

**THE BOOKE OF
THENSEYGNEMENTES AND
TECHYNGE THAT THE KNYGHT OF
THE TOWRE MADE TO HIS
DOUGHTERS**

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The booke of thenseyngmentes and techynge that the Knyght of the Towre made to his
doughters by Geoffroy de La Tour Landry & Gertrude Burford Rawlings

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GEOFFROY DE LA TOUR LANDRY & GERTRUDE BURFORD RAWLINGS

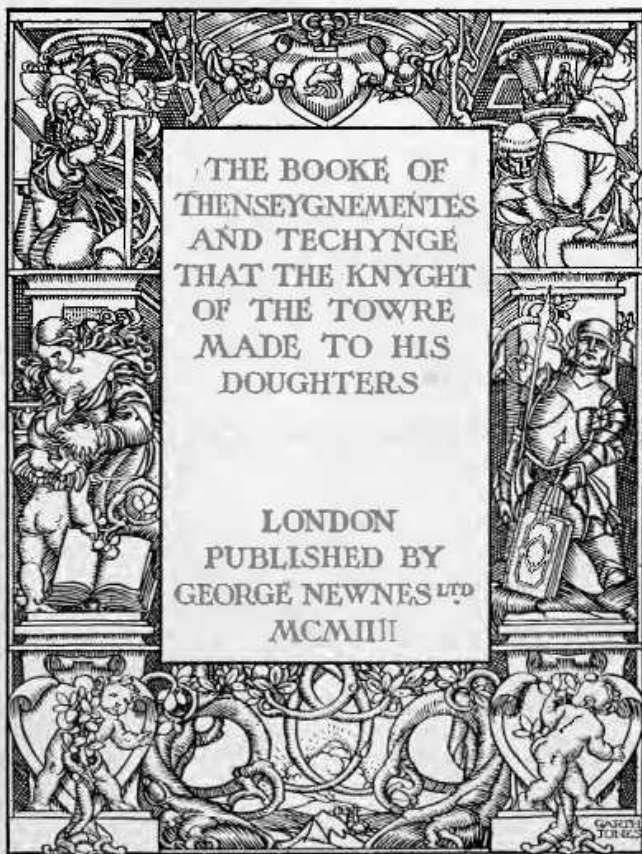
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THE BOOKE OF THENSEYGNEMENTES AND
TECHYNGE THAT THE KNYGHT OF THE
TOWRE MADE TO HIS DOUGHTERS BY THE
CHEVALIER GEOFFROY DE LA TOUR LANDRY

EDITED WITH NOTES AND A GLOSSARY
BY GERTRUDE BURFORD RAWLINGS



I WAS IN A GARDYN UNDER A SHADOWE AS IT WERE IN
THYSSUE OF APRYLLE



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CAXTON'S PREFACE.



ALLE vertuose doctryne & techyng had & lerned of suche as haue endeouored them to leue for a remembraunce after theyr dethe to vs, by whiche we ben enfourmed in scyence, wysedom, and vnderstandyng of knowleche, hou we ought to rewle our self in this present lyf, haue caused vs to know many good reules & vertuose maners to be gouerned by. Emonge al other this boke is a special doctryne & techyng, by which al yong genty! wymen specially may lerne to bihaue them self vertuously, as wel in their vyrgynyte as in their wedlok & wedowhede, as al along shal be more playnly said in the same; which boke is comen to my handes by the request and desyre of a noble lady which hath brouzt forth many noble & fayr dougters which ben vertuously nourisshed & lerned; and for very ziele & loue that she hath alway had to her fayr children, & yet hath for to haue more knouleche in vertue, to thēde ȳ they may alwey perseuere in ȳ same, hath desired & required me to trāslate & reduce this said booke out of frenssh in to our vulgar englissh, to thēde that it may the better be vnderstōde of al suche as shal rede or here it. Wherfor, atte cōtemplacion of her good grace, after the lytel connyng that god hath sent me, j haue endeuoired me to obeye her noble desyre & request, in whiche werk j fynd many vertuous good enseynementis & lernynges, by euydent histories of auctorite & good ensāples for al maner peple in generally, but

in especial for ladyes & gentilwymen, douzters to lordes & gentilmen: for whiche book al the gentilwymen now lyuyng & herafter to come or shal be, arn bounde to gyue laude, praysyng, & thankynges to the auctor of this book, & also to the lady that caused me to traslate it, & to pray for her long lyf & welfare, &, when god wil calle her fro this transitory lyf, that she may regne in heuen sempiternally, where as is Loye & blysse without ende. Thēne, fo as moche as this book is necessary to eury gentilwoman, of what estate she be, j aduyse eury gentilman or woman, hauyng such children, desyryng them to be vertuously brougt forth, to gete & haue this book, to thende that they may lerne hou they oust to gouerne them vertuously in this present lyf, by whiche they may the better & hastlyer come to worship and good renommee. And I desyre all them that shall lerne or see ony thyng in this sayd book, by whiche they shal ben the wyser & better, that they gyue laude & thākyng to the sayd ladyes good grace, and also to praye for her; and where as ony defaulte shalle be founde in the reducyng and translatyng in to our Englysshe tongue, that it be arrettid to me, whiche am Ignoraunt and not expert in the werke, thouȝ so be that I haue emprysed here to fore to smatre me in suche translacions, whiche I confesse and knowleche me ignoraunt and therin to be Imperfect. Wherefore I humbly requyre and byseche my sayd good lady to pardonne me of my symple and rude reducyng, and yf ony thyng be sayd or made vnto her playsyre, than I thynke my labour wel employed, whome j humbly byseche to receyue this lytel book in gree & thanke, & I shalle pray to almyghty god for her longe and good lyf, and to send to her after this shorte and transytory lyf euerlastyng lyf in heuen. Amen. And alle other that be vnderstandyng & fyndyng ony defaute, j requyre and pray them of theyre charyte to correcte and amende hit, and so doyng they shal deserue thanke and meryte of god, to whome I shalle pray for them.

HERE FOLOWETH THE TABLE OF THE RUBRYSHES AND THE CHAPYTRES OF THE BOOKE OF THENSEYGNEMENTES AND TECHYNGE THAT THE KNYGHT OF THE TOWRE MADE TO HIS DOUGHTERS.

How god ought to be honoured to fore al other thynges.

What sholde be done whanne one is fyrst waked.

Of themperour's daughters, one synfull and that other deuoute.

How the dede folke shalle be prayd fore.

How the matyns and prayers shold be sayd.

How yonge ladyes ought to doo abstynence and faste.

How yong ladyes ought to faste tyll they be maryed.

Of a woman of folye that fylle in a pytte.

Of her that deyde and durst not confesse her synne.

How wymmen ought to mayntene them curtoysly.

How wymmen ought not to cast her hedes here and there.

How two tholdest daughters of the kyng of denmarke lost theyre maryage for theyr fowle maners.

How y^e dougter of y^e kyng of aragon lost her maryage.

Of them that ben chydars and brawlers.

Of her that ete the ele and plucked of the fethers of the pye.

How a woman ought not to stryue with her husband.

How a woman sprange vpon the table.

Of the woman that gaf the flesshe to her hoüdes.