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RELIQUIÆ ANTIQUÆ.

SCRAPS

FROM

ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS,

ILLUSTRATING CHIEFLY

EARLY ENGLISH LITERATURE

AND THE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

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A BESTIARY,

From MS. Arundel, No. 292, fol. 4, r^o. (in the British Museum,) of the earlier part of the thirteenth century. I have already communicated it to the *Altdeutsche Blätter*, vol. 2, Leipzig, 1837, a work which is in the hands of few Englishmen. It has been re-collated on the original MS. for the present edition. This poem is a close translation of the Latin *Physiologus* of Theobaldus or Thetbaldus. In the MS. it is written as prose.

Natura leonis ja.

ðe leun stant on hille,
and he man huntē here,
oðer ðurg his nese smel,
smake ðat he negge,
bi wilc weie so he wile
to dele niðer wenden,
alle hise fet steppes
after him he filleð,
drageð dust wið his stert
ðer he steppeð,
oðer dust oðer deu,
ðat he ne cunne is finden,
driveð dun to his den
ðar he him bergen wille.

ija.

An oðer kinde he haveð,

wanne he is i-kindled
 stille lið ðe leun,
 ne stireð he nout of slepe
 til ðe sunne haveð sinen
 ðries him abuten,
 ðanne reiseð his fader him
 mit te rem ðat he makeð.

ij^a.

ðe ðridde lage haveð ðe leun,
 ðanne he lieð to slepen
 sal he nevre luken
 ðe lides of hise egen.

Significacio prime nature.

Welle heg is tat hil,
 ðat is heven riche,
 ure Loverd is te leun,
 ðe liveð ðer aboven;
 wu ðo him likede
 to ligten her on erðe,
 migte nevre divel witen,
 ðog he be derne hunte,
 hu he dun come,
 ne wu he dennede him
 in ðat defte meiden,
 Marie bi name,
 ðe him bar to manne frame.

ij^a. et ij^a.

ðo ure drigten ded was,
 and dolven, also his wille was,
 in a ston stille he lai
 til it kam ðe dridde dai,
 his fader him filstnede swo
 ðat he ros fro dede ðo,
 us to lif holden,
 wakeð so his wille is,
 so hirde for his folde;
 he is hirde, we ben sep;
 silden he us wille,
 if we heren to his word
 dat we ne gon nowor wille,

Natura aquile.

Kiðen i wille ðe ernes kinde,
 also ic it o boke rede,
 wu he neweth his guðhede,

hu he turneð ut of elde,
 siðen hise limes arn unwelde,
 siðen his bec is al to-wrong,
 siðen his fligt is al unstrong,
 and his egen dimme;
 hereð wu he neweð him.
 A welle he sekeð ðat springeð ai
 boðe bi nigt and bi dai,
 ðer over he flegeð, and up he teð,
 til ðat he ðe hevene seð,
 ðurg skies sexe and sevene
 til he cumeð to hevene;
 so rigt so he cunne
 he hoveð in the sunne;
 ðe sunne swideð al his fligt,
 and oc it makeð his egen brigt,
 hise fedres fallen for ðe hete,
 and he dun mide to the wete
 falleð in ðat welle grund,
 ðer he wurdeð heil and sund,
 and cumeð ut al newe,
 ne were his bec untrewe.
 His bec is get biforn wrong,
 ðog hise limes senden strong,
 ne maig he tilen him non fode
 him self to none gode,
 ðanne geð he to a ston,
 and he billeð ðer on,
 billeð til his bec biforn
 haveð ðe wrengeðe forloren,
 siðen wið his rigte bile
 takeð mete ðat he wile.

Significacio.

Al is man so is tis ern,
 wulde ge nu listlen,
 old in hise sinnes dern,
 or he bicumeth cristen;
 and tus he neweð him ðis man,
 ðanne he nimeð to kirke,
 or he it biðenken can,
 hise egen weren mirke;
 forsaket ðore Satanas,
 and ilk sinful dede;
 takeð him to Jhesu Crist,
 for he sal ben his mede;

leveð on ure love[r]d Crist,
 and lereð prestes lore;
 of hise egen wereð ðe mist,
 wiles he dreccheð ðore.
 His hope is al to Gode-ward,
 and of his luve he lereð;
 ðat is te sunne sikerlike,
 ðus his sigte he bereð;
 naked falleð in ðe funt fat,
 and cumeð ut al newe,
 buten a litel; wat is tat?
 His muð is get untrewe;
 his muð is get wel unkuð
 wið pater noster and crede;
 fare he norð, er fare he suð,
 leren he sal his nede;
 bidden bone to Gode,
 and tus his muð rigten;
 tilen him so ðe sowles fode,
 ðurg grace off ure drigtin.

Natura serpentis.

An wirm ist o werlde,
 wel man it knoweð,
 neddre is it te name:
 ðus he him neweð,
 ðanne he is for-broken and for-broiden,
 and in his elde al for-wurden.
 Fasteð til his fel him slakeð,
 ten daies fulle,
 ðat he is lene and mainles
 and ivele mai gangen;
 he crepeð cripelande forð,
 his craft he ðus kiðeð,
 sekeð a ston ðat a ðirl is on,
 narwe buten he nedeð him,
 nimeð unneðes ðurg,
 for his fel he ðer leteð;
 his fles forð crepeð,
 walkeð to ðe water-ward,
 wile ðanne drinken.
 Oc he speweð or al ðe venim
 ðat in his brest is bred
 fro his birde time,
 drinkeð siðen i-nog,
 and tus he him neweð.

ija.

ðanne ðe neddre is of his hid naked,
 and bare of his brest atter,
 if he naked man se
 ne wile he him nogt neggen,
 oc he fleð fro him
 als he fro fir sulde.
 If he cloðed man se,
 cof he waxeð,
 for up he rigteð him
 redi to deren,
 to deren er to ded maken,
 if he it muge forðen.
 Wat if the man war wurðe,
 and weren him cunne,
 figteð wið ðis wirm
 and freð on him figtande;
 ðis neddre siðen he nede sal,
 makeð seld of his bodi,
 and sildeð his heved;
 litel him is of hise limes,
 but he lif holde.

[Significacio.]

Knov cristene man
 wat tu Crist higest
 atte kirke dure,
 ðar ðu cristned were:
 ðu higtas to leven on him,
 and hise lages luvien,
 to helden wit herte
 ðe bodes of holi k(i)rke.
 If ðu havest it broken,
 al ðu for-breðes,
 for-wurðes and for-gelves,
 eche lif to wolden,
 elded art fro eche blis,
 so ðis wirm o werld is;
 newe ðe forði
 so ðe neddre doð;
 it is te ned.
 Feste ðe of stedefastnesse,
 and ful of ðewes;
 and help ðe povre men
 ðe gangen abuten.
 Ne deme ðe nog wurdi,

Ðat tu dure loken
 up to ðe hevene-ward ;
 oc walke wið ðe erðe
 mildelike among men ;
 no mod ðu ne cune,
 mod ne mannes uncost ;
 oc swic ef sineginge ;
 and bote bid tu ðe ai,
 boðe bi night and bi dai,
 Ðat tu milce mote haven
 of ðine misdedes.
 Ðis lif bitokneð ðe sti
 Ðat te neddre gangeð bi,
 and tis is ðe ðirl of ðe ston
 Ðat tu salt ðurg gon.
 Let ðin filðe fro ðe,
 so ðe wirm his fel doð ;
 go ðu ðan to Godes hus
 ðe godspel to heren,
 Ðat is soule drink,
 sinnes quenching.
 Oc or sei ðu in scrifte
 to ðe prest sinnes tine ;
 fegðe ðus of ði brest filde,
 and feste ðe forðward
 fast at tin herte,
 Ðat tu firmest higtes.
 Ðus art tu ging and newe ;
 forðward be ðu trewe.
 Nedeth ðe ðe ðevel nogt,
 for he ne mai ðe deren nogt ;
 oc he fleð fro ðe
 so neddre fro de nakede.
 On ðe cloðede ðe neddre is cof,
 and te devel cliver on sinnes ;
 ai ðe sinfule
 bisetten he wile,
 and wið al mankin
 he haveð nið and win ;
 wat, if he leve have
 of ure heven loverd
 for to deren us,
 so he ure eldere or dede ;
 do we ðe bodi in ðe bale,
 and bergen ðe soule,
 Ðat is ure heved gevelic,
 helde we it wurdlic.

Natura formice.

ðe mire is magti,
 mikel ge swinkeð
 in sumer and in softe weder,
 so we ofte sen haven;
 in ðe hervest
 hardilike gangeð,
 and renneð rapelike,
 and resteð hire seldum,
 and fecheð hire fode
 ðer ge it mai finden,
 gaddreð ilkines sed
 boðen of wude and of wed,
 of corn and of gres,
 ðat ire to haven es,
 haleð to hire hole,
 ðat siðen hire helpeð
 ðar ge wile ben winter agen;
 cave ge haveð to crepen in,
 ðat winter hire ne derie;
 mete in hire hule ðat
 ðat ge muge biliven.
 ðus ge tileð ðar,
 wiles ge time haveð,
 so it her telleð;
 oc finde ge ðe wete,
 corn ðat hire qwemeð,
 al ge for-leteð ðis oðer seð
 ðat ic er seide;
 ne bit ge nowt ðe barlic
 beren abuten;
 oc suneð it and sakeð forð,
 so it same were.
 Get is wunder of ðis wirm
 more ðanne man weneð,
 ðe corn ðat ge to cave bereð,
 al get bit o-twinne,
 ðat it ne for-wurðe
 ne waxe hire fro,
 er ge it eten wille.

Significacio.

ðe mire muneð us
 mete to tilen,
 long livenoðe,
 ðis little wile

ðe we on ðis werld wunen :
 for ðanne we of wenden,
 ðanne is ure winter ;
 we sulen hunger haven
 and harde sures,
 buten we ben war here.
 Do we for-ði so doð ðis der,
 ðanne be we derne
 on ðat dai ðat dom sal ben,
 ðat it ne us harde repe :
 seke we ure lives fod,
 ðat we ben siker dere,
 so ðis wirm in winter is,
 ðan ge ne tileð nummore.
 ðe mire suneð ðe barlic,
 ðanne ge fint te wete ;
 ðe olde lage we ogen to sunen,
 ðe newe we haven moten.
 ðe corn ðat ge to cave bereð,
 all ge it bit o-twinne,
 ðe lage us lereð to don god,
 and forbedeð us sinne.
 It ben us ebriche bodes,
 and bekned evelike ;
 it fet ðe licham and te gost
 oc nowt o gevelike ;
 ure loverd Crist it lene us
 ðat his lage us fede,
 nu and o domes-dei,
 and tanne we haven nede.

Natura cervi.

ðe hert haveð kindes two,
 and forbisnes oc al so :
 ðus it is on boke set,
 ðat man clepeð Fisiologet.
 He drageð ðe neddre of de ston
 ðurg his nese up on on,
 of ðe stoc er of ðe ston,
 for it wile ðer-under gon ;
 and sweleð it wel swiðe,
 ðer-of him brinneð siðen
 of ðat attrie ðing,
 wiðinnen he haveð brenning :
 he lepeð ðanne wið mikel list,
 of swet water he haveð ðrist ;
 he drinkeð water gredilike

til he is ful wel sikerlike,
 ne haveð ðat venim non migt
 to deren him siðen non wigt.
 Oc he werpeð er hise hornes
 in wude er in ðornes,
 and gingid him ðus ðis wilde der,
 so ge haven nu lered her.

Significacio prima.

Alle we atter dragen off ure eldere,
 ðe brokendrigitinnes word ðurg ðe neddre;
 ðer ðurg haveð mankin
 boðen nið and win,
 kolsipe and gisting,
 givernesse and wissing,
 pride and over-wene;
 swilc atter i-mene.
 Ofte we brennen in mod,
 and wurðen so we weren wod;
 ðanne we ðris brennen;
 bihoveð us to rennen
 to Cristes quike welle,
 ðat we ne gon to helle;
 drinken his wissing,
 it quenchet ilc siniging;
 for-werpen pride everil del,
 so hert doð hise hornes;
 gingen us tris to gode-ward,
 and gemen us siðen forð-ward.

Natura ija.

ðe hertes haven anoðer kinde,
 ðat us og alle to ben minde.
 Alle he arn off one mode;
 for if he fer fecchen fode,
 and he over water ten,
 wile non at nede oðer flen;
 oc on swimmeð bi-forn,
 and alle ðe oðre folegen,
 weðer so he swimmeð er he wadeð:
 is non at nede ðat oðer lateð,
 oc leigeth his skin-bon
 on oðres lend-bon.
 Gef him ðat biforn teð
 bilimpes for to tirgen,
 alle ðe oðre cumen mide,
 and helpen him for to herien,

beren him of ðat water grund
 up to ðe lond al heil and sund,
 and forðen here nede :
 ðis wune he haven hem bitwen,
 ðog he an hundred to giddre ben.

Significacio ija.

ðe hertes costes we ogen to munen,
 ne og ur non oðer to sunen,
 oc evrilc luven oðer,
 also he were his broder,
 wurðen stedefast his wine,
 ligten him of his birdene,
 helpen him at his nede ;
 God giveð ðer-fore mede :
 we sulen haven hevenriche,
 gef we ben twixen us ben briche :
 ðus is ure loverdes lage,
 luvelike to fillen,
 herof have we mikel ned,
 ðat we ðar wið ne dillen.

Natura wulpis.

A wilde der is
 ðat is ful of fele wiles,
 fox is hire to name,
 for hire queðsipe ;
 husebondes hire haten,
 for hire harm dedes :
 ðe coc and te capun
 ge feccheð ofte in ðe tun,
 and te gandre and te gos,
 bi ðe necke and bi ðe noz,
 haleð is to hire hole ;
 for-ði man hire hatieð,
 hatien and hulen
 boðe men and fules.
 Listneð nu a wunder,
 ðat tis der doð for hunger :
 goð o felde to a furg,
 and falleð ðar-inne,
 in eried lond er in erð chine.
 for to bilirten fugeles ;
 ne stereð ge nogt of ðe stede
 a god stund deies,
 oc dareð so ge ded were,
 ne drageð ge non onde:

ðe raven is swiðe redi,
 weneð ðat ge rotieð,
 and oðre fules hire fallen bi
 for to winnen fode,
 derflike wiðuten dred;
 he wenen ðat ge ded beð,
 he wullen on ðis foxes fel;
 and ge it wel feleð,
 ligtlike ge lepeð up
 and letteð hem sone,
 gelt hem here billing
 raðe wið illing,
 te-toggeð and te-tireð hem
 mid hire teð sarpe,
 fret hire fille,
 and goð ðan ðer ge wille.

Significacio.

Twifold forbisne in ðis der
 to frame we mugen finden her,
 warsipe and wisdom
 wið devel and wið ivel man;
 ðe devel dereð dernelike,
 he lat he ne wile us nogt biswike,
 he lat he ne wile us don non loð,
 and bringeð usin a sinne and ter he us sloð,
 he bit us don ure bukes wille,
 eten and drinken wið unskil,
 and in ure skempting
 he doð raðe a foxing,
 he billeð one ðe foxes fel
 wo so telleð idel spel,
 and he tireð on his ket
 wo so him wið sinne fet,
 and devel geld swak billing
 wið same and wið sending,
 and for his sinfule werk
 ledeð man to helle merk.

Significacio.

ðe devel is tus ðe i-lik
 mið ivele breides and wið spik;
 and man al so ðe foxes name
 arn wurði to haven same;
 for wo so seieð oðer god,
 and ðenkeð ivel on his mod,
 fox he is and fend i-wis,

ðe boc ne legeð nogt of ðis ;
 so was Herodes fox and ferd,
 ðo Crist kam in to ðis middel-erd,
 he seide he wulde him leven on,
 and ðogte he wulde him for-don.

Natura iranee (sic).

Seftes sop ure seppande,
 sene is on werlde,
 leiðe and loldike, (*sic*)
 ðus we it leven,
 mani-kines ðing
 alle manne to wissing.
 ðe spinnere on hire swid ge weveð,
 festeð atte hus rof,
 hire fo dredes
 o rof er on ovese,
 so hire is on elde ;
 werpeð ðus hire web,
 and weveð on hire wise.
 ðanne ge it hoveð al i-digt.
 ðeðen ge driveð,
 hitt hire in hire hole,
 oc ai ge it biholdeð
 til ðat ðer fleges faren
 and fallen ðer-inne,
 wiðeren in ðat web,
 and wilen ut wenden ;
 ðanne renneð ge rapelike,
 for ge is ai redi,
 nimeð anon to ðe net
 and nimeð hem ðere,
 bitterlike ge hem bit
 and here bane wurðeð,
 drepeð and drinkeð here blod,
 doð ge hire non oðer god,
 bute fret hire fille,
 and dareð siðen stille.

Significacio.

Dis wirm bitokneð ðe man
 ðat oðer biswikeð
 on stede er on stalle,
 stille er lude,
 in mot er in market,
 er oni oðer wise,
 he him bit

ðan he him bale selleð,
 and he drinkeð his blod
 wanne he him dreveð,
 and ðo freteð hem al,
 ðan he him ivel werkeð.

Natura cetegrandie.

Cethegrande is a fis
 ðe moste ðat in water is ;
 ðat tu wuldes seien get,
 gef ðu it soge wan it flet,
 ðat it were an eilond
 ðat sete one ðe se sond.
 ðis fis ðat is unride,
 ðanne him hungreð he gapeð wide,
 ut of his ðrote it smit an onde,
 ðe swetteste ðing ðat is o londe ;
 ðer fore oðre fisses to him dragen,
 wan he it felen he aren fagen,
 he cumen and hoven in his muð,
 of his swike he arn uncuð ;
 ðis cete ðanne hise chaveles lukeð,
 ðise fisses alle in sukeð,
 ðe smale he wile ðus biswiken,
 ðe grete maig he nogt bigripen.
 ðis fis wuneð wið ðe se grund,
 and liveð ðer evre heil and sund,
 til it cumeth ðe time
 ðat storm stireð al ðe se,
 ðanne sumer and winter winnen ;
 ne mai it wunen ðer-inne,
 so drovi is te sees grund,
 ne mai he wunen ðer ðat stund,
 oc stireð up and hoveð stille ;
 wiles ðar weder is so ille,
 ðe sipes ðat arn on se for-driven,
 loð hem is ded, and lef to liven,
 biloken hem and sen ðis fis,
 an eilond he wenen it is,
 ðer-of he aren swiðe fagen,
 and mid here migt ðar to he dragen,
 sipes on festen,
 and alle up gangen ;
 of ston mid stel in ðe tunder
 wel to brennen one ðis wunder,
 warmen hem wel and heten and drinken ;

ðe fir he feleð and doð hem sinken,
for sone he diveð dun to grunde,
he drepeð hem alle wiðuten wunde.

Significacio.

ðis devel is mikel wið wil and magt,
so wicches haven in here craft,
he doð men hungren and haven ðrist,
and mani oðer sinful list,
colleð men to him wið his onde,
wo so him folgeð he findeð sonde ;
ðo arn ðe little in leve lage,
ðe mikle ne maig he to him dragen :
ðe mikle, I mene ðe stedefast
in rigte leve mid fles and gast.
wo so listneð develes lore,
on lengðe it sal him repen sore ;
wo so festeð hope on him,
he sal him folgen to helle dim.

Natura Sirene.

In ðe se senden
selcuðes manie ;
ðe mereman is
a meiden i-like
on brest and on bodi,
oc al ðus ge is bunden,
fro ðe novle niðer-ward
ne is ge no man like,
oc fis to fuliwis
mid finnes waxen.
ðis wunder wuneð
in wankel stede,
ðer ðe water sinkeð,
sipes ge sinkeð,
and scaðe ðus werkeð.
Mirie ge singeð ðis mere,
and haveð manie stefnes,
manie and sille,
oc it ben wel ille ;
sipmen here steringe forgeten
for hire stefninge,
slumeren and slepen,
and to late waken,
ðe sipes sinken mitte suk,
ne cumen he nummor up.
Oc wise men and warre

agen cunen chare,
 ofte arn at-brosten,
 mid he brest ovel ;
 he haven herd told of ðis mere
 ðat tus unie mete,
 half man and half fis,
 sum ðing tokneð bi ðis.

Significacio.

Fele men haven ðe tokning
 of ðis forbisnede ðing,
 wiðuten weren wulves fel,
 wiðinnen arn he wulves al ;
 he speken godcundhede,
 and wikke is here dede ;
 here dede is al uncuð
 wið ðat spekeð here muð ;
 twifold arn on mode,
 he sweren bi ðe rode,
 bi ðe sunne and bi ðe mone,
 and he ðe legen sone,
 mid here sage and mid here song
 he ðe swiken ðer i-mong,
 ðin agte wið swiking,
 ði soule wið lesing.

Natura elephantis.

Elpes arn in Inde riche,
 on bodi borlic berges i-like ;
 he to gaddre gon o wolde,
 so sep ðat cumen ut of folde,
 and behinden he hem sampnen
 ðanne he sulen oðre strenen ;
 oc he arn so kolde of kinde
 ðat no golsipe is hem minde,
 til he neten of a gres,
 ðe name is mandragores,
 siðen he bigeton on,
 and two ger he ðer-mide gon.
 ðog he ðre hundred ger
 on werlde more wuneden her,
 bigeten he nevermor non,
 so kold is hem siðen blod and bon ;
 ðanne ge sal hire kindles beren,
 in water ge sal stonden,
 in water to mid side,

ðat wanne hire harde tide,
 ðat ge ne falle niðer nogt,
 ðat is most in hire ðogt,
 for he ne haven no lið
 ðat he mugen risen wið.
 Hu he resteð him ðis der,
 ðanne he walkeð wide,
 herkne wu it telleð her,
 for he is al unride.
 A tre he sekeð to fulige wis,
 ðat is strong and stedefast is,
 and leneð him trostlike ðer-bi,
 ðanne he is of walke weri.
 ðe hunte haveð biholden ðis,
 ðe him wille swiken,
 wor his beste wune is,
 to don hise willen;
 sageð ðis tre and under set,
 o ðe wise ðat he mai bet,
 hileð it wel ðat he it nes war,
 ðanne he makeð ðer to char,
 him selven sit olon bihalt,
 weðer his gin him out biwarlt.
 ðanne cumeð ðis elp unride,
 and leneð him up on his side,
 clepeð bi ðe tre in ðe sadue,
 and fallen boden so to gaddre;
 gef ðer is noman ðanne he falleð,
 he remeð and helpe calleð,
 remeð reufulike on his wise,
 hopeð he sal ðurg helpe risen;
 ðanne cumeð ðer on gangande,
 hopeð he sal him don ut standen,
 fikeð and fondeð al his migt,
 ne mai he it forðen no wigt;
 he canne ðan non oðer,
 oc o remeð mid his broðer,
 manie and mikle cume ðer sesacande,
 wenen him on stall maken,
 oc for ðe helpe of hem alle
 ne mai he cumen so on stalle;
 ðanne remen he alle a rem,
 so hornes blast oðer belles drem,
 for here mikle reming
 rennande cumeð a gungling,
 raðe to him luteð,

his snute him under puteð,
and mitte helpe of hem alle
ðis elp he reisen on stalle;
and tus at-brested ðis huntis breid,
o ðe wise ðat ic have gu seid.

Significacio.

ðus fel Adam ðurg a tre,
ure firste fader, ðat fele we:
Moyses wulde him reisen,
migte it no wigt forðen;
after him prophetes alle
mighte her non him make on stalle,
on stalle, i seie, ðer he er stod,
to haven heven-riche god.
Hesuggeden and sorgeden and weren in ðogt,
wu he migten him helpen out;
ðo remeden he alle under stevene
alle hege up to ðe hevene,
for here care and here calling
hem cam to Crist heven king;
he ðe is ai in hevene mikel,
wurð her man, and tus was litel,
droping dolede in ure manhede,
and tus Adam he under gede,
reisede him up, and mankin,
ðat was fallen to helle dim.

Natura turturis.

In boke is ðe turtres lif
writen o rime, wu lagelike
ge holdeð luve al hire lif time;
gef ge ones make haveð,
 fro him ne wile ge siðen:
muneð wimmen hire lif,
 ic it wile gu reden;
bi hire make ge sit o nigt,
 o dei ge goð and flegeð.
wo so seit he sundren out,
 i seie ðat he legeð.
Oc if hire make were ded,
 and ge widue wore,
ðanne flegeð ge one and fareð,
 non oðer wile ge more;
buten one goð and one sit,
and hire olde luve abit,

in herte haveð him nigt and dai,
so he were o-live ai.

Significacio.

List ilk lesful man her-to,
and her-of ofte reche :
ure sowle atte kirke dure
ches hire Crist to meche,
he is ure soule spuse,
luve we him wið migte,
and wende we nevre fro him-ward
be dai ne be nigte ;
ðog he be fro ure sigte faren,
be we him alle trewe,
non oðer loverd ne luve we
ne non luve newe ;
leve we ðat he lived ai
up on heven-riche,
and ðeðen he sal cumen eft,
and ben us alle briche,
for to demen alle men,
oc nout on gevenlike,
hise loðe men sulen to helle faren,
hise leve to his riche.

Natura pantere.

Panter is an wilde der,
is non fairere on werlde her ;
he is blac so bro of qual,
mið wite spottes sapen al,
wit and trendled als a wel,
and itt bicumeð him swiðe wel.
Wor so he wuneð ðis panter,
he fedeð him al mid oðer der,
of ðo ðe he wile he nimeð ðe cul
and fet him wel til he is ful.
In his hole siðen stille
ðre dages he slepen wille,
ðan after ðe ðridde dai
he riseð and remeð lude so he mai,
ut of his ðrote cumeð a smel
mid his rem forð over al,
ðat over cumeth haliweie
wið swetnesse, ic gu seie,
and al ðat evre smelleð swete,

be it drie be it wete,
 for ðe swetnesse off his onde,
 wor so he walkeð o londe,
 wor so he walked, er wor so he wuneð,
 ilk der ðe him hereð to him cumeð,
 and folegeð him up one ðe wold,
 for ðe swetnesse ðe ic gu have told.
 ðe dragunes one ne stiren nout
 wiles te panter remeð ogt,
 oc daren stille in here pit,
 als so he weren of dede offrigt.

Significacio.

Crist is tokned ðurg ðis der,
 wos kinde we haven told gu her ;
 for he is faier over alle men,
 so even sterre over erðe fen ;
 ful wel he taunede his luve to man,
 wan he ðurg holi spel him wan,
 and longe he lai her in an hole,
 wel him dat he it wulde ðolen ;
 ðre daies slep he al on on,
 ðanne he ded was in blod and bon,
 up he ros and remede in wis
 of helle pine, of hevene blis,
 and steg to hevene uvenest,
 ðer wuneð wið fader and holi gast.
 Amonges men a swete mel
 he let her of his holi spel,
 wor ðurg we mugen folgen him
 into his godcundnesse fin.
 And ðat wirm ure widerwine,
 wor so of Godes word is ðine,
 ne dar he stiren, ne noman deren,
 ðer wile he lage and luve beren.

Natura columbe et significacio.

ðe culver haveð costes gode,
 alle wes ogen to haven in mode,
 sevene costes in hire kinde,
 alle it ogen to ben us minde,
 ge ne haveð in hire non galle,
 simple and softe be we alle ;
 ge ne liveð nogt bilagt ;
 ilc robbinge do we of hac.
 ðe wirm ge leteð and liveð bi ðe sed,

of Cristes lore we have ned ;
wið oðre briddes ge doð as moder,
so og ur ilk to don wið oðer ;
woning and groning is lic hire song,
bimene we us, we haven done wrong.
In water ge is wis of hevekes come,
and we in boke wið devles nome ;
in hole of ston ge makeð hire nest,
in Cristes milce ure hope is best.

Wrt,
