

The Middle-English
Harrowing of Hell
AND
Gospel of Nicodemus.

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NOW FIRST EDITED FROM ALL THE KNOWN MANUSCRIPTS,
WITH INTRODUCTION AND GLOSSARY,

BY
WILLIAM HENRY HULME, PH.D.,
PROFESSOR IN WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY, U.S.A.

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The Harrowing of Hell.

Digby MS. TEXT O.

Hou ihesu crist herowede helle
Of harde gates ich wille telle.
eue frend, nou beþ stille,

Lestep þat ich tellen wille
Ou ihesu fader him biþoute
And adam hout of helle broute.

[leaf 119]

4

In helle was adam and eue
þat veren ihesu crist wel leve,
And seint iohan þe baptist
þat was neweu ihesu crist,
Dauit þe prophete and abraham,
For þe sunnes of adam ;
And moni oþer holi mon
Mo þen ich ou tellen con ;

8

12

Abbreviations.—B=Boedeker; C=Collor; H=Halliwell; M=Mall;
L=Laing; Varn=Varnhagen.

1. Lines 1-2 in red ink; *de* in *herowede* above line; Varn.
herewede.

8. (Hal.=Wright-Halliwell, *Reliq. Antiq.* i, 258.) Hal. M.
Varn. *weren*.

10. Hal. *newen*. 12. Hal. *Adem*.

The Harrowing of Hell.

Harley MS. TEXT L.

Alle herkneþ to me nou ! [leaf 55, bk.]
a striþ wolle y tellen ou
of ihesu ant of Sathan,
þo ihesu wes to helle ygan 4
fforte vacche þenne hys,
ant bringen hem to parays.
þe deuel heude so muche pouste
þat alle mosten to helle te ; 8
nas non so holy prophete
seppþ Adam & eue þen appell etc,
ant he were at pis worldes fyne,
þat he ne moste to helle pyne ; 12
ne shulde he neuer þenne come
nere ihesu crist godes sone.
vor þat wes seid to Adam ant eue,
þat were ihesu crist so leue ; 16
ant so wes seyd to habraham,
þat wes soþfast holy man ;
an[t] so wes seid to davyd þe kyng,
þat wes of cristes ounе ofspryng ; 20
ant to Iohan þ[e] baptist,
þat folewede ihesu crist ;
ant to Moyses þe holy whyt,
þe heude þe lawe to ȝeme ryht ; 24

2. M. *wille*. 1. Mall always alters MS.
y to *i*.
3. B. *iesu* (regularly); C. *Jesus* (always);
M. *Jesu* (always); M. *Satan*.
4. M. *gan*. 5. M. *For to fette . . his*.
6. M. *And* (always); *parais*.
7. M. *michel*. 10. M. *Sippen*. Varn *eve*.

Auchinleck MS. TEXT E.

15. M. *For*. 16. M. *leue*.
17. C. *sayd*; M. *seid*. 18. M. *abraham*; last
a in *habraham* above line.
18. M. *soþfast*. 19. B. *ant*; H.M. *And*.
20. H. *onre*. 21. C.H. *the*; M. *þe*;
a in *Iohan* above line; C. *John the*.
23. B. *wyht*; M. *wiht*. 24. C. *theme*.

Til ihesu fader nom fles and blod
Of þe maiden marie god, 16
And supþen was don ful muchel some,
Bounden and beten and maked ful lome
Tille þat gode friday at non;
þenne he was on rode idon, 20
His honden from his body wonden,
Mit here miȝte hoe him shenden.
To helle sone he nom gate
Adam and eve hout to take; 24
þo þe he to helle cam
Sucche wordes he bigan:

" Harde gates hauï gon,
Serewes soffred moni hon, 28
þritti winter and half þritti ȝer
Hauï ben wend alonde her;
Almest so muchel hit is agon
Supþen þat i bicom furst mon; 32
Supþen hauï þoled and west
Boþe chele, hounger and þurst;
Men duden me so muchel same,
Wiþ wounden stronge makede me lame; 36

DIGBY.

16

20

24

28

32

36

15. Hal. *Till*. 17. Hal. *michel*.
18. Hal. *Bonden*. 22. Hal. *Nit*.
27. *Hardegates*: first e inserted from below.
29. First i in second þritti above line.

"I have suffered many pains during the thirty-three and a half years of my 5
sojourn on earth."

HARLEY.

ant to mony oþer holy mon
mo þen ich telle con,
þat weren alle in more wo
þen y con ou telle fro.

Ihesu crist arew hem sore
ant seide he wolde vacche hem þore;
he lyhte of ys heȝe tour
into seinte Marie bouri;
he wes bore for oure nede
in þis world in pore wede,
In þis world he wes ded
forte losen vs from þe qued;
þo ihesu heuede shed ys blod
for oure neode vpon þe rod,
In godhed toke he þen way
þat to helle gates lay;
þe he com þere þo seide he,
asse y shal nouȝe telle þe.

28

32

36

40

44

48

52

HArde gates hauy gon,
sorewen soffred mony on; 44
þritty wynter ant priddie half ȝer
hauy woned in londe her;
almost ys so muche agon
seþþe y bycom furst mon; 48
Ich haue seþþe þoled ant wyst
hot, cold, hunger ant þurst;
Mon haþ do me shome ynoh
wyþ word ant dede in heore woh; 52

25. M. *mani* . . . *man* (Mall often alters o before nasal of MS. to a, but he shows no consistency in making this change).

26. M. *pan*. 28. M. *þan I*; H. *i*.
29. M. *arew*. 30. M. *fette*.
31. C. *heȝe*; M. *his*.
33. M. *boren*. 34. M. *poure*.
36. M. *Forto*; B.M. *lesen*; M. *ous*; Varn. *us*.
37. M. *his*. 38. M. *sinnes on*.
39. B. *tok*; M. reads line, *He nam him*
þe riȝte weſt.
40. M. *Unto helle for soþe to sei*.
41. B. *þen*; M. *þo* . . . *þer*.

AUCHINLEOK.

1 Vntil crist loked þaim vnto, [leaf 36]
as man auȝt to prisouns do;
he liȝted out of his heȝe tour

32 Into seyt mari bouri;
he was born for our misdede
In þis world in pouer wede,
In þis world he suffred dede,
forto deliuier ous fram þe qued; 36
þan ihesu hadde spilt his blod
for our sinnes on þe rode,
he nam him þe riȝt way
vnto helle for soþe to say; 40
þan he com per þan seyd he,
as y schal now telle þe.

dominus ait.

Hard gates haue y gon
²& suffred pines mani on; 44
þritti winter & priddie half ȝere
haue y wond in lond here;
almast is so michel gan
seþþen y bicom first man; 48
seþþen haue y fond & wist
hot & cold, hunger & þrest;
Man haþ don me schame & þouȝ;
wiþ word, wiþ dede & michel wouȝ;

¹ Initial letters of lines always touched with red.

² & is the contraction always used for and.

42. H. *Asse i*; M. *nou*; *Dominus ait* (B), and *Dominus (M)*, not in version L.
43. M. *gon*. 44. C. *sorowen*; M. *sorewes* suffred . . . on; Varn. *Serewen*. 45. M. *ȝer*.
46. M. *woned* . . . *londe* (inconsistent).
47. M. *michel gan*.
48. M. *siþþen* . . . *first*. 49. M. *siþþen*.
50. M. *hunger* . . . *þrist*.
51. M. *don*. 52. M. *here*.

"They bound my hands behind my back and beat me till I ran with blood."

DIGBY.

Hi nomen me wipouten sake,
Bounden min honden to mi bake,
Hi beten me pat I ran ablude,
And suppen me duden one pe rode ;
ffor adam sunful, Iwisi,
Al haui poled pis.

40

Adam; þu hauest about hit sore,
And I ne mai soffren hit na more ;
Hit wille þe bringen of helle pine,
þe, adam, and alle pine."

44

" Wo is pat ich here pere ?
Ne red ich him speken na more,
He may nou so muchel do,
þat he sal ous comen to
To ben houre fere
And witen hou we pleyeþ here."
þenne spak ihesu, þe king :
" Stille be þu, lording,
þat ich hero gredon þoro ;
Ich rede þat þou ne speke na more,
þou miȝt wel witen bi mi play
þat ich wile hauen mine away ;
Wost þu neuere wat ich am ?
More þen .xxx. vinter hit is agon
þat þu hauest fondaed me

48

52

56

60

39. þat : t above line.
56. o in þou above line.

When Satan threatens Christ unless he keeps still, the latter tells who he is 7
and why he has come.

HARLEY.

bounden ant bueten yron of blode,
demeden me to deȝe on rode ;
for Adames sunne fol ywis
Ich haue poled al þis.
Adam, þou hauest aboht sore,
Inul soffre þat no more ;
Adam, þou hast duere aboht,
þat þou leuedest me noht ;
y shal þe bringe of helle pyne
ant wyþ þe alle myne.

56

Sathan ait.
Who ys þat ych here þore ?
Ich him rede speke na more,
for he may so muche do
þat he shal vs come to
forte buen oure fere
ant fonden hou we pleyen here.

64

68

þou miȝt wyten in þy lay
þat mine woll y haue away ;
wost þou neuere whet ych am ?
almost ys þritti wynter gan
þat þou hast fondaed me

72

53. B.M. omit this line and interpolate
three lines which are a patch-work partly
from version O, partly from E : *He nomen
me wip-outen sake / Bounden min honden
to mi bake / He beten me, þat I ran on
blode* (B. *þat y ran*) ; for consistency M.
should have *nomen* and *honden*.
54 (B.M. 56). M. demden ; C. dethe.
55 (B.M. 57). H. Fone ; M. sinne, ful.
57 (B. 59, M. 61). B. aboht hit ; M. it.
58 (B. 60, M. 62). B. Ant Inul ; M. And
I nil ; M. suffre-na.
59 (B. 57, M. 59). M. hauest dere.
65. M. (67) michel.

AUCHINLECK.

þai tok me wipouten sake,
þai bond min honden bilihinde mi bac,
þai bete me til y ran on blode,
þai dempt me to hong on rode ; 56
alle for adams sinne ywis,
þan haue y poled þis.
adam, þus dere haue y bouȝt,
& þou no louedest me neuer nouȝt ; 60
adam, y haue bouȝt ful sare
& y wil suffre it na mare ;
to-day y schal bring of pine
adam, þe & alle pine. 64

satanas dixit.

W ho is þat ich here þare ?
W y rede þat he spek na mare,
for he may so michel do
þat he schal comen ous vnto. 68
forto ben our fere
& loke hou we playen here.
dominus ait.

þou may wele wite mi play
þat min wil y haue oway ; 72
wele þou wost wat ich am,
More þan þritti winter is gan
þat þou hast frained me.

53. Laing *toke*. 65. Varn. *Wo*.
75. Laing *framed*.

66. M. (68) ous (always).

67. M. (69) to ben.

68. C. *playen* ; M. (70) *fonden*.

69. M. brackets this line and 70 (i.e. 71, 72), reading, þou miȝt wel wite bi mi plei ; while B. transfers them almost to the end of this speech (77, 78 B.). B. reads for 69, ant þou shall wyte wel to-day.

70. M. (72) willi haue awai ; B. wolle.

71. M. (73) what.

72. M. (74) almost þe briddie winter is gan ; B. *wynner ys*.

73. M. (75) hauest fondaed.

8 "You never found sins in me as in other men, and you should thus know
that I am above all other men.

DIGBY.

fforto witen wat I be ;	
Sunne ne foundest pou neuer non	
In me as in anoþer mon ;	64
þou miȝt wel witen þe bi þon	
þat ich more þen ani mon ;	
þou salt wel witen þe to-day	[leaf 119, bk.]
þat ich wyle hauen mine away ;	68
þenne þou letest þe alone,	
þenne þou miȝt grunten and grone."	
P enne spek him satanas,	
Maister-fend in helle he was :	72
" Par ma fey ! ich holde mine	
Alle po þat here ben hine ;	
Wiþ reisoun willy tellen þe,	
þer aȝein ne miȝt þou nouȝt be ;	76

Adam þe houngrie com me to,
Mani redes he gan me do ;
ffor on appell þat ich ȝaf him
He is min and al is cun."

80

" Satanas, hit was min,
þe appell þat þou ȝeue him,
þe appell and þe appeltre,
Boȝen veren maked þoru me ;
Hou miȝttest þou in eni curries wyse
Of oþer monnes þing maken marchaundise ?

84

63. o in þou above line.

" The apple you gave Adam was mine, as well as the apple tree, and you had 9
no right to dispose of them.

HARLEY.

forte knowe wet y be ;	
Sunne fond þou neuer non	
In me as in oþer mon ;	76
ant þou shalt wyte wel to-day	
þat mine wolle y haue away ;	
wen þou bileuest al pyn one,	
þenne myht þou grede ant grone.	80

Sathan.

Par ma fey ! ich holde myne	
alle po þat bueþ keryne ;	
resoun wol y telle þe	
þer aȝeyn myht þou nouȝt be ;	84

Whose buþ any þyng, [leaf 56]
hit is hys ant hys ofspryng ;
Adam hungry com me to,
Monrade dude y him me do ;
ffor on appell ich ȝef hym,
he is myn ant al hys kun.

Dominus.

Sathanas, hit wes myn,
þe appell þat þou ȝeue hym,
þe appell ant þe appeltre
boþe were maked þourh me ;
hou myhest þou on eny wyse [dise ?
of oþer monnes þing make marchan-

74. B. whet ; M. (76) what ; M. For to.
75. M. (77) sinne . . . found.
78. haue, e corrected from a ; M. (80)
willi haue awei.
79. B. when ; M. (81) whan . . . one ; B. alle.
80. M. (82) þanne-grete . . . grone.
82. C. Alle so ; M. (84) ben . . . inne.
83. C. Resonn ; M. (85) willi.
84. C. aȝeyn ; M. (86) aȝen . . . noȝt.
85. C. whoso ; M. (87) whoso bigeþ.
86. M. (88) It.

77. Laing, foundestow.
92. Laing Nowe. 94. y : Laing I.
95. y : Laing I.
-
88. M. (90) Manrede dide.
89. C. gef ; M. (91) on . . . ȝaf.
90. C. kinne ; M. (92) kin.
91. M. (93) Satanas, it.
92. C. geue ; M. (94) ȝaue.
95. M. (97) miȝttest . . . ani ; B. myhest.

AUCHINLECK.

forto wite what y be ;	76
seþþen fondestow neuer nan.	
wiþ me as wiþ anoþer man,	
& þou wost wele for þan	
þat ich am more þan ani man ;	80
þou schalt wite þis ich day	
þat y schal haue min oway,	
& y schal þe leue here	
In sorwe among þine fere.	84

satanas dixit.

Par ma fay ! ich hald mine
al þat ben hereinne ;
wiþ resoun wil y telle þe
þat þer ogain may þou nouȝt be , 88
þat me bihouȝt haue & hald
& wiþouten ende wald ;
for whoso bigeþ aniping,
It owe to ben his wiþouten lesing ; 92
adam hungry come me to,
manred y made him me to do ;
for an appell þat y ȝaf him
he is min & al his kin. 96

dominus ait.

Sathanas, he seyd, it was min,
þe appell þat þou ȝaf him,
þe appell & þe appeltre,
boþe war maked þurch me ; 100
hou may þou on ani wise
of oþer mennies þing mak marchandise?

10 "As you bought Adam with my property, he is mine and I will have him again."

DIGBY.

Seppen pou bouzdest him wip min,
Wip resoun wil ich hauen him."

88

"Ihesu, welcomen pou be,
þat ful sore rewep me ;
þou art louerd ouer al,
þou hauest þat pou habbe shal ;
Heuene and erþe weldest pou þe,
þe soules in helle let pou be ;
þat ich haue let me helde,
þat pou hauest wel mote pou welde."

92

96

Stille, stille, satanas !
þe is fallen aunbesas.
Wendest pou i were ded for nouȝt ?
ffor mi deþ was monkun bout ; 100
Hy þat habbeþ serued me
Sulen wip me in blisse be ;
þo þat nolden on me bileuen
Sulen wip þe here bileuen ;
þou salt hauen more pine
þen alle þo þat hor ben ine."

104

"May mon me so worse do
þene I haue aved hiderto ?
Ich aue poled so muchel wo
þat I ne recche weder I go ;
If pou bireuest me of mine,
I sal bireuen þe of pine ;
I shal gon from mon to manne
And bireuen þe moni anne."

108

112

"God hit wot, I shal speken þe wip,
þat wel shalton holde gryht ;

116

92. *shal*; the *h* of *sh* appears to have been inserted by a later hand wherever it occurs in this MS.

100. Apparently an attempt was made to change *s* of *boust* to *h*.

Satan threatens to rob Christ of many men unless he lets the patriarchs remain in Hades. 11

HARLEY.

Sepphe wes boht wyp myn,
wyp resoun wolle ich hauen hym.
Sathan.

Ihesu, wel y knowe þe,
þat ful sore rewep me ; 100
þou art louerd ouer al,
wo ys him þat þe knowe ne shal !
heouene ant erþe tac to þe,
Soules in helle lef pou me ; 104
Let me hauen hem ant helde,
þat þou hauest wel mote pou welde.

Dominus.

Stille be pou, Sathanas !
þe ys fallen ambesaas. 108
Wendest pou ich were ded for noȝt ?
þourh my deþ ys monkune boht ;
þey þat hauen serued me,
wyp me he shulen in heuene be ; 112

pou shalt buen in more pyne
þen eny þat þer is heryne.

Sathan.

Ne may non me worse do
pen ich haue had hiderto ; 116
Ich haue had so muche wo
þat y ne recche whyder y go ;
ȝef þou reuest me of myne,
y shal reue þe of þyne ; 120
y shal gon from mon to mon
ant reue þe of mony on.

Dominus.

God wot y shal speke þe wyht
ant do þe to holde gryht ; 124

97. M. (99) *stippen* (always).

98. C. *resoun* ; M. (100) *wil*.

103. M. (105) *Heuene* . , tak.

104. M. (106) *þe soules*.

105. B.M. (107) substitute corrupt form of this line from E: *Let me hauen* (M. *hau*) *þat ich helde*. 108. M. *ambes as*.

AUCHINLECK.

Seppen pou bouztest him wip mine,
wip resoun schuld ichane him. 104
satanas dixit.

Ihesu, wele y knawē þe,
þat ful sore rewep me ;
þou art lord ouer al,
& euer was & ay be schal ; 108
heuene & erþe weld pou þe,
þe soules in helle lat pou be ;
lat me haue þat ich halde, [ll. 36, bk.]
þat þou hast wele mot pou it wald. 112
dominus ait.

Stitte now stille, satanas !
S þe is fallen amesaas.
wenestow þat y dyd for nouȝt ?
wip mi dede was mankin bout ; 116
pai þat hause serued me,
In blis schal pai euer be ;
pai þat noping serued me,
pai schal in helle be wip þe ; 120
bot þou schalt ben in more pine
pan ani oper þat is pereinne.
satanas dixit.

þer may me no man wers do
pan ichaue had hiderto ; 124
Ich haue hadde so michel wo,
þat me no rek whider y go ;
ȝif þou bireuest me of mine,
y schal bireue þe of pine ; 128
y schal go fro man to man
& bireue þe mani an.

[d]ominus ait.

S o y schal speke þe wip,
þat y schal do þe hold gryþ ; 132
115. Laing, Wenestow.

110. M. (112) *For mi.. Mankin*; C. *kinne*.

111. B. *haueþ* ; M. (113) *hauen*.

113. M. (115) *ben*. 114. M. (116) *pan*

ani.. inne. 115. M. (117) *non.. worse*.

116. M. (118) *pan*. 117. M. (119) *michel*.

119. C. *Gef*; M. (121) *ȝif*. 121. M. (123) *go*.

123. M. (125) *wip*. 124. M. (126) *gryþ*.

12 But Christ replies he will bind Satan so firmly that the latter will not be able to molest his servants till doomsday.

DIGBY.

So faste shal I binden þe,
þat fewe shalt pou bireuen me ;
þou salt here ben bounden ay,
Tille þat comeþ domesday ;

120

If you were hounbounden among men,
Almest woldest you bireuen me hem ;
þe smale deuelen þat beþ hounstronge,
Hoe sulen among moncun ȝonge
Forte-hauen alle hem
þat hem ne willeþ stonden aȝein.
Helle ȝates ich come nou to,
Nou ich wille þat hy ben houndo ;

124

Wer is nou þe ȝateward ?
Ich holde him for a coward.”

128

“ Ich haue Ihred wordes harde,
Ne am ich na more ȝatewarde ;

132

Ich haue Ihred wordes stronge,
Ne dar iho duellen er nout longe ;
Loke hem nou, wose may,
Ich lete hem stonden and renne away.”

136

[leaf 120]

“ Helle ȝates her I falle
And suppen go into helle;
Sathanas, here I þe binden,
Ne salt pou neuere hene winde ;

140

Ne salt pou neuere wenden away
Tille þat comeþ domesday.

Christ puts the porter to flight, breaks down the gates of hell and binds Satan.

13

HARLEY.

so faste shal y bynde þe,
Lutel shalþ pou reue me ;
þou shalþ buen in bondes ay
o þat come domesday ;

128

þou shalþ neuer out wende
monkunne forte shende ;
for were þou among men, 131
þou woldest me reuen moni of hem ;
þe smale fendas þat buþ nout stronge,
he shulen among men yonge ;
þilke þat nulleþ aȝeyn hem stonde,
Ichulle he habben hem in honde. 136

helle gates y come nou to

ant y wole þat heo vndo ;

wer ys nou þis ȝateward ?

me þuncheþ he is a coward. 140

IAnitor.

Ich haue herd wordes stronge,
ne dar y her no lengore stonde ;
kepe þe gates whose may,
y lete hem stonde ant renne away. 144

Dominus.

Helle gates woile y falle
ant out taken myne alle ;
Sathanas, y bynde þe, her shalþ pou lay

o þat come domesday. 148

126. C. *Littel*; M. (128) *Litel*.
127-130. B.M. omit these four lines, and

M. brackets 129-30. 130. C. *Monkinne*.

131. M. (129) omits *for*.

133. M. (131) *bēn unstronge*.

134. M. (132) *ȝonge*. 135. C. *ageyn*;

M. (133-134) *For to hauen alle hem / þat hem ne willen stonden aȝen*.

137. M. (135) *ȝates*. 138. M. *Ich wille.. he*.

139. B. (135) *wher*; M. (137) *where*; C. *gate*.

140. M. (138) *þonkeþ*. 143. M. (141)

ȝates whoso. 144. M. (142) *stonde.. awei*.

AUCHINLECK.

so fast schal y binde þe,
pat fewe schaltow binim me ;

were pou vnbounde among men,
al you wost binim me hem ;

136

þe smale deuels þat er vnstrang,

pai schal among mankin gang,
& al schul pai haue pain

þat wil nouȝt stand hem oȝain. 140

helle ȝates, y com ȝou to,
now ich wil þat ze vndo ;

whare is he þat ȝateward ?
Ich hold him for a coward. 144

Iannator ait.

Ich haue herd wordes hard
whi y no may be no steward ;

y lete hem stond & ren oway,
lete hem ȝeme whoso may. 148

dominus ait.

Helle ȝates, here y ȝou felle,
& seþpen wil ich herwe helle ;
lucifer, here y þe binden,
schaltow neuer hejen winde 152

vntil it com domesday.
fare pou seþpen whare pou may,

148. Laing *Let.*

145. M. (143) *ȝates her I felle / And*
seþpen wil ich herwe helle.

147 (B. 143, M. 145). B.M. substitute
three lines for this one, which are pure
makeshifts of their own : *Sathanas, her y*
þe bynde / Ne shalþ pou neuer hennie winde /
pou shalþ (M. Her shalþ pou) buen (M. ben)
in bondes ay (M. aȝen) /

148. M. *Til þat*.

134. er above line.
135. Varn. mai.

14. Satan can now do no injury to man. Adam and Eve welcome Christ in hell.

DIGBY.

Fare so þou euere fare,
Ne salt þou neuere do mon kare."

144

"Uelcomē, louerd god in londe,
Godes sone and godes sonde ;
Welcomē, louerd, wel þou be,
fful longe hauēþ ous pouȝt after þe ;
fful welcomen art þou ous,
þou bring ous out of pis loþe hous.

148

Welcome, louerd, ich am adam
þat þou makedest of erþe man ;
Ihesu crist, bide I þe
þat mine sunnen forȝef þou me."

152

"Welcome, louerd, ich am eve,
Adam and I þat weren so leve,
þou ȝeue ous leue to loken parais,
And we hit lokeden al amis ;
We pi comaundement forleten
þo we of pen appell eten ;
So longe hauen we ben herinne,

156

160

149. *h* before *ous* has been erased.
155. *louerd*: *d* above line.

And confess to him their guilt for eating the fruit of the forbidden tree.

15

HARLEY.

Adam.

Welcome, louerd god of londe,
godes sone ant godes sonde ;
welcome, louerd, mote þou be,
þat þou wolt vs come & se, 152
Louerd, nou þou art come to ous,
bring ous of pis loþe hous ;
bryng vs of pis loþe lond,
louerd, henne into þyn hond ; 156
louerd, wost þou whet ych am ?
þou me shupitest of corþe Adam ;
for y þyn heste hueld noht,
duere ich habbe hit her aboht ; 160

haue merci of vs, godes sone,
let ous no more her wone ;
alle þat herynne be
Zore hauēþ ȝyrned after þe ; 164
we hopeþ wel þourh þy comyng
of oure sunnes hauen froryng.

Eua.

Knou me, louerd, ich am eue,
Ich ant Adam þe were so leue ; 168
þou laddest ous to parays, [leaf 56 bk.]
we hit forgulten ase vnwys ;
we þin heste dude forleten,
þo we pen appell eten ; 172
So longe we hauēþ buen herynne,

149-150. M. often inconsistent in using *a* or *o*, here *londe*—*sonde*.

152. M. introduces a line patched together from other MSS.: *Longe hauēþ ous pouȝt after þe.* 153. M. *comen*; H. *us*. 155-156. B.M. omit both these lines from the text.

157. M. *what*. 158. M. *shape of erþe*. 159. M. *held*. 160. M. *Dere... haue it*. 161. M. *ous*.

fare þou seþpen ware þou fare,
no dostow neuer man care.

156

AUCHINLEOK.

adам dixit.

Welcom, lord god of lond,
godes sone & godes sond,
welcom, lord, mot þou be,
long hauēs ous pouȝt after þe ; 160
lord, seþpen þou art comen to ous,
þou bring ous out of pis hous ;
lord, þou wost what ich am
þou me schope of erþe man, 164
& þou me madest formast man,
& þou me clepetest sone, adam ;
& gif ich haue sinnes vrouȝt,
ful dere now here ichaue hem bouȝt ;
whoso sinneþ ani wiȝt, 169
þe sinne is more þan þe pliȝt.
ȝa, leue lord, godes sone,
welcom be þou & worþ come ; 172
al, lord, þat here be
haue ȝerned, lord, after þe ;
we hope wele of pi coming
of our sinnes haue botening. 176

euia ait.

Knawe me, lord, ich am eue,
adam & ich ware þe so leue,
þou ȝaue ous to ȝeme paradis,
& we it ȝemed as vnwise 180
when we pi comandment forlete,
when we of þat appell ete ;
so long haue we ben herinne,

160. *haues* : Varn. (176) *haves*.

165. A 2nd *me* marked for erasure in MS. Laing omits this line.

164. C. *Zore... ȝyrned*; M. *hauen ȝerned*. 166. M. *sinnes*.

168. M. *leue*.

169-170. M. *þou ȝaue ous to ȝeme parais / We it ȝemeden asse unwis!* 171. M. *dide*. 172. B.M. *of pen*. 173. M. *haue we ben*.