the state at the state at a state

CAPM. XXV.—HOW A MAN SHULD KNOWE A GREET HERT BI THE PLACE WHERE HE HAD FRAIED AT HIS NEDE

FERPERMORE 3e shal know a greet herte by be FURTHERMORE ye should know a great hart by the fraieng, and ye se bat be woode be grete where he hab fraied, and he hab not bowid it, and be tree be fraied wel hie and hath fraied the barke of be and he has not bent it, and the tree is frayed well tree away and ibroke be braunches and wrethed him wel hie and if be braunches be wel greete, it is signe pat it is a greet hert, and pat he shuld bere an hie hede and wel trochid for bi be trochynge2 he brekep so hie the bowes pat he high head and well troched, for by the troching2 myght not fold hem vndir hym. For if be fraiyng were bare and he had ifraied be bowes vndir hym, it is no tokenyng bat it be a greet hert, and specially if be trees were he had fraied were smale. Nabelees men han isaid some grete deer fray somtyme to a litel tree but not comonly, but a 30nge deere shal euermore3 fray to a grete tre, and perfore shuld ze pan loke a newe frayeng, And if ye se be forsaid tokenys oftere vpon be greete trees pan on pe smale ze may deme hym for a grete hert. And if he frayinges byn continually in smale trees and lowe he is not chaceable. and shuld be refusid. Also ze may know a greete hert by his leires, whan a grete hert shal come in be mornyng from his pasture and shal go to his leire, and pan a greet while aftire he shal ryse and goo ellis where per as he wil abide al pe day. Than whan ze shal rise and come to be leire ber as pe hert hab iley and yrest, zif ze se it grete and brood and wele itred and be grasse wel ipressid doun, And at risyng whan he passeb out of his leire if ze se pat pe foot and pe knees haue ithrest doun wel pe erpe, and ipressid pe gras adoun, it is tokyn pt it is a grete dere and an heuy. And if at he ryseng he make no soch tokens bicause hat he hab be per but a litel while so bat his leire be longe and brood 3e may deme hym for an hert chaceable. Also 3e may know a greet hert by be beryng4 þe woode, for whan a greet hert hab an hie hede and a large and gob borow a bik wode and he fyndeb be yong wode and be tendir bowis, his hede is harder þan þe wode, þan he brekeb þe wode aside, and mengleb some bowes be oon aboue

CHAP. 25.—HOW A MAN SHOULD KNOW A GREAT HART BY THE PLACE WHERE HE HATH FRAYED HIS HEAD

fraying (for if ye find where the hart has frayed),1 and see that the wood is great where he has frayed, high, and he has frayed the bark away, and broken the branches and wreathed them a good height, and if the branches are of a good size, it is a sign that he is a great hart and that he should bear a he breaks such high boughs that he cannot fold them under him. For if the fraying were bare and he had frayed the boughs under him, it is no token that it be a great hart, and especially if the trees where he hath frayed were small. Nevertheless men have seen some great deer fray sometimes to a little tree, but not commonly, but a young deer shall never more<sup>3</sup> fray to a great tree, and therefore should ye look at several frayings. And if ye see the aforesaid tokens oftener upon the great trees than upon the small ye may deem him a great hart. And if the frayings be continually in small trees and low, he is not chaceable and should be refused. Also ye may know a great hart by his lairs. When a great hart shall come in the morning from his pasture, he shall go to his lair and then a great while after he shall rise and go elsewhere there where he would abide all the day. Then when ye shall rise and come to the lair there where the hart hath lain and rested, if ye see it great and broad and well trodden and the grass well pressed down, and at the arising when he passes out of his lair, if he see that the foot and the knee have well thrust out the earth and pressed the grass down it is a token that it is a great deer and a heavy (one). And if at the arising he make no such tokens, because that he hath been there but a little while, so that his lair be long and broad ye may deem him a hart chaceable. Also ye may know a great deer by the bearing4 of the wood, for when a great hart hath a high head and a large (one) and goes through a thick wood, he finds the young wood and tender boughs, his head is harder than the wood, then he breaks the wood aside and mingles the boughs one upon the other, for he bears

<sup>3</sup> Ever more is here a mistake; it should be never more. G. de F. says: "Mes jeune cerf ne froyera jà en 4 Bearing or breaking. gros arbre" (p. 132). Also in the Shirley MS.

pe oper, for he berep hem and putteb hem oberwise pan whan pei were wouned for to be bi her owyn kynde, and whan be gladnesse of be woode ben hye and broode þan he may deme hym a grete herte for but if he had an hie hede and a whide he my3t not make his waies hie and large, and if it happe so pt 3e fynde such gladnesse and have no lymer withe you, if ze wist of what tyme bise gladnesse were imakyd ye must sette your visage in be myddes of bise gladnesse and kepeb your brethe in be best wise bat ye may and 3if ye fynde at the areyn1 hath imake her webbe by the myddelle of hem it is a tokyn bat it is of no longe tyme,2 or at lest it is of be mydel3 ouercome of be day bifore, Nabelees ze shulde fetche your lymer for so shuld ye wete po better. Also ze may knowe a greete hert bi be steppis bat in Engelond is callid trace and pat is clepid stepping,4 Whan he steppeh in oo place her as he gras is wel hik so pat a man may not se per inne pe fourme of pe foote or whan he steppet in ober places ber as no gras is but dust, or sande, an hard contre where as fallen leeues or per pinges, lettyng to so be fourme of be foot, and whan the hert steppeb vpon pe gras and ye mow not se pe steppes wip zoure eyn þan ze shul putte your hond in þe fourme of be foot bat hunters callyn the trace, and 3if 3e se pat be forme of be foot be of iiii fyngres of brede, ze mowe iuge pat it is a greet hert bi pe trace, and if he sole of he foote be of iii fingres of brede ye may iuge hym an hert of x. and ye se þat I haue broke wel þe erþe and ytreded wel be gras it is a tokyn bat it is a gret hert and an heuy dere, and if ye mow not it wel se for be harnesse of be erbe or for dust ban be must stoupe adoun for to take away the dust and blow it away fro be fourme of be foot into be tyme trace, and 3if 3e mow not sett in oon place 3e shul folowe to be trace into be tyme bat ye mow it wel see and your ease, and 3if 3e mow se non in no place ze shul putt your hound in be fourme of be foot and pan ze shul fynde how pe erpe is broke wip pe clees of pe foot in eiper side and pan 3e mowe iuge it a gret hert or for an hert chaceable as I haue saide bi be tredyng of be gras, And if leues or ober bing be wib inne be fourme bat 3e mow not wel se it at your ease, 3e shuld take away be leues al soft or be ober binges wib

them and puts them otherwise than they were wont to be by their own kind. And when the glades of the woods are high and broad then he may deem him a great hart, for if he has not a high head and wide he could not make his ways high and large. If it happen so that ye find such glades and have no lymer with you, if ye will know of what time this glade was made, ye must set your visage in the middle of these glades, and keep your breath, in the best wise that ye may, and if ye find that the spiders have made their webs in the middle of them, it is a token that it is of no good time2 or at the least it is of the middle<sup>3</sup> (of the noon) of the day before. Nevertheless ye should fetch your lymer for so ye should know better. Also ye may know a great hart by the steps that in England is called trace. And that is called stepping,4 when he steps in a place where the grass is well thick, so that the man may not see therein the form of the foot, or when he steps in other places, where no grass is but dust or sand and hard country, where fallen leaves or other things hinder to see the form of the foot. And when the hart steps upon the grass and ye cannot see the stepping with your eyes, then ye shall put your hand in the form of the foot that hunters call the trace, and if ye see that the form of the foot be of four fingers of breadth, ye may judge that it is a great hart by the trace. And if the sole of the foot be of three fingers' breadth ye may judge him a hart of ten, and if ye see that he hath well broken the earth and trodden well the grass, it is a token that it is a great hart and a heavy deer. And if ye may not well see it for the hardness of the earth, or for the dust, then ye must stoop down for to take away the dust and blow it away from the form of the foot until the time that ye may clearly see the form that is called the trace. pat 3e mowe cleerly se be fourme bt callid is be And if ye cannot see it in one place, ye should follow the trace until the time that ye can well see it at your ease. And if ye can see none in any place, ye should put your hand in the form of the foot, for then ye shall find how the earth is broke with the cleeves of the foot on either side, and then ye can judge it for a great hart or a hart chaceable, as I have said before by the treading of the grass; and if leaves or other things be within the form that ye may not see at your ease, ye should take away the leaves all softly or the other things with

derived.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The words in brackets are omitted in our MS. but are in the Shirley MS. and in G. de F. p. 132. <sup>2</sup> The tines at top: See Appendix: Antlers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Spider, Fr. arraigné.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> G. de F. says: "C'est signe que ce n'est pas de bon temps"—not of good time—means in the old sporting vocabulary an old track, not a recent one (p. 133).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Overcome in our MS. is evidently a mistake as it does not make sense. In Shirley MS.: "hit is of ye midel of ye noone of ye day before" G. de F. says: "Au moins est-ce de la relevée de la nuyt devant du cerf" 4 G. de F. calls the track of deer on grass "foulées," from which the modern "foil," "stepping on grass," is