vp for to go to his quest that in Englissh is called English is called searching, well and busily, for as serchyng wele and besyly so as I shall say more I shall say more explicitly hereafter, when I shall opynly whan I shal speke how men shuld quest speak of how men shall quest and search to harand serche to harborowe the hert. And in such a bour the hart. And in so doing he shall not be doyng he shall not be ydel for he is euermore busy idle, for he is always busy. And when he shall and whan he shal be commen azein to bese semble come again to the assembly or meet, then he hath or metyngis ban hath he most to doon for to most to do for he must order his finders and relays ordayn his fynders and relaies and for to mene be for to move the hart, and uncouple his hounds. hert and vncouple his houndes. With bat he ne With all this he cannot be idle, for he need may not be idel ne hym nedeth benk no where think of nothing but to do his office, and when he but for to do his office and whan he hath vn- hath uncoupled, yet is he less idle, and he should coupled 3it is he lasse ydel and lasse shuld thynk think less of any sins, for he hath enough to do to in eny synnes for he hab ynowe to doon to ryde ride or to foot it well with his hounds and to be or foot wel wip his houndes and to be ay ny hem always near them and to hue or rout well, and and to hue or rout wel and blow wel and to loke blow well, and to look whereafter he hunteth, wheraftir he hunteth, and wip houndes bene and which hounds are vanchasers and parfiters,1 vanchasours and parfiters1 and redresse and brynge his houndys in to be ryght whan bei han evoised2 and fallen Rascaile3 and whan the hert is ded or what oper chace that he hunteth, for 3it is he lasse ydel and lasse shuld benk to don euel for he hath ynowe to doon to benke to wel vndo his hert in his kynde and wel to reyse bat hym perteyneth4 and wele to doone his cure and to loke how many of his houndes lakketh of hem bat he brought to the woode in be mornyngis, and for to seke hem and to couple hem. And whan he is commen home zit should be lasse benk to doon Evel for he hath ynowe to thynke on his sopere, and to ease hymself and his hors, and to slepe and to take his rest, for he is wery, and for to drye hym of the dewe or perauenture of the Reyne. And therfore I say pat alle be tyme of the huntere is wibout Idelnesse, and wibout euel boughtes, and wipout euel werkis of synne. For I haue said ydelnesse is foundement of alle vices and of synnes. And be huntere may not be Idell zif he wil doone his office aryght, And also he may haue noon oper poughtes, for he hath ynowe to do to ymagyne, and to benk on his office, be which is not lytel charge, who so wil doon it wel and besily specially bei bat louen houndes and her office. Wherfore I say sith an huntere ys not ydel he may haue non evel boughtes, ne he may doo noon evil werkis, wherfore he must go to paradyse,6 for by many othir resons be which were to longe may I preve pise pinges, but it sufficeth me for euery mann bat hath good resounn, knoweth wel þat I say þe hie trouth. Now shall I preve how hunters lyuen in his world most ioyfully of

and redress and bring his hounds on the right line again when they are at fault 2 or hunting rascal.<sup>3</sup> And when the hart is dead or what other chace he was hunting, then is he less idle, for he hath enough to do to think how to undo the hart in his manner and to raise that which appertaineth4 to him, and well to do his curée. And he should look how many of his hounds are missing of those that he brought to the wood in the morning, and he should search for them and couple them up. And when he has come home, should he less think to do evil, for he hath enough to do to think of his supper, and to ease himself and his horse, and to sleep, and to take his rest, for he is weary, and to dry himself of the dew or peradventure of the rain. And therefore I say that all the time of the hunter is without idleness and without evil thoughts, and without evil works of sin, for as I have said idleness is the foundation of all vices and sins. And the hunter may not be idle if he would fill his office aright, and also he can have no other thoughts, for he has enough to do to think and imagine of his office, the which is no little charge, for whoso will do it well and busily, especially if they love hounds and their office.

Wherefore I say that such an hunter is not idle, he can have no evil thoughts, nor can he do evil works, wherefore he must go into paradise.6 For by many other reasons which are too long to write can I prove these things, but it sufficeth that every man that hath good sense knoweth well that I speak the real truth.

Now shall I prove how hunters live in this world more joyfully than any other men. For when the

<sup>1</sup> The hounds that came in the first relay (van) and those in the subsequent relays. See Appendix: Relays. <sup>2</sup> Diverted or off the line. Shirley MS. has "enoayssed." See Appendix: Venery.

<sup>3</sup> Chasing small or lean deer. See Appendix: Hart. 4 To take those parts of the deer which fell to him by custom. See Appendix: Hunt Officials.

<sup>5</sup> Curée: The ceremony of giving the hounds their reward on the skin of the animal they have chased. See Appendix : Curée.

6 G. de F., "tout droit en paradis," page 5.

eny ober men. For whan be huntere ryseth in be mornyng he sawe a swete and fayre morow, and be clere wedir and bryght and hereb be songe of the small fowles, be which syngen swetely with grete melodye and ful of loue1 everich in his bereth of his owyn kynde. And whan be Sonne is arise he shall see be fressh dewe vppon be smale twygges and grasse, And be Sunne which by his vertu shal make hem sheyne and bat is grete lykeng and joye to the hunters hert, After whan he shal be on his quest or Serching and he shal se ober mete a noon with the hert wibout grete sekyng, and he shal harboure2 hym wel and redily wip inne a litil compas. It is a gret joie and lyleng (sic) to the huntere. Aftir whan he shall come to be semble or gaderyng and he shal report byfore be lord and his company eibere bat he hab seye with his eynen or by be scantilonn3 of the trace4 be which him oweb algate of ryght for to take eiber by be fumes bat he shal haue in his horn or in his lappe, and euery man shal say, lo here a gret hert and is a dere of hye metyng or pasturyng, go we mewe hym, be which bingges I shal declare here after. Whan it is to say than hab be hunter gret joye aftire whan he bygynneb to sewe6 and he hab sued but a lytel and he shal here or see stert be hert byfore hym and shal wel knowe pat it is ryght and his houndes pat shul pis day be fynders shal come to be leibe7 or to the fewes8 and shal pere be vncoupled without pat eny go coupled, and alle bei shal wel runne and enchace, Than hab be huntere gret joye and grete likyng. After he leppeth on an hors bak, 3if he be of that astate and ellis on foote, with a grete hast for to folow his houndes, And by cause pat by auenture his houndes shal be goon fer from pennes where he vncoupled he secheb some auauntage for to come byfore his houndes, and pan he shal se be hert passe by fore hym and shal halowe and Rout myghtly and he shal se whiche houndes commeb in be vannchace9 and in be middel and which bene parfitours after that bei shuld come and than whan his houndes byn passid bifore hym ban he shal ryde after hem and he shal route and blowe as lowde as he may wib gret joye and grete likynge and I assure yow hat he ne benketh to noon ober synne ne to noone othere euel. Aftire whan the herte shal be ouyrcome and shal be at abay he shal haue lykynge. And aftir whan be herte is spaied 10 and dede he vndob

hunter riseth in the morning, and he sees a sweet and fair morn and clear weather and bright, and he heareth the song of the small birds, the which sing so sweetly with great melody and full of love,1 each in his own language in the best wise that he langage in the best wyse pat he may, after pat he can according that he learneth of his own kind. And when the sun is arisen, he shall see fresh dew upon the small twigs and grasses, and the sun by his virtue shall make them shine. And that is great joy and liking to the hunter's heart. After when he shall go to his quest or searching, he shall see or meet anon with the hart without great seeking, and shall harbour2 him well and readily within a little compass. It is great joy and liking to the hunter. And after when he shall come to the assembly or gathering, and he shall report before the Lord and his company that which he hath seen with his eyes, or by scantilon 3 (measure) of the trace 4 (slot) which he ought always of right to take, or by the fumes (droppings) that he shall have in his horn or in his lap. And every man shall say: Lo, here is a great hart and is a deer of high meating or pasturing, go we and move him; the which things I shall declare hereafter, then can one say that the hunter has great joy. When he beginneth to hunt 6 and he hath hunted but a little and he shall hear or see the hart start before him and shall well know that it is the right one, and his hounds that shall this day be finders, shall come to the lair,7 or to the fues8 (track), and shall there be uncoupled without any being coupled, and they shall all well run and hunt, then hath the hunter great joy and great pleasure. Afterwards he leapeth on horseback, if he be of that estate, and else on foot with great haste to follow his hounds. And in case peradventure the hounds shall be gone far from thence where he uncoupled, he seeketh some advantage to get in front of his hounds. And then shall he see the hart pass before him, and shall holloa and rout mightily, and he shall see which hound come in the van-chase,9 and in the middle, and which are parfitours, according to the order in which they shall come. And when all the hounds have passed before him then shall he ride after them and shall rout and blow as loud as he may with great joy and great pleasure, and I assure you he thinketh of no other sin or of no other evil. And when the hart be overcome and shall be at bay he shall have pleasure. And after, when the hart is spayed 10 and dead, he undoeth

10 Despatched with a sword or knife. See Appendix: Spay.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Trace the deer to its lair. See Appendix: Venery, Limer. <sup>1</sup> See Appendix: Love of Nature. <sup>3</sup> Scantilon; a measure, Mod. Eng. Scantling, a mason's rule. <sup>4</sup> Slot. See Appendix: Trace, Slot.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See Appendix: Excrements. <sup>7</sup> Lair. G. d. F. has "au lit," p. 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> See Appendix: Relays.

<sup>6</sup> To hunt or follow up. See Appendix: Venery. 8 Line: track. See Appendix: Fues.