CHAPTER I
THE LANGUAGE OF TRANSLATION

I

The subject of the language which William Morris used in his prose and poetry has always given rise to argument. Complaint has been lodged against Morris because only a philologist can comprehend the archaic peculiarities of his diction; on the other hand, scholars have objected to its linguistic inconsistencies, and have said that no thorough student of the English Language could have written in such a mixture of both conventional and unacceptable forms. At all events, the language of William Morris (and here we are concerned primarily with that of the saga translations) is a literary medium so vastly different from that of Victorian literature in general, so distant from the normal vocabulary of the nineteenth century, that aside from its philological accuracy or inaccuracy, it is startling and radical. In Morris's Old Norse works, particularly in the saga translations, the growth and use of a non-modern language is so apparent that it must occupy a position of prominence in any treatment of his works.

Dr. Arthur Biber has summarized many of the critical commentaries upon the language Morris used in his late Prose Romances, and has made certain general observations regarding 1 its relation to Middle English. But the fact that the creator...
of this language was supposed to be a Middle English scholar, and the wisdom of using such a language are two different matters. The critics have challenged both. Of The House of the Wolfings, a reviewer in the Athenæum said:

There is an inexpressible charm and pathos in the words that were actually spoken by foregone generations of men. This charm is, of course, lacking in all imitations of those words, however beautiful, and even though the literary artist be Mr. William Morris.²

Of The Roots of the Mountains, another critic wrote:

"From beginning to end, the story is written in what a critic has happily called 'Wardour Street English.'"³

There was some feeling on the part of the reviewers that this archaized language was legitimate for poetry, but not for prose. Consequently, where its use is praised in The Earthly Paradise as producing "A thorough purity of thought and language,"⁴ or is spoken of as "Unadorned simplicity of language," it still was subject to censure for both the late Prose Romances and the saga translations.

² Athenæum, July-Dec., 1889, pp. 347-348. [The various volumes of the Athenæum are not numbered.]
³ Spectator, LXIV (1890), 208.
⁴ Saturday Review, XXV (May 30, 1868), 730.
⁵ Ibid., XXVI (Dec. 11, 1869), 772.
⁶ But even the language of Morris's poetry did not entirely escape adverse criticism: "Mr. Morris...while trying above all things to tell his stories [of The Earthly Paradise] in the language of romance, often misses the romantic spirit...The failure of the literary poets [here Morris, Rossetti, Swinburne, Tennyson] to appreciate the active life of their time, as well as the affectations of thought and language that are such blemishes in their
An attitude which sums up many like opinions is to be found in the Spectator's review of the Völsunga translation:

The name of the author of 'The Earthly Paradise' is a guarantee of the beauty of the language into which the Völsunga Saga has been translated. One observation, however, it seems time to make on his diction, which it would not have been fair to do [in The Earthly Paradise] .... There are certain archaisms which become Intolerable when made a practice of. 'Maid' or 'maiden' is as good and honest an English word as 'may,' and we warn Mr. Morris that of his 'mayes' we are heartily tired. 'Adrad' may pass muster in verse; but when we find it wilfully inserted in prose, we long for the simpler 'afeared,' or even 'afraid.'

Morris had begun writing in this unorthodox diction in his earliest works. The language of the pieces published in the Oxford and Cambridge Magazine, in 1856, is certainly not pure modern English, while in The Defence of Guenevere such forms as 'carle,' 'Easterlings,' 'flatlings,' 'glaive,' 'shoon,' 'sun-litten,' give evidence, in a small way, of the vocabulary which was later to become so apparent in nearly all of Morris's compositions. In general, it may be said that the language of the works which were written before The Earthly Paradise is not consistent. Certain poems in The Defence of Guenevere, for example, contain almost no modern forms, while others are completely free from the archaic element. The quality of the mixed language is not so good in the earlier works as it is in the later. When Morris wrote the Ballad [circa 1856],

poetry are due...to the exaggerated estimate which the poets have formed of their function, and the arbitrary standard of diction which they affect." Quarterly Review, CXXXII (Jan. 1872), 40, 42.

7 Spectator, XLIII (Aug. 13, 1870), 984.
the poet had not developed an accurate system for creating the archaic effect:

Yon was an evil maggot-pie,
He bodeth us treis and tene,
I would I had seen some other bird
Bewixt the greves green. [stanza 5]

...........

O whatten a light is yon great light? [stanza 9]

...........

O whatten staves are yon great staves? [stanza 11]

The false forms: 'maggot-pie' and 'whatten,' are immediately recognizable.

In The Earthly Paradise, however, Morris commenced what one might call the "standardization of unstandardized English."

A few of the words taken at random from this work and which again appear in the Old Norse translations are listed here: 'abode' [Atalanta's Race]; 'adown' [The Man Born to Be King]; 'adrad' [The Wanderers]; 'afeard' [W.]; 'agon' [The Proud King] 'alow' [At. R.]; 'anser' [The Doom of King Acrisius]; 'anigh' [W.]; 'bane' [At. R.]; 'bake,' preterit of bear [Cupid and Psyche]; 'begat' [Cup.]; 'betwixt' [M.B.K.]; 'carle' [At. R.]; 'chaffer' [Pygmalion and the Image]; 'chafferings' [At. R.]; 'climb' [W.]; 'do off,' to take off [P.K.]; 'drave' [Doom.]; 'eld' [W.]; 'erst' [Doom.]; 'flatling' [P.K.]; 'fogart' [At. R.]; 'guesten-chamber' [April]; 'holpen' [At. R.]; 'messeemeth' [The Love of

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Alestis]; 'midmost' [Pyg.]; 'most;' adjective, greatest [W.];
'of,'used with meaning of agency,for, or by [F.K.]; 'reft'
[W.]; 'spake' [Doom.]; 'therewithal' [Doom.]; 'unholpen'[W.];
'unwares,' [W.]; 'waxen,' past participle of wax [Cupid.];
'wert' [At.R.]; 'whereas,' adverb, meaning where [Pyg.];
'whiles' [W.]; 'wot' [Cupid.]; 'younling' [At.R.]

When Morris finished The Earthly Paradise he had had suf-
ficient practice in the use of an archaized diction; he was
now able to spread it fluently and profusely throughout the
saga translations. In the revisions which he made over the
literal manuscript renderings of Magnusson, we have already ob-
served that Morris’s duties consisted largely of developing the
style. The very fact that Magnusson was no scholar of Middle
English, coupled with the great evidence of Middle English
scholarship in these collaborative works, will again fortify
the opinion, voiced in Part I, Chapter II, that Magnusson in
his literal translation provided grammatical construction and
word-meanings and Morris rewrote Magnusson’s version in the
specialized English which he thought proper for the transla-
tion of Old Icelandic.

II

We have indicated that it is in the Old Norse transla-
tions that Morris’s language receives its final development;
it is here also it has its most legitimate use. For in the

9 Or in any translation from medieval documents.
saga translations Morris was for the first time not trying simply to approximate a medieval or antique spirit in his language, as he did when he adapted The Earthly Paradise tales, but he was attempting in translation to preserve the medieval spirit which the documents already had. But when Morris did not translate, and made his story on the basis of another (his practice in composing Lindenborg Pool), complete success was not his; for he had upon his hands the problem of creating a milieu and an atmosphere for his story, which the original was already prepared to give him if he merely translated it. But he did not read the story in the original; instead, he 'Scandinavianized' it from Thorpe's version. The same fault hardly exists in Sigurd the Volsung, for when Morris wrote that poem, he knew so much about the sources from which he took his materials that the creation of a proper atmosphere was almost as easy for him as re-telling the story itself. In translating the Old Norse documents, in order to maintain the spirit of the original, Morris apparently tried to give the reader the feeling of the English Language which was contemporary with the Old Norse from which he was translating. The attempt has usually been designated as a failure so far as the language is concerned, for in attempting to create a language which was like that of a by-gone age, Morris reproduced only a small share of the medieval spirit, and detracted greatly from the comprehensibility of his translation. It was inevitable that Morris's language should prove a disappointment even in the sagas where its alleged impropriety is at least debatable, for he had to stop "betwixt and between" Middle English and Modern English.
If he had recreated a complete syntax and vocabulary, and had made it exactly Middle English in all respects, his works would not have been read; if he had used a diction which was entirely modern, he could not have satisfied himself that his translations were in keeping with their originals. He did the next best thing: and the critics of his time and ours have never forgiven him for it.

There was not a definite controversy, like the Newman-Arnold Homeric-translation-dispute, over the Icelandic translations of Morris. He and Magnusson did not write a vulnerable Preface such as Newman's; hence the adverse criticism they received was directed at their practice in translating, not, first, at their theory, and afterwards at their adherence to it. Because Newman's attempts to produce an artificial antique feeling in his language met with little success and much opposition, and because his Iliad was published little more than a decade before Morris began translating the Old Icelandic, it may be well here to recall the Greek scholar's ideas on translating. With regard to language, Newman says:

Our real old ballad-writers are too poor and mean to represent Homer, and are too remote in diction from our times to be popularly intelligible. It is requisite for a translator to form his own style. I generally adhere to the principle which Aristotle commended...to use little strange diction, but impart elevation by the mode of combining known words.

10 Concerning the theory of Old Norse translation, see conclusions below, Sections V and VI.


12 Ibid., p. x.
Newman did form his own style; and to what consequent effect the lectures of Matthew Arnold testify! Morris, too, formed his own translating style. He did it, to be sure, with different combinations of 'known words,' but more particularly, with a vocabulary which, unlike that of Newman, is often actually as old as the Ballads. The difference between the translators, Newman and Morris, is that Newman thought he should invent an English medium for the reproduction of Homeric language, and Morris was thoroughly convinced that he had to imitate in English the language of a past (and foreign) literature.

Newman was interested in developing his new style from old words, but he always stopped this side obscurity. If a word was too 'archaic' to be understood by the modern reader, he preferred not to use it. We cannot say as much for Morris;

13 See Morris's compound words; Part B of Section IV, below.

14 Of some interest here should be the vocabulary likenesses of Newman and Morris. The words in the following list are those of a non-modern character which occur in Newman's Glossary, op. cit., Preface, pp. xxi-xxii, and which Morris also employed: bale (severe harm); eld (old age); erst (originally, formerly); even (plural of eyes); hight (named); lief (willing); list (to wish); plieve (plunder, ravish); scathe (to do harm); sithence (ever since); syne (long syne, long ago); wit (I know). Certain other words which Newman considered necessary for his reader to have 'under his eye' in the Glossary are listed in the New English Dictionary as having good modern usage at the present time.

15 Newman even went so far as to say, however, in his answer to Arnold's Essay, On Translating Homer, that he might have used such forms as mom for man, londis, for lands, nestles for nests, without risking unintelligibility. Arnold's three Lectures, Newman's reply, Homeric Translation, and Arnold's On Translating Homer; Last Words, may be found in the Oxford Essays by Matthew Arnold (Oxford, 1914), Lecture I, pp. 245-263; II, pp. 264-286; III, pp. 287-312; Newman's reply, pp. 313-376; Arnold's Last Words, pp. 379-424.
one often wishes for a glossary in reading his Old Norse transla-

tions.

In a detailed examination of Morris's saga language, it is
apparent that the language differences, that is, the differences
between his English and that of his Victorian contemporaries,
are largely in vocabulary. It is also true, however, that inci-
dental to his archaized vocabulary, he employed a syntax which
is, in some of its features, definitely reminiscent of Middle
English writers. In answer to a German student who had written
to him regarding the similarity between his works and Cheaucer's,

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16 While upon the subject of Homeric translation, it might be
well for one to compare a passage from Morris with one from an
\textit{Iliad} translation of acknowledged greatness, such as that of
Lang, Leaf, and Meyers. It is difficult to choose such pas-
sages, but one from each concerning armour will perhaps do as
well as any. Homer ['the lame God' speaks of making Achilles'
armour]:

\begin{quote}
Be of good courage, let not these things trouble thy
heart. Would that so might I avail to hide him far
from dolorous death, when dread fate cometh upon him,
and surely shall good armour be at his need, such as
all men afterward shall marvel at, whosoever may be-
hold.
\end{quote}

\textit{The Iliad of Homer, done into English prose by
Andrew Lang, Walter Leaf, and Ernest Myers (London, 1883),
p. 380.}

\textit{Morris: [Regin speaks to Sigurd]:}

\begin{quote}
I was the third, and the least of them all [the sons of
Hreidmar] both for prowess and good conditions, but I
was cunning to work in iron, and silver, and gold,
whereof I could make matters that availed somewhat.
\end{quote}

\textit{The Völsunga Saga, Collected Works, VII, 322.}

The last phrase of Morris (and this is a representative selec-
tion) sounds artificial and 'literary' compared with the aus-
tere prose of Lang, Leaf, and Myers, which reminds one of the
ageless style used in the Authorized Versbn.
Morris wrote:

I quite agree as to the resemblance of my work to Chaucer...I may say that I am fairly steeped in mediævalism generally; but the Icelandic Sagas, our own Border Ballads, and Froissart (through Berner's translation...) have had as much influence over me as (or more than) anything else.17

Even a casual reading of Morris's Old Norse translations will disclose the fact that his archaic language is partly Chaucerian. Acting upon Morris's statement concerning Chaucer, the Ballads, and Lord Berners, and recalling the fact that Malory was one of his favorite authors while he was at Oxford, his saga translations were read, for the present undertaking, and their (apparently) non-modern words listed; the words thus obtained were subjected to the following treatment: (1) their non-modern character was established by the New English Dictionary; (2) all words found in the Chaucer Concordance and the glossary to Skeat's Complete Chaucer, were segregated; (3) from the remaining words, those which were found in Sommer's Malory glossary were also separated; (4) from these remaining, were taken the words which could be found in Child's Ballad glossary;

17 Quoted by J.W. Mackail, The Life of William Morris (New York and London, 1899), \(1197-198\).

18 As is also, of course, the framework form of The Earthly Paradise.


22 Francis James Child, The English and Scottish Popular Ballads
(5) a few words from this remainder were discovered in a reading of the first two volumes of Lord Berner's Froissart, and these were segregated; (6) the words still unaccounted for in Chaucer, Malory, the Ballads, and Lord Berners, were arranged according to classifications which are explained below. The attempt, in this vocabulary section of the Chapter, has not been to establish the "source" of any or all single words which Morris used, but to examine the possibilities of ascertaining the sources of the bulk of his vocabulary. It will be seen, in the results of this examination, that over-three-quarters of the non-modern or apparently unknown words found in Morris's Old Norse translations were used by Chaucer, Malory, the Ballad Writers, and Lord Berners; while the Icelandic Language itself contributes also to Morris's vocabulary, through the mediums of his direct adaptation and word-formation by translation. The contributions of the Ballads and Lord Berners to the diction here under consideration, are almost negligible, and the only reason for their inclusion is the statement in Morris's letter quoted above.

The elements of Morris's syntax have been compared with the syntax of Chaucer and Malory, the evidence and conclusions for which comparison appear below. In the case of neither syntax nor vocabulary does the present writer attempt to prove that a particular form used by Morris comes from a particular Middle English or Early Modern English document. It seems logical, how-

ever, that a person well acquainted with English literature of the middle ages and Renaissance, should take his words (since we find he did not invent them) from writers whose works he knew.

The balance of this Chapter, in Sections III and IV, is given over to the materials for studying the language of Morris's Old Norse translations. The evidence tends to show that it (the language) is not "pseudo-" or "quasi-", or "bastard-", Middle English, in other words that it is not made up of created and pseudo-archaic forms. Rather, it is "belated" Middle English, superimposed upon the literary English of the nineteenth century. Section III concerns the syntax, and is divided into parts A to F (according to word-function); while Section IV is divided into parts A to C: (A) Middle English words classified according to the system mentioned above; (B) Morris's use of the compound and _-prefix; (C) Morris's neologisms. Convenient subdivisions have also been made within the chief headings.

III

Although Morris's use of non-modern syntax and inflection is not so important a phase of his language as is the vocabulary, his persistent use of obsolete and archaic construction, inflection, and word-order can hardly be passed over. The salient features of this aspect of his style have been incorporated into the lists appended below, where in this Section, the particular emphasis is on the function rather than on the meaning of any
word or construction in question. References to similar forms and constructions in Chaucer and Malory are given in all cases where they could be discovered.

It must be borne in mind that Morris used both the modern and the non-modern form of many words in which such dual forms existed, and that attention here is paid primarily to the non-modern. Where he writes 'bare' in one instance, as the preterit of 'bear,' he also uses the more modern 'bore,' though indeed he seems to prefer the older form. Where many examples of 'thou mayst' are found, 'you may' is likewise easily discovered, and although 'thou mayst' is generally a subjunctive form, Morris does not always make a choice between 'may' and 'mayst' on a basis of mood. Such polyglot English is bound to result from any sustained and calculated archaizing; but Morris fully realized, as has been stated above, the impossibility of 'medievalizing' all his forms, while at the same time he refused, for artistic reasons, to make his language entirely modern.

The references below, as in the case of the vocabulary (where the emphasis is on meaning as well as function), are taken entirely from the Old Norse translations. The Prose Romances, in both cases, would probably yield the same information, although in analyzing their language we should be at a loss to explain the forms which came into Morris's language through the medium of the Norse. The earlier works, such as The Earthly Paradise, which also have their share of non-modern words, would not produce the quantity and variety of older forms and usages which are found in the sagas.
Abbreviations

All references are selected and representative. No attempt has been made to set down each use of any particular word, and generally only one phrase or sentence usage is recorded, with additional references below it in parentheses.

Vig: Viglund the Fair  Collected Works, Volume X
Gun: Gunnlaug the Wormtongue  Collected Works, Volume X
Gr: Grettir the Strong  Collected Works, Volume VII
Vol: Volsunga Saga  Collected Works, Volume VII
Frit: Frithiof the Bold  Collected Works, Volume X
Kroi: Roi the Fool  Collected Works, Volume X
Thor: Thorsteinn the Staff-smitten  Collected Works, Volume X
Hog: Hogni and Hedia  Collected Works, Volume X
S.H.: Snorri's Short Hogni  Collected Works, Volume X
Chris: Lay of Christine  Collected Works, Volume IX
Son: The Son's Sorrow  Collected Works, Volume IX
Bal: Baldur's Dream  Collected Works, Volume VII
Thrym: The Lay of Thrym  Collected Works, Volume VII
Sig: The Lay of Sigdrifa  Collected Works, Volume VII
Sig Lay: The Short Lay of Sigurd  Collected Works, Volume VII
Hel.B: The Hell-ride of Brynhild  Collected Works, Volume VII
Bryn.Lay: The Lay of Brynhild  Collected Works, Volume VII
Gud: The Ancient Lay of Gudrun  Collected Works, Volume VII
Atli: The Song of Atli  Collected Works, Volume VII
Whet: The Whetting of Gudrun  Collected Works, Volume VII
Ham: The Lay of Hamdir  Collected Works, Volume VII
Oddr: The Lament of Oddrun  Collected Works, Volume VII
Morris references, in prose, are to page only; thus, Sig. 93, refers to *Viglund the Fair* (*Collected Works*, Vol. VII), p. 93. References in poetry are to page also; thus, Sig. Day. 410, refers to *The Short Lay of Sigurd* (*Vol. VII*), p. 410.

Chaucer: All references to the *Canterbury Tales* are by group-letter and line. Thus, A 2234, refers to group A, line 2234 (*Knightes Tale*, 1376). Other poems are indicated by title and line number, according to the Skeat edition.

Malory: All Malory references are to Oskar Sommer's edition of *Le Morte DAthur*; the pagination is continuous throughout the two volumes of the text, so page and line numbers are given. Thus, 193. 25, refers to page 193, line 25 (*Volume I, Book VI, Chapter vii, line 25 [page 193]*).

Ballads: Ballad references are given to volume, page, and stanza number in the Child (1882-1898) edition. Thus, III, 26,11, refers to stanza 11 on page 26 of Volume III.

Bemers: The Bemers's reference are to volume and page in the Ker (Tudor translation Series) edition.
### Syntax and Inflection

#### I. Verbal Inflection:

##### Indicative present (strong and weak).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em>sg</em></th>
<th>Morris</th>
<th>Chaucer</th>
<th>Malory</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>-e</td>
<td>-e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>-est [Gr. 129] (sayest)</td>
<td>-est</td>
<td>-est, (etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>-eth [Gun. 10] (seemeth)</td>
<td>-eth</td>
<td>-eth, (etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pl.</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>-en</td>
<td>-en (often dropped)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Morris uses no particular archaicized or obsolete forms for the subjunctive, infinitive, imperative, or present participle exclusively.

##### Preterit. (strong)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em>sg</em></th>
<th>Morris</th>
<th>Chaucer</th>
<th>Malory</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>at [Frit. 60] (countest)</td>
<td>--, -e</td>
<td>--, -est</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pl.</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>-e, -e(n)</td>
<td>-e, -en</td>
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##### Preterit. (weak)

<table>
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<th>Chaucer</th>
<th>Malory</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>-ede, -ed</td>
<td>-ede</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>-est [common]</td>
<td>-edest</td>
<td>-edest, -est</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>-ede, -ed</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pl.</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>-ede(n), -ed</td>
<td>-ed, -en</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### II. Anomalous Verbs.

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Morris  Chaucer  Malory

To be
Present Indicative:

Sg.
1. am 26  am
2. are, art [Gr. 200.]  art
3. is  is

Pl.
are

Preterit

Sg.
1. was  was
2. were, wert [Gun.16.]  were
3. was  was

Pl.
were

To do
Present Indicative:

Sg.
1. do  doo
2. do, doest, doest [Vig.85.]  doost-
3. do, doth [common]  dooth

Pl.
do  don

Preterit:

Sg.
1. did  dide
2. did, dist [Gun.20.]  dydest
3. did  dyde

Pl.
did  dyden

Will
Present Indicative:

Sg.
1. will  wil, wol
2. will, wilt [Gr.129]  wylt, wolt
3. will  wylle(n), wolle(n)

Pl.
will  wyl, wol

26 In order to remind the reader that the modern syntactical and inflectional forms are the more common, they are indicated here, preceding, in each case, the older form. Thus, 'are, art' means that
To be

Present Indicative:

Sg.
1. am 26
2. are, art [Gr. 200.]
3. is

Pl.
are

Preterit

Sg.
1. was
2. were, wert [Gun.16.]
3. was

Pl.
were

To do

Present Indicative:

Sg.
1. do
2. do, doest, dost [Vig.85.]
3. do, doth [common]

Pl.
do

Preterit:

Sg.
1. did
2. did, dist [Gun.20.]
3. did

Pl.
did

Will

Present Indicative:

Sg.
1. will
2. will, wilt [Gr.129]
3. will

Pl.
will

In order to remind the reader that the modern syntactical and inflectional forms are the more common, they are indicated here, preceding, in each case, the older form. Thus, 'are', 'art' means that Morris uses both 'you are' and 'thou art'; he at no time uses such mixed and anachronistic syntax as 'thou are.' See also below, 'did', which meaning has not been 'thou didst.'
### Morris

#### Preterit:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sg.</th>
<th>Morris</th>
<th>Chaucer</th>
<th>Malory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. would</td>
<td>would</td>
<td>wolde</td>
<td>wold(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Would, wouldst</td>
<td>woldest</td>
<td>woldest</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Gum. 29.]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. would</td>
<td>wolde</td>
<td>wold(e)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Pl. | would | wolde(n) | wold(e) |

#### III. Preteritive-Present Verbs.

### Can

#### Present Indicative:

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<tr>
<th>Sg.</th>
<th>Morris</th>
<th>Chaucer</th>
<th>Malory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. can</td>
<td>can</td>
<td>can, canne</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. can, cannest</td>
<td>canst</td>
<td>canst</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>[Vol. 336.]</td>
<td></td>
<td>can</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. can</td>
<td>can</td>
<td>can, con</td>
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</table>

| Pl. | canne(n), can | can, con |

| Pret. Ind. could | can, con |
| 2 person, couldst | can, con |

### Dare

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<tr>
<th>Sg.</th>
<th>Morris</th>
<th>Chaucer</th>
<th>Malory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. dare</td>
<td>dar</td>
<td>dare</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. dare, durst [Gr. 161.]</td>
<td>darst</td>
<td>darst(e)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. daren, durst [Gr. 162.]</td>
<td>dar</td>
<td>dar(e)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Pl. | dar, dorre(n) | dar(e) |

| Pret. dared, durst | dorste | durst(e) |

### Shall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sg.</th>
<th>Morris</th>
<th>Chaucer</th>
<th>Malory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. shall</td>
<td>shal</td>
<td>shal, shall(e)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. shall, shalt [Gr. 158.]</td>
<td>shalt</td>
<td>shal, shall(e)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. shall</td>
<td>shal</td>
<td>shal, shall(e)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Pl. | shul, shuln, etc. | shal, shall(e) |

| Pret. should | shalde, sholde | shold |

| 2 pers. sg. shouldst | | |

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morris</th>
<th>Chaucer</th>
<th>Malory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>May</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sg.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. may</td>
<td>may</td>
<td>may(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. may, mayest [Gr. 138.]</td>
<td>mayst, might</td>
<td>maist, mayst(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. may</td>
<td>may</td>
<td>may(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pl.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>may</td>
<td>mowe(n), may</td>
<td>may(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pret. might</td>
<td>mighty</td>
<td>myght(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 pers. sg. mightest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wit</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sg.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. wot [Vig. 113.]</td>
<td>wot</td>
<td>wote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. wottest [Frit. 73.]</td>
<td>wost</td>
<td>wotest, wetest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. wot, wotteth [Vig. 121.]</td>
<td>wot</td>
<td>wote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pl.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wot [Thor. 153.]</td>
<td>wite(n), wot</td>
<td>wete, wote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pret.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. wist [Vig. 101.]</td>
<td>wiste</td>
<td>wiste(w), wyst(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sg.2. [?]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. wist [Vig. 102.]</td>
<td>wiste(w)</td>
<td>wiste(w), wyst(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pl.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. wotted [Gr. 49.]</td>
<td>wiste</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. [?]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. wotted [Vol. 316.]</td>
<td>wiste</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past Participle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wotted [Gun. 11.]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pers. sg. (and infinitive?)</td>
<td>wotten [Bal. xxiv.]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Meant to be past tense; translates hugta.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IV. Impersonal Verbs.**

methought [Vol. 379.] methoughte [A 385] hym thought[184.5]
meseemeth [Vol. 379.] mesemeth[202.30]
misliked (them) [Gr.145.] him mislyketh lyketh you[215.26]
beseems (me) [Gud. 441.] Leg.Wom.1293 hym bysemeth [220.4]
medreamed [Vol. 379.] dremed me [Rom.Rose,51.]
himseemed [Hro1,145.] him semed (plural) [F 56]
V. Reflexive Verbs.

I misdoubted me  
[Vol. 301.]

he bethought him  
[Vol. 332.]

(They should betake them  
[Gr. 177.]

Bethoughte I me  
[Rom. Rose, 521.]

(he)bitoke hym  
[C 541.]

VI. Principal Parts of Strong Verbs.

Class I

(a)bide  
byde  
abyde

(a)bode [Chris. 201.]  
bogd  
abode

[bided][29]biden  
(a)biden  
(a)byden

drive  
dryve  
dryve

drove, drave [Ham. 470.]  
drôof  
roof(e),drofe

driven  
driven

(rive)  
ryve  
ryve

[trove]  
roof(e),rofe,rafe

tiven [Gr. 102.]  
ryven [ryved]

strive  
stryve  
stryve

[strove] strove  
strôof  
stroof

striven  
striven

[thrive]  
thryve  
(thryve)

[thrived] throwe  
throfe

thriven [Gud. 22.]  

Class II

cleave  
cleeve  
cleve

clove [Gud. 45.]  
cleft[e]  
cleaf,clave[cleft]

(clove)  
cloven  
cloven

28 All references to principal parts from Malory and Chaucer are taken from Baldwin, op. cit., pp. 34-48.

29 A verb form in [ ] indicates a tendency toward the formation of a weak verb. ( ) are used to denote conjectural or additional forms.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morris</th>
<th>Chaucer</th>
<th>Malory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bind</td>
<td>bynde</td>
<td>bynde</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bound</td>
<td>bond</td>
<td>bond(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bounden [Gr. 190.], bound</td>
<td>bounden</td>
<td>bonde(n), bound(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drink</td>
<td>drinke</td>
<td>drynke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drank</td>
<td>drank</td>
<td>drank(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>drank [Frit. 77.], drunk, drunken [Hog. 134.]</td>
<td>dronken</td>
<td>dronken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grind</td>
<td>grinde</td>
<td>(grynge)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ground</td>
<td>grounden</td>
<td>groundyn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ground]</td>
<td>[grinded][Sig.Lay. 408.]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>help</td>
<td>helpe</td>
<td>helpe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[helped]</td>
<td>help</td>
<td>help, holpe, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[helped]</td>
<td>holpen</td>
<td>holpen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>holpen [Gun. 18.]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carve</td>
<td>kerve</td>
<td>kerve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[carved]</td>
<td>karf</td>
<td>[kerved] carfe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carven [Vig. 82.]</td>
<td>kprven</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class IV</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bear</td>
<td>bere</td>
<td>bere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bare [Thor. 152.], bare</td>
<td>bare, bere</td>
<td>bare, bere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bore</td>
<td>børen, børn</td>
<td>boren, born(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(borne)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>break</td>
<td>breke</td>
<td>breke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brake [Frit. 66.], brake</td>
<td>brak, brack</td>
<td>brak(e), brack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>broken</td>
<td>broken</td>
<td>broken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>speak</td>
<td>speke</td>
<td>speke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spoke, spake [Vol. 297.], spoken</td>
<td>spak, spack(e)</td>
<td>spak(e), spack(e)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spoken</td>
<td></td>
<td>spoken</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class V</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>get [Vig. 94.]</td>
<td>gete</td>
<td>gete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>got, gat</td>
<td>geten</td>
<td>geten, geten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>got, gotten</td>
<td></td>
<td>geten, yeten, goten</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Morris

Class VI

grave
graven [Gud. 438.]

heave
hove [Thor. 154.]

[heaved]

shape
[shaped]
shapen [Vol. 364.]

swear
swear [Helgi. 397.]

sworn

wash
[washed]

washeden [Vol. 326.]

Inf.: washen [Hel. 426.]

(participial adjective)

Class VII

wax
[waxed]
waxen [Frit. 67.]

Weak Verb which becomes a Strong Verb

light
[lighted] (lit)
litten [Vig. 118.]

(participial adjective)

B. Adverbs.

Certain adverbs in Morris are modern adjectival forms, either taken from identical older forms of the adverbs, or used analogously with such older adverbs. They all may be considered as obvious archaisms.
Morris
exceeding [Vol. 382.]
wondrous [Gr. 60.]
sore [Vol. 328.]

Chaucer
wonders [Rom. Rose, 27.]
sore [A 148]

Malory
wonder [837.35]
sore [38.11]

Other plainly obsolete adverbs, such as 'atwain,' 'thenceforward,' 'whereas,' etc., are also found in abundance.

C. Conjunctions.

One distinctly archaic use of conjunction-combination is found in the saga translations, with 'but' and 'if,' the 'but' retaining its definite meaning of 'except.'

but and if my father come but-- if...
[Vol. 345.] [Rom. Rose, 250.]
but and yf...
[Rom. Rose, 250.]
but and...
[Leg. 1790]

Non-modern conjunctions used are 'nathless,' 'sithence,' etc.

D. Prepositions.

Morris's most frequent and noticeable reversion to the Middle English preposition is in his very frequent use of the a-prefix, which is merely the combination of 'a' ('on' or 'in') with the present participle of a verb, or with a noun. Verbal forms ('a-burning,' 'a-talking,' 'a-warring,' 'a-warming,' etc.) are more numerous than the noun forms ('adoors,' 'afield,' 'a-land,' etc.). Each of these is considered individually in the vocabulary lists in Section IV.

Purely obsolete and archaized prepositions such as 'after,' ('according to,') and 'of,' ('by') exist in the saga translations, but their number is relatively unimportant when compared with the a-prefixes.
II. Nouns.

There are two -en plural nouns used by Morris, one of them found both in Chaucer and Malory, the other in Chaucer only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Morris</th>
<th>Chaucer</th>
<th>Malory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>eyen [Sig.Lay.417]</td>
<td>eyen [D 2060]</td>
<td>eyen [112.9]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eyne [Frit. 59.]</td>
<td>yen [B 3260.]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shoon [Vol.368.]</td>
<td>shoon [B 1922.]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

F. Pronouns.

I. Inflection of Thou.

| Sg. Nom. thou [Gr. 129.] | thou    | thou, thou |
| Gen. thy [Thor.158.]     | thy, thyn | thy, thyn(e) |
| thine30 [Vol.297.]       | the     | the        |
| Dat. thee [Gun.10.]      | the     | the        |
| Acc. thee [Gr. 129.]     | the     | the        |

| Pl. Nom. ye [Vol.297.]   | ye      | ye         |
| Gen. your(thy)           | your(yours) | your(e), yours |
| Dat. you(thee)           | you     | you, yow   |
| Acc. you(thee)           | you     | you, yow   |

II. Dative of Indirect Object (Omission of preposition).

I will pay it thee back [Gun.22.] [Leg., 2345.]
there were brought hym [92.20]

III. Dative with impersonal verbs.

'mseeems,' etc. [See above, I IV, Impersonal Verbs.]

IV. Reciprocal Pronouns.

either was well liking to other.[Vig.87.] everich of hem doth other great honor. eyther of hem smot: other.[256.18.] [B 1004.]

V. Indefinite Pronouns.

One smote on the door [Frit.77.] and herde oon cryen 'water'....[A 3817.]

30 No attempt has been made here to distinguish between the various cases of the genitive pronouns 'thine,' and 'your.'
The syntax and inflection of Morris's writings, as they touch upon those of a language of early times, are important as well as interesting; but they would hardly be worthy of our attention if they did not form a framework for the vocabulary which we are about to examine. A non-modern diction put together with the syntactic and inflectional forms of present-day English, would be even more incongruous than is the complete language structure which Morris built. Obsolete and archaic syntax and inflection, as used in Morris's writings, are a means to an end. They form an inseparable portion of the whole picture; though they are of much less significance in themselves than the actual word-usage to which the remainder of this Chapter is devoted.

IV

All of the non-modern words found in Morris's Old Norse translations are compiled alphabetically in the following lists, and are grouped according to the scheme set forth above (pages 100-102). It is essential to remind the reader that all of the usages here recorded are by no means found for the first time in the translations. It is interesting, in light of the fact that such words as 'aland,' and 'eld,' are common in The Earthly Paradise, to observe the words for which they stand in the Old Norse text. Etymological considerations are not a part of this study, but Morris's 'aland' for O.N. a land, his 'eld' for eili, will give a good indication of his thought-processes in revising Magnússon's manuscript. Whenever a word used in the Morris translations is cognate to the Old Norse word from which it is translated, or, more accurately, whenever Morris's word looks or sounds like its Old Norse proto-
type, the Norse will be found directly beneath the Morris word,
enclosed in brackets. The reader will discover from such like
words Morris's occasionally phenomenal approximation of the
foreign word in archaic English. He will also unfortunately dis-
cover several English coinages which are phonetically or ortho-
graphically close to the Old Norse, but which mean little or noth-
ing in Modern English.

Beside the saga translations, the Eddic Law and Ballad trans-
lations of circa 1870 have been included here.

A. Vocabulary.

I. Words found in Morris and Chaucer.

A (Preposition: in, or on.)

Morris: There he dwelt a many nights. Gr. 127.

Chaucer: A 854 (A for "in")

ABIDE (Verb: await, endure.)

Morris: In this wise shall the Host of Helinn abide the

Chaucer: Troilus, IV, 156 (pret., abood)

A-COLD (Adjective: becoming cold, cold.)

Morris: He fast began to grow a-cold. Hog. 128.

[fast at kolma]

\[\text{For abbreviations, see above, page 102.}\]

\[\text{The phrases used to indicate word-meanings are either quoted}
\text{or paraphrased, depending upon which method gives the meaning more}
\text{expeditiously; hence no quotation marks have been used.}\]
Chaucer: *Romant of the Rose*, 2658. (*a-colde*)

ADRAD (participial adjective: afraid)

Morris: They waxed somewhat adrad of the man. *Vig.* 93.

(Also Vol. 328, 329, 342, etc.)

Chaucer: A 605.

AFEARD (verbal adjective: afraid.)


[Consistently translated from *hræaddr*]

(Also Gr. 83.)

Chaucer: A 628; *Troilus*, I, 974. (*a-fered*)

AFTER (Preposition: according to.)


Chaucer: Chaucer's Wordes Unto Adam, 4.

ALAND (Adverb: on land.)

Morris: All men got a-land alive. *Vig.* 110.

[Usually translated from *a land*, *vit land*, etc.]

(Also Frit. 63; Gr. 57; Hog., Hro., Vol., etc.)

Chaucer: Legend of Good Women, 2166. (*a-londe*)

A-MORNINGS (Adverb: in or on mornings.)


Chaucer: A 822 (*a-morwe*)

ANIGHT (Adjective: at night, in the night.)

Morris: O'er ice-fields and ice-hills

She fared a-night time. *Sig. Lay.* 409.

(Also Gr. 28.) (See Anightime, group V below)
Chaucer: A 1042. (a-night)

APAIĐ (Past participle: paid, rewarded.)

Morris: Evil am I apaid that nineteen of my champions are slain. Vol. 386.
(Also Gr. 37.)

Chaucer: Troilus, III, 421; V, 1249. (apayed)

AREDE (Verb: to counsel, divine, prophesy.)

Morris: Aright must we arede us. Vig. 120. (Skaldic verse)
[rétt til rása]
(Also Vol. 348.)

Chaucer: Troilus, II, 1505.

ASTONIED (Verbal-adjective: astonished, stunned.)

Morris: She may well be astonied at hearing of their fall.
Vig. 108.
(Also Gr. 191, etc.)

Chaucer: House of Fame, 1174, etc. (astonieth)

ATWAIN (Adverb: asunder.)

(Also Vol. 305. [Skaldic verse].)

Chaucer: The Book of the Duchesse, 1193. (a-tweyn)

ATWIXT (preposition: between.)

Morris: Drive the axe...atwixt his shoulders. Gr. 117.

Chaucer: Rom. Rose, 854. (atwixe)
BALE (Noun: fire.)
Morris: Let make a great bale on the plain meads. Vol. 375.
[bal]
Chaucer: Bk. Duch., 227.

BARE (Verb: preterit of bear; bore.)
Morris: Viglund bare away the prize from them all. Vig. 116.
They bare no weapon against him. Gr. 145.
Then Thorsteinn bare in hay. Thor. 152.
[...bar inn hey]
[Consistently translated from bar.]
(Also Vig. 117; Thor. 155; Vol. 295, etc.)
Chaucer: A 105; D 575, etc. (bar)

BEGAT (Verb: preterit of get, beget; referred to child-bearing.)
Morris: The earl begat a woman-child on his wife. Vig. 81.
Chaucer: Leg. Wom., 1562.

BESTEAD (Verbal-adjective: aggrieved, beset, afflicted.)
Morris: If thou wert so grievously bestead as he is. Hroi.145.
Chaucer: B 649. (bistad)

BETAKE (Verb: to take oneself; with reflexive use.)
Morris: King Sigmund betakes himself to the due ruling of the
due ruling of the realm. Vol. 313.
Chaucer: G 541. (bitook)

BETHINK (Verb: to think; with reflexive use.)
Chaucer: **Rom. Rose**, 521. (bithoughte)

**BETID** (Verb: to happen, occur.)
Morris: When these things betid. Hog. 130.
(Also Gr. 22; Vol. 299, etc.)
Chaucer: **Tr.**, II, 623. (bityden)

**BEWRAY** (Verb: to betray, to trick.)
Morris: Wilt thou bewray Sigurd for his wealth's sake?
Sig. Lay. 411.
(Also Bryn. 430, etc.)
Chaucer: H 352. (biwreyd)

**BID** (Verb: offer.)
Morris: Why dost thou not bid me what I will take? Gun. 17.
Chaucer: **House of Fame**, 32. (Chaucer confuses bede and bidde)

**BIDE** (Verb: to wait.)
Morris: (I) would rather bide...with thee. Vol. 307.
She had bidden at home and learned handicraft. *Ibid.*, 342
(Also preterit, bode, Lay. Shris. 201.)
Chaucer: **Tr.**, I, 1067 (bye). (Preterit, **Tr.**, V, [bood].)

**BONDER** (Noun: farmer.)
Morris: He was the son of a good bonder. *Hrof. 140.*
[Used throughout for bonda.]
Chaucer: I 149. (bonde: bondman)
BOOT (Noun: reward, pay, réquital, atonement.)

Morris: Ufeigh was atoned with a great sum, Thorfin was un-atoned and boot was given to Thorgeir for the attack on his life. Gr. 21.

[Ofeigr var boetttr miklu fé, þorfinnr var ógildr. Þorgeirí var boett fýrir fjórðr]

Chaucer: D 472; G 1481. (bote)

BOREL (Adjective: lowly, ill-bred.)

Morris: For him shall follow
   My five bondsmaides,
   My eight bondsmen,
   No borel folk. Sig. Lay. 425.

Chaucer: F 716. (burel)

BOUNDEN (Verbal adjective: bound, sworn.)

Morris: (And) ye have broken your bounden oaths. Vol. 371.
   (Interpolated Skaldic verse.)
   (The hall) with busklers well bounden. Atli. 449.

Chaucer: B 270; D 681.

BRAKE (Verb: pretitit of break.)

   (Also Frit. 70; Gr. 39, etc.)

Chaucer: Bk. Duch., 71 (brak)

BRIDAL (Noun: wedding-draught, bride-ale.)

Morris: (He) drank his bridal with Ingibiorg. Frit. 66.
[drakk brullaup]

Chaucer: A 4375. (brydale)

BROIDERY (Noun: embroidery.)
Morris: Brynhild in bower
Sewed at her broidery. Oddr. 476.
[borta raköi]
Chaucer: A 3238 (verb and participial adjective, brouded: broyden)

BURSTEN (Verbal adjective: burst.)
Morris: The gem of the Brisings
[brustu]
(Also Frit. 61. Skaldic verse)
Chaucer: Tr., II, 976. (brosten)

CAN (Verb: to know, to know how.)
(Bhe) could more skill in handycraft than other women.
Vol. 343.
[hun kunni meirra hagleik]
Chaucer: E 304; Leg. Wom., 1987 (can); Ek. Dush., 390 (could).

CARLE (Noun: fellow, churl, old man.)
Morris: Ketilrid her carle bade
Quail not mid swift sailing. Vig. 118. (Skaldic verse)
[Consistently used for karl, karlmann, and sometimes mann.]
(Also Thor. 157; Hug. 128; Cr. 25, etc.)
Chaucer: A 3469. (earl)

CARVEN (Verbal adjective: carved, decorated.)
Morris: (It) was carven and fretted. Vig. 82.
Chaucer: A 2696. (corven)

CHAFFER (Noun: trade, bartering, buying.)
Morris: Roi deemed it a good chaffer. Hro. 142.
[ok syndizst Hroa sem alkaupmannliga munde]
Chaucer: I 851. (in chaffare)

CHAFFER (Verb: to trade, to barter, to buy.)
Morris: Roi was ever agoing chaffering. Hro. 140.
[jafnan í kaupferum]
Chaucer: B 139. (to chaffare)

CLAVE (Verb: preterit of cleave; also clove.)
Morris: They clave each other down to the shoulder. Hog. 137.
[Consistently used for kleaf.]
(Also Vol. 327; Gun. 45. (Skaldic verse)
(Clove: Gud. 443.)
Chaucer: Rom. Rose., 550 (past participle, used as adjective;
Also preterit singular, clefte)

CLOUT (Noun: small piece of cloth.)
Morris: So Thorstein tore a clout from his shirt. Thor. 151.
Chaucer: C 736.

COVETISE (Noun: covetousness.) (One of a very few French words.)
Morris: When (he) saw the dragon [ship] so great covetise
ran into his heart that he must needs have it. Hog. 130.

[ægingirnom]

Chaucer: A 3884. (coveitisse)

DIGHT (Adjective: ready, prepared, adorned.)

Morris: Dight am I to hie me (hence) Gun. 37. (Skaldic verse)

The hall was dight with gold. Vol. 347.

[Used for buin, albuenn, etc.]

(Also Hog. 135; Atl. 449, etc.)

Chaucer: Leg. Wom., 1288 (dighte: prepare); Tr., III, 1773
(decorated)

DISPORT (Noun: pleasure, entertainment.)

Morris: Come with-us for our disport out into the woods. Frit. 76.

Chaucer: A 137, 775, etc.

DO (Verb: to put, used with "on," i.e., to put on.)

Morris: So he did on the old gear and came to the Thing. Gr. 176.

Chaucer: Bk. Duch., 516 (dide of: removed)

DRAVE (Verb: preterit of drive.)

Morris: he drave away the king. Vol. 306.

(The waters) drave about like grains of salt. Vig. 98.

[Chiefly used for rak.]

(Also Gr. 31; 169; Vol. 305; Whet. 458, etc.)

Chaucer: Tr., V, 475 (droqf)
DURED (Verb: endured, lasted.)

Morris: The battle had dured a while. Vol. 314.
(Also Vol. 327, etc.)

Chaucer: A 2770.

EGG (Verb: to incite; obsolete without "on.")

[Consistently used for eggaði.]
(Also Vig. 105).

Chaucer: E 2135 (egging)

ELD (Noun: old age.)

Morris: unless eld is deep in my eyes now. Frit. 75.
[ell i augu mer]

Asmund was growing very feeble with eld. Gr. 93.
[af ell]
[Used for ell (old age) was well as aldr (lifetime).]
(Also Gr. 172, 189, 224; Gud. 442, etc.)

Chaucer: Tr., II, 393, 399. (elde)

ELDERS (Noun: parents.)

Morris: There was not strife betwixt these while their elders
were alive. Gr. 17.
[ellri menn]

Chaucer: B 3388. (eldres: ancestors)

ENDLONG (Adverb: lengthwise, along.)

Morris: Great fires were made endlong in the hall. Vol. 294.
[endilangri eftir höllini]
CHANCER: A 1991. (elandeg)

ERST (Adverb: before, previously.)

Morris: The sword which Iron Shield...had owned erst. Hse.137.

[Usually translated from fjrr.]

(Also Frit. 79; Gr. 51, etc.)

Chaucer: Rom. Rose, 692, etc.

EYNE (Noun: plural of eye.)

Morris: Salt are our eyne. Frit. 59.

(Also eyen: Sig. Lay. 417; Vig. 98.

Chaucer: B 3260 (yen); D 2060 (eyen-sight: eye-sight)

FEE (Noun: possessions, money, cattle.)

Morris: [He was] rich of fee. Gun. 7.

(aupigr mapr at fe]

(Used throughout Gun. for money.)

Chaucer: A 319.

FLIT (Verb: carry away.)

Morris: Helgi came down with many men and beasts and let flit
away the lading. Hro1. 143.

[lati flytja i brott varninginn.]

Chaucer: Tr., V, 1544. (past participle: flitted)

FOREDONE (Verbal adjective: destroyed.)

Morris: As ferry-boat all foredone

Amid the Skerries floating. Vig. 122. (Skaldic verse)

Chaucer: Tr., I, 528 (fordoon: vanquished); Leg.Wom., 939

(fordoon: slain)
FORGAT (Verb: Preterit of forget.)


(Also Hog. 134, etc.)

Chaucer: C 919.

FOREWEARIED (Verbal adjective: exhausted.)

Morris: Then the damsel, forewearied,

The word took up.....Oddr. 474.

Chaucer: Rom. Rose, 235. (forwered)

FRANKLIN (Noun: freeholder.)

Morris: The king bade Ketil take a higher dignity...but Ketil would not and said he had liefer be just a very franklin. Vig. 83.

[Löfnaldr bondi]

Chaucer: A 331. (Frankeleyn)

FULFILLED (Verbal adjective: filled up, overloaded.)

Morris: Our hall is fulfilled of lamentation. Vol. 359.

[Holl er full af harmi]

Now the Gods rode with the treasure to Hreidmar and fulfilled the otter-skin. Vol. 321.

[trafu upp otrbelginn]

(Also Gr. 162, etc.)

Chaucer: Leg. Wom., 54.

GAT (Verb: preterit of get.)

Morris: The ship Elldi he gat. (took) Frit. 50.
[tok hann]
A chance blow I get from thee. (received) Thor. 152.

[ek fekk af þór.]
(He) get him gone. Gr. 9.

[for á brót.]
(Also many other similar uses) (See also forgat, begat, above.)

Chaucer: B 715.

GLADDENED (Participial adjective: made glad, glad.)

Morris: Thou laughest not because they heart-roots are gladdened.

Vol. 366.

Chaucer: E 1174; Tr., I, 116. (glade, gladed: verbal forms)

GOODMAN (Noun: master, householder.)


Am I to number these among bonders and goodmen? Gr. 44.

[Used variously for bonda, goðr bondi, goðum monnum, etc.]

Chaucer: C 361 (master); Leg. Wom., 1391 (freeholder).

GRAME (Noun: harm, grief, injury.)

Morris: More to me is Ingibjorg's grace than Baldur's grame (anger). Frit. 53.

[reiði Baldrs]

May the high gallows and all things of grame have me if I lie one word. (harm) Vol. 384.

[ok allir gramir]

Chaucer: Anelida and Arcite, 276. (harm)
GRAVEN (Verbal adjective: engraved, carved.)
Morris: Red shields we did,
       . . . . . . . .
And prows fair graven. Gud. 438.
Chaucer: House of Fame, 193.

HALED (Verb: preterit of haul.)
Morris: He had tied a line to the treasure, and therewith
       haled it up. Gr. 40.
Chaucer: Parlement of Foules, 151.

HAP (Noun: chance, luck, circumstance.)
Morris: Asdis wished him all good hap. Gr. 33.
       It was a chance hap, rather. Thor. 152.
Chaucer: E 2057 (chance); B 3928 (luck); Hk.Duch., 1279
        (occurrence)

HAP (Verb: to happen, to chance.)
Morris: Whatsoe'er might hap to this. Gr. 87.
       (Also Gr. 18, 108, etc.)
Chaucer: A 585.

HIGHT (Verb: called, named.)
Morris: The king asked what they hight. Vig. 84.
       A son he had hight Thorsteinn. Thor. 151.
       [Almost entirely used for hêt.]
       (Also S.R.159; Gr.22; Vol. 307.)
Chaucer: Leg. Nom., 423; Rom. Rose, 745, etc. (highten, highte)
HIM-SEEMED (Verb: it seemed to him; used reflexively.)

Morris: Him-seemed he had never seen a fairer woman. Hroí. 145.

[bottizat hann]

Chaucer: B 3361. (him seemed)

HOLDEN (Verbal adjective: held.)

Morris: In great honor holden. Frit. 68.

Unmanly am I holden. Víg. 123. (Skaldic verse)

[Used for haldinn, haldast, etc.]

(Also Hroí. 150; Gr. 178; Vol. 343, etc.)

Chaucer: F 763; A 141, etc.

HOLPEN (Verbal adjective: help.)

Morris: Thou wast holpen by thy father. Gun. 18.

(Also Víg. 125; Hroí. 145, etc.)

Chaucer: F 666, etc.

LEARN (Verb: to impart knowledge, teach.)

Morris: Thorbjorg would learn her daughter no skill. Víg. 91.

[kenna]

Chaucer: A 308, etc. (lerne)

LIEVE (Adjective: willing.)

Morris: Whether she were lieve or loth. Víg. 116.

[laft esa leitt]

(Also used in the comparative)

Chaucer: B 2339; A 293, etc. (lever: comparative)
LIST (Verb: to wish, to desire.)
Chaucer: B 521; Mars. 92, etc. (liste)

LOVESOME (Adjective: lovely, handsome.)
Morris: He was of lovesome countenance. Gun. 13.
Chaucer: Tr., V. 465. (lufsom)

LOWT (Verb: bow to, do obeisance to, respect.)
Morris: This will I have, for oft I lowt for little things.
Gr. 146.
\[\text{ek lyt opt at litlu.}\]
Chaucer: Tr., III, 683. (loute: same word?)

MAY (Noun: maiden.)
Morris: Freyia calls to her her casket-bearing may. Vol. 293.
\[\text{[óskmey]}\]
\[\text{[Used for may almost entirely.]}\]
\[\text{[Also Vol. 346; Sig. Lay. 408; God. 435, etc.]}\]
Chaucer: B 851.

MEAD (Noun: meadow, lowland.)
Morris: Grettir got into the mead. Gr. 117.
Chaucer: A 89. (mede)

MEDREAMED (Verb: I dreamed, it appeared to me in a dream.)
\[\text{[pat dreymdi mik]}\]
Chaucer: Rom. Rose. 51. (dremed me)
MISLIKE (Verb: to displease, to be displeased.)
Morris: I deem that it has misliked him. Gr. 77.
Many men misliked the great honour.... Vig. 85.
Chaucer: Leg. Wom., 1293. (mislyketh)

MORE (Adjective: greater.)
Morris: The more part of the fleet scattered. Gr. 3.
Chaucer: B 2396; E 1231, etc.

MATHLESS (Conjunction: nevertheless, in spite of.)
Morris: Skeggi was given to my following, and was, mathless,
a man of good kin. Gr. 32.
Chaucer: A 35. (nathless)

OF (Preposition: by; used with sense of agency.)
Morris: Tell us of your abode, or else be slain of us. Gr.200.
Chaucer: Rom. Rose, 1260.

ONE (Indefinite pronoun: someone, one person.)
Morris: Early of a morning-tide, one smote on the door. Prit.77.
Chaucer: A 3817; E 417. (oon)

OR (Adverb: before; used in sense of time.)
Morris: Or all the sawing was done. Vol. 305.
Chaucer: G 314.

OUTLANDER (Noun: alien, foreigner.)
Morris: He was an outlander of kin. Gr. 83.
Chaucer: G 314.
Chaucer: Former Age, 22. (Adjective: outlandish [foreign])

REDE (Noun: counsel, advice, decision, etc.)

Morris: That rede is not to be settled so hastily. Gun. 17.

(He) sought rede of his men. Frit. 67.

Herein do I see the redes [evil designs] of my mother.

Vig. 101.

[Consistently used to translate raia]

(Also Vig. 111; Thor. 157; Hroi. 141; Vol. 294, etc.)

Chaucer: A 1216; Bk. Duch., 1187, 587; Tr., IV, 679 (?), etc.

(reed)

REDE (Verb: counsel, decipher, unravel, etc.)


[raia ne maattak]

Chaucer: Bk. Duch., 279.

REFT (Verbal adjective: past participle of reave [also confused with rive]; bereft.)

Morris: Right mad art thou, Oddrun,

And reft of thy wits. Oddr. 474.

Chaucer: D 888; B 3288, etc. (rafte)

REIVE (Verb: rob, steal, deprive.)

Morris: If thou didst not rob and reive. Gr. 135.

[ef bu rantir eigi]

Chaucer: Tr., IV, 285. (reve)

RUNAGATE (Noun: renegade, low fellow.)

Morris: Men thought it ill... that runagates...called to
holm high born men. Cr. 42.

[ðthlaupsmenn]

Chaucer: B 932. (renegat)

SCATHE (Noun: ill-luck, harm, injury.)

Morris: Those of Ingialdsknoll had great scathe thereby. Vig. 96.

[Used consistently for skaða]

(Also Hroi. 142; Gr. 39; Vol. 363, etc.)

Chaucer: A 446; Tr., V, 938, etc.

SHAPEN (Verbal adjective: shaped.)


(Also Vol. 364, 378, etc.)


SHOON (Noun: plural of shoe.)

Morris: Must I bind the shoon. Vol. 368. (Interpolated Eddie Lay)

Chaucer: B 1922.

SITENCE (Adverb: since, afterwards.)

Morris: This deer we were all fain to take, but I alone got him...but sithence thou, Brynhild, didst shoot and slay my deer. Vol. 348.

(Also Atl. 457; Chris. 201, etc.)

Chaucer: A 1521, etc. (sithen)

SMITHYING (Verbal noun: the act of forging.)

Morris: Roi took to smithying, and gat goods thus. Hog. 140.

[tok Hroi at smīsa]

Chaucer: A 3762. (Preterit singular: smithed)
SOOTH (Noun: truth.)
Morris: So she found that he spake but the sooth. Vol. 353.
[sonn svór]
(Also Hog. 136, etc.)
Chaucer: A 294.

SOOTHELY (Adverb: truly, truthfully.)
Morris: And soothly ye will need it. Vig. 111.
(Also Hro1. 143; Hog. 137, etc.)
Chaucer: A 117.

SORE (Adverb: sorely.)
Chaucer: A 148.

SPAKE (Verb: preterit of speak.)
Morris: So she found that he spake but the sooth. Vol. 353.
[Used for kvæð, kvæði, meldi, sagði, etc.]
(Also Gr. 13; Vol. 297, etc.)
Chaucer: Leg. Wom., 97; Bk. Dusch., 503, etc. (spak)

SPURN (Verb: to hit, strike, kick.)
Morris: Then Grettir spurned two of them so hard...that they
lay stunned. Gr. 127.
[þa spyrndi Grettir]
Chaucer: F 616. (spurne: kick)

SYNE (Adverbial conjunction: since, afterwards.)
Morris: Three sons my true love bore me there
And syne she died who was so dear. Son. 207.
Chaucer: Mars. 273. (sin)

THITHERWARD (Adverb: thither, toward which.)
Morris: Thitherward will we turn if it seem good to thee. Cr. 5.
Chaucer: A 2530. (thider-ward)

THEREWITHAL (Conjunction: as a consequence of, for that reason.)
Morris: He hath not [kept the bargain]...and therewithal I
claim Helgi as mine own. Hro. 147.
[Also Gun. 17; Vol. 328, etc.]
Chaucer: A 566, 1078, etc. (ther-with-al)

THRALDOM (Noun: servitude, bondage.)
Morris: Rather would they forego the free lands their fathers
owned...than lie under...thraldom. Vig. 81.
[bralcan]
Chaucer: B 286, 338.

TWINTED (Verb: separated.)
Morris: Yea, and my life
Will I lay down
Ere I am twinned
From that woman's treasure. Sig. Lay. 411.
[an peirar mejar meiwmum tynna.]
Chaucer: Tr., IV, 1197. (twinne)

UNWARE (Adjective: unaware.)
Morris: Atli unaware
Was a-weary with drink. Atli. 456.
Chaucer: Tr., I, 304; B 427. (unwar)
WARE (Adjective: aware.)

Morris: Frithiof was ware of this. Frit. 79.
[Used consistently for varr, vör, etc.]
(Also Vig. 106; Hro1. 148; Gr. 12, etc.)
Chaucer: A 157, 896, 3604, etc. (war)

WHEREAS (Adverb: where.)

Morris: We are of Streitaland whereas the King dwelleth. Frit. 72.
(Also Vig. 99; Vol. 293, etc.)
Chaucer: Tr., III, 516. (wher-as)

WHERETO (Conjunction: for what reason, to what end.)

Morris: Whereunto came our fathers forth, so that my father was
the little boat towed behind? Gun. 27.
Chaucer: Tr. I, 409. (wher-to)

WHILES (Adverb and conjunction: while, sometimes, alternatingly.)

Morris: And now she would whiles run up and look, and whiles
run back. Gr. 185.
Chaucer: Bk. Duch., 151. (whyles)

WILL (Verb: to wish, to will, to desire.)

Morris: Now will I that thou take thy share. Hro1. 141.
[nu wil ek.]
[Consistently translated from vil.]
(Also Hog. 136; Gr. 125; Vol. 358, etc.)
Chaucer: E 721, etc.

WIT (Verb; to know.)

Morris: Now will I...go to...the sons of Fundering, and do them
to wit that the Volsungs are not all dead. Vol. 324. 
If I wist that all went well with thee. Vig. 101. 
[translated from vissa.]
(Also Vig. 109 [wist]; Frit. 54,55; Vig. 114 [wot];
Gun. 11 [wotted]; Frit. 73 [wottest]; etc.)
Chaucer: Tr., I, 687 (wit-eth); E 814 (wiste); B 195 (wot), etc.

WONDROUS (Adverb: wondrously, wonderfully.)
Morris: Earl Svein was wondrous wroth at this tale. Gr. 60.
Chaucer: Rom. Rose, 27. (wonders)

II. Words found in Morris and Malory, but not in Chaucer.

ADOWN (Adverb: down, indicating condition and direction.)
Morris: They no sooner fall adown than they stand up again.
Hog. 129.
(Also Gr. 102 [Skaldic verse]; Hel. 429; Atli. 456, etc.)
Malory: 404.4. (adoune)

AFORE (Adverb: before.)
Morris: (The weapon) which thou hast borne all day afore. Thor.
157.
[er þu hefir æar haft í dag.]
Malory: 97.2; 135.5.

AGONE (Adverb: ago, before.)
Morris: Time agone it was a sport to me. Gr. 177.
Malory: 435.14; 526.25; 634.4, etc. (agon, agone)
BESEEMS (Verb: becomes, is fitting.)

Morris: Naught it beseems me
With the sons of Budli
Kin to bring forth. Gud. 441.
(Also Gun. 30, etc.)
Malory: 222.14; 76.19, etc.) (besemeth, bisemeth)

BOOT (Verb: to pay for, to requite.)

Morris: If there has been (trouble between us) I will boot for it. Gr. 56.
[bá vil ek boeta.]
Malory: 130.12, etc. (bote)

DRUNKEN (Verb: past participle of drink.)

Morris: (He was) ensnared by evil heart...because of the drink he had drunken. Hog. 134.
(Also Bryn. 432, etc.)
Malory: 15.35 (dronken; preterit); 574.13 (dronken: past participle)

ENOW (Adjective and adverb: enough.)

Morris: I am old enow to know. Frit. 74.
(Also Bryn. 432; Oddr. 476; Vig. 114, etc.)
Malory: 101.1; 71.6 (ynow)

FLATLINGS (Adverb: flat, sidewise, prone or supine [as referred to persons].)

Morris: As soon as it (the axe) bit the wood, it turned flatlings.
Gr. 194.
[amiriz hon flot]
Malory: 736.7. (flatlynge)

FORTHWITHAL (Conjunction: therewith, forthright.)
Morris: And forthwithal both sides caught up their weapons
and fought. Gr. 64.
Malory: 46.22. (forth with alle)

GLAIVE (Noun: war-weapon.)
Morris: The glaive's edges played. Ham. 467.
(Also Gud. 439; Gr. 165, etc.)
Malory: 110.26; 807.18. (glayve)

HANDSEL (Noun: gift, reward, requital.)
Morris: He who taketh handsel from such a man...may be content.
Thor. 158.
Thorkel gave handsel, and paid all fines. Gr. 32.
[Consistently translated from handsol.]
Malory: 297.30. (Used ironically for reward)

HELM (Noun: helmet, head-armour.)
(Also Vol. 308, etc. Very common.)
[Used invariably for hjalm.]
Malory: 195.18, etc. (helme)

LET (Verb: command, allow.)
Morris: They let bring Ingibjorg. Frit. 52.
Helgi...let flit away the ladâng. Hroi. 143.
[Consistently used for forms of láta.]
(Also Gr. 190; Vol. 324; Vig. 81, 82, etc.)
Malory: 169.24; 846.30; 754.10, etc. (late, lete)

Meseems (Verb: it seems to me.)
Morris: Then meseemeth the woman is mine. Vig. 89.
[Used for bykumst ek, bykki mer, besti mer, etc.]
(Also Thor. 154; Frit. 49, 55; Hroi. 142; Gr. 33, etc.)
Malory: 66.37, etc. (me semeth)

Riven (Verbal adjective: past participle of rive.)
Morris: All was riven asunder. Vol. 299.
[rifna3i.]
(Also Vol. 324, etc.)
Malory: 75.18, etc. (ryven)

Sware (Verb: preterit of swear.)
Morris: The oaths that to Helgi
    Once thou swarest. Helgi. 397.
(Also Hel. 427.)
Malory: 275.31, etc.

Thereto (Conjunction: for this purpose.)
Morris: As soon as she was of age thereto [for marriage]. Vig. 82.
Malory: 69.25i (therto)

Tomorn (Noun: tomorrow.)
Morris: Tomorn will I ask her concerning this. Vol. 355.
[a morgin]
Malory: 39.30. (to morne)
WASHEN (Verb: past participle of wash.)
Morris: ... from thy hands
Thou dost...
The blood of men washen. Hel. 426.
(Also Vol. 326, interpolated Edic Lay, [past participle.])
Malory: 49.28. (past participle: washen)

WITHAL (Adverbial conjunction: moreover, wholly, etc.)
(Also Vol. 294, etc.)
Malory: 73.8; 57.3, etc. (with all)

YOUNGLING (Noun: youth, "youngster," stripling.)
Morris: He thought much of that youngling. Vig. 84.
[Used for unga mann, barn, ungom, sveinn, etc.]
(Also Vol. 300, 341; Sun. 22, etc.)
Malory: 276.31 (yongthe).

III. Words found in Morris and the Ballads, but not in Chaucer or Malory.

ATWEEN (Adverb and preposition: meanwhile, between, before, prior to.)
Morris: He had no words to make atwixt and atween of his going thence. Gr. 190.
[miðlunarmal: "between-words."]
Ballads: I, 466, 11; II, 139,6.

CARLINE (Noun: old woman; female of carle.)
Morris: He had to wife a carline called Laufey. Hog. 126.
[Used generally for kerling.]
(Also Gr. 128, 189, etc.)

Ballads: V, 26, 24, etc.

FEY (FEIGH) (Adjective: doomed to die.)
Morris: Ne'er shall I flee
Though thou wottest me fey. Vol. 340. (Eddic verse)
[Usually translated from feigr.]
(Also Ham. 466; Sig. Lay. 415; Gr. 94, etc.)

Ballads: I, 245,6; IV, 430, 2, etc.

GOODWIFE (Noun: mistress, good woman, matron.)
Morris: Goodwife Asdis abode at home at Biarg. Gr. 209.
[Used like Goodman, and consistently translated from:
husfreyja.]

Ballads: III, 274,33; V, 91,6, etc.

GUESTING (Noun: lodging.)
Morris: Have you thanks for the guesting. Frit. 77.
[gisting.]
(Also Sig. 405, etc.)

Ballads: I, 284,17-18, etc. (ghosting)

HANDSEL (Verb: to give reward, to promise, to requite.)
Morris: Ye must handsel me peace. Gr. 178.
[handsala.]

Ballads: III, 284, 10. (hansell)

SACKLESS (Adjective: guiltless, innocent.)
Morris: But thou wilt slay his sons sackless. Vig. 115.
[Consistently translated from saklauss.]
(Also Vig. 108; Thor. 155, etc.)
Ballads: II, 145, 22, etc.

UNFRIENDS (Noun: enemies.)
Morris: His sport and pleasure was to...take wealth from his unfriends. Vol. 342.
[\textit{taka fé af sinum óvinum}.]
Ballads: III, 470, 2.

IV. Words found in Morris—\& Berners, but not in Chaucer, Malory, or the Ballads.

A-HORSEBACK (Adverb: on horse-back.)
Morris: Thorsteinn bindeth them both a-horseback. Thor. 154.
[Used generally for á bak.]
(Also Vig. 104; Frit. 52, etc.)
Berners: I, 49.

MINISH (Verb: lessen, diminish, detract.)
Morris: He shall work many a great work...even such as eld shall never minish. Vol. 315.
(Also Hog: 134; Ham. 467, etc.)
Berners: I, 156.

REIVER (Noun: robber.)
Morris: (He is) the greatest robber and reiver. Gun. 22.
[\textit{versti mār ok ransmābr}.]
Berners: II, xxiii (nor robbers nor reavers) [Reference in \textit{NED} to 1523-1525 edition.]
V. Words not found in Chaucer, Malory, the Ballads, or Berners.

The earliest Middle or Early Modern English use mentioned in the New English Dictionary is given below each word. Some nineteenth century archaisms are also listed.

A-DOORS (Adverb: of doors.)

Morris: They came out adoors. Vig. 105.
1526: Tinsdale, John XII, 31.

A-GATHERED (Verbal adjective: gather.)

Morris: As in the hall there a-gathered,
The huns fell a-talking. Atl. 454.
1393: Compl. Ploughman, Pol. Songs, Rolls Ser. T, 244.

ANIGH (Adverb and preposition: nigh, near, near to.)

Morris: I was anigh. Gun. 32.
None durst come anigh me. Vol. 330.
(Obviously a conscious pseudo-archaism.)

A-NIGHTTIME (Adverb: at nighttime.)

Morris: This was a-nighttime [that it happened]. Vig. 95.
1583: Golding, Calvin on Deut. VII, 40a. (anighttimes)

ARVEL (Noun: funeral drink.)

Morris: That one arvel mayst thou
For all of us drink. Whet. 460.
[erfi]
BEARSEERK (Noun: berserk, baresark, fierce warrior.)

Morris: Thorir was the greatest bearserk, and the stoutest of men. Gr. 2.

1840: Carlyle, Heroes, VI. (baresark)
1822: Scott, Pirate Note B. (berserk)
(The word is not yet accepted as good English.)

BE-PAINTED (Verbal adjective: paint.)

Morris: The dwelling [was] fair be-painted within. Vig. 82.

1567: Maplet, Gr. Forest, 12b.

BOOSE (Noun: cow-stall.)

Morris: He had his head in one boose. Gr. 85.

1440: Promp. Parv. 41.
1608: Jamieson.
(The word is explained in the Collected Works [VII, 85]
by a foot-note.)

DOOM (Verb: to judge, decide.)

Morris: Now shall the king doom hereover. Froi. 143.

[konunge domr vera]
1450: Chester Pl. (EETS) XXI, 354.
1813: Byron, Bride of Abydos, II, xxi.
(Morris deliberately uses the verbal form where a noun stands in the Old Norse text.)

GANCREL (Adjective: lowly, wretched, base.)

Morris: She...said that ever would evil come from wretched gancrel churls. Gr. 221.
1650: Bulwer, Anthropomet, 10.
(Morris uses the adjective attributively from the noun which is the more usual form found. The adjective properly means 'gawky,' 'slender,' 'awkward."

GETTINGS (Noun: things obtained.)

Morris: There he gat for himself whales and other gettings.
Gr. 64.
[annarra fanga]
(Morris's use, 'things obtained,' is not the usual one, which is 'accomplishment."

GOOD-HAP (Noun: good fortune, good luck.)

Morris: I would rather of thee the help of thy money and good-hap. Hroi. 141.
[Sometimes used for miklu happi.]

GUEST (Verb: to lodge, to provide lodging for.)

Morris: We bid you thither to guest with us. Vig. 100;
[Usually translated from gésta, but also from vista.]
(Also Gr. 15, 22, etc.)

**HOLMGANG** (Noun: a trip to the holm for a death-duel.)

Morris: Henceforth all holmgangs should be forbidden. *Gum.* 38.

[holmgängur]

(The word is not accepted as good English usage.)

**LITTEN** (Verbal adjective: lighted, bathed in light.)

Morris: Leek-bearer, bright, the looking
Over the heaths sun-litten. *Vig.* 118 (Skaldic verse).
1849: Poe, *Haunted Palace*, VI.
(Also an obvious pseudo-archaism.)

**HISDOUBT** (Verb: to have forebodings, to doubt; chiefly reflexive.)

Morris: It misdoubts me that Grim will come upon one or other of us. *Gr.* 10.

[en grunar mik.]
(Also Vol. 316, 355; *Gr.* 76, etc.)

**SAX** (Noun: short-sword.)


[sax]

( *Beowulf*, 1545)

1300-1400: R. Glouc. (Rolls) App. 9, 40.

**SCAT** (Noun: money, tax, tribute.)

[skatt]

1122: O.E. Chron. (money)
1481: Caxton (treasure)

STACKGARTH (Noun: wooded place.)
Morris: ...they came to a certain stackgarth. Vig. 104.

[stakkgarthi]
1293: Durham Chapter Mss.

STARVELINGS (Noun: a low person; distinctly a term of contempt.)
Morris: Good luck, scurvy starvelings, if I should behold each finger ye have doubled up with the cold. Cr. 34 (Skaldic verse).
[kyrpyngom] (weakling? [Zoega])
1546:
"A starved person or animal... one stinted of food... one emaciated for lack of nutriment." [NED] Morris does not use the word in exactly this sense.

SWEETLING (Noun: a term of endearment.)
Morris: ...I shall never love any... save thee alone, O Sweetling. Vig. 101 (Skaldic verse).
(Also Vol. 333 [Interpolated Eddie Lay].)

THERUNTO (Adverb: in addition to.)
Morris: For ten days we baled,
And eight thereunto. Prit. 66 (Skaldic verse).
1567: Drant, Horace Epist.
(Chaucer uses 'thereto' in the same sense [D 1251].)
TIRE (Verb: to dress the head.)
Morris: Tire his head
1539: Great Bible, 2 Kings, IX, 30.
(Tiring may,' Vol. 368 [Interpolated Eddic Lay], is probably an adjective analogous to the verb.)

TROUBLOUS (Adjective: troublesome, grievous.)
(Chaucer uses 'troublly.' [Boethius, IV, Metrics 5. 35.])

UNHOLPEN (Verbal adjective: without aid.)
Morris: Get a-horseback unholpen. Frit. 52.
1382: Wyclif, I Esdras IX, 11.
1864: Swinburne, Atalante, 1674.

UNWISDOM (Noun: unwise counsel.)
Morris: Great unwisdom is there in such fearful redees. Vol. 390.
[Óvízka]
(Vespasian Psalter, XXI.)
Common till 1390.
1839: Carlyle, Chartism, IV, 27.
(The word was fairly common as an archaism after Carlyle revived it, 1839-43 [MED].)
UNWONT (Adjective: unused.)

Morris: I am more unwont to the work than thou. Thor. 156.

[óvanari]

(Three uses listed in the NED in the 19th century:
two of them are from Scott [1810; 1829].)

WAST (Verb: preterit of be.)

Morris: Thou wast holpen by thy father. Cun. 18.
1534: Tindale. (And subsequent Bibles.)

WHENAS (Adverbial conjunction: when.)

Morris: Whenas the Kings were gone away, Frithiof took away
his raiment of state. Frit. 53.
[Consistently translated from þæ and er.]
(Also Vig. 91, 92; Vol. 296, etc.)
1423: James I, *Kingis Q. II.*

WHENSO (Adverbial conjunction: whenever.)

Morris: And that I shall have whensoe I have need thereof.
Vol. 318.
(Also Cr. 189, etc.)
1175: *Lamb. Hom.* 85. (used for 'when.')</n1200: *Ormin* 1466. (used for 'whenever.')</n
WHEREUNDER (Adverbial conjunction: under which.)

Morris: Behold the hill whereunder
My bônd of love, high-hearted,
My well-beloved one sitteth. *Vig.* 118 (Skaldic verse).
1300: Cursor Mundi, M. 1348.

WHEREunto (Adverbial conjunction: unto which.)

Morris: Thereafter the king made a noble feast whereunto his folk came. Prit. 79.

1490: Caxton, Enydes, XXIX.

WITHINWARDS (Adverb: within, inside.)

Morris: Until from the world
Of the giants he was gotten
And withinwards was come

1611: Florio, Adintra.
("Nonsense-word." [NED])

Compounded words and æ-prefixes.

In order to translate certain Old Norse words which are generally made up of two nouns forming one noun, or a noun and an adjective forming one adjective, Morris often employs the simple method of hyphenating the two English words which stand for the component parts of the Norse word. Although both parts of most of Morris's compounds are well-known and common English words, the effect of their combination, especially when it occurs to the reader that he has never before seen such a compound, is like that of the archaisms: both lend a strangeness, a sense of the foreign which heightens rather than lessens the fact that these documents are translations.

A selective list of such compounds is given below, with the Old Norse
ords from which they are translated in cases where the original
helps to explain the English forms.

HEST-WROUGHT: [He was] the best-wrought of men. Gun. 13.

COWL-BEARER: (A fellow who has pulled his cowl over his head).

Well, said the cowl-bearer, Thief is my name. Frit. 72.

FELL-COMMON: The fell-common whereas dwelt Viglund's light-dun
horse. Vig. 94.

[á afielt, sem nestinn sá hinnfílkleiki, er
Vigundr átti stóði]

HOME-WOMAN: So the home-woman was ware of their coming. Vig. 92.

[heimakona.]


[kvæðislaunum]

MIDDLING-MIGHTY: Bade I the middling-mighty
To have a mark of the wave's flame. Gun. 16 (Skaldic
verse).

[mundangs sterkiom]

OUT-SKERRIES: They searched the out-skerries. Frit. 71.

[útsker.]

SELF-DOOM: Then I had to give self-doom to Raven. Gun. 32.

[skjældoomi.]


[skjalðmayr]

SPOKESMAN-AT-LAW: Skapti...was then spokesman-at-law in Iceland.

Gun. 15.

[logsq.gumapr3]
SUN-LITEN: Leek-bearer, bright, the looking
   Over the heaths, sun-litten.... Vig. 118 (Skaldic
   verse).

UGLY-NOSED: He was somewhat ugly-nosed. Gun. 13.
   [nefljótr.]

A few such compounds are formed with proper nouns:

   [englandsfar.]

ENGLAND-FARER: They soon saw that it [the ship] was an England-
   farer. Gr. 56.
   [englandsfar.]

   [Gunnlaugensgild.

ICELAND-MAN: He said he was an Iceland-man. Gun. 27.
   [Íslenækr mapr.]

The a-prefix, always used by Morris with the present participle or noun, is very common in the sage translations. The reasons for Morris's usage of some of these forms are inexplicable, but certainly the analogues which he may have discovered in Chaucer and Malory could have suggested to him the possibility of employing such words to enhance the archaic aspects of his language. The Chaucerian a-prefixes are generally attached to the past participle rather than to the present: 'a-blakeberyed' (C 406); 'a-werke' (D 215); 'a-caterwawed' (D 354); 'a-begged' (F 1580); 'a-swone'
   (Anslida, 354); 'a-begging' (Rom. Rose) 6726), etc. An analogous
as of the (prepositional) a-prefix occurs in Malory, more frequently with the present participle: 'on bledynge' (95.25); 'a-blyng' (84.12); 'in swounynge' (587.11); 'on hunyng' (65.16), etc.

Occasionally Morris uses the a-prefix for no more reason than that he was fond of it, but he apparently had discovered its practicability and accuracy in rendering certain phrases from the Old Norse which were written in grammatical structures that modern English does not possess. The 'a-...ing' form is often found in Morris's translations where a simple infinitive preceded by at stands in the original, or where a noun in the dative case is preceded by a preposition. Such a translation is, it appears, as close as possible to the original, especially since the syntactic prototypes of these Old Norse forms have long since dropped out of English. Examples of the verbal forms are: 'a-smithying' [at smítå]; 'a-baling' [at auså]; of the dative with preposition: 'a-chafferering' [in kaupfersum]; 'a-baling' [stândi j austi]; 'a-guesting' [at veizlum], etc. A selected group of Morris's various a-prefixes appears in the following list.

A-BALING: [They were] ever a-baling the ship. Frit. 57.

[at auså]

A-BLEEDING: Sig. Lay. 415.

A-BREAKING: Vol. 367 [Interpolated Eddie Lay].

A-BURNING: Frit. 69 (Skaldic verse).

[at bremna]

A-CROAKING: The ernes high screaming

The ravens a-croaking. Gud. 436.
A-DAWNING: Helgi. 401.
A-DOOMING: Nor ait a-dooming. Gud. 435.
A-DRINKING: Frit. 68.

[at drykkja]
A-FEASTING: Frit. 77.

[at smæsæ]
A-FIGHTING: Thor. 156.
A-FISHING: He would ever be a-fishing. Gr. 17.

[t il fis ka]

[a jöfri]
A-GUESTING: The king went a-guesting. Vig. 85.

[at veis lum]
A-HEEDING: Thord was a-heeding the horses. Thor. 152.

[at skjálf a]

[a he stum]
A-ROWING: Frit. 64 (Skaldic verse).
A-SEARCHING: Gr. 64.
A-SEEKING: S.H. 159.

[at leita]
A-SERVING: Thorgrim went a-serving [at table]. Vig. 86.
A-SMITHING: Therein were the dwarfs a-smithing. Hog. 127.

[at smiða]

A-STANDING: Frít. 58 (Skaldic verse).
A-SWELLING: Now is the sea a-swelling. Frít. 57.

[at svella]

A-TALKING: Víg. 89.

[at tala]

A-WAITING: Frít. 60.

A-WARMING: The wives . . . sat thereby, a-warming the Gods. Frít. 68.
A-WARRING: I will . . . sail a-warring. Frít. 70.

[fara í viking]
So he went a-warring. Víg. 87.

[fór hann nú í hernað]

A-WAXING: Ham. 464.
A-WOOING: Ketil fell a-wooing Olof. Víg. 87.

[bör Olofar geisla sér til handa]

A-WORKING: Frít. 59 (Skaldic verse).

[at vinna]

A-WRESTLING: Gr. 163.

4. Neologisms in Morris’s language.

The neologistic forms created by Morris in the Old Norse trans-
lations may be divided into three classes, differentiated according to the method by which they were constructed. The first group, 1, is made up of words formed by analogy with well known English words. "Blithesomely," for instance, is a perfectly logical adverbial-form made upon a comparatively common adjective; "wraithlings" is simply a diminutive of "wraith," and "wrogsome" is analogous to any number of adjectives containing the suffix, "-some."

This class of neologisms could also be called "neologisms by accident," for the fact that there are no uses of them listed in the New English Dictionary before Morris's time merely indicates no one before Morris perceived the possibility of expanding English analogy and using such expansions at random. If Morris had not been what he was, a fairly well-trained linguist, his additions to the vocabulary of our language might well be classed as blunders, along with the late Mr. Harding's "normalcy;" but there can be no doubt that Morris knew what he was doing when he made the words in the present group. The question that should and must be raised with regard to them, however, is this: is not 'wrongful' a sufficient and useful word; is 'wrogsome' a necessary coinage? Certainly the answers to this question, when applied to all of Morris's neologisms, cannot be favorable to Morris's rather profligate invention. 'Wotten' and 'bewash' are ridiculous, the first a fearful analogical corruption, the second entirely useless, as long as 'wash,' 'lave,' 'bathe,' and a host of other words pertaining to ablution are already a part of the English language.

The second and third groups of Morris's neologisms, however,
cannot be questioned upon the same grounds as the first. They are, II, those words which are directly translated from the Old Norse, and, III, those which are directly adapted from the Old Norse, and in which analogy with existing English forms plays no part.

I. Neologisms by Analogy.

AMIDMOST: (Preposition: amidst, into, into the center of.)

Morris: Thou crevedst, O king,
For the coming of us,
The sons of one mother,
Amidmost thine hall. Ham. 469.
[innan borgar binnen]
Analogues: Amidst (meaning).
Foremost, hindmost, inmost (form).

ASTONIMENT: (Noun: astonishment, petrification [?].)

Morris: Now when the thrall had thus said, the astoniment fell from Grettir. Gr. 90.
[pá rann af Grettí ómegin]
Analogues: Astony (verb), astonishment (meaning).
Predicament, infringement, excitement (form).
(Cf. Astonied, in Chaucer list, above.)

BEDRIFTED: (Verb: spattered, sprayed.)

Morris: Bold, with blood be-drifted. Gun. 43 (Skaldic verse).
[drifenn blópe]
Analogues: Besprinkled, bespattered (meaning and form).
BEGUILTED: (Verb: accused, condemned.)

Morris: And he beguiled the sons of Thorgrim. Vig. 109.

[ok sotti...till fullra sekta]

Analogues: Beguilty (past participle: beguiltied) (meaning and form).

Aggelted is used in the Guild Hall Letter Book, F, f, cxcv v.

BEWASH (Verb: wash.)

Morris: In ashen bath bewash me. Vig. 117 (Skaldic verse).

[asklaugar mer yaska]

Analogues: Wash (meaning).

See above a-prefixes (form).

BLITHESOMELY: (Adverb: blithely.)


[hann þiggr pat]

Analogues: Blithely, blithesome (meaning).

Wilsomely, handsomely, etc. (form).

HEREOVER: (Preposition: concerning this, over this.)

Morris: Now shall the king doom hereover. Hroí. 143.

Analogues: Thereover, moreover (meaning and form).

UMPIREDOM: (Noun: umpireship, umpirage.)

Morris: The case was settled by umpiredom. Gr. 16.

[sísan váru málin lögð í gøru]
Then were these matters laid unto umpiredom. Gr. 124.

[æten várnu melin í gerð logt]

Analogues: Umpireship, umpirage (meaning).

Kingdom, martyrdom, officialdom, etc. (form).

UNSOOTHLY: (Adverb: untruly.)

Morris: Unsoothly it is said of me. Hroi. 149.

[úsátt]


Truly, kindly, etc. (form).

WOTTEN: (Verb: preterit of wit.)

Morris: Way-wearer art thou not,


[ertattu Vegtamr]

Analogues: The analogy is false here, for Morris's preterit is formed with such analogical past participle forms as taken, gotten, etc. This is one of the few examples of what may properly be called, in Vigfusson's terminology, "pseudo-Middle-English."

(Corpus Poeticum Boreale, I, Introduction, p. cxv.)

WRAITHLINGS: Noun: little wraiths.)

Morris: I deem myself not given up, though I should see—some wraithlings. Gr. 83.

[boát ek sjá smávalfr]

Analogues: Ghosts, specters (meaning).

Nurseling, duckling, princeling (form).
WRONGSOME: (Adjective: harmful, wrongful, false.)
\[\textit{rangan eft}\]
Analogues: Wrongful, wrongous (meaning).
Darksome, winsome, lithesome (form).

II. Neologisms by Translation.

BANESMAN (Noun: murderer.)
Morris: He had slain all his father's banesmen. Vol. 292.
\[\textit{drepit all fe\'rbana sina}\]
Analogues: Baner.

SPAE-WRIGHTS (Noun: guardians, prophetesses.)
\[\textit{enn sva hlif\=ou honum hans sp\=asisir...}\]
Analogues: Spaewoman, spaewife.

III. Neologisms by Adaptation.

BERSERKSGANG (Noun: Berserker's rage, berserker's deeds.)
Morris: Ten...who often wrought berserksgang. Frit. 65.
\[\textit{gengu opt berserksgang}\]

DRAPA (Noun: laudatory poem.)
Morris: This meeting Thormod tells of in that drapa that he made on Thorgeir dead. Gr. 65.
\[\textit{erfidrapu}\]
Drapu-measure (praise-verse), Gun. 24 (Skaldic verse).
\[\textit{dr\=opa lag}\]
HEFT-SAIX (Noun: a kind of dagger.)

Morris: For with that glaive might a man both cut and thrust...[the] weapon men called then, heft-sax.

Gr. 165.

[hepti sax]

HERSIR (Noun: local chieftain [in Norway].)

Morris: A mere hersir's son should have her to wife. Frit. 79.

[hersisson]

V

The literary style which William Morris affected and used from the time of his very earliest poems to his last Prose Romance, has been a subject which almost every reviewer of his works has at some time considered. Morris's love for the Middle Ages, indeed his disrespect for his own times made his position as "The idle singer of an empty day," that of both the literary man and the contemporaneous commentator. It is unfortunate that his medievalism should have carried him to that critical extreme of which his language gives evidence: that the English of his day was too formal for him, too greatly lacking in purity. All of Morris's major works are written in this language which he developed for himself; it consists, as we have observed, primarily of a mixture of the old and the modern in vocabulary, and it is also somewhat archaic in syntax. Even though it may be
all that Morris's unsympathetic contemporary critics thought it was, — a useless, unstandardized diction which resulted from combining the literary English of his own day with words dug from the depths of English literary history, or words he created, — it nevertheless must not be described, as it often has been, as "pseudo-Middle English." It may be any kind of English the critics please, but it is not "pseudo." and it is not inaccurate. If Gudbrand Vigfusson had been as thorough a scholar of the English Language as he was of the Icelandic, he would never have made his now famous (and too often believed) statement concerning the justification of translating the Icelandic sagas into an unheard-of kind of English. No form can be "pseudo-Middle English" if Chaucer, Malory, and a host of other Medieval and Early Modern English writers considered it to be a usable, hence, a good form. And the majority of out-of-date words which Morris used are to be found in just such writers as Chaucer and Malory. There are individual words in Morris's vocabulary which are "pseudo-", which show their user's definite and false attempts to create the archaic

33 Gudbrand Vigfusson and P. York Powell, Corpus Poeticum Boreale (Oxford, 1883), I, Introduction, p. cxv:

There is one grave error into which too many English translators of old Northern and Icelandic writings have fallen, to wit, the affectation of archaism, and the abuse of archaic, Scottish, pseudo-Middle-English words. This abominable fault makes a Saga, for instance, sound unreal, unfamiliar, false; it conceals all diversities of style and tone beneath a fictitious mask of monotonous uniformity, and slurs over the real difficulties by a specious nullity of false phrasing.
effect; but they are certainly present in no greater numbers than in the works of any writer whose production was as tremendous as his.

It has been the purpose of this Chapter to show (with relation to the Norse translations) what use Morris made of the English language, and to demonstrate, by means of the lists above, that Morris's process in language-use was largely one of 'reviving' old forms rather than 'creating' or 'archaizing' new or modern ones. But before we conclude, let us attempt to evaluate Morris's specialized diction as a translator's medium, and turn, for a moment, to the various theories and problems of translation which others who have rendered the sagas into English have propounded and discussed. Almost every Old Norse translator, from Sir Edmund Head to E.R. Eddison, has commented upon the difficulties which faced him as he attempted to turn the Old Icelandic into English. Head apologized for what he considered his own faults as a translator, and theorized at the same time, when he said:

In the prose narrative I have adhered to the original as closely as was consistent with my desire of presenting to the English reader a translation that could be read without being very stiff and tiresome, but I am by no means sure that I attained this object.34

Although Head's translation is certainly one of the most read-

able of those we have in English, its excellence is in no measure due to the fact that its maker possessed a theory of translation. Indeed, to assume that adherence to the original necessitates the production of stiff and tiresome reading is to confuse the aims of translation and paraphrase, and to assume at the same time that the style of the original must be improved upon by the translator. It would seem more logical to formulate a rule of quite another nature: that if the original is in itself worth translating, it is deserving of an accurate rendering. W. C. Green, the first translator of Edda, had quite a different idea from Head. He found no problems in translating, hence he proposed no theory; but followed the rule that as long as the Old Norse was put into the obvious English which it suggested to the translator, the English version would succeed. The theory developed by Vígfrússon and Powell was perhaps the most complicated, as well as the most contradictory, of any which was put into extensive practice. They insisted upon the employment of the Modern English idiom, and yet in translating proper names, they invariably used what were (or what they thought were) their Old-English equivalents. Their indices,

35 Head's translation was admired by Vígfrússon. See Corpus Poeticum Boreale, I, Introduction, p. cxv, note.

as a consequence, are quite confusing, and often useless. In general, Vigfusson and Powell were opposed, in the practice of translation, to any dictum adopted by Morris. His style they considered an abomination because it was inaccurate; yet even the most prejudiced of the anti-Morris critics will find that the strange verbal strictness and the almost mathematical precision of the prose translations which stand beneath the verses in the bi-lingual Corpus Poeticum Boreale, are not only difficult but often unintelligible. George Webbe Dasent also strove for faithful translation. He was not sure that he accomplished it; but if accuracy be a virtue in the translator's scholarship, and if readability be the aim of his art, we can scarcely say that Dasent failed in Gisla and Njala.

We must admit, however, that there has never been a real controversy over the language of translation used by any of these men,—Head, Green, Vigfusson and Powell, Dasent; nor over the pioneering efforts of Samuel Laing. Morris's language, on the contrary, has always been the object of criticism, generally derogatory. The question which the commentator on his language asks himself, after evidence has proved to him that Morris did not create it out of linguistic whole-cloth, is: where shall he stand, with the critics, or with Morris? But here, as in the case of so many other things, he must appeal to an old logic, and say de gustibus...with good reason. It may be fairly stated that one will like Morris's
language of translation only if he likes Morris's writings in general, that the Morris admirer will give no middle-ground, and the detractor (like Vigfússon) will likewise give none. To the one it is all good, to the other, all bad. A hearty defender of Morris, E.R. Eddison, has recently published his views upon the subject. In his "Terminal Essay: On Some Principles of Translation," he says that the first difficulty facing any Old Norse translator is the problem of presenting to the English reader the living word. This difficulty, he maintains, Morris has overcome. In comparing a passage from the Heimskringla in the version of Samuel Laing with that of Morris, he concludes that:

The capital difference is that Laing's version is heavy and lifeless, while Morris's is, by comparison, living human speech.37

To say that it is "living human speech," however, is not to declare it matchless, nor faultless. In fact, in a previous page Eddison has compared the work of Dasent and Morris ("Two translators of the sagas [that] stand above the rest...") and has discovered that where the one fails in language by falling into colloquialism, the other does so by allowing the poetry of words to run away with him.

Perhaps the translations of William Morris do not stand above those of Dasent and Laing "as the spear-leek grown above the grass," but they do tower over the rest, like "Sigurd over

Gjuki's sons, "in at least one respect. They have strength and life; and for this they may be justly admired even if the language into which they are cast cannot be universally accepted.

VI

As we look back upon the evidence presented in the sections above, we find it of course unnecessary to conclude finally upon evidence which proves that Morris knew a great deal about the English Language. We have found that in trying to retain the language-flavor of his originals, Morris employed the only method known to him: the use of archaisms, and like words, probably taken from the Middle English writers with whose works he was acquainted. His success or failure cannot concern us too greatly, for as long as he cherished the belief that such preservation of spirit was necessary (which was, in effect, his theory of translation), he exposed himself to the criticism of those who saw no advantage in reviving forms long out of date. It is probable that the critical barbs of Morris's contemporaries will not affect his lasting reputation; it is certain that they did not change his literary style. He started to archaize his diction in his earliest poems, and he developed and completed what was almost a language of his own by practicing its use in the Old Norse translations. When he turned his hand toward the writing of Sigurd the Volsung, and the eight Prose Romances which followed it,
his language consisted no more of miscellaneous archaic words reproduced from earlier writers. He had now a diction of his own, and he continued to use it in all the writings which he thought demanded, because of the times in which he set them, a vocabulary distinctly non-modern.