun the struggle, and on both sides alike men fell in the tragic slaughter.

Merlin had come to the war with Peredur, and so, too, had Rodarch, king of the Cumbrians, fierce fighters both. They killed the enemy before them with their dread swords; and three brothers of the prince, who had followed him to the wars, were everywhere in the fight, killing, and destroying the battle lines. So fiercely and impetuously did they rush through the dense ranks that they were soon struck down and killed.

Merlin, you grieved at that sight, and your sad lament was heard throughout the army, as you lifted up your voice in these words:

40 'Surely a malignant fate cannot have been so vindictive as to take from me all these my companions, men such that many a king and many a distant kingdom have stood in fear of them till now?

43 'O man's uncertain fate, death ever near, ever with power to strike him with its hidden lance and drive the poor life from his body!

'O glory of youth, who will now stand by my side in battle to turn back the princes who come to do me ill and their hordes that press upon me?

50 'Brave youths, your very bravery has taken from you your sweet years, your sweet youth itself. A moment back, and you were tearing through the formations in battle array, striking down all opposition. Now you lie heavy on the earth, red with fresh blood.'

So with fast-running tears he mourned amid the strife and wept for his heroes. The terrible fighting ceased not, the lines of battle clashed, foe fell to foe. Blood flowed on every side, and the people of both nations died.

At last the Britons rallied their scattered forces and drew together. 60 Together they made an armed rush across the field, attacked the Scots, dealt wounds and laid them low. They did not slacken until the enemy battalions turned away and fled among the by-ways.

Merlin called his companions from the battle-field and instructed them to bury the brothers in a richly decorated chapel.

He mourned for his heroes; his flooding tears had no end. He

57 plurimi CV, F, populi PP, B, Mi, JJP tr.

Parry: 'plurimi of C. fits the sense but not the metre'. Perhaps it did fit the metre as Geoffrey spoke it.

66 comas T; sparsit CV, spargit PP, B, Mi, JJP tr, F; rescidit CV, rescidit R, JJP tr, rescidit (or) recidit Mi, recidit F.

et prostratus humi nunc hac illacque volutat.
Solatur Peredurus eum proceresque ducesque,
nec vult solari nec verba precantia ferre.

70 Jam tribus emensis defleuerat ille diebus
resperatque cibos, tantus dolor usserat illum.

Inde novas furias cum tot tantisque querelis
aera complexisset cepit furtimque recedit
et fugit ad silvas nec vult fugiendo videri,
75 ingrediturque nemus gaudetque latere sub ornis
miraturque feras pascentes gramina saltus.
Nunc has insequitur, nunc cursu preterit illas.
Utitur herbarum radicibus, utitur herbis,
Utitur arboreo fructu morisque rubeti.

80 Fit silvester homo quasi silvis deditus esset.

Inde per estatem totam nullique repertus
oblitusque sui cognatorumque suorum
delituit silvis obductus more ferino.

85 At cum venit yems herbasque tulisset et omnes
arboreos fructus nec quo frueretur haberet,
diffudit tales miseranda voce querelas.

¶ 'Celi Christe deus, quid agam? Qua parte morari
terrarum potero cum nil quo vescar adesse
inspicio, nec gramen humi nec in arbore glandes.

90 Tres quater et juges septene poma ferentes
hic steterant mali, nunc non stant. Ergo quis illas
quis michi surripuit, quo devenere repente?
Nunc illas video, nunc non. Sic fata repugnant
sic quoque concordant cum dant prohibentque videre.

95 Deficiunt nunc poma michi nunc cetera queque.
Stat sine fronde nemus sine fructu, plector utroque
cum neque fronde tegi valeo neque fructibus uti.
Singula bruma tulit pluviisque cadentibus auster.

100 Invenio si forte napes tellure sub ima,
concurrunt avideque sues aprique voraces
eripiuntque napes michi quas de cespite vello.

93 nec non CV, T, ?nec/?nunc non H, R, J, nunc non B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

99 napes CV, F, vapores R, T, napos B, Mi, JJP tr.

101 napes CV, F, vapores R, T, ?J, napos B, Mi, JJP tr. In line 101 Black suggested *napos* and he and Michel printed *napos* . . . *quas*; Parry also accepted *napos* and did not alter *quas*. The objections to *nāpos* are the long first syllable and gender; to *napes*, its being apparently a nonce-word. In view of *quas* and the MSS readings, it is simpler to retain *napes* and assume it is a slightly variant word for turnips. Faral leaves *napes* . . . *quas*, rejecting *napos* for the metre, but adds with little regard

threw dust upon his hair, tore his clothes and lay prostrate on the ground, rolling to and fro. Peredur and the other princes and commanders offered comfort. He would not take their comfort and
70 rejected their entreaties. So for three long days he wept, refusing food, so great the grief that consumed him.

Then, when the air was full with these repeated loud complainings, a strange madness came upon him.

73 He crept away and fled to the woods, unwilling that any should see his going. Into the forest he went, glad to lie hidden beneath the ash trees. He watched the wild creatures grazing on the pasture of the glades. Sometimes he would follow them, sometimes pass them in his course. He made use of the roots of plants and of grasses, of fruit from trees and of the blackberries in the thicket. He became a
80 Man of the Woods, as if dedicated to the woods. So for a whole summer he stayed hidden in the woods, discovered by none, forgetful of himself and of his own, lurking like a wild thing.

But when winter came and took all the plants and the fruit on the trees, and left him nothing to live upon, he poured out these complaints in a pitiful voice:

'O Christ, God of heaven, what shall I do? What place is there on earth where I can live? I see there is nothing here to eat—no grass on the ground, no acorns on the tree.

90 'Nineteen were the apple trees which once stood here with their fruit: they stand so no longer. Who, who has stolen them from me? Where have they gone so suddenly? Now I see them, now not. So Fate both supports and opposes me, letting me see and preventing me from seeing.

'Now the apples fail me, and all else besides. The forest stands leafless, fruitless. It is a double affliction: I can get no cover from the leaves or nourishment from the fruit. Winter and the rainstorms borne on the south wind have taken them, every one. If I
100 happen to find turnips deep in the ground, hungry swine and greedy boars rush up and snatch the turnips from me as I pull them up out of the soil.

for the context, 'Il faut sans doute lire *dāpēs*'. (*nāpaeus* ('woodland', adj.) can be mentioned for its form at least. *Nāpaeae* were woodland deities (Virgil, *Georgics*, 4. 535, etc.) and occur in the twelfth century in the *De planctu Naturae* of Alanus de Insulis, commentator on Geoffrey (Wright, 1872, 2, 447; *Napae* in the Migne text of *De planctu* may be a misprint). *Nape* as a name occurred c. 1181 in the archives of the church at Dol, which had Monmouth connections. Probably none of this is relevant, though they were *woodland* roots.)

¶ Tu lupe care comes, nemorum qui devia mecum
 et saltus peragrare soles vix preteris arva,
 et te dura fames et me languere coegit.
 105 Tu prior has silvas coluisti, te prior etas
 protulit in canos, nec habes nec scis quid in ore
 projicias, quod miror ego cum saltus habundet
 tot capreis aliisque feris quas prendere posses.
 Forsitan ipsa tibi tua detestanda senectus
 110 eripuit nervos cursumque negavit habendum.
 Quod solum superest, comples ululatus auras
 at resupinus humi consumptos deicis artus.¹
 Hec inter frutices coriletaque densa canebat
 cum sonus ad quemdam pervenit pretereuntem,
 115 qui direxit iter quo sermo loquentis in auras
 exierat reperitque locum reperitque loquentem.
 Quo viso Merlinus abit sequiturque viator
 nec retinere virum potuit sic diffugientem.
 Inde viator iter repetit quo ceperat ire
 120 propositumque tenet casu commotus euntis.
 Ecce viatori venit obvius alter ab aula
 Rodarchi regis Cumbrorum qui Ganiedam
 duxerat uxorem formosa conjuge felix.
 Merlini soror ista fuit casumque dolebat
 125 fratris et ad silvas at ad arva remota clientes
 miserat ut fratrem revocarent, ex quibus unus
 obvius huic ibat set et hic sibi protinus ergo.
 Convenere simul commiscunt mutua verba,
 at qui missus erat Merlinum querere querit
 130 si vidisset eum silvis aut saltibus alter.
 Ille virum talem se conspexisse fatetur
 inter dumosos saltus nemoris Calidonis
 dumque loqui vellet secum secumque sedere
 diffugisse virum celeri per robora cursu.
 135 Hec ait, alter abit silvasque subintrat et imas
 scrutatur valles montes quoque preterit altos,
 querit ubique virum gradiens per opaca locbrum.
 ¶ Fons erat in summo cuiusdam vertice montis
 undique precinctus corulis densisque frutectis.
 140 Illic Merlinus consederat, inde per omnes
 spectabat silvas cursusque jocosque ferarum.

112 dehicis T, dejicis B, Mi; arctus CV, artus PP (T, corrected from artos),
 B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

139 densisquē CV (Parry: densaquē).

‘Wolf, dear companion, you used to wander along the byways of
 the forest and through the glades with me: you scarcely get across
 105 the field. Harsh hunger has weakened both you and me. You lived
 in these woods before me, and age has turned you grey first. You
 have nothing, know not your next meal. I wonder at it, for the
 forest pastures abound in goats and other creatures you might take.
 110 Perhaps it is just that your hateful burden of years has deprived you
 of strength and prevented you hunting. All that is left to you is to
 fill the air with howling, your wasted frame sprawled flat on earth.’

So he continued aloud as he went about among the undergrowth
 and dense hazels. The sound reached a passer-by, who turned aside
 towards the source of the speech he heard. He found the place and
 he found the speaker. But Merlin saw him, and was off. The traveller
 followed, but could not keep up with the fugitive. So he returned to
 120 his route and continued on his business; but he was touched by the
 plight of the man who had fled.

121 Then this traveller fell in with another man, who was from the
 court of Rodarch, king of Cumbria. Rodarch’s wife was Ganieda, a
 beautiful woman with whom he lived most happily: she was Merlin’s
 sister. Distressed by what had happened to her brother, she had sent
 retainers to the woods and the depths of the countryside to bring
 him back. It was one of these who came upon the traveller. The
 traveller at once went up to him, and as soon as they met they began
 130 to talk. The man sent to look for Merlin asked if the other had seen
 him in the woodlands and valleys. The traveller said, yes, he had
 seen such a man among the dense-wooded valleys of the Forest of
 Calidon; but when he had tried to sit and talk with him, he had
 rushed off among the oak trees.

As the traveller finished this tale, the messenger set off into the
 woods. He searched the deepest valleys, he crossed high mountains,
 he penetrated the most secluded places, seeking his man everywhere.

140 There was a spring on the very top of a certain mountain,
 surrounded on all sides by hazels and dense thorns. Merlin had
 settled there, and from that place he could watch the whole wood-
 land and the running and gambolling of the creatures of the wild.

Nuntius hunc scandit tacitoque per ardua gressu
 incedit querendo virum, tum denique fontem
 Merlinumque videt super herbas pone sedentem
 145 dicentemque suas tali sermone querelas.
 ¶ ‘O qui cuncta regis, quid est cur contigit ut non
 tempora sint eadem numeris distincta quaternis?
 Nunc ver jure suo flores frondesque ministrat,
 150 dat fruges estas autumpnus micia poma.
 Consequitur glacialis yemps et cetera queque
 devorat et vastat pluviasque nivesque reportat.
 Singula queque suis arcet leditque procellis
 nec permittit humum varios producere flores
 aut quercus glandes aut malos punica mala.
 155 O utinam non esset hiems aut cana pruina!
 Ver foret aut estas, cuculusque canendo rediret
 et Philomela pio que tristia pectora cantu
 mitigat et turtur conservans federa casta
 frondibus inque novis concordi voce volucres
 160 cantarent alie que me modulando foverent,
 dum nova flore novo tellus spiraret odorem
 gramine sub viridi levi quoque murmure fontes
 diffluerent juxtaque daret sub fronde columba
 sompniferos gemitus irritaretque soporem.’
 165 ¶ Nuntius audierat vatem rupitque querelas
 cum modulis cithare quam secum gesserat ultro
 ut sic deciperet demulceretque furentem.
 Ergo movens querulas digitis et in ordine cordas
 talia pone latens dimissa voce canebat.
 170 ¶ ‘O diros gemitus lugubris Guendoloene,
 O miseras lacrimas lacrimantis Guendoloene!
 Me miseret misere morientis Guendoloene!
 Non erat in Waliis mulier formosior illa.
 Vincebat candore deas foliumque ligustri
 175 vernantesque rosas et olentia lilia prati.
 Gloria vernalis sola radiebat in illa
 sidereumque decus geminis gestabat ocellis
 insignesque comas auri fulgore nitentes.
 Hoc totum periit, periit decor omnis in illa
 180 et color et facies nivee quoque gloria carnis.
 Non est quod fuerat multis meroribus acta,

157 philomena CV, F, *Philomela* JJP tr.168 monens CV, mouens PP, B, *Mi*, JJP tr, F.

The messenger climbed up and quietly reached the summit, in search of his man. At length he saw the spring and Merlin sitting on the grass beyond it, complaining in this manner:

‘O ruler of all, how happens it that all the seasons are not the same, distinguished only by their four numbers? As things are, the spring is bound by its own laws to provide the leaves and flowers; 150 summer gives us the crops and autumn the ripe fruit. Then follows icy winter, which devours and lays waste all the others and brings again the rain and snow. It suppresses everything and causes damage with its storms. It will not let the earth produce its multi-coloured flowers, nor the oaks their acorns, nor the apple trees their russet apples. Would there were no winter, no white frost! Would it were spring or summer—and the cuckoo back in song, and the night- 155 ingale, who softens sadness with her tender air, and the turtle dove keeping her chaste devotion. Would that the other birds, too, were singing their harmonies in the fresh foliage to delight me with their warbling, while the earth refreshed, with flowers fresh, breathed out its scent from under the green turf, and springs ran babbling all around, and the pigeon among the leaves nearby kept up its drowsy cooing and brought sleep.’

The messenger, who had been listening to the prophet, here interrupted his lament by strumming on the guitar he had thought to bring with him in order to catch the madman’s attention and calm him. So his fingers sounded a plaintive strain, plucking out the measure on the strings, while he lay hidden behind the prophet and sang softly:

170 ‘O the deep moan of mourning Guendoloena, the piteous tears of weeping Guendoloena! I grieve for Guendoloena dying in despair. No woman in Wales more beautiful—beyond goddesses in fairness, beyond the privet petal, the rose in bloom, beyond the lilies of the field! The splendour of spring shone in her alone, the beauty of the stars was held in her two eyes, gold glittered in her glorious hair.

180 ‘All this has gone: gone the grace, the delicate bloom, the snowy splendour of her flesh. She is not what once she was, but worn with weeping. She knows not where the prince has gone, whether living

nescit enim quo dux abiit vita ne fruatur
 an sit defunctus. Languet miserabilis inde
 totaque deperiit longo liquefacta dolore.
 185 Collacrimatur ei paribus Ganieda querelis
 amissumque dolet sine consolamine fratrem.
 Hec fratrem flet et illa virum. Communiter ambe
 fletibus incumbunt et tristia tempora ducunt.
 Non cibus ullus eis nec sompnus nocte vagantes
 190 sub virgulta foveat, tantus dolor arcet utramque.
 Non secus indoluit Sidonia Dido solutis
 classibus Enee tunc cum properaret abire.
 Cum non Demophoon per tempora pacta rediret
 taliter ingemuit flevitque miserrima Phyllis.
 195 Briseis absentem sic deploravit Achillem.
 Sic soror et conjux collamentantur et ardent
 funditus internis cruciatibus usque dolendo.⁷
 In fidibus querulis dicebat talia cantans
 nuntius et modulo vatis demulserat aures
 200 micior ut fieret congauderetque canenti.
 Ocius assurgit vates juvenemque jocosis
 affatur verbis iterumque movere precatur
 cum digitis cordas elegosque sonare priores.
 Admovet ille lire digitos jussumque reformat
 205 carmen item cogitque virum modulando furorem
 ponere paulatim cithare dulcedine captum.
 Fit memor ergo sui recoliturque quod esse solebat
 Merlinus furiasque suas miratur et odit.
 Pristina mens rediit, rediit quoque sensus in illo
 210 et gemit ad nomen motus pietate sororis
 uxorisque simul mentis ratione recepta
 conducique petit Rodarchi regis ad aulam.
 Paruit alter ei silvasque subinde relinquunt
 et veniunt pariter letantes regis in urbem.
 215¶ Ergo fratre suo gaudet regina recepto
 proque sui reditu fit conjunx leta mariti.
 Oscula certatim geminant et brachia circum
 colla viri flectunt tanta pietate moventur.
 Rex quoque quo decuit reducem suscepit honore,
 220 totaque turba domus proceres letantur in urbe.

190 arcet CV, ardet T, JJP tr, F.

193 demophon CV, F, demofoon H, T, demophoon R, demophoon J, B, Mi, JJP tr.

198 grāuibūs CV, fidibūs PP, B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

still or dead. She lies sick with sorrow, faded utterly in the dissolution of long grief.

‘Ganieda is in tears by her side, complaining no less, mourning her lost brother, comfortless. One for a brother, one for a husband weeps. Their tears together flow, and time in sadness passes. They eat not, sleep not, wander unrefreshed by night through thorny ways, so great is the grief which grips them.’

‘So once Sidonian Dido mourned, when the fleet weighed anchor and Aeneas hastened on his way. So once poor Phyllis sighed and wept when Demophoon failed his appointed hour. So Briseis cried, Achilles lost.’

‘Now wife’s and sister’s tears together fall, and grief burns ever deep within their tortured hearts.’

198 This was the song the messenger sang to his plaintive strings; and with his air he soothed the listening prophet to calmness and to sympathy with the singer.

200 Suddenly the prophet sprang up, accosted the young man with a lively greeting and begged him to sound his instrument once more and play again the lament he had just played. So the singer plucked at the strings of his instrument and picked out the song, as he was asked, a second time. Little by little, as he played, he coaxed the madman to put by his wild mood under the sweet spell of the guitar.

210 So Merlin came to himself, recollected what he had been, and thought of his madness with astonishment and loathing. His normal state of mind returned, and his power of feeling, too. His reason thus restored, he could sigh aloud at the names of his sister and his wife and be moved by their devotion. He begged to be taken back to the court of King Rodarch. His companion agreed. They set off at once from the woods and came in cheerful company together to the city of the king.

220 Then the queen was glad to have her brother again, and his wife overjoyed at her husband’s home-coming. They vied in kissing him, flinging their arms about his neck in deep affection. The king, too, welcomed the returned wanderer with every due honour; and all the nobles who thronged the palace celebrated in the city.

200 fleret CV, fieret PP, B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

205 ita T, idem (or) iterum Mi.

212 rodarthi R, J, T.

217 geminans CV, gemīniant PP, B, Mi, JJP tr.

¶ At postquam tantas hominum Merlinus adesse
 inspexit turmas, nec eas perferre valeret.
 Cepit enim furias iterumque furore repletus
 ad nemus ire cupit furtimque recedere querit.
 225 Tunc precepit eum posito custode teneri
 Rodarchus citharaque suos mulcere furores,
 astabatque dolens verbisque precantibus illum
 orabat ratione frui secumque manere
 nec captare nemus nec vivere more ferino
 230 velle sub arboribus dum regia sceptrum tenere
 posset et in populos jus exercere feroces.
 Hinc promittit ei se plurima dona daturum,
 afferique jubet vestes volucresque canesque
 quadrupedesque citos aurum gemmasque micantes
 235 pocula que sculpsit Guielandus in urbe Sigeni.
 Singula pretendit vati Rodarchus et offert
 et monet ut maneat secum silvasque relinquat.
 Talia respondens spernebat munera vates.
 'Ista duces habeant sua quos confundit egestas
 240 nec sunt contenti modico set maxima captant.
 Hiis nemus et patulas Calidonis prefero quercus
 et montes celsos subtus virentia prata.
 Illa michi non ista placent. Tu talia tecum
 rex Rodarche feras. Mea me Calidonis habebit
 245 silva ferax nucibus quam cunctis prefero rebus.
 Denique cum nullo potuisset munere tristem
 rex retinere virum, forti vincire cathena
 jussit ne peterit nemorum deserta solutus.
 Ergo cum sensit circum se vincula vates
 250 nec liber poterat silvas Calidonis adire,
 protinus indoluit tristisque tacensque remansit
 leticiamque suis subtraxit vultibus omnem
 ut non proferret verbum risumque moveret.
 ¶ Interea visura duces regina per aulam
 255 ibat, et ut decuit rex applaudebat eunti
 perque manum suscepit eam jussitque sedere
 et dabat amplexus et ad oscula labra premebat,
 convertensque suos in eam per talia vultus
 vidit in illius folium pendere capellis.
 260 Ergo suos digitos admovit et abstulit illum

226 Rodarthus PP; cytheraqūē R.

234 quadrupedes multos PP.

235 om. PP.

221 But when Merlin saw such crowds of people there, he could not
 bear them. He went mad; and once more his derangement filled him
 with a desire to go off to the forest, and he longed to slip away. At
 that, Rodarch ordered him to be held under guard and music to be
 played on the guitar to calm his madness. He went sadly to him and
 begged and prayed him to be reasonable, to stay with him and not
 230 hanker after the forest and an animal life under the trees, when he
 might wield a royal sceptre and rule a nation of warriors.

The king promised, besides, that he would make him many gifts.
 He ordered clothes to be brought, and hunting birds, and dogs and
 fast horses; gold, glittering gems and cups wrought by Wayland in
 the city of Segontium. All this Rodarch brought to the prophet,
 urging him to stay and forget the woods.

240 But the prophet rejected the presents in these words: 'Let these
 things go to lords hard-pressed by poverty, such as are not content
 with modest living but covet everything. But I put above these
 things the woodland and spreading oaks of Calidon, the high hills,
 the green meadows at their foot—those are for me, not these things.
 Take back such goods, King Rodarch. My nut-rich forest of Calidon
 shall have me: I desire it above all else.'

250 At last, finding that no gift would detain this sullen man, the king
 ordered him to be stoutly chained to prevent him setting off for the
 forest wilderness, if freed. The prophet felt the chains about him,
 and saw no way to be free to get to the woods of Calidon. He
 immediately fell into a gloom and stayed silent. His face lost its
 liveliness: not a word, not a smile would he vouchsafe.

Just then the queen was walking through the hall looking for the
 king. He greeted her graciously as she approached, took her by the
 hand and begged her to sit down. He put his arm about her and
 kissed her; and in doing so he turned his head and saw a leaf hanging

236 rodarthus R, J, T.

237 reliñquet CV, relinquat PP, B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

244 rodarthe R, J, T.

260 suos passūs R; abstfāit CV, admouit ēt abstulit H, B, amouit ēt abstulit R, J,
 aīmouit ēt obtulit T, abstrahit Gfr, F, ('took (it)'), JJP tr.

et projecit humi letusque jocatur amanti.
 Flexit ad hoc oculos vates risumque resolvit
 astantesque viros fecit convertere vultus
 in se mirantes quoniam ridere negarat.
 265 Rex quoque miratur percunctaturque furentem
 tam subito facti causas edicere risus
 adjecitque suis donaria plurima verbis.
 Ille tacet differtque suos exponere risus.
 At magis atque magis precio precibusque movere
 270 instabat Rodarchus eum. Tum denique vates
 indignatus ei pro munere talia fatur.
 ¶ 'Munus avarus amat cupidusque laborat habere.
 Hii faciles animos flectunt quocunque jubentur.
 Munere corrupti quod habent non sufficit illis.
 275 At michi sufficiunt glandes Calidonis amene
 et nitidi fontes per olentia prata fluentes.
 Munere non capior, sua munera tollat avarus,
 et nisi libertas detur repetamque virentes
 silvarum valles, risus aperire negabo.'
 280 Ergo cum nullo potuisset munere vatem
 flectere Rodarchus nec cur risisset haberet,
 confestim sua vincla viro dissolvere jussit
 datque potestatem nemorum deserta petendi
 ut velit optatam risus expromere causam.
 285 ¶ Tunc Merlinus ait, gaudens quia possit abire,
 'Iccirco risi quoniam Rodarche fuisti
 facto culpandus simul et laudandus eodem,
 dum traheres folium modo quod regina capillis
 nescia gestabat fieresque fidelior illi
 290 quam fuit illa tibi quando virgulta subivit
 quo suus occurrit secumque coivit adulter,
 dumque supina foret sparsis in crinibus hesit
 forte jacens folium quod nescius eripuisti.'
 ¶ Ergo super tali Rodarchus crimine tristis
 295 fit subito vultumque suum divertit ab illa
 dampnabatque diem qua se conjunxerat illi.
 Mota set illa nichil vultu ridente pudorem
 celat et alloquitur tali sermone maritum.
 ¶ 'Cur tristaris, amans? Cur sic irasceris ab re
 300 meque nec ex merito dampnas, credisque furenti

267-8 om. J.

270 rodarchus R, J, T.

281 rodarchus R, J, T; recessit T; hereret CV, haberet PP, B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

260 caught in her hair. So he reached up, pulled it out and threw it on
 the ground, with a cheerful joking word to his wife.

The prophet turned his eyes on this scene, and laughed. It made
 the men standing nearby turn to look at him in surprise, since he had
 been refusing to laugh. The king was also surprised, and pressed the
 madman to account for his unexpected laughter; and he reinforced
 his words with many gifts.

Merlin stayed silent, and avoided an explanation of his laughter.
 Rodarch continued to press him more and more, adding presents to
 270 prayers. At length the prophet grew angry at his generosity and said:

'A gift is what a miser loves and a grasping man works hard to
 get. Such men are corruptible by presents and will turn their
 shallow minds whichever way they are told, because what they have
 is not enough for them. But for me the acorns of pleasant Calidon
 are enough, and the sparkling streams that run through fragrant
 meadows. Let the miser take his gifts: gifts do not buy me. Unless
 I get my freedom and may go back to the green woodland valleys,
 I shall refuse to explain my laughter.'

280 So, since Rodarch had failed to change the prophet's mind by any
 gift or discover why he had laughed, he ordered the chains to be
 struck off at once and gave him permission to leave for the forest
 wilderness, so as to make him willing to give the explanation for
 which the king was eager.

Merlin, his spirits rising because he could now leave, then said:

'The reason I laughed, Rodarch, was that in one and the same
 act you earned both approval and disapproval. When just now you
 pulled out the leaf the queen unknowingly had in her hair, you were
 290 more faithful to her than she had been to you when she crept into
 the undergrowth, where her lover met her and lay with her. As she
 lay there, a leaf fallen by chance caught in her loosened hair. You
 plucked it out, unknowing.'

The moment Rodarch heard this grave charge, he was filled with
 gloomy anger. He turned his face from her and cursed the day he
 had married her. But she, unperturbed, hid her shame behind a
 smile and addressed her husband thus:

300 'Why so gloomy, my love? Why so angry over this, and so unjust
 in your blame of me, and why do you believe a lunatic who muddles

286 rodarche R, J, T.

294 rodarchus R, J, T.

296 que se CV, qua se PP, Mi, JJP tr, F.

qui ratione carens miscet mendacia veris?
 Multociens qui credit ei fit stulcior illo.
 Excipe nunc igitur ne sim decepta, probabo
 quod sit delirus, quod non sit vera locutus.’
 305 Ut plures alii fuerat puer unus in aula.
 Hunc cum prospiceret convolvit protinus artem
 ingeniosa novam qua vult convincere fratrem.
 Inde venire jubet puerum, fratremque precatur
 qua moriturus erit pueri predicere mortem.
 310 ¶ Ergo frater ei, ‘Soror o carissima’, dixit,
 ‘hic morietur homo de celsa rupe ruendo.’
 Illa sub hec ridens puero precepit abire
 et quibus indutus fuerat deponere vestes
 et vestire novas longosque recidere crines,
 315 sicque redire jubet ut eis appareat alter.
 Paruit ergo puer, rediit nam talis ad illos
 qualis erat jussus mutata veste redire.
 Mox iterum fratrem regina precatur et inquit,
 ‘Que mors huius erit narra, dilecte, sorori.’
 320 Tunc Merlinus ait, ‘Puer hic cum venerit etas
 mente vagans forti succumbet in arbore morti.’
 Dixerat illa suum sic est affata maritum,
 ‘Siccine te potuit falsus pervertere vates
 ut crimen tantum me commisisse putares?’
 325 Ac si scire velis qua sit ratione locutus,
 hoc nunc de puero censebis ficta fuisse
 que de me dixit dum silvas possit adire.
 Absit ut hoc faciam! Castum servabo cubile
 castaque semper ero dum flabit spiritus in me.
 330 Illum convici pueri de morte rogatum.
 Nunc quoque convincam, tu sedulus arbiter esto.’
 Hec ait et tacite puerum secedere jussit
 vesteque feminea vestire sicque redire.
 Mox puer abcessit jussumque subinde peregit,
 335 et sub feminea rediit quasi femina veste
 et stetit ante virum, cui sic regina jocando,
 ‘Eya, frater,’ ait, ‘dic mortem virginis huius’.
 ‘Hec virgo nec ne,’ dixit, ‘morietur in ampne’,
 frater ei, movitque sua ratione cachinnum
 340 regi Rodarcho, quoniam de morte rogatus

319 uaria CV, narra PP, B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

340 rodarcho R, J, T.

lies and truth together because he is out of his wits? Anyone who believes him becomes many times more fool than he. Now watch, and, if I am not mistaken, I shall prove that he is talking nonsense and has not told the truth.’

Among many others in the hall there was one particular boy. This clever woman noticed him and then and there thought of an ingenious trick to show up her brother. She called the boy over and asked her brother to predict the death the boy would die.

310 So her brother said to her: ‘Dearest sister, when he is a man, this lad will die by falling from a high rock.’

The queen smiled at this, and then told the boy to go away, take off the clothes he was wearing and put on others, and cut off his long hair. She told him that he was then to come in again, looking like another person. The boy did what he was told, for he returned to them in different clothes, as instructed. After a little while, the queen once more appealed to her brother, saying, ‘My dear, tell your sister what the death of this one will be.’

320 Merlin said, ‘When this boy grows up, he will meet a violent death in a tree though misjudgment.’

So he spoke. The queen, addressing her husband, said, ‘Has this false prophet been able to deceive you so far that you could think I had committed such a great crime as this? If you consider how much sense there is in what he has just said about this boy, you will realise that what he has said about me has been made up so that he can be off to the woods. As if I would do such a thing! I shall keep my bed chaste, and chaste shall I ever be while there is breath in me.

330 I showed him up in questioning him about the boy’s death. I shall now show him up again: you must watch and judge.’

So saying, she whispered to the boy to go out, dress himself in woman’s clothes and then come back. He soon after slipped away and quickly carried out her instructions. He returned dressed in woman’s clothing, looking like a girl. He came and stood in front of Merlin, to whom the queen said jokingly, ‘Well, brother, tell me of the death of this girl.’

‘Girl or not,’ said her brother to her, ‘she will die in a river.’

340 This made Rodarch laugh loudly at his powers of reasoning. For

unius pueri tres dixerat esse futuras.
 Ergo putabat eum de conjuge falsa locutum,
 nec credebat ei sed contristatur et odit
 quod sibi crediderat quod condempnarat amantem.
 345 Id regina videns veniam dat et oscula jungit,
 et blanditur ei letum quoque reddidit illum.
 ¶ Cogitat interea silvas Merlinus adire
 egressusque domum portas aperire jubebat.
 Set soror obstabat lacrimisque rogabat abortis
 350 ut secum remaneret adhuc tollatque furorem.
 Improbis illis suis non vult desistere ceptis,
 set perstat reserare fores et abire laborat,
 et fremit et pugnat famulosque fremendo coartat.
 Denique cum nullus posset retinere volentem
 355 ire virum, jussit cicius regina venire
 eius ad abcessum absentem Guendoloenam.
 Illa venit suplexque virum remanere precatur.
 Spernit at ille preces nec vult remanere nec illam
 sicut erat solitus gaudenti cernere vultu.
 360 Illa dolet fletuque fluit laniatque capillos,
 et secat ungue genas et humi moriendo volutat.
 Id regina videns affatur taliter illum.
 ‘Hec tua que moritur sic pro te Guendoloena,
 quid faciet? Dabiturve viro viduamve manere
 365 precipis, aut tecum quocumque recesseris ire?
 Ibit enim tecumque nemus nemorisque virentes
 leta colet saltus, dum te pociatur amante.’
 ¶ Vocibus hiis igitur respondit talia vates,
 ‘[Nolo soror pecudem patulo que fontis hiatu
 370 Diffundit latices ut uirginis urna sub estus
 Nec curam mutabo meam uelut orpheus olim
 Quādo suos calathos pueris commisit habendos
 Euridice stigas plus quam trānsnauit harenas]
 Mundus ab alterutro veneris sine labe manebo.
 375 ¶ Huic igitur detur nubendi justa facultas
 arbitrioque suo quem gestit ducere ducat.
 Precaveat tamen ipse sibi qui duxerit illam
 obuius ut numquam michi sit nec cominus astet,

349 Sēf dolor T; abortis CV, F, ab ortis PP, obortis Mi, JJP tr.

356 absessum R, J, eius ēf abscessum T; deflentem PP, B.

366-7 om. PP.

369-73 om. PP.

to a question about the death of a single boy he had given three predictions. Consequently, he thought Merlin had spoken falsely about his wife, and would not believe him. He bitterly regretted having believed him earlier and having condemned his wife. Seeing this, the queen forgave him. She kissed and caressed him and made him happy again.

350 Meanwhile Merlin was thinking of his journey to the woods: he left the house and ordered the gates to be opened. But his sister came and stood in the way. Her eyes brimmed with tears as she begged him to remain with her and put aside his wild ideas.

360 But he was determined and would not give up his plans. He continued to try to open the doors and strove to leave. He raged, he fought, and his raging forced the servants to open. At last, when all had failed to turn him from his resolution to leave, the queen sent for Guendoloena, who was elsewhere, to come as quickly as possible to see him depart. She came, she went on her knees to beg her husband to remain. But he rejected her pleas—he would not stay, and he would not look at her in his usual cheerful way. She was hurt; she dissolved into tears, tore her hair, scratched her cheeks and collapsed on the ground as though dying.

At the sight of this the queen said to him, ‘See, it is Guendoloena, dying for you here—what shall she do? Is she to re-marry? Do you tell her to remain as a widow?—or to go with you wherever you travel? She will go with you to the forest and will be happy to live in the green forest clearings, if only she can keep your love.’

370 To this speech the prophet replied, ‘[Sister, I do not want a cow that pours water in as broad a stream as the Virgin’s Urn in flood. Nor shall I change my care as Orpheus once did when Eurydice gave her baskets to the boys to hold before she swam across the sandy Styx.] I shall remain clear of both of you and undestroyed by love. So let her have her due chance of marriage and choose of her own accord whom she shall wed. But let the man who weds her take care

373 prius quam JJP (‘in early Latin and apparently in the Middle Ages this is metrically admissible’). post quam F, who otherwise prints the passage without comment.

374 sine labe PP, B, Mi, JJP tr.

set se divertat ne si michi congregiendi
 380 copia prestetur vibratum sentiat ensem.
 Cumque dies aderit sollempni lege jugali
 diverseque dapes convivis distribuentur,
 ipsemet interero donis munitus honestis
 385 ditaboque datam profuse Guendoloenam'.
 Dixerat atque vale gradiens subjunxit utrique
 et peccit silvas nullo prohibente cupitas.
 Guendoloena manet spectans in limine tristis
 et regina simul casuque moventur amici.
 Miranturque nimis rerum secreta furentem
 390 nosse virum veneremque sue scivisse sororis.
 Mentitumque tamen pueri de morte putebant
 quam dixit ternam cum dicere debuit unam.
 Inde diu sua visa fuit vox vana per annos
 donec ad etatem venit puer ille virilem.
 395 Tum cunctis patefacta fuit multisque probata.
 Nam dum venatum canibus comitantibus iret,
 aspexit cervum nemoris sub fronde latentem
 dissolvitque canes, qui cervo devia viso
 transcendunt complentque suis latratibus auras.
 400 Ipsemet urget equum calcaribus insequiturque
 nunc cornu nunc ore monens operisque ministros
 increpat, atque jubet cursu ciciore venire.
 Mons ibi celsus erat circumdatus undique saxis,
 juxta quem fluvius subtus per plana fluebat.
 405 Hunc fera transcendit fugiens dum venit in amnem
 exegitque suas solito de more latebras.
 Instigat juvenis montem quoque tramite recto
 preterit et cervum per saxa jacentia querit.
 Contigit interea dum duceret impetus ipsum
 410 labi quadrupedem celsa de rupe virumque
 forte per abruptum montis cecidisse sub amnem,
 ut tamen hereret pes eius in arbore quadam
 et submersa forent sub flumine cetera membra.
 Sicque ruit mersusque fuit lignoque pependit,
 415 et fecit vatem per terna pericula verum.
 Qui nemus ingressus fuerat ritumque ferino
 vivebat, paciens concrete frigoris alge
 sub nive sub pluvia sub iniquo flamine venti,

388 om. CV. *ƒƒP* added from H, R, J, T (movetur T). *F* prints also, with general ref. to the *Polychronicon*.

392 *tīnañ* PP.

he never gets in my path or comes near me. Let him tread another
 380 road. For should it chance he meets me, he may feel my flashing
 sword. Yet when the day comes for the solemn joining in marriage
 and the elaborate banquet is set before the guests, I myself shall be
 there, provided with fine gifts, and shall endow Guendoloena
 handsomely when she is given away in marriage.'

He finished speaking, and, saying farewell to each of them as he went, set out for the woods he loved: no-one stopped him.

Guendoloena stayed sadly watching in the doorway, the queen
 beside her. Both were moved by the fate of their dear one. They
 thought how remarkable it was that a man deranged should have
 390 so much secret knowledge and that he had been aware of his own
 sister's love affair. Still, they thought he had lied about the boy's
 death, in speaking of three deaths when he ought to have spoken of
 only one. So for many long years his pronouncement seemed an
 empty one, until the boy himself reached manhood. Then its force
 became universally apparent, and many were convinced.

While hunting with a pack of dogs, the youth saw a stag hiding
 in the forest undergrowth. He unleashed the dogs: at the sight of the
 stag they tore upwards along the rough tracks, filling the air with
 400 their baying. He spurred his horse in pursuit, directing the huntsmen
 by sounding his horn and by shouting, and urged them to come on
 with greater speed.

There was a high hill, ringed with rocks, with a river running
 across the plain at its foot. The quarry crossed the hill and fled
 towards the river in search of its usual type of cover. The young man
 pressed on and took a straight course over the mountain, looking
 for the stag among the scattered rocks. But, in his headlong course,
 410 his horse happened to slip and went over a high precipice, and its
 rider plunged down the steep cliff slope into the river. But he fell
 in such a way that one foot caught in a tree and the rest of his body
 was submerged in the flowing stream. So then, he fell—he was
 drowned—he hung from a tree; and by his triple death he proved
 the prophet a true one.

Merlin had entered the forest and was living an animal life, existing on frozen moss in the snow, in the rain, in the angry blast.

395 Tunc demum patefacta PP; prolata J.

400-2 om. PP.

417 alge CV, aquae F.

idque placebat ei pocius quam jura per urbes
 420 exercere suas gentesque domare feroces.
 Interea ducente viro labentibus annis
 cum grege silvestri talem per tempora vitam,
 Guendoloena datur nubendi lege marito.
 Nox erat et nitide radiabant cornua lune
 425 cunctaque convexi splendebant lumina celi.
 Purior aer erat solito, nam frigidus atrox
 expulerat nubes Boreas celumque serenum
 reddiderat sicco detergens nubila flatu.
 Sidereum cursum vates spectabat ab alto
 430 monte, loquens tacite sub divo talia dicens.
 'Quid sibi vult radius Martis, regemne peremptum
 portendit noviter rutilans aliumque futurum?
 Sic equidem video, nam Constantinus obivit
 ipsiusque nepos scelerata sorte Conanus
 435 per patrum jugulum sumpto diademate rex est.
 At tu, summa Venus, que certo limite labens
 infra zodiacum solem comitaris euntem,
 quid tibi cum radio qui duplex ethera findit?
 Discidiumne mei sectus portendit amoris?
 440 Talis enim radius divisos signat amores.
 Forsitan absentem me Guendoloena reliquit
 alteriusque viri gaudens complexibus heret.
 Sic igitur vincor, sic alter fungitur illa,
 sic mea jura michi dum demoror eripiuntur.
 445 Sic equidem, nam segnis amans superatur ab illo
 qui non est segnis nec abest set cominus instat.
 At non invideo, nubat nunc omine dextro
 utaturque novo me permittente marito,
 crastina cumque dies illuxerit, ibo feramque
 450 mecum munus ei promissum quando recessi.'
 Dixerat, et silvas et saltus circuit omnes
 cervorumque greges agmen collegit in unum
 et damas capreasque simul cervoque resedit,
 et veniente die compellens agmina pre se
 455 festinans vadit quo nubit Guendoloena.
 Postquam venit eo pacienter stare coegit

424 radiabant CV radiabant PP, B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

426-8 om. PP.

436 tramite B, Mi.

456-7 om. T.

Yet that satisfied him more than administering the law in cities and
 420 ruling over a warrior people. Meanwhile, as the years were slipping
 past and her husband was still leading this sort of life among his
 woodland flock, Guendoloena became legally promised in marriage.

It was night, and the horned moon was shining brightly; all the
 lights of the vault of heaven were glittering. The air had an extra
 clarity, for a bitterly cold north wind had blown away the clouds,
 absorbed the mists on its drying breath and left the sky serene again.
 The prophet was watching the stars in their courses from a high hill.
 430 He was out in the open, talking to himself and saying:

'What means this ray from Mars? Does its new ruddy glow mean
 a king dead and another king to be? I see it so. Constantine has died
 and by an evil chance his nephew Conan has seized the crown
 through the murder of an uncle and is king. Highest Venus, you sail
 along within your prescribed bounds in company with the sun in his
 path beneath the zodiac: what now of your twin ray cutting through
 the ether? Does its division foretell the parting of my love? Such is
 440 the ray that speaks of love divided. Perhaps Guendoloena has
 abandoned me, now that I am away. Perhaps she is happy in the
 close embrace of another man. So I lose, another wins her. My
 rights are taken from me while I linger here. Indeed, a laggard
 lover loses to the lover who is not a laggard nor absent but near and
 urgent. Yet I bear no grudge. She may marry now the time is
 right, and with my permission enjoy a new husband. When to-
 450 morrow dawns, I will go and take with me the present I promised
 her when I left.'

So saying, he set off round all the woods and clearings, and
 organized a herd of stags into a single line; so, too, with does and
 with she-goats. He seated himself on a stag, and at the coming of the
 day he set off, driving his lines before him. So he came with speed
 to the place of Guendoloena's wedding. Arriving there, he made the

cervos ante fores proclamans, 'Guendoloena,
 Guendoloena veni! Te talia munera spectant.'
 Ocius ergo venit subridens Guendoloena,
 460 gestarique virum cervo miratur et illum
 sic parere viro, tantum quoque posse ferarum
 uniri numerum, quas pre se solus agebat
 sicut pastor oves quas ducere suevit ad herbas.
 ¶ Stabat ab excelsa sponsus spectando fenestra
 465 in solio mirans equitem risumque movebat.
 Ast ubi vidit eum vates animoque quis esset
 calluit, extemplo divulsit cornua cervo
 quo gestabatur vibrataque jecit in illum,
 et caput illius penitus contrivit eumque
 470 reddidit exanimem vitamque fugavit in auras.
 Ocius inde suum talorum verbere cervum
 diffugiens egit silvasque redire paravit.
 Egrediuntur ad hec ex omni parte clientes
 et celeri cursu vatem per rura sequuntur.
 475 Ille quidem velox sic precurrebat ut isset
 ad nemus intactus nisi previus amnis obsesset.
 Nam dum torrentem fera prosiliendo mearet,
 elapsus rapida cecidit Merlinus in unda.
 Circueunt ripas famuli capiuntque natantem
 480 adducuntque domum vinctumque dedere sorori.
 ¶ Captus item vates fit tristis et optat obire
 ad silvas pugnatque suos dissolvere nexus,
 et ridere negat potumque cibumque refutat
 tristiciaque sua tristem facit esse sororem.
 485 Ergo videns illum Rodarchus pellere cunctam
 leticiam nec velle dapes libare paratas,
 educi precepit eum miseratus in urbem
 per fora per populos ut letior esset eundo
 resque videndo novas que vendebantur ibidem.
 490 ¶ Ergo vir eductus dum progredere ab aula,
 inspicit ante fores famulem sub paupere cultu
 qui servabat eas poscentem pretereuntes
 ore tremente viros ad vestes munus emendas.

stags stand quietly outside the gates, then shouted, 'Guendoloena, Guendoloena, come out! What presents are looking for you!'

460 Guendoloena came quickly, all smiles, and was astonished to see a man riding a stag and it obeying him, astonished that so many animals of the wild could be brought together and that he alone was driving them before him like a shepherd accustomed to taking his sheep to pasture.

The bridegroom was standing at a high window, looking in amazement at the rider on his seat; and he broke into a laugh. When the prophet saw him and realised who he was, he promptly wrenched off the horns of the stag he rode. He whirled the horns round and threw them at the bridegroom. He crushed the bridegroom's head
 470 right in, knocking him lifeless, and drove his spirit to the winds.

In a moment the prophet dug his heels into his stag and set it flying and was on his way back to the woods. The incident brought out retainers from every corner, and they followed the bard in hot pursuit across country. But he went at such a pace that he would have reached the forest unscathed had it not been for a river in his path. While his beast was bounding across the torrent, Merlin slipped and fell into the fast current. The servants ranged themselves along the bank and captured him as he swam. They brought
 480 him home, bound him and handed him over to his sister.

The captured prophet turned surly, wanted to go off to the woods and fought to get loose. He would not smile or take food or drink; his gloom made his sister gloomy, too. Rodarch saw him losing all cheerfulness and refusing to taste the fine meals prepared for him. So in pity he ordered him to be taken out into the city among the people in the market place, hoping that he would be cheered up by the visit and by the sight of the various novelties on sale there. He
 490 was taken out, and on the way from the palace he saw a badly dressed servant in front of the gates. He was the doorman, and he was asking the passers-by in a quavering voice for money to buy

458-8 om. J.

458 Gendoloena CV, Guendoloena H, R, T, B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

485 rodarchus R, J, T.

490 om. T.

Mox stetit et risit vates miratus egentem.
 495 Illinc progressus nova calciamenta tenentem
 spectabat juvenem commercantemque tacones.
 Tunc iterum risit renuitque diutius ire
 per fora spectandus populis quos inspiciebat.
 At nemus optabat quod crebro respiciebat
 500 quo nitebatur vetitos divertere gressus.
 ¶ Inde domum famuli redeunt ipsumque cachinnum
 bis movisse ferunt, silvas quoque velle redire.
 Ocius ergo volens Rodarchus scire quid esset
 quod portendisset risu, dissolvere nexus
 505 ilico jussit ei concedens posse reverti
 ad solitas silvas si risus exposuisset.
 Letior assistens respondit talia vates.
 ¶ 'Janitor ante fores tenui sub veste sedebat
 et velut esset inops rogabat pretereuntes
 510 ut largirentur sibi quo vestes emerentur.
 Ipsemet interea subter se denariorum
 occultos cumulos occultus dives habebat.
 Illud ego risi, tu terram verte sub ipso,
 nummos invenies servatos tempore longo.
 515 Illinc ulterius versus fora ductus ementem
 calciamenta virum vidi pariterque tacones,
 ut postquam dissuta forent usuque forata
 illa resarciret primosque pararet ad usus.
 Illud item risi, quoniam nec calciamentis
 520 nec [superaddet eis] miser ille taconibus uti
 postmodo compos erit, quia jam submersus in undis
 fluctuat ad ripas. Tu vade videre, videbis.'
 Dicta probare viri cupiens Rodarchus ad ampnem
 circumquaque suos jubet ocius ire clientes,
 525 ut si forte virum per proxima littora talem
 demersum videant festina voce renarrent.
 Jussa ducis peragunt, nam flumina circumeuntes

496 Spectavit PP. *Mi* read 'spectavi' in some MSS; Parry denied this was so.

503 rodarchus R, J, T.

504 & 506 om. T.

511 in tērra T.

513 Jllud ergo CV, Illus ergo R, Illud *ego* BC. The second syllable of 'ergo' can be short (*VM* 7), not usually the first, and a stress principle, as in the lighter verse of the day, would have to be assumed. It is possible, but substituting 'ego' may be better; it would also sharpen 'tu' in the same line.

518 resartiret CV, F, resarciret T, B, *Mi*, *JJP* tr.

clothes. The prophet stopped and laughed in astonishment at the poor man. He went on further and saw a young man with new shoes in his hand purchasing leather patches. The prophet laughed again; but he would go no further through the market place to be a spectacle for the people he was looking at. He longed for the forest, often
 500 looked back towards it, and tried in spite of refusals to go in that direction.

On reaching home, the servants told the story of his two laughs and of his attempt to return to the woods. Rodarch wanted to know what his laughter had meant and promptly issued orders for his release, and gave him permission to go back to his familiar woods if he would explain his laughs.

Merlin, recovering his spirits, answered, 'The doorman in front of the gates was sitting in shabby clothes and was begging passers-by
 510 to give him money for buying clothes. Yet all the time he was secretly rich, for he had a secret hoard of coins under him. So I laughed. Turn up the earth beneath him; you will find coins which have been hidden there a long time. From there they took me further on to the market place, and I saw a man buying shoes and with them the patches to repair and renew them when worn and holed by use. I laughed again: the poor fellow will be in no position to use his shoes, or fix the [extra] patches on them later. He is already drowned and floating in to shore. Go and look for yourself: you will see.'

To check his words Rodarch ordered his men to make an immediate search all along the river and to hurry back and tell him at once if they saw such a drowned man by the shore. They carried

520 superaddet CV, *superaddit* B, *Mi*, *JJP*, *superadditis* F. Parry says, 'I follow Black's arrangement of this passage; it does not satisfy me but I cannot suggest a better interpretation.' He translates, '...use the shoe nor', he added, 'the patches...'; but this construction is not easy to accept. Faral's *superadditis* gives a good sense (which has been followed in the present version), but it does not scan on normal quantity.

521 om. T.

523 rodarchus R, J, T.

527 flūuia CV, F, flumina PP, later hand in margin of CV, *Mi*, *JJP* tr.

submersum juvenem squalentes inter harenas
 inveniunt redeuntque domum regique renarrant.
 530 At rex interea forium custode remoto
 suffodit et vertit terram reperitque sub ipsa
 thesaurum positum vatemque jocosus adorat.
 His igitur gestis vates properabat abire
 ad solitas silvas populos exosus in urbe.
 535 Precipiebat ei secum regina manere
 optatumque nemus postponere donec abirent
 que nunc instabant candentis frigora brume
 atque rediret item teneris cum fructibus estas,
 unde frui posset dum tempora sole calerent.
 540 Ille repugnabat, verbis et talibus illam
 alloquitur cupiens secedere frigore spreto.
 ¶ 'O dilecta soror, quid me retinere laboras?
 Non me bruma suis poterit terrere procellis,
 non gelidus Boreas cum flatu sevit iniquo
 545 balantumque greges subita cum grandine ledit,
 non cum turbat aquas diffusis imbribus Auster,
 quin nemorum deserta petam saltusque virentes.
 Contentus modico potero perferre pruina.
 Illic arboreis sub frondibus inter olentes
 550 herbarum flores estate jacere juvabit.
 Ne tamen esca michi brumali tempore desit,
 in silvis compone domos adhibeque clientes
 obsequiumque michi facient escasque parabunt
 cum tellus gramen fructumque negaverit arbor.
 555 Ante domos alias unam compone remotam
 cui sex dena decem dabis hostia totque fenestras,
 per quas ignivomum videam cum Venere Phebum
 inspiciamque polo labentia sydera noctu,
 que me de populo regni ventura docebunt,
 560 totque notatores que dicam scribere docti
 assint et studeant carmen mandare tabellis.
 Tu quoque sepe veni, soror o dilecta, meamque
 tunc poteris relevare famem potuque ciboque.'
 Dixit et ad silvas festinis gressibus ivit.
 565 Paruit ergo soror nam jussam condidit aulam

534 and 536-9 om. H, R, J.

534-539 om. T.

544-551 om. PP.

546 conturbat CV, and all except *F*, cum turbat *F*.

out the prince's instructions, and on their tour of the rivers they found the drowned youth on a desolate strand. They returned home and told the king.

530 Meanwhile the king had had the doorman moved and had dug and turned up the earth and found a hoard secreted beneath the surface. In high spirits he congratulated the prophet.

After this incident the prophet was anxious to be off to his familiar woods: he hated the people in the city. The queen advised him to stay with her and delay his return to his beloved forest until the white winter frosts, now not far ahead, had abated. When summer returned once more with its delicate fruit, he could live on them in a season of warmth.

540 He rejected this: he cared little about the cold in his eagerness to be away, and told her:

'Why, my dear sister, do you strive so hard to hold me back? Neither winter with its storms, nor the chill north wind when it rages with savage blast and lashes the flocks of bleating sheep with sudden hail-shower, nor the south wind when it stirs the waters with falling rain will be able to deter me from seeking the forest wildernesses and the green glades. I need little: I shall be able to endure the frost, and in summer it will be bliss to lie under leafy trees among the fragrant flowers. Still, food might fail me in winter. So raise me a house, send me retainers to serve me and prepare meals in the time when the earth refuses its grain and the tree its fruit. Before the other buildings build me a remote one to which you will give seventy doors and as many windows, through which I may see fire-breathing Phoebus with Venus, and watch by night the stars wheeling in the firmament; and they will teach me about the future of the nation.

560 'Let there be as many secretaries trained to record what I say, and let them concentrate on committing my prophetic song to paper. Come here often yourself, dear sister, and you will be able to stay my hunger with food and drink.'

With these words he hurried off to the woods. His sister obeyed him, for she built the hall as prescribed and the other houses and

557 igninouum R, CV, igniuomum H, T, B, Mi, JJP tr, F, ignoñinuū (?) R, ignimouuū J; febum J.

558 inspitiam quē CV, inspiciamque PP, B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

atque domos alias et quicquid iusserat illi.
 Ille quidem dum poma manent Phebusque per astra
 altius ascendit gaudet sub fronde manere
 ac peragrare nemus zephyris mulcentibus ornos.
 570 Tunc veniebat yems rigidis hirsuta procellis
 que nemus et terras fructu spoliabat ab omni
 deficeretque sibi pluviis instantibus esca.
 Tristis et esuriens dictam veniebat ad aulam.
 Illic multociens aderat regina dapesque
 575 et potum pariter fratri gavisus ferebat,
 qui postquam variis sese recreaverat escis
 mox assurgebat complaudebatque sorori.
 Deinde domum peragrans ad sidera respiciebat
 talia dum caneret que tunc ventura sciebat.
 580 ¶ 'O rabiem Britonum, quos copia diviciarum
 usque superveniens ultra quam debeat effert!
 Nolunt pace frui, stimulis agitantur Herinis.
 Civiles acies cognataque prelia miscent.
 Ecclesias Domini paciuntur habere ruinam
 585 pontificesque sacros ad regna remota repellunt.
 Cornubiensis apri conturbant queque nepotes.
 Insidias sibimet ponentes ense nephando,
 interimunt sese, nec regno jure potiri
 expectare volunt regni diademate raptō.
 590 Illis quartus erit crudelior asperiorque.
 ¶ Hunc lupus equoreus debellans vincet et ultra
 Sabrinam victum per barbara regna fugabit.
 Idem Kaerkeri circumdabit obsidione
 passeribusque domos et menia trudet ad imum.
 595 Classe petet Gallos set telo regis obibit.
 Rodarchus moritur, post quem discordia longa
 Scotos et Cumbros per longum tempus habebit
 donec crescenti tribuatur Cumbria denti.

567 pēfacta CV, per astra B, Mi (both reading 'pacta'), JJP tr, per alta F (whose footnote gives his suggestion as 'per olta' and CV's reading as 'peraeta': possibly both are misprints).

567-9 om. PP.

570 cumque veniret B, Mi, F; hyemps miseris R. Parry translates 'Tunc veniebat' and 'deficeretque' as straight indicatives. The present version takes 'deficeret' to be part of an incompletely expressed conditional phrase.

578 Inde PP.

580 Brittonum Ha.

582 Faral prints 'herinis', but the footnote has, 'herinus à corriger probablement en Erinis, considéré comme un génitif'.

all else he had commanded her. But while there were still apples and the sun rose higher in the heaven, he was happy to live under the leafy trees and wander in the forest where breezes caressed the rowans.

570 Then winter, harsh tempestuous winter, came to strip forest and earth of all their produce, and with the coming of the rains food might have failed him. Hungry and heavy of heart he used to come to his hall. There the queen would often come to visit him, happy to serve him both food and drink. He would dine from the varied dishes, and soon after rise, with a compliment to his sister; then he would wander through the house gazing at the stars, and sing in this manner of the future that he knew would be:

580 'O the madness of the Britons! Their universal affluence leads them to excess. They are not satisfied with peace. A Fury goads them on. They engage in civil war and family feuds. They allow the churches of the Lord to go to ruin, and drive the holy bishops out into distant lands. The nephews of the Cornish boar disrupt everything. They lay ambushes for each other and put one another to death with their evil swords: they cannot wait to succeed lawfully, but seize the crown. The fourth after them will be crueller and harsher. A sea-wolf will engage him and defeat him and drive him in defeat across the Severn into wilder realms. This wolf will lay siege to Cirencester and by means of sparrows raze its walls and houses to the ground. He will then set off for France with a fleet, but will die by a king's spear.

590 'Rodarch is dying. After his death Scotland and Cumbria will quarrel long, until Cumbria is given over to a growing tooth.

585 om. J.

586-95 om. Ha.

590 Illic CV, F, Illis PP, Cl, B, Mi, JJP tr.

591 Hinc CV, F, Hunc H, J, B, Mi, JJP tr; om. T.

593 Inde PP; kaerkeii CV, kaerkey J, T, Kaerkeri JJP, F.

595 petit Cl; sed Cl; obiuit CV, obibat R, B, Mi, JJP tr (but no note), F, obibunt Cl.

596 rodarthus R, J, T, rodartus Cl, regi darchus Ha; postquā CV, pōst quem H, R, J, Ha.

597 scocios Cl; cambros Ha.

598 Cambria Ha; genti R, F.

Cambri Gewissos post illos Cornubienses
 600 afficient bello nec eos lex ulla domabit.
 Kambria gaudebit suffuso sanguine semper.
 Gens inimica deo, quid gaudes sanguine fuso?
 Kambria compellet fratres committere pugnas
 et dampnare suos scelerata morte nepotes.
 605 ¶ Scotorum cunei trans Humbrum sepius ibunt
 obstantesque viros periment pietate remota,
 non impune tamen, nam cesus ductor obibit.
 Nomen habebit equi qui fiet sevus in illo.
 Finibus ex nostris heres expulsus abibit.
 610 Scote, reconde tuos quos nudas ocuis enses,
 vis tibi dispar erit nostra cum gente feroci.
 ¶ Corruet urbs Alclud nec eam reparabit in evum
 rex aliquis donec subdatur Scottus apello.
 ¶ Urbs Loel spoliata suo pastore vacabit
 615 donec reddat ei cambucam virga Leonis.
 Urbs Sigeni et turres et magna palatia plangent
 diruta donec eant ad pristina predia Cambri.
 ¶ Kaerperis in portu sua menia rupta videbit
 donec eam locuples cum vulpis dente reformet.
 620 ¶ Urbs Rutupi portus in litore strata jacebit.
 Restaurabit eam galeata nave Ruthenus.
 Menia Menevie reparabit quintus ab illo
 per quem palla sibi reddetur dempta per annos,
 inque tuo, Sabrina, sinu cadet Urbs Legionum
 625 amittetque suos cives per tempora longa.
 Hos sibi reddet item cum venerit Ursus in Agno.
 Saxonici reges expulsis civibus urbes
 rura domosque simul per tempora longa tenebunt.
 Ex hiis gestabunt ter tres diadema dracones.

599 Cambrigei missos CV, cambri gemussos gemussi cornubienses H, R, J,
 cambri gemussos gemussi cornubientes T, cambrigei missos gennissent Cl,
 Cambri *gewissos* JJP, F. (Cambrigei read by B.)

599–604 om. Ha.

601 & 603 Cambria PP, Cl.

601 diffuso R, J, T, diffiso H.

605 humbriam (i underdotted) R, vmbrie T.

608–9 om. Ha.

610 Scotte Cl.

615 (CV 619) cambucam CV, B, Mi, cambutam F.

612–621 The line-order used is that accepted by JJP *tr*, following Cl, which is
 largely supported by PP. Correspondences between Cl (= present text order)
 and CV are: 612/612, 613/613 (om. PP), 614/618 (om. PP), 615/619, 616/614,
 617/615, 618/616, 619/617, 620–1/620–1. F keeps CV's order.

600 'The Welsh will make war on Gwent, and afterwards on Cornwall,
 nor shall any law constrain them. (Wales will always enjoy spilling
 blood. Nation abominable to God, why do you enjoy spilt blood?)
 Wales will force brothers into fighting and condemning their own
 nephews to a foul death.

'Scottish forces will often cross the Humber, putting all opposition
 pitilessly to death: not with impunity, however, for their leader will
 be killed, he of the horse name and savage with it. His heir will be
 610 driven headlong from our frontiers. Scots, sheath the swords you
 bare too often. Your power will not prove a match for our fierce
 nation.

'Dumbarton will fall, with no king to re-build it for an age, until
 the Scot is defeated by a boar. Carlisle will be deprived of its pastor
 and stand vacant until the Lion's authority restores the staff of
 office to it. The towers and great palaces of Segontium will be torn
 down, and they will weep there until the Welsh go to their old
 domain.

'Porchester will see its walls lying broken in its harbour till a rich
 620 man with a fox's tooth re-builds them. The city of Richborough will
 also lie strewn along the harbour shore. It will be a man from
 Flanders in a crested ship who will restore them. The fifth from him
 will repair the walls of St David's, and through him, too, the pall lost
 for many years will be recovered. The City of the Legions will fall
 into your bosom, Sabrina. It will lose its citizens for a long age.
 When the Bear-in-Lamb comes, he will bring them back.

'Saxon kings will turn out citizens and hold their cities, lands and
 homes for a long time. Among these kings three dragons will three

612–626 om. Ha.

612 acelud CV, *Acelud* B, F, Alclud H, JJP *tr*, acliud R, J, aliud T, asclud Cl.
Alclud BC, after HRB (Trin. 1125).

613 scotcus CV, scotus Cl, *Scottus* B, Mi, F; *duello* JJP, F. Parry translated the
 end of the line as 'by war'; but *duello*, an old form of *bello*, does not fit the metre.
 I have taken *apello* to be intended as a diminutive from *aper*, a boar, assuming it
 to be an animal symbol for a person, as not infrequently in prophecies a boar is
 used. The line may be unauthentic.

616 (CV 614) sigius R, sigein J, T, Cl; plangunt CV, F, plangent PP, Mi.

618 (CV 616) Kaeptis CV, Parry records the readings of H, R, J in his *apparatus*
criticus, p. 66, as Caerperis, and in a footnote to the translation, p. 67, as Kaerperis,
 Carperis T, *Kaerperis* F.

620 rutipi R, J, ruoupi Cl; littora CV, F, litore PP, Cl, Mi, JJP *tr*.

621 rutenus CV, ruthenus H, R, T.

630 Ducenti monachi perimentur in Urbe Leyri,
 et duce depulso vacuabit menia Saxo.
 Qui prior ex Anglis erit in diademate Bruti
 restaurabit item vacuatam cedibus urbem.
 Gens fera per patriam prohibebit crisma sacrare
 635 inque Dei domibus ponet simulachra deorum.
 Postmodo Roma Deum reddet mediante cuculla
 rorabitque domos sacro sacer imbre sacerdos,
 quas renovabit item pastoribus intro locatis.
 Legis divine servabunt jussa subinde,
 640 plures ex illis et celo jure fruentur.
 Id violabit item gens impia plena veneno
 miscebitque simul violenter fasque nephasque.
 Vendet in extremos fines trans equora natos
 cognatosque suos iramque Tonantis inibit.
 645 O scelus infandum, quem conditor orbis honore
 celi dignatus cum libertate creavit,
 illum more bovis vendi ducique ligatum!
 Cessabis miserande Deo qui proditor olim
 in dominum fueras cum primum regna subisti.
 650 Classe supervenient Daci populoque subacto
 regnabunt breviter propulsatique redibunt.
 His duo jura dabunt quos ledet acumine caude
 federis oblitus pro sceptri stemate Serpens.
 Indeque Neustrenses ligno trans equora vecti
 655 vultus ante suos et vultus retro ferentes
 ferratis tunicis et acutis ensibus Anglos
 acriter invadent, periment campoque fruentur.
 Plurima regna sibi submittent atque domabunt
 externas gentes per tempora donec Erinus
 660 circumquaque volans virus diffundet in ipsos.
 Tum pax atque fides et virtus omnis abibit,
 undique per patrias committent prelia cives
 virque virum prodet, non invenietur amicus.
 Conjuge despecta meretrices sponsus adibit
 665 sponsaque cui cupiet despecto conjuge nubet.
 Non honor ecclesiis servabitur, ordo peribit.

630 leiri H, lyeri R.

630-49 om. Ha.

631 uacuabunt PP.

633 sedibus PP.

637 Rorabit CV, rorabit PP, B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

648 Cessabit CV, Cessabis Cl, B, JJP tr, F, Cessabis miserande draco PP.

630 times wear the crown. Two hundred monks will perish in Leicester:
 the Saxon will overthrow the city's leader and leave the city empty
 within its walls. The first Angle to wear the crown of Brutus will
 restore the city which was emptied by that massacre.

'A savage nation will forbid the rite of anointing throughout the
 land and set up images of gods in the shrines of God. Later, Rome will
 restore God, with a monk's aid; and a holy priest will sprinkle God's
 shrines with holy water. He will rebuild the shrines, and their pastors
 will be set once more within them. Many of them will thereafter be
 640 obedient to the commands of divine law and earn their right to
 heaven. But an irreligious people full of venom will break that peace,
 will violently confound right and wrong, will sell their sons and
 relatives into slavery in the far corners of the earth across the sea
 and incur the anger of the Thunderer.

'What an unutterable crime that man, whom the Creator of the
 universe made worthy of heaven in honourable liberty, should be
 roped and led to the sale like a cow!

'You wretch, who turned traitor to your lord when you came into
 650 the kingdom, you will attend to God. The Danes will come with a
 fleet, defeat our people and reign for a short while: they will be
 driven out and return home. Two men will administer them. A snake
 will forget its pact and strike them with its stinging tail instead of its
 garlanded sceptre.

'Then the Normans will come over the sea in wooden ships,
 bearing a face in front of them and a face at their back. Clad in their
 iron armour, they will make a violent attack with sharp swords on
 the Angles, kill them and win the field. They will bring many
 kingdoms under them and rule foreign nations for a time, till a Fury
 660 flying all around will infect them with its poison. Peace, faith and all
 honour will depart, and there will be civil war throughout the land.
 Man will betray his fellow, and friendship will not be found.
 Husbands will have no regard for their wives and will turn to
 whores: wives, regardless of their husbands, will mate with whom
 they wish. Respect for the church will dwindle, and the order will

652-3 om. Ha.

654 veustrenses R.

659 erineus Cl, Herius Ha.

665 om. Ha.

Pontifices tunc arma ferent, tunc castra sequentur,
 in tellure sacra turrets et menia ponent
 militibusque dabunt quod deberetur egenis.
 670 Diviciis rapti mundano tramite current
 eripientque Deo quod sacra tyara vetabit.
 Tres diadema ferent post quos favor ille novorum.
 Quartus erit sceptris pietas cui leva nocebit
 donec sit genitore suo vestitus ut apri
 675 dentibus accinctus galeati transeat umbram.
 Quatuor ungentur vice versa summa petentes,
 et duo succedent qui sic diadema rotabunt
 ut moveant Gallos in se fera bella movere.
 Sextus Hibernenses et eorum menia vertet,
 680 qui pius et prudens populos renovabit et urbes.
 Hec Vortigerno cecini prolixius olim
 exponendo duum sibi mistica bella draconum
 in ripa stagni quando consedimus hausti.
 At tu vade domum morientem visere regem,
 685 o dilecta soror, Thelgesinoque venire
 precipe namque loqui desidero plurima secum.
 Venit enim noviter de partibus Armoricanis
 dulcia quo didicit sapientis dogmata Gilde.⁷
 It Ganiada domum Thelgesinumque reversum
 690 defunctumque ducem reperit tristesque clientes.
 Ergo fluens lacrimis collabitur inter amicos
 et laniat crines et profert talia dicens.
 ¶ 'Funera Rodarchi, mulieres, plangite mecum
 ac deflete virum qualem non protulit orbis
 695 hactenus in nostro quantum discernimus evo.
 Pacis amator erat, populo nam jura feroci
 sic dabat ut nulli vis inferretur ab ullo.
 Tractabat sanctum justo moderamine clerum,
 jure regi populos summos humilesque sinebat.

667 sequentur CV, F, struentur H, R, J, JJP tr, seruantur T, fruent Ha. H, R, J's reading, accepted by Parry, is un-metrical, and *castra sequentur* is a reasonable phrase.

670 capti H.

672 per quos CV, post quos PP, Ha, JJP tr, F.

673 quintus Ha.

674-5 om. Ha.

676 ungentur T, vērsa vice Cl.

677 quia sic CV qui sic PP, Ha, JJP tr, F.

678 moneant CV, moueant, H, Ha, B, JJP tr, F; bella monere T.

679 hibernensis Cl; nomina CV, menia PP, Ha, Cl, JJP tr, F (*moenia*).

perish. Bishops will then bear arms, will then follow the military life, will set up towers and walls on sacred ground and give to soldiers what should go to the poor. They will be swept along by riches and follow the worldly path, and take from God what their holy office forbids them to take.

670 'Three will wear the crown, after whom will be that desire for new men. The fourth in power will be harmed by his clumsy piety until he puts on his father's clothes and so, girt with boar's teeth, crosses the shadow of the Helmeted Man. Four of those anointed will strive in turn for the supreme power; and two who win it will alternate on the throne in such a way as to tempt the French to start a fierce campaign against them. The sixth will overthrow the Irish and pull down their walls. By his piety and foresight he will 680 re-establish our people and cities.

'All this I once predicted at greater length to Vortigern when I was explaining to him the mystic battle of the two dragons as we sat on the bank of the drained pool. But now, dear sister, go home and attend to the dying king. Bid Taliesin come. I have much I wish to discuss with him, since he has only recently returned from Brittany, where he has been enjoying the sweets of learning under the wise Gildas.'

690 Home went Ganiada and found Taliesin returned, the prince dead and the court in mourning. She collapsed in tears into the arms of her friends, tearing her hair and crying out:

'Weep with me, women, the death of Rodarch. Mourn for a man whose like earth has not been known to produce before in our age. He was a lover of peace, for he so administered a warrior people that there was no violence between man and man. He treated the holy priest with due consideration and made the rule of law avail-

681-3 om. PP.

681-950 om. Ha.

681 *De Vortigerno Vmq.*

685 telgesino H, R, Cl, telgesimo J, *Thelgesino Vmq.*

689 At media domum thelgesinum quē reuēsto T, telgesinum H, R, J, Cl.

692 Et clamat crines T; profert plurima plangens Cl.

693-723 om. PP.

693-940 om. Cl.

697 ius CV, F, vis B, Mi, JJP tr.

699 populo CV, F, *populos B, Mi, JJP tr.*

- 700 *Largus erat nam multa dabat, vix quid retinebat.
Omnibus omnis erat faciens quodcumque decebat,
flos equitum regumque decor regnique columpna.
Heu michi qui fueras, inopinis vermibus esca
nunc datus es corpusque tuum putrescit in urna.*
- 705 *Sicne cubile tibi post serica pulcra paratur?
Siccine sub gelido caro candida regia membra
condentur saxo nec eris nisi pulvis et ossa?
Sic equidem, nam sors hominum miseranda per evum
ducitur ut nequeant ad pristina jura reduci.*
- 710 *Ergo nichil prodest pereuntis gloria mundi
que fugit atque redit fallit leditque potentes.
Melle suo delinit apes quod postmodo pungit.
Sic quos demulsit divertens gloria mundi
fallit et ingrata collidit verberare caude.*
- 715 *Fit breve quod prestat, quod habet durabile non est,
more fluentis aque transit quodcumque ministrat.
Quid rosa si rutilet, si candida lilia vernet,
si sit pulcher homo vel equus vel cetera plura?
Ista Creatori non mundo sunt referenda.*
- 720 *Felices igitur qui perstant corde piato
obsequiumque Deo faciunt mundumque relinquunt.
Illis perpetuo fungi concedet honore
qui sine fine regit Christus qui cuncta creavit.
Vos igitur proceres vos menia celsa laresque*
- 725 *vos nati dulces mundanaque cuncta relinquo,
et cum fratre meo silvas habitabo Deumque
leta mente colam nigri sub tegmine pepili.
Hec ait atque suo persolvit justa marito
signavitque suam cum tali carmine tumbam.*
- 730 *'Rodarchus Largus, quo largior alter in orbe
non erat, hic modica magnus requiescit in urna.'*
- ¶ *Venerat interea Merlinum visere vatem
tunc Telgesinus qui discere missus ab illo
quid ventus nimbusve foret, nam mixtus uterque*
- 735 *tunc simul instabant et nubila conficiebant.
Hec documenta dabat socia dictante Minerva.*

705 Set ne CV, *Sicne Mi*, *Siccine SM*, *F*, *Tale JJP*. The sense requires *Siccine*, the metre requires a trochee. The next line shows that the final *e* could be short when needed; and the least disturbance is caused by accepting a spelling of the word as a dissyllable, *Sicne*.

721 relinquit CV *relinquunt B*, *Mi*.

- 700 able to high and low alike. He was generous, gave much away, kept but very little. He was all things to all men, doing all that was right and proper: flower of knights, glory of kings, pillar of the kingdom!
- 'Woe is me, alas, for what you were, now given untimely to the gnawing worm; and your body moulders in the grave. After fine silken sheets, is this the bed made ready for you? Will the fair flesh and royal limbs indeed be hidden under the cold stone, and you become but dusty bones?

- 'Yet so it is. So runs the sad lot of man throughout the ages: there is no returning to the earlier prime. There is no profit in the intermittent glory of the passing world, a painful deception even for the great. The bee smears its honey where it later stings; so the world's glory turns again and deceives those it has caressed, piercing hard with its unwelcome sting.

'Excellence is a brief thing, transient in its nature. All advantage passes away like running water. What if the rose blushes? What if white lilies bloom? What if a man, a horse, or all the rest be fair? These are questions for the Creator, not for the world.

- 720 'Happy, then, are those who are resolute in piety and service to God and take leave of the world. Christ, who created all, whose reign is endless, will grant them everlasting glory. Therefore I take leave of you—you noble chiefs, you high walls and household gods, you my sweet children, and all that is of this world. I shall live in the woods by the side of my brother and with my black cloak around me worship God with a happy heart.'

In these words she paid due tribute to her husband, and she inscribed this verse on his tomb:

- 730 'Rodarch the Generous, none in the world more generous,
A great man lies quiet in this little urn.'

In the meantime Taliesin had come to visit the prophet Merlin, who had sent for him to learn what winds and rain-storms were. For both these were blowing up at the time, and the clouds were gathering. Taliesin, with the aid and direction of Minerva, gave the following explanation.

730 rodarthus R, J, T.

732 merlinum vincere.

733 Tuñc telgesinūs cui Merlinus cito dixit PP, thelgesinus T.

734-941 om. PP.

¶ ‘Quatuor ex nichilo produxit Conditor orbis
 ut fierent rebus precedens causa creandis
 materiesque simul concordi pace jugata.
 740 Celum, quod stellis depinxit et altius extat
 et quasi testa nucem circumdans omnia claudit.
 Aera deinde dedit formandis vocibus aptum,
 quo mediante dies et noctes sidera prestant,
 et mare, quod terras cingit validoque recurso
 745 quatuor amfractus faciens sic aera pulsat
 ut generet ventos qui quatuor esse feruntur.
 ¶ Vique sua stantem nec se levitate moventem
 supposuit terram partes in quinque resectam,
 quarum que media est non est habitanda calore
 750 extremeque due pre frigore diffugiuntur.
 Temperiem reliquis permisit habere duabus.
 Has homines habitant volucresque gregesque ferarum.
 ¶ Utque darent subitas pluvias quo crescere fructus
 arboris et terre facerent aspergine miti
 755 adjecit celo nubes que sole ministro
 sicut utres fluvii occulta lege replentur.
 Inde per excelsum scandentes ethera sumptos
 diffundunt latices ventorum viribus acte.
 Hinc fiunt imbres hinc nix hinc grando rotunda
 760 cum gelidus madidus movet sua flamina ventus,
 qui nubes penetrans quales facit egerit amnes.
 Naturamque suam zonarum proximitate
 ventorum sibi quisque trahit dum nascitur illuc.
 ¶ Post firmamentum quo lucida sidera fixit
 765 ethereum celum posuit, tribuitque colendum
 cetibus angelicis quos contemplatio digna
 ac dulcedo Dei reficit miranda per evum.
 Hoc quoque depinxit stellis et sole chorusco
 indicens legem qua certo limite stella
 770 per sibi commissum posset discurrere celum.
 ¶ Postmodo supposuit lunari corpore fulgens
 aerium celum, quod per loca celsa redundat
 spirituum cuneis qui nobis compaciuntur
 et colletantur dum sic aliterve movemur.
 775 Suntque preces hominum soliti perferre per auras
 atque rogare Deum quod sit placabilis illis

749 *media est non est habitanda Mi.* CV's reading does not scan, unless the author lengthened *media* in speech. Michel's suggestion is a simple solution, though

‘The Creator produced out of nothing four elements to be the causative principle in the making of things and at the same time to be the material for them, when conjoined in a concordant manner.
 740 There was the Heaven, which he embellished with stars. It is set above and envelops everything in the way a nutshell encloses a nut. Then he gave the Air, fitted for the production of sounds. By means of it day and night make the heavenly bodies visible.—Then, the Sea, which encompasses the earth, and, making four circuits, so stirs up the air with its mighty recoil as to generate the winds, which are held to be four in number. He established the earth, which stands by its own strength and is not easily moved. It is divided into five zones.
 750 The middle zone is uninhabitable because of the heat, and the two outer zones are avoided because of the cold. He allowed the other two to have a temperate climate. These are the zones where men, birds and the herds of wild beasts live.
 ‘He added clouds to the sky to give the sudden rains whose gentle showers cause the fruits of the trees and of the earth to grow. With the help of the sun, the clouds are filled like water-skins by the rivers through the operation of a mysterious law. Then, when driven by the force of the winds, they rise on high into the upper atmosphere and discharge the water they have taken up. This is the origin of rain-
 760 storms, the origin of snow and of round hailstones, when a cold moist wind begins to blow, penetrating the clouds and forcing out the water into whichever type of shower it is forming. Each of the winds takes its nature from its relation to the zones at its birth.
 ‘After the firmament, where he fixed firm the bright stars, he established the ethereal heaven. He designated it as the place for the assemblies of angels whom the noble contemplation and wonderful sweetness of God refresh down the ages. He also embellished it with the stars and the dazzling sun, appointing the law whereby a star could move on an exact course through the part of the heaven
 770 assigned to it.

‘Afterwards he placed beneath these the airy heaven, glowing with the lunar body. The high spaces of this heaven are thronged with bands of spirits who are considerate towards us or cheerful with us, according to our moods. It is their practice to carry men's prayers up through the air, to beg God to deal sympathetically with

the phrase is not elegant; an *est* can drop out easily in copying, as Parry showed by reporting Michel's suggestion without the second *est*.

769 *que CV, qua JJP tr, F.*

affectumque Dei sompno vel voce referre
vel signis aliis ut fiant inde scientes.

¶ At cacodemonibus post lunam subtus habundat,
780 qui nos decipiunt et temptant fallere docti,
et sibi multociens ex aere corpore sumpto

nobis apparent et plurima sepe sequuntur.
Quin etiam coitu mulieres agrediuntur
et faciunt gravidas generantes more prophano.

785 Sic igitur celos habitatos ordine terno
spirituum fecit, foveant ut singula queque
ac renouent mundum renovato germine rerum.

¶ Et mare per species varias distinxit ut ex se
proferret rerum formas generando per evum.

790 Pars etenim fervet, pars friget et una duabus
temperiem sumens nobis alimenta ministrat.

¶ Ast ea que fervet baratrum cum gentibus acris
circuit et Tetri diversis fluctibus orbem
secernit refluens ignes ex ignibus augens.

795 Illic descendunt qui leges transgrediuntur
postpositoque Deo quo vult perversa voluntas
incedunt avidi corrumpere quod prohibentur.
Trux ibi stat iudex equali lance rependens
cuique suum meritum condignaue debita solvit.

800¶ Altera que friget pretensas volvit harenas
quas secum gignit vicino prima vapore
quando suos radios inmiscet stella Diones.
Hanc perhibent Arabes gemmas generare micantes,
dum peragrat Pisces dum respicit equora flammis.

805 Hec virtute sua populis gestantibus ipsas
prosunt et multos reddunt servantque salubres.
Has quoque per species distinxit ut omnia factor
ut discernamus per formas perque colores
cuius sint generis cuius virtutis aperte.

810¶ Tercia forma maris que nostram circuit orbem
proximitate sua nobis bona multa ministrat.
Nutrit enim pisces et sal producit habunde,
fertque refertque rates commercia nostra ferentes,

779 caco demonibus CV, *cacodaemonibus* B, Mi, F.

782 loquantur F.

787 renouet CV *renouent* BC. Parry took *renouet* as referring to the spirits but left it singular: if the *Conditor orbis* is meant, this is an awkward change.

793 tetri CV, *terrae* B, Mi, JJP tr, F; orbent CV, *orbem* B, Mi, JJP tr, F. Black's *terrae*...*orbem* was accepted by Michel, JJP tr (with reservation) and Faral, but

them, and to convey God's will through a dream or a voice or through other signs by which they may acquire understanding.

780 'But the space down below the moon is full of evil demons skilled in deception, who tempt and cheat us. They frequently make themselves a body out of air and appear to us: the consequences are many and various. Indeed, they even have intercourse with women and make them pregnant, an immoral fatherhood.

'In this way he populated the heavens with a three-part order of spirits, intending that they should look after every individual thing and renew the world by renewing the seed of things.

790 'He divided the sea into different types, to facilitate the development of natural forms from out of it by production over a long period. So one part of the sea is hot, another cold, and the other, which takes its moderate temperature from the other two, provides us with food.

'The hot sea goes round a gulf where live vicious races of people. As it swirls on, the currents divide and it separates off the zone of hell, getting hotter and hotter. Criminals go down there, those who have neglected God and rush on where their perverse will leads them, eager to ruin what they are forbidden to harm. A stern judge stands there balancing his scales, and to each one he allots his due and just deserts.

800 'The other sea, which is freezing, rolls along its trimmed beaches, which it first produces from the nearby mist, when the beams of Dione's star mix with it. The Arabs believe that this star creates sparkling jewels when it passes through the sign of the Fishes and flickers down on the sea. These gems do good to their wearers by their intrinsic power, curing many and keeping them healthy. Their Maker has, as with all things, divided them into different types, to enable us to decide their kind and their known powers from form and colour.

810 'The proximity of the third type of sea which encircles our globe brings us many benefits. It feeds fish, produces a great deal of salt and bears to and fro the vessels which carry our trade and allow a

does not much clarify the image. Since *tetrum* could be a substantive (Cicero, *De natur. deor.*), *Tetri orbem* is a not improbable though not separately authenticated phrase for hell. (Isidore, *Etym.*, 10. 270, cf. 194, discussed *teter*,—*ob obscura tenebrosaue vita*, etc.)

799 cumquē CV, *cuique* B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

812 habunda CV, *abunde* B, Mi, F, *habunde* JJP tr.

- unde suo lucro subito fit dives egenus.
- 815 Vicinam fecundat humum pascitque volucres,
 quas perhibent ortas illinc cum piscibus esse,
 dissimilique tamen nature jure moventur.
 Plus etenim dominatur eis quam piscibus equor
 unde leves excelsa petunt per inane volantes.
- 820 ¶ At pisces suos humor agit reprimisque sub undis,
 nec sinit ut vivant dum sicca luce fruuntur.
 Hos quoque per species distinxit factor eorum
 naturamque dedit distinctis, unde per evum
 mirandi fierent egrotantique salubres.
- 825 ¶ Nempe ferunt mullum cohibere libidinis estum,
 set reddit cecos jugiter vescentis ocellos.
 At qui nomen habet timeos de flore timallus
 sic quoniam redolet vescentem sepius illo
 protrahit ut tales oleant per flumina pisces.
- 830 ¶ Femineo sexu subtracto jure murenas
 esse ferunt cunctas, coeunt tamen ac renovantur
 multiplicantque suos alieno germine fetus.
 Conveniunt etenim per littora sepius angues
 quo degunt faciuntque sonos ac sibila grata,
 et sic eductis coeunt ex more murenis.
- 835 ¶ Est quoque mirandum quod semipedalis echinus
 herens cui fuerit fixam quasi litore navem
 detinet in ponto nec eam permittet abire
 donec discedat tali virtute timendus.
- 840 ¶ Quemque vocant gladium, quia rostro ledit acuto,
 sepius hunc nantem metuunt accedere navi,
 nam si sumptus erit confestim perforat illam
 et mergit sectam subito cum gurgite navem.
- ¶ Fitque suis cristis metuendus serra carinis
 845 quas infigit eis dum subnatat atque secatas
 deicit in fluctus crista velut ense timendus.
- ¶ Equoreusque draco qui fertur habere venenum
 sub pennis metuendus erit capientibus illum,
 et quociens pungit ledit fundendo venenum.
- 850 ¶ Ast alias clades torpedo fertur habere,

820 piscis CV, pisces B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

821 sunt CV, F, sinit Mi, JJP tr.

825 nullum CV, B, Mi, mullus JJP (sc. a slip for mullum, from translation),
 mullum F.

829 olent CV, oleant JJP, F.

- poor man to become rich by quick profit-making. It makes the adjacent land fertile and produces food for the birds which, it is said, derive from it as do fish, though the laws of their functioning are not the same. The birds can transcend the ocean more than can the fish, and fly easily up from it into space.
- 820 'But its moisture affects fish and keeps them below the surface and does not permit them to live in the dryness of the open air. Their Maker has divided up fish also into types, assigning a specific nature to each different type; and because of this they have long been a source of wonder as well as an aid in sickness.
- 'For example, it is said that the *mullet* inhibits the sexual urge, but leads to blindness if eaten constantly. The one called *thymallus* after the herb thyme has such a scent that it betrays any fish that regularly feeds on it; and so all the fish in the river become similarly scented.
- 830 'Murenas are said to be all of the female sex and lack seminal fluid. Yet they reproduce by copulation and multiply through fertilization by the seed of a different creature. Snakes often gather along the shore which they frequent. These snakes make a seductive hissing sound to tempt out the murenas, and intercourse then takes place normally.
- 'Another remarkable fish is the *echinus*. It is only six inches long, but when it attaches itself to a ship, it holds the ship as fast on the high seas as if it were aground, and prevents it proceeding until it lets go: a power for which it is feared.
- 840 'Men are also often afraid to steer a ship close to the fish known as the *sword-fish* when they see it swimming near, because it causes damage with its sharp beak. If it is taken, it promptly holes the ship and, by cutting into it, causes it to sink as the water suddenly swirls in.
- 'The *serra* is a danger to hulls because of its crests. It sticks these into the hull while swimming beneath the ship. It causes the damaged hulls to sink into the waves, and it is to be feared for its crest as if it were a sword.
- 'There is a *sea-dragon* which is said to have poison beneath its fins, and puts any who catch it in great peril. Every time it strikes it makes the wound serious by injecting its poison.
- 850 'The *torpedo* is said to be another type of mortal peril. Anyone who

832 Multiplicat CV, Multiplicant B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

834 ac sibila grati CV, F, et sibila B, Mi, grata JJP.

836 ethinus CV, echinus B, Mi, F, echenais JJP.

840 gladium CV, gladium B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

841 nautae metuunt B.

nam qui tangit eam viventem protinus illi
brachia cum pedibus torpent et cetera membra
officioque suo quasi mortua destituuntur,
sic solet esse nocens illius corporis aura.

855 ¶ Hiis Deus ac aliis ditavit piscibus equor,
adjecitque suis plures in fluctibus orbes
quos habitant homines pro fertilitate reperta
quam producit ibi fecundo cespite tellus.
Quarum prima quidem meliorque Britannia fertur,
860 ubertate sua producens singula rerum.
Fert etenim segetes que nobile munus adoris
usibus humanis tribuunt reddendo per annum;
silvas et saltus et ab hiis stillantia mella,
aerios montes lateque virentia prata,
865 fontes et fluvios, pisces pecudesque ferasque,
arboreos fructus, gemmas, preciosa metalla,
et quicquid prestare solet natura creatrix;
preterea fontes unda fervente salubres
que fovet egrotos et balnea grata ministrat,
870 at subito sanos pellit languore repulso.
Sic Bladudus eos regni dum sceptrum teneret
constituit nomenque sue consortis Alaron.
Utilis ad plures laticis medicamine morbos
set mage femineos ut sepius unda probavit.

875 ¶ Adjacet huic Thanatos que multis rebus habundat.
Mortifero serpente caret tollitque venenum
si sua cum vino tellus commixta bibatur.
¶ Orchades a nobis nostrum quoque dividit equor.
Hae tres ter dene sejuncto flumine fiunt,
880 bis dene cultore carent alieque coluntur.
¶ Ultima que Thule nomen de sole recepit
propter solsticium quod sol estivus ibidem
dum facit avertit radium ne luceat ultra
abducitque dies ut semper nocte perhenni
885 aer agat tenebras, faciat quoque frigore pontum
concretum pigrumque simul ratibusque negatum.
¶ Insula post nostram prestantior omnibus esse
fertur Hibernensis felici fertilitate.
Est etenim major, nec apes nec aves nisi raras

856 fructibus CV, fluctibus B, JJP tr, F.

861 odoris CV, F, JJP tr, adoris B.

871 Sic ac blandus CV, Sic Bladudus B, Mi, JJP tr, Sicut Bladud eos F.

touches it while it is still alive is at once afflicted with a torpidity of the arms, the feet and the rest of the body. His limbs lose their normal function and feel dead, so virulent its secretion normally is.

‘God allotted the sea to these and to the other fishes. He also created further worlds among his waves which men inhabit because of their reputation for fertility, the earth producing abundantly from the rich soil there.

860 ‘Britain is considered first and best among these. It offers of its bounty every manner of thing. It yields crops which year by year contribute their noble gifts of grain for man’s use; woodlands and pastures where honey drips; airy mountains and broad green meadowlands; springs and rivers; fish, cattle and wild creatures; fruit trees; jewels and precious metals; and all else that creative Nature can supply.

870 ‘In particular, there are health-giving springs whose hot waters do the sick good and provide welcome baths for them—after which, their illness subsiding, they are soon sent away well. Bladud so established these baths during his reign, and he named them after his consort Alaron. Because of the medical properties of the water, they are useful in most kinds of disease, but especially for women’s disorders, as the water has frequently demonstrated.

‘Close to this island lies *Thanet*, which is rich in many things—but lacks dangerous snakes; and it is an antidote to poison to drink wine in which *Thanet* earth has been mixed.

880 ‘Our ocean also divides the *Orkneys* from us. These islands, separated by the flowing tides, number thirty-three. Twenty of them are unworked, the rest cultivated.

‘*Thule* gets its name, “Furthest Thule”, through the sun, on account of the solstice or stop which the summer sun makes there. At that point the sun’s rays turn away so as to provide no illumination beyond. The sun thus takes away the daylight, so that ever through the endless night the air begets shadows, and in addition its coldness makes the sea hard and sluggishly unnavigable by ships.

‘The island which after ours is held to be superior to all is *Ireland*, for its happy fertility. It is larger; it possesses no bees, no birds (save a very few), and is entirely unsuitable for snakes to breed in. In fact,

879 Hec CV, F (Haec), Hae B, Mi, JJP tr; se iuncto CV, sejuncto B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

881 ytilie CV, Thule B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

889, 890, 891 CV had the order 889 (.a. in margin), 891 (.b. in margin),

890 educit penitusque negat generare colubres.
 Unde fit ut tellus illinc avecta lapisve,
 si superaddatur, serpentes tollat apesque.
 Gadibus Herculeis adjungitur insula Gades.
 Nascitur hic arbor cuius de cortice gummi
 895 stillat, quo gemme fiunt superillita vitra.
 ¶ Hesperides vigilem perhibentur habere draconem,
 quem servare ferunt sub frondibus aurea poma.
 ¶ Gorgades habitant mulieres corporis hirci,
 que celeri cursu lepores superare feruntur.
 900 ¶ Argire Crisseque gerunt ut dicitur aurum
 argentumque simul ceu vilia saxa Corinthus.
 ¶ Taprobana viret fecundo cespite grata.
 Bis etenim segetes anno producit in uno,
 bis gerit estatem, bis ver, bis colligit uvas
 905 et fructus alios nitidis gratissima gemis.
 ¶ Tiles eterno producit vere virentes
 flores et frondes per tempora cuncta virendo.
 Insula pomorum que Fortunata vocatur
 ex re nomen habet quia per se singula profert.
 910 Non opus est illi sulcantibus arva colonis,
 omnis abest cultus nisi quem natura ministrat.
 Ultro fecundas segetes producit et uvas
 nataque poma suis pretonso gramine silvis.
 Omnia gignit humus vice graminis ultro redundans,
 915 annis centenis aut ultra vivitur illic.
 Illic jura novem geniali lege sorores
 dant his qui veniunt nostris ex partibus ad se,
 quarum que prior est fit doctior arte medendi
 exceditque suas forma prestante sorores.
 920 Morgen ei nomen didicitque quid utilitatis
 gramina cuncta ferant ut languida corpora curet.
 Ars quoque nota sibi qua scit mutare figuram
 et resecare novis quasi Dedalus aera pennis.
 Cum vult, est Bristi Carnoti sive Papie,
 925 cum vult, in vestris ex aere labitur horis.
 Hancque mathematicam dicunt didicisse sorores
 Moronoe, Mazoe, Gliten, Glitonea, Gliton,

890 (.c. in margin). *B* and *Mi* and *F* printed in the order used in the present text; *JJP tr* concurred.

895 gemine CV, gemmae B, Mi, JJP tr, F; super illita CV, illisa SM, JJP tr (sc.); iura CV, F: 'à corriger peut-être en jure'; quo gemme fiunt superillita vitra BC.

905 gemmis B, SM, F.

890 if some earth or a stone from there is taken to another place and added to the soil, it destroys serpents and bees as well.

'The island of *Gades* lies adjacent to Herculean Gades. A tree native to this place has a bark from which a gum drips. Pieces of glass become gems when smeared with it.

'The *Hesperides* are said to have a watchful dragon which (the story goes) guards golden apples among trees.

'The *Gorgades* are inhabited by goat-bodied women, and these women are said to run faster than hares.

900 ' *Argyre* and *Chryse* are reported as bearing gold and silver as easily as Corinth does ordinary rocks.

' *Ceylon* blooms happily on its fertile soil. It has two crops a year—two springs, two summers: twice do men gather the grapes and other fruit. It is also most attractive on account of its shining jewels.

' *Tiles* produces flowers and foliage which flourish in an eternal spring.

'The *Island of Apples* gets its name "The Fortunate Island" from the fact that it produces all manner of plants spontaneously.
 910 It needs no farmers to plough the fields. There is no cultivation of the land at all beyond that which is Nature's work. It produces crops in abundance and grapes without help; and apple trees spring up from the short grass in its woods. All plants, not merely grass alone, grows spontaneously; and men live a hundred years or more.

'That is the place where nine sisters exercise a kindly rule over those who come to them from our land. The one who is first among them has greater skill in healing, as her beauty surpasses that of her sisters. Her name is *Morgen*, and she has learned the uses of all plants in curing the ills of the body. She knows, too, the art of changing her shape, of flying through the air, like *Daedalus*, on strange wings. At will, she is now at *Brest*, now at *Chartres*, now at *Pavia*; and at will she glides down from the sky on to your shores.

'They say she had taught astrology to her sisters—*Moronoe*,

906 *Atilis* CV, *Tiles* JJP, *At Tylos* F.

913 *germine* CV, *F*, *gramine* JJP; *praetenso* F.

915 *viuiter* CV, *vivitur* F (and, sc., *JJP tr.*, though not noted).

925 *nostris* B, *Mi*, *F*; *labitur terris* Lot. Black printed *horis* in his text, with the footnote, 'Id est oris', which was explanatory not emendatory.

Tyronoe, Thiten cithara notissima Thiten.
 Illuc post bellum Camblani vulnere lesum
 930 duximus Arcturum nos conducente Barintho,
 equora cui fuerant et celi sydera nota.
 Hoc rectore ratis cum principe venimus illuc,
 et nos quo decuit Morgen suscepit honore,
 935 inque suis talamis posuit super aurea regem
 fulcra manumque sibi detexit vulnus honesta
 inspexitque diu, tandemque redire salutem
 posse sibi dixit, si secum tempore longo
 esset et ipsius vellet medicamine fungi.
 Gaudentes igitur regem commisimus illi
 940 et dedimus ventis redeundo vela secundis.’

¶ Tunc Merlinus ad hec ait, ‘O dilecte sodalis,
 postmodo quanta tulit violato federe regnum
 ut modo quod fuerat non sit. Nam sorte sinistra
 subducti proceres ac in sua viscera versi
 945 omnia turbarunt ut copia diviciarum
 fugerit ex patria bonitasque recesserit omnis,
 et desolati vacuent sua menia cives.
 Insuper incumbit gens Saxona marte feroci,
 que nos et nostras iterum crudeliter urbes
 950 subvertit legemque Dei violabit et edes.
 Nempe Deus nobis ut corrigat insipientes
 has patitur clades ob crimina nostra venire.’

¶ Nondum desierat cum talia protulit alter.
 ‘Ergo necesse foret populo transmittere quemdam
 955 et mandare duci festina nave redire,
 si jam convaluit, solitis ut viribus hostes
 arceat et cives antiqua pace reformet.’

¶ ‘Non,’ Merlinus ait, ‘non sic gens illa recedet
 ut semel in nostris unguis infixit ortis.
 960 Regnum namque prius populosque jugabit et urbes

928 *Tirone Vmq.*930 *Arturum Leland, Vmq, F; Barincho Leland, Baryntho Vmq.*933 *Morgan Leland, Morgain Price.*935 *Stulta CV, fulcra Leland, Fulchra Price, Strata B, Mi, Vmq, JJP tr, F; honestum JJP. Parry (p. 9 n) later thought Price quite probably had the right reading. He reported Leland's reading (EETS edition) wrongly as Fulchra.*941 *Cl. begins again.*942 *PP begins again; Postinūs T; regna tulit T; federe regum H, R, J.*946 *om. T; ex primā CV, ex patria H, Cl, B, Mi, JJP tr, F.*947 *desolari uacuant J.*

Mazoe, Gliten, Glitonea, Gliton, Tyronoe, and Thiten,—Thiten,
 famous for her lyre.

930 ‘It was there we took Arthur after the battle of Camlan, where he
 had been wounded. Barinthus was the steersman because of his
 knowledge of the seas and the stars of heaven. With him at the tiller
 of the ship, we arrived there with the prince; and Morgen received
 us with due honour. She put the king in her chamber on a golden
 bed, uncovered his wound with her noble hand and looked long at
 it. At length she said he could be cured if only he stayed with her a
 long while and accepted her treatment. We therefore happily
 committed the king to her care and spread our sails to favourable
 940 winds on our return journey.’

To this Merlin replied: ‘My dearest friend—how great a burden
 has the kingdom borne since then, with the pact broken, so that it is
 not what it once was. Through unhappy circumstances the nobles
 have been led away and turned to rend each other's vitals. They
 upset everything, and so prosperity has left the country: all goodness
 has gone. Those who live in the cities will abandon their walls in
 despair. For the Saxon, warlike and ferocious, descends on us,
 950 savagely overthrows our cities and ourselves once more, and will
 violate God's law and his house. Indeed, God suffers this disaster
 to come upon us because of our crimes, as a punishment for our
 folly.’

He had not finished speaking before Taliesin broke in: ‘Then
 the people must send someone to call on our leader to return in a
 fast ship. If he has recovered, he can exercise his old vigour to fend
 off the enemy and re-establish the nation in its old state of peace.’

960 ‘No,’ Merlin replied. ‘This is not the way the invader will leave,
 once he has fixed his talons in our land. Before that time comes, he

948 *incum̄buñt PP; saxona marte nephañdo PP, saxona marce Cl, Saxona marte B, Mi, F. Parry: ‘Saxon people, fierce in war’.*949 *Qui R, J, T; vos ēf vēstras R, nos ēf vēstras T.*950 *Subuertet H, R; uiolauit J, T.*951 *Ha begins again; cerissat Ha.*953–7 *om. PP, Ha.*959 *in uēstris CV, F, in nōstris H, J, T, Cl, semell nostris Ha; in ortis vngues R, B, footnote, ‘Leg. hortis vel oris’ (but he printed ortis), oris Cf, JJP tr. The last, attributing oris to B, added, ‘or possibly ortis, a word used in a similar sense in the Historia’.*960–6 *om. Ha.*

viribus atque suis multis dominabitur annis.
 Tres tamen ex nostris magna virtute resistent,
 et multos periment et eos in fine domabunt.
 965 Set non perficient quia sic sententia summi
 iudicis existit, Britones ut nobile regnum
 temporibus multis amittant debilitate,
 donec ab Armorica veniet temone Conanus
 et Cadualadrus Cambrorum dux venerandus,
 qui pariter Scotos Cambros et Cornubienses
 970 Armoricosque viros sociabunt federe firmo
 amissumque suis reddent diadema colonis,
 hostibus expulsis renovato tempore Bruti,
 tractabuntque suas sacratis legibus urbes.
 Incipient reges iterum superare remotos
 975 et sua regna sibi certamine subdere forti.’
 ¶ ‘Nemo superstes erit tunc ex hiis qui modo vivunt,’
 Telgesinus ait, ‘nec tot fera prelia quemquam
 inter concives quot te vidisse putamus.’
 ¶ ‘Sic equidem,’ Merlinus ait, ‘nam tempore multo
 980 vixi multa videns et de nostratibus in se
 et de barbarica turbanti singula gente.
 Crimen quod memini cum Constans proditus esset
 et defugissent parvi trans equora fratres
 Uter et Ambrosius. Ceperunt ilico bella
 985 per regnum fieri, quod tunc rectore carebat.
 Vortigernus enim consul Gewissus in omnes
 agmina ducebat patrias ut duceret illas,
 ledens innocuos miseranda clade colonos.
 Denique vi subita rapuit diadema peremptis
 990 nobilibus multis et regni cuncta subegit.
 Ast hii qui fuerant cognato sanguine juncti
 fratribus id graviter tolerantes, igne cremare
 ceperunt cunctas infausti principis urbes

964 p̄ōficiēt PP.

965 dracones yt Cl; ēē nobile T.

966 amittent Cl.

967 armonico T, armonice Ha, *Armorica Vmq*; ueñiat PP, Ha; themone J; conamūs J.968 om. T; cadwaldrus J, Ha; *Cadualadrus F*; kambrorūm Cl; dum CV, *dux B*, *SM*, *JJP tr*, *F*.969 cuñbros PP, *Mi*.

970 sociabit Cl.

972 bruti om. T.

974 Incipieñt PP, Ha, *B*, *Mi*, *JJP tr*, *F*; quē greges T.

will have conquered our kingdom and our people and our cities, and kept them under by force of arms for many years. Three of our men will resist with great bravery, however; they will kill many of the invaders and in the end overcome them. But they will not complete their task. It is the will of the most high Judge that the British shall be without their kingdom for many years and remain weak, until Conan in his chariot arrive from Brittany, and that revered leader of the Welsh, Cadwalader.

970 ‘They will create an alliance, a firm league of the Scots, the Welsh, the Cornish and the men of Brittany. Then they will restore to the natives the crown that had been lost. The enemy will be driven out and the time of Brutus will be back once more. The natives will administer their own cities by the time-hallowed laws. They will once again undertake the subjection of distant kings and make a vigorous effort to bring these kingdoms under their sway.’

977 ‘None will then be left of those who are now alive,’ said Taliesin, ‘and I think there is no-one who has seen more savage civil wars than you.’

980 Merlin said, ‘Indeed, that is the truth. For I have lived long and seen much – our own folk turning on one another, and the chaos the barbarian brings.

990 ‘The greatest crime I remember is the betraying of Constans and the flight of his two small brothers, Uther and Ambrosius. At once the kingdom was enveloped in war for lack of a leader. Vortigern, governor of Gwent, began leading out his forces against all regions in an effort to win the leadership over them, and he inflicted misery and destruction on the innocent population. At length he seized the crown in a sudden attack, killed many of the nobility and forced the submission of the whole of the kingdom.

‘But the blood-relatives of the brothers began, in high resentment at this, to put all the cities of this ill-omened prince to the flame and

975 The fragment of Ha ends here, but has three lines not in other MSS:

‘falsi p̄ōdent viri capti tunc redimentur

Actus nec fari valet homo p̄ēmeditari

Occumbet deno lustro Cursu quoquē sexto’

976–1135 om. PP.

981 The fragment of Cl ends, followed by

‘Expliciuñt vērsus Mērlini’.

987 priñas CV, *patrias B*, *Mi*, *Vmq*, *JJP tr*, *F*; *subderet illas B*, *F*. ‘duceret’ may be suspicious on general grounds, and ‘subderet’ a likely alternative, but there is no positive reason for change.

995 et turbare suum crudeli milite regnum,
 nec permiserunt illum cum pace potiri.
 Anxius ergo manens cum non obstare rebelli
 quivisset populo, parat invitare remotos
 ad sua bella viros quibus obuius iret in hostes.
 1000 Mox ex diversis venerunt partibus orbis
 pugnaces turme, quas excipiebat honore.
 Saxona gens etiam curvis advecta carinis
 ejus ad obsequium galeato milite venit.
 Huic duo pre fuerant audaci pectore fratres
 Horsus et Hengistus qui prodicione nefanda
 1005 postmodo leserunt populos lesereque urbes.
 Postquam namque ducem famulatus sedulitate
 attraxere sibi, cives quoque lite propinqua
 viderunt motos leviter quo subdere regem
 possent, in populos verterunt arma feroces,
 1010 ruperuntque fidem proceres quoque premeditata
 fraude necaverunt sedentes ferme vocatos
 insimul ut pacem secum fedusque jugarent,
 truseruntque ducem nivei trans ardua montis.
 Que sibi de regno cepi cantare futura.
 1015 Inde domos patrie peragrantes igne cremabant
 et nitebantur sibimet submittere cuncta.
 At Vortimerus, cum tanta pericula regni
 expulsumque patrem Bruti vidisset ab aula,
 assensu populi sumpsit diadema feramque
 1020 invasit gentem concives dilaniantem,
 atque coegit eam per plurima bella redire
 in Thanatum, qua classis erat que vexerat illam.
 Set dum diffugerent bellator corrui Horsus
 et plures alii nostris perimentibus illos.
 1025 Inde secutus eos circumdedit obsidione
 ilico rex Thanatum terraque marique resistens.

996 *abstare Mi.*

1000 Pugnatos CV, *pugnaces B, Mi, JJP tr, F.*

1003 Hinc CV, *Huic B, Mi, JJP tr, F.*

1004 prodicioe or prodicione CV, *prodicione B, Mi, JJP tr, F.*

1005 lesero quod CV, *laesereque B, Mi, JJP tr, F.* Black's emendation produces sense and a hiatus.

1006 famulatūs CV, *famulantes or famulatum B, (famulantes JJP tr, F), famulati (?) BC.* Black and Parry took *famulare* as an active verb meaning 'to serve' (Parry: 'serving the king') instead of 'to use as a servant'; the following *sedulitate* would

to harry his kingdom with their fierce armies: they allowed him no chance of peaceable possession. Disturbed by his inability to deal with the rebellion, he arranged to bring men from afar into his fighting force to enable him to emerge to meet his enemies.

1000 'Soon bands of fighting men arrived from all over the world and he welcomed them. In particular, the Saxons sailed in in curved ships and brought their helmeted troops to his service.

1010 'Their leaders were two aggressive brothers, Horsa and Hengist, who later did great damage to the nation and its cities by their black treachery. For they won over the prince by obsequious service; and so, when the nation was next stirred up over a quarrel, they were easily able to overpower the king, and they then viciously turned their forces against the people. They broke their word when they killed by calculated deceit the nobles as they sat assembled together to make a peace treaty with them. They drove the prince across the snowy mountain heights. This was the future of the kingdom as I had begun to prophesy it to him.

1020 'After this the Saxons went about firing the homes of the people and attempting the complete subjugation of the country. But Vortimer saw the great danger the kingdom was in and the expulsion of his father from the palace of Brutus. He took the crown with the people's approval, and attacked the savage tribe which was crushing them. After many clashes he forced the Saxons to retreat into Thanet, where the fleet that had brought them was lying. But in their flight the war-lord Horsa and many others met their deaths at the hands of our men. The king pursued them and besieged them in

block the latter meaning, apart from the context. *famulati* would give the likely sense and remain close to the MS, where the ending is abbreviated; but CV's reading has been left and *famulatūs* taken as a genitive.

1010 pFēmeditatos CV, *praemeditata B, JJP tr, F.*

1015 priñe CV, *patriae B, Mi, F, patrie JJP.*

1017 causa pericula CV, *tanta pericula B, Mi, JJP tr, F.*

1022 vexerat CV, *vexerat B, Mi, JJP tr, F.*

1026 tanathum CV, *F, Thanatum JJP*; tēfra qūē CV, 'que' om. *B, Mi.*

Set non prevaluit, subito nam classe potiti
 vi magna fecere viam, ductique per equor
 exegere suam festino remige terram.
 1030 ¶ Ergo triumphato bellis victricibus hoste
 fit Vortimerus rector venerandus in orbe
 attrectando suum justo moderamine regnum.
 Set soror Hengisti successus Renua tales
 indignando ferens protectaque fraude venenum
 1035 miscuit, existens pro fratre maligna noverca,
 et dedit ut biberet fecitque perire bibentem.
 Confestimque suo mandavit trans freta fratri
 ut remearet item cum tot tantisque catervis
 quot sibi pugnaces posset submittere cives.
 1040 Sic igitur fecit, nam tantus in agmina nostra
 venit ut eriperet cunctis sua predia pregnans,
 et loca per patrias penitus combureret igne.
 Hec ita dum fierent, in finibus Armoricanis
 Uter et Ambrosius fuerant cum rege Budico.
 1045 Jam gladio fiunt cincti belloque probati,
 et sibi diversas sociabant undique turmas
 ut peterent natale solum gentesque fugarent
 quae tunc instabant patriam vastare paternam.
 Ergo dedere suas ventoque marique carinas
 1050 presidioque suis concivibus applicuerunt.
 Nam Vortigernum per Cambrica regna fugatum
 inclusumque sua pariter cum turre cremarunt.
 ¶ Enses inde suos vertere recenter in Anglos
 congressique simul vincebant sepius illos
 1055 et vice transversa devincebantur ab illis.
 Denique consertis magno conamine dextris
 instant nostrates, et ledunt acriter hostes
 Hengistumque necant Christoque volente triumphant.
 ¶ Hiis igitur gestis cleri populique favore
 1060 Ambrosio regnumque datur regnique corona,
 postmodo quam gessit tractando singula juste.
 Emensis autem per lustra quaterna diebus,
 proditur a medico moriturque bibendo venenum.
 Mox germanus ei successit junior Uter,
 1065 nec primum potuit regnum cum pace tueri.

1041 *pugnans F.*1044 *Biduco CV, Budico F.*1045 *cuncti CV, cincti B, JJP tr, F.*

Thanet by land and from the sea. He was unsuccessful, however, because the Saxons suddenly seized possession of their fleet, broke out in a violent sortie and made their way across the ocean and very quickly regained their own land.

1030 'Vortimer gained a world-wide reputation for himself as a ruler after his defeat of the enemy in this victorious campaign; and he ran the administration of his own kingdom with measured restraint.

'But Hengist's sister Renua could not accept his success and burned with indignation. Concern for her brother turned her into a vindictive stepmother. She concocted a poison under cover of deceit, gave it to Vortimer to drink and so caused his death. She promptly sent word overseas to her brother to come back with sufficiently large forces to overcome our warrior people. This, then, 1040 he did; and so great were his forces that he was able to grow fat on the loot he took from all and sundry; and he went about burning throughout the land.

'Through all this Uther and Ambrosius were in Brittany with King Budic: they had now taken to arms and were proved in war. They had gathered round them troops of varied origins for an expedition to their native land, to put to flight the hordes now intent on wasting the country of their father.

1050 'So they committed their ships to wind and tide and landed to protect their fellow-citizens. They drove Vortigern in flight through the kingdom of Wales, cornered him and burned him and his tower together.

'They at once turned their swords on the Angles: they met them many times in battle and beat them often, but on the other hand they often suffered defeat by them. Finally, during a hand-to-hand encounter, our men made a great effort in an attack which inflicted severe losses on the enemy. They killed Hengist, and by Christ's will they triumphed.

1060 'After these events, clergy and people approved the presentation of the kingdom and its crown to Ambrosius. His reign was marked by consistent fairness of administration, but after four lustrums had passed he became the victim of his doctor's treachery and died through drinking poison.

'His younger brother Uther succeeded him. At first he was unable to maintain the peace of the realm; for the unscrupulous tribe

1048 *Quod CV, quae B, Mi, JJP tr, F; priamam CV, patriam B, Mi, JJP tr, F.*1049 *uento quē CV, 'que' om. B, Mi.*1056 *consortis CV, consertis Gfr, SM, JJP tr, F.*

Perfida gens etenim demum consueta redire
venerat et solita vastabat cuncta phalange.
Oppugnavit eam sevis congressibus Uter,
et pepulit victam trans equora remige verso.

- 1070 Mox reformavit posito certamine pacem
progenuitque sibi natum qui postmodo talis
extitit ut nulli fieret probitate secundus.
Arturus sibi nomen erat regnumque per annos
optinuit multos postquam pater Uter obivit,
1075 idque dolore gravi gestum fuit atque labore
et nece multorum per plurima bella virorum.
Nam dum predictus princeps langueret, ab Angla
venerat infidus populus cunctasque per enses
trans Humbrum patrias submiserat ac regiones.
1080 Et puer Arturus fuerat nec debilitate
etatis poterat tantas compescere turmas.
Ergo consilio cleri populique recepto
Armorico regi mittens mandavit Hoelo
ut sibi presidio festina classe rediret.
1085 Sanguis enim communis eos sociabat amorque
alter ut alterius deberet dampna levare.
Mox igitur collegit Hoel ad bella feroces
circumquaque viros et multis milibus ad nos
venit, et Arturo sociatus percudit hostes
1090 sepius agrediens, et stragem fecit acerbam.
Hoc socio securus erat fortisque per omnes
Arturus turmas dum progredere in hostes,
quos tandem vicit patriamque redire coegit,
composuitque suum legum moderamine regnum.
1095 Mox quoque submisit post hec certamina Scotos
ac Hibernenses, convertens bella, feroces.
Supposuit patrias illatis viribus omnes,
et Norwegenses trans equora lata remotos
subdidit et Dacos invisa classe petitos.
1100 Gallorum populos ceso Frollone subegit,
cui curam patrie dederat Romana potestas.
Romanos etiam bello sua regna petentes
obpugnans vicit, procuratore perempto

1075 gestum om. *B*.

1078 populos CV (misprint?), populus *B*, *F*. *JJP* tr translates as if the reading were *populus* but makes no note.

1079 periones CV, *regiones* *JJP*, *F*.

1083 Hoeli CV, *Hoelo* *Vmq*, *JJP* tr, *F*.

of Saxons, who were now always likely to return, came in their usual hordes and caused general devastation. Uther fought them in a number of savage encounters, beat them and drove them out: their ships took them back across the ocean. Soon the campaign was over and he had established peace. He had a son born to him who later became a great man and second to none in worth. His name was Arthur, and he held the kingdom for many years after his father Uther had died. This cost much toil and great distress and the death of many men in numerous campaigns. For a pagan people came from Angla at a time when the prince Uther lay ill; and they conquered by the sword all the territories of our native land that lie beyond the Humber.

- 1080 'Arthur was a boy, and in his youthful inexperience he was unable to check these great forces. He took the advice he had from both the clergy and the people and sent word to Hoel, king of Brittany, with a request that he would come to his support in a fast fleet. Common blood and affection were the ties between them, which put each under an obligation to support the other in trouble.

- 1090 'Hoel soon gathered fighting men from all parts for the campaign and brought many thousands with him over to us. He joined forces with Arthur, broke the enemy by continual attack and inflicted terrible losses on them. His help gave Arthur confidence and power in handling all his troops when he took the offensive against the enemy. At last he defeated them and forced them back to their own country. Then he settled his own kingdom through the moderation of his laws.

'Soon after this struggle he subdued the Scots and, changing the direction of his campaign, the war-like Irish. He overcame all nations in the expeditions he led. He brought into subjection both the Norwegians who lived far across the broad seas and the Danes whom he sought out with his dreaded fleet.

- 1100 'He brought the people of France under his rule after killing Frollo, to whose care the country had been committed by those in power at Rome. He even fought and defeated the Romans themselves when they were preparing a campaign against his kingdom.

1089 pertulit CV, *percudit* *B*, *Mi*, *JJP* tr, *F*.

1096 Ac CV, *Atque* *F*.

1101 priime CV, *patriae* *B*, *Mi*, *patrie* *JJP*.

Hyberio Lucio, qui tunc collega Leonis
 1105 induperatoris fuerat jussuque senatus
 venerat ut fines Gallorum demeret illi.
 ¶ Ceperat interea nostrum sibi subdere regnum
 infidus custos Modredus desipiensque
 illicitam venerem cum conjugē regis agebat.
 1110 Rex etenim transire volens, ut fertur, in hostes,
 reginam regnumque suum commiserat illi.
 Ast ut fama mali tanti sibi venit ad aures,
 distulit hanc belli curam patriamque revertens
 applicuit multis cum milibus atque nepotem
 1115 obpugnans pepulit trans equora diffugientem.
 Illic collectis vir plenus prodicione
 undique Saxonibus cepit committere pugnam
 cum duce, set cecidit deceptus gente prophana
 in qua confisus tantos inceperat actus.
 1120 O quantas hominum strages matrumque dolores
 quarum conciderant illic per prelia nati!
 Illic rex etiam letali vulnere lesus
 deseruit regnum, tecumque per equora vectus,
 ut predixisti, nimpharum venit ad aulam.
 1125 Ilico Modredi duo nati regna volentes
 subdere quisque ceperunt bella movere
 alternaque suos prosternere cede propinquos.
 Deinde nepos regis dux Constantinus in illos
 acriter insurgens populos laniavit et urbes,
 1130 prostratisque simul crudeli morte duobus
 jura dedit populo regni diademate sumpto.
 Nec cum pace fuit quoniam cognatus in illum
 prelia dira movens violavit cuncta Conanus
 proripuitque sibi regiones rege perempto,
 1135 quas nunc debiliter nec cum ratione gubernat.
 ¶ Hec illo dicente cito venere clientes
 et dixere sibi fontem sub montibus illis
 erupisse novum laticesque refundere puros,
 qui jam manantes longe per concava vallis
 1140 girabant saltus refluxo cum murmure lapsu.
 Mox igitur spectare novum consurgit uterque
 festinus fontem visoque resedit in herba

1104 Hyberio CV, *Tiberio B, SM, Tyberio Mi, Hiberio JJP, F, Hyberio BC*; collega-
 que Legnis CV, collega *Leonis F.* Black and San Marte referred to texts of the
Historia as then known. But *Lucius Hiberius* is the name in respectable MSS such as

He killed the procurator Lucius Hiberius, who had become the
 colleague of Emperor Leo and had come on the Senate's orders to
 bring the French territories back under its authority.

1110 'During this time the faithless and foolhardy guardian of our
 realm, Modred, had begun to take over the kingdom and to carry
 on an unlawful love affair with the king's wife. The king, it is said,
 had entrusted the kingdom and the queen to Modred's care when
 about to leave on a campaign against his enemies overseas. When the
 report of this great crime reached his ears, he gave up his intended
 campaign and returned home, landing with many thousands of men.
 He attacked his nephew and drove him abroad in flight. There this
 man of treachery gathered Saxon troops from all quarters and began
 a battle against his prince. But he was tricked by the evil race on
 whom he had relied in his large enterprise, and he was killed.

1120 'How great was the slaughter of men and the sorrowing of mothers
 whose sons had fallen in battle there!

'On that field also the king was mortally wounded and left the
 kingdom. As you have described, he sailed with you over the water
 and came to the palace of the nymphs.

1130 'Each of the two sons of Modred intended to seize the kingdom
 for himself: so they fought, and each in turn murdered his near kin.
 Then the king's nephew, Prince Constantine, rebelled violently
 against them, and harried their supporters and their cities; and when
 they were brought low and had both met a harsh death, he assumed
 the crown and took over the management of the nation. His peace
 did not last; for his kinsman Conan organised a formidable cam-
 paign against him. Conan caused general destruction, killed the
 king and seized the territories over which he now exercises a weak
 and witless control.'

1136 As he was speaking, retainers rushed up and told him that a new
 spring had broken out at the foot of the nearby mountain and that
 streams of pure water were already gushing out, running far down
 1140 the hollow of the valley and swirling noisily as they rippled on their
 way across the pastures.

They both rose immediately to go and see this new spring as soon
 Faral's. Parry quoted Nicholson (1906) to the effect that the weight of MS evidence
 supported *Hiberius* as the proper *HRB* form: see Text. Comm., 590-5. Faral's
 emendation of the end of the line to *collega Leonis* not only makes a smoother
 sentence but refers back to the emperor Leo who is associated with Lucius Hiberius
 in the French campaign of *HRB* 10. 6 (cf. 9. 11, 10. 11 - death of Leo - and 11. 1).
 1108 iustos CV, custos *Mi, JJP tr, F.*
 1113 primamquē CV, *patriamque B, Mi, JJP tr, F.*
 1136 PP begins again. Hoc illo CV, *F, Hec illo PP, B, Mi, JJP tr.*
 1142 om. T.

Merlinus laudatque locum limphasque fluentes,
 et miratur eas de cespite taliter ortas.
 1145 Moxque siti captus se proclinavit in amnes
 potavitque libens et tempora proluit unda,
 utque per internos alvi stomachique meatus
 humor iit laticis subsedavitque vaporem
 1150 sese cognovit, rabiem quoque perdidit omnem,
 et qui torpuerat per longum tempus in illo
 sensus item rediit mansitque quod ante manebat,
 sanus et incolumis rursus ratione recepta.
 ¶ Ergo deum laudans vultus ad sidera tollit
 1155 edidit et voces devoto fame tales.
 'O rex siderei quo constat machina celi,
 quo mare quo tellus leto cum germine fetus
 dantque foventque suos crebroque juvamine prosunt
 humano generi profusa fertilitate,
 1160 quo sensus rediit mentisque revanuit error!
 Raptus eram michimet quasi spiritus acta sciebam
 preteriti populi predicebamque futura.
 Tunc rerum secreta sciens volucrumque volatus
 stellarumque vagos motus lapsusque natantum,
 1165 id me vexabat naturalemque negabat
 humane menti districta lege quietem.
 Nunc in me redii videorque vigore moveri
 quo vegetare meos animus consueverat artus.
 Ergo, summe pater, tibi sic obnoxius esse
 1170 debeo, condignas ut digno pectore laudes
 dicam semper agens letus libamina leta.
 Bis etenim tua larga manus michi profuit uni
 munere dando novum viridi de cespite fontem.
 Nam modo possideo latices quibus ante carebam
 1175 et reducem capitis sumpsi potando salutem.
 ¶ Ista set unde venit vis, o dilecte sodalis,
 ut fons iste novus sic effluit atque reformet
 me michi qui fueram quasi vecors hactenus ex me?'
 ¶ Telgesinus ait, 'Rerum moderator opimus

1145 sui raptus H, siti raptus R, situ raptus J, T; ad ampnes T.
 1146 tempora H, tympana R.
 1148 om. T.
 1155 fame laudis PP.
 1156 siderea CV, F, siderei JJP.
 1157 germine CV, F, gramine B, Mi, JJP tr.

as possible. Merlin sat down again on the grass when he had seen it and admired the place with its flow of clear water, much taken with the way it rose from out of the soil. After a while he felt thirsty and bent over the stream: he drank freely and bathed his temples in the water. As the liquid passed through the internal passages of stomach and bowels and settled the humours of his system, he suddenly
 1150 recovered his mental balance and came to himself, losing all trace of madness. Feeling long dormant in him returned also; he became and remained the same man as he had been before—healthy and whole once more, now that his reason was restored.

He lifted his face towards the heavens in praise of God and proclaimed his praise aloud in this devout address:

'O king, by whom the frame of the starry sky stands established; through whom the earth with happy seed and the sea give forth and cherish their children and provide for man repeatedly out of their
 1160 abundant fertility; by whose aid feeling has returned to me and the error of my mind has vanished!

'I was taken out of my true self, I was as a spirit and knew the history of people long past and could foretell the future. I knew then the secrets of nature, bird flight, star wanderings and the way fish glide. This distressed me and, by a hard law, deprived me of the rest that is natural to the human mind. Now I am myself again, and I feel strong in me that life with which my spirit had always filled my limbs.

'So, father on high, for this I should be gratefully obedient to you,
 1170 to proclaim your full praises from a full heart, happily bringing my happy offerings. Doubly has your generous hand brought aid to me especially, in giving me a new spring from out of the green earth. Now I have the waters that I needed, and by my drinking of them my brain has regained its health once more.

'But, my dear friend, whence comes the power that causes this new spring to break out and bring me, insane and deranged as I have been till now, back to my own self?'

Said Taliesin: 'The bountiful Director of the universe divided

1157-9 om. PP.
 1162 coñcinnabam̄ PP, praedicebam quae Vmq.
 1166 om. PP.
 1168 arctūs CV, artus H, R, J, B, Mi, JJP tr, F.
 1168-1286 om. T.
 1169-1286 om. H, R, J.
 1176 inde CV, unde F (and, sc., JJP tr); bis CV, vis B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

- 1180 flumina per species divisit et addidit ultro
cuique suas vires ut prosint sepius egris.
¶ Sunt etenim fontes fluviique lacusque per orbem
qui virtute sua multis et sepe medentur.
Albula namque rapax Rome fluit amne salubri,
1185 quem sanare ferunt certo medicamine vulnus.
¶ Manat in Italia fons alter qui Ciceronis
dicitur. Hic oculos ex omni vulnere curat.
¶ Ethiopes etiam stagnum perhibentur habere
quo velut ex oleo facies perfusa nitescit.
1190 ¶ Affrica fert fontem qui vulgo Zema vocatur.
Potus dat voces subita virtute canoras.
¶ Dat lacus Italie [dictionus] tedia vini.
Qui de fonte Chios potant perhibentur hebere.
¶ Fertur habere duos tellus Beotica fontes.
1195 Hic facit inmemores, memores facit ille bibentes.
Continet ipsa lacum tam dira peste nocivum
ut generet furias nimieque libidinis estum.
¶ Fons Cyzicus venerem venerisque repellit amorem.
¶ Campana regione fluunt, ut dicitur, amnes
1200 qui faciunt steriles fecundas flumine potu.
Idem dicuntur furias abolere virorum.
¶ Ethiopum tellus fert rubro flumine fontem.
Qui bibit ex illo limphaticus inde redibit.
¶ Fons Leinus fieri numquam permittit abortum.
1205 Sunt duo Sycilie fontes, steriles facit alter,
alter fecundans geniali lege puellas.
¶ Flumina Thessalie duo sunt virtutis opime.
Hoc potans nigrescit ovis, candescit ab illo,
ast ab utroque bibens variato vellere degit.
1210 ¶ Clitumnus lacus est quem continet Umbrica tellus.
Hic aliquando boves fertur producere magnos,
inque Reatina fit equorum dura palude
ungula confestim dum progrediuntur arenas.
¶ Asphaltite lacu Judee corpora mergi

1181 Cumquē CV, Cuique B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

1190 Africa Gfr; zema CV, F, Zama JJP.

1192 dictionus CV, Clitorius JJP. The emendation does not scan; the name was Clitōrius in Ovid, and the last syllable here is lengthened by *tedia*. Perhaps Geoffrey made the name a trisyllable by lengthening the middle (Clitōrius), which would serve.

1193 habere CV, hebere JJP, F. Black and Michel accepted CV's *habere* and thought a verse or more was missing. Parry's correction is confirmed by Isidore's

- 1180 flowing waters into types and then allotted to each type its particular powers as a regular benefit for the sick.
'There are springs, rivers and lakes all over the world which constantly provide relief for many through their special properties. The health-giving waters of the fast-flowing *Tiber* run through Rome: men say they are a sure treatment to heal a wound. Another Italian source is called *Cicero's Spring*. This heals all kinds of damage to the eye.
'The *Ethiopians* also are believed to have a pool which glistens like
1190 oil when poured over the face. Africa has a spring usually known as *Zema*: drinking from it gives the voice an immediate sweetness of tone.
'Lake *Clitorius* in Italy makes one tired of wine. Those who drink from the spring *Chios* are said to grow dull. The land of *Boeotia* is said to have two springs, drinking from one of which makes people forgetful: the other makes them remember. This same country contains a lake of such terrible potency that it produces mad rage and an excessive lust. The spring of *Cyzicus* suppresses sexual activity and the desire for it.
'In the country of *Campania*, it is said, flow rivers which make
1200 barren women fertile on their drinking from the stream. These rivers are also said to abate mad rages in men. The land of the *Ethiopians* has a spring with red waters. Whoever drinks of it will come back raving. The spring *Leinus* always prevents miscarriages. *Sicily* has two springs, the first of which induces sterility; but the other has the happy effect of making girls fertile.
'Two streams of *Thessaly* have profound effects. A sheep drinking from one of them turns black: if it drinks from the other, white. If it drinks from both, it spends the rest of its life with a mottled fleece.
1210 'The lake *Clitumnus* is one found in the land of Umbria: it is said that it sometimes produces great oxen; and in the *Reatine Marshes* horses' hooves become suddenly hard as they make their way across the sands. In the *Asphalt Lake* of Judaea bodies cannot sink at all as

hebetes fiant; the Boeotian springs follow in Isidore as here, and there is no lacuna. Cf. NN CHIOS.

1194 boetica CV, Beotica F.

1195 inmemores B, Mi.

1196 uotium CV, nocivum B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

1198 syticus CV, Cyzicus JJP, F. (Emended after Isidore.)

1204 lentus CV, F, Leinus JJP.

1205 Sycilia SM, Siciliae F.

1214 A falci quē CV, Asphaltite B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

- 1215 nequaquam possunt vegetat dum spiritus illa.
 ¶ At contra stagnum Syden fert Indica tellus
 quo res nulla natat set mergitur ilico fundo.
 ¶ Et lacus est Aloe quo res non mergitur ulla,
 omnia set fluitant quamvis sint plumbea saxa.
 1220 ¶ Fons quoque Marside compellit saxa natate.
 Stix fluuius de rupe fuit perimetque bibentes.
 Has clades ejus testatur [achadia] tellus.
 ¶ Fons Ydumeus quater inmutando diebus
 mira lege suos fertur variare colores.
 1225 Pulverulentus enim viridisque fit ordine verso.
 Fit quoque sanguineus, fit limpidus amne decoro.
 Ex hiis per ternos unum retinere colorem
 asseritur menses semper volventibus annis.
 ¶ Trogoditis lacus est, ejus quoque profluit unda,
 1230 ter fit amara die, ter dulci grata sapore.
 ¶ Eperi de fonte faces ardere feruntur
 extincte rursusque suum deponere lumen.
 ¶ Sic algere die perhibetur fons Garamantum
 et vice transversa tota fervere nocte,
 1235 ut neget accessum pre frigore preque calore.
 Sunt et aque calide multos fervore minantes
 fervoremque trahunt dum perlabuntur alumen
 aut sulphur quibus est vis ignea grata medendi.
 His aliisque deus ditavit viribus amnes
 1240 ut fierent egris subite medicina salutis
 et manifestarent quanta virtute creator
 premineat rebus dum sic operatur in illis.
 Hos etiam latices summa ratione salubres
 esse reor subitamque reor conferre medelam
 1245 nunc potuere novo sic erumpendo liquore.
 Hii modo sub terra per concava ceca fluebant,
 ut plures alii qui submanare feruntur.
 Forsitan excursus illorum prepediente
 obice vel saxi vel terre pondere lapse.
 1250 Retrogradum cursum facientes arbitror illos

1216 sygen CV, F, Syden JJP. (Siden in Isidore.)

1220 marsidie CV, F (-iae), Marside JJP. (Isidore: Marsidae fons.)

1221 Styx Gfr; bibentes CV, bibentes SM, JJP tr, F.

1222 Hac Mi; achadia CV, B, Mi, F, Arcadia JJP. (See NN ACHAEA on this line. 'achadia' and all variants present difficulty.)

1223 Idumea JJP.

1225 Pulverulentus CV, Pulverulentus B, Mi.

- long as life remains in them. On the other hand, there is the pool
Syden in the land of India where things will not keep afloat but sink
 at once into the depths. It is the *Aloe* lake where no thing sinks and
 everything floats, even lumps of lead. The spring *Marside* also
 1220 forces stones to swim.

'The river *Styx* flows out of a rock and kills those who drink of it:
Achaea is the witness of such deaths.

'The spring of *Idumaea* is said to change the colour of its water four
 times over a period, by a remarkable arrangement. It has a sequence
 of murky—then green—then blood-red; and it then turns into a
 beautifully limpid flow. Each of these phases is said to keep its colour
 for three months, year in year out.

- 1230 'The Trogodytic lake is the one whose water comes out bitter
 three times a day, and three times with a pleasantly sweet taste.

'Torches which have gone out are said to catch light in the spring
 of *Epirus* and, conversely, to give up their light.

'The springs of the *Garamantes* are said to be so cold by day, but
 so hot all night by contrast, that it is not possible to get near on
 account of the cold or the heat. There are also warm waters whose
 heat is a danger to many people. These waters acquire their heat as
 they pass through alum or sulphur: these two contain a principle of
 fire, a welcome property in treatment.

- 1240 'God assigned to waters these and other properties to bring quick
 relief to the sick and to demonstrate the power and greatness of the
 Creator in nature, in working thus within it.

- 'I consider these waters here to be health-giving in the highest
 degree, also, and, I consider, they were able to effect that sudden
 cure just now because the new stream broke out in the following
 way. Previously these waters were flowing underground through
 lightless caverns, like very many others which are said to run there
 below. Perhaps their emergence is due to the presence of an obstruc-
 1250 tion, or a fall of stones or earth; and I expect that they were finding

1229 Rogotis CV, F ('Déformation de Trōglōdytis, métriquement impossible'),
 Trogodytus JJP, Trogoditis BC. (Isidore's MSS have trogoditis, -ytis, and trocoditis.)

1232 componere JJP.

1233 Sic CV, Sed F.

1236 multae fervore manantes F.

1245 potuisse F.

paulatim penetrasse solum fontemque dedisse.
 Sic plures manare vides iterumque redire
 sub terram rursusque suas tenuisse cavernas.⁷
 Hec ita dum gererent, rumor discurrit ubique
 1255 in Calidone novum silvis erumpere fontem
 sanatumque virum, postquam potavit ab illo,
 tempore qui multo rabie corruptus et isdem
 extiterat silvis ritu vivendo ferarum.
 Mox igitur venere duces proceresque videre
 1260 et colletari curato flumine vati.
 Cumque statum patrie per singula notificassent
 atque rogaretur sua sceptrata resumere rursus
 et tractare suam solito moderamine gentem,
 sic ait, 'O juvenes, mea non hoc exigit etas
 1265 in senium vergens que sic michi corripit artus
 ut vix preteream laxatis viribus arva.
 Jam satis exegi longevo tempore letos
 glorificando dies, michi dum rideret habundans
 copia magnarum profuse diviciarum.
 1270 ¶ Roboris annosi silva stat quercus in ista
 quam sic exegit consumens cuncta vetustas
 ut sibi deficiat succus penitusque putrescat.
 Hanc ego cum primum cepisset crescere vidi
 et glandem de qua processit forte cadentem,
 1275 dum super astaret picus ramumque videret.
 Hic illam crevisse sua jam sponte videbam
 singula prospiciens, tunc et verebar in istis
 saltibus atque locum memori cum mente notavi.
 Ergo diu vixi, mea me gravitate senectus
 1280 detinuit dudum. Rursus regnare recuso.
 Me Calidonis opes viridi sub fronde manentem
 delectant pocius quam quas fert India gemme,
 quam quod habere Tagus per littora dicitur aurum,
 1285 quam segetes Sicule, quam dulcis Methidis uve,
 aut celse turres, aut cincte menibus urbes
 aut fraglascentes Tirio medicamine vestes.
 Res michi nulla placet que me divellere possit
 ex Calidone mea me iudice semper amena.

1251 *degitte Mi.*1261 *primæ CV, patriæ B, Mi, patriæ JJP.*1264 *exigat B.*1276 *suo iam pene sedebam CV, F (suo iam paene: 'Texte sans doute altéré, que je ne sais comment rétablir.')*, *sua iam sponte videbam JJP.* Parry's suggestion is

their way back to their proper course when they gradually seeped through the soil and provided the spring. You see many which flow out like that, to return underground and keep within their own caverns once more.⁷

While they were thus engaged, the story was spreading everywhere about the new spring which had broken out in the woods of Calidon and about the man who had been cured after drinking from it, though he had been deranged for a very long time and had been living in these same woods like a wild animal.

1260 Consequently, chieftains and other leaders soon came to see and also to congratulate the prophet on being cured by the water. They told him in detail how matters stood in the country; and he was asked to resume his kingly position and continue his previous fair administration of his people.

But he said, 'Young men, at my time of life this cannot be demanded of me. I am now reaching old age, and it so enfeebles my limbs that with my slackened strength I can scarcely get across the fields. I have by now enjoyed a sufficiently long and happy period during which exceptional prosperity, with a liberal endowment of wealth, has smiled on me.

1270 'There stands in that wood an oak, rugged and full of years, now so worn by the passing of all-devouring time that its sap is failing and it is rotting through. I saw this tree when it had just begun to grow, and I saw the acorn from which it sprang as it chanced to fall, while a woodpecker perched above it and watched the branch. Here I have seen that acorn grow unaided, observing every detail. I felt a deep respect for it standing there in the clearing, and I marked the spot in my memory.

1280 'I have lived long, then, and by now the weight of my years has told on me. I will not reign again. While I remain under the green leaves of Calidon, its riches shall be my delight—a greater delight than the gems that India produces, or all the gold men say is found along the banks of the Tagus, or the corn of Sicily, or the grapes of pleasant Methis—more pleasing than high towers or wall-girt cities or clothes redolent of Tyrian scents. Nothing can please me so, nothing can tear me from my Calidon, ever dear to me, I feel. Here

accepted here, but without strong conviction. He translates: 'I have seen it grow of its own accord...' Black thought lines 1275–6 quite corrupt.

1284 *situle CV, Siculae B, Mi, F, sicule JJP.*1287 *PP begins again. me que diueller H, J, me que deueller R, T.*1288 *A calidone PP, B.*

1290 Hic ero dum vivam pomis contentus et herbis,
 et mundabo meam pia per jejunia carnem
 ut valeam fungi vita sine fine perhenni.⁷
 ¶ Hec dum dicebat proceres super ethera cernunt
 agmina longa gruū flexo per inane volatu
 [ordine girantes per littora certa videre
 1295 posset in exstructa liquido sup̄ē aere turma.]
 Hec admirantes Merlinum dicere poscunt
 quid certe fuerat quod tali more volarent.
 ¶ Mox Merlinus eis, 'Volucres, ut cetera plura,
 natura propria ditavit conditor orbis.
 1300 Sic didici multis silvis habitando diebus.
 ¶ Est igitur natura gruū dum celsa pererrant,
 si plures assint, ut earum sepe volatu
 aut hanc aut aliam videamus inesse figuram.
 1305 Una modo clamando monet servare volando,
 turbatus solitis ne discrepet ordo figuris,
 cui dum raucescit subit altera deficienti.
 Excubias noctis faciunt custosque lapillum
 sustinet in digitis dum vult expellere sompnos,
 cumque vident aliquos subito clamore citantur.
 1310 Penne nigrescunt cunctarum quando senescunt.
 ¶ Ast aquile, que nomen habent ab acumine visus,
 obtuitus tanti pre cunctis esse feruntur
 ut perferre queant non flexo lumine solem.
 Ad radium pullos suspendunt, scire volentes
 1315 illo vitato ne degener exstet in illis.
 In montis sublimē manent super equora pennis
 aspiciuntque suas imo sub gurgite predas.
 Ilico descendunt rapido per inane volatu
 et rapiunt pisces ut poscit origo natantis.

1289 Hic heroduū uiuam J.

1291 H, R, J, T end here, and CV is the only MS for the rest of the poem. T has the words, 'Amen. ffinis. Explicit.' H, R, J continue with the *Polychronicon* text. p̄ē enni J.

[1294–5] *videri* / *possunt* extracta JJP, *videri* / *possunt*, *instructa* F. Parry translates the passage, '...the chiefs caught sight of long lines of cranes in the air, circling through space in a curved line in the shape of certain letters; they could be seen in marshalled squadron in the limpid air.' He comments, 'The "ordine litterato" of the corresponding passage in Isidore seems to require this meaning, although how Geoffrey expressed it I cannot see.' Faral's suggestion does not touch the essential point about 'littera/littora'. (He puts a colon before *ordine* and a comma after *possunt*.) A similar solution with a break before *ordine* would be a construction like, 'Ordine girant per quem littera certa videri / possit in exstructa, etc.' A further possibility is that *littora* occurred in 1294 and the copyist slipped to the word after

1290 I will be while I live, happy with fruit and herbs: and I will purify
 my flesh with pious fasting, to enable me to enjoy endless ever-
 lasting life.⁷

While he was speaking, the chieftains caught sight of long lines of cranes passing in a curving flight across the sky. [They circled in an order by which a certain letter could be seen in the arrangement of the flock in the liquid air above.] In astonishment the chieftains asked Merlin to tell them just why it was that the birds flew in this manner.

1300 After a moment Merlin said to them, 'The Creator of the uni-
 verse assigned to birds, as to many other things, their own special
 nature: this I have learnt during the many days of my life in the
 woods. So, then, the nature of *cranes* is such that if large numbers are
 present during their flight, they dispose themselves, as we often see,
 in one or another arrangement. The call of one among them serves
 to warn them to keep the order of flight and not to let the formation
 break up and disrupt the traditional figure. When that bird grows
 hoarse and gives up, another one takes its place. They keep watch
 at night; and the sentinel bird holds a pebble in its claw to make
 sure of not falling asleep. When they see anybody, they rouse up
 1310 with a sudden clamour. In all of them the feathers turn black as
 they age.

'*Eagles*, who get their name from their acute sight, are said to have vision so much more powerful than all other birds that they are capable of staring at the sun without flinching. They dangle their young in its rays in order to find out (by the avoidance of the sunlight) whether there is one of inferior constitution among them. They hover over water at mountain-top height and spot their prey in the deep under the surface. Then they immediately dive fast through space and seize the fish, as accords with the nature of fish.

littera in the next line, so dropping the end of 1294 and the beginning of the unknown line.

1300 *sylvas* B. 1304 *modum...volandi* B.

1306 Aut dum CV, *cui dum* B, JJP tr (?), F.

1316 in montis sullime CV, *sublimi* B, *sublime* SM, *immotis sublime* F. B noted on 'sullime': 'sic pro sublimi: dicimus Anglicè "mountain-high".' JJP tr (no note of which reading preferred): 'over waters as high as the top of a mountain'. F's *immotis* takes *sublimē* as the adverb.

1317 Aspirant que CV, *Aspiciuntque* B, JJP tr, F; uno sub CV, *imo* sub B, *Mi*, JJP tr, F.

1319 natantis CV (reported by F as 'patantis'), *natantes* Mi, JJP tr, F. The meaning is that being eaten by birds is part of the natural order of things for the fish. Michel's emendation would mean that the natural law demands that fish be caught *while swimming*, an improbable emphasis. The participle of *nato* was used from the time of Virgil as a noun meaning fish: cf. VM 1164.

- 1320 ¶ Postposito coitu, sine semine sepe mariti
concipit et generat, dictu mirabile, vultur.
Hec per celsa volans aquilarum more cadaver
naribus elatis longe trans equora sentit,
quod quamvis tardo non horret adire volatu
1325 ut sese valeat preda saciare cupita.
Idem centenis robustus vivit in annis.
¶ Nuntia veris avis crepitante ciconia rostro
dicta fovere suos in tantum sedula natos
exuat ut proprias nudato pectore plumas.
1330 Hec cum bruma venit fertur vitare procellas
et fines Asie ductu cornicis adire.
Pascit eam pullus senio cum deficit etas
quod depavit eum cum debuit ipsa diebus.
¶ Excedit volucres dulci modulamine cunctas
1335 cum moritur cignus nautis gratissimus ales.
Hunc in Hiperboreo perhibent accedere tractu
ad cantum cithare per littora forte sonantis.
¶ Strucio que ponit sub pulvere deserit ova
ut foveantur ibi dum negligat ipsa fovere.
1340 Inde creantur aves radio pro matre cubante.
¶ Ardea cum pluvias tempestatesque perhorret
evolat ad nubes ut tanta pericula vitet.
Hinc illam subitos dicunt portendere nimbos
sublimem quociens spectant super ethera naute.
1345 ¶ Unica semper avis divino munere phenix
in terris Arabum redivivo corpore surgit.
Cumque senescit, adit loca fervidiora calore
solis et ingentes ab aromate jungit acervos
componitque rogam quem crebris motibus ale
1350 succendit, ferturque super penitusque crematur.
Producit volucrem pulvis de corpore facta,
et fit item phenix hac lege novata per evum.
Nidificare volens fert cinnomon cinomolgus
edificatque suum procero robore nidum.
1355 Illinc pennatis homines abducere telis
moverunt cumulum soliti transmittersse venum.
¶ Alcion avis est que stagna marina frequentat

1333 Quod CV, *Quot F*; iam CV, cum *JJP*.
1338 Strucio CV, *F*, *struthio B*, *Gfr*, *JJP tr*.
1339 negligit *B*, *F*.
1351 facto CV, *facta B*, *Mi*, *JJP tr*, *F*.

- 1320 'The female *vulture* avoids intercourse and often (strange to tell) conceives and produces young without fertilization by a mate. She flies high, like the eagle, and with nostrils distended senses a corpse far off across the sea. Her flight is slow, but not through revulsion, as she goes over to it to fill herself on the prey that satisfies her. This same bird lives to a hundred years in full vigour.
'The *stork's* croaking voice is a messenger of spring. This bird is said to look after its young with such extreme devotion that it strips its breast bare by pulling out the feathers. When winter comes, these birds are said to avoid the storms by flying off to the shores of Asia, with a crow as guide. Its chick feeds it when it grows weak in age, because it fed the chick at the period when it needed that care.
'The *swan* surpasses all other birds in the sweetness of its song when it is dying. It is a bird much welcomed by sailors. Men say that in the Hyperborean region this bird will approach close, at the sound of a guitar happening to be played along the shore.
'The *ostrich* deserts her eggs, but lays them under the sand so that they may be looked after when she herself is no longer looking after them. So it happens that these birds are hatched by the sun instead of by their mother.
'When the *heron* is afraid of rains and tempests, it flies up into the clouds to avoid such dangers. So when sailors see it flying high into the sky they say it is a warning of imminent rain-storms.
'In Arab lands the ever-unique *phoenix* rises with a renewed body, by a divine dispensation. When it is growing old, it goes to a place which has been heated up by the sun. There it makes a great heap of spices and builds a pyre which it kindles into flame by rapidly fluttering its wings. It settles itself on top and is completely consumed. The ash from its body creates a bird, and in this fashion the phoenix is renewed for ever.
'The *cinnamolgus* fetches cinnamon when it wants to nest, and it builds its nest on a high trunk. Men set themselves to knock the heap down from there with feathered projectiles, their custom being to send it for sale.
'The *halcyon* is a bird which haunts sea-shore pools and builds its

1353 cinom cinomolgus CV, *cinnamum cinnamologus B*, *cinnomon Mi*, *JJP tr*, *cinnamum cinomolgus F*.
1354 pro cero CV, *procero B*, *Gfr*, *F*, pro *certo JJP*.
1357 Alcion CV (*Alecion*, according to *B*, *Mi*), *Halcyon B*, *Alcion Mi*, *F*.

edificatque suos hiemali tempore nidos.
 Dum cubat, equora sunt septem tranquilla diebus
 1360 et venti cessant tempestatesque remisse
 inpendunt placidam volucris famulando quietem.
 ¶ Psitacus humanam proprio modulamine vocem
 dum non spectatur prorsus proferre putatur.
 Intermiscet 'ave' verbis et 'chere' jocosis.
 1365 ¶ Est pelicanus avis pullos consueta necare
 et confusa tribus lugere dolore diebus.
 Denique supposito laniat sua corpora rostro
 et scindens venas educit sanguinis undas,
 et vite reduces reddit rorando volucres.
 1370 Dum Diomedee lacrimosa voce resultant
 et faciunt planctus subitam portendere mortem
 dicuntur regum vel magna pericula regni.
 Cumque vident aliquem discernunt ilico quid sit,
 barbarus an Grecus, nam Grecum plausibus ale
 1375 et blandimentis adeunt leteque resultant.
 Circueunt alios pennisque feruntur iniquis
 horrentique sono velut hostes agrediuntur.
 Memnonides quinto semper dicuntur in anno
 Memnonis ad tumulum longo remeare volatu
 1380 et deflere ducem Troiano Marte peremptum.
 Fert quoque mirandam splendens hircinea pennam
 nocte sub obscura que fulget ut ignea lampas,
 atque ministrat iter si preportetur eunti.
 Quando nidificat devellit ab arbore picus
 1385 clavos et cuneos quos non divelleret ullus,
 cujus ab impulsu vicinia tota resultant.'
 ¶ His igitur dictis, quidam vesanus ad illos
 accessit subito, seu sors conduxerat illum.
 Terrifico clamore nemus complebat et auras
 1390 et quasi sevens aper spumabat bella minando.
 Ocius ergo virum capiunt secumque sedere
 cogunt ut moveat risusque jocosque loquendo.
 Inspiciens igitur vates attentius illum,

1367 *Mi* printed this line after 1389; apparently a printing error.

1372 *Dicuntur Mi*.

1373 *quis sit Mi*.

1378 *Memnonides CV, F, Memnonides B, JJP tr.*

1379 *Memnonis CV, F, Memnonis B, JJP tr.*

1381 *circinea CV, circinea B, Hercynia JJP, hircinea F.*

1360 nests during the winter. While it is hatching, the sea is calm for seven days, the wind falls and storms die and hold off, to provide peace and quiet for the bird.

'The *parrot* is thought to produce human speech in its own tones, when not looked at directly: it mixes "Hallo" and "How d'you do?" with funny remarks.

'The *pelican* is a bird which usually kills its brood and laments for three days in a confusion of grief. Finally it pecks at its own body with its beak, cutting into the veins and letting out streams of blood with which it sprinkles the young birds and brings them to life.

1370 'When the *diomedes* emit their mournful cry of lamentation, they are said to be foretelling the sudden death of kings or great dangers to the kingdom. When they see anyone, they can tell at once what kind he is—a barbarian or a Greek. They approach a Greek playfully, flapping their wings and chirruping happily. They circle the others and make hostile dives, going at them with a fierce cry as at enemies.

1380 'The *memnonids* are said to undertake a long flight every fifth year to the tomb of Memnon, to mourn for the prince who was killed in the Trojan war.

'The splendid *hercynia* grows a wonderful feather which on a dark night burns like a lamp-flame and lights the way if carried in front of a traveller.

'When the *woodpecker* is nesting, it pulls out of the tree nails and wedges that no-one has been able to dislodge, and the place around resounds with its blows.'

1390 As he finished speaking, a madman came up to them unexpectedly—or perhaps fate had brought him. He filled the forest air with a terrible noise, made threatening gestures and foamed at the mouth like a wild boar. They quickly caught this man and made him sit down, to get some laughter and jokes out of what he would say.

The bard looked at him more attentively, realized who he was, and gave a deep sigh which came right from his heart, saying:

1384 *divellit B, Mi*. *B* and *Mi* may be right, but *divelleret* in 1385 is not directive. It is less rare, but less precise for what the woodpecker is doing, viz., plucking(*de-*) rather than tearing (*di-*). (Cf. readings in line 1287.)

1385 *Claveos Mi*.

1388 *ceu fors B*.

1395 quis fuerit recolit gemitumque reducit ad imo
pectore, sic dicens, 'Non hec fuit ejus ymago
olim, dum nobis juvenilis floruit etas.
Pulcher enim fortis fuerat tunc tempore miles
et quem nobilitas regumque ferebat origo.
1400 Hunc mecum pluresque simul tunc dives habebam,
totque bonis sociis felix censebar eramque.
Accidit interea dum venaremur in altis
montibus Argustli nos devenisse sub una
que patulis ramis surgebat in aera quercu.
1405 Fons ibi manabat viridi circumdatus herba,
cujus erant latices humanis haustibus apti.
Ergo siti pariter correpti sedimus illic
et fontis puros avidae libavimus amnes.
Deinde super teneras solito conspeximus herbas
in rivo fontis redolentia poma jacere.
1410 Mox ea collegit qui primus adiverat iste
porrexitque michi subito pro munere ridens.
Ergo distribui data poma sodalibus et me
expertem feci quia non suffecit acervus.
1415 Riserunt alii quibus impertita fuerunt
meque vocant largum cupidis quoque faucibus illa
agrediendo vorant et pauca fuisse queruntur.
Nec mora, corripuit rabies miserabilis istum
et cunctos alios qui mox ratione carentes
more canum sese lacerant mordendo vicissim.
1420 Stridunt et spumant et humi sine mente volutant.
Denique digressi sunt illinc, more lupino
complentes vacuas miseris ululatibus auras.
Hec michi non illis velut estimo poma dabantur,
postmodo seu didici, nam tunc in partibus illis
1425 una fuit mulier que me dilexerat ante
et mecum multis venerem saciaverat annis.
Hanc, post quam sprevi secumque coire negavi,
ut me dampnaret rapuit mox leva voluntas,
cumque movens aditus alios reperire nequiret,
1430 apposuit fonti superillita dona veneni

1403 surgebant CV, surgebat B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

1410 adheserat CV, F (-aes-), adspexerat JJP, adiverat (?) BC. Parry's emendation does not scan. I do not know how Faral would render CV's reading. If *adiverat* were right, the MS reading could have been due to a mis-hearing in dictation to a copyist.

1424 ceu B, Gfr.

1400 'This was not how he once looked when we were in the flower of our youth. At that time he was a strong handsome soldier, in whom the nobility of royal descent was patent. I had him and many others as the companions of my prosperity: I was considered to be lucky, and I was, to have such good friends.

1410 'One day we happened to be hunting in the high mountains of Arwystli and came to a spot under an oak whose spreading branches stretched towards the sky. A spring was flowing there in a circle of green grass: its water was good for drinking. All of us were parched; so we sat and drank greedily of the pure spring stream. Then we saw fragrant apples lying on the soft grass of the familiar bank of the spring. The man who had first come upon them quickly gathered them and gave them to me, laughing over our unexpected present. I handed the gift of apples round my friends but left myself without any, because the pile was not large enough. Those who had received apples laughed and called me generous. Then they eagerly fell to and ate them up, complaining that there were so few.

1420 'In a moment a pitiable madness seized this man here and all the others. Soon they were out of their minds, bit and scratched each other like dogs, screamed, foamed at the mouth and rolled demented on the ground. Then they dispersed and went off, filling the air with their pitiful howlings, like wolves.

1430 'I think that these apples had been a gift intended for me, not for them; and I later learnt that this was so. At that time there was living in those parts a woman who had previously been attached to me and had fulfilled her love with me for many years. After I had discarded her and refused to cohabit with her, she soon developed a vicious determination to harm me; and when her scheming had failed to discover any other approach, she placed the poison-smear'd gift at the spring by which I was to return, intending by

1428 dampnaret CV, dampnaret BC. Editors have not changed CV's reading. As the ending is normally -āret, and as elsewhere in VM dampn- is usual, it is changed here.

1429 monens CV, movens B, Mi, JJP tr, F.

1430 super illita CV, superillita BC. Cf. VM 895 n. Lit., 'smear'd gifts of poison'; *veneno* is a possible correction.

quo rediturus eram, meditans hac arte nocere
 si fruerer pomis in gramine forte repertis.
 At me sors melior sic conservavit ab illis,
 ut modo predixi. Set eum compellere queso
 1435 hoc de fonte novo limphas potare salubres,
 ut si forte suam possit rehabere salutem
 se cognoscat item mecumque laboret in istis
 saltibus in domino dum postera vita manebit.
 Sic igitur fecere duces, sumptoque liquore
 1440 redditur ille sibi qui vecors venerat illuc
 cognovitque suos subito curatus amicos.
 ¶ Tunc Merlinus ait, 'Tibi nunc constanter eundum
 est in agone Dei qui te tibi reddidit ut nunc
 ipsemet inspectas, qui per deserta tot annis
 1445 ut fera vixisti sine sensu turpis eundo.
 Ne modo diffugias frutices ratione recepta
 aut virides saltus quos jam limphando colebas,
 set mecum maneat ut quos tibi surripiebat
 vis verunca dies iterum reparare labores
 1450 obsequio domini. Quod erit per singula mecum,
 ex hoc nunc commune tibi dum vivit uterque.'
 ¶ Ergo sub hoc Maeldinus ait, nam nomine tali
 dictus erat, 'Non hoc, pater o venerande, recuso.
 Letus enim tecum silvas habitabo deumque
 1455 tota mente colam tremulos dum rexerit artus
 spiritus iste meos quem te doctore piabo.'
 'Sic et ego faciam vobiscum tercius auctus,'
 Telgesinus ait, 'despecto themate mundi.
 Jam satis exegi vivendo tempore vane
 1460 et nunc tempus adest quo me michi te duce reddam.
 ¶ Vos set abite, duces, urbes defendere vestras.
 Non decet ut nostram vestro sermone quietem
 a modo turbetis. Satis applausistis amico.'
 Discedunt proceres. Remanent tres et Ganieda
 1465 quarta soror vatis, sumpta quoque denique vita.
 Ducebat vitam regis post fata pudicam.
 Que modo tot populos indicto jure regebat,
 nunc cum fratre sibi silvis nil dulcius exstat.
 Hanc etiam quandoque suos rapiebat ad alta

1449 *uerunca* CV, *F*, *furiosa* JJP, *inimica* Oldfather ap. JJP. *B* annotates 'id est *virosa*', without further comment: *virosa* means foul in a slimy way. *Verrunco* is a verb with a religious use meaning 'to turn'; with *bene*, it indicates turning out well.

this trick to cause me distress, should I happen to find the apples in the grass and eat them. A happier chance preserved me from them, as I have just explained. But now, I beg you, get this man to drink the clear healing water from this spring so that, if he is capable of recovering his sanity, he may do so and come to himself. Then he can work with me in the Lord among these groves for the remainder of his life.'

1440 So the nobles did this, and, when he had taken the water, the man who had arrived mad recovered; and the moment he was cured, he recognised his friends.

1450 Then Merlin said, 'You who have for many years lived and gone about the wild places like a beast, without a sense of shame, you must now continue steadfastly in the service of God, who has restored you to being the man you now see you are. And now that you have your reason back, do not flee from the green groves you haunted in your derangement, but stay with me: then you may make up for all the time stolen from you by the distorting mania, in the service of the Lord. All I have I shall share with you from now on as long as each of us may live.'

To this Maeldin—that was his name—replied, 'Venerable father, this is not a thing I refuse. I will gladly stay with you in the woods and serve God with my whole mind as long as my trembling limbs are governed by that vital spirit for which I shall give thanks under your guidance.'

1460 'I too shall stay with you and make the third,' said Taliesin, 'turning away from the traffic of the world. I have spent long enough in empty living; now the time has come to recover myself, and you shall lead me.

'But you, my lords, away to defend your cities! It is wrong that you should disturb our quiet with your talk. You have acclaimed our friend enough.'

The chieftains departed. The three remained, and with them a fourth—Ganieda, the prophet's sister, who had finally taken to their way of life also. She had been leading a retired life since the death of the king. She who till now had been the queen of a large nation under the appointed law, now found nothing pleasanter than living in the woods with her brother. She, too, was from time to time

If it is connected with CV's *verunca*, this (unqualified) might convey 'distorting' when applied to *vis*. *Mi* and *F* print *vis verunca* without comment.

1461 *defendite* B.

1465 *vitta* F.

- 1470 spiritus ut caneret de regno sepe futura.
¶ Ergo die quadam cum fratris staret in aula
inspiceretque domus radiantibus fenestras,
edidit has dubias dubio de pectore voces.
¶ 'Cerno Ridichenam galeatis gentibus urbem
1475 impletam sacrosque viros sacrasque tyaras
nexibus addictos, sic consiliante iuventa.
[Pastor in excelsa mirabitur edita turris
et reserare sui cogetur futile dampni.]
¶ Cerno Kaerloytcoyt vallatam milite sevo
1480 inclusosque duos quorum divellit alter
ut redeat cum gente fera cum principe vallis
et vincat raptio sevam rectore catervam.
Heu, quantum scelus est capiant ut sidera solem
cui sullabuntur nec vi nec marte coacta.
1485 Inspicio binas prope Kaerwen in aere lunas
gestarique duos nimia feritate leones
inque duos homines unus miratur et alter
in totidem pugnamque parant et cominus astant.
Insurgunt alii quartumque ferocibus armis
1490 acriter obpugnant nec prevalet ullus eorum.
Perstat enim clipeumque movet telisque repugnat
et victor ternos confestim proterit hostes
impellitque duos trans frigida regna Boote,
dans alii veniam qui postulat. Ergo per omnes
1495 diffugiunt partes tocius sidera campi.
Armoricanus aper, quercu protectus avita,
abducit lunam gladiis post terga rotatis.
Sidera bina feris video committere pugnam
colle sub Urgenio quo convenere Deyri
1500 Gewissique simul magno regnante Cohelo.
O quanto sudore viri tellusque cruore

1469 suis CV, *suis Vmq*, F.

Parry apparently retained 'suis', translating 'so that she often prophesied to her friends'. The Latin order is difficult for this.

1472 domos CV, *domus JJP tr*, BC; fenestřa CV, F, *fenestras JJP*. Parry: 'the windows of the house shining with the sun', which requires *domus*, an emendation not apparently put forward; *domos* as a genitive is recorded, but as an affectation of Augustus. Cf. VM 578 (singular), and VM 555 where the forest observatory is *unam* (sc., *domum*) *remotam*.

1477 *Pastoris excelsae JJP*. This suggestion would make *miro* an active verb, which is pre- rather than post-classical usage.

1478 *ficile B*, *Mi*. Parry: 'possibly the reading of the manuscript also'.

- 1470 exalted in spirit to sing often of the future of the kingdom. So, one day when she stood in her brother's hall and gazed at the house and at its windows glittering in the sun, she uttered these dark sayings out of a dark heart:
'I see the city of Oxford filled with helmeted men, and holy men and holy bishops bound on the decision of the Council. [The shepherd will look at the high battlements of his castle and he will be forced to unlock it without advantage and to his own hurt.] I see
1480 Lincoln walled in by a fierce army and two men shut within. One of them escapes, to return to the siege with a wild people and their chief to defeat the fierce host after capturing their commander.
'O what a terrible thing it is for stars to capture the sun, under which they sink down without the compulsion of military force. I see two moons in the air near Winchester, and two lions acting with excessive ferocity; a man looking at two men, and another man at as many again, and standing face to face in readiness for battle. The others arise and make furious and bitter attacks on the fourth
1490 man; but none of them prevails. For he stands firm, holds out his shield while fighting back with his weapons, and suddenly emerges as the victor over his triple foes. He drives two of them across the frozen wastes of the north, while granting the other one the pardon he begs. So the stars flee throughout the field.
'The Boar of Brittany, under the protection of an antique oak, takes away the moon, swords brandished behind backs. I see two stars battling with wild beasts under the hill of Urien, where the men of Deira and the men of Gwent came together in the reign of
1500 the great Coel. How the men drip with sweat and the ground flows

1479 *kaerloytcoyc CV*, F, *Kaerloytcoyt BC*. Cf. HRB, Trin. MS 1125 §58, *Cair Luit Coyt*, and RBH has *Caerlwytcoet*.

1480 *diucliter CV*, *divellit B*, *Mi*, *JJP tr*, F.

1484 *nec arte B*. Parry wished to accept Black's suggestion, 'but the metre forbids'. The change is not necessary.

1485 *caerwent JJP*, F (K-). *Caerwent* is unacceptable metrically, though this (= Winchester, now *Caer-wynt*) is the place meant. Since CV's 'Kaerwen' would sound like 'Whitecastle' and this is a 'prophetic' passage anyway, it creates little difficulty.

1493 *boetes CV*, F, *Boote BC*.

1499 *conuenire CV*, *convenere B*, *Mi*, *JJP tr*, F.

1501 *quānta CV*, *quanto B*, *Mi*, *JJP tr*, F.

- manat, in externas dum dantur vulnera gentes!
 Concidit in latebras collisum sydere sidus
 absconditque suum renovato lumine lumen.
- 1505 ¶ Heu, quam dira fames incumbit ut arceat alvos
 evacuatque suos populorum viribus artus.
 Incipit a Kambris peragratque cacumina regni,
 et miseras gentes equor transire cohercet.
 Diffugiunt vituli consueti vivere lacte
- 1510 vaccarum Scotie morientum clade nephanda.
 Iteque Neustrenses, cessate diutius arma
 ferre per ingenuum violento milite regnum!
 Non est unde gulam valeatis pascere vestram.
 Consumpsistis enim quicquid natura creatrix
- 1515 fertilitate bona dudum produxit in illa.
 Christe, tuo populo fer opem, compesce leones,
 da regno placidam bello cessante quietem!'
- ¶ Non super hoc tacuit commiranturque sodales
 germanusque suus, qui mox accessit ad illam
- 1520 hocque modo verbis applaudens fertur amicis.
 'Tene, soror, voluit res precantare futuras
 spiritus osque meum compescuit atque libellum?
 Ergo tibi labor iste datur. Leteris in illo
 auspiciisque meis devote singula dicas.'
- 1525 Duximus ad metam carmen. Vos ergo, Britanni,
 laureaserta date Gaufrido de Monemuta.
 Est etenim vester, nam quondam prelia vestra
 vestrorumque ducum cecinit scripsitque libellum
 quem nunc Gesta vocant Britonum celebrata per orbem.
- 1502 gente CV, *gentes* Mi, Ward, JJP tr, F. Black suggested that either *externa* . . .
genie or *externas* . . . *gentes* should be read.
- 1505 *ardeat* JJP, *arceat* F. Cf. VM 190 n. on *ardeo*|*arceo*.
- 1506 *suis* B, F; *arctus* CV, *artus* B, JJP tr.
- 1512 *ingenium* CV, *ingenuum* B, Mi, Ward, JJP tr, F.

with blood, as wounds are inflicted on foreigners! A star collides with another and falls into the shadow, hiding her own light when light is renewed.

'Alas for the terrible famine which falls on the people and grips their bellies and drains their limbs of strength. It starts from Wales, goes out to the furthest parts of the kingdom and forces the unhappy population to go overseas. The calves flee that used to live on the milk of Scottish cows now dying in the dread pestilence.

1510 'Normans—go! No longer take your armies of violent soldiery through our native kingdom. There is nothing left to fill your maw: you have eaten up everything that creative nature has till now produced out of her fertile bounty.

'Christ, succour your people! Curb the lions, put a stop to war, and give the kingdom peace and quiet.'

She did not end with this, and her friends listened in amazement. So also did her brother, who after a while went up to her and

1520 congratulated her in kindly words, saying,

'Sister, is it you the spirit has willed to foretell the future? He has curbed my tongue and closed my book. Then this task is given to you. Be glad of it, and under my authority declare everything faithfully.'

We have brought the song to an end. So, Britons, give a laurel wreath to Geoffrey of Monmouth. He is indeed your Geoffrey, for he once sang of your battles and those of your princes, and he wrote a book which is now known as the 'Deeds of the Britons'—and they are celebrated throughout the world.

1521 Te ne CV, *tene* Mi, F.

1522 On 'libellum' (CV) F notes: 'A corriger peut-être en labellum'.

1524 *deuota* JJP. F as CV.

1526 *monumeta* CV, *Monemuta* Mi, JJP tr, F.

1529 After VM 1529 in CV, in a later hand, 'Explicit vita Merlini Calidonii per Galfridum Monemutensem'.