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*THE PRICKE OF CONSCIENCE: A COLLATION OF
MSS. GALBA E IX AND HARLEY 4196.*

In his edition of the *Pricke of Conscience* Morris¹ took as the basis for his text the Cottonian MS. Galba E IX. Where this MS. is deficient (i.e. at vv. 1537-1730, and 6922-9211) he has made use of MS. Harley 4196. His text chiefly differs from the MSS. versions in such details as the use of (a) *þ* for *th* and vice versa; (b) Capitals for lower-case letters and vice versa; (c) *i* for *y* and vice versa; (d) *sc* for *s* and vice versa; (e) *sch* for *sh* and vice versa, together with the addition or omission of final *e*. In those parts of the poem based upon MS. Harley 4196, final *e* written in italics in Morris's text is not to be found in the MS. In the following collation the italicised forms represent those found in Morris's edition, the others being the MS forms. MS. forms which have been silently corrected by Morris are not included.

92 *bothe*] bathe; 129 *wake*] wayke; 139 *lyggus*] lyggys; 164 *gode law*] godes law; 279-80 Morris inverts the MS. order of these lines; 319 *et* not in the MS.; 372 *whan*] when; 382 *men*] man; 456 *duellid*] duelled; 457 *corupcion*] corrupcion; 463 *from*] fra; 478 *men knaw*] men may knaw; 628 *þow*] yhow; 779 *Alle his*] and alle his; 781 *haire*] hare; 797 *are*] er; 984 *heir-on*] here-on; 1012 *most*] mast; 1018 *heat*] hete; 1046 *caldes*] calde es; 1081 *as*] als; 1098 *bot* [*he*] *þe world*] bot he þe world; 1196 *worlisshe*] worldisshe; 1198 *vanite*] wanite; 1201 *þe* not in the MS.; 1227 *es*] er; 1239 *hald*] haldes; 1447 *variande*] wariande; 1457 *wyn, now*] wyn. and now; 1509 *dexterius*] deterius; 1661 *To shew*] and to shew; 1690 *es twynyng*] es a twynyng; 1831 *here þe dede*] þe dede here; 1887 *estate*] state; 2010 *fayles*] sayles; 2021 Morris's note refers to 2024, not to 2021; 2160 *vixit*] vixerit; 2172 *þat þis lif*] pat can þis lif; 2200 *blessed*] blissed; 2336 *tyme þai*] tyme when þai; 2392 *werkes*] verkes; 2433 *day þow*] day þat

¹ *The Pricke of Conscience*, ed. R. Morris. (Philological Society), Berlin 1863.

pow; 254I *þus* not in the MS.; 2630 *clensid*] clensed; 2673 *let*] lat; 2896 *mare*] ma; 2930 *þan sal*] sal þan; 2947 *he* not in the MS.; 3204 *Paraydise*] paradise; 3219 *borowe*] borwe; 344I *men*] man; 3529 *syns*] syn; 3637 *others*] other; 3652 *saales*] saules; 3664 *charity*] charite; 371I *þe*] þa; 3777 *gude*] gede. Probably miswritten for "gode"; 3845 *says*] sayd; 3980 *fifthe*] fifte; 402I *pestulencie*] pestilencie; 4025 *Says us*] Say us; 406I *if dissencion*] if first dissencion; 4105 *þat* not in the MS.; 4213 *negremanciens*] nigremanciens; 4309 *es til*] es up til; 4357 *says mikel*] says swa mikel; 4573 *finissent*] fuissent; 4804 *thredend*] thretend; 4833 *et subito* not in the MS.; 4838 *es*] er; 4875 *buk says*] buk us says; 4890 *serve*] seme; 4907 Second *þe*] þis; 505I *into*] intil; 5100 *may*] mot; 5147 *common*] commen; 5164 *in*] into; 5183 *Josaphat*] iosephat; 5309 *to þair*] til þar; 5330 *whan*] when; 5390 *and*] in; 5520 *þam* not in the MS.; 5617 *privite*] private; 5642 *ilka*] ilk; 5668 *ociosi*] ocioso; 5824 *it* not in the MS.; 5985 Second *þair* not in the MS.; 6096 *until*] til; 6097 The MS. reads "Ful wa sal synful men þat day be." Then follows the line "For grete reddure þai sal þan se," which is omitted by Morris; 6106 *iugements*] Jugement; 6138 *we may*] may we; 6249 *large*] lange; 6296 *sekes*] seke; 6395 *Bot*] for; 6433 *men*] man; 6434 *sal*] wil; 644I *buke*] bukes; 650I *if*] it; 6510 *þan was*] was þan; 6523 *most efte dreghe*] efte most dryghe; 6539 *no*] na; 6593 *autorities*] auctorites; 664I *of*] or; 6666 *ferum*] ferrum; 6786 *cesse*] ceese; 6856 *yhung*] yhing; 6897 *sal*] sal ay; 6903 Second *with* not in the MS.; 6912 *terra*] terram; 6944 *salle þare*] þare salle; 7134 *paynes*] payne; 7158 *me in*] me ever in; 7237 *infernum*] eam; 728I *þan*] þare; 7382 *na*] no; 7396 Second *and* not in the MS.; 7437 *passes þe*] passes all þe; 7437 *liefes*] lyfes; 7452 *done here*] here done; 7464 *þai ever*] ever þai; 7509 Morris here has omitted fourteen lines; 7516 *untylle*] tyll; 7560 *þa*] þai; 7569 *Þese*] Three; 7630 *þan*] þam; 7635 *for* not in the MS.; 7637 *and lawest*] and þe lawest; 7678 *swa*] so; 7718 *þan erth*] þan all erth; 7726 *na*] never; 7732 *fro*] fra; 7749 *þe*

and *place* not in the MS.; 7865 *þe* not in the MS.; 7921 *had*] has; 7991 Second *ne* not in the MS.; 7992 *salle þai*] *þai* sall; 8075 *yhit*] *þan*; 8172 *es*] *er*; 8190 *and yhit*] *and þat yhit*; 8444 *sall be*] *sall he be*; 8511 *ay be*] *be ay*; 8542 *es*] *er*; 8553 *þai þat*] *þat þai*; 8615 *mare*] *ma*; 8659 *se* not in the MS.; 8664 *se*] *se þan*; 8735 *lyfed*] *lyfes*; 8751 *þai* not in the MS.; 8789 *as*] *als*; 8809 *es*] *es þe*; 8855 *wrytt*] *wytt*; 8858 Second *of* not in the MS.; 8876 *gret*] *full gret*; 8895 *of*] *and of*; 8913 *þat* not in the MS.; 8948 *þat was*] *þat ay was*; 8977 *Hely*] *hely er*; 9090 First *and* not in the MS.; 9303 *weles us*] *wele es us*; 9386 *suld þan*] *þan suld*; 9405 *þayne*] *pyne*; 9422 *be strang*] *be ful strang*; 9435 *last*] *tast*; 9512 *werld*] *werld here*; 9518 *als*] *als it*; 9540 *ferthe*] *fierthe*; 9547 *England*] *Ingland*; 9552 *understande*] *understandes*.

In addition to the above variations Morris's text further differs from the MSS. in such things as the use of (a) *is* for *es* as at 42; 387; 604; 726; 739; 830; 964; 994; 1014; 1091; 1095; 1420; 1598; 1686; 1986; 3129; 4732. Conversely *es* for *is* is found at 4619.

(b) Initial *wh* for *w* as at 191; 192; 1365; 2421. Conversely *w* for *wh* is found at 901; 1604.

(c) *er* for *ir* as at 290; 434; 1052; 1922; 3767; 3810; 5497; 6346; 6516; 6521; 7544; 9357; 9421; 9434; 9443; 9526; 9579. Conversely *ir* for *er* is found at 5892; 6901.

(d) The prefix *a* for *o* as at 1275; 2794; 5631; 9397; 9404. The prefix *o* for *a* is found at 1741; 4940.

(e) Final *f* for *v* as at 1639; 7382; 7486; 8499. Intervocalic *v* for *f* is found at 3174.

After line 7509 Morris omitted the following fourteen lines, as Andreae² has pointed out:—

Þarfor thynkes ay both yhong and ald
 On þir payns in hell þat I haue tald
 How hydus þai er for to dyscryve
 And clens yhow here in yhour lyue
 Of all fylth of syn and of foly

² P. Andreae, *Die Handschriften des Pricke of Conscience*, Berlin 1888.

And mak' yhow to god here swa redy
Dat yhe be roght worthy to wende
Tyll þase hydus payns withouten ende
Ffor he þat couth ryght understand
What payns in hell er ay lastand
Him war lever thole here alkyn payne
Dat any man couth here ordayne
Ar he wald assent tyll any foly
Wharfor he war swilk payns worthy

J. LIGHTBOWN.