STUDIES IN THE SPEECH OF THE SHILLINGFORD LETTERS, 1447-1450—
a Contribution to the History of Colloquial English

by

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FOREWORD

Most studies of Middle English vocabulary have been made from literary manuscripts, as I have found from a survey of Middle English glossaries and dictionaries. No less important, from the viewpoint of one who would reconstruct the language of the period, is a study made from less formal documents, which reflect more directly the warm, living speech of human beings. Such are those documents which are the basis of the present investigation: the Letters and Papers of John Shillingford, Mayor of Exeter, 1447-50.

In making this study of a group of letters of the fifteenth century, I have ever kept an eye on the man behind the pen, to see whether I might, perchance, catch him talking instead of writing. I have had to be wary, for he is likely to fall at times into a formal or literary manner. This is not to be wondered at, as the subject-matter of the Letters is a lawsuit between the Town and the Bishop regarding jurisdiction over certain property within the town. The letters, however, are written largely in a colloquial tone, and therefore their vocabulary, syntax, idiom, and sentence structure can be considered fairly typical of the spoken and also of the informal written language of the Late Middle English Period. Especially is this true of those letters written by Shillingford himself. He conforms mostly to what H. C. Wyld calls London Standard (this term refers to

Wyld, H. C.: History of Modern Colloquial English, pp. 65, 81
the informal as well as the literary speech of London at that time), lapsing only occasionally into Southern dialect.

Since I was concerned only with those phenomena which I considered colloquial, I used only the papers in Part I of Stuart Moore's edition (mostly letters from John Shillingford himself to his fellows at Exeter). Part II is made up of legal papers—Articles, Answers, Replications, and Rejoinders, with some miscellaneous papers following in an Appendix—used in the suit between the Mayor and Commonalty of Exeter, and the Bishop, Dean, and Chapter. In Part II, however, I found some very interesting bits, of which I make mention at several points in the following pages.

In studying the speech of Shillingford, I could not fail to take cognizance of such matters as idiom, inflection, syntax, word order, spelling, pronunciation, and sentence structure, as well as vocabulary. To illustrate these phenomena, I have given rather full quotations showing the words in their context. Here, rather than in the bare words themselves, can be seen the speech of Shillingford.

I have analyzed to some extent the peculiarly colloquial elements of the Letters: forms of greeting; terms of relationship; passages showing strong emotion; passages illustrating pronounced characteristics of the writer; oaths, expletives, exclamations, imprecatons; formulas used in beginning and ending letters; realien; alliterative phrases; evidences of proverbial sayings; etc.
Wherever my study supplements information given in the New English Dictionary I have made a note of the fact. In all there are about forty-five items: a word, a form, an idiom, or a quotation, where there is in the New English Dictionary a gap of a hundred years or more, or where my material antedates that used by the makers of NED.

I could have asked for a more nearly perfect transcription of the Letters than is Moore's. Though his edition is, on the whole, accurate, he was careless in transcribing certain characters, such as final e, final es, and final n. He also failed to make note of several passages which Shillingford crossed out and recast. He omitted a few draft copies altogether. Almost every page would show some discrepancy between MS. and transcription. My own brief examination of the MSS. several months ago did not allow me to make note of all of these, but in a few moments of study I found three cases in which Moore had written un for a final n of the MS.: mete y doun, apoun, and norun, all on page 37. I found also on page 61, "inquered" for "enquered" of the MS. and "Chief Justise" for "Chif Justise". These matters are important to the student of phonetics, though in my study they have not greatly mattered.

More important to me would have been careful citation of all of Shillingford's additions and deletions, especially when he substituted a more formal phrase or word for a colloquial one. Moore has noted a number of changes, but has not been consistent. The new edition contemplated by Miss Ruth Easterling of Exeter, in collaboration with Miss Asta
Kihlbohm of Upsala will attempt to correct errors of transcription; will add notes; will show alternative readings, additions, deletions; will append a glossary; will add a few papers; and will give a fuller treatment of the lawsuit. I shall await its appearance with great interest.

It is with pleasure that I express my appreciation of the constant and watchful guidance of my teacher, Dr. Josephine M. Burnham. To her I owe many suggestions as to form, content, bibliography, etc., and much helpful information. Without her unfailing encouragement, her stimulating criticism, and the spur of her own enthusiasm for research, I should never have finished this study, or even begun it.

I wish also to thank Miss Ruth C. Easterling, M. A., of Exeter, for researches made for me in the manuscripts at Exeter, and also for her very great kindness in aiding me in my examination of the MSS. when I was at Exeter. I am also indebted to her for information concerning streets and buildings mentioned by Shillingford. My thanks are due also to Mr. Gay, scholar and Town Clerk of Exeter, for a few facts regarding Shillingford, and also for so graciously placing the town records at my disposal.

Acknowledgment must be made here of the many courtesies extended me by the library staff of the University of Kansas, and especially by E.N. Manchester, formerly Librarian.

Lawrence, Kansas
May, 1929

V. M. R.
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INTRODUCTION

"There is not a single change of meaning, a single modification of grammar, a single peculiarity of syntax which should not be counted as a small historical event."
---Breal

1

Value of Letters in a Study of Colloquial English

The first half of the fifteenth century is most interesting to the student of English philology for several reasons:

1. It marks the close of the Middle English period, and the transition to the period of Modern English.
2. Printing had not yet been introduced into England, and therefore private written documents show less influence of literary style than do those of the last quarter of the century and later. The spelling for this reason is more likely to be phonetic.
3. Both French and Latin as a medium of instruction in the schools had been largely supplanted by English.
4. The English of London had, especially among educated people, crowded out the other English dialects.

The language of this period, then, having to some extent freed itself of superfluous French and Latin elements, and having achieved more or less fixed systems of inflection, syntax, word order, and accent, was more nearly uniform throughout England than it had ever been before. The facts
of language discovered in fifteenth century papers are thus on the whole, and in these foundation matters, applicable to all England. There are, of course, documents of a strongly dialectal character which represent the language of only a restricted area, and even in writings conforming closely to London speech, dialectal features may be found.

Since we of the twentieth century cannot catch the words "living as they rise" from the mouths of the speakers of the fifteenth century, we must make research in their most non-literary writings. These would be, it seems, documents of a private rather than of a public nature: diaries, wills, household accounts, private letters, and the like. There are some scattered household accounts, some wills (F. J. Furnivall has published some of them under the title "The Fifty Earliest English Wills", EETS, vol. 276), and several collections of interesting private letters. Of these, those of the Paston family of Norfolk are most generally known. However, there are others of great interest: The Stonor Letters and Papers, The Cely Papers, The Flumpton Correspondence, The Letters and Papers of John Shillingford, The Christ Church Letters, and the Letters of Margaret of Anjou and of Bishop Beckington.

From both a linguistic and a historical point of view, the Paston Letters are the most attractive. However, since there are more than a thousand of them, an exhaustive study of their vocabulary would require a study of many years. The Stonor and Cely Letters are highly colloquial in char-
acter, and would therefore be valuable for a study like this one; however, they are full of dialectal peculiarities. The Plumpton Correspondence contains letters written over half of the sixteenth century, and none in the first half of the fifteenth, with which this paper is concerned. The Cely Papers are also mostly of the two decades at the end of the century. The Christ Church volume contains mostly Latin and French letters. The Letters of Margaret of Anjou and Bishop Beckington fall within the period and are not too numerous for a study of the scope of this one. However, they are less colloquial than the letters of John Shillingford, which I have here used.

I have had to abandon my original intention of making a comparative study of the Stonor, Cely, Shillingford, and Paston Letters. Shillingford alone has proved a sufficient study. It was also my plan to draw up a list of all published English private letters (so far as I could find record of them) up to 1450. I shall have to complete this plan at a later date. However, I have made sufficient research to conclude that the earliest letter of this kind will probably not be more than fifty years earlier than the earliest of the Shillingford letters. In a search of several months, in which I examined Rymer's *Focdera*, the Rolls Series, Ellis' *Original Letters Illustrative of English History*, the Camden Series, all fifteenth century volumes in the Early English Text Society and several
fourteenth century volumes, as well as numerous collections of Middle English writings, etc., I have found only one English letter of a private, personal nature earlier than 1400. This was a letter from Lady Jane Polham to her husband, written in 1399. It is quoted by Henry Hallam at page 74 of his *Introduction to the Literature of Europe in the Fifteenth, Sixteenth, and Seventeenth Centuries*, vol. 1. Hallam comments thus: "Till any other shall prefer a claim, it may pass for the oldest private letter in the English language." He had copied it from Collins' Peerage, and Collins in turn had copied it from the archives of the Newcastle family.

Of earlier date than this are the Epistles of John Ball, part verse and part prose, sent in 1381 to the peasants of Essex, and among the contributing causes of Wat Tyler's Rebellion. These can hardly be called private letters, however, because they were distributed far and wide to the countrymen in duplicate, or in slightly varying form. John Ball, together with Jack Straw, Wat Tyler, and about a dozen others was hanged for this part in the rebellion, and the writing and distributing of these letters was perhaps the chief cause for the order being given that he should be "tractus, suspensus, et decollatus, apud Sanctum Albanum, Idibus Julii, praesente Rege; et cadaver ejus quadripartitum quatuor regni civitatis missum est."¹

¹ Walsingham, Thomae (ed.): *Historia Anglicana*, II v. 281, Rolls Series, p. 24
Two versions of this letter are published in the Rolls Series, and one version is given by Kenneth Sisam in his Fourteenth Century Verse and Prose (Oxford, 1921), at page 160. Vol. I of the Percy Society Publications (Songs of the London Prentices and Trades), page 1 ff., includes "Jack Miller's Song", "Jack Trewman's Epistle", and two Epistles of John Ball.

Earlier than this, there are few private letters, and they, like those of a more official character, are written in French or Latin. Vising sums up very well the relative importance of English, French, and Latin in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries: "In official and private letters French was constantly in use over a long period (See Tanqueray, Recueil de lettres, Introd.). There are in Rymer's Foederar, Part V, several royal and other letters in Anglo-Norman down to 1440, when Latin becomes the usual epistolary language. English is still rare. Wills were made chiefly in Latin; the earliest French wills in the publications of the Surtees Society (Nos. 2, 4, 26) date from 1347; the earliest English wills from 1383 (see Furnivall, The Fifty Earliest English Wills). It is only in the following century that French yields to English, whereas Latin always prevails." In the Rolls Series I found an English letter writ-

2 Vising, J., Anglo-Norman Language and Literature, p. 24
ten by George Dunbar, Earl of March, to Henry IV, with the very early date of 1400; but the Earl apologizes for his use of English: "And, noble Prince, mervail the noctht that I write my lettres in Enlishe, fore that ys mare clere to myne understandyng than Latyne or Fraunche."

It was between 1352 and 1385 that French had been displaced by English in the Latin schools, for as the translator Trevisa complained, "the children of grammar schools knew no more French than their left heels." In 1362, Parliament was opened in English, and in the same year, Edward III decreed that pleadings in the law courts should be in English, not in French. They were still to be "entered and enrolled" in Latin. Emerson says that English regained its place as the official language of the realm in the first half of the fifteenth century.

Certain it is that with the increasing use of English in the schools, there came an increase in the number of common people who could read and write. Whether it was the widespread demand for education that made inevitable the substitution of English for French in construing Latin, or whether it was the use of English that gave education greater popularity, it is recognized by writers on fourteenth and fifteenth century history that almost every English town, large and small, had a grammar-school and song-school (in connection with the cathedral), and the larger ones had fre-

Emerson, O. F.: The History of the English Language, p. 75
quently guild schools and other private schools. Winchester, founded in 1382, and Eton, founded in 1443, had seventy scholars apiece, and the EETS volume on English Guilds (v. 40) prints (p. 205) a document showing that the Guild School at Worcester had more than a hundred scholars. At Exeter there was probably such a school. It is sure that there was a cathedral school. Izacke in his Remarkable Antiquities of the City of Exeter, p. 79, tells of its founding: "The Dean and Chapter of this Church founded and built [1445] the High School within this City, for the better education of Youth in good literature, and appointed a Master thereof, for whose encouragement, a convenient House for his habitation adjoining to the said School was erected, and a Pension of 20 l. per Annum allowed him."

The existence of so many collections of fifteenth century letters from people of the middle class (e.g., the Cely, Stonor, Paston, and Shillingford letters), proves that writing was not an accomplishment confined to the clergy. Proofs within many of these letters themselves show that they were not written usually by scribes or secretaries, though frequently secretaries were employed by the wealthy. Kingsford, in the Introduction to the Stonor Letters (p. xlvi), quoting Gairdner, says: "No person of any rank or station in society above mere labouring men seems to have been wholly illiterate. All could write letters: most persons could express themselves in writing with ease and fluency." Kingsford adds, "This judgment is fully confirmed
by the Stonor Letters... Generally the country squires of Oxfordshire and their women folk, and the better class merchants of London could write with ease. The worst writers and spellers are inferior clergy like John Shynner and the Abbots of Norton and Nuteley, or humble mercantile people like Thomas Henham and Goddard Oxbridge."

Agnes Paston writes once to her husband "Written at Paston in haste the Wednesday after 'Deus qui errantibus' for default of a good secretary." However, she writes another time to John Paston, "I received your letter by Robert Repps this day, after this letter (was) written thus far. I have read it, but I can give you none answer more than I have written, save the wife of Harmen hath the name of our Lady, whose blessing ye have and mine. Written at Paston, on the day after St. Edmund, By your mother, Agnes Paston." (These excerpts are modernized in spelling. They are from Selections from the Paston Letters, made by M. D. Jones. pp. 1-4).

It seems certain that John Paston wrote his own letters, as witness this passage from a letter to Mistress Anna: "I am proud that ye can read English, wherefore I pray you acquaint you with this my lewd hand, for my purpose is that ye shall be more acquainted with it, or else it shall be against my will; but yet and when ye have read this bill, I pray you burn it, or keep it secret to your self, as my faithful trust is in you." (p.61, Jones).

William Paston III, at school at Eton, writes to John Pas-
ton. "Written at Eton the even of Saint Mathias the Apostle in haste, with the hand of your brother, William Paston, Junior." (p. 30, Jones) Shillingford seems to have written several of the letters in the Exeter collection; I shall discuss this matter later.

Though the penny post did not start until the sixteenth century, there was a system of communication fairly well established in England long before, says Hemmson.¹ A letter from Richard Germyn at Exeter to Sir William Stonor, 13 May 1480, (Stonor Letters, v. II, p. 105) shows that there was a regular post to London from Exeter: "Also ye wrette unto me to have youre plate, which is with Maister John at Wille: at your letteris deliverans he was not at home, but before Midsomer y schal bringe hit to London pakked in the carior's pakke of Exeter." Letters were also carried by servants, messengers, soldiers, friends traveling to other cities, etc. Shillingford several times took a certain William Hampton to London with him, and sent him back to Exeter with a letter for the Council. Evidently William Hampton was a bonded carrier, for Shillingford says at page 17, "Item, y pray you to sende me the blak rolle whiche shall be delyvered to you by Thomas Montegow, by William Hampton berer of this writynge, the which is a man true ynoch as y truste and suppose and hath borwys for his office, lete them by pryvy to, yf you [like ], that hit is to be do." He may have been the town

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¹ Hemmson, J. C.: The History of the British Post Office, p.3
carrier.

This ease of communication, the growing prevalence of English, the spread of education among the so-called "middle classes", and the increasing prosperity of those classes, were contributing causes to the quickening of the pen of the bourgeois, and these earliest English letters, coming as they do from the commoners, rather than from clergy or nobility, exhibit better than any other class of documents, the colloquial speech of England in the fifteenth century.
Several writers have expressed their opinions as to the value and interest of the Shillingford Letters: Gross, in *The Sources and Literature of English History from the Earliest Times to about 1485* (p. 403); Wyld, in *A History of Modern Colloquial English* (p. 65); and Moore, in the Introduction to his edition of Shillingford's Letters and Papers. Gross says, "The most notable family papers are the Paston Letters; next in value are the Trevelyan Papers, Shillingford's Letters, and the Humpton Correspondence." In comparing these to other fifteenth century letters, Wyld says: "Passing to private letters, the most remarkable are perhaps those of John Shillingford, Mayor of Exeter in 1447-50." Moore, being the editor of the Letters, might be excused for extravagance, but his statement seems conservative enough: "They are amongst the earliest specimens of English private correspondence that exist, and may fairly be considered as amongst the most remarkable."

Moore's volume consists of the letters and papers written in a lawsuit between the Mayor and Commonalty of Exeter and the Bishop, Dean, and Chapter of the diocese, respecting jurisdiction over Church property within the City limits. The papers cover the four years during which the question was in active debate.

Part I, which I have studied, consists largely of letters written by John Shillingford to his "fellows" at Exeter. Of the total, four were written by others (a priest
of the Bishop, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, and the City Clerk), three are petitions, one is a rather formal memorandum written by Shillingford, and the remainder (twenty-one in all) are communications from Shillingford. Part II contains the Articles, Answers, Replications, and Rejoinders of both parties to the suit. In the Appendix are two petitions from the Mayor and Citizens, bonds from Mayor and Bishop, the final agreement between the parties, and extracts from the Mayor's Court Roll and from the Accounts of the Receivers of the City of Exeter.

The original letters and papers are still kept in the Monument Room of the Guildhall at Exeter, as they were in the days when Moore studied them, in two bundles placed in separate boxes. They consist partly of sheets of paper folded rather small, and partly of paper rolls made of several sheets of paper sewn together. All but two or three of them are written on heavy paper, now worn along the edges and water stained in places (Moore explains that he rescued some of them from under the very roof of the Guildhall). Most of the sheets are about 11 ½" x 17". None are sealed, and only two are addressed on the dorse.

The following notes as to the persons who actually wrote the letters were sent me by Miss Ruth C. Easterling, of Exeter, who, as custodian of the Town Records for several years, is thoroughly familiar with them.

"The letters are mainly drafts and copies, only a few,
such as IV, IX, XI, XIV, or XXII, or XII, being obviously the letter itself. Only three are signed.—IX, XIV and XXII,—that is to say, by Shillingford; only two, XIV and XXII, have the actual address written on the outside,—
'To William Spere..." 'To John Coteler', etc. (pp.39 and 60). No. XXII, by the way, is definitely not in Shillingford's hand, except probably the signature initials, though I am not quite certain of those. I think the designation 'Draft letter' given by the editor to No. IX is a mistake for No. VIII, which is certainly a draft having a number of corrections, whereas IX is a clear and signed document, well written, by Shillingford himself... The larger proportion of the whole collection appears to be written by him. Definitely not by him are I, XII, XVI (a neat copy by a clerk)—XXII, (by another clerk)—XXVII, (a clerk)—XXXIII, p. 95—last part of XXXVI, p. 116, from p. 120, 'Cives Exonie... debent' to end, by copyist of XVI and XXVII—XXXV, p. 126, one part of a draft on parchment, by a clerk. The extracts from Domesday mentioned p. 118, note, are by a clerk; the copy on parchment mentioned p. 116, note, probably by the clerk of XXII. On the other hand, XXXIII, as I said, is not Spere's original but Shillingford's copy, and Shillingford has copied XVI on to the back of XV—etc. etc.

"As to II, VII, VIII, XV, a neat copy of XI and a few more, it is a little doubtful whether they are drafts made by Shillingford or were written by a clerk and corrected by him: Stuart Moore has treated them as all by Shillingford,
and I suspect he is right, but they show yet another variant of the mayor's hand in that case, a small official-looking upright. It is found in some of his undoubted drafts." (Letter of September 19, 1925).

On August 10, 1928, after Miss Easterling had gone over the letters with me, she wrote again: "Pending a better theory, we might say they are mostly by him Shillingford, except a few clearly by certain clerks. Thus one or two—the one of the Archbishop and the one by Spere (XXIII) are copies made by Shillingford. No hand can be assigned to Shillingford which doesn't include that of the letter from Spere. Spere was town clerk and I believe I have identified his hand among the records and in the letters themselves.

"But such as III, VI, IX, XI and XIV, with part of the draft of IV are anyway by him, and so are others."

The similarity in the handwriting of the letters shows perhaps that the writers were educated in the same school. Surely not all the City Records and letters which show like characteristics could have been the work of one person, no matter how energetic.

In spite of the fact that some of the letters seem to be the work of copyists, there is little deviation in the spelling of the letters. Evidently, Shillingford usually made out a rough draft first, and then either copied it himself, or gave it to a clerk to copy.

This passage from Shillingford, p. 54, furnishes a bit
of evidence that he did the writing of some of the Articles, and shows that without a doubt he composed them:
"Reherece to hym the articulis that comyth to yowre mynde, that beth comprehended yn the olde enstrucci(ion), the whiche ye deluyvered un to my Lorde ayenst the Mayeris wyll, savyng my Lordes commandement, ffor sympelnye of enditynge and writynge, considerynge his high astate;...ffor this cause that y wolde noght hit were y-knowe that suche writynge cam fro me."

Little is known concerning Shillingford himself except what can be gleaned from these Letters. It is apparent from Letter XI (p.31) that he lived at Shillingford, a small village near Exeter. Wylie, in his Report on the Records of the City of Exeter, shows that Shillingford is mentioned in two records (D. 1179, Sept. 28, 1441; D. 1210, April 26, 1454) as the owner of property in Exeter. This indicates that he was a man of means. Another indication of the fact is seen in Letter IV, p. 16: "Item, Thomas Montagew sholde send me xj l. and odde mony as he wote well and can telle yow: and y supposed that John Germyn sholde have brought to me all most x l. all this of myne owne gode; wherof cometh to me no peny."

His reputation in Exeter is attested by the fact that he was Receiver (Treasurer) in 1419-20 and again in 1420-21. As to his serving as Mayor in 1428-29, 1429-30, it appears that he did so very willingly; but when he was elect-
ed again in 1444, he took the office only under compulsion, as is shown by the manuscript of John Hooker's Annals of the City of Exeter in the Guildhall Monument Room: "1444. The xxiiij yere of Kynge Henry the VIth. N.d. that John Shillingford being elected and chosen to be Mayor for the yere dyd refuse to be sworne and to take th'office upon him, whereupon advertiseysement was made unto the King and Counsell, and then a write under the Privie Seale was directed and sent to the sayde John requiringe and commandinge him upon the payable of one thousand poundes to take the office upon him and to exequyte the same: who accordinglye upon the Monday next after the Feaste of St. Valentynye, at too of the clocke of the afternone, came to the Guylidhall, and there was sworne; and, thoughe at the first wth an evell will, yet yn thende dyd performe it very well." He was Mayor again in 1446-7 and 1447-8.

Under date of 1446-7, Hooker (copied by Izacke) has entered: "N.d. that this John Shillingford the Mayere was a very wyse man and lerned yn the Lawes of the Realm, bold and sturdie, and yn his governement very just and upright; and so well he dyrected the same to the benefite of the common welthe of this Citie as few before hym dyd it better: In his tymes was the longe and troblesome suste betwene Edmond Lacy the Bishop and the Deane and Chapter agaynst the Mayor and Communalte of this Citie concerninge theire lyberties, wch suste this Shillingfford dyd followe very carefully and diligentely, and by the meanes thereof
and also by reason of his acquaintance with the Lord Chancellor and the Counsell, his suetes were the better considered. The same at lengthe was refferred to arhytrament, and then to be finally and for euer ended."

He was well treated by the Chancellor, John Stafford, and also seemed to be in favor with the Chief Justices. His vanity causes him to record every instance in which he seems to be particularly favored. For example, on p. 15: "and so we departed, stondying a fer fro my lorde, and he asked wyne and send me his owne cuppe and to no moo. Y wende right to my lord ayen before them alle, and spake with my lorde prively a grete whiles of divers maters," and again, "My lord at this tyme didde me moche worschip, and openly yn the communication aboveseyde commendèd me for my gode rule at home."

Another instance is shown in the MS. of XVIII (p.45): He originally wrote "the pees by the mayeres reule y kept", but letar crossed out y kept and wrote well y kept.

Throughout the progress of the suit the Mayor vigorously maintained the rights of the City, as his knowledge of law enabled him to do effectively. He was ever deferential to his superiors, even to the Bishop—see his letter to the Bishop (IX, p. 26),—but sometimes debated heatedly with the Bishop's counsel, as is shown by the following passage: "Y seide they hadde seide dyvers tymes that they hadde olde charters, evidences, and munymentis to ende the mater; and y seide if they so hadde to bryng ham yn, and but they were answered to ende, &c. Hengston [one of the Bish-
op's counsel) seide moche and strongly because y seide they hadde suche charters. Y seide yee, and avowed hit well they seide so. He seide that they hadde olde recordis, &c. and y saide as above. Hengston honged sore to have a lete and a grete courte, and y traversed hym ever, and seide to hym moche thynge, and yn especiall that they never hadde instrument, and rehearsed what that belongeth to a lete."

(p. 14)

It would seem that he was not greatly disconcerted at the charges implied against him in one of the Answers\(^1\) of the Bishop, evidently with an idea to discredit him with the Chancellor: "Wherfore it were \(\frac{1}{2}\) part of the saide Maior, yif any suche mysrule and bawdery bee within the saide taverne, yif he be clere in his owne persone, to compleyne and to see that it were corrected and amended; within which taverne the saide Deane and Chapitre have no such correction ne knowe eny suche mysruled prestes using the saide taverne as be specefied in the saide Article ne none so mysruled perso- ones within the saide Close...as he that is cause and yever of ensample to all such mysgovermance." He writes to his Council in Letter IV. p. 16: "They have spatte out the uttmyst and worste venym that they cowde seye or thynke by me; y blessed be God hit is nother felony, no treson, no grete trespas, and thogh hit hadde be, so they wolde have don, and were ye they cowde: but as for trawthe of the mater that tocohet me, meny worthy men stondeth on the same cas and

\(^{1}\) XXXIII, p. 104
have do moche worse than ever y didde, thogh that be to me none excusse. As touchyng the grete venym that they menyth of my lyvyng, y may and purpose be at my purge, as y may right well apon my sawle of alle wymmen alyve except one, and of hire righte a grete while; therfor y take right noght by and sey sadly si recte vivas, &c. and am right mery and fare right well, ever thankyng God and myn awne purse."

However, he retorted more warmly in his Replications (p. 114): "And as to his clere lyvyng yn his awne person and cause yeever of ensample of all suche mysgovernance, he seyth that God wote who ys cler of his lyvyng 'quia nemo sine crimin-vivit' and prayeth the causers doers and wyllers therof every man furnst to se his awne defautis as well tharyn or and as well as yn other defautis grettere and more perill and offence then this, and he that fyndeth himself cler, caste he the furnst ston as yn the Gospell, and do he has [as?] the Mayer shall for his part, bysekyng you my Lorde of Canterbury as Archebyshopp Prymate and hedde of all Churche of Engelonde and his High Holy Costly Fader to amytte hym to his purge for the grete parte of the mater of disclaunder that ys thus disclaunderely of yvell wyll openly putte apon hym and that for the love of God and yn wey of charite."

One of the liveliest passages in the book (p. 23) is due to the Mayor’s vexation at the failure of John Germyn to send to him the 400 buckhorn (dried whiting) which he had bought for a present for the Chancellor: "Bot I taried and yet tary because of ye buk horn yt was boght or y went
and forth before at Stoklond or y departed fro home as Germyn, that never legh, tolde to me verily wt grete othys; the whiche came not yet, me to right grete anger and discom-fort by my trauthe, and the cause yt hit was boght for myche like to be lost; for hit hadde be a gode mene and order af-ter spekyng and communication abovesaid, the buk hom to have be presented, and y to have come there after, &c. and so to have sped moche the better: but now hit is like to faille to hyndryng. And so y have helpe ynogh abakward and but litell forthward as hit at alle tymre proveth and apper-eth....Nothelez (I know) right well he woll ascause hym right well by thike fals harlot his carioure, and the carioure yn like wyse by the seide Germyn, and so I may say sit latro ad latronem and inter seabella duo annus labitur humo. Cristes curse have they bothe, and seye ye amen non sine merito, and bot ye dar sey so, thynke so, thynke so. Also y charge Ger-myn under rule and commaundement of J. Ooteler my lutenant, yt he do that he can do, braule, bragge and brace, lye and swere well to, and yn especiall yt ye stretes be right clene and specialle the litell lane yn the bak side be nethe the flessh folde yeate, for ther lieth many oxen hedes and bonys that they be removed away for the nonys ayenst my comyng as sone as y may by cokkis bonys."

The Mayor's love of showing off appears in his frequent quoting of Latin. An especially choice bit occurs in XIV, p. 38: "Afterward y spake with the ijd Chif Justise there a grete while, to whomoure mater myche was rawe. He under-
stode and toke my seyng and ynformation (yn the moste) beste wise, and so seid therto for our part. (After this we toke our leve, and y yn my love takyng seyng these) wordis, "My lord, have mercy and pyt spoun that pore Cite. Jesus vidit civitatem at flevit super eam."

I am indebted to Mr. Gay and Miss Easterling for information as to the date of Shillingford's death. In one of the Court Rolls of Exeter (MR 3636 M 39) Mr. Gay found the record of Shillingford's bringing a plea of debt and detention against Geoffrey Barnesell, who had owed Shillingford eight shillings for three years. Miss Easterling translated for me another Court Roll (MR 37 38 Henry VI M. XVII). It concerns the appraisal of a bell belonging to Shillingford (appraised at 76/) and the granting of a portion of the sale price to Richard Orynge for the satisfaction of a debt. The remainder was given to the executors of the will of John Shillingford. From the dates of these records, he must have died some time between June, 1458, and February, 1458/9.

It is probable that he was buried at Shillingford, a village a few miles from Exeter. There is no memorial of him anywhere in Exeter except his coat-of-arms with those of other mayors on the Guildhall walls: "Argent, a bend gules, a label of five points azure." (Thus it is described by Oliver in his history of Exeter.) His Letters, however, keep him alive to this day.
The Controversy as set forth in the Letters and Papers

The history of the controversy between the Bishop, Dean, and Chapter, and the Mayor and Commonalty of Exeter is set forth pretty clearly by Stuart Moore in his Introduction to the Letters, and so I shall give rather a brief outline of it here.

Moore says that the dispute appears to have started as far back as 1432-3, and he cites an action from the Common Pleas Roll brought by the Bishop against the Mayor for an alleged infringement of the Bishop’s rights in attaching two knives in the Bishop’s Fee. However, if Shillingford knows whereof he speaks, the trouble must have been older than that, as at page 66 he is quoted as saying, "Y seide to my lord that we hadde be yn debate by dyvers tymes, almost by tyme of viiiXX yere, and that y coude never knowe fynde ne rede that we ever toke a sute ayenst tham, but ever stonde yn defence, as a bokeler player, and smyte never, and that y hadde to seye fro you to hym that we were fully awysed, with lewe of his gode lordeship, onys to smyte, takyn a sute, for we hadde meny and dyvers causis, and they hadde none."

The action which Moore cites as the immediate ground of the Bishop for a suit against the City is mentioned in the Introduction and in #XXXVIII, p. 136. Upon complaint of a citizen, a sergeant of the City arrested one of the servants of the Chancellor of the Cathedral when he was holding his master’s train in procession. The Bishop brought
suit (Hilary Term, 1447), against the City, asking damages in the amount of £1000.

This and other wrongs claimed by both Mayor and Bishop grew out of the dispute between them regarding jurisdiction over the so-called Bishop's Fee and others of the Bishop's tenements. The Mayor maintained that all lands and people within the City or suburbs were and should be under the control of the Mayor and his officers. The Bishop, Dean, and Chapter claimed that their Fee was not even a part of the City, and therefore not subject to the jurisdiction thereof.

The Bishop extended his claim also to various tenements of his throughout the city, and it seems that the Bishop's tenants tried the City's officers to the limit, trusting in their immunity from arrest. Not only that: they had even come to the point recently, the Mayor says, of refusing to keep the town watch or to pay the King's Dime to the Mayor.

After the Bishop had brought his suit at common law, he either grew tired of waiting, or feared the outcome, for he secured a writ from the King putting the matter to arbitration under the Lord Chancellor, John Stafford (Moore says Kemp, but Kemp did not become Chancellor until 1450, and the matter was settled in 1448). The Mayor, feeling his case to be a strong one, petitioned the King to recall the writ, and allow the case to be impleaded in common law. Not receiving action from the King, he prayed the Chancellor to petition the King. The matter, however, was ended by arbitration, after the Bishop himself had once more de-
fected and returned to the common law.

The Letters were written after the case had been submitted to the arbitration of the Chancellor and the two Chief Justices. They show the various attempts made at settling the matter at home; the impatience of the Mayor at the delay of the Bishop in making answers to the Articles of Complaint; the several visits made by the Mayor and various of his counsel to London to treat of the matter with the Chancellor and the Justices; the many postponements and adjournments; and the chafing of the Mayor at the slow progress of the case.

There is no letter to show how the Mayor felt about the outcome of the debate when an agreement was finally reached, but if there were such a letter, no doubt it would be couched in strong terms, since the decision was mostly in favor of the Bishop.

By the terms of this agreement, made on December 12, 1448, the rights of the parties are to be as follows:

1. The Bishop's suit mentioned above (p. 23) is to be continued, and judgment rendered for the Bishop without prejudice to the Mayor, the Bishop to relinquish all damages.

2. The Bishop and his successors are to have forever the right in fee to the Bishop's Fee, on which the Church and Cemetery are situated.

3. The Bishop is to have Court Baron, leets, and views of frank pledge over all things done in the Fee.

4. The Mayor is to have no jurisdiction within the Fee.
except on certain designated streets.

5. The Bishop and his successors or followers are not to arrest in the Church or Churchyard any person of the City or suburbs belonging to the City; they are to have no jurisdiction over people of the City while they are in the church or churchyard, except spiritual jurisdiction.

6. The Mayor and his officers, etc., shall have power to make arrests, etc., in the highways and streets outside the old bounds of the Churchyard within the Fee, except in the streets inside the church and churchyard. They shall not make arrests, however, of the Bishop, Dean, and Chapter or their successors, any of the ministers or their successors, their familiar servants, or any tenants of the Bishop and his successors.

7. The tenants of the Bishop dwelling inside the walls of the City shall upon due notice keep the night watch in their turn with other citizens of the City.

8. The tenants of the Bishop shall pay dimes and King's silver, and murage of the City with the citizens of the City. They shall have a voice in the setting of the Dime.

9. The charter lately made and granted by the King to the Bishop regarding jurisdiction within the Church, Cemetery, etc., shall be at the suit of the Bishop, revoked before the following Easter.
10. The Bishop, Dean, and Chapter are to have no more such charters or grants from the King or Parliament.

11. The Bishop, Dean, and Chapter shall not hinder or prevent the Mayor, Bailiffs, or Commonalty purchasing new charters for more jurisdiction, liberties, etc., within the City and outside the Fee.

12. The Mayor shall have the right to bear the mace within the Church, Cemetery, Fee, and cloister without hindrance or disturbance from the Bishop, the Mayor to have no more jurisdiction or power in the fee than is contained in the composition hitherto made.

13. The Mayor shall never petition any commission or power from Parliament which will lessen the authority of the justices of the peace, both now and to come.

14. If any difficulty is found in the wording of this agreement, it shall be changed by agreement of the counsel of both parties, but the substance shall not be altered.
PART I

1

The Boundaries of Literary and Colloquial Style

In some quarters the term colloquial bears with it a connotation of 'vulgar', 'low', 'uncouth', whereas the term literary is taken as synonymous with 'correct', 'precise', 'elegant'. Now, though in certain instances these designations may be appropriate, such an interpretation of the words would seem to have gone too far from the original meanings, which imply neither praise nor blame. Colloquial in its primary sense means only 'pertaining to conversation', and literary, 'pertaining to literature'. It is true that there is much uncouth language used in conversation, and much elegant language in literature, but as uncouthness cannot be considered the unique quality of conversation, so elegance cannot be considered as belonging to literature alone or to the exclusion of other qualities.

Many elements of the language are common to speech and literature; otherwise, we should have two separate languages. A large part of our vocabulary, most of our grammar, practically the same skeletal structure of the sentence, and a considerable number of idioms, are used naturally in both speaking and writing. Cognizance of this fact is taken by the editor of the New English Dictionary in his Introduction, where he refers to a great part of the language as the "common stock."

The investigator in language, then, will do well to ob-
serve what he hears in conversation, and what he reads in literature, and interpret the facts as they appear, without having first made up his mind as to what is right and wrong or good and bad in language. He must have, of course, some principles of guidance when he comes to investigate the colloquial out of its original setting in conversation, and the literary out of its setting in literature. He must formulate a list of those characteristics and elements usually found in conversation, or usually found in literature. No matter which he is studying, his investigation must naturally be concerned with the "common stock" also.

In making the present investigation of colloquial English as exhibited in Shillingford's Letters, I have been guided by certain observations on the nature of speech, which I shall present here.

Colloquial language shows a frequent use of the first person. It shows a tendency toward the use of short words, often with attendant vagueness or inaccuracy of meaning. There is a lack of conciseness, often, because it is unnecessary; any vagueness in words is supplemented by gesture, pitch, sentence emphasis, facial expression, inflections in the voice. Conversation is usually attended by some feeling of emotion, frequently exhibited in exclamations, expletives, asseverations, "slang", the use of simple figures of speech, intensives, the use of superlatives, etc. Colloquial speech is likely to be exaggerated. It is also likely to be more idiomatic than is literary. Sentences
in colloquial language are likely to be loosely constructed, with little regard for smoothness, clearness, and proper emphasis. The pronunciation is often careless. Speech is more likely to deal with homely things—concrete things—than with abstractions. The grammar may be inaccurate, the syntax careless. Words will be contracted. Very few conjunctions are used. Very few technical or scientific words are used, unless these are understood by the one spoken to. This is another point: colloquial speech will be largely modified by the persons spoken to, whereas this factor is not so important in literary style. The literary vocabulary is larger than the spoken vocabulary, and therefore, one of the distinguishing features of a colloquial piece of writing is its comparative poverty of words. Stereotyped phrases are likely to occur, and one sentence-formula to be the model for all sentences. Words may be omitted—taken for granted. There will be a tendency toward the coinage of new words rather than toward the use of archaic or "learned" words.

These are a few of the characteristics of colloquial style. I may name also certain easily recognized elements which are strikingly colloquial: forms of greeting (in connection with this I include also formulas used in beginning and ending letters); certain formulas of respect and compliment; methods of indicating dates and time of day; expressions of self-depreciation, inferiority, and humility; oaths, adjurations, asseverations, expletives,
exaggerations, intensives; realism; household words—expressions which show details of everyday living, homely concerns, customs, etc.; alliterative phrases, proverbial statements, stock phrases; figures of speech; expressions of thanks, of approval or disapproval; expressions of strong emotion or natural feeling (sorrow, anger, joy, mirth, etc.); forms of negation and assent; etc.

In the next few pages I shall list examples from Shillingford under some of these heads. The matters of dialect, spelling, phonetics, inflection, vocabulary, and idiom, I shall treat separately. The study of Shillingford's grammar and sentence structure, interesting as it is, I shall have to leave to another time. However, in my word list, I have noted several striking grammatical phenomena—for example, a pro-infinitive under BINDE, several double comparatives and superlatives, group genitives, and double negatives. Word order, the position of modifiers, the sequence of tenses, the omission of sentence elements, the use of absolute constructions, the correctness of Shillingford's grammar—all these attractive topics I leave regretfully to a future study.
Colloquial Elements in Shillingford

Forms of greeting and farewell

The only form of greeting given in the letters is the Lord Chancellor's to the Mayor: "He seyde to the mayer ij tymes 'Well come,' and the iiijd. tyme 'Right well come Mayor'" and "Mayer, well come." Several times a greeting is given in indirect form, as at p. 61: "his Maister the Mayor of Exeter commaunded hym to hym" and "recommaunde the Mayor and the comynes of Exeter to hys gode lordship, as his men and pore bedmen". There are no instances of farewells quoted.

Formulas of address and close in letters:

3 "Worthy Sires y grete yow well alle" (Shillingford to his fellows at Exeter).

17 Close: "God be wt yow."

18 "I grete you well alle"

24 (Shillingford to one of the Bishop's counsell) "Right worshipfull sir, y recomaunde me to you."
Close: "alle shall be well wt ye grace of God, whiche have yow yn kepyng. Amen."

26 (Shillingford to the Bishop) "Right Worshipfull and Reverend Fader yn God and gode lorde, y recomaunde me unto your right gode and gracyous lordship."
Close: "Please yoz gode and gracious lordship to have yn rembrance that I and all the Comminalte of the seide Cite
ben your gostly children and yo\textsuperscript{r} men at yo\textsuperscript{r} commande-
ment and ever shall be by God\textsuperscript{'}s mercy, whiche preserve
yo\textsuperscript{r} gode and gracious lordship and yo\textsuperscript{r} blessed faderhed
yn his high mercy. By yo\textsuperscript{r} awne servant and bedman"

33 (a priest of the Bishop, to the Recorder) "My right rev-
erend trusty and singular maister, after dewe and ent-
tierly recommendacion with all worship and reverence"

Close: "By your owne Prest"

35 (Shillingford to his fellows) "Right worthy siris, y
grete yow well"

Close: "...and so y shall by the grace of God, whiche
have yow yn his kepyng. Amen."

36 (Shillingford to his fellows) "Worthy siris, y grete
yow well alle"

41 (Archbishop of Canterbury to the Bishop) "Ryght Wor-
shipfull and wyth all my herte right welbeloved Brother, I
grete yow well full hertly."

Close: "And almyghty Jhesu have yow ever yn his keeping."

42 (Chancellor to the Chief Justice) "Worshipfull and right welbeloved Frend.—Y grete yow well"

Close: "And almyghty Jhesu have yow yn his kepyng."

67 (Shillingford to his fellows) "Worthy siris, ryght feyne ffrendis and ffelows, y grete yow well alle"

Formulas of respect and compliment

1 "the Ryght Reverend Fader yn God," and "Blessed Lord
John Archebysshop of Canterbury;" "the gode and graciously
lordship"; "gode blessed man yn hymself, Edmund Bysshop of the Cathedrall Church of Excestre"

2 "the highnesse of our soverayne lorde the Kyme"

21 "ye beth lorde under hevyn, excepte the kyng, that the Cite of Excestre have most feyth hope and truste theryn"

28 "yow gode and gracious lordship"

30 "we knowing his blessednysse and gode conscience"

33 "after dewe and entierly recommendacion with all worship and reverence"

35 "for your grete worship"; "as your worthy and approved discretion semyth best for be don."

37 "my lord is blessed hond"

39 "yf hit please yow"

42 "as your wysedom knowyth well"

43 "the gode, graceous, and endyfferent lordship of my seide lorde"

44 "his blessednesse holy lyvynge and gode consyence"

50 "my right gode lord yn tyme hath be and yut throghe your gracious lordship I trutsche to God shal be"

58 "trustynge to God and cure Soverayyne Lorde the Kyme, of his highnesse and grace"

Method of indicating time

4 "on Monedey next before the feste of Seynt Luke the yere of the regne of the kyng that now is xxvj"; "the day of apparence at xv. of Seynt Michall"

5 "the seyde mayer abode at home yn to a toysday next after Seynt Luke is dey"
16 "The morun tuysday al Halwyn yeven y receyved the an-
sweris"
17 "y-writen at London yn alle Sawlyn day afore day"
19 "on Sunday next after alle Halwyn day"
22 "to entrete yn to Candel masse"
25 "Writen at Exeter the thursday (next) after Sent Lucis"
26 "Writen at Excetre on Wendisdeyn yn the vigill of Seynt
Thomas the Apostell."
29 "Writen at Exceter the xxiiii day of Decembre."
35 "on Candelmasse yeve y receyved a letter"
36 "on Candelmasse yeven afternone"; "on Candelmasse day
by the morun."
50 "this same terme of Seynt Hillary"; "at Mighelmasse
terne"; "at time of assises"
51 "Wensday next after Passion Sunday"
53 "a Lammasse yeven"
55 "a Thursday a fore Palme Sonday"
57 "fro the xv. of Seynt Hillary yn to the xve of Pasche"
59 "a Trusday yn the Ester wyke"
65 "onys of myssomer yeven" ;"y was at Wyndesore to London
wardis on seynt George is day"
67 "on Wendisday next after Corporis Christi day"

Time of day

3 "on Tywysday by tyme at vii atte cloke"
6 "sone apon ix. atte belle"; "abowte viij. atte clokke"
7 "That afternone"; "this wyke"
Adjurations, oaths, asseverations, expletives, exaggerations

1 "that y dar well seye by my trauthe"
3 "as we truste to God we have do"; "and that for the love of God and yn wey of charyte." "trustynge to God that al
the substance ys comprehended ther ynne"

6 "wolde God ye hadde made a gode ende at home"; "God y take to recorde"; "y truste to God ye shall well knowe"

7 "He seide 'Well, mayer,' and bade me come ayen" (Expletive)
   "God eve grace hit be gode"

8 "y sholde have Goddes blessyng."

9 "savyng his comaundement"

10 "promysed on his feith"

13 "with the grace of god." "y wote right well"

15 "y truste to God and my lorde is gode lordship"; "by my trauthe"

16 "y blessed be God"; "apon my sawle"; "of trauthe"; "ever thankyng God and myn awne purse"

17 "God be wt yow."

18 "Alagge, alagge, why wolde they do so?"

19 "Oure repplications beth not yet alle redy ne mygh not be for shortenesse of tym thogh y sholde dye therfor"

20 "as God wolde gave us grace."

21 "Certe"

23 "Cristes curse have they bothe, and seye ye amen"; "as sone as y may by cokris bonys."

24 "as y hope to God"; "y take God to wytnesse"

25 "alle shall be well wt ye grace of God"

28 "savyng yor gode lordshippe"

29 "by Godd's mercy"

30 "trustynge to God verely al for the best"

32 "y-trustynge to God and his gode lordship"
"for the reverence of God." "Amen."

"trustynge to God verily to have hadde right a gode ende."

"atte reverence of Godes pleasure, of the Kyng, and curre

worship"

"for the love of God"

"he wold streitly punysshe ham, and that they sholde

knowe well." "that he wolde well avowe"

"God wote that it is not curre defaute"

"blessed be God"; "thanked be God"; "God continue hit!"

"y ther [dare] seye hit faithfully"

"y truste to Almyghty God and owre lady"

"y wote well"

"y darst well seye"

"God hit forbede"

Intensives

1 "Bysekyth yow full mykely"; "and that y dar well seye"

2 "ryght high and ferfull commandement"

3 "[y] have full bisily labored"

7 "[Y] was by the Styward....full fayre y bede to abide";

"hardly alle men were bede to avoyde that chamber"

9 "made right moche therof hardly"; "we have a vyw...and

they right none"

13 "and that sholde be well y proved."

14 "Hengston honged sore to have a lete"; "they were well

negh accorded"; "spake no more at all"

16 "right a grete while"
18 "y woll seye right sharply to ham therfor and y nogh"
25 "y wolde fayne have a gode ende and peas"
26 "truste to God verily to have a gode ende"
35 "trewly y ther sey yow secretly"; "yn ful gode ly wise"
38 "that tyme had be full shorte"
55 "the wolde therof yn no wise"
61 "and he was a passyng gladde man chery hardely"
64 "a full sike woman hardly for she had sore falle of hire horse." "he wold fayne that there might be a gode ende"

Expressions of self-deprecation, humility, inferiority, etc.

1 "Bysekyth yow full mykely"; "youre owne puple and true bedmen, and at alle tymes at youre commandement"
6 "his owne peple and bedmen of the Cite of Exceter"
20 "as y cowde sympelly"
24 "and y the same after my sympell power"
28 "the herers of this my pore writyng"
29 "your puple and gostly children"; "this my symple writyn"; "your gostly children and yoR men at yoR commandeRment"; "yoR owne servant and bedman"
31 "hit is but for defeute of cannyng sympelnesse and lewdesnesse of myself" "the whiche seyyng yn my sympelnyys con siderid"
32 "dredyng my sympelnyys"
37 "y seide to my seid lorde hit was to symple a thyng con-
sidryng his astate to seye onys graunt mercy"

43 "the symple Mayer his man".

45 "The seide Mayer seide to hym ayen that he cowde no skyll to speke entrete ne uttre no mater to my seyde lord Bysshop by men. And that the seyde Maier conceyved and knywe right well that his seyde lord Bysshop toke unworthy as he myghte right well for sympelnesse and poverete to speke or entrete with hym. Nerverthelez he seyde suche sympell as he was he was Mayer of Excetre."

48 "he [the Mayor] right hevy was of his [the Bishop's] grete laboure"

54 "ye delyvered [them] un.to my Lorde ayenst the Mayeris wyll..ffor sympelnye of entitynge and writynge, consideryng his high astate"

69 "We the Mayer and Comminalte lowly besek yow our lord Chaunceler"

Expressions of thanks, of approval, of disap-proval, etc.

6 "And wt right gode longage and gode chere yn gode ly wyse excused hym"

6 "y was enfourmed that he was dysplased of my late com-
yng"

6 "y was come yn right gode tyme and well come"

7 "y was sory and hadde pyty of his grete vexacion."

8 "y hadde governed me at home yn the most best and gode ly wyse and therfor he cowde me grete thanke, and seide hertely that y shold have Goddes blessyng and his"
"my lord Chanceller cowde right grete thankys and made right moche therof hardely"

"Ye didde theron as right a wise man"

"My lord at this tyme didde me moche worship, and openly... commended me for my gode rule at home"

"oure party aduers wt theire consell beyng present and yvell plesed and payde therwith, and my lorde was to tham right sadde ne wolde hire ham speke no wordes"

"my lorde seyng of me that y was never worthy to be called, that y was a godeman wyse and well do my part"

"my seide lord... thanketh yow hertely of your gode letter"

"Graunt mercy, Mayer"; "as sone as ever he saw me he (toke me) fast by the honde and thankis ynogh to"

"what gode chere and welfare they hadde there"

"I ferid wel, had gode chere, and was yn the best wise right wel come"

"they both right yvell spayed of this long tarynge"

"For now ther is by twene the partes, as hit is conceyved, grete gode wyll, worship, courtesy, reverence.....faire, gode welfare, and grete festis yn the Chanons parte.....and every day better then other"

"Of the which mocion the mayor was right wel spayed"

"fully agreyd hym therto, with all ther hertis"

"my lord with a gladde contynance receyved the letter"

"y was right gladde of his seyng"

"of wham alle y hadde gode chere, and as they seide that y was right well came." Thadde with hym right mucbe
gode longage and wordis of comfort."

Expressions of strong emotion or natural feeling
(sorrow, anger, mirth, etc.)

10 "He seide that every man myght have of his awne ten-
antis and aske no man no leve"  
7 "y was sory and hadde pyty of his grete vexacion."
12 "and then my lord seide some what strangely and sharpe-
ly that cure articulis many were maters of noyse and
desclamder, and forto answere then hit wolde be cause
of more grucchynge and yvell wyll."

"My lorde seide furste merily of Vaspasianus"
18 "My lorde seide, 'Alasse, alagge, why wolde they do so?''
23 "y charge Germyn...? he do that he can do, braule,
bragge and brace, lye and swere well to"
44 "yf eny of the Mayeres officers entred ynto eny tene-
ment of the Dysshop for to warne eny man to come to
the waçche they sholde breke his hed"
52 "Wherepon the Mayer made right grete wayward longage to
tham." "The Mayer seide waywardly he wolde do more,
he wolde make levy bothe of the Citeseyn spendyng and
the fe fermé, and that he wolde well avowe"
53 "of lesse then they wold come when they were sommed,
that he wold streitly punyshe ham, and that they
sholde knowe well."
56 "y seyyinge if they wold keap ham clos, y wolde do the
same, and seye to ham right nght; and if they wolde
eny thynge seye and disclose, y wolde the same"
ReaIien: household words, homely concerns, details of daily living; customs, etc.

5 "the grete part of the feloship was at Calston is fayre, and theo that war at home...were syke on theire beddes; and for alle these causes the mayer abode at home so longe, and all that tyme he kepte his ii hors yn stabill every day redy to ride to hym grete coste."

6 "went forth to his barge and w^ hym grete presse"
"and helde the mayer a grete while faste by the honde"
"y was by the Styward and neny other of the housholde full fayre y bede to abide atte mete"

9 "my lord Chaunceller bade the Justyse to dyner ayenst that same day for (oure mater, seyng that he sholde have a dys) of salt fisshes; y hiryng this, y didde as me thought aughte to be done, and....(sende) thider that day ii. stately pikerellis and ii. stately tenchis"

9 "the same Friday after mete y was with the Justise by longe tyme and yn gode leisure to comyne of oure mater"

11 "for the Justises dynead with the Maier of London that Sunday."

12 "was at that. day atte dyner with my lord"

15 "he asked wyne and sende me his awne cuppe and to no moo"

18 "prayed hym to be w^ hym that morun atte mete"

23 "y charge Germyn...yn especiall^t^a stretes be right cleene and specialle the litell lane yn the bak side be nethe the flesssh folde yeste, for ther lieth many oxen
hedes and bonys that they may be removed away for the nonys ayenst my comyngh

31 "y hadde warnyng of my lordeis comandement bot the nyght before and that late, after candell tending, my hors bare and my ridyng harneyes being at Shillyngford, felo-
ship not comyned with ne warned who to ride with me"

36 "some wherof ye and y commyned therof the last hole day of my beyng at home at Exceter yn my parler"

37 "yf y hadde be at home at this fairole he sholde have had better stuf and other thynges

"(y mette) with my lorde atte high table ende comyngh to meteward"

48 "and that one of them that they wolde have as he kyng well was Thomas Cook seke lame at home"

57 "For now ther is by twene the parties.....gode chere and right welcomme, gode welfare, and grete festis yn the Chanons part";

64 "and so y toke my leve of hym, and he went to his soper"

Outstandingly natural, human, or realistic passages

4 "This don y pray yow to calle be fore yow atte halle the substance of the comminalte, praynge every of tham yn my name and chargyng tham yn ye most streytest wyse yn the Kynges byhalf to come to fore yow yn haste for the tydyngs that y have sent home to yow; and that ye mysely declare to fore tham these answers; so that they say
manly yee and may yn suche poyntes as yow thynke to be don"

6 "and ther mette w† my lorde Chaunceller atte brode dore
a litell fro the staire fote comyng fro the Sterre chamb-
ber, y yn the courte and by the dore knellyng and salut-
yng hym yn the moste godeley wyse that y cowde"

10 "all hit was to tempte me w† laghyngere chere"

12 "My lorde Chaunceller therwith sodenly went right to the
Justises bothen, and called to hym Nicholas Ayshetons....
beyng there, and leide theire iiiij. heddis negh to gadder
and comyned to geder right privyly a grete whyle"

14 "Hengston honged sore to have a lette and a grete courte,
and y traversed hym ever"

16 "yn the whiche articulis".....to "Come no more at oure
hous" (quoted on pp. 18-19 of Introduction)

17 "Y can no more attis tyme, but y pray you to be not
wery to over rede hire and se all the writyng that y
have sende home to yow attis tyme; and yf ye be, no
mervaill thogh y be wery"

18 "he rased hit as hit plesed hym w† his owne handys"

19 "comyned w† my seyde fellowship and me nigh by an cure,
and he was right mery and comyned meny dyvers maters
bothe of disporte and sainesse....."and that Germyn
putte his fynger yn his ye and wepte"

20 "seyde that seynt Peter ys churche was Goddis hous and
his halle" "Y hilde myn awne."

21 "lette hit never passe yor hondes bot so to make an
"What they meneth that they woll abyde apon theire right and shew theire evyidence constre ye."

"Furthermore y do yow to understondé"...to..."Cristis curse have they bothe" (quoted on pp. 19-20, Introduction)

"That day was y at Lambeth with my lorde at masse, and offered my candelle (to my lord is) blessed hond, y knelyng adoun offerung my candell. My lord with lagh- yng chere upon me seide hertely, 'Graunt mercy, Mayer.'"

"When my lorde hadde seide his prayers atte high auter, he went apart to the syde auter by hym self and called to hym a part the Maier and no moo and there comyned to- geder a grete while."

"all nyght walkynge, yvell longage, visagyngge, sholdryinge, and all riatous rule, is lefte, and gode rule y-some yn place"

"and yf it be contynued, myche hertis eyse;"

"ffor of his riall power he may do what he wyll, for all thynge is at his commandement, body, londe, and gode"

"and anon my lord breke the letter, yeven while gracias was seyng, and ther right radde hit every dell, or he went to his dyner, and when he hadde full radde hit he kepte hit with hym stille"

"and his wyf with hym, a full sike woman hardly, for she had sore falle of hire horce"

"and anon he seide me that there were many wylde and un-
resonable fellows of the City of Excester. And y asked what they were, and he seide William Hampton of Excester, and other of the Sergeantes. And y asked why and for what cause, and he seide, with a high spirute, that William Hampton and other of the Sergeantes seid at Excester, yn William Gyfford is hous, there yn hiryng of a priest of my lord Byshope of Excester there beyng neghe atte that tyme, that there shold meny a priest of the close of Excester loste his hede onys of myssomer yeven."

Alliterative phrases, proverbs, stock phrases, repetitions, figures of speech, etc.

19 "Germyn putte his fynger yn his ye and wepte"
23 "and bot ye dar sey so, thynke so, thynke so"
   "braule, bragge and brace"
24 "as sone as ye may godeley, the rather the levere"
   "the same man as there, or better yf ye better may"
36 "Better late than never"
44 "and how that as y supposed that my seide lorde of Excester had no more knawlyche of the grounde of this mater then the ymage yn the cloth of areys there"
65 "seke the weyes and menys of pees"
67 "there y spedde, spede can and may spede resonablylly well"
68 "Also y seide to my lord that we hadde be yn debate by dyvers tymes, almost by tyme of viii\textsuperscript{xx} yere, and that y coude never knowe fynde ne rede that we ever toke a sute ayenst tham, but ever stonde yn defence, as a bokeler player, and smyte never"
"Y seide, "My lord, thus we most beare, serve and defende."

Forms of negation and assent

4 "so that they say manly yee and nay"
6 "He seyde Nay!"
7 "ne never hadde better chere of my lorde ne of the household then y hadde atte tyme."
he seide 'Noo by his trauthe and that y myght well so!"
13 "they seide anone with gode wille, yee for theire part."
14 "Y seide yee, and avowed hit well they seide so."
"Hengston seide but litell therto, but made wyse as thogh hit were yes;"
16 "y blessed be God hit is nother felony, ne treson, ne grete trespas"; "y take right noght by"; "Y well not dye nor for sorowe ne for anger"
17 "wherof cometh to me no peny."
"mervaillyng moche, for as moche as y departed fro yow with oute any mony of youris, that ye ne hadde sende to me sithemesse some mony"
19 "Y seyde yes, and made resons sympelly"
25 "so that noo cause of taryng shallbe founde"
34 "bot ye moved noo thynge of the seide maters. And therefor my seide lord supposed ye wolde noo more therof."
47 "nother speke ne entrete"
51 "and yt noes, ever to resorte to your gode lordship"
Stereotyped phrases, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Phrase</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>&quot;wyth ryght gode wyll&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>&quot;y pray yow&quot; &quot;the kyng that now is&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>&quot;y wolde awayte apon...youre better leyser&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>&quot;yf y hadde tyme&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>&quot;the Mayer that tyme beyng&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>&quot;as y supposed&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>&quot;Constre ye what ye will.&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>&quot;how that ever ye do&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>&quot;y have don&quot; &quot;my part&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>&quot;right a grete while&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>&quot;to yow grete mervaylle if hit so be&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>&quot;with all our hertis&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>&quot;if he most be&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>&quot;as hit is conceyved&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>&quot;as fer as hit comyth to youre mynde&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>&quot;as hit appereth&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>&quot;yn all maner wyse&quot;</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This is not an exhaustive list, but suggestive of the type of phrase which Shillingford uses over and over again.

Pleomasms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Phrase</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>&quot;alle the hole comminalte&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>&quot;strangers aleyna of other londys&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>&quot;sufficiant and y nogh&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>&quot;that they be removed away&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
37 "y knelyng adoun offeryng my candel" 
53 "he remayneth by wey of execucion contrary ayenst ye lawe"

Miscellaneous

Titles used in address
8, 22, 24, etc. Sir, siris
33, 61, 62 Mayster, Maister
61 Maistresse

A popular song (?)
16 "Myryly syngyng a myry song and that ys this, som ne more atoure hous, come, come, come."

Distance
6 "a litell fro the steire fote
15 "a fer fro my lorde"
37 "a far apart fro hym"

Number
6 "he seyde to the mayer iij tymes 'Well come'"
26 "ye be oon of thoo"
37 "to seye onys graunt mercy"
40 "the two chif justises"
62 "to the other to lordis"
59 "co poynt or tweyn"

Titles of officers or churchmen
1 mayer, chaunceller, Bysshop, Deane, Kyng, Chif Justises;
4 Recorder, lau tenant; 6 tresorer; 7 Styward, Privy seell; abbottes, pryours; 11 Dailyffs; 37 knyghtes, squyers;
44 surveyur; 45 chanon; 64 jugis, Sergeantes, priest

Money items
11 xl. marke; xl. s.; 16 xj. li. and odde mony; 17 peny

Relationship
57 "and of youre unkell"; 64 "and his wyf with hym"

These are the most obviously colloquial elements of Shillingford's speech. The more basic and less noticeable features I shall deal with in the following pages. As I have said before, any study of the colloquial must necessarily take also into account considerable material which is common to both the colloquial and the literary, and this is true of my study of Shillingford's vocabulary, etc.

I shall not give much space to the listing of phonetic phenomena. Miss Kihlbom of Upsala has treated this matter very fully in her dissertation, "A Contribution to the Study of Fifteenth Century English". (The material on Shillingford will be found in the following pages: 10, 15, 18, 35, 51, 62-3, 72, 90, 94, 101, 117-8, 151, 136, 141-2, 150, 158, 174, 184, 190-1.) Wyld (in A History of Modern Colloquial English) has also, though to a far lesser extent, discussed Shillingford's pronunciation as reflected in his spellings. However, I shall note particularly striking examples of rounding or shortening of vowels, intrusive letters, omitted sounds, etc.

These studies are meant to be suggestive of my material rather than exhaustively analytical. It is my hope that
they will help to some extent in the interpretation of the material which is found in my Word List, in Part II. In the Word List I have placed practically all which I selected from Shillingford as belonging to the colloquial English of the fifteenth century, and though the study is primarily lexical, the fullness of the quotations makes possible a far broader study.
Dialectal forms; phonetic phenomena; inflection

A. Dialectal forms

Wyld's discussion of Shillingford's dialect may well be quoted here: "Most remarkable, perhaps, of all the private letters of this period, in the fidelity with which they adhere to the London type, are those of John Shillingford (1447-50). Here, if anywhere, we might expect to find almost pure Regional dialect. Shillingford had apparently lived in his native Devon continuously; most of his letters were not official reports, but private missives written to his friends at home, and yet, on the whole, he consistently avoids the forms of his local dialect and writes Standard English. His vowel spellings, his verbal forms, and his Pers. Pronouns are generally those of London English. Fortunately, however, for our knowledge of his native speech, that is the Devonshire dialect, he lifts the veil occasionally and drops into provincialisms. The following are the chief: The retention of the old South-Western type in hurde 'heard', u for O.E. eu in durde 'dearer', the shortened form of West Saxon ae in radde 'read' 'advised', un-rounding of o in aftetimes 'oft-times'....., and the very frequent retention of the prefix y- in P. P.'s, which, though common Chaucer..... was by this time dying out in London. The points noted concerning the vowels (except radde) are certainly pretty broad provincialisms, judged by the London Standard, and they, no doubt, indicate Shill-
ingford's natural pronunciation, not only in the words quoted but in the whole of the classes to which they severally belong. We have, naturally, no means of knowing how far the excellent Mayor, having mastered another manner of writing, was able to adhere, in speaking, to the type which he records, on the whole so faithfully, on paper. We may, perhaps, conclude from the above forms that he spoke with a pretty strong Devonshire accent." (p. 81)

Other Southern forms used by Shillingford are

Buth 2, hire 17, hilde 20, shirf 38, negh 14, legh 23, fyll 19, werec 14, hon'd, hongying, lord 6, 14, 7, etc., knewed 10, trauthe 15, eve for yeve 55, lasse 42, myry 16, ladde 49, ylare 58, hem for him 60, and yut 50. (Most of this list was gleaned from Miss Kihlbom's summaries made at the end of each chapter of her dissertation.)

B. Phonetic Phenomena

Indications that vowels have acquired the modern sound in certain words

mykely 1; droe ye; bryve 56; trowthe 56; syke 5; growe 66

Indications of short vowels....

knelling 6; gretter 11; dell 63; somner 42; cesse 64

Examples of unrounded vowels

comminalte 1; therapon 3; leyser 6; argumentes 10; commned 7; pleisere 55; werec 14

Simplification of diphthongs

synt (saint) 9; Sent 11; certyn 10; riall 58; saf 65; court-
Vacillation in the representation of the vowel sound in unstressed syllables

callid 60; menyth 12; thingis 60; sithenys 3; amended 4;
shortenys 4; litell 4; stabill 5; wordis 6; tresorer 6;
aredy 7; ouris 10; thiknys 16; uttmyst 16; uttra 45; venyn
16; Sawlyn 17; Bishoppis 10; astate 37; ascused 47; short-
nys 58; elllys 20; semyth 35; growth 31; furthermore 54;
spyrute 62; Engelond 63; enselfid 41; knowyth 41; knowleche
40; sympelnys 31; verely 31; veryly 35; servys 11; ynogh 11;
beseche 11; departyd 11; justises 12; accordyd 13; gardyn
15; knoweliche 17; hondis 18; handys 18; thynys 19; by-
seykyng 21; meneth 21; cronyled 20; resonabilyl 24; sympel-
nesse 32; bitwixte 41; attaynyd 42; astate 43; Lambyth 43;
knowlyche 44; sympell; blessid 50; assentid 51.

Loss of vowel

rased 18; leyde 20; peasyng 34; payed 18; signe 54; tain
61; Loss of vowel in the middle of a word: shirf 38.

Mutated vowels

myve 20; lenger 22; apprved 35; pryvynge 57; yldre 58;
meve 60

\textit{e} for M. E. \textit{a}
enythyng 3; Sheftesbery 5; y bade 7; forhade 68

\textit{e} for M. E. \textit{i}
deschargd 2; despute 27; thes 22; besshop 42; hem 60; prev-
yly 61.

\textit{a} for M. E. \textit{e} whan 22; lasse 42

esy 57; counsell 18 Markis 9
Y for g
ayen 5; ayenst 22; Este yeate 10; yeveth 29; yeve 30; yeaf 18; foryete 59

Omission of consonants
Initially: longeth 10; eve 7
Medially: nerthelez 2; abstynce 29; myssomer 65; attis 10;
Wensday 51; atte 3; Crichtich 96
Finally: mygh 19; myddis 37; Lamehithe 42

Addition of consonants
Initially: yerly 5; jeven ly; jevensonge 47; yege 40; un yese 65
Medially: Wendysday 5; y nempted 31; nempted 46
Finally: and (an) 3; loste 72; straif 99;

Forms now worn down
Southfolke 9; sythenys 2; Wyndesore 95; desclaunder 12;
dampnabill 92

Metathesis of ć
Unmetathesized: thurgh 37; to brost 101; bremne 86; thirte 87; thriddles 116
Metathesized: throgh 50; thirde 87; angrily 82; thurgh 86

Words which later show an intrusive consonant,
in sound or spelling
co, 6; cowde 6; dys 9; doute 9; cune 13; onys 37; defaute 3; sedule 5; thoo 25; avys 60; amytted 27.

Part II of Shillingford's Letters shows some other interesting phonetic material: opteyned 76; disturbed 77;
weche 78; charcheabel 79; wyche 79; frendship 81; leketh and leynthe 85; shortestez 86; noysaunce 89; saintuary 92;
egge 102; thentent 102; wother 117; renneth 119; etc.

C. Inflections

Possessive case of Nouns....

Kynges wyll 2; Seynt Luke is day 5; Calston is sayre 5;
Bisshoppis fe 10; Seynt Nicholas fe 10; Druell and Speere
is beyng afore dide gode 8 (group genitive); goddis bles-
syng 15; Meier is part 30; as well to my seid lord Bysshop
of Excetre Dean and Chapitres part as to the Cite of
Excetre 44 (an amazing group genitive); my lord of Excetre
is tenantis 44; Seynt Peter's 46; Seynt Peteres church 46;
my lord of Excetre is surveyur 46; Citeseyn spedyng 52—
uninflected possessive; by the Kynges commandement and by
my saide Lordes (abs. possessive) 55; cure lady belle (un-
inflected feminine noun) 94

Plural of nouns (-s, -yn, and uninflected)

letters 2; Justises 1; evydenyngs 2; causis 68;
Al Halwyn 16; all Sawlyn 17
hors 5; yere 68; fote 88 ; thyn 15

Personal pronouns

1st y, I, me, my, myn
2d the
3d he, she, hit, it, hym, hys, his, hire

Plurals

1st we, us, cus, cure, owre, ouris
2nd ye, yow, your, youre, youris
3d they, thei, them, thouym, hem, ham, tham, their, theyris
Other pronouns

tho, thoo, this, that, who, whas, wham, whom, what, whiche, 
hysef, themself, what that ever, etc., are the most 
common.

Adjectives

Wyld (History of Modern Colloquial English), p. 324, says: 
"The inflexion of adjectives, as regards case, has disap-
peared by the beginning of the fifteenth century, or, if 
it survives in poetry here and there for the sake of the 
metre, it must be regarded as archaic."

He mentions "letters patentz" (77, 121) in Shilling-
ford as being formed after French plurals from legal doc-
uments. I may cite in addition excuses dyverses", p. 31. 
Perhaps there is another example on p. 12: "My lord Chaun-
celler therwith sodenly went right to the justises bothen" 
("bothen" here means "both". Wyld takes it to mean "booths"-- 
see p. 321 in Wyld).

Forms of Comparative and Superlative

The comparative is formed by the addition of -er, and 
is also formed with more. Frequently more is used to add 
force to a form already comparative, as at page 32 (and 
often): "hit was not my part to come to Chudleigh withoute 
more streiter comandement", and page 54: "Leste the part-
ies signe defaute yn me, and be more worce willed."

The superlative is formed with -est, and also with 
most(e). There is also an instance of the survival of 
O. E. -mest in uttmyst, p. 16. The double superlative is
very common: "e most streytest wyse" 4, "the most worth-
est as he hath", "most best, gentyl, and saddist wise."

56 In the last example, it will be seen that Shillingford
intends that the most shall give superlative force to gen-
tyl. He frequently uses this kind of construction.

Verbal endings

The 3d pers. sing. pres. in Shillingford ends in -eth,
-ith, or -yth, except in a few rare instances (stont, 23,
for example). There are no instances of the -s ending of
Modern English. The 3d pers. plural frequently ends in
-eth also, though usually in -e. The -en ending is also
rather common: wolden, shulden, 60; bounden, 40, etc.
The past participle is usually prefixed by y-, and Shill-
ingford even uses this prefix occasionally to form the
present participle! (See Y- in Word List). The present
participle usually ends in -ving or -ing, however. There
is one instance of an Anglo-French present participle:
accordant (47, 51).
Shillingford's education had evidently been rather broad, as his knowledge of French and Latin, as well as of English, indicates very well. Not only that: he used with ease a great many legal and technical terms. However, his vocabulary, as seen in these letters, does not seem very extensive, as he shows a tendency toward repetition of words and phrases rather than toward variety. It is evident that he was concerned not so much with style as with the necessity for imparting information.

The letters which Shillingford writes to his councilmen at Exeter contain fewer long words than those which he addresses to the Chancellor. They also contain fewer technical words. It can be said that most of the words in these more informal letters can be considered as belonging to colloquial English or to the common stock of the language.

From the viewpoint of Present-Day English, Shillingford's vocabulary contains much that is obsolete or archaic. Many of the words which he probably used in every day speech are now literary or "learned". Some are still colloquial. Some have been "clipped" or have had sounds added to them. Many words we have still, but with changed meaning. I shall illustrate these points with a few examples, and leave the reader to find others for himself in
the Word List.

Words now obsolete: agone, bedman, certe, coutages, disiderable, lese, levere, etc.

Words now felt as archaic: abide, anon, astoned, bless, conceyt, fayne, forbere, passynge (very), etc.

Now literary or learned: beseech, conjour, covenant, contynance, fare, grevous, etc.

Forms now shortened: abakward, affray, defaute, deslaunder, encerche, sithenys, etc.

Still colloquial: bragge, chery, dyner, dys, felows, frend, gruscrynge, hed.

Now changed in meaning: accord, advertysement, mete, avoyde, closet, color, dangerous, flessh, gostly, harlot, honestly, indifferently, lewdesnesse, ordeyn, parell, parler, sad, spede, tendre, tempte, wit, etc.

I shall not multiply examples, though this is as fascinating a subject as I find in connection with Shillingford.

5

Idiom

The subject of idiom is very closely connected with that of vocabulary. Frequently, instead of forming a new word to express a new idea, "the people" have used old words in a different sense, or have regrouped old words. These form the idioms of the language--those word-facts which are peculiarly its own. The idioms of a language
are mostly colloquial rather than literary; moreover, they change considerably from age to age. If we should transport ourselves back to the age of Shillingford, and should try to use his language, it would be in the idioms that we should find ourselves constantly making mistakes, even if we could learn the vocabulary and pronunciation.

I have here listed rather completely the idioms in phrase form from Shillingford, and have found only a few which are the same in Modern English. This fact is shown by the necessity for translating them into modern idiom.

1 be remembred of—to remember
2 we demenyd us—we conducted ourselves
2 ever sythenys—ever since
2 hit like your gode and gracious lordship—it please your ....lordship
3 doyng yow to understonde—causing you to know
3 by tyme—early
3 at vii atte cloke—at seven o'clock
3 what tyme—whenever
4 the whiche—which
4 ye seme—it seems to you
4 sette the penne to—correct
4 atte halle—at the hall
4 yn all wyse—in every respect
5 to London-ward—toward London
5 that is to seye—same in Mod. Eng.
to kepe the day—to fulfill the appointment
as tochyng—with regard to
for to—to
yn especiall—especially
some apon—soon after
ix atte belle—nine o'clock
and w† hym grete presse—and with him a
large crowd
y toke my leve—bade farewell
the morun—the following morning
oc a word—a single word
he is like to have—he is likely to have
there was myche people—there were many
people
saaf the lorde—except the lords
y put me yn presse—y joined the throng
to morun—tomorrow
hadde pyt y of—felt compassion for
yn eny wyse—in any respect
yn gode seson—opportunely
y cowde no skil—I had no ability
they hadde used much thyng—they had enjoyed
many things since ancient times
no more but—no more than; only
of olde tyme—since ancient times
have me excused to answer—have me ex-
cused from answering
toke his cheyre—sat down
us semed—it seemed to us
13 take kepe to—noticed
14 made wyse—signified
14 with gode wille—willingly
15 didde me moche worship—paid me much respect
15 of his awne mocion—of his own accord
16 by me—concerning me
17 have knoweliche of—he informed
17 but yf—unless, if not
20 bot yf—unless
18 at gode leisure—in unhurried fashion
20 Y hilde myn awne—I stood my ground
(Same idiom in Mod. Eng.)
21 y sette hit grete wysedome—I consider it wise
24 yn the mene tyme—same in Mod. Eng.
26 putte yns—presented
27 yn variance—in debate
30 at his pleser—if he wishes
30 the same oo man—one and the same man
32 by mouthe—orally, in person
33-4 sum tyme—some time ago
34 do—-to be—cause to be
34 to do his avail—to bring about his advantage
36 by the morun—in the morning
39 by long, tyne—for a long time
if any thyng lacke—if anything is lacking
us thenkyth—it seems to us
yow like—it please you
of less—unless
apon a grete payne—under a heavy penalty
yn certeyn—for certain
fayled of—failed to obtain
for so myche as—forasmuch as
yf he wolde nedys thus come—if he had to come
putte the lawe yn execution—carry out the law
made affray apon—attacked
taketh color by—claim authority of
that comyth to yowre mynde—that occur to you
the Parlement—Parliament
a Thursday—on Thursday
yn paper—on paper
yvell apayed of—displeased at
yn to tyme that—until
he was don to wyte—he was informed
anon apon that—immediately after that
putte yn respite—adjourned
none other—nothing else
want to be—accustomed to be
he beyng yn right grete bysyness—he being very busy
on Sunday that last was—last Sunday
In these five chapters I have presented the outstandingly colloquial elements of fifteenth century English as illustrated by Shillingford's Letters. I have not analyzed all the phenomena which I found, but have only outlined the topics which may be with profit be studied more fully from the Word List.

This study is not complete, but it least reconstructs for the student of the English Language a small portion of English speech such as might have been heard on the streets of an English town during the first half of the fifteenth century.
A, indef. art.

After adv. qualifying a.:

to us ryght a high and ferfull commandement 2

The use of a before h is unusual, an being commonly used in such a case down to the 17th cent. (NED. An)

Ye didde theron as right a wise man 11
right a diffuse letter 33

Before a vowel:

how that the Mayer and comynes offred ham self to alle maner resonable entretiy, and a entretiy hadde 62

A, prep.

On

John Hussett arest a Saterday 53
Thomas Mayer ynterruptyng our franchise a Lammasse yeven 53
a Trusday sic yn the Ester wyke 59

ABAKWARD, adv.

Backward (fig.)

y have helpe ynogh abakward and but litell forthward 23

(Latest quotation in NED. c. 1574)

ABIDE, v. pa.t. abode; pp. abiden, abide

Intrans.: stay, continue

y was by the Styward and meny other of the housholde full fayre y bede to abide atte mete 7
That same day y abode there to mete by my seide lordis comsumodement 37
that matier whiche long tyme hath abiden yn travers bitwixte yow 41

'abide apoun'--to maintain, to sustain

they seyn moche that they woll abyde apoun their right 21 (Phrase not in NED.)

'abide by': hit shall be abide by 54
Trans.: Adhere to, hold to; submit to. Mn. Eng., 'abide by'. (Does not occur without by in this sense in NED.)

"wyth ryght gode wyll at alle tymes obeyed us to abyde suche rule as the Kynge...apoynted us to 2 that they will abyde the rule of the lordys 21 redy to obey and abyde all entret" 41

ABOVESEYEDE, pp. and a. (Not in NED. as pp.)

1. Said above. Not here used as an adjective, but as a real participle, as if there were a verb aboveseye.

"Y seyde, 'My lorde,' as y have aboveseyde 21 to be wt hym that after mete to comyne as hit is aboveseyde. 19"

2. Aforementioned

"y went ayen to Lambeth to my lord after his commaundem- ment aboveseyed 7"

ABOWTE, adv. and prep.

1. Near, around

"there stode right y nogh abowte 48"

2. Engaged in

"so longe tyme a bowte litell thynge, as hit appereth 58 right grete bysynees yf Alisaunder Hody hath hadde aboute his awne maters 3"

ABSTYNANCE, sb.

Forbearance from (in this case, from arrests)

"atte ende of whiche mater hit was desired for to have an abstenoe 10"

Cst. of (modern idiom from):

"Then he moved of divers menys and abstynance of arrestis 10"

ACCORDANT, ppl. a. (A.F. pres. part.)

Const. to: Conformable to; in harmony with

"suye as he wolde calle accordant to the wrytyngr"
of my lord of Canterbury 47
according to the Kynges commaundement 51

ACCORDE, sb.

Agreement. (Used both abstractly and concretely)

yor reherced to hym of the last accorde of the sub-
erbys withoute Esteyeate 20
hit was y seid that accorde was hadde here at
home 66

ACCORDE, v. pa.t. accordide

To agree

1. With inf.: yf ye parties myght so accordide to
breve the mater to the lordis hondis 22
2. Const. of: such thingis as they myght not ac-
corde of to be putte on the lordis 60
3. With subordinate clause: at which tyme ther
was right gode and gentle communicacon, and
thus accordide....that John a Coplestone and
the said Radford shuld have the mater yn communi-
cacon 59

ACCORDYNG, ppl.a. of, ACCORDANT, above.

Const. to: In harmony with

hit was accordyng to my lord Chaunceler ys commaundem-
ment 59

ACQYTE, v. refl.

To perform one's part, discharge one's duty

douryssh acquyted hym well 20

A DO, sb. and inf.

Sb.: Difficulty, trouble, confusion

hit was like to have be right myche a do and grete
troble 45

Inf.: To do

that thei were discharged and...so at large, and
that they wold sue ne have a do ther no more 60
ADOUN, adv.
Down. Pleonastic with kneel.
y kneelyng adoun offerynge my candell 37

ADVERS, a.
Opposing, acting against. (Folllows the noun, as in French)
and so we appered before them; and for oure party aduers Kys, Hengston, More, Wode, and Wolston 12
He asked of oure party aduers theire bokis: they wolde he knawe of none yn no wyse 12
the mater was called apoun by oure party advers 65

ADVERTYSEMENT, sb.
Notice, announcement
Indorsement on Letter VIII: "A letter of advertyse-
mentes." 26

A FAR, adv. See A FER, below
At a distance
alle stondyng a far apart fro hym 37

A FER, adv.
Afar; at a distance
as some as ever he saw me a ferre 18
stondyng a fer fro my lorde 14

AFFRAY, sb.
Attack; assault
S† Thomas Gogh † made affray and toke the churche late 53
his mynstral made affray apoon a woman 53
(No quotation in NED. between 1400 and 1509)

AFORE, adv. and prep.
Before in point of time
tymely y nogh afore mete 23
y-writen at London yn alle Sawlyn day afore day 17
Before, as to place

what the departyng and how at the laste terme was

a fore my seid lord the Chauceller and the seide

Justises my seide lorde was a fore and is fully en-

fourmed therof 33

AFTE, adv. See EFTE also.

NED. (Aft, 3) defines this word as meaning 'Back from
the present time, earlier.' This example supplies mat-
erial which will in part fill the gap of four centuries
in forms given in NED.

there as [whereas] afte hit liked the kyng to yeve

yn commandement by his letters under his prevy seell
to the Mayer and the Communaltie of the Cite of Ex-
cetre, to abide the rule and ordynance of his Chau-
celler....that not with stondynge ["] the mater is
a tained at large by the Bysshop yn the comyn lawe 63

AFTER, adv.

Afterwards, next

ferst of M. John Druell, youre unkell, and afte by

prayer and desire of all other 55
and some afte departed 62

AFTER, prep.

According to

after the effect and extent of y® blessid lettre fro
your lordship 50
and y the same afte my sympell power 24

'After the effecte that': Mn.Eng. 'to the effect that'

a communicacion to he hadde afte the effecte that

ye commyned with my seid lord sum tyme at Exeatre 33

AFTER MEETE, sb. (Not in NED, as a substantive)

Time just after dinner (afternoon)

he seide yee, to be wt hym that afte mete to comyns

as hit is aboveseide 19
not to feall, but kepe my dey, that afte mete 19

AFTERNONE, sb.

Time from noon to dusk

That afternone y went ayen to Lambeth 7
Also with force of a phrase, tho written as one word:

bade me to come ayen that same day afternone 7
the bukhorn came to me bot on Candelmasse yeven
afternone somewhat better late than never 36
at iiij atte belle afternone 61

AFTERWARD, AFTER WARDES, adv.

Afterward

and afterward Maister Rogger Kys and y were before
my two seid lordis 24
and withyn anoure after wardes he toke his leve of
my lord 62

AFTE TYMES, adv.

Ofttimes, often

afte tymes (the Mayor) hath not dar do the lawe 53

AGAYNS'T, prep. See AYENST.

To, toward

A lettre agaynst the Cite sent by a preest to the
the bishop 35

AGGRE, v. refl.

To accede, to consent

the Mayer fully agreeyd hym therto 59
yf we wolden so agre us 60
an obligation...to whiche bothe parties at that
tyme agreed and assentid ham 51

AGGREABLE, a.

Of the attitude of people: Kindly disposed; ready to
agree
to whiche bothe parties at that tyme were aggreable
71

AGONE, ppl. a.

'to be agone': to be off

My seide lorde seide he myght not tary, but be agone
anon. 48
AJORN, ADJORN, v.t. See ENJORN.

To adjourn: to defer

'to adjorn over ynto': to postpone until

hit was by my seide lorde ajorned over ynto the
(morun) Saterday 9
he adjorned hit over yn to Soneday 11.

ALAGGE! Interj. (Not in WED. No quot. under alack before
1480)
Exclamition of regret: Alack! or Alas!

My lorde seide, 'Alagge alagge, why wolde they do
so? y woll seye right sharply to ham therfor and
y nogh.' 18

A LARGE. See LARGE.

ALEYE, v.t. See LEYE.

To cite

and therto ye have aleyed for ye prove the boke of
domysday 28

ALEYN, sb.

Foreigner, alien

there was myche peple, lorde and other...and meny
strangers aleyns of other londys. 7

ALLE, sb., a., adv.

1. Everything

alle shall be well, with Goddes grace 63

2. All: redy to obey and abide all entreté 41
   in all wyse 4

3. With plural noun, of omitted

   the Maier and alle the comynes sholde have Cristis
   blessyngs and his 63
   the mater was putte yn respite yn to the morun by
   alle the Justices 62

4. Completely
   he was all redy for to ride 5
ALL MOST, adv.

Almost. This divided form is not shown in NED, for the fifteenth century.

all most amen to the end of the Parliament 55
John Gernym sholde have braght to me all most x li. 16

ALL THYN, sb. and adv.

1. Everything

and that our recorder have knoweliche of all thynge
that ye have write home 17
my lord will avowe me on alle thynge that ye didde and seide 15

2. Altogether, throughout

y was not all thynge so yse hem to hire and knowe
alle thynge that was seid 62

AMEN, interj.

Used as a concluding formula— a sort of ratification—
after the expression of a wish.

At ending of letter: and alle shall be well w't ye
grace of God, whiche have yow ym kepynge. Amen. 25

Cristes curse have they bothe, and saye ye amen non
sine merito 25

AMENDIS, sb. (Occurs in Shill. only once)

Reparation, satisfaction

sode that there were water amendis to be made 13

AMENDE, v.t.

Correct, rectify

and commandde me to buyng the answeris to hym the
morun at Westminster, and that he wolde amend hit 19
if any thynge be sayes ym theire partes, the Mayor
sendoth to tham to amendhit 57
to amend ye makynge y error 60
AMYT, v.t.
To accept; to allow to enter, to admit
The whiche seyng was amytted, saying hit shulde be done most specially by seyKyng your gode and gracious lordship to be amytted therto
AND, conj.
If
And my lord Chaunceller woll be enyfferent, we shall have a gode ende y truste to almyghty God and owre lady and y seide and he wolde so he wolde not lete calle so fervently atte barre apon the Mayer And your owne puple and true bedmen and that y dar well seye by my trauthe
ANON, adv.
Immediately, at once
and they seide anon with gode wille, yee for theire part and anon my Mayster Dowrissh lefte all his owne bysynesse
Const. to: 'even to'
comanued me to abide, and so y didde anon to Tuesdae
Const. as: 'as soon as'
and anon as we came...y William Spere inquered as for John Afield
Const. upon: 'immediately after'
and anon upon that, my Maister Recorder went to Westminster
ANYNTYSHEMENT, sb.
Destruction, damage
many other perillys and ymconvenyencys yn subversion and anyntysshement of the seid Citie
APART, adv.
To one side, aside, to a place removed
alle stondyng a far apart fro hym 37
y bisoghte hym...that y myght go apart to comyne
with my fellowship 14

APAYED, ppl. a. See PAYED
Satisfied, pleased
of the which mocion the mayer was right well apayed 59
ffor they have be and beth right yvell apayed of
this longe tarynge and delaye 56

APON, APOUN, prep. See UPON.
1. At; at the time of; immediately after
Apon this mene he stiked faste 11
apou the communicacion that y hadde with yow here y
send home a letter by yow 15
Furste my lorde asked how we departed laste. Hit
was seyde apoun the answerys of the Bysshop, Deane,
and Chapitre, put yn and we to replye. 19

2. Against
afte tymes hath not dar do the lawe and execucon
thereof...apou his tenants 53

3. In
they take grete boldnesse of ij thynges, oon of
truste of the Shirf, another apou the lawe 68

4. Under
but they wer forbode apou a grete payne 44

5. On
and there at (blank) at belle the mater was called
apoun by oure party adver 65
I toke hit apoun me and so did 50

APPAREANCE, sb.
Coming into court

to kepe the deye of apparence atte xv of Seynt Mich-
all as the Cite was bounde to
APPEASYNGE, sb. See PEASYNG.

The bringing to a peaceful conclusion; pacification (No 15th Cent. example in NED.)

that ye well applie yo'r blessed favo'r and benyvol-
ence to the gode ende and appeasyng of this mater 28
for the gode appesynge and welfare of bothe parties
yn the seid mater 50

APPERE, v.i.

1. To seem
yn the whiche articolus as hit appareth they have
spatte out the uttmyst and worste venym that they
cowde seye 16
so longe tyme a bowte litell thynge, as hit appereth
58

2. To be manifest
that....hath be my lorde Chauncelleris commande-
ment as y knowe right well, and as hit proveth and
appereth by a letter 27

APPOYNT, v.t.

Ordain, assign, rule, decree

to abyde suche rule as the Kyng by his seyde let-
ters appoynted us to 2
hit was appoynted by my lord of Canterbury and the
two Chyf Justises, that the maters.....sholde be en-
treted here at home 33
such rule as hit may please yo'r gode lordship to
appoynt yn the seid mater 71

APPREVED, ppl.s.

Tried, tested by experience; esteemed

as your worthy and approved discretion semyth best
for be done. 25

ARBITROUR, sb.

Arbitrator. (An v has been omitted by Shillingford)

if any suche wrytyng were knowe and proved by my
seide Lorde and the other arbitrous, we moste nedys
.......... abide hit 66

AREDY, a.

Ready, prepared

seyde he wold be aredy at his callyng 7
almost as hit appereth here aredy to shewe 19

AREST, v.t. pp. arest

To arrest

John Hussett arest a Saterdey, he most be delyvored 53

AREYS, ab.

Arras, a figured tapestry used as a hanging. So named from Arras in Artois, where it was made. The "cloth of areys" mentioned here probably hung in the cathedral, or in the Chapter House.

my seide lorde of Exceter had no more knawlyche of the grounde of this mater then the ymage yn the cloth of areys ther 44

AS, rel. pron., conj.

1. Rel. pron.--which, that

y [hadde] no knowliche of his privy comamnent as alle tyme hath be hadde yn thes mater 32
and [y spake] of other thyngys as come yn to my mynde 19
promyttted to sende of the most worthiest as he hath 30

2. 'as for'

a. for, as

y excusced me and wold not abide as for tyme. 7
and charged hym that he sholde not appere as for attorney 62
y William Spere inquered as for John Afield 61

b. 'as to': with reference to

as to the compleyntes of the Bisshop Deane and Chapitre, hit is answered 12

ASCUSE, v.t. and refl. See EXSCUSE.

1. To release from obligation (to do something)

Y cowde ne wolde not...nother speke ne entrete wt hym of this matter, prayng so to have me ascused 47

2. Refl.: To attempt to clear oneself

Nothelez (I know) right well he wolle ascuse hym right well by thike falle harlot his carioure 23
ASK, v.t.

1. To ask; call for

he asked wyne and sende me his owne cuppe 15
he called me to hym and asked the seide answere 18

2. To require

y moved hym of oure mater shortly as tyme asked 37
Hit asketh meny grete encerchis...and alle these
encerches asketh grete laboure longe tyme 58

ASSIGNE, v.t. See SIGNE.

To point out, ascribe; appoint

what yvell wyll, waywardnys, and unkyndnesse was
assigned......ye knowe right well 36

trustye to God no defaute to be assigned ne founde
yn his part 65

assigne ye a tyme the parties to be called 38
hit pleased hym to assigne hym an oure 48

ASSIGNEMENT, sb.

Order; appointment

At whiche tyme, at x atte belle, by assignment of
my seide lorde the Bysshop 49
the seyde Mayer with other of his fellowship sholde
come to hym at his assignment 47

ASTATE, sb.

1. Rank, position of rank

y seide to my seide lorde hit was to symple a thyng
considering his astate to seye onys graunt mercy 37
he stondyng yn his astate ayinst the fire a grete
whiles 37

2. A person of rank or estate

Mete y doun, my lord take his chamber, the astate
and other with hym. 37

ASTONED, ppl.a.

Astounded, stunned, amazed

of the whiche warnyng the Mayer was fowle astoned
and encombred 46
AT, ATTE, prep.

1. in—of actual place

and of alle other as on Sent Paull is chirche at London 11

I grete you well alle, doyng yow to understonde that y am at London 18

Engaged in

wt wham he was at right grete pryvy communicacion 6

2. To

Come no more at oure hous 16

3. On

and ther was at that day atte dyner with my lord 12

4. By; according to; because of

My lorde y am come at youre commandement 7

'at reverence of': out of respect to:

the seid Mayer and Comminalte woll beseeke you at the reverence of God 71

5. At

and prayed hym [Fortescue] to be wt hym the Chancel-

lor that morun atte mete 18

and atte the laste my lorde moved of this mene 20

and so departid atte yᵗʰ time 60

ATTAIN, v.t. A TAIN. Also see TAIN.

To bring up for trial. NED. quotes from p. 42, Shilling-

tford, and gives the meaning as 'To touch upon (a mat-

ter), mention, treat of, deal with,' but from the evi-

dence in the letters, and the wording of passages in

which the word occurs, I think this cannot be the sig-

nificance. I quote rather fully below in support of

my contention.

And as nowe we wold have preceded theryn to somme

gode conclusion; and the matier is attained at large

yn the comyn lawe: We praye yow as yet that....yow

like to putte the matier to take soner effectuall

ende by entreti and yntercommunicacion than by rig-

our of the lawe. 41

considryng the matier is attaintyd at large in the

comyn lawe not likely by that mene to be ended light-

ly 42

that not with stondynge [,] the matier is a tained
at large by the Bishop yn the comyn lawe, contrary to the kynges commandement 63

ATTE, a contraction of AT THE.

At the; at that

ther mette wt my lorde Chaunceller atte brode dore 6 ne never hadde better chere of my lorde ne of the household then y hadde atte tyme. 7 And y liyng on my bedde atte writyng of this right yerly 16

'atte cloke': o'clock; 'atte belle': of the bell

and came to London on Tywysday by tyme at vii atte cloke 3
came to Westminster sone apon ix. atte belle 6

ATTEMPT, v.t.

To try, make trial of

we wold no thyng do bote that his gode lordship hadde know liche of, for we wold attempted hym yn no wyse. 68 (Earliest quot. in NED.1525)

ATTEND, v.i. (Absol.)

To direct one's attention or energy to something

my lorde Chaunceller seide...that he wolde attende when the justyse wolde 7
y se youre grete bysynesse is suche that he may not attende 7

ATTENDENCE, sb.

Attention

byseyng him...to yeve leyser and attendence therto 30

ATTIS, contraction for AT THIS (Not in NED. or Stratmann-Bradley)

y not shamed but pleased attis tyme 17
if hit end attis tyme 10

AUGHTE, sb.

Anything

For yf aughte be by me otherwise than aughte to be done...hit is but for defaute of comynge 31
AUGHTE, v. Defective and impersonal

In Chaucer the p.a.t. of owin (oghte). In Shillingford, there is no occurrence of the present tense, and aughte supplies all tenses which are used.

Ought: (to be) necessary, suitable, or expedient:

for yt aughte be by me otherwyse than aughte to be done" (etc.) 31
both redy to do the same as we aughte to do 2

Impersonal with personal object preceding: it behooves, befits

a redy at alle tymes as hym aughte to obeye and fulle fille his commaundement 32
y shall the utmosty as me aughte do to my lordis pleasure. 32

AUTER, sb.

Alter

When my lorde hadde seide his prayers atte high auter, he went apart to the syde auter by hym self 48

AVAIL, sb.

Advantage, benefit, profit

for trewly he woll no long delayes theron, but to do his avail when he shall se his tyme. 34

AVOWE, v.t.

1. To admit openly, to acknowledge

the mayor avowed it well, and seide that that sommys was no wronge 52

2. To declare

y seide yee, and avowed hit well they seide so. 14

3. To vouch for; corroborate; affirm; assure

of the whiohe commaundement my lorde remembred hym right well therof....and my lord avowed me well therof 22
sey ye here be fore my lorde what hit was; and y truste to God...that my lord will avowe me on alle thyng that y didde and seide. 15
he wolde make levy bothe of the Citeseyn spendyng and the fe ferme, and that he wolde well avowe (Almost equivalent to Pres. Eng. 'he would swear to that.'

**AVOYDE, v.t.**

To depart from, to empty

hardly alle men were bede to avoyde that chamber sauf the lordes. 7

**AVYS, sb.**

Counsel, advice

by the avysse of Dowryssh to amende the makynghe per of and anon as we came by my mayster is avis, and as the Mayres commaundement was, e. William Spere inquired as for John Afild 61

Notice

he cowde not comyne with hym scidenly and with so short avys 48

**AVYSED, ppl. a.**

Counselled, and hence determined

[they] thought that my lord of Exceter were avysey and ruled so to come for so myche as the matter of the seide letter by my lord of Exceter was leide apart 47

we were fully avysey, with leve of his gode llorde-ship, onys to smyve, takyn a sute 68

**AVYSEL, adv.**

Carefully

Y pray yow that they be well redeyly avyseyly and dis- tinctely over radde 17

The whiche copies all y pray yow avysely to over rede and well understonde 26

bysekyng hym of his gode llordship avyseyly to overse hit 29

**AWAYTE, v.t.** See WAYTE.

In Shillingford, always with 'appon': to come to a superior to transact business or to serve; await, be in readiness (for).

the Mayer w' alle the worthy of the Cite wolde awayte apon his gode lordship and his comyng. 47
the seide Maier and his fellowship w't their coun-
seyl awyayed apoun my seide lorde the Bysshop in
Seynt Ieteres Churche of Excre 49
bot bade ham to awyaye apoun hym that morun at
Westminster 22
y wold awyaye upon hym there as sone as he hadde
dyned 62

AUNE, a.

Own. Frequently used in stereotyped phrases of a let-
ter

right grete bysynes y't Alisaunder Hody hath hadde
aboute his awne matres 5
his awne peple and bedmen of the Cite of Exeeter 6
By yo't awne servant and bedman,
J. Shillyngford 29
Idiom: 'Y hilde myn awne.' 20--'I maintained my side
of the argument'

AYEN, adv. and prep.

Adverbial uses:
1. In return; back; in turn

And as toochyng the seyde x l s. w't x l s. more that
the seyde John Mayer payed to Trevylian, he was
payed ayen by the feloship 5
how that y conjured yow and ye conjured me ayen 24
2. At another time

ye desyre his gode leysur now, and but yf ye now
now to come to hym ayen. 51

Prep.: Towards, forward to meet

he moste sende a man yn hast ayen my lord for my
lord was comyng 47

AYENST, prep.

1. Near; facing; toward

he stondyng yn his astate ayenst the fire a grete
whiles 37
and so departed fro us that dey ayenst nyght. 46

2. In opposition to, contrary to; adverse to; as compared
to

y-trustyng to God and his gode lordship that he will
no (not-noght, Draft) comand me ayenst the Kyng's
comandement 32
William Hampton...remayneth by wey of execucion contrary ayenst ye lawe 53
After making of this letter ye receyved a copy of a writte ayenst John Hulle 38
we have many true articulis ayenst one of theyris 58

3. In preparation for; in view of; in anticipation of

bade ham to awayte apoun hym that morun at Westminster. Ayenst whiche tyme the seide Dourisshe and Speere right wysely ordyned counsell Yong and Beef 22
for the none ayenst my comung 23
My lord Chaunceller bade the Justysse to dyner ayenst that same day 9

AYTHER, a.

Each (of two)

There were matters amendis to be made to ayther party 13
ij men to be nempted of ayther party yn rule of entretty 46
BAK SIDE, sb.

Rear

and yn especiall yt ye stretes be right clene and specialle the litell lane yn the bak side be nethe the flesh fold yeate, for ther thenth many oxen hedes and bonys 23

BARE, a.

Unharnessed

my hors bare and my ridying harneys being at Shil-

Lyngford 31

BARGE, sb.

Rowboat. The Chancellor evidently went by boat from Westminster to Lambeth.

and so went forth to his barge and wt hym grete presse 6
And therfor y, mayor, drowe me apart, and mette wt hym at his goyng yn to his barge 6

BARRÉ, sb.

Group of lawyers

and for that other party Kys, Hengston, More, Wode, and Orcharde, a greet barre. 19

The inclosed space in a courtroom where the counsel stand.

and y seide and [if] he wolde so he wolde not lete calle so fervently atte barre apon the Mayer and Commines 64

BE, v.

Pres. ind.

1 sing. Am

y am and was before that letter fully remembred of all thynges that is comprehended thoryn 35

2 sing. Both, butth, be

My lorde, yo both lorde under hevyn, excepte the kyng, that the citie of Excotre have most foyth hope
and trust therin 21
trustynge that ye
buth and woul be the same man as
there 24.
And suppose ye be well remembred howe that mater--41

3 sing. Is, ys, be

a fee called Seynt Stephenys Fee...and as they

cleyme, and as they seyn,....of yldre tyme then is

the Cite. 58

For now ther is by twene the parties, as hit is con-
cemved, grete gode wyll 57

myryly syngyng a myry song, and that ys this. Come

no more at cure hous. Come, come, come. 16

Certe hit be seyde that that ys the cause of the

breche. 21

Plural. Beth, beeth, buth, ben, bene

they beeth sworn therto as he is 30
Bot as ye beeth enformed by the part of the seid
Mayer and Communalte that they beeth varied fro the

seide commandements 40
they woul wauche now wt a gode wyll, and beth gode

men 52

y seide yee, as suche fees as beth ther on towne 3
oure replications beth not yet fully redy 19

Radford and Coplestone beth nigh accorded 37

we buth alle most thurg 37

we yet buth redy to do the same 2
the Maier and Commines at alle tymes have byden alle

resonable entrety before thys, and yet bene redy to

abide 64

I and all the Comminalte of the seide Cite ben your

gostly children 29

the seide Mayer and Comminalte have att all tymes and

yet ben as they seyen redy to obey 41

my seide lord, seyng your gode will, whiche ben of

counseill with his Churche (etc.) 34

Pres. subj. Sing. and plural Be

And yf ther be eny poynte of grete difficulthee....41
to yow grete marvaylle if hit so be 40

praying yow yf eny suche thynge be 20

and that this answer be sadly over seyn 4

so that for shortynys of tyme to answeere and to art-
icle, that we be not desert 58

Yf eny suche be, Iete tham be leide apart 13

so that if they be lawfully answered, that the part-
ies be stopped 58

To John Coteler, lutenant, Thomas Cook, John Germyn,

Walter Pope, Richard Druell, and other, this let-
ter be delveryed 39
Pres. Inf. Be

As toouchyng the grete venym that they menyth of
my lyvyng, y may and purpose be at my purge 16
(Note omission of to with inf. after purpose)
so to be conceived, ruled, and reported to the
Kync 3

y pray you to be not wery to over rede hire and
see all the writyng 17

Pres. part. Boyng

cure party advers wt theire counsell boyng pres-

ent 18

Past ind.

1 and 3 sing. Was

y was with the Justise by longe tyme 9
At yevensonge tyme my lorde the Bysshop was come
47
hit was agreed...and a dey y sette 46
comyng wt all worship and reverence to receyve hym
as cure part was. 47

1,2,3 pl.; 2 sing. Were, wer, war.

and so were on grete argametades by longe tyme, to
longe to write 10
they wer forbode apone a grete payne 44
they wer alle redy at his commandement 49
tho that war at home.....were syke on theire beddes 5

Past subj. Were

yf any thyng wer by commandement fro my lorde
Chaucerell to call hym therfor 49
nerethez all the longago bot hit were the lesse
was by tweno my lorde Chaucerell the Justyse and me
20
for elles we most to a triall, and that were harde
68
Hoo seide, "God hit forbode, then sholdo ye never
love, and that were pyty 68
As for oo poynt or tweyn yf such were 59

Past Participle. Be, ben

"The common literary form in 14-15th e. was be, be-
tore the general acceptance of the northern ben.
ben." (NED., Be).
trustyng the matier to have be comyned 41

yf hit myght otherwise have be 19

sywed to have be descharged 2

ever hath be and shall be.9

the buk horn to have be presented 23

the grete laboure that hath ben at London eithenys 51

the whiche hath ben to the seid MAYER and Comminalte

right grete labour, trouble (etc.) 69-70

BECAUSE, conj. See By cause, under BY.

Const. that

y came not there because that Wolston was there that
day. 69

BEDDE, sb.

Bed

thoo that war at home...were syke on their beddes 5

BEDMAN, sb.

Petitioner. Conventional term of respect or deference
to a superior, like "servant" as used in the compliment-
ary close of letters of the last century, and before.

By your owne servant and bedman. 29

your owne puple and poore bedmen. 50

BEFORE, adv. and prep.

In front (abs.); before (as to place); before (as to
time)

and bothe parties with their consell kneled before
12

y pray you to calle be fore yow atte halle the

substance of the comminalte 4

the grounde of their articularis was knewe be fore 57

BELLE, sb.

A bell rung to tell the time. It was probably the bell
of the church clock.

'atte bell' : 'o'clock'

at whiche tyme, at x atte belle 49

On tuesday...at iiij. atte belle afternone, 61

BE NETHE, prep.

Below, beyond
the litell lane yn the bak side be nethe the flessh folde yeate 23

BERE, v.t.
To carry

and seid he wold bere the letter hym self to my lord Chaunceller 61
Bysekyng 8 to be remeedyd, and also of beryng of the mace w'out Westyeat 53

BERER, sb.
Bearer, carrier.

the bere of this my symple writyng. 29
William Hampton berer of this writyng 17

BESCHER, v.t. See BESKE, below
To entreat earnestly

y beseche yow...to have me excused 11

BESKE, v.t. Also BYKE, q.v.
To supplicate, to entreat

y beseke you of youre gode lordship--20
We the Mayer and Comminalte lowly beseke yow...69
the seid Mayer and Comminalte wull beseke you at the reverence of God--71

BEST, a. superl. of gode; adv. superl. of well
Most excellent; most desirable

y hadde governed me at home yn the most best and godely wyse 8 (Note double superlative)
y recommended you all to hym yn the best maner that y coude 68
Substantive use: trustyng to God verely al for the best 30

Most kindly

He understode and toke my seyyng and ynformacion (yn the moste) beste wise 38

In the most beneficial way

suche as ye well commaunde us to bryng and shewe next and best to ende the mater 72
BE
er, a. comparative of gode; adv. comp. of well
Greater; more excellent

ne never hadde better chere of my lorde 7
y wolle awayte apon youre gode lordship and youre
better leyser at another tyme 6

More advantageous

hit was better the last terme before this 11
hit sholde have be never the werce but the better 14

More kindly disposed

trustying that ye both and well be the same man as
there, or better yf ye better may 24

BETWIXTE, prep.
Between

that matier whiche longe tyme hath abiden yn travers
betwixte yow 41
that mater whiche hath longe tyme abiden yn travers
betwixte my Brother of Excestre the Deane and Chap-
itre and the Maier and the Comminalte of Excestre 42

BE TYME, adv. See BY TYME
Early; betimes

The morun be tyme y came to my lord 68

*BID, v.t. pa.t.bade, pp.bede (The two bid's are confused)
To command, to request

And he bade me move of some gode meene to ende the
mater 9
And my lord bade to leye ham forth 13
hardly alle men were bade to avoyde that chamber
saaf the lordes 7

*BID, v.t. pp. y bede, bede
To ask, to invite

My lord hadde bade hym to dyne with hym that day 61
Y was by the Styward and meny other of the housholde
full fayre y bede to abide atte mate 7

*BIND, v.t. pa.t.pl.bounden; pp.bounde
To pledge(oneself)
obeyed and bounden them to abide the rule of your god's lordship 40

to keep the day of apparence atte xv. of Seynt Michall as the cite was bounde to 5 (Note the pro-infinitive: (bounde)to)

the parties to be bounde to byde the rule of the lordis 59

BISILY, adv.

Energetically

have full bisily labored to make an answer to the articulys 3

BLAK, a.

Black

y pray you to sende me the blak rolle 17

BLAME, sb.

Discredit

what reporte that ever hath be made ayenst us by the Chanons part afore this tyme, for oure blame 56

*BLESS, v.t. pp. y blessed

In exclamatory invocations: 'y blessed'---'praised'

y blessed be God hit is nother felony, ne treson, ne grete trespas 16

y-blessed be God and my Lord Chaunceller 57

BLESSED, a.

Holy; highly revered, highly esteemed

the right reverend fader yn God and blessed man in him self....Edmond Bisshop of Exceter 50

after the effect and extent of ye blessed lettre fro your lordship 50

offered my candelle (to my lord is) blessed hond 37

BLESSEDNYSSE,-NESSE, sb.

Beneficence

we knowing his blessednysse and gode conscience 30

and yf he knew the right title and grounde of this
mater, consideryng his blessednesse holy lyvynge and
gode consyence, that hit wold be cause myche the
rather to be at a gode ende 44

BLESSYNG, sb.

Benediction

[he] seid that the Maier and alle the comynes sholde
have Cristis blessyng and his 63

BLYNDE, a.

Secret, private

[y] spake with my lorde prively a grete whiles of
divers maters, and among other of thys blynde en-
trety thatHongston spake of 15
To have yn mynde of a blynde entrety, and how hit
hath be ladde forth thus hiderto 59

BOKE, sb.

A written document (The printing press had not yet been
introduced). Here, the meaning is narrowed to "arti-
cles" (of replication, rejoinder, etc.)

My lord asked the bokis. He seide that his were on
Kent is warde. He asked ofoure party adverstheire
bokis: they wolde be knawe of none yn no wyse. 12
my lord spake of the bokis to us ayen: and y seide
that my bokis were alle redy. And my lord bade to
leye ham forth; and so we didde the articulis. 13
My lord seyde that he wolde sende for the bokys
that y have write to yow of yn Kent ys warde 19

BOKELER PLAYER, sb.

Fencer

ever stondes yn defence, as a bokeler player, and
smyte never 68

BOLDELY, adv. Comp. boldeliere

Fearlessly, vigorously

as Mayer of Excetre he wolde boldely take hit upon
hym 45
to the whiche recorde with avys of conseill y thyng
in draft, thanke boldely to appare 38

Comp.: but the more boldeliere and shapely after my
sympell powere,...to do my part 25 (footnote)
**BOLDENESSE, sb.**

Courage, impudence

they take grete boldenesse of ij thynges, oon of truste of the Shirf, another apone the lawe 68

**BONDE, sb.** See **BOUNDE**

Bond—an obligation in writing, under seal

nywe bondis to be made and enseled yn to Candelmasse 40

**BORWE, sb. Pl. borwys**

Surety

William Hampton berer of this writyng, the which is a man true ynoth as y truste and suppose and hath borwys for his office 17

**BOT, conj.** See **BUT**

**BOTE, sb.**

Boat

toke a bote and went to Temple 63

**BOTH, BOTHER, a.**

Both ('those two')

My lord was loth therto and the justises bothe 12 and bothe parties with theire consell knesed before 12 went right to the justises bothen 12

**BOUNDE, sb.**

Bond—surety for the performance of an obligation

as the cite was bounde to, as hit appereth by a bounde condicionell 5

**BRACE, v.i.**

Bluster, domineer

pt he do that he can do, braule, bragge, and brace 23

**BRAGGE, v.i.**

Boast
To make a disturbance in a loud, noisy manner

Breaking off of friendly relations; disagreement (Earliest quotation in NED., 1745)

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BRODE, a.

Large, main

ther mette wt my lorde Chaunceller atte brode dore
   a litell fro the steirr fote 6

BRYNG, v.t. pa.t.broghte; pp.broght

To bring

Then they aggreed ham to bryng yn the aanswere the
   morun 14
they fayled of Hengston and broghte Copleston and
   More 46
John Germyn sholde have broght to me all most xli.
   14

BUKHORN, sb.

A fish, probably a pilchard. Stuart Moore, in his In-
troduction to the Shillingford Letters (p.xxi), gives
'pilchards' as a synonym for 'bukhern.' On p. 22, he
says in a footnote, "This appears to have been a kind
of fish. In the Receiver's Account p. 146 it is
stated that 400 of bukhorn was bought to be given to
the Chancellor. In the Household Account of the Count-
ess of Devon (State Papers, Henry VIII iii. p.1403)
amongst other fish there is an item for '6254 buckernes,
35 s. 10 d.'" Wright's EDD. defines it as 'a dried
whiting'. The word is still in use in Devon, says NED.

the bukhorn came to me bot on Candemasse yeven
(afternone somewhat) better late than neuer, which
bukhern was presented to my lord on Candemasse day 36
(NED. incorrectly gives this quotation to illustrate
the meaning 'the horn of a buck. The horn of a goat
used for blowing a blast.' The meaning 'a dried
whiting' is included later under the same article,
but the earliest quotation given is of 1602. See
BUCKHORN in NED.)

I taried and yet tary because of pe buk horn pt was
bought or y went 23
for hit hadde be a gode mene and order after spek-
yng and communication abovesaid, the buk horn to
have be presented, and y to have come there after 23

BULL, sb.

Official document or bill, in this case neither papal,
ecclesiastical, nor royal. (Not in NED. in this sense).
dyvers other bullis of supplicacions by the seide
Maier and Commynalte y putte yn be fore the seide
lordis. 26
and also considrying the bulle the whiche y pre-
presented late to my lord Chaunceller 31
Sir Rogger Kys, chanon,.....seyde that he hadde a
bulle y come fro my lorde of Excesre, that he sholde
spoke with the Mayer there to know his extent of the
seide letter 45

BUT, BUT, adv., prep., and conj.

Adv.

1. Only; merely

hit is but for defaute of connynge sympelnesse and
leydenesse of myself. 31
y hadde warnyng of my lordis comandement but the
nyght before and that late 31
we sholde forbere of arrestis but yn tyme of doyng
of divine servyse 11
thus be we uncerayne as yet of the articulis, and
almost but as we departed fro London 56
My lord answered bot litell therto 22

Prep.

2. Except

hit was desired for to have an abstynance, but none
y graunted but under this fourme 10
we wolde no thynge do bot that his gode lordship hadde
know liche of 68

3. After no more, where mod. idiom requires than.

Y seide they hadde no more but sympell Court Baron,
if they so hadde. 10

Conj.

4. Otherwise than

Also hit was never known ne seide bot that the seide
fe was a thynge by him self. 27
(Earliest quotation in NED. 1523)

5. Lest; if not; unless

bote y fere therof bot the Courte be so hard against
us 21
and bot ye dar sey so, thynke so, thynke so 23
all the longage bot hit were the lesse, was by twene
my lorde Chaunceller the Justyse and me. 20
and it sholde ende the mater but it wer lawfully answered 46

'but ye': unless, if not

they wolde not entrete but ye they hadde Hengston 46 and thatoure Recorder have knowieliche of all thyng that y have write home ye he be here as y suppose attis tyme, and but ye he be, to sende home to hym 17 and bot ye hit may be answered ellys so to make an ende 20

and but ye mowe now to come to hym ayen 31

6. However; on the contrary; but

bot when your gracious lordship so beyng enjourmed of the Kynges vyr--2

And the Justise came not there that day; but the

same Friday after mete y was with the Justise 9

By, prep.

1. With; thru

now almost every man taketh color by my lord 53
fyneth theire excuse by my Lord Bysshop of Exectre, and by theire counseyll 56

2. At

we hadde be yn debate by dyvers tymes 68

3. In

the Saterdey next ther after at vij atte clocke by

the mornyng y came to London 67

4. During, for the space of

And so they come and were yn communicacion by two
dayes 59

5. Concerning

they have spatte out the uttmyst and woraste venym that they cowde seye or thynke by me 16

6. According to

And ye the right by evidence be not declared, by
such a men, as yow seme...next to the right 69

7. By: used in oaths

and ever shall be by God's mercy 29
by my trauthe 32
8. "by cause that": for the reason that; because

makyng grete querellis by cause that he summoned the
Bysshoppis ternunts to watche 52

BYDE, v.t. pp.byden

Submit to (Latest quotation in NED. 1400)

that the partes to byde the reule of the lordis 59
the Maier and Comminalke at alle tymes have byden
alle resonable entreti 65

BYSEEKE, v.t. pa.t.bysoghte. See BESEEKE, BESEEKE

To implore, entreat, supplicate

Byseekyth yow full mykely John Shillyngford 1
also byseekyng him to yeve me leve to sywe to his
gode lordship 38
y bysoghte hym to hire myne excuse grete 6
y bisoghte hym...that y myght go apart 14

BYSYNESSE, sb.

1. Busyness; state of being busy; preoccupation

y se youre grete bysynesse is suche that ys may not
attende y
ther mette with my lord Channeller, he beyng yn
right grete bysynes 67

2. Difficulty; labor

but that ys and like to be scarce with me, consider-
ynge the bisynesse and coste that y have hadde 16

BY TWENE, prep.

Between (used of two people, and also of more than two)

all the longage bot hit were the lesse was by twene
my lorde Channeller the Justyse and me three 20
yn debate by twene my lord the Bysshopp of Excebre
the Deane and the Chapter ther, and the Maier 25
the jugement by twene Brighthon and the Glasier 53

BY TYME, BY TYMES, adv.

Betines, early (No 15th cent. quotation in NED.)

[y] cam to London on Tywysday by tyme at vii atte
clocke 3

Mayer, y moste to morun ride by tyme to the Kyng 7
and the morun Thursday by tymes he rode to Canter-
CALL, v.t.
1. To demand
How y have labored and called dayly to have the articularis delyvered. ye knowe well 55

2. To regard as
that that the Bysshop calleth his fee 52

CAN, v.i. and auxil. pa.t. coude, cowde

To be able; used both with and without complementary inf. without inf.:
y can no more attis tyme 17
Y seyde, savyng his commaundement, that y cowde not theryn 20

with inf., either expressed or understood:
y can not wyte as yet 9
they seyde they hadde no power therto, ne cowde ne ne wolde not 55
coude not fynde hym 60
Knelyng and salutyng hym yn the moste godely wyse that y cowde 6

To know
Y seide ayen, savyng his commaundement, y coude no skyll theryn ne to speke ne move of menys 9

CANDELMASSE, sb.
Candæmas Day, Feb. 2.
to entrete yn to Candel masse and lenger 22
ensele nywe bondis yn to Candelmasse next comyng 24
the bukhorn came to me bot on Candelmasse yeven 36

CANDELL TENDYNG, sb.
The time for lighting the candles, or the act of lighting the candles at nightfall

y hadde warnyng of my lordis commaundement bot the nyght before and that late, after candell tendyng 31
CARIAGE, sb.

Burden of carrying, weight

some [articles of proof] here redye to shewe and somme restyth at Excester, for grete cariage and nought yet encercled 69

CARIOURE, sb.

Messenger; bearer of a letter (No 15th cent. quotation in NED.)

he wolle ascuse hym right well by thike fals harlot his carioure 23

CAS, sb.

Situation; suit at law

'to stond on the same cas': 'to be in the same situation'

meny worthy man stondeth on the same cas 16

y hope hit shall be right well as the cas stoondeth 38

CAUSE, sb.

1. Reason

but thogh he and other labor for the right of the Cite wt true menys...hit is no cause, &c., they beth sworn therto as he is to the right of his benefice 30

he myght not be there at that day for certeyn causes 34

2. Suit, action at law

and the cause yt hit was boght for myche like to be lost 23

CEPERAT, a.

Separate. (Probably shows influence of French spelling)

they cleymeth to have the Cimteres fre, seperat fro the Cite 58

CERTE, adv. (Not without s in NED.)

Assuredly, certainly

Certe hit be seyde that that ys the cause of the breche 21
CERTEYN, a.

Stated, specified

a certeyn day limited by yow 34
he myght not be there at that day for certeyn
causes that they certeified yow therof 34

'yn certeyn': Pres. Eng. idiom 'for certain'; with cer-
tainty; without doubt

They nempted Coplestone yn certeyn 44
Y. Mayer, nempted Radeforde in certeyn 46
that the articulis that beth derke may be declared
and delyvered yn certeyn 58

CERTEYNTE, sb.

Authenticity, genuineness? or the fact of being firmly
determined upon or established?

we can noght do, yn to tyme that we have and knowe
the certeynite of theyre articulis 58

CERTIFICATT, sb.

Attestation, but here in a lesser sense: information

A letter of certificatt from John Shillingford, Maior,
of his doinges at London 17

CESSE, v.i.

Cease. Const.of: Pres. Eng. from

hit liked the kyng of his hignesse [sic] to yeve yn
commandement to the seid Bysshop to cesse of his
sute 64

CHANON, sb.

A clergyman, member of the Chapter of the Cathedral, of
which the Dean is the head

Some afterward came to the Mayer fro my seyde lord
Bysshop of Excutre Sir Rogger Kys, chanon 45
the Bysshop and his mayny, chanons, and alle men of
habite 66

CHAPITRE, sb.

The body of canons belonging to the Cathedral and dwell-
ing within the close. They are presied over by the Dean.
Edmund Bysshop of the Cathedrall Church of Excester,  
the Deane and the Chapytre of the same church  
the sayde bysshop deane ana. choitra

CHAPTRY, CHAPETRY HOUS, sb. (the spelling with y not in NED.)

The building in which the Chapter met. (Izacke, p. 75,  
says that Bishop Lacy built the Chapter House in 1439  
"in the Cloister adjoyning to his own church" and he  
describes it as a "very fair and sumptuous structure")

agreementis at home yn the chaptry hous 12  
as y sayd yn yor presence yn the Chapetry hous of  
your Cathedrall Churche of Excester 27

CHARGE, v.t.

1. To enjoin, command

Also y charge Germyn under rule and commandement  
of J. Coteler my lutenant, yt he do that he can do 23

2. To hold charges against

the Court stondeth y charged w't hym in dyvers wyse  
53

CHARYTE, sb.

Kindness, good feeling, good will

and that for the love of God and yn wey of charyte 3  
wyth more charite and lasse coste the mater to take  
summer ende by that mene 42

CHEIRE, sb.

Chair

'to take one's chair': to sit down

After that my lorde toke his cheire and the justises  
sate with hym 12

CHERE, sb. See SHERE

1. Countenance; look; expression; mood

'gode chere': pleasant expression  
with right gode longage and gode chere...excused hym 6

'laghynge or myry chere': gayety; a merry expression  
all hit was to tempte me w't laghynge chere 10

My lord with laghynge chere upon me seides hertely,  
"Grant mercy, laver" 37

and seid, with a myry chere 63
2. Entertainment, reception

ne never hadde better chere of my lorde me of the household then y hadde atto tyme. 7
how dangerous hit was to make any worthy man to come to hym at tyme for strange chere at Glist 30
how he was receyved, what chere he hadde, and how he toke hit 52

CHERY, a.

Abounding in cheerfulness. "More colloquial than cheerful: in Dr. Johnson's opinion 'a ludicrous word.'" (NED.)
(Earliest quotation in NED. 1611)
a passyng gladde man chery hardly 61

CHIEF, CHIEF, a.

Chief

yow and the two Chif Justises 1
the two chefe justises 3
Speere and y to the chief justice 7
My lord hym self furst moved the mater to the Chif Justises 12

CHILDREN, sb. plural.

'gostly children': spiritual children--those who were under the "faderhed" of the Bishop.
alle your puple and gostly children of the Cite of Exeeter 29

CHIRCHE, CHURCHE, sb.

Church (used of the building)

Edmund Bysshop of the Cathedrall Church of Excester, the Deane and the Chapytre of the same churche 1
promysed on his faith to forbere of aрестis on the Churche for certyn curis 10
and of alle other as on Sent Paull is Chirche at London 11

CIMITERE, st.

Churchyard (used as a burying-ground)

that the churche and cimitere, as that they calle
synt Stevyn is fe, is parcel of the cite 9
they cleymeth to have the Cimitere fre, ceperat fro
the Cite of Excester. 58
CIRCUMSTANCE, sb.

1. Surrounding conditions
   and all the matter, with the **circumstance** full and hole 62

2. Detail, minuteness (Earliest quot. in NED. 1509)
   hit is but a short and bys yyme consydering the grete parties and maters, with the circumstance and grete and longe communicacion that is like to be. 24

CITE, sb.

City

the mayer and the comminalte of the seyde cyte 1
rode oute of Exceter to London-ward for nedes of the cite 5
to kepe the day of apparence atte xv. of Seynt Michall as the cite was bounde to 5

CLENE, a.

1. Free from dirt
   and yn especiall **\textsuperscript{1}** ye stretes be right **clene** 23

2. Anew, free from error (Earliest quotation in NED. 1674)
   I praye yow to understonde \textsuperscript{1} well, and.....to amende ye maikynge \textsuperscript{1} erof, if nepe be, and \textsuperscript{1} en to write \textsuperscript{1} **clene** 60

CLEYM, v.t.

To assert

A nother article that they **cleymeth** to have a fee... seperat and distynete fro the Cite 58
and as they **cleym**, and as they seyn, and uttred by Hengston, of yldre yyme then is the Cite. 58

CLOKKE, sb. (cf. ATTE BELLE)

Clock

'atte clokke': 0'clock

hit was graunted at x atte clokke 49
(on same page: "At which tyne, at x atte belle")
on Tywysday by tyne at vii atte cloke 3
The morun at viii atte cloke came to the Mayer my lorde of Exceter is surveyour 46
that same day atte oon attc clokke 46

CLOS, a.

Secret, silent, close

ye seyyng if they wolde keep ham clos, ye wolde do the same, and seye to ham right noght 56

CLOSE, sb.

Precinct of a cathedral: cloister

there shold meny a priest of the close of Exceter loste his hede onys of myssomer yeven. 64

CLOSET, sb.

Private room for conference

We mette and spake wt hym yn the ymer chamber, he at that tyme beyng right tysy goyne yn to his closet. 6 and the gode chere that the Maier had yn his [the Chancellor's] closet 30

CLOTH, sb.

Fabric, hanging

my seide lorde of Exceter had no more knewlyche of the grounde of this mater then the ymage yn the cloth of areys ther 44

COKKIS BONYS, corruption of God's bones. Used in oaths

[y charge Germyn] that they be removed away for the nonys ayenst my comyng as sone as y may by cokkis bonys. 23

COLOUR, sb.

An apparent right, authority (impliedly unfounded); hence, pretence

as hit openly appereth yn your furst articulis of ye provys to have a color to the seide Churche and Cimitere by the seide fe 28

'take color by': to claim authority by; pretend connection with

now almost every man taketh color by my lord. 53

COMAUNDE, v.t. See Commaunde.
COME, v.i. pa.t.cam, came, come; pp.come

To come

but yf he wolde nedys thus come, y wt my fellowship wolde awayte apon his gode lordship 47
y rode fro Exeter on Friday and cam to London on Tywysday 3
y came to hym in Lambyth 66
What hath be seide and don sithen ye come ho(me) fro the Parlement 55
How we speade whenne we come home, hit is compre-
headed yn the olde Torsaye entr(us)cyon 55
My lorde, y am come at youre commaundement 7

COMFORT, sb.

Encouragement; cheer

[your] lordships pleasur and commaundement therto,
the whiche y wolde full fayne knowe, and come grete joye and comfort to all your puple 29
y spake wt the Chif Justis SF John Fortesoc, goynge wt hym hormward, and hadde with hym right muche gode
longage and wordis of comfort. 68

COMMAUNDE, v.t.

1. To direct, order

commanded nywe bondis to be made 27
ey any other resonable entryty that may be moved or stured or by yow commaundedy 27
Const. without to:
[he] commaundede me not fealle but kepe my dey 19

2. To commend = 'recommaunde' or 'recommende'

fonde him and seide that his Maister the Mayer of Exeter commaundede hym to hym 61

COMMAUNDEMENT, sb.

Order, direction

My lorde, y am come at your commaundement 7
as fer as y can may and thar[dar] do after youre commaundement. 21
'to yeve yn commaundement"= to command, to direct
the Maier yeve thy yw commaundement to seye--29

COMMENDE, v.t. = 'Recommaunde', q.v.

To commend: to convey greetings or best wishes
Item, that ye commend ye lorde Chaunceller yn the
most beste and trusty wyse 30

COMMUNALTE, sb.
'The people'; the commonwealth (of the city)
yn name of hymself as mayer and alle the hole commi-
nte of the seyde cyte. youre owne puple and true bed-
men 1

COMMUNICATION, sb.
Conference
noght may do, seye, aggre, ne assent without communi-
cacion hadde with my feloship 32
covenant was at London that we sholde have had a
communication 55
whiche mater hath longe tyme honged be fore tham
yn communicacion and entrety 70

COMPETENT, a.
Appropriate, fitting
at suche leysur tyme and place competent, as hit
woll like ye gode lordshippes to commaunde ham to 69

COMPREMYS, sb.
Arbitration
and so hath honged and yet hongeth yn compremys be-
fore the lordis 27

COMYN, a.
Belonging to or shared by all in common; general
as touchyng the laboure and spede ofoure comyn
mater sithen y wrote last to yow 18
The Wendisday y came to London, where was moche
longage of oure comyn mater 66
He seide as he herde it reported. Y asked of wham.
He seide the comyn voys of the Cite. 67

'comyn puple'—untitled persons
knyghtes and squyvers, and other comyn puple grete
multitude, the halle fulle 37
**COMYN, v.t., v.i.**

**Intransitive:** to talk (with), to converse; to confer

and y to the chief justyse and comyned of meny thynge

wt hym 7

[he] comyned wt my sayde felowship and me nigh by an
cure 19

**Transitive:** to tell; to speak of

my lord called the Recorder to hym and comyned hym
certyn thynge 63

and he was right mery and comyned meny dyvers maters
bothe of disporte and sadnesse 19

**COMYNES, sb.**

The 'commons'—common people, citizens of the town

the Mayor and the comynes of Exeter 61

[he] seid that the maier and alle the comynes shold
tave Cristys blessyng and his 63

**COMYN LAWE, sb.**

Unwritten law established by custom and usage. Based as
it was on precedent, and having certain fixed methods
of procedure in its courts, the common law was more like-
ly to bring about justice than was Chancery.

the mayor and comminalte...sywed unto you my lord
chanceller by supplycacion to have be discharged
and dysmyssed as the law wolde, and have hadde the
maters to have be determyned atte comyn law 2

My lorde seyd he myght not werne than ye comyn lawe,
but he seide right feith fully...he wolde consell
ham the contrary 23

how we wolde have be dysmyssed and discharged fro
them, and be atte comyn lawe and myght not 38

**COMYN PLACE**

Common Pleas. The Court of CommonPleas, held until
1875 at Westminster, was until the 16th cent. called
the Court of Common Place. (NED.)

Sir Richard Neuton, chief Justise of the Comun place
50

and anon the mater was called upon yn comyn place 62

**CONCENTE, CONSENTIE, v.t.**

Agree

all as y conceve to tempte me, and to concentte to
a mene 11
if they hadde full auctorite and power and wolde consente to menys 13

CONCEYT, sb.

Understanding; power of comprehension; opinion

the furste most specially, whiche is derke to my conceyt as yet 17
so that y have youre conceyt witte and entente to replye 17
whiche letter yn my sympell conceyt y yn alle thynges have well understonde 35

CONCEYVE, v.i., v.t.

To understand, think, suppose, believe

and we to have the viw and alle that longeth therto generally, as well on the fe as, &c. and so to make arrestis wtyynme the fe, as y conceyved hym 11
at yoR gode leysure to over se and fully conceyve 28
my seid lord woll not be long delayed yn noowise, as y veryly conceyve by hym 35
And y seye by my trwythe, as y conceve, hyt is not myche theire defaute 56
For now ther is by twene the parties, as hit is conceyved, grete gode wyll 57

CONCEYVED, ppl. a.

'well conceyved': well thought of, timely

your gode and well conceyved letter that ye sende to hym on Sonday last passed. 33

CONCLUDE, v.t., v.i.

Agree; come to a decision. Here used technically of ending a suit at law

byseykyng yow of youre gode and gracious lordshyp that the other party do the same for their part, or ellys to be concluded 3
for other wyse woll y never conclude with my gode will 11
bryngeng the matier by daylie labour to grete ripeness the sonar therby to have concluded 41

CONDUOEND, v.i.

To agree or determine together, compromise (Earliest quotation in NED. 1494)

atte last we conduoended yn this wyse: 46
CONFOURME, v.refl.
Adapt (oneself) to
they confessed ham to the same, and ruled ham and
alle theyris ther after 57

CONJOUR, v.t.
Adjure, entreat earnestly
My lorde conjured me to make an ende of this mater 20
Y conjoured my lord ayen 21
y conjured yow and ye conjured me ayen 24

CONNYNG, sb.
Wisdom, intelligence
hit is but for defaute of connyng [.] sympelnessse
and lewdenesse of myself 31

CONSCIENCE, sb.
Moral judgment. 'Gode conscience' is equivalent to 'con-
scientiousness'.
and the better to have a gode ende as lawe, resubn,
and right gode conscience requyren, he to fele aile
the metters, and so as ye suppose to be his awne
juge, and ende myche of the metters by his awne con-
science, we knowing his blessedynesse and gode con-
sience 30
considering his blessednesse holy lyvynge and gode
conscyence 44

CONSIDRYNG, pres. ppl. (also -eryng)
Taking into account. Mod. E. (exc. colleg.) inserts
that or the fact that after the participle.
considering the mater is attainyd at large in the
comyn lawes not likely by that men to be ended
lightly 42
and yet that tyme had be full shorte, considering,
55
considering his blessednesse holy lyvynge and gode
conscyence 44

CONSTRE, v.t. (Only imperative form occurs in Shillingford)
Interpret; infer; 'make of it'
Constre ye what ye will. 16
What they meneth that they wolle abyde upon theire
right and shew their evyndence constre ye. 21
constre ye alle thynges what y mene. 36

CONTENT, sb.

Contention

My seyde lordys bothe seyde that they hadde olde
recordys and evyndences to prove their content. 20

CONTREY, sb.

The people of the region round about

there is a Shirf y made and the contrey embraced
ayenst (cure) extent 38

CONTYNANCE, sb.

Face, expression

and my lord with a gladde contynance receyved the
letter 63

CONVENIENT, a.

Appropriate, fitting

that this be seide with more after your discrecyon
yn the most godely wyse and under the most best and
convenient termys as longeth to his high astate 43

CONVEY, v.t.

Conduct, escort

they seide nay, and so our counsell was by them con-
veyed and so departed fro us 46

COSTE, sb.

Expense

all that tyme he kepte his iiij. hors ym stabill
every dey redy to ride to hym grete coste. 5
considerynge the bisynesse and coste that y have
hadde 16

COURTESY, sb.

Politeness; kindness

what abstynance was of courtesy y graunted at that
tyme 20
For now there is betwixt the parties...great good will, worship, courtesy.

COURTAGES, sb. (plural)

Expenses

having with them sufficient power and the common sell and xl s. of John Shillingford, Mayer, and xx s. of John Germyn, for their courtages.

COVENANT, sb.

Agreement

Apon the deliverance of which articulis to us covenant was at London that we should have had a communication.

Y wolde have comyned with them to have breved the matter, as covenant was.

CRONICLE, v.t.

To record in history, and so to make famous.

My lorde conjured me to make an ende of this matter and yf y so didde y sholde be cronycled.

CURTEYS, a.

Courteous, pleasant

fayre, gode, gentell, and curteys longage.
DANGEROUS, a.

1. Reluctant, grudging

leste the parties signe defeute yn me, and be more worse willed and dangerous to entrete. 54

2. Unsafe? unreasonable?

and then how dangerous hit was to make any worthy worthy man to come to hym att tyme for strange chere at Clist 30

DAR, v. pa.t.darst; pp.dar

To dare; venture

Inf.

the Mayer...may not ne shall not mow dar to rule the Kynges puple after his lawys 53

Pres.

and that y dar well seye 1 y dar not seye yn to tyme that y have spoke wt my fellowship at home 11

Past

the mayor and comminalte, as they darst, sywed unto you my lord chaunceller 2 we darst so not, but wyth ryght gode wyll at alle tymes obeyed us to abyde suche rule as the Kynge... apoynted us to 2
And y seide y darst well seye that he ne none of his fellow ne none other of the Cite seid never so 65

PP.

afte tymes (the Mayor)hath not dar do the lawe and execucon thereof...apon his tenants 53
Also written 'thar', perhaps by confusion with that: 'it is needful'
y have don my part...as fer as y can may and thar do 21

DAY, DEY, sb.

1. Dawn, daybreak

y-written at London yn alle Sawlyn day afore day yn hast 17
2. A time to meet—a specified day; time. (both with and without an article)

we the mayor and comminalte hadde day to appere be-
for yow 2
y hadde a day to appere 8
yseaf no day to that other party 18
Whereapon day was assigned on Wensday next after
Passion Sunday 51

3. Adverbial uses, to show time on which or throughout which
asked yf he wolde commaunde me eny thyng to do that
dey 19
and yet y hadde waked nyghte and dey 19

DEBATE, sb.
Controversy
And yn the grete mater yn debate 32

DECLARE, v.t.
To make clear; to explain
declare hym yn especiale of vyw de Franke plegg 51
that the articulis that beth derke may be declared
and delyvered yn certeyn 58

DEFAUTE, sb.
1. Lack; fault
For yf saughte be by me otherwyse than aughte to be
done God y take to wytnesse hit is but for defaute
of conyng sympnelnesse and lewdenesse of myself. 31
God wote that it is not oure defaute 56

2. Failure to perform an obligation or to do one's part
or duty; default
and yf eny party be found in defaute 3
leste the parties signe defaute yn me 54
specially of this laste grete entrety at home, how
hit was broken up, and for right litell thyng, and
all yn oure defaute. 66

DEFAUTE, v.i.
To fail to do what is required, especially to fail to
appear in court
and sey un to hym what mon defauteth ryght by his
Item in speciall of Sr Thomas Gogh, how he is take out of Court, and the Court stondeth y charged wt hym in dyvers wyse, and Sr William Slug defauteth ryght 53

DEGREE, sb.

Rank

y was not all thyng so nye ham to hire and knowe alle thyng that was seild and comyned, for my degree was not, &c. 62

DELE, v.i.

'to dele with': to have to do with; to do business with a Comminalte whiche is harde to dele with 32

DELIVERANCE, sb.

Delivery

Apon the deliverance of whiche ar(ticulis) to us covenant was at London that we sholde have had a communicacion 55
In the same letter, Shillingford uses deleyverynge in the same sense:

And thus hit semeth that longe tarynge of deleyver
ynge of the articulis, and entreynge of the mater, hath do eyse 57

DELL, sb.

Bit, part. 'every dell': every whit, entirely and ther right radde hit every dell 63

DELYVER, v.t.

To set free

John Hussett arest a Saterday, he most be deleyvored to make my lorde's work. 53

To hand over

the olde enstruucock(ion), the whiche ye deleyvered un to my Lorde 54
the articulis were deleyvered us but a Thursday a fore Palme Sunday 55

DEME, sb. See DYME
The tithe paid to the King

he hadde sey somme of our articulis i. in especiall, one of the Demene, another of the faloun 13
Thenne as toucyng the deme, Hengston seide that he wolde right well that the deme were payed with us 13

DEMENE, v.t. and refl.
1. To deal with, manage
and how the Justise demened hit, so that the tenants wolde have come 44
2. Refl.: to be behaved, comported, conducted
whiche day we kepte and apperyd and didde and demenyd us that day and evere sythenys yn fulfyllynge of the Kynge's commandement 2
we woll be demened resonabily 28

DEPART, v.i.
To leave; part from
And so departed, &c. 8
y departed f ro yow with oute eny mony of youris 17
and so departed f ro hym at that tyme 37
ye shall remembre my Lord how ye las te departed f ro hym 54

DEPARTYNGE, sb.
Departure
sithen our departyng f ro London 56
a sadde communicacion to be had or his departyng 5

DERKE, a.
Obscure in meaning, vague
the furste most speoally, whiche is derke to my conceyte as yet 17
that the articulis that beth derke may be declared and delyvered yn certeyn 58

DERKELY, adv.
Mysteriously, vaguely
My lord hym self spake derkely of right olde chart-ers 20
DESCLAUNDER, sb.

Slander

then my lord seide some what strangely and sharply that oure articulis many were maters of noyse and desclaunter 12
grete wordes of malyce, disclaundres, longage, writynges 25 (footnote)

DESERT, pp.

Left in the lurch

so that for shortynys of tyme to answere and to artic-cle, that we be not desert, as we truste yn the favour of his gode and gracious Lordship. 58

DIFFUSE, a.

Difficult to understand; complicated by wordiness

he receyved a long and right a diffuse letter y send to hym by the Mayer of Exeetra 32 and the mater to be comyned and entreted at home, and that that was harde and diffuse, and that we myght not accorde therof 62

DISCLOSE, v.t.

To present openly; to make known

that the matter myght be disclosed before his gode lordship 30 and if they wolde eny thynde say and disclose, y wolde the same 56

DISCOMFORT, sb.

Annoyance

me to right grete anger and discomfort by my tranthe 23

DISIDERABLE, a.

Desirous of

as ye fynde the seide Maier and his feloship of the Cite disiderable and aggreyng a communicacion to be hadde 33
Mirth, jest

he was right merry and comyned meny dyvers maters
bothe of disporte and sadnesse 19
and among other y spake to my lorde yn dysporte
of the arrest of Sr Thomas Gogh and of Hugh Luccays
atte Denys place 19

DO, DON, v.t. pres.t. 1 and 2, do; 3 sing. and pl., doth;
pa.t. did, didde; pp. do, don. done, y do

I. Transitive

1. To accomplish, to effect; to perform

and as moche do therynne as may be do 12
that hit myght be don as well after as before 13
hit was right yvoll y do yf hit myght otherwise have
be 19
and there he hardly did indifferently his true
tendre and diligent labo2 and parte for the gode
appesyng and welfare of bothe parties 50

2. To render, pay; to administer; to inflict;

My lord at this tyma didde me moche worship 15
dar not do the lawe and execucon thereof 53
they have no olde grauntis of kynges, ne clayme
none allowance yn Eyere, ne instrument to do punyshe-
ment 10
the grete favo5 that y have do to men of the churche
15.

3. To produce, bring about

long tarynge of delyveryng of the articlis, and
entreyngge of the mater, hath do eyse 57
for trewly he woll no long delayes theron, bot to
do his avail when he shall se his tyma 34

II. Intransitive

To act; to proceed to do

y didde as me thought aughte to be done 9
redy to obey and don accordant to our soveraign lord
the Kynges Tirst commaundement 69

III. Causal uses

1. With object and inf.: To cause a person to do some-
thing

he woll do the seide John Copleston and William
Hendeston to be at Exeter 34

to do one to wyte' or 'to do one to understand': is 'to cause one to know, to give one to understand' (used frequently by Shillingford). 'Y do yow to understonde' has none of that semi-quarrelsome air that in Mod. Colloq. Eng. attaches to the phrase 'I give you to understand.' It means simply "I wish to inform you."

my Maister Dowrissh seid to me that he was don to wyte that my Mayster Radford and my Maistresse his wyf were yn towne 61
Furthermore y do yow to understonde y come to London on tywsday 23
down yow to understonde that y rode fro Exeatre on Fryday and cam to London on Tywysday 3

IV. Special uses

1. To do used predicatively after forms of the verb to be = to be done
   What is to do furthermore y can not yet be fedely avysed 36
2. To have to do = to have work or business
   we to have right noght to don ne make none arestis withynne his fes 66
3. Used to replace a verb just used, to avoid repetition
   the Mayer sendeth to tham to amende hit, as so they doth 57
   and if they sende to the Mayer, the Mayer doth the same 57

DOMESDAY, sb. Also written Domus Dey, domysdey

Domesday Book, the result of a survey of lands in England, made by William the Conqueror in 1086.

And y seide may, and proved hit by Domesday 10
y sende yow a rolle yn the whiche is conteyied cop-
ies of Domus Dey, copy of Eyris, of charters and
other thynges 17;
ye have aleyed for yow prove the boke of domysdey,
the whiche is no prove 28

DOUTE, sb.

Question, fear, uncertainty

for hit wolde seme if y so diide, that y hadde
doute ofoure right, where y havo right none 9
noo drede ne doute that we have yn our right 25
(footnote)
DOUTE, v.t.
To question, to fear

y doyte noght, but truste to God verily to have a
gode ende and pees 26
and doyte not ye be well remembred of that mater 42

DOUTEFULL, a.
Not likely
Const. to with inf.

the ende of the seide mater is non certyn and doute-
full to make conclusion and ende by this maner of
mene 71

DOYNG, sb.
1. Performance

that we sholde forbere of arrestis but yn tyme of
doyng of divine servys of men of habite 11

2. Transaction, piece of business

y Druell beyng present at that tyme, and at every
doyng and communicacion sithen. 46

(Endorsement of a letter from John Shill.ingford to
his fellows) "A letter of certificatt from John
Shillingford, Maior, of his doinges at London." 17

DRAWE, v.t. pa.t.drowe

'to draw oneself apart': to withdraw to one side

y, mayer, drowe me apart, and mette wt hym 6

'to draw to itself': to include

Item, declare hym yn especiale of vyw de Franke
plegge, what hit is, and as many thyngis as hit draw-
ith to hym as fer as ye can 51

DREDE, sb.
Fear, respect

therfor to speke wyth the nywe shyrf y sette hit
grete wysedome so hit be by soche a mene as be knowe
noght fro us for drede. 21

ye ne noo man conceyvyng for noo drede ne dowte
that we have yn oure right, ne y John Shillyng, for
noo drede of grete wordes of malyce, disclaundres,
longage, writynges, ne settyng up of bullis to that
entent to rebuke me 25 (footnote)
but for drede of the seide commaundement, to tham
right forfull 40
ne dar do ryght as he is sworn to for drede of my
lord 53

DREDE, v.t.

To be anxious about; to fear

dredrying my sympelnye lest eny thyng shold have passed
me the whiche yf hit sholde have be noted right well--

DULLE, a. and v.

a.: slow; v.: to make slow

to that entent to rebuke me and to make me dulle to
 labore for the right that y am sworne to, for truly
y woll not be so rebuked ne y dulle 25 (footnote)

DYNE, sb. See DEME

The tithe paid to the King

the sayde mayer abode at home... for settyng of the
kynges dyne 5

DYNE, v.i.

To eat the principal meal of the day

my lord hadde bede hym to dyne with hym that day 61
y woll awayte apyn hym there as sone as he hadde

dyned 62

DYNER, sb.

Seems to indicate the meal eaten in the middle of the day

(And for as moche as) my lord Chaunceller bade the
Justyse to dyner ayenst that same day for (oure
mater, seyyng that he sholde have a dys) of salt
fishe 9
and ther was at that day atte dyner with my lord
the 1j. chif justises 12
DYS, sb.

Dish; plate

he sholde have a dys of salt fishe

DYSHERTYNG, sb.

Depriving of inherited rights, lands, money, etc.

aswell as right meny other perilles and ynconven-
yences yn subvercion and anyntysshement of the
said Cite, and dysherityng ofoure soverayn lorde
the Kyng, and the Maier and Comminalte

DYSPLASE, sb.

Displeasure, disapproval. (Not in NED. as a substantive)

the mater to take somner ende by that mene than by
processe or rigour of lawe withoute your dysplase.

DYSPLESED, a.

Const. of: Pres. Eng. at

y was enfourmed that he was dyspleased of my late
comyng

DYVERS, a.

Various, several

Bot sythenys y have be w my lorde dyvers tymes
the Court stondeth y charged w hym in dyvers wyse

Post-positive, and declined like a French adjective:

But for myn excuses dyverses ye shall say that y
hadde warnyng of my lordis commaundement bot the
nyght before and that late

DYWE, a.

Fitting, proper

And after dywe recomendacion ye shall byseke my lord
...to have me excused of myn non comyng to Chudleigh
EASE, sb. See EYSE, YESE

Comfort, relief; 'be ease' = for pleasure (?)

the whiche communicacion was be ease and litell fruite theron 34

EFFECTE, sb.

Purport; consequence

And after the gode will, prayer, fourme, effecte, desire, and entent of the seide Maier and Commounalte comprehended yn the seide letter and bullis 26 after the effect and extent of yᵉ blessid lettre fro your lordship 50

'to take effecte': to come to a conclusion

the which mater...ys like to take effecte and gode ends 43

EFTE, adv. See AFTE

It seems that William Spere (writer of the letter in which this word occurs) probably intended to write after, for the context requires the meaning 'earlier', 'previously', 'before this', rather than 'afterward', 'again', meanings of aft given in NED, EDD, NID, and Jamieson's Scottish Dictionary. It may be that Shillingford—it is his copy of Spere's letter, and not the original which we have—miscopied the word. Another conjecture: Spere may have had a tendency to front his vowels.

Some time after April 19, 1448, Spere wrote to Shillingford:

"how that my lord Chaunceller efte, atHillary terme [Feb. 16, 1447-8], wrotte unto my lord Bysshop of Exeter, that touchyng the grete mater yn variance, &c. not with stondynge that hit be by hym tained yn the comyn lawe, yet wold conforme to entretie as efte, and the mater to be comyned and entreted at home 61-2

ELLES, ELLYS, adv.

Otherwise; by other means

bysekyng yow...that the other party do the same for their part, or ellys to be concluded 3

and bot yf hit may be answered ellys so to make an ende 20

and elles we wolde truly to have had tyme fro that
embraced, pp.

combined, joined

there is a Shirif y made and the country embraced ayenst (oure) entent 38

ENCERCHE, sb.

search, investigation

Hit asketh many grete encerchis; ffyrste, ynoure treasour at home, a monge full many grete and olde recordis 58

and alle these encerches asketh grete laboure longe tyme 58

ENCERCHE, v.t.

to search for

some here redye to shewe and some restyth at Excetre, for grete cariage and nought yet encerched 69

ENCOMBRED, ppl.a.

troubled, annoyed

of the whiche warnynge the Mayer was fowle astonden and encombred 46

DENIED, a.

having notched edges. Indented instruments were issued in duplicate, and then divided, each party having half of each copy. The parts exactly fitted together.

and that we be delievered therof by boke endented, yn shorte tyme after oure comple home 55

the articulis were delievered us...full sympelely yn paper, and afterwars, at oure prayer and request, yn parchement, but noght endented, as covenant was 55

INDIFFERENTLY, adv. See INDIFFERENTLY

impartially

yn especiall that ye be oon of thoo pryncipall endifferently to entrete 26
ENDYNGE, sb.

Composition

the which ye delyvered un to my Lorde ayenst the Mayeris wyll...ffor sympeynys of endyngge and writyngge, consideryng his high astate.

ENDYFERENCY, sb.

Impartiality, fairness

consyderyng the gode and gracyous lordship and endyfferency that they fynde yn yow.

ENDYFERENCE, a.

Just, impartial

his right grete gode gracyous and endyfferent lordship at alle tymes to us redy shewed and don. And my lord Chaunceller woll be endyfferent, we shall have a gode ende y truste.

ENDYTE, v.t.

To indict, charge with misconduct

Memorandum. Of the priestis that beth endytet. (The list of those indicted appears, evidently, in letter XX, at page 53)

ENJORN, v.t. See AJORN.

To adjourn

hit was enjorned over yn to the morun at Westminster.

ENTENTE, sb.

1. Purpose, end

the contrey embraced ayenst (oure) entent to the entente to bryve the mater ayenstoure comynge. they and alle theyris...have governed ham yn the most best, gentylly, and saddist wise, to all ententis, sithenoure departynge fro London.

2. Meaning, purport

the entent of the communicacion betwene yow and me the same boke shall prove our entent as hit is proved and pleynly appereth yn our furst answer.
after the will, desir, forme, effecte, and entente
of dyvers bullis of supplicacons 28

ENTIERLY, a.

Sincere
after dewe and entierly recommendacion with all wor-
ship and reverence 33

ENTRE, v.i.

Const. yn to
yf eny of the Maiers officers entred yn to any hous
52

ENTRETE, v.i.

To negotiate (legal) out of court

and hit is his commandement and other lorde, and
longtyme hath be, that we sholde entrete at home
30
evyn commandement to the seid parties to go
home, nywe bondis to be made and enseled yn to Can-
delmasse, and yn the mene tyme to entrete at home
to shorte the mater to youre blessed Lordis 40
The Dean sayde that they wolde not entrete but yf
they hadde Hengston 46

ENTRETY, sb.

Negotiation between parties outside of court

this blynde entrety growth of my lorde of Exctre 15
how that the Mayer and Comynes offred ham self to
alle maner resonable entrety, and a entrety hadde 62

ENY, a. and sb.

a. Any
yf eny party be founde yn deffante 5
his wellwylled and true men what eny men seye of hym
32

sb. Any persons
yf eny thyng he sholde and myght do or eny of the
Cite 49

ERLY, adv. See YERLY

Early
fro Friday yevensonge tyme yn to a Monedey erly 
yn the mornynge. 49

ESCHEWING, pres.part.

Avoiding

y most doe as y se the mater woll be ruled, ...eschewing variance, breche, throwying of, and yndying-
nacion specially 36

ESPECIALL, a. See SPECIALL

'in especiall'- in particular, particularly

yn especyall as tochynge the commandement the whiche
    y reported at home 22
and yn especiall ye stretes be right clenye and
specialle the litoll lane yn the bak side be nethe
    the flesshe folde yeate 23
and yn especyall of the wacche 52

EUGE! interj.

An exclamation of approval or commendation (NED.)
(Earliest quotation in NED. 1655)

Quasi duceret euge euge Germyn of his governaunce
    attis tyme, id male gaude Germyn. 23

EVE, v.t. See YEVE

To give. (Not illustrated in NED. except with meaning
'to become moist or damp'. Earliest quotation 1847.
However, under Eve, v2, NED has a note: "repr. yeve,
the regular (now obs.) southern form of Give." No ex-
amples are given.)

[ they wolde] hire all thynge that y wolde seye, and
eve me none answere, but reporte me. 55
God eve grace hit be gode 7
evynge yn commandement to the said parties to go
    home 40

EVER, adv.

1. Always

that the churche and cimitere; as that they calle
    synt Stevyn is fe, is parcel of the cite and ever
    hath be 9
2. On each occasion
and y traversed hym ever, and seide to hym moche thynges 14

3. Constantly
apon this mene he stiketh faste, and thoghte hit was resonable and ever asked of me divers tymes what y wolde seye therto 11

4. At any time
were the ever y didde, thogh that be to me none excuse. 16
Added for emphasis after the phrase 'as sone as'
as sone as ever he saw me a ferre, he called me to hym 18

EVERY, a. and quasi-pron.

Each; all
and all that tymes he kepeth his iiij. hors yn stabill every day redy to ride to hym grete costes 5
He seide that every man myght have of his owne ten-antis and aske no man no leve 10

Each one; every one
they hadde forbode the Byshoppis tenants every apon payn of x18 that they sholde not come to wacche 52
praynge every of them yn my name and chargyng them yn the most streytest wyse...to come to fore yow 4

EVIDENT, a.

Clear, plain
as hit is and shall be well proved by evident writ- yng, witnesse, and other wyse. 28

EXECUCION, sb.

Performance; action;
'sharpe execucion' = dispatch
as so they doth yn the beste wyse, wt sharpe execu- cion 57

'putte yn execucion' = carry out
the Mayer...may not ne shall not now dar to rule the Kynges puple after his lawys, ne putte the lawe yn execucion 53
EXSCUSE, v.t. and refl.

1. Const. of: to pardon
   to have me excused of myn non comyng to Chudleigh 31

2. Refl. Const. to with inf.: to ask exemption from an obligation or task
   and that the Maier excused hym ayenst my seide lorde Chaunceller to brynge the letter 30

3. Const. to with inf.: to set free from an obligation
   My lorde, if hit please you, ye shall have me excused to answer 11

EYSE, EISE, sb. See EASE, YESE

Comfort, relief

to brewe the mater at home ayenst our e comyng to
London at thys tyme, to my lorde esye and pleisere 55
hit semeth that longe taryng of delveryng of the articalis, and entretynge of the mater, hath do esye
at his esye and pleisere 56

EYSY, a.

Tractable; gentle

they woll wacche now wt a gode wyll, and beth gode men and esye as at Radwey 52

(In footnote, p. 52, Moore says: "Radwey was one of the Bishop's seats. The allusion appears to be to the o-bedience and good conduct of the Bishop's men there as compared to that of his men in the City.")
F

FADER, sb.

"Fader yn God": spiritual father or leader—a title given to the Archbishop and the Bishop

Unto the Ryght Reverend Fader yn God and Blessed Lord John Archbysshop of Canterbury 1
The Ryght Reverend Fader yn God, Edmund Bysshop of the Cathedrall Church of Excestre 1

FADERHED, sb.

Fatherhood—"your faderhed": an address of respect to a priest or other ecclesiastic of high rank.

whiche preserve yo[r] gode and gracious lordship and yo[r] blessed faderhed yn his high mercy. 29

FAIR, FAYRE, a.

Fine, excellent

the Mayer w't alle the worthy as ys aboveside and grete partes of the Comminalte, a fair fellowship hardly 47
fayre, gode, gentell, and curteys longage 47

FAIRE, sb.

Market; exhibit, probably of produce and livestock

yf y hadde be at home at this faire he sholde have had better stuf and other thynges 37
the grete part of the feloship was at Calston is fayre 5

FALL, v.i. pa.t.fyll; pp.falle

1. To occur; befall; chance

grete hurte and hyndryng and moche more like to fall 70

'fyll to': chanced upon (in talking) atte last fyll to mater of sadnesse 19

2. To drop

a full sike woman hardly for she hadd sore falle of hire horse. 64

FAMILIAR, sb.

A household servant
forbere of arrestys of alle men of habyte servantis familiars knewed without any fraude generally. 10 to forbere arrestys of alle men of habyte and theyre servanyts, famlyars, and bailiffs 20

FARE, v.i. pa.t.ferid

To experience good or bad fortune; to 'get on'

y fare right well 16
Y wol not dye nor for sorowe ne for anger, but be myry and fare right wel, while y have mony 16
I ferid well, had gode chere, and was yn the best wise right wel come 50

FAST, adv.

1. Nearly; almost
   'fast by' (of time): almost
   with ymne whiche ij oures and fast by oon oure they were answered 47

2. Firmly; vigorously
   he(toke me) fast by the hondes 37
   Apon this men he stiked faste 11

FAVOUR, sb.

Kindness; good will; approval

the gentelnesse and favo’ and proffers that was on the part of the Mayor and comynes 62
we wol be demened resonably with all favo’ to the pleasur of your gode lordship 28
through favoure of yo’ gode lordship, I ferid wel 50

FAYLE, v.i., v.t. pa.t.faylled, fayled

1. To default
   he commaunded me not fealle but kepe my dey 19

2. To lack (tr.)

   We faylled Radeford and broghte Beef and Douryshe 46
   'to fayle of'=to lack; to be without
   but they fayled of Hengston and broghte Copleston and More. 46
FAYNE, adv.

Gladly, willingly

my felows and y wold fayne have a gode ende and pees
the whiche y wold full fayne knowe

25
29

30

34

FAYRE, adv.

Courteously, kindly

y was by the Styward and meny other of the housholde
full fayre y bede to abide atte mete

7

FE, FEE, sb.

A fief, with rights over land and tenant vested in an
overlord—in this case, the Bishop, or the City

the churche and cimitre, as that they call synt
Stevyn is fe 9

He seide hit was a fe called of olde tyme
as touchyng the fee Radford and Coplestone beth nigh
accorded 27

FE FERME, sb.

Tenure by which land is held in fee simple, subject to
a perpetual fixed rent (here payable to the king)

he wolde make levy bothe of the Citeseyn spendyng and
the fe ferme
they seyn that they and their predecessors hilde
the seide Cite at fe ferme yn the tyme of William
Conquerour (Part II, page 106)

FEITH, sb. Also Feyth

Trust, confidence

yow that they have moste feyth hope and truste ther
yn

My lorde, ye beth lorde under hevyn, excepte the
kyng, that the Cite of Exeatre have moste feyth hope
and truste theryn

21

To promise on one's feith: upon one's honor, by one's
word

[he] promysed on his feith to forbere of arestis on
the Churche for certyn ouris
FEITHFULLY, adv.

Unhesitatingly; sincerely; with assurance

bot he seide right feith fully and sadly he wolde consell ham the contrary 23
y sey yow feithfully y shall do my part truly ther-to 35
For y ther [Draft,'dar'] seye hit feithfully, yf this rule häd be had and kept a fore this tyme, we hadde never be yn this debate 57

FELE, v.t.

Examine; sound out and weigh

he to fele alle the materis, and so as ye suppose to be his owne juge 30

FELONS, sb.

Co-workers; companions (Shillingford addresses the city officers thus in his letters, and so speaks of them)

for ye may fully conceve yt my felows and y wold fayne have a gode ende and passe 25
Worthy siris, ryghte foyne ffrendis and ffelows, y grete yow well alle 67

FELOWSHIP, sb.

The group constituting the city officers, or the leading men of the city

the Mayer wt alle the worthy as ys aboveseseide and grete parte of the Comminalte, a fair fellowship hard-
ly, wayted apon hym 47
the seide Maier and his fellowship wt their counseyll wayted apon my seide lord 49
ne noghte may do , seye, aggre, ne assent without communicacion hadde with my felowship, a Comminalte whiche is hard to dele with 32

FER, adv.

's as fer as': to as great an extent, to as great a degree as

y have don my part...as fer as y can 21
.declare hym yn especiale of vyw de Franke plegge.... as fer as ye can 51
as fer as y myghte honestly 56

FERE, v.i.

To be afraid; to be apprehensive. Const. bot
bot y fere therof bot the courte be so hard against us 21

FERFULL, a.

Inspiring both fear and reverence

the Kynges wyll, whiche was to us ryght a high and ferfull commandement 2

FERME, sb. See FE FERME and also FE

Income, rent, produce

The Maier seide waywardly he wolde do more, he wolde make levy bothe of the Citeseyn spendyng and the fe ferme 52

FERTHER, adv. Comp. deg. of fer. Also Ferther

Farther

but we woll dwelle and abide thereapoun and go no fether 9
cure articularis sho|de be answered or we proceeded any forder 12

FESTE, sb.

Banquet; sumptuous meal
gode chere and right welcomme, gode welfare, and grete festis yn the Chanons parte 57

Festival of the Church:
on Mone|ey next before the feste of Seynt Luke 4

FEYNE, a.

Esteemed; excellent

Worthy siris, ryght feyne ffrendis and ffelows, y grete yow well alle 67

FIRE, sb.

Fire

he stondying yn his estate ayenst the fire a grete whiles 37

FISSHE, sb.

Fish
(sayyng that he sholde have a dys) of salt fisshes 9

FLESSH FOLDE. sb. (Not in NED.)

yn especiall yt ye stretes be right cleane and speci-
elle the litell lane yn the bak side be nethe the
flessh folde yeate, for thyr lieth many oxen hedes
and bonys 23

FOR, prep. and conj.

Prep.:

1. Indicating the object in view; with a view to

and the cause that hit was bught for myche like to be lost 23
Wolde hit were so, for our discharge. 14

2. Instead of to with the inf.

as your worthy and approved discretion semeth best for be don 35

3. 'for my (their, his, etc.) part': as far as I am con-
cerned'

and they seide anone with gode wille, yee for theire part. 14

4. Because of

ne mygh not for shortenesse of tyme 19
he myght not speke wt ous atte that tyme for grete
bysynes 6

5. 'for to' = 'in order to'; to

he was all redy for to ride the seide londey 5
yat eny of the layeres officers entred yn to eny ten-
ment of the Bysshop for to warne eny man 44
hit was desired for to have an abstynance 10
and forto answere them hit wolde be cause of more
gracchyng and yvell wyll. 12

Conj. (coörd. and subord.)

For, because, seeing that

for hit hadde be a gode mene and order after spekyng
and communication 23
and for we wolde noght aggre but to have power to arreste chanons men servants...was only cause of brekyng up of the seide entrety 66

FOR AS MOCHE, adv. conj.
Always with as following: inasmuch as. Now written as one word.

and for as moche as my lord Chaunceller bade the Justyse to dyner ayenst that same day 9

FORBERE, v.i., v.t.
Trans.: To refrain from

and to forbere alle other arrestis 11

Intrans.: (Const. of) To abstain (from); refrain (from)

if we wolde absteyne us and forbere of arrestis of alle men of habite 10

that we sholde forbere of arrestis 11

*FORBID, v.t. pp. forbode
To forbid, prohibit

but they wer forbode apon a grete payne 44

Const. that...not

they hadde forbode the Bysshoppis tenants...that they sholde not come to wacche 52

FORCE, sb.
'to sey force': to compel

my lorde and the Justyse seyde no force to shewe [the replications] and ryg'fif many resons why. 19

FOR SO MYCHE, adv. conj.
With as following: inasmuch as; because. Now written as one word. (cf. FOR AS MOCHE, above)

the layer thought that my lord of Exeter were avysed and ruled so to come for so myche as the matter of the seide letter by my lord of Exeter was leide apart 47

FORTH, adv.
Out; forward
my lord bade to leye ham forth 13
Y went forth with hym to the myddis of the halle 37

FORTHWARD, adv.

Forward; onward (to a better state)
y have helpe ynoghe abakward and but litell forthward 23

FORTHWITH, adv.

Immediately, at once
Copleston seyde hit most be don forth with 47
and forthwith y went to Westminster 64

'forthwith anon': at once (Pleonastic)
and forthwith anon my Mayster Radford send for Henry

FORSYTE, v.t.

Forget

foryste ye hit noght, but lete hit be truly reported 59

FOWLE, adv.

Grievously; greatly

of the whiche warntyng the Mayer was fowle astoned and

FRANCHISE, sb.

Bounds; territory (given to an individual or corporation
by special grant)

Thomas Mayer ynterruptyng our franchise a Lammasse
yeven. 53

A special privilege or right granted by the King

oure ryght title and claim of franchises and liber-
tees of the seyd cyte 2

FRE, a.

Free, independent

Oon is that they cleymeth to have the Cimitere fre,
ceperat fro the Cite of Excestre 58
Worshipfull and right welbeloved Friend 42 (Form of address used in a letter from the Chancellor to the Chief Justice) Worthy sirs, ryght feyne ffrendis and ffelows 67 (Form of address in a letter from Shillingford to his fellow-officers)

A friar. Here, one of the Black Friars of Exeter

first by mene (of) Courteys the Frere, and then by writyngs.....and then by mouthe myself to my lord Chaunceller. 32

From. Used before both consonants and vowels

He adjoined hit over...fro Sonday yn to Moneday 11 Stondyng a fer fro my lorde 15 The Bysshop taried at Excetre fro Friday yevynsonge tyne yn to a Monedy erly yn the mornyng 49 ye bleissid lettre fro your lordship 50 [bysechynge] that the articulis that beth derke may be declared and delyvered yn certeyn, and of suche recorde that they be not varied fro 58 and so departed fro us that day 46

FULL, a. and adv. a.: Complete; filled

my lord asked...if they hadde full auctorite 13 and of all the mater, with the circumstance full and hole 62
comyn puple grete multitude, the halle fulle 37
adv.: Completely, fully

and when he hadde full radde hit, he kepte hit with hym stille 63

As an intensive: very, exceedingly

Bysekyth yow full mykely John Shillingford 1 the whiche y wolde full fayne knowe 29 a monge full many grete and olde recordis 58 and his wyf with hym, a full sike woman hardly 64 He, [Sir Richard Newton] a full gode man---58
FULLY, adv.

Completely, quite

oure replications both not yet fully resdy l9
for ye may fully conceve yt my fellows and y wold
fayne have a gode ende 25

FURDERMORE, conj. Also Furthermore, furthermore

Besides, in addition

seyng furthermore that he hath writen to John Cople-
ston 34
and furthermore he of his awne mocion yn the commun-
icacion aboveseid spake openly of the let-
ter 15
Furthermore, y pray yow, what reporte that ever hath
be made--56

FURST, a. and adv. Also fyrst, ferst, fyrste, furste

First

My lord hym self fyrst moved the mater to the Chif
Justises 12
he wold go fyrst (to) my lord Chief Justise 61
Fyrst, how we cam thider, and kepte oure daye 55
Fyrste yn the Chauncery 58

FYRST, sb.

Sum of money to be paid as a penalty
specially of Sr John Notte of his fyn. 53

FYNDE, v.t. pa.t. fonde; pp.founde

To discover by searching; ascertain; learn; perceive to be;
procure
Y fynde hym a gode man and well willed yn oure right 9
they fynde theire excuse by my Lord Byshop of
Exaetra 56
y coude never knowe fynde ne rede that we ever toke
a sute ayenst them 68
went to seike my Maister Radford, and fonde him 61
on grete trusete that y have fonde yn your person
ever 35
GARDYN, sb.
Garden

the tourc on the bisshoppis garden

GENTELL, a. Also Gentyll, Gentle
Courteous, polite, agreeable

Gode and gentell longage and shere y have of that other party
they and alle theyris by theyre governance have governed ham yn the most best, gentyll, and saddist wise ther was right gode and gentle communicacon

GENTILLY, adv.
Courteously, graciously

hit was seid to the Justises that the rayer was comynng, praying than to respite, &c. yn to the morum. And so they didde full gentilly.

GETE, v.t.
Obtain, secure

Y, rayer, nempted Radeforde in certeyn; Hody, Beef, or Douryssh as y myghte gete the whiche comauandement, yf they wolde ordayne and gete, the rayer wyth his felowship... wolde aggree hem

GEVE, v.t. See EVE,YEVE
To give

They were answered as God wolde geve us grace.

GLADDE, a.
Cheerful, joyous, glad

he was a passynge gladde man chery hardely onys y herde hym seye, with right a gladde spryute--
And y was right gladde of his seyyng

GO, v.i.
To go
My lord Chanoecellor therwith sodenly went right
to the justices bothen 12
And so went over the water to Temple 7

'to go apart': to withdraw

then he bade that other party goo apart 19
and made us go a part and called that other party. 21

GOD, sb.

God

'Goddes hous': the church 19
'Fader yn God': the Archbishop or the Bishop l, etc.

Phrases of asseveration; oaths; affirmations; invocation, etc., using God's name:

wo truste to God, 2; for the love of God, 3; wolde God ye hadde, 6; God y take to recorde, 6; God eve grace, 7; y sholde have Goddes blessyng, 8; with the grace of god, 13; y blessed be God, 16; ever thank-yng God and myn awn purse, 16; God be wt yow, 17;
y hope to God, 24; y take God to wytnesse, 24; aile shall be well wt ye grace of God, 25; by God's mercy, 29; for the reverence of God, 35; y truste to God, 45; prayed for the love of God, 46; God wote, 56; blessed be God, 57; God continue hit! 57;
y truste to Almyghty God and owre lady, 62; wt Godis mercy, 64; God hit forbede, 68; at the rever-ence of God, 71;

GODE, sb.

1. Property; possessions

1 li. all this of myne swne gode; wherof cometh to me no peny. 16
for all thynge is at his commandement, body, londe, and gode 58

2. 'for gode': satisfactorily

y seyyng also by these menys 'My lord, y have herd yow seye that ye and the ij Chif Justises of a rule of the Churche and Cimitera were negh accorded. He seide heresly, 'Yee for gode.' 57

GODE, a.

1. Benevolent; agreeable, pleasant, gracious

And wt right gode longage and gode chere excused hym
with his gode lordship we were almost thurgh and at an ende 37
they wolle washe now wt a gode wyll, and beth gode men 52
He, a full gode man, seide he wolde do for me what he myght godeyly. 68

2. Satisfactory; fortunate; efficient

[My lord] commended me for my gode rule at home 6
we wold have proceedt [sic] theryn to somme gode conclusion 41
[y] hadde hym at right godly short leysour 68

'gode comfort': encouragement

That day y comyned wt oure conseill of oure maters, and hadde wordis of gode comfort to spede right well 68

GODELY, a. and adv.

A.: Kindly, gracious

And wt right gode longage and gode chere yn goldeyly wyse excused hym 6
that this be seide with more after your discrecyon yn the most goldeyly wyse 43

Adv.: 1. Kindly, gracious

how goldeyly the letter was receyved 45

2. Conveniently, properly

to forbere of arestis on the Churche for certyn ouris, alle that they myght goldeyly 10
and that as some as ye may goldeyly 24
seide he wolde do for me what he myght goldeyly 68

GODEMAN, sb.

Good man

seyng of me...that y was a godesman wyse and well do my part 22

GODE WILL, sb.

1. Consent, acquiescence

'with gode will': voluntarily; willingly
y seide that fro ij. thyngis wē our e gode will we wolde never departe 9
other wyse wol y never conclude with my gode will
[we] wyth right gode wyll at alle tymes obeyed us
to abyde suche rule as the Kyng...apoynted us to 2

2. Kindly feeling; cordiality; approval
most specially of your gode and gracious lordship
to yeve your gode will and applie yoụ favr to con-
forme to the same 27
he seid hertly with right godewill, and prayed God
that ther myght be right a gode ende 57
For now ther is by twene the parties, as hit is con-
ceyved, grete gode wyll 57

GOSTLY, a.

Spiritual

grete joye and comfort to alle your puple and gost-
ly children of the Cite of Exeter 29

GOVERN, v.refl.

To conduct (oneself); behave

eny thyng that y have do or seyde or governed me yn
eny wyse...other wyse then to his pleasure 8
have governed ham yn the most best, gentyll, and
saddist wise 56

GOVERNAUNCE, sb.

Behavior, conduct

of theyr gode and sad governaunce sithenoure de-
partynge fro London 56
they and alle theyris by theyre governaunce have
governed ham yn the most best, gentyll, and sadd-
dist wise 56

GRACE, sb.

Unmerited favor; kindness freely given

God eve grace hit be gode 7
alle shall be well wē grace of God 25
GRACIAS, sb.

Grace; thanks for food. Perhaps part of the Latin phrase "gratias agere"

and anon my lord brake the letter, yeven while gracias was seyyng 63

GRACIOUS, a.

Kindly

please yours gode and gracious lordship to be remembreth the grete mater---I recommended yn to his gode and gracious lordship 6

GRAUNT, v.t.

To allow, concede

hit was desired for to have an abstynsance, but none y graunta but under this fourme 10 and what abstynance was of courtesy y graunta 20

GRAUNT MERCY, quasi-sb. (French)

'Great thanks'--sincere thanks.

My lord with laghyng chere upon me seide hertely, 'Graunt mercy, Mayer' 37

y seide to my seid lorde hit was to symple a thyng considryng his astate to seye onys graunt mercy 37

GRETE, a. and sb.

1. Important, weighty

be remembreth of the grete mater bytwene the Ryght Reverend Fader yn God, and gode blessed man yn hymself--I

2. Chief, main, most important

ye shal speke to hym for the Mayer of Penrygge, wt all the grete circumstance 53 the grete part of the feloship was at Calston is fayre 5 'the right grete' (sb.): the larger part, majority

the right grete of the parties, with theire conseille, and moche other puple beyng present 36

3. Heavy

some [evidencis] here redye to shewe and somme rest-
yth at Excetre, for grete cariage and nought yet encerched 69

GREVOUS, a.
Vexations

as tochyng the compleynettes of the maior and com-
minalte, the whiche them semeth grevous—12

GROUNDÉ, sb.

Facts at the base of; basis

my seide lord of Exceter had no more knawlyche of
the grounde of this mater then the ymage yn the
cloth of areys ther 44
yf he knyw the right title and grounde of this
mater...hit wold be cause myche the rather to be
at a gode ende 44
the grounde of their articulis was knowe be fore
or they purchased their nywe chartre of cure
Soverayne Lorde the Kynge 57

GROUNDÉ, sb.

Land, property

parcell of the towre stode upon the bisshoppis
grounde 16

GROWE, v.i. pa.t.grove

1To develop; 2to spring (from)

and all growth and is under the Kynges furst com-
mandement 51

Const. of or out of: to spring from

but, as y conceyve, ther growth myche thynge out
of co place and co person specyally 56
they and I have laboured long tyme...for the gode of
pease and sure conclusion to growe therof 41
Y of purpose mette with Sr John Wolston, of whom y
suppose growe all this untrue longage 66

GRUCCHYNGE, sb. (F. groucher: to murmur)

Complaining, grumbling, malice

forto answere them hit wolde be cause of more
grucchynge and yvell wyll. 15
Priestly garb: 'cloth'

'men of habite': priests or other clergymen

if we wolde absteyne us and forbere of arrestis
of alle men of habite servantis familiaris knewed
without any fraude generally

HALLE, sb.

1. The Guildhall (at Exeter)

This don y pray yow to calle be fore yow atte halle
the substance of the comminale

2. A large public room

Y went forth with hym to the myddis of the halle
knyghtes, squyers, and other comyn puple grete multitude, the halle fulle

3. Mansion

and my lorde spoke of his house, his halle, and the
justyse the same, how loth they wolde be to make
arestys theryn, and seyde that seynt Peter ys churche
was Goddis hous and his halle

HALWYN, Gen. pl. of Halwe (does not occur)

'Alle Halwyn Day' (Nov. 1): All Saints' Day, kept in
honor of all the saints.

y was at Lambeth with my lorde on Sunday next after
alle Halwyn day
The morun tuysday at Halwyn yeven

HAM, pron. pl.; refl. and pers.

Pers. uses

Then

y woll seye right sharply to ham therfor
my lorde was to them right sadde ne wolde hire ham
spoke no worde
so hit was granted that y sholde bryng ham
he wold streitly punysshe ham

Ref'l.

Themselves
Then they aggreed ham to bryng yn the answere the morun. 14 to whiche bothe parties at that tyme aggreed and assentid ham 51 they excused ham and wolde noght therof. 55

HAM SELF, pron. pl.; refl.

Themselves

the Mayor and comynes offred ham selfe to alle manner resonable entraty 62

HANDE, sb. See HONDE

HARDE, a.

Difficult

a Comminalte whiche is harde to dele with 32 and that that was harde and diffuse, and that we myght not accorde therof 62

HARDLY, adv.

1. Boldly, unhesitatingly, resolutely, enthusiastically

for the whiche my (lord Chaunceller cowde right grete thank)ys, and made right moche therof hardly 9 the better to ende the mater hardly with the grace of God 26

and there he hardly did indifferently his true tendre and diligent labo and parte for the gode appesynge and welfare of bothe parties 50

2. Certainly, assuredly, indeed

the Mayor wt alle the worthy as ye aboveside and grete parte of the Comminalte, a fair felowship hardly, wayted apon hym 47 he was a passyng gladde man, chery hardly 61 his wyf with hym, a full sike woman hardly 64

HARDNYS, sb.

Importunity, insistence

and so wt myche hardnys, prayer, and ynstance hit was granted 49

HARLOT, sb.

Rogue, rascal

he woll ascuse hym right well by thike fals harlot

his carioure 23
HARNEYS, sb.

Equipment, gear, harness

my ridyng harneys being at Shillyngford 31

HAST, HASTE, sb.

Haste, speed

ye shall remembre my Lorde of oure comynge haste to London 55

'yn hast': in a hurry, speedily

the seyd John a Copleston and Radford...were sende fore yn all haste. 59

y seid the wold be here yn hast 64

my lord Chaunceller send for me yn hast 66

HAVE, v.t. and auxil. pa.t.hadde, had; pp.hadde, had

1. To receive

After the recommendacion had yn the most gode\l\ly wyse..29

his privy commaundement as all tyme hath be hadde yn thes mater 32

how the counseyll...seyde hit was reson that we hadde answers to oure articulis 46

2. To hold (as, a conference)

a sadde communicacion to be had or his departyng 5

ne noght may do, seye, aggrec, ne assent withoute communicacion hadde with my feloship 32

The bishop of Canterbury unto the lord Cheff Justice for an intrety to be had. 42

Idiomatic phrases:

'to have yn mynde': to remember

To have yn mynde of a blynde entretty, and how hit hath be hadde forth thus hiderto. 49

'to have leve': to take departure; to say farewell

and thus y hadde my leve and departed fro my lord 44

'to have an end': to come to a conclusion

we wold right fayne have a gode ende with yow 27
'to have bysynesse': to be busy

That day y hadde right grete bysynesse 67

'to have at leysor': to find unoccupied

y came to my lord, and hadde hym at right godd short leysor 68

'to have over': to postpone

and so prayed my lord most specially...to have dey over yn to a mourn sic 49

Auxiliary uses:

to have be discharged and dysmyssed as the law wolde, and have hadde the maters to have be determyned atte comyn law 2

The cause of so longe taryng yn makyn of the answers hath be for right grete bysynes y't Alisaunder Hody hath hadde aboute his awne maters 3

He seyde right hertly 'May', but that y hadde governed me at home yn the most best and godely wyse 8

HED, sb.

Head, skull

for ther lieth many oxen hedes and bonys. 23

yf eny of the Mayeres officers entred yn to eny tenement of the Bysshop for to warne eny man to come to the wacche that they sholde breke his hed 45

there sholde meny a priest of the close of Exceter loste his hed onys of myssomer yeven. 64

HERTE, sb.

'with all my herte': heartily; with great earnestness, enthusiasm, sincerity

Ryght Worshipfull and wyth all my herte right wel-beloved Brother 41

the seide Juges and I woll putte to owr labour to the remedy and redresse therof with all owr hertis and power. 42

wyth assente of hys felowship fully agreyd hym ther-to, with all ther hertis 59

HERTELY, HERTELY, adv.

Heartily; cordially; earnestly (No quotation in NED. between 1385 and 1596)
He seyde right hertely, 'Nay,....and seide hertely that y sholde have Goddes blessyng and his therfor 8 all my feloship and y pray yow right hertely. 26

**HERTIS EYSE, sb.**

Peace of mind

and yf it be contynued, myche hertis eyse 57

**HEVY, a.**

Distressing

and sende hym [the Mayor] word that he is not the man that he [the Bishop] wend that he had be, the which worde is to hym [the Mayor] right hevy 30

Distressed; sorry.

and that he [the Mayor] right hevy was of his [the Bishop's] grete laboure at that tyme 48

**HEVYN, sb.**

The abode of God. 'under hevyn': in this world; on earth

My lorde, ye beth lorde under hevyn, excepte the kyng, that the Cite of Exeatre have most Icyth hope and truste theryn 21

**HIGH, a.**

Exalted, great

the Kynges wyll, whiche was to us ryght a high and ferfull commandement 2

whiche preserve yoȝ gode and gracious lordship and yoȝ blessed faderhed yn his high mercy. 29

**HIGHNESSE, sb.**

A title of dignity and honor, referring to the King

sute ynstance and laboure to his highnesse therof made 40

**HIGH TABLE, sb.**

A table raised above the rest for the honored guests or for those of highest rank

(y mette) with my lorde atte high table ende comynge
to meteward 37

HIR, HIRE, pers. pron., acc. and gen. of SHE, q.v.


his mynstral made affray apon a woman, and wold have ravasshed hir. 53
y may and purpose be at my purge, as y may right well apon my sawle of alle wymmen alyve excepte one, and of hir righte a grete while 16
his wyf with hym, a full sike woman hardly for she hadd sore falle of hir horse. 64

HIRE, v.t.; pa.t. and pp. herde, hurde (Devon.)

Hear

be not wery to over rede hir and se all the writynge that y have sende home 17
hit was my part to hire and so to reporte 9
y hirynge this, y didde as me thoght aughte to be don 9
hir all thynge that y wolde seye 55
yf y may be herde 31
My lorde, y have hurde of suche thyngis 20

HIT, pers. pron. Also IT, q.v. (O.E. Hit)

It. (Neuter pron., 3d pers., sing.) Used far ofteren than hit. Even the Archbishop uses hit.

that hit please youre gode and gracious lordship 1
hit was not my part 20

HOLDE, v.t.; pa.t.hilde, held
Maintain
'to hold one's owne': to maintain one's side (of a question, etc.) creditably

Y hilde myn awne. 20 (No quotation for idiom in NED. between 1330 and 1526.)
'to hold one's way': to go on in the same route

Richard Druell wt other held his way 5

HOLE, a.

Whole, complete

alle the hole comminalte of the seyde cite l
and of all the mater, with the circumstance full and hole 52
HOME, sb. (used adverbially)

1. Towards or at home
   the tydye that y have sent home to yow
2. "at home": in the town where one dwells
   the matter to be comyned and entreted at home
   the Bysshope of Excestre hath write unto the Kyng
   of this entryty hadde at home

HOWNARD, adv.

In the direction of home

Afterward y spake wt the Cheif Justis Sr John For-
tesceu, goyng wt hym howward

HONDE, HANDE, sb.

Hand

he raised hit as hit plesed hym wt his owne handys
y offered my candelle (to my lord is) blessed
he (toke me) fast by the honde
'to their hondes': ready for them
to shorte the matter to their hondes

HONESTLY, adv.

Honorably, properly

as fer as y myghte honestly y have called upon al-
mast dailly to have the articulis delyvered

HONG, v.i.; pp. honged

To remain unsettled (Earliest quotation in NED. 1494)

and so by longe tyme hath honged and yet hongeth
yn compromys be fore the lordis.
the maters betwene my seide lord... and the seyde
Maier and the Comminalte of the said Cite hongyng
the grete matter yn variance that by long tyme hath
honged betwene the seid Bysshop, Deane and Chapitre
and the Maier and Comminalte

HONG, v.t.

To desire, to 'hanker' after (Earliest quotation in
NED. 1672)
Hengston honged sore to have a leta and a grete courte, and y traversed hym ever 14

HONGYNG, pres.part. and prep. (Not in NED.)

During, pending

My lord at this tym e didde me moche worship, and openly...commanded me for my gode rule at home, and yn especiall for the grete favo f that y have
do to men of the churc h, hongyng this debate 15

HORS, HORCE, sb. Pl.hors

Horse

all that tym e he kepte his iiij. hors yn stabill
every day redy to ride 5
my hors bare and my ridyng harneys being at Shill-
yngford 31
his wyf with hym, a full syke woman hardely for she
hadd sore falle of hire hors e. 64

HOUS, sb.

House

yf eny of the Maiers officers entred yn to any hous
...that the tenant sholde breke his hed. 52

'Goddys hous': the church

they spake of Goddys Hous Seynt Peter ys churche of
Exectre 19
they seyde that seynt Peter ys churche was Goddis
hous and his haile 20

'chaptry hous! building adjoining the Cathedral; here
the Chapter held its meetings

aggrementis at home yn the chaptry hous 12
as y seid yn yo presence yn the Chaptr y hous of
yo Cathedral Churche of Exectre. 27
they were assigned to come be fore hym yn the
Chapitre hous of Seynt Peteres. 49

HOW, adv. and conj.

In what way or manner

how and under what fourme hit was don of olde tym e,
how sithenes, and how now 13
And how hit may please you to do in yo, y pray you
to s(ende) hit me yn writyng 25
'how that': that, or how. Used to introduce a noun clause after verb of saying, etc.

Item ye shall enforme me lorde how that ye sende his letter to my lord 45
he seid...how that my lord Chanceller ofte, at Hillary terme, wrotte unto my lord Bysshop 61

'how that ever': however; in whatever way (that)

for this cause most specially that ye, how that ever ye do, sende me xx li. 17

HURTE, sb.

Harm

the whiche hath ben to the seid Mayer and Commin-
alte right grete labour, trouble, vexacion, coste, lost, and other right grete hurt and hyndryng 70

HYM, pron. Acc. of HE. Refl. and pers.

Him

Pers.

when y come thider to hym 7
Y fynde hym a gode man 9
Y, mayer, prayed hym of oo a worde 6
all that tyme he keppe his iiij. hors yn stabill every day redy to ride to hym grete coste. 5
he came and labored yn his awne person...to hym grete unyse 65

Refl.

And w right gode longage and gode chere yn gode wyse excused hym that he myght not speke w ons atte that tyme 6

= it

Item, declare hym yn especiale of vyw de Franke pleeg, what hit is, and as many thyngis as hit drawith to hym as far as ye can, the whiche no lerned man can well declare, ther beth so many. 51

HYM SELF, pron. refl. and emphatic

1. Himself

yn name of hymself as mayer 1
and then he hym self and the Justyse moved of menys dyvers 20

'by hym self': alone

he coude not cayne with hym sodenly and with so
short avys and by hym self 48

= Itself

Also hit was never known ne seide bot that the seide fe was a thyng by him self, and the seide Church and Cimiteres another thyng by him self 28

HYNDRYNG, sb.

Detriment

bot now hit is like to faille to hyndryng. 23 right grete labour, trouble, vexacion, coste, lost, and other right grete hurte and hyndryng 70
I, pers. pron. See Y

I. 1st pers., sing. Usually written Y.

I grete you well alle 18
so I may say 23

IF, YF, conj.

1. If

for hit wolde seme if y so didde, that y hadde doute
of cure right 9
if they so hadde, let hit be shewed 10
And y seide, 'Yf eny suche be, let tham be leide
apart' 13

2. Whether

Then my lord asked furste of that other party if
they hadde full autorite and power and wolde con-
sente to menys 13
Our counseyll asked yf they sholde eny lenger tary
for the mater; they seide nay 46

INDIFFERENTLY, adv. See ENDIFFERENTLY

Impartially, justly

he hardly did indifferently his true tendre and dil-
egent labor 50

INQUIRE, v.t.

To inquire. Const. as for Pres.Eng. for

Y william Spere inquered as for John Afield 61

IT, pers. pron. See HIT


and it sholde ende the mater but it wer lawfully
answered 46
and yf it be contynued, myche hertis eyse 57
J

JHESU, sb.

Jesus

And almyghty Jhesu have yow ever yn his kepynge. 42

JOYNTE, a.

Participated in by two or more

the seyd John a Copleston and Radford, by two
joynit lettris, yn name of the seyd Mayster Harry
and the seyde Mayer, were sende forre yn al haste. 59

JUGE, sb.

Arbiter, judge

and so as ye suppose to be his owne juge 30
to abide the rule of the seide jugis 64
KEPE, sb.

Attention, notice

'to take kepe to': to pay attention to; to notice

They were but litell y radde ne take kepe to 13

KEPE, v.t. pa.t.kepte; pp. y kepte

To maintain

my lord of Exeter is tenantis were sommed to come and kepe the wacche and the peas and came not 44
Nerthelez the peas by the mayeres rule well y kepte

'to kepe a day': to fulfill an appointment

to kepe the day of apparence atte xv of Seynt Michall as the cite was bounde to 5
howe we cam thider, and kepte oure daye 55

KEPYNG, sb.

Care, custody

the which have yow ever yn his gracious kepyng 35
of God, whiche have yow yn kepyng. 25

KERNELL, sb.

Usually in plural, as in quotation given here: battlements

they menyng by a wall and kernellis stondynge withoute the towre and thiknye of the towne walle 16

KNawe, v.t. See KNOWE

KNELE, v.i. pa.t.kneled

To kneel

y yn the courtes and by the dore knellyng and salutyng hym yn the moste godely wyse that y cowde. 6
y knellyng adoun oferyng my candell. 37
and bothe parties with their conseill kneled before 12

KNOWE, KNAWE, v.t. pa.t.knywe; pp.knowe,knaue,knowed,

known, y knawed

To know; to be informed of; to have knowledge of
as your wysedom knowyth well 42
y have don my part as y truste to God ye shall
knowe 21
we knowynge his blessedmysse and gode conscience 30
y, Layre, seide y knewe well and was spoke to of
suche a communicacion 14
Also hit was never known ne seide bot that the
seide fe was a thyng by him self 27
y seide if any suche writyng were knowne and proved
by my seide Lorde...we moste nedys and with right
gode will wolde abide hit 66
He asked of our party aduers theire bokis: they
wolde be knowne of none yn no wyse. 12
so hit be knowne to the pleasure of my seid lords
above said 27
The whiche evydences so showed and right proved con-
ceased and knowed we the Layre and Commynale lowly
besaek yow....so to procede 72
the cause not knowned to us yn no wise 60
the grounde of right y knewen yn bothe parties 43

KNOWLICHE, KNOWLYCHE, sb.

Information; knowledge

my seide lorde of Exeeter had no more knowlyche of
the grounde of this mater then the ymage yn the
cloth of areys 44
'to have yn knowliche', 'to have knoweliche of':
to be informed of
ye shall have the maters of bothe parties yn knoweliche 3
let us have yn knoweliche why ye wol not. 40
that our Recorder have knoweliche of all thyng that
y have write home 17

KNYGHTE, sb.

Knight

the i.j. Chij Justises, and other lordis, knyghtes,
and squyers and other comyn puple 37
LABOURE, sb.

Effort, work, trouble; work accomplished, progress

And ye ther be any poynte of grete difficultee or travers, the seide Juges and I wol putte to owre labour to the remedy and redresse therof 41 that mater...wheryn ye for your part have hadde grete labour 42 and as touching the laboure and spede of oure comyn mater...y was at Lambeth with my lorde on Sunday 18 he was right well pleased of all my laboure at home 22

LABOR, v.i.

To strive, work; to advocate or urge strongly

for they have labored strongly and sayeth may 21 the whiche maters by yr menys so labored un to the highnesse of our sovereyn lorde the Kyng was brough yt and so by longe tyme hath honged 27 Furst he reherced...how hit hath be labored aynest us duryng the tyme of this entretey 38

LACHYNGE, a.

'laghynge chere': gayety; good nature; pleasantness

all hit was to tempte me wt laghynge chere. 10 My lord with laghynge chere upon me seide hertely, 'Graunt mercy, Mayer.' 37

LAKKE, v.abs.

To be wanting or missing. The intr. verb now occurs only in the pres. part., lacking.

And ye any thyng lakke we buth redy perfourme hit.3 (Note use of inf. without to after redy.) and if any thyng lakke they beeth redy to perfourme hit as they seyn 40

LAMMASSE, sb.

Lammas Day is Aug. 1

Thomas Mayer ynterruptyng our franchise a Lammasse yeven. 53

LARGE, a. and sb.

a.; Full, copious, diffuse (Earliest quotation in NED. in this sense 1477)
with other larger words of the same in the Mayers letters comprehended. 33

sb. in phrase 'at large', or 'a large': independently, wholly; at liberty; completely

And as nowe we wold have preceded theryn to somme gode conclusion; and the matier is attained at large yn the comyn lawe: We pray yow...that...yow like to putte the matier to take somer effectuall ende by entrety and yntercommunicacion than by rigour of the lawe. 41

y pray yow, considryng the mater is attainyd at large in the comyn lawes not likely by that mene to be ended lightly,...yow like at this tyme yn your beyng ther to move and endue my seid Brother and alle parties to putte the mater yn entrety at home 42

They wolden not therof yn no wyse, but seide that thei were discharged and dymysed by the lordis, and so at large, and that they wold sue ne have a do ther no more. 60

at whiche tyme the seide mayer and communalte wolde full fayne to have be dysmysed a large and the mat- er to have be determyned atte comyn lawe 40 they beeth varyd fro the seide commaundements and suyth a large atte comyn lawe 40

LASSE, a. See LESSE also

Less, smaller

trustying as me semyth fully wyth more charite and lasse coste the mater to take sonner ende 42

LAST, a. and adv.

a.: Most recent

what the departyng and how at the laste terme was a fore my seid lord...my seide lorde...is fully en- fourned 33

adv.: Most recently; latest

on Sunday last passed 33
on Sondey that last was 70

LATE, adv.

Lately, recently

Like yow to be remembred of the speche and communica- tion that was late betwene yow and me 24
the bulle the whiche y presented late to my lord Chaunceller 31

IADDE, pp. (inf. does not occur in Shillingford)

'ladde forth': conducted

To have yn mynde of a blynde entretys, and how hit hath be ladde forth thus hiderto. 49

LEFTE, ppl. a.

Discontinued

all nyght wakynge, yvell longage, visagynge, sholdryng, and all riatory rule, is lefte 47

LENGER, adv. Comp. of long

Longer

to entrete yn to Candel masse and lenger 22
ensele nywe bondis yn to Candelmasse next comyng,
and lenger yf the parties wolde 24
Our counseyll asked yf they sholde any lenger tary for this mater 46

LESE, v.t. (Only the inf. of the strong verb occurs. The pp. of the weak verb is used. The two verbs seem to have become morged.)

To lose

but we have be forced thereto by yo Articulys of Complaynytes and other actes of the same, or elles to lose our right 27

pp.

there shold meny a priest of the close of Exceter loste his hede guns of myssomer yeven. 64
and the cause yf hit was boght for myche like to be lost 23

LESSE, a. See LASSE also

Here used substantively: the smaller part

all the longage bot hit were the lesse was by twene my lorde Chaunceller the Justyse and me. 20

LEST, conj.

For fear that, lest

dredyng my sympe lynys lest any thyng shold have passed me—32
y wolde noght hit were y-knowe that suche writynge

cam fro me, leste the parties signe defaute yn me 54

LETE, v.t.
1. To allow. Const. with active infinitive without inter-
vening pronoun makes the infinitive passive in sense

and y seide and ['if'] he wolde so [,] he wolde not

lete calles so fervently atte barre apon the Mayer and

the Comines 64

2. To cause. 'to lete have yn knowleche': to cause to

know; to inform

ellis to conswer the Kynges commandement and our

rule, and to lete us have yn knowleche why ye woll

not. 40

3. Used as an auxiliary followed by an infinitive, to

form an imporative phrase

foryete ye hit noght, but lete hit be truly report-
ed as fer as hit comyth to youre mynde. 59

and if that they so hadda, lete hit be showed 10

LETE, sb.

Leet: a court of record which lords of manors were em-
powered to hold annually or semi-annually. In the Let-
ters, it seems to be a court held by the city for pros-
ecuting minor cases.

they have no olde grauntis of kynges, ne clayne

none allowance yn Eyere, ne instrument to do pun-

ysshement of that that longeith to a lete 10

Hengston honged sore to have a lete and a grete

courte, and y traversed hym over 14

*LETTE, v.t. pp. ylette

To hinder

y reherced iiij. yn especiall, one of the Dyme,

another of the feloun that toke the bishoppis fe,

and afterwa.rds of the churche, and the coroners

ylette 13

LETTER, LETTRE, sb.

Letter. To his council, Shillingford writes letter; to

to the Chancellor, he writes lettre. (Cf. his use of mater
in writing to his fellows, and matter in writing to the Chancellor).

'Letter'
(Worthy Siris, as yn the other letter &c. y grete yow well alle. 8 (Shill. to his fellows)
the morun Soneday apon the makyng of this letter 21 (Shill. to his fellows)
a letter the whiche y have sende to William Hengston 25 (Shill. to Dowrish)
my lorde Chaunceller gretheth hym well and sendeth hym the letter 29 (Instr. from Shill. to his Deputy)
(Many more examples could be given here)

'Lettre'
how hit pleased yo' gode and gracious lordshippe...
to write a lettre 50
(Shill. to the Chancellor. The spelling lettre occurs four times in this letter.)
al thing comprehendid yn yo' lettres 50

Permission

He seida that every man myght have of his awne tenantis and aske no man no leve. 10
we were fully avysed, with leve of his gode lordship, onys to smyte 68

'to yeve leve': to permit
also bysekyng him to yeve me leve to sywe 38

Departure, departing

'to take leve' or 'to have leve': to depart; to say farewell
y ther toke my leve of hym 6
and thus y hadda my leve and departed fro my lorde 44
After this we toke our leve 38

'leve takyng': departing
and y yn my leve takyng seyyng (these) wordis 38

Rather, better
the rather the levere= 'the sonner the better' (24)

LEVY, sb.
Assessment

he wolde make _levy_ bothe of the Citiesyn spendyng and the 10 ferme 52

LEWDENESSE, sb.

Ignorance

For yf aughte be by me otherwyse than aughte to be done God y take to wytnesse hit is but for defaute of connyng sympnelnesse and _lewdenesse_ of myself. 31

LEYE, v.t. pa.t. leide

To lay, place; 'to leye forth' = to present

And my lord bade to leye ham forth; and so we didde

the articulis 13

and leide their iiii. heddys negh to geder and comyned to geder right privly a grete while 12

*LEYE, v.t.; pp. leyde

To allege; to cite (No quotation in NED. between 1387 and 1481)

But now late this last terme ye have supposed and

leyde the seid fee Churche and Cimitere to be con-

joyntly contrary to yo' first clame 28

Dourissh acquytted hym well, and leyde meny mys-

chyffys 20

LEYSUR, sb.

Unoccupied time, ease; opportunity afforded by freedom from occupation; time for deliberation

y was at Lambeth with my lorde on Sunday next after alle Halwyn day and spake with hym at gode leisure 16

and praying that ye desyre his gode leysur now, and but yf ye move now to come to hym ayen. 31

the which mater...by leysur ys like to take effecte and gode ende. 43

LIE, v.i.

To lie; to remain; to be

for ther lieth many oxen hedes 23

'to lie yn myschif': to be in danger, to be liable to harm

Item, of William Hampton, he remayneth by way of execu-
cion contrary ayenst y^2 lawe as hit is supposed, and _lith_ yn grete myschif. 53
LIGHTLY, adv.
Easily; nonchalantly, carelessly

considryng the mater is attainyd at large yn the comyn lawe not likely by that mene to be ended lightly 42

Then seide Hengston lightly as touchynge settynge and kepyng of the mony of the deme---13
Y seyde to Hengston as lightly ayen, 'As sone hit sholde be replied and truly' 13

LIKE, a.

LikeLy. Const. to with inf. (Earliest quotation in NED. 1563-85)

He is like as ye conceve to have the grete rule yn this mater
and also they spake to hym of a sute like to be take by ye B. D. and C. &c. 22
and the cause yt hit was bough for myche like to be lost 23

LIKE, v. impers.

To please
1.'(that) yow like': ' (that) it please you'
   We praye yow as yet that...you like to putte the mater to take some effectuall ende by entresy 41
2.'(that) hit like yow (hym, etc. )': ' (that) it please you'
   And therapon that hit like your gode and gracyous lordship to make and ende 3
   hit liked the kyng of his hignesse [sic] to yeve yn commande...64
3.Impers. 'like yow (with inf. )': 'Please (to)
   and like you to knowe that y have write to Copleston 28

LIMITED, ppl. a.

Appointed, set.

a certyn day limited by yow and by my seid lord for to commune for the gode ende to be hadde 34

LITELL, a.

Trivial, small

and specyalle the litell lane yn the bak side be nethe the flessh folde yeate 23
how hit was broken up, and for right litell thyng 66
'a litell' (adverbial): at a short distance
there mette w't my lorde Chaunceller atte brode dere
a litell fro the steire fote 6

LONGAGE, sb.
Talk; conversation; speaking; words
and w't right gode longage and gode chere in godely
wyse excusedy hym 6
Gode and gentell longage and shere y have of that
other party 21
[they] came ym before my lord Chaunceller the morun
Monsday, and nywe moved hym w't moche longage as
tochynge the sute aboveside. 23
'to make wayward longage': to speak boldly or obstinately
Wherapon the Mayor made right grete wayward longage
to tham. 32

LONGE, adv.
Slow, long in coming
Sr John Wolston came to me and asked why ye were so
longe 64

LONGE, v.i.
To belong
all thyngs that longeth to oure part for to do 3
under the most bes and convenyent termys as longeth
to his high astate 43

LORDSHIP, sb.
From the meaning 'actions peculiar to or characteristic of a lord', lordship has come here to signify 'kindness', 'favor'.
thankyng hym of all his ryght grete gode gracyous
and endyfferent lordship at all tyme to us redy
showed and don 43
cause to knowe the better the gode, gracyous, and
favorable lordship that my seyde lord Chaunceller
hath showed and don 44

'Your lordship': a title of respect used in addressing a lord. Shillingford also uses the plural.
that hit please youre gode and gracyous lordship to
be remembred of the grete mater...1
The whiche with many other thyngs shall be redy to
be shewed before your gode lordships yf hit please
you. 28

LOST, sb. (The addition of the final -t may be due to the
influence of the preceding word, coste.)

Loss

to the seid Mayer and Comminalte right grete labour,
trouble, vexacion, coste, lost, and other right
grete hurte and hyndryng 70

LOTH, a.

Loath, unwilling, averse

and as loth as they were to answere 14
My lord was loth thereto and the justises bothe. 12
how loth they wolde be to make arestys theryn 20

LOVE, v.i.

To be on friendly terms

He seide, "God hit forbede, then sholde ye never
love, and that were pyty" 68

LOWLY, a. and adv.

Humble, meek

how that he obeyed hym yn the most lowly wyse to
all entrety resonable 65

Humbly, meekly

the Mayer and Comminalte lowly besoke yow...to pro-
ceede 72

LUTENANT, sb.

Deputy

y charge Germyn under rule and commandement of J.
Coteler my lutenant...23
To John Coteler, lutenant 39

LYE, v.i. pa.t.legh

To tell falsehoods

Also y charge Germyn...pt he do that he can do, braule,
bragge and brace, lye and swere well to 23
as Germyn, that never legh, tolde to me verily 23
MACE, sb.

A staff carried before the Bishop or the Mayor as a symbol of office and authority.

Byiskeyng to be remedied, and also of beryng of the MACE wyout Westyeat 53

MAISTER, MAYSTER, sb.

1. 'My Master' (with or without the name) used as a term of address, usually with some degree of respect. It is now superseded by 'Mister' (Mr.) without the 'My'. In Blackstone may be found this interesting explanation of who should be called 'master': "As for gentlemen, says Sir Thomas Smith, they be made good cheap in this kingdom: for whosoever studieth the laws of the realm, who studieth in the universities, who professeth the liberal sciences, and (to be short) who can live idly and without manual labour, and will bear the port, charge, and countenance of a gentleman, he shall be called master, and shall be taken for a gentleman."

by my Mayster ys avis 61
when y came ayan my Mayster Dowrissh seid to me that he was don to wyte that my Mayster Radford and my Maistresse his wyf were yn towne 61
my Mayster Dowrissh lefte all his awne bysynesse, and went to seike my Mayster Radford, and fonde him and seide that his Mayster the Mayer of Exeter commandeth hym to hym 61
Maister Rogger Kys and y 24
Maistere Harry Webber 59

2. Sir—used in a letter addressed to a person about of equal rank with the writer

My right reverend trusty and singular masteer 53

MAISTRESSE, sb.

Mistress (title of address)

my Mayster Radford and my Maistresse his wyf were yn towne 61

MAKE, v.t.
To cause to exist; produce

1. Const. to: to cause (to do something)

how dangerous hit was to make any worthy man to
come to hym att tymes 30
y went ye hast and made Dowrissh to come to hym
to Paulis 63

2. To do

John Hussott arest a Saterdey, he most be dely-
vered to make my lorde works. 53

3. To appoint

so that ther is a Shirf y made and the contrey em-
braced ayenst (oure) entent 38

4. To give; offer

seyde that seynt Peter ys churche was Goddis hous
and his halle, &c. and made meny reasons to bryng yn
abstynce [sic] of arrestys. 20

5. To create, begin

makyng grote querellis by cause that he somned the
Bysshoppis teneants to watche 52

6. 'to make longage': to speak. However, it is more
forceful than 'to speak'.

Wherapon the Mayer made right grote wayward longage
to them. 52

7. 'to make moche of': Pres.Eng. (colloq.) 'to make a
fuss over'; to exclaim over (something admirable,
praiseworthy, etc.)

for the whiche my (lord Chaunceller owde right
grete thankys and made right moche thereof hardly 9

MAKYNG, sb.

Composing, writing

so long taryng yn makyng of the answers 3
and that other party to be before my seide lورد
the morun Sonesdy apon the makyng of this letter 21
After makyng of this letter y receyved a Copy of a
writte ayenst John Hulle 38
MAN, sb. pl. men

1. man

This don ye pray yow that ye have a gode man sende to me ye hast. 4
He seide ayen, 'Ye didde theron as right a wise man' 11
Ye especiall for the grete favo't that ye have do to men of the churche 15

2. Tenant, follower.

Forest seide yt ye seyd Sr Thomas was my lordes man. 55

3. Servant—a formula of deference to a superior
and the sympleayer his man and the comminalte of the seyde Cite 43
recommende the layer and the comynes of Exeter to his gode lordship, as his men and pore bedmen 61

4. (Indef.) One, a person; 'every man'—every body
In plural, 'people'

He seyde that every man myght have of his awne tenantis and aske no man no leve. 10
hardly alle men were beece to avoyde that chamber saaf the lordes 7
all the as well as hit was wont to be, and as y suppose with laboure and other thyng that longeth therto, ye men wyll be better may be. 66

Idiom with omission of article: meny worthy man stondeth on the same cas 16

MANER, sb.

Kind, sort

Const. of doubteful to make conclusion and ende by this maner of mene 71

Without of the layer and comynes offred ham self to alle maner resonable entrye 62

'yn maner': 'so to speak'
yssyusys were yn maner assessed at vij li. as for the two writtes 64

MANLY, adv.

Openly, boldly, courageously
so that they say manly yee and nay yn suche pontes
as yow thynke to be done

This especially colloquial bit is characteristic of
the outright Mayor, who so frequently said boldly
"yee" and "nay" as he 'thought to be done'.

MARKE, sb.

A mark was an Anglo-Saxon coin worth, according to Funk
and Wagnalls, about $3.25.

the Bisshop to have his courtis of his awne tenantis
and to holde plees of gretter somme thenne Court
Baron xl s. and speake of xl. marke. 11

MASSE, sb.

Mass, celebration of the holy communon

That day was y at Lambeth with my lorde at masse 37

MATER, MATIER (Fr.), sb.

Subject of discussion; affair

that hit please youre gode and gracyous lordship to
be remembred of the gret mater bywene the...Bys-
shop.....and the mayor and the comminalte...l
settyng of the kynges dyne, comyn of Trevylian,
and other gret materes toching the cite 5
to putte the matier to take soner effectuall ende
by entretay 41
that mater whiche long tyme hath abiden yn travers
41

MAY, v. pa.t. myght See NONE

1. Can

And yet yf hit may be seye how by my lordis privy
comandement y may more do y shall the utmyst as
me aughte do 32
he myght not be there at that day for certeyn causes
34
and said the were comyng and wolde come, as sone as
ye myght. 62
and somme of the comynyng y herde, but all y myght
not 63

2. To be allowed
how we wolde have be dysmyassed and discharged fro
them, and be atte comyn lawe and nyght not 38

3. Must

my lord take hit (wolle) seyyng, 'Hit may not be so; assigne ya a tymfe the parties to be called, a
rule to be sette, so that hit shold be amendyd 38

ME, pron., pers. and refl. Acc. of pron. y

Me

Pers.

Thomas Montagew sholde sende me xj li. and odde
mony 16

asked yf he wolde commaunde me anythyng to do 19
y shal the utnymet as me aughte do 32
he seide me that there were many wylde and unreason-
able felows of the Cite of Exectre. 64
y receyved a letter y send to me by Harry Dobyn 35
Refl.

yn thes mater how y sholde have governed me 32

MENE, sb.

1. Way; means; method

for hit hadde be a gode mene and order after spekyng

and communication 23

2. Terms upon which settlement can be made; compromise

y conceyved that my lorde wolde move of no nyre
mene. 20

My lorde Channeller wolde that y sholde myve of
menys. 20

and then he hym self and the Justyse moved of menys
dyvers, and atte the laste my lorde moved of this
mene to forbere arystys of alle men of habyte and
theyre servantys, famylyars, and bailiffs 20

3. Instrument, agent

The seide Mayer seide to hym ayn that he cowde no
skyll to speak entrete me uttre no mater to my
seyde lord Bysshope by mene 45
trustyng to God and our Soverayne Lorde the Kyng.

...to be gode mene therto 58

4. Intercession; mediation; agency
nerthelez better accorded hadde by mene of Thomas Cook 5
So that William Beef be oon with yow by your speciall meene to be brogh sic yn 26
y have do my dayly labour yn all wyse, aswell here at home as at London, and to my lord Channeller specially, furst by mene (of) Courteys the Frere,

MENE, v.t.
To signify; to imply
What they meneth that they woll abyde apon theire right and shew theire evyndence constre ye. 21
the grete venym that they menyth of my lyvyng 16

MENE TYME, sb.
The time intervening
and yn the mene tyne to entrete at home 24

MENY, MANY, a.
Many
y have right meny thyng to enfourme yow of yf y hadde tyne 6
Y was by the Styward and meny other of the housholde full fayre y bede to abide atte mete 7
for ther lieth meny oxen hedes and bonys 23

MERILY, MYRYLY, adv.
Jestingly, gaily
my lorde seide furste merily of Vaspasianus 12
And y liyng on my bedde atte writyng of this right yerly, myryly syngyng a myry song 16

MERVAILL, sb.
Wonder
no mervaill thogh y be wery 17
to yow grete mervaylle if hit be so 40
the Mayor was fowle astoned and encombred, and seyde that this was grete mervaill to hym 46

MERVAILL, v.i.
To wonder; to be struck with surprise
Const. that with noun clause
mervailling moche... that ye ne hadde sende to me
sithenesse some mony 17
and the Justises mervaillynge that the Mayor came
not 64

METE, sb.
A meal
The chief meal—dinner

y wolde have be w† my lord †t same day tymely y noth
afore mete 23
That same day y abode there to mete by my seide
lordis comandement 37

Breakfast

prayed hym to be w† hym that morun atte mete 18

METE, v.i. pa.t.mette Also Myte (see below)
Const. with: to meet; to assemble (meet with)

they came to Sheftesbery and there mete w† Rich-

and w† me Dowrissh and Speere to myte and speke w†

(y mette) with my lorde atte high table ende comyng

to meteward 37

METE TYME, sb.
Meal time

This same day Wendisday, as sone as y was come to
towne ayenst mete tymé, my lord Chaunceller send
for me yn hast. 66

METEWARD, adv. See -WARD
To a meal, or toward the table

(y mette) with my lorde atte high table ende comyng
to meteward 37

MEYNY, sb. (Fr.) (O.F. mesnée, 'household')
Retinue of attendants; servants

How hit was y take and what stronge chere was hadde
of the meyny y pray yow to reporte. 48
afte tymes (the Mayor) hath not dar do the laws and
execucion thereof... apon his tenants, mayny and other
MOORE, a. and quasi-sb.; adv. See MYCHE also

adj. and sb.: a great deal; a great number of, many

[y] seide to hym moche thynge 14
y moved hym w't moche longage as tochyng the sute above*side. 23
the right grete of the parties, with theire conseille, and moche other puple beyng present 36

adv.: frequently

they seyn moche that they woll abyde apoun theire right 21

MONY, sb.

Money

how late they sette with ymne tham self, and kept the mony and yet kepeth 15
Y woll not dye nor for scrowe ne for anger, but be myrly and fare right well, while y have mony 16
Thomas Montagew sholde sende me x j li. and cade mony as he wote well 16

MOO, a. and quasi-sb.

More, other things or persons

he asked wyne and sende me his awne cuppe and to no moo. 15
desyre 1 j oures, come to calle another to conyne, and no moo. 47
Of all these and right meny moo ye Mayer hath not dar do right lawe ne execucion 53
wyth many mo other and dyvers 69

MORE, adv., adj. and quasi-sb.

A.: further

and so departed as for more communicacion of oure mater 38
sb.: More, anything additional

And yet yf hit may be seye how...y may more do y shall the utmyst 22

Adv.: comparative of much; here, as often, used with the comparative of a. or adv.

hit was not my part to come to Chudlegh withoute
more straiter comoundement 32
leste the partes signs defaute yn me, and be more
werece willed 54

In addition; also; further

Y seide more to Kys these words (etc.) 15

(No quotation in NED. between 1375 and 1550)

MORNYNGE, sb.

Morning

fro Friday yevensonge tym yn to a Monedoy erly yn
the mornynge 49
at vij atte clokke by the mornyng y came to London 67

MORUN, sb.

Morning

l. 'a morn': the following morning
and so prayed my lorde most specially of his gode and
gracious lordship to have dye over yn to a mourn 49
and so hadde love of my lorde and departed yn to a
mourn 49

2.'the morun'): in the morning (the next day)
[he] comanded ons to come ayen the morun 6
They aggreed ham to bryng yn the answer the morun.
14
'the morun Monedey (Tuysday, etc.)'= Pres.Eng. 'Mon-
day morning' (etc.)

he seyde 'Come the morun Monedey 18
The morun tuysdey y came 19

3.'By the morun'= in the morning early

whiche bukhorn was presented to my lord on Candel-
masse day by the morun. 36

4.'To morun'= tomorrow
Mayer, y moste to morun ride by tyme to the Kync 7

MOST, adv. Superl. deg. of much

To the greatest degree; exceedingly

at youre commandement as most speycyall lorde after
the Kynge our soverayn lord 1
salutyng hym yn the moste godely wyse that y cowde 6
the whiche ys most and right harde to answere 17
Used pleonastically with the superlative of adjectives and adverbs

1 chargyng than ym ye most streytest wyse ym the Kynges byhalf 4
2 [he] promytted to sende of the most worthieth as he hath

Shillingford also frequently uses the double superlative to give superlative coloring to a following positive:

that ye commende my lorde Chaunceller ym the most beste and trusty wyse 30
ym the most best, gentyll, and saddist wise 56

MOSTE, v.

To be obliged to; ought to; to have to, be required to; must
so that the sayde tenants wolde have come afterward
as well as be fore yf they moste 44
he most sende a man ym hast ayen my lord for my lord
was comyng. 47
Coplestone sayde hit most be done forth with 47

MOUTH, sb.

'By mouth': orally; personally

Harry Dobyn can tell yow of somewhat by mouth 36
y have do my dayly labour ym all wyse...rurst by mene (of) Courteys the Frere, and then by wrytings...
....and then by mouth myself to my lord Chaunceller 32

MOUTH, v.t.

To declare orally; to announce

And there and at that tyme a reule was mouthid and had 51

MOVE, v.t. See MYVE

1. To request; to exhort; to solicit, appeal to

and so came ym before my lord Chaunceller the morun Monday, and nywe moved hym wt moche longage 23
and furthermore moved hym yf eny thyng wer by com-
amandement fro my lorde Chaunceller to call hym therfor 49

2. 'to move of': to suggest, mention, speak of
And he bade me move of some gode meene to ende the mater 9
And he seith that sith he came home from Courte he
communed with yow of dyvers maters, but ye moved
noo thyng of the seide maters. 34

MOWE, v. Same verb as MAY. Shillingford does not keep
the distinction between sing. may and plural move as
Chaucer does.

Can; may

and that ye Shillingford's deputy desyre his gode
leysur now, and but ye move now to come to hym
ayen. 31

trustynge to God and our Soverayne Lorde the Kyng,
of his highnesse and grace, and my Lorde Chauceeller,
to be gode meene therto, that we move be demened
after his lawis 58

MUNIMENT, sb.

Document, such as a chartor or deed. Usually in pl.,
as here

we...have be redy and yet buth to bryng yn dyvers
esydenys and munimentys concernynge our ryght title
and clayme 2

MY, pron., poss. of Y. See MYN also

My, first pers., sing., poss. case

y have spake with my fellowship 20
y shall do my part truly therto 35

Prefixed to terms of courtesy and respect, such as
'Lord', 'Master', etc.

ye shall seye to my lord, that the Maior yeteth yow
yn commandement to seye, that my lorde Chauceeller
greteth hym well 29
he was don to wyte that my Mayster Radford and my
Maistresse his wyf were yn towe 61

MYCHE, a. and quasi-sb.; adv. See MOCHE also

a. and quasi-sb.: much, many, great in amount; a great
number of, a great part of

when y come thider to hym, yn to his ynner chamber,
there was myche peple 7
and ye any thyng be ther yn to myche or to litell
yn substance [•] to sotte the penne to sadly. 4
and ende myche of the maters by his awne conscience
and of myche other thynge 56

adv.: much, greatly, largely; very

hyt is not myche their defaute 56
the olde...yn the whiche the substance of the nywe
articulis ys myche comprehended. 57
and the cause yt hit was boght for myche like to be
lost 23

MYDDIS, sb.

Midst

Y went forth with hym to the myddis of the halle 37

MYKELY, adv.

Meekly, humbly. Part of a stock phrase used in a let-
ter of petition to a superior

Bysekyth yow full mykely John Shillyngford now beyng
Mayer of the cyte of Extre 1

MYN, pron., poss. of Y. See MY also

Used absol. and before vowels, and also before n

Absol.: your Brethren and myn 41
Before a vowel:

y bysoghte hym to hire myne excuse grote. 6
ever thankyng God and myn awne purse. 16

Before n

Bysekyng you...to have me excused of myn non com-
yng to you 28
ye shall byseke my lord...to have me excused of
myn non comyng to Chudilegh. 31

MYNDE, sb.

Recollection, mind, thought

but let be truly reported, as fer as hit comyth
to youre mynde. 59

MYNSTRAL, sb.

A musician or entertainer who was connected with the
household of a nobleman, or travelled about from one
hall to another

his mynstral made affray apon a woman 53
MYSCHIF, sb. pl. myschyffys
Injury, distress, evil plight

Douryssh acquytted hym well, and leyde meny mys-
chyffys 20
'at myschif' or 'yn myschif' liable to damagge or harm

William Hampton...remayneth by way of execution con-
trary ayenst ye lawe as hit is supposed, and lith
yn grete myschif. 53
and thus we stode at myschif 38

MY SELF, pron., emphatic and refl.

Myself; me

hit is but for defaute of connyng sympelnesse and
lewdenesse of myself. 31
Y sey for my self by my trawthe and for all the
seide Comminalte as y suppose.....43

MYSSOMER, sb.
Midsummer

there sholde meny a priest of the close of Exeter
loste his hede onys of myssomer yeven. 65

MYSTRUST, v.t.
To lack confidence in
bysekyng me lord not nystrustynge me 32

MYVE, v.t. (See LOVE also) Also MEEVE--see below
To entreat, to supplicate

Furtermore ye be fully remembred to meewe my lord
Chauceller ne suyto be granted ayenst us yn no
wise 60

'to myve of': to suggest

My lorde Chauceller wolde that y sholde myve of
menys 20
NAME, sb.

'in name of': by authority of; on behalf of

how ofte *yn name of my lordes commandement above
seide hit hath be asked what answers we have hadde
Bysekyth yow full mykely John Shillyngford..*yn name
of hymself as mayor l

'*yn my name*: by my authority

praynge every of them *yn my name*..to come to fore
yow 4

NAY, adv. See NO

No. Toller, in Outlines of the History of the English Language, p. 265; quotes Sir Thomas More as saying that
nay is the answer to questions framed in the affirm-
ative, and no to questions framed in the negative.
Likewise with yea and yes.

He seide. 'Nay;' but that *y* was come *yn* right gode
tyme 6
Y seide nay that I never knyw ne sigh, and if that
they so hadde, lethe hit be shewed 10
Y seide, if hit pleased hym, nay; 10
Our counsayyll asked yf they sholde any lenger tary
for this mater: they seide nay 46

NE, negative conj.

Not

mervaillynge moche..that *y* ne ne hadde sende to me....
some mony 17
Nor

ne wolde hire ham speke no worde 18
*y* cowde no skyll theryn..ne hit was not my part so
to do 9

and they right none, ne never hadde *ne* shall have9
*ne....*ne': 'neither......nor'

ne never hadde better chere of my lordes *ne* of the
household then y hadde atte tyme. *y*
y cowde no skyll theryn *ne* to speke *ne* move of menys 9
NEDE, sb.

Necessity; 'yf nede be': if it is necessary

to amend the makyng of error. yf nede be 60

NEDE, v. impers.

To be necessary

he right hevy was of his grete laboure at that tyme
and that hit neded not 48

NEDYS, adverbial gen.

Necessarily; of necessity

we moste nedy and with right gode will wolde abide
hit 66
but yf he wolde nedy thus come 47

NEGH, NICH, adv. See NYE also

Near; nearly

and leide theire iiij headis nych to geder and
comyned to geder 12
a priest of my lord Bysshop of Excester there beyng
neger atte that tyme 64

Radford and Coplestone both nych accorded 37
ye and the ij Chif Justises of a rule of the Church
and Cimitere were nych accorded 37

'nigh by': nearly

he...comyned wt my seyde fellowship and me nigh by
an our 19

NEMPITT, v.t. pa.t. nempted; pp. nempted, y nempted

The normal ME. verb was nempt, nempted. This form with
intrusive -t- is analogous to the pronunciation of
drown, drowned among the uneducated today (as if spelled
drown, drowned)

To name

wherapen mon y nempted, day y sette to entrete, and
all growth and is under the Kyngos furst commaunde-
ment 51

ij men to be nempted of ayther counseyl 46
They nempted Coplestone yn certeyn....Y, Mayer,
nemped Radeforde yn certeyn 46
hit was aggred, men of counseyl y nempted, and a
dey y sette at Seynt Peter's. 46
NERTHELEZ, conj. See also NETHELES and NOTHELES

Nevertheless

Nerthelez atte begynnynge of thys mater comyng to fore yow yn revelucion the mayor and comminalte...sywed unto you 2

nerthelez better accordre hadde by menne of Thomas Cook 5

Nitetherless if my Lorde suppose eny article comprehended theryn be not true, hit shalbe avowed trywe 54

NETHELES, conj. See also NERTHELEZ and NOTHELES

Nevertheless

netheles by the syys of Alisaunder Hodly and Dow-

rishe and Roger Rawly (they) beth made 3

Netherlez y excused me 7

Nethelez he seide that he wold go furst 61

NEVER, adv.

At no time

and they right none, ne never hadde ne shall have 9

seying that that towre stode upon the bisshoppis grounde...and that we repaired hit never 16

And y seide y darst well seye that he ne none of his

fellow ne none other of the Cite said never so 65

'never the (with comparative'): 'none the........'

and yf y hadde hit sholde have be never the werce

but the better 14

'never so' with an adj. to an unlimited degree, very

be the mene never so resonable....y beseche yow of

youre gode lordship to have me excused 11

NEXT, a. and adv.

Nearest

as yow seme yn youre conscience next to the right

is to be done to make an ende 72

'next comyng'(following the name of a day)=Pres.E.

'next' (preceding the name of the day)

to make and ensele nywe bondis yn to Candelmasse

next comyng 24

whiche entrety and communicacion shold be gynne a

Tuyssday next comyng 71
'next after'-immediately following

on Sunday next after alle Halwyn day 18
sholde have receved the articulis the Wendisday
next after. 55

HIGH, adv. See NEGH and NYE

NO, a. and adv. (cf. NAY)

No, not any; not

a.

and ask no man no leve 10
y sholde never endure my fellowship to no suche
entrety

adv.

trustyng to God and to yo gode lordship to have
right a gode ende. And, yt noe, ever to resorte to
your gode lordship 51
He seide 'Noe,' by his traethe, and that y myght
well se. 7

(footnote at p. 7 says: Noe—first written "Nay")

NOGHT, sb.

Nought; nothing

ne noght may do, seye, age, ne assent without
communication hadde with my fellowship 32
seye to ham right noght 56

NOGHT, adv.

Not

y wolde noght hit were y-knowe that suche writynge
sam fro me 54
the whiche we can noght, ne may noght, ne wyll ne
der noght answers 58
hit appereth hit is noght cure defaute 56

NOGHT WISTONDYNGE, conj.

Notwithstanding

that noght withstondyng, that ye reporte the beste

grete menys offred yn hys part, and yet that not
wyth stondynge the entrety broken of 65
Furthermore... not; 'no more I will' means 'and furthermore, I won't,' 'neither will I' (emphatic negation)

[he] charged hym that he sholde not appere as for attorney, and he seide no more he wold. 62

NON- Prefix meaning not
to have me excused of myn non comyng to Chudleigh 31

NON CERTYN, a.
Uncertain (Earliest quotation in NED. 1602)

hit is sythenes fully conceyved by the seide Mayer and Commintaite that the ende of the seide mater is non certyn 71

NONE, a.
No; not any. Used before a vowel.

though that be to me none excusse. 16

seide they shold take this for none answere 47

ne cowde ne wolde not, but hire all thynge that y wolde seye, and eve me none answere, but reporte me. 55

cowde not hyre ne knowe there of noo thynge compre-
hended yn the letter y sende home to yow by William Duke, ne of none other thynge 66

NONYS, sb.

'for the nonys': for the occasion, expressly

that they be removed away for the nonys ayenst my nonys comyng 23

NOOWISE, quasi-sb.

Though here written as a compound, the words seem to have retained their separate significance, because they are preceded by the preposition 'yn'.

'in noowise': in no way; not at all

my seid lord wolle not be long delayed yn noowise 35

NOR, conj.

Neither; 'nor... ne' = 'neither.....nor'

y wolle not dye nor for sorowe ne for anger 16
NOTHELES, conj.

Natheless, nevertheless

Notheles for as moche as ye fynde the seide Mayer and his felship of the Cite disiderable (etc.) 33

Nothelez (I know) right well he wolll asciuse hym right well by thike fals harlot his caricure 23

NOTHER, conj.

Neither; 'nother...ne' = 'neither......nor'

hit is nother felony, ne treson, ne grete trespas 16
y cowde ne wolde not...nother speke ne entrete w' hym of this matter 47

NOTISE, v.t. (causative)

To bring to the notice of; to speak of (to someone)

my seid lord praied yow that ye wolle notise his wyll abovesesaid to the seid Maier and to such other as your worthy....discretion semyth best for he don. 35

NOYSE, sb.

Rumor, evil report

my lord seide some what strangely and sharply thatoure articulis many were maters of noyse and desclaunder 12

NYE, a. and adv. (See NEGH, NIGH) Compar. nyre

Nair

y was not all thyng so nye ham to hire and knowe all thyng that was seid and comyned 62

Comparative 'nyre': nearer; more satisfactory

y coneyved that my lorde wolde move of no nyre mene 20
Sr John Wolston was yn the utter chamber, and wolde come noo nyre 67

NYGHT WALKYNGE, sb.

Going abroad on the streets at night disturbing the peace, or prowling with evil intent

all nyght walkynge, yvell longage, visagynge, shold-rynge, and all riatous rule, is lefte 57
NYWE, a. and adv.

a.: New

and a nywe fourme of entrety take and entred yn entrety 47

adv.: Newly, again

and so came yn before my lord, Chaunceller the morun Monday, and nywe moved hym wt moche longage 23 and yet they haue not nywe made ham, but corrected the olde. ...yn the whiche the substance of the nywe articulis ys myche comprehended. 57
OBEY, v. refl.
To accede; to submit

[we] at alle tymes obeyed B: and bounden us us to abyde suche rule as the Kyenge...apoynted us to 2 bot for drede of the seide commandement, to tham right ferfull, obeyed and bounden them to abide the rule of youre gode lorde ship 40 how that he obeyed hym yn the most lowly wyse to all entreti resonable 65

ODDE, a.

'odde mony': an additional amount of lower denomination, here, shillings and pence (Earliest quotation in NED. 1472--Paston Letters)

Thomas Montague sholde sende me xi li. and odde mony 16

OF, prep. and adv.

1. For: to express purpose; after 'thank'

they have had tyme of makyng of their articularis fro Michelmasse 57 thanketh your kyndenesse of your gode and well con- ceyved letter 33 ever thankyng hym of all his ryght grete gode grac- yous and endyfferent lordship 43

2. 'of myself': 'in me'

hit is but for defaute of connyng sympelvesse and lowdenesse of myself 31

3. = off

how hit was procured and shortly throwen of 36 for she hadd sore falle of hire horce. 64 grete menys offred yn his part, and yet that not wyth stondyng the entreti broken of 65

OFFER, v. t.

To present

y was at Lambeth with my lorde at masse, and offered my candelle (to my lord is) blessed hond, y knelyng adoun offerynge my candlel. 37
OF LESSE, conj.

const. then

Unless

y seide of lesse then they wolde answer to the arti-
culis y sholde never endure my fellowship to no suche
entrey

of lesse then an ende be like to be made

of lesse then they wold come when they were summoned,
that he wold straitly punyshe ham

OFTE, adv.

Often

how ofte yn name of my lordes commaundement above
seide hit hath be asked what answers we have hadde

OLDE, a.

Former

for seynt Nicholas fe, y called Haroldis fe, is
grant of olde kynges and confirmacionis
and yet they have not nywe made ham, but corrected
the olde

'of olde tyme': formerly

under what fourme hit was don of olde tyme

ON, prep.

In; at

and so were on grete argumentes by long tyme, to
longe to write

That day on Westminster halle y mette with Sr John
Wolston

'on the morun': 'in the morning'

he wold bere the letter hym self to my lord Chaunc-
celler on the morun

ONYS, adv. (The word has not yet acquired the prothetic w
sound)

Once

hit was to symple a thyng consioryng his astate to
seye onys graunt mercy 37 onys y herde hym seye

...And my lord Chaunceller woll be endyfferent, we
shall have a gode ende
One

[y] prayed hym of hys gode and gracious lordship of
     oo worde more 7
     Edmund Bysshop of Exeetre, and the Deane and Chap-
     itre therof of that oo part and the symple Mayer...
     of that other part 43

The same. Used for emphasis

'the same oo man' 'one and the same man'

and seith that he shall fynde hym the same oo man
     and the same true man as he hath be 30

'oo a worde' = a single word

Y. mayer, prayed hym of oo a worde 6

CON. a.

1. One;

oon to be send to the Recorder 4

[i] in especiall, oone of the Deme 13

so that William Beaf be oon with you by your speci-
     all meane to be brogh [sic] yn 26

oon of the ij ChiJ Justises 70

2. A certain

oon Wouston, my lordes tenant 53

OPENLY, adv.

Publicly; plainly

Hengston seide openly that Radford and he hadde
     communicacion at home of this mater, and were well
     negh accorded 14

My lord at this tymd didde me moche worship, and
     openly.......commended me for my gode rule at home 15
     hit was seide by their party that parcel of the
     towre stode upon the bishoppis grounde as hit apper-
     eth openly there 16

OR, prep. and conj. adv.

Before; ere
a saude communicacion to be hadde or his departynge byselyng hym or their departynge to calle ham 37

Conj. adv.:  
oure articulis sholde be answered or we proceded any fader 12  
ye buk horn yt was bough or y went and forth before  
at Stoklond or y departed fro home 23  
he dylivered yor letter to my lord, or my lord went  
to his dyner 63

'before or' = 'before ever'  
and by reson the grounde of theire articulis was  
knowe be fore or they purchased theire nywe chartre  
57

ORDEYN, v.t.  
To appoint (a person) to an office or duty (Not ecclesiastical as in Pres.Eng.)

Dourissh and Speere right wysely ordeyned counsell  
Yong and Beef 22

ORDYNANCE, sb.  
Command  
to abide the rule and ordynance of his Chaunceller  
of Engolond 63

OTHE, sb.  
An asseveration or affirmation in the name of God, a  
saint, etc.  

as Germyn, that never legh, tode to me verily w^  
grete othis 23

OTHER, a. and sb.  

a.: Other  
the Deane and Chapitre therof of that oo part and the  
symple bayer...of that other part 43  
as now is pryved every day better then other 57

sb.: Plural in meaning, though sing. in form='others'  
callyng to yow William Noble, Coteler, Druell, and  
other whan ye seme is to be done 4
Y was by the Styward and meny other of the householde full fayre y befe to abide atte mete 7
Among other next aboveside my seide lorde command- ed the seide Maier to shewe that speciall writ-
yng 49

OTHER WYSE, adv.

Otherwise; differently; in other ways. Though the word has adverbial force, the wyse is still felt by Shilling-
ford as a noun, as shown by the fact that he used none
as a modifier of otherwise (quotation from p. 30).

OURE, sb.

1. An hour (60 min.)

[he] desyred ij ourers, come to calle another to comyne, and no moo. 47
with yrne whiche ij ourers and fast by on o ure they were answered 47

2. A time to meet

And that hit pleased hym to assigne hym an o ure the
morun 48

OVER REDE, v.t.; pp. over radde

To read over (No quotation in NED. between 1390 and 1509)

y pray yow to be not wery to over rede hire and se all the wrytyng that y have sende home to yow 17
y pray yow that they be well redely avysely and distinctly over radde 17

OVERSE, v.t.; pp. over seyn

To look over; peruse

bysekyng hym of his gode lordship avisely to overse
hit 29
whiche copies please hit yr gode and gracious lord-
ship at yr leysure to over se and fully conceyve
hit 28
that this answer be sadly over seyn 4
OXEN, sb. Pl.

Oxen

for ther lieth many oxen hedes and bonys 23

PAPER, sb.

Paper (writing material)

'yn paper': 'on paper'

the articulis were deliyered us...full sympelly
yn paper, and afterwaide, at our prayer and re-
quest, yn parchement 55

PARCELL, sb.

Part (Used with no article preceding)

that the churche and cimitere, as that they calle
synt Stevyn is fe, is parcel of the cite and ever
hath be and shall be 9
parcell of the towre stode upon the Bisshoppis grounde
16
coperat and distynote fro the Cite of Exeetre, and
no parcell of the same 58

PARCHEMENT, sb.

Parchment; 'yn parchement': 'on parchment'

the articulis were deliyered us...full sympelly yn
paper, and afterwaide, at our prayer and request,
yn parchement 55

PARLER, sb.

A small room set apart for conferences

some wherof ye and y commyned therof the last hole
day of my beyng at home at Exeeter yn my parler 36

PART, sb.

1. Party, side

what reporte that ever hath be made ayenst us by the
Chanons part afore this tyme...56
gode chere and Right wellcome, gode welfare, and
grete feastis yn the Chanons parte 57

2. Business, duty, function
me thought hit was not my part to come to Chudlegh 32
they wolde have come to hym at my lord Chauncelleres
commandement and his an their part was 48

"to do one's part" = to perform one's allotted duty

y sey yow faithfully, y shall do my part truly therto
and there he hardly did indifferently his true ten-
dre and diligent labo' and parte 50

PARTIE, sb. (Fr.)

Part. Only the Archbishop uses this French form of the
word.

trustying the matier to have be comyned and yn partie
entreted at home. 41

PASCHE, sb. (Hebrew passach, pass over)

Easter term of court

consideryinge lange tyme that they have hadde yn mak-
ynge of the articulis, fro the xv of Seynt Hillary
yn to the xv of Pasche 57

PASS, v.t.

To come from (one's lips)

dredying my sympalnys lest eny thyng shold have passed
me the whiche yf hit sholde have be noted right well,
&c. 32

"passed over" = to pass unheeded, disregarded

My lorda sate stille a while, and kys knelyng speak
never a word, and thus passed over. 15

PASSYNGE, adv.

Exceedingly; very

he was a passynge gladd man chery hardly 61

PAULIS, gen. sing. of Paul

St. Paul's Cathedral in London

the communycacion ther upon hadde at London, and
specially yn the Cloyster at Paulys 36
y went yn hast and made Dowrissh to come to hym to
Paulis 63
PAYNE, pp. See APAYED

Pleasing, satisfied

Our party advers wt their counsell bewayng present
and ye well pleased and payde therwith 18

PAYNE, sb.

Penalty

'supon payne (of)': under penalty (of)

but they wer forbode upon a grete payne 44
they hadde forbode the lyssificacion tenants every
upon payn of xl 3 that they sholde not come 52

PEASYNG, verbal sb. See APPEASYNG

Reconciliation, the bringing to a peaceful end

that ye myght be cause of the gode ende and peasyng
of the seid matters. 35

PEES, PEAS, sb.

Harmony, peaceable relations; reconciliation

that that sholde be attis tyme sholde be do by writ-
yng for a perpetual pees 10
my felows and y wold fayne have a gode ende and pees
25
bounde therto, as they seyn, to have a gode ende and
peas 40
atte next session of peas 34 (letter from H.Webber)

PENY, sb.

A coin of small value--'no peny'= American 'not a cent'
y supposed that John Germyn sholde have brought to me
all most x li. all this of myne owne gode; wherof
cometh to me no peny. 17

PLEASE, v. impers.

l.'(Yf) hit please yow (hym, etc.):'if it is agreeable
to yow (etc.)

that hit please your gode and gracious lordship to
be remembred of the grete mater... I
Y seide, if hit pleased hym, nay, hit myght not be
so 10
Furst, yf hit please you, recytyng how that the
seide mater of variance came before youre gode Lord-
ship 39
Please hit your gode and gracious lordship to have
yn knowliche...26
2. With omission of hit—may it please

Please your gode lordship also to calle be fore
yow the seide John of Copleston and Nicholas Rade-
ford 71

PLEASED, ppl. a.
Satisfied, gratified

Const. of (also with)

my lord...was right well pleased of all my laboure
at home 22 (footnote, p. 22: "of—first written
"with")

PLEASURE, PLESER, sb.

Will, desire

so hit be knowed to the pleasure of my seid lords
above...27
y shall the utmyst as me aughte to my lordis
pleasure 22
atte reverence of Godes pleasure 40
the Recorder with other of the Cite at his pleser
beyng present 30
to my Lordes eyse and pleisere. 55

PORE, POORE, a.

An adjective used in depreciation of the speaker, like
'humble'
this my pore writyng 28
yor owne puple and poore bedemen 50
[he wold] recommaunde the Mayer and the comynes of
Exeter to hys gode lordship, as his men and pore
bedmen 61

Worthy of pity: 'My lord, have mercy and pyty apoun
that pore Cite' 38

POVERTIE, sb.

Lack of ability

his seyde lorde Bysshop toke unworthy as he myghte
right well for sympelnesse and poverete to speke or
entrete with hym 45

POWER, sb.

Authority
havyng wt ham suffic1ant power and the comyn seell 5
y stondyng mayer and of power, and yet havyng no
power, ne noght may do, seye, aggre, ne assent with-
oute communacion hadde with my felowship, a Commi-
alte whiche is harde to dele with 32

PRAY, v.t.

To ask earnestly; to request

Const. of

[y] prayed hym of hys gode and gracious lordship of
co worde more 6
y prayed hym of Wendysdey 18

Const. to with infinitive

ye shall praye my seyde lorde...to be remembefd how
the seid mayer last departed fro hym 45
but y pray yow to be not wery to over rede hire and
se all the writyng that y have sende home to yow 17
we were prayed and desired to abide 55

Const. with noun clause

y pray yow that y have a gode man sende to me yn
hast. 4

PRAYER, sb.

Earnest request: with no religious connotation

and that with grete ynstance and prayer was graunted 47
and after by prayer and desire of alle that parte 55
the articulis were delyvered us...full sympelly yn
paper, and afterwarde, atoure prayer and request,
yn parchment 55

In plural: prayers (religious connotation, as in Mod.Eng.)

When my lord hadde seide his prayers atte high auter,
he went apart 48

PRESSE, sb.

Crowd, throng

and w t hym grete presse, lordis and other 6
'to put(oneself)yn presse' = to join the crowd, to
mingle with the throng

[y] put me yn presse and went right to my lord 7
y put me yn presse and to my lorde and spake with
hym 37
PREST, sb. See PRIEST below

PRIEST, sb. Also PREST

Clergyman (Anglican Church)

By your owne Prest.
H. Webber 35

Indorsed: A lettre agaynst the Cite sent by a prest
to the bishop 35
William Hampton...seid at Excester...yn hiryng of a
priest of my lord Bysshop of Excester there beyng
neghe atte that tyme, that there shold meny a priest
of the close of Excester loste his hede onys of mys-
soner yeven. 64

PRIVY, PRIVY, PREVY, a.

Private, personal, secret

w’t whan he was at right grete pryvy communicacion 6
ne y no knowliche of his pryvy comandement 32
y sholde not have knowe of the pryvy communicacion
betwene the Bysshop and my lord 32
his letters under his pryvy seell 63

Const. to

and [he] hath borwys for his office, lete them be
pryvy to, yf yow (like), that hit is to be do. 17

PRIVLY, adv. Also PRIVATELY, PREVLY

Privately, secretly

leide theire iiiij heddys negh to geder and comyned
to geder right privly 12
Y wende right to my lord ayn before them alle, and
spake with my lord privly a grete whiles 15
comyned with hym privly 61
of the whiche y wote well he hath comyned privly
with Dowrissh 63

PRIVYTE, sb.

Hidden purpose or significance

but what the privyte and the menyng was y myghte
not knowe 14
PROMYS, sb.

Pledge

The seide Maier answered and seide he hadde made noo suche speciall promys 49

*PROMYS, v.t.

To covenant to do what was promysed and what was do therfore, ye knowe right well 26 commanded the seide Maier to shewe that speciall writyng that he hadde promysed 49

*PROMYT, v.t.

To promise the Maier excused hym ayenst my seide lorde Chaucer to brynge the letter, &c., and promytted to sende of the most worthiest as he hath 30 he knywe well that they would answer at home, and so they hadde promytted hym. 44

PROVE, v.i. and v.t. See PRYVE

1. To turn out to be; to show (itself) to be (intrans.)

alle as y conceve and as hit proved afterwardis that the answeris to our articularis not to be spoke of. 12

y have yelpe ynoth abakward and but litell forthward as hit at alle tyme proveth and appereth. 23

2. To show beyond a doubt; to establish (trans.)

they sette with ymne than self, and kepeth the mony and yet kepeth, and that sholde be well y proved. 13 y seide if any suche writyng were knowe and proved by my seide lord...we moste nedys and with right gode will wolde abide hit 66

PRYVE, v.t. See PROVE above

To test, to try; to show conclusively

that was no mater ofoure compleyntis, but y putte yn to prive what the cite was of olde tyme 12 hit shal be a bide by, and pryved trywe 54 long tarynge of delyverynge of the articlis, and entretynge of the mater, hath do eyse, pryynge the wyll and pacynce of bothe parties 57
PUNISHMENT, sb.

Infliction of penalty for wrong-doing; power of correction

ne instrument to do punysshement of that that long-
ethe to a lete. 10
ever wtyyme the jurisdiction and under the correc-
cion and punysshment of the cite 10

PURPOSE, sb.

'of purpose': purposely, for an end

Y of purpose mette with Sr John Wolston 66

PUPLE, sb. Also PEEPLE,

Liegemen, subjects

the hole comminale of the seyde cyte, youre owne
puple and true bedmen 1
there was myche peple, lordes and other 7
your puple and gostly children of the Cite of Exeter 29

PURGE, sb.

Absolution

As tochyng the grete venym that they menyth of my
lyvynge, y may and purpose be at my purge 16

bysekyng yow my Lorde of Canterbury...to amytte hym
to his purge for the grete parte of the mater of
disclaunderyr that ys thus disclaundely of yvell wyll
openly putte apon hym 114 (Part II)

PUTTE, v.t.

To place; to commit; to lay before

lito putte yn': to present; submit

also we have made and putte yn before your gode
lordshipp articles 2
dyvers other bullis of suppliacionys by the seide
Maior and Comminalte y putte yn before the seide
lordis 26
by us y putte and to be putte yn before the lordes 28

2.To insert, add

that was no mater of oure compleynetes, but y putte yn
to prive what the cite was of olde tyme

3. 'to putte on (someone)': to turn over to, to place in the hands of

such things as they myght not accord of to be putte on the lordis

4. 'to put yn rule': to commit to arbitration

the whiche maters at London this last term passed, by comandement of the lordis ys put yn rule as hit appereth by a letter

5. To cause

to putte the matier to take some effectuall ende by entretty

6. 'to putte yn execution': to carry out

ne putte the lawe yn execution

7. 'to putte to': to apply

the seide Juges and I woll putte to our labour to the remedy and redresse therof

PYTY, sb.

Compassion

My lord, have mercy and pyty spoun that pore Cite, Jesus vidit civitatem et Tlevit super eam

Const. of:

that y was sory and hadde pyty of his grete vexacion
QUERELL, sb.

Complaint

what querell ther was made by the surveyur and Coplestone 44
the Maier made his grete querell to the seide Bysshoppis counsell 52
makyng grete querellis by cause that he somned the Bysshoppis tenants to watche 52

QUYTE. v. refl. pa.t. quytte (inf. does not occur)

To deport (oneself); to conduct (oneself) as

the Chif Justise toke upon hym to seye, &c. and seide moche thyng for our part, and quytte hym a gode man to us. 37
RASE, v.t.
To raise (No quotation in NED. between 1390 and 1508)
and he raised hit as hit plesed hym w't his owne
candes 18

RATHER, a. and adv.

Adj.: earlier
the whiche y hoped sholdie have do moche gode and
cause of spede the rather ende of the mater 15

Adv.: Sooner
the rather the levere 24
the rather to have a gode ende 28
the privy communicacion betwene the Bysshope and my
lord at his rather beynge at Chudleh for drede of
discoveryng 32

RAWE, a.

New, unfamiliar
Afterward y speke with the ijde Chif Justise,.....
to whomoure mater myche was rawe. 38

REBUKE, v.t.
To restrain, stop, hinder
Also afte tymes [the Mayor hath not dar do the lewe
and execucion thereof...apon his tenants...most spec-
ially Robert May and his wyf, by wham the Mayor is
rebuked 53
settyng up of bullis to that extent to rebuke me 25
(footnote)
y woll not be so rebuked ne y dulled 25 (footnote)

RECEYVE, v.t.
To receive (as, a letter)
The morum tyseday al Halwyn yeven y receyved the an-
sweris tooure articulis 16
he receyved a long and right a diffuse letter y send
to hym by the Mayor of Excetre 33
on Candelmasse yeve y receyved a letter y send to me
by Harry Dobyn 35
Treasury building at London (Westminster)

Hit asketh meny grete encerchis; ffyrste, ynoure tresory at home, a monge full meny grete and olde recordis; afterward at Westminster, ffyrste yn the Channecery, yn the Escheour, yn the Receyt, and yn the Towre 58

RECOMMANDE, v.t. and refl. See RECOMMANDE below

To commend to favorable regard or remembrance

Right worshipful sir, y recommaunde me to yow 24
y recommaunde me un to yow 25
he wold go first (to) my lord Chief Justise, and recommaunde the Mayer...to his gode lordship 61

RECOMMANDE, v.t.

To commend to favorable regard

Furst ye shall recommaunde the Maier and all the hole comminale...to my lorde 43

REDE, v.t.; pa.t.radde; pp. y radde, radde

To read

y coude never knowe fynde ne rede that we ever toke
a sute ayenst them 68
[he] ther right radde hit every dell, or he went to
his dyner 63
They were but litell y radde ne take kepe to. 13
and when he hadde full radde hit he kepte hit with
hym stille 63

REDELY, adv.

1. Carefully, attentively

y pray yow that they be well redely avysely and distinctely over radde 17

2. Certainly

What is to do furthermore y can not yet be redely
avysed by conseill 36

REDY, a.

Prepared, at hand

and ye shall be all redy and wyth alle theo that
longeth to be ther 25
and at his commandement at alle tyme redy 43
REFOURME, v.t.
To change back to the original state of affairs
praying them specially at this time to be reformen
and confourme them to the seide commandement 40

REGNE, sb.
Reign
the yere of the regne of the kyng that now is xxxj
(Henry VI.) 4

REHERCE, v.
To give an account (of); to enumerate
[Y] reherced hym of vij. and that alle were parcell
of the cite: and among other y rehered hym of
Seynt Nicholas fe. 10
and y rehered iiij. yn especiall, one of the Dyme,
another of the feloum that toke the bysshoppis fe,
and afterwares of the churche, and the coroners ylette
13
[Y] reherced what that belongeth to a lete 14

REHERSALL, sb.
Recital, summary
Y saide nay, and made a longe rehersall therof fro
kyng Edwardis tymne ynto this day 13
and then yn ther rehersall they wolde that the seyd
Mayer shuld have sued for a discharge 60

*REMEDY, v.t.
To correct, make right
Byseekyng y's to be remedied 53

REMEMBRANCE, sb. --AUNCE

I. Memorandum
and there mette wi Richard Druell, whiche made re-
porte of his gode spede and grete laboure at Lonon,
as hit appereth yn his sayde remembrance 5
Indorsement of letter XXII., p.60: Letters, instruc-
cions, and other remembrances.
2. Recollection

'to have in remembrance': to recollect, recall

Please your good and gracious lordship to have your remembrance [sic] that I and all the Comminalte...
Please hit your good and gracious lordship to have your blessed remembrance...

REMEMBRE, v.t., refl., and impers.

1. To remind; to cause to remember

Furst, ye shall remembure my lord how ye last depart-ed fro hym...
ye shall remembe my lorde of our comynge...
(Earliest quotation in NED, 1621)

2. Refl. and impers.: to remember; to call back to mind

that hit please your good and gracious lordship to be remembred of the grete mater
of the whiche commandement my lorde remembred hym right well therof...
y am and was before that letter fully remembred of all thynge that is comprehended theryn...
Y pray yow to remembre yow of all thynge therof.

REPAIR, v.t.

To restore

that that towre stode upon the bishoppis grounde...

RESON, sb.

Reason, right

the counselyll...seyde hit was reson that we hadde answers to our articulis

Const. why

My lorde and the Justysse seyde no force to shewe and ryght meny reasons why.

'by reson': because

and by reson the grounde of theire articulis was knowe be fore or they purchased theire nywe chartre
RESONABLY, adv.
Fairly; suitably; within reason

prefixe place day and tyme as ye well resonabily 24
the Justise to all thyng for the cote is part yn
resonabily gode wyse toke hit 52

(Earliest quotation in NED. 1502)

RESORT, sb.
Right of recourse

the rule of my lord Chaunceller and the ij chif Jus-
tises. and of their comandaement to ensele nywe
bondis and entrete at home with a resort 31

RESORT, v.i.
To come (to)

A lettre of John Shillingfordes because he could not
resort to the Byshop at Chudleigh 32
And, yf noe, ever to resorte to your gode lordship
accordant to the kynges comandaement 51

RESPITE, v.t.
To delay, postpone

he prayed the Justises wolde respite hit yn to yoyn
comying 62

REST, v.i.
To remain

some here redye to shewe and somme restyth at Exeatre
69

REVELUCION, sb.
Due course

atte begynnynge of thys mater comying to fore yow yn
revelucion the mayor and comminate...sywed unto
you...to have be descharged 2

REVERENCE, sb.
Respect, honor

comying w't all worship and reverence to receyve hym 47
'at the reverence of': 'out of respect to; for fear of'
bysekyng him of his gode lordship atte reverence of
my lord Chaunceller to yeve leyser and attendance
thereto 30

'at the reverence of God', an oath equivalent in signif-
cance to 'for God's sake', but not so strong

the seide Mayer and Comminalte well beseeke you at the
reverence of God" 71

RIALL, a.

Royal. Note the simplified diphthong

ffor of his riall power he may do what he wyll, for
all thynge is as his commaundement, body, londe, and
gode 58

RIGHT, adv.

1. Directly; immediately

[y] put me yn presse and went right to my lord Chaun-
celler 7
[he] ther right radde hit every dell, or he went to
his dyner 63

2. Outright; completely

what men defauteth rught by his commaundement 53
St William Slug defauteth rught 53

3. Very—Intensive

The cause of so longe taryng yn makynge of the answers
hath be for right grete bysynes y't Alisaunder Hody
hath hadde aboute his awne maters 3
corrected and made by avys of counseyll to be right
well 4
as ye may right well...of alle wymmen alyve excepte
cone, and of hire rights a grete while 16
and yn especiall y't ye stretes be right clene 23

4. With negatives: at all, whatever

we have a wyw and alle that to belongsth, and they
right none 9
seye to ham right nought 56

5. Indeed, assuredly

ye didde theron as right a wise man 11
'the right grete' (sb.)= the majority

the right grete of the parties, with their conseille, and moche other puple beyng present 36

RIGOURUSTE, sb. (Fr.)

Rigour, severity

and y asked by what mene, and he seid by entrety, and no rigouste of lawe 64

RIPENESSE, sb.

Completeness; perfection

bryngynge the matier by daylie labour to grete ripeness 41

ROLLE, sb.

Roll of manuscript. Printing was not introduced into England until some thirty years later.

y sende yow a rolle yn the whiche is conteyneyned copies of Domus Dei, copy of Eyris, of charters and other thinges that is necessary to be seye yn makynge of thes replications. 17

y pray yow to sende me the blak rolle 17

RULE, sb.

1. Order, command

they seyng the streyte rule that the MAYER sette in the Cite for kepynge of the pees, they conformed ham to the same 57

2. Ruling, decision; terms of settlement

they wil abyde the rule of the lordys 21
And there and at that tyme a rule was mouthid and had 51

3. 'to put yn rule' = to commit to arbitration

the whiche maters at London this last term passed, by comandement of the lordys ys put yn rule as hit appereth by a letter 25
SAD, a.

Discreet; grave, serious

of theyre gode and sad governance sithen our departure 56

Cold, unfriendly

and my lorde was to tham right sadde ne wolde hire ham speke no worde 18

SADLY, a.

Mournful (?) (a portion of the letter is omitted)

[yn the] most sadly wyse 19

SADLY, adv.

Carefully; earnestly; soberly

and that this answer be sadly over seyn 4
but he seide right feith fully and sadly he wolde consell ham the contrary 23
thervor y take right noght by and sey sadly si recte vivas 16

SADNESSE, sb.

Seriousness.

he was right mery and comyned many dyvers maters bothe of disporte and sadnesse 19
Atte last fyll to mater of sadnesse, and they spake of God dys hous Seynt Peter ys churche of Excetre 19

SAF, prep. Also SAAF

Except, but, save

he knyw none that wolde ne kowde sey so, saf the seide priest 65
hardly alle men were bede to avoyde that chamber saaf the lordes. 7

SAVYNG, prep.

Without disrespect to. It is used apologetically, and means something like "by your leave".

Y seide ayen, savyng his commandement, y cowde
But we truste to God, sayynge your gode lordshippe, the same boke shall prove our entent.

SAWLE, sb.

Soul

'apoon my sawle' = a phrase of asseveration

y may and purpose be at my purge, as y may right well apon my sawle of alle wymmen alyve excepte one

Pl.

y-writen at London yn alle Sawlyn day [Nov. 2] 17

SE, v.t.; pa.t.sign, sawe; pp.saye, seye, seyn

To see

My lorde y am come at youre commandement, but y se youre grete bysynesse is suche that ye may not attende. 7

Se the ryght and let it never passe yor handes but so to make an ende 21

y have hurde of suche thyngis, but y sawe hit never

20

Y seide nay that y never knew ne sigh, and if that they so hadde, lette hit be showed 10

[he seide] that he hadde seye somme of our articulis 13

and other thynges that is necessary to be seye yn makynge of thes replications 17

And yet yf hit may be seye how....y may more do y shall the utmyst as we aughte do 32

prayng yow yf eny suche thyng be, that they may be shewed and seyn 20

SEDULE, sb.

A note or memorandum of facts and happenings

How the seye Richard Druell and William Speere spedde when they came to London hit appereth yn a sedule by the seye Richard Druell and William Speer therof made 5

SEKE, v.t.; pa.t.soghte

To look for

anon my Mayster Dowrissh lefte all his owne bysynesse,
and went to seike my Maister Radford 61
he hath reported...the first coming to hym to Clisht

to seke his gode lordeship 30
Y William Spere inquired as for John Afield, and
soghte hym yn dyster placys 61

SENDE, v. impers.
With dative preceding: 'yow semeth': 'it seems to you'

the whiche them semeth grevous 12
and he sende that us semed that they were grevous
to us 13
and to suche other as your worthy and approved dis-
creasion semyth best for be don 35
trustynge as me semyth fully wyth more charite and
lasses coste the mater to take somer ende 42

SENDE, v.t.; pa.t. send, sent; pp. sende, sent, y send
To send

of the whiche y sende yow a true copy 16
he asked wyne and sende me his awne cuppe 15
he spake openly of the letter that he send home
to the bysshop by me 15
and so y sent Thomas Cook 32
soon to be send to the Recorder yn hast 4
y pray yow that y have a gode man sende to me yn
hast. 4
charging them...to come to fore yow...for the tydyngs
that y have sent home to yow 4
right a diffuse letter y send to hym by the Mayer
of Exeter 33

SENT, sb. See SEYNT

SERVYS, sb.

1. Attendance upon another; assistance

The Mayer wayted upon his gode lordeship...and pro-
ferred hym his servys yf eny thyng he shold and
myght do 49

2. 'divine servys'= religious rites; public exercises of worship

we sholde forbere of arrestis but yn tym of doyng
of divine servys 11

SESON, sb.
The proper time
Bysekyng y's to be remedied, and also of beryng of the mace w't out Westyeat and of y's brygge while seson ys. 53 (Exbridge was in need of repair)

for the whiche my (lord Chancellour cowde right grete thank)ys and made right moche thereof hardly;
for hit came yn gode seson 9

SET, ppl.a.

Inclined to a certain mode of action; disposed

how the puple beth willed and set 59

SETTE, v.t.

1.to put, place

ij men to be nempted of ayther counsayll to sette
ayther party yn rule of entry 46

2.To make; establish; appoint

they seynge the streyte rule that the Mayer sette
in the Cite...they conformed ham to the same 57
[he] commanded [them] to awayte apon hym and y's Chif Justise beyng togeder. A rule to be sette &c. 23

men of counsayll y nempted, and a dey y sette at
Seynt Peter's. 46

3.To consider as being

therfor to speke wyth the nywe shyrf y sette hit
grete wysedome 21

4. 'to sette to' = to apply

that this answer be sadly over seyn; and yf eny thyng be ther yn to myche or to litell yn substance
to sette the penne to sadly. 4

SETTYNG, sb.

Levyng

and the seyde mayer abode at home yn to a tuesday
next after Seynt Luke is dey for settyng of the
kynges dyme 5
SEYE, v.t. and i.; pa.t.seyde, seide; pp.seide, seyde, y seid

1. To say

[they] rode out of Exeter to London-ward for nedes of the cite, that is to seye to kepe the day of apparence 5
And he seith that sith he came home from Courte he communed with yow of dyvers maters 34
[he] breke the letter, yeven while gracies was seyyng 63
he send home to the bysshop by me, seyynge these wordes 15
they have labored strongly and sayeth may 21
and if any thyng lakke they beeth reday to perfourme hit as they seyn 40
and they seyn moche that they wolle abyde apoun theire right 21
the seide Meye and Comminalte have att all tymes and yet ben as they seyen redy to obey 41
hit be seyde that that ye the cause of the breche 21
What hath he seide and don sithen ye come ho(me) fro the Parlement....55
Thus hit was y seid that acoorde was hadde here 66

2. To tell

[y] seide that y wolde seye yow so at yow comyng 64
y sey yow faithfully y shal d o my part 35

3. To speak

y wolle seye right sharpe~ to ham therfor and y nogh 18
Y seyde therto also as y cowde sympelly 20

SEYING, sb.

Statement

the whiche seyyng alle he toke on the best wyse and was well pleased therwith 37
the whiche seying was amytted, seying hit shulde be done 60

SEYNT, sb. Also SENT, SYNT

Saint

on Monedey next before the feste of Seynt Luke 4
atte xv. of Seynt Michall 5
as that they calle synt Stevyn is fe 9
Seynt Paull is Chirche at London 11
SHALL, v. auxil.; pa.t. sholde, shold, shuld; pl. shulden

There is no careful distinction between shall and will in the future tense in Shillingford. Shall is used to mean must, ought, will, besides the meanings which attach to it in its conditional and auxiliary uses.

none otherwise as hit shalbe well proved 30
the Mayer that is and shalbe some tyme 53
but y truste to God hit shal be right well 17
and y supposed that John Germyn sholde have brouht
me all most x li. 16.
John a Copleston and the seid Radford shuld have
the mater yn communicacon 59
he seide...that William Hampton....seid at Exetre...that there shold meny a priest of the close of
Exeter lose his hede onys of myssomer yeven.

[Indirect quotation. What he probably said was,
"Many a priest of the close of Exeter shall lose
his head once of midsummer even." The rule of se-
quence of tenses seems to account for the use of
a simple past tense after shold.]
They seyde yf we wolden so agree us, that the Kyng
and the lordis shulden thanke us 60

SHAMED, ppl.a.

Abashed, mortified

y not shamed but pleased attis tyme 17

SHAPELY, a.

Fit, disposed

y woll not be so rebuked ne y dulled, but the more
boldeliere and sharply after my sympell powere......
to do my part as y am sworn to 25 (footnote)

SHARPE, a.

Swift and sure

as so they doth. yn the beste wyse. wt sharpe exe-
cucion

SHARPELY, adv.

Sternly, severely

then my lord seide some what strangely and sharply
that our articulis many were maters of noyse and
desclamder 12
My lorde seide. "Alagge, alagge, why wolde they do
so? y woll seye right sharply to ham therfor 18
SHE, pers. pron. nom. case. For gen. and acc. see HIR

Feminine pron., ed pers., sing.

his wyf with hym, a full sike woman hardly for she had sore falls of hire horse. 64

SHERE, sb. See CHERE. (This seems a bit of evidence that Shillingford knew French. Fr. chere [ʃɛːr]

Entertainment

Gode and gentell longage and shere y have of that other party 21

SHEWE, v.t. pp. shewed

To exhibit, display; manifest

my seide lorde commanded the seide híer to shewe that speciall writyng 49
leste hit be shewed and but hit be answered hit shold ende the mater 10
all his ryght grete gode gracious and endyfferent lordship at alle tymes to us redy shewed and don 43

SHIRF, sb.

Sheriff

to speke wyth the nywe shyríf y sette hit grete wysedome 21
so that ther is a Shirf y made and the contrey embracéd ayenst (oure) entent 38
they take grete boldenesse of if thynges, oon of truaste of the Shirf, another apon the lawe 68

SHOLDRYNGE, sb.

Pushing insolently against pedestrians

nyght walkynge, yvel longage, visagyng, sholdryng, and all rioustous rule, is lefte 57

SHORT, a.

Scant; brief; short

Make ye myche of the mater and of the deme snyng, and of the short chere at Cliste 30
The morun be tyne y came to my lord and hadde hym at right godd short leysof 68
yn shorte tyne afteroure comynge home 55
SHORTE, v.t. Cf. BREVE

To hasten, to simplify

and yn the menye tyme to entret to entret to entret to  
the mater to their hondes 24

and yn the menye tyme to entret to entret to entret to 
the mater to youre blessed Lordis 40

SHORTLY, adv.

Briefly

yn moved hym of our mater shortly as tyme asked 37
yn the whiche is contayned shortly myche of the 
grete laboure that hath (be) at London 51

Quickly; soon

of the whiche answeris so shortly made y sende to 
you ij 4
how hit was procured and shortly thrown of of 36

SHORTNESS, SHORTENYS, sb.

Shortness, scantness

yn hast yf hit may be for shortenys of tyme 4
ne mygh not be for shortenesse of tyme 19
for shortness of tyme and grete bysnesse for e
  Kyng 40

SIGNE, v.t. See ASSIGN

To point out, show

yn wolde noght hit were y-knowe that suche writynge 
cam fro me, leste the partes signe defaute yn me
  54

SINGULAR, a.

Distinguished, eminent. Common in forms of address in 
this period

My right reverend trusty and singular maister 33

SIR, SER. pl. sires, sirs, sires

Sir; my master (a title of address)

Right worshipfull sir, y recomaunde me to yow. 24
Right Worshipfull ser 25
Worthy sires y grete yow well alle 3
Shillingf ord to his fellows: Worthy sirs, y grete 
yow well alle 65
Worthy sirs, ryght fayne ffrendis and ffelows...67
A title given to knights and baronets

the entery some tym moved by Sir William Bonevill 35
Sr Richard Naton, son of the 11 Chif Justises 70
Sr Philip Courtenay 71

A title given to members of the clergy

Some afterward came to the Maier fro my seyde lord
Bysshop of Excestre Sir Roger Kys, chanon

SITH, adv.

After; since

and he seid that sith he came home from Courte he
communed with yow 34

SITHEN, adv.

Since

eny thyng that y have do or seyde or governed me yn
eny wyse at home sithen the last terme my departyng
fro hym 8
as touchyng the laboure and spede ofoure comyn
mater sithen y wrote last to yow....16
ye Druell beyng presente at that tyme and at every
doyng and communicacion sithen. 46

SITHENES, adv.

Afterwards; since

whiche day we kepte and apperyd and didde and demenyd
us that day and evere sythenys yn fulfyllynghe of
the Kynges commandement 2
and ther sithenys have full bisily labored 3
and sithenes madde they no cause resonable to com-
plain 10
mervaillynghe moche...that ye na hadd sende to me
sithenesse mone mony 17
the grete laboure that hath ben at London sithenys 51

50, adv. and conj.

1. To that degree indicated

the whiche no lerned man can well declare, ther beth
so many. 51
Sr John Wolston came to me and asked why ye were
so longe 64
2. For that reason; therefore

Y would ne wolde not...another spoke ne entrete wth hym of this matter, prayng so to have me assced 47. My lord hym selfe speke darkely of right olde charters the whiche y as ever have supposed right well; so y saide. "My lorde, y have hurde of suche thinges, bot y sawe hit never" 20.

3. Pro-clause: so used as the equivalent of a preceding sentence

[y] saide that y wolde seye yow so at yow comynge 64. And y seide y darst well seye that he ne none of his fellow ne none other of the Cite seid never so 65.

SODENLY, adv.

1. Suddenly; abruptly

My lord Chancellor therwith sodenly went right to the Justises botten 12.

2. On the spur of the moment; without preparation

The Mayor seide that he would not komyme with hym sodenly and with so short avys 48.

SOME, adv. Also SOME, SUM

Of indeterminate amount

tho that beth substancialle grete and grevous to us, and some cause and begynyng of alle this debate... 13.

mervaillelyng moche....that ye ne hadde sende to me sithenesse some mony by Germyn, Myrton, or some other man...17.

a communicacion to be hadde after the effecte that ye commyned with my seid lord sum tyme at Excertre 33 (see below).

SOME TYME, adv.

Recently; sometime since

and the Bishop sum tyme hadde his prison yn that towre 16.

a communicacion to be hadde after the effecte that ye commyned with my seid lord sum tyme at Excertre 33 y am...fully remembre of all thynges that is comprehended therin, as specially of Stokewode, as well as more of the entrety some tyme moved by Sir Wil-liam Bonevill 35.
SOMNE, v.t.

To summon (A.S. somnian: 'to gather together')

my lord of Exeter is tenantis were somned to come
and kepe the wacche and the pees and came not 44

SOMNYS, sb.

Summons

the mater avowed hit well, and seide that that somnys
was no wronge 52

SONE, a. (Occurs only in compar. deg. in Shill.)

Early, speedy

putte the mater to take somer effectuall ende by
entrety...than by rigour of the lawe 41
the mater to take somer ende by that mene 42

SONE, adv.

Speedily, quickly

as sone as ever he saw me 37
the somer therby to have concluded theryn 41

SONE AAPON, prep. and adv.

Immediately after

the mayer came to Westminster sone apon ix. atte
belle 6
the whiche day sone apon that he receyved your letter
he receyved a long and right a. diffuse letter
y send to hym by the Mayor 33
Notheles sone apon he came to yow and ye and he
communed to geder 34

SOPER, sb.

Supper, the last meal of the day

and so y toke my leve of hym, and he went to his
soper 64

SORE, adv.

1. Heavily; in a manner causing pain or distress

his wyf with hym, a full sike woman hardly
for she hadd sore falle of hire horse. 64
2. Greatly

Hengston honged sore to have a lete 14

SOROGE, sb.

Grief, sadness, lamentation

Y woll not dye nor for sorowe ne for anger, but be myry and fare right well, while y have mony 16

SORY, a.

Distressed

y was sory and hadde pyty of his grete vexacion 7

SOTH, a.

True

He seide hit was soth 11

SPECHE, sb.

Speaking, conversation

Like yow to be remembred of the speche and commu-nica-cion [t was late betwene yow and me 24
he [the Mayor] y'en by the speche of the said Rad-ford, and by labour and speyng of Syr John Wolston, and other, was ynduued to speke wyth Mayster Harry
Webber 59

SPECIALL, a. and adv. See EXPECTALL

'in speciall'= particularly, especially

Item in speciall of St Thomas Gogh, how he is take out of Court 53

'most speciall'= especially

and most speciall the furste articule 17

SPEEALLY, adv.

Especially

so that y have youre conceynt witte and entente to repplye to the seide answeris, and to the furste most speeally 17

SPEDE, sb.

Success, progress

Richard Druell, whiche made reporte of his gode
spede and grete laboure at London 5
as touchyng the laboure and spede ofoure mater
that day, hit was...ajorne over ynto the (morun)
Saturday 9
sende me xx li. ynto hast, as ye wolde the spede of
oure mater 17

SPEDE, v.i.; pa.t.sped; pp.sped, spedde.
To succeed, fare, 'get on'

fyrst y went ynto the Escheo [sic] for oure mater
of Exmouth, and there y spedde spede can and may
spede resonablyll well. 67
How we sped whenne we come home, hit is compre-
hended ynto the olde forsaside enstr(u)cyon 55
How the seyde Richard Druell and William Speere
spedde when they came to London hit appereth ynto a
sedule 5

SPEDEFULL, a.
Advantageous, satisfactory
And yf y myght se that hit myght take effectuall and
a spedefull ende, y sey yow faithfully y shall do
my part truly therto 35

SPEKE, v.i.; pa.t.spake; pp.spake, y spoke, spoke
To speak

The seide Mayer seide to hym ayen that he cowde no
skyll to speke entrete ne uttre no mater to my seyde
lord Bysshop by mene. 45
Kys knelyng spake never a word 15
and also they spake to hym of a sute 22
we have spoke and treted there with none of the
Chanons 56
y, Mayer, seide y knywe well and was spoke to of
suche a communicacion 14
y have write to Coplesteman and Hengeston and y spoke
with Radeford 28

SPIRUTE, sb.
Feeling, mood
onyz y herde hym seye, with right a gladde spyrute,
'And my lord Chaunceellor woll be endyfferent, we
shall have a gode ende' 62
'with a high spirute'—with mettle; spiritedly

he seide, with a high spirute, that William Hampton and other of the Sergeantes seid at Exceter... that there shold meny a priest of the close of Exceter loste his hede onys of myssomer yeven. 64

*SITTE, v.t.; pp. spatte

Fig. with malice and venym to show the utterance of violent feelings

yn the whiche articulis as hit appereth they have spatte out the uttmyst and worsste venym that they cowde seye or thynke by me 16

y enfourmed hym (of the grete malice venym that they have spatte to me yn theire answeris 18

SQUYER, sb.

A young man of good birth, attendant upon a knight

the ij Chif Justises, and other lordis, knyghtes, and squyers, and other comyn puple grete multitude, the halle fulle, all stondyng a far apart fro hym

STATELY, a.

Very fine

[F] (sende) thider that day ij. stately pikerellis and ij. stately tenchis

STEIRE FOTE, sb.

Foot of the staircase

ther mette wt my lorde Chaunceller atte brede dore a litell fro the steire fote

*STIKE, v.i.; pa.t.stiked

To remain firm (in a demand, an opinion, etc.); to persist in

Apon this mene he stiked fast, and thoghte hit was resonable 11
and ther apon he stiked fast with stroynge longage

STILLE, a.

Silent
My lorde sate stille a while, and Kys knelyng
spake never a word 15

STILLE, adv.

As previously; yet

and when he hadde full radde hit he kepte hit with
hym stille 63

STOMP, v.i.

To stop; to remain stationary (on one subject, etc.) [?] 15

My lord asked how we last departed and therapoun
stomped a grate while [B: "abode" erased and
"stomped" inserted] 12

STONDE, v.i.; pres.3d pers.sing.stont or stondeth; pa.t.stode

To stand; to remain; to be

[he] bade my Maister Radford to stonde up 63
many worthy man stondeth on the same cas 16
y stondynge mayer and of power, and yet havyng no
power. 32
as touching the towre that stond on the byssoppis
gardyn, seyng that that towre stode upon the bisshop-
pis grounde 15
and so departed and stont yet. 23
and so departed thens and stonde this day 38
and thus we stode at myschif 39

STRANGE, a.

Unfriendly; unheard of; queer

how dangerous hit was to make any worthy man to come
to hym att tyme for strange chere at Clist 30
How hit was y take and what strange chere was hadde
of the mayny y pray yow to reporte. 48
and ther apon he stiked fast with stoyenge longage
and chere as well as yn other maters aboveside. 49

STRANGELY, STRONGLY, adv.

Coldly, distantly, in an unfriendly manner

my lorde seide some what strangely and sharply that
coure articulis many were maters of noyse and desclau-
der 12
Hengston seide moche and strongly [myche and strangely, B] because y seide they hadde suche charters. 14

STREITE, a.

Strict, stringent, rigorous, peremptory

charging than yn ye most streytest wyse....to come 4 hit was not my part to come to Chudlegh withoute more streyter commandement 32 they seyng the streyte rule that the Mayer sette in the Cite for kepynge of the pees, they confourmed ham to the same 56 after whas first right streite and ferfull commandement...shall be redy to be shewed 69

STREITLY, adv.

Rigorously

of lesse then they wold come when they were somned, that he wold streitly punyshe ham 52

STRETE, sb.

Street

and yn especiall yt ye stretes be right clene and specialle the litell lane yn the bak side be nethe the fleshe folde yeate 23

STUF, sb.

Food, as used here. Seems to be used vaguely, as often in Mod. Eng.

yt y hadde be at home at this faire he sholde have had better stuf and other thynges, &c. 37

STURE, v.t.

To propose; to suggest; to bring into debate

or any other resonable entrey that may be moved or stured or by yow commanded. 27 what was comyned, moved, stured, desired, and by whom 36 Kys wolde no further yn that, but moved and stured of other divers entreteys. 45

SUBSTANCE

The gist

trustying to God that a the substance ys comprehend- ed ther ymne 3
The leading citizens
calle be fore yow atte halle the substance of the comminale 4

SUCH, a. and sb.

a.: of the kind or sort mentioned;
y so youre grete bysynesse is suche that ye may not attende 7
Merthelez he sayde suche sympell as he was he was Mayer of Exeetre 45
'no suche' = none of the kind (emphatic)
y sholde never endure my fellowship to no suche 44
he hadde make noo suche speciall promys 49

sb.: Persons or things of the kind mentioned
Yf eny suche be late tham be leide apart 13
as for co poynyt or tweeyn yf such were, that they myght not accorde thereof &e. than the parties to be bounde to byde the reule of the lordis 59

'suche......as' = Mod. Eng. 'those who'
Y seide of none bot of suche as were of theire part,
and by tham self. 67

SUPPOSE; v.t.
To believe; imagine; assume to be; infer

and so as ye suppose to be his awne juge. 30
bot all ther as well as hit was wont to be, and as y suppose with laboure and other thyng that longeth thereto, yf men wyll ['] better may be. 66
My lord hym self spake derkely of right olde chart-
ers the whiche y as ever have supposed right well;
so y said, 'My lorde, y have hurde of such thyngis,
bott y sawe hit never' 20
Item, of William Hampton, he remayneth by wey of exe-
cucion contrary ayenst ye lawe as hit is supposed 53

SURE, a.

Certain
for the gode of pease and sure conclusion to growe therof 41
SWERE, v.i. pp.sworn

To curse

Also y charge Germyn...pt he do that he can do,
braule, bragge and brace, lye and were well to 23

To take oath to perform duties or obligations

to do my part as y am sworn to 25 (footnote) (Note
pro-infinitive: (sworn) to)
they beth sworn therto as he is to the right of his
benefice. 30

SYKE, a.  Also SEKE, SIKE

Sick; ailing

the grete part of the feloahip was at Calston is
fayre, and tho that war at home, as Uston, Coteler,
and Pope, were syke on their beddes 5
Thomas Cook seke lams at home 48
and his wyf with hym, a full sike woman hardly for
hadd sore falle of hire horce. 64

SYMPELL, ab.

Simpleton, stupid or ignorant person

Nerthelez he seyde suche sympell as he was he was
Mayer of Exeter 45

SYMPLE, a.

Humble (used apologetically); unimportant, trivial

the symple Mayer his man and the Commialte of the
seyde Cite 43
y seide to my seid lorde hit was to symple a thyng...
.....to seye onys graunt mercy 37

SYMPELLY, adv.

Simply, plainly

Y seyde yes, and made resons sympelley as y cowde 19
the articulis were deliverpered us but a Thursday a fore
Palme Sunday, and that full sympelley yn paper 55

SYMPELNESSE, SYMPELNYSS, sb.

Insignificance, ignorance

hit is but for defaute of comunyng sympelnesse and
lewdenesse of myself. 31
y most considryng yn my sympelnesse that my lorde
hade no knowliche of all this laboure 32
dredyng my sympelnsys lest any thyng shold have passed
me the whiche yt hit sholde have be noted right well

And that the seyde Maier conceyved and knywe right
well that his seyde lorde Byshop toke unworthy as
me myght right well for symplementse 45
TAIN, v.t. See ATTAIN

To bring to trial

how that my lord Chancellors ofte, at Hilary terms, wrote unto my lord Bysbhop of Excester, that touchyng the grete matre yn variance, &c. not with stondynge that hit be by hym tained yn the comyn lawes, yet wold conforme to entretie as efte 61

TAKE, v.t.; pa.t.toke; pp.take, y-take

To grasp, seize, receive, etc.

1. To receive:
   (How hit) was presented, y-take, and what thankys and better thankys y nogh therfor Harry Dobyn can telle (yow of some)what by mowthe. 36

2. To win (a suit at law):
   a sute like to be take by ye B. D. and G. 22
   y coude never knowe fynde ne rede that we ever toke a sute ayenst than 68

3. 'to take kepe to': to take heed of, observe
   They were but litell y radde ne take kepe to 15

4. 'to take upon onself': to undertake
   I toke hit apom me and so did 50

5. 'to take by the hand': Same as Pres. Eng.
   as sone as ever he saw me he (toke me) fast by the honde 37

6. To betake onself to; to enter as a place of refuge
   He cowde telle us how Germyn toke the churche y day of electioun, &c. 19
   Mete y dow, my lord toke his chamber, the astatis and other with hym. 27
   Sr Thomas Gogh yt made afferay and toke the Churche late. 53
   y herched iij. yn especiall, one of the Dyms, another of the feloun that toke the bysshoppis fe... 53

7. To accept with the mind; to understand; to consider (as)
   'to take right noct by': to think of no consequence:
   therfor y take right noct by and sey sadly si recte
   vivas 16
   and so he trusteth to God he is take and knawe among the lordes above 30

my lord toke hit (welle) 38 (Very modern sounding!) the seide Maier conceived and kynwe right well that his seyde lorde Bysshopp toke unworthy as he myght right well for sympelinesse and povert to speke or entrete with hym 45
all thing comprehended yn yo' lettris yn ful godely wise take, obeyed, assent, and agreed. 50 how he was receyved, what chere he hadde, and how he take hit 52

8. To assume they take grete boldenesse of ij thynge, con of truste of the Shirf, another apon the lawe 68

9. 'to take out': to remove how he is take out of Court 53

10. 'to take ende': to come to an end the mater to take sommer ende by that mene 42

11. 'to take to wytnesse or record': to call to attest and God y take to recorde y have done my due dilygent part therto 6 God y take to wytnesse hit is but for defaute of connynng sympelnesse and lewdenesse of myself. 51

TALE, sb.
Malicious story and y seid that his tale was not be lyved 65

TARY, v.i.
To delay; to linger
but I taried and yet tary because of y e bukhorn 23 My seide lord seide he myght not tary, but he agone anon. 48

TARYNGE, sb.
Delay
And thus hit semeth that long tarynge... hath do eyse 57

TELIE, v.t. pa.t.toldes
To tell; to relate
He cowde telle us how Germyn toke the churche y e day of election 19
Thomas Cook tolde to me so that y sholde not have knowe of the privy communicacion 32

TEMPLE, sb.
Without an article: The Temple in London, the district lying between Fleet Street and the Thames. (Funk and Wagnalls)

[he] toke a bote and went to Temple 63 and so went over the water to Temple to Blust 7
TEMPE, v.t.
To try, test
[he] asked of me divers tymes what y wolde seye therto; all as y conceve to tempte me. 11
all hit was to tempte me wt lagynge chere. 10

TENDRE, a.
Careful, considerate

to do your tendre and diligent labour to helpe to
make a gode ende. 26
and ther he [Sir Richard Newton] hardly did indifferently his true tendre and diligent labors and
parte for the gode appesynge and welfare of bothe
parties. 50

THAM, pron. pers. and refl. See THEM, THEYM, HAM

Them; themselves

my, lord was to tham right sadde 18
Yf any suche be, lete tham be leide apart 13
y coude never knowe fynde ne rede that we ever
toke a sute ayenst tham. 68
and so they have governed tham, dan and fulfilled
all thyng that longeth to theire part to dan. 4

THAM SELF, pron. refl. and emphatic

Themselves

Y seide of none bot of soche as were of theire part,
and by tham self. 67

THAN, conj. See THEN

1. than

better late than never. 36
moche worse than ever y didde. 16

2. then

as for oo poynt or tweyn yf such were, that they
myght not accorde thereof, &c. than the parties to
be bounde to byde the reule of the lordis. 59

THANKE, sb.

1. Expression of thanks
he owde me grete thanke. 8
For the whiche my (lord Chaunceller owde right
grete thanke)ys 9
he (toke me) took by the honde and thankis ymogh to 37
2. Reward, credit

y pray yow...that ye reporte the beste...of theyre
gode and sad governaunce sithen oure departrynge fro
London, for theire thanke and worship 56

THANKE, v.i.
To thank; const. of

[my lord:] thanketh your kyndenesse of your gode and
well conceyved letter 33
ever thankyng hym of all his right grete gode gracy-
ous and endyfferen lordship 43
y spake with the chif justice SF. Richard Nuton,
thankyng hym of his favoR the last terme 68

THAT, pron. rel. and demons.; conj.
Demonstrative uses:

Used emphatically, instead of a previous word or phrase.
Usually preceded by and, and referring to something in
the preceding clause. (NED)

and yf any party be found yn defaute, so to be con-
ceyved, ruled, and reported to the Kyng oure sover-
ayn lorde, and that for the love of God 3
Certe hit be seyde that that ys the cause of the
breche 21
ther was right gode and gentle commycacon, and thus
accordide, and that by the motiun of Mayster Harry
Webber 59

Relative uses:

—who or whom

the Mayer that is and shalbe some tymre 53
ye beth lorde under hevyn excepte the kyng, that the
Cite of Exeetre have most feyth hope and truste
thereyn 21

—which

they have no olde grauntis of kynges, ne clayne
none allowance yn Eyere, ne instrument to do punysshe-
ment of that that longeth to a lete. 10
my lorde seyng of me that y was never worthy to be called, that y was a godeman wyse 22
[y] asked hym what knowliche he hadde of that he reported. 67

Conjunction:

Introductory word in noun clause:

y pray yow that y have a gode man sende to me yn hast. 4
y seyyng that y was enforced that he was dyspleased of my late comyng 6
ye shall sey that y hadde warnyng of my lordis commaudement bot the nyght before 31

'if that' = if

and if that they so hadde, let hit be shewed 10

THE, def. art. and adv. Also written Y E

Def. art.:

Unto the ryght Reverend Fader yn God,........1.
charging tham yn ye most streytest wyse...to come
to fore yow yn haste 4

Adv.: By so much

the rather the levere 24
hit wold be cause myche the rather to be at a gode ende, and cause to knowe the better the gode....
lordship that my seyde lord Chaunceller hath shewed 44

THEM, pron., obj. case of THEY, q.v. See THAM, THEYM, HAM

Them (3d pers. pl.)

as tochynge the compleyntes of the maier and comin-
alte, the whiche tham semath grevous.....12
Y wende right to my lord ayen before tham alle 15

THEN, adv. and conj. See THAN

Adv.: at that time, next

Then he asked of me of this mene...10
Then seide Hengston lightly as tochynge settyng
and kepyng of the mony of the deme, hit shall be
sone answered 13

Conj.: than (q.v.)

any thynge that y have do or seyde...other wyse than to his pleasure 8
as now is pryved every day better then other 57

THINKE, v. impers. See THYNKE

To seem; with objective preceding
'us thenkyth'= 'it seems to us'
and as us thenkyth hit is your part to do the same 40

THENS, adv.

From that place
and so departed them 38
and how we departed them 55

THER AFTER, adv.

According to that
ruled ham and alle theyris ther after 37

THERE RIGHT, adv.

Immediately; there on the spot
anon my lord breke the letter...and there right radde hit every dell 63

THEY, pron., 3d pers. pl. Poss. their(e), theyris

Nom.:

so that they sey manly yee and nay 4
and ye wyll abide by answers 4

Poss.:

xx s. of John Germyn, for their costages 5
thoo that war at home...were syke on their beddes 5
they and alle theyris by theyre governance have governed ham yn the most best...wise 56

THEYM, pron. Obj. case of They. See THEM, THAM, HAM

Them

and by theym to be brought to gode conclusion. 70
THIDER, adv.

to that place

when ye come thider to hym yn to his ynner chamber,
there was myche peple 7
hoe we cam thider, and kepteoure daye 55

THIKE, demons. adj.
= dialectal form of thilke: that, that same
he woll accouse hym right well by thike fals harlot
his caricure 23

THIS, THYS, a. and demons. pron. Pl. These

Adj.:

atte begynnyng of thys mater 2
and that this answer be sadly over seyn 4
that ye wysely declare to fore tham these answers 4

Demons. pron.:

This don y pray yow to calle be fore yow atte halle
the substance of the comminalte 4
as after this, to make our articulis, we have meny
true ayenst oon of theyris. 58

THOGH, conj.

1. Although, notwithstanding that

for thogh me thoght that hit were a mene resomable
y dar not sey yee, thogh y have power 11

2. Even if

oure replications beth not yet alle redy ne mygh
[sic] not be for shortenesse of tyne thogh y sholde
dye therfor 19

3. If

no mervaill thogh y be wery 17
Hengston...made as thogh hit were yes 14

TH00, demons. pron. (pl.)

Those

thoo that war at home...were syke on theire beddes 5
and tho that beth substantiall grete and grevous to us...lete than be so answered 13 wyth alle thoo that longeth to be there 25 oon of thoo pryncipall endyfferently to entrete 26

THROGH, prep. See THURGH

Be means of

and yut through your gracious lordship I truste to God shal be 50

THROWE, v.t.; pp. thrown

'to throw off' = to cast aside, repudiate

how hit was procured and shortly thrown of 36

THURGH, adv. See THROGH

At an end; finished

we were almost thurgh and at an ende 37
we buth alle most thurgh 37

THYNG, sb. Pl.thyng, thynge, thyngs, thynges, thynggis

A matter; property; a consideration

hit was to symple a thyng...to seye onys graunt mercy 37
y have right meny thyng to enfourme you of 6
[y] comyned of meny thynges wt hym. 7
kas ye seide to me at home that y didde and seide moche thyngse more there 15

all thynges is at his commandement 58

whiche letter yn my sympell conceyt y yn alle thynges have well understonde 35

THYNKE, v.i.; pa.t. thought

To imagine; to suppose

they have spatte out the uttmyst and worste venym that they cowde seye or thynke by me 16
[they] thought that my lord of Exeter were avysed and ruled so to come 47

To remark mentally

and bot ye dar sey so, thynke so, thynke so 23
THYNKE, v. impers.; pa.t. thought, thought

To seem. (With obj. case preceding)

as me thought aughte to be done 9
y seide this was a grete thyng as me thought 10
Than thought y seyde reso[nably] 20

TO, a. See TWO

TO, prep.

According to

y have...governed me yn any wyse at home sithen the
last terms my departyng fro hym other wyse then to
his pleasure 8

With int.

that hit please youre gode...lordship to be remembred
of the grete mater....1

Toward or into place

y rode fro Exestre on Fryday and cam to London on
twyysday 3

(Many other uses of to, but not in a sense different from
that of Mod. Eng.)

TO, adv.

1. Too (degree)

Y seyde the tyme was to shorthe 18
y seide to my seid lorde hit was to symple a thyng 37
[we] were on grete argamentes by longe tyme, to long
to write 10

2. Also

as sone as ever he saw me he (toke me) fast by the
honde and thankis ynoch to 37
breule, bragge and brace, lye and swere well to 23

TO FORE, prep.

Before

Werthelez atte begynnyng of thys mater comyng to
fore yow yn revelucion the mayor and comminaite...
sywed unto you 2
yn the Kynges byhalf to come to fore you yn haste 4
and that ye wysely declare to fore than these answers 4

TOGEdER, adv.
Together

the seyde mayer abode at home yn to a tuysday next
after Seynt Luke is dey....to have the feloship
togeder 5
leide theire iliç. heddis negh to geder 12
ye and he communed to geder 34

TOKYN, sb.
A message or sign showing authority to do something
y spake to my lord to have a tokyn to Sir John
Wulston to have oure articles y-answered. 44

TO MORUN, adv.
Tomorrow

He seide 'Mayer, y moste to morun ride by tyme to
the Kyng' 7

TOUGH, v.t.; pres.ppl.tochyng, touchyng: concerning (with
force of a preposition)

To concern, affect

y dar not sey yee, thogh y have power, for the mater
toucheth a grete comminalte as well as me 11
but as for trawthe of the mater that tocheth me...16

Touchyng=concerning

as touchyng to menys, y bisoghte hym,...that y
myght go apart to comyne with my fellowship 14
as touchyng the seyde xl s. wt xl s. more.....5
as tochyng the compleynes of the maier and com-
minimalte....12

TOWARD, prep.
Near

stodlynge....toward the bisshoppis gardyn and an-
nexed to the towre and towne wallis 16
TRAUTHE, sb.

See TRETHE

1. Truth; without an article
   but as for trawthe of the mater that tocheth me 16

2. 'of trauthe'=truly
   wherof of trauthe not right moche y spende yet, but
   like 16

3. 'by my trauthe (trowthe)'=by my faith; (A common form
   ofasseveration) upon my honesty
   and that y dar well seye by my trauthe 1
   And y seye by my trawthe...hyt is not myche theire
   defaute 56
   and yet y haddede with me xx li. and more by my
   trauthe 16

TRAVERS, sb.

Dispute, debate

yf ther be eny poynete of grete difficultee or travers
the seide Judges and I woll putte to orr labour to
the remedy and redresse therof 41
that mater whiche longe tyme hath abiden yn travers
bitwixte yow 42
the grete maters yn variance and travers bytwene
the Bysshop----63

TRAVERSE, v.t.

To contradict, dispute

Hengston seide moche and strongly because y seide
they hadde suche charters. Y seide yee. and avowed
hit well they seide so....Hengston hanged sore to
have a lete and a grete courte, and y traversed hym
ever 14

TRESON, sb.

Breach of allegiance to the King

hit is nother felony, ne treson, ne grete trespass 16

TRESPAS, sb.

Offense, transgression

hit is nother felony, ne treson, ne grete trespass 16
TRETE, sb.

'yn trete' - in negotiation

to have the seyd matier yn trete at home as hit was bi your lordship commaunded 50

TREWTHE, sb. See TRAUTHE

truth. 'As trowthe is' = as is true

reporte the beste and as trowthe is of theyre gode and sad governance 56

TROBLE, sb.

Disturbance; worry

hit was like to have be right myche a do and grete trolle. 45
the whiche hath bene to the seid Maier and Commingle right grete laboure, trolle, vexacion, coste, loste, and other right grete hurte and hyndryng 72

TRUE, a.

True, loyal, reliable, faithful; accurate; genuine

he shall fynde the seide MAYER oo man and his wel-wyllled and true men 52
he shall fynde hym the same oo man and the same true man as he hath be 50
William Hampton berer of this wrytynge, the whiche is a man true ynomgh as y truste and suppose 17
Y seide, 'My Lorde, that is true 15
y sende yow a true copy 16
we have meny true ayenst oon of theyris 58

TRULY, adv. Also Trewly

1. Correctly, accurately, faithfully

y pray yow to remembre yow right well and enfourme my lorde of all thynges truly 46

2. Indeed

Trewly, Sc, what the departyng and how at the laste terme was a fore my seid lord...my seide lorde was a fore and is fully enfourmed 33
for trowly he woll noo long delayes 34
Sincere
that ye commende my lorde Chambereller yn the most
toeste and trusty wyse 30

Two
as for oo poynct or twynnt yf such were 59

Two
the whiche mater came before yow and the two Chif
Justises 1
yow oure to Maysters Sr Philip Courtenay and Sr
William Boneyll 71
and also yow oure two other maysters Sr John Cople-
ston and Nicholas Radeford 71

News, information
charging them...to come to fore yow yn haste for the
tyynngs that y have sent home to yow 4

1. A period of some duration

'longe tyme', 'by longe tyme' = for a long time

alle these encoaches asketh grete laboure longe tyme 58
wheryn as God knowyth they and I have laboured long

the grete mater yn variance that by longe tyme hath
honged betwene the seid Bysshop......and the Maier...

'all tyme' = at all times; during the whole time

his privy commaundement as all tyme hath be hadd 52

2. Leisure; time sufficient for a certain purpose; oppor-
tunity

y have right meny thyng to enfourme yow of yf y
hadde tyme. 7
y awayted my tyme and put me yn presse 7
bot to do his avail whan he shall se his tyme 34
'as for tyme'—because of (lack of) time or leisure

Netherlez y excused me and wold not abide as for tyme 7

3. A point in time; an occasion; a repetition

as hit at alle tyme proveth and appereth 23
at his commandement at alle tyme reTy 43
He seyde to the mayer ij. times Well come' 6

Phrases:

'yn tyme'—in past time; in due time (to come)

my right gode lord yn tyme hath be and yut throug your gracious lordship...shal be 50
y have done my due dilygent part therto, and that yn tyme y truste to God ye shall well knowe 6

'yn gode tyme'—seasonably

He seyde 'Nay;' but that y was come yn right gode tyme and well come 6

'what tyme'—when, whenever

what tyme hit is amended, corrected and made by avys of coumseyll to be right well 3

'be tyme'—early, betimes

The morun be tyme y came to my lord 68

TYMELY, adv.

SOON, seasonably

so yt y wolde have be wt my lord yt same dey tymely
y nogh afore mete 23

TYTELNYG, sb.

A brief note of the contents, written at the beginning of an Article

the evidencis wherof short tytelyngs bath made yn the Articulis abovesaid 69
UNCERTEYN, a.
Not sure, doubtful

thus be we uncerteyn as yet of the articulis 56

UNDER, prep.
Controlled by; in accordance with
and all growth and is under the Kynges first com-

UNDERSTONDE, v.t.; pa.t. understode; pp. understanded
To know; to comprehend

He understode and toke my seyyng and ynformation
(yn the moste) best wise 39
y . . . . have well understode 35
y pray yow that they be well redely avysely and
distinctely over radde and the substance of then
right well understonde 17

"to do (one) to understonde" = to cause (one) to know or
have knowledge of; to inform
(y grete) yow well alle, doynge yow to understonde
that the bukhorn came to me bot on Candelmasse yeven
36

UNDERTAKE, v.t.
To venture to assert; to warrant
the Kyng and the lordis shilden thanke us, and that
they wolden undertake upon ham. 60

UNDYSCUSSED, ppl.a.
Undecided, unsettled

whiche mater hath longe tyme honged be fore tham yn
communication and entreyt and yet remayneth undys-
cussed and unended 70

UNENDED, ppl.a.
Not brought to a conclusion
and yet remayneth undysussed and unended 70
UNFAI TLED, ppl.a.
Without default
and ye shall be all redy and wyth alle thoo that
longeth to be there, for our party un failed 25
UNREASONABLE, a.
Irrational
he seide me that there were many wylde and unreason-
able fellows of the Cite of Exce tre. 64
UNTO, prep.
To
your gode and well conceyved letter that ye send
unto hym on Sunday 33
he seide unto me that my lord the Bysshop of Exce tre
hath write unto the kynge of this entretys 65
UNTRUE, a.
False
of whom y suppose growe all this untrue longage 66
UNWORTHY, a.
Lacking in merit; not suitable
And that the seyde Maier conceyved and knywe right
well that his seyde lorde Bysshop toke unworthy as he myghte right well for sympelnesse and povertie to
spoke or entrete with hym. 45
UNYESE, sb.
Discomfort
came and labored yn his owne person to seeke the wayes
and menys of pees to hym grete un yese 65
UPON, prep. See APON
At; at the same time or immediately after
And anon upon that, my Maister Recorder went to
Westminster 62
USED, p.p.

Been accustomed to; enjoyed for a long time. In Mod. Eng. the verb use in this sense requires a complementary infinitive. In the U. S., the s is unvoiced.

He seide that they claymed a viw and that they hadde used moche thyng, &c. and he seide hit was aunson demene.10

UTMYST, sb. and a.

1. The most possible

y shall the utmyst as me aughte do to my lordis pleasure 32

2. Greatest

they have spatte out the utmyst and worste venym that they cowde seye or thinke by me 16

UTTER, a. (Comp. deg.)

Outer

S' John Wolston was yn the utter chamber 67

UTTRE, v.t.

To disclose; to declare

[he] hadde yn commaundement of my lord Chaunceller to speke, uttre maters, and entrete 45 and as they clayme, and as they seyn, and uttred by Hengeston, of yldre tyme then is the Cite. 58
VACACON, sb.

Period of time between terms of court

the maters...sholde be entreted here at home yn this vacacon 53

VARIANCE, sb.

Dispute; debate; contention

variants y moved bytweyne hym and the seyde Richard Durrel [a quarrel arising] 5
tochyng the grete maters yn variance...27
eschowyng variance, breche, throwyng of....56

VARIED, pp.

Departed (from)

they beoth varied fro the seide commaundements and sayth a large atte comyn lawe 40
that the articulis that beth derke may be declared and delyvered yn certeyn, and of suche recorde that they be not varied fro 58

VENYMN, sb.

Malicious language; slander

they have spatte out the uttmyst and worste venym that they cowde seye or thynke by me 16
As touchyng the grete venym that they monyth of my lyvynge, y may and purpose te at my purge 16

VERILY, adv.

Truly, indeed

considryng verily that we wold right fayne have a gode ende 27
as Germyn, that never legh, tolde to me verily wt
grete othis 23
y dawte noght, bot truste to God verily 26
yn whom after the Kyng your soverayn lorde we have most feith hope and truste verrylye 43

VIGILL, sb.

The watch kept on the eve of a holy day—here on Dec. 20 (St. Thomas' Day was Dec. 21)
VISAGYNGE, sb.

Meeting, encountering (HED.) It here seems to mean meeting for evil purpose, or confronting rudely on the street

all nyght walkynge, yvell longage, visaynge, sholdrynge, and all riutous rule, is lette b?

VOYS, sb.

Rumor, report

He seide as he herde hit reported. Y asked of wham. He seide the comyn voys of the Cite. 67

VY/W, VY/W, VIEW, sb.

Used for "view of frank pledge": a court of record of local jurisdiction, originally meant to inspect decen- naries or frankpledges (groups of ten freemen held mutually responsible for the good behavior of the group). Same as a "court-leet".

that we have a vyw and alle that to belongeth, and they right none, ne never had ne shall have but ever wtyrne the jurisdiction and under the correction and punysshment of the cite 10 we to have the vyw and alle that longeth therto 11 [they] were seised of such a view yn the same cite to be holde 77 (Part II)
WACCHÉ, sb.

Watch, guard kept over the city walls

'to kepe the wacche' = to act as sentinel or guard

'yf any of the Mayeres officers entred yn to eny
tenement of the Bysshop for to warne eny man to
come to the wacche that they sholde breke his head. 45
my lord of Excestre is temntis were somed to comte
and kepe the wacche 52

WACCHÉ, WATCHE, v.i.

To do guard duty for the city

makyng grete querellis by cause that he somed the
Bysshoppis tenaunts to watche 52
they wolll wacche now wt a gode wyll 52

WAKE, v.i.; pp. wakod.

To stay awake

and yet ye hadde wakod nyghte and day. 19

WARD, adverbial suffix, meaning 'in the direction of' or
'near'. Preceded by a preposition.

[they] rode oute of Excestor to London-ward 5
My lord asked the bokis. He seide that his were yn
Kent js warede. 18
he wolde sende for the bokys that y have write to
yow of yn Kent ys warede. 19
Y mette with my lorde atte high table ende comyng to
meteward. 37

See also ABAKWARD, FORTHWARD, and HOMWARD.

WARDIS, adverbial genitive suffix, with the same meaning
as ward.

Thomas Dowrissh and William Spere with hym, rode
cate of Excestre to London wardis 61
he rode to Canterbury wardis 64
y was at Wyndescor to London wardis 65

WARNE, WERNE, v.t.

1. To notify, inform

feloship not comyned with ne warned who to ride with
me. 31
250

yf eny of the Mayeres officers entred yn to eny tenement of the Bysshop for to warne eny man to come to the wacche that they sholde breke his hed. 44
The morne at viii atte cloke came to the Mayer my lorde of Exeater is surveyour and Copleston and warned hym that my seyde lorde Bysshop of Exeater wolde be att Exeater that same day 46

2. To forbid, deny

My lorde seyde he myght not werne them ye comyn lawe, bot he seide right feith fully and sadly he wolde consell ham the contrary 23

WARNYNG, sb.

Notification

But for myn excuses dyverses ye shall say that y hadde warnyng of my lordis comandemement bot the nyght before 31

WATCHE, v.i. See WACCHE

WAYTE, v.i.

'to wayte apon': to come to a superior to pay respects, to serve, or to take orders

the Mayer wayted apon hym and well comed hym 47
The Mayer wayted apon his gode lordship at alle tymes as his part was, and proferred hym his servys yf anythyng he sholde and myght do 49

WAYWARD, a.

Obstinate, perverse

Wherapon the Mayer made right grete wayward longage to tham. 52

WAYWARDLY, adv.

Perversely, stubbornly

The Mayer seide waywardly he wolde do more, he wolde make levy both of the Citeseyn spendyng and the fe ferme, and that he wolde well avowe 52

WAYWARDNYS, sb.

Obstinacy
what yvell wyll, waywardnys, and unkyndnesse was assigned, and what was promised...ye knowe right well 36

WELFARE, sb.

Entertainment; well-being, prosperity

what gode chere and welfare they hadde there 45 as ye wolle the sped of youre mater and welfare of the cite 17

WELL, a.

Satisfactory

trustyng to God that al the substance ys comprehended ther ymne, so that what tyme hit is amended, ..........to be right well 4 but y truste to God hit shall be right well with youre gode enformacion and helpe therto 17

WELL, adv.

1. Kindly

"Y grete yow well alle" - a common formula in letters 8

2. Fully, properly--somewhat weakened in force. See 5. below

as hit is and shall be well proved by evident writ- yng, witnesse, and other wyse... 28

3. Roundly

y charge Germyn.... yt he do that he can do, braule, bragge and brace, lye and swere well to. 23

4. Surely, indeed, certainly, very much

y have done my due diligent part therto, and that yn tyme y truste to God ye shall well knowe 6 Hengston seide moche and strongly because y seide they hadde suche charters. Y seide yee, and avowed hit well they seide so. 14 he wolde right well that the deme were payed with us 13

5. As an intensive- indeed

y seide y darst well seye that he ne none of his
fellow me none other of the Cite seid never so 65
and that he wolde well avowe 52

6= 'very well' (as an expletive, or a conversational substitute for more explicit statement).

He seide, 'Well, mayer' and bade me come ayen that 
that same day afternone 7

WELL COME, a.

1. Salutation, elliptical for 'You are welcome'

He seyde to the mayer ij. tymes 'Well come', and the 
iiijde tymes 'Right well come Mayer,' and helde the 
mayer a grete while faste by the honde 6

2. Received gladly

I ferid well, had gode chere, and was yn the best 
wyse right wel come 50

WELL COME, v.t.

To greet kindly or cordially

and welcom hym yn the most best and gode wyse 
that they cowde. 48

WELWYLED, a.

Kindly disposed

he shall fynde the seide Maier oo man and his wel-
wyld and true men 32

Y fynde hym a gode man and well willed ynoure 
right 9

*WEND, v.t. pa.t. wende

Y wende right to my lord ayen before them alle 15

WENDISDAY, sb. Also Wensday

Wednesday. Shillingford's longer rendition of the word 
may indicate only a striving after the "genteeel". The 
spelling Wensday probably represents more accurately his 
pronunciation.

On Wendysday at nyght they came to Sheftesbery 5 
on Wendsday yn the vigill of Seynt Thomas the 
Apostell. 26

on Wensday next after Passion Sonday 51
*WENE, v.i.; pa.t.wend
To suppose, imagine
and sende hym [the Mayor] word that he is not the man that he [the Bishop] wend that he had be 30

*WENDE, v.i.; pa.t.wente
To shed tears
Germyn putte his fynger yn his ye and wente 19

WERCE, a. Comparative deg. of bad; adv., comp. of badly
a. Bad or ill in a greater degree
and yf y hadde hit sholde have be never the weree 14 they have spatte out the uttmyst and worste venym that they cowde seye or thynke by me 16
adv. More wickedly
so they wolde have don, and weree yf they cowde 16

WERCE WILLEDE, a.
Less kindly disposed
leste the parties signe deffante yn me, and be more weree willed and dangerous to entrete. 54

WERY, a.
Tired, impatient because of the long endurance of something
be not wery to over rede hire and se all the writyng 17
and yf ye be, no mervaill thogh y be wery 17

WEY, sb.
1. Plan, method, means for accomplishing something
And yf hit so be that ther shall be y-offered suche weyes that may be to the gode ende and peasyng [MS. peasyng] of the scide maters...he wold applie hym self therto 34
'the weyes and menys of pees'--now a formula
came and labored yn his owne person to seke the weyes and menys of pees 65
2. Path, route

Richard Druell wth other held his way 5

3. 'yn wey of charyte'—as an expression of good will; out of kindness

yn any party he found yn defaute, so to be conceyved, ruled, and reported to the Kyng our sovereign lorde, and that for the love of God and yn wey of charyte, 3

4. 'by wey of execution'—undergoing punishment

WHAM, rel. pron., obj. case. See under WHO

'wham that'—whomever

my seide lorde seide y sholde take wham that y wolde 48

which

with wham he was at right grete pryvy communicacion 6
Sr John Wolston, of whom y suppose growe all this untrue longage 66

WHAN, adv.

'whan that ever'—whenever

whan that ever y come to be well come to hym 22

WHAS, rel. pron., poss. case. See also WHO, WHAM

Whose

by whas ryght high and ferfull commandement 2
What rule and commandement as y conceived was this 24

WHAT, pron., interr., rel.; indef. adj.

1. Who

he seide me that there were many wylde and unreason-able fellows of the Cite of Exocetre. And y asked whent they were, and he seide William Hampton....64

2. Whatever

he shall fynde the seide Maier co man and his wel-wylled and true men what any men seye of hym 32

3. 'what that'—whatever
he sholde seye what that he wolde. 48 'what that' = that which

[y] rehearsed what that belongeth to a lete 14

4. 'what....that ever' = whatever

what tyme that ever he will y woll be all redy 6 what reporte that ever hath be made ayenst us 56

WHICHE, rel.pron.

a who

[they] mette wt Richard Druell, whiche made reporte of his gode spede and laboure 5 and so y shall by the grace of God, whiche have yow yn his kepyng. 36

Which

they had meny old charters, eveydences, and munimentes that their counseyll saw never, whiche sholde be showed. 46 at whiche tyme Sr Richard Neuton...called the part\-ies before him 50

Apon the deliverance of whiche articulis to us... 55

'the whiche' = a literal translation of French 'le quel', which, who

the whiche mater came before yow and the two Chie\- Justises 1

the which is a man true ynoogh as y truste and sup\- pose 17

the whiche all this considerid me thoght hit was not my part to come to Chudlegh 32

WHILE, sb. Gen. whiles

'a grete while or whiles' = for a long time

and helde the mayer a grete while faste by the honde 6

[Y] spake with my lorde prively a grete whiles 15 he stondyng yn his astate ayenst the fire a grete whiles 37

Y spake with my seide lord...a grete whiles. 66

WHO, rel.pron. Obj. WHOM. See also WHAM, WHAS

Who

feloship not conyned with ne warned who to ride with me. 31
Obj. case:

what was comyned, moved, stured, desired, and by whom 36
y spake with the inde Chif Justise there a grete while, to whom our mater myche was rawe. 38

WILL, v.i. and aux. with fut. tense. Also Wyll. See WOLL

To wish, desire

and what tyrne that ever he will y will be all redy 6
Constre ye what ye will. 16

Aux.: (Usually WOLL)

ye Wyll abide by ye answers yn all wyse 4

WITHOUT, prep.

1. Outside; beyond

the suburbis Woute Estye yeate 10
beryng of the mace Woute Westyeat 53
a wall and kermellis stondynge withoute the towre 16

2. Lacking

y departed fro yow withoute any mony of youris 17

3. 'withoute that' = 'not granted that'

Also hit was never known ne seide bot that the seide fe was a thyng by him self, and the seide Churche and Cimitere another thyng by him self....withoute that yo1 Cathedral Churche and Cimitere be parcell of the seide fe or annexed thereto 28

WITHYNNE, prep.

Inside; in; under

we to have right nogh to don ne make non arescis
withynne his fee 66
we have a wyw...and they right none, ne never hadde
ne shall have but ever withynne the jurisdiction and
under the correction and punishashment of the cite. 10

WITTE, sb.

Understanding, knowledge

so that y have youre concept witte and entente to
repplye to the seide answeris 17
WOLL, v.t., and aux. with fut. tense and conditional;
pt. wolde, pl. woldan. See WILL, v.

To wish, desire; to ask, require

for trewly he woll no long delays theron 34
as ye wolle the sped of youro mater and welfare
of the cite 17
Hengston seide that he wolde right well that the
deme were payed with us 13
y wolde noght hit were y-knowe that suche writynge
cam fro me 54
My lorde Chaunceller wolde that y sholde myve of
of menys 20
my lorde Chaunceller seide...that he wolde attende
when the justyse wolde 7
[we] at alle tyme have bo redy and yot buth to bryng
yn dyvers evyldynes...as the Kynges seyde commande-
ment wolle 2
the mayr and comminaite.....sywed unto you my lor
dchaunceller by supplyacion to have be deschargd and
as the law wolde 2

Auxiliary uses:

as we truste to God ye wolle reporte us 2
and what tyme that ever he wille y wolle be all redy 6
[y] asked yf he wolde commande me any thyng to do 19
we wolde right fayne have a gode ende 27
They seyde yf we wolden so aggre'us, that the Kyng
and the lordis sholde thankes us, and that they
wolden undertake uppon ham. 60
and y seide and ['if']he wolde so he wolde not late
calle so fervently atte barre upon the laver 64
Without complementary infin. expressed:

They wolden not therof yn no wyse 60
they exsoued ham, and wolde noght therof. 55
Kys wolde no futher yn that, but moved and stured
of other divers entretys. 45

WOMAN, sb., pl. wyammen

Woman

a full sike woman hardly for she hadd sore falle of
hire horse. 64
as y may right well apon my sawle of alle wyammen 16

WONT, ppl.a.

Accustomed

all ther as hit was wont to be 66
WORD, sb.

Statement; report, saying; 'by word'—orally

and sende hym word that he is not the man that he wend that he had be, the which wordes is to hym right hevy 30 yf he were enforwmed by worde or by wrytyng of eny thynge that y have do or seyde or governed me...other wyse then to his plesure 8 And as y conceive by dyvers wordes that they have comynd of a rule yn this matter 7

WORSHIP, sb.

Honor, praise, reverence, respect

My lord at this tyme didde me moche worship 15 after dewe and entierly recommendacion with all worship and reverence 33 now ther is by twene the parties....grete gode wyll, worship, courtesy, reverence, yn procession speccy- ally 57

WORTHY, a.

Excellent, esteemed, distinguished, respectable; de- serving

Worthy sirs y grete yow well alle 22 as your worthy and approved discretion symyth best for be done 35 how dangerous hit was to make eny worthy man to come to hym att tyme for strange chere at Clist 30 my lord sayng of me that y was never worthy to be called, that y was a godeman wyse 22

In pl. as substantive: Eminent or prominent men, lead- ing citizens

they were answered that the Mayer w† alle the worthy of the Cite wolde awayte apon his gode lordship 47

WRITE, v.t.; pa.t.,wrotte; wrotte; pp.,write, writen, y-writen, writyn

To write

hit pleased yow gode and gracious lordshippe this same terme of Seynt Hillary to write a lettre unto my said lord 50 and where ye wrote to my seide lorde 34 my lord Chaunceller eftes, at Hillery terme, wrotte unto my lord Bysshoph 61 my lord the Bysshop of Exeetre hath write unto the kynge of this entret 65
Written at Exeter the Thursday (next) after Sent
Incio. 25

Written at London ym alle Sawlyn day 17
Seyde moche more than is above writyn 15

Wrytyng, sb.

Something written
be not wery to over rede hire and se all the writ-
yng that y have sende home to you 17
William Hampton, berer of this writyn 17

Wyke, sb.

Week
y moste to morun ride by tymne to the Kyng, and come
ayen this wyke 7
a Trusday yn the Easter wyke...59

Wylde, a.

Unmanageable; violent
and anon he seide me that there were many wylde and
unreasonoble felows of the Cite of Exctere. 64

Wyll, sb. See Will

Wylled, ppl.a.

Disposed, inclined
and yn the best wise wylled to entrete and to make
an ende 56
how the puple beth willed and set, forynye ye hit
noght, but letes hit be truly reported 59

Wyse, sb.

Manner, way
charging than ym ye most streytest wyse...to come to
fore yow 4
he woll ascuse hym right well by thike fals harlot
his carioure, and the carioure yn like wyse by the
seide Germyn 23
Salutyng hym yn the most godey wyse that y cowde 6

'yn all wyse'in every way
y have do my dayly labour yn all wyse 32
'in dyvers wyse' = in various respects
the Court stondeth y charged wt hym in dyvers wyse 53

'yn all maner wyse' = in every kind of way
the seide Mayer and Comminalte will abide yo' commandement yn all maner wyse. 71

'yn no wise' = not at all
and so this mater is broke up, the cause not knowed to us yn no wise 60

'to make wyse' = to indicate by signs or expression
Hengston seide but litell therto, but made wyse as thogh hit were yes 14

WYSE, a.
 Learned

my lorde seyng of me that y was never worthy to be called, that y was a godeman wyse and well do my part 22

WYSEDOM, sb. Pl. wysedomys (as if it were a concrete noun)
Discernment; discretion

therfor to speke wyth the nywe shyrif y sette hit grete wysedom 21
not likely by that mene to be ended lightly, as your wysedom knowyth well 42

Pl.: and that we have and shall comytte yn to the grete wysedomys of the lords abovsaid. 28.

WYTE, v.i.; 1st and 3d pers., pres.t. wote
To know, to learn

whatever hit be y can not wyte as yet 7
he was don to wyte that my Mayster Radford and my Maistresse his wyf were yn towne 61
he menyng of Upton is tyme y wote right well 13
as he wote well and can telle yow 16
and God wote that is not oure defaute 56
of the whiche y wote well he hath comyned privly
with Dowrissh 63
Y

Y-, the prefix used in Shillingford frequently for forming past participles. He adds it twice to a present participle: y seyynng 6, and y trustynng 32. It is to be remarked that he uses this Anglo-Saxon prefix with Romance words as well as words of native origin. The words of Romance origin I have marked with †.

†y answered 44
†y bede-bidden 7
†y-blessed 16, 57
†y called 10
†y charged 53
†y come 45; y-come 57
†y do 19; y doon 37
†y dullest 25 (footnote)
†y granted 10
†y hadde 47
†y knewe 43
†y knowe 37; y-knowe 54
†y lette 13
†y made 38
†y moved 5
†y temptet 31, 46
†y-offered 24
†y proved 13
†y put 38; y puth 12, 26
†y radde 13
†y-reported 22 (A remarkable compound: A.S. prefix with Romance word of three syllables!)
†y seid 66; y seyng 6
†y send 33, 35; y sends 66
†y sette 31, 46
†y-spende 16
†y taket 48; y-take 36
†y-trustyng 32
†y-write 66; y-write 35

Y, pers. pron. See I.

I (1st pers., sing.)

and that y dar well seye by my trauthe l (3, 4, 6, 7, 8, etc.)
Y seyde, savyng his commandement, that Y cowde not theryn 20

Ye, pers. pron., 2nd pers. nom., sing. and pl. The form the on pages 62 and 64 may be due to confusion of Y and the character y. Thou does not occur.
Sing.:

To the Archbishop of Canterbury: as we truste to God ye wole reporte us 2
The Justice addressing the Mayor: Ye didde theron as right a wise man 11
The Mayor addressing one of the Canons: Kis, ye seide to me at home that y didde and seide moche thynge more there then my lorddis commandement was 15
Speer to the Mayor: Sr John Wolston came to me, and asked why ye were so longe, and y seid the wold be here yn hast 64
(same letter): and seide the were comyng and wolde come, as sone as ye myght. 62

Fl.:

Shillingford to his fellows: callyng...to yow William Noble, Coteler, Druell, and other whom ye seeme is to be dom.4
he seide, 'Mayer, wolde Gode ye hadde made a gode ende at home.' 6
Shillingford to his fellows: Constre ye what ye will. 16

Usually expressed when imperative is used:

seye ye here be fore my lorde what hit was 15
Constre ye what ye will. 16
foryte ye hit negot, but lete hit be truly reported 59

YE, sb.

Eye

Germyn putte his fynger yn his ye and wepte 19

YEATE, sb.

Gate

the suburbiis w'toute Este yeate 10
and yn especiall yt ye stretes be clene and specialle the litell lane yn the bak side be nethe the flessh folde yeate 23

YEE, adv.

Yea, yes

so that they sey manly yee and may 4
Y seide yee, as suche fees as beth ther on towne 10
y dar not sey yee, thogh y have power 11
asked ye he wolde commande me eny thyng to do that
day, he seide yee 19

YERE, sb. (occurs in plural only)

Years

this mater hath honged yn debate by tyme of 1111
yere, of the whiche tyme almost 11 yere yn entretie
we hadde be yn debate by dyvers tymes, almost by
tyme of viii-x yere 68

YERLY, adv.

Early in the day

[they] departed the scyde Monecey yerly. 5
And y liyng on my badde atte wrtyng of this right
yerly, myryly syngyng a myry song 16

YES, adv.

Yee is the usual affirmative answer. Yee and yee seem
to be used without differentiation to express assent.

And y mayer, seide yee, with moche more 12
Hengston seide but litell therto, but made wyse as
thogh hit were yee 14

YESE, sb. See EYSE, EASE

Satisfaction, relief

as ye woll yese and pees yn this mater 40

YET, adv. See YUT also

Yet; though; still

Temporal:

coure replications beth not yet alle redy ne myght
not be for shortmesse of tyme thogh y sholde dye
erfor 19
[we] yet buth redy to do the same as we stughte to
do 2

Adversative:

and yet y hadde waked nyghte and day. 19

'as yet' to this time

thus be we uncerteyn as yet of the articulis 56
YEVE, sb.

Eve

on Candelmasse yeve y receyved a letter 35


To give, grant

[praying] yow most specially of your gode and grac-ious lordship to yeve your gode will 27
bysekyng hym of his gode lordship.....to yeve leyser
and attendence therto 30
whiche lettre ye yeve me yn special comandement to
bere my self to my seid lord 50
and so y didde, and yeaf an answer 14
my lord Chaunceller hath yeve yn comandement to
bothe parties generally to entrete 70
anon my lord brake the letter. yeven while gracies
was seyng 63
'to yeve over'= to postponed, adjourn

and so dey yeve over yn to Hengeton is comyng 46
'to yeve a dey' = to appoint a time, set a day

[he] yeaf no dey to that other party me to me to
be there 18

YEVEN, sb.

Eve (Candelmas Eve is Feb. 1); evening

the bukhorn came to me bot on Candelmasse yeven
aftermorn 36
there shold meny a priest of the close of Exceter
loste his hade onys of myssomer yeven. 65
Thomas Mayer ynterruptyng our franchysse a Lammasse
yeven. 53 (Lammas Day is Aug. 1)
The moryn tuysday al Halwyn yeven y receyved the
answeris 16 (All Halloewes' Day is Nov. 1)

YEVENSONGE, sb.

'yevensonge tyme' was about sunset. when vespers were
sung

At yevensonge tyme my lorde the Rhissop was come 47
The Rhissop taried at Exceter fro Friday yevensonge
tyme yn to a Monday erly yn the mornyng. 49

YLDRE, a. (comparative deg.)

Older, earlier
as they cleyme, and as they seyn, and uttred by Hengeston, of yldre tyne then is the Cite. 58

YN, prep.

On

y-writen at London yn alle Sawlyn day 17
the articulis were delivered us...full sympeely yn
paper, and afterwaes, at oure prayer and request,
yn parchement 55

gode chere and right welcomme, gode welfare, and
grete festis yn the Chanons parte 57

YNDYNGNACION, sb.

Anger, resentment. The intrusive n probably represents Shillingford's pronunciation.

eschewying variance, breche, throwing of, yndyngnacion
specially 36

YNOCH, adv. and a.

1. Sufficient (for something); post-positive use same as in Mod. Coll. Eng.

thogh y have power ynoch 11
Y hilde myn awne. Y hagde maters y noch, &c. 20
so yt y wolde have be wt my lord yt same day tymely
ynoch afore mete 25
my seide lorde seide that ysholde take whom that y
wolde, there stode right y noch abowte. 48

2. With intensive force: as much as well could be (NED.)

How hit was presented y-take, and what thankys and
better thankis y noch therfor Harry Dobyn can telle
yow of 36

and as sone as ever he saw me he (toke me) fast by
the honde and thankis ynoch to 37

3. To a tolerable degree (Some doubt is expressed)

William Hampton berer of this writyng, the whiche is
a man true ynoch as y truste and suppose 17

YNSTANCE, sb.

Urgent entreaty

the whiche mater came before yow and the two Chif
Justises by the syeute ystance and laboure of the
The page contains a text excerpt which, upon being read naturally, translates to:

"By their suit, instance, and labour to his highness thereof made 40
And that with great instance and prayer was granted 47

*YNTERRUPT, v.t.
To burst into
Thomas Mayer ynterruptynge our franchise a Lammasse yeven, 53

YN TO, prep.
1. Until
you not seye yt to tyme that you have spoke with my fellowship at home 11
He adjoined hit over yt to Soneday 11
fro Mighelmasse yt to nowe 57

2. To unto
by the sywte ytstance and labour of the seyde bysshop deane and chapitre yt to the highnesse of oure soverayne lorde the Kyng made 2
[y] recommended yt to his gode and gracious lordship my fellowship and all the comminalte 6

YOUR, pron., poss. of YOW. Absol. youris

Your (sing. and pl.)
your Brethren and myn 41
y beseeche you of youre gode lordship to have me excused 11
y departed fro you with oute any mony of youris 17

YOW, pers. and refl. pron. Obj. of YE. (Also YOU)

You
Worthy sires you great you well alle 3
the mayor and comminalte hadde day to appere before you 2
Furthermore you do you to understande....23
whereof you pray you to remembre you right well 46

YET, adv. See YET

Yet, still"
yn tyme hath be and yut throgh your gracious lord-
ship I truste to God shal be 50

YVELL, adv.

Ill; badly, unfortunately

they have be and beth right yvell apayed of this
longe tarynge 56
oure party aduers wth theire counsell beyng present
and yvell plesed and payed therwith 18
He seide hit was right yvell y do yf hit myght
otherwise have be 19

YVELL WYLL, sb.

Ill-will

forto answere them hit wolde be cause of more gruc-
chynge and yvell wyll. 13.
what yvell wyll, waywardynys, and unkyndnesse was as-
signed...ye knowe right well 36
y seid that his tale was not be lyved, for hit wolde
be supposed ever of yvell wille and none other.65
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