CLARENDON PRESS SERIES. THE POEMS OF LAURENCE MINOT

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Clarendon Press Series. The Poems of Laurence Minot by Joseph Hall

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JOSEPH HALL

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Oxford University Press Warehouse
Amen Corner, E.C.

Clarendon Press Series

THE POEMS

OF

LAURENCE MINOT

EDITED

WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

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HEAD MASTER OF THE HUIME GRAMMAR SCHOOL, MANCHESTER

* Pe dedes of per hondes borgh reames er rennen."-Langtoft

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AT THE CLARENDON PRESS .

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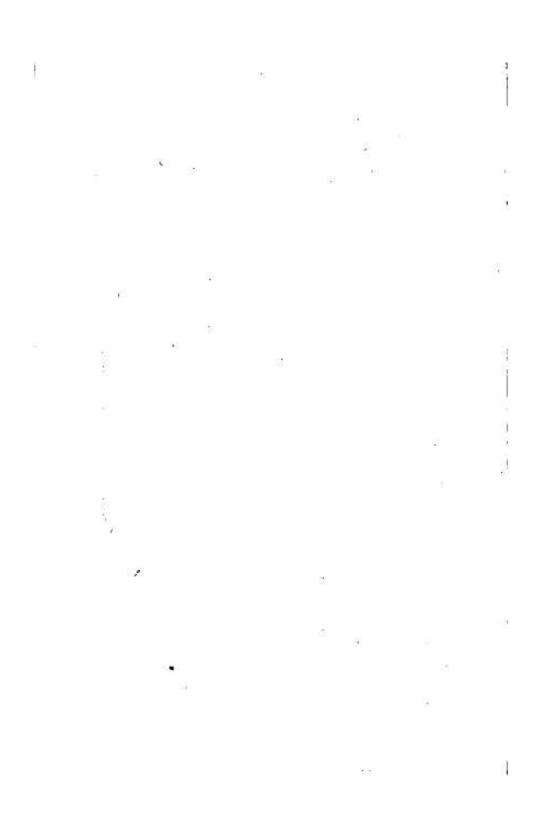
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INTRODUCTION.

THE Poems of Laurence Minot have been preserved in a single Manuscript of the Cottonian Collection, Galba, E. ix. It is a large parchment folio, written in two columns to the page. The following is a table of its contents:—

- f. I a. Blank. On the verso is written Chaucer, Exemplar emendate scriptum, an inscription which led Tyrwhitt to look into the MS, and discover these poems (Ritson's Minot, pp. vii, viii).
- f. 2. A leaf inserted from a book of Hours, probably when the book was bound for Sir Robert Cotton.
- f. 3 a. Seven lines of the poem on the siege of Calais, which is written in full at the end of the MS., also an inventory of linen. The verso is blank.
- f. 4a. 'Here bigyns Ywaine & Gaw-in,' printed in Ritson's Metrical Romances, vol. i. pp. 1-169.
- f. 25 a. 'Ywain and Gawayn bus makes endyng | God grant vs al hys dere blyssing, Amen.'
- f. 25 b. 'Here bigyns be process of be seuyn sages,' of which ll. 1-134, 2781-4002 are printed as supplement to the imperfect version of the Auchinleck MS, in Weber's Metrical Romances, vol. iii.
- f. 48 b. An unprinted poem of 94 lines, beginning 'Al es bot a fantum pat [we] with ffare, | vs be houes ilka day heben make us 3are | forto wend fra bis werld naked & bare | bot our wyndyng clathe with outen any gare.'
- f. 49 a. 'Here bigins prophecies of Merlin,' see pp. 97-105.
- f. 50 b. 'Incipit narracio de domino denario,' [Sir Peny], printed in Ritson's Pieces of Ancient Popular Poetry, Second Edition, pp. 103-108.

f. 51 b. An unprinted Rood Poem with the heading, 'Vos qui transitis: si crimina flere uelitis | Per me transite: qui sum janua vite | Bides a while and haldes 30ure pais | and heres what God him seluen sais | hingand on pe rode.' At the end is written in a later hand 'de domino denario | mani thinges not to | be rejected.'

f. 52 a. Minot's poems.

f. 57 b. 'Hic incipit euangelium nichodemi,' an important poem not yet printed. It begins, 'Bitid be time Tiberius | rewled Rome with realte.'

f. 67 a. A poem on the Seven Deadly Sins, printed in Cursor Mundi, pp. 1527-51.

f. 69 a. A poem on Penance, printed in Cursor Mundi, pp. 1560-86.

f. 73 b. A metrical exposition of the Lord's Prayer, also printed in Cursor Mundi, pp. 1437-55. This ends on f. 75 a; the verso is blank.

f. 76 a. The Pricke of Conscience, which has been taken by Dr. Morris as the basis of his edition of Hampole's

poem printed for the Philological Society.

f. 113b. The fly leaf has some notes on the points of a horse, beginning, 'A horse hath xxv propertes but ys to say | he hath iiij off a lyon | iiij of an ox.' (See Reliquiæ Antiquæ, i. p. 232, for a similar scrap). Then follows in a later hand a poem on the siege of Calais in 1400; it is printed in Reliquiæ Antiquæ, vol. ii. pp. 21-24. On the back of f. 114 is written Richard Chawfer (? for Chawser), from which was no doubt copied the misleading title of the volume.

The handwriting of the MS. is of the first twenty years of the fifteenth century '. The evidence afforded by the poem printed

'Seems to have been written in the time of Richard II or towards the close of the fourteenth century; and not, as appeared to Warton, who knew nothing of the age of MSS, and probably never saw this, "in the reign of King Henry the Sixth," Ritson, Metrical Romances, iii. p. 229. Wright thinks we owe our copy of the poems to the interest awakened in the exploits of Edward the Third by Henry the Fifth's successes in France. (Political Poems, i. p. xxii.)