

**THE POETICAL WORKS
OF GEOFFREY CHAUCER,
VOL. III, PP. 1-178**

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The Poetical Works of Geoffrey Chaucer, Vol. III, pp. 1-178 by Geoffrey Chaucer & Richard Morris & Sir Harris Nicolas

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GEOFFREY CHAUCER & RICHARD MORRIS & SIR HARRIS NICOLAS

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VOL. III, PP. 1-178**

THE ALDINE EDITION
OF THE BRITISH
POETS



THE POEMS OF GEOFFREY CHAUCER
IN SIX VOLUMES
VOL III

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THE POETICAL WORKS OF
GEOFFREY CHAUCER



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of "Specimens of Early English,"
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WITH MEMOIR BY SIR HARRIS NICOLAS



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THE CANTERBURY TALES.

THE FRANKELEYNES PROLOGE.

IN faith, Squier, thou hast the wel y-
quit
And gentilly, I preise wel thy wit,
Quod the Frankeleyn, ' considering
thin youtha,
So felingly thou spekest, sire, I alowe the,
As to my dome, ther is non that is here,
Of eloquence that schal be thy pere,
If that thou live; God geve thee goode chaunce,
And in vertue send the continnaunce,
For of thy speking I have gret deinté.
I have a sone, and by the Trinité 10
It were me lever than twenty pound worth lond,
Though it right now were fallen in myn hond,
Ho were a man of swich discretion,
As that ye ben; fie on possession,
But-if a man be vertuous withal!
I have my sone snibbed, and yet shal,
For he to vertue listeth not to entende,
But fur to play at dis, and to dispende,

And lese al that he hath, is his usage :
And he had lever talken with a page, 20
Than to commune with any gentil wight,
Ther he might leren gentillese aright.'

'Straw for your gentillese!' quod our hoste.
'What? Fraſkeleyn, pardé, sire, wel thou wost,
That ech of you mote tellen at the leste
A tale or two, or braken his beheste.'
'That know I wel, sire,' quod the Frankeleyn,
'I pray you haveth me not in disdein,
Though I to this man speke a word or two.'
'Telle on thy tale, withouten wordes mo.' 20
'Gladly, sire hoste,' quod he, 'I wol obeye
Unto your wille; now herkeneth what I seye;
I wol you not contrarien in no wise,
As fer as that my wittes may suffoe.
I pray to God that it may plesen yow,
Than wot I wel that it is good y-now.'



THE FRANKELEYNES PROLOGE.

HIS olde gentile Britouns in here dayes
 Of diverse aventures maden layes,
 Rymeden in here firste Britoun tonge:
 Whiche layes with here instrumentza
 they songe,

Other elles redded hem for here plesaunce,
 And on of hem have I in remembraunce,
 Which I schal seye with as goode wille as I can.
 But, sires, bycause that I am a burel man,
 At my begynnyng first I you beseeche
 Haveth me excused of my rude spoche, 10
 I lerned never rethorik certayn ;
 Thing that I speke, it mot be bare and playn ;
 I slepte never on the mount of Pernaso,
 Ne lered never Marcus, Thullius, ne Cithero.
 Colours of Rethorik knowe I non, withouten drede,
 But suche coloures as growen in the mede,
 Or elles suche as men dye with or peynte :
 Colours of rethorik ben me to queynte ;
 My spyrit feleth nought of suche matere.
 But if ye luste my tale schyl ye nouthis here. 20