

TALE OF THE DEVIL'S DISAPPOINTMENT WITH THE JANGLING WOMEN. 287

Iangle we yn cherche neuer so lyte,	9256 †	Qe en eglise est peche, iangler,	
Alle þat we do Iangle, þe fende doþe wryte, §		Duter poez pur verite	6950
And shal shewe hyt before oure face		Qe, quant qe auez la iangle,	
Whan hys rolle ys broghte yn place :	†	Del deable vous ert reherce	
And y shal tellē as y kan	9260	Quant sun roule ert mustre,	
A bourdē of an holy man.		Si ci ne seit amende	
Shortly to tellē, and nat longe,		E par confessiun ouste.	6955

*The Tale of the Devil's Disappointment
with the Jangling Women.*

An holy man hys messē songe,
 And at þe messe whan tymē fel 9264
 þe dekene to redē þe gospel,
 Yn hys redyng, noun wyst why,
 He loghe a grete lagheter an hy.
 þe preste, and oþer þat þere stode, 9268
 Helde hym a fole þat coude no gode.
 Seppē, whan þe messe was done,
 þe preste askede þe dekene sone
 'Why þat he so ferde, and how, 9272
 þat he yn hys gospel loghe?'¹
 Moche þarfore he gan hym blame,
 For þe lewede folk þoghte hyt² shame.
 þe dekene told hym why hyt fel 9276
 þere to laghee yn hys gospel,—
 "As y redde þat ychē tyde,
 Twey wymmen Ianglede þere besyde;
 Betwyx hem to y say³ a fende 9280
 Wyþ penne and parchemen yn honde,
 And wrotē alle þat euer þey spake
 Pryuyly be hynde here bake.
 Whan hys rolle was wryte alle ful, 9284
 To drawe hyt oute he gan to pul;
 Wyþ hys teþe he gan to drawe,
 And hardē for to tugge and gnawe,

¹ low.

² hym.

³ sagh.

þat hys rolle to-braste and rofe ; 9288
 And hys hede azens þe walle drofe
 So hardë and so ferly sore
 Whan hys parchemen was no more.
 Whan y say þat, y lete so gode, 9292
 Y brast on lagheter þere y stode
 þat he so mochë sorow hadde
 As hys wrytyng was alle to-fade ;
 And when he parceyuede þat y wyste, 9296
 He al to-drofe hyt wyþ hys fyste,
 And went a wey alle for shame ;
 þarfore y loghe and hadde gode game."
 þe preste hym askede ' whedyr he say mo.'
 " Many," he seyde, " y saghe þere go, 9301
 And wrote oueral þere men tolde,
 But none so moche þat y dyde beholde ;
 Hym behelde y weyl ynoghe, 9304
 For þat he dyde, þere at y loghe."
 þan wyst þe prest þurghe þat syzt
 þat he was weyl wyþ Gode almyzt.

For Ianglers, þys tale y tolde, 9308
 þat þey yn cherche here tungës holde,
 Speke to Gode yn þy preyere,
 And þat shal nat þe fendë here.
 þou Iangler, take þou godë kepe, 9312
 Hyt were wel bettyr þou were on slepe ;
 3yf hyt ne be amendede here¹
 Elleswere shalt þow a-bye hyt dere.

Sacrylage also may be for tye ; 9316 †
 Yn þat, synne men ful oftë syþe.
 Of alle þyng þat þe newep, §
 Tye ryztly, or elles hyt þe rewep. §
 Of þe werst þou shalt nat 3yue, 9320
 For þan lesest þou þy gode yn þy lyue ;
 Ne 3yue hyt nat wyþ wykkede wyl,

¹ O. inserts—Wyþ shryfte of mouth and penaunce clere.

¶ Chescun hom deit dreit dimer
 § Qe deu ne vodera corucier ;
 Ki del meillur li durra,
 En la manereⁱ plus trouera.
 Deu dune, sachez, sa malicun— 6960
 Ceo dit le prophete a chescun hom—
 Qe en sa faude ad vn bon^k motun
ⁱ le remanant. ^k A. omits 'bon.'

For al þe touþer mayst þou þan spyl ;
 3yue Gode þe best þat þou mayst haue,
 And alle þe touþer he wyl þe saue.¹ 9325

Foure þynges are 3yue specyaly
 To euery man þat tyþeþ ryztly ;
 þe fyrst ys, long lyfe to haue ; 9328
 þe touþer, þe yn gode hele to saue ;
 þe þryde ys, gracē gode wyþ ynne ;²
 þe fourþe, for3yuenes of þy synne ;—
 3yf þou wylt haue any of þese, 9332
 Tyþe weyl and on gode syse.³

3yf þou turnedest for worldes wyunnyng
 Halewede place, or holy þyng, †
 Cherche 3erde, or þere chapyl was, 9336 †
 Tymber, stones, eren, or glas,
 Curteynes, or ouþer vestyment, †
 Or any ouþer vesselement †
 þat falleþ to holy cherches seruyse, 9340
 And vsest hem on ouþer wyse,
 þy wytyng ;—þou synnest dedly †
 Yn sacrylage certeynly. §
 þarto shal y preue my sawe 9344
 By a tale of þe olde lawe ;
 And þys tale yn þat tyme fyl⁴
 þat was of þe prophete Danyël.

*The Tale of Belshazzar's Feast, and the
 Prophet Daniel.*

þyr was a kyng of grete powere, 9348
 Yn hys tyme was none hys pere,
 Ynoghe he hadde of worldēs myzt, ||
 And Baltazar⁵ hys namē hyzt. †
 þys kyng was a paynym, 9352
 And wyþ oste he come to Ierusalem *
 And robbede þe temple, þys baltazare,

E a deu dune le feble par custum.

¶ Ki s(e)culer habitaciun
 Del muster fet, qe fere ne deuum, 6965
 Ou cymiter ad tresturne
 En oes de secularite,
 Ou curtines, ou vestement
 De eglise,¹ ou vesselement,—
 Sachez¹ certainement 6970
 Qe il peche malement
 Quant en autre oes l'ad vse
 Qe ne furent atitle ;
 § Qe ceo est sacrilege proue ;
 Pur ceo, garde vous de ceste peche.

¹ O. inserts—But þou do so, wyte þou weyl² to wyne.
 He wyl þe reuē eury deyl.³ assyse.

⁵ Crossed out, and 'Ma-
 bygodonsoze' inserted.

¹⁻¹ Omitted in B.
^m ier'l'm.