

**OF THE TUMBLER
OF OUR LADY &
OTHER MIRACLES**

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Of the Tumbler of Our Lady & Other Miracles by Alice Kemp-Welch

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ALICE KEMP-WELCH

**OF THE TUMBLER
OF OUR LADY &
OTHER MIRACLES**

OF THE TUMBLER OF
OUR LADY & OTHER
MIRACLES NOW TRANS-
LATED FROM THE MIDDLE
FRENCH : INTRODUCTION
AND NOTES BY ALICE
KEMP-WELCH

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181501



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NOTE.—The plate of "The Tumbler of Our Lady" contained in this volume is photographed direct from the XIIIth Century MS., now in the *Bibliothèque de l' Arsenal*, Paris; the remainder are reproduced after the plates in the *Édition Faguet* (1837), the Original MS., heretofore in the suppressed *Séminaire* at Soissons, being at present inaccessible to the public.

OF THE TUMBLER OF
OUR LADY

OF THE TUMBLER OF OUR LADY (I)

IN the "Lives of the Fathers," the matter of which is of profit, a story is told, than which I do not say that none more pleasing has been heard, but this one is not so without worth, that it may not well be told. Now will I tell and rehearse unto you of that which happened to a minstrel.

So much had he journeyed to and fro in so many places, and so prodigal had he been, that he became a monk of a holy Order, for that he was weary of the world. He wholly relinquished his horses, and clothes, and money, and all that he had, and then he withdrew him from the world, and never

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more did he wish to return to it. Therefore he entered this holy profession, as has been said, at Clairvaux (2).

And when that this tumbler, who was so graceful, and fair, and comely, and well formed, became a monk, he knew not how to perform any office that fell to be done there. Of a truth, he had lived only to tumble, to turn somersaults, to spring, and to dance. To leap and to jump, this he knew, but naught else, and truly no other learning had he, neither the "Paternoster," nor the "Canticles," nor the "Credo," nor the "Ave Maria," nor aught that could make for his salvation.

And when that he had entered the Order, he saw men high shorn who communicated together by signs, and uttered not a word, and right surely he bethought him that in none other manner were they able to hold discourse. But soon were his doubts ended, for he learnt that speech forsooth was forbidden unto them for penance, wherefore at times