

**L'ESPURGATOIRE SEINT
PATRIZ OF MARIE DE FRANCE:
AN OLD-FRENCH POEM OF
THE TWELFTH CENTURY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649458349

L'espurgatoire Seint Patriz of Marie de France: An Old-French Poem of the Twelfth Century by
Thomas Atkinson Jenkins

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

THOMAS ATKINSON JENKINS

**L'ESPURGATOIRE SEINT
PATRIZ OF MARIE DE FRANCE:
AN OLD-FRENCH POEM OF
THE TWELFTH CENTURY**

L'ESPURGATOIRE SEINT PATRIZ

OF

MARIE DE FRANCE

An Old-French Poem of the Twelfth Century

PUBLISHED WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND A STUDY OF
THE LANGUAGE OF THE AUTHOR



DISSERTATION PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF UNIVERSITY STUDIES
OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, BALTIMORE, FOR THE
DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

BY

THOMAS ATKINSON JENKINS



Philadelphia:

PRESS OF ALFRED J. FERRIS

1894

CONTENTS

- I. INTRODUCTION : The Legend in Literature.
Latin Original of Marie de France. Date
of the *Espurgatoire*. Order of Marie's
Works.
- II. THE MANUSCRIPT.
- III. DIALECT OF MARIE DE FRANCE.
- IV. LANGUAGE OF THE *ESPURGATOIRE*:
 - A. Hiatus, Contraction, Elision.
 - B. Vowels.
 - C. Consonants.
 - D. Substantives.
 - E. Adjectives.
 - F. Pronouns.
 - G. Verbs.
 - H. Additional Anglo-Norman Traits in
the Manuscript.
- V. TEXT.
- VI. NOTES AND ADDITIONS.

TO

Dr. A. Marshall Elliott

WHOSE LABORS IN BEHALF OF THE ACADEMIC
STUDY OF THE ROMANCE LANGUAGES IN
THE UNITED STATES HAVE DONE
SO MUCH TO MAKE SUCH A
WORK A POSSIBILITY,

This Essay is Respectfully Dedicated

PREFACE

In the summer of 1892, when I began the work which has now reached completion, I had no larger aim than a critical publication of the text of the poem which is herewith offered to students of the origins of the French and English literatures. But the unfortunate death of Prof. Dr. Edouard Mall, of Würzburg, having left the whole subject of the Purgatory legend as it were *in suspense*, and the fundamental question of the dialect of Marie de France being unsettled, it seemed desirable to add studies upon these subjects, as well as to present the new material as to the language of the author gathered in an examination of the hitherto unstudied manuscript of the *Espurgatoire*.

My aim has been to restore as nearly as possible (with the usual concessions to facilitate reading) the text of the poem as it came from the hands of its author. The means relied upon to reach this end have been the edition by Dr. K. Warnke of the *Lays* of Marie de France (an excellent work, though not entirely free from errors); the manuscripts of Marie's *Fables* which, for several years, have been before the Romance Languages Seminary of the Johns Hopkins University; and, finally, the Latin *Tractatus* of Henry of Saltrey (of which the *Espurgatoire* is a translation) especially that version of it contained in the British Museum MS. Arundel 292.

Even with these aids, the restoration of the text

of Marie's poem from the single Paris manuscript, which, from indications, is two or three removes from the original, and somewhat carelessly written, has been a task not without obstacles. However short I may have fallen of the full attainment of my aim, I am glad to have been able to promote a closer acquaintance with an interesting figure in literary history, and with a legend which embodies so well the religious ideas of western Europe in the twelfth century.

The latitude which I have permitted myself in the matter of orthography seeks its main justification in my belief that, Marie's poem being a translation of a Latin treatise upon a Church subject, a tendency to Latinization was inevitable.

T. A. J.

PHILADELPHIA, *Christmas*, 1894.

INTRODUCTION

THE history of the legends connected with the Purgatory of Saint Patrick in Ireland was first made known to a wide circle of modern readers by the eminent English scholar, Thomas Wright,¹ just fifty years ago. Briefly described, the so-called "Purgatory" was a cavern which was situated upon an island in Lough Dearg (County Donegal), and which, according to the general belief, furnished to men a veritable entrance to the world beyond the grave. Various alleged descents into this cavern during the twelfth and following centuries gave rise to a considerable body of literature, in which nearly all the languages of modern Europe are represented. Some of these works, mainly through the instrumentality of the Church, acquired an extraordinary popularity, especially in England and France. Spreading thence to Spain and Italy, the legend furnished the subject of a drama to Calderon, and almost certainly formed part of that common circle of contemporary ideas from which Dante drew the imperishable conceptions of the *Divina Commedia*.

The first mention of the Purgatory legend in literature is made by the monk Jocelin of Furness, in his *Vita Sancti Patricii* (about 1183).² This writer

¹ *St. Patrick's Purgatory. An Essay on the Legends of Purgatory, Hell and Paradise current during the Middle Ages.* London, 1844.

² Jocelin's *Vita* was translated by L. E. Swift, *The Life and Acts of St. Patrick, etc.* Dublin 1809. The passage on the Purgatory occurs Chap. 172, p. 229.