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An Ensample that happed at the masse of seynt Martyn/ capitulo XVIII^o

aNd yet I shalle saye to yow what befelle att the masse of seynt Martyn of Tours / The hooly man songe the masse And his godsonne seynt Bryce helpe hym to synge which was after hym Archebisshop of Tours / This saynt Bryce began to laughe / And saynt Martyn apperceyued it / And when the masse was done / seynt Martyn callyd hym / And demaunded of hym why he laughed / And he answerd hym that he had sene the deuyll / whiche put in wrytynge / alle that the men and wymmen talked to geder as longe as he sayd the masse / Thenne it happed / that the parchemyn in whiche the fende wrote / was ouer shorte / And he began to drawe it oute a long with his teeth. for to ma|ke it larger / And when he so drewhe with his teeth / the perch I myn escaped fro hym / in suche wyse that he smote his heede ayenst the stone walle / And for that cause I lough / And whan saynt Martyn hadde herd that seynt Bryce had sene this / he preched vp on this mater to the peple / how it was grete perylle to speke & tal|ke in the masse tyme / and in the tyme of the seruyce of god / And yet susteyne the grete clerkes that me ought not saye no prayers in the masse tyme / And in especial whyle the gospell is red and per omnia with the preface / And for these causes aforsaid my fair daughters / ye haue herby a fayre ensample / how that ye ouzt to mayntene you humbly and deuoutely in the Chirche / and not to talke ne iangle for no thyng that may happen.

Of a knyght that causid all a towne to lese theyr masse where as he dwellyd / capitulo xxix^o.

aNother Ensample I shalle telle yow of them that lose their masse / and also to make other to lese it / I haue herd told of a knyght and of a lady / that fro theyr youth took grete plaisire to slepe to fore none. And this they vsed in su|che manere that oftymes they lost theyr masse / And causid alle they parysshe to lose it also / in whiche they dwellyd / For he was lord and patron of the parysshe / And the parson durst not with saye hym / So it happed on a sonday / that they sente to the parson that he shold tarye for them / And whan they cam / it was passed mydday / And they of the parysshe told the preest that it was past none / And therfor he durst not synge masse / And so they hadde no masse that daye / wherfore the peple of the parysshe were moche angry / but they must nedes suffre / And it happed in the same nyght that the preest had a vysyon / that hym semed / that he kept a grete flock of sheep. in a felde / where as was no grasse / And he wo|d haue brought them in a pasture for to haue fedde them / where to was but one path / and in that path was a black swyn and a sowe / whiche lay ouerthwert the way / And these hogg•s were horned / And he had soo grete drede and fere / bothe he / and his shepe. that he durst not entre in to his pasture / And anon they torned back to their feld withoute pasture / And soo they had no mete / And thenne hym thought one saide to hym / leuest thou to gyue pasture to thy sheep / for fere of these horned beestes / & there with al he awoke / And in lyke wyse this vysion happed the sa|me nyght to the knyght and to the lady his wyfe. for them semed that they become a bore and a sowe / and were also horned / And that they wold not suffre the sheep to passe and goo to their

pastu're / And sith them semed / ther cam a grete chace of black hunters syttyng vpon grete black horses / which had with them grete quā'tyte of grehoundes and black dogges / whome them semed. they vncoupled / and dide set them on hem / and made them all to dra'we hem / and byte them by the eres / armes / and thyes / And blew their hornes / halowed and cryed / And this chace or hutynge endured on them so longe / that them semed that they were taken & slayn / & ther with all they awoke beyng sore agast & effrayed / & this aduysion happed and cam to them two tymes / Now it happed that the preest cam vnto the place / where this knyght & lady were / And they tolde to hym their vysyon / And in lyke wy'se the preest told to them his / wherof they were sore admerueyled and abashed by cause they were lyke / Thenne the preest aduysed hym / and sayde to the knyght / Syre there is an hooly hermyte here by in suche a foreste / whiche shalle make vs wyse and vnder stonde of this thyng / Thenne they wente to this hooly man / and recounted to hym their aduysyon / fro poynt to poynt / And thys hooly man which was wyse and of a blessid lyf / declared to them all their fait / And said to the knyght & his wyf. ye be the black swyne / whiche kepe the pathe and the entre of the pasture. that the sheepe may not fede them / ne may not ete of the good pasture That is to saye that ye be lord of the parysshe / in whiche ye dwelle And ye haue distourbled and lette the good peple and parisshens for to lere the seruyse of god / which is good pasture & refresshyng of the spyrituel lyf of the soule / by cause of youre latchesse and youre long reste / And the hornes that ye haue ben the braunches of youre synnes / whiche ben moche grete / And in especiall of the grete synnes that ye haue done in lettyng other fro the benefete and the seruyce of god / whiche ye may not amende but by greete penaūce and tormente / And therfore the vengeaūce of the wrong that ye haue done / is shewed to yow / that ye shall be tormentyd and hūnted of the fendes of helle / And at the last ye shalle be ta'ken and slayn by the very huntynge of deuyls / lyke as it was shewed to yow by youre aduysyon / And I say you certaynly. that it hadde ben lasse synne an honderd ageynst one / that ye had herde no masse than for to take fro the good peple ne fro the preest their deuocion / for when he abode ouer long / he was angry & syn'ned in the synne of wrathe / and the good peple also / of whome somme wente to tauerne / And other lost their deuocion and alle good charyte / And all the synnes and euyls comen of yow / & by youre slouthe / wherof ye shall gyue a rekenyng perauerter hal's•lyer than ye wene / For ye shalle be hunted and put to doth lyke as ye haue sene in youre aduysyon / That is to say that ye ben in the wey to be dampned / yf ye put not therto remedye / Thenne the knyght was moche abashed / and demaunded of hym couñcil how he myght doo / Thenne the hooly man said that he shold thre sondayes kne•e to fore his parisshens / and crye them mercy / and praye them to pardone hym / And that they wold praye to god for hym and his wyf also / And from thenne forthon they wold be the first to fore other at the Chirche / and there he confessid hym to the heremyte / And he gafe to hym that penaunce and other / And fro than forthon he chastysed hym self / And he and his wyf thanked oure lord / that he vouchesauf to shewe to them this demonstraūce / And I saye yow that fro than forthon / they we're the first that cam to the chirche / And also the hooly heremyte said to the preest and declared to hym his vision. and tolde hym that god ought to be more drad and serued than the world. And therfore my faire daughters / take herby a good ensample / that for your plaisire ye cause none to lese their masse / ne theyr deuocion for your slouthe and neclygence / For it were better that ye herd none / And I wolde wel / that ye shold knowe and lerne thensample of a lady / that spended the fourthe parte of the daye for to araye her /.