

**OUR LADY'S
TUMBLER: A TWELFTH
CENTURY LEGEND**

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Our Lady's Tumbler: A Twelfth Century Legend by Philip H. Wicksteed

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PHILIP H. WICKSTEED

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CENTURY LEGEND**

*Of this book 450 copies have
been printed on Van Gelder
paper and the type distributed.*



OUR LADY'S TUMBLER

A Twelfth Century
Legend done out
of Old French
into English
by Philip H.
Wicksteed

Printed for THOMAS B. MOSHER, and published by him at *XLV Exchange Street*, Portland, Maine. MDCCCIV.

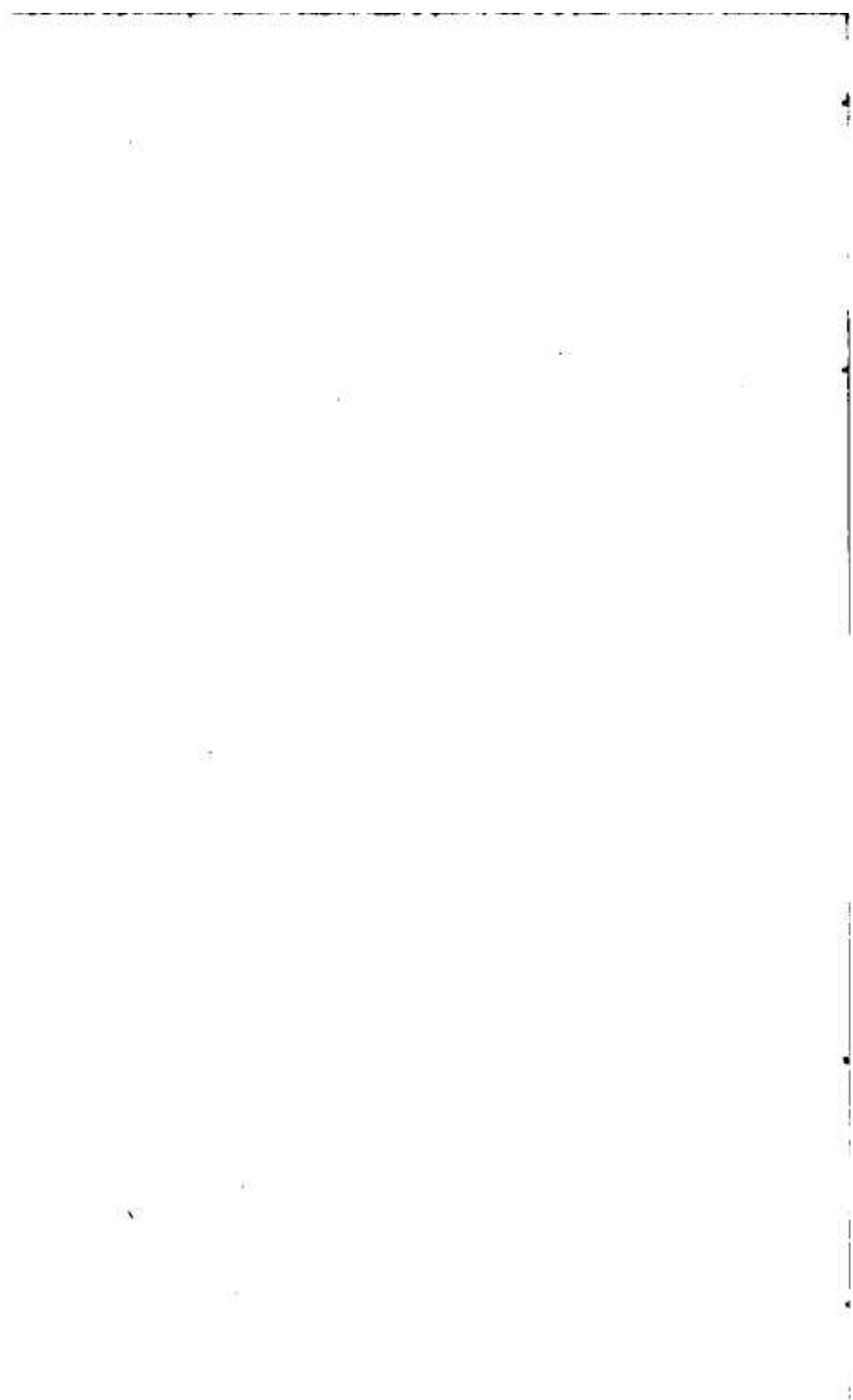
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Stewart Mitchell

FOURTH EDITION

PREFACE





PREFACE



HERE or when this quaint little tale first saw the light is not known. One of a multitude bequeathed to us by mediæval France, it was done into English in 1894 by the Rev. Philip H. Wicksteed whose translation we here reprint entire.¹ Difficult as it is to convey the charm of so slight a thing we cannot but feel that Mr. Wicksteed has successfully turned into Nineteenth Century speech the simple Old World diction of this diminutive story.

It cannot of course compare with the passionate utterances of the *cante-fable* we

*Origin
of the
legend
un-
known.*

¹ Our Lady's Tumbler. 'A Twelfth Century Legend Transcribed for Lady Day. MDCCCXCIV. [By P. H. Wicksteed.] Sq. 16mo with Frontispiece and 2 illustrations by H. Granville Fell. Pp. 42. (London, 1894.)

*Com-
pared
with
Aucassin
and
Nicolette.*

know as *Aucassin and Nicolette*. There is no touch that cleaves the thin faint air of dawn, no episode at all comparable with the famous speech of that old lover of Provence who declared that he would rather fare forth to Hades with the woman he loved than remain separated from her in the company of the saints in Heaven. On the contrary it has no hint of love at all unless we consider the minstrel's rapturous adoration of the Mother of God a substitute for the vision of an Earthly Paradise vouchsafed Aucassin should he succeed in winning Nicolette.

This lack of human passion, however, is made up by the spiritual fervor of the poor mirth-maker who after all was perhaps nearer and dearer to the Middle Age heart than the more celebrated old-time lovers. At all events it is a legend well worth telling, and we present it to our readers believing that they will feel with us its archaic refinement. One can but think of the many argosies of rhyme sunken