HOW AN HUNTER SHOULD QUEST IN GREAT COVERTS 89

CAPIT. XXX.—HOW AN HUNTER SHULD GO IN QUEST IN GRETE COUERTES AND IN STRENGTHES1

Also he may go in quest and putte hym self withe his lymer in be grete strengthes, bi hie tyme of be day as I haue said, so it befalleb somtyme pat hertis byn so malicious of hem self and of her nature pat pei pasture within hem self, out ne to be feeldis ne to be copoys ne to yong wode, namely whan bei han herde be houndes renne afore in be forest onys or ii tymes, but he must haue affoted2 his lymere in soche a maner pat he ne opne ne qwestey3 noght in be mornyng shuld hold hym short and lede hym behynde hym and loke what dere it is, And if it be bing bat scantelon and vmbicast as it is bifore said and turne hym home azein to be assemble pt in Engelonde is callid be metyng or the gaderynge.

CHAP. 30.—HOW AN HUNTER SHOULD GO IN QUEST IN GREAT COVERTS AND STRENGTHS1

Also a hunter may go in quest and put himself and his lymer in the great thickets by high time of day, as I have said, for it befalleth sometimes that harts are so malicious, that they pasture within themselves, that is to say within their covert, pat is to say wip inne her Couerte, and goon not and go not out to the fields nor to the coppices nor to the young wood, especially when they have heard the hounds run before in the forest once or twice. He must have trained2 his lymer in such a manner that he neither opens nor quests3 when he hunts in the morning, for he would make the hart for he shuld make he hert voide and hat moost be void, and that must be by high noon, as I have bi hie tyme as I haue said, whan alle beestis ben at said, when all beasts are in their lairs. And if his her leires. And if is lymer fynde eny þing he lymer find anything he should hold him short and lead him behind him, and look what deer it is, and if it be anything that pleases him, then he shall likeh hym han he shal sewe wih his lymer, in to be sue with his lymer till the time that he has brought tyme pat he haue brought it in to som strengthe.4 it into some thicket, and then he shall break his And per he shal breke his bowes and take pe boughs and take the scantilon and cast round as is before said, and then return home again to the assembly that in England is called a meeting or gathering.

Again a mistake of the ancient scribe who wrote the Vespasian text. I have given the correct title.

² Affeeted, trained his limer. See Appendix: Affeted. 3 Should not give tongue. See Appendix: Limer.

⁴ Strength, stronghold, or strong place.