



<County: Lincolnshire>

<Code: L0194>

<MS reference: London, BL Cotton Appx vii, Hand B>

<Text: Prick of Conscience>

<Tranche 1>

<fol. 27r>als men see3 yat til yem Will tent

And yerfore yus sei3 Innocent

<lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

He sey3 als is in latyn tolde

Euer os yis world ^[es] waxes olde

And ye lenger yat theyr tyme is sought

And ye elde of eyther is forth brought

The more in malice and in felnes

The kynde of eyther drobled is

Jn both thys worldes outrage we se

Of pompe and pryde and vanite

And selcouth maners in seer gys

That nowe are vused on ilk wys

Jn worlde3 having and beryng

Jn veyn apparel and weryng

That take3 mykle veyn costage

And turne3 all in-to grete outrage

For swilk gyses and swilk maners

Als yong men nowe haunte3 and werks

And comenly euery day are seen

Before yis tyme has nought been

For yong men calle3 nowe curtesy

That men held sumtyme vileny

And vileny & yei will it holde

That sumtyme curtesy was called

Nowe mey men se oft chaunging

Jn sere maners of clething

<fol. 27v>Sumtyme schort and sumtyme wyde

Sumtyme narowe and sumtyme syde

Sumtyme hang their clothes as a stole

And sumtyme tatred als a tatred fool .

Summe goo wrynchand to and fro .

And summe goos hipand als a koo .

Thus vse men all newe gette

And this world all aukward yei sette

Thurgh whilk vnkyndely pompe and pryde

That yei vse on ilk a syde

So mekle pryde als nowe is sene

Before yis tyme has neuer been

Ne swylk gyse als men mey nowe se

Bot J . trowe yei mey toknes be

Of grete myscheues J vnderstand

That vnto man is nere comand

Therfore in their gyse schall yei fall

For therwith yei wreth god yat suffre3 all

And this wreth schall with yem mete

For yus sei3 dauid ye prophet

<lat></lat>

And they stered god sey3 he

Jn their newe fyndinges of vanite

Jn them is falling many-folde

And al thurgh pryde yat J . of tolde

This mey be seyde als ye boke proue3

Be yem yat newe gyse contreue3

For yei do so ye world to plese

<fol. 28r>More for pryde yan for theyr ese

And they yat wyth swylk gyses god greue3

Schall fall in many myscheues

For thei wil nought be led be skyl

A whyle god latys yem have theyr wylle

Bot atte last will he on yem sende

Vengeaunce bot yei yem amende

Than must yem schewe sum token

That god has left yem all forsaken

And thus be they knowen be seer gyse

Forthy sey3 . Dauid on this wys

<lat></lat>

J left . yem he sey3 . oute of couert
 After ye yarning of their hert
 In their newe fyndynges . als yei go
 And this may be seyde . be alle . yo .
 That til yis world here make yem gay
 And turne3 yem-self fro god away
 They schall for their . synne3 wende
 Atte last to pyne wythouten ende
 Bot yei swylk vanytes forsake
 And be tyme amende3 make
 Yit has ye world . als men oft heres
 Many other contrary maners
 For nowe is vertue . turned to vice
 And play and pouert to malady
 Nowe is deuocioun . on sum syde
 Turned all to pompe and pryde
 Nowe is wisdom . holden foly
 <fol. 28v>And turned all in-to trechery
 And foly is nowe holden wisdom
 With proude men and vnbuxum@
 Nowe is loue turned to lechery
 And ryghtwisnes to tyraunty
 Thus is this world turned vp and doune
 Vntill mannys dampnacioun
 Mekle peyn . schal be theyr mede
 And dool . forthy yem aught to drede
 In theyr wyttes J hold yem wode
 That hold . gode thinges ille . and ill thinge3 gode
 Wo schall yem be als Clerkes tell
 For thus sey3 god in ye gospel
 <lat></lat>
 He sey3 woo til yowe yat sey3 with will
 That ill is gode . and god^[e] is ill
 This is to sey yem schal be woo
 That here mysturne3 yeir lyf so
 Thus is ye world and ye lyf yerin
 Full of vanyte and of synne
 Bot sum@ men loue yis world so mekle

And this lyf . yat is so fekle
 And also worlde³ vanyte
 That thei wold neuer other world schuld be
 Thei wold nought knowe ye parels alle
 Of this lyf ne what schuld falle
 Bot for they lyve in solace³ seer
 They holde noon heuen bot only here
 Bot atte last this lyf schall stynte
 <fol. 29r>And alle theyr ioy fro them be tynte
 Bot wold a man vnderstand wele
 What this world is . and what he schal fele
 Whan he schall wende fro this world away
 Him schuld nought lyst be nyght ne day
 Nouthur myrth ne solace make
 Bot alle this worldes welth forsake
 And lyve in penaunce . and in pouert
 For drede yat he schuld have in hert
 Jf he wold knowe . and trowe howe hard
 What he schall suffre afterward
 Bot yit ageyn yat drede myght he
 Thurgh hope of hert comforted be
 Whan he thinke³ on heuen bryght
 There he schall wone if he do ryght
 Thus mey ilk man do . and think
 Jn whos grace of god mey synk
 And he that will nought think on yis
 Ne yarne³ to have noon other blys
 Bot thinke³ this worlde³ lyf so gode
 He is outhur cursed or wode
 Outhur it is a sygne of suspecioun
 That he is in wey of dampnacioun
 Nowe have J . schewed on seer maner
 The condicioun of this world here
 And of this worlde³ vnstabilenes
 And of ye maner yat yer-in is
 Forthermore yan nowe wil J . loke
 Vntil ye third party of this boke
 <fol. 29v>Of yat party Wyll J . begyn
 And tell maters yat are therin

That specially . speke³ als . J . schal rede
 Of dede . and why . it is to drede
 Dede is ye most dredeful ying yat is
 In ye world . als bokes wytnes
 For here is noon *creature* lyvand
 That it ne is for deed . dredand
 And fleys . ye deed ay whyles it may
 Bot atte last it is ye deede³ pray .
 Bor force and beaute . he abate³
 And chaunge³ . sone . myghtes and states
 There ageyn . mey no man stand
 Where so it cums . in any land
 Ageyn³ whilk . noon mey helpe ne rede
 That is to sey . bodily . deed
 For alle yat lyve has nede³ it to fele
 That awght ilk man to trowe ryght wele
 Bot be ye name of dede mey be tane
 And vnderstanden . moo dedes yan oon
 For als thyse Clerkes in bokes rede
 Thre maners of dede are yat men drede
 On bodily . thurgh kynde is
 An-oyer gostly . the third endle³
 Bodily deed . yat is kyndely
 Js twyning of ye soule and ye body
 And yat is both bitter and hard
 Als yhe mey here afterward
 Gostly deed . is twyning . thurgh syn
 <fol. 30r>Betwyx . god . and manys soule wythin
 For als ye soule is lyf of ye body
 So ye lyf of ye soule is god almyghty
 And als ye body withouten doute
 Js deed whan ye soule is passed oute
 The soule of man is deed . also
 Whan god is departed yer-fro
 For where syn is . is ye deuel of hell
 And there thei are will god nought dwell
 For dedely syn ye deuel and he
 In on stede yei mey nought be
 Whan a soule is wounded with syn

God passe3 oute and ye deuel is in
 Anence god yan ye soule is dede
 Whye3 syn and ye deuell dwell in yat stede
 And als ye body mey be sleyn
 With wopen yat men mey ordeyn
 So is ye soule sleyn thurgh syn
 Wherefore god and it behoue3 to twyn
 Than is gostly dede . to drede moor
 Than bodily dede yat noon will spare
 In also mekle os ye soule namely
 Js better and moor worth yan ye body
 For if ye soule with syn be deed
 Fro god almyghty yat is ye heued
 Yhit mey it lyve and be pynd
 Bot if ye body . be deed be kynd
 Of yat dede is noon geyn turnyng
 <fol. 30v>For of erthly lyf it is endyng
 And ryght entry . and wey it is
 To ioy . or peyn . yat is endles
 And if ye soule with synne be sleyn
 It mey thurgh grace Qwyken ageyn
 And ye gostly woundes of synne
 Thurgh penaunce mey be holed yerin
 For if god be ryghtwys . and myghty
 He is full of godenes and mercy
 Atte turne him to man full redyer is he
 Than any man til him wil be
 For if ye body yat yus greve3
 Ordeyned to man yat here lyve3
 The dede of soule will nought he
 Of ye man if he synfull be
 For lyf of mannys soule more *him* paye3
 Than dede . for yus him-self sey3
 <lat></lat>
 J will nought . ye deed of ye synfull man
 Bot yat he be turned and lyve yan
 Than mey ye synfull yat his soule has sleyn
 Be turned . and thurgh grace lyve ageyn
 Endle3 deed . is ye deed of hell

That is most bytter and most fell
 Hell is holden an hydous stede
 The whilk is full of endle3 deed
 And of peyn yat neuer schall blyn
 And noon mey dey yat is yerin
 Jf yei myght dey . als ye body here mey .

<Tranche2>

<fol. 107r>Jf he my3t ry3t conceyve in mynde
 Howe grysely a deuel is in his kynd
 Yat wold for all ye gold in mydleerth
 Se on . so schuld he be aferd
 Howe schall yei fare yan yat schall yem se
 And ay in company with yem be
 ye sinfle schall euer on yem loke
 For yus fynde we writen in bok
 <lat></lat>

Jn hell schall yei fynd face to face
 whos werkes yei loued and filowed in trace
 while3 yei were here in erth lyvand
 And with yat sy3t J . vndrestand
 Full dolefull crying schall yei here
 Als seynt Austyn sey3 . on yis maner
 <lat></lat>

<lat></lat>

Yere schal yei se ye deuel with eye
 With sparkes yat of yat fyre schall flye
 And here yerwith in ilk party
 Ye wreched sinfle grete and ory
 Ye sorowe and dool yat yei schall make
 Schall neuermore yere . cees ne slake
 And for yei here hated to se
 And to here yat gode schuld be
 Foryi itte . is resoun and ry3t
 Yat yei ay se yat vgly sy3t
 And ay have hering of dolefle dyn
 <fol. 107v>To eke yeir peyn yere for yat syn
 Ye eyghted peyn als ye boke sey3 vs
 Js horrible vermyn and venemous

Ye whilk schall on ye sinfle ruk
 And euermore yem gnawe and souke
 Als vgly dragouns and neddres kene
 And todys so foule wore neuer sene
 And oyer vermyn with venem
 And wyld bestes grysely and grym
 Yat with teth schall yem ay byte
 On ye lymmes where yei had most delyte
 Synfle werkes here for to wirk
 Ageyn godde3 lawes and holy kyrk
 For yei dyd here ageyn3 godde3 lawes
 Vermyn and wode bestes schall yem gnawe
 For yeir syn yat yem thou3t swete
 Als god sey3 thurgh ye prophet
 <lat></lat>
 J schall send in sinfle sey3 he
 Ye teth of bestes yat fell schall be
 With wodenes of yem in-to ye erth draggand
 And of neddres fast gnawand
 Yus schall wode bestes gnawe yem ay
 And neuer pas fro yem away
 Yat peyn schall be full hard to drye
 For yeir venym schall neuer dye
 Bot euer lyve and with yem dwell
 Als god sey3 vs in ye gospel
 <fol. 108r><lat></lat>
 Yeir vermyn schall neuer dey sey3 he
 Ne yeir fyre schall neuer slekned be
 Here-to accorde3 Seynt Austyn
 And speke3 yus of yat vermyn
 <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 Ye vermyn of hell schall euer lyve so
 And neuer dey ye sinfle fro
 Yei schall lyve in ye flamne of fyre
 Als fysshes do3 in water schyre
 yat vermyn on yem ay schall crepe
 And in yem fest yeir clokes full depe
 Yei schall with vermyn ay couered be

So . yat no lym schall be fre
 And on yem schall yei be gnawand
 Wheder so yei sitte or stand
 Vermyn schall be yeir clething
 And vermyn schall be yeir bedding
 For J fynd writen where J . have red
 Howe ye *prophet* ysay descryve³ yat bed
 To ye kyng Nabogodonosor
 For to make him ferd yerfore
 <lat></lat>
 Of wormes he sey³ yi bed schall be
 Yat schall be strewed thik vndre ye
 And yi couertour all bedene
 Schall be vermyn fell and kene
 Ye whilk beddes are ordeyned in hell
 <fol. 108v>For suche men yat yere schall dwell
 yus schall yei pyned for syn
 Euermore with fyre and vermyn
 For yus we <hole> fynd in holy wryt
 In a boke of ye byble yat hei³t Judit
 <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 In ye sinfle flessch oure lord schall geve
 Fyre and vermyn yat euer schall lyve
 So yat yei schall byrn euermore
 And fele of vermyn byting sore
 yat peyn is more to fele and se
 Yan alle ye peynes in yis world mey be
 Yus schall vermyn be to yem peyn
 Bot yit mey men sey yus yereageyn
 Als men in bokes mey writen se
 Yat after ye grete dome schall be
 No qwik creatur lyvand yan
 Bot only aungel deuel and man
 Howe schuld in hell or oure elle³
 Lyve any vermyn als men telle³
 Or any best yat man mey deer
 Vnto yis men mey answere
 On yis maner who so can

And sey ye vermyn yat schall be yan
 Als J trowe no ying elle³ is
 Bot deuels in vermyn liknes
 Ye deueles schall gnawe yem withoute
 Jn vermyn liknes all aboute
 <fol. 109r> And yeir concience als vermyn
 Schall gnawe yem oure-all within
 And yat gnawing schall be full hard
 Of ye whilk J . schall speke afterward
 Yis vermyn withouten schall be more grysely
 Yan vermyn here and more my³ty
 And for ye sinfle was here namely
 Ay full of hatred and of enuy
 And nou³t wold mend yem of yeir syn
 Bot lete itte gnawe yeim ay within
 Jtte is ry³t and goode³ lawe
 yat vermyn in hell ay yem gnawe
 Ye nynt peyn J vnderstand
 Js dinging of deueles with melle³ glowand
 Ye deuel schall ye sinfle bete
 With glowand hamers hoge and grete
 Als smythes smyte ye yrne fast
 So . yat itte breyke³ atte last
 Ry³t so ye deuel schall euer dyng
 On Sinfle withouten stynting
 And with melle³ geve yem swilk dynt
 Yat itte al to poudre my³t stryke hard flynt
 For harder dynt gave neuer engyne
 Als bere³ witne³ Seynt Austyn
 <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 Als men mey se an engyn cast
 And stryke doun walles . of a castle . fast
 With a stone hoge and hevy
 <fol. 109v>So schall deuele³ dyng more felly
 Ye bodys and soules . yat schall dwell
 After ye last dome in hell
 For yei schall have power and leve
 Ye sinfle men to dyng and greve

Als Seynt Austyn schowe3 till vs
 In a boke where he sey3 yus
 <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 He sey3 ye dome schall be redy
 To sklaunderers of god almy3ty
 And to yoo yat schall be ay smytand
 ye sinfle bodys with mellys in hand
 And foryi . yat yei wold nou3t take
 holy disciplyn for godde3 sake
 Foryi ye deuel schall stryke yem sore
 With hevy mellys euermore
 Ye tende peyn is gnawing . within
 Of concience yat neuer schall blyn
 For within schall concience yem frete
 Als withouten schall vermyn grete
 So schall yei be in gnawing withouten doutt
 Euer both within and withoute
 Yei schall euermore crye and sey
 Allas allas and weleawey
 Why ne wolde we neuer ore trowe
 What peyn and sorowe here is nowe
 Yei schall pleyn yem of yeir wikednes
 Als sey3 yus a clerk and writen is
 <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 <fol. 110r><lat></lat>
 What helpe3 pryde vs . schall yei sey
 Or rosing of ryches or ryche aray
 Alle yat pompe als we se nowe
 Js passed away als a schadowe
 And als messagers before rynand
 And als a schip in water flowand
 And als a foule flyand with wynde
 Of whos gate no trace mey men fynde
 Yus schall all yeir pompe pas
 And be als ying yat neuer was
 Yem schall think whan all is away

Alle yeir lyf bot als a dey
 Jf yei neuer so long lyved here
 yan mey yei sey on yis maner
 Nowe were we born in world to be
 And nowe in all oure welth wer we
 And nowe we deyed and passed away
 Nowe are we in sorowe yat schall last ay
 yan schall yei knowe howe euel yei lyved
 Whan ye worme of concience had yem greved
 Yat within ay schall yem byte
 For yei had in vanytes grete delyt
 And for yeir concience stered yem nou3t
 To forsake folys yat yei wrou3t
 Bot filewde ay yeir fleshly will
 Foryi itte is gode ry3t and skyll
 yat ye worme of concience within
 Euermore gnawe yem for yeir syn
 Ye elleuent peyn . is teres of greting
 <fol. 110v> Ye elleuent peyn is teres of greting
 Of sinfle yat withouten cesing
 Schall grete euermore als sey3 ye boke
 What for sorowe . and what for smoke
 And what for colde and what for hete
 Euermore yan schall yei grete
 And teres fro yeir eyen schall ryn fast
 And yeir greting so long last
 Yat in yis world als . J . wene
 Js nou3t so mekle water sene
 Als fro yeir eyen schall fall yore
 For why . yei schall greet euermore
 Forwhy Seynt Austyn telle3 vs yus
 Whos wordes are autentike till vs
 <lat></lat>
 Jn hell he sey3 oute yer schall be
 Mo teres yan dropes are in ye se
 Ye sinfle schall yere euer grete
 And yeir teres schall be of so grete hete
 Yan yei schall wene whan yei doun ryn
 For hete yem-self to skald and bryn

Yei schall be hatter yan euer was
 Multen lede or welland bras
 Als J . have hard . grete Clerkes tell
 Yat have descryved ye peynes of hell
 And for yei had . here ay lyking
 In yeir syn . and no forthinking
 Ne had no sorowe bot ay thou3t swete
 <fol. 111r>Foryi yei schall euermore grete
 And with yeir teres ay be skalded sore
 To eke yeir peynes als J . seide ore
 Ye twelft peyn . is schame and schenschip
 Yat ye soules schall have in hell so depe
 Of ilk a syn yat yei here dyd
 For yere schall be all knowen and kyd
 Bot of thou3t word and werk
 Als sey3 Seynt Austyn ye grete clerk
 <lat></lat>
 Alle synnes in yem . schall schewed be
 And yei mey neyther yem hyde . ne fle
 Yei schall have more schame yore
 And yeir schenschip schall be more
 Yan euer had man . here in thou3t
 Of vileny yat euer he wrou3t
 And yat schame with yem schall last ay
 And neuer pas fro yem away
 Yan mey yei sey yus yat yere dwelle3
 Als ye prophet in ye Sawter telle3
 <lat></lat>
 <lat></lat>
 All my schamefulnes sey3 he
 All dey . is ageyn3 me
 And ye schenschip of my face
 Schall couer me euer in ilk a place
 Swilk schame schall yei have for syn
 Yat yei schall think als yei schuld birn@
 And certe3 . if no peyn were in hell