

A PHILOLOGICAL STUDY OF  
THE MIDDLE ENGLISH "GOSPEL OF NICODEMUS"

BY

IELEANE L.W. HEMPHILL, B.A

A THESIS PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT  
OF ENGLISH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA IN PARTIAL  
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF ARTS.

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

APRIL, 1933.



Approximately two thousand cards which represent the major part of the work of this thesis are now ready to be sent to Professor S. Moore at the University of Michigan, with the approval of Professor Perry, Head of Department of English, University of Manitoba.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Chapter</u>		<u>Page</u>
I	The Historical Development of the Dictionary to the New English Dictionary.	I
II	The New English Dictionary	11
III	The New Middle English Dictionary History.	17
IV	The Middle English Dictionary Method.	25
V	A Study of the Gospel of Nicodemus	38.
	Bibliography.	48.

## CHAPTER I

### Historical Development of the Dictionary.

As man may be called the product of the age, so may the dictionary be called the product of all ages. In youth the character is very simple but, due to its high susceptibility to environment and to human experiences, it becomes wiser and more complex, bearing the indelible mark of each incident encountered during its life-time. Similar is the evolution of the character of the dictionary. It was merely a gloss of Greek and Latin words until the Norman Conquest brought in a large number of foreign words, to broaden and enlarge the English language. So far we must note the subservience of the vulgar tongue but, with the Revival of Learning in the seventeenth century and the rise of a new spirit of nationalism in the reign of Elizabeth, the English language quickly began to gain recognition and the first truly English Dictionary came into being. Finally, because of the general enlightenment of the masses, came the necessity of complex word books of encyclopaedic nature.

After realizing the romantic development of lexicons and their close alliance to the history of the country, the epithet of "harmless drudges" applied to all lexicographers, does not seem to be wholly justified. "The English Dictionary", like the English Constitution, is the

creation of no one man and of no one age; it is a growth that has slowly developed itself down the ages." #1.

Just as the drama, poetry, music and all arts trace their origin to the "glory that was Greece and the grandeur that was Rome", so does the dictionary find its early beginnings in those great civilizations. The simplicity of its original form is hardly to be recognized in our modern conception of a dictionary as "a book containing a collection of all, or the principal words of a language, arranged alphabetically, or in some definite order, with an explanation of their meaning and often other information concerning them, in the same or another language; such additional information including pronunciation, etymology, illustrative quotations, synonyms and idiomatic phrases." #2.

Early Latin and Greek word-books are most fittingly called "glosses" for they made no pretensions of explaining all words. During the seventh and eighth centuries Latin was the literary language of Western Europe and these glosses consisted of an explanatory note in easier Latin written above a difficult Latin word. These early manuscripts show that, only when a simple explanation

#1. Murray, James A. H. "The Evolution of English Lexicography", Clarendon Press, 1900. Page 12.

#2. Encyclopedia Britannica.

was impossible in Latin, was it given in Old English. These "glosses" are also important in that they preserve many Old English, Old Irish and Old Germanic words not found elsewhere. To assist the memory, "glosses" of many manuscripts were combined into a long word-list or "glossarium".

Another early form of word-list compiled for memorizing purposes, was the "vocabularium". However, in this case, the meaning was given in the vernacular. Due to their similarity in purpose and nature, the Glossary and Vocabulary were combined, the utility to the student being further increased when scribes arranged them in the alphabetical order of the first letters of the words. Gradually all words were alphabetized as far as the second letter.

Four such glossaries are still extant and, from the names of their respective libraries, are called the Leiden, the Epinal, the Arfurt and the Corpus manuscripts. The Leiden is probably the earliest manuscript for the glosses are small and follow no regular order. The Epinal glossary is alphabetized according to the first letters only and, with the Erfurt, is dated between the seventh and eighth centuries A. D. The Corpus glossary probably dates to the early eighth century because the alphabetical order goes as far as the second letter. "Many more vocabularies were compiled between these early dates and the eleventh century; and it is noteworthy that those ancient glossaries and vocabularies

not only became fuller and more orderly as time advanced but they also became more English." #I.

Just as lexicography in England was beginning to develop quickly, its progress was retarded by the Norman Conquest. French became the language of the court, the nobility, and the clergy and the masses, naturally, did not have enough prestige to bring the native tongue into repute. It was more than a century before English literature began to re-assert itself and, for over three hundred years, English lexicography was at a standstill. The only significant incident during the interim was the use of the term "dictionarius" for a collection of Latin vocables by Joannes de Garlandia in 1225.

By the end of the fourteenth century, however, the English language was again recognized in the courts of law and introduced into the grammar schools in the translation of Latin exercises that had been, previously, rendered into French. Its prestige was further heightened by the vernacular works of the ecclesiastical and secular writers, Robert of Gloucester, Richard Rolle of Hampole, William Langland, John Gower, and Geoffrey Chaucer, "the premature flowering of the Renaissance". Lexicography again flourished and

#I. Murray, James A. H. Op. Cit. Page 12.

"about the middle of the century was compiled the famous 'Medualla Grammatices', designated, with some propriety, 'the first Latin-English Dictionary'." #1.

It is remarkable that these vocabularies were compiled for the purpose of the elucidation of Latin, not the English language and it was not until 1499 that the first English-Latin dictionary was published; the 'Promptorium Parvulorum' compiled by Galfridus, a Dominican friar, in 1440. It is "one of the most valuable linguistic monuments of its class to be found in any European country," #2. as it emphasizes the explanation of English in place of Latin. A few examples will be taken from this dictionary to illustrate its method:

Corne--Granum, gramen. "Corne, whyle it growythe."

Freend--Amicus, amica.

Heed--Caput.

As we have noted in the historical development of lexicography as far as the fourteenth century, it is only when the attention of the nation is centred on literature that words, literature's medium of expression, receive their due care and study. Naturally, the Renaissance, with its enthusiasm for learning and literature, brought with it a consequent rejuvenation of Latin-English and English-Latin dictionaries in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Among these should be noted "The Dictionary of Sir Thomas Elyot Knight" which was the first word-list to employ the term "dictionary" to designate its aim and plan; the "Abecedarium"



of Richard Huloet, 1552; and the "Avearie" of John Baret, 1573.

The Renaissance was an era of exploration in every branch of knowledge and in every country of the world; an era of expansion territorially and intellectually. It is not surprising, therefore, that dictionaries were compiled in English with another modern language to assist the native of England in social and commercial intercourse with the other nations. The first example of such language dictionaries is John Palsgrave's "Eclairissement de la Langue Francoyse", 1530, written in French and English for the use of Mary Tudor of England when she became the bride of Louis XII of France. From a political and commercial point of view, Spain and Italy were also of major importance to England and, in 1599, appeared Richard Percevall's "Spanish-English Dictionary" and John Florio's Italian-English "World of Words". These dictionaries grew more polyglot in character until eleven languages were considered in John Minshew's "The Guide unto Tongues", of 1617.

So far, the Revival of Learning had done much to further the cultivation of foreign languages, consequently underestimating the importance of the native tongue. Oxford and Cambridge soon took the lead as exponents of the vernacular and, by the early seventeenth century, we find dictionaries to help Englishmen to a better mastery of the

#1. Murray James A.H. Op. Cit. Page 15.

#2. Galfridus. "Promptorium Parvulorum Sive Clericorum etc."  
Preface.

English language. However, the duty of the lexicographer was, as yet, to define only 'good words' i.e. to decide authoritatively questions of usage. Such was the purpose of the Academia della Crusca and its criterion of refined taste in word usage, the "Vocabulario degli Academia della Crusca". Similar was the aim of the Academie Francoise and its dictionary of 1694.

A momentous development in English lexicography was marked by the publishing of Robert Cawdrey's "The Table Alphabetical of Hard Words", 1604. This volume treated only the difficult words---some three thousand learned terms that had been borrowed by the English from Arabic, Latin, Greek and Hebrew during the Revival of Learning---words whose meanings and spellings were explained in English for the use of Englishmen. Similar dictionaries of difficult words were Henry Cockerman's "The English Dictionarie", 1623; Thomas Blount's "Glossographia", 1656; Schoolmaster Cole's "English Dictionary"; and Phillip's "The New World of Words", 1658. These lexicons were not meant to be complete but, as Edward Phillips described his "New World", were intended to "contain the interpretation of such hard words as are derived from other languages." #

It was not until almost a century later that an attempt was made at collecting and defining all the words in good usage in the English language. This was done by Nathaniel Bailey in his "Universal Etymological Dictionary",

# Phillips, Edward. "New World of English Words", 1658.

published in 1721, which attempted to include all English words of the period. In the edition of 1731, moreover, Bailey marked the stress accent, the first step towards an indication of pronunciation. Subsequently, many lexicographers followed his example. Among these may be mentioned Benjamin Martin who published his dictionary in 1749 in which he made use of the accent stress to indicate the number and quantity of the syllables. In the same style were the dictionaries of Dyche and Pardon, in 1735 and B. N. Defoe in the same year.

The eighteenth century found English literature at a high ebb. Dryden and Pope had demonstrated the elegance of the English language as a means of expression on the basis of the great classical models and Addison, Swift and Defoe had shown its flexibility in a masterly prose style. It was these English men-of-letters who realized the need of some lexicographic authority to prevent the deterioration of the language from its high degree of perfection. This necessitated the compilation of a standard dictionary by some writer whose learning would command respect, a dictionary that would contain the proper significance and use of every word and phrase illustrated by quotations from the great authors as indisputable authorities against the innovations of future writers. It was Dr. Samuel Johnson, whose great intellect and retentive mind made him most fit for the task, who was chosen as editor. He planned to complete his project in three years but found the massive work required almost three

times that period. However, English lexicography may be said to begin in 1755 with the publication of Johnson's "A Dictionary of the English Language in which Words are deduced from their Original, and illustrated in their different Significations by Examples from the Best Writers". This is remarkable, not only for its pithy definitions, but, primarily, for its extensive use of quotations from the great authors as a means of authorizing good usage as well as revealing special shades of meaning and use not clearly expressed by a definition.

The only development made in English dictionaries during the eighteenth century was a more definite indication of pronunciation. This new feature was enlarged by Dr. William Kenrick in 1773, by William Perry in 1744, by Thomas Sheridan in 1780 and John Walker in 1791.

Two independent contributions made in this field during the early nineteenth century are worthy of special notice. One was the dictionary of Noah Webster, the American, an octavo book published in 1806. This was followed twenty years later by his "American Dictionary of the English Language", the Bible of the American people. The other contribution was made by Dr. Charles Richardson in his "New Dictionary of the English Language; Illustrated by Quotations from the Best Authors" in which he embodied his theory that definitions of words are unnecessary, quotations alone being the best method of illustrating the meaning. His lexicon contains a mass of quotations taken from authors as far back as the early fourteenth century.

Following these two works

many dictionaries were published, among which may be mentioned: "The Imperial Dictionary of the English Language", edited and largely written by John Ogilvie, a Scottish schoolmaster, who took Webster's book as his basis, but who added to it very extensively. From 1889 to 1891 the "Century Dictionary" was published in parts appearing at short intervals. Joseph E. Worcester, who was trained in lexicography by Webster, compiled various small dictionaries between 1830 and 1859. "The Standard Dictionary" was originally published (1859-95) in two consecutively appearing volumes. Hunter's "Encyclopaedic Dictionary" (1879-1888) is a large work of an encyclopaedic nature, edited and largely written by Robert Hunter, a Scottish author." #

However, these latter dictionaries are but minor works and English lexicography was virtually marking time until the appearance of the first section of the New English Dictionary in 1854.

# Cyclopaedia of Education. Edited by Paul Monroe.  
The MacMillan Company, 1911. Vol; II.

## CHAPTER II

### The New English Dictionary.

We have found that the literary view of the purpose of the English dictionary, as illustrated by Dr. Johnson's remarkable work, held sway for over a century. It was not until the latter half of the nineteenth century that this position was effectively attacked by Dr. Trench, then Dean of Westminster, in a paper, "Some Deficiencies in Existing English Dictionaries", read before the Philological Society in 1857. This replacement of the literary by the scientific or philological view of a dictionary had already been effected in Germany by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm in their "Deutsches Wörterbuch" published in 1854. England was soon to follow their lead.

Dr. Trench, then, may be called the father of the modern English dictionary---"A dictionary, according to that idea of it which seems to me alone capable of being logically maintained, is an inventory of the language;---It is not the task of the maker to select the good words of the language...The business which he has undertaken is to collect and arrange all words, whether good or bad, whether they commend themselves to his judgment, or otherwise... He is an historian,(of the language), not a critic." #

#"Some Deficiencies..." by Richard C. French, found in the Encyclopaedia Britannica, edition XIV, Vol; 7, Page 339.

Trench insisted upon this very important principle, namely, that a dictionary should be an historical record of words and their uses. Previously, the common or 'proper' meaning of the word was given first attention, its other interpretations following in a sometimes logical, sometimes accidental order. The philologist, on the other hand, primarily interested in the word's origin, its growth and alteration, adopted the historical method, involving for its elucidation an extensive use of quotations illustrating the "first and last appearance and every notable point in the life-history of every word."

The Philological Society readily took up Trench's suggestion and projected a supplement to the dictionaries of Johnson and Richardson under the editorship of Herbert Coleridge. The project gradually grew into a complete New English dictionary and, at the death of Coleridge, a few years later, the task was placed in the capable hands of F. J. Furnivall, founder of the New Shakespeare Society, and Walter Skeat, the famous Chaucer editor. Some two million quotations were amassed by the corps of readers and, in 1879, new impetus was given to the work when the expense of printing was assumed by the Oxford University Press. The editorship, due to the deaths of Furnivall and Skeat, was now entrusted to Dr. James A. H. Murray. "It is to his furious industry,

continued unremittingly until his death at nearly eighty, that the work is chiefly due." #1. His assistants, Dr. Bradley, Professor Craigie and Mr. Charles T. Onions, finally completed this great lexicographical enterprise, the New English Dictionary, in 1928.

From the above, one is apt to receive the impression that this great lexicon was the accomplishment of some few great men. On the contrary, it necessitated the study of all words and the consequent reading of all books. This was accomplished only through the voluntary contributions of hundreds of readers and numerous sub-editors whose efforts have made possible the gigantic work whose aim is "to furnish an adequate account of the meaning, origin, and history of English words now in general use, or known to have been in use at any time during the last seven hundred years." #2.

As this study is to be followed by an account of the method of the New Middle English Dictionary, it will not be inadvisable to note the mode of construction used in the compilation of the New English Dictionary. Murray gives a clear statement of this feature in the preface to the Oxford Dictionary: "It endeavours, with regard to each individual

- #1. The Nation, a Weekly Journal Devoted to Politics, Literature, Science, Drama, Music, Art, Industry.  
Founded 1865. Vol; CXXIV, Page 660.
- #2. The Bookman, A Review of Life and Letters.  
Bookman Publishing Company Inc; N.Y. Vol; LXVII.



word; (1) to show when, how, and in what shape, and with what significance, it became English; what development of form and meaning it has since received, which of its uses have, in the course of time, become obsolete, and which still survive; what new uses have since arisen, by what process and when: (2) to illustrate these facts by a series of quotations ranging from the first known occurrence of the word to the latest, or down to the present day; the word being thus made to exhibit its own history and meaning; and (3) to treat the etymology of each word strictly on the basis of historical fact, and in accordance with the methods and results of modern philological science." #

The great value of this New English Dictionary has not been fully appreciated by the masses but modern scholars have readily acknowledged their debt to its scholarship as a basis for their minor dictionaries. Among them may be mentioned Ernest Weekley who, in his introduction to "An Etymological Dictionary of Modern English", states; "The chief authority used in this compilation is, of course, the New English Dictionary, the noblest monument ever reared to any language...Until this survey had been carried out, writers in word-lore were groping in the dark." Again, William Skeat, in the preface to his Middle English Dictionary, calls it "but a small hand-book" and refers the student to the New English

# Introduction to the New English Dictionary.  
Vol; I, Page VI.

Dictionary which "will contain all words found in our literature since the year 1100."

Another value of this massive enterprise, to all students as well as philologists, is its great convenience of method in the tracing of a word. Henry Bradley says of it: "One great merit of the New English Dictionary is the remarkable manner in which the convenience of readers is consulted in the typographical expedients employed to ensure facility of reference. The standard form of each word is printed in large 'Clarendon type', which stands out boldly from the page, so as to catch the eye at once. The various historical forms are given in 'small Clarendon', and the definitions in ordinary type. Under the definition of each sense of a word are arranged the quoted examples in a smaller letter, each quotation being preceded by its date in heavy figures, so that the chronological range over which a word, or a sense of a word, extends may be measured at a glance."#

Still another merit is noted by E. E. Wardale: "allowing for a few omissions, it (the Oxford Dictionary) has given us the vocabulary of the language, not only that used by the best authors, but that of ordinary men and women in everyday life. For scientific and technical terms, expert help has been sought, with the result that, while

# Bradley, Henry. "The Collected Papers of, With a Memoir by Robert Bridges. Clarendon Press, 1928.

the explanations commend themselves, we hope, to the expert, they are usually comprehensible to the general reader...It gives us the accepted pronunciation, and the quotations provide the philologist with earlier spellings. It tells us whether the word is native or introduced from another language. In fact, it gives us what is practically the origin and life-story of every word in English." #1.

With these opinions of modern scholarship on the contribution of this monumental dictionary to learning, perhaps nothing is more appropriate in summing-up than the words of the Right Honorable Stanley Baldwin in his address to the editors and staff of the New English Dictionary on its completion: "There can be no worthy recompense except that every man and woman in the country whose gratitude and respect is worth having will rise up and call you blessed for this great work." #2.

#1. The Journal of Education and School World. Vol; LX, Page 599.

#2. The Nineteenth Century. A Monthly Review founded by  
James Knowles. Constable and Company, London.

### CHAPTER III.

#### The New Middle English Dictionary--History.

In this age of specialization, it is not unnatural that scholars turned their attention, nine years before the New English Dictionary was completed, to a smaller and more special field of language study. On close observation it was found that, although the Oxford Dictionary, because of its complete vocabulary, typographical excellence, fullness of treatment and use of the historical method, would contain the major portion of information necessary in the study of Middle English, it would completely neglect the first century of this period, and, due to its bulk, would be impractical for the student of that language.

It was suggested by Sir William Craigie, in 1919, that the Oxford Dictionary be supplemented by a series of lexicons, each dealing with a limited period of the English language. "Largely as a result of this proposal, five period dictionaries were undertaken, namely, the Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue and the Historical Dictionary of American English, being edited by Craigie; the Scottish Dialect Dictionary, the Early Modern English Dictionary and the Middle English Dictionary." #

The responsibility of compiling this latter for the above mentioned purpose as well as to

# Middle English Dictionary Bulletin.

fill in the deficiencies in existing lexicons covering the period 1050-1475 was assumed by the Middle English Group of the Modern Language Association of America. It is a systematic attempt at a complete record of every form and significance of all words in use from the time of the Norman Invasion to the beginning of the sixteenth century. As a supplement to the Oxford Dictionary, it will add more words, give more and earlier quotations for many of the words explained previously and group all of them according to the three principal dialectical divisions, the Northern, Midland and Southern.

To fully appreciate the value of such a work, it will be helpful to consider the Middle English word-books now published to ascertain in what respects they are deficient. The dictionary of Francis Henry Stratmann, revised in 1891 by Henry Bradley, is a masterpiece of scholarship but is of little utility to the beginner. It presupposes a considerable knowledge of Old and Middle English; Its explanations of words are too highly condensed; and it makes but meagre use of quotations as a means of elucidating the sense of a word, giving references only. The "Wörterbuch" of Eduard Matzner is a worthy work containing extensive quotations but is of little value to the English student who is not a master of German as the explanations are all given in that language. "The Concise Middle English Dictionary" of Skeat is valuable to the casual reader or beginner but does not contain much material for the profound student. Thus it is obvious that there is great need of a Middle English Dictionary based on the historical

method of the New English Dictionary.

The task of compiling this work was undertaken by Cornell University under the competent guidance of Professor C. S. Northup who made substantial progress in collecting and assembling material. One very important contribution was made by the heirs of Professor Ewald Flugel of Stanford University when they turned over to the editors the unfinished manuscripts of Flugel's great Chaucer Lexicon; In all, 1,600,000 slips. In 1929, the printed and unprinted material covering this linguistic period, accumulated by the readers for the New English Dictionary was transferred to Cornell with the stipulation that the project would be completed. After getting the enterprise well under way and having amassed over 175,000 slips, Cornell, for financial reasons, was forced to give up the task in 1930.

Under the leadership of Professor Samuel Moore, the University of Michigan resumed work on the dictionary. During the first year, 1930-31, two units of the construction program had been completed, namely, the filing of the Oxford Dictionary slips and the compilation of a bibliographical survey of the Middle English writings in print. The next step was to analyze the material contributed by Cornell so as to discover: "(1) which Middle English texts have been so thoroughly read that they will not require re-reading; (2) which texts have been read fairly well but not

Moore was ably assisted in this work by Sanford B. Meech, assistant editor, who prepared a bibliographical survey of the writings in Middle English which was supplemented by documents collected industriously by Meech and Moore. The Middle English Dictionary Society have recently sent out a bulletin explaining their discoveries in this line, accompanied by a map which clearly indicates these boundaries.

"These dialect characteristics and boundary lines may be stated briefly as: -

Line 1. OE. "a" retained as an unround vowel, spelled "a", "ai", "ay", as in mar (more), baith (both), hayl (whole); Southern limit. Along Humber-Ouse to Selby; up R. Wharfe to Bolton Abbey; down Ribble to Mitton; N. W. Mitton through Lancaster to sea.

Line 2. Present indicative plural, Southern limit of '-(e)s. S. E. along Line 1 Lancaster to Mitton; S. E. Mitton to Ardsley; S. E. Ardsley to Lincoln and due E. to the sea.

Line 3 and 5. "sal" for "shal", Southern limit; "them" for "Hem", "ham", "hom", Southern limit. S. E. along Line 1, Lancaster to Mitton; S. E. along the Pennines, Mitton to Brampton (Derbyshire); S. E. Brampton to Nottingham; E. S. E. Nottingham to Bourne (Lincs.); E. from Bourne to the mouth of the Nen.

Line 4. OE "a" followed by "m" or "n" (but not "ng", "nd", or "mb"), as in "man" (mon), "name" (nome), "drank" (dronk), Eastern (and Southern) limit for "o". S. E. along Lines 1, 2, 3 and 5 Lancaster to Mitton; S. E. along Lines 3 and 5 Mitton to Brampton; due S. Brampton to Polesworth, Warwickshire, and Pole-

sworth to Stratford; curve W. Stratford to Evenlode, Worcestershire, and Evenlode to Stonehouse, Gloucs; from Stonehouse to the Severn due West.

Line 6. OE "y", "y" and (oe), (oe) from OE "eo", "eo", retained as from round vowels, spelled "u" or "ui" and "eo", "o", "oe", "u" or "ue", as in "hull" (hill), "fuir" (fire) and "huerte" (heart), "prust" (priest), Eastern and Northern limit. From Hale Hall (Lancs.) S. E. through Tatton (Chesh.) to Polesworth (Warwicks.); S. along Line 4, to Stratford-on-Avon; S. E. Stratford to Oxford; Oxford to Ewelme; Ewelme to the Thames; conjecturally extended S. of the Thames to Hants-Sussex border at Westbourne.

Line 7. Present indicative third singular, Southern limit for "e(s)". S. E. from Welsh Border through Shrawardine to Shrewsbury; E. Shrewsbury to Croxall (Staffs.); E. Croxall to Melton Mowbray (Leics.); E. Melton Mowbray to Bourne (Lincs.) E. along Lines 3 and 5 to the mouth of the Nen.

Line 8. Present indicative plural, Northern limit for "eth"; S. E. along Line & Welsh Border to Shrewsbury; S. E. Shrewsbury to Kingswinford (Staffs.); S. E. Kingswinford to Stratford-on-Avon; S. E. Stratford to Oxford along Line 6; Oxford to the North Sea along the Thames." #

#"The Middle English Dictionary". Moore, Meech and Whitehall.  
P. M. L. A. Vol: XLVIII, March, 1933.



These results are based exclusively on localized texts and documents and are to be confirmed or rejected after additional material has been collected.

The English Department of the University of Manitoba, under the supervision of Professor Aaron J. Perry, has made some very definite contributions to the material required for the editing of the Middle English Dictionary. Following the lead of Harvard and other large Universities of the United States, this work has been done by graduate students as partial requirements for the degree of Master of Arts. Manitoba has contributed, so far, a study of the language of John Trevisa's Translation of "Higden's Polychronicon" made by the Misses Edna Ruth Johnston, Isabel C. McGregor and Marjorie K. Macleod. At the present time, Professor Perry and Miss Jennie Parent are devoting their time and scholarship to the glossing of John Trevisa's prose translation of the Gospel of Nicodemus from the copies made by Professor W. H. Hulme of the three manuscripts, namely, the Harleian, 149, the British Museum Additional, 16, 165, and the Salisbury Cathedral, 39. They are also studying this author's translation of "De Regimine Principum" from the Bodleian Digby 233 manuscript copied by Mr. Perry from the Bodleian Library.

This chapter, therefore, is but an outline of the work now under construction in the building of an inestimable railroad; a railroad designed to provide

a more convenient and swift method of travel for the Middle English student. If this University contributes but a few sturdy ties for the foundation of this road, we, who have devoted our energy and efforts towards making this construction work less arduous for its founders, will feel amply repaid.

## CHAPTER IV

### The Middle English Dictionary - Method

We have noted in the previous chapter that the work on the Middle English Dictionary is by no means complete. The Oxford Dictionary is deficient both in the common words and in a sufficient number of explanatory quotations covering this period and must be supplemented by a fuller and more complete study of the Middle English language. To amass the extensive material required, the volunteer services of hundreds of Middle English students have been enlisted. It is, therefore, as a volunteer reader that the writer has read and studied closely the Gospel of Nicodemus, Early English Text Society #100.

The results of this reading are systematically recorded on some seventeen hundred filing cards (5" x 2"), the selection being based in very definite instructions issued by Professor Moore. Each Middle English word for which the quotation was taken was written in the upper right hand corner. In the case of a close translation from Latin or French, the original foreign word was written on the card in parenthesis after the English word. An instance of this case may be noted in the present text; "curtais", found in the quotation:

" A bedell to bring him gan he bid  
.....  
and he pat was for curtais kid,  
did it sone in dede".

"Curtais" is taken from the Old French "curteisie"

The centre section of the card contains the quotation illustrating the word, reproducing the original in all details of spelling and pronunciation. These quotations form, as far as possible, complete sentences but, in many cases, were so complex that portions were omitted, the omission being indicated by three dots . e.g.

pan said pilat: " ze have no right  
to blame him by no way;  
sen he to blind has gifen pe sight.

The exact reference was given in the lower left hand corner. In the case of The Gospel, this is very definite because the text is divided into numbered verses and lines.

Additional information was given by the writer on these cards concerning the four manuscripts of the above-mentioned text. These will be discussed in more detail in the following chapter but a few facts are necessary here to elucidate the method followed in writing the slips. The Galba manuscript was taken as the basis of the study and the variant spellings were noted on the card by the capital letters H,S,A referring to the Harley, Sion and Additional manuscripts, respectively. In many cases, the quotation found in the later manuscripts replaced the original word by a phrase of the same signification or, very frequently, bore no resemblance to the Galba quotation. e.g.

"raised" - - (1) Galba

" sen he to blind has gifen ~~pe~~ sight  
and raised ~~pat~~ beried lay . . . "

(2) Additional

"puttyd to lyfe"

(5), 54

"dray" - - (1) Galba and Harley

" sir pelate, we ~~pe~~ pray  
bring him to bar ~~bis~~ tide  
~~pat~~ makes us all ~~bis~~ dray"

(2) Sion

"To coupe hym ~~pare~~ if we kan"

(3) Additional

"Accuse hym gif we kan"

(5), 60

Also, an estimate of the frequency of the variations in the spelling of a single word in the Galba text is noted directly below the word. The following examples will illustrate more clearly the manner in which these several points are recorded on the cards:

---

bitid (g)

Bitid ~~pe~~ time Tiberius  
rewled Rome with realte,

bytyd (H)  
bitide (S)  
betide (A)

Gos. of Nic; (I) ,I

---

---

zowre (G)

"Zowre childer sawes forsake ze  
noght,  
. . . "

Sen he sawe /pere siche wurschippes  
yhour (H.S)  
wroght (A)

Gos. of Nic; (10) ,III

---

sall (GH. A)  
(37)

when he /pat all sall welde  
was led into /pe hall,  
. . .

salle (S)

Gos. of Nic; (II), 129

---

---

cumen (G)

"pai er bot barnes, sir ,. . .  
cumen till oure law now late".

comen (H,S)

Gos. of Nic; (22) ,260

---

In selecting the words and quotations that would prove most valuable to the editors of the Middle English Dictionary, two details were followed closely:

(1) those words and quotations to be taken for meanings.

(2) those words and quotations to be taken for forms.

Illustrations of "good quotations" were given by Professor Moore and, as a more definite reference, seven requisites of a quotation chosen for meaning were noted in the list of instructions:

(1) All sentences that illustrate a word and make a good quotation; anything terse, neat or witty in illustration of a word's meaning, even though it is a common word.  
e.g.

forpi he dose his might & mayn  
to ger pat bargan blin:

(161,187)

(2) All comments on words or statements about them : i.e. that a word is old fashioned or new fangled, or northern, or courtly, countrified, etc. The text under discussion did not contain any such comments.

(#3) Expressions like "make a berd" (Beard), "haselwodes shaken", "piggesenye". Anything approaching slang, colloquialism, or that is off the beaten track.e.g.

" <u>we</u> , whatkin goddes er <u>pi</u> se?	(3) ,28
" <u>a deuil</u> , what may <u>pi</u> s mene?	(6), 72
<u>pai</u> said: "sir , <u>za</u> <u>parde</u> : bot <u>pus</u> he passed him fra."	(20) 239.

(4) Early example of modern words. E.G."bar"

"sir pelate, we <u>pe</u> pray, bring him to <u>bar</u> <u>pi</u> s tide <u>pat</u> makes us all <u>pi</u> s dray."	(5), 59.
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------

(5) A word that was obsolete or obsolescent at the time the piece was written: late examples of old words .e.g.

" <u>parfore</u> with scourges <u>ze</u> sall him ding, ." . . ."	(50), 593.
----------------------------------------------------------------------	------------

(6) All variant spellings, with an estimate of their frequency. A few of these variations are doubtless due to errors made by the scribe in copying out the manuscripts. Such is probably the case of "have" which occurs but once in the first hundred verses whereas "haue" occurs approximately fifteen times. Similar is the case of "pay", occurring once as against "pai" used over a hundred times.



A few examples of the more proper variants occurring in the first hundred verses will be tabulated here:

Nouns:

Soth (3)	suth (6)	Trowth (2)
knyght (1)	knight (2)	
temple (3)	tempill (1)	
croyce (3)	cros (1)	
buke (1)	boke (2)	
mountes (2)	mowntes (1)	
sklanders (1)	sklandres (1)	

Adjectives:

mare (3)	more (4)	ma (4)	Mo (1)
al (10)	all (46)	fein (1)	fayn (1)
faine (1)	fayne (1)		
langer (2)	lenger (1)		

Pronouns:

pame (1)	pam. (31)
----------	-----------

Prepositions

sen (8)	sepin (4)	Sene (1)	seine (1)	sepen (1)	se (1)
till (36)	to (42)	untill (8)	unto (12)	til (1)	
ogaines (2)	ogains (3)	ogans (1)	ogaynes (1)	onence (1)	
byfore (2)	bifore (2)	byforn (1)			
fra (5)	fro (5)				

Verbs:

made (5)	mad (1)	maked (1)
war (35)	ware (7)	were (1)
sall (37)	sal (8)	
quod (2)	quad (1)	
said (87)	sayd (9)	
risen (2)	resin (1)	resen (2)
layd (5)	laid (6)	
are (1)	ere (1)	er (12)
slayn (1)	slain (1)	slayne (1) slaine (1)
ass (2)	askes (2)	

The words and quotations to be taken for forms are best considered under two headings, namely, morphological and phonological forms.

A. Morphological forms are divided, for the purpose of explanation and illustration by means of examples taken from the text, into many sub-heads which will be treated here in order.

1. Inorganic final "e" of singular nouns and singular strong adjectives in the nominative and accusative singular .eg

Sir pilat to bar a boke has broght  
pir two questes to twin: (23), 265

"we pray god pat he send  
right dome pam omang  
. . . (43), 514.

2. Nouns:

(a) Instances in early M.E. texts of the extension of the "es", "s", plural and genitive singular forms e.g.

"how dar ze negh pis stede  
and zowre handes ful of blode  
of rightwis ihesus ded?" (62), 743.

(b) Plurals and genitives singular not ending in "es"  
"s". e.g.

pase knightes laid hand him on  
and hid his eghen hastily ; (51), 606

"childer byfore him in pe gate  
spred paire clothes obrade,  
. . . " (8), 91

(c) Nouns belonging to the O.E. minor declensions .e.g.

crist said : "ilk man a mowth has fre  
to wekde at his awin will;  
. . . )19) , 221.

and ihesus sayd pat tyde:  
"fader, forgif pir men paire dede (52), 619

### 3. Adjectives:

(a) 1. Strong forms with distinctive case endings in masc;  
 fem; and neut; genitive and dative singular and plural .e.g.

pas knightes kene laid hand him on (51), 601

2. Forms with case endings levelled e.g.

he hetes to sit, whose tase hede,  
 on goddes right hand in heuyn (33), 390.

pan stirt up iews bitter and bald (22), 253.

(b) weak:

1. Forms ending in "en" , "ene", e.g.

a wonden wrethe pat his heuid hid  
 spred he all furth on brede: (6) , 65

2. Singular forms with and without final "e" of  
 monosyllabic adjectives ending in a consonant.

pat same tyme Theodosuius  
 was proude prince in Galile (1) 4

pis stori wrate Nichodemus  
 in ebreu for ful grete dainte (1) 6

(c) Umlaut, Comparatives and superlatives  
"pat es his moste desire" (3) 32

4. Pronouns . Especially those corresponding to "she", "they"  
 "their", "them". e.g.

"My wife, ze wate wele, es no iew  
scho, es a sarizene (18) ,206

"paire wordes ful wide sall witen be  
wher pai be gude or ill" (19), 223

pilat said to pam pan: (21) ,249

### 5. Verbs:

(a) Present

(1) Indicative, second person singular, forms with mutation:

"pou ert bytane to me . . . " (28, 333.

forms with "es" ending:

"als pou haues serued so pou has," (54) , 643

(2) Indicative, third person singular;

"pan ertou king algate,"  
    says pelate. . . " (29) 346.

"al pat suthfast lithes me . . . ." (30, 353

(3) Indicative Plural:

Ogaines Ihesu pai speke and spell (2) , 18

"we wate wele Ioseph was a wright,  
    . . . " (3), 25

"his miracles musters his might  
    . . . ." (5), 51

(4) Present Participle:

with a swerd bright brinand (56) 664

paire carping pare no thing pou knew (9) ,99

graythed of gold gleterand ; (11) ,126.

(5) Infinitive, present indicative first person singular and plurals.

pan said pilate : " me think in thoght . . . ." (10) ,109

"I hete be forto be pis day . . . ." (55), 655

"we say swering es syn " (25) 270

Subjunctive singular and plural.

"when pou cumes in pi regne for ay" (55) ,651

(b) Past Strong preterites and past participles.

be son wax dim ful sone (55), 659  
ane angell was sene do pat dede (56), 663

- (1) Especially those forms showing grammatical change or the loss of it . e.g. for O.E

cēosan, cēas, curon, coren

he cheded a quest on him to pas (21), 243

- (2) Weak forms substituted for strong. e.g. for O.E

rīsan, rās, rison, risen

"sen he to blind has gifen þe sight  
and raised þat beried lay ( 51, 54  
" . . . "

- (3) Past forms of umlaut presents of the First Class of Weak Verbs without middle vowel e.g.

(a) for O.E. sēcan, shhte, (ge) soht

We find how thre kinges her biforn  
for perse to bedlem soght ( 48) 566

(b) for O.E. bringan, brohte, (ge) brōht

þai asked whare þe king of iews was born  
and til him ofrandes brought (48) 568

#### C. Preteritive present and anomalous verbs.

"whi suld he unto ded be dight  
þat mendes all þat he may?" (5) 56

"Til Alisander , wele ze wats  
in message was I made,  
" . . . " (8) 85.

#### "B" Phonological Forms

- (1). Among those which afford evidences of dialect and are therefore especially important; all forms of stems with O.E:

(1) "ae", "āe": "day", (31) OE "daeg".  
"dedes" (46) OE "daeda"

(2) "a" plus nasal: "domesman", (67) OE "man" "mob" "monn"  
"name" (96) OE "nama"

- (3) "a " plus "ld" ( or other consonants causing breaking);  
realte (2)
- (4) "y", "ȳ": " syn", (270) OE "synn"
- (5) "eo", "ēo": " prestes", (493) , OE "preost"
- (6) "a": "care" , (1420) OE "caru".
- (7) "o": "word" (1411) OE "word"  
"moder", (27) OE " modor"
- (8) umlaut of "ea" , "ea", "io", "io",:  
"Welde" (129) OE "wealdan"  
"helde" (131) OE " healdan"
- (9) "o" between labials and "l" or "r"  
"foreriner", (1246) OE " forthermer"

II. Among phonological forms not sure evidence of dialect, double stem vowels and double consonants after stem vowels:

"mopp" , (21) , " goddes", (28)

III. Especially all comments on or statements about pronunciation, and all puns, all rhymes that illustrate pronunciation, the more atrocious the rhyme the more valuable it may be philologically.

The text under study contained no such references to the words and, being transcribed from the Latin into rhyme, it would be unnecessary to attempt to choose any particular lines for illustration.

A further assistance to the reader in selecting words valuable for their phonological forms, was a list of dialect test words "Middle English Word List A" sent by Professor Moore as examples of the material required. Many of the words contained in this list were found in the

"Gospel". e. g. arm (armes), bern (barnes), beten (bete, blood (blude, blode), book (buke), bold (bald), brest (brestes), clene, craft (crafte), deed (dede), dere, devil (deuil), ende, erthe (erth), fader, etc.

It is readily seen from the above copious and definite instructions that the reader could become very easily floundered unless a systematic method was closely followed. An alphabetical record of all the words chosen was made as the work progressed. In the case of nouns, pronouns and adjectives, the number and case were noted; of verbs the form, number and whether they were weak or strong. This system eliminated repetition of words appearing previously in the identical use and etymology.

The cards covering approximately seventeen hundred words selected on the basis of the above instructions are now ready to be sent as material for the Middle English Dictionary. This work constitutes the major part of the thesis to be presented for the Degree of Master of Arts. However, it is hoped that future Middle English students will derive some benefit from this explanatory dissertation.

## CHAPTER V

### A Study of the Gospel of Nicodemus.

In the bibliographical survey of texts requiring further reading for the purposes of the Middle English Dictionary was found the Gospel of Nicodemus, edited by William Henry Hulme, Ph.D; Early English Text Society #100. Accordingly, the writer, with the approval of Professor Aaron J. Perry and Samuel Moore, undertook the glossing of the words in this text that would illustrate any of the points mentioned in the previous chapter. The outstanding characteristics of the language of the Gospel will be noted after some information is given concerning its history, date and manuscripts.

"The earliest known attempts at reproducing the "Evangelium Nicodemi" in Middle English are in the form of poetry." #1. The poetical and prose versions are not inter-related but appear to be based upon the same Latin original. Although there are in existence a large number of Old French prose manuscripts of the Gospel of Nicodemus, it is improbable that any of these are the basis for the Middle English versions. Closely connected to the Gospel is the dramatic "Harrowing of Hell", which is "the earliest of the 'Descensus Christi ad Infernos' of which we have any knowledge." #2

#1 Hulme, Walter Henry. E.E.T.S. # 100 Introduction. Page VII

#2 Hulme, Walter Henry. Op. Cit. Page VII



Four fifteenth century manuscripts of the verse translation of the Gospel of Nicodemus are extant. The press marks of these manuscripts which are taken from the same original, are: -

British Museum Cotton Galba E IX (G)

British Museum Harley 4196 (H)

British Museum Additional 32, 578 (A)

Sion College arc. L. 40. 2 <sup>a+2</sup> (S)

"From the standpoint of kinship and similarity they fall into two, possibly three, groups: (a) G-H, (b) A-S; or (b) A (c) S. The first group seems to be closer to the original than the other or others. It is written in the Northern dialect, as are also the other versions, but the latter group, especially A, shows a decided Midland tendency in the word forms." # "A" is the earliest of the A-S group which was written between the beginning and middle of the fifteenth century. The differences between the manuscripts are so numerous and striking that it is impossible that any one is copied from the other. There are many lines in S identical with the other versions and it is probable that the scribe of S had copies of G, H and A before him at the time of writing. Due to discrepancies in language and style, we may assume that A goes back through an intermediate link to the common original.

# Hulme, Walter Henry. Op. Cit. Pages XV-XVI

The two groups also differ considerably in metre and rhythm. A-S contains a greater variation in the number of syllables to the line and A frequently omits the alliteration of the G-H version.

However, they have a common feature in their peculiar twelve-line stanzas made up of three rhythmic periods. "The first two parts contain each four alternately rhyming lines, of which the odd ones have four stresses (eight syllables) and the even ones three (six syllables). The third part has four alternately rhyming lines, and each line usually has three stresses (six to seven syllables)." # The rhyme scheme, therefore, of the four manuscripts is abab, abab, cdcd. This twelve-line stanza was largely developed under foreign influences at a comparatively late date. Its rarity gives it its great importance for this seems to be the only instance of its use throughout the entire range of Middle English literature. This stanzaic form was probably a development of the rare eight-line stanza composed of alternate four and three stresses by "(1) doubling the first four lines, and (2) by appending a 'Cauda' of four more three-stress, alternately rhyming lines to these eight." #2

# Hulme, Walter Henry. Op. Cit. Page

#2 Hulme, Walter Henry. Op. Cit. Page XVIII

A study of this stanzaic form is important for another reason, i.e. in the dating of the rhyme version. The Gospel stanza is closely imitated by several of the York Plays which contain twelve-line stanzas of three parts omitting, however, the alternate three and four stresses. Craigie has proven that certain parts of the York Plays follow this Middle English poetical Gospel rather than the Latin "Evangelium Nicodemi".

The original version of the Gospel of Nicodemus, then, was probably written earlier than the York Plays. Miss Toulmin-Smith dates these latter "as far back as 1340 or 1350, not long after the appearance of the "Cursor" #1. The "Cursor Mundi" is approximately dated between 1255 and 1280. Therefore, the poetical version of the Gospel of Nicodemus may safely be dated near the beginning of the fourteenth century.

As the reader, in compiling the word-cards for this text, paid particular attention to the variations in the manuscripts, a more detailed account of the versions will follow.

The Cotton M.S. Galba E IX is a large vellum folio of 114 leaves, each page containing two columns of 47 - 48 lines written in a fine large hand of the early fifteenth century.



The capital letters are profusely ornamented with large flourishes of black and yellow and a careful examination of the chirography shows that six different scribes were concerned in its composition. The date of this manuscript is probably the early fifteenth century. Other important poems found in it besides the Gospel of Nicodemus, are : The Romance of Ywaine and Gawayne, The Process of the Seuyne Sages\*, The Poems of Lawrence Minot and The Pricke of Conscience.

The Harleian M.S. 4196 is also a large folio on vellum similar to the Galba. It contains 258 leaves of two columns of 47 -49 lines to a page. The manuscript belonged to William Browne, author of "Brittanica's Pastorals" in the early seventeenth century and was the property of Wanley, a noted antiquarian and scholar, in 1725. This was transcribed by three scribes whose handwritings are of the same general character, the ornamentation being made in gold, blue and red. It, also, is dated close to the early fifteenth century because of the handwriting although the language seems a little archaic for that period. This latter may be accounted for by the fact that these versions are written in the Northern Dialect "which withstood the influence of modernisation much longer than Southern and Midland English."# This manuscript contains a series of North English poems in the

# Hulme ., Walter Henry. Op. Cit. Page XXVII

forms of "Homilies on the Gospel", lessons for Sundays and Festivals, and on the Legends of the Saints"; "The Gospel of Nicodemus"; and "the Pricke of Conscience".

The M. S. Additional is a paper quarto of 140 leaves written in one column of 36-44 lines to a page. The handwriting is small and distinct, but not elegant and probably is the work of two different scribes. The initial letters and capitals are ornamented in red. Before it was purchased by the British Museum in 1885, it belonged to many different people among whom were: Thomas Eyre; William Richardson and Robert Farnelay. The contents of this manuscript are: (1) The Pricke of Conscience, (2) a Creed Poem, (3) an English Poem and (4) The Gospel of Nicodemus. The date is probably 1405, a little later than G and H.

The last version is preserved in a manuscript in Sion College Library, bearing the press-mark <sup>a + a.</sup>acr. L. 40.2. The volume is entitled "Of Auricular Confessions, Passion of Xt. Legend of the Virgin Mary, Of Know Man's Self. It contains 133 leaves with the poetry written in one column of 28 -45 lines. The general appearance and quality of paper resemble the British Museum manuscripts but the handwriting bears a slightly later character than these latter.

Besides these poems, there are nine different prose versions of the Gospel known at present. As the writer is primarily interested in the poetical manuscript only a list of the prose volumes will be given here;-

- (1) Magdalen College, Cambridge, Pepys 2498
- (2) British Museum, Egerton 2658
- (3) Stonyhurst College, B. XLIII
- (4) Salisbury Cathedral Library, 39
- (5) British Museum, Additional, 16, 165
- (6) Oxford, Bodleian, 207
- (7) British Museum, Harley 149
- (8) Worcester Cathedral Library, No.172
- (9) Cambridge University Library, Mm; 1.29

The Gos pel of Nicodemus is, in its complete form, composed of two parts known as : (1) the Acta Pilati and (2) the Descensus Christi ad Inferos. These two parts originated independently of each other and the latter is the older of the two; probably dating to the second or third century. The Acta did not exist until the early fifth century and is less important than the vivid dramatic descriptions contained in the Descensus. The first Manuscripts were written in Latin and Greek and, by the tenth century, the descent story had permeated all Christian literature and art. "The legend inspired some of the most beautiful work of Fra Angelico, Toddeo Gaddi, Memmi, Albrecht Durer, and many other artists of the later Middle Age and the Renaissance,."#. No less important is the influence of the Evangelium Nicodemi on the literature of the world, even on the works of the great masters, Dante, in his tremendous conception of Purgatory, and

# Hulme, Walter Henry, Op.Cit. Page LXV.

Milton, in his masterful portrayal of Satan in Paradise Lost.

The Galba Manuscript

being the earliest version of the "Evangelium Nicodemi", was used as a basis for the quotations and words selected by the reader. Therefore, in conclusion, a few of the most notable characteristics of this manuscript will be summed up here.

The stanzaic form is composed of twelve lines of alternate rhyming, four and three stresses. A transcription from the text will clearly illustrate this point:

"Til, Alisander, wele ze wate -	a
in message was I made	b
to Ierusalem I come so late	a
pat till þe morn I bade	b
þis ihesus on ane Ass þare sate	a
and thurgh þe toun he rade	b
childer byfore him in þe gate	a
sped þaire clothes obrade	b
to him all gan þai bow;	c
'Osanna' was þaire sang,	d
'blissed be he þat cumes now	c
in goddes name vs omang."	d

Another pertinent fact is the dialect of the manuscript. The Galba version is written in the Northern whereas the latter group shows a mixture of the Midland and the Northern. The boundary of this dialect "extends beyond the region of the older North-umbrian to the lowlands of Scotland on the north, to the north half of Lancashire on the west and probably to parts of Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire on the south. #

The Northern dialect is

distinguished phonologically by :

(1) by the use of "qu" (w) for O.E. "hw" when beginning a word or syllable.

whilk for O.E. hwile  
wheper for O.E. waeder  
what for O.E. hwaet

(2) by the use of "S" for "sc" in unstressed syllables e.g.

sulde for O.E. scolde  
sal, sall for O.E. sceal.

Concerning inflexion, "by the end of the thirteenth century the Northern had reduced almost all nouns to a single inflexional form, based on O.E. strong masculines and had completely levelled most inflexions of adjectives and adjectival pronouns " #1

We will notice this same process of levelling operating in the case of the verbs. The preterit stems of O.E. strong verbs had commonly been reduced to one, usually the singular e.g. ~~pe~~ wate (85). The O.E. prefix "ge" of past participles and other parts of the verb have been wholly lost e.g. soght O.E. (ge) soht) i.566

A most important characteristic peculiar to the Northern dialect is shown in the conjugation of the present indicative



<u>Singular</u>		<u>Plural</u>	
(1).....	(e) or es	1	} es or e
(2).....	es	2	
(3).....	es	3	

Examples of these endings will be taken from the text: he pat makes (60), he hetes (389), pai speke (18), his miracles musters (51).

The Northern is also peculiar in its use of the present participale ending "and (e)" e.g. brinand (664) gleterand (126).

These last discussions of dialect, stanza form and history of the Gospel, comprise, in conjunction with the information contained in the previous chapter concerning the morphological and phonological forms of the language of the text ascertained during the compilation of the word cards, a complete study of the initial work undertaken by the Writer. While arduous, the project has proven both interesting and beneficial to this student and, although it may suffer the fate of many dust-covered theses lying in oblivion on our library shelves, its pages thumbed only by the Examiners, the Writer, nevertheless, has experienced that unusual satisfaction arising from an exhaustive study of one book, rather than a comprehensive survey of the field of literature.

. . . . .

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### DICTIONARIES

- The Encyclopaedic Britannica. Fourteenth edition.  
The Encyclopaedia Britannica Co. Ltd., London 1929
- The Century Dictionary and Cyclopedia, Whitney  
William Dwight, editor New York. The Century Co. 1889-1895
- Chamber's Encyclopaedia. New Edition, Edited by Patrick, David  
and Geddie William. W. & R. Chambers Ltd. London and  
Edinburgh.
- A New English Dictionary, edited by Murray, James A.H. et al  
Clarendon Press, 1888-1928
- Cyclopedia of Education, Monroe, Paul . The Macmillan Co.,  
Toronto, 1911.
- An Anglo-Saxon Dictionary, Bosworth, Joseph D.D., F.R.S  
Edited and enlarged by T. N. Toller, Oxford Clarendon  
Press, MDCCCXCVIII
- Students Anglo-Saxon Dictionary, Clark Hall, John R.  
The Macmillan Company, 1916.
- An Anglo- Saxon Dictionary Supplement, Toller T. Northcote  
at the Clarendon Press, 1921
- A Concise Dictionary of Middle English. Mayhew, Rev. A.L.  
and Skeat, Rev. Walter. Oxford, at the Clarendon Press  
1888.
- Etymological Dictionary of the English Language. Skeat, Rev.  
Walter W. Oxford at the Clarendon Press 1910.
- A Middle English Dictionary. Stratmann, Francis H. Oxford  
at the Clarendon Press 1891. Revised and enlarged  
by Henry Bradley.
- An Etymological Dictionary of Modern English. Weekley, Ernest  
M.A. London, John Murray, Albemarle St.W. 1921.
- Dictionnaire de l'Ancienne Langue Francaise du IX au XV  
siecle Paris, F. Vieweg, Libraire Editeur 1881, 10  
volumes.

Latin English Dictionary, White, Rev. John and Riddle, Rev. J. E. Fifth edition, London, Lognmann, Green and Co. 1876.

A Concise Dictionary of Old Icelandic, Loega, Geir T. Oxford at Clarendon Press 1926

Altenglische Sprachproben, Nebst Kinen Worterbuche, Matzner, Eduard. (Zweiter Band Worterbuch, Berlin Weidmannsche Buchhandling) 1878-88. 2 volumes.

Webster's New International Dictionary of the English Language Harris, W. T. and Allan F. Sturges. G. & G. Merriam Company. 1924.

### GRAMMARS

An Anglo- Saxon Primer, Sweet, Henry. Oxford, Clarendon Press 1822.

An Anglo- Saxon Reader and an Outline of Anglo-Saxon Grammar Bright, James W. Henry Holt and Company, New York 1894

An Anglo-Saxon Reader in Prose and Verse, Sweet, Henry Oxford at the Clarendon Press, 1876

An Old English Grammar. Cook A. S and Sievers C.E. Boston 1903

The Elements of Old English. Moore, Samuel and Knott T.A Publisher, George Wahr, Ann Arbor, Michigan .1919

An Elementary Old English Grammar . by Wyatt, A.J. Cambridge, at the University Press 1918.

Historical Outlines of English Phonology and English Grammar. Moore, Samuel. Publisher, George Wahr, Ann Arbor, Michigan 1919

An Elementary Middle English Grammar. Wright . Joseph and Elizabeth Mary. Oxford University Press. 1923

Mittelenglische Grammatik , Morsback, Lorenz, Halle, 1896.

## PERIODICALS

The Bookman, A Revue of Life and Letters: Greatest of Dictionaries. The New English Dictionary by F. McKnight, N.Y. April, 1928.

The Century, Race between the Language and the Lexicographer by H. G. Emery. The Century Co., N.Y. November, 1928.

The Edinburgh Review, The Oxford Dictionary by J. Hoops, Leonard Scott Publishing Co., N.Y. April, 1914.

English Review, Oxford English Dictionary. V. Randall, London, May, 1928.

The Journal of Education and School World, A Monthly Record and Review. Volume LX. London, Mr. William Rice, Ludgate, Broadway, E. C. 4, 1928. P. 599.

The Living Age, Volume 333, January, August 1928. Boston, The Living Age Company.

The London Mercury, Edited by J.C. Squire, London, November, 1927 - April, 1928. Vol., XVII.

The Mentor, From A to A Y X T; Oxford English Dictionary. Springfield, Ohio, May 1928.

The Nation, A Weekly Journal Devoted to Politics, Literature, Science, Drama, Music, Art, Industry. Founded 1865. The Nation Inc. 20 Vesey St. N.Y. Vol., CXXIV. P. 660.

The Nineteenth Century, A Monthly Review founded by James Knowles, London. Constable and Company Ltd.

The Quarterly Review, The English Dictionary by J.W. Gordon, Leonard Scott Publishing Co. N.Y. October, 1923.

Saturday Review of Literature, Making of a Dictionary, Oxford English Dictionary by W. A. Craigie, Saturday Review Co. N. Y. April 21, 1928.

School and Society, Edited by J. McKeen Cattell, Vol., XXVII. January, June 1928. New York. The Science Press, 1928.

Wilson Bulletin, A Monument of Words. The Oxford English Dictionary. The H. H. Wilson Co., N. Y. May, 1928.

World Review, Seventy Years for a Book of Words. Murray, Sir James A. H. Mount Morris, Ill. May, 1928.

## T E X T

"Harrowing of Hell and Gospel of Nicodemus" edited by William Henry Hulme, Ph.D. Published for The Early English Text Society by Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Company Limited, London 1907. Text #100. Extra Series "G"

## MISCELLANEOUS

Boase, Rev. C. W., Registrum Collegii Exoniensis (ox. Hist. Soc.) Oxford, 1894.

Bradley, Henry, The Collected Papers of, with a memoir by Robert Bridges, Oxford: at the Clarendon Press, 1928

Hall, Joseph, Selections from Early Middle English 1130-1250, with Introduction and Notes. Part 11. Clarendon Press, 1920.

Moore, Samuel, Middle English Dictionary, General Progress 1930-31. An address filed with the American Council of Learned Societies. Washington D.C 1931

Morris, Richard and Skeat, Rev. Walter, Specimens of Early English, Clarendon Press Series, 1894.

Murray, James A.H. The Evolution of English Lexicography. The Clarendon Press, 1900.

Skeat, W. W., English Dialects from the Eighth Century to the Present Day. Cambridge at the University Press, 1912.

Sweet, Henry, The History of Language. London, J. M. Dent & Sons, 1916.

Ward, Sir. A.W. and Waller A.R. Cambridge History of English Literature. Cambridge : At the University Press.

Wells, John Edwin, A Manuel of the Writings in Middle English, 1050- 1400 New Haven, Yale University Press; London, Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 1926.

MISCELLANEOUS

Wood, Anthony, History and Antiquities (Annals) of the  
University of Oxford. Ed. Gutch, J. 5 Vols.  
Oxford, 1786. Sub. an' 1379