teyntes and ouerset hym, be last remedye of hym is 3if he be in playn cuntre he vishiteb1 gladly be griehoundes by cause pat pei should leue hym for pe stinche of pe dritt and also for pe feer pat he hathe. O litel greihounde2 dooth greet hardyness whan he taketh a fox by hym silf for men han seyn many grete greihoundes the which myght wel take the hert and a wilde boor and a woolf and wold lat be fox goo. And whan be fixen by assaut goth in hure loue and she secheb the dogge fox she cryeth wib an hos vois as an wood hounde dothe and also whan she calleth hure whelpes whan she mysseth eny of hem she clepeth hem in be same wise, The fox ne pleyneb hym nat whan men slee hym but euere he defendeth hym at his pouer be while he may lyve, he lyueb of al vermyn and of alle kareyns and ober fowle wormes3 his best mete pat he moost loueth is hennys, Capones, dokes, young gees and other wilde fooules whan he may gete hem and also botirflies gressoppes, milk and buttyr They done grete harme in wareyns of conynges of hares be whiche bei ete and take hem so gynnously and withe grete malice, and not with rennyng Ther byn some þat ben hunted4 as be wolf and some bat goon no where but to be villages to feche be ravayne for her fedyng. As I have saide bei bene so gynnoule and so sotil hat neiher men ne houndes may put no remedy perto ne may not keke heme of her fals turnes. Also foxes dwellen comonly in grete hegges or in greet couerts or in beries nye some townes or villages for to do euermore harme to the hennes or to ober binges as I haue said. be foxes skynnes been wonder hoote for to make Cuffes or furres and 3it bei stynke euere more but 3if bei be wel tawed be grece of be fox and be marie be good for the hardyng of be synowes. Of he other maners of he fox and of his gymres<sup>5</sup> (sic) shall I speke moore openly here aftir. Men taken hem with houndes with greihoundes, with haies and with pursnettis but he kitteb hem with his teeth as be mascles of be wolf doob but nat so sone.

give him many touches and overset him, his last remedy, if he is in an open country, will be that he vishiteth gladly, so that the greyhounds should leave him for the stink of the dirt and also for the fear that he has.

A little greyhound<sup>2</sup> is very hardy if he takes a fox by himself, for men have seen great greyhounds which might well take a hart and a wild boar and a wolf and would let the fox go. And when the vixen is assaute, and goes in her love to seek the dog fox she cries with a hoarse voice as a mad hound doth and also when she calls her whelps when she misses any of them she calls in the same way. The fox does not complain when men slay him, but he defends himself with all his power while he is alive. He liveth on all vermin and all carrion and on foul worms.3 His best meat that he most loveth are hens, capons, duck and young geese and other wild fowls when he can get them, also butterflies and grasshoppers, milk and butter. They do great harm in warrens of rabbits and hares which they eat, and take them so cunningly and with great malice and not by running. There are some that hunt as a wolf and some that go nowhere but to villages to seek the prey for their feeding. As I have said they are so cunning and subtle that neither men nor hounds can find a remedy to keep themselves from their false turns. Also foxes usually dwell in great hedges or in great coverts or in burrows near some towns or villages for to evermore harm hens and other things as I have said. The foxes' skins are wonderfully warm to make cuffs and furs, but they stink evermore if they are not well tawed. The grease and the marrow are good for the hardening of sinews. Of the other manners of the fox and of his cunning I will speak more openly hereafter. Men take them with hounds, with greyhounds, with hayes and with purse-nets, but he cutteth them with his teeth, as the male of the wolf doth but not so

of a net. And even as late as the seventeenth century we find that such treatment was considered justifiable towards a fox, for, as Macaulay tells us, Oliver St. John told the Long Parliament that Strafford was to be regarded, not as a stag or a hare, to whom some law was to be given, but as a fox, who was to be snared by any means, and Voiding excrements.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> G. d. F., p. 73, says, un petit lévrier de lièvre (greyhound for the hare) in contradistinction to large greyhounds, such as the deerhound and wolfhound used for big game.

<sup>3</sup> G. d. F., p. 73, has ordures.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> According to G. d. F., p. 74, it should not read that some are hunted like wolves, but that they themselves but like wolves, or tricks, or cunning.