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VOL. I

CHAUCER'S RELATIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

BY

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TO

MY FATHER AND MOTHER

PREFACE

Although this paper has to do solely with Chaucer's relative constructions, it has been prepared with the hope that, so far as it extends, it may help to fix one construction of Middle English syntax which hitherto has received but little consideration. While it embraces suggestions from a number of sources,* it has been based upon a careful study of W. W. Skeat's five volume edition of *The Complete Works of Geoffrey Chaucer*, published by the Clarendon Press, 1894–1900.† It has taken for granted that the pronoun *that* is the predominant Chaucerian relative, and that the pleonastic *that*, which is constantly used after relatives, conjunctions, and adverbs, does not in any way affect the value of the relative which it follows.‡ All comparative figures found in the body of the paper, not specifically accounted for in the paragraph in which they occur, are taken from *Troilus and Criseyde*. Differences in citations appearing in Schrader's *Das Altenglische Relativpronomen mit besonderer berücksichtigung der sprache Chaucer's* and in this paper are to be attributed to the differences in the editions used. Differences between *that* and *which* are given in Chapters II and III rather than in Chapter I.

*See Bibliography, p. 1.

†Vol. I., ed. 2, 1899; vol. II., ed. 2, 1900; vol. III, 1894; vol. IV., ed. 2, 1900; vol. V., 1894.

‡E. A. Kock, p. 65, §149: "During the 13–15 centuries *that* was often attached to relative pronouns, as well as to interrogative pronouns, adverbs, and conjunctions, apparently without modifying their significations."

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